

Rapport from National Polish CSA group meeting in Wrocław, the 14.11.2015

Background:

The National Meeting of Polish CSA group was held in Wrocław, in “Brzuch. Centrum Trawienia Wizji”, 26, Białoskórnicza street – place where regularly is organized a local farmer market (every Saturday from 10am to 1 pm).

The CSA movement in Poland is still in developing process and diverse ways of agreement between producers and consumers are in use. Not all of them could be treated as CSA groups due to missing some of crucial characteristics (eg. reciprocity), but in sake of its development and mutual learning process all of that kind of groups were invited.

As for so called CSA group in Poland we could count not more than 8 in 2015 and regular consumer groups were (or still is) about 11. It shows the scale of CSA groups in Poland – we are still in process of making more recognizable the social and solidarity based economy as an alternative to conventional, income orientated economy.

Promotion of National Meeting

Main channel to spread the information about the meeting were personal contacts with local activists, consumers and farmers. As the group of Polish CSA movement is relatively small cooperation between activists from three main cities in Poland: Wrocław (place of meeting), Warsaw (capital and city with the high potential) and Kraków. Mouth to mouth tactic was the best option to contact people interested in topic and also to choose the best date of meeting in a way to match as much as possible potential participants.

Even though the number of participants wasn't so big, there were the most active people to work on European Chart of CSA.

Agenda for the meeting

Meeting started at 1.30 pm just after Saturday's Farmer's Bazaar ended. There were in total 15 persons and within group were 2 farmers on the skype:

- Adrianna and Bartłomiej Kębłowski – via skype. Farmers running CSA „Dobrzyń nad Wisłą”

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/rws-dobrzy%C5%84-nad-wis%C5%82%C4%85/o-nas-/1495022937438846>

- Mariusz Janus – farmer, in process of setting up a new RWS in Podkarpacie region (southern east of Poland)
- Wojciech Mejer – activist, consumer and member of consumer coop “Dobrze” from Warsaw, former member of first Polish CSA group Swierze Panki (already closed)
- Julia Olszewska, activist, consumer and member of CSA group “Dobrzyń nad Wisłą”
- Piotr Trzaskowski, activist, consumer and member of CSA group Dobrzyń nad Wisłą
- Piotr Kijanka, farmer and head of CSA from Lower Silesia “Ekofarma u Piotra”

- Marcin Maserak, activist and member of CSA group
- Dorota Truchanowicz, farmer and head of cooperative of producers from Izery “Paczka Izerska”, willing to change from coop of producers into CSA – cooperation between producers and consumers.
- Marta Sylla –activist and member of CSA “Pora na czosnek”, Poznań
- Emilia Ślimko, activist, member of CSA in Kraków
- Ola Nowysz, activist and consumer
- Wanda Nowicka, farmer and coordinator of local CSA
- Mariusz Sybila, farmer, activist , run “Brzuch Trawienia Wizji”
- Monika Onyszkiewicz , activist and facilitator, member of CSA run by Wanda Nowicka

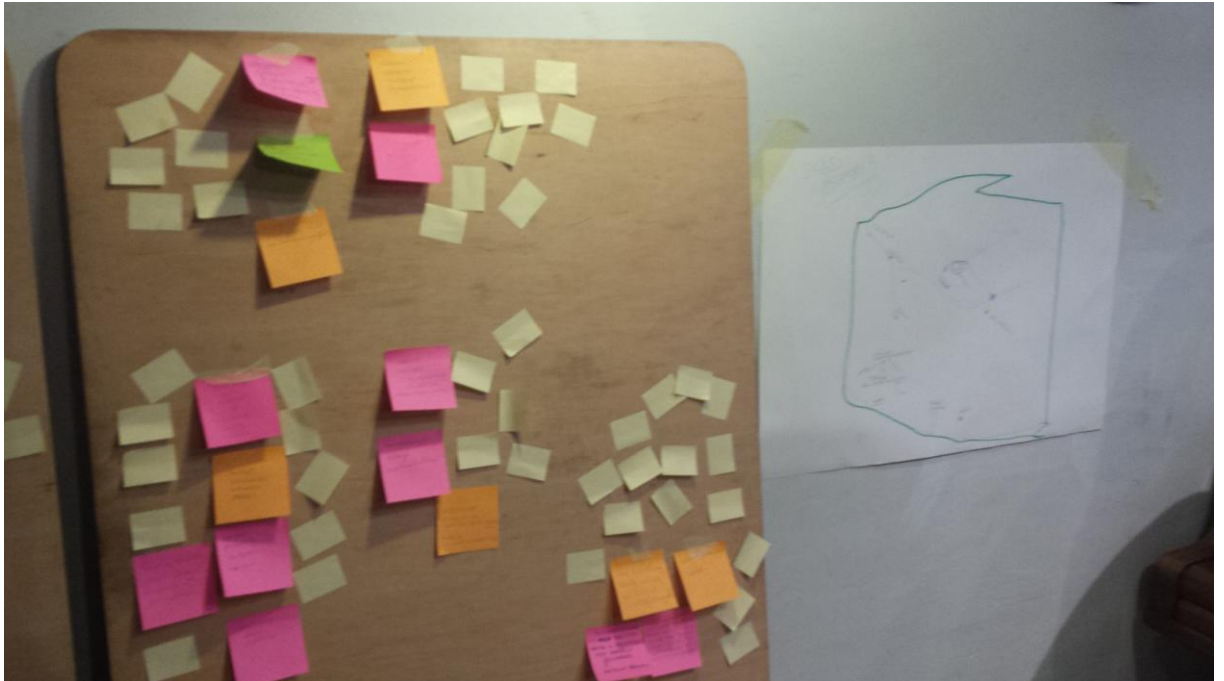
Agenda

1. Start at 1.30 pm . After presentation of participants and first ice-breaking exercises all participants puts marks on map of Poland: place where they comes from or where their CSA group exist. The map was mainly doted in the centre (Warsaw and the neighbourhood), Lower Silesia as a region and Wrocław , and Kraków.

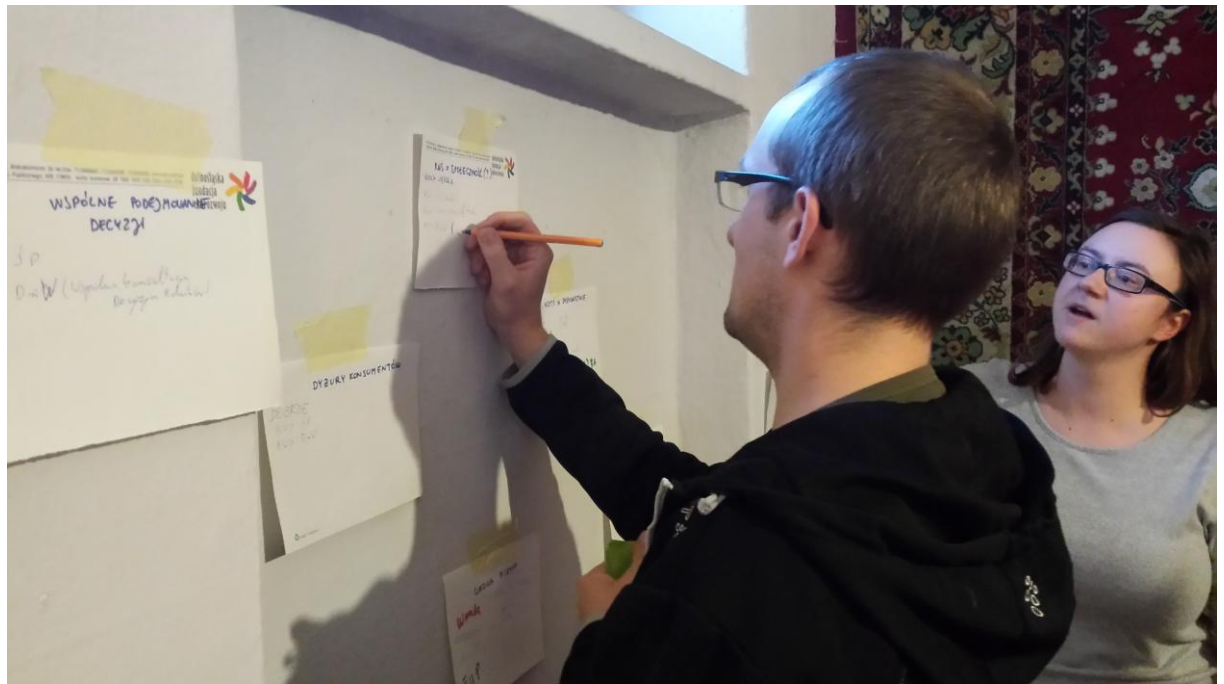


2. Second step: to form up a common values we are sharing and have In common. We All have to answer ourselves: “Why Am I doing that?” , What push me/ attracts me to be active on that field? As a result: (number in brackets shows the number of people mentioning it). Participants could write more then 1 option.
 - a. Human/mutual relations (5)
 - b. Protest against massiv and capitalistic system of production and distribution of goods / (14)

- c. Support of local, ecological food production (15)
- d. Access to fresh, locally grown healthy food. (12)



- 3. Third step: common reading of draft of an European CSA Chart. After discussion about the documents and values that are the most important for us within the CSA. As a result there are quality marked by participants:
 - a. Presence of farmer during distribution (exclusion of middlemans)
 - b. Prepayment at least for 1 month
 - c. Written agreement
 - d. Tour of duty for members of CSA group (ex. For common work during distribution, promotion, etc)
 - e. Visits on the farm
 - f. CSA = community
 - g. Group decision making
 - h. Voluntary work at farm (if/when needed)
 - i. Organization of convenient place of distribution.



4. Discussion about specific notation In European CSA charter:

- Instead of „*We are building systems centred on our local communities*” proposition to reformulate in a way: *We are building systems of food production& distribution centred on our local communities.*

In definition of CSA there was misunderstanding of several notation: what is

- the meaning of word “rewards”? What kind of rewards should we expect?
- If we are talking about producers it’s better to add “food producers”

In “CSA guiding principles” there was suggestion to make shorter and simplify first phrase in a way:

CSA is an evolving model instead of “*CSA is not a static model. Like a garden it is dynamic: it evolves and grows through daily care*”

5. Discussion about the goal of such European Charter – doubts whether it won’t spoil its informal and roots character of CSA movement.



6. Discussion about how to use our resources (financial and personal) to develop CSA scheme in Pl. Does it make sense to make contribution for CSA fund? (farmers from CSA group pays an amount of money in sake of common fund to cover fees connected with spreading idea of CSA in Poland. At the moment there is about 3000 pln (700 euro).
7. Open talks and integration during dinner In local vegan restaurants „Baszta”

To be continued.

Monika Onyszkiewicz