

# ROMANIAN REPORT FROM THE NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON THE EUROPEAN CSA DECLARATION



The Romanian meeting on the CSA Declaration took place on 12 of December in Timisoara, Romania, and it was attended by 31 people, of which 11 were CSA producers (working on 9 farms or households).

After a short introduction of the participants and their CSA partnerships we discussed the following. We had a short evaluation of our CSA experiences from the consumers' perspective followed by a short evaluation from the producers' perspectives. This was followed discussion of proposals to improve the CSA experience and how to run awareness campaigns to increase the visibility of CSA: we split into two groups (consumers & producers) and came up with proposals that were afterwards discussed in the plenary. Following this we discussed the problems and threats faced by CSA partnerships. After lunch we discussed the main threats and problems faced by CSA a detailed discussion of the text of the draft declaration.

- Discussion of results of a questionnaire that we ran among Romanian CSA participants. Some interesting results, possibly relevant for other countries: the main 3 reasons for being part of a CSA are (a) access to organic & environmentally sustainable food (b) support for small local producers (c) access to healthy food. There is almost unanimity among participants on the importance of preserving and cultivating traditional seeds. In case of loss of culture, due to pests or other calamity, consumers almost unanimously would renew their subscription/commitment for the next year. According to a majority different mechanisms must be found so to increase the number of consumers that actively involved in managing the partnerships.
- Threats to CSA: aggregators were identified as the main threat to the CSA movement. On one hand they mimic some of the characteristics of CSA and socially responsible consumers are deceived. Solution: awareness campaigns about what CSA is.
- Discussion on promoting CSA: CSA is cool! To promote CSA we should organize national or regional CSA festival(s) where 'outsiders' are invited to interact with CSA members and eat food produced by CSA. Connect with other grass-roots movements working on ecology and solidarity-based economy and promote CSA at their events. Hook up with local chefs and organize gastronomic events. CSA partnerships should create awareness campaigns and should not shy away from donations from like-minded individuals or organizations in order to fund these campaigns.
- To improve the social impact of CSA: unpicked baskets can be donated to homeless shelters or to NGOs working with people in need.
- The strength and cohesion of national and international networks of CSA should be increased. Everybody can learn and gain from meeting and cooperating with farmers and consumers from other cities/regions/countries.

**Proposals for the declaration** (we discussed a Romanian translation and not the English version). We discussed the declaration section by section and voted each section. Participants liked the declaration and believe that it sums up the foundational values of CSA very well. However we would like to make a few suggestions:

- It would be useful to have one line in the CSA guiding principles highlighting the social aspect of CSA: CSA offers both a way towards a dignified life for farmers and agricultural workers and a way to access quality food for low-income earners.

We also uploaded the short films done on the meeting to the link [https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B-qr\\_XF5M8NLfnBaaW9UbUVpeTE3bE5RdHdJUmdMSGRJa2IPUXpieURSTFJtTU10TW5HMGs&usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B-qr_XF5M8NLfnBaaW9UbUVpeTE3bE5RdHdJUmdMSGRJa2IPUXpieURSTFJtTU10TW5HMGs&usp=sharing).

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