



Towards a Mediterranean network of Local and Solidarity Partnerships For Agroecology!

**Draft Proposal
2016-2018.**

Overall framework:

A brief history of the Mediterranean CSA project

Since 2004, the international network URGENCI brings together citizens, small farmers, consumers, activists and concerned political actors at global level through an alternative economic approach called Local and Solidarity Partnerships between Producers and Consumers (LSP) as a way to maintain and develop family-scale organic farming and to achieve local food sovereignty for each region and each community worldwide.

Community-Supported Agriculture, as a way to contribute to a greater solidarity between urban and rural communities, is equally empowering for both the community and the farmers and offer solutions to common problems facing producers and consumers worldwide. One of the main roots for the current food crises, as well as for social unrests more generally, is that farmers alone have been shouldering the risks of the increasingly ruthless global market, which has forced millions of them from the land.

CSA offers one of the most hopeful alternatives to this downward spiral, and is the only model of farming in which consumers consciously agree to share the risks and benefits with the farmers. Fair local food systems are an efficient tool to restore **local food sovereignty** for all regions and communities worldwide.

One of the objectives of Urgenci International network is to identify the many CSA experiences around the world and to help the people to dialogue. This aims to promote this type of partnership as much as possible as one of the most efficient solutions to the deregulation of global production, markets and food distribution. By doing so, **Urgenci aims to participate in the efforts made by many civil society organisations to establish food sovereignty and solidarity economy, two of the main pillars of agroecology.**

Urgenci also carries out advocacy actions aimed at highlighting the important role that a strong alliance between producers and consumers and CSA can play. Since 2012 the network has been part of the Civil Society Mechanism¹ of the U.N. Committee on Food Security and Nutrition where the network represents the consumer constituency. Urgenci's members also work with their allies in the International Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC) that is the platform for many social movements.

FAO has recently supported Urgenci's work on an initial pilot project aimed at *"supporting the exchange of good practices between already existing alternative food distribution systems and increasing capacity of rural and urban citizens on sustainable food distribution systems in the Mediterranean area"* (Dec 2015-April 2016.)

¹ The CSM was created top-down by the FAO in 2009, to enable the social movements of the food sector to have a place to allow their voice to be heard. This is a very new initiative within the UN institutional framework. And most importantly, it is for us to make it a bottom-up space where the food sovereignty movement as a whole can express their opinions and work towards global policies that protect small-scale farmers' and consumers' interests alike.

Why the Mediterranean region?

We chose to locate this pilot project around the Mediterranean sea. Indeed, following a request made by the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur Region in France to take part in the first **MedCOP²** that was held in Marseilles in June 2015, Urgenci, thanks to three of its member networks, the Provence AMAP network (France), the Swani Tiqa (Morocco) and the GAS (Italy) mobilised and took part in the event.

The fight against climate change is a natural objective for CSAs, as they are built on co-operation and harmony with nature (they are generally based on low-impact agriculture that uses no chemical inputs as well as local distribution and minimum packaging). By participating in the movement to relocalise the economy, CSAs support the movement to maintain develop agroecology through peasant agriculture and the strong connection with local consumers. They also largely contribute to greater biodiversity, in the interests of future generations.

The MedCOP opportunity has provided Urgenci with the possibility to strengthen its partnerships with the initiatives around the Mediterranean³ and establish some exchange of practice. Ultimately, it will lead to building a proper Local Solidarity Partnership network in the region. Our proposal fits into the heart of the Mediterranean Positive Agenda process, as one of the solutions to *issue n°5: Strengthen solidarity between cities and sustainable territories*.

Thanks to the support of FAO, it was possible to hold a first exploratory meeting in Paris on December 7th 2015, during COP21. Urgenci, the Moroccan Network for Agroecological Initiatives and the Mediterranean Basin pole of Terre & Humanisme and the Provence AMAP network all took part in the meeting.

The objective was to prepare the organisation of a first meeting to exchange experiences that will take place from 29th February to 2nd March 2015. The Provence AMAP network will be the hosts.

Our partners to build the Mediterranean Local and Solidarity Partnerships for Agroecology network



The Association Terre et Humanisme, through its international solidarity section and Mediterranean Basin activities, is happy to partner with the Urgenci network in the context of their general objectives of “relocalising the economy at territorial level and in equitable exchange”. The CSA model in particular and short circuits in general are the alternatives promoted by Terre

et Humanisme. The association has been supporting agroecological gardens and initiatives close to CSA principles for many years, especially those of their partners in Morocco and Burkina Faso.

Terre et Humanisme, together with other actors involved in agroecology around the Mediterranean Basin, wishes to encourage all initiatives that strengthen links, exchanges, synergies and that capitalise on experience-sharing between local actors. The association is helping a Mediterranean network of Local Solidarity Partnerships to emerge through the pilot

² This event was aimed at gathering actors from all over the Mediterranean area to build up a shared vision (called Positive Agenda) on what are the local and regional solutions to climate change in the lead up to the COP21 held in Paris. The next MedCOP will happen in Tangiers (Morocco) in May 2016

³ Urgenci's activities in the Mediterranean led up to three outcomes so far:

- First, peer-based solidarity is a key to sound dissemination: CSA-like initiatives have blossomed as a consequence to experience-sharing activities, like in Morocco (since 2009, Swani Tiqa = the “Trustworthy Market gardens”); in Croatia a network of 15 Local and solidarity-based partnerships, with 9 farms and a thousands consumers since 2012 and in Greece where fair local food initiatives expand in the context of the intensifying t
- Second, fledgling CSA experiences are getting stronger and networking. In October 2014, a conference we organised during the IFOAM World Organic Congress with our partners brought up together 175 participants and highlighted the work done by a Turkish NGO to promote and federate LSP. Since 2011, Swani Tiqa actors organised exchanges with Tunisian and Egyptian peers.
- Last but not least, they have also led to the strengthening of experienced CSA networks or (like in AMAP in France, GAS in Italy and many groups in Spain) and opened up their activities to cooperation with fledgling initiatives.

project led by Urgenci in the favourable context of “the development of peasant agrological agriculture that respects humankind and the environment”, which is an aspect of the core mission of Terre et Humanisme.



national and international level.

The Moroccan Network of Agroecological Initiatives (RIAM) has the statutory objective of establishing and facilitating a network by communicating, working with and supporting agroecological initiatives and permaculture in Morocco. Organising meetings between agroecological actors and people involved in permaculture, raising awareness of civil society in general, in both rural and urban populations, developing advocacy for an ethical approach and overall ecological transition and strengthening cooperation at

The [RIAM](#), together with Urgenci, through one of its members, the Swani Tiqa, that is involved in the heart of networking and the desire to work efficiently, has agreed to participate in the pilot project « Towards a Mediterranean network of Local Solidarity Partnerships ». Urgenci is the project leader. MedCOP21 and COP22 will be held in Morocco in 2016. This provides the RIAM with a unequalled opportunity to develop networks of actors who do not usually work together in Morocco as well as around the Mediterranean Basin, and even at global level. It also provides an opening to build unique partnerships that encourage co-operative synergies between the North and the South as well as between countries of the South. This will provide a dynamic force for positive change for humanity and the planet, especially in the context of both food sovereignty and food security.



region and beyond. The AMAPs (Association to Maintain Peasant Agriculture: French CSAs) have continued to be highly successful and remain an important dimension of citizens' commitment to support local organic peasant agriculture in an economically viable way that respects people, animals and the environment.

The association Alliance Provence (renamed Les AMAP de Provence, regional network of Miramap on 14th November 2014) was created in Provence (France) in 2001, at the time of the creation of the firsts CSAs in France. The objective was to support dissemination of the CSA model in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

The PACA Region, an historical partner of the regional network Les AMAPs de Provence requested the association to participate in local solidarity initiatives from around the Mediterranean Basin that were recognised as solutions that contribute to fighting climate change last June. The Italian GAS and RIAM network, represented by the Swani Tiqa together with the AMAPs de Provence came together during the MEdCOP21 meeting last June to this effect.

It is an obvious next step for [the AMAPs de Provence network](#) to participate in the pilot project of creating a Mediterranean network of Local Solidarity Partnerships led by Urgenci, and to support the project by hosting the first meeting of actors from around the Mediterranean Basin.

The first Mediterranean CSA sharing-experience meeting, Feb 28 – March 2nd, 2016, Marseilles.



The first meeting to exchange and share experiences took place in Marseilles from 29th February to 2nd March 2015 with participants from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon, Turkey, Macedonia, Greece, Croatia, France and Spain.

Our idea was to invite both practitioners, very much involved in their communities, and experts able to decipher and explicit the complex situation in the Mediterranean regarding the status of agroecological initiatives, CSAs and local and solidarity partnerships.

A first Mapping of LSP

Mapping the Local and Solidarity-based Partnerships in Mediterranean Basin is an extremely challenging task: it means dealing with a new and rapidly growing field. To date, to the best of our knowledge, there is has been no study that deals specifically with local food systems in the area as a whole.

You can read the [first comprehensive mapping report](#), that we will keep on improving and detailing as our network grows !

NUMBER OF CSA IN THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES	Year CSA started in	Number of existing CSA groups	Number of persons practicing products coming from a CSA	Number of CSA farms	Number of non-CSA, commercial and solidarity-based food systems
ALGERIA	2015	3	120	3	
CROATIA	2012	20	4000	25	
EGYPT	0	0	0	0	5
FRANCE	2001	226	40000	570	
GREECE	2	2	40	2	
ITALY	1994	2000	440000	3000	
LEBANON	3	3	300	3	
MOROCCO	2009	5	300	5	20
PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES	2000	3	300	3	
SPAIN	2000	75	7500	100	
TUNISIA	0	0	0	0	2
TURKEY	10	1000	10		
TOTAL	2347	493560	1723		
TOTAL "SOUTHERN SHORES"	24	2020	24		

Chart 2- Number of identified CSA initiatives the Mediterranean countries.

A [synthesis](#) is also available on the website.

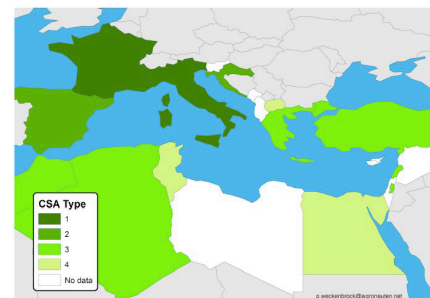


Chart 1- Map on the situation of the CSA movement in the Mediterranean countries.

A first shared diagnosis from the group works:

The current plan is to start building a strategic plan for the future, and the key question is how to develop a common project?

1. **What common goal?**
2. **What do we need to achieve this goal?**

We started with the same three fundamentals we had first identified: Agroecology, solidarity between producers and consumers, Food Sovereignty but we finally came to slightly different conclusions:

1. COMMITTED ACTORS

> GOALS:

- Motivating actors
- Experience-sharing trips ("learning journeys") to make these partnerships live/ grow, to reinforce them
- More practical training sessions on specific topics
- Online knowledge-sharing



>> HOW TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS:

- Facebook page to keep in touch (this requires a moderator)
- Clear document / Common Ground Charter, explaining who we are
- Video to disseminate knowledge (about some specific projects)
- Training on how to capture and carry the farmers' voice
- Media Kit: One-pager
- Train ambassadors / catalysts

2. A GOOD PLOT OF LAND

> GOALS

- One educational farm in each country
- Access to land, clean resources
- Interconnected farms/ agroecological gardens in different regions
- Building seed networks
- Popular Education

>> HOW TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS

- Needs assessments (not for the whole country, but for the initiatives we work with in each country) → template + assessment from each country
- List serve
- Facebook page
- Investigate legalities of land issues (later)
- Work with the Land, Seeds & Water Coalition
- Build local seed networks / alliances with seed networks
- Skill-sharing database
- Advocacy



3. FOSTERING TRUST

> GOALS

- Trust between farmers and consumers
- Trust between one another
- Trust between us and government at State and/or local level
- Closer relationships
- We need more meetings like this one
- Trust vs Control
- Common views / goals → Declaration (good idea but cannot be done now, this requires a deeper work for our group)



>> HOW TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS

- Press Release
- Database/ places for exchange, knowledge-sharing, both virtual and physical
- Database between all of us in which we can pool all resources/ contacts
- Find catalysts in each country that can facilitate the relationship between producers and consumers; they could also be economists, researchers, agronomists...
- We need to choose a lingua franca (English?) or continue using interpretation which is more difficult but may be necessary
- Create a "Mediterranean common folder" where to share our documents

Press release: the first Mediterranean LSP meeting, March 2016



We are farmers, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) activists, organizers of farmers' markets, agronomists, agroecologists, permaculture trainers, Food Sovereignty activists, civil society actors **from 12 different countries the Mediterranean Basin**. We are from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon, Turkey, Greece, Macedonia (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Croatia, France and Spain.

Over and above the current extraordinary social and economic challenges, our societies are all confronted by the realities of **climate change and increased**

food insecurity, and are facing situations of extreme vulnerability. At the very moment when we are confronted to these common issues, and need greater exchange, resource sharing and mutual support, the borders are closing, and the Mediterranean Basin is becoming a space of division, haunted by hundreds of thousands of refugees.

We, as committed grassroots civil society actors, and members of civil society, share the vision of the Mediterranean as a space that brings us all together. On all its shores, in our communities, we are working on a daily basis to craft new solutions based on food sovereignty and solidarity economy. Caring for and nourishing the Earth, and the humans it feeds, lies at the heart of our concerns. We continue to demonstrate on a daily basis that agroecology, implemented by family farmers and supported by committed consumers, provides more effective answers to the environmental challenges than those promoted by agribusiness.

This meeting was **an initiative taken by Urgenci and its partners**, the Association Terre & Humanisme, the Provence Community Supported Agriculture Network (Réseau des Amap de Provence) and the Network of Agroecological initiatives in Morocco (RIAM). **We came together from 29th February to 2nd March in Marseilles, for the first Mediterranean meeting of local and solidarity-based food initiatives.** BEDE and Réseau Semences Paysannes (the international Farmers' Seeds network) also joined in our work. At the end of this historical meeting, we are convinced that our initiatives will contribute to strengthening peasant agriculture, its capacity to feed the cities, to recreating social cohesion at both rural-urban and urban levels and to restoring farmers' dignity throughout the whole Mediterranean region.

In order to achieve this goal, we need to **disseminate our best practices**. By **exchanging our field practices and knowledge**, we can strengthen all those who are mobilizing, in all their diversity, to preserve peasant agriculture and build sustainable food systems. **We want to build a Mediterranean network of alliances between agroecological producers and conscious consumers.** We are opening a new chapter of our collective work open to contributions by all. Join us and contribute to this new collective challenge on <http://www.urgenci.net>!

You may also contact us for any question:

[contact\(at\)urgenci.net](mailto:contact(at)urgenci.net)

Following up on the project and defining a 2016-2018 Action Plan with an estimated budget.

A “Mediterranean Solidarity & Agroecology!” workshop at the MedCOP22, Tangiers, July 2016.

In order to present the project to a wider audience and move forward, we accepted the invitation to participate in **MedCOP22** that was held 18th and 19th July in Tangiers in Morocco, and thanks to the RIAM, the delegation included RIAM, Terre et Humanisme Morocco, the AMAP de Provence and Urgenci. We had a stand in the Medina of Solutions and organised a side event during the **MedCOP22**.



- *Report on the side-event during MedCOP22, Tangiers, Monday 18th July, 17h30-19h00.*

Agroecology and solidarity as a means of achieving local food security and food sovereignty in the Mediterranean region: Building a Mediterranean network of local, agroecological solidarity partnerships!



Most of the participants in the side event were already committed to agroecology, and the side event was late in the day, so we collectively decided the change how we would work. We settled on replying to the question: “*How can we create a Mediterranean network of Local Solidarity Partnerships, and what do we need to do achieve this goal?*”

We opened up the discussion to allow all the participants to share their experience and solutions rather than holding a conference-debate where those “in the know” lecture to the “learners”. At the

end of the workshop, several participants expressed their thanks and stated that this workshop had made an interesting contribution to MedCOP.

The workshops included members of the Moroccan agroecology network, institutional representatives and NGO leaders. Over 20 participants brought their input to the exchanges and expressed their enthusiasm for the existing on-going dynamic.

A first round of interventions allowed RIAM and Urgenci, who were joint convenors of the side event to present themselves to clearly define the vision and mission of CSA partnerships, the role of Urgenci International Network and the CSA Mediterranean project.



The leading agroecology actors from Morocco then took the floor: Atarouch Touriya of the Swani Tiqa, Fettouma Benabdenbi from Terre et Humanisme, Zineb Benrahmoune Idrissi, Abdelghani Lakhdar and Salaheddine El Azzouzi. They made brief presentations of their hands-on experience and shared their observations and successes as well as pointing out the challenges. This opened up several ideas for consideration and action:

- The need for relevant awareness-raising in the rural world on the issues and impacts of climate change on life-styles
- The importance of direct alliances between peasants and consumers based on solidarity, trust, the respect of everyone's rights
- The development of local food systems
- How urgent it is to act against desertification, soil degradation and drought

The idea of building a Mediterranean network of agroecological local solidarity partnerships between producers and consumers was warmly welcomed. However we still need to define the conditions and position the network in terms of other existing or burgeoning networks and platforms.

Several important questions to be resolved include who would lead this network? Urgenci could provide this framework, as by definition, the vocation of the network is to accompany the creation of regional networks of Local Solidarity Partnerships and subsequently federate CSA initiatives at international level.

We need to be careful and avoid duplication or competition with other similar initiatives being built by networks in our field. The priority need identified by the participants in the workshop was to establish a platform and a cooperative database that maps all the existing initiatives of local solidarity partnerships around the Mediterranean Basin. Also, organizing « learning journeys » for both farmers and consumers, on CSA and agroecology issues, would help and build trust between the participants, in order to consolidate the network with a solid common ground.

The next steps: Switch Med Connect 2016 – Oct 18-20, Barcelona

SwitchMed Connect is an annual gathering of Mediterranean stakeholders to build synergies, exchange knowledge, and scale up eco and social innovations. Our workshop within the Civil Society Track is on “Building a Mediterranean Network of Local, Agroecological Solidarity Partnerships”, on **Oct 19, 14.00-16.00**.

This session aims at broadly presenting the international Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) network project and its partners and describing more specifically some CSA initiatives (France, Palestine, Catalunya). In the first part, the coordinators of the network will provide the participants with a better insight into the needs of the network. The second part will be devoted to open discussion about potential partners and synergies with other networks like the SwitchMed Initiative.

We are eager to present our project and try to find new partners and funders to empower our grassroots experiences in getting stronger together.



Forum de la Terre, Nov 11-13, COP23, Marrakech

Together with Terre & Humanisme Morocco and l'Orange Bleue, our partner RIAM is organizing a 3-day side event during the COP23 on the “alternative agriculture and climate change” issues. International and local participants will gather to exchange and build up common agenda, showing that ecological and community-based solutions can play a key role to fight climate change.

There, RIAM will bring forward our will of building a “Solidarity & Agroecology!” network.

> By the end of the year 2016, we should have consolidated our proposal and hopefully find funders to pursue our endeavour in 2017-2018.

Here is our proposal draft for 2016-2018 based on the discussions we had during the Marseilles meeting and the prospects we draw up for the Mapping.

➔ In 2016, we already conducted preliminary work:

- **First sharing-experiences meeting, Marseilles, March 2016.**
 - > To meet, get to know each other and draw a **first agenda** (see above the outcomes).
- **First Mapping of the Local and Solidarity Partnerships for Agroecology, April 2016. Participating in the MedCOP22 workshop, Tangiers, July 2016.**

> To draw a **starting situational analysis**:

There is a common ground to all these initiatives, whatever the context where they are growing might be.

1/ First of all, they all support farmers who have consciously adopted agroecological practices as defined by the 2015 Nyeleni Declaration.

- The production practices of Agroecology (such as intercropping, traditional fishing and mobile pastoralism, integrating crops, trees, livestock and fish, manure, compost, local seeds and animal breeds, etc.) are based on ecological principles.
- Territories are a fundamental pillar of Agroecology. Peoples and communities have the right to maintain their own spiritual and material relationships to their lands. They are entitled to secure, develop, control, and reconstruct their customary social structures and to administer their lands and territories, including fishing grounds, both politically and socially. This implies the full recognition of their laws, traditions, customs, tenure systems, and institutions, and constitutes the recognition of the self-determination and autonomy of peoples.
- Collective rights and access to the commons are a fundamental pillar of Agroecology.
- The diverse knowledge and ways of knowing of our peoples are fundamental to Agroecology. The learning processes are horizontal and peer-to-peer, based on popular education. They take place in our own training centres and territories (farmers teach farmers, fishers teach fishers, etc.), and are also intergenerational, with exchange of knowledge between youth and elders. Agroecology is developed through own innovation, research, and crop and livestock selection and breeding.
- The core of the cosmo-vision is the necessary equilibrium between nature, the cosmos and human beings. As humans we are but a part of nature and the cosmos. There is a spiritual connection with our lands and with the web of life. We reject the commodification of all forms of life.
- Families, communities, collectives, organizations and movements are the fertile soil in which agroecology flourishes. Collective self-organization and action are what make it possible to scale-up agroecology, build local food systems, and challenge corporate control of our food system. Solidarity between peoples, between rural and urban populations, is a critical ingredient.
- The autonomy of agroecology displaces the control of global markets and generates self-governance by communities. It means we minimize the use of purchased inputs that come from outside. It requires the re-shaping of markets so that they are based on the principles of solidarity economy and the ethics of responsible production and consumption. It promotes direct and fair short distribution chains. It implies a transparent relationship between producers and consumers, and is based on the solidarity of shared risks and benefits.
- Agroecology is political; it requires us to challenge and transform structures of power in society. We need to put the control of seeds, biodiversity, land and territories, waters, knowledge, culture and the commons in the hands of the peoples who feed the world.
- Women and their knowledge, values, vision and leadership are critical for moving forward.
- Youth, together with women, provide one of the two principle social bases for the evolution of Agroecology. Agroecology can provide a radical space for young people to contribute to the social and ecological transformation that is underway in many of our societies. Youth bear the responsibility to carry forward the collective knowledge learned from their parents, elders and ancestors into the future. They are the stewards of Agroecology for future generations. Agroecology must create a territorial and social dynamic that creates opportunities for rural youth and values women's leadership.

The protection of traditional, heirloom seeds is a top priority concern to all these movements, as well as the principle of caring for the soil and the nature. The dimension of solidarity is also present in all initiatives, as is the concern for a way of life that preserves humans and planet.

2/ All these movements also share the feeling of solidarity towards the farmers, and the belief that the farmers' economic position needs to be prioritised and consolidated within the food chain. There is a common will to "help smallholders". Being in direct contact with the producer is perceived as major assets of this model in the group members' eyes.

3/ Thirdly, there is a common principle of repairing broken social links and reconnecting people with food production. In some countries (Lebanon, Greece, Algeria), the commitment to the CSA model is closely related to a commitment to support the most fragile sectors of society including the refugees.

What are the main challenges we face?

There are many factors that challenge the development of CSA and other ecological solidarity-based food partnerships. If we consider the two sides of the producers-consumers partnership, they are facing slightly different issues: there is a **lack of training on the producers' side**, both in terms of production and in terms of communicating with a consumer group; on the consumers' side, there is a **lack of information and commitment**. The information that there is an alternative to the traditional market places (*souks*) dominated by middlemen, an alternative that is beneficial for farmers, is still not public knowledge in most of the countries (except France and Italy). There is a **further challenge of raising awareness** of the full meaning of Agroecology.

The cost of local organic products can also be an obstacle. It is important to raise awareness on the additional cost of agriculture that does not externalise costs, and is based on natural methods. Yet, more thorough studies on prices could result in interesting surprises.

Finally, another obstacle is the **reduced access to healthy, unpolluted Commons and natural resources**: seeds, soil, water are all scarce resources all around the Mediterranean Sea. They are increasingly grabbed by large-scale corporate actors, whereas they should remain at the disposal of small holders, who are the most able to use them in a sustainable way.

> **Actions to overcome these challenges / Proposal for 2017-2018:**

The most immediate way to overcome these challenges is to **multiply experience-sharing programs**, to learn from others' initiatives.

Longer and more permanent **mentoring and training activities** in agroecology, permaculture, but also CSA group training (Urgenci has now a substantial experience in this field), would be very beneficial. Field actors are even calling for the creation of farm incubators, alongside participatory Open Source learning programs.

Thanks to their influence, international and regional organizations could play a key role in **raising the awareness at the level of local public authorities** and convincing them to communicate about the social and economic benefits of food partnerships. Furthermore, they could support further the collection of in-depth information about the CSA movements in the region. In particular, the questionnaire used for the European census could be used for all the existing CSA groups around the Mediterranean Sea, in order to provide homogenous data.

Apart from supporting CSA information campaigns, local public authorities should also **support the creation of local CSA networks**. In a longer-term perspective, public authorities should **reconsider public procurement strategies** and promote **local food platforms** in order to valorise local food in schools, public administrations and hospitals.

➔ **2017: Capacity building - Focusing on sharing experiences/ "Learning journeys"**

These trips will constitute an excellent opportunity for the foreign participants to get a better insight into CSA as "on the ground" experiences, it is also for the hosts a nice way to make their partnerships live/ grow, to reinforce them.

Learning journeys are for us the better way to build trust and interest among people, to enhance the (future) CSA farmers and members capacity and creativity.

Capacity building for CSOs (rural and urban citizens) based on the already existing good practices on local food distribution systems (sharing international best practices)

> Organizing learning journeys in 5 different destinations (possibly Algeria, Morocco, France, Italy), and a specific focus each time.

5 international participants would attend, together with local participants.

Dissemination / short videos, travel reports, posts.

- > Holding a first meeting: restitution, consolidation and structuring training sessions for the next year. Building up a collaborative platform.

End of the year, possibly in Lebanon

Expected results:

- Dissemination of farmers' and consumers' experiences about LSP for Agroecology
- Exchange of good practices between already existing CSAs and LSPA and increased capacity of rural and urban citizens on sustainable food distribution systems
- Collect best practices to be compiled in a book Alternative Food Distribution System and Local Solidarity Partnership experiences and best practices.

➔2018: Insisting on training and mentoring + Completing mapping work (Research) – Towards a Common Declaration!

> Organizing 7 trainings sessions – 3 for all, 2 specific on CSA organisation for members/consumers, 2 specific on agroecological farming in partnership with Terre & Humanisme.

> Feeding the collaborative platform and consolidating the Mapping of LSPA.

> Organizing a second meeting, Official creation of the Mediterranean network:

COMMON DECLARATION: to establish what is common to all the LSPA initiatives, after having explored its diversity.

Possible follow up of the project:

How can capacity building can help to meaningfully engage in policy processes related to local food systems?

- Meeting for exchange between CSOs and Local Authorities and policy makers to develop policy advice, strategies and technical guidelines within an integrated approach to the sustainable management of local agriculture.

Please check the budget estimate, for 2016-2018.