



#48 December 2017

Urgenci

The International Network of Community Supported Agriculture  
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## Contents

.....  
President's Column  
on 2017

.....  
Memorandum of  
Understanding with  
the FAO, 2

.....  
Mediterranean  
Learning Journeys, 2

.....  
Training Activities in  
Europe, 3

.....  
4th European  
Meeting, 7th  
International  
Symposium, 4  
.....



## 2017 was the Year of Recognition for Urgenci *By Judith Hitchman, President of the International Committee*

Dear CSA members around the world,

It is now two year since I was elected as president in Beijing, and what a roller coaster ride our network has been on! The last 6 months have been among the most intense we have ever known! With the kick-off of 4 new European projects and signing a **Memorandum of Understanding** with the FAO, **Learning Journeys** in Turkey and Lebanon jointly implemented with *Terre et Humanisme* and supported by the FAO under their South-South Co-operation programme,, participation in the Organic World Conference in India, FAO Symposiums on Sustainable Food Systems and Nutrition, in two different regions, the launch of a seed-saving and seed swapping initiative in China, the finalisation of our mapping of LSPA in West Africa, participation in the IPES-Food initiative on a Common Food Policy for Europe, as well as many more activities in which our team has been involved, we are happy and fulfilled but also seriously overwhelmed by the sheer amount of work to be done right now. So watch this space: **we plan to restructure and enlarge the team in early 2018!** We will soon send you an update on the new members and their responsibilities.

For the moment, we are sending you a simplified Teikei Newsletter as well as our best wishes and season's greetings for the Winter Solstice and other holidays you may be celebrating. We will be back refreshed again in 2018, and look forward to many more collective CSA adventures.



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING



30 October 2017 will remain a singular moment in the history of Urgenci, the network of Community Supported Agriculture. A 3-year Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the President of the International Committee, Judith Hitchman, and Daniel Gustafson, Deputy Director General, at the United Nations' FAO Headquarters in Rome. This is an important recognition for all the local and solidarity partnerships between consumers and producers, and for Urgenci as their legitimate representative organization. This recognition comes from the highest institution in the field of food and agriculture in the world (see there FAO's PR): <https://urgenci.net/memorandum-of-understanding-between-fao-and-urgenci/>



## Mediterranean Learning Journeys: Turkey, Lebanon and follow up 2018

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**By Morgane Iserte, International Network Coordinator**

Back in 2015, FAO 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). Thanks to Moroccan RIAM, AMAP de Provence and *Terre & Humanisme*, we started a Mediterranean network for Local and Solidarity Partnerships for Agroecology (LSPA). A first meeting was convened in Marseilles in February 2016, with encouraging outcomes. After collective efforts to get support for follow-up, Urgenci and its partners managed to organise, as

planned together, two Learning Journeys in 2017: [Ankara in October, hosted by DBB and Tadya collective](#) and [Lebanon in November](#), hosted by the Soils Permaculture association Lebanon.

These field trips were aimed at facilitating *"exchange of good practices between small-scale food producers and consumers on already existing alternative food distribution systems"*, in order to support "capacity development-oriented learning activities" in 2018.

Indeed, the MedNet was granted a further budget for 2018 in order to 'develop a modular training programme serving training activities in the Mediterranean basin: yalla!

Please read [the summary report](#).



## In Europe, Education Activities Build Bridges between Small-Scale Family Farmers and Active Consumers

**By Morgane Iserte, International Network Coordinator**

As firmly stated in the [European CSA Declaration](#), citizens and farmers engaged in CSA across Europe aim, among others objectives, “to enable sharing of knowledge and skills between CSAs in different countries, to empower and educate people to act for and develop the movement and to show the benefits of CSA for the whole of society.”

In 2016, Urgenci and its partners submitted three different « Erasmus+ » projects, which is the educational programme of the European Union to foster cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices. The three of them were accepted, so Autumn 2017 was a long series of fruitful kick-off meetings among partners from 8 countries (Germany, Poland, Italy, Spain, Greece, Czech Republic, Hungary and France) !

The first one was in Prague, on October 9-11, 2017 for the **EATingCraft** debut hosted by the Czech Pro-Bio Liga and lead by IFOAM-Europe on Participatory Guarantee Systems, with a focus on Community-Supported Agriculture. <https://urgenci.net/eatingcraft/>

Shortly after, the second one was held in Wroclaw hosted by Polish FER to launch the **CSAct!** project : this Community-

Supported Agriculture collaborative training programme is the enriched follow-up of Be part of CSA ! for 2017-2019 with new countries entering the C S A educational field with Urgenci co-ordinating. <https://urgenci.net/>



[csact/https://urgenci.net/csact-kick-off-meeting-in-wroclaw/](https://urgenci.net/csact-kick-off-meeting-in-wroclaw/)

The last but not least kick-off meeting took place in Budapest on November 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 hosted by the coordinators TVE.

SolidBase is designed as an educational programme which provides practical entrepreneurial knowledge not only for farmers but for their consumers, who actively participate in the management of these initiatives is needed. <https://urgenci.net/solid-base/>

These European educational projects are co-funded by the Erasmus+ programme.



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union





## 4th European Meeting and 7th International Symposium in Greece, 9-11 November 2018

### *By the Steering Committee and the European Kernel*

Urgenci issued a call for a 7<sup>th</sup> Urgenci International Symposium and a 4<sup>th</sup> European meeting of Community Supported Agriculture Movements and other Local and Solidarity-based Partnerships for Agroecology, **November, 9-11, 2018 in Thessaloniki, Greece.**

<https://urgenci.net/next-urgenci-international-symposium-and-european-meeting-in-2018-in-greece/>

JOIN THE PREPARATORY TEAMS: If you or your organisation would like to support the preparatory process, please contact the Steering Committee by sending an email to: [contact@urgenci.net](mailto:contact@urgenci.net) i



# Urgenci

### **The International Network of Community Supported Agriculture !**

URGENCI brings citizens, farmers, consumers, activists and concerned political actors together at global level through an alternative economic approach called Local Solidarity Partnerships between Producers and Consumers. [www.urgenci.net](http://www.urgenci.net), @urgenci1 // Canopé, 21, rue Moulin au Roy 14000 CAEN FRANCE // +33 684685282// Mail : [contact@urgenci.net](mailto:contact@urgenci.net)

# TEIKEI 提携

Urgenci's newsletter has been named *TEIKEI*, «cooperation» in Japanese, as a tribute to the pioneering role of the Japanese organic agriculture movement in setting up the first Community -supported Agriculture models. It is also a tribute to the victims of the March 2011 Earthquake and Fukushima nuclear disaster, which hit Japanese so cruelly, just one year after Urgenci IVth International Symposium had been hosted in Hyogo prefecture.

The International Network of Community Supported Agriculture

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