

Erasmus + Partnership “Setting up a Learning Platform for Farmers' access to land” – 2018-2021

Project Summary

Partners: XCT, Rurbans, AMPI, AEP, DLg, ER, RWAG, SA, TDL

Context: For the past 6 years, we have developed relations, engaging in knowledge- and experience-sharing, and the joint production of key materials, thanks to the support of a Grundtvig project (2012-4) and two Erasmus + partnerships (2014-7 and 2016-8). Based on this past work, and the growth of our organisations, as well as the emergence of very recent ones, we have identified the need to systematise a Learning Platform, to share key materials (including very operational, internal documents) as well as to develop a joint program for learning activities.

Objectives: The overall objective of the project is to build the capacity, knowledge, know-how, and practical tools of access to land initiatives. In particular, the project aims at:

- 1) **Bringing a new focus on practical tools and skills** crucial for access to land initiatives, contrarily to previous projects on larger/topical subjects (rôle of local authorities, small farms, etc.)
- 2) **Building up the professional skills and practical knowledge of staff and volunteers of our organisations who** are training, advising and supporting farmers and prospective farmers seeking farmland or encountering difficulties to keep their farmland.

3) **Drawing from peer learning and European added value** to develop resources (educational materials, resource persons and educational activities) and to improve the competences, tools and approaches of our members, so that they can better advise and train farmers and future farmers.

4) **Helping our organisation address new challenges**, such as the decline of family farming, the need to develop tailor-made approaches for new or prospective farmers who may have limited initial skills in farming and agronomy, etc.

Expected result: The project will have both tangible and intangible results. The tangible results are explained below (under “project products”). The intangible results are the following:

- **More efficient and impactful organisations**, with better skilled, experienced and networked staff and volunteers, and more solid and new tools, approaches or areas of work - Faster development of emerging land initiatives/ land trusts: project’s partners in the Czech Republic, Romania, Greece, but also external partners in Scotland, England, Ireland, Denmark, Portugal, Poland and Germany.
- **Increased recognition of land trusts/initiatives from public authorities and funders throughout Europe**, through achieving a higher professional standard and better impact.
- **More agroecological farmers able to start/maintain their farming business** in secure and beneficial land tenure conditions.
- **More stakeholders involved in local dynamics to develop local food systems**, i.e. citizens, environmental groups, local authorities, etc.
- **Increased motivation, vision and sense of mission among staff and volunteers** participating in this European project, which is a strong and positive impact we clearly experienced with previous projects.