



Bringing Organisations & Network Development
to higher levels in the Farming sector in Europe

BOND Study tour in The Netherlands

19 – 23 March 2018

Information on:

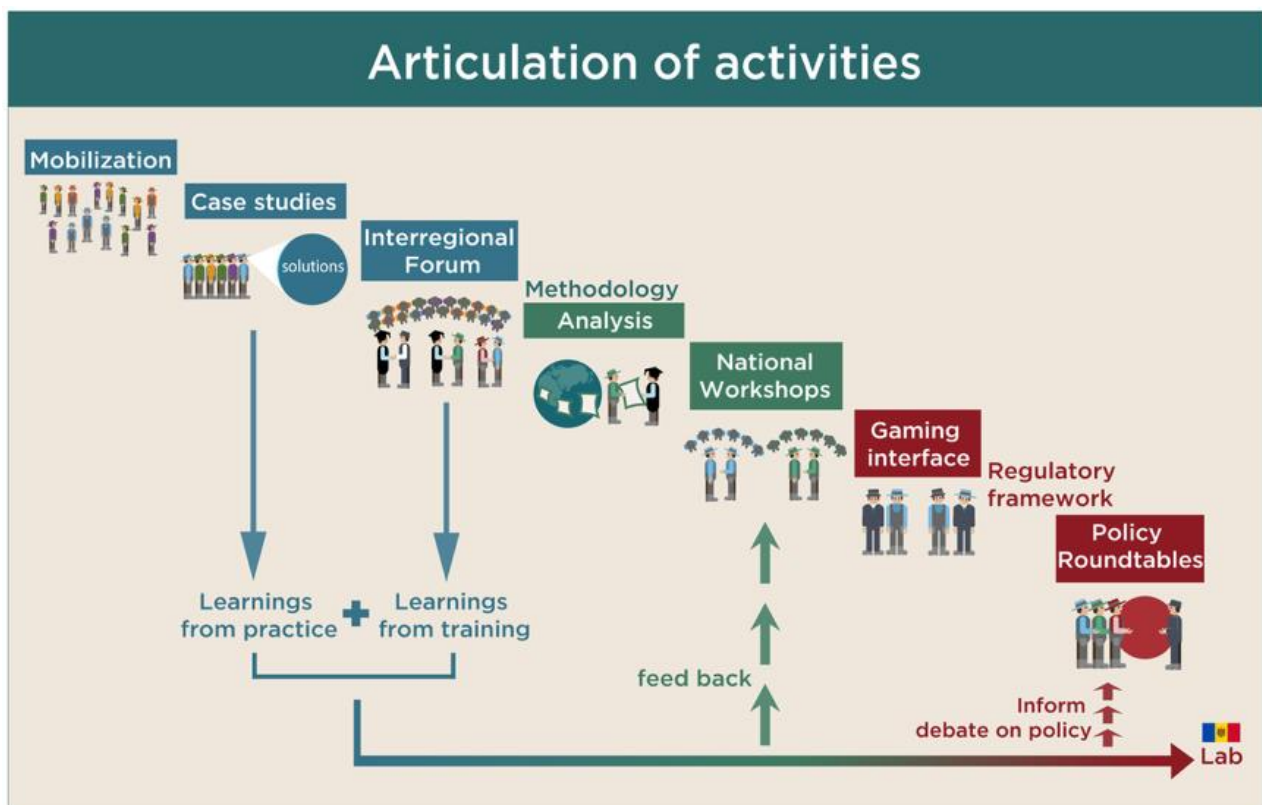
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General information on the BOND project

The aim of the BOND project, as stated in our EU Horizon 2020 proposal, is “to reach higher levels of organisation and networking, and develop a healthier, and more productive and harmonious farming sector in Europe for the long term”.

For an overview, please have a look at the description of the project on the Coventry University website: www.coventry.ac.uk/research/research-directories/current-projects/2017/bond-project/.

The diagram attached below illustrates the different stages of the project. Our ultimate goal is to build strong organisations and create stronger networks between farmers, between farmers organisations, and for them with policy makers, researchers, and others relevant to the networking and cooperation toward our goals: collective action for increased synergies and collaboration. Through these new bonds, and through the tools and resources developed over the three years of the project, we can promote lasting change for the good of the farming sector and ultimately for everyone who relies on it for daily nourishment across Europe.



Sixty farmers, from the 34 countries represented, have been selected for the study tours in six countries where they will visit different case studies. These sixty farmers will share knowledge with the farmers and organisations of the host countries, and learn from each others' examples and experiences, and find inspiration together for new solutions and new ways to deal with shared challenges.

The experience of the tours will be documented through interviews, videos, photo libraries, and other media. The case studies will form the basis of a database showcasing exemplars of successful and instructive European projects. All of these resources and others will be available to access and to build upon in the ongoing process of strengthening links between producers, researchers, policy makers and other relevant parties for lasting cooperation in organisational

development and policy design on the local, regional, and European levels, both during and after the project.

Study tour participants, case study representatives, members of the BOND consortium and other key stakeholders will then take part in the Interregional Forum in Cordoba, Spain, scheduled for late September 2018. Twenty farmer participants will have the opportunity to take part in 'Training of Trainers' as a part of this gathering, enabling them to set up similar trainer programmes within their regional organisations at home.

From this, Methodologies will be developed to work with participant farmers and organisations, looking at their situations and tailoring tools and strategies to establish stronger and more sustainable groups and links. The project partners will offer direct support to strengthen organisations with learning packages and training, including a 12-month action plan.

Ten National Workshops will be organised at this stage in ten different countries, for stakeholder representatives of farmers, policy makers, academics, and other relevant parties, to work on concrete proposals for collective action with a focus on markets, economic activity, and environmental sustainability.

Later, regional roundtables will be held in Portugal, Hungary, Romania and Poland. Here, alliances will be created between members of farming organisations, policy makers and other stakeholders, using relationship building techniques designed specifically for this project. These 'gaming' techniques will be developed and tested with project participants meeting in Moldova.

The information, analysis, and experience gained throughout this process will be added to the online database, in keeping with the project's commitment to making our results, successes and resources available widely for reference and replication.

PROGRAMME BOND STUDY TOUR THE NETHERLANDS

Monday 19th March

- Arrival at accomodation farm-hotel Leeuwendaal in Purmer between ± 14:00 and ± 22:00
- Dinner at Leeuwendaal (flexible because of different arrival times)
- Acquaintance & introduction to the programme

Tuesday 20th of March, visit to the Association Agricultural Nature and Landscape Management 'Water Land & Dikes' (WLD)

- 8.00 Breakfast
- 9.00 Departure from Leeuwendaal
- 9.30 Ipendam, Farm 'Achtervennen' of Sjaak Hoogendoorn and Ellen Brouwer
 - Coffee, tea
 - Introduction on the farmers cooperative 'Water, Land & Dikes' (WLD) by Annemarie Koelemeijer:
 - History of the farmers initiative
 - Organistaion and Activities of WLD
 - Sjaak Hoogendoor takes us round the farm
- 12.00 Lunch
- 13.00 Departure from Achtervennen
- 13.00 Broek in Waterland, Care Farm 'Ons Verlangen' (Our Desire)
 - 13.30 Guided tour of the care farm & questions
 - 15.30 Milk tasting
 - 16.30 Coffee, tea
 - 16.45 Group reflection & discussion
- 17.30 Departure to the island Marken
- 19.00 Dinner on Marken, restaurant De Taanketel

Wednesday 21st of March, visit to the Association Northern Friesian Woodlands (NFW)

- 8.00 Breakfast
- 9.00 Departure to Friesland
- 11.00 Buitenpost, Office of NFW
 - Presentation by Albert van der Ploeg (chair) and Wout van Vulpen (secretary): Working together from the bottom up to a vital agriculture in balance with its environment
- 12.30 Lunch (at Pilat and Pilat)
- 14.00 Visit to the farm of Berend van der Wal, guided tour & questions
- 16.00 Departure to the island Ameland
- 18.00 Boat from Holwerd to Ameland, stay in Hotels 1761 and Dolores in Hollum
- 20.00 Dinner at Hotel 1761 (with Ameland products)

Thursday 22nd of March, visit to Waddengroup/Waddengold & Ameland Product

- 8.00 Breakfast
- 9.00 Walk to the mill in Hollum
- 9.30 Presentation Henk Pilat on Waddengroup/Waddengold & discussion
Coffee, tea
Visit to the flour and mustard mill 'De Verwachting' (The Expectation) (producing Ameland Products)
- 12.00 Lunch in the beach pavilion
- 13.15 Visit organic dairy farm Kars Blokker (yoghurt production, nature management, cows with a blaze, etc.)
- 15.00 Visit cheese farm
- 17.00 Boat to Holwerd and travel to farm-hotel Leeuwendaal in Purmer
- 20.00 Dinner at Leeuwendaal
Somewehre during dinner: presentation by our host Gerwin Oortwijn on the cooperation Hotel The Farmers Room

Friday 23rd of March

- 8.00 Breakfast
- 9.00 – 11.00 Group session: reflection and lessons learned
- departure

Visitors' addresses, phone numbers & e-mail addresses

Farm hotel Leeuwendaal:

<http://boerderijleeuwendaal.nl/en/>
OosterwegE16
1481 EN Purmer
+31 (0) 299 644584
+31 (0) 6 53132446
info@boerderijleeuwendaal.nl

Farm Achtervennen:

www.boerderijachtervennen.nl/
Monnickendammerrijweg 54
1452 PN Ipendam
Tel: 0204361151
info@boerderijachtervennen.nl

Care Farm Ons Verlangen

<http://zorgboerderijonsverlangen.nl/>
Broekergouw 8 B
1027 AH Amsterdam
Tel. 06-53 70 35 52
administratie@zorgboerderijamsterdam.com

Restaurant De Taanketel

www.detaanketel.nl/
Havenbuurt 1
1156 AL MARKEN
0299-602 206
info@detaanketel.nl

Association Northern Friesian Woodlands

www.noardlikefryskewalden.nl/
Kennis- en Innovatiehuis (KEI)
Kuipersweg 5
9285 SN Buitenpost
Tel. 0511 – 745200
info@noardlikefryskewalden.nl

Hotel 1761 Ameland:

www.1761.nl/
Westerlaan 9
9161 AN Hollum-Ameland
+31 (0) 519-556345
info@1761.nl

Hotel Dolores Ameland:

www.hoteldolores.nl/en/
Yme Dunenweg 1
9161 BZ Hollum-Ameland
+31 519 554 520
info@hoteldolores.nl

Flour and mustard mill 'De Verwachting' (The Expectation)

www.amelandermusea.eu/musea-molens-en-vuurtoren__trashed/molen-de-verwachting/
Molenweg 6
9161 AW Hollum
+31 (0)519 - 542737

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NACCARATO <i>(filmer)</i>	Gaetano		naccarato.gaetano@yahoo.fr

Some information on the organisations we will visit in The Netherlands

Water, Land & Dikes, Association Agricultural Nature and Landscape Management

Website: www.waterlandendijken.nl/

Date started: ca. 1980.

Main focus: Especially sustainable agriculture, nature and landscape management; also water management, education, recreation.

Type of organisation: Association.

No. and type of members: ca. 500 farmers and 150 citizens (+ 650 volunteers); farmers and citizens

Operating level: regional, but also trying to influence national and international policies.

Short characterization in some catchwords: The area is a typical old polder-area directly north of Amsterdam. Successful struggle as for 'claim on the land' (vs nature organisations; from ± 1980). Development of region-specific knowledge on the relation between grassland-birds and agricultural management construction of a 'regional rural web' (new institutional arrangements) with NGO's, municipalities, district water-board, regional landscape and nature organisations etc.. Clear relation with 'urban demands' (Amsterdam, Northern Randstad) and an example of the positive function of (a certain type of) agriculture in a metropolitan area. Good cooperation with 'other farmer-led new organisations' (o.a. involved in recreation, region-specific production, care, etc.) that arised from / were stimulated by this association (e.g. Hotel the Farmers room, cooperation of care-farms Landzijde).

Both 'Water, Land & Dikes' and the 'Association Northern Friesian Woodlands' (which we will visit on Wednesday) were involved in the pilot (in a project with 4 pilots in NL): "The CAP and a collective approach to agri-environment". This pilot provides insights on greening agriculture and a new mechanism (Front Door-Back Door), now used for environmental sustainability (EU level) . For those who are interested in this pilot: We will circulate a separate document on this pilot ("*The cooperative approach under the new Dutch agri-environment-climate scheme*").

Some information on this pilot: After the 2014 EU Rural Development Regulation introduced the option of group applications for agri-environment-climate measures (Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013, Article 28). The Dutch government decided to implement the measure for joint applications only, implying that individual applications are no longer possible. This approach fits within a Dutch tradition of environmental cooperatives. Elsewhere in Europe territorial cooperation and community-based approaches are also becoming increasingly common. Over the last years, the Dutch government has been in close contact with the European Commission to establish workable rules and regulations. This paper explains the "Dutch model" in further detail and discusses the themes that needed special attention in terms of their implementation and compliance with EU regulations, and describes the model's relevance to other Member States.

Association Northern Friesian Woodlands (*Vereniging Noardlike Fryske Walden*)

Website: www.noardlikefryskewalden.nl/

Date started: 1992.

Main focus: Landscape management; specific forms of agro-ecological farming; nature management; water management; education & projects on bio-energy, climate etc.

Type of organisation: Association of 6 smaller local associations.

No. and type of members: ca. 800 farmers (covering an area of 50,000 hectares).

Operating level: regional

Short characterization in some catchwords: Especially developing a kind of region-specific model (based on 'own local knowledge') how to farm in a unique small scale landscape; landscape management with an own

certification system on quality of landscape management and own specific forms of agro-ecological farming. Furthermore involved in other new initiatives on water management, recreation etc.

Waddengroup Foundation and Ameland Product

Website: www.waddengroep.info/english/frisian-islands-waddensea-products-menu-home-english.htm.

Date started: 1996

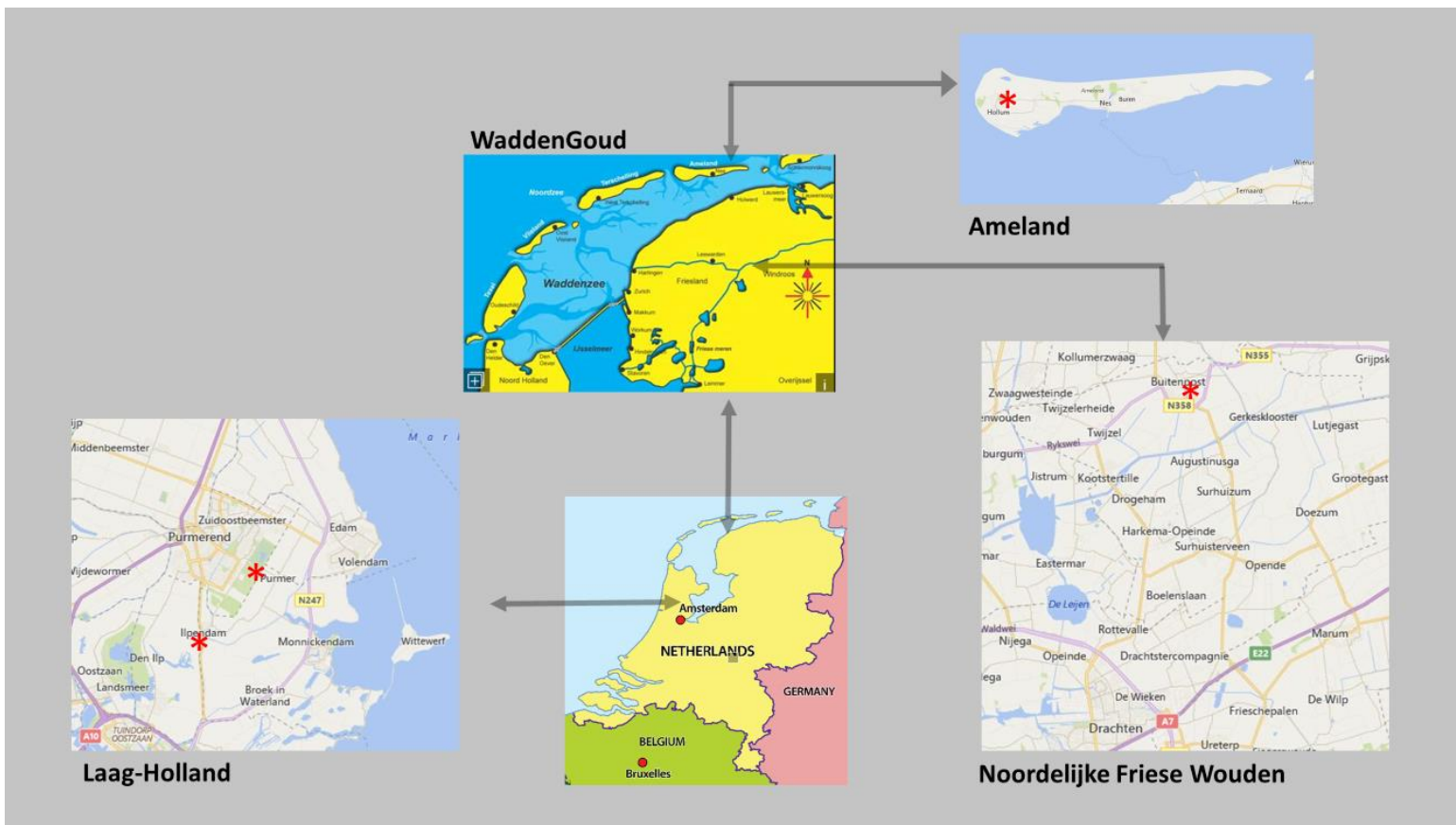
Main focus: new crops (silt vegetables); chain- & product development; new markets; certification *Type of organisation:* Foundation (organising a region-hallmark Waddengoud)

No. and type of members: no 'real members'; networkorganisation. ±. 300 certified products and ±. 1000 points of sale, network of ± 300 (rough estimation) farmers, small scale processors, entrepreneurs, restaurants, fishermen etc.

Operating level: regional, national, international

Short characterization in some catchwords: The Waddengroep Foundation stands for sustainable, environmentally friendly development of the countryside in the Wadden region. The Waddensea region as a whole includes the Waddensea, the Wadden islands and a part of the mainland, up to 25 km from the coast. The Waddengroep Foundation stimulates the local economy by promoting: regional production and the processing of raw materials from the Waddensea region and the trade of local products. Ameland Product is working closely together with the Waddengroep.

Additional to this information we circulate a chapter (of the book “Living Countrysides”) on The Waddengroep: “Value of Quality and Region: The Waddengroep Foundation”. It is a little outdated (since then the activities increased substantially), but it gives a good picture of the type, logic and impact of activities of The Waddengroep.



Participants BOND visit to The Netherlands

Boldizsar Horvath (Hungary; M; 28; English, Hungarian)

Organisation: Csoroszlya Farm. Creating markets. Rural-to-urban links.

Background:

Enthusiastic farm manager with great insight to organic farming. With more than 4 years of experience in various types of cropping systems, food processing and seed production. The farm is located 50 km from Budapest. We mostly focus on organic arable farming, fruit production and we have just started the vegetable production part as well. We deliver potatoes to fine dining restaurants, because our aim is to have a short supply chain system in the farm. Biodiversity is also an important aspect during farming.

Motivation:

I am confident that it is a great opportunity to meet farmers from different countries and learn practises about sharing knowledge. My target is to gain knowledge from other farmers about collaboration. I have already started to build a network between farmers across borders and within my country. In addition, I have organized events/workshops for farmers where they have a chance to build a partnerships with restaurant and their chefs. Sharing information about farming among young organic farmers is very important. I am sure that I will have a chance to get inspirations during the study tours. Promoting stronger cooperation is a big challenge in Hungary, so this is why I am really curious to hear more about best practises from other trainers and participants. I truly believe that this experience will help me to build up a stronger organisation in my country.

Slavica Ašonja (Bosnia & Herzegovina; F; 43; Serbian, Bosnian, Croatian, English intermediate)

Organisation: LAG Devetak. mountain dairy and livestock.

Background:

The Local Action Group "Devetak" is an association founded on LEADER principles. Now, in B&H there are only two active LAGs existing. The LAG has above 30 members from public, private and civil sector. It covers three municipalities (Rogatica, Sokolac and Han Pijesak) in the eastern part of B&H. The LAG is active in implementation rural development projects.

Motivation:

I have appicated as president of the LAG Devetak. Considering that 6 associations of farmers (which gather individual farmers) participate in the LAG, our beneficiaries of the projects also are all farmers in our area. Our territory is predominantly mountain area, with good conditions for development of livestock breeding. However, the farms are small and mostly not modernized enough. Farmers don't have enough skills and knowledge for commercial business. Also, the dairy value chains sector has not developed. Developing these chains is very important for the total agricultural development and this is possible if farmers improve their capacities. I hope that I will improve my knowledge for developing future projects for farmers in the LAG area. Also, I will organize a meeting with associations of farmers to present my experiences from the study tours. This is a very good opportunity for linking our farmers to other farmers from the countries which we will visit.

Marc Chapolard (France; M; 51; French)

Organisation: pork farmer/processor, 150% involved in CUMA (Coopératives d'Utilisation de Matériel Agricole).

Background:

I'm "pork butcher farmer" in association with 5 other farmers (in a GAEC: Groupement Agricole d'Exploitation en Commun), we have a half-time employee and farm 60 ha of land. We grow cereals and protein crops, that feed our pigs (autonomy reached for the food). Our farming system is a breeder-fattener one, with 25 mothers. We process the meat ourselves and sell it on market places (that represents 400 pigs per year). We don't own any equipment: all is in CUMA. I'm vice-president of this group, and also president of another CUMA focused on innovative equipment at a county level. I'm also president of the regional federation of CUMA (Nouvelle Aquitaine region) and member of the board of the national federation of CUMA.

Motivation:

Collective organisation is in my "DNA"! I'm 150% involved in collective organisations, as a farmer and as an administrator. I'm really interested in exchanging with other European farmers: I've already participated to a co-operative awareness mission in Montenegro 5 years ago (with FNCUMA). I'm also keen to discover how other farmers organise themselves: first, that can give us new ideas, and secondly, as a national administrator of FNCUMA, that can also help us to find European partners to work with on political recognition of agricultural collective organisations.

Suzana Dimitrievska (Macedonia; F; 48; English, Serbian, Croatian)

Organisation: LIPA org farm. Eko-Ilinden agri co-op

Background:

"Lipa" is an organic farm situated in the village of Mustafino, Macedonia. It comprises seventy hectares of land, and produces certified ecological (table and wine) grapes, apricots, beans, a variety of cereals, alfalfa and esparsette. The company was formed in 1994, and began as a small grocery store in Mustafino. Today, the company manages land, its own storage space, and machines for agricultural production. "Lipa" has exported its own products in Croatia and Switzerland. Our mission is to become a major supplier of organic agricultural products in the country.

"Eko-Ilinden" is an agricultural cooperative situated in the village of Mustafino, Macedonia. The cooperative was formed in 2015 with the goal of joint procurement and joint marketing of organic agricultural products.

"Eko-Ilinden" pursues two objectives. The first is forming of a network of farmer-members to produce for export. The other is social entrepreneurship, where small farmers are materially and knowledge-wise supported for producing different agricultural products – mostly vegetables – for the domestic market, as well as in processing these into final products (e.g. winter preserves, jams, sundried vegetables, etc.).

"Eko-Ilinden" organizes various kinds of workshops for organic agriculture and processing of ecological products, and organizes different meetings with the aim of establishing business contacts between producers, suppliers, and buyers.

Motivation:

Suzana Dimitrievska has a degree in Social Work from the Cyril and Methodius University (Skopje). She is a farm owner, and farmer by profession, producing organically certified agricultural products for the domestic and the foreign market. Suzana is also a representative and manager at the agricultural cooperative "Eko-Ilinden". The transfer of knowledge plays a major role in Suzana's line of work. This is especially the case with organic agriculture, where she is daily a mediator between farmers, businesses, and (non) governmental institutions. Through her work, Suzana is involved in different organizations, networks, and projects in the sphere of ecological agriculture in Macedonia, as well as in different groups working on the creation of strategies and on lobbying with respect to legal matters at the Macedonian Ministry of Agriculture.

Participating in the BOND project will upgrade my knowledge and ability in this context for better performance on the local and national level. The exchange of experience with other farmers, farmers from other countries, and the creation of networks between us are important for developing our markets and the creation of shared politics on the regional and European level.

Asta Slapikaite (Lithuania; F; 29; English, Lithuanian, bit of Danish, German, Russian and Romanian)

Organisation: Viva Sol Collective

Background:

Viva Sol was created by small producers and some consumers in 2006 to maintain the solidarity links between the city and the countryside. At the beginning, they planned to create a CSA, but they feel that it was premature in the Lithuanian conditions. However, with a joint endeavour they organized several peasant markets in Vilnius which still function until now (link: www.tymoturgelis.lt, FB suriu turgus). In 2009 Viva Sol created "House of Cheese-makers" (www.surininkunamai.lt), a small structure that gathers cheese-makers who cooperate for selling their cheese and share knowledge. By now this structure evolved towards the initiative of creating a butchery school for youth and adults interested in cheese-making, bread-making, meat, vegetable preserves, cider making.

Motivation:

I am not a farmer, but rather more a conscious consumer. I have just graduated my masters in Development and International Relations at Aalborg University (Denmark). I wrote my master thesis about alternative food networks and researched a good practice of Lithuanian artisan cheesemakers, that is how I got involved in the VivaSol activities. I have many interests connected with quality food, sustainable production and consumption practices, small-scale farming, rural development and promotion of rural-urban links. Through my educational background and professional experience, mainly in the NGO sector (EVS in Chisinau and Erasmus+ traineeship in Sofia), I became familiar with different approaches such as cross-sector partnering and participatory development. Hence, my main interests would be to gain new skills and knowledge connected with collaboration, networking and different means to build a stronger and healthier farming sector in Europe.

Valentina Hažić (Croatia; F; 33; English, Croatian)

Organisation: Family Farm Hažić & Regional Development Agency Medimurje REDEA

Background:

My Family farm is engaged in fruit growing, vineyard, wine production and apples processing. The tradition of wine production and apples in our family has been running for almost 30 years. In addition to agricultural production, we also provide tourist services in our wine house (we host more than 5000 tourists per year). In our surroundings we are well recognized for our production of apples. All orchards are equipped with irrigation system and anti-hail nets. We also have our own cold storage facilities for the apples, wine cellar with proper equipment and all necessary and new equipment for apple processing. We process apples into dried apples, apple juices and apple vinegar. Over the years, we have grown our estate and our vineyards, and these days we have 2.5 hectares of vineyards, planted with graševina, chardonnay, sauvignon blanc and traminac and 6,5 hectares of orchards. We produce around 20000 litres of wine per year, and almost 90% of that wine is sold in the wine house. Our goal is to produce good quality food which will be sold on farm and through other short food supply chains. Personally, I'm responsible for processing fresh apples into clarified and cloudy apple juice, packaging, labelling, distribution, marketing and selling of apples products. I also work in the Regional Development Agency as the Head of Rural Development Department. I'm responsible for the following activities:

- preparing project documents for EU funds (SAPARD, IPARD, EAFRD) and national programs;

- giving advices to the farmers about the subsidies for their investments; - establishing short food supply chains and operational groups in Croatia;
- initiating, applying and implementing projects financed through different EU programmes (INTERREG HUHR/SIHR, Horizon 2020, CIP, Cosme etc.)
- preparation of investment studies and business plans in the field of tourism and agriculture
- Giving basic information on available loans, subsidies and programs at local and state level (different kinds of loans from commercial banks, HBOR and Ministries that cooperate with banks) available to farmers - investors
- Organizing lessons and workshops with the goal of duly informing the relevant stakeholders about the development possibilities and programs in the agricultural and rural development sector.
- Preparation of Rural Development Strategy of Međimurje County and County Development Strategy,
- Preparation of local development strategies for Local Action Groups
- Stimulation of small scale farm businesses through establishment of short food supply chains
- Organization of the first Innovative Croatian Legumes Cluster

Motivation:

I work for more than ten years in the Regional Development Agency Međimurje mainly advising the farmers in Croatia. As a farmer (and processor) myself. This year I've worked also in European Parliament as a trainee in Committee for Agriculture so I'm familiar with the future CAP. I've prepared some EU founded projects which are focused on establishing the networks among the farmers, for instance currently I work on the establishment of Legumes Innovation Network (Horizon 2020, project TRUE) in Croatia. I've also designed the project AgriShort which is focused on the establishment of organized short food supply chain and this is one of the first initiative in Croatia concerting the SFSC's (Short Food Supply Chains). At this moment I'm working on gathering the farmers who will work together with my farm and establish the cooperation on the local market.

Joaquim Pifano (Portugal; M; 48; French, Spanish, Portuguese)

Organisation: ADERAVIS, "Association for the Rural Development and Traditional Products of the Municipality of Avis"

Background:

I am a honey producer in the municipality of Avis (Alentejo).

Motivation:

I have about 50 hives and an annual production of about a ton of honey, marketed through direct sale, on my farm. I also produce vegetables for own consumption. In addition to my activity as a beekeeper, I have been working as beekeeping technician for about 20 years, providing technical support and advice to beekeeping farms. I created and update a blog about beekeeping (<http://montedomel.blogspot.pt/>) where I publish articles related to bees and honey production. This is a way to share my experiences and knowledge with other beekeepers and farmers.

In the association where I work and where I do associative work, we promote various activities for clarification and provide technical support to farmers in the region, contributing to the dynamization of rural areas and the development of traditional products and agriculture in the region.

More recently, about 4 years ago, ADERAVIS started a project to recover traditional seeds among small farmers in the region, in order to know, characterize, reproduce, promote and redistribute these seeds, to avoid that traditional plant varieties disappear and also to promote better economic results in the farms, since a good part of the products derived from these seeds and traditional production methods present remarkable characteristics of self-preservation and good performances due to their adaptability to the region. Considering the activities that I perform as a beekeeper and also as an associative leader and technician, I consider the exchange of knowledge and experience very important, and I believe that learning from others and circulating the learnings is one of the paths to the success of farmers, organizations and society in

general. That is why I am very motivated to take part in this project and participate in the study visits so that I can share these good experiences with the farmers in my region and my country.

Tahir Halitaj (Kosovo; M; 49; Italian, Albanian, Serbo-Croatian, some English)

Organisation: Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Advisory Chief. LAG

Background:

The Ministry of Agriculture coordinates and enforces all the national rural development policies.

Motivation:

As chief of the department in charge of cooperation and training within the Rural Advisory Service of Kosovo, I will exploit the lessons learned and shared within the BOND project to improve the effectiveness of the projects and grants implemented by our department in favour of national farmers and their associations, particularly in relation to the relevant programmes funded by the international donors. Moreover, as member of the board coordinating all the LAGs of Kosovo, I will be able to transfer the best practices selected or developed under the BOND project to favour the improvement of the capacities of the farmers and their associations in Kosovo, also raising further opportunities to network with the LAGs from other EU or accession countries.

Petrit Dobi (Albania; M; 60; English, Albanian)

Organisation: Rural Association Support Programme (RASP)

Background:

The mission of RASP is to stimulate opportunities for rural people to improve their livelihoods, by making best use of natural, cultural and human resources to achieve sustainable development. One of the ways to fulfil its mission is through forming and strengthen voluntary associations and other forms of civil society organizations in rural areas, developing capacity for constructive lobbying and influencing of decision-makers by rural groups, in order to improve policies and services that can affect their livelihoods.

Motivation:

I am working, since 2000, for an organisation which main objective is forming and strengthening of farmers associations. My work with the organisation is focused in capacity building especially in the field of group performance, lobbying and networking. As far as this project aims to build capacities of leader farmers to play an important role in building partnership and networking not only in national but also in international/European level, I am interested to profit from experiences from other farmers and farmers organisation in setting their objectives for sharing knowledge, improving access to markets, exchange of experiences in resolving problems farmers are facing at this stage.

I assume that participation in BOND project will increase mine and my organisations capacities to build stronger organisations and create stronger networks between farmers and between farmers' organisations, to build partnerships with policy makers, researchers, etc., and take collective action in support of sustainable rural development.

Lili Balogh (Hungary; F; 26; Hungarian, English, French, Spanish)

Organisation: Életfaló (in Debercsény) / Védegyelet egyesület (Protect the Future Association)

Background:

As a young farmer I will start my farm on family owned land which have been rent out to a conventional farmer until now. I am planning to apply agro ecological and permaculture principles throughout the different activities (production, processing, research, education and cultural events). Livestock will be old Hungarian breeds, and the crops will include hemp and old heritage wheats amongst others. I am deeply committed to have a big focus on the education of people from every age as well as applied research, to ease the dissemination of agro ecology. After working as a volunteer for Védegylet since summer 2017 I will be working on the FAO CSO and the BOND project as a staff member from 2018.

Motivation:

I first discovered Agro ecology during my university studies (I am an agronomical engineer). This motivated me to go to Cuba to learn it from first hand on an agro ecological peri-urban cooperative farm in Havana. Later on I was involved in sustainable food systems in Montréal, Brussels, Wales and Budapest. I have spent 6 months promoting CSAs and campaigning against glyphosate with Gerald Miles while working at his organic farm in Wales. Bond seems like a fantastic opportunity to be part of a European-wide network, while learning and getting inspired by others. I would be more than glad to disseminate the gained knowledge afterwards in Hungary and regroup and create a strong base for the Agro ecological movement in my home country while being an active farmer. A dream come true let's say :)

Others (organizers & facilitators of the BOND tour):

Ivan Stefanic: (Croatia, M, 33, English, Serbo Croatian).

Ivan has been asked to will take care of the English - Serbo-Croatian translation. He is not only interpreter but a 'normal tour participant' as well. He works for the organisation Unity and is Advisor in Rural Development and Project Manager. As consultant and as a member of a group of enthusiasts (farmers) he is interested in the BOND project very much and intends to use the BOND lessons in his work.

Laetitia Boon: interpreter English – French

Laetitia is a student in development studies and land use planning at Wageningen University, and has an interest in (urban) food systems and alternative future building. She will be involved as translator in the project, but is very interested in discovering the different projects that will be visited.

Gaetano Naccarato: film producer and director.

Gaetano will be working with us during the case studies, workshops and fora. He will produce a movie (\pm 15 min.) to show the importance of farmers to human societies, and their connection to nature. (for some of his work, see: <https://vimeo.com/gaetanonaccarato>). The purpose is to increase BOND's impact, and to sensitize a wide audience of consumers and citizens about the fundamental role groups of farmers have on the quality and health of their own daily lives (foods and landscapes).

Angela Hilmi (F), Project coordinator of the BOND project, Senior Researcher in Coventry University.

Angela is an agronomist socio-economist with studies in Anthropology and Sociology of Politics, experienced in sustainable agriculture and rural development with twenty + years of professional experience in many different organisations (too many to mention) in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Caribbean, USA and Europe. She has in recent years been leading the creation of a new inclusive investment approach bridging private capital and small farmer communities.

Rudolf van Broekhuizen (Netherlands, M, 61, Dutch, English), Organizer Dutch BOND tour, Senior Researcher at Wageningen University.

Rudolf has ample experience in land management, food supply chains, rural development, rural business model research and project management. He has an extended network with different agricultural initiative groups in the Dutch countryside. He participated in various European projects on sustainable agriculture, food chains and rural development.



Henk Oostindie (Netherlands, M, Dutch, English and Portugese). Organizer Dutch BOND tour, Assistant Professor at Wageningen University.

Henk has a longstanding experience in food chain dynamics, the socio-economic impact of rural development, multifunctional agriculture and diversity in rural business models. He has ample experience in multi-stakeholder projects and has an extended network with agricultural organisations and farm. He participated for more than 20 years in many European projects