



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

New Solutions for Collective Action

R E T H I N K I N G C A P

The case of Romania, Republic of Moldova and France

THE FUTURE OF EUROPE'S **FOODS & LANDSCAPES**



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Executive Summary

BOND is a project that gathered 17 partners from 12 European countries. It aimed to promote a healthier, more productive and harmonious farming sector in the EU, reaching higher levels of organization and networking among different stakeholders. This regional report, one of the six final project reports, focuses on the work of three organisations from France, the Republic of Moldova and Romania and engages with The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). Social capital, collective action, agroecology and cooperation are the four leading principles proposed to policy makers in the national CAP reform of 2020. By showcasing the project's chosen regional activities and analysing their scope and implications, the report argues that the European farming sector needs a fresh approach, based on inclusive rights for underprivileged farming communities, innovative grassroots knowledge and experience. Methodologically, this argument relies on the project's three pillars: See, Learn and Tell. 'See' meant visiting other fields, listening to peers' best practices. 'Learn' meant exchanging ideas and developing new perspectives. 'Tell' meant sharing new acknowledgments and expanding the project's reach to indirect beneficiaries.

Two main common problems arose: lack of cooperation and rural underdevelopment; distorted food prices and support of quantity over quality. In order to solve these issues, the report proposes that CAP must be subject to transparent and open decision-making processes. Furthermore, short value chains are a model for territorial development and collective action can be strengthened by formalising new or already existing networks. Lastly, law revisions using human rights tools are needed to develop inclusive and equitable strategies.

Introduction

What do France, the Republic of Moldova and Romania have in common? Cornerstone of the agricultural sector in Europe, France contributed to the foundation and regulations of the sector in the European Union (EU) and nowadays its land policies are more developed and socially adapted. Rep. Moldova relates with the EU via the EU-Moldova Association agreement (2016) and the previous Eastern Partnership (2009) and is committed to strengthening the stability of its agricultural sector nationally and internationally. Romania joined the EU as one of the New Member States (NMS) during the latest EU enlargement (2007) and still struggling at policy level to build an inclusive and engaging farming sector.

The three countries present different needs, constraints and agricultural realities but they can learn from each other because they share a common heritage of collective farming. Connecting their experiences and sharing their knowledge, they become positive models for other national contexts. France is currently supporting the model of voluntary cooperation implemented after World War II. Rep. Moldova and Romania are seeking to eschew the communist model of forced cooperation in search for a new positive model that does not equate collective farming with fear.

That is why the French, Moldovan and Romanian peasants, farmers and land managers are the protagonists of this publication on collective action, collectives and cooperatives. This report is part of the BOND Project, Bringing Organisations & Network Development to higher levels in the farming sector in Europe. What has emerged from BOND activities and meetings is the common need, intention and effort toward collective action and the promotion of social capital. The key to enabling and protecting this common will is a unifying European Land policy framework that regulates EU relations among members and third countries around the common resource that land represents.

Representing their food producers, CUMA (Coopératives d'Utilisation de Matériel Agricole) in France, ProEntranse (Entrepreneurship, Training and Services) in Rep. Moldova, and Eco Ruralis (National Peasant Farmers Association) in Romania, have collaborated on this report, collecting their experiences and points of view resulted from active participation in BOND. The project has developed innovative tools to re-think diverse forms of collective action. The report describes the project methodology, activities and findings and explains how Europeans can use these to build influential proposals and reform policies, such as the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). During this period of historical crisis for collective action, identifying and sharing best practices may have a strong impact on policy while, at the same time, fostering social capital.

The first chapter presents the BOND Project and the activities implemented by its partners, via Eco Ruralis, CUMA and ProEntranse, raising specific policy issues and proposals. The second chapter focuses on the major topic of this report, collective action in the form of collectives and cooperatives, their past, present, future and space-based conception and implementation. After a general introduction to the history of collective entities in the partner countries, the report also introduces some positive 3 models from the countries selected. The third chapter deals with the tangible impact that BOND activities and partners can generate at decision-making and normative levels. After having introduced the Common Agricultural Policy with its history and reform process as well as various recently developed international tools, the report put forward the policy proposals resulted from the activities of the networking and collective action. These proposals address specific issues that are crucial to the proper, equal and fair development of the European agricultural framework, namely re-thinking the CAP through collective action.



BOND

BOND

SOCIAL CAPITAL: networks together with shared norms, values and understandings that facilitate co-operation within or among groups. There is much debate over the various forms that social capital takes, but one straightforward approach divides it into three main categories: bonds, bridges, linkages. (OECD) See <https://www.oecd.org/>.

Despite their difference, all the partner countries came together toward three common goals: networking, collective action and building social capital. BOND is a project for the EU agricultural sector and its support of local realities, communities of farmers, peasants, stewards and managers of European land.

This chapter discusses the project, its partners and activities. It focuses on the French, Moldovan and Romanian agricultural frameworks. As Romania hosted the largest variety of events, the report uses it as the general explanatory example for the featured activities, followed by the contextualised experience of the other two countries. The tool that makes of BOND an impactful project features in the last section of the chapter. Specific boxes explore the activities presenting direct individual experiences of some of the people who hosted events and participated in BOND activities.

PEASANT: any person who engages or who seeks to engage alone, or in association with others or as a community, in small-scale agricultural production for subsistence and/or for the market, and who relies significantly, though not necessarily exclusively, on family or household labour and other non-monetized ways of organizing labour, and who has a special dependency on and attachment to the land. (UNDROP)

1.1 The Project¹

BOND is a project that gathered 17 partners from 12 European countries², receiving funds from the EU-Horizon 2020 Research & Innovation program. It started in 2018 and ended in 2020 with the aim to promote a healthier, more productive and harmonious farming sector in the EU, reaching higher levels of organization and networking among different stakeholders. The actors involved were called to share their knowledge and experience in the farming and environmental sector, organizing and participating in workshops, regional policy roundtables, study tours and a youth forum that strongly fostered collective action and social capital. Farmers and land managers had a key role in the environmental and economic sustainability of the EU farming sector.

The specific objectives established were:

- 1) to draw up solutions and build bonding capital within farmer and land manager groups, ensuring cohesiveness and trust among people;
- 2) to enable different organizations to come closer together, building bridging capital to form larger networks (value chains, cooperatives and apex bodies), understanding attitudes, weaknesses and constraints that impede collective action;
- 3) to build linking capital, developing ties with entities with different interests and powers, including government, donors, academia, the private sector, in order to reach a stronger position in decision-making;
- 4) to engage multiple actors and policy makers

The strategy of the project was built on three key words, see, learn and tell that represent three mutually reinforcing pillars. First, the farmers and the land managers involved had the chance to learn from visiting successful experiences of other countries. Second, the partners involved were invited to understand attitudes and overcome

¹ For more details about the project, its partners, actors and all of its activities as referred to in this report, please see the BOND project website: "Bringing Organisations & Network Development (BOND) to higher levels in the farming sector in Europe", 2019, <https://www.bondproject.eu/>.

² For the names and the websites of the entities involved, see the list of participants.

weaknesses and constraints, analyse the experiences of groups in selected countries and initiate a process of capacity building toward effective collective action. Third, the participants were finally ready to affirm their position in the policy landscape. Being involved in new interactions, they shared points of view and created common thinking around special areas of interest, shared by new alliances and coalitions. The activities planned took different forms. In total, six study tours, ten national thematic workshops, and four regional policy round tables, took place successfully in each partner country, supplemented by one inter-regional forum, one lab experiment and one youth forum.

1.2 Interregional Forum and Training of Trainers

The Interregional Forum

The Cordoba Forum was an explosion of colours, artistic expressions and creativity. It took place in September 2019, after the completion of the study tours, in order to gain a comprehensive understanding of the results and to be able to provide an inclusive review of the findings. The impact of the study tours would have not been the same without the Inter regional Forum organized by the University of Cordoba (UOC).

During the forum, the national findings were presented and explained to be applicable in other local, national, regional or global contexts, together with best practice around valuable cooperation to be shared, implemented and re-created. The aims of the forum were to:

- take stock of the study tours;
- share good practices;
- involve participants in action planning exercise.

The first day hosted a general introduction that was followed by the presentations of the groups of Spain, Italy and France, and then those of the Netherlands, Norway and UK. They shared what they learned in the countries they had visited. The human connections and ideas emerged through an ice breaking innovative and creative activity called Mystica aimed to celebrate the achievements of the study tours.

Additionally, one exceptional opportunity was offered to the participants: they could join the BOND Project documentary film director and tell their stories, all collected in the work “Finding your own story”. The second day shifted the approach from practice to theory and began with a plenary discussion and open forum on the topic “Cross-regional experiences and learning on collective action”. A World Café was organised where participants could suggest and exchange opinions to present proposals aimed at strengthening collective action. A ceremony made of musical and video performances closed the event. Both on the first and on the second day, two introductory activities were implemented on the variety, uniqueness and biodiversity that characterize European agriculture: one exhibition and exchange of European traditional seeds and one of European farmers’ products.

A fundamental part of the interregional workshop was the Training of Trainers (ToT) on governance, equity and performance of farmer organizations, led by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), a BOND partner in collaboration with the University of Cordoba (UOC) and Coventry University (CU).

The training of trainers

The ToT set the scene for the following steps of the project, connecting people together and bringing onboard different constituencies and key actors, in a range of formal and informal exchanges, developing relationships and skills. It allowed the participants to:

- reflect on the importance of values and principles for effective farmer organizations;
- provide a framework and a tool to understand and analyse organizational performance;
- understand the process to build a common vision;
- formulate plans of action.

It also allowed some participants to replicate the trainings elsewhere, as the TOT organized during the Regional Roundtable in Romania presented later shows.

The agenda for the first day encompassed a range of topics such as values and vision to organize as a group, emotional intelligence and conflict transformation. The second day dealt with the topic of bonding and bridging, relations performance assessment and advisory services, based on the analysis of different organizational skills. The third day focused on bridging and linking relations, looking at communication, dialogue and advocacy, and aiming to develop common strategies and an action plan.

Both events allowed reflection and exchanges about what collective action is: “it means building communities whose people have the same responsibilities and objectives [...], and it means solidarity because peasants are marginalized group [...], helping farmers to be organized, working with them and helping them to solve daily issues [...], regrouping people and doing activities together, inviting people to be together and create something together [...], accepting to spend times with peers, to develop and enact a process which is made of different ideas and satisfy everybody’s wills, needs and intentions [...], it is a mutual approach of help [...], for us young farmers, it mainly means to be connected and become stronger in a context dominated by older generations [...], it is part of the way humans work in every field, but it becomes fundamental in the field of agriculture [...], collective action supports the shift from local activities to activities at regional and international level as it support actions dealing with different legal frameworks and tools.³

1.3 Study tours

The first pillar, to see, took form in this set of activities. France, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, United Kingdom were the locations selected. In total, 60 representatives of farmers and land managers benefited from the study tours, becoming able to bring back home to their own countries, the knowledge and experiences acquired. More specifically, these representatives developed materials that document the visits in various forms: reports, recorded interviews, videos, posters, photo libraries. This first step allowed a preliminary collection of various forms of documents and information and started to develop closer ties between the different stakeholders and to create inter-regional networks, using social media platforms.

Spain

The first group of participants reached Spain in February 2018 where the BOND Project partner Coordinadora de Agricultores y Ganaderos de la Comunidad Valenciana (COAGCV) organised the tour.



³ These are some of the highlights collected in a short video released by the Spanish host partner.

It included a visit to:

- the wholesale market of Valencia⁴, an example of a successful short food supply chain able to reconfigure the relations between farmer, consumer and producer;
- the Department of Public Health, fundamental to understanding the regulations behind permits and the configurations of alternative production, distribution and consumption.

Different elements have been identified as regional models of development for social capital empowerment:

- public and community land banks as regional models of development for social capital empowerment, in an effort to centralize and recover the agricultural and natural heritage that supports sustainability and youth engagement, and consists of a system of mediation between people who own the land but do not cultivate it and people who are willing to steward a piece of land and to cultivate food;
- the Food Sovereignty Platform⁵, a platform bringing together all kinds of entities and individuals working for food sovereignty;
- the Participatory Guarantee System, an alternative system of certification arisen among producers to guarantee quality assurance built on trust, social networks and knowledge exchange.

Ioana (young peasant farmer from Northern Romania) saw the early light of the morning rising from the market of Valencia, people actively cooperating together to shape a new community-based food supply chain.

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY: the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. (La Via Campesina)

France

The second group of participants reached France in March 2018. The tour, organized by CUMA, included visits to diverse forms of collective organizations, not all of them with cooperative statutes, covering different stages of the food chain.



Among other sites, the group visited:

- Le Gerموir, a farm's incubator, to foster the set up in organic farming by offering a "Life-size" experimentation period;
- Cuma Nord'Oignon, a classical example of a Cooperative for the Usage of Agricultural Machineries, a

4 "Valencia Wholesale: Distributor of Paper Supplies, Grocery, and Institutional Foods", <https://www.valenciawholesale.com/>.

5 European Public Health Alliance, "The European Platform for Food Sovereignty", 1 March, 2007, <https://epha.org/the-european-platform-for-food-sovereignty/>.

MOLDOVAN PARTICIPANTS IN FRANCE

Two participants went from Rep. Moldova to France: Irina Pompus, researcher, and Andrei Zbanka, consultant. For their national context, it is important to understand the evolution of cooperation in France, its strengths and weaknesses, the methodology for creating and administrating a cooperative.

The study tour led to the fundamental conclusion that every solution can and must be adapted at country level. Participants from Rep. Moldova were mainly interested by the case of Le Panier Vert and identified in specialization the key for success in their country. On the contrary, the Romanian participant foresaw a better implementation through general organizations in his country.

group of producers investing together, in this case, in the sector of the production, drying and packing of onions;

- Le Panier Vert,⁶ a full working cooperative to process and sell food in local farmers' shop;
- The Vegetable Research Centre of the Chamber of Agriculture, a positive moment to reflect on the need



Dan Cismas has been one of the most active members of Eco Ruralis in taking part in BOND activities. The visit, discovery of and debate on the reality of CUMA deeply affected his understanding and approach toward collectives: he describes it as a successful system for cooperation, that could be applied in the Eastern region as well. Dan talks of the past and future; he is conscious that cooperation in Romania is hindered by reticence and prejudices, but the key to reconnect farmers and peasants toward collective action can be found. According to him, it is through the transformation of the approach to responsibility that positive steps will be achieved: once, responsibilities were assigned from above, while, from now on, responsibility is a bottom-up process, creating more leaders, collectively taking action together. It is a challenge for Romanians but changes are already visible. After France, he started to promote the formation of another cooperative of producers in his region: "the partnership does not need to be implemented at all levels but, as CUMA shows, members of different agricultural sectors can join together and magnify their activity and efforts".

to exchange experience and on the fundamental step to understand technical research results.

Dan Cismas saw the Cuma Le Verlossoise, a group sharing equipment and fostering territorial projects with the municipality, and was astonished by the way one of the least advantaged regions of France has been able to involve the local municipality, farmers and associations to reshape together the future of its community and its land.

United Kingdom



Iulian Dutu has been a member of Eco Ruralis for years; he is a peasant, and the baker of Turtita Fermecata*. Iulian remembers his visit to England as a very formative and inclusive introduction to the national agricultural reality: the group managed to visit cooperatives of producers and sellers, farms, fields, CSAs and to appreciate examples of biodiversity conservation, natural habitats, environment and generational renewal. One urban animal farm caught Iulian's attention, in particular: it is placed in the centre of Bristol and its entrance and facilities were open to everyone, free of charge. It reminded him of a farming activity in Bucharest, though placed in the countryside. In Bristol, he had the chance to see the most passionate and dynamic representation of the local economy, to be put into practice in Romania.

6) Au Panier Vert*, <http://www.aupaniervert.fr/>



Finally, one group of participants reached England in April 2018 and the sixth and last tour, organized by the BOND Project partner, the Land Workers' Alliance (LWA), included a visit to:

- the LWA headquarters, a national example of a grassroots union of small farmers fighting for a better future for the community, putting the human dimension at the basis of farmer alliances to increase solidarity, strengthen collective action, develop connections;
- two member farms;
- different CSAs (Community Supported Agriculture), member-owned cooperatives that are based on participatory sustainable farming;
- the Bristol Food Network,⁷ a model of work toward the sustainable development of cities, that made of Bristol a network of rural/urban producers/consumers, progressively shaping their food policy;
- a pasture-fed livestock Association, an efficient system of livestock production, respecting animal welfare.

Iulian (see box 8) and Dragos (small scale seeds producer from Southern Romania) saw how different experiences of cooperation unfold in the smallholder cooperatives of the Tamarisk farm⁸, a synergy of governmental and environmental activities, those of Gloucester services⁹, committed to source quality and ethical food, and those of PEPC¹⁰, a processing farm.

1.4 The national workshop in Romania

The second pillar of the project is learn. Widening the focus from locality-based environment, Eco Ruralis took the lead for its first country-based activity: Bucharest hosted the fifth National Thematic Workshop of BOND. Common to these ten national meetings were the topics debated by different stakeholders: sustainable farming, access to market and environmental sustainability, aiming to use and apply the processes and training developed for the groups to build their own strategy and action-plan networking, and reaching higher levels of collective work and aggregation. It was a crucial moment for the Eastern European region from an agricultural and social perspective. New opportunities appeared thanks to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP) and to the United Nation Decade for Family Farming (UNDF). Romania held the Presidency of the Council of EU during the negotiations on Community Agricultural Policy (CAP), another supportive element to strengthen the position and influence of the Eastern area.

7) "Bristol Food Network", 2014, <https://www.bristolfoodnetwork.org/>.

8) "Tamarisk Farm", 2020, <https://tamariskfarm.co.uk/wp/>.

9) "Gloucester Services", <https://www.gloucesterservices.com/>.

10) "Black Bark Films & Landworkers' Alliance," In Our Hands, 2018, <https://inourhands.film/stories/>.

THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION ON THE RIGHTS OF PEASANTS AND OTHER PEOPLE WORKING IN RURAL AREAS (UNDROP)

Is a non-legally-binding Resolution passed by the United Nations in 2018. UN General Assembly Resolution 73/175 and UN Human Rights Council Resolution 39/12. It is composed of 28 articles defining the notion of peasant and establishing related rights. (UN)

The region needs, on the one hand, to build alliances between grassroots farmers and civil society organizations, and, on the other hand, to create synergies and deliver a regional political agenda. The name of the two-day event was: “How can the collective grassroots mobilization bridge a human rights (HR) approach in public policies for food and agriculture?”. The event gathered together 100 participants from Romania and Eastern Europe: small farmers and agro-ecological food producers, civil society representatives of social and environmental organizations, international guests.

The first day hosted discussions on:

- the role of peasant rights in the regional process of unification;
- the effects of CAP on producers and consumers inside and outside the EU;
- the role of FAO and UN instruments in facilitating the political dialogue at national level.

The second day opened with panels devoted to the presentation of the international tools that can be used to build a strategic plan that influences the implementation of CAP beyond 2020 at national level.

- UNDFP as a living and confronting process aimed at establishing the role of family farmers over productivity in the food system;
- UNDROP as a document representative of peasants and farmers aimed at reconfiguring CAP and the rights of small farmers; this has been identified by all participants as a bonding tool that unites farmers’ universal struggles and strategies, in particular the Eastern European process toward Food Sovereignty.

The participants learned that, despite national differences, they are part of a region of countries with common challenges and together they can work towards a better future for European and non-European peasants and farmers via collective action. They learned that CAP is a common policy that can be applied at national levels according to local needs. They learned that international human rights-based tools, such as the UNDROP, speak on behalf of farmers and are essential to building a common strategy, reinforcing social capital and strengthening community networks.



1.5 Regional Roundtable in Romania

LEGO SERIOUS GAME BOND SERIOUS PLAY

is an interactive and playful method for solving problems and developing critical thinking skills. It is a tool derived from the LEGO SERIOUS PLAY methodology, a facilitation methodology created by the Lego Group. It is a crossing between play, games and gamification in order to provide a more elastic approach to fostering the building of social capital, facilitate greater capabilities for social learning and interactions and improve group problem-solving. The approach devises better ways of working with each other, to come up with common solutions and foster constructive alliances. In the context of BOND, this gaming interface was applied in the Regional Policy Roundtables in Portugal, Hungary, Romania and Poland.



Finally, the third pillar is tell. Eco Rurales organised the first Regional Policy Roundtable in November 2019 in Cluj Napoca. These activities aimed to develop links and relationships between farmers, land managers groups, policy makers, and other key stakeholders at local, regional, national and EU levels to facilitate a mutual understanding of different realities and coordinated action. The participatory methods constituted the innovative element of these meetings, as the new interfaces, toolkits and platforms were based on gaming techniques. This gaming method was intended to create a new interface between farmers and policy makers, thus fostering interaction and adding value to a list of recommendations made available widely in the selected countries and for EU policymakers. The policy issues and proposals arisen are presented in the third chapter, section 3.3.

The name of the two-day event was “Collective action for access to farmland: What opportunities does the EU Common Agricultural Policy and the UNDROP bring for farmers and land managers in Eastern Europe?”. It brought to Transylvania 20 participants. The stakeholders were as varied as farmer groups, land conservation and access to land organizations, academics, national decision makers and civil society representatives. The countries involved were equally diverse: Romania, Hungary, Poland, Rep. Moldova, Croatia, United Kingdom, France and the Netherlands.

On the first day, participants began the event in an innovative way with an intensive gaming session around the theme of access to land for sustainable farming. The LEGO Serious Play session, facilitated by the polish partner, allowed to set a playful interface between farmers and policy makers. The second day opened with several presentations of national land management practices and national political frameworks in Rep. Moldova, Croatia, Hungary, Ukraine and Romania, described by the representatives of member countries. All of the outlined policy frameworks strongly articulated the access to land, also having the potential to innovate current land policies both in EU and non-EU contexts.

VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES FOR RESPONSIBLE GOVERNANCE OF TENURE OF LAND, FISHERIES

AND FORESTS (VGGT): in the Context of National Food Security, they promote secure tenure rights and equitable access to land, fisheries and forests as a means of eradicating hunger and poverty, supporting sustainable development and enhancing the environment. (FAO)

Building on the results produced by the National workshop, the sessions continued with the introduction of crucial tools such as:

- United Nation Declaration Rights of Peasants (UNDRP);
- United Nation Decade of Family Farming (UNDDF);
- Voluntary Guidelines Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT);
- European Union Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

The main issues commonly highlighted by the participants were:

- speculative land markets in the Eastern European context;
- lack of new entrants and young farmers due to land concentration;
- generational renewal linked to land access.

Additional different perspectives on the access to land debate were highlighted by the participants: Terre de Liens, a French organization facilitating land for agroecology, presented the activities of the European Access to Land network; the Transnational Institute, a Dutch partner, showcased the work of the Hands on the Land Alliance, bringing more clarity on the European access to land and land rights dynamics. The last day of the roundtable focused on debating joint policy proposals and mutually agreed and desired actions.

AGROECOLOGY: a holistic set of ecological, social and political principles that aims to embed food production within healthy and diverse agroecosystems and social networks, in a manner that minimizes external inputs, provides secure livelihoods for producers, and delivers nutritious food for consumers. Agroecology cannot be reduced to a set of replicable technologies or practices, as it will take different forms depending on the ecological and cultural context of the local area. (La Via Campesina)

The participants told and will continue to tell policy makers that EU and extra EU countries collectively need a new, inclusive and comprehensive European Land Directive. The participants told their partners about the ways in which the agricultural sector developed in their countries, about challenges and constraints, and the need for sharing and replicating best practices.

1.6 Activities in France and Rep. Moldova

PARTICIPANTS FROM REP. MOLDOVA TO THE REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE (ROMANIA)

Among the many participants to the Roundtable, particularly diverse was the delegation from Rep. Moldova. The chance to reunite national and civil society delegations enriched the event as well as the feedback received. Iusurelu came with the national delegation of ProEntranse. He described the event as unique: "in a short period of time we created a friendly platform for discussions and debates on several challenges". According to him, the land was the biggest issue for Rep. Moldova. Iusurelu gained new insights on the agricultural framework of the Eastern region. Anatolie Albin participated in BOND activities as a member of the NGO Grădina Moldovei". He met many people coming from different countries and backgrounds, covering various topics, issues and interests: "making new contacts, people found common subjects to further develop together, foreseeing possible future collaboration and interesting opportunities for long-term initiatives." Anatolie gained more information on EU policy and approach to accessing farmland, on further implementation of UNDRP and on the rights of small-scale farmers: the creative training made the roundtable memorable. "https://gradinamd.wordpress.com/

In June and July 2019, two National Workshops were carried out in France and Rep. Moldova. In addition, the first was the location of one the study tours, presented above, and the second of the unique country Lab Experiment.

France National Workshop

Bergerac, France, hosted the ninth national BOND workshop, under the name "Rescaling of economic value chains at territorial levels in France and Europe: do we speak the same (collective) language?". The Cuma National

Federation (FNCUMA) organized the event; four partner organizations of the BOND project from Hungary, Portugal, Romania and Spain attended the two-day event, moderated by the representative of FAO in the region.

The initial session focused on family farming, farmer organizations; despite national differences, the participants shared commonalities of family farming. In the second session, each BOND representative presented an overview of the re-localisation of value chains in their own country, providing the definition, rationale and modalities of implementation. The final session wrote this exchange of knowledge into a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), to be disseminated and endorsed by the partners.

FAMILY FARMING: Family farming includes all family-based agricultural activities. It is an integral part of rural development. Family farming is agricultural, forestry, fisheries, pastoral and aquaculture production managed and operated by a family and is predominantly reliant on family labour, including both women' and men'. Both in developing and developed countries, family farming is the predominant form of agriculture in the food production sector. Family farming also has an important socio-economic, environmental and cultural role. At national level, there are a number of factors that contribute to family farming to make it successful, including: an enabling policy environment; access to markets; access to and control over land and natural resources; access to tailored technology, communication and extension services; access to finance; socio-economic inclusion and resilience; availability of specialized education among others. Family farming, therefore, has an important socio-economic, environmental and cultural role. (FAO)

The Memorandum of Understanding

An important outcome of the French National Workshop, the MoU regards the strengthening of connections and networking among countries and was signed by La Federation Nationale de Cooperatives d'Utilisation de Materiel Agricole from France (FNCUMA), La Confederacao Nacional da Agricultura from Portugal (CNA), La Coordinadora Campesina del Pais Valencia – Coordinadora de Agricultores y Ganaderos from Spain (CCP-V-COAG), Eco Rurales from Romania and Kisleptek from Hungary. The document thus becomes a symbol of tighter collaboration among the partners involved. The parties agreed to cooperate to reach higher levels of organising and networking, to develop a healthier, more productive and harmonious farming sector in Europe in the long run. The partners shared the same will for collective action as they are already involved in common actions at the local level: they fight for a society that is environmentally sustainable, economically fair and socially just in which human scale farming is a central part of the food system. Common values and principles are autonomy, emancipation, commitment, defence and valorisation. They identify a farmer as every person working on its farm.

VISITING FN CUMA.

With the support of the Regional Federation of CUMA Haute de France, the study tour successfully showed to its visitors a way of cooperating at human scale. The reality of big cooperatives was voluntarily left aside, with the objective of offering to its audience inspiring practical examples, enabling them first to understand and manage the basis of cooperation and then to apply it in their national context. The CUMA network became a school of cooperation: not only could participants gain founded insights into the traditional soul of the French cooperatives, but they could also experience the combined work of federations at national, regional and local levels. The visits included examples of three phases of collective work in France, offering incentives to participants involved in different stages of development. Mrs. Ferrier insisted on the importance of collective thinking as fundamental component of collective action. Farmers who found or join a CUMA do not simply invest as a community: working, talking, discussing and acting together; they develop new agricultural practices. They raise, among others, territorial and environmental awareness, generating a model of agriculture that takes heed and care of the environment. The members of a CUMA have responsibilities and make decisions for themselves and for the group they are part of. All participants came from Eastern Europe. France was role model for best practices while also learning from this experience: the organizers understood how many difficulties can arise during the development of a project of cooperation in countries where there is no financial or political support to such plans. The legal and political frame can either facilitate or block collective organisation.

The general objective of the MoU was to provide a collaborative framework around the common goal to develop local cooperation between family farmers and other actors with a view to creating local opportunities of added value to the farms. The planned activities include:

- building partnerships between BOND partners and rural stakeholders, bringing together the voice and demands of local peasant farmers and agroecological food producers;
- promoting a viable rural development strategy based on the environmental, social and economic values of human scale;
- enhancing flexible rules within small-scale production;
- promoting high added value by fostering knowledge transfer, training, mentoring, innovation alongside traditional methods.

In a collaborative framework, the signatories agreed on:

- setting up regular information exchange practices and sharing of experiences;
- building a common platform to implement the joint actions agreed.

Republic of Moldova National Workshop

ProEntranse organised the sixth National Workshop of BOND in Chisinau, Moldova. “Cooperative Development and Youth in the farming Sector” is the name of the two-day event that gathered together more than 20 participants. The general objective was to present and discuss with experts, public officials and leaders of agricultural cooperatives some of the experiences in the region regarding the development of cooperatives and groups of producers/farmers in Europe, using the BOND project experience.

One of the important issues debated was the analysis of the national and international context for cooperative development. For instance, the agricultural sector plays an important role in the economy of Rep. Moldova generating demand and thus adding further value to other sectors of the national economy. Nevertheless, the agricultural sector faces several challenges, particularly in small-scale production: insufficient productivity and quality, limited access to finance. At the same time, small-scale farms, including subsistence and semi-subsistence farms, produce a large part of high value crops such as fruits, nuts, grapes, vegetables and potatoes that are mostly sold in open-air agricultural markets. However, the decrease of productivity in the agricultural sector is directly related to the lack of investments, capital and credit availability tools leading farmers to apply old technologies that have drastically reduced their use of agricultural inputs. Apart from these concerns, there are other major challenges that hamper the development of cooperation in the agricultural sector, such as the land consolidation, the lack of the labour force, the excessive bureaucracy, difficulties in accessing the sources of financing, lack of a supporting legislative framework. In terms of statistical aspects, there is a big gap in the elaboration of the official statistical data concerning the development of cooperatives in the country.

Cooperation was presented as one of the key solutions for the agricultural sector and to organizing agricultural producers. On the first day, the debate focused on the analysis of the various regulatory, legal frameworks and fiscal issues as well as strategies and methods adopted in the region for the design and implementation of public policies to support the development of agricultural cooperatives, including small and medium-size agri-food producers. The identification of positive models and best practices was followed by cooperative proposals between the BOND Program and the Ministry of Agriculture and other authorities of Rep. Moldova responsible for the implementation of activities in the short and medium term. FAO and IFAD introduced their projects in the region. The participants were also invited to analyse strengths, weaknesses and opportunities (SWOT) of cooperative development in relation to market access, the legal framework and institutional capacities with a view to developing a common vision.

On the second day, the discussion focused on the youth’s access to and role in the farming sector, emphasising the National Youth Law whereby the State is called upon to guarantee youth participation and development. Among the various constraints underlying the integration of youth into the agricultural sector are youth migration, the gender gap and inequalities, lack of awareness, transparency and inclusion.

1.7 The Barn

The following examples of best practices selected from Romania, France and Rep. Moldova are taken from the Barn, another innovative way of establishing connections. The Barn is a repository of stories. It has a double aim: one oriented towards the past, one towards the future. The Barn has collected direct experiences and accompanying written notes making these available to everyone who is interested in seeing, learning and telling, but could not take part directly in the networking. The repository curates all these experiences for them to be available after the end of the project in order to reach wider audiences and future generations. Inside the Barn, there are different examples of collective action in sustainable agriculture, marketing and the environment. Some are work in progress, some are completed work, other are just plans or projects in the early stages. They are united by a common objective: creating bridging and bonding linkages and networks for the benefit of the food and farming sectors.

Partner country	Organisation	Location	Objective
France	<p>Bioloos – organic farm, Agricultural society. Dynamic collective supported by the municipality</p> <p>Cuma Le Verlossoise</p>	<p>Municipality of Loos en Gohelle (Hauts de France region) France</p> <p>8 hectares of land</p>	<p>1) Develop Collective organic farming</p> <p>2) Create local employment and provision to neighbouring school cafeterias</p> <p>3) Raise awareness</p>
Rep. Moldova	<p>The neighbourhood orchard project – urban communities planting fruit trees and bushes in public spaces for the common good</p>	<p>Chisinau, Rep. Moldova</p> <p>25 orchards, 360 fruit trees, 70 hazelnut and 500 raspberry bushes</p>	<p>1) Develop a liveable and resilient city able to produce part of its own food resources</p> <p>2) Encourage creativity</p> <p>3) Connect people</p>
Romania (in collaboration with Hungary, Slovakia and Serbia)	<p>Network of Orchardists of the Carpathian Basin</p>	<p>Carpathian basin</p>	<p>Spread well managed orchards to ensure self-sufficiency for the family or the community.</p>

Activity	Challenges	Factors of success
<p>Producing and marketing organic vegetables</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Expansion 2) Modern system competition 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Municipal strategy about healthy locally sourced food as way to create connections between inhabitants 2) Knowledge exchange 3) Lowered financial risk by sharing specific equipment in the Cuma
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Public planting events 2) Educational workshops 3) Encouraging neighbourhood responsibility and self-sufficiency 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) People sceptical about planting in the city 2) Different neighbourhoods wanted different things 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Public discussion 2) Civil society and citizens' active involvement and co-participation
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Information dissemination 2) Organization of local, regional and national programs (training, study tours, meetings) 3) Mapping of old species 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Endangered old fruit landraces 2) Loss of traditional knowledge and techniques 3) No patterns of similar activities 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Adaptive orchard management 2) Involvement of voluntary members 3) Communication channels



Collective action

Collective action: past, present and future

As mentioned before, the BOND Project aimed to bring together individuals, groups and organizations, to develop interlinked networks, to foster collective action in order to support and make the best of social capital from local to international cooperation. Cooperatives and collectives are great organisational frameworks to implement activities of collective action, as they reunite entities that work together to achieve the same goal. It is not an easy option to invest in cooperation; some European countries share a difficult history of collective organisation, others simply do not have any experience with it. The very idea of sharing tools, responsibilities, knowledge, rights and duties does not always benefit from appreciation. On the one hand, capitalism, the free market and private property share with the victims of the past forced implementation the fear of building communities. On the other hand, both in the Western and Eastern regions, there are exceptions that strongly support and share the model, because they are experiencing several successes generated by its implementation. France is an example of how the heritage of collective action is positive and must be supported; Rep. Moldova and France are more and more drawn towards this positive model of collective action.

This chapter introduces collective action as a model that can assume various forms, analysing the historical shapes it took and its contemporary realities. The focus is twofold: the Eastern region and France. The chapter also presents three examples of best practice selected from the countries under analysis. The process around collectives, of either positive or negative models of implementation, highlights the importance of peasants and land within Europe.

Considering an ideal path toward collective action, France, Rep. Moldova and Romania occupy three different positions: France is the established model that stands for best practices, but can still learn from different realities; Romania is the new member of the EU that struggles to build a new role for collectives, as a means to develop and innovate the national agricultural sector; and Rep. Moldova aims toward a EU membership that can be supported by a nationally improved agricultural sector, an objective achievable also through the implementation of collective action practices.¹¹

2.1 Collectives and collectivisation in Europe

Kolkhozy, Трудово кооперативно земеделско стопанство, Termelőszövetkezet, Jednotné zemědělské družstvo, Jednotné roľnícke družstvo, Rolnicza spółdzielnia produkcyjna, Zemljoradničke zadruge, Gospodării Agricole Colective or de Stat, Coopérative are different translations of the same notion. A collective is an organization or business that is owned and controlled by the people who work in it. Collectivisation is the organization of all the production and industry of a country so that it is owned and managed by the government.¹²

All the words listed above, except for the last one, come from Eastern vocabularies. A collective can be forced or voluntary. Waves of collectivisation have shaped the East for decades while they do not have a long history in the West; they are, however, increasingly becoming an object of attention, interest and implementation. Forced collectivization was the model first introduced by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) across its regions, then by the countries in the Eastern Block, to be followed by some communist Eastern Asian countries. The negative meaning that is nowadays associated with the process stems from this history. This type of agricultural organization was a common element of socialist countries in the twentieth century: agricultural collectives constituted a system in which members were owners and workers; no salary was earned, but quotas were owned. Although the experience of collectivization differs from country to country, the process is common to countries in the former Eastern Bloc.¹³

11) For further details related to transition from socialism to free market, please see Gardner, B. and Lerman, Z., "Agricultural Cooperative Enterprise in the Transition from Socialist Collective Farming", in The Centre for Agricultural Economic Research and the Department of Agricultural Economics and Management, no. 9.06 (2017).

12) <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/>

13) The following contextualization is based mainly on Kokaisl, P., "Soviet Collectivisation and its specific focus on central Asia", Agri online papers in Economics and Informatics (2013).

USSR began the process of state run collectivisation in 1927 as part of the first Five-years Plan introduced by Stalin. The introduction of collective farming would have boosted agricultural production through the collective organization of land and labour, but it actually caused mass murder, deportation, famines and decrease in food outputs. It led to 7 to 14 million deaths while levels of production only exceeded those pre-collectivization after 1940: the process was gradual in the first years, but in 1930 the percentage of land collectivized reached 60 % and it was completed in with 96.9% of the land collectively owned. Dispossession, execution and deportation were practices that sought to eliminate the social class of kulaks, the rich farmers which peasants refused to serve. But peasants farmers also tried to oppose the process of collectivization strenuously and they were the first suffering from the injustices of forceful collectivisations.

Eastern Bloc countries started to implement the collectivization process, in line with Stalin's ideals, only after the Second World War, through different strategies, timelines, efforts and ideologies. In Hungary, collectivization became successful in the 1960s. Collectives reached Czechoslovakia via the communists, who imposed confiscation, limitations to the number of hectares and then the complete ban on private property. At the beginning, the regimes sustained the collectives financially, but by the end of the 1980's, they could not cope with technological progress and foreign competition. Collectivization processes in Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Poland were characterized by several efforts of implementation that were not pursued after 1956 and were mainly based on the limitation of legal number of hectares to be privately owned by individuals or families.

2.2 Romania and Rep. Moldova

Collectivization reached Romania in 1949, under the Communist regime. Despite the initial rush, the process revealed itself gradual and was accomplished only in 1962, with 96% of the national arable surface collectivized. Two were the types of collectives instituted: *Întreprindere Agricolă de Stat (IAS)*, or State farm, and *Cooperativă Agricolă de Producție (CAP)*, or cooperative of agricultural production. Attraction, through the support of positive models of collective structures, and persuasion, through widespread propaganda, were the main means of implementation.¹⁴

The difficulties that slowed down the process were strictly linked to these two: on the one hand, the traditional structure of the countryside was highly hierarchical, founded on the celebration of prosperity as a value; on the other hand, the majority of the peasants was illiterate, unable to be receptive to the ideological messages. Violence and coercion consequently became the practical fundamental means of implementation: wealthy peasants were eliminated, and the cadres in charge used all means to convince people to join the cooperatives. Romania stands out in the region for the brutality of its national process of collectivization, seemingly generated more by political and historical circumstances, rather than by an embedded ideology. Collectivization assaulted the foundations of rural life, transforming communities based on strong status hierarchies and overturning property relations, spread violence and made clear the lack of conviction and preparation of the cadres intended to support it. The only two possible positive outcomes of the collective past can be identified in the growth of agricultural productivity and the improvement of poor peasants' living standards.

Currently, Romania stands at the crossroads.¹⁵ It is possible to notice a convergence of three elements that suggests a recent interest in some form of mutual assistance among farmers. First, the government has revised the cooperative law, making membership more appealing. Second, the first umbrella organizations started to be established. Third, the number of grassroots cooperatives at the local level has been increasing. There is a new

14) These and the following information related to Romania's collective past were taken from Kligman, G. and Verdery, K., 2011. *Peasants under siege: the collectivization of Romanian Agriculture, 1949-1962*. Princeton University Press. Princeton; Tudor, V., Micu, M. M. and Temocico, G., "Mutations in Romanian Agriculture after De-Collectivization and Privatization", International Economic Conference of Sibiu 2013 (Elsevier: 2013); Wolz, A., Moellers, J. and Micu, M. M., "Options for agricultural service cooperatives in a post-socialist economy: Evidence from Romania", *Outlook on Agriculture*, Sage, Journals (2019).

15) For further information, please see Eco Ruralis fact sheets on specific study cases: www.ecoruralis.ro

generation of farmers who supports contemporary forms of collective action: the well-educated young farmer, usually holding a university degree, is positive about the future and owns, on average, a medium-sized land.

Rep. Moldova was one of the 15 Republics part of USSR from 1940 to 1991. Collectivization throughout the country began between 1949 and 1950, to be aggressively pursued in the early 1960s: the process began late, because the Soviet leadership had been focused on a policy of Moldavians' Russification, mainly implemented by large-scale requisitioning. Transnistria and Chisinau were the most impacted areas and the process was strictly controlled by Russia, as most of the directors who managed it, were placed by officials from Moscow. The Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic was a densely populated republic and it was meant to be a rural country specialized in agriculture. The country pursued an agri-food policy based on three main strands: collectivization and agri-industrial integration, controlled prices and margins, rural industrialization. The state was the dominant actor in pursuing these policies and production was dominated by about one thousand agricultural enterprises, more than half of which were collective farms. The average size of kolhozes was 3,300 ha: state farms (sovkhozy) tended to be smaller, with an average size of 2000 ha. and less freedom in decision making than the kolkozoes. Under this regime, Moldova was an important producer of wine and high value-added horticultural products within the USSR. Fertile soils, favourable climate, well-educated agricultural specialists, and an abundance of low-cost labour ensured that agri-food products were Moldova's most important export. Since independence, the agricultural sector has been highly severely depressed. As all of the Central Eastern Europe Countries (CEECs), it has pursued policies of de-collectivization, promoted on three broad grounds: claims for historical justice, improving agricultural efficiency and ensuring food security. Restitution has presented a set of problems, such as extremely fragmented patterns of ownership and inefficiency in subsistence agriculture.¹⁶

2.3 France

Western Europe is not the ideal location where to find strong iconic heritages of collective action. France is an exception. Not only in its region, as it boasts a historical treasure of cooperatives, but also in Europe, as it supports positive models of community networks. Voluntary basis is the essential element for a concept of collective that fosters sustainability, local community participation and social capital empowerment, the positive model of collective action supported in the European Union and in this specific context, by BOND. In France (the largest agricultural producer in the EU), cooperative agriculture represents 40% of the national food industry production and nearly 90 Billion € in gross revenue, covering one out of three food brands in the country. The Coopératives d'Utilisation de Matériel Agricole (CUMA) are a community-based system that allows their members to obtain good equipment at a low cost. CUMAs have been successful since the 1950s, and today, they are almost as old as the CAP: the cooperative they form is a group of people that gather together to share agricultural tools, to have the chance to use machines without privately owning them, which, often, they could not afford as individuals. In France, there are more than 12000 CUMAs and the model is evolving and strengthening technologically, locally and socially.

CUMAS (COOPÉRATIVES D'UTILISATION DE MATÉRIEL AGRICOLE) are one of the oldest and most important models of collective action in the Western European framework. Groups of people, belonging to different sectors of agriculture and food chain phases, gather together to constitute a community sharing investments for agricultural machineries. These cooperatives are service cooperatives, not designated for sale. FNCUMA (National Federation of Coopératives of usage of agricultural machinery) was founded in 1945. Now France hosts 12260 cooperatives, from 65 departmental and interdepartmental Federations, regrouped among 10 Regional Federations.

16) Points of reference for collectivization in Rep. Moldova taken into consideration in this context are King, C., *The Moldovans: Romania, Russia, and the politics of culture* (Stanford: Hoover Institution Press, 2000); Gorton, M., *Agricultural land reform in Moldova*, ed. Department of Agricultural Economics and Food Marketing, University of Newcastle (Newcastle upon Tyne, 2004).

Example: Cuma Nord'Oignon	Emergence	Organisation	Financial engagement	Activity
	Farmers needed to answer to the growing demand of the market. 5 farmers started to create the Cuma: only farmers are members of the cooperative. Now there are 12 members, and 6 employees.	A price grid depending on the quality was established. When a producer becomes member, the first year is a probation period to check the engagement. Ten years were needed to find the balanced operating model.	The portion of registered capital by each member is calculated on the quantity of onions brought into the CUMA.	Sorting, grading, drying and packing onions

2.4 Positive examples founded on collective action

Words such as collectivization and collectives bring to mind the ideology of communism and the fear of socialism in the West. Good examples and best practices can change this perception. The same words conjure up dark memories in the East, because these concepts imply a past of forced conversion and coercion. New ideas and points of view can have an impact on this.

Changes are needed in the perception of the term, and in the implementation of the process since collective action can contribute to a future of inclusiveness from which all countries, regardless of their region, could benefit. History shaped the idea of the process of collectivization, new stories will shape a new, positive idea of collectives, voluntary, inclusive, fair and equal. The best way to transform the future of collectives is to show the present of successful realities of networks, collective action and cooperation that already exist in Europe. BOND has included among its activities several transnational best practice exchanges and the participants returned to their home countries enriched by those experiences, ready to disseminate what they had learned and to replicate those positive actions in their local communities.

<p>France¹⁷ Country area 54908.7 (1000ha) Land area 54755.7 Agricultural Area 28718.021</p> <p>Total population, 2018: 66.987M 2018, 19.55% rural population 2019, 2.57% people employment (of total employment)</p>	<p>Rep. Moldova Country area 3385 (1000ha) Land area 3288 Agricultural Area 2317.9</p> <p>Total population: 2018, 3.535M 2018, 57.37% rural population 2019, 32.03% people employment (of total employment)</p>	<p>Romania Country area 23840 (1000ha) Land area 23008 Agricultural Area 13521</p> <p>Total population, 2018: 19.473M 2018, 46.02 % rural population 2019, 22.45% people employment (of total employment)</p>
<p>Actors involved: Conventional agricultural model and agroecology Local and international food production Employees and seasonal workers</p>	<p>Actors involved: Small-scale farmers and large-scale industries Exports and imports Former farmers and heirs</p>	<p>Actors involved: Small-scale farmers and large-scale industries Romanians and foreigners Tradition and innovation</p>
<p>Issues: Access to land Sustainability Generational renewal Civic mobilisation Obstacles: Urban pressure Competition Land concentration</p>	<p>Issues: Land stewardship Access to land Land consolidation Sector specialisation Obstacles: International competition Technological innovation Non-EU State</p>	<p>Issues: Generational renewal Land grabbing Land fragmentation Land concentration Obstacles: Speculation Investment Intensive agriculture</p>



Bonding enacted:
how the project influences
policy making

Bonding enacted: how the project influences policy making

BOND sought to influence the reality of agriculture in Europe by bringing peasants and farmers together to improve the quality and efficiency of the European agricultural system. BOND aimed at facilitating the emergence of new businesses in the farming sectors, increasing competitiveness of the farming sector, to strengthen input and output markets, to strengthen social cohesion and connect remote territories, to better manage landscapes and natural resources. All these processes need to be brought to bear on policy to be considered by European and national Ministries of Agriculture and Environment, by regional and governmental authorities and local public institutions. Each proposal and action to be undertaken was targeted either to the reform of the CAP, to the land debate or to the Human Rights debate. Entering the debate over a European land policy and over the need for new international tools, the proposals could be taken in consideration during the final discussion of CAP 2021-2027.

This chapter introduces the CAP, in its historical and spatial complexity, and the newly developed international tools, namely UNDROP, UNDFP and VGGT. Then, by shifting the focus away from international level tools and infra-national relations developed among the partners, it explains the policy proposals developed by the collective action of BOND. The chapter presents first the policy and the tools available at the EU and international level in order to highlight specific issues and potentialities. Then, it puts forward the proposals arisen during the activities of the project, to allow for the comparison between the actual framework of agriculture in the EU and the tangible list of proposals co-constructed by peasants and farmers from all over Europe.

3.1 The CAP

CAP TIMELINE

- 1958** Treaty of Rome and foundation of the European Economic Community (EEC)
- 1962** Introduction of CAP - Food supply and market support (productivity, stability, fair standards)
- 1984** Food overproduction
- 1982** First reform - Production support (direct payment subsidies, environmental sustainability, productivity decoupling)
- 2003** Second reform - Farmer support (2 pillars - Direct subsidies and Rural Development, Single Payment Scheme instead of Single Area Payment Scheme, farmer income support)
- 2013** Last Reform - Competition (Sustainability, innovation, support to rural areas, financial assistance)
- 2020** Next Reform - Simplification (CAP 2021-2027)

The CAP¹⁸ is conceived as a common policy, with the objective of providing affordable food for EU citizens and a fair living standard for farmers, despite several changes in context, from world war to unification to enlargements, and in objectives, from market support to producer support, from quantity to quality, from productivity to efficiency (European Commission) There are five the fundamental aims of the CAP:

1. Support farmers and improve agricultural productivity, ensuring a stable supply of affordable food
2. Safeguard European Union farmers to make a reasonable living
3. Help tackle climate change and the sustainable management of natural resources
4. Maintain rural areas and landscapes across the EU
5. Keep the rural economy alive by promoting jobs in farming, agri-food industries and associated sectors

17) The following data are provided by: FAOSTAT (<http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#home>), ILOSTAT (<https://ilostat.ilo.org/>) and the Platform Access to Land (<https://www.accessstoland.eu/>). The last tool is presented in the third chapter.

18) For references, additional information and updates about CAP, please see https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/cap-glance_en.

The CAP is designed as a common policy to be followed by the members of the community as tracing the path for collective action. Specific political priorities targeted for public funding have been defined at European level, such as securing jobs and growth, sustainability, modernization, innovation and quality, but it is up to the members states to implement these choosing the most appropriate ratio of direct payments and rural development programs for the policy period frames.¹⁹

Along with the official institutional story of progress, adaptation and successes comes the consciousness that the CAP has not achieved all its crucial and foundational objectives, and that it needs to be reformed, as its design nowadays does not fit contemporary issues at stake. If on the one hand, it succeeded in increasing productivity standards, on the other hand, life standards among small farmers in the agricultural field did not improve; the CAP fixed a minimum price for food products, but it distorts food prices and supports quantity over quality. Additionally, the reality of NMSs from the Eastern European region shows that the specific needs of these countries were not efficiently and inclusively addressed.²⁰

3.2 New human right tools

FUTURE OF CAP

Key aspects

- to better target for fairer deals (secure fair income, increase competitiveness, re-balance power within the food chain);
- to increase attention to environmental and climate actions (landscape care, actions against climate change and environmental care);
- to place farmers at the heart of the EU society (support generational renewal, channel efforts toward vibrant rural areas, promote and protect high standards of food and health quality)

Issues

- Recession
- Geopolitical uncertainty
- Trade multilateralism
- Stagnation
- Climate change development.

New international tools, namely UNDROP and UNDRFF, were generated and now reinforce the current debate on HR issues. In the framework of collective action, these tools, complemented by already existing ones, have the power to cover both European and non-European countries, namely the entire pan-European area. These tools can be used to underlie the social-environmental necessities to which the CAP is supposed to respond. They can fill in the gap between the impact of the CAP on non-EU countries and the social and economic security of farmers from these regions who do not benefit from the Common Agricultural Policy but are impacted by its effects on the market.

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other People Working in Rural Areas²¹ is a universal declaration. Since 2010, La Via Campesina has been working toward this goal, allowing all the states of the world to contribute to the long negotiation process that led to the adoption of the declaration in Geneva, then ratified in New York in December 2018. The document is composed of 27 articles: UNDROP addresses common worldwide problems with contemporary solutions. The final objective is to improve the lives of all stakeholders and people involved in rural areas in the future. It refers to different aspects: social, cultural, economic, political, civil and natural resources, the last one representing the novelty of the document. To be legally effective, the document must be implemented at national level, a process highly facilitated by collective action. It is up to

19) For further information on the relation between CAP and Eastern Europe (with a focus on Romania), please see Knight, D.K., Romania and the CAP, Eco Ruralis (2010).

20) <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets/en/sheet/113/towards-a-post-2020-common-agricultural-policy>

21) <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1650694>

farmers and peasants to push for these changes, but political support in favour of grassroots groups remains crucial. In particular, for Eastern countries, applying the UNDROP at the regional level can also influence a more inclusive definition of peasant and small farming at the national level that enables better CAP implementation and can sustain national decision makers to reinforce inclusive national policies.

The second tool, The United Nations Decade for Family Farming²², is a Global action plan based on seven pillars whose main goal is to develop a proper policy environment to strengthen family farming. The worldwide movement of peasant farmers, La Via Campesina²³ is part of the governance mechanism, together with IFAD²⁴, FAO.²⁵ The specific objectives to be achieved from 2019 are the following: supporting youth, generational sustainability and gender equality; strengthening family farmers' organizations and capacities to generate knowledge; improving socio-economic inclusion; enhancing the multidimensionality of family farming. Peasant innovation does not mean replacing people with machines, but neither avoiding progress: the key is to innovate in a more inclusive context and framework. ECVC has its own main goals for the decade: the promotion of all-inclusive small-scale family farming; the promotion of HR implementation and application; the promotion of knowledge sharing about the diversity of food producers.

In addition, among the tools that were already present during the last previous CAP reform in 2013, a few need to be mentioned: The Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forestry and The Platform Access to Land (VGGT).

The VGGT²⁶ came out in 2012 and were endorsed by the Committee for Food Security (CFS) as a response to the backlash against land grabbing and perceived lack of global governance. They are based on the following general principles: recognition, safeguarding, promotion, facilitation, control of legitimate tenure right holders and rights, prevention of tenure disputes, violent conflicts and corruption. The guidelines are an instrument of soft law, non-binding and global in scope. During several years of negotiations, CFS opened up to civil and social movements. The VGGT emerged in a context where there was major media attention in terms of HR on land grabbing issues and they represent the first international instrument to adopt an International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)-based approach to the question of the tenure of natural resources. The main objectives are the following: emphasis on the most vulnerable and marginalized groups, respect for and protection of legitimate tenure rights, introduction of measures to curb land concentration and speculation, support for adequate land reform and redistribution, definition of responsible investment and safeguards in the case of Large-Scale Land Acquisition (LSLA). After the adoption, the VGGT have been used by FAO, governments and civil society, through international and transnational programs, as technical guides, learning frameworks, people manual, training workshops, reference points at various levels.

The Platform Access to Land is introduced as a tool developed and constantly developing to increase transparency and data availability and comparison. Established in 2012, it functions as an informal network that brings together about fifteen grassroots organisations from across Europe to share experiences and promote the significance of access to land for agroecological transition and generational renewal. Building alliances is the main goal while inclusive access to land is the crucial issue to be solved and farmland succession the main challenge to be accomplished.

3.2 BOND Policy Proposals

22) <http://www.fao.org/family-farming-decade/home/en/>.

23) <https://viacampesina.org/en/>

24) <https://www.ifad.org/en/>

25) <http://www.fao.org/home/en/>

26) <http://www.fao.org/tenure/voluntary-guidelines/en/>

Regardless of the location where the activity of networking took place, the methodology applied was the same, see learn tell. The shared objective of the meetings was to find and analyse policy issues and to design policy proposals for decision makers. Three specific events already discussed in the first section of the report are selected here for their policy outcomes: the National Workshop and the Regional Roundtable in Romania, the National Workshop in France and the National Workshop in Rep. Moldova. Eco Ruralis saw that collective action can enhance small-scale farming, and that the application of international tools can secure access to land and information, sustaining food sovereignty. CUMA learnt that short-value chain and family farming can enrich agricultural food systems. ProEntranse told its peers that specification can be the key to networking in agriculture.

The National Workshop in Romania

Policy Issue 1. The right to commonly owned knowledge, innovation, healthy and accessible land and natural resources.

Policy Proposals 1.1 Setting ambitious quantifiable targets for reducing synthetic agrochemical use, and setting up a monitoring system to track progress;

1.2 Ensuring that only research and innovation that enhance rather than erode the autonomy of food producers are eligible for Horizon Europe funding;

1.3 Creating a European Land Directive in order to implement the VGGT, as recommended by the Committee of World Food Security, and to facilitate access to land for small-scale sustainable producers.

Policy Issue 2. Commonly established definitions around farming, in order to overcome the constraints of the speculative investors receiving support; future definitions should be based on the UNDROP awaiting implementation in member states.

Policy Issue 3. The model of production and distribution of food in Romania.

Policy Proposals 3.1 Giving targeted support for young farmers and new entrants engaging in small-scale agroecology, including a monthly allowance to allow progress towards a decent income;

3.2 Supporting research and innovation that are embedded within agro-ecological and food sovereign systems and that build upon the many low-tech grassroots innovations already in existence;

3.3 Orienting farm advisory services towards a small-scale agro-ecological transition, that would include farmer to farmer exchange programs;

3.4 Ensuring that the CAP objectives and the National Strategic Plans adhere to the recently adopted UNDROP.

Policy Issue 4. The CAP and other relevant policies must be subject to transparent and open decision-making processes.

Policy proposal 4.1 The participatory development of National Strategic Plans of each member state, including local authorities and civil society and farmer organisations, with a specific focus on the involvement of local front-line farming communities (Explicitly seeking the participation of farmers, farm workers, pastoralists and other food producers that support agroecology in the development of National Strategic Plans).

The Regional Roundtable Romania

Policy Issue 1. Biodiversity loss requires more sustainable land use, urgent generational renewal, population growth and the push for raw production as well as values added, stability in the farming sector, collective action with a focus on farmer cooperation.

Policy Proposals 1.1 Ensuring access to information at local level and supporting voluntary collective models;

1.2 Developing national action plans with positive examples from other countries;

1.3 Introducing national measures to proactively address EU principles of free movement and establishment of capital and regulations specifically addressing the issue of land grabbing;

1.4 Prioritizing an action plan for extra EU landscape, farmers and national markets entering the intra-communicant EU market.

Policy Issue 2. Lack of internationally acknowledged definitions and the need for upscale social capital for a more inclusive agricultural policy framework.

Policy Proposals 2.1 Ensuring an inclusive definition of small-scale and peasant farmer in the EU CAP;

2.2 Introducing measures aimed at levelling the gap between big and small-scale farmers in the EU CAP, measures targeted at preserving regional soil fertility;

2.3 Strengthening the status of farmers and human-scale farming in the new EU CAP negotiations;

2.4 Enhancing official and transparent data collection and availability both at national and EU levels.

Policy Issue 3. Collective action regarding the right to land debate vis-a-vis the model of production and distribution of food in the Eastern European Region.

Policy Proposals 3.1 Enhancing soil quality and productivity measures to support sustainable land stewardship;

3.2 Supporting land harmonization at regional level. Collective action through an enabling social capital environment regarding the promotion of a new European Union Directive on Land, where land is defined as a resource and human right.

Policy Issue 4. The CAP Reform 2020.

Policy Proposals: 4.1 Replacing subsidies targets considering also the Eastern framework and its social and economic dimensions;

4.2 Re-defining production as quality-based and establishing achievable environmental targets supported by the new CAP;

4.3 Introducing incentives in support of long-term action plans in the CAP reform based on international tools and frameworks like the UNDROP, the UNDFP and the VGGT.

The France National Workshop

Family farming

1. Capital: it is detained mainly by the farmers

2. Governance: the farmers have a management responsibility in the exploitation or in the farmer organization

3. Tenure: farmers are part of the governance structure for the decisions concerning the land use whether the land is public, private or communal.

Re-localisation of the value chain

1. France: re-localisation of value chains means short value chains linked to the territory. They integrate production, processing and selling. The re-localisation acquired importance in France given the changes in the economic context, the need for funding and new market outlets. Local authorities support it; however there are still challenges in infrastructures, and in the regulation.

2. Romania: there are two contexts of re-localisation: a formal one with contract farming by large farming enterprises; and an informal one by small producers doing direct selling and commercialization. Re-localisation is important as it is about equal and inclusive distribution of the value added. There are several initiatives of short value chains through formal groups of local action (82, at the moment); there is also a proposal for a program of institutional purchases. The major challenge is to change the consumer habits.

Key recommendation

1. Short value chains are a model for territorial development and for strengthening family farming
2. The means to build the short value chains model are: a. awareness raising or consumer campaigns; b. advocacy for improving the regulatory framework at the European level for a clear recognition of family farming; c. strengthening collective organisations and promoting social innovation.
3. Collective action can be strengthened by formalising new or already existing networks of farmer organisations. The Memorandum of Understanding is one of the outcomes of the French National Workshop that symbolises the better synergy arisen from a BOND activity as a way of upscaling cooperation.

The National Workshop in Rep. Moldova

- Recommendation 1 (national level) to revise laws and provide incentives, and to develop sectoral strategies;
2. (European level) to recognize the cooperation among farmers as a CAP sectoral priority;
 3. (institutional level) to create an institutional actor promoting associations and to install a program for capacity building;
 4. to improve efficiency and educational quality and to provide fiscal incentives;
 5. to improve synergies and collaboration among donors and good disseminate practices;
 6. to provide technical and policy support for public policies and strategies of elaboration, to sustain the transfer of innovation and best practices, to provide resources for institutional support for cooperative initiatives and resource mobilization.



Conclusion

Conclusion

In conclusion to this report, the BOND project in the region aimed to impact the European agricultural framework in two ways.

In the medium term:

- it provided capacity building and trained farmers.
- it developed a series of multi-actor Plans of Action for the different farmer groups, in different farming sectors.
- it supported formal agreements between stakeholders.
- it developed a user-friendly web portal.

In the long term:

- it will increase mobilisation to a wider audience of consumers and citizens at grass roots level to raise interest and awareness on the benefits of working with others.
- it will bring a higher level of recognition of the importance of farmers and land managers to European societies.
- it will grant access to a written and digital reference collection with a specific set of good practices and recommendations for higher level EU and national decision-makers.
- it will directly aim to involve next generations and prepare roadmaps for the future of farming in Europe.

Via all its activities, BOND asked some important questions. One of them is, what kind of cooperation? In Europe, there are many differences among regions and countries. Eastern and Western countries can learn from each other, cooperate and share social capital. One can learn from how local communities in transitional economies oppose their traditions to national plans for modernisation; one can learn how to transform a past of forced collectivization into a future of innovative voluntary cooperatives. BOND partner countries have struggled to convert competition into cooperation: a new relation between states, between the state and the local community, between farmers can generate innovative and successful ways to achieve common objectives.

Another question BOND asked is, what kind of collective action? In agriculture, it takes the form of collectives and cooperatives of peasants, farmers and land managers. The history of collective entities is indispensable to building innovative and creative solutions for the new issues and challenges that European farming currently faces. Analyzing and understanding the dynamics around agricultural collective action is the key to identifying policy issues and following policy proposals to be addressed to decision makers at different levels. Food producers must be involved in the legislative processes to build inclusive food systems. BOND partners took in consideration several approaches and methodologies: agroecology stood as one important solving key to reach inclusive, effective and innovative solutions.

Old and new international tools can be used to share a common understanding and foster common actions. Actors involved in agriculture work at international, regional, national and local levels. It means sharing rights and duties, giving and receiving, inspiring and being open to suggestions. CAP is the common policy in terms of European agriculture: it is a general tool, built by the contribution of the community to be applied to the different scenarios that countries offer. Countries are supposed to equally contribute to its reform, and when it comes to national implementation, all entities must be equally considered. CAP is the agricultural policy that impacts all Europe, and its reform is the starting point from which approaches to agriculture in Europe can change. Among the BOND partners, CUMA, ProEntranse and Eco Ruralis, acted together, exchanging knowledge and experience, enacting new ideas and eradicating negative prejudices. CUMA learnt that short-value chain can be an instrument for territorial development. ProEntranse told Rep. Moldova that new forms of collective action can shape a new idea of voluntary cooperation in the country. Eco Ruralis saw in food sovereignty, agroecology, transparency and inclusiveness the keys for a new CAP. They all saw, learnt and told. Bonding farmers, citizens, institutions and government, linking knowledge to good practices and bridging international networks enable social capital to become the leading force in re-shaping European agriculture and food producers.



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