



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

## BOND NEWSLETTER March 2020

Our BOND newsletters are an easy way to keep up-to-date with new developments at our project. From successful finished deliverables to upcoming activities, our newsletter informs you on how we are reaching the aim of this project - 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 up to date information, please also visit our

[BOND Webpage](#)

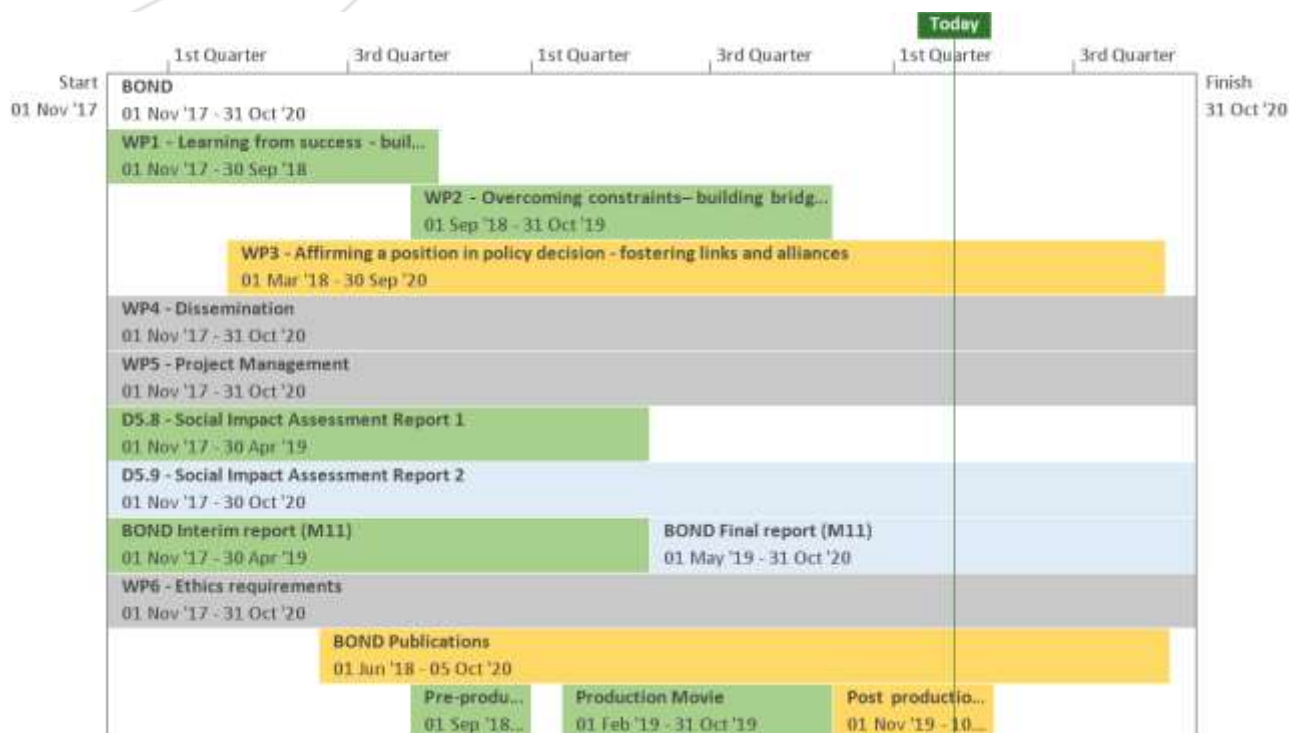
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## Overall Project Status

The BOND project successfully **started the last year** at the beginning of **November 2019**:



The BOND project has accomplished at the **end of February 2020** the **25 deliverables** and **8 milestones** and **14** of the **deliverables** are already **approved**.

The next deliverables and milestones to be submitted at the end of April 2020 are the following:

No	Title	Lead	Due Date
<b>D5.6</b>	Project Meeting 6 (will take place in Prague)	CU	Apr-20
<b>M9</b>	Communication & dissemination results	LEGA	Apr-20

## Project Highlights of the last months

### Regional policy roundtables

All 4 regional policy roundtables and ToT are successfully done.

Country	Partner	Nov 2019	Dec 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020
<b>Romania</b>	ECO	28-29 ToT 29-30 Roundtable			
<b>Poland</b>	SIE		2-3 ToT 3-4 Roundtable		
<b>Portugal</b>	CNA			28-29 Roundtable 30-31 ToT	
<b>Hungary</b>	VDG				4-5 Roundtable 6-8 ToT
<b>Total</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>

142 people engaged in policy, technical and organizational discussions covering themes related to access to natural resources and markets, sustainable farming, environmental sustainability and human rights (respectively 55 farmers, 24 NGO representatives, 18 policy -makers and 45 representatives from research institutions and academia).

In total there were 27 countries present at the 4 Regional Policy Roundtable, representing various realities of the European context. This diversity greatly enriched the discussions and exchanges of all 4 PRTs. The most diverse (country wise) PRT was organized by CNA where there were 13 countries present, followed by the Polish PRT where participants came from 12 different countries and the Hungarian and Romanian PRT had both 8 countries represented. The main themes of the PRTs were vital topics to the farming sector: from access to natural resources - more precisely to land and seeds - to access to markets in a globalized world with its social implication. Each of these topics are indeed essential to the farming sector, as without access to land or reproductive materials (for ex.: seeds) there is no production; but its economic environment and its impact on society are crucial for its environmental, economic and social sustainability.

In total, there were 61 ToT participants at the 4 ToTs, with an almost equal participation of women and men: 32 women (52%) and 29 men (48%). It is worth noting that both at the Polish and Portuguese PRT there was a higher participation of women, 67% and 63% respectively.

The ToTs ranged from a day and a half to two days and a half long, and covered from 6 to 9 sessions with the overall objective of empowering farmer leaders and managers to advance the effectiveness of their organizations through social capital. At end of each ToT, participants also developed their own individual action plans to apply the acquired knowledge and disseminate it in their own country. In doing so, participants will also help to catalyse and support the potential for networking and improved performance within their own organizations and communities.

<https://www.bondproject.eu/all-the-news-of-the-bond-project/>

## Romania

The PRT was entitled “Collective action for access to farmland: What opportunities does the EU Common Agricultural Policy and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants bring for farmers and land managers in Eastern Europe.”.

Collective action for access to farmland: What opportunities does the EU Common Agricultural Policy and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants bring for farmers and land managers in Eastern Europe

Between the 29 and 30th of November, 2019, more than 20 participants joined in a regional policy roundtable in Cluj-Napoca, Romania organized by Eco Rurals. The stakeholders were diverse, from farmers groups, organisations on land conservation and access to land, academia, national decision makers and civil society representatives. The countries included were equally diverse: Romania, Hungary, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Croatia, United Kingdom, France and the Netherlands. The PRT benefitted of simultaneous translation from English to Romanian.



## Poland

The PRT organized by SIE was entitled “Seeds in the context of Declaration of Peasants’ Rights”. 25 people participated of which 18 (72%) were women and 7 (28%) men; 8 farmers, 9 NGO representatives, one policy maker and 7 academic and experts. During the PRT 13 countries were represented: Poland (11), Albania (1), Belgium (1), Bulgaria (2), Croatia (2), Czech Republic (1), Greece (2), Italy (1), Kosovo (1), Macedonia (1), Serbia (1) and the United Kingdom (1). The PRT had simultaneous translation in Polish and English.

The structure was kept in alignment with the previously agreed general structure for the 4 PRTs. In practice it consisted of: 2 modules; 2 days; 4 general sessions 2 hours each; 8 working hours; 1 session of Lego Serious Play; 1 session of experts’ presentations; 3 experts’ presentations; 1 session of group working; 1 session of debating; 1 final session with the policy recommendations.



## Portugal

CNA – Confederação Nacional da Agricultura hosted a Regional Policy Roundtable under BOND Project on the topic "Family Farming and Market Access", on 28th and 29th January 2020, in Coimbra, Portugal.

Over 40 participants were present. Several agricultural organizations were represented, namely CNA and affiliates, and similar European Organizations, as well as the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the University of Coventry (BOND coordination) and BOND partners CCPV-COAG and SLG. There was simultaneous interpretation in Portuguese, Spanish, French and English.

An independent agricultural policy analyst, Gérard Choplin, a PAC specialist on the EU Regions Committee, was also present for an exchange with the participants.

This initiative aimed to analyse the challenges Family Farming faces in accessing markets, and to build positions, reinforce cooperation and alliances between organizations and strengthen collective action around commercial issues.



## Hungary

The Regional Policy Roundtable organized by VDG was entitled “Collective action for green public catering based on quality food” and took place on 4-5th February 2020 in Budapest, Hungary.

More than 40 participants were represent a diverse range of constituencies such as farmers’ organizations, civil society organisations, health institutions, private enterprises, legal experts, etc.; this diversity truly enriched the exchanges of both days. The following BOND partners were also present at the PRT: CU, FAO, KLT and LEGA. The PRT had simultaneous interpretation into Hungarian, English French and Italian.



## BOND project website – New useful resources

The BOND project has updated their website within the last weeks to make them more useful and to extend the content. Thanks to our Senior Media & Communications Officer Lindy and all the contributors **The BARN** has now a lot of interesting stories.

Please check them out: <https://www.bondproject.eu/repository-2-2/> and if you want to contribute and Share your Story you can use the updated and easy to fill out web form: <https://www.bondproject.eu/repository/share-your-initiative/fill-the-form-repository/>

Home – THE BARN

Inside the Barn you'll find different examples of collective action in sustainable agriculture, marketing and the environment. Some are works in progress, some are works concluded, others are just at the start or even a plan of a project with an expected impact. They are united by a common objective – creating bridging and bonding linkages and networks for the benefit of the food and farming sectors.

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## Project ongoing and upcoming activities of the next months

### BOND – Workshop for Young Farmers in Norway

Our Norwegian project partner NAC is organising a workshop for young farmers on the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020 in Oslo, Norway and until now they have already 22 applicants. The outcomes of this workshop should be used as an input to the Forum of Young Farmers in Romania. Please find below the link to the agenda:

<https://www.bondproject.eu/young-perspectives-on-agricultural-cooperatives-for-the-future/>

## HOW TO STRENGTHEN THE AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES FOR THE FUTURE? *Workshop for young farmers*

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Climate and environmental challenges, technological development and hard competition in the market are challenges confronting the agricultural sector. Norwegian Agricultural Cooperatives needs input for new solutions from young engaged farmers. We want to invite you to an exciting, playful and engaging day!

Now you have the chance to influence future priorities for the agricultural cooperatives, and at the same time you get the opportunity to get to know a group of young farmers from all over the country. With various productions, sizes and backgrounds, we look forward to hearing many important perspectives.

Specifically, during the day we will work out a set of policy recommendations for how we can ensure strong agricultural cooperatives in the future. The recommendations will be communicated to the board of the Norwegian Agricultural Cooperatives, to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and they will be brought to the BOND Youth Forum in Romania.

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### BOND – Forum Young Farmers for the Future!

Among the activities organized under the project BOND, an international meeting of young European farmers will take place in spring 2020! The European and pan-European Forum Young Farmers for the Future! will gather together 34 young farmers and land managers (half female and half male) from 34 European countries on the 16-17<sup>th</sup> April 2020 in Hosman village, Romania.

Are you a farmer or land administrator under the age of 34 years old? Do you come from one of the 34 countries involved (EU28, Albania, Bosnia, and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, and Serbia)? **Do you want to take part in the Youth Forum on the future of European and pan-European farming?**

The event is organized by Eco Ruralis, a Romanian partner of the project, which together with other partner members will select the candidates and plan the activities.



Further info is available a:

<https://www.bondproject.eu/project-activities/youth-forum-for-the-future/>

<https://www.bondproject.eu/bond-forum-young-farmers-for-the-future/>

**Until now we have applicants from 23 countries and we would like to ask for your support because we are missing participants from the following 11 countries: Ireland, Belgium, Montenegro, Serbia, Austria, Cyprus, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Slovakia, Slovenia**

**If you know a young farmer (age  $\leq 34$ ) you could recommend or have contacts to this countries please help us by sharing them with us. We would need them urgently because we are planning to finalise the selection process until the 8th March 2020.**

### **BOND – LAB experiment in Moldova**

In this last year of the BOND project (2019 -2020), a key task is related to the implementation of task 3.4 about “undertaking a lab experiment in Moldova”. The lab experiment is a learning process involving farmers and land manager groups who will participate in capacity building activities and in the design of Action Plans that may lead to the signature of a number of Memorandum of Understanding in different sectors.

The learning process will be structured around three key events covering the period February to April 2020 where representatives from 10 farmer groups will be participating to learn new skills, apply them in their group and report back to the following event. Therefore, the selected representatives have the important task to stay engaged over the period of the lab experiment

and after, attend all three events, disseminate the information in the group where they belong to and start a strategic planning process for their group for a future change.

Target audience: 10 national farmers groups representing different sectors. Two representatives per group will be selected to attend the three following events:

- Event #1 - Understanding group performance and developing an Action Plan - Chisinau, February 25, 2020
- Event #2 - Emotional and bridging skills - Chisinau, March 19, 2020
- Event #3 - Collective Action, Cooperative development, dialogue, Lego serious play and game changers - Chisinau, April 9-10, 2020

All three events will be in English with translation into Romanian language.

<http://proentranse.md/moldovan-lab-experiment-1st-event-understanding-performance-and-developing-an-action-plan>



## Other Interesting Topics and Events

### Hungarian Agroecology conference and workshop

On November 27th and 28th, 2019 the first Agroecology Conference of Hungary was organized in cooperation of Védegylet, Environmental Social Science Research Group (ESSRG) and the French Institute of Hungary, as part of the international environmental awareness month. It is first of its kind, as it gathered together from different regions of the country actors from all three pillars of agroecology: science, practice and movement.

The first day of the conference was held in Hungarian specifically for the Hungarian public, aiming to give a general overview of agroecology, its definitions, history of practices and Hungarian good examples. After the presentation of the primary results of the research « Mapping agroecology in Hungary” carried out by Védegylet and ESSRG, farmers, representatives of civil society organization and researchers discussed at three consecutive round table the following topics: agrobiodiversity and seeds, land use (agroforestry and dynamic livestock grazing) and local food systems, short food supply chains.

The second day of the conference focused on agroecological transition in farming practices, policy measures and the importance of public support. During this day, international good practices from France, the Netherlands and Hungary were presented and discussed. Central topics of the discussion were the role of farmers and consumers in the transition, good practices in farming, marketing, cooperation and policy support. Experts from different European countries all agreed that strong political and public support, including changing the focus of the CAP were indispensable for a large-scale agroecological transition.

On the 5th of December the “Agroecology: Vision to Action” workshop was organized by Védegylet, ESSRG with the cooperation of the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture. The aim of the workshop was to connect actors from agroecological initiatives in Hungary and form a basis for future cooperation of the stakeholders. During the first part of the day, participants created a common 20-year vision, agreeing that: in a positive future, food systems will be rooted in local communities; functioning independently from external inputs. In the afternoon, the long-term visions were then translated into short term goals and actions. The groups have agreed in their first main goal: to create a network of agroecology in Hungary, advocating for common interests and creating a background for education and awareness raising; while providing a common, agreed context for agroecology in Hungary. At the end of the day, participants agreed to continue working together and Védegylet has ensured to aid this cooperation in the future.



<https://www.bondproject.eu/hungarian-agroecology-conference-and-workshop/>

The next step is going to be indeed the co-creation of a common definition of ‘agroecology’ as it is understood in the Hungarian context. Védegylet will facilitate a session where the draft definition will be discussed using participatory democratic methods among the participants at the annual joint conference of the Hungarian Permaculture Association, the Network of traditional/alternative fruit growers of the Carpathian Basin and the Hungarian Agroforestry Network (AFINET) on 25th January.

The research « Mapping agroecology in Hungary” is supported by Agroecology Europe, and is also part of the European-wide mapping project on Agroecology carried out by the Agroecology Europe Youth Network.

The three panel discussions of 27th November were filmed and can be seen here (<http://védegylet.hu/megtekinthetok-az-agrookologia-konferenciarol-keszult-felvetelek/> ); in the near future English subtitles will be added.

Find out more information about the conferences in English/French and in Hungarian <http://védegylet.hu/ket-nap-az-agrookologia-jegyeben/> .

### **New E-Learning Course: Introduction to the global governance of food and agriculture from a sovereignty perspective**

Want to know more about food policy/governance in the United Nations (e.g. Committee on World Food Security (CFS), FAO, UN Human Right Council, etc)? Curious about how Food Sovereignty relates to these institutions? Then check out this free e-course. Our collaborators Schola Campesina have just launched this [new e-learning course on the global governance of food](#).