



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

BOND NEWSLETTER May 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:

[!\[\]\(d66ff64371a51729ac8c1cdaa685ba6f_img.jpg\) BOND Webpage](#)

[!\[\]\(e3f8612927870f2e0f9f5989e6dd3064_img.jpg\) BOND Facebook page](#) & [Facebook Group](#) & [BOND Twitter](#) & [Instagram](#)

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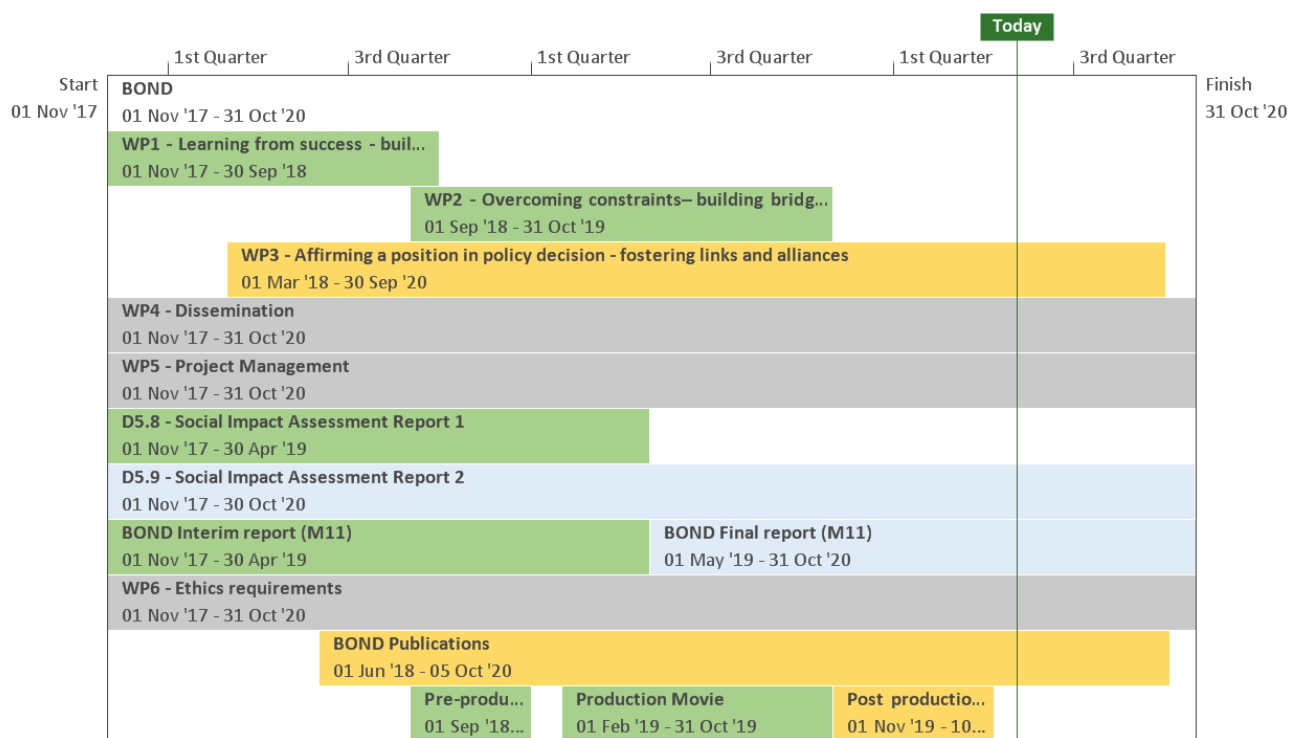
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Overall Project Status

We hope you are all continuing to stay safe and healthy in this in challenging times.

One of the many unsettling factors is the lack of certainty about almost every aspect of our lives as we are waiting to know how we will move out of lockdowns in the different countries. What this means for the project is that we are having to plan for different scenarios, and we are working together to come up with innovative solutions to problems that did not exist on this scale before the pandemic.

The BOND project is **on the final straight, only 6 months** to go and we hope that we can despite the difficult circumstances caused by the Corona crisis finalise the project successfully and in time.



The BOND project has accomplished at the **end of April 2020** the **26 deliverables** and **9 milestones** and **14** of the **deliverables** are already **approved**.

The **last 4 deliverables** and **3 milestones to be submitted / achieved** until the end of the project / **October 2020** are the following:

No	Title	Lead	Due Date
D3.4	Lab experiment in one country Moldova	PROENTRANSE	Sep-20
D4.5	Youth forum and Road Map for the Future	ECO	Oct-20
D5.7	Project Meeting 7	CU	Oct-20
D5.9	Social Impact Assessment Report 2	CU	Oct-20
M10	Youth Road Map for the Future	ECO	Aug-20
M11	Final Report	CU	Oct-20
M12	SIA Societal Impact Assessment report	CU	Oct-20

Project Highlights of the last months

Workshop for Young Farmers in Norway

The Norwegian partner NAC has organised on the 9th March 2020 in Oslo a workshop for young farmers with the title: **How to strengthen the agricultural cooperatives for the future?** From the 20 farmers invited 16 (6 female and 20 male) participated in the event.



The Agricultural Cooperatives in 2030 – from the perspective of the young farmers:

- Leading the way to sustainable food production
- Financial stability
- A preferred choice for the farmers and the consumers
- Cooperation among farmers and cooperation among cooperatives, e.g. green technology
- Provides a network for the farmers
- Bottom-top decision making, not the opposite

Policy recommendations – Preliminary: Sustainable food production

- Cooperatives taking the lead in achieving a sustainable food production.
- Involvement from food producers

Strategic

- Cooperation between cooperatives to take advantage of economies of scale where possible (e.g. technology)
- Strong cooperatives in the value chain for food

Policies

- Predictability in policy making
- Welfare programs, e.g. maternity/paternity leave and illness
- Equal competition frameworks for cooperatives and other company types



As the next steps it was planned to:

- Presenting the recommendations to the NAC Board
- Presenting the recommendations to the Minister of Agriculture and Food
- Newspaper article – signed by the farmers
- Bringing the recommendations to the BOND Youth Forum

BOND virtual Review session and Board meeting

6th Board meeting was planned to take place in Prague, Czech, on 23rd April 2020 but due to the COVID-19 situation it was reorganised to be **two virtual meetings** for half a day on the 22nd and the 23rd April 2020 using Zoom.



The first session on the 22nd April was dedicated to review the outcomes and results of the following deliverables and activities that was finalised / happened before April 2020:

- Review D3.2 – Set of recommendations and good practice on regulatory framework – submitted Nov 2019
- Review D3.3 – Four interactive regional policy roundtables on social capital and alliances – submitted Feb 2020
- Review D4.4 – 8 Memoranda of Understanding on specific joint initiatives – submitted Feb 2020
- Review Youth Event in Norway

The second session on the 23rd April was the official 6th Board meeting with the status review of the following ongoing and upcoming project activities and events:

- Status of the finalisation of the BOND Movie – due to Oct 2020
- Status D4.5 – Status of Youth forum – due to Oct 2020
- Status D3.4 – Lab Experiment in Moldova – due to Sep 2020
- Status BOND publications - due to Jun 2020
- Status M9 - Dissemination & Communication – due to Apr 2020

The Coordinator expressed her satisfaction about what the project has achieved and praised the consortium for it. The success of the project achievements proves how important it is that the EC continues to fund large networks of small and medium CSOs, and NGOs working grassroots and creating together such meaningful social innovation. It was a challenge to bring together such diversity and to decide at the start to be inclusive and not discriminate upon language (only those speaking English), thus allowing a much wider outreach. But the facts prove that the consortium was right to do so. Today “we have a BOND dedicated and active Board, and we succeeded to create a BOND dedicated and active community, where bonding has become part of the daily vocabulary.

Some partners raised the point to prolong the project to ensure that the Youth forum can be a face to face event. The Coordinator explained that the Corona crisis is reflected in a risked raised in the EC portal and reviewed regularly. It was agreed to wait and see how the COVID-19 topic and restrictions will evolve in the upcoming weeks and take a decision based on that.

Set of recommendations and good practice on regulatory framework

Under the deliverable D3.2 our Hungarian partner KLT has finalised a **Set of recommendations and good practice on regulatory framework** in cooperation with the other BOND partners.

KLT has now prepared an **Executive summary** (English version attached to the newsletter) with the main findings which we would like to share with the broader BOND community and therefore we would like to know which the best languages are to translate it to.

Please help us with your feedback by reply to the short [Survey](#).



BOND project website – New useful resources

As shared with you in the previous newsletters the BOND project is updating the BOND webpage regularly and adding new contents. In the last weeks the section of the [4 regional policy roundtables](#) was totally redone and updated with all the reports from the roundtables and the ToT sessions.



The web-section [Memorandum of understanding](#) will also be updated with additional information to the 11 signed MOUs (aim, contact details, etc.). Below you can find the overview and summary to the MOUs:

Country	BOND Partner	Topic / Title <i>Aim of the MOU</i>	Date of signature
Czech Republic	AMPI	Development of the Czech organic farming	14/02/2020
	<i>Aim: To support the development, scope and outreach of the organic farming sector in the Czech Republic in three ways. An apprentice scheme, incorporating new marketing channels that AMPI provides into CTPOA, and improving dissemination of good environmental practices.</i>		
	AMPI	Promoting and campaign sustainable agriculture	12/02/2020
<i>Aim: To bridge the environmental movement of DUHA and the sustainable farming movement of AMPI, using the best of each in order to transform the discourse around farming and provide joint activities which will lead to more inclusive and efficient sustainable agricultural food systems within the Czech Republic.</i>			
France	CUMA	Local opportunities in rural development	25/02/2020
	<i>Aim: To define common guidelines for future co-operations and to reinforce advocacy at national and European level for the recognition of collective organisation of family farmers. Parties agree to develop local-scale cooperation between family farmers and other actors around common arguments and implement joint projects to support family farms with local production, social innovation, added value, diversification and multifunctional farming.</i>		
Hungary	KLT	Knowledge exchange in support of social economy and social farm legislation	04/02/2020
	<i>Aim: To improve the social and economic sustainability of the environment and the quality of life of those living in the countryside. Parties will elaborate and coordinate the regulatory framework for the development of social enterprises, small producers and local small food businesses with the intention of including social aspects of agricultural entrepreneurship in the post 2020 CAP. Parties will create a common online platform to share knowledge, events, research results and good practices.</i>		
Hungary Romania	KLT ECO	Knowledge exchange with farm visit programme	12/02/2020
	<i>Aim: Parties to outline their form of collective action and to cooperate in organising and/or participating in on farm visits for farmers and artisans, especially those working on small farms with limited access to up-to-date and diverse knowledge. As more farms and farmers engage cooperatively, they will create a network.</i>		
Poland	SIE	Promotion of peasant seed system for biodiversity	12/02/2020
	<i>Aim: To create systems for seed production, exchange, propagation, marketing and sales that will enhance agricultural biodiversity, food sovereignty, family farming and organic and sustainable farming and food production. To develop policies and regulations that support such systems, safeguard the rights and access to seeds, as well as increase availability and diversity of organic and heritage seeds on the market.</i>		
Portugal	CNA	Bridging academia to family farming and the rural world	12/02/2020
	<i>Aim: To bring students and academia closer to the reality of our country, in particular Family Farming, the Rural World and sustainable production models (not only from an environmental point of view, but also social and economic) and, to put academic knowledge and scientific resources within the reach of agricultural organisations and farmers.</i>		

Country	BOND Partner	Topic / Title <i>Aim of the MOU</i>	Date of signature
Spain	COAG SL	Network on hygienic rules for small scale farming	17/02/2020
	<i>Aim: To introduce flexibility into existing sanitary and hygiene regulations for small-scale family, artisan and agroecological productions. and influence any new regulations legislated by the Government of Spain. Parties commit to establish alliances among themselves, as well as with other organisations and institutions for this purpose.</i>		
UK	LWA	Collaboration for widening the agroecology practice	25/02/2020
	<i>Aim: To deepen links between farmer's union members and academia. LWA can highlight necessary topics for empirical research, while researchers have the experience and skills to carry it out enabling LWA to draw upon a body of evidence that demonstrates the productivity and public/social good delivered by agroecology in order to influence UK policy.</i>		
Croatia	AEV	Collaboration with City of Križevci to become a sustainable city with surrounding villages	Feb-2020
	<i>Aim: To support better policymaking for the food and agricultural sector in Croatia to improve market access. For the City of Križevci to become a sustainable city, to be an example for others bigger cities about for waste, economy and rural development, a place from which young people will not have to leave, but will have systematic support in building a quality life. Parties intend to develop a centre of regenerative agriculture that would benefit all family farms in the country.</i>		
	AEV	Working with two ToT farmers on betterment of small farmers	17/02/2020
<i>Aim: Two family farms will work as pilot farms, collaborating to set up the centre of regenerative agricultural methods with their organisation, Ecological Association of Vojakovac. To work together to support small farmers for an enabling regulatory environment.</i>			



Project ongoing and upcoming activities of the next months

BOND – Forum Young Farmers for the Future!

The Youth Forum was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In order to maintain the engagement with the confirmed participants, ECO has created the following Consultation process:

- Surveying all the participants on their vision and proposals over the future of farming in Europe (May 2020);
- Creating short web profile articles of all participants on the BOND website based on their survey answers (MAY 2020);
- Including all the participants on the BOND Facebook group and generating an online engagement with them (APR-MAY 2020);
- Holding 4 thematic online (ZOOM) workshops – breaking the participants in 4 groups based on their interests and vision expressed in the survey (MAY 2020);
- Holding a webinar (ZOOM) at the end of MAY, presenting the outcome of the consultation process and key policy proposals that arise from the process;
- Publishing and disseminating a handbook/brochure “Young Farmers BONDing for the Future” – with the testimonials of the participants and the main outcomes of the consultation process (JUNE 2020).



Forum Young Farmers for the Future!

The international meeting, planned in the coming months, will gather together 34 young farmers and land managers (half female and half male) from 34 European countries.

The survey was already answered by 21 out of 34 farmers and we hope that we will receive the last replies soon so that we can share with all of you the profiles of the 34 young farmers and their inputs. At the moment it is hard to make an estimation about a new date for organizing the Forum in Romania, but the project still wants to make it happen.

For updates please check: [BOND – Forum Young Farmers for the Future!](#)

BOND – LAB experiment in Moldova

Also, the LAB experiment in Moldova had to reshape their activities due to COVID-19. The 2nd and 3rd event are now prepared to be virtual done.

The new plan for the 2nd event - Emotional intelligence and bridging skills UCO is to have:

- S1; S2; S3 + S4 (3 ZOOM sessions 30 min)
- Recorded videos
- with subtitles to be sent to participants
- + Interactive Zoom session in Romanian
- Implementation period: June 2020

For the 3rd event - Cooperative development, Dialogue and Lego serious play- PROENTRANSE the following alternative scenario was defined if the event cannot happen as face to face meeting in September:

to divide into

- 2 Webinars CUMA and CU (Lego session)
- Virtual Signing ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding
- ZOOM sessions regarding legal and fiscal aspects adjusted in the context of Covid-19 - the dialogue experience from ECORURALIS
- Implementation period: April – July 2020

For updates please check: [Lab experiment in Moldova](#)



Other Interesting Topics and Events

BOND project response to Covid-19

[Our response to Covid-19](#)

A project with partners from 12 different countries working across the whole of Europe, COVID 19 has naturally had an impact on BOND. We have postponed some of our activities such as the Youth Forum considering WHO (World Health Organisation) guidelines and EU recommendations and our April 2020 Board meeting will take place online. We are reflecting on creative “collective at a distance” ways to make sure our aims of bonding, bridging and linking continue. Please keep checking in with our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram community.

At this strange, challenging time we wish you and your family good health, and if you find yourself in isolation, we have a collection of inspiring stories we invite you to read in The Barn. As usual we very much welcome your feedback and innovative ideas about how best to work and grow together.

Other posts linked to COVID-19:

[Finding Food during COVID-19](#)

[Boosting the Immune systems of Medical workers in Moldova](#)

The European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) - Rural responses to the COVID-19 crisis

The outbreak of COVID-19 has significantly affected all aspects of life across Europe. In addition to threatening our health, the pandemic is also posing serious challenges to our socio-economic systems. In rural areas, farmers, businesses and communities are particularly affected.

This page provides examples of projects and initiatives primarily launched by rural communities in coping with the COVID-19 emergency, supporting rural businesses and fostering solidarity with those more vulnerable in this exceptional situation. It also provides information about European Commission initiatives and actions aimed at alleviating the current difficulties faced by rural Europe.

https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/rural-responses-covid-19-crisis_en