

## Brief report on the launch of the European Network for Agroecological Food systems (ENAF), 26 January 2023

In this report we focus on a synthesis of key take-away messages shared by participants in this event. All presentations and recorded conversations can be accessed in the News section of the AE4EU website (<https://www.ae4eu.eu/>).

- It is important to **make concrete** what exactly ENAF will be doing and working on. The general idea is widely accepted, but it became clear that there is a need for further specificity on the operational focus and what this means for core activities. Therefore, this will be a priority during the next steps of ENAF, and will be done with those who join as co-founders.
- The intention to **make (peasant) farmers and their ideas, knowledge, and interests central** in ENAF is central, but it will be important to translate this into ways in which this is operationalised so that it will not merely remain a strategic orientation. To this end, it will also be important to attract more farmer groups to ENAF and ask them to play a key role within the network.
- There is a desire to **connect to all parts of Europe** and to pay particular attention to building connections with Eastern Europe, and ask representatives from these countries to take active roles in ENAF.
- The chosen orientation on food systems and on the agroecological principles/elements is accepted, and it will be important to notably contribute to **just transitions**, embracing a focus on food justice and food ethics.
- Three **EU partnership programmes** (Horizon Europe) are relevant to connect to: Biodiversity+, Sustainable Food Systems, and Accelerating Agroecological Transitions. It will be good to explore connections, particularly in terms of bringing in (peasant) farmer voices and participation.
- ENAF can **build on experiences** of groups like Let'sLiberateDiversity!, ENoLL and others in connecting (to) farmer groups across Europe.
- Regarding the **future governance** of ENAF, there were some pieces of advice:
  - o To ensure that the setup of membership is clear (rather than it is now), including how this translates into decision making processes.
  - o To pay particular attention to balancing diversity in the roles of various groups in the composition of the working groups (e.g. gender, type of actor, etc.).
- Regarding ENAF's future **communication** strategy:
  - o setup common terminology that integrates the diverse visions of members and creates a common ground;
  - o recognises the role of AE in the European agricultural transition from the very beginning (agreement between the different participating networks);
  - o address language issue (how to exploit the contents, involve different actors considering the various cultural backgrounds). It is very relevant at the territorial scale.

As explained earlier, at this stage it is not possible to have a formal membership structure for ENAF. However, representatives of networks and associations can already informally **become involved in ENAF** as a friend, participant, or co-founder.

Through this link, you can access the registration form and indicate how you would like to become involved:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf\\_Ut9rEaUk5SNSzjiAzxpN7uvtNz8iE1uTxqSazCgcCWOGw/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf_Ut9rEaUk5SNSzjiAzxpN7uvtNz8iE1uTxqSazCgcCWOGw/viewform)

## Annex: More detail on the three options for becoming involved ENAF

Until ENAF has been fully and legally established (anticipated in November 2023), there will only be informal membership. Until then, there are three options for becoming involved with ENAF:

- As **co-founder**.
- As **participant**.
- As **friend**.

The following overview describes the implications.

	Co-founder of ENAF	Participant of ENAF	Friend of ENAF
Receive <b>updates</b> about ENAF's next steps and receive invitations to meetings and (public) events	√	√	√
Get the opportunity to <b>provide feedback</b> on statutory documents and other documents in relation to the formal establishment of ENAF.	√	√	
Participate in one or two of the working groups and thus have the opportunity to actively help shape the direction of the establishment of ENAF in 2023 and beyond, in terms of its governance, and in terms of concrete activities. Those who registered as co-founder will receive an invitation to the first meetings of the working groups.	√		