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Civic initiatives on Access to Land for Local, Sustainable Food Systems in Europe

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Introduction

- Access to land is an obstacle for more local, ecological farmers or those who want to start
- Public policies are insufficient or inadequate to address their needs
- Increasing public demand for local quality food, direct relations, public goods
- Development of a number of civic initiatives on land access over the past 10 years

Land Access Issues for Local, Ecological Farmers (2)

- Increased pressure on land availability:
competing needs between
 - * urban/ rural uses
 - * food / other agricultural uses
 - * conventional / 'alternative' farmers
- Changing patterns in farm transfers
- Unaffordable land prices
- Specific difficulties for local, ecological farmers

Emerging Civic Initiatives

Network of 12 European initiatives:

- Variety of organisations from Lithuania (Viva Sol) to Catalunya (Rurbans) to enable access to land
- Established organisations (Soil Association, UK) and new ones (Terre en vue, Belgium)
- Support through citizen finance (Regionalwert AG, Germany – Terre de liens, France), through Land Stewardship (XCT) or other ways
- Open for new participants (within countries e.g. Germany, new countries, e.g. Eastern Europe)

Benefits

- Support setting-up or continuation of local, ecological farmers
- Preserve land in agricultural use and sustainable production
- Develop new forms of ownership and management of the land
- Create connections between farmers and consumers

New European network „Access to land“

Common Website accesstoland.eu
will be available in Spring 2014



Thank you!

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