

Balkan Seed Network

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<https://balkanseednetwork.com/>

Balkan Seed Network is a network consisted of seed savers, breeders, scientists, farmers, gardeners, associations, organizations, research institutes and educational institutions active in the Balkans.



Bucharest, May 2022

<http://balkanseednetwork.com/>

See more about our [mission](#), [structure](#), [members](#) or [activities](#).

Members

The members of BSN are parties and associated individuals. The parties are participant group entities and stakeholders (seed savers, scientists, farmers, home-gardeners, associations, organizations, universities and authorities). Associated individuals who agree with the scopes of the network can join to the network without voting rights.

Members (have signed MoU)

1. AEGILOPS (Net. for Biodiversity and Ecology in Agriculture), Greece
2. Agricultural Research Institute (ARI), Cyprus
3. Alica Foundation (Foundation for Agrobiodiversity and Agroecology), Romania
4. Association ARCHE NOAH, Austria
5. Association of Plant Genetic Resources (APGR), Albania
6. Association Romania in Transition, Romania
7. Civil association FABIA CSB, North Macedonia
8. Community Local Seed Bank Bushat (COSPE), Albania
9. Ecological movement "Frame of life", Serbia
10. Institute of Plant Genetic Resources, Agric. University Tirana, Albania
11. Institute of Plant Genetic Resources "Konstantin Malkov", Bulgaria
12. Lipa dooel, North Macedonia
13. Maritsa Vegetable Crops Research Institute (MVCRI), Bulgaria
14. Organic Agriculture Association (OAA), Albania
15. SITO SEEDS Network, Greece
16. Zelena Mreža Aktivističkih Grupa (ZMAG), Croatia

- The first meeting of interested parties was in 2020.
- During 2021 the MoU was created and discussed.
- During Bucharest (Romania) meeting in May 2022, the MoU was officially agreed and signed.
- The Founding Assembly for official registration is planned for 31 March 2023 in Bijeljina (BIH).





Family Farming Knowledge Platform

	Background	FamilyFarmingLex	Resources	Practices & Techniques	Countries & Regions	Themes	Network	Data sources
Join Us								

Rural Europe Takes Action | Seeds of Collaboration

"Rural Europe Takes Action - No more business as usual", a policy guide for rural Europe by ARC2020 and Forum Synergies, launched in June 2022. Today's extract from Rural Europe Takes Action tells the story of the Balkan Seeds Network, a network of scientists and seed savers' organisations tapping into the rich biodiversity and agricultural heritage of South Eastern Europe to stimulate resilient food systems, and establishing a paradigm of collaboration for the Balkan region.

Organization: ARC2020
Year: 2022
Geographical coverage: European Union (European Union)
Type: Blog article
Full text available at: <https://www.arc2020.eu/rural-europe-takes-action-seeds-of-collaboration>
Content language: English

Related content

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REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF

Rural Europe Takes Action | Seeds of Collaboration

July 22, 2022 ARC Latest from EU Member States, Latest from key partners, Latest from the ARC network, Main stories, Recent updates



the first gathering of the Balkan Seeds Mikulek - ZMAG



Cultiver, habiter et vivre en harmonie avec la nature.



ARC2020 and Forum Synergies have published a policy guide titled "Rural Europe Takes Action - No more business as usual". Take a look at the guide.



The new Balkan Seed Network: opportunities for Eastern Europe



To stay in touch and keep you up to date with activities that may one day be near your home. Sign up!

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Reasons for Balkan Seed Network

- Balkan countries are rich in agrobiodiversity.
- Crop systems are built on a broad range of divergent local and autochthonous p varieties of international importance.
- Strong links between agrobiodiversity, traditional knowledge, cultural diversity a local innovations are evident in the region and are part of its unique and rich character.
- In contrast to the developed countries, often less rich in agrobiodiversity, but equipped with strong policies for supporting preservation, sustainable use and promotion of genetic resources, Balkan countries still struggle to establish an adequate framework for conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic reso
- **BUT there is a rapid depopulation of rural area and loosing of traditional know and localy maintaned genetic resources.**



Photos by: S. Ivanovska, M. Jankulovska, P. Drkenda



Photos by: S. Jani, V. Todorović, G. Đurić

Balkan Seed Network activities

- **Exchange information and material** (eg exchange platforms, common data, seed savers' festivals, meetings, webpage);
- **Cooperation on research programs** relevant to the scope of the network (conducting common trials, identification and characterization of PGR, material origins and levels of evolution, climate change impacts) in national, international, regional and European levels;
- **Provide information on opportunities for training, mentoring and shadowing experiences** (training projects, online training courses for farmers, young food chain stakeholders). Translating science into practice is important;
- **Strengthen the linkage** between ex situ, in situ and on farm conservation

Balkan Seed Network activities

- **Boost participatory and organic breeding and selection** for adaptation to low input and organic conditions. GMO's and NGTs (New Genomic Technologies) breeding are out of the scope of the network and not promoted. Patents also are not accepted;
- **Promotion of organic agriculture, agroecology and sustainable use of P**
- **Funding from collaborative research programs or donations** in national and international levels to support network activities and synergy;
- **Lobbying for farmers' seeds and farmers' rights**, working on national level, public consultation and legislation process and raising public awareness in national and European context levels.

Balkan Seed Network

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Thank you for your attention!