

Rural Actors for Health

1st European Herb Gathering, 4-7 October 2012, Lesachtal, AT



Österreichische UNESCO-Kommission
Austrian Commission for UNESCO

Report

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1. Background and context

Context:

- Herbs play an important role for health
- Traditional knowledge about the use of plants is acknowledged as intangible cultural heritage (recognized by UNESCO). This represents a strong commitment to safeguard this knowledge and the benefits it can provide for public human health.
- The cultivation, processing, selling and use of herbs is strongly restricted by regulations
- The artificial separation between food and the medicinal use of plants due to regulations often goes far beyond a real need incapacitates and disables consumers to take care for themselves.
- It is often rural actors, mainly women, who are the holders of knowledge how to cultivate and process plants and how to use them. These actors play an important role in the economic balance of rural regions. The cultivation and processing of plants is an important cornerstone of multifunctional agriculture.

Threats

- Loss of the positive potential of herbs on health in general
- Dependence on the commercial interest of enterprises
- Loss of free seeds
- Dependence on patents
- Restriction of traditions
- Limiting the entrepreneurial freedom of the farmers
- Loss of culture and knowledge about cultivation and use of herbs
- Impoverishment of native habitats
- Loss of regional products

Consequences for the consumers

- All of a sudden the access to medicinal and tea herbs – which have been used since generations – is severely restricted. Mainly due to capitalistic interests herbs are no more available in your neighbourhood but partly on patented plants or in processed forms (tables, tinctures,..)
- Consumers are no longer free to decide by themselves where to get their herbs from. They are forced to buy herbs not knowing where they come from or how old they are
- Regional shopping in the herb sector is hampered
- Due to the fact that a lot of herbs are no longer allowed to be cultivated the consumer has no chance to buy these herbs anymore.

- The assessment of herbs only on the basis of chemical ingredients doesn't take into account the interaction of substances and provokes the danger of a judgement based only on critical ingredients. Instead of offering consumers appropriate information about how to use herbs they are simply forbidden.
- Quite some slight indispositions could be remedied by using the right herb - without burdening the public health system. It would make sense to offer information about the benefits of herbs and leave them for free instead of putting restrictions on their use.
- The variety of herbs, the ancient knowledge about their use and culture of the people is threatened to get lost even more than it is the case already now.

Rural Actors for Health – the project

The “Rural Actors for Health” project is an initiative of Forum Synergies <http://forum-synergies.eu>. The 1st European Herb Gathering was organised as a kickoff event from 4.-7.10.2012 in Austria

The project aims at:

- Identifying and bringing together different stakeholders on a European level
- Initiating a dialogue-based consultation process in order to work on a common agreement for a legislative framework that takes into account the needs and realities of small producers as well as consumers and intends to broaden the benefit these can bring to public human health.
- Promoting and safeguarding the benefits rural actors provide for public health due to their knowledge and high quality production.
- Identifying main criteria for high quality and sustainable production (including wild-collection) and safe use of herbs.

2. Patronage of the UNESCO

In 2003 the UNESCO ratified the Convention for the safeguard of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. In 2006 the Austrian the **National Agency for the Intangible Cultural Heritage** was established. The Agency is responsible for the implementation of the convention and the drawing up of the national inventory of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in Austria.

In 2010 the first inscriptions to the national list of intangible cultural heritage in Austria were acknowledged. Among them is the initiative TEH (Healing knowledge of Pinzgauer men and women, <http://immaterielleskulturerbe.unesco.at/cgi-bin/unesco/element.pl?bl=5&lang=en>).

The fact that the UNESCO approves acknowledgement for initiatives who dedicate themselves to the safeguard of traditional knowledge and use of plants for health care was motivation enough to apply for taking over the patronage for the 1st European Herb Gathering. In a world that seems to be

addicted to a purely rationalistic and capitalistic belief it is more than important to stress the value of the "knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe".

This initiative by the UNESCO was also an important driving force to undertake some research as part of the preparation for the 1st EHG about similar activities in other countries. So we found e.g. our Swiss participants, Julie Perrin, who is in charge of doing an overview about initiatives dealing with herbal knowledge as possible contribution to the Swiss national list of intangible heritage.

So we are very thankful to have this support from the UNESCO National Agency.

Greetings delivered by Maria Walcher, Consultant for the Intangible Cultural Heritage:

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Participants,

On behalf of the Division for the Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Austrian Commission for UNESCO I would like to welcome you and cordially thank the organizing committee for hosting the 1st European Herb Gathering in Austria.

Since the establishment of the division in 2006, the activities in awareness raising for traditional healing methods have substantially contributed to a better understanding of the social significance of the intangible cultural heritage. With the entry of the Healing knowledge of Pinzgauer men and women in the Austrian inventory traditional knowledge received increasing recognition on the national level. On the international level, standard setting plays an important role with regard to effectiveness, quality and safety measures. For this reason I highly welcome the initiative of this first European network meeting; prospective common strategies will contribute to a longlasting and sustainable preservation of precious traditional knowledge.

Let me wish all participants informative days and all the best for future projects!

3. Participants

20 participants from 10 different countries were working together for 2 ½ days in the Lesachtal Valley.

List of participants

BARRET Philippe	FR	Forum Synergies
BERGMANE Mara	LV	Eco-Health Farms
BERGMANE Dainis	LV	Eco-Health Farms
BUCHART Karin	AT	TEH
KLEINDIENST-JOHN Ingrid	AT	Ausbildungszentrum für Aromatologie und Blütenessenzen "Feng Shui Austria®" (Verein)
KOBLER Regina	AT	TEH
KOHLHAAS Brigitte	AT	TEH
LAUBSTEIN Nora	DE	ANME
LEDGERWOOD Cindy	UK	Herbal Medicine Scotland
LEOPOLDINGER Wolfgang	AT	TEH

MATOUCH Simone	AT	Forum Synergies
PAKOT Monika	RO	Civitas Foundation for Civil Society
PAUNKOVIC Jane	SRB	Faculty of Management
PERRIN Julie	CH	Institut d'ethnologie, Université de Neuchâtel
ROHS Laura	UK	University of Kent, United Kingdom
SARV Mikk	EE	Estonian Society of School Forests
STULTSCHNIG Doris	AT	private
TANEVSKA Liljana	MK	CeProSARD
URQUHART Libby	UK	ARCHNETWORK
VILLBASTE Kristel	EE	Estonian Society of School Forests

In addition: List of exhibitors

KRANEBETTER Rosmarie	AT	Irschen
SEEBACHER Dieter	AT	Aurosoma
	AT	Spagyrik Pharma

4. Motivations and expectations

In general motivations and expectations are about a principle interest in networking and getting to know potential partners for future co-operations. They are about the wish to get to know the situation in different countries, about getting to know colleagues and other stakeholders in the field.

Apart from that there is the concrete motivation to do something about the actual situation of small herb producers and other people making their living out of the producing, processing and marketing of herbs. On the other side it is also the consumers who are affected by being cut off from local or regional producers of herbal products.

Another motivation is also to understand the legal framework different stakeholders are affected by either with regard to the operational level (EU, national) or with regard to special topics (e.g. with regard to the topic of wild gathering of herbs)

5. Field visits

The main characteristics of the regions were presented during the 1st evening when we were welcomed by the chair of the regional touristic association in his restaurant, the Mühlenstüberl.

The field visits aimed at presenting the actual activities taking place in the valley related to the producing and marketing of herbs and health-promoting products. As it is typical for Forum Synergies' methodological approach, the field visits should go beyond just presenting what has been done and what has been achieved but should put a special focus on the problems to be faced. Participants are invited to make suggestions on the basis of their own background and experience.

Lesachtal Valley

The Lesachtal Valley is a high Alpine valley situated in the South-West of Carinthia, Austria. The mountains “Karnische Alpen” in the south build the border to Italy.

Since about 25 years the valley dedicated itself towards a sustainable rural development based on three main pillars: agriculture, tourism and small local enterprises. In that time local authorities together with the population decided to stick to 3 main self-imposed restrictions:

1. The refusal of building any skiing lifts
2. A maximum of beds for tourists not exceeding the number of inhabitants
3. Modernisation of the road according only to inner-regional needs (but not e.g. for big trucks)

This important decision to turn a drawback (remoteness, low economy, depopulation) into an advantage is still successful today and the Lesachtal valley has become known as the most natural region of the Alps.

1.Stop: Simone’s herb garden, Mühlenstüberl, Obergail



Since 2008 Simone Matouch is running a herb garden nearby the Mühlenstüberl, a small restaurant in a small hamlet near Liesing. The herb garden was established as part of a project initiated by the association “Natur- & Kräuterwerkstatt Lesachtal” under the rural development scheme.

The main reason for running the project was the problems the association had to phase due to the producing and marketing of cosmetic products which underlie special hygienic regulations. In order to afford the high costs for elaborating the demanded “dossiers” the association was looking for funding options. Otherwise the production would have to be stopped.

So a project was elaborated including the “dossier-creation”, the establishment of the herb garden, setting up a website and building a processing room.

The herb garden is mainly a show garden, for setting up a garden for producing herbs the association would not have received funds.

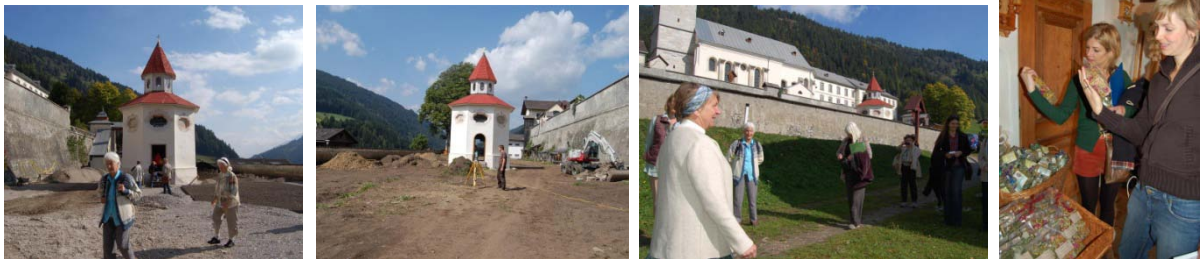
During the visit of the herb garden some aspects of the problems herb farmers have to face are tackled. Besides strong hygienic rules it’s mainly the fact that producers are only allowed to produce within the food sector but must not indicate any health aspects. In reality it is

really difficult to distinguish between foods and remedies because in fact most of the herbs and plants we use are both.

Some of the herbs underlie strong rules so that they may not be used at all or only with respect to quantitative restrictions.

One of the biggest problems local or small producers have to face is the unsecure and non-transparent communication of the legal situation. Producers often receive contradictory arguments. It is quite complicated to find out who is the right addressee for which questions. The legal situation is far from being stable, quickly changing regulations demotivate producers and more and more are giving up.

2. Monastery garden and farmers' shop, Maria Luggau



The revitalization of the monastery garden is a new project in the region. Initiated by the national heritage agency which outlines the unique value of the former historic garden the local commune decided to co-finance the restoration of the garden. Well knowing that the restoration can be only a first step the commune put emphasis on the topic of managing the garden for the future (the commune had to guarantee a management of 30 years in order to get the permission of the monastery to restore the garden).

The Natur- & Kräuterwerkstatt Lesachtal, namely Simone Matouch, was invited to think about necessary steps in order to develop a sustainable use of the garden and was involved in bringing in a proposal for the LEADER programme which was finally approved.

The main challenge lies in the need to motivate people from the region to become part of this project and to contribute by managing, harvesting, producing and selling products. The inherent objection to anything new - which is a typical attitude for remote, mountainous regions – has to be overcome. A great challenge is to find motivated people who do not expect a “normal” employment being paid for the work-time spent but who are ready to develop together some entrepreneurial spirit. This is a great opportunity on the hand – offering some source of income in the region within a framework that can to a certain extent be self-determined – but in the other hand can deter people because they expect exact instructions.

3. Almwelness Hotel Tuffbad



The Almwelnesshotel Tuffbad (<http://www.almwellness.com/>) was established about 7 years ago. It is a typical example of how to make best use of the local resources. Being placed nearby a medicinal spring the hotel was built on the area of traditionally used “bathing houses”.

The philosophy of making use of local resources can be found in the use of building materials; in the use of food coming from the region; using traditional materials for the wellness applications like the well know hay for hay baths; in the human resource policy and the quite new cooperation with a (former) local doctor who specialised on the topic of “food against cancer”.

The hotel is run quite successfully. However for local herb-producers there are some drawbacks to face: due to the hotel’s participation in some quality labels they are no longer allowed to sell e.g. cosmetic products of the region which are not part of the labeling system.

Some reflections

In a feedback round participants were asked to give answers to the following questions:

- 1.) What I would like to take home with me for my own work
- 2.) What kind of advice can you offer to the local people?

List of positive feedback:

- It is important to be inclusive, to involve people, to offer opportunities to local people
- Development needs a strong leadership of people who have visions
- Cooperation between people
- Impressed by the spirit of the valley (based on the 3 principles: no skiing, self-imposed limits on the number of beds, inter-regional adoption of the main road..)
- Simone’s garden is a good place to meet, the monastery might be a source of healing knowledge.
- People seem to be aware of nature and its preservation
- It’s important to develop social competence and responsibility
- Amaranth as a symbol of resistance to Monsanto
- It’s important to build upon the origins (to be authentic)
- The problem may be seen as an opportunity

- It's possible for mountain villages to live without skiing lifts
- It's important to recognize the value is important to recognize
- It's worth to overcome the fear, to be proud

6. Working Groups

Procedure: after a certain time of working in the separate groups each group had to identify an ambassador. The ambassador is now moving from one group to next in order to present the main findings of his own working group. In the discussion with the ambassador we looked for overlapping with topics of the own working group and discussed the inclusion of new aspects to our original outlines.

On the basis of a "metaplan" we worked on in a plenary session we decided to split up into 3 working groups:

- 1.) Regulations
- 2.) Education
- 3.) Communication and organisation

The working groups were asked to think of 3 categories of possible outputs:

- 1.) what we can do in our place;
- 2.) what we can do all together;
- 3.) what we should suggest to policy makers

WG Regulations

Expectations

To come home with a general overview of what are the regulations and challenges in other European countries

To learn on collection vs/ and cultivation regulations

What we can do together

Prerequisite for becoming active on a political level is to understand the political framework. This is a quite demanding task as we have to face a diversity of legislation instruments on different levels (national, EU). It is important to understand the difference between the countries.

Getting an overview would need some research in this field. 1st step would be to develop a template in order to collect data. Some pre-work has already been done by Simone elaborating a questionnaire which was established for preparing this meeting (see annex). Laurie-Anne Coste who is leading a survey about European small producers on behalf of Trade Union SIMPLES, FR (see Annex)

What we can suggest to politicians

There is a need to build a unity of the "herb folk" in order to protect our rights and safeguard the knowledge. There was a partly controversial discussion about the need for lobbying versus the need for building a alliance for constructive dialogue.

The following steps for further procedure were elaborated:

1. Dossier for EU regulation and discrepancies
 - Step one: to look at EU regulation
 - Step two: to look at National regulation
 - Step three: to find what the national regulation does in relation to EU regulation and to which extent, what are the differences.
2. Research proposal for academics: analyses of differences in different regulations in different EU member state country concerning herbs and products of herbs:
 - Collection
 - Cultivation
 - Usage
 - Processing
 - Selling
3. Awareness raising - at local and national level with moderated dialogue among the governments, people, and motivating civil society.
Definition of methodology for raising awareness- in communication group (and delivered as expected)
4. Capacity building – to understand difficulties of the process and how is overcome from the others
5. Consequences of breaking regulations
6. Impacts on commitments of regulation on:
 - livelihoods and financial impact
 - other relevant impacted groups: to see what are they doing, to check up subsidies schemes, amount of land with herbs, yields, income, which species are subject to subsidies.

Participants

Julie Perrin, Liljana Tanevska, Cindy Ledgerwood, Simone Matouch, Doris Stultschnig

WG Education

Expectations

to find out on training, capacity building practices

What we can do in our place

Educating the lost generation: school teachers

Raising of awareness and consciousness to make more use of herbs

What we can do together

Topics we should work on together:

platform (methods); prepare a new application for the Grundtvig programme-> Monika & Libby

European Herbal wisdom: to publish together a book with stories of all of us from different countries and cultures

Herbs as national heritage

To get to know different ways of processing, different products

Herb culture

Capacity building

Collection vs./ and cultivation

To pass on phytotherapy in a modern way

Education: basic knowledge; combination of theoretical & practical topics

Herbalist as a profession – but how??

Participants

Mikk Sarv, Kristel Vilbaste, Jane Paunkovic, Libby Urquhat, Monika Pakot, Regina Kobler, Wolfgang Leopoldinger

WG Communication and organization

Expectations

Work plan for the next year

What we can do in our place

Everyone from each country should create a list of relevant herbal people in their countries and also a list of important books/ publications

What we can do together

Topics: internal & external. Internet forum -> to know the needs/ interests of the stakeholders of the herb system

To involve, motivate civil society

Organizing civic engagement in saving “herb culture”

To meet people with similar aims so that we can work together in common European programmes

Local action – political action

Important facts for cooperation

Network between small suppliers

Communication; legislation -> local actors university aiming for clarity

Participants

Laura Rohs, Mara & Dainis Bergmane, Nora Laubstein

7. Conclusions

Main needs

- **Regulations:** understanding the jungle of regulations is one of the biggest and most demanding challenges in order to survive as a small producer. We therefore propose to
 - 1) work on a survey of relevant regulations on EU and national level.
 - 2) elaborate proposals that help to ensure that regulations protect our herbal quality instead of impoverishing their availability

This survey should also give an overview about already existing professions in different countries related to the wild collection, cultivation, processing and selling of herbs and herbal products.

- **Capacity Building** for small producers: for small producers (rural actors for health) restrictive and continuously quickly changing legislation is one of the main kick-out arguments to stop any activity. Small producers would therefore urgently need support in order to continue their activity
- **Education:** there is a strong need for education not only on a scientific basis but also as an offer for civil society in order to enable citizens to make the right use of herbs. There is a great potential which is not used so far.
- **Communication & Cooperation:** we promote a constructive dialogue between different stakeholders on national and EU level including practitioners, scientists and politicians.

Main questions

- How could our initiative get involved as a stakeholder on the European political level?
- Could we be informed on a regular basis about news on the European political level?
- Could we get access to a list of key persons on EU and national level operating in this field?
- Which kind of project/ funds could help to do research about the legal situation on EU and national level and to do a critical survey about its impact mainly on small producers and on consumers?
- Which kind of project/ funds could help to do a survey of best practice examples (success stories) of existing initiatives, producers, co-operations who do not only pursue an economic interest but also contribute to public health and the safeguard of traditional knowledge

8. Short description of organisations

TEH (Traditional European Medicine), AT, (www.teh.at)

Regional background and objectives: Our association intended to develop a verified concept of the application of traditional biogenic pharmaceuticals from the area “Pinzgau” in the county of Salzburg, Austria. For this purpose, 33 individuals underwent a qualitative interview focusing on the regional and traditional biogenic medicinal products, their production and mode as well as the duration of application. Furthermore, the interview queried the context concerning rhythm of the life and the circulation of the implicit knowledge. The asserted effects and indications of the reported biogenic pharmaceuticals were compared with the data of the “**European Scientific Cooperative on Phytotherapy - ESCOP**” and of the European Medicines Agency. The interviews demonstrate that the inquiry of the application of traditional, regional medicinal plants and the comparison of the traditional use with the current state of science represents a useful approach. It makes traditional medicine available for a scientific evaluation and discussion of its efficacy and opens ways to further investigate the underlying mechanisms of action of traditional medicinal products.

Activities with respect to sustainable development: Our products contain a high percentage of regional products. They are packed and sold within the region. Furthermore we offer education and training. We promote the establishment of a profession of a herbalist. We face 2 main positive consequences:

1. high compliance: regional and traditional products have a high compliance
2. high efficiency: applications that people are conditioned to reach a high efficiency

THOR Zentrum, AT, Thomas Rolin, (www.thor-zentrum.at/)*

Scope, short history and main activities of your organisation/institution: Since 2006, education and training activities in the health sector with particular reference to European traditional medicinal knowledge. Int. Congresses (Lost Knowledge), lectures, courses, workshops, technical articles in the media, interdisciplinary exchange and collaboration with organizations and individuals, traditional products

What is your motivation to take part in the gathering/ your expectations: Exchange of experience

*could finally not participate

Institut d’ethnologie, Université de Neuchâtel, CH, Julie Perrin, (<http://www2.unine.ch/ethno>)

Scope, short history and main activities of your organisation/institution: The Anthropology Institute in Neuchâtel is conducting a national research program which observes and analyses the implementation of the 2003 UNESCO Convention in Switzerland through case studies.

What is your motivation to take part in the gathering: Be informed about the European initiative dealing with folk medicine, more particularly traditional herbal medicine, and meet actors of this field.

What are your expectations for the gathering: Learn about the Austrian situation as well as the European situation concerning traditional herbal medicine and law, economy, concrete difficulties, techniques, transmission and school.

Association for Natural Medicine in Europe e.V., DE, Nora Laubstein, (www.anme.info/)

Scope, short history and main activities of your organization/institution: Founded in 2001 ANME, a politically Non-Governmental and Non-Profit Organization, is working as a stakeholder for Traditional European Naturopathy and Salutogenesis in the field of Complementary and Alternative Medicine. Protecting herbals and their traditional use, the freedom of CAM-practice, free access for citizens and the opportunity producing herbal and homeopathic products for manufactures are our main challenges. We are organizing European Symposia about several CAM-topics. As a member of the European Public Health Alliance-EPHA we are connecting the Private and the Public Health sectors.

What is your motivation to take part in the gathering: Caring about the actual situation of producing and using herbals in Europe, especially the complicated and incomplete legislation by the EU-administration, this Herb-Gathering brings together the knowledge and new aspects.

What are your expectations for the gathering: Getting contacts, from academically research until the "Grass-Roots". It is important connecting the "Herbal Forces" in Europe.

European Society of School Forests, EE, Mikk Sarv & Kristel Villbaste, ([http:](http://))

Scope, short history and main activities of your organisation/institution: Estonian Society of School Forest was founded in 2003 with aim to promote outdoor learning among teachers. We are organising Outdoor Learning Summer Schools annually, in 2012 we have the ninth Summer School. One of key topics has been herbal wisdom to be taught and spread among pupils all around Estonia. 2006-2008 we made with support from European Social Fund TV serial of 32 broadcasts about outdoor education with 60 example lessons.

What is your motivation to take part in the gathering: Me and my wife Kristel Vilbaste like to attend the meeting because we like to share our experience of teaching about herbs to teachers and children. We like to learn about other similar experiences, also we like to know more about herbs, how to use them and how to grow them.

What are your expectations for the gathering: We expect to meet enthusiastic people working with herbs and to start networking with them.

Forum Synergies, Philippe Barret, FR,EU (www.forum-synergies.eu)

Scope, short history and main activities of your organisation/institution: Since 1995, this European network of experiences in sustainable development facilitates exchanges between local initiatives and with policy makers.

What is your motivation to take part in the gathering: I would like to contribute to the process with my skills in moderation, because I appreciate very much Simone's initiatives. I worked many years ago in a national program to promote herbs (run by Fondation de France), but I am not any more involved in this field.

What are your expectations for the gathering: To set up a series of workshops aimed at strengthening small scale herbs production in Europe.

Les SIMPLES, FR, (www.syndicat-simples.org)*

Scope, short history and main activities of your organisation/institution: It is hard to know how many small herbalist-producers are installed (or in the process of installation) currently in France. Surely, there must be over 300, in almost every region of France. The number has grown significantly over the last four or five years.

In order to exchange, share their knowledge, and also eventually defend their cause, over a hundred of them organized themselves in a union specialized in picking, growing and processing of medicinal and aromatic plants.

The union is called SIMPLES – the union concerns the sector of non modified medicinal plants used without processing according to the popular tradition. "One must hereby understand the Economy of the Union SIMPLES as a management which is respectful of the natural habitat. Earth is considered not as a production tool but as a living partner."¹

*could finally not participate

Schmiedthof, IT, Rita Frener, (www.schmiedthof.com/)*

Regional background and objectives regional direct marketing

Activities with respect to sustainable development: Ecological farming since 30 years. Serving mixed markets of the region and the ecological farmers' market in the capital. Ecological markets and information events on the topic of ecological farming.

Main results. Lessons learned: Cultural enrichment of the region, increasing biodiversity, offering the possibility to farmers to buy their herbs directly from the farmer

Future challenges and perspectives: Main challenge: More and more herbs become sacrificed to the greed and interest of big companies and business corporations. The consumer is no longer free to take his own decision on where he wants to buy herbs. The selection of herbs becomes more and more limited and the traditional use of herbs is prosecuted according to laws.

To what extent are you dealing with the topic of health? We offer herbs in the frame of the food law. Since food in its entity has a strong impact on our health it is of great importance how herbs are cultivated. Folk medicine uses these herbs for treating minor medical complaints and can often achieve good results without burdening the public health budget.

To what extent are you contributing to the safeguard of traditional knowledge? I pass on my knowledge of growing and using herbs as part of guided tours on our farm, conferences and

1 Citation of the preamble of the specification of the Union SIMPLES - <http://www.syndicat-simples.org/fr/Le-Cahier-des-Charges.html>

trainings for the community. My kids take my knowledge, as I have also taken over partly by my ancestors. I also pass on my knowledge to many trainees and volunteers continue.

*could finally not participate

Eco Health Farm Network, LT Mara & Dainis Bergmane, (www.ekoprodukti.lv, http://www.forum-synergies.eu/bdf_fiche-experience-25_en.html)

Scope, short history and main activities of your organisation/institution: The Eco-Health Farms (EHF) model was created in the 90's by Mara Bergmane, her husband Dainis Bergmanis and Latvian colleagues, in order to address three key problems Latvians were facing: the deterioration of the health standards of Eastern Europeans, the environmental degradation, and the decreasing economic opportunities for farmers. Indeed, health levels in Latvia and Eastern Europe were lower than in the rest of Europe (due to the prevalence of chronic diseases, substance abuse, overuse of pharmaceuticals, etc...). Besides, the use of intensive farming techniques in collective farms during Latvia's half-century of Soviet occupation created a legacy of negative impacts on the health of people and the environment. In addition, small farms were under increasing pressure to cut costs to compete with large European farms, a situation exacerbated by the entry into the EU. An added difficulty for rural Latvian, with lowest incomes than the average incomes of the country.

CeproSARD, MK, Liljana Tanevska, (<http://www.ceprosard.org.mk/EN/Default.aspx>)

Scope, short history and main activities of your organisation/institution: Center For Promotion of sustainable agricultural practices and rural development. Main activities in: Sustainable rural development. Renewable energies and energy efficiency

What is your motivation to take part in the gathering: Initiatives with project proposals concerning preservation of overexploited species of herbs in the region of Macedonian Mountains

What are your expectations for the gathering? To learn exchange and see what are the actions taken to prevent the overexploitation of the endangered species

CIVITAS Foundation, RO, Monika Pakot, (www.civitas.ro/)

Scope, short history and main activities of your organisation/institution: Civitas Foundation for Civil Society aims to stimulate local and regional development. Civitas Foundation was founded in October 1992. The main reasons for its founding were the need to enhance local government capacity, and to stimulate citizens involvement in decision making and local governance. In order to achieve our mission, Civitas has set the following objectives:

- to develop and implement local and regional development programmes;
- to develop relationships between local government and the public, to support local initiatives;
- to organize specialized consulting in various fields for local governments;
- to organize training courses for local public officials, both elected and appointed;
- to support the establishment and functioning of non-governmental organizations.

What is your motivation to take part in the gathering: Civitas Foundation has started a community based economical development program in 2008. In the period of 2009-2011 we started a movement with the goal to save local fruit varieties and with creating a manufacture to offer people in the rural are possibilities to process this fruits and create additional income.

This year we will develop a training material about growing, use and processing medicinal and spice plants and will organize the first course in this topic. We would like to develop the 2 community based economical development project with herb topic. So Civitas is interested in best practices, in the legal background of processing and sale products from herbs

What are your expectations for the gathering? 1. See best practices 2 Find partners who are dealing with herbs

Faculty of Management, SR, Jane Paunkovic, (www.fmz.edu.rs/index_eng.html, <http://cloud2.gdnet.org/~researchers/Jane%20Paunkovic>)

Scope, short history and main activities of your organisation/institution: University education in business and management

What is your motivation to take part in the gathering: My main interest is promotion of sustainable healthy life styles, which is also one of the goals of this gathering. It will be a good opportunity to exchange experience and ideas with participants throughout Europe interested in advocating for sustainability

What are your expectations for the gathering? I expect to learn a great deal about herb products from traditional knowledge holders, which I intend to share and disseminate among my students and broader audiences. I also expect to meet all kinds of interesting people who may in the future become valuable partners in sustainability projects

University of Kent, UK, Laura Rohs, (www.kent.ac.uk/sac)

Scope, short history and main activities of your organisation/institution: The department of Anthropology and Conservation at the University of Kent is a scientific institution

What is your motivation to take part in the gathering: I am both a Medicinal Horticulturalist and Ethnobotanist and have been working with medicinal plants for twelve years, they are an essential part of my personal and professional life.

I'm currently preparing for my PhD research (which starts in 2013) with the political ecology of medicinal plants as the central theme. I am specifically interested in different viewpoints and opinions of a variety of actors that are involved with medicinal plants. Therefore, it would be fantastic to have the opportunity to be present at the 1st European herb Gathering and get a good sense of what lives amongst people that are involved with medicinal plants in different ways. I am also able to offer a variety of skills, experiences, and offer advice should there be an interest in this.

What are your expectations for the gathering? I think this is a great initiative and my expectations are that a variety of persons will be present and an opportunity for exchange of thoughts and concerns will be granted.

ARCHNETWORK, UK, Elizabeth Urquhart, (www.archnetwork.org)

Scope, short history and main activities of your organisation/institution: ARCH is based in Highland Perthshire and has been in operation for 10 years. We have 3 members of staff and up to 3 part time staff. We have promoted several successful Leonardo projects in the Nature and Cultural Heritage sectors. Culture 2000 projects, Culturally Aligned Products and Processes (CAPP), Costumes and Masks Stimulating Innovative Art and Design (CAMSIAD), European Vernacular Architecture Cultural Heritage Exchange and Cultural Heritage (EVACH) and Culture History and Nature Together In Contemporary Art.(CHANTICA) ARCH's expertise is to lead initiatives and develop projects which raise the awareness of those working in Scotland's remoter rural areas of the experiences, skills, ideas and solutions available in other European countries and the benefits that these skills and knowledge can bring to them to help create an international knowledge based society

ARCH works with a network of partners like Scotland's National Rural Network which aims to connect rural Scotland to promote economic growth and community development. We work with rural groups often disadvantaged by being far from commercial centres, especially with rural women who are often very knowledgeable and skilled crafts people, but without reliable local outlets for their work. They have a need to develop sustainable local networks where they can showcase their work and generate a dependable additional income.

www.archnetwork.org

What is your motivation to take part in the gathering: To meet and talk with people who have similar objectives to me and my organisation. To meet those involved in the Grundtvig Programme so that we can talk about our application and submit a document which has more possibilities of success.

What are your expectations for the gathering? A wider network of people and organisations.

Herbal Medicine Scotland (<http://scottishherbalmedicine.com/>), **Miss Integri Tea**, (www.missintegritea.com/), **Cindy Ledgerwood, UK**

Scope, short history and main activities of your organisation/institution: Herbal Medicine Scotland is a growing and developing organisation of passionate Herbalists who have a real desire to engage not only with the full community of Herbalists in Scotland but also with the wider sector. The organisation is open to herbal medicine practitioners, students, non-practicing herbalists, herb growers, retailers, producers, overseas herbal bodies, researchers and educators.

As hub of communication, support and knowledge sharing between Medical herbalists and other people interested in herbs, plant use; be it growing, culinary, selling or producing. We also aim to foster learning, research and communication sharing between herbalists and other key stakeholders in health and sustainable plant use in Scotland and globally.

On a personal note - I am a practising medical herbalist and am in the process of developing a loose therapeutic Herbal Tea Company 'Miss IntegriTea' where I hand blend exquisite, organic teas. My research into herbs (with a particular interest in Scottish flora) is ongoing and I am presently in talks with Queen Margaret University in regards to potential research into Scottish Flora and nutrition / health. Further to this I have done some analysis of the global distribution of herb growing and would love to know more - from others which are involved from the grass roots up. The opportunity to showcasing Herbal Teas (alongside

Seaweed) to demonstrate the exciting new projects and growth within the Scottish Herbal community.

What is your motivation to take part in the gathering: At the Gathering I would hope to develop and grow networks, ideas and share my passion and knowledge with other like minded folk. With the view to fostering a world wide network and relationships in the herbal community which will facilitate the growth and potential projects which 'Herbal Medicine Scotland' will partake in.

What are your expectations for the gathering? To forge new relationships, share ideas, learn about other countries herbal experiences.

9. Annex

Annex 1: Questionnaire in preparation of the 1st EHG

The original idea of the questionnaire was to gather information about the initiatives related to the topic of "Rural Actors for Health" but also to gather relevant information for the Forum Synergies' success stories as part of resource center.

The questionnaire also tries to cover topics which are of interest for the work of the UNESCO National Agency for the Intangible Cultural Heritage: To what extent are you dealing with the topic of health?/ To what extent are you contributing to the safeguard of traditional knowledge?

In contrast to the second questionnaire used by Laurie-Anne Coste this questionnaire is addressing different stakeholder ("Rural Actors for Health") and is not limited to small producers.

So the questionnaire is a mixture of EHG-related information and general information important with regard to the success stories. However in reality it turned out that the questionnaire is quite complex and the feedback was uncomplete and fragmentary.

Information sheet on initiatives in the herb sector

Informationsblatt über Initiativen im Kräuterbereich

Aimed at: herb producers, producers of herbal products, holders of traditional knowledge related to the use of herbs, all persons interested in the safeguarding of this knowledge and its contribution to health aspects.

Richtet sich an: Kräuterbauern, Hersteller von Kräuterprodukten, Personen mit traditionellem Kräuterwissen, alle Personen, die Interesse an der Erhaltung von traditionellem Kräuterwissen haben und daran, welchen Beitrag dieses Wissen zu Gesundheit leisten kann.

Title (oblig.)/ Name

Writer's Organisation

(Name of the organisation, website and/or link to the organisation questionnaire if it exists)



Field of activity/ Tätigkeitsbereich

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> production/ Produktion | <input type="checkbox"/> research/ Forschung |
| <input type="checkbox"/> processing/ Verarbeitung | <input type="checkbox"/> education/ Ausbildung |
| <input type="checkbox"/> collecting/ Wildsammlung | <input type="checkbox"/> offering services/ Anbieten von Dienstleistungen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lobbying/ Lobbying | <input type="checkbox"/> others (explain!)/ andere: |

Comments/ Anmerkungen:

Main target group for your activities/ Zielgruppen für Ihre Aktivitäten

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guests, tourists/ Gäste, Touristen | <input type="checkbox"/> health professions/ Gesundheitsberufe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> local actors/ lokale Akteure | <input type="checkbox"/> customers/ Kunden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> others (explain!)/ andere: | |

Level of activity/ Wirkungsbereich

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> local/ lokal | <input type="checkbox"/> European/ europaweit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> regional | <input type="checkbox"/> international |
| <input type="checkbox"/> national | <input type="checkbox"/> others(explain!)/ andere: |

Comments/ Anmerkungen:

Organisational Background/ Organisationsform

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> private (e.g. farmer)/ privat | <input type="checkbox"/> enterprise/ Unternehmen |
| <input type="checkbox"/> association/ Verein | <input type="checkbox"/> network/ Netzwerk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> others/ andere: | |

Comments/ Anmerkungen

Description of the experience (oblig.)/ Beschreibung der Initiative

From 700 to 2500 words/ 700 – 2500 Wörter.

Regional background and objectives/ Regionaler Hintergrund und Ziele

Initiators, organisational form/ Initiatoren, Organisationsform

Activities with respect to sustainable development/ Aktivitäten in Bezug auf nachhaltige Entwicklung

Main results, lessons learned/ Wesentliche Ergebnisse und Erkenntnisse

Future challenges and perspectives/ Zukünftige Herausforderungen und Perspektiven

Future challenges and perspectives/ Zukünftige Herausforderungen und Perspektiven

Note/ Ergänzungen

1st European Herb Gathering, 4.-7.10.2012 Lesachtal, AT
for any information: www.forum-synergies.eu; kraeuterwerkstatt@lesachtal.com

Any other information which cannot fit in the text/ *Ergänzende Bemerkungen*

Comments, evaluation/ Anmerkungen

Personal view of the author, interesting aspects, expectations and offers for co-operation .
Persönliche Anmerkungen, Erwartungen und Ideen für Kooperationsmöglichkeiten

Rural Actors for Health (oblig.)/ Beitrag ländlicher Akteure zum Thema Gesundheit

Up to 100 words/ bis max. 100 Wörter.

1st European Herb Gathering/ 1. Europäischer Kräuterkongress

I'm interested to receive further information

yes/ ja

no/ nein

Ich möchte weitere Informationen erhalten

I'm interested to take part in the 1st European Herb Gathering

yes/ ja

no/ nein

Ich plane am 1. Europäischen Kräuterkongress teilzunehmen

Motivation for your interests in the topic/ Weshalb interessieren sie sich für dieses Thema?

Expectations in the Gathering/ Erwartungen an die geplante Veranstaltung

Main target group of your activities/ Zielgruppen für Ihre Aktivitäten

Guests, tourists/ *Gäste, Touristen*

health professions/ *Gesundheitsberufe*

To what extent are you dealing with the topic of health?/ Inwiefern spielt das Thema Gesundheit bei Ihren Aktivitäten eine Rolle?

To what extent are you contributing to the safeguard of traditional knowledge?/ Inwiefern tragen sie mit ihren Aktivitäten zur Erhaltung traditionellen Wissens bei?

Aspects of Sustainable Development you are dealing with/ Aspekte nachhaltiger Entwicklung, die bei Ihrer Initiative eine Rolle spielen

Policy/ Politik

Agricultural policy
Agrarpolitik

CAP
Gemeinsame Agrarpolitik

Food Policy
Ernährungspolitik

European Funds
Europäische Fonds

Land Policy
Bodenpolitik

Rural Policy
Ländliche Politik

others (explain):
andere:

Environment/ Umwelt

Biodiversity
Biodiversität

Conservation and management of natural resources
Erhaltung und Management

Farmers Ecological knowledge:
andere:

landscape preservation
Agrarpolitik

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for any information: www.forum-synergies.eu; kraeuterwerkstatt@lesachtal.com

natürlicher Ressourcen

Environment
Umwelt

others (explain):
andere:

Ecosystem/ Ökosystem

Lakes
Seen

Water
Wasser

Alpine Space
Alpenraum

Forest
Wald

others:
andere:

Agriculture/ Landwirtschaft (LW)

Organic farming
biologische LW

sustainable agriculture
nachhaltige LW

local breeds
lokale Sorten

others (explain):
andere

New forms of agriculture/ Neue Wege in der Landwirtschaft

multifunctional farming
multifunktionale Landwirtschaft

community supported agriculture
*CSA
Kommunale Landwirtschaft*

land access
*Möglichkeiten des
Landerwerbs*

land stewardship
Landespflege

collective farmland ownership
kollektiver Landbesitz

civic agriculture
Gemeinde-Landwirtschaft

others (explain):
andere

Tourism/ Tourismus

Agri-Tourism
Urlaub am Bauernhof

Eco-Tourism
Öko-Tourismus

Sustainable Tourism
*Nachhaltiger
Tourismus*

others (explain):
andere

Food/ Ernährung

Food Policy
Ernährungspolitik

Food Relocalisation
Öko-Tourismus

Short food chains
*Nachhaltiger
Tourismus*

others (explain):
andere

Social Aspects/ Soziale Aspekte

Fight against rural depopulation
Maßnahmen gegen Landflucht

Empowerment of Rural communities
*Stärkung ländlicher
Gemeinschaften*

Local community initiative
*Initiative lokaler
Gemeinschaften*

Governance
Verwaltung

Attracting new residents
neue Bevölkerungsgruppen

Rural poverty
ländliche Armut

- ansprechen*
- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Citizenship
<i>Bürgerschaft</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth
<i>Jugend</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Empowerment
<i>Unterstützung der Jugend</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> others (explain):
<i>andere</i> | | |

Culture/ Kultur

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural diversity
<i>Kulturelle Vielfalt</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural heritage
<i>Kulturelles Erbe</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> others (explain):
<i>andere</i> |
|---|---|---|

Process/ Prozeß

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> conflict management
<i>Konflikt Management</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> preventive mediation
<i>Vorbeugende Mediation</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> LEADER approach
<i>LEADER Ansatz</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated rural development
<i>Integrierte ländliche Entwicklung</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Collective approach
<i>gemeinschaftlicher Ansatz</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Territorial dialogue
<i>Territorialer Dialog</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Participatory approach
<i>Partizipation</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> others (explain):
<i>andere</i> | |

Economy/ Wirtschaft

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diversification
<i>Diversifizierung</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Eco Business
<i>Öko-Geschäft</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Locally based economy
<i>local ansässige Wirtschaft</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renewable Energy
<i>erneuerbare Energie</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Rural Entrepreneurship
<i>ländliche Unternehmer</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> on-farm food processing
<i>Lebensmittel Verarbeitung am Hof</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> others (explain):
<i>andere</i> | | |

Space/ Place/ Raum

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> peri-urban areas
<i>Stadt-Umland</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> rural-urban relationship
<i>Stadt-Land Beziehung</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> territorial cohesion
<i>Territorialer Zusammenhalt</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Island
<i>Insel</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> others (explain):
<i>andere</i> | |

Services/ Dienste

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> rural services
<i>ländliche Dienste</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> (sustainable) transport
<i>(Nachhaltiger) Verkehr</i> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> green services
<i>Grüne Dienste</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> others (explain):
<i>andere</i> | | |

Education/ Bildung

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information / Education for sustainable development | <input type="checkbox"/> others (explain):
<i>andere</i> |
|--|---|

IT/ Intelligente Technologien

- IT
IT
- others (explain):
andere

Contact of the experience itself/ Kontaktdaten der Initiative

Person and/ organisation name, website/ *Name der Person, Organisation, Website*

- Person name/ *Name:*
- Organisation name/ *Organisation:*
- Email:
- Website:

I do not want to see contact details published in the internet/ *Ich möchte nicht, dass Kontaktdaten im Internet veröffentlicht werden*

Documents to attach/ beigefügte Dokumente

- photos to illustrate the experience (.tif or .jpg format)/ *Photos, die die Initiative beschreiben.*
- documents, guides, leaflets, project reports/ *Dokumente, Folder, Berichte etc.*

Source of information/ Informationsgrundlage

- Interview
- website
- others/ andere:

Editing date (oblig.)/ Erhebungsdatum: -----

Writer (oblig.; full name!)/ geschrieben von: -----

Annex 2: Questionnaire by Laurie-Anne Coste for Syndicat SIMPLES

Message from France to European producers-gatherers of medicinal plants:

Dear Sir or Madame,

I lead a survey about European producers of medicinal plants selling their products directly to consumers or through short supply chains. This survey is for the Trade Union SIMPLES (French grouping of hundred little producers-gatherers of medicinal plants) and the French national organism of agriculture: FranceAgriMer.

Why such a study? Aims:

- To get acquainted with our European colleague

1st European Herb Gathering, 4.-7.10.2012 Lesachtal, AT
for any information: www.forum-synergies.eu; kraeuterwerkstatt@lesachtal.com



- To discover your production and conversion situation (how are done gathering and culture, which regulatory constraint do you have?)
- To discover what kind of producer association do you have in your country
- To discover the sales conditions on the domestic market: which form of product do you provide, under what condition (regulations, supply chains...)?
- To ask you about difficulties, needs or expectation you might have in your job
- To find ideas and solutions against medicalisation and industrialisation of the field of medicinal plants.

If you are interested in this study, please answer our questionnaire (it exists in Italian, German, Spanish, Portuguese, French and English):

Link to the questionnaire: <http://cassiopee.dynalias.org/index.php?sid=24174&lang=en>

I do thank you for your interest,

Laurie-Anne Coste

French student in my 3rd year in an engineer school of Horticulture and Landscape (INHP Angers

Questionnaire for European growers and gatherers of medicinal plants.

This questionnaire is aimed to realize a first series of statistics concerning the sector of medicinal plants. It is particularly directed to small European growers, geographically speaking, who directly sell their products to the consumer or through short supply chains. As a first step, it could lead to some additional studies aimed to get a global picture of the production, its modalities, and the difficulties that some of you could encounter.

The results of this questionnaire will respect your privacy policy. We will only use the few personal information you will give us in the first two parts to establish a series of statistics concerning the socio-economical situation of people who directly sell their products to the consumer, all over Europe. We do insist on the fact that no personal information will be disclosed.

If you want to submit us some remarks about the questionnaire or if you want to give us some additional information that, according to you, could be helpful, please do not hesitate to add them at the end of the questionnaire.

I WHO ARE YOU?

Gender: Male/Female

First name:

Last name:

Age:

- less than 20 y-o, from
- 20 to 30 y-o,
- from 30 to 40 y-o,
- from 40 to 50 y-o,

- from 50 to 60 y-o,
- more than 60 y-o

Postal address:

E-mail address:

II THE FARM

Name of your farm (if it has a name)

Postal address:

Origins of the creation of the farm:

- Resumption of activities
- Resumption of familial activities
- Creation of an activity
- Other reason:

Did you become a grower/gatherer after a retraining?

YOUR ACTIVITIES

Do you have any other activity than growing and gathering medicinal plants? If yes, what are these activities?

What is the percentage of gathering compared with growing in your farm?

- 0% : you do not gather plants
- Less than 10%
- From 10% to 30%
- From 30% to 50%
- 50%
- From 50% to 70%
- From 70% to 90%
- More than 90%
- 100% : you only gather plants
-

What kind of plants do you grow/gather (Latin names if possible)

Growing	gathering
---------	-----------

Under which forms do you distribute your products?

- Fresh plants,
- Dry plants,
- Tea,
- Tincture,
- Powder-Capsules,
- Oral forms

- Essential oils,
- Floral elixirs,
- Balms,
- Creams,
- Other:

How do you sell your products:

- You sell it directly to the consumer,
- You sell it by mail,
- Internet,
- secondhand shop
-

Do you write prescriptions? Yes/ No

Do you give some advice? Yes/ No

You may write some information about therapeutic indications in your packing when they come from:

- scientific research
- Tradition
- You cannot write any information
- You would like to give information which come from scientific research or traditions

To whom do you deliver your products?

- Only to individuals or small boutiques
- Part of you production is sold to industrials or distributors

ECONOMIC SITUATION

What percentage of earnings is due to selling medicinal plants in your production?

- Less than 10%
- From 10% to 30%
- From 30% to 50%
- From 50% to 70%
- From 70% to 80%
- More than 80%
- You only win money by selling medicinal plants

Are you part of an association of growers and/or gatherers?

- Trade union,
- Association,
- Cooperative,
- Other:

- You are not part of an association

Are you financially helped? Yes/ No

From what kind of organism?

- Private:
- Public:

You have technical help:

- training
- advice
- You haven't any help

If you have access, what type of organization do they come from (state, private, local scale, national ...)

III LEGISLATION

Is there any training recognized by your Country for the production and delivery of medicinal plants? (A training teaching you how to gather, grow and deliver plants)

Yes/No

If yes:

What is your level of studies after this training? (number of years, diploma...)

Kind of organisation in which you are trained (specify the name if possible): Public, private.

What kind of training is it? Linked with agriculture

Linked with health

Is there any diploma you have to possess concerning:

- the growth and transformation of plants
- the selling of plants
- advices or prescriptions concerning plants
- You don't need a diploma

NB: In France, growers are allowed to sell a certain number of medicinal plants without giving therapeutic information. Is it the case in your country?

PRODUCTION

	For growing	For gathering
--	-------------	---------------

Is there any restriction of access to the resource? (laws protecting some plants or some places)		
Do you have to follow some standards? (charter, control)		
Are those standards mandatory or voluntary? (eco-label...)		

MARKETING

Are you permitted to sell any plant that you want? Yes/ No

If no,

Are these plants sold over-the-counter?

What plants are illegal?

Are there some monopolies over certain plants?

- No, none
- Yes: because of the pharmaceutical industry,
- Yes: because of the food industry,
- Yes: because of herbalists,
- Other:

IV MEDICINAL PLANTS IN YOUR COUNTRY

Number of small growers of medicinal plants:

- You know it:
- You guess it:
- You don't know

Is there an agro industrial sector for the growth of medicinal plants?

Where can the consumer buy medicinal plants in general?

- At a wholesaler's,
- at an herbalist's,
- on the internet,
- they can buy it directly to the grower,

- Other
- Nowhere, consumers grow plants or gather them themselves.

V COMMUNICATION AND EXCHANGES

Where does your knowledge about the growth and transformation of plants come from? Classify the following answers from 1 to 5 (1 is the most important, and 5 the less important):

- From oral teaching,
- from the Internet,
- from books,
- from school,
- Other:

Where does your knowledge about the use of plants come from? Classify the following answers from 1 to 5 (1 is the most important, and 5 the less important):

- From oral teaching,
- from the Internet,
- from books,
- from school,
- Other:

Do you gather plants in another country? In which country?

Do you have contacts in another country concerning:

- An exchange of knowledge,
- An exchange of plants: Multiplying members (seeds, slips, plants...)
- An exchange of plants: Raw material (Dried or fresh plants)
- You do not exchange with other countries

Do you import / export?

- Importation (of what? From which country?),
- Exportation (of what? To which country?)
- You do not use importation or exportation

Do you have any means of communication in your country?

- Journals,
- Internet websites,
- National encounters (if yes, what kind?)

Do you import / export?

- Importation (Of what? From which country?)
- Exportation (Of what? To which country?)

- You do not use exportation or importation

What kind of national means of communication do you have?

- Journals
- Websites
- National meetings, if yes: how often? What kind of meeting (symposium...)

Do you take part in National encounters? Yes/ No

Do you take part in fairs, congresses, international manifestations (for instance the Biofach in Frankfurt) If yes, in which?

VI EXPECTATIONS AND PERSPECTIVE

Are you satisfied by circumstances of your job? Yes/ No

Do you encounter some difficulties when working? If yes, what kind of difficulties?

- Legislative,
- economical,
- technical,
- social recognition,
- others:
-

Have you ever claimed something to the authorities? Yes/No

What kind of evolution would you like to have in your job?

Would you be interested in meeting some other European growers/gatherers of medicinal plants?

Could you please describe your job in a few words?

More information :

If you want to submit us some remarks about the questionnaire or if you want to give us some additional information that, according to you, could be helpful, please do not hesitate, write it here.

Annex 1: EHG in the media

Article in the regional newspaper, 27.9.2012

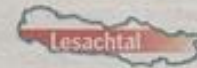


OBERKÄRNTEN

DONNERSTAG, 27. SEPTEMBER 2012, SEITE 25



Simone Matouch, Obfrau der Kräuterwerkstatt Lesachtal, begrüßt kommende Woche europäische Kräuterexperten PIRKAZ



ÖFFENTLICHER TERMIN

Termin. Abschlusspräsentation des 1. Europäischen Kräuterkongresses: 6. Oktober im Kultursaal Liesing, Lesachtal, 19.30 Uhr.

Vorträge. Nora Laubstein: „Chancen & Möglichkeiten natürlicher Heilmethoden“, Thoma Rolin: „Vom Wert des vergessenen Wissens für heute“, Eckhart Mandler: „Kräuterproduzenten zwischen Können und Dürfen“, Philippe Barret und Simone Matouch: „Das Forum Synergies“.

Aussteller. Kräuterproduzenten aus dem Kräuterdorf Irschen, aus der Provence oder vom Verein „Traditionelle Europäische Heilkunde“ aus dem Pinzgau.

Europa blickt auf das Kräuter-Tal

Expertenrunde ist kommende Woche beim 1. Europäischen Kräuterkongress im Lesachtal zu Gast.

MARTINA PIRKER

Die Welt der Kräuter – von heiß begehrt bis streng verboten“, lautet das Motto des 1. Europäischen Kräuterkongresses, der von 4. bis 7. Oktober in der Gemeinde Lesachtal über die Bühne geht. Simone Matouch, Begründerin der Kräuterwerkstatt Lesachtal, Biologin, Heilkräuterexpertin und Kräuterpädagogin, ist die Initiatorin des Kongresses, zu dem sich 20 Kräu-

terhersteller und Träger von traditionellem Wissen über die Verwendung von Kräutern aus ganz Europa angemeldet haben.

Strenge Gesetze

„Ziel des Kongresses ist es, politische Rahmenbedingungen auszuarbeiten, wie Kräuterproduzenten trotz strenger Arzneimittelgesetze und EU-Gesetze überleben können und das Wissen über Kräuterheilkunde weitergeben können“, sagt Matouch.

Wenn man nicht die Möglichkeit hat, gewisse Kräuterprodukte zu verkaufen, geht das über Jahrhunderte überlieferte Wissen verloren. Als Beispiel führt Matouch den Verein „Traditionelles Heilwissen der PinzgauerInnen“ an. Das überlieferte Wissen der Pinzgauer und seine praktische Anwendung wurden 2005 erhoben und dokumentiert. 2010 wurde es von der österreichischen UNESCO-Kommission in das Verzeichnis des immateriellen

Kulturerbes aufgenommen. Eine Abordnung des Vereins wird am 6. Oktober vertreten sein. In dieser öffentlichen Veranstaltung werden die Ergebnisse des Kongresses im Kultursaal Liesing präsentiert (siehe Infokasten).

Das nächste Projekt der Lesachtaler Kräuterwerkstatt ist, den restaurierten Klostergarten von Maria Luggau zu aktivieren und die Klosterheilkunde nach Hildegard von Bingen wieder erlebbar zu machen.

Article in the regional newspaper, 12.10.2012

LEUTE



1. Brigitte Lasser, die neue Präsidentin Erna Gratzler, Gerti Zimek und Susanne Kühne (von links)



2. Die Initiatoren des 1. Europäischen Kräuterkongresses im Lesachtal: Simone Matouch und Philippe Barret



3. Alexandra, Sophie, Manfred und Gerold Maier, Michaela Böck sowie Helmut und Josefina Maier mit der neuen Hauschronik



4. Gert Schefflinger, Claudia Meier, Matthias Baier und Gerhild Schefflinger

1. Neue Soroptimist-Präsidentin

Der Soroptimist Club in Hermagor wurde zwei Jahre lang von **Gertrud Zimek** geführt. Sie übergab nun das Zepter der Klubpräsidentin an **Erna Gratzler**. Der neuen Klubpräsidentin haben als Erstes Vizepräsidentin **Brigitte Lasser** und Sekretärin **Susanne Kühne** gratuliert. Der Serviceclub mit 36 Mitglieder

hat in den letzten 20 Jahren mehr als 50.000 Euro eingenommen um damit regionale und nationale Projekte zu finanzieren. Das Langzeitprojekt „Gestärkt ins Leben“ soll dazu beitragen, dass Kinder durch ein Präventionsprogramm gestärkt ins Jugend- und Erwachsenenalter eintreten.

3. Hauschronik für den Staudacher Hof

Zur Präsentation der Hauschronik und der neuen Apartements im vor zwei Jahren errichteten Turmluden **Manfred Maier** und seine Lebensgefährtin **Michaela Böck** in den geschichtsträchtigen Staudacher Hof nach Millstatt. Die Wurzeln des Hofes reichen zurück bis in das 13. Jahrhundert. Die Vorfahren

von **Manfred Maier** übernahmen den einstigen Adelsbesitz 1648. Seit 1953 wird er als Hotel-Pension geführt. Die Mostler und die Dixie Gang brachten Schwung in die alten Mauern. Die Gäste wurden von den Familienmitgliedern **Josefine, Sophie, Alexandra, Helmut** und **Gerold Maier** verwöhnt.

2. Lesachtal stand im Zeichen der Kräuter

„Kräuter leisten einen gewaltigen Beitrag zur Gesunderhaltung unserer Bevölkerung“, betonten **Simone Matouch**, Gründerin der Kräuterkwerkstatt Lesachtal – Mitglied des europäischen „forum synergies“ – und Initiatorin des 1. Europäischen Kräuterkongresses im Lesachtal und **Phillipe**

Barret, Präsident des „forum synergies“. Neben vielen anderen Experten, wies im Rahmen der Abschlussveranstaltung auch **Eckart Mandler** vom Kräuterdorf Irschen auf die Notwendigkeit hin, das Wissen um Kräuter als kulturelles Erbe in den Regionen zu schützen.

4. Zeitreise in die „Roaring Twenties“

Federboas, schillernder Kopfschmuck, kurze Fransenkleider, auf Hochglanz polierte Schuhe und coole Hüte hatten nun in der Tanzschule „movin“ in Spittal Hochsaison. Das Tanzstudio von **Claudia Meier** feierte sein Zehnjähr-Jubiläum im Stil der 1920er-Jahre. Zum Sound

von **Ewald Harder** mitgeswingt haben auch der Radentheiner Malermeister **Wolfgang Schwarzenbacher** mit Gattin **Christiana** oder Steuerberater **Martin Skorzanz** mit Gattin **Elisabeth**. Es wurde auch spaßeshalber gepokert und ein Buffet machte müde Beine wieder munter.

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