



Agroecology
Europe

Agroecology Europe Newsletter

Winter 2024

WE ARE HIRING!



Agroecology
Europe

Communication Officer

Dear Members,

Agroecology Europe is looking for a proactive communication officer to join the team and strategic communications for the HuMUS project and the Association.

Please share the [vacancy](#) with your networks!

Here are all the amazing developments they will be sharing with the world:

- AEEU is taking part with the Youth Network in the first EU Youth Policy Dialogue organised by the European Commission Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development on 11 December in Brussels with Commissioner Christophe Hansen
- AEEU continues to be involved in the follow-up conversations of the Strategic Dialogue to shape the future of EU agriculture and food policy and place agroecology high on the European agenda
- The first ever AEEU session at the Oxford Real Farming Conference will take place on 10 January discussing agroecology assessment tools measuring and implementing the transition

- New working groups and the Secretariat will be following thematic EU policies on biodiversity, soil health, the protein transition, climate and agriculture, the socioeconomic aspects of the CAP, as well as horizontal research
- AEEU will release a position paper on agroecological livestock farming
- AEEU will continue strengthening its internal structures and decision-making processes
- The 2024 activity report will be released next spring

...and much more!

We hope that you take this time of the year to rest, reflect, and regenerate and enjoy the slow rhythm of the season.

We wish you a happy, peaceful holiday season and a new year full of empowerment, generational renewal, land access, and soil health!

Sincerely,
Agroecology Europe Secretariat

UPCOMING EVENTS



Are you joining the Oxford Real Farming Conference? AEEU is proud to host a workshop with FAO on agroecology assessment tools measuring and implementing the transition. Join us in Oxford to explore the question: How do we prove that agroecology works? We will discuss creating collaborative ecosystems of practice to measure agroecological performance, create narratives of change, and use the evidence to bolster implementation for the food and farming system transition.

Facilitators:

- Karla Skorjanc, co-author, OASIS
- Remi Cluset, Agroecology Advisor, FAO
- Lili Balogh, President, Agroecology Europe
- Vincent Dauby, Researcher, Agroecology Europe

Join ORFC on 9-10 January 2025 in-person or online and connect with thousands of others who share your vision of a fairer food and farming system!

[Book your tickets](#)



Silent agroecology: examples from Bolivia and Europe

Monday, 20 January, 12:30-13:30 CET
Zoom

Save the date for a joint conference of the Centre for Living Agroecology and Food Systems (CLAS), ISARA, France, and Agroecology Europe, Belgium!

Speakers:

- **Georgina Catagora-Vargas, Bolivia, president of SOCLA**
- **Alexander Wezel, Director of Research, ISARA, France**

[Register here!](#)

PUBLICATION



AGROMIX launched its white paper “Transforming European Food Systems with Agroforestry”

Brussels, Thursday, 24 October 2024

The [document](#) outlined five key co-designed policy recommendations for the EU to maximise the implementation of agroforestry as part of its objective to secure a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable food system that meets the needs of present and future generations.

Five key policy recommendations:

1. The classification of agroforestry land should be consistent across the EU, using a common set of criteria underpinned by the available databases.
2. Transformative agroforestry should be firmly embedded within a radically reformed CAP and mainstreamed across all relevant EU policies, providing investment along all stages of the agroforestry value chain.
3. Robust, long-term financial rewards must be available for the planning, implementation and maintenance of diverse agroforestry systems, as well as for the ecosystem services they provide.
4. Tree products and services from agroforestry systems should be firmly embedded within numerous value chains inside and outside of Europe with appropriate and accessible processing facilities that add value for farmers.
5. Farmers, landowners and relevant decision-makers should be made familiar with ‘transformative agroforestry’ practices. This can be achieved with initiatives to support training and advisory services.

The recommendations outlined in this white paper build on existing EU regulatory frameworks, notably the CAP, which already provide avenues for the support and promotion of agroforestry practices.

The EU should implement regulations and allocate public funding to promote the widespread adoption of ‘transformative agroforestry.’ The goal is to ensure that by 2040, more than 20% of the utilised agricultural area is managed using this approach.

The White Paper is endorsed by CIFOR-ICRAF (World Agroforestry), MIXED, EARA (European Alliance for Regenerative Agriculture), Agroecology Coalition, TP Organics, and Agroecology Europe. If you would like to add your name to the list of endorsers, get in touch!!

Full details, evidence and references are available in the text of the White Paper online at the [AGROMIX Project website](#).

[Read the White Paper](#)

Youth Network updates



EU Youth Policy Dialogue

AEEU is proud to take part with the Youth Network in the first EU Youth Policy Dialogue organised by the European Commission Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development on 11 December in Brussels with Commissioner Christophe Hansen.

Cristina Laurenti and Jesse Donham-Buratti represented the agroecology vision for the generational renewal of agricultural and rural areas. These exchanges will contribute to informing the forthcoming Vision for Agriculture and Food, to be presented in the first 100 days of the new mandate, as well as the strategy for generational renewal in agriculture.

We hope for meaningful discussions on young people's priorities, including:

- the economic viability of the sector,
- the sustainability of the food system,
- and the generational renewal in farming and rural areas...

...that will lead to action!

CAP Network Thematic Group on Gen Z: Leading Generational Renewal in Farming

Coordinator Cristina Laurenti represents AEEU at this Thematic Group that will enable us to assess the necessary changes in both policy and practice to foster greater engagement of young people in agriculture and discuss their role in shaping rural areas.

The CAP 2023-2027 not only facilitates the establishment of young farmers and new entrants, it also supports young entrepreneurs across various economic sectors, enhancing their social inclusion and community engagement. This policy aims to strengthen the socio-economic fabric, making rural areas more attractive for young people to live and work in, thereby investing in rural viability and vitality.

Building on existing groundwork, the TG aims to explore the key characteristics of future farmers from the perspective of young people. This TG will have Generation Z as its main target group, as they are the ones looking towards their future.

If you have inputs for the discussions on the challenges and opportunities for the CAP to address the generational renewal of rural communities, get in touch!

Side event at the World Food Forum

On 16 October, Agroecology Europe Youth Network attended and co-organized together with Agroecology Coalition and YPARD a side event at the World Food Forum 2024 in Rome, Italy, on the role of youth networks in the agroecological

transition and we couldn't be more energised by the experience.

The innovative ideas, the passion, and the commitment to sustainable agricultural practices shared by the speakers coming from the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, Agroecology Europe Association Youth Network, YPARD, Young Volunteers Zimbabwe, ProNobis Agroforestal, and Farm2Food Foundation and ComMutiny - The Youth Collective showed us how young leaders in the field are shaping the future of our planet.

However, it's also important to recognize the issue of "youthwashing"—where young voices are invited to participate, but are not truly empowered or given the space to influence decisions. This can be a challenge when working with larger organizations or stakeholders. It's not enough to just include young people; their insights and solutions must be taken seriously and integrated into actionable outcomes. We must strive for genuine inclusion and collaboration, not just symbolic participation.

[Watch the recording](#)

Anteprima di Terra Madre

The Anteprima di Terra Madre gathering in Rome brought together 150 young activists from across Italy, organized by Slow Food Italia with the support of Regione Lazio, Arsial, and other key institutions. The central theme of this event was regeneration, focusing on reshaping the future of food and environmental sustainability through joy and collaboration. Participants, aged 18 to 35, came from diverse backgrounds, united by their shared vision of a more sustainable world.

Members of the Agroecology Europe Youth Network participated in the event. Irene Katsaros, a representative, emphasised the need for a "joyous revolution" as a way to tackle the burdens placed on younger generations. AEEU's objectives were to connect these young voices with agroecological practices and principles, aiming to foster an ecosystem-based approach to food systems that respects natural and human ecosystems alike.

[Keep reading](#)

Terra Madre

President Lili Balogh was invited to the 2024 edition of Terra Madre, the largest international Slow Food event dedicated to celebrate sustainable food and the profound connections between agriculture, the environment, social justice, public health, and the economy. Terra Madre involves delegations from more than 100 countries and features a diverse program of conferences, workshops, taste labs educational activities, and a big market. The event took place from September 26-30, 2024, in Parco Dora, Turin, Italy.

AEEU was represented at the event by president Lili Balogh and Board Members Paola Migliorini and Cristina Laurenti.

It was a great opportunity to reconnect with Healthy Food Healthy Planet, Food Planet Prize, and Slow Food and brainstorm together on strengthening the movement and grassroots initiatives for a healthy, sustainable, and just transformation of agriculture and food systems.

It was also an opportune moment to build bridges across agroecology science, practice, and movement, as president Lili Balogh had the pleasure to meet with Jean Martin Fortier and Basque biointensive market garden growers passionate about growing food with care and social values and with Cesare Paccini president of Associazione Italiana di Agroecologia (AIDA).

Members meetings recordings

WORKSHOP

USING AGROECOLOGY ASSESSMENT TOOLS

Karla Škorjanc
Co-author, OASIS

Fulvio Vicenzo
Ecological Transition Responsible, COSPE

Stella Beghini
COSPE consultant

Michele Salvan
PhD Student, University of Turin

Italo Rizzi
Working Group Coordinator, CCAP Italy/L.VIA

Juan Pablo Scieurano
Board Member, AEEU

OASIS
THE ORIGINAL AGROECOLOGICAL SURVEY AND INDICATOR SYSTEM

Register on Zoom!

WEDNESDAY, 4 DECEMBER
16:00-17:30

Agroecology Europe

Using agroecology assessment tools

On 4 December, AEEU hosted an online workshop on agroecology assessment tools! Many indicator systems assess the sustainability of agricultural systems. FAO's [Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation \(TAPE\)](#) is a comprehensive tool that aims to measure the multi-dimensional performance of agroecological systems at the household/farm level as well as community and territorial scale. Moreover, AEEU developed the [Original Agroecological Survey and Indicator System \(OASIS\)](#) as an analytical framework specifically designed to assess where a farm is on the trajectory of transition towards agroecology.

These tools and the collected data can help farmers evaluate their progress in the agroecological transition, guide policymakers and advisors, support researchers and students with statistics, and map the development of agroecological practices.

But how to use these tools on the field? How to select criteria, ask interview questions, make surveys, and store data? How to use the results to foster the transition? Young and experienced agroecology researchers share their first-hand experiences and workshop the practical application of agroecology tools.

See the presentations on the links:

- Karla Škorjanc, co-author, OASIS
 - [Introduction of OASIS and links to the EU Farm sustainability data network \(FSDN\)](#)
- Michele Salvan, PhD Student, University of Turin; Stella Beghini, COSPE consultant
 - [Experiences of using OASIS in Senegal](#)
- Fulvio Vicenzo, Ecological Transition Responsible, COSPE
 - [Experiences using OASIS in Africa, feedback from farmers, and suggestions for the framework](#)
- Juan Pablo Scieurano, Board Member, Agroecology Europe
 - [The URBANE project and using OASIS in the participating countries, with a focus on group assessments and local versions of OASIS](#)

[Watch the recording](#)

Agroecology Europe Members Meeting

AGROECOLOGY EDUCATION



Valentine de Ganay
Farmer, founder,
Saltus Campus; EUfarms



Andrea Ferrante
Coordinator,
Schola Campesina Aps



Emilie Rousselou
Managing Director,
EUfarms

WEDNESDAY, 16 OCTOBER
17:00-18:00

[Register on Zoom!](#)



Agroecology education

This Agroecology Europe members meeting on 16 October 2024 discussed agroecology education. Chaired by AEEU Board Member and agroecology professor Paola Migliorini, the session created dialogue between agroecology schools in France and in Italy.

Emilie Rousselou and Valentine de Ganay, from AEEU Member presented practical agroecology education opportunities in France. The largest single-block family estate in the Ile-de-France region, the Domaine de Courances has adopted organic farming, soil conservation, agro-forestry and agro-pastoralism for almost all of its farmland. The estate is used as a practice area by Saltus Campus, the first agroecological high school in France delivering diplomas to young people in agriculture and environmental management. It is also one of the founding farms of EUfarms, the European Network of Certified Organic Farms in Agroecology. Initiated by farmers working with ecosystems, it combines an international network of organic and agro-ecological farms, an action research programme, and peer-to-peer exchanges, to help the new generation of farmers succeed by drawing on the knowledge of the pioneers and giving them visibility.

Andrea Ferrante shared the experiences of Schola Campesina, an international agroecology school, based on the Nyéléni International Forum for Agroecology (2015) and on the principles of 'Dialogo de saberes' and Popular Education. The school aims to cultivate the dialogue among peasant, academical, and activist knowledge. Through knowledge sharing processes (trainings, videos, webinars), they strengthen agroecology worldwide and facilitate the understanding and engagement with the global governance of food and agriculture (Rome process). The overall work of the agroecology school is dedicated to strengthening food producers' organisations worldwide in their struggle for food sovereignty and agroecology.

[Watch the recording](#)

Agroecology Europe Members Meeting
**AGROECOLOGICAL TRANSITION:
FROM THEORIES TO TOOLS**



Ruben Savels
Teaching Assistant and
Doctoral Researcher
Gent University



**Andrzej
Nowakowski**
Advisor on Agriculture
and Rural Development
Greens / EFA Group

 [Zoom Registration](#) **MONDAY, 24 JUNE 2024**
13:00-14:30 CEST   

Agroecological transition: from theories to tools

How do we turn words into action to achieve the agroecological transformation of food systems? This lunchtime meeting for AEEU members took place on 24 June to discuss the agroecological transition of food and farming systems. Ruben Savels, Teaching Assistant and Doctoral Researcher at Gent University, talked about the governance aspects of the agroecological transformation and presented transition theories. Andrzej Nowakowski, Advisor on Agriculture and Rural Development for the Greens / EFA Group in the European Parliament, complemented the discussion from a policy perspective, highlighting policy and political tools and approaches to the transition.

[Watch the recording](#)

What do you think about members meetings?

Agroecology Europe members meetings are an exclusive opportunity for members of the Association to come together, exchange knowledge, and learn together about the cutting-edge developments and needs of the agroecology transition. We hope that you come away from these lunchtime debates with valuable insights you can use in your own work

Thank you to all of you who joined some of the **members' meetings** in 2023-2024. We would like to ask for your feedback to strengthen networking and knowledge sharing among our members.

Please fill out [this anonymous survey](#), it will take 2 minutes.

You are also welcome to fill out the survey if you haven't attended a members' meeting lately. Thank you!

[FILL OUT THE SURVEY](#)

BECOME A MEMBER



Do you want to continue gaining access to these valuable meetings? Sign up now and enjoy membership benefits until the end of 2025!

AEEU aims to define its agenda through the participatory engagement of its individual and organisational [members](#). Among the several objectives and activities of the Association, there are diverse possibilities for members to participate and become active.

Membership benefits

- **Network:** We foster interaction and knowledge sharing to create an inclusive European community of professionals, practitioners, and societal stakeholders in agroecology.
- **Policy influence:** We provide an exclusive platform for members to build the Association's position on key policy issues, identify priorities, and elaborate policy recommendations for the consideration of EU stakeholders that the Secretariat interacts with in Brussels.
- **Representation:** Joining the movement of hundreds of members—including farmers, scientists, educators, experts—strengthens our collective voice, credibility, and weight to promote the agroecological transition. AEEU represents this constituency in EU policy discussions and expert meetings.
- **Resource:** The Secretariat taps into the vast and deep knowledge base of members to support project activities, advise new project proposals, act as event speakers, and inform EU policy conversations.
- **Organizational input:** Members can vote and get elected in the General Assembly to be a member of the Board, officially approve the Association's financial plans, access the intranet, and initiate and participate in working groups.
- **Financial support:** Members can participate at reduced cost at the Agroecology Europe Forum and other events. Membership fees contribute to the Association's budget to continue delivering its mission.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT

CALL TO ACTION!

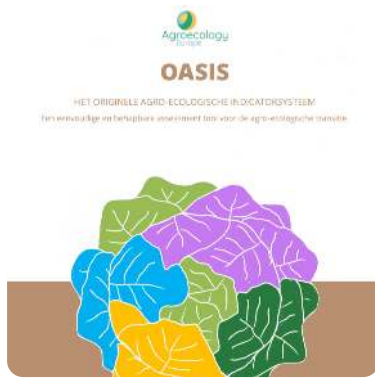
AEEU is relaunching its **Biodiversity Working Group** to work on EU policy!

This [working_group](#) was launched in 2019 following the publication of the European Commission Biodiversity Strategy 2030 and its potential targets. The main objective is to share knowledge on how to preserve biodiversity above and below ground and to assist EU decision-makers and experts in the adoption of adequate policies and research priorities to improve biodiversity in the EU through the promotion of agroecology.

Do you want to exchange information amongst AEEU members, gather knowledge and experience, and find solutions to weed, pest, and disease management problems? Are you interested in preserving and restoring biodiversity, stimulating scientific research, and promoting actions that help farmers develop agroecological practices? Then join [Board Member](#) Ole Osterman and others to implement AEEU's biodiversity policy actions!

If you are interested in joining the working group, please email Ms. Gisella Carboni at secretariat@agroecology-europe.org.

The Original Agroecological Survey and Indicator System (OASIS)



In 2024, AEEU published the Original Agroecological Survey and Indicator System (OASIS) brochure and methodology in **Dutch, Italian, and Serbian**, in addition to available versions in **English and French**.

OASIS is one of the first analytical frameworks specifically designed to assess where a farm is on the trajectory of transition towards agroecology. OASIS allows the necessary data to be collected in a two-and-a-half-hour interview per farm, which makes national surveys possible. The selected criteria are simple and easily understandable. They look at agricultural activities from the farmer's point of view.

Don't forget to let us know if you work with OASIS in all these different European languages!

[Explore OASIS](#)

Workshops, webinars, events

Agroecology Europe hosts and co-organises [events](#), [webinars](#), and [participatory workshops](#) to foster connections, build capacities, and place agroecology high on the European agenda. Here are the highlights from the past months!



Joint action against pesticides

EU citizens are calling for pesticide-free, sustainable agriculture. Together with Brussels-based NGOs, we called on Ursula von der Leyen and the European Commission to prioritise a pesticide-free EU in all EU strategies. Europe's health and biodiversity depend on decisive action. Reinstate bold pesticide reduction goals for a healthier Europe!

We need policymakers to integrate agroecology into EU and national policies to make pesticides a thing of the past.

The most comprehensive solution and alternative to pesticides is agroecology. Pesticides are made redundant in agroecological systems where soil biology, biodiversity, and holistic management practices take care of

FARMING WITHOUT HARMING: AGROECOLOGY IS THE SOLUTION!

plant protection. Agroecology is a holistic approach relying on crop diversification and crop rotation to prevent pests and diseases that easily spread across monocultures. Improved agrobiodiversity makes ecosystems more resilient.

Policy action for resilient agriculture

Publications

Agroecology Europe contributes to [fact sheets](#), [open letters and press releases](#), and [policy briefs](#) elevating the evidence base on the benefits of agroecological practices. For a full picture beyond the highlights below, be sure to follow the Horizon [projects](#) that AEEU is part of.



European Parliament public hearing: President Lili Balogh testifies on the Strategic Dialogue

On Monday, 14 October 2024, President Lili Balogh testified at the European Parliament AGRI Committee hearing on the [Strategic Dialogue on the Future of EU Agriculture](#).

The bottom line: Agroecology is profitable, sustainable, just, and delivers on future-proof food system transformation, recognised by ever more political stakeholders; yet misleading counternarratives remain.

Read the article



Open Letter for Climate Action and Just Transition in Agriculture

Together with over twenty civil society organisations, we call on Executive Vice-President Ribera Rodríguez and Commissioner Hoekstra to put climate action and a just transition for EU agriculture at the core of their work. If we do not change our food systems, catastrophic climate change and biodiversity collapse will change them for us. A transition is inevitable, but making it just and sustainable requires

action.

To set the EU's agri-food sector on a just transition pathway, we have 5 recommendations.

[Read the open letter](#)



Open letter on the Vision for Agriculture and Food

We are among 43 organisations representing farmers, industry, nature, health and animals, who have written to the new Commissioner for Agriculture and Food Christophe Hansen to offer our help and expertise in shaping policies to support a transition to fair, healthy, and sustainable food and farming systems.

The Vision for Agriculture and Food needs to uphold an integrated food systems approach addressing the entire chain from production to consumption and hold all stakeholders, including commercial actors like traders, processors, and retailers, accountable to ensure a fair and effective transition without placing the burden solely on farmers and fishers.

[Read the open letter](#)

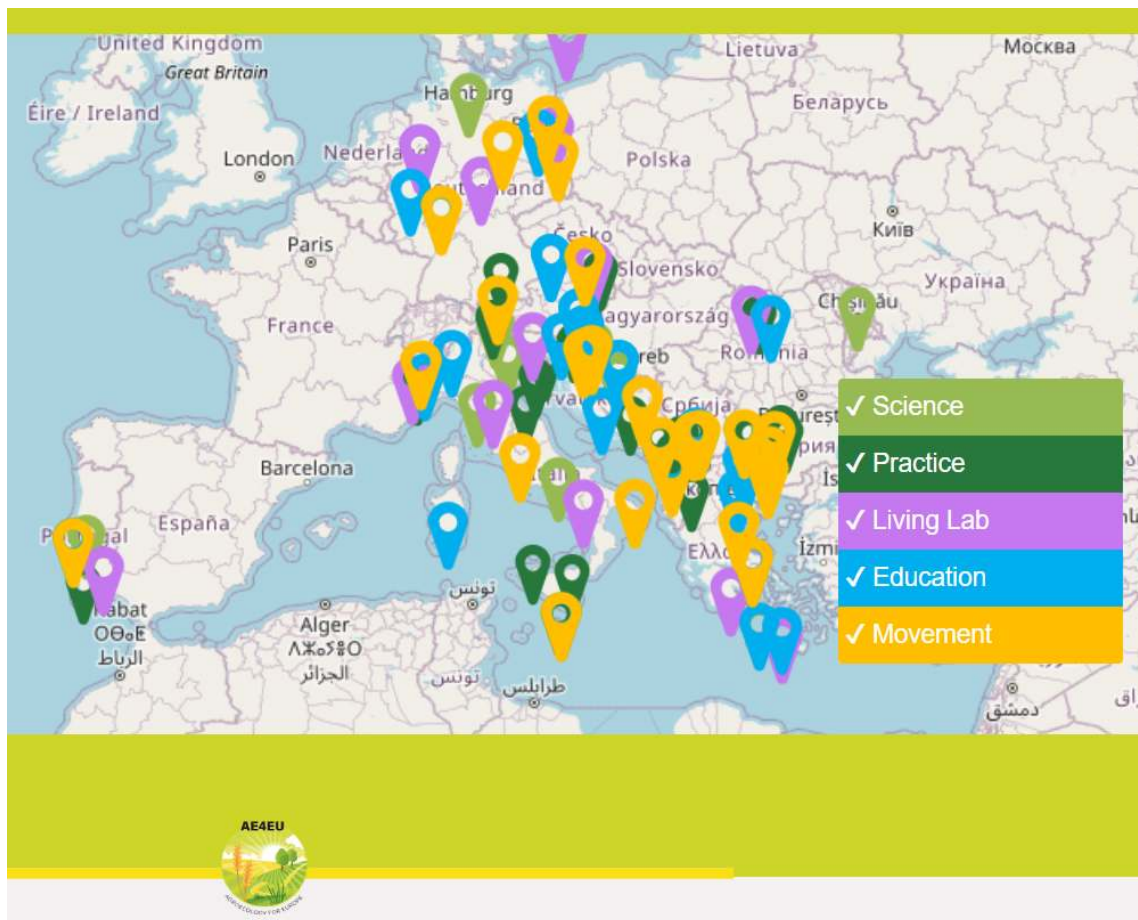


CSO Statement: the EU Commission must provide guarantees on climate, nature, and public health

On Monday, 14 October 2024, President Lili Balogh testified at the European Parliament AGRI Committee hearing on the [Strategic Dialogue on the Future of EU Agriculture](#).

The bottom line: Agroecology is profitable, sustainable, just, and delivers on future-proof food system transformation, recognised by ever more political stakeholders; yet misleading counternarratives remain.

[Read the open statement](#)



Agroecology for Europe Hub & Map

Under the Agroecology for Europe (AE4EU) Horizon Project, the Agroecology for Europe Hub was developed as a virtual space to connect all actors interested or involved in agroecology. The Hub's vision is to develop a European network on agroecology. Encouraging networking and knowledge exchange, the Hub enables users to connect digitally with other experts, share insights and best practices on Living Labs, farming practices, funding opportunities, and policy strategies, learn from each other's experiences, and inspire innovation and new ways of working in agroecology.

The map allows users to discover agroecological initiatives in the area and interact with them. The initiatives on the map were part of the mapping effort of AE4EU and are categorised according to the agroecological pillar they represent: science, practice, movement, education, Living Lab.

[JOIN THE MOVEMENT](#)

Job opportunity

The newly established group of Agro-Ecological Modeling is looking for a Postdoctoral Researcher. The group is led by Professor Anna Cord, and is based at the **University of Bonn, Germany**.

This is a full time-time position, with a duration of 3 years (+3, upon positive evaluation). The selected candidate will develop their own research agenda within the framework of our research group, and will teach and mentor students in BSc and MSc programs.

The candidate will use novel technologies for biodiversity monitoring and modeling, particularly passive acoustics. These technologies, combined with AI, will then be used to study habitat selection, occupancy, and species interactions

in agroecosystems. This research will be enabled by several long-term research farms affiliated to, and managed by, the University of Bonn, as by monitoring activities at other sites and locations in Germany and Sweden.

Applications are welcome until **12 January 2025**. Details on the position and application process can be found in the following link:

[More info](#)

MEMBER STORY

Featuring YOU

Do you have news to share? Tell us about your project, research, exchange, or experience that has made an impact for the agroecology transition!

We will feature it in the next newsletter. Send your stories to Ms. Gisella Carboni at secretariat@agroecology-europe.org by 1 March with the subject line "AEEU Member story"!



This newsletter reflects the views only of the authors. The European Union, the Fondation de France, or the Fondation Ecotone cannot be held responsible for any use of the information contained therein.

Agroecology Europe

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