



UNISECO

UNDERSTANDING & IMPROVING
THE SUSTAINABILITY OF AGRO-ECOLOGICAL
FARMING SYSTEMS IN THE EU

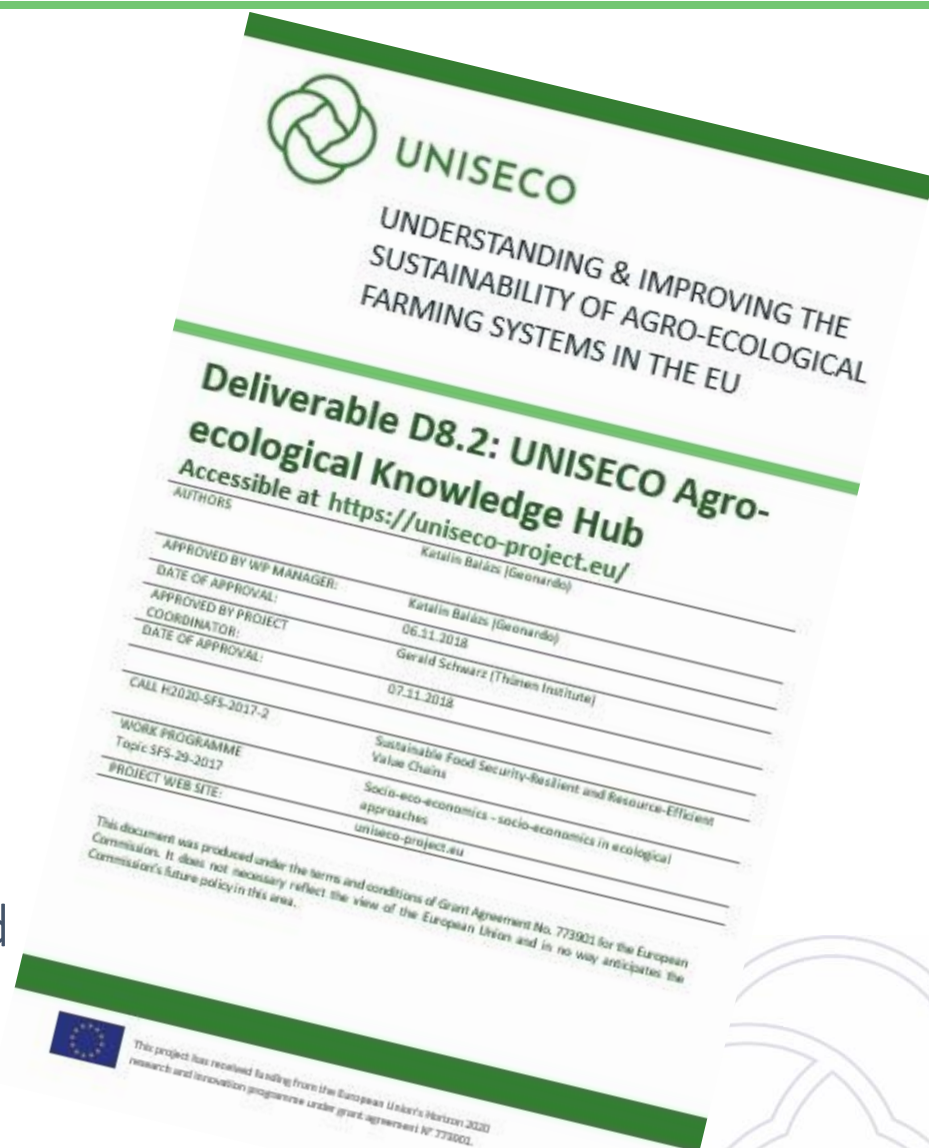
The Agro-ecological Knowledge Hub: a project legacy from UNISECO



This project has received funding from the European Union's
Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under
grant agreement N° 773901.



- launched in November 2018
- integrated into the project website
- dissemination and exploitation elements and functions, including
 - spatially explicit interactive online tool SESSIT
 - methodological handbook
- providing a platform for continued knowledge sharing and capacity building as a project legacy



- **communication and exchange of knowledge** with project actors and stakeholders;
- integration of **awareness-raising**, direct participation and skills development for the needs of each audience type as appropriate;
- the **engagement of actors** throughout the value chain during the project lifetime and beyond



- **create stakeholder awareness** of the case studies;
- **disseminate success stories** and promoting the adoption of agro-ecological approaches
- **utilise synergies** with, or build on, other existing knowledge sharing platforms (e.g. FAO);
- **develop networks of practitioners** for improving the sustainability of farming systems;
- create the basis for a significant **legacy of project outcomes**;
- add value, lever resources and promote project innovations amongst stakeholder communities in the **agri-food system**





Public-private businesses and agri-food value chain actors:
- to identify opportunities for investment and job creation using agro-ecological approaches: **Farmers and agri-food system**



NGOs, civic organisations, local community representatives, local citizens and community groups:
- to participate in knowledge sharing activities, identify opportunities for UNISECO to address local issues, and co-construct local implementation **NGOs, civic organisations, local community**



Everybody is a **Consumer**:
- to show how the outcomes are relevant to people's everyday lives – UNISECO aims to bring added value at EU societal level
- layman's interpretation of the topic and project results



Local, regional and national governments, policy-makers, regulatory and managing authorities, regional enterprise and planning authorities and technical staff - to participate in scenario and knowledge sharing activities: **Governments and Administrations**

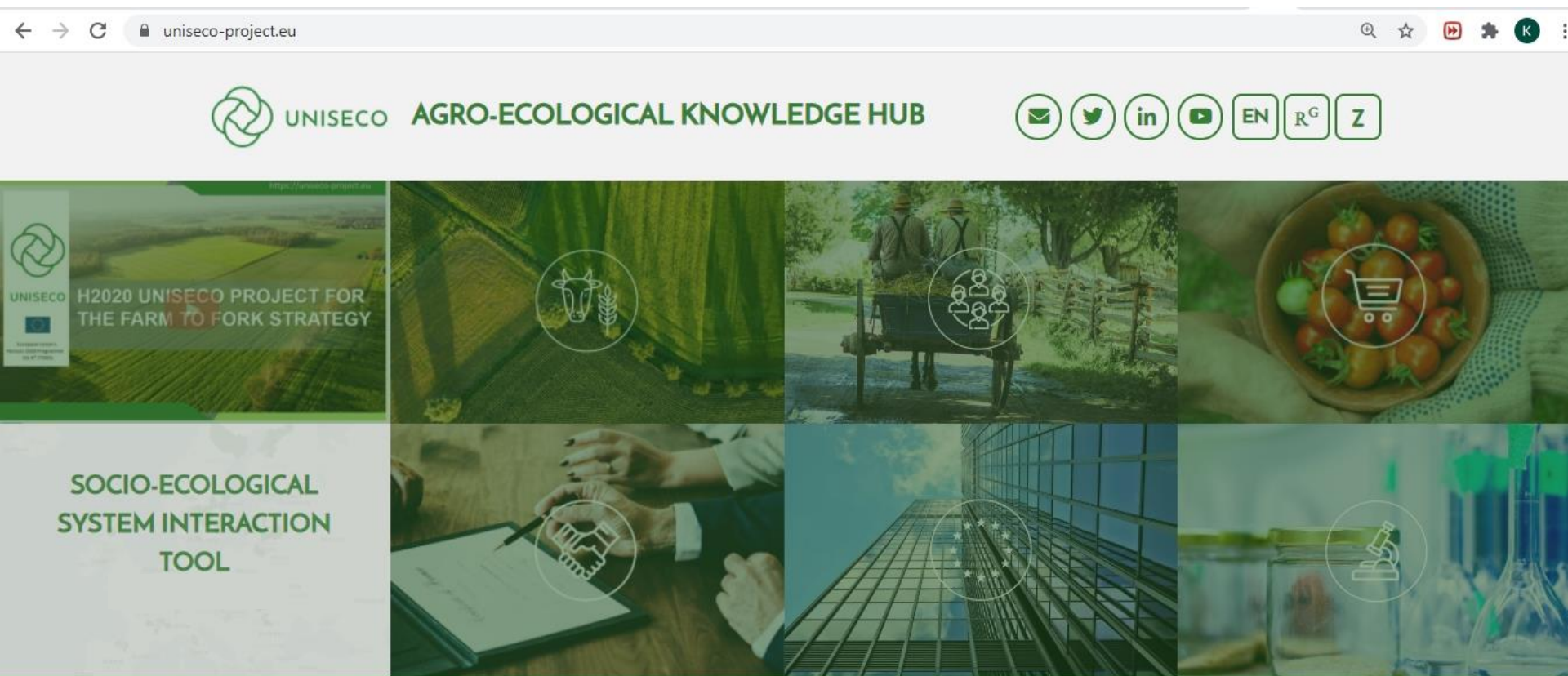


EC and its agencies, international bodies and government representatives - tailoring findings for the design of measures in EU/national policies and mechanisms post-2020 – UNISECO needs to bring added value at EU policy level



Science and Innovation: disciplines related to improving the sustainability of agro-ecological farming systems to

- exploit research synergies
- respond to practice needs and policy



- a library of insights and practical tools produced by the H2020 UNISECO research project
- to help all spheres of society interested in, practicing or building policies for farming and rural development
- to find what they need to contribute to a more sustainable agriculture and food system

Agro-ecological Knowledge Hub prototype development: Some examples of subpages



FARMERS AND AGRI-FOOD VALUE CHAIN

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Agro-ecological practices

Market incentives and added value

Policy

Cooperation and Networking

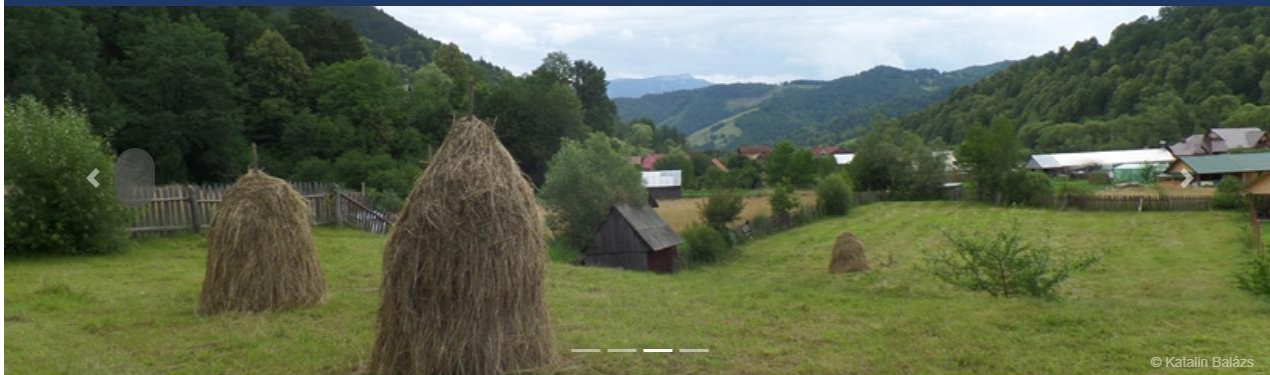
Downstream System

Farmers



EC AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES

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EC: Green Deal & Farm to Fork Strategy



International Organisations


SDGs




Agro-ecological Knowledge Hub prototype development: Some examples of subpages

GOVERNMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION



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National CAP Strategies National Biodiversity Strategies National Climate Change Policies


SCIENCE AND INNOVATION


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Farming systems Agro-ecological transitions: farm and territorial levels Governance Transdisciplinary research Methodological handbook Science-policy interaction




TRANSDISCIPLINARITY IN ACTION: HOW HAVE NGOS BEEN INVOLVED IN UNISECO?

The assessment and improvement of complex systems such as farming and food production require the integration of knowledge from numerous disciplines in natural science, social science and humanities, technical, professional and traditional, localised knowledge. UNISECO addressed this challenge by employing a transdisciplinary approach that included scientists/researchers, experts and practitioners from humanities, social and natural science, farming, advisory services, environmental conservation, actors in the value chain, consumers and actors involved in designing market incentives and policies in the food sector. Through this approach, the continuum between science-policy-practice (or vice versa) was sought so that the much needed co-learning and co-construction of practical, actionable ideas could take place.

NGOs were involved in the project consortium itself - Baltijos Aplinkos Forumas Lithuania (BEF Lithuania) and WWF-Romania - and in ongoing networking and knowledge sharing platforms (multi-actor platforms - MAPs) set up in each project country, but also at EU level, where the different tasks of the project were then carried out through participatory processes. The MAPs also acted as an advisory framework which overall supported systemic thinking. The members of the MAPs,



THE CURRENT ROLE OF NGOS IN AGRO-ECOLOGICAL FOOD SYSTEMS

Raising awareness, investing, advocating

Recent research has identified the existence of social networks as a common and important denominator in cases where different stakeholders have come together to effectively deal with natural resource problems and dilemmas (Bodin and Crona, 2009).


Actors belonging to NGOs, civil society organizations, and local community representatives are represented in most networks governing the case studies addressed in UNISECO, although with a low frequency. The research uncovered the fact that NGOs' main role is to raise awareness for the key challenges in the case studies among the general public and exert influence through advocacy at various levels.



UNISECO AGRO-ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE HUB

CONSUMERS

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What is the role of consumers in agro-ecological food systems?


How consumers have been involved in UNISECO?

Visit all our case study storymaps

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF CONSUMERS IN AGRO-ECOLOGICAL FOOD SYSTEMS?

These days the most appreciated value is our health. You cannot buy good health, but you may change your behaviour seeking for it. Agro-ecology is closely related to diet-based ill or health, even malnutrition in some situations, consumer everyday choices etc.


Watch this video to get to know more about how agroecology can help providing healthy solutions and how UNISECO promotes this:



UNISECO H2020 project overview - with subtit...
Megnézés... Megosztás

UNISECO


We want to understand and improve the sustainability of farming systems. **UNISECO** that implement agroecological approaches and research solutions, economic and policy barriers



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VISIT ALL OUR CASE STUDY STORYMAPS

The UNISECO project offers very interesting findings across a set of case studies in different geographical and cultural settings.

Watch our case study storymaps to know more about what drivers and barriers are faced in specific agro-ecology fields, including – how consumer were involved and what issues were expressed. Stories cover different themes – from carbon neutral milk or sustainable fruit, to water quality or keeping it small in dairy farms, so consumers around Europe might find one or a couple most relevant to you.



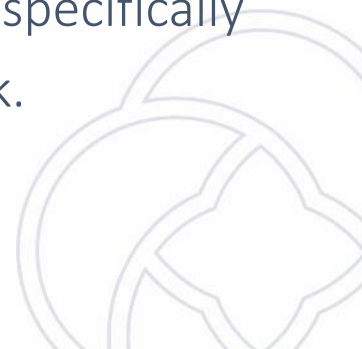
Case study storymap: Austria
Regenerating soils in Eastern Austria



- 1.5 months more to work on the Knowledge Hub until the project ends
- This project and Knowledge Hub has
 - brought together valuable grey, peer-reviewed and other literature outputs
 - looked out through the Multi-Actor Platforms to what is available on the ground – bringing in many practical issues through our storymaps and SESSIT
- Not only a dissemination tool but also *an output of the project we want to exploit*
- We have started this kind of exploitation with transferring SESSIT to GLOBIL WWF – for longer term availability and further development
- We see similar *longevity and expansion of the Knowledge Hub*
- We are *proactive* with key actors who could have a role in this
 - including consortium partners e.g. ELO
- We are also seeking for other current opportunities to *integrate external knowledge* with clear indication of the source



- we are aiming for ensuring forward relevance
- Not just summarizes project results but also intends to **open it up for integrating further knowledge for exploitation**
 - Explore possibilities to feed into and link up with the *Agro-ecological Partnership CSA network building projects* → could be further elaborated in the context of the preparation of the partnership
 - Our approach and strategy: to provide an initiative to act as a Hub: an *exploitation platform for future research projects and involving external actors for practice and policy.*
- We plan to run an additional webinar in mid-end April, that will specifically focus on the Knowledge Hub and the Methodological Handbook.



We are awaiting for your comments on

- What you would like to see at the Knowledge Hub?
- Any new sections?
- Would you like to get your activity included here?

in the Session chat

- You can provide us with link(s) to your project level source of information



uniseco-project.eu
agroecology-knowledgehub.eu
agroecologyknowledgehub.eu



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Horizon 2020 Programme
GA N° 773901

UNISECO

FINAL CONFERENCE ONLINE

18-19
MARCH
2021

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