



CSA - Community Supported Agriculture - experiences in four European countries : Belgium, Croatia, France and Italy

**Considerations on the Lifelong Learning Programme GRUNDTVIG:
“Learning Opportunities for Consumer and Agricultural
Communities Around CSA” - 2012-2014**

CSA groups act as new forms of social cohesion among active citizens and as innovative bridges that tie families and liaise urban and rural areas. Several models and actual implementation schemes have been developed around direct selling of agricultural products that imply the active involvement of both producers and consumers in a mutual and communitarian exchange. Despite the different formats, existing experiences take inspiration from a common interest in by-passing ordinary food retailing modalities and in establishing cultural and human linkages that accompany the economic exchange of goods. Although different in operative models, all our initiatives share the same values of supporting local farmers and creating long term partnerships. Within the CSA, consumers and farmers mutually establish a new relationship towards food and agriculture. They become “co-producers”. The basic of group functioning is the clear, direct communication, transparency and sharing responsibility which leads to common trust and solidarity. CSA supports a type of farming that respects human beings, the environment and animals. Contracts between consumers and farmers specify the relationship, based on solidarity. The prices must be fair for the farmer. It also encourages food of good quality, regarding taste, sanitary aspects, and the environment and it strives to make such quality food available for all.

CSA is established as a powerful model that starts from fundamental things like food production and distribution but it opens much greater issue of bringing back the personal relationship into local economy and strives to create more fair relationships at the local market and benefit local communities in general.



The project was designed to offer a toolbox for learning on how to either set up or scale up CSA groups and to share resourceful approaches as well as difficulties encountered and solutions identified by different CSA articulations. The four visits to the partner countries (Italy, France, Belgium and Croatia) offered the opportunity to discuss cultural and organizational aspects, to visit CSA farm members and stores used for the mini-logistic, to analyse CSA food basket compositions, to familiarize with local regulations supporting CSA schemes. We were especially interested in topics like education of CSA farmers and consumers, creating possibilities for different financial support for different agriculture, organizing networks and fully use its potentials as well as spreading the idea to new people in our countries but also in other countries wher such models were not established yet.

The organizations

Belgium - GASAP: a Gasap is a Groupe d'Achat Solidaire de l'Agriculture Paysanne. It is a group of citizen that gets directly in contact with a peasant producer in order to buy on regular and long time basis, in direct selling, seasonal and good quality products. Those products can be vegetables, fruits, milk products, etc. The first group was created in 2006 and today, in the summer 2014, 75 GASAP exist in Brussels. The Gasap receive products from 15 vegetable producers and more than 10 other producers (fruit, milk,beer,...). The GASAP is since 2010 an association that is based on the work of +- 30 volunteers, and has one half-time person for the coordination.

Croatia - ZMAG promotes permaculture as an implementation of different practical techniques on sustainable living. Our main long term project is Recycled estate formed as an ecovillage and permaculture education centre situated in village Vukomerić near Zagreb. Since 2011. when CSA movement (as well as food sovereignty movement in general) started in Croatia, ZMAG was supporting its development through different programs, workshops,





gatherings etc. Since the project started number of new CSA groups raised from one to fifteen.

France - AMAP is the french CSA, they are structures of partnership between producer and a group of consumers. MIRAMAP is a national AMAP network who mutualizes projects and experiences between regions. It represents AMAP interests and insure common values, through the AMAP's charter. MIRAMAP is involved in social economy (non profit sector, cooperative and mutual organisations) to develop an other financing for an other agriculture, build on the involvement of civil society.

Italy - Aiab Umbria is the regional section of Italian Association for Organic Farming, active in Umbria since 2001.

The CSA of Aiab Umbria is called G.O.D.O. - Organized supply / demand group. G.O.D.O. - in italian sounds as: "I'm really enjoying it!" - supplies more than 300 families around Umbria with a whole basket (vegetables, fruits, bread, meat, oil, wine, rice, pasta, flour..) for the daily nutrition. Aiab Umbria is also an e-commerce platform to export organic products.

Furthermore Aiab Umbria promotes organic farming in different ways: providing services, support and upgrade to farmers; developing theoretical and on field researches also in collaboration with universities, natural parks, local administrations, research institutes, training centers; supporting activities for the protection of the cultural traditions; promoting natural and healthy way of consumption; creating periodically meetings between producers and consumers; contributing to the growth of culture and information in defense of the environment; providing ideas and tools for the growth of the environmental quality as ecotourism and organic farming in the natural parks; stimulating the spirit of innovation among member companies; promoting social farming projects and products.





The meetings

The Italian Meeting

“The Aiab Umbria model and participation to the The European Meeting on Community Supported Agriculture and Emerging Distribution Systems for Food Sovereignty”

Umbria region and Milan, 8th-12th October 2012

- Perugia 8th october

Introduction of associations, and relatives national marques and organic farming situation;

Knowledges sharing of Csa organizations for each Grundtvig’s partners: Godo, Gasap, Miramap and Zmag;

Detailed planning of the further meetings;

- Perugia 9th october

Visit to an organic farm in Spoleto (Pg): Coricelli Tommaso’s Farm.

The organic farm produces olive oil, red wine and vegetables.

- Milan 10th-12th october

Participation at the “European Meeting on Community Supported Agriculture and Emerging Distribution Systems for Food Sovereignty”.

The first European meeting on Community Supported Agriculture and Emerging





Distribution Systems for Food Sovereignty was held 10-12 October 2012, in Milan. For three days, 120 participants representing 20 different European countries, from Ireland to Turkey and from Portugal to Lithuania, worked on how to connect CSA initiatives right across Europe, so that mutual support can be provided and knowledge and stories can be shared in a decentralized and open way. The common ground for all these actors is their everyday work in running CSAs, and their shared feeling that coordination is necessary at European level.

This meeting was an on-going part of the European Food Sovereignty Movement, launched in Krems (Austria) in August 2011, and as an enactment of the Nyeleni Europe Declaration on Food Sovereignty. Urgenci was given the mandate to pursue the actions proposed in axis 2 of the declaration, in changing the way food is distributed and consumed.

The preparation of this meeting, in which about 30 Steering Committee members were involved, led to the emergence of a new kernel of actors that are extremely committed to the project. The meeting gave birth to an European Umbrella of CSA movements, consisting of a temporary coordination team called the Kernel, 4 thematic groups and 4 cross-border exchange projects.

The Belgian Meeting

“Inspiring model of CSA in Belgium -Training of producers”

Brussels, 23th and 24th March 2013

- Brussels 23th March 2013:

4 Belgian organic farmers schools were invited by the GASAP for this meeting: CRABE (www.crabe.be): Marc Kerckhove, UNAB (<http://www.cebio.be/producteurs/formations.html>) : Philippe Loeckx (farmer), Nature et Progrès (<http://www.natpro.be/>) : François de Gaultier and Landwijzer (www.landwijzer.be): Geert Iserbyt

The aims were to talk about the topic of training in organic farming, including theoretical and practical knowledge on organic farming of farmers, state of play in own countries regarding training and research in organic farming, barriers to





the setting up of official training such as infrastructure (university, school, ...) and funding. Other topics that have been discussed are practical knowledge of farmer beyond farming: business plan, contact with consumers, lack of knowledge of consumers => Gap with producers: nobody/few people know the fair price (i.e. the production costs of what they eat or produce), access to land and the question of fair price. For a more complete information, see <http://grundtvig.gasap.be/> .

- Brussels 24th March 2013:

Presentations of two farms: the Urban Farm/Ferme urbaine of the Début des Haricots at Neder-over-Hembeek and the visit of Tom Troonbeeckx farm, *Het Open Veld* (<http://www.openveld.be/?q=node/11>)

The urban farm is situated in Neder-over-Hembeek, north of Brussels. 40 baskets are produced each week, for 2 GASAP's, on a 1 ha field. The farm is totally ecological: no electricity, the water from the roofs is collected in a small pool and pumped on the cultivation with a small windmill. There is no cold storage room: two excavations in the ground with reinforced wooden walls are used to conserve the roots vegetables. Mathieu finds the donkeys very polyvalent, and promotes the use of the « Kassine », a very light and polyvalent agricultural tool, adapted for animal traction on the fields (<http://www.prommata.org/portou.php>) . The specificity of the urban farm is that it trains 4 unemployed people to organic horticulture. Mathieu and Laurence train the four people during two years within the framework of a social insertion program. The four learners get the minimum social income from the Brussel's institution Actiris. Mathieu and Laurence are paid via a subsidy from city of Brussels. The training courses are done on the field, while working. The cultivation is done following agro-ecological principles, with practical and theoretical explanation when needed. At the end of 2013 the farm has to move to another location, because the current field goes back to its owner.

Tom Troonbeeckx, *Het Open Veld* (<http://www.openveld.be/?q=node/11>)

Tom manages a horticultural farm of 1,5 ha located in the close neighbourhood





of the city of Leuven, since 7 years. The main specificity of Tom's management is that it is a « strong » CSA. Tom started everything with a two year course at the Landwijzer school for organic farming. He then worked for at least two years at different organic farms, while starting his own farm. He has on his field 60 adult cherry trees, plus 1,25 ha approximately for vegetables. 4 sheep complete the picture of a polyculture livestock farm. On the first year, he had 50 people in his CSA, 90 in the second, 150 on the third. On the seventh year, 320 people are in his CSA. The specificity of his CSA is that the main goal is to live correctly - earn a decent income - from his work, in total transparency with the CSA members. Tom's income is decided at the beginning of the year, on a common agreement: the aim is for Tom to get 1 600 - 1 800 € netto/month. The yearly amount, plus the investments, is summed. Together with the CSA members, Tom proposes then a variable membership fee, between 200 and 270 € per year/per person today. The «sufficient» fee is around 220 € / person / year. People with high salaries accept frequently to pay more, people with low salary pay less, but in relative numbers (% of salary for food expenditure) people pay a similar percentage. Technically, at the beginning of the year, Tom explains everything (salary, expenditures, investments, etc.) to his CSA members. He then sends an e-mail to all the members, with the range proposed and asking how much they would propose him to pay. He receives all the answers and makes his calculation. If the total amount is enough, he shows the figures and leaves it like that. If the total amount is insufficient, he sends back another e-mail explaining that it is not enough, and proposing to people to pay more. The second round has always been enough. His account book is accessible to any CSA member. In 7 years, only one people asked him to look at it, and Tom was happy of it. But confidence and transparency are the specificities of this CSA, and the yearly meeting is sufficient.

The Croatian Meeting





“Starting from scratch and developing local CSA movement”

North Croatia, 14th-18th June 2013

Croatia entered this project with the aim to share the story of possibilities to spread CSA movement. When project started it was all pretty much new to us and that was the most valuable experience we could bring into the project. So this is how it was.

When a good idea falls on a fertile ground it starts to germinate, grow, occupy and soon, here we have a movement. And it's always very personal, filled with love and passion of activists, running to make this world a better place. The seed came to Croatia from Italy, actually from GAS Calci near Pisa where Aleksandar Medic, our compatriot long time ago found his home. Through a benefit dinner, funds were raised for the first group of Croatian (and Bosnian) people to visit GAS groups and get their inspiration. Fertile ground was a permaculture movement just starting to make friendship with organic farming and food sovereignty, gathering more and more people aware and unsatisfied with situation of where this world is going and how it affects their everyday lives. Croatia is a rural country where family farming and care for the land and local community have its deep roots in our culture. It is truth that we are rapidly losing those roots but they can easily be awakened. We called our groups GSR - groups of solidarity exchange. Once started, GSR movement was opening personal stories, making them visible like a little lights: farmers struggling to stay on their land, keeping production as a way of living, not profit oriented business; organic producers desperately needing support from consumers; parents who want healthy food for their children, opportunity for them to step into mud, touch the cow or climb a fruit tree; new farmers running away from corporations and seeking for sense in their everyday jobs... Still far from perfect, GSR movement is evolving through open dialog and rethinking our food system.

Although it doesn't take much money or other resources to start a CSA group and it can easily be done on voluntary bases or through group of friends, when the idea is still new an organized seminar and person who can facilitate the first meeting can be of great help in taking initiative. In our case civil society organizations played an important role in making things work. After first group





started as an experiment, the project called Fine threads of local development gathered five different organizations from different parts of Croatia and different backgrounds – organic farmers, parents and permaculture group and together they started five new groups. Grundtvig found us on our first gathering of informal GSR network in village Vukomeric, near Zagreb as our first birthday. It was a great opportunity for exchanging experience and ideas. The special topic that we discussed during the meeting was the role of media in spreading CSA idea. In our experience they can be a great opportunity but also a great treat if we don't work with them properly. It is important to keep in mind not how to get to media or what to share but what do we want to accomplish and what is our need and goal. Message we are sharing should be short and clear in a first line, something to remember and with most important information. Then we can explain in details later, depends on a character of media we are working with. People need to hear information at least six times before it really gets to their conscious so don't expect quick results, rather take work with media as a long term process. Information in media is just a first step. The real understanding of what we do comes in a personal contact. The best models of GSR partnership between producers and consumers in Croatia were developed in Istria region so the second part of our gathering was in Pula and its surroundings. We participated in regular meeting in GSR Pula and visited three farms - milk producer Darko Pekica in Svetvincenat, and two vegetable producers Nenad Kuftic in Marcana and Dorijan Siljan in Valbonasa near Pula. The reason why Pula has such a good models probably lies in fact that producers are active members of the group and taking part in decision making which leads to better understanding of production specifics and consumers needs.

Nenad Kuftic, Tronovi dvori, near Marcana, Pula

The first producer in Pula region who entered CSA and helped in its creation was Nenad Kuftic. On around 3ha of very small plots of land spread between typical Istian bushes called macchia, Nenad produces different varieties of vegetables and some fruit (figs, vine grapes). His model of farming is unique by total respect for the natural systems. Only fertilizer that is used is worm compost and plant protection is based on great diversity on the fields. Plant rotation is organized in order to maximize the usage of the land and saving





long term fertility. The farm is always open to everyone who want to learn and help in work, especially GSR members. After 10 years experience in selling his products on farmers markets and organic fairs and even organizing them, Nenad recognized the advantages and turned all of his production into CSA model, adjusted it to production of seasonal green baskets. As the president of Istrian organic farmers association he wanted to create such possibility for other farmers as well so he takes an active role in food sovereignty and CSA movement in Croatia.

Dorijan Siljan, Valbonasa near Pula

Siljan family farm is runed by Dorijan, young farmer, just finishing his studies of organic farming on Faculty of Agronomy and his parents, experienced organic farmers. The farm is organized to make the whole circle of organic matter from animals (chicken, goats) who are making manure to vegetable production. Dorijan also often experiments with different farming techniques learned and setting up field tests. He entered GSR together with Nenad and two of them are supplementing each other in group supply but also starting new initiatives in other cities (Rovinj, Porec, Rijeka...) to spread their CSA market and make their living but also to create possibility for great number of consumers to get access to healthy food.

Darko Pekica, Svetvincenat

Except he is a milk producer on the farm with 20 cows, Darko is also an performance artist. As the member of an artist group "Shikuti Machine" he actually turned his rural life style into an art organizing photography exhibitions and performances with his cows. GSR movement was a great motivation, as he said, GSR members encouraged him to enter direct market inspite to all the obstacles and set up his first milk machine. Members of GSR Pula have their own key to the machine which allows them to get different price but also to organize payment in advance in the CSA model.



Agenda of the exchange in Croatia:

- Friday 14 June:

welcome of the participants at the restaurant Pri zvoncu in Zagreb, then travel to Vukomeric, where we stayed for the weekend

- Saturday 15 June:

at Vukomeric, about 28 km from Zagreb, location of the association Zmag.

Morning: meeting with the partners about what each partner does and about recent developments since Italy. Visit of the place, where many activities around ecology and sustainable agriculture take place.

Afternoon: Meeting with all the partners and CSA's members of Croatia (delegation from Zagreb, Pula and Vukomeric mainly). Exchange about good practices on communication and network building.

Presentations:

1. solidarity economy and funding of the meeting by the Croatian delegation.
2. Issues linked to Food sovereignty by Luca Colombo (Italian Committee for Food Sovereignty)
3. The first CSA experience in Croatia.
4. The CSA groupe 'GSR positive', with the producer Franck Tétart
5. The group 'Slow food festival' in Dubrovnic.
6. the experience of Nenad Kuftić, organic producer in Pula.
7. the functioning of Aiab Umbria (Italy) by Ingrid Begliomini
8. the functioning of the GASAP system in Belgium by Antonin Castel and Colin Frank
9. the experience of building a participative guaranty system in the French region Rhône Alpes by Astrid Bouchedor





- Sunday 16 June: continuation of presentations
- Monday 17 June: departure to Pula in the morning

Afternoon: Visit of a livestock farm close to Pula: Darko Pekica, which markets the milk through milk distribution machines in villages.

Evening; Visit of the farm of Nenad Kuftić close to Pula, which markets its vegetables through CSAs.

- Tuesday 18 June: Visit of another farm close to Pula which produces vegetables.

The French Meeting

“Another finance for another agriculture”

Rhones-Alpes region, 10th - 13th October 2013

French partner invited delegations from Italy, Belgium and Croatia to the Rhones-Alpes region to learn about the details of the alternative agricultural model in France as well as a currently hot topic of the French-Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) movement: how to raise solidarity financing for this model. This subject has been researched and tools designed by the MIRAMAP since 2010 and we felt it could be of great interest to share our lessons-learned with our partners.

Since we are further along on the subject than our partners, we were able to share our findings so far regarding the opportunities and methodologies that can be deployed to support the development of an agriculture that is non-intensive, organic, community-oriented and solidarity.

Their input and experience of financial support for CSA, GASAP and cooperatives, as well as open-debates were of great help going forward with this project in France.

In order to enable the discussions to be constructive as possible, it was necessary to lay the groundwork for how the alternative agricultural model has





evolved over time and is currently developing in France, workshops were held so that everyone had a good understanding of the context, where we are and where we would like to go with the MIRAMAP financial support project.

In order to be more concrete, we reached out the rural community to organize meetings and events for the 5-day visit.

A number of the meetings took place with different people from the rural space:

Some farmers shared their experience, knowledge and analysis of the agricultural situation in France. A breeder, and member of the militant-farmer organization Confédération Paysanne, explained how non-intensive farming is a viable alternative to the main agricultural models that currently predominate in France.

Following that was a night spent at a farmer's place in Rompon (07) who also doubles as a rural services activities provider.

Another was with a group of people that collectively manage a farm in Saint-Fortunat-sur-Eyrieux (07) that welcomed us: their agricultural and economic model relies on principals of very-low mechanization and high self-reliance, based on the concepts of agro-ecology, non-intensive and organic farming. They partially live off what they produce and sell directly to consumers. We were able to tour the farm to see for ourselves the details of these practices.

A volunteer organization that publishes a regional farmers bulletin and technical factsheets regarding sustainable and innovative agricultural techniques, etc.

Players from the urban space also presented their projects:

A collective garden in the city centre: this involves the reappropriation of urban spaces

for gardening by city dwellers was shown, highlighting a solution to bridge the significant distances between urban environments and agricultural spaces/the countryside, that is case with large cities. While still in an experimental phase,





this type of garden has an obvious educational goal.

And players involved in solidarity financing projects :

Finance players from the social and solidarity economy (ethical financial company NEF, TAMA European Cooperative...).

A French CSA that has implemented a model of a solidarity “piggy-bank”, a tool designed and tested by the MIRAMAP in cooperation with the NEF.

The french agenda :

- Thursday 10th October

Visit of the community gardens « Îlot d'Amaranthes » in the middle of the city of Lyon

- Friday 11th October

Meeting with Victor Grange, La Nef (French Ethical Bank)

Meeting with Marc Favier, TAMA, European Cooperative

- Saturday 12th October

Guarantee Participatory System Visit in Lyon region

Lunch at Caracoles de Suc: Collective self-managed farm in St-Fortunat.

Visit of Manu's farm (Aubenas): meeting with Manu and the members of his CSA who started an innovative financing system “cagnotte solidaire”

- Sunday 13th October

Visit Véronique Léon's farm: she used to be La Confédération Paysanne -trade union for small scale farmers- spokesperson

- Monday 14th October

Meeting with Terre de Liens and Rés'OGM





What we learned in the meetings

1. AIAB (from gasap and miramap): A: new form of financing - B: more involvement of consumers – C : organization of teaching to producers

1. A: AIAB is at the beginning a “producer oriented” association. Since the constitution of the G.O.D.O. initiative, the association has had the clear perception of the importance of consumer’s implication in the activity. Thanks to the Grundtvig, AIAB have discovered the new forms of participative financing that the Miramap have encouraged recently in France. The visit in october in Lyon was based partly on the book *“Une autre finance pour une autre agriculture”*, that was coordinated by Astrid Bouchedor from the Miramap - who was co-organizer of the visit -. This journey has given to AIAB Umbria a good overview of the many possible financing modus that exist in France. This option is not at the moment a priority for AIAB, but is inspiring source of trust and action between producers and eaters.

1. B: On this point, AIAB Umbria is actually working on a deeper involvement of consumers in the various GODO points. Initiative that started in a GODO in Tuscany, it seems that the participants to the GODO need to be associated more closely to the organisation of the groups. This involvement creates a better understanding of the objectives of the GODO and a better communication inside the groups and with the A collective garden in the city centre: this involves the reappropriation of urban spaces

producers. The GODO cannot become only a place where people come quickly to pick up their food, but have to mean something more, otherwise it will progressively modify itself from an militant action to a consumism action. On this point, both examples of AMAP and GASAP, with the self-organisation of the groups, have been and are - among others - a source of inspiration.

1. C : During the meeting organized by GASAP, AIAB Umbria discovered that





various schools for organic producers exist in Belgium. And that those schools are connected one with each other, in the respect of everybody specifications. The main message being that they all encourage the exchange of good practices between the producers after the teaching. The Gasap also encourages these exchanges between its various producers. It results so that an important point is to develop exchange of information between producers in the AIAB network.

2. GASAP (from amap cagnotte; aiab): A: go toward csa and go further in risk sharing – B: diversification of products, organisation of the supply chain and regulation offer/demand

2. A: Thanks to the Grundtvig, many interesting points have come to GASAP. The meeting in Belgium allowed all the members of the GASAP association to discover and understand the functioning of the “CSA network” in Flanders. This network of CSA is different from the GASAP in both the risk sharing and in the level of transparency between the eaters and the producer. It appeared that the GASAP had with the “CSA network” very interesting examples of improved economic solidarity and improved co-decision processes. This example is source of inspiration in the evolution of the solidarity relation eater/producer within the GASAP network. Many other very interesting examples of solidarity (like the cagnotte example from the AMAP) are possible directions that the GASAP network could explore to help increase the risk sharing between eaters and producers.

2. B: The example of the GODO groups. Since the beginning of the Grundtvig exchange, the GASAP have started a study and reflexion on the creation of a cooperative or another structure that would allow to reach 2 objectives: higher variety of products

from GASAP producers to GASAP eaters, and more eaters to products from GASAP producers. In this process, the experience of AIAB is for GASAP very





interesting. What GODO teaching is that when a structure decide to offer a higher variety of products, it has to decide until where goes the diversification.

Decisions will indeed have to be taken very soon on the quantity and variety of products, such as : how to avoid the effect of “organic supermarket” and “welcome consumers”?, which products can be available (toilet paper? only food?), from where (which distance is acceptable)?, which kind of production (organic, local, social)?

All those questions, that are already experienced in GODO, are very important in order to keep a clear involvement of the “eaters” in the initiative. If the choice is made on a really high diversity, then the risk exists to become a common organic supermarket. If there is a focus on the participation and involvement (time, money, social) of the eaters, then probably restriction must be clear. These are some points that the GODO groups of AIAB allowed GASAP network to understand.

Another interesting point is the work that GODO has made since the beginning with the creation of the offer. AIAB has worked together with the producers in order to encourage them to cultivate fresh vegetables. Usually the producers in this region do not have fresh vegetables, they are focused on olive oil, barley, etc. AIAB has thus worked since the very beginning both on the offer (with the producers) and on the demand (with the consumers) of this market.

3. ZMAG (from gasap miramap, gasap, miramap) A. organization of teaching to producers - B. new form of financial support - C. practices in communications good, network structuration, governance dissemination of knowledge on CSA D. long term contract

3. A. As explained in the point 1.C, the Grundtvig permitted to all the partners - and to ZMAG - to discover and understand the manner the teaching of organic agriculture is organized in Belgium. The main point being communication in between the schools and, after the teaching, in between the producers, it encourages ZMAG to develop exchange of practices between the various croatian producers.

3. B. As for GASAP and AIAB, the visit in Lyon in October gave a lot of practical





and effective examples of various manners to support the producers. The AMAP examples will be source of inspiration for the solutions that will be needed in Croatia.

3. C. The experience of the partners in internal structuration and communication, among others the one of the GASAP, is a good inspiration for the ZMAG. The meeting in Croatia in June 2013 was the opportunity to understand better how the GASAP works. The various volunteer working groups (contact with producers, creation of new GASAP groups, group communication and group of reflexion), the “noyau”, and the role of the coordination for the articulation of all the GASAP movement was interesting. The GASAP experience in the communication (how to communicate, which kind of mailing-lists, which kind of information, frequency etc) was an interesting example.

3. D. Apart from GASAP it was also inspiring to take a part in meeting of one big international network URGENCI. It was impressive to find out that there is really a huge number of groups worldwide doing the same thing and thinking alike. It opened a number of possibilities of sharing experiences, get advice when you need it or new ideas of how to improve our work.

3.E. As our groups are still on their beginnings our great challenge is how to make consumers aware and how to keep them diligent all through the year. Long term commitment and respecting agreements often seems to be the problem. Long term contract are something that can help people remember what they promised to a farmer in the beginning of the season and make clear rules and expectations.

4. MIRAMAP (from gasap and AIAB) A. diversity of models and european impact - B. group dynamics

4.A Thanks to Grundtvig, the AMAP model could be compared with other models and claim the importance of consumer’s direct implication in the activity. To support agriculture, the stakes are the same in the different countries. To answer these tasks it is important to contribute together to the common agricultural policy.

4.B The GASAP experience was interesting for MIRAMAP and the networks





members concerning the work and reflexion about group dynamics. The main message being that citizen education must be included in CSA models. The GASAP model proposes animation techniques and rules to secure citizens involvement in adapted group dynamics.

What is the final goal? Not only...but also...

One important result of the Grundtvig exchange program is that the common objectives and the common ways of doing are not limited - or are not to be limited - to the agricultural field. The alternative represented by the CSA movement is one of the many forms of creation of alternatives. These alternatives exist in all the fields, they feed themselves reciprocally, and are not limited in any way. For this reason the impression the partners have concluding the Grundtvig exchange is that it is not only about CSA, but also about CSA. CSA being one of the many alternatives that exist in our societies. In a way, from conventional agriculture to community supported agriculture, we realize that There Are Many Alternatives, and that the construction of those alternatives is fed by many different examples and movements. So that the CSA is part of a system of alternatives, that reinforce itself, that exists since a long time, that exists closer to you than what you would expect, and that will continue to evolve. At the end the participants of the Grundtvig exchange have the clear perception that CSA is inspiring for all of us, and that CSA gets inspiration from many other realities.



Conclusion

We have seen that CSA activities cover a wide range of different fields :

- Agriculture : financial, economic and technical aspects.
- Sociology : relationships between urban citizens and the peasants, alternative relationship to food and consumption.
- Communication, marketing, distribution, logistics.

The teams running the CSA have modest means, both human and financial. They are very busy running their local CSA. So it is a challenge to be skilled in these various fields and to take time to think more global. The four countries participating to the project are working on all these fields, emphasizing more or less the different subjects. Thanks to the project, we have learned from each other and grown up. We will spread these experiences throughout our local CSAs.

The project was an opportunity to increase our personal consciousness of international links. It is very encouraging to meet nice people sharing the same visions. It was sometimes a long journey to travel, to get together for only 2 or 3 days. But these short meetings were quite intense. We have spent 24/24 hours together, sharing bedrooms (up to sixteen people in one dormitory !). Now we can call each other "friends". We will keep in touch, exchanging about CSA through mails and the international organization for food sovereignty called "Urgenci".