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Living RRI: opening research to the needs and values of society

Workshop: From evidence to impact

BALÁZS Bálint

11 October 2018, Valletta, Malta

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 741677 .

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From evidence to impact – session outline

Three stories:

- Science shop
- InSPIRES model
- Impact Agenda

Three examples on how to develop **evidence from participatory research for meaningful impact**

Play the InSPIRES Board game – to reflect on how to set up and deliver key elements of the NUCLEUS approach through science shops

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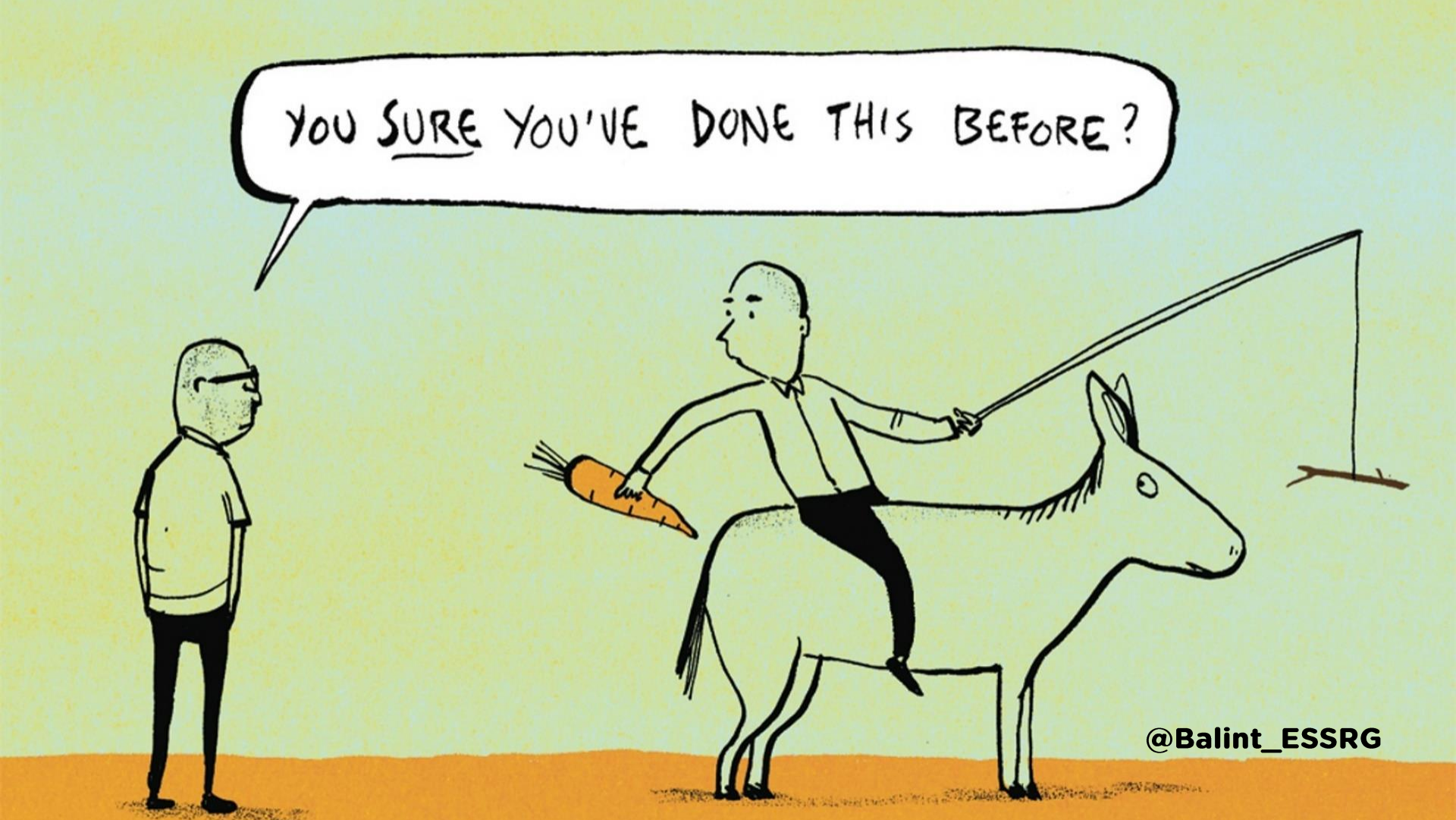
YOU SURE YOU'VE DONE THIS BEFORE?
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The Science Shop engagement modality

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ESSRG

Environmental
Social Science
Research Group

SMALL INDEPENDENT R@D ENTREPRISE

PARTICIPATIVE ENGAGEMENT AND RESEARCH SUPPORT IN RESPONSE TO CONCERNS EXPERIENCED BY LOCAL COMMUNITY AND CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS AND CITIZENS

DEMAND-DRIVEN AND BOTTOM-UP RESEARCH

-

TRANSFORMING OUR SOCIETIES TOWARDS SOCIAL JUSTICE AND SUSTAINABILITY

BRIDGING BETWEEN SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

LINKING ACADEMIC GOALS WITH LOCAL SOCIETIES NEEDS AND ALSO WITH STUDENTS THESIS PROJECTS

FIT4FOOD2030

Future-proofing the European food systems through Research & Innovation toward #FOOD2030EU.

MORE...

DYNAVERSITY

DYNAmic seed networks for managing European dIVERSITY

MORE...

EKLIPSE

EKLIPSE aims to bring stakeholders together to ensure that decisions that affect the environment are made with the best available knowledge.

MORE...

TRUE

TRUE will identify and enable transition paths to sustainable legume-based systems and agri-feed and -food chains in Europe.

MORE...

InSPIRES

InSPIRES will strengthen communication between scientists and citizens to provide input on the research agenda over the next years.

MORE...

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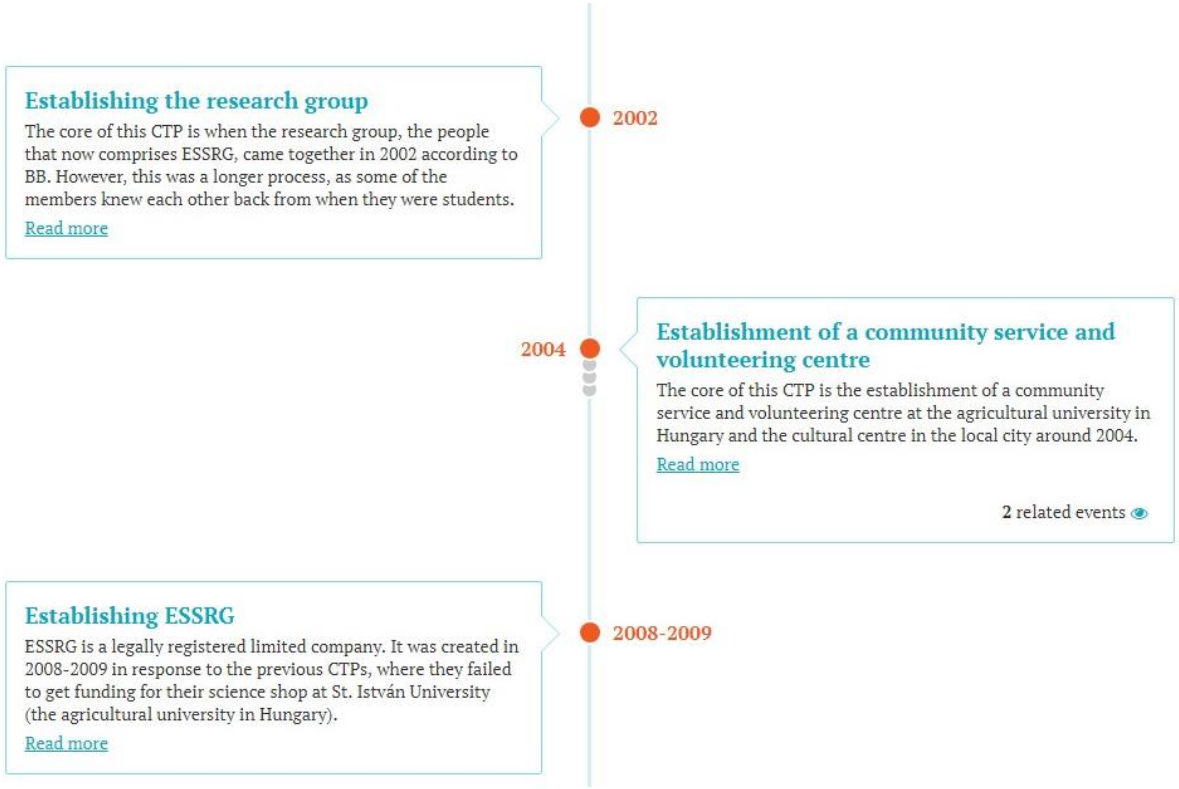
In



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In

2009

The PERARES project

This CTP relates to their first EU Project, PERARES, which the interviewee describes as the next stage for them.

Read more

1 related events

New management in ESSRG

2010

This CTP relates to an internal development in ESSRG that had a change in management. The interviewee became the manager after a time with some problems.

Read more

2012-2016

Establishing activities at Corvinus University

is CTP relates to how GP moved back to Corvinus University, and starts initiating science shop activities there.

Read more

2 related events

transformative social innovation theory

Follow Vind ik leuk

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- Co-design in the elaboration of the research agenda
- Co-production as joint knowledge generation in various levels
- Co-creation of new governance solutions
- Co-dissemination and synthesis for facilitating the validation, application and reception of the results

science- society- policy interface

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Living Knowledge
The International Science Shop Network

- Independent, participatory research support for and with CSOs
- Mediators of civil society's needs for expert knowledge
- Research *with and for*: civil society organizations (CSOs), citizen groups, non-profit organisations
- Research *by*: co-researchers, students (course credits)

- CSOs: empowered in their work and actions
- Students: motivation, skills, social awareness
- Staff: data, networks, new angles, outreach
- University: PR, education, social responsibility
- Policy makers: more data to base decisions on
- **Limitations**: timing, funding

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Living Knowledge
The International Science Shop Network

Science Shop **toolbox** * procedures, processes and guidelines:

A. Community based research methods
B. Science Shop administration
C. Public Awareness
D. Preparing a Science Shop project
E. Carrying out a Science Shop Project
F. Writing / publication of a project

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The InSPIRES approach

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32 Science Shop projects

8 Science Shop structures

80 interviews to Science Shops & similar initiatives

The first systematic literature review on Science Shops

An online collaborative design thinking exercise

ONE YEAR OF InSPIRES PROJECT

First prototype of the InSPIRES Science Shops game cards

5 key webinars

Produced the first outline of the Science Shops database

ISGlobal Barcelona Institute for Global Health

Barcelona Institute for Global Health (InSPIRES Coordintaror)
SPAIN

ESSRG

Environmental Social Sciences Research Groups Ltd. (ESSRG)
HUNGARY

IrsiCaixa Institut de Recerca de la Sida

Fundación Privada Institut de Recerca de la Sida-Caixa (IRSICaixa)
SPAIN

UNIVERSITÉ DE LYON

Université de Lyon (UDL)
FRANCE

VU Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam Faculty of Science

The VU Institute for research on innovation and communication in the health and life sciences (VU)
NETHERLANDS

Università degli Studi Firenze

Università degli studi di Firenze (UNIFI)
ITALY

معهد باستور تونس Institut Pasteur de Tunis

Institut Pasteur Tunis (IPT)
TUNISIA

CEADES Fundación Ciencia y Estudios Aplicados para el Desarrollo en Salud y Medio Ambiente

Ciencia y estudios aplicados para el desarrollo en salud y medio ambiente (CEADES)
BOLIVIA

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Possible future pathways

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1. Supportive university context	
Support	Relief
Stablility → focus on internal success factors & developing skills (improving communication and evaluation, etc.)	No need to persuade decision makers about legitimacy; supportive top management; Science-society activities appear in funding and performance asessment schemes

Change in the regime

2. Flexibility and impact-seeking outside the universities	
Support	Relief
Freedom & Flexibility → voiceless groups; advocacy, political arena; new sources of funding & organizational solutions	Relief from „publish or perish", top-management expectations; neutrality

Creating niches

3. Finding links to various forms of science-society initiatives	
Support	Relief
Various „niche" actors are important sources of learning & inspiration; shaping discourses	The mainstreaming of „science with and for society" principle regardless of the ever-changing tags (policy slogans)

Scaling-up

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Visibility and Recognition

- Difficulty of evaluating the performance of Science Shops
- Potential of ICT tools to increase visibility
- Publications

be-novative
INSPIRE YOUR WORLD

Results of our open innovation

120+ early-stage ideas

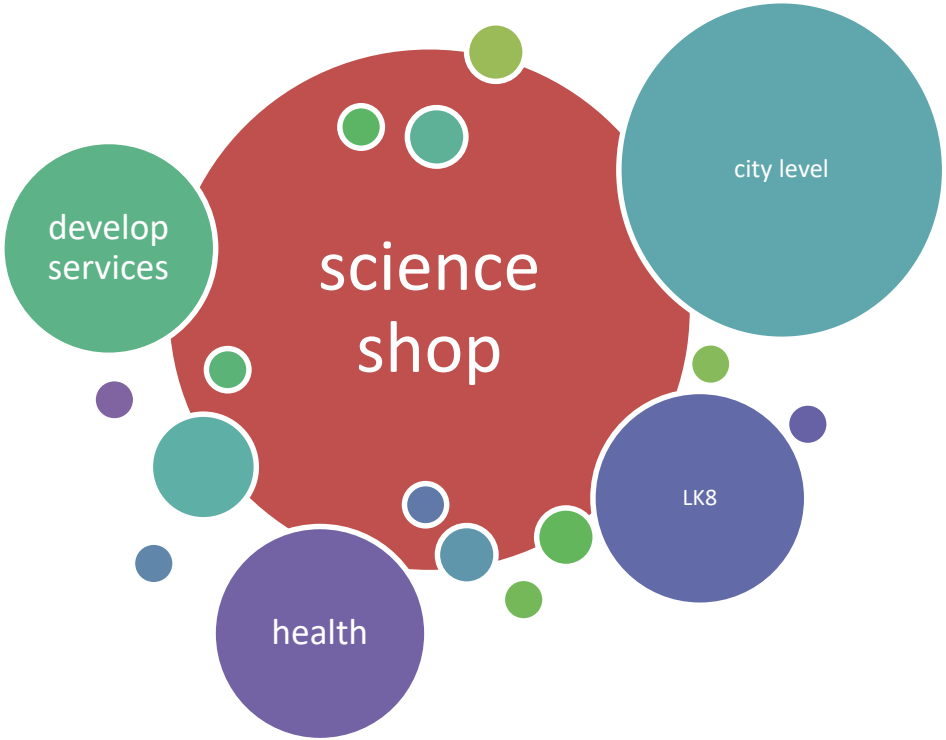
22 countries

400+ reached - in 9 weeks

Strengthening the transformative potential of science shops

- Values
- Community engagement
- Expectations

Community engagement examples



11 ideators from 8 countries shared 40 ideas

Destiny of Science Shop2.X

University-based	Independent	Mediator
- It presupposes a robust **SWAFS vision** in the academic sphere and commitment from **the top management**. - R&I governance (in the evaluation and funding) acknowledges local societal challenges and **co-creating solution seeking** with less solvent and voiceless actors. - The strategic importance of Science shops for **achieving outreach**, research and education goals is acknowledged.	- A non-university context creates diverse opportunities for more independence, **flexibility** and direct impact seeking. - Also, specific value commitments and thematic issues can be better incorporated. - Creative spaces for **advocacy** and policy debates. - More diverse sources of funding and **innovative** organisational structures. - Create niches for change.	- Linking up to **various forms of science-society initiatives**. - Collective of “niche actors” build their ecosystem to support a regime shift. - Support their **active learning** communities. - Shape the **discourse** according to the values and commitments of the science shops.

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The ‚Impact Agenda'

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Definition and Evaluation

Positive and negative primary and secondary long-term ***effects produced by the intervention***, whether directly or indirectly, intended or unintended.

- **advocacy** (demonstrating the value of research investments in general)
- **allocation** of investment (funding, staff and other resources)
- **analysis** to inform continuous improvement (including future programme design)
- **accountability** (as required under legislation and better practice performance management)

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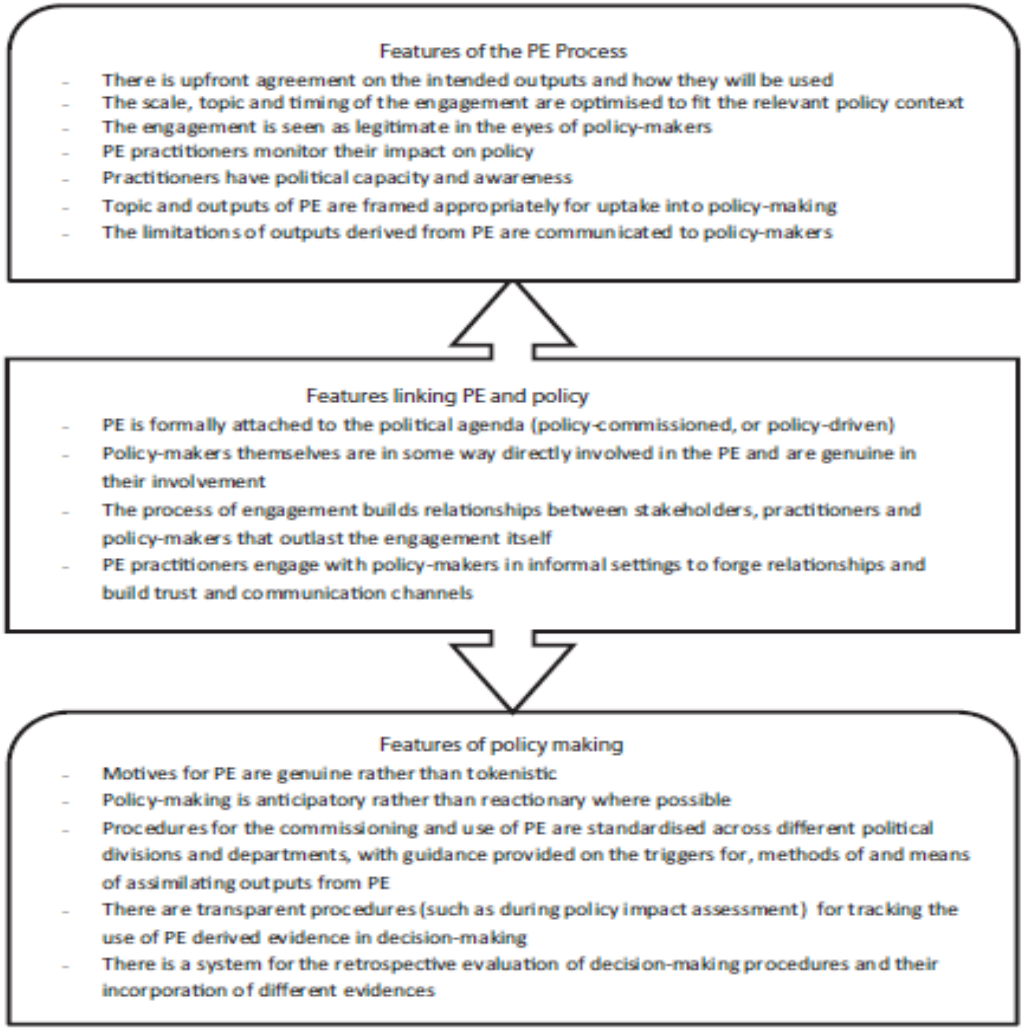
Questions

- What do we mean by impact?
- Who defines the urgency, relevancy of impact?
- How different actors understand and value different types of impacts?
- What is considered as relevant impact?
- How outcomes, outputs, impacts are related?
- How impacts are evaluated before, during and after interventions?
- How do we define relevant goals (on action level) and objectives (on activity level) to be achieved?



Maximising PE impact on policy

- it is important that its proponents ensure that PE does not become a political tool
- missing audit of the final decision-making process—a process which often involves lastminute modifications and compromises that are not reported

Emery, S. B., Mulder, H. A., & Frewer, L. J. (2015). Maximizing the Policy Impacts of Public Engagement A European Study. *Science, Technology & Human Values*, *40*(3), 421-444

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Three examples

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Experimentation Arenas, socially-embedded **sharing economies** in the Agro-food Domain; Food sovereignty enacted through

- **CSA**: farmer-led community agriculture initiatives
- **FSP**: food self-provisioning in gardens, balconies, etc
- **AAFN**: small holders decree reform

Generating impact

Generating impact

POLITICAL AGENDA: COMISSIONED OR POLICY DRIVEN WORK - CLARK (2016): *„FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IS EXERCISED BY BOTH STATE AND NON-STATE ENTITIES CONCURRENTLY"*

MULTI-ACTOR ENGAGEMENT - WORKSHOPS WITH STAKEHOLERS, MIXED METHODS RESEARCH

INFORMAL SETTINGS TO BUILD TRUST - ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE OFTEN DOWNPLAYED, COINED MARGINAL VS CELEBRATORY

GENUINE INVOLVEMENT OF DECISION-MAKERS - ?

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Cooperative research for bottom-up food sovereignty and policy change

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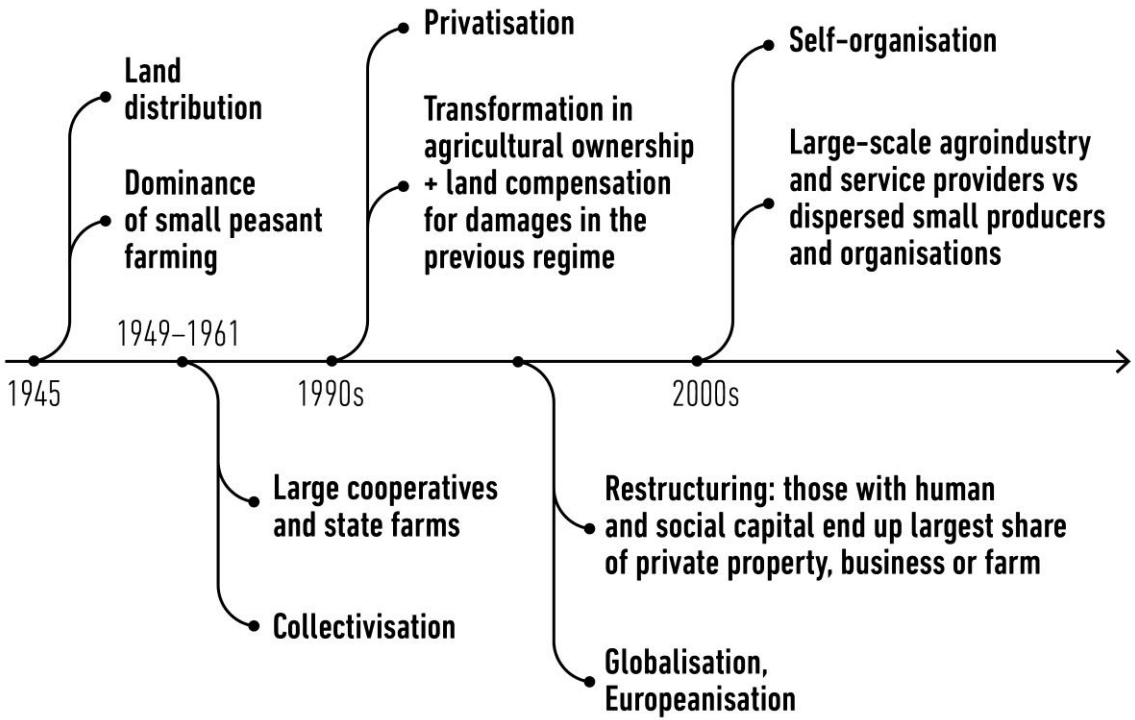
2008 **Problem-focused research** on small-scale farmers and experts. Output: problem catalogue and policy recommendations.

2009 **Petition** started by Védegylet. Output: 51 participants support the smallholder decree policy reform.

- March-April 2009: **Press release** to mobilise support for policy reform. Output: media attention. Campaign to gather online contributions from citizens groups.
- April 2009: **Workshop** on the future visions of the local food system in Hungary. Output: text of smallholder decree policy reform.
- May 2009: **Completion** and consolidation of the policy reform text. Output: final text handed over to the ministry

2010 **Comparative analysis**. Output: policy report on case studies of AAFNs in the EU (in English), and policy brief on the significance of alternative food systems in Hungary (in Hungarian).

cooperative (action) research phase	collaboration modes between CSOs and researchers	type of actionable knowledge	reflection phase
Preparatory meetings and workshops	• exchanging expectations on the process clarifying collaboration capabilities and actors' roles	• focus on change and fusion of potential contributions • clarification of the need and place of reflective and self-reflective phases	• defining and creating a sense of ownership of the outputs • building a systematic and mutually meaningful process
Problem-focused research	• organising qualitative interviews and document analysis in activist-researcher pairs • holding workshops to process and analyse interviews	• identification of issues of high relevance to knowledge holders • problem catalogue and policy solutions	• extending (opening up) the policy understanding of the issue
Petition started by Védegylet	• involving a practitioner as knowledge broker • issuing a joint declaration that hooks in food movement actors • utilizing a bottom-up network with stakeholders involved in varied professional and informal events	• identification of change agents – participants who support the smallholder decree policy reform	• summarizing central insights from the network building
Press release	• coordinating email exchanges with various stakeholders to endorse the policy reform ideas • co-designing an advocacy campaign launched by the CSOs	• support, acknowledgement and media attention assured buy-in • campaign to gather online contributions from citizens groups	• fostering public understanding and acknowledgement of small-scale farmers issues • evaluating media interviews
Workshop on the future visions of the food system in Hungary	• identifying stakeholders and crowdsourcing information	• the urgency of food governance • a shared understanding of the text of the smallholder decree policy reform	• completing and consolidating the policy reform text • transmitting the final text to the ministry
Comparative analysis of CR cases in partner countries.	• division of labour in data processing and analysis	• co-designed policy brief on the significance of the issue	• producing a policy report on case studies of alternative agro-food networks in the EU.



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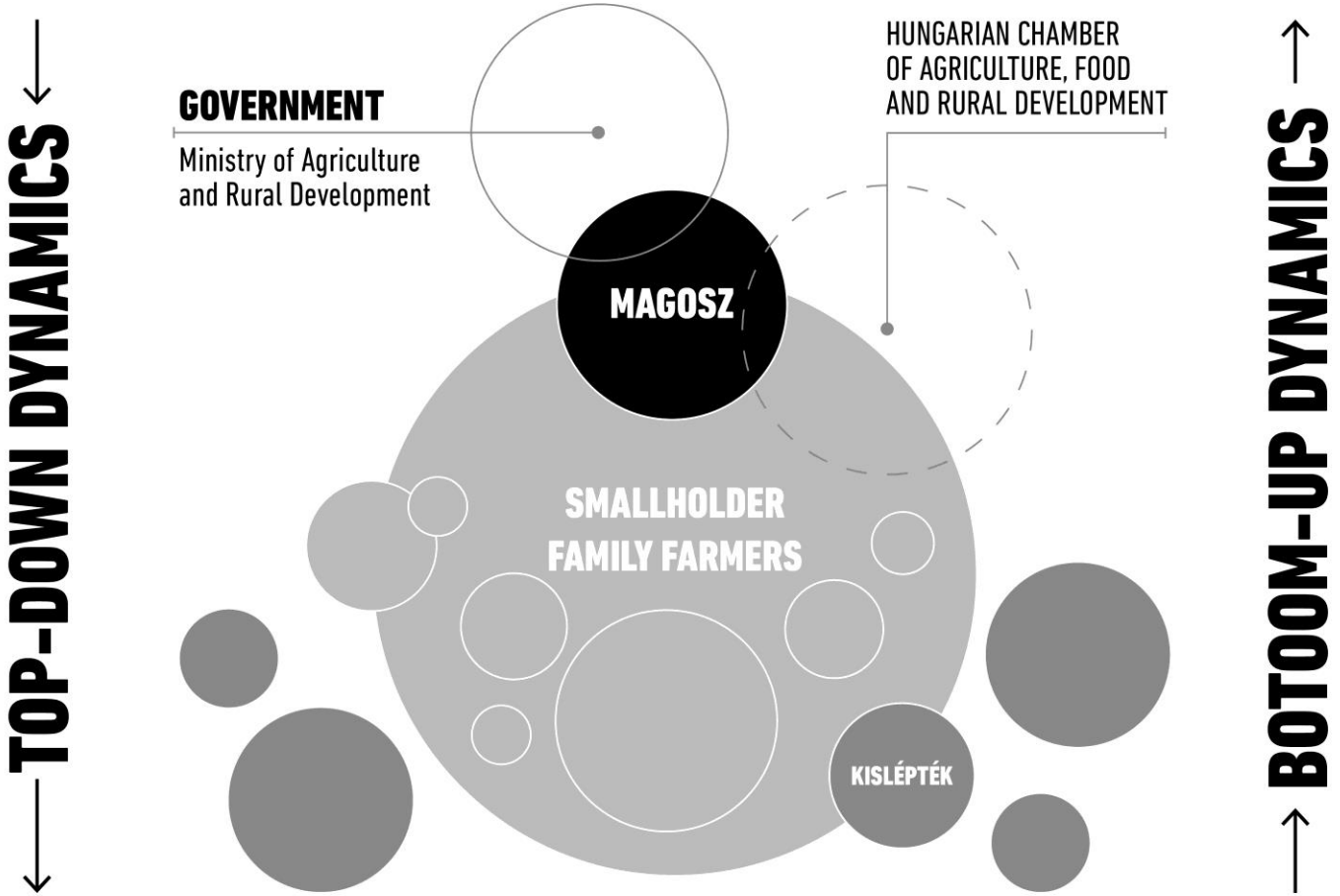
TOP-DOWN DYNAMICS
GOVERNMENT
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
HUNGARIAN CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
MAGOSZ
SMALLHOLDER FAMILY FARMERS
KISLÉPTÉK
BOTOOM-UP DYNAMICS

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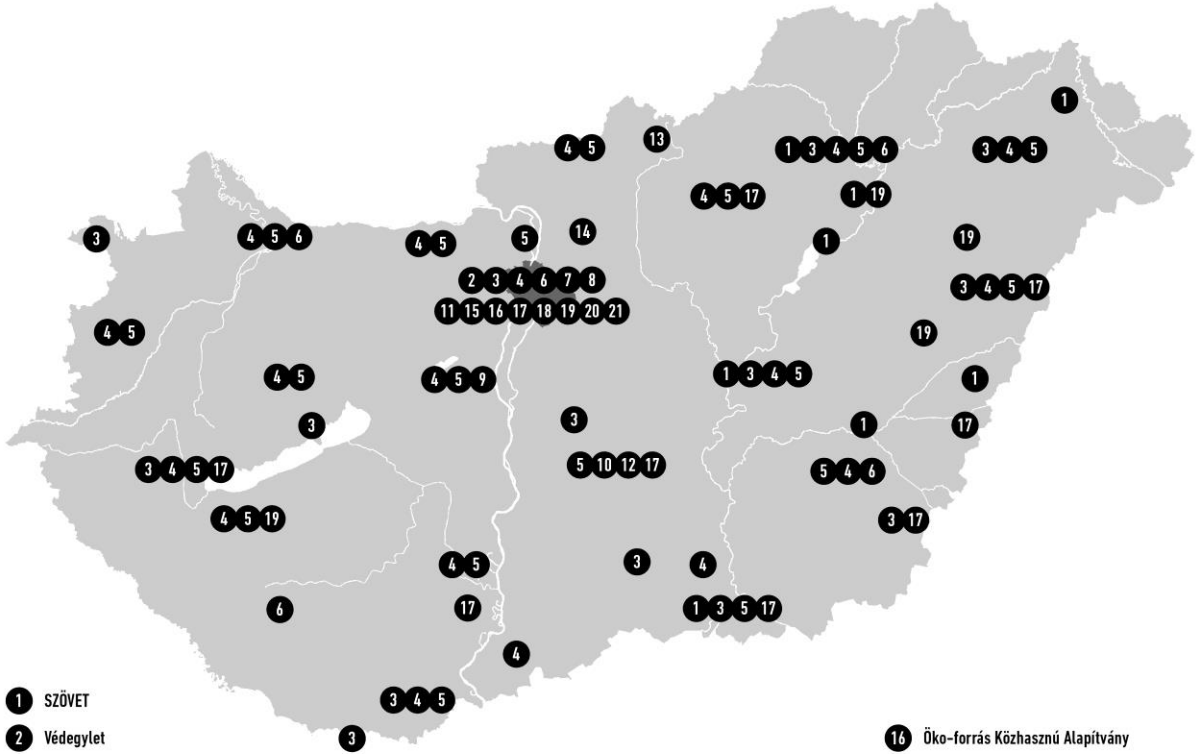

1 SZÖVET
2 Védegylet
3 MTVSZ
4 FATOSZ
5 ÉLOSZ
6 Magyar Biokultúra Szöv.
7 Ökotárs alapítvány
8 Piacfejlesztési Alapítvány
9 Kishantos Vidékfejl. Kp. Kht.
10 Magyar Faluszövetség
11 Tudatos Vásárlók Egy.
12 Bács-Kiskun M.-i Agrárkamara
13 Zöld pihenő Alapítvány
14 Magosfa K.N.Ö. Alapítvány
15 CEEWEB a Biológiai Sofféleségért
16 Öko-forrás Közhasznú Alapítvány
17 HANGYA Szövetkezeti Együttműködés
18 Magyar Kisállatnemesítők Génmegörző Egy.
19 Pro Vértes Közalapítvány
20 Messzelátó Egyesület
21 GAIA Ökológiai Alapítvány

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Components of impact

‘MOBILISING THEM FOR AN ISSUE WHICH, IN FACT, WOULD SUPPORT THEM IS A REAL **MIRACLE**’

TRADITION OF URBAN INTELLECTUALS CREATE LEADING AND INDUCING ROLE IN AGRARIAN MOVEMENTS

COOPERATIVE NETWORK OF QUALIFIED LEGAL EXPERTS, RESEARCHERS, ACTIVISTS AND PRACTITIONERS

EXTENDED PEER AND STAKEHOLDER NETWORKS PROMOTED THE RECEPTION OF RESEARCH FINDINGS, WHICH THUS BETTER REACHED POLICY CIRCLES

CO-RESEARCHERS CAN REINFORCE EACH OTHER’S ROLE INSTEAD OF HINDERING THE COLLABORATION

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Community-building through Food Self-provisioning in Central and Eastern Europe

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community-based food self-provisioning

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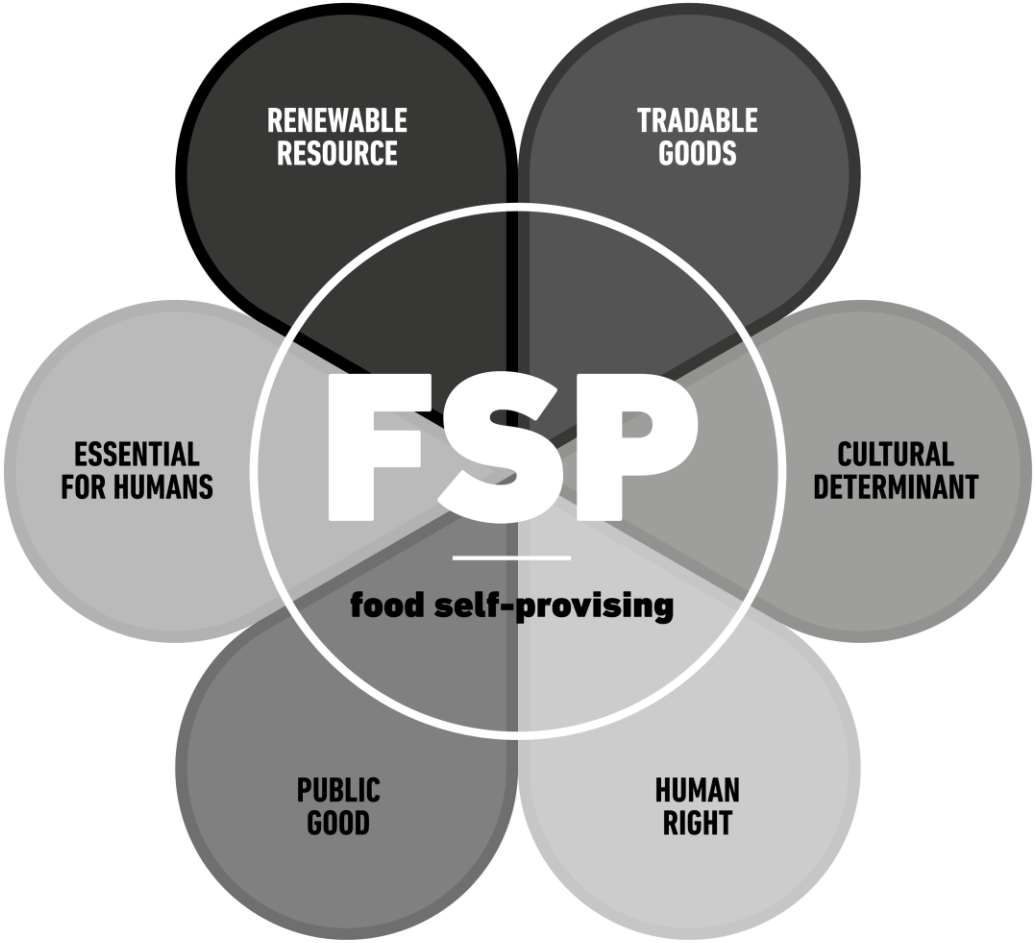
Food self-provision enabling food as a commons



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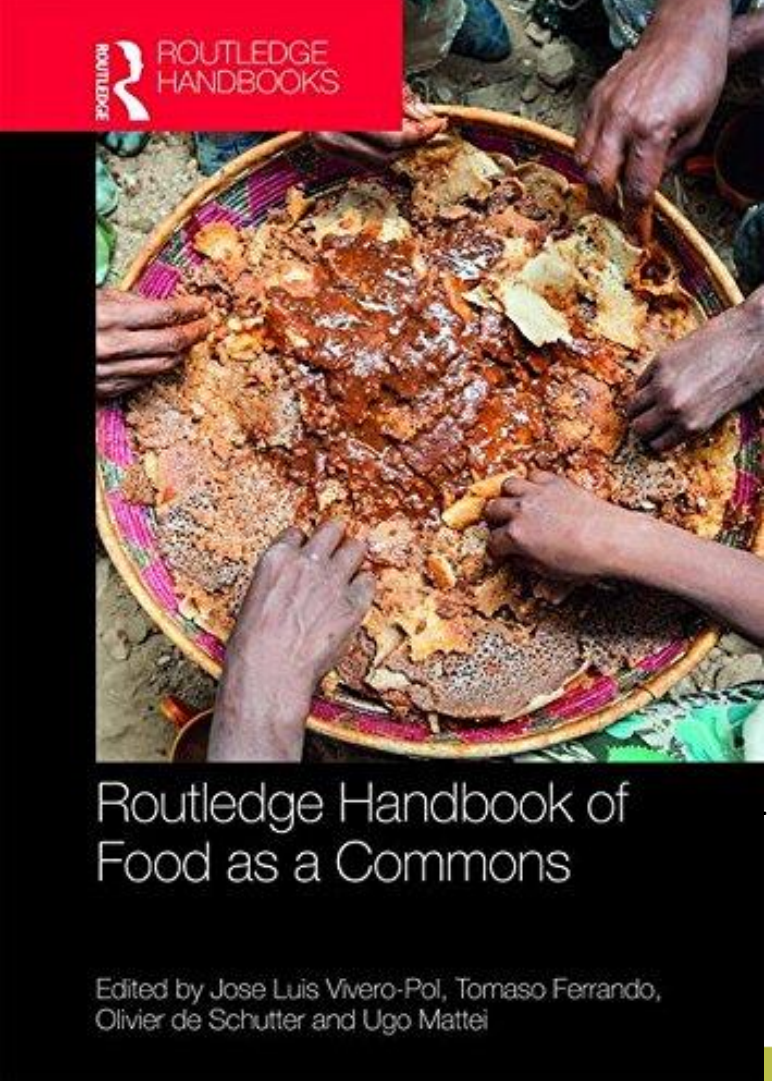
PRACTICES ARE „IRRATIONAL”

NURTURING VALUES NECESSARY FOR INDIVIDUAL, COLLECTIVE AND SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

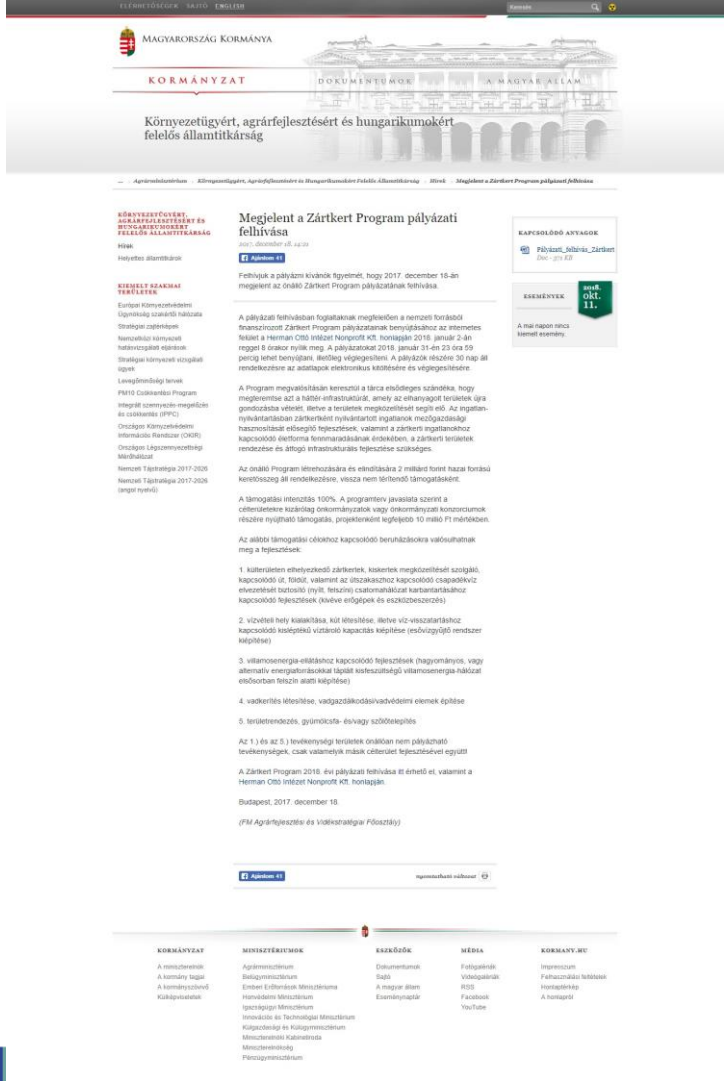


NEED FOR FUNDAMENTAL TRANSFORMATION IN THE FOOD SYSTEM

QUESTIONS THE GROWTH PARADIGM AND MARKET MECHANISMS AS CENTRAL COMPONENTS IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF RESILIENT SOCIETIES

- Agency in a non-radical way
- Self-expression go beyond the dissatisfaction with the existing conditions, empowering arenas
- Everyday culture of FSP is already leading the transformation toward sustainability
- Material (seed and food) exchange as intermediary that change social relations

- **Policy ambition** - create communities where they do not currently exist
- **Support** for local governments to introduce space for healthy food-growing communities
  - Rural Development Programme - protection and competition for home garden plots
  - More role for symbolic support and high-level policy engagement with the fundamental norms of sharing food and the practices that reinforce them.
- **Political significance** increased: practices of gardeners have begun to govern their food system, a crucial step towards food democracy.



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Prospects for the future: Community supported agriculture in Hungary

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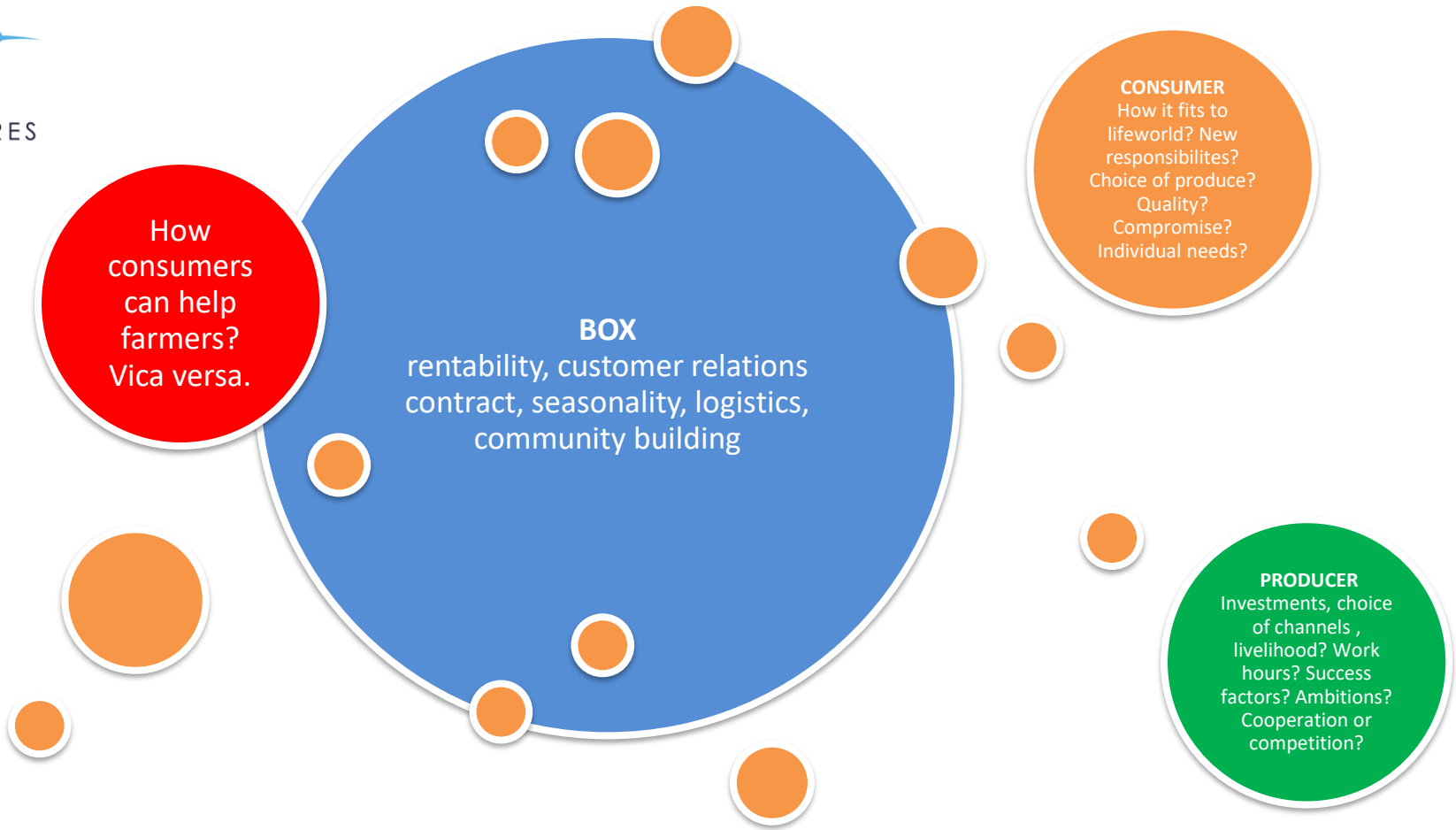
Community agriculture

- **Sharing** risks and rewards of production
- Alternative food supply chain, many **configurations**
- Joint reduction of **uncertainties**
- **Moral** economy

	Operation (years)	Produce	Land (ha)	Locality	Members	Employees	Organisational form
Évkerék EcoFarm	3	Fruit, veg, cereals, met	7 ha	Szeged (Kistelek)	50 boxes	2	Family farmer
Háromkaptár Organic Garden	3	Vegetables and organic food shop	1,5 ha	Tahitótfalu	80 boxes	1	Limited company
Biokert Szigetmonostor	7	Vegetables, cereals, legumes	5 ha	Szigetmonostor	60 boxes	2	Limited company
Matthews farm	3	Vegetables, egg, poultry	4 ha	Zsámbok	53 boxes	4	Limited company
Bioéléskamra (Eleven Föld cooperative)	8	Vegetables, pumpkin seed	7 ha	Hét (Miskolc)	47 boxes	2	Family farmer


How consumers can help farmers? Vica versa.
BOX
rentability, customer relations contract, seasonality, logistics, community building
CONSUMER
How it fits to lifeworld? New responsibilites? Choice of produce? Quality? Compromise? Individual needs?
PRODUCER
Investments, choice of channels , livelihood? Work hours? Success factors? Ambitions? Cooperation or competition?

Dynamics

Organizational solution for farmer-controlled experiment stations

- **"irrational" economics**: *Labour costs, rent, seeds and garden supplies are usually in, but improvements, maintenance, organisational and educational costs, as well as incidental costs are typically taken out of the calculation*
- **peer-learning system**: *Educating members with expectation of growing members' commitment*

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Agency

- **Common pattern**
  - Mostly manual work, from March to November
  - Not full diet: 8-10 vegetables, spices, herbal plants and fruits
  - Weekly delivery of boxes with equal share for members
- **Motivation** is not environmental or social; but solidarity, authenticity
- **Behaviour change experience**: community feeling, mutuality, meaningful relations.

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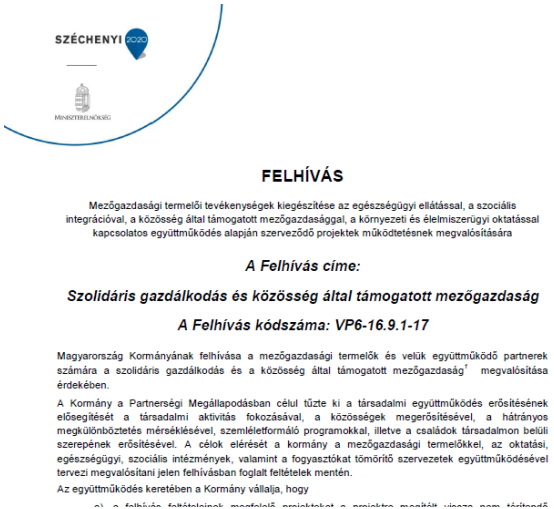
Social innovation in modes of learning, doing, framing and organizing

Farmer-supported community building: trusted customer base

Avoid gentrification - *whole season budgets divided to be attractive to low-income groups*

Members' motivations change through participation - *growing members' commitment*



SZÉCHENYI 2020

MINISZTERELNÖKSÉG

FELHÍVÁS

Mezőgazdasági termelői tevékenységek kiegészítése az egészségügyi ellátással, a szociális integrációval, a közösség által támogatott mezőgazdasággal, a környezeti és élelmiszerügyi oktatással kapcsolatos együttműködés alapján szerveződő projektek működtetésének megvalósítására

A Felhívás címe:

Szolidáris gazdálkodás és közösség által támogatott mezőgazdaság

A Felhívás kódszáma: VP6-16.9.1-17

Magyarország Kormányának felhívása a mezőgazdasági termelők és velük együttműködő partnerek számára a szolidáris gazdálkodás és a közösség által támogatott mezőgazdaság[1] megvalósítása érdekében.

A Kormány a Partnerségi Megállapodásban célul tűzte ki a társadalmi együttműködés erősítésének elősegítését a társadalmi aktivitás fokozásával, a közösségek megerősítésével, a hátrányos megkülönböztetés mérséklésével, szemléletformáló programokkal, illetve a családok társadalmon belüli szerepének erősítésével. A célok elérését a kormány a mezőgazdasági termelőkkel, az oktatási, egészségügyi, szociális intézmények, valamint a fogyasztókat tömörítő szervezetek együttműködésével tervezi megvalósítani jelen felhívásban foglalt feltételek mentén.

Az együttműködés keretében a Kormány vállalja, hogy

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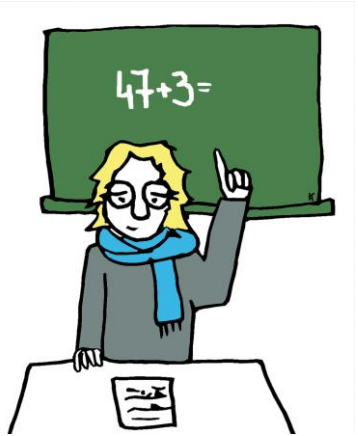
Overall conclusions



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substitute for missing capacities on the government side

provide **evidence** base for policy change

self-expression, **agency** in a non-radical way

collectives, instead of individualizing responsibility

go beyond the dissatisfaction with the existing conditions, **empowering** arenas

play and revolt, bottom-up engagement; **grassrooting**

can be dispersed and **expanded** to other contexts

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Impact is a slippery concept

often long-term, unpredictable, and intangible

Science shops are struggling to show their impact

InSPIRES develops a new impact evaluation

Comissioned - policy-driven - demand-driven

Multi-actor engagement – mixed methods research

Informal settings to build trust with stakeholders

Genuine involvement of decision-makers - ?

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Reading

- Balázs, B. and Pataki, Gy. Cooperative research for bottom-up food sovereignty and policy change. In: *Action Research in Policy Analysis*. Routledge, 2018. p. 59-83.
- Pettibone, L., Blättel-Mink, B., Balázs, B., Giulio, A. D., Göbel, C., Heubach, K., ... & Vohland, K. (2018). Transdisciplinary Sustainability Research and Citizen Science: Options for Mutual Learning. *GAIA-Ecological Perspectives for Science and Society*, *27*(2), 222-225.
- Balázs B. Community-building through Food Self-provisioning in Central and Eastern Europe. In: *Handbook of Food as a Commons* (Routledge, end of 2018)

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