

Newsletter

European Federation of City Farms

Kinderboerderijen

City Farms and
Community Gardens

*Fermes d Animation
Educatives*

4H-garder

4H-Farms



*Kinder-, Jeugd- en
Gezinsboerderijen*

Fermes d'Enfants

*Jugendfarmen, Kinderbauernhöfe,
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EFCF - Annual General Meeting

The EFCF Annual General Meeting took place in Brussels from 2nd till 4th of March 2001

The EFCF-Memberfederations already got the report. The board has now three members: Pauline Wolters (Netherlands), Marc de Staercke (Belgium) and Mike Primarolo (UK). Marc Verachtert didn't re-stand for the EFCF Board. The Delegates did thank Marc Verachtert (Belgium) for all his hard work on behalf of the EFCF.

European City Farm conferences 2001 to 2004

Rotterdam Conference 19-23 September 2001 register now

UK Conference September 2002

Jeremy (UK) stated that an outline proposal for the conference in 2002 is due to be discussed by the FCFCG board and initial information will be made available by the end of May 2001.

Conferences 2003 and 2004

Delegates from Portugal and Norway agreed to ask their federations to hold a conference in 2003 or 2004. Request to Italy, as they were considering, 2003 or 2004.

EFCF programmes and actions 2001

DG Environment

Still awaiting an answer from DG Environment on their financial support of our Sustainable Development Programme.

Berlin demonstration development

Oliver Ginsberg (Germany) reported on progress to date and distributed a paper and illustrations. Major decisions on funding and timetable will be taken over the next four months.

Blue Booklet

Revisions and additions to Blue Booklet text to be sent to Pauline Wolters (Netherlands) by Tuesday 3rd April 2001. The Board and members thanked Pauline for her contribution.

Newsletter

The BDJA and Hans in particular have agreed to assemble and publish the Newsletter in 2001. The Board

and members thanked Germany for their contribution.

Foot and mouth disease

On Thursday 1.3.01, Marc D.S. was contacted by the Belgian government advising not to visit or hold delegate meetings on a City Farm if UK delegates were going to be present. This issue highlighted the problem of potential disasters and diseases on City Farms (eg Foot and mouth, BSE and ecoli), a discussion followed as a first attempt to share information in addressing the following questions:

- What is the role of member Federations and EFCF?
- Who deals with it?
- How do we communicate?
- Who deals with the press?
- How do we deal with the press?
- How do we get up to date information and advice?
- How do we advise and support member City Farms?

Summary of the discussion

- NOT TO PANIC!!
- Deal with in a consistent way.
- Do verify the issue and collect necessary information
- To be prepared with information and action plans for all potential incidents, diseases and issues was regarded as not possible or cost effective, as measures may become rapidly out of date. In all cases, there will be a body or government department with an appropriate responsibility.
- Contingency plan: make sure you hold all the necessary information on - where to go and who to speak to and how to contact them. Keep relevant government etc. web site addresses.
- Federations: to maintain an up to date press list - Email addresses for press releases
- EFCF and Federations can advise members (therefore make sure of the factual accuracy of your advice).

Agreed actions

- EFCF and Federations: to set up an E-mail network - so that Federations can be kept informed of actions and developments by a member Federation(s) effected by foot and mouth etc. This will help other Federations respond to local press, government etc enquiries.
- Contribute further points and ideas to the debate

PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION

FCFCG, UK has press and media contacts for the EU on CD, which is regularly updated every couple of months.

City Farms European open doors day

Agreed to ask all Federations to publicise and promote participation in a European City Farm Open Doors Day on 18th or 19th May 2002 or as close to these dates as possible.

City Farms to be encouraged to explore an exchange of young people and/or adults as part of the European Open Day Federations to invite MEPs, Councillors, Foundations etc. to attend/participate in the open day.

'2001 European Year of the Volunteer' and European Voluntary Service (EVS)

The EFCF is run entirely by volunteers and this is a good opportunity to publicise and celebrate the work of City Farms, the majority of which rely on a large number of volunteers to deliver a range of services.

Delegates agreed that EFCF and member Federations should make a big effort to publicise the European Voluntary Service (EVS) programmes to all City Farms, and publish articles in the newsletter and on the web site about successful environmental exchanges.

Saarke (B) agreed to provide articles for the newsletter and website addresses for further information.

Compiling useful data

It was also proposed that each Federation should collect data on the number of staff and volunteers etc. engaged in City Farming and related activities. Board to address issue at next meeting, all ideas and proposals welcome, please send to EFCF by mid April.

Sustainable development

Presentation of Sustainable Development Paper (as previously circulated, discussed and revised). Proposed seconded Board pointed out that the short-term strategy was to carry out work within existing resources and expand the programme if further funding was achieved, (as identified in the strategy paper).

What's currently happening?

Member Federations reported on actions and activities in their countries.

BELGIUM

Holding a national Open Doors Day in October. Developing their EVS programme with young people going to other countries this year.

In discussion with all types of farms to develop co-operative programmes and share information and resources.

GERMANY

A lot of good education work took place last year. Currently developing an accredited training programme, to be taken over one or two years, mainly at weekends, to establish good practice and qualification for staff and volunteers.

NETHERLANDS

About 400 City Farms in the Netherlands. Producing a bulletin 5 times a year. Holding a City Farm Study Conference and the European Conference in September.

NORWAY

The Forum for Norwegian Farms is making good progress. Running new training programmes on how to start and how to run a City Farm. Can qualify in teaching, health and safety, co-operation with schools and demonstrating Norwegian farming. Working with the Norwegian Association of Farmers to deliver a 'Green School' course for teachers.

PORTUGAL

Held a meeting for 31 public access farms in October 2000. In Lisbon currently planning a comprehensive 'wool' project.

SWEDEN

4H is preparing a presentation for the Government and implementing a programme of more and larger camps on farms. The first camps are already taking place.

7 new projects are being developed in Stockholm and are being funded by the Government.

UK

The Federation is in a healthy state and is developing good relations with the Government, particularly 4 departments: Agriculture (MAFF), Education & Employment (DfEE), Environmental (DETR) and the Home Office.

Currently working on a contract with the DfEE to work with schools in developing school farms and giving children access to farms as part of their curriculum. Many City Farms are in financial difficulties, but Community Gardens are still developing and the Federation is getting an average of 8 new members per month.

FRANCE

Proposal to set up a Sustainable Development Observatory to help with sustainable development. 3 year programme:

Year 1 Investigation and assessment

Year 2 How it will operate and work

Year 3 Create a facility to deliver its programme

from the Netherlands

Conference of the European Federation of City Farms, 19 - 23 September 2001

The department of Sports and Recreation of Rotterdam, in close co-operation with the Dutch Federation of City Farms (SKBN) and the European Federation of City Farms (EFCF), is organising the 12th European City Farm Conference in Rotterdam.

The title of the conference is **Farming the city, a practical way to learn about sustainability**. In Europe the city farm, being an example in the field of sustainable development, is very much in the picture now. During the conference there will be visits to the Rotterdam city farms, most of which are situated next to a centre for environmental education and an educational garden. The workers will demonstrate how visitors can learn about sustainability. The emphasis during the conference will be on the development and exchange of good practice in the field of recreation, education and information. Participants will be actively involved in all kinds of activities. The programme includes a visit to the famous Rotterdam Zoo, which also has an educational programme. The conference fee is 250 Euro and includes meals, accommodation and all transportation for excursions. The conference language will be English. The maximum number of participants will be one hundred. Bookings will have to be made before 15 April.

For more information and booking forms: 1) your own federation of city farms; 2) Sport en Recreatie gemeente Rotterdam (Marina Vasenna) tel.: +31 10 4172457; e-mail: m.vasenna@senr.rotterdam.nl or 3) the Dutch Federation of city farms, tel.: + 31 30 - 6382423; e-mail skbn@planet.nl

News from Portugal

Portugal If some one could help us with contacts where to find materials related to lambswool.. for example spinning wool, weaving and other wool works, we would be thankful. Our contact is: Luosa Tavora and Margarita Fonseca: e-mail: quinta.Pedagogica@cm-lisboa.pt

News from Belgium

During the AGM three persons visited Het Neerhof and saw a lot of „self sufficiency“ practice that they wanted to learn. The „workgroup Flanders“ is well equipped to organise a new „self sufficiency“ course like they did in the past. It is possible to reorganize such a course in which participants can learn spinning wool, weaving and other woolwork, beekeeping, milking goats and cows, churn butter, making cheese (3 sorts), etc

News from Germany

Some of you declared their interest to become more active in exchanging information on best practices to promote sustainable development in between conference dates and annual meetings. Some of you I hope will join in as you see that we can all benefit from more intensive collaboration.

On the last EFCF (European Federation of City Farms) meeting in Dworp, Belgium we have started a working group on „sustainable development“ to intensify dissemination of best practice examples among existing land based/ farm based community projects and those initiatives which want to start new ones.

With this newsletter I want to invite you to join a mailing list on sustainable development (SD). If you are on the list you will (hopefully) receive regular information on best practice examples in promoting sustainable development through city farm, community garden and adventure play work.

You are also asked to contribute examples, this can be anything from an effective pedagogical scheme in environmental education, to technical devices on composting, renewable energy use or examples on how to effectively include disadvantaged groups in your daily work. It could also be examples of starting a successful community business or other ideas to support regional/ecologically sound/fair trade economic structures etc.

The exchange of information through e-mail can be an efficient tool if it done properly, that is to say: information should be “digestable”

For this I suggest the following “rules”

1. contributions should contain a short abstract to start with, so that all readers can easily assess if they want to continue going through the information
2. this should include a title of the best practice example, information on what it is about, where it is located, when it is/was implemented and possibly information on cost-effect-relation as well as source/s of further information (websites, addresses, names, phonenumbers etc)
3. It should not include pictures, lengthy tables, charts or anything that is detrimental to quick dissemination (but it could offer hints on how to get such details)
4. It should preferably be written in English or be multi-lingual containing an English translation to ensure broadest possible use

Until an effective mailing list programme and archive is installed on the EFCF-website I am willing to do the dissemination. If you want to join the mailing list send a mail to the following adress: akib@gmx.de stating “Subscribe SD mailing list”. If you don't want to receive any regular messages of this list simply state “Unsubscribe SD mailing list”

Oliver Ginsberg

News from UK

From UK Federation of City Farms and community Gardens, Jeremy Iles The UK FCFCG has appointed a new Director, Jeremy Iles, and is under-going an internal review to ensure we can continue to support the development of City Farms and Community Gardens in

the UK. Much progress has been made with new community gardens joining the Federation every month. We have also engaged in discussion with various Government departments: we have for example started working with the Education Department on a project to encourage schools involvement in farming and gardening. Unfortunately the present outbreak of foot and mouth disease has meant that all city farms have had to close as a precaution, but once this is controlled, we will re-launch the City Farm movement and promote greater political and public support. We can be part of the debate about food production + sustainability.

Jeremu Iles www-farmgarden.org.uk /
jeremy@farmgarden.org.uk

News from Sweden

The aim of the EFCF (European federation of city farms) activities has from the beginning been to show people of the urbanised parts of Europe how food is produced, how animals are treated and how it is possible to develop agriculture even in the twentyfirst century.

On a cityfarm, the whole process is shown. From that the seed is put into the soil to that the milk is sent to the dairy. Several of the farms even make products like cheese and bread out of their own.

What has been an important incitement to make the people in the organisation want to work harder on these issues is that too many countries perform a way of farming that is not sustainable in a long-term perspective. In most of the European countries, farming is done in a far too industrialized way, where you in an office far from reality decide when to harvest the crops and send the cow to slaughter.

A person who has never felt or held a living animal can't possibly know how animals should be treated in the same way that the child who passes by the cows everyday on it's way home from school does.

These are things we think can be prevented by showing that you can profit from farming without impoverish and destroy the earth by over use of chemicals and pesticides.

Within the member organizations of the EFCF there is a hard work done to produce raw material with an ecological classification. The farms are built to suit a sustainable way of agriculture. Within the EFCF we work in different ways to show this. In the northern countries there is 4H that with it's volunteer leaders teaches and makes an opinion for a better way of farming and protection of animals. In the middle-Europe there are profit-making productive farms and in the southern parts it is more of a social development for social handikapped people.

What is common for all of us is that we want to show reality for the citizens of Europe. As an example we can

take the good food project that was performed by the EFCF in the middle of the 90,s.

EFCF have through it's memberorganizations a very large bank of educated people who are engaged within their profession. Thanks to this, we can see great possibilities to run projects that can give all Europe a chance to take part of our knowledge and way of thinking. Knowing that we have 1000 farms that work in their own special way we can be very sure when we say we have enough competence when we gather in conferences and seminars. For that reason, we don't have to be afraid of trying new methods and techniques. To be able to afford all this, it takes clear rules and policies from the governments of Europe. It is also important to understand that the difference between a farm in the northern part of Sweden and one in middle or southern europe is not only the mean temperature, but also the whole concept of conditions to compete on.

The European federation of city farms are willing to work on a plan on how to improve and enlarge/develop the work described above. With the help of that plan and continued financing, we can keep on working on sustainable development solutions for agriculture and show the people of urbanised areas what differences from traditional farming is.

To achieve a sustainable economy outside the farms, training and rising of opinions are important tools. There must be consumers willing to pay the price for having their food produced in sustainable orders. The reaching of that understanding has to cost a bit.

Altogether, we have around 10 000 000 visitors in the farms of the federation every year. Many memberorganisations also teaches a critical thinking in democratic structures.

News from Italy

'Fattorie didattiche e didattica della Fattoria' in Italy

'Educational farms and education on farms' was the title of the conference which took place on January 20th in Novellara in the province of Reggio Emilia in Italy. Present at the conference were local and provincial politicians, agricultural organisations, the Osservatorio Agroambientale, the EFCF (Pauline Wolters), the GIFAE (Jacques Puydoyeux), and representatives of the city farms in Italy (Pavia, Rome and Turin). During the meeting there were discussions about co-operation and exchange of good practice. During the conference there was a direct video-conference with the Italian minister of Agriculture, mr. Alfonso Pecaro Scario who was very positive about the educational work on city farms and commercial farms.

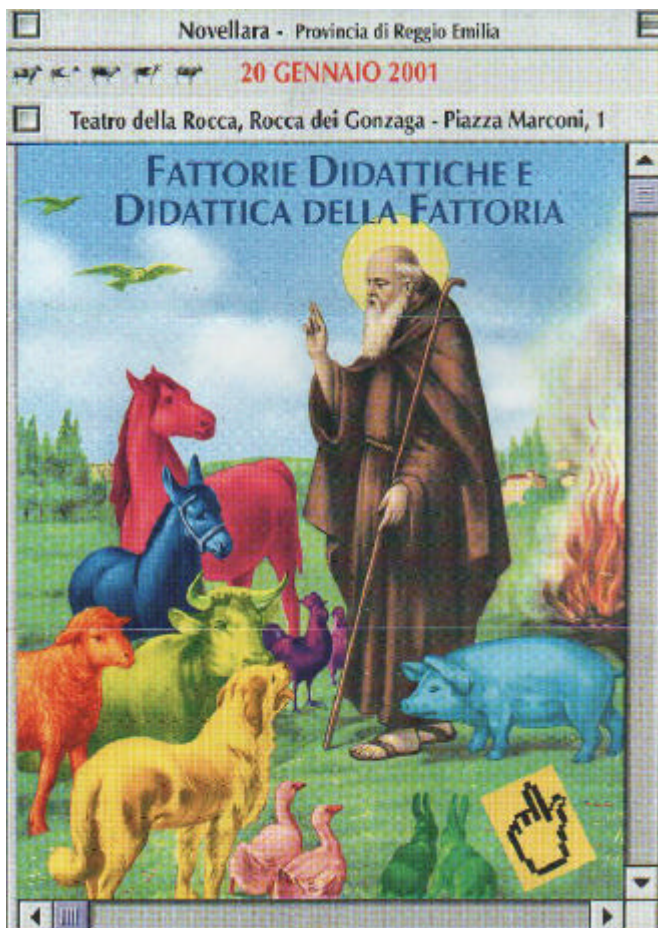
In Italy there are 276 working commercial farms with an educational school programme. Most farmers have taken a special educational course to carry out a schoolpro-

gramme. Novellara is a very nice place in the region of the river Po. The land lies 17 meters below sea level. Plans are being made for a very special project, an educational farm project called Sirona. The building dates from 1900 and will be converted into a combination of a farm, classrooms, library, museum and restaurant. The plans are based on the cultural history of the surrounding area. Regional produce will be grown such as rice, watermelons and wine. Education and information for schools and other visitors will be more important than produce.



Sirona in the present state

The poster for the conference already seems to hint at the misfortune which would hit agriculture in Europe one month later.



European Voluntary Service

Action 2: European voluntary service

What is a European Voluntary Service project?

An EVS project allows a young person to be a volunteer in another country for a specified period, normally between 6-12 months. The voluntary service activities can be, for example, in the field of environment, arts and culture, activities with children, young people or the elderly, heritage or sports and leisure activities. Each project has three partners, a volunteer, a sending organisation and a host organisation.

The volunteers will participate in activities that conform to the following general principles.

The activities:

- Take place in a country other than where the volunteers live;
- Are non-profit-making and unpaid;
- Bring an added value to the local community;
- Do not involve job substitution or job replacement;
- Last for a limited period (maximum 12 months).

Who can be a volunteer?

The programme is open to all young people who are legally resident in an eligible country and are, in principle, aged between 18 and 25 years. Certain exceptions regarding age are allowed and are judged on a case by case basis.

There are no participation fees and the volunteer receives board, lodging and a small allowance from the host organisation. The volunteers themselves are expected to take the initiative in contacting the sending and host organisations.

Those interested in the available volunteering placements can access a host placement database. Each National Agency determines the points of access.

Responsibilities of the volunteer

The volunteers give their time and efforts for a project benefiting the local community in exchange for an opportunity to practice their skills, gain cultural and social capital and to build for their future. During the volunteering

the volunteers are responsible for the practical tasks assigned to them and have a general obligation to contribute to the host organisation and community.

What is a sending organisation?

A sending organisation can be any type of nongovernmental organisation, an association, a local authority or any other non-profit-making local initiative.

Responsibilities of the sending organisation

The sending organisation is responsible for arranging the following:

Preparation:

The preparation required includes helping the volunteer to find and contact a host organisation. In addition, volunteers need to be prepared for their stay abroad according to their individual needs (including possible visa requirements etc.). The sending organisation is obliged to make sure that the volunteer attends one of the regular pre-departure training sessions arranged by the National Agency.

Contact during volunteering:

The sending organisation should keep in contact with the volunteer and with the host organisation during the project. This will help to avoid crisis, and it can help the sending organisation to organise the follow-up of the volunteer upon return.

Follow-up:

The volunteer should receive help in reintegrating into their home community. The sending organisation should support the volunteers by e.g. information about other possibilities within the YOUTH programme, helping them to find ways into further education, training or job opportunities.

What is a host organisation?

A host organisation can be any type of non-governmental organisation, an association, a local authority or any non-profit-making local initiative. The projects can be either one-off or more permanent activities and the European Commission is particularly keen to see new partnerships at both local and European level.

Responsibilities of the host organisation

The host organisation is responsible for arranging the following:

Training:

The volunteers' tasks should reflect their individual abilities and desires, and persons who are familiar with the tasks should guide them. The host organisation is responsible for sending the volunteer to the mid-term

evaluation seminars, organised by the National Agencies.

Personal support:

To avoid and overcome any difficulties either in the volunteers' personal lives or in their activities in the host organisation, sufficient personal support should be provided for the volunteer. The volunteers should be given opportunities to integrate into the local community, to meet other young people, to socialise, to participate in leisure activities, etc. Contacts with other EVS volunteers should be encouraged wherever possible.

Mentor:

Each host organisation should identify a mentor directly responsible for the personal, linguistic and pedagogical support of the volunteer and to whom the volunteer can turn in case of problems. Each host organisation should identify a mentor directly responsible for the personal, linguistic and pedagogical support of the volunteer and to whom the volunteer can turn in case of problems.

Language training:

Language skills have both long-term benefits and help the integration of the volunteer in the host culture. The host organisation is responsible for arranging the language learning opportunities. Language skills have both long-term benefits and help the integration of the volunteer in the host culture. The host organisation is responsible for arranging the language learning opportunities.

Accommodation:

The host organisation has to provide suitable accommodation for the volunteer. The host organisation has to provide suitable accommodation for the volunteer.

Food:

The host organisation is responsible for arranging meals or food allowance for the volunteer. The host organisation is responsible for arranging meals or food allowance for the volunteer.

How is a project financed?

EVS project financing is based on the principle of co-funding. This means that contributions, in kind or cash, from the different partners are necessary to cover the total costs of the project. The European Union will pay some specific costs and contribute towards the activity costs of the sending and host organisations. The EU contribution to the activities is not directed to any specific costs but the organisations can use it as they see fit, as long as they fulfil the obligations as set out in the following tables.

You can read everything about European Voluntary Service at the site

<http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/education/youth/program/action2.html>

Partnership proposal from Belarus

We are International Non-Governmental Youth Organization „Interactive“. Main office of the organization is working in Belarus (it is a country). We are looking for partnership in international YOUTH projects:

- International youth exchanges and volunteer programs;
- Events in the sphere of informal education of youth (seminars, trainings, researches);
- Creation of local youth center for international and education work.

We hope that joint multicultural activity will help socialization and adaptation young members of our organizations to open their mind, to crash stereotypes and find new ways of thinking. We will be much obliged for sharing information about us and help in founding partner organizations for joint youth programs and information exchange.

Information about organization:

Mission of organization:

Promotion of youth social activity increasing. Main fields of our work:

- international exchange and volunteer programs;
- trainings and seminars of informal education for youth;
- coordination of the youth projects;
- researches in the field of training work.

Short history:

15.07.1999 - We start our activity as an informal network of specialists.

10.07.2000 - Organization has been officially registered.

Main projects:

1. Youth XXI

International french-german-belarussian-russian-ukrainian project. Include international multilateral seminars and workcamps. Events of the project are working within YOUTH PROGRAMME of Education and Culture EUROPEAN COMMISSION.

6 cultural-education programs already have been run out:

- July of 1999 St.Petersburg - Kandalaksha - Murmansk (Russian) „Youth against AIDS“
- November of 1999 Evreux (France) „Children rights and duties“
- July of 2000 St.Petersburg - Kandalaksha (Russian) „Youth and ecology“

- September of 2000 Stuttgart (Germany) „Youth between school and work“
- November of 2000 Evreux (France) „Youth workcamp“
- January of 2001 Minsk (Belarus) „Violence and youth in Europe“ (preparation meeting)
- 3 programs in the plan for 2001 in Germany, Ukraine and Belarus

2. Effective teacher

Educational multilevel project aimed to growing up of school teachers effectiveness, changing of stereotypes of formal education. Include series of seminars, trainings, educational programs for teachers, social workers, students of pedagogic institutions. Seminar „Teacher and problems of discipline“. Multilevel training „Effective teacher“.

3. Interactive onlife

Project aimed to popularization of active lifestyle as effective life strategy. Include educational programs, which help to constructive changing of people and organizations. Also we do a researches in the field of methodology of trainings.

4. Youth to Europe

Project aimed to popularization of European values among youth of Belarus. In this project we share information about European institutions and help to communication of youth throw participation in different events (exchange programs, multicultural festivals, intercultural trainings and etc.)

Contact us:

E-mail: rzenter@yahoo.com

Web-site: www.intact.nm.ru

Telephon/fax: ++375 (0) 17 248 13 32

Thank you in advance. Best regards,

Nikolai Loukcha

Director of INGYO „Interactive“

Next Newsletter

Copy dead-line for the next newsletter is 15-5-2001

Please send all your text by email or send a disk in word-format or rtf-format to our office in Stuttgart - we don't want to type your text.

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