



EUROPEAN FOUNDATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD (EFSAF)

STRATEGY DOCUMENT

Philanthropic long term engagement supporting civil society for sustainable agricultural and food policies in Europe

EFSAF is a thematic network of European foundations with a medium to long-term focus aiming to promote a more sustainable, overarching food policy in Europe encompassing policies on agriculture, rural areas, biodiversity, climate, poverty, food and health. The group works on a collaborative and horizontal basis and is open for participation and collaboration by foundations who align with the political vision and want to share experiences about food, agriculture and sustainability and collaborate concretely.

Vision

EFSAF members are developing medium and long term work, looking at the framework provided by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and considering climate change, agriculture or health policy negotiations as key elements to advance the work on sustainable agriculture and food systems.

EFSAF members share the overarching vision that a sustainable food policy is necessary in Europe and that improving current policies on agriculture, rural areas, food and health is important. Current European policies are seen as major hurdle to sustainability in the areas the foundations are actively involved in. A joint food policy for Europe should also take into account Europe's interrelations and impacts on the rest of the world.

EFSAF members have identified the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), as an immediate entry point for intervention and influencing the reform of the current CAP by empowering European civil society has been the main focus of their joint work in 2017 and 2018 and will continue in the coming years.

Beyond this primary area of joint interest, it also considers other areas of possible future joint action and interventions such as on agroecology, rural areas, and the livestock sector or food poverty, among others. Specifically, they believe that a systemic change is required to address challenges such as:

- Enable agriculture and food activities be net contributors to the fight against climate change including by promoting agroecology and shifts in livestock production and consumption.
- Empower all citizens to access to healthy, fresh food and adopt healthy and sustainable diets, particularly the low income ones, in all European countries, resolving costly and preventable public health issues e.g. obesity.
- Strengthen family farmers and smallholders to counter economic and social tensions in rural areas, and supporting the development of innovative agro-ecological farming.
- Create local livelihood opportunities in rural areas to prevent increasing and chaotic urban migration and make possible the production of sufficient healthy food.
- Maintain and recreate rural - urban linkages.
- Rediscover and support local cultures, cultural identities and skills in food production, e.g. cooking, farming.
- Stop further degradation of agro-biodiversity, seeds, soils, forests and water, etc., including by supporting legislative frameworks discouraging such degradation and promoting regenerative practices.

- Create knowledge and awareness among citizens about food, its environmental and health impact and rebuild the social function of food.

How EFSAF operates

EFSAF is a thematic network of the European Foundation Centre and as such, peer learning and exchanges are facilitated by the European Foundation Centre.

EFSAF functions and makes decisions horizontally through the Steering Group composed of all contributing members (financially or in kind contributions). EFSAF members join forces, trying to act flexibly and to the extent possible coordinating and aligning their funding. EFSAF is not a pooled fund.

The Chair of EFSAF acts as the contact person for EFC, oversees the work of the consultants hired by the group and responds to external requests.

To date, all contributing members are members of one active working group dedicated to the CAP reform. Concrete coordinated and joint activities are sought in the areas of coalition building, especially among grassroots organisations, think tanks and advocacy NGOs, and evidence-based research, for the purpose of advocacy, public mobilisation and campaigning towards national governments and the European Union Institutions. Civil society organisations as well as researchers, think tanks or coalitions of different voices (progressive farmers, etc.) are the recipient of individual members funding as well as close partners to EFSAF as a group.

Current Members

Current EFSAF members are:

- Agropolis Foundation
- Barilla Center for Food & Nutrition
- Fondation Charles Léopold Mayer Pour le Progrès de l'Homme
- Fondation Daniel & Nina Carasso
- Fondation de France
- Fondazione Cariplo
- Heinrich Böll Stiftung

Openness

EFSAF is open to other foundations who see alignment with:

- The group's abovementioned vision about the future of agriculture and food systems in Europe
- The importance of a shared and common action of several foundations located in different countries, and operating in different sectors, as relevant political element to support the voice of civil society in Europe.

Contacts

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