

## APPLICATION FORM EUROPEAN NETWORK OF AGROECOLOGY LIVING LABS AND RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES

The [Agroecology Partnership](#) (funded by Horizon Europe framework programme under grant agreement No. 101132349) has the ambitious mission to coordinate efforts, pool resources, and facilitate the transition to agroecology across Europe, by building on participatory research approaches such as Living Labs (LL) and Research Infrastructures (RI). To achieve this, one of the goals of the Partnership is to **build a European Network of Agroecology LLs and RIs (hereafter the Network) – already launched in June 2024 - that connects these participatory place-based innovations for enhancing knowledge sharing and for supporting multi-stakeholder co-creation of agroecology innovations across various scales in Europe.** Moreover, the Network also aims to understand how agroecology LLs and RIs can complement one another and collaborate in order to achieve agroecology transition, while it focuses on building synergies with other international networks to shape the global discourse on agroecology and contribute to related science-policy dialogues at different levels.

This survey has been launched by the Network Coordination of the AGROECOLOGY Partnership with the aim to identify and describe in detail already existing agroecology LLs and RIs across Europe interested in becoming members of the Network. This application survey should be completed by the representative of the applicant initiative (LL/RI). Applicants need to provide answers to questions designed to gather detailed information on their initiatives broken down into five main areas: Identity details, Activities, Objectives, Governance and Values.

Please complete the following survey by submitting existing agroecology LL or RI that your organisation hosts or affiliated with. If you are affiliated with or know more than one initiative, please forward this survey to the respective LL/RI manager for completion. If you manage more than one initiative, please complete one survey per initiative.

For more information on the application process and benefits of the membership, **please visit** the [application guideline](#) document [on the website](#). In addition, **before completing the online form, we recommend that you review the PDF version of the full questionnaire to prepare your answers ahead.**

The form takes approx. 45 minutes to complete, **and it is open until 31 March 2026.** Applicants will be notified of the evaluation results by 15 May.

### Data Privacy

The purpose of collecting personal data is to assess the eligibility of the applicants for the membership of the European Network of Agroecology Living Labs and Research Infrastructures run under the AGROECOLOGY Partnership. By completing this survey, you agree to your details being held electronically by the Hungarian Research Institute of Organic Agriculture - ÖMKi (coordinator of the Network). ÖMKi will process your personal data with an independent Evaluation Committee and the Network Coordination Team on the legal basis of Art. 6, case b) of GDPR. Your data will be processed, kept strictly confidential and will not be disclosed outside the Committee and the Network Coordination Team in compliance with regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the council of 27 April 2016, on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data

(GDPR), and Law 2018/40581 of 30 July 2018 on protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data. You can exercise the right of access, rectification, erasure, restriction of processing, portability, and objection, by sending an e-mail to [info.agroecologynetwork@biokutatas.hu](mailto:info.agroecologynetwork@biokutatas.hu).

Do you agree with this privacy statement?

Yes/no

	Question	Type of answer	Applies to	Choices
<b>A.</b>	<b>Identity details</b>			
<b>1.</b>	<b>General information</b>			
1.1	Name of the initiative (and acronym if applicable):	Short text (1-2 lines)	Both	
1.2	If the initiative is under the umbrella of a host organisation, please provide the name of the host as well.	Short text (1-2 lines)	Both	
1.3	Which type of organisation is the Host of the initiative?	Multiple choice	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University</li> <li>• Research organisation</li> <li>• Public authority</li> <li>• Industry</li> <li>• Civil society organisation</li> <li>• Consulting company</li> <li>• Public private partnership</li> <li>• Other</li> </ul>
1.4	Website and social media platforms of the initiative, if available:	Short text (1-2 lines)	Both	
1.5	In which year was the initiative established?	Short text (1-2 lines)	Both	
1.6	What is the scale of the initiative?	Multiple choice	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not involving any users</li> <li>• Small scale (&lt; 50 users)</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medium scale (50 – 200 users)</li> <li>• Large scale (&gt; 200 users)</li> </ul>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Form of the initiative</b>			
2.1	Select the open innovation typology of the initiative.	Single choice	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agroecology Living Lab: <i>open innovation systems with very strong local embeddedness aiming to increase the sustainability, resilience and adaptation to climate change of the agrifood system through co-creation, experimentation and evaluation of agroecology practices with end-users and other stakeholders of the value chain in real-life contexts using inter- and transdisciplinary approaches.</i></li> <li>• Agroecology Research Infrastructure: <i>facilities dedicated to research communities allowing users through the access to various services and resources offering to observe and experiment agroecosystem and agri-food redesign, therefore enhancing the body of scientific knowledge on agroecology available for the transition.</i></li> </ul>
2.2	Is the initiative already part of any other network or does it have any official recognition (e.g. ENoLL, EIP-AGRI Operational group, European Network of Soil Health LLs and Lighthouses, ESFRI)?	Yes/No	Both	

	If so, please specify which.	Short text (1-2 lines)	Both	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Geographical information</b>			
3.1	What is the geographical reach of the initiative?	Multiple choice	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• local (individual farms and/or food processing enterprises)</li> <li>• territorial (group of farms/enterprises operating within a territory)</li> <li>• national</li> <li>• regional</li> <li>• international</li> </ul>
3.2	The country(ies) where the initiative is operating:	Short text (1-2 lines)	Both	
3.3	The region(s) or locality(ies) in which the initiative operates:	Short text (1-2 lines)	Both	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Decision-making for the application</b>			
4.1	Please briefly describe what motivated your application.	Long text (3-5 lines)	Both	
4.2	Name of the person(s) in charge of the application:	Short text (1-2 lines)	Both	
4.3	E-mail address(es) of the contact person(s):	Short text (1-2 lines)	Both	
If applicable, describe (in a few lines for each point) the activities that are being carried out. Please provide concrete, verifiable examples. Generic statements (e.g. "we promote sustainability") will not be considered sufficient.				
<b>B</b>	<b>Objectives</b>			
<b>1.</b>	<b>Main aims</b>			
1.1	Does the initiative have a long-term strategy?	Yes/No	LL	
	If yes, please elaborate.	Long text (7-10 lines)	LL	
1.2	What are the objectives of the initiative? Please differentiate between short and long-term goals.	Long text (7-10 lines)	Both	

1.3	<p>How does the initiative contribute to the availability of scientific knowledge on agroecology for the agroecology transition?</p> <p>Please, explain considering the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In which ways does the initiative provide services and/or resources to support different degrees of agricultural and agri-food redesign (from incremental to strong redesign, gradient of biodiversity in agroecosystems)?</li> <li>• How does your initiative provide access to data for various sustainability assessments within the thematic area of RI (impacts, ecosystem services, ecological, social and economic dimensions)?</li> <li>• How does your initiative contribute to supporting vulnerability - adaptability - resilience assessment (emergent properties of agro-ecosystems)?</li> <li>• How does your initiative promote co-creation and knowledge by linking RI's own thematic area to the understanding and supporting of agroecology transition dynamics?</li> </ul>	Long text (7-10 lines)	RI	
<b>C</b>	<b>Activities</b>			
<b>1.</b>	<b>Current activities</b>			
1.1	Which part(s) of the value chain does the initiative address?	Multiple choice	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upstream supply chain</li> <li>• Primary production</li> <li>• Downstream supply chain</li> <li>• Whole value chain</li> <li>• Broader local food system</li> </ul>
1.2	Please specify all value chains that apply and briefly describe the concrete activities involved.	Long text (4-5 lines)	Both	
1.3	In which production sectors does the initiative work?	Multiple choice	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arable farming</li> </ul>

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Horticulture (vegetable, ornamental, fruit)</li> <li>• Apiculture</li> <li>• Animal husbandry</li> <li>• Mixed farming</li> <li>• Grassland management</li> <li>• Forest management</li> <li>• Food supply chain</li> <li>• Aquaculture</li> <li>• Other (please elaborate)</li> </ul>
1.4	<p>Which specific research and innovation(s) is/are applied by your initiative? <i>Please provide concrete, verifiable examples with references (articles, studies, etc.) and links and avoid generic statements.</i></p>	Long text (4-5 lines)	Both	
1.5	<p>Please indicate which of the following agroecology principles your initiative contributes to through its activities.</p>	Multiple choice	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION</b> (the initiative diversifies on-farm incomes by strengthening small-scale farmers' financial independence and value addition opportunities, while enabling them to respond more effectively to evolving consumer demand);</li> <li>• <b>BIODIVERSITY</b> (the initiative maintains and enhances diversity of cultivated/raised and associated species, functional diversity and genetic resources and thereby maintain overall agroecosystem biodiversity in time and space at field, farm and landscape scales);</li> <li>• <b>INPUT REDUCTION</b> (the initiative reduces or eliminates dependency</li> </ul>

				<p>on purchased inputs and purchased external services and promotes self-sufficiency);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>RECYCLING</b> (the initiative uses local renewable resources and close resource cycles of nutrients and biomass as much as possible);</li> <li>• <b>SYNERGY</b> (the initiative enhances positive ecological interaction, synergy, integration and complementarity among the elements of agroecosystems (animals, crops, trees, soil and water));</li> <li>• <b>SOIL HEALTH</b> (the initiative secures and enhances soil health and functioning for improved plant growth, particularly by managing organic matter and enhancing soil biological activity);</li> <li>• <b>ANIMAL HEALTH</b> (the initiative ensures animal health and welfare);</li> <li>• <b>CIRCULAR AND SOLIDARITY ECONOMY</b> (Initiative reconnects producers and consumers provide innovative solutions for living within our planetary boundaries while ensuring the social foundation for inclusive and sustainable development.);</li> </ul>
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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SOCIAL VALUE AND DIETS</b> (the initiative builds food systems based on the culture, identity, tradition, social and gender equity of local communities that provide healthy, diversified, seasonally and culturally appropriate diets);</li> <li>• <b>FAIRNESS</b> (the initiative supports dignified and robust livelihoods for all actors engaged in food systems, especially small-scale food producers, based on fair trade, fair employment and fair treatment of intellectual property rights);</li> <li>• <b>LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES</b> (the initiative strengthens institutional arrangements to improve, including the recognition and support of family farmers, smallholders and peasant food producers as sustainable managers of natural and genetic resources);</li> <li>• <b>CONNECTIVITY</b> (the initiative ensures proximity and confidence between producers and consumers through the promotion of fair and short distribution networks and by re-embedding food systems into local economies);</li> <li>• <b>PARTICIPATION</b> (the initiative encourages social organisation and greater participation in decision-</li> </ul>
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				<p>making by food producers and consumers to support decentralized governance and local adaptive management of agricultural and food systems);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CO-CREATION OF KNOWLEDGE</b> (the initiative enhances co-creation and horizontal sharing of knowledge including local and scientific innovation, especially through farmer-to-farmer exchange).</li> </ul>
1.6	Please specify all agroecology principles that apply and describe the activities involved. For each selected principle provide concrete, verifiable examples with references (articles, studies, etc.) and links and avoid generic statements.	Long text (4-5 lines)	Both	
1.7	Does the initiative advocate for local/national/European regulatory or administrative interventions?	Yes/No	LL	
	Please elaborate with concrete examples.	Long text (3-5 lines)	LL	
1.8	How does the initiative enhance the diversity of facilities, data production, methods, and contextual frameworks to support scientific outputs and references for stakeholders? <i>Please provide concrete, verifiable examples and avoid generic statements.</i>	Long text (5-6 lines)	RI	
1.9	In what ways does the initiative actively involve new users in utilizing services and resources, including through co-creation methods? <i>Please provide concrete, verifiable examples and avoid generic statements.</i>	Long text (4-5 lines)	RI	
1.10	How does the initiative manage and coordinate access to facilities, services, and resources?	Long text (5-6 lines)	RI	

	<i>Please provide concrete, verifiable examples and avoid generic statements.</i>			
1.11	How does the initiative foster collaborative engagement by integrating insights and methodologies from various disciplines to advance the agroecological transition? <i>Please provide concrete, verifiable examples and avoid generic statements.</i>	Long text (5-6 lines)	RI	
1.12	Does the initiative provide resources and services for communities to conduct research and foster innovation in their fields?	Yes/No	RI	
	If yes, please elaborate. <i>Please provide concrete, verifiable examples with references and links and avoid generic statements.</i>	Long text (4-5 lines)	RI	
1.13	How does your initiative support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• systemic and innovative experiments, and</li> <li>• modelling / multicriteria assessment (i.e. life cycle analysis tools)?</li> <li>• Other:</li> </ul> <i>Please provide concrete, verifiable examples with references and links and avoid generic statements.</i>	multiple choice + long text	RI	
1.14	Does your initiative provide research services and agroecology-related scientific knowledge, concerning:  <i>Please provide concrete, verifiable examples with references and links and avoid generic statements.</i>	multiple choice + long text	RI	
	○ ‘hardware’ (e.g. major scientific equipment, instruments, laboratories and collections) (if applicable, please explain)?	Long text (3-5 lines)	RI	
	○ ‘software’ (e.g. knowledge bases, archives, data and computing systems) (if applicable, please explain)?	Long text (3-5 lines)	RI	

	○ services (knowledge, training, networking etc.) (if applicable, please explain)?	Long text (3-5 lines)	RI	
1.15	Does the initiative offer systemic innovative experimental installations and scientific data for real-life context to LLS?	Yes/No	RI	
	If yes, please elaborate. <i>Please provide concrete, verifiable examples and avoid generic statements.</i>	Long text (4-5 lines)	RI	
1.16	Does the initiative enhance the transformative capacity of agricultural landscapes? (e.g. redesign of systems such as animal-crop systems, orchard systems, landscape design, or even agri-food systems etc. or long-term monitoring to understand the processes involved in a redesign).	Yes/No	RI	
	If yes, please elaborate with concrete, verifiable examples with references and links and avoid generic statements.	Long text (4-5 lines)	RI	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Results</b>			
2.1	Please describe the main results that the initiative aims to achieve and/or has achieved so far, and explain how these results are or were achieved. In your answer, please also indicate whether the initiative has developed any agroecology-related product or service (e.g. advisory or extension services, digital tools or applications, agrotechnology, training programmes, or other concrete outputs).  <i>Please provide concrete, verifiable examples with references and links and avoid generic statements.</i>	Long text (5-10 lines)	Both	
<b>D</b>	<b>Governance</b>			
<b>1.</b>	<b>Stakeholders - involvement</b>			
1.1	Does the initiative work with others to create new knowledge or innovation?	Yes/No	Both	

1.2	<p>Please describe the co-creative approach of the initiative.</p> <p><i>Please provide concrete, verifiable examples and avoid generic statements.</i></p>	Long text (4-8 lines)	Both	
1.3	<p>Indicate the types of actors/stakeholders involved in the initiative.</p>	Multiple choice	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advisors</li> <li>• Consumers</li> <li>• Donors</li> <li>• Farmers</li> <li>• Farmers' cooperatives</li> <li>• Large companies</li> <li>• Local public bodies and municipalities</li> <li>• National public bodies/authorities</li> <li>• NGOs</li> <li>• Plant and animal breeders</li> <li>• Processors</li> <li>• Regional public bodies/authorities</li> <li>• Researchers</li> <li>• Retailers</li> <li>• Scholars (from university and other Research Performing Organisations - RPO)</li> <li>• SMEs</li> <li>• Traders</li> </ul>
1.4	<p>For each of the involved actors' groups, please specify:</p>			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ the role they play in the governance of the initiative and their degree of involvement.</li> </ul>	Multiple choice	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ almost always active,</li> <li>○ in general active,</li> <li>○ not always active,</li> <li>○ seldom active,</li> <li>○ passive</li> </ul>

1.5	<p>What type of involvement does the participants/users have in the innovation processes?</p> <p>LL innovation phases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ideation: understanding the current situation and planning for possible future states (observation, workshops, in-depth interviews).</li> <li>○ Co-creation: collaborative development of new value (concepts, methods and tools, solutions, products and services) in collaboration between experts and stakeholders in which inputs of the user play a central role. It represents a form of open innovation.</li> <li>○ Experimentation: testing one or more proposed future states in a real environment.</li> <li>○ Validation: evaluation of the experiment's impact and overview of results.</li> <li>○ Upscaling: overview and planning of the next steps needed to achieve the future vision.</li> </ul>	Multiple choice	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Inform:</b> to provide users/participants with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives and/or solutions;</li> <li>• <b>Consult:</b> to obtain users/participants feedback or analysis, alternatives and/or decision;</li> <li>• <b>Involve:</b> to work directly with users/participants throughout the process to ensure that their concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered;</li> <li>• <b>Collaborate:</b> to partner with users/participants in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution;</li> <li>• <b>Empower:</b> to place final decision-making in the hands of user/participants.</li> </ul>
1.6	Who are the end-users of the initiative?	Short text (2-3 lines)	LL	
1.7	How does the initiative promote the user's real-life context, such as testing innovations where users would use them (e.g., on-farm testing of agroecology practices) and conducting research and innovation on the field?	Long text (4-6 lines)	LL	

	<i>Please provide concrete, verifiable examples and avoid generic statements.</i>			
1.8	How does the initiative engage with research communities and involve scientists in the process?  <i>Please provide concrete, verifiable examples and avoid generic statements.</i>	Long text (4-6 lines)	RI	
1.9	How does the initiative link its thematic focus to supporting agroecology transition dynamics?  <i>Please provide concrete, verifiable examples and avoid generic statements.</i>	Long text (4-6 lines)	RI	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Approach</b>			
2.1	Does the initiative apply multi-method approach (using various methodologies or combination of methods to foster the innovation process and multiply the impacts)?	Yes/No	LL	
	Please elaborate with concrete, verifiable examples and avoid generic statements.	Long text (4-6 lines)	LL	
2.2	Does the initiative apply transdisciplinary research, thus involving several disciplines (agriculture, environmental, social and economic sciences in equal measure), as well as tacit and informal knowledge?	Yes/No	LL	
	Please elaborate with concrete, verifiable examples and avoid generic statements.	Long text (4-6 lines)	LL	
2.3	Is the initiative place-based (embedded within a broader community, landscape, region, or other geographical or socio-spatial context)?	Yes/No	LL	
	If yes, please elaborate with concrete examples.	Long text (4-6 lines)	LL	

<b>3.</b>	<b>Decision making process and integration</b>			
3.1	Please describe the governance structure of the initiative, with particular attention to how it supports the initiative's processes. <i>In your response, you may address aspects such as democratic and collective decision-making, how social learning is embedded in the innovation process, and the internal monitoring and evaluation mechanisms applied to scientific, operational, and financial activities.</i>	Long text (4-5 lines)	LL	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Resources</b>			
4.1	What are the main financial resources the initiative can rely on (please provide details)?	Long text (4-8 lines)	Both	
4.2	For how long the resources are secured?	Short text (1-2 lines)	Both	
4.3	How does the initiative ensure access to a coherent provision of resources and services?  <i>Please provide concrete, verifiable examples and avoid generic statements.</i>	Long text (4-8 lines)	RI	
4.4	Does the initiative contribute to projects (national, EC funded, public-private partnerships) to facilitate knowledge transfer?	Yes/No	RI	
	If yes, please briefly explain.	Short text	RI	
4.5	Does the initiative apply FAIR principles (Guiding Principles for scientific data management: Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reuse of digital assets)?	Yes/No	RI	
	If yes, please provide concrete, verifiable examples and avoid generic statements.	Long text (4-8 lines)	RI	
4.6	Does the initiative support technology development and harmonise methodologies as well as data collection?	Yes/No	RI	

	If yes, please elaborate with concrete, verifiable examples and avoid generic statements.	Long text (4-8 lines)	RI	
<b>E</b>	<b>Values</b>			
1.	Based on Gliessman's <a href="#">5 levels of food system changes</a> with agroecology, at which level would you place your initiative's current activity?	Single choice	LL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>LEVEL 1:</b> Increase efficiency of input use and reduce use of costly, scarce or environmentally damaging inputs.</li> <li>• <b>LEVEL 2:</b> Substitute conventional inputs and practices with agroecological alternatives.</li> <li>• <b>LEVEL 3:</b> Redesign agroecosystems.</li> <li>• <b>LEVEL 4:</b> Reconnect consumers and producers through the development of alternative food networks.</li> <li>• <b>LEVEL 5:</b> Build a new global food system based on participation, localness, fairness and justice.</li> </ul>
	Please, provide justification with concrete examples.	Long text (4-5 lines)	LL	
2.	Which of the following does the initiative contribute to through its activities (including resources and services)?	multiple choice + short text 3-5 lines)	RI	
	○ Transnational and virtual access for research communities to high-quality resources and services that promote agroecology-related innovation.	Short text (3-5 lines)	RI	
	○ Addressing global or local challenges.	Short text (3-5 lines)	RI	
	○ Development of cutting-edge technologies and methods to drive the agroecology transition.	Short text (3-5 lines)	RI	
	○ Assurance of high-quality training and mobility for users.	Short text (3-5 lines)	RI	
<b>F</b>	<b>Expectations from the EU Network</b>			
1.	Why is your initiative interested in joining the EU Network of Agroecology LLs & RIs? What do you expect to gain from the membership?	Short text (3-5 lines)	both	

2.	What specific expertise/focus/interest does your initiative have that can strengthen the EU Network?	Short text (3-5 lines)	both	
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