

Permaki

*Strengthening the **link** between concept and practice
among field agroecology organisations active in both education and food production*

Problem statement

Increasing people's capacity to feed themselves responsibly is getting higher than ever in political agendas across governance levels, such as the [EU's Green Deal](#) or the Brussels' Region [Good Food Strategy](#) (Belgium).

This imperative stems not only from food and economic sovereignty objectives, but also from health, environmental and cultural considerations. In urbanised societies, fast-food has become a cultural norm, obesity has doubled in 10 years, and agrobiodiversity is dwindling at Anthropocenic pace. The loss of traditional food heritage and transmission entails heavy, yet incommensurable, costs. Accordingly, the pressure to rebuild capacity is extraordinary.

Initiatives aiming to reclaim this heritage are on the rise. Learning how to become more food-conscious and food-creative has never been so trendy. After decades of marginality, agroecology is - gradually - gaining academic correctness. But how does this fresh supply of agroecology and permaculture courses meet the needs of new, often urban-bred, candidate farmers?

Prospective young entrepreneurs often face harsh reminders of the field's reality. E.g., learning needs doing; manual and/or ill-equipped work gets rapidly exhausting; technical excellence loses much of its meaning outside a specific work context. Two important connections appear critically overlooked in agroecology courses: between concept and practice, and between learning and entrepreneurial reality.

Objective

In the light of these caveats, Permaki aims to *strengthen the link between concept and practice among field agroecology organisations (FAO) engaged in both education and food production*.

Methods

Permaki will bring together a group of field organisations engaged in this objective in 5 European countries. They will cooperate along 6 main steps during the 36 month-long project. 1) Management of the project 2) Survey existing learning challenges among participants, and 3) existing learning approaches; 4) Design and test improved learning approaches combining paper and e-supports, blended and experiential learning; 5) Design and test improved validation approaches including [open recognition](#) approaches; 6) Consolidate best learning practices.

Results / impact

Permaki will deliver 6 main outputs to the fast-broadening community of organisations engaged in that field: 1) Management 2) Synthesis of common learning challenges, and 3) of best learning approaches observed in the selected field; 4) State of the art of new learning approaches and 5) new competency validation approaches; 6) Digest corpus of best learning practices integrating learning supports and validation approaches ("*acquis*"); 7)



propositions for further strengthening this *acquis* through transnational companionship initiatives in agroecology.