

Country report Finland

Last year, we had financial difficulties and because a few people who mainly volunteered decided to withdraw from the association and the editorial of Demeter magazine. But anyway they continued to work on biodynamics in their own field. However, we managed to publish 4 issues of Demeter magazine as before. No. 4/2019 was made in co-operation with the Finnish Anthroposophical Society's Takoja magazine and distributed to subscribers of both. The magazine was 2 x thicker than Demeter magazine and received good feedback. In particular, an article about Jens-Otto Andersen's book Vitality drew people to the importance of organic and biodynamic nutrition.

A few farmers stopped growing but on the other hand a couple of small importers of Demeter coffee entered into a Demeter contract, so the number of operators on the register remained almost the same. A garden farm that was about to quit found a successor to continue. It is in process.

The big job was to translate the consolidated Demeter rules into Finnish. We translated this time the whole, including wine, textiles, etc. that had not been translated before.

We participated in an event in the World Village Festival, where we organized e.g. a panel discussion on the role of cattle among researchers, experts and bloggers. You can watch it in the Youtube. There were 45 000 visitors during 2 days despite rainy weather.

We also organized traditional spring and autumn seminars in conjunction with the membership meeting. Some of us participated the Agriculture Conference in Dornach.

For future it sounds better. We received a positive funding decision both for the continuation of core funding in counselling and Demeter certification work and for an application to provide professional course for those interested. It will be similar to 5 days of training in the fundamentals of biodynamics as organic training is for those applying for organic certification.

