

## **Association Demeter Czech & Slovak - Annual Report 2020**

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## **Goals of our Association**

Our Association is rather young. It was established in January 2020, however, the biodynamic practises and principles are not new to us. Our Association has currently 29 members with over 3200 ha of cultivated land. In April 2020 we have submit our application for becoming a member of the Demeter Federation.

The history of biodynamic agriculture in the Czech Republic is as old as the actual origin of the biodynamic movement. The first attempts to apply the biodynamic practices were already carried out in the 1930s. One of the leaders and promoters of biodynamics in the Czech Republic was Mr. Kraus. Mr. Kraus was even a participant in Rudolf Steiner's agricultural course in Koberwitz in 1924. The well started biodynamic movement was interrupted for a long time by National Socialism and later Communism. That is why biodynamic agriculture in the Czechoslovakia had to take a different path than in the Western European countries. After 1989, there were renewed public efforts to spread the ideas of Dr. Steiner, including biodynamics farming. Throughout the next thirty years there were several efforts and attempts to join biodynamic farmers and enthusiasts together under one organization. We believe now it came the right time to offer our farmers a full service and support at a national level and help to spread the ideas and practises of biodynamic agriculture throughout the Central Europe.

One of our main goals is to get together people from different areas and help to spread the information about biodynamics and also about the Demeter organization itself. We are planning a series of lectures and biodynamic seminars for our members and general public (please see the section “Courses and seminars”).

Other priority is to offer our members (farmers, winemakers, vegetable growers, etc.) a full support with the transition of their farms and vineyards. Two of our colleagues already applied for a Peer Review talks with Mr. Reto Ingold. A Czech speaking expert who can understand and explain the procedures and rules of Demeter will be extremely beneficial.

Our members could also benefit from abroad cooperation. Especially Demeter Österreich is our big partner. Together we have prepared a project that would be co-financed through the Cross border Cooperation Program Czech Republic – Austria. We want to support translations of biodynamic literature, especially from English, German and French. Very close cooperation is also established with our German partners. The first projects in cooperation with Biodynamische Ausbildung <https://biodynamische-ausbildung.de> are scheduled for September 2020. Our Association with also participate at the joined initiative of Central and East European countries (Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Slovenia, Lithuania) whose aim is to support and promote biodynamics and Demeter in our region.

One of the main future goals is of course to receive an accreditation for providing the biodynamic certification on a national level.

## **Demeter Czech and Slovak Associations' Organigram**

The main body of our Association is the Members Assembly. In order to work affectively a seven member Executive Board was elected. The main responsibilities and duties were split between the members of the Executive Board in compliance with the Demeter's recommendations and guideline.

Every member of the Executive Board is responsible for a specific topic. At the same time, he/she act as leader of a Working Group (WG) focusing on having the job done. The Working group consists of the working group leader and 2-3 extra people.

The Executive Board is meeting at least once a month (in person or on-line) in order to keep every member up to date, to discuss the progress of the assigned tasks and to divide new assignments.

Every member of the Association is informed via. email.

The structure, the individual sections and the split of responsibilities among the Executive Board's members could be seen at the Demeter Czech & Slovak Associations' organigram (see next page)

Demeter International

Association Demeter Czech & Slovak

Members Assembly – The main body

Statutory Authority – Executive Board

1. Chairman

WG - Strategy and international cooperation

2. Treasurer

WG – Finance, Fees and Grants

3. Expert for Biodynamic Preparations

WG – Biodynamic preparations

4. Education and seminars

WG – Biodynamic Education and training

5. Product quality improvement

WG – Quality improvement

6. Communication with Demeter

WG - Biodynamic Consultancy

7. Demeter Market

WG – Implementing, improving Demeter Market

8. Social Media

## Members of the Association

Our Association has currently 29 members out of that twenty members are farmers, mainly winemakers. Nine individuals joined us, two of them are so called non-regular members (experts and people who, in our opinion, significantly contributed to the development of biodynamics in the Czech Republic and Slovakia).

Two members – Bio Farm Zdoňov and Winery Kutná Hora already have the Demeter Certification/ are certified by Demeter Internation. One winery and two farms are currently in the transition period for biodynamic. Gradually more and more members are joining in. Currently farm our members over 3200ha. Detailed information can be seen in the tables below:

	Farmers	Winemakers	Individuals
Czech Republic	8	9	9
Slovak Republic	1	2	0
Total	9	11	9

Members of the Association Demeter Czech & Slovak

	Farmers	Winemakers
Czech Republic	3000ha	167ha
Slovak Republic	3ha	33ha
Total	3003ha	200ha

Number of hectares - the Association Demeter Czech & Slovak

## **Financing of the Association, projects and cooperation**

All work for the Association Demeter Czech & Slovak is done on a voluntary basis. None of the Executive Board member neither the Members Assembly is currently paid by the Association.

In future however, we expect to create a paid job positions within the Association. Other services like legal advice, bookkeeping, web presentation etc. will need to be paid too. We will also need to find funds to finance our projects.

In order to make our ends meet we are working on several sources of future income.

The first and easiest to obtain is the member's fee which is paid annually by every member of the Association.

Furthermore, we have prepared, in cooperation with Mr. Jakob Ganter and Netzwerk biodynamische Ausbildung <https://biodynamische-ausbildung.de> a project that will be co-financed through Der Deutsch-Tschechische Zukunftsfonds. Activities under this project are scheduled to start in September 2020.

Another project application this time under the Cross border Cooperation Program Czech Republic-Austria will be submitted in September 2020. In this project we will cooperate closely with Demeter Österreich our Austrian partner. The plan is to use the funds for financing educational biodynamic events in the Czech Republic and participating at the events organized by Demeter Österreich.

We are also looking forward to a closer cooperation with other Central and Eastern European countries (Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Lithuania, Slovenia). Those activities are planned to be financed through The Erasmus + program.

The main focus of all our projects is promotion of biodynamic ways of farming and agriculture practices and active, hand-on training in this matter. We would also like to use the funds for translations and printing of biodynamic literature.

## Courses and seminars

Biodynamic farmers usually meet four times a year. The plan is to organize and provide joint preparation days, and various lectures, workshops and excursions to local but also foreign Demeter farms.

This year (2020) we are starting with a practical training in biodynamic agriculture (according to the model of Freie Ausbildung. The training is expected to begin in 2021. At the same time, attempts are being made to establish international cooperation with the Netzwerk biodynamische Ausbildung and with the Demeter Österreich. We want to create a platform for joint meetings, workshops, preparation days and conferences. Unfortunately, the current situation with the Covid-19 is limiting our activities. However, we are hoping that most of the actions planned will take place. Currently we are preparing a biodynamic seminar, that is planned for 27<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

We are also thinking about organizing an international conference for the countries of Central and Eastern Europe in 2021, of course with the participation of our partners from Austria, Germany and Demeter International.

### Event overview up to 19.5.2020

Datum	Veranstaltung	Adresse
27.04.2020	Members meeting of DEMETER CS With preparation workshop - <i>canceled due to Corona Crises</i>	Zdoňov 56, 549 57 Teplice nad Metují
04.04.2020	Preparation workshop - <i>canceled due to Corona Crises</i>	Fořt 29, 543 44 Černý Důl
04.04.2020	Yam Workshop - <i>canceled due to Corona Crises</i>	Kupkova 796/20, 103 00 Praha 10, Kolovraty
18.01.2020	Lecture for the public	Žižkova 249, Tábor
28.-30.11.2019	Members meeting of DEMETER CS With preparation workshop	Veselá biofarma, Velké Hostěrádky 224, 691 74
23.11.2019	Regular biodynamic meetings with lectures and workshops	Jiřího z Poděbrad 288, Kutná Hora
22.10.2019	Preparation day	Bemagro, Malonty
12.10.2019	Preparation day	Fořt 29, 543 44 Černý Důl
21.09.2019	Biodynamic seminar for the public	Nobilis Tilia Vlčí hora 147
16.05.2019	Regular biodynamic meetings with lectures and workshops	Jiřího z Poděbrad 288, Kutná Hora
11.04.2019	Preparation day	Bemagro, Malonty
06.04.2019	Preparation day	Fořt 29, 543 44 Černý Důl
02.03.2019	Regular biodynamic meetings with lectures and workshops	Jiřího z Poděbrad 288, Kutná Hora