

An Introduction to the European Network for Eco Agro-Culture (ENEAC). Aims and Objectives.

WHAT IS ENEAC?

1. ENEAC is a group of like-minded ecological land and livestock managers, agricultural producers and processors. It believes that eco agro-cultural production and traditional/artisanal food production can have an important and unique role in addressing sustainable development in regions of dysfunctional or fragile landscapes, ecosystems and communities.

WHAT DO WE UNDERSTAND BY ECO AGRO-CULTURE?

2. The basic tenet of organic farming is “the health of soil, plant, animal and man is one and indivisible”. There are also other elements such as the landscape and ecosystem which the farming system is based on and framed by and the people working and living within the landscape and ecosystem. This means that a farming system must treat all these constituent parts as a whole. There should exist a relationship where all these elements are fundamental parts of the character of the farming system and *vice versa*. This complex should be regarded and treated for what it is, a whole and living organism. The management of which might be called “Eco Agro – Culture”.

AIMS.

3. ENEAC’s aims are;
 - 3.1. To provide an on-going platform for dialogue for organisations, institutes and individuals involved in Eco Agro-Culture production, traditional/artisanal food production and processing and research within a) traditional agriculture and b) regions of dysfunctional or fragile landscapes, ecosystems and communities.
 - 3.2. To create, share and disseminate new knowledge and best practice.
 - 3.3. To create complementary commercial links between businesses.

OBJECTIVES.

4. ENEAC’s objectives fall under three main heading which are inter-related and synergistic (see figure 1).
 - 4.1. Dialogue and analysis.
 - 4.1.1. To study, analyse and document similarities and dissimilarities within the different current best practices for sustainable development within a) traditional agriculture and b) regions of dysfunctional or fragile landscapes, ecosystems and communities.
 - 4.1.2. To provide a forum for an on-going dialogue on how ecological land and livestock management and traditional/artisanal food production in regions

of dysfunctional or fragile landscapes, ecosystems and communities can contribute to sustainable development.

4.2. Novel research.

4.2.1. To identify gaps in existing knowledge on ecological land and livestock management and traditional/artisanal food production within a) traditional agriculture and b) regions of dysfunctional or fragile landscapes, ecosystems and communities.

4.2.2. To undertake, stimulate and facilitate research and development to address these gaps.

4.3. Dissemination and knowledge transfer.

4.3.1. To increase the information available on different ways of addressing sustainable development and to encourage best practice in the management of dysfunctional or fragile landscapes in a range of bioregions by publication of our (and others) findings, workshops, study tours and conferences.

4.3.2. To provide information to policy makers (national, EU and international) on how ecological land and livestock management and traditional/artisanal food production in regions of dysfunctional or fragile landscapes, ecosystems and communities can address policy needs specifically rural development, public health, animal health and welfare and biodiversity.

Figure 1: ENEAC objectives and their relationships to each other.

