



## *ESRS 2022 Satellite Events: far apart but still close together*

*20-24 June, 2022*

*“Just Rural Transitions: Opportunities and Challenges”*

### **CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

The ESRS is organizing 11 “Satellite Events” to gather small groups of people in different places of the ESRS community. The overall ESRS 2022 programme will unfold with a series of common online events for all satellites.

The working group Knowledge Systems and Innovation (AGWI) at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU) invites to contribute to the satellite event:

23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2022

#### **A transition towards a participatory society? Exploring participation: strategies, challenges and solutions of participation in rural and urban Alternative Food Networks (AFN)**

##### **Background:**

With growing global critique of the globalized, conventional, agricultural production and distribution system, local, grassroot “Alternative Food Networks” (AFN) have risen to redefine the agri-food value chain and meet the demands of stakeholders in providing local alternatives to produce, sell and consume food products.

AFNs have gained wide ranging interest in academia and society as promoters of an empowered and participatory society. Ranging in structure and purpose, AFN include but are not limited to Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), Food Cooperatives (Foodcoops), Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS) and collective seed saving systems. They have implemented different approaches in reorganizing stages of the agri-food value chain, establishing food democracy, empowerment and stakeholder participation.

Participation has been a central aspect to the rise and fall of many such systems. As a concept dependent on intrinsic and extrinsic motivation, availability of time and resources, as well as cultural and group dynamics, participation is critical to the continuous upholding of these systems.

The ESRS2022 satellite event at BOKU aims to discuss the wide-ranging concept of participation within rural and urban AFNs.

### Leading questions:

We invite researchers from around the world to contribute with their knowledge and expertise on successful or failed examples of participation in the agri-food value chain and discuss the following questions:

- Who are the stakeholders that participate in such Alternative Food Networks?
- Why do stakeholders participate?
- How do stakeholders participate and contribute?
- What are the benefits and challenges to participation?
- Why does non-participation occur?
- How does participation change over time?
- What can insights/experiences on participation teach us about reshaping our food system?
- How do Alternative Food Networks perceive, promote and/or hinder participation and non-participation?

Submissions from scientists that address, but are not limited to, this discussion are welcome.

Key reference: Kaufmann, S.; Hruschka, N.; Vogl, C.R. Bridging the Literature Gap: A Framework for Assessing Actor Participation in Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS). Sustainability 2020, 12, 8100. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su12198100>

### Contribution Format:

- Title
- Presenter(s), affiliations
- Abstract (max. 400 words) (introduction, link to theories/literature, research questions/hypothesis, methods, empirical data, discussion and conclusion)

Send your written contributions to: [pgs@boku.ac.at](mailto:pgs@boku.ac.at)

**Deadline for contributions:** 15.03.2022 (notification of acceptance: 31.03.2022)

### Format of event:

- Online
- Oral presentations (<15 minutes)
- Moderator-curated questions followed by Q&A and discussion forum.

Membership to ESRS is compulsory to be able to attend the satellite event and/or the overall event. For renewal or new members, more information and instructions are available on the Wiley website [via this link](#).

ESRS membership will give you a discount in the next ESRS conference. It will also give you access to activities organized by ESRS, such as the ESRS study groups and PhD schools and it allows the society to organize these events.



Source: Hruschka

**Host:**

University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna  
Department of Sustainable Agricultural Systems  
Institute of Organic Farming  
Working Group Knowledge Systems and Innovation (AGWI)  
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**About us:**

The working group 'Knowledge Systems and Innovation (AGWI)', Institute of Organic Farming concentrates on the actors within organic farming systems, the people, focusing on their relationships with each other as well as with their environment. We aim to understand the actors' characteristics, knowledge and practices. This understanding shall contribute to the development of organic farming. Our research focuses on the communication and transfer of knowledge, on attitudes and beliefs, and other 'invisible' mechanisms that underlie agricultural and environmental practices as well as innovation processes within the organic agriculture system.

The ESRS2022 satellite event at BOKU is organized within the Austrian Science Fund (FWF): project "Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS): facts and fiction on the concept of participation" (project number P 31513). We have been studying the concept of participation in PGS as alternative organic certification systems, exploring the How, Why, Who and What kind of actor participation in PGS in Latin America.