

Promoting Community Seed Banks for Cultivated Biodiversity
Visits, conference and workshops
Luxembourg, 11 July 2026

The Erasmus+ Project "Seeds of Growth" brings together organisations from three countries: Czech Republic, Belgium and Luxembourg. The aim is to strengthen Community Seed Banks across Europe in their role of maintaining and developing the diversity of traditional regional crop varieties with a view to creating resilient seed systems in response to climate change.

Programme

9:30	Visit Jaquinotsgaart and its seed bearers
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Jaquinotsgaart | 51, Rue de la Briqueterie, L-3235 Bettembourg

11:00	Conference Community Seed Banks: objectives and perspectives
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11:10	Josée Lorsché, deputy mayor, municipality Bettembourg	Welcome address
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11:20	Maeva Bennetto Peris, European Coordination Let's Liberate Diversity !	The European Network Let's Liberate Diversity ! And the Erasmus+ project 'Seeds of Growth'
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11:30	Frank Adams, seed artisan, secretary of SEED asbl Luxembourg	Community Seed Banks: seeds from the past, grown today and developed to secure the future
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11:50	Karine Paris, coordinator food transition and community gardens, CELL asbl	The Citizen Seed Network within the Luxembourg ecosystem of urban gardens 2017-2026
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12:10	Klára Hrdá, coordinator of the Czech seed library project Semínkovna	Seed libraries as a tool for cultivated biodiversity, public education, social cohesion and local food resilience
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12:30	Questions and answers / Exchange with the participants	
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12:50	Michèle Perrin-Taillat, secretary of Jaquinotsgaart Jardinons Ensemble	Final words
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Veräinshaus | 31, Rue Auguste Collart, L-3220 Bettembourg

15:00	Visit Teranga's building and garden
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16:00	Workshops Community Seed Banks: legal, technical and functional aspects
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18:00	End of activities
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Teranga | 35, Av. de la Libération, L-3850 Schifflange

Spoken Language: English

Informal translations into Czech, German and French are possible on site

Limited number of participants

Registration required via <https://framaforms.org/seeds-of-growth-promoting-community-seed-banks-for-cultivated-biodiversity-visits-conference-and-before-6-july>

Further information on conference and workshops

Conference | Community Seed Banks: objectives and perspectives

<p>Frank Adams, seed artisan, secretary of SEED asbl Luxembourg</p>	<p>"Community Seed Banks: seeds from the past, grown today and developed to secure the future"</p> <p>The 'Seed Savers' movement emerged in the 1970s, and around ten years later the FAO confirmed the need for the 'sustainable use of plant genetic resources'. A genetically diverse range of regional varieties is the best guarantee of sustainable food systems, particularly in times of climate change and increasingly unstable weather conditions. Community seed banks (CSBs) worldwide provide vital services for the conservation of seed diversity. They can be farmer-led and/or community-based and promote the use, development and exchange of traditional regional crop varieties. Future prospects include a significant increase in public and political recognition of CSBs, international networking, and improvements in the quality of work and the functioning of CSBs.</p>
<p>Karine Paris, coordinator food transition and community gardens, CELL asbl</p>	<p>"The Citizen Seed Network within the Luxembourg ecosystem of urban gardens 2017-2026"</p> <p>Recent milestones in the development of community gardening activities in Luxembourg include regular support from the Ministry of the Environment since 2017, the 2019 national strategy for urban farming, and the establishment of the 'Citizen Seed Network' in 2020. A seed network is a concrete project in which seeds serve as a tangible outcome of measures taken to preserve biodiversity, ensure social cohesion, test circular approaches to food production and promote regional food autonomy. The realisation that our food begins with a seed can be a valuable part of the process of a citizens' food transition.</p>
<p>Klára Hrdá, founder and coordinator of the Czech seed library network Semínkovna</p>	<p>"Seed libraries as a tool for cultivated biodiversity, public education, social cohesion and local food resilience"</p> <p>The seed library initiative Semínkovna has succeeded in developing a network of 200+ local seed libraries in the Czech Republic, involving libraries, schools, community gardens and local activists. Seed sharing is not "just a hobby" but a powerful tool for cultivated biodiversity, public education, social cohesion and local food resilience. And there is plenty of scope for further development: Current challenges and future plans include the establishment of community seed banks, educational programs and digital tools for sharing knowledge and locally adapted seeds.</p>

Workshops | Community Seed Banks: legal, technical and functional aspects

<p>CSB: legal aspects</p>	<p>Topics to be discussed: European seed laws, The International Seed Treaty, The UN Declaration of Peasant Rights, Definition and role of national seed banks</p>
<p>CSB: technical aspects</p>	<p>Topics to be discussed: Seed quality from bed to storage, low-tech solutions to enhance seed quality, network rules, documentation and stock management</p>
<p>CSB: functional aspects</p>	<p>Topics to be discussed: coordination, organisation and communication within the seed network, towards society and with public authorities</p>