

COUNTRY REPORT DEMETER SLOVENIA ASSOCIATION 2019-2020

The number of members increased in the last year from 40 to 46 members. There are 42 farmers, 3 processors and 1 trader. The board of Demeter Slovenia meets every second month physically and in between we have conference calls.

The new standards for wine making were approved in the last year and the bee standards were translated into Slovenian language. In the last MA 2020 the directions about integrating animals preferably ruminants on every Demeter farm were approved. We finished the inner audit of certification body and updated all the documents for a new campaign. The education for Demeter inspectors is going on regularly and also education for advisers who help new farmers in a process of conversion.

There is a common communication and cooperation with the Umbrella Ajda Association. We are organising seminars and some other events in a cooperation and our future plan is to prepare one common basic biodynamic education for new farmers together. The following seminars were organised in the last year:

- Thomas Schmidt and Petra Derkzen gave us an impulse on Farm Talks in January 2019.



At farmers meetings we try to implement the idea of farm talks. On one hand there is an interest for that kind of work and on the other hand there is always a question of time and motivation.

- Michael Weiler gave a two days course about Demeter beekeeping in January 2019 and there was a big interest, also conventional beekeepers took part.



- Biodynamic vinegrowing course was organised in a cooperation with Guerilla cellar and Scuola di formazione Professione Biodinamica, Mr. Michele Lorenzetti in March 2019.





- We hosted the Circle of representatives from the Section for Agriculture at the end of October. During that time we also visited some Demeter farms.

We are planning different events for our members also this year and unfortunately the COVID-19 situation has already changed some of our plans. We organised a professional excursion to Demeter farms in Austria and Germany in March 2020 and the consequence is that we had to postpone it to another time of the year.

We should have a seminar with Carlo Noro from Italy about the biodynamic preparations in April and with Albrecht Römer in May and both events are postponed because of the same reason.

In the second half of the year we are planning to organise two additional seminars together with, Ph. D. Hartmut Spiess and Ph. D. Berthold Heyden. We really hope it will be possible to organise these events.

We are in a contact with our friends from Croatia from Rudolf Steiner Center. Matjaž Turinek and Maja Kolar gave a seminar on Agriculture Course at the Faculty for Agronomy in Zagreb in December 2019 and there were around 100 participants. We were planning to organize a biodynamic conference of South East Europe in April 2020 together and it was also postponed.

M. Kolar, 19th May 2020