

**Best practices**

**Ecological-economic Perspectives of sustainability in the Vocational training**

EcoGreen aims to support teachers at vocational schools in implementing the topic of sustainable economic education. Our strategy strengthens the professional profile of teachers and supports their students in acquiring ecological skills.

Our consortium:



**Leibniz Universität Hannover**

**Universität Wien**

**SamiEDU**

**PKZ Voca Train**

**Zespół Szkół Leśnych Lesnych**

**Studienseminar Braunschweig LbS**

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**The Community Supported Agriculture ‘Ouvertura’**

* **General information about the type of organisation/company/initiative:**

The Project ‘Ouvertura’ is a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA, “Solidarische Landwirtschaft”, SOLAWI): a system in which a farm operation is supported by shareholders within the community who share both the benefits and risks of food production. Members buy a share of the farm’s production before each growing season and therefore share the risks and benefits of food production with the farmer. In return, they receive regular distributions of the farm’s bounty throughout the season. The farmer receives advance working capital, gains financial security, earns better crop prices, and benefits from the direct marketing plan.

* **Where does the example come from?**

Austria, Lower Austria, 2440 Moosbrunn

* **How was it established?**
  + Founded: ca. 8 years ago (ca. 2016), Planning startet way earlier (ca. 2013)
  + Members: ca. 100
  + Core Team Members: ca. 8 (3 Full time, 2 part time, 2 volunteers)
  + Areas of production/Food produced and distributed:
    - eggs, vegetables, cereals, fruits, milling – flour, cereal flakes, jams, chutneys, tea, bread
  + A lot of cooperations:
    - Grains, Mushrooms, Fruits, Bread
  + Budget: ca. 150k
  + Production Costs vs. Wage Costs: 1/3 vs. 2/3
  + Juridical Form: Association (Verein)
* **What is innovative about it?**

The innovation lies in a social form of innovation which can be derived from the principles that CSA or Solawi follows:

Solidarity Based - Social Justice

Solidarity means that everyone, regardless of their financial means, can get a share of the farm respectively its products. In addition, seasonal membership secures the farm and the salaries of the employees for one year - no matter how the harvest turns out. Being a farm sharer means sharing not only the harvest, but also the risk, the fun of the work, and everything else.

Community Based

Solawi is called "Community Supported Agriculture" (CSA). Without the support of the community, CSA would not be possible, whether it is helping with the harvest, the financing or social media. The community is a necessary but also intended support for the producers and often a welcome change for the helpers from the daily grind of the office or the gray of the city.

Sustainable

Due to the direct relationship with members, the distances are short and so is the supply chain. Products are usually seasonal, freshly harvested or preserved by drying or preserving with other natural methods. In addition, cultivation of land happens within natural circuits and according to principles of regenerative agriculture. CSA’s do not use any synthetic fertilizers and do their best to preserve the ecological value of the land.

Non-market based

In CSA the separation between consumers and producers is broken up. Big multinationals and most intermediaries are skipped, so that producers stay in direct contact with consumers. Therefore, not the market decides on the available products, on the price of these, on the wages of consumers, but the community does so.

Resilient

Being non-market based makes SOLAWI resilient against global economic crises. This makes it unsusceptible to supply-side connected price shocks and inflation. Again, the global market does not influence the price, as long as SOLAWI does not buy products at the market but gets them from non-market based cooperations or produces these by themselves. In fact, current inflation is also strongly represented in the price increase of food products that are sold in the supermarket, but less for ecological and regional products and not at all for products from the SOLAWI. One reason is the high energy-intensity of conventional food production and supply chains. A second reason is that Russia is one of the biggest providers for fertilizers and another reason is also the massive speculation on food products.

By skipping market intermediaries, using other non-market-based options like food coops to distribute the food, by reaching higher nutritional values and shortening supply chains, prices are maintained at lower levels. All of this allows for more resilient food systems.

Solawis advantages lie in the following points:

* Solawi is an ecologically sustainable food system that through the corret networks is able to feed the world – today and in the future
  + In the future, this can be done through the social sustainability by allowing many people to share the risks of production
* Solawi satisifies basic needs rather than working towards profit production and growth through market allocation
* Therefore Solawi stands as an alternative to global famine
* Solawi aims at well being instead of aiming at making more and more profit
* Solawi creates solidarity – connecting consumers and producers in a community
* Farmers are not left alone with their risks of production
* Individuals will have the ability to feel more connected to their communities and the food they are eating
* Solawi enables and empowers people, to:
  + Participate in decisions making about their food
  + Participate in production & distribution of their food
  + Learn about their food, the basis of their lives

This is important because it is not market based:

* Explain why it is not market based etc.
  + Scaling up and out through networking
* **Connections to the topic(s) of the EcoGreen Project**

Ecological Economics starts at the point where humans interact with nature through work. The most direct connections between humans and nature is agriculture, and therefore the most basic ecological economics is an ecological agriculture or sustainable agriculture, as it is represented in this best pactice.

## Sources:

* Website: https://www.ouvertura.at/
* External Sources: https://www.solidarische-landwirtschaft.org/startseite/
* Articles: <https://solawi.life/mediathek/>
* Foto:

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Source: Own Illustration, Tobias Doppelbauer

Please upload this document together with a foto/graphic until 5.7.24 to this thread in the forum

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