

# soil4life

What is essential is invisible to the eye

## TRAINING ON SOIL PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

**Dates: 14–19 October**

14th arrivals

19th departures

**Place: Vaunières, France**

hosted by:  Les Villages  
des Jeunes

**Open to : 44 people  
from EU countries, youth  
workers, trainers and  
active volunteers  
engaged in IVS  
organisations.**

### Background

CCIVS is partner of the Soil4Life project coordinated by Legambiente. The SOIL4LIFE project, realized with the contribution of the European Commission (Life), intends to promote the sustainable and efficient use of the soil and its resources in Italy and in Europe. For this reason the partners involved in the project, are engaged in carrying out information and awareness raising activities and in promoting interventions, including regulatory ones, which are essential to curb the consumption of this non-renewable natural resource.

### Process

The Training will be a 4 day intensive course

Using non-formal learning methodologies, the training led by experts, will share information about the SOIL4LIFE project, including:

- ▶ The importance of soil protection & management
- ▶ Learning about the Voluntary Guidelines for Sustainable Soil Management (VGSSM)

### proposed agenda

The Training will take place during the **CCIVS Global Human Rights week** organised by CCIVS, during which one day will be dedicated to the actions of the training and work of CCIVS members towards Climate Justice.

The training seeks to prepare **Soil Ambassadors** who may then take the information gained during the Training course and support with the implementation of actions in their sending organisations projects during 2020.

Participants will learn how to share information concerning SOIL4LIFE with their local projects, by using methodologies that train the trainer. They will learn how to communicate, how to use the communication tools which are in place and how to ensure follow up in their local projects. During the training the participants will collectively build a model to work on soil protection and conservation, which they can then adapt to their local reality and implement in their home countries. They will share this model on return with their sending organisations and will work to develop and implement the model during the local action.

As a result, each organisation will be requested to implement at least 1 local campaign, which focuses on the importance of soil protection – this activity will be highlighted through the global communication campaign.

CCIVS will coordinate the writing of a manifesto, the content of which will include an overview of the state of soil protection and management, a call to action and a pledge from civil society organisations.

The creation of the manifesto will start with the Training Course, participating organisations will be asked to give their feedback on what they would like to see on a manifest.

### Post Training and Support Structure

A blog space will be created for the participants to share questions and updates about what they are doing once they arrive back home – in this way they can mutually support each other, and any questions they cannot answer will be given support by the experts (trainers, CCIVS and Legambiente). They will also be able to request skype calls and send emails for any questions or doubts they may have.

### Application procedure

#### sign up here

In order to ensure a multiplier effect and the right candidates for the training, participants will be asked to implement what they learn during the training in the local actions (workcamps) being organised in their countries during 2020. In order to support their learning and recognition of this, after the training they will gain the title of ‘soil ambassadors’ and be presented with a certificate to this effect

CCIVS will request the participants signing up to the Training Course to share an example of the local action they could run, the participants will be asked to update this information in the beginning of 2020 when each organisation has their annual programmes finalised.

### Financial conditions

100% of the total travel costs up to a platform of 295 euros will be reimbursed on receipt of all invoices and proof of payment.

All accommodation and food costs during the activity (on site) will be covered at 100%.

Sending organisations are required to make a 100-euro contribution in support of CCIVS activities.

Travel should be the most economic and ecological option, please read the CCIVS sustainability policy.

#### CCIVS sustainability policy

CCIVS can provide insurance on request.

## MORE INFORMATION

[ccivs.org/soil4life](http://ccivs.org/soil4life)  
[soil4life.eu](http://soil4life.eu)

Project co-financed by



Coordinating beneficiary



Associated beneficiaries





**KATE  
GAIA**

Greatly inspired by Permaculture and Agroforestry, Kate is also passionate about education and ecosystem restoration.

From 2014 - 2017 she co-founded Soil\*Sun\*Soul (an eco-educational collective which organizes and leads Agro-Ecological trainings). She is also a long-term volunteer/collaborator at Gaia Ashram and Gaia School Asia where she continues to form part of the facilitation team for EcoVillage Design Education Trainings (EDE certified by Gaia Education).

Since completing her first PDC with Rico Zook (Itinerant Permaculture) in 2013, she has engaged on a path of self-study and re-skilling, by living and working on various Permaculture and community projects and participating in diverse agricultural /ecological trainings.

She has co-facilitated various Introduction and Permaculture Design Certificate Courses. She is currently facilitating a year-long international Sustainable Food Production Training with CCIVS for Climate Justice and is part of the volunteer and teaching team at Orígens- Escola Taller de Bioconstrucció (Catalunya), she also supports and collaborates with Boodaville Permaculture/Education Project (Spain), where she designed and led the implementation of a regenerative food forest on a severely degraded plot (during an EU Youth Exchange with Youth in Permaculture). She is currently leading the observation and follow up phase collaborating with the EVS volunteers onsite. Kate is passionate about learning and growing! Inspired to contribute to a healthy planet by improving soil conditions, increasing biodiversity and applying effective regeneration strategies- she loves to participate in hands-on actions with the intention to restore and rebuild the natural environment so human communities may live in harmony with their surroundings.



**DAMIANO  
DI SIMINE**

Born in 1967, with my wife and three kids I live in Milan, heart of the bigger metropolis in southern EU. I attained a biotechnology PhD after training in chemistry, but early on my passion moved to the environment. My commitment started in childhood, when I witnessed one of the worst industrial disasters in Europe, the Seveso accident, when a toxic cloud spilled out from a factory, spreading dioxin over tens of square kilometres of the densely populated territory where I lived. Later, I was committed with the Seveso group of the NGO Legambiente, in actions for restoring degraded land, planting woods and preserving threatened amphibians. As a young adult, I started to cooperate with the Lombardy committee of my organization, opening a nature conservation office, and I became the Italian president of CIPRA, International Commission for the Protection of the Alps. In 2006, I was elected president of Legambiente Lombardy, in my mandate; I focused the efforts of the organisation on fighting against urban sprawl. I founded, together with a group of researchers of the Polytechnic University, a focal point on soil research, providing the first data on soil loss in Italy. From 2015 I committed to the European Citizens Initiative People4soil, asking the EU for a directive on soil. In spite of the large involvement of NGOs and local groups (400+), and the collection of some 200.000 signatures, the initiative was unsuccessful. I am presently devoted to the threats of industrial agriculture, and I have no doubt that a protection status is needed for our common heritage: soil.



**LUCY  
MARTIN**

Lucy Martin lived abroad in Holland, Argentina and Spain for 12 years and finally came to settle in the UK in 2013 where she lives with her partner and young daughter in a big communal home. Lucy completed a Permaculture Design course with Grifen Hope in Chile, in 2009, and has worked on and facilitated a variety of projects in the countries she has lived. These have been based around horticultural therapy, forest gardening, implementation of intensive food systems and community food growing schemes up.

Lucy's most formative experience was a year long training in Patagonia, specializing in sustainable small-scale agriculture with Fernando Pia, CIESA.

Since settling back in rural UK, Lucy gained an RHS horticulture diploma and has helped establish a C.S.A project "The Crossing"; focused on no-dig and other soil regenerative practices. Since 2017 she has become a director of the organisation.

Lucy offers her skills and experience from a deep seated belief that regeneration of our varying bio regions needs a scientific as well as a heart-centred approach to allow for amore integrated vision of the future



**BORJA  
FRANCO**

I have always been attracted by the idea of discovering and learning new things. That is the reason why I studied journalism. I dreamt about becoming a reporter, travelling around the world and denouncing the injustices. And somehow I did it, mostly by producing myself social documentaries. But soon I realised that journalism was not enough to make a better world, at least for me. I need to move to action.

So at the age of 20 I started my commitment with the catalan Civil Service International branch, participating in many different peace culture projects in Catalonia and abroad. Along this social path I still discover one more thing, maybe the most important in my life: that everything begins with the connection and care of nature. Fortunately then I found permaculture, a practical philosophy that in my opinion involves all. During last years I have been combining social activism with different activities related to agriculture and bio-construction. Nowadays I am living in Priorat, one of the wildest and slow-motion areas in Catalonia, where I am working in a wine biodynamic cellar. I feel like I found my place from where I can cultivate inner, social and environmental peace.