

“VITA ACTIVA” PROJECT

PROJEKT „VITA ACTIVA“

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For some years now we have paid close attention to global agricultural and environmental developments. We feel very strongly that it is essential to raise awareness of the inherent risks of genetically modified organisms as well as conventional agricultural methods.

A short overview of the present situation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in Germany and Europe is given with a brief outline of what moved us to start the project named "Vita Activa".

The main goals of the project are:

- 1) To educate and inform people about many inherent dangers of GMOs and to illustrate the damaging impact of conventional, large-scale farming methods upon our environment and health.
- 2) To strengthen many existing - but often only locally active - organisations by creating a tightly-woven network within Europe and beyond, through which efforts can be channelled and lasting political changes achieved.

We have decided on a somewhat unusual approach: we will travel some 8000 kilometres throughout Western Europe for 14 months, using a wooden carriage drawn by our two Irish Cob horses. Along the way we will organise lectures and seminars in schools, universities, and at public events. These will be held by well-known and enthusiastic experts, by scientists, politicians, and Alternative Nobel-prize winners. Together with as many organisations and individuals as possible we will organise a major political and social event to be held in Brussels in the summer of 2009.

Round Table 1- GMO-free regions, at 2nd Mediterranean Conference on Organic Agriculture – *Contribution to Sustainable Ecosystem*, Dubrovnik, April 2-4, 2008,

The journey will be extensively documented by media. We will also launch a multi-language Website, which will feature a forum, diary of our trip, regular reports and updates on events, as well as photos and videos of the journey and the people involved:

<http://www.vita-activa-tour.blogspot.com>

It is our aim to publicise the many advantages of organic and biodynamic farming. We want to illustrate the many risks and dangers of genetically modified plants and animals, and to show the consumer the damaging impact of conventional farming methods upon our environment and health.

We wish to work with and bring together many organisations and experts in this field. Through discussions, in schools and at public events we will arrange for lectures and seminars to be held on the topics of health and diet, and the connection between agriculture and environmental concerns. Together with politicians and farmers we will develop common political proposals and demands, which will be presented to the appropriate government offices in Berlin and Brussels.

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