

Alternative Food Organization Survey Questionnaire

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Questionnaire food organizations

General information

The Institute of Citizenship Studies (Incite) of the University of Geneva, in collaboration with the cantonal office for environment (Canton of Geneva), is conducting research on the different organizations active in the field of food in the Canton of Geneva. We are interested in different types of organizations (associations, cooperatives, foundations, private enterprises or informal collectives) that produce, transform, sell or offer food products as well as organizations, which raise awareness, educate or defend rights. This is why we invite you to respond to our questionnaire. The questions are about the activities that you undertake, the objectives you have and the relationships you maintain with the state as well as with other actors in the field of food. The collected information will be treated confidential and will not be used for commercial purposes. If you wish to know more about our project, you will find detailed information on our website <http://politicalconsumerism.unige.ch/> or you can send us an email at Johanna.huber@unige.ch.

The questionnaire targets organizations and consequently all questions refer to the position of your organization. If your organization has other sections in other cantons or countries, please refer to the Genevan entity when answering the questions.

The questionnaire should take 15 to 25 min depending on the number of activities that your organization undertakes. Thank you very much for the time invested to answer the questions as precisely as possible.

Q3 Is your organization active in the canton of Geneva? If you select "no", you will be redirected to the end of the questionnaire. The study focuses only on actors in the Canton of Geneva.

- ☐ No → go to the end of the questionnaire
- ☐ Yes

Q4 First of all, could you please give us the following information on your organization?

- ☐ Name of the organization _____
- ☐ Address (street name, number, zip code and city) _____
- ☐ Telephone _____
- ☐ E-mail _____
- ☐ Website _____
- ☐ Social media _____
- ☐ Full name of contact person _____

Q5 What year was your organization founded? (indicate year)

Q6 Could you please briefly present your organization (max. 10 lines)? You can use the information from your website.

Q7 Among the goals below, which ones match the goals of your organization best? Please select them in the list below. (Multiple answers possible)

- ☐ To improve working conditions in the production and distribution of food (for example salaries, rights, health etc.)
- ☐ Increase knowledge related to food and cooking
- ☐ Change the dominant economic system
- ☐ Make your organization's structure more democratic
- ☐ Make access to land more democratic
- ☐ Make the food system more democratic
- ☐ Develop alternatives within the capitalist system (for example Community-supported agriculture, participatory supermarket, plastic-free store etc.)
- ☐ Fight against poverty and social exclusion (for example eradicate hunger)
- ☐ Preserve biodiversity
- ☐ Promote local agriculture
- ☐ Promote a healthy diet
- ☐ Preserve natural resources
- ☐ Reduce/abolish animal suffering
- ☐ Reduce the impact of human activity on the environment
- ☐ Reduce inequalities (for example based on economic, social, ethnical, gender, disability aspects.)
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

Q8 Among the goals chosen above, which are **the three most important goals**? Please indicate them (order is not relevant).

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Q9 What type of activities does your organization undertake related to food? Please select the different types of activities of your organization. (Multiple answers possible)

- ☐ Production and distribution of food (for example autoproduction, sale, collection, exchange or donation of food products)
- ☐ Political actions (for example, launch a petition, organize a demonstration, lobbying etc.)
- ☐ Actions to raise awareness and educate (for example workshops, campaigns, events, labels etc.)
- ☐ Offer employment and training for marginalized groups of people

Q 10 If your organization produces or distributes food, please select all the activities below that your organization has done in the last 12 months.

- ☐ Produce food (for example fruit or vegetables, grains, milk, meat etc.)
- ☐ Transform food (for example bread, jam, drinks, flour, cheese)
- ☐ Sell food (for example directly at the farm, vegetable baskets, participatory or charity supermarket)
- ☐ Sell cooked meals (for example restaurant, catering, food truck, etc.)
- ☐ Distribute free food (for example "cartons du cœur")
- ☐ Distribute free cooked meals (for example soup kitchen)
- ☐ Grow plants (incl. seedlings)
- ☐ Conserve seeds
- ☐ Beekeeping
- ☐ Raising chickens
- ☐ Collect unsold food
- ☐ Give unsold food to associations
- ☐ Organize free exchanges of goods and services
- ☐ Others (please specify) _____



Q11 If your organization engages in political actions linked to food, please select all the activities below that your organization has done in the last 12 months.

- ☐ Have people sign a petition, referendum or popular initiative
- ☐ Launch a petition
- ☐ Launch a referendum
- ☐ Launch a popular initiative
- ☐ Participate or organize a demonstration
- ☐ Organize a boycott
- ☐ Lobby local authorities
- ☐ Lobby national authorities
- ☐ Lobby international instances
- ☐ Participate in commissions, evaluation groups, expert groups
- ☐ Other (please specify)_____

Q12 If your organization raises awareness and educates in relation to food, please select all the activities below that you have done in the last 12 months.

- ☐ Organize an informational campaign (for example flyers, brochures, website, etc.)
- ☐ Organize training workshops
- ☐ Organize cultural events (for example festivals, film screening etc.)
- ☐ Organize promotional events (for example markets, fairs)
- ☐ Manage a label
- ☐ Others (please specify)_____

Q13 If your organization offers employment and training opportunities for marginalized persons in the food sector, please select all the activities you have done in the last 12 months.

- ☐ Employ refugees (incl. apprenticeship)
- ☐ Employ beneficiaries of social programs (incl. apprenticeship) (for example disability insurance, the unemployed, young people without training etc.)
- ☐ Others (please specify)_____

Q14 Of all the different activities that you have chosen in Q10-Q13, which three activities are the most important ones for your organizations? (max. 3)

Activity 1: _____

Activity 2: _____

Activity 3: _____

Q15 At what frequency does your organization undertake these three activities? Please select the frequency that corresponds for each activity.

	Every day	Once a week	Once a month	Less than once a month
Activity 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Activity 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Activity 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q16 At what level is your organization active ? (Multiple answers possible)

- ☐ Neighborhood
- ☐ Township
- ☐ Canton of Geneva
- ☐ French-speaking Switzerland
- ☐ Switzerland
- ☐ Europe
- ☐ World

Market relations

Q17 Does your organization do one or several of the following activities:

→ Autoproduction, sale, exchange or donation of food?

☐ No → go to question **Q26**

☐ Yes

Q18 Which of the terms below describes your organization best? (Single response)

- ☐ Food bank
- ☐ Ecovillage
- ☐ Participatory store
- ☐ Fair trade store
- ☐ Organic store
- ☐ Charity store
- ☐ Free price store
- ☐ Community farm
- ☐ Family farm
- ☐ Community-supported agriculture initiative
- ☐ Popular soup initiative
- ☐ Urban/community/family garden
- ☐ Bulk/plastic free store
- ☐ Local currency network
- ☐ Restaurant/catering
- ☐ Vegetarian restaurant/catering
- ☐ Vegan restaurant/catering
- ☐ Squat
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____

Q19 Which products or services does your organization propose? (Multiple answers possible)

- ☐ Beer
- ☐ Grains
- ☐ Conserves and jams
- ☐ Spices and herbs
- ☐ Flour
- ☐ Fruit
- ☐ Oil
- ☐ Juice, syrup etc.
- ☐ Legumes
- ☐ Vegetables
- ☐ Honey
- ☐ Seedlings and plants
- ☐ Fish
- ☐ Milk products
- ☐ Body care products
- ☐ Cleaning products
- ☐ Cooked meals
- ☐ Seeds
- ☐ Meat
- ☐ Wine
- ☐ Vinegar
- ☐ Others (please specify) _____

Q20 At what frequency are your products available?

- ☐ No distribution of products
- ☐ Ponctual distribution – once per week
- ☐ Ponctual – once per month
- ☐ Ponctual – once per year
- ☐ Continued opening hours
- ☐ Reduced opening hours (for example in the evening)

Q21 Where do the products you distribute come from? Please indicate the approximate percentage for each source/origin and make sure the total does not exceed 100%.

- ☐ Autoproduction : _____
- ☐ Local and regional production _____
- ☐ Swiss production : _____
- ☐ Foreign production : _____
- ☐ Collection of unsold goods : _____
- ☐ Retailers : _____
- ☐ Others (please specify) : _____

Q22 Goods or services can be distributed through different types of exchanges (monetary or non-monetary). To what extent does your organization **adopt the three following modes of distribution**? Please indicate the percentage for each type.

- ☐ Monetary exchange : _____
- ☐ Non-monetary exchange (for example work, other goods etc.) : _____
- ☐ Donation : _____

Q23 For paid goods and services, to what extent do the elements mentioned below contribute to fixing your prices. Please answer by using a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 means not important at all and 10 means very important.

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Fixed costs (production costs, salaries, rent etc.)											
Environmental protection (for example organic agriculture)											
Fair wages in agriculture											
Affordability for people with low incomes											
Adapted to the prices of large retailers (price corresponds approx. to retail prices)											
Prices fixed by other actors similar to your organization											
Prices are set freely by consumers.											

Q24 Among the following criteria, which are important when choosing the products you sell?
(Multiple answers possible)

- ☐ Affordable
- ☐ Organic
- ☐ Clients' request
- ☐ Local
- ☐ Products preserve well
- ☐ Small producers
- ☐ Fair prices for producers
- ☐ Seasonal products
- ☐ Quality
- ☐ Vegetarian
- ☐ Vegan
- ☐ Bulk/plastic free
- ☐ Others (please specify)_____



Q25 Different channels exist for selling products. For the products you produce yourself, which are your main channels? (multiple answers possible)

- ☐ Direct sale (for example selling at the farm or farmers markets)
- ☐ Local grocery store
- ☐ Community-supported agriculture
- ☐ Online platform
- ☐ Large retailers
- ☐ Others (please specify) _____

Organizational structure and commitment of members.

Q26 What is your organization's legal form?

- ☐ Association
- ☐ Cooperative
- ☐ Private enterprise
- ☐ Foundation
- ☐ No legal form (for example informal association)

Q27 Are you a member of a federation, association, an umbrella association or another network or label that groups the actors of your field? (Multiple answers possible)

- ☐ AgriGenève
- ☐ APRES–GE (Chambre of Social and Solidarity Economy Geneva)
- ☐ BioGenève
- ☐ Demeter
- ☐ FRACP (Fédération Romande de l'Agriculture Contractuelle de Proximité)
- ☐ MAPC (Mouvement pour une agriculture paysanne et citoyenne)
- ☐ Monnaie Léman
- ☐ UMG (Union Maraîchère de Genève)
- ☐ Uniterre
- ☐ Via Campesina
- ☐ Others (please specify) _____



Q28 Does your organization have founding documents? Please select all the documents that your organization has.

- ☐ Statutes
- ☐ Internal regulations
- ☐ A charter
- ☐ Others (please specify) _____

Q29 Which positions exist in your organization? (multiple answers possible)

- ☐ President
- ☐ Boss
- ☐ Secretary
- ☐ Spokesperson
- ☐ Comitee
- ☐ General assembly
- ☐ Public meeting
- ☐ Work groups/commissions
- ☐ Others (please specify) _____

Q30 How are decisions taken in the...

	Majority vote	Consensus/deliberative process	Doesn't apply
Comitee	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
General Assembly	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Work groups/committees	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public meetings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Q31 Does your organization have members?

- ☐ No → go to question Q34
- ☐ Yes

Q32 How many members does your organization have? ? [Drop-down menu]¹

- Less than 5
- 5
- 10
- 15
- 20
- ...
- ...
- More than 500

¹ In the analysis, we realized that it would have been much easier to ask respondents to indicate the actual number rather than in a drop-down menu.

Q33 Members are... (Multiple answers are possible)

- ☐ Producers
- ☐ Businesses
- ☐ Supporters
- ☐ Consumers
- ☐ Employees
- ☐ Others (please specify) _____

Q34 Does your organization have employees?

- ☐ No → go to question **Q37**
- ☐ Yes

Q35 How many employees does your organization approximately have? [Drop-down menu]²

- Less than 5
- 5
- 10
- 15
- 20
- ...
- ...
- More than 500

² In the analysis, we realized that it would have been much easier to ask respondents to indicate the actual number rather than in a drop-down menu.

Q36 What type of work do employees do?

- ☐ Manual work (fields, fill shelves...)
- ☐ Management tasks (planning shifts etc.)
- ☐ Secretary work (accounting, mail...)
- ☐ Organizing events
- ☐ Leading workshops or courses
- ☐ Others (please specify) _____

Q37 Does your organization have volunteers?

- ☐ No → please go to question **Q41**
- ☐ Yes

Q38 How many volunteers does your organization have? [Drop-down menu]³

- Less than 5
- 5
- 10
- 15
- 20
- ...
- ...
- More than 500

³ In the analysis, we realized that it would have been much easier to ask respondents to indicate the actual number rather than in a drop-down menu.



Q39 What type of work do the volunteers do? (Multiple answers possible)

- ☐ Manual work (fields, fill shelves...)
- ☐ Management tasks (planning shifts etc.)
- ☐ Secretarial work (accounting, mail...)
- ☐ Organizing events
- ☐ Leading workshops or courses
- ☐ Others (please specify) _____

Q40 How often is the majority of volunteer work done? (single answer)

- ☐ Once per day
- ☐ Once per week
- ☐ Once per month
- ☐ Once per year

Q41 In the everyday business/functioning of your organization, what are the main challenges that you encounter? (Multiple answers possible)

- ☐ Volunteers' commitment (for example fluctuation, motivation etc.)
- ☐ Financial resources
- ☐ Too few employees
- ☐ Lack of support by the public authorities
- ☐ Lack of visibility
- ☐ Market pressure
- ☐ Too much demand (waiting list, number of beneficiaries...)
- ☐ Others (please specify) _____

Q42 In the everyday business/functioning of your organization, what would allow you to work more comfortably? (Multiple answers possible)

- ☐ More financial resources
- ☐ More volunteers that are committed on a regular basis
- ☐ More employees
- ☐ More support by public authorities
- ☐ Others (please specify) _____

Exchanges with public authorities and other organizations

Q43 Are you in contact with public authorities?

- ☐ No → please go to question **Q47**
- ☐ Yes

Q44 With which public authority are you in contact? (Multiple answers possible)

- ☐ City of Geneva
- ☐ Other Genevan township
- ☐ Canton of Geneva
- ☐ Swiss government (Confederation)
- ☐ Others (please specify) _____

Q45 Which type of contact does your organization have with the public authorities mentioned above? (Multiple answers possible)

	Lobbying/ consultati on	Exchange of information	Provide the public authorities with services	Support in kind by public authorities (for example public infrastructur e)	Work group/comm ittee or representatio n	Other
City of Geneva	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Genevan township	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Canton of Geneva	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swiss governme nt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q46 At what frequency are you in contact with the public authorities mentioned above? (multiple answers possible)

	Weekly	Monthly	Yearly	Less than once per year
City of Geneva	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Genevan township	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Canton of Geneva	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Swiss government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Others (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q47 Are you in contact with other organizations active in the field of food?

☐ Yes

☐ No → Please go to question **Q49**

Q48 With which organizations active in the field of food are you in contact for the following activities. Please mention the name of the organization and the type of exchange you undertake with that organization.

	Organize events	Share information	Mobilize for political actions	Share material	Others
Name of the organization: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name of the organization: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name of the organization: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name of the organization: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name of the organization: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q49 Are you in contact with other organizations in **other** fields than food?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No → Please go to question **Q51**

Q50 With which organizations active in other fields than food are you in contact for the following activities? Please mention the name of the organization and the type of exchange you undertake with that organization.

	Organize events	Share information	Mobilize for political actions	Share material	Others
Name of the organization: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name of the organization: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name of the organization: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name of the organization: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name of the organization: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Q51 What is your organisation's budget?

- ☐ Less than 1500 CHF
- ☐ Between 1'500 and 3'999 CHF
- ☐ Between 4'000 and 7'499 CHF
- ☐ Between 7'500 and 14'999 CHF
- ☐ Between 15'000 and 74'999 CHF
- ☐ Between 75'000 and 149'999 CHF
- ☐ Between 150,000 and 224'999 CHF
- ☐ Between 225'000 and 299'999 CHF
- ☐ More than 300'000 CHF
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Confidential

Q52 What are your main sources of funding? Please indicate the percentage for each source and make sure that it adds up to 100%.

Source of funding	Percentage
Membership fees	
Shares	
Governmental funding (township level, cantonal, national)	
Donations	
Fundings by a federation or national section	
Sale of food or services (on a regular basis)	
Fundraising (for example through events, one-time sales, crowdfunding...)	
Support by businesses	
Others (please specify) _____	

Mapping

Q53 Do you agree that your organization be included in an interactive map with all the food organizations in the canton of Geneva? The information will be submitted to you for validation before publication.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ This agreement needs further validation by us. Please contact our organization again.

Q54 Do you have information to add or a comment to make concerning the questionnaire?

Q55 You have arrived at the end of the questionnaire! We thank you for the answers given and the time invested which contribute significantly to our study. The information collected will be treated confidentially and will not be used for commercial usage.