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COLOPHON
Dear reader,

As IFOAM EU President it is my pleasure to welcome you to this annual report. This first report in our new digital format will inform you about IFOAM EU's actions to make Europe more organic in 2018. I am convinced that IFOAM EU has done a remarkable job in transforming European food and farming over the last years.

2018 has been a year of climatic and political significance. The global awareness of the urgency of the climate crisis has never been clearer. Citizens started calling for action and continued to do so in 2019. This strengthened our resolve to put organic agriculture on the table as part of the solution. Regarding our Vision 2030 I am convinced, that more organic agriculture will benefit the climate and our natural resources. Shares of organic farming in Austria and Sweden with more than 25% and 20% are encouraging. But to reach a significant impact of 50% by 2030, we still have a challenging path in front of us. That is why the organic movement's call for a fair, healthy and sustainable food and farming system have never been timelier.

One of our biggest successes in 2018 was the decision of the European Court of Justice on new gene editing techniques. According to the Court, new gene editing techniques are techniques of genetic engineering and should thus be regulated as such. This decision was warmly welcomed by IFOAM EU that actively advocated for this. This decision is a recognition of the work that we and many like-minded organisations did on the topic. It serves as the basis for our continued fight for transparency on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs).

As an organic farmer I am proud of our work on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the implementation of the organic regulation. This was the most public at our successful 12 European Organic Congress. I would like to highlight our position paper “Towards a new post-2020 CAP that supports farmers and delivers public goods to Europeans” in which we called for a new CAP that rewards farmers based on their contribution to public goods. We want a more sustainable future for agriculture in the EU and a CAP that supports all farmers that improve our environment through their work.

We also successfully showed the innovative nature of organic in 2018 towards policy makers and researchers. We have ensured that the research needs of the organic sector are addressed by Horizon 2020 projects. An example of such a Horizon 2020 project is the RELACS project that started in May 2018. We are responsible for the communication and dissemination of this four-year project researching the development of alternative tools and technologies for inputs considered contentious in organic farming systems.

Moreover, we have been keeping a close eye on the Directive on Unfair Trading Practices (UTPs) in the supply chain and welcomed the agreement on this directive and the strong political commitment to improve the position of weaker actors against UTPs. We also commissioned a study on taxation as a tool towards true cost accounting. We are sure that its findings provide a framework for accounting for the true costs and benefits of food production.

Of course, we did much more than the above, which you can read in this report. On behalf of IFOAM EU I would like to express our gratefulness for the support from our members, sponsors and the European Commission over the last years. Our work would not be possible without them and the dedicated office team working to making Europe more organic every day.

Our successes from 2018 motivate us to keep working to a transformation of the European food and farming system. Organic is part of the solution for a fairer and sustainable Europe that serves the current and future generations and protects our ecosystems, climate and biodiversity.

Organic regards,

Jan Plagge
IFOAM EU AT A GLANCE

15 YEARS AT THE HEART OF THE EU

In May 2018, IFOAM EU celebrated its 15-year anniversary. We did this in the company of more than 150 guests, including our members from all over Europe, decision-makers and representatives of other agri-food and environmental organisations.

In 2003, our office in Brussels was established to coordinate the organic movement’s advocacy work. Since then we have been fighting for the adoption of ecologically, socially and economically sound farming systems based on the principles of organic agriculture – health, ecology, fairness and care – at European level. As of 2018, 19 staff members and five one-year European Volunteers perform this task.

For more information about our members, our governance and operating structures, interest groups and working groups, visit the IFOAM EU website and consult our short overview.

IFOAM EU’S MEMBERS

IFOAM EU is a membership-based organisation representing 200 members in 34 countries. Working closely with our members, we ensure that our positions reflect the day-to-day business of organic farmers, processors, certifiers and other...
practitioners across Europe and represent the voice of organic food and farming vis-à-vis the institutions on European level. Through our close ties with key agricultural, environmental and technical decision-makers at local, regional, national and European level, the European institutions recognise IFOAM EU as the leading advocate for organic food and farming in the European Union (EU).

Discover which members are already contributing to making Europe more organic! Are you interested in becoming a member of IFOAM EU to ensure that your voice is heard? Send an email to IFOAMEU_membership [at] ifoam-eu.org.

LEADING THE TRANSFORMATION

By 2030, the organic movement wants a fair, environmentally conscious, healthy and caring food and farming systems across Europe covering three pillars:

- Organic on every table
- Improve – Inspire – Deliver
- Fair play – Fair pay

Based on our goals and strategy, we established an organic roadmap to sustainable food and farming systems in Europe. This Roadmap provides an overview of what IFOAM EU, food & farming actors and policy-makers can do to reach our vision.

Figure 1: Strategic pillars to reach the IFOAM EU vision

The organic movement’s vision

Our vision for food and farming is that of a fair, environmentally conscious, healthy and caring system widely adopted in Europe. The European organic movement continues to lead change, believes in holistic approaches and thrives on interactions with other like-minded initiatives, including fair trade, agroecology and urban agriculture.

Driven by the support of citizens and by building bridges with other stakeholders in the food and farming system, we are committed...
to achieving more than half of Europe's agricultural land managed according to organic principles of health, fairness, ecology and care, providing fresh, seasonal, fairly priced as well as minimally and carefully processed organic food to every European home, workplace and institution.

The European organic movement stimulates and rewards the further development of organic systems, improving the resilience and environmental performance of organic production systems, while innovative tools for upholding the integrity of the supply chain promote trust. Policy-makers and citizens widely recognise and value the contribution of organic farming to the delivery and support of vital ecosystem services to society.

As we move forward towards our goal of being a model for sustainable farming and food systems, we support a culture of innovation based on holistic principles leading to more resilient and productive farming systems, greater biodiversity, better food quality, more appropriate processing and fairer supply chains. New and indigenous, locally adapted varieties and breeds suited to organic farming practices and local conditions are encouraged and preserved. Farm animals are healthy, live in stress-free conditions and contribute to the sustainability of organic farms.

European farmers and all workers in the organic supply chain are fairly remunerated for their contribution to the health of the environment, communities, local and rural economies, and for providing flavourful and abundant food to contribute to the welfare of our planet and the quality of life of all people.

The organic movement works towards a paradigm shift in education and learning to strengthen the connection between environmentally and socially responsible food choices. People reconnect to food production by actively engaging with short supply chains.

THE TOPICS WE WORK ON

To reach this vision, IFOAM EU is actively working on the following topics with food and farming actors and policy-makers.

Figure 2: The topics IFOAM EU advocates for
THE PROJECTS WE ARE PART OF

Projects that IFOAM EU coordinated in 2018

LIVESEED

- **What?** Improve transparency and competitiveness of the organic seed and breeding sector, encourage greater use of organic seed.
- **When?** June 2017 – May 2021
- **Who?** 49 partners from 18 European countries.
- **IFOAM EU’s role?** Project coordinator and involvement in several tasks, such as the organisation of national visits to better understand the use of organic seed in different Member States and workshops to find ways to improve the use of organic seed.
- **Funding?** Horizon 2020, the EU’s research and innovation framework programme.
• **OK Net Arable**
  
  — **What?** Promote the exchange of knowledge among farmers, farm advisers and scientists to increase productivity and quality in organic arable cropping all over Europe.
  
  — **When?** March 2015 – February 2018
  
  — **Who?** 17 partners from 12 European countries.
  
  — **IFOAM EU’s role?** Project coordinator, communication and dissemination.
  
  — **Funding?** Horizon 2020, the EU’s research and innovation framework programme.

• **OK Net Ecofeed**
  
  — **What?** Help farmers, breeders and the organic feed processing industry achieving the goal of 100% use of organic, regional feed for monogastrics.
  
  — **When?** January 2018 – December 2020
  
  — **Who?** 19 partners from 11 European countries.
  
  — **IFOAM EU’s role?** Project coordinator, communication and dissemination.
  
  — **Funding?** Horizon 2020, the EU’s research and innovation framework programme.

• **SOLMACC**
  
  — **What?** Promote and measure the impact of climate-friendly farming practices.
  
  — **When?** September 2013 – August 2018
  
  — **Who?** 5 partners from 4 European countries.
  
  — **IFOAM EU’s role?** Day-to-day coordinator.
  
  — **Funding?** Co-financed by the LIFE programme, the Ekhagastiftelsen foundation and the Mercator foundation.
• **RELACS**

  - **What?** Develop and facilitate tools and technologies to improve inputs considered ‘contentious’ in organic farming systems.
  - **When?** May 2018 – April 2022
  - **Who?** 32 partners from all over Europe.
  - **IFOAM EU’s role?** Communication and dissemination.
  - **Funding?** Horizon 2020, the EU’s research and innovation framework programme.

• **Keeping GMOs out of organic**

  - **What?** Strengthen GMO-free production by organising and supporting the organic movement in its efforts to develop practical strategies to remain GMO-free.
  - **When?** 2014 – 2020
  - **Who?** Organic and non-GMO stakeholders, NGO representatives and EU regions working on food production and prevention of GMO contamination.
  - **IFOAM EU’s role?** Project coordinator.
  - **Funding?** Co-financed by the LIFE programme, and project partners BioSuisse, DO-IT, Rapunzel, RDV Products, Software AG Stiftung, Vivi Verde Coop Italia, Fondation Salvia.

**Projects IFOAM EU contributed to in 2018**

• **The Internet of Food and Farm 2020**

  - **What?** Facilitate the uptake of Internet of Things in the European food and farming sector.
  - **When?** 2016 – 2020
  - **Who?** 70+ partners from 14 European countries.
  - **IFOAM EU’s role?** Ensure that organic is represented and that organic innovative practices are included.
  - **Funding?** Horizon 2020, the EU’s research and innovation framework programme.

• **ReMIX**

  - **What?** Exploit the benefits of species mixtures to design more diverse and resilient arable cropping
NEFERTITI

What? Network of European farms to enhance cross fertilisation and innovation uptake through demonstration.
When? January 2018 – December 2021
Who? 32 partners from all over Europe.
IFOAM EU's role? Deputy network leader in two organic networks: arable cropping and livestock.
Funding? Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation framework programme.

SME ORGANICS

What? Enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the organic sector of the participating regions.
When? April 2016 – March 2020
Who? Regional governments, development agencies, organic food and farming, enterprise bodies, universities and research institutes from eight regions across Europe.
IFOAM EU's role? Advisory partner.
Funding? Interreg Europe, the programme that helps to stimulate cooperation between regions in the EU.

XF-Actors

What? Establish a multidisciplinary research program to answer the urgent need to improve
prevention, early detection and control of Xylella fastidiosa (Xf) disease.

— **When?** November 2016 – October 2020
— **Who?** An international consortium of 29 partners.
— **IFOAM EU’s role?** Communication and dissemination.
— **Funding?** Horizon 2020, the EU’s research and innovation framework programme.

**European Voluntary Service**

— **What?** Provide the opportunity to young people aged 18-30 to fully immerse themselves in IFOAM EU’s work by volunteering at the office in Brussels for one year in different units.
— **When?** Various years
— **Who?** The project partners included sending organisations from several countries, mostly youth and environmental non-profit organisations.
— **IFOAM EU’s role?** Project coordinator.
— **Funding?** Erasmus+ programme.

**FutureEU Aqua**

— **What?** Promote sustainable growth of environmentally friendly organic and conventional aquaculture of major fish species and low trophic level organisms resilient to climate change.
— **When?** October 2018 – September 2022
— **Who?** 32 partners from 9 European countries.
— **IFOAM EU’s role?** Training an capacity building as well as communication and dissemination.
— **Funding?** Horizon 2020, the EU’s research and innovation framework programme.

**THE EVENTS WE ORGANISE & PARTNER WITH**

IFOAM EU’s events
• **12th European Organic Congress**

  — **What?** IFOAM EU's high-level event to learn, discuss and exchange with policy-makers and organic stakeholders about current topics, such as the new organic regulation, the Common Agricultural Policy and emerging technologies.
  — **When?** Annually

• **5th Organic Processing Conference**

  — **What?** The event for organic processors and operators to exchange and get up to speed with new technologies and trends in the organic sector.
  — **When?** Bi-annually

• **4th Organic Innovation Days**

  — **What?** The Organic Innovation Days of TP Organics serve to discuss research needs and innovations within and outside the organic sector. IFOAM EU hosts TP Organics' secretariat and further promotes the event among its membership.
  — **When?** Annually

• **BIOFACH 2018**
What? The world’s leading trade fair for organic food. IFOAM EU organises side events on every day of the European edition of the fair. The annual ‘EU Policy Day’ is organised together with BIOFACH. TP Organics co-organises the annual ‘Science Day’.

When? Annually

IFOAM EU meets Business

What? An event that brings the organic food industry closer together.

When? Annually

Are you interested in contributing to one of our events? Contact info [at] ifoam-eu.org.

Events IFOAM EU partnered with

Ecofruit

What? Brings together European researchers and consultants working on topics related to organic fruit growing.

When? Annually

Natexpo


When? Annually
• **Natural & Organic Products Europe**
  
  — *What?* Europe's biggest trade show for natural and organic products as well as natural beauty and personal care products.
  — *When?* Annually

• **Nordic Organic Food Fair**
  
  — *What?* The only organic food and drink trade show hosted in the Nordic region.
  — *When?* Annually

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**SUSTAINABLE FOODS SUMMIT**

• **Sustainable Foods Summit**
  
  — *What?* The event that explores new horizons for eco-labels and sustainability in the food industry by discussing key industry issues.
  — *When?* Annually

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Are you interested in a partnership between IFOAM EU and your event? Contact info [at] ifoam-eu.org.

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**THE TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM FOR ORGANIC**
IFOAM EU contributes to the research and innovation that makes Europe more organic by hosting the secretariat of TP Organics, the European Technology Platform for organic food and farming research. TP Organics plays a key role in highlighting what areas research and innovation funding should focus on. The platform unites almost 100 companies, farmers, consumers, civil society organisations and researchers active in the organic value chain.

ORGANIC GLOBALLY

IFOAM EU is one of the regional bodies of IFOAM – Organics International, the global umbrella organisation for organic agriculture.
**ORGANIC IN EUROPE AT A GLANCE**

**EU AND POLICY REGULATORY FRAMEWORK**

Organic farming has been regulated by the EU organic regulation at EU level since 1991. Today, Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 sets the European requirements for organic production by defining its aims, objectives and principles. Two implementing regulations (No 889/2008 and No 1235/2008) detail the organic production, labelling, control and import rules. All products with the organic label sold in the EU must be produced according to these regulations. In 2011 the European Commission announced the revision of the legal framework for organic production. Three years later, the Commission presented a legislative proposal to the European Parliament and Council of the EU. Following several years of discussion, the Parliament and Council adopted the final text in spring 2018. The new organic regulation will apply from 1 January 2021. If you want to learn more about IFOAM EU's work and position on the new organic regulation visit the regulation section of our website.

Two other EU policies that have a significant impact on organic farming are the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the European Framework for Research & Innovation. With almost 40% of the EU budget dedicated to the CAP it has a major influence on the European food and farming system. Though it has played an important role in developing organic, investments in the sector account to only 1.5% of the current EU agricultural spending. Despite significant reforms since its creation, sustainability is still not at its core. Given the challenges the European agri-food sector is facing decisive changes are needed to modernise Europe's agriculture. Thus, IFOAM EU is calling for a CAP reform that transitions European agriculture towards greater sustainability. The new CAP should build on the Commission's proposal of June 2018, including the so-called 'New Delivery Model'. It should go even further by balancing environmental ambitions with a flexible and robust results-based framework. Farmers should be rewarded based on their contribution to public goods, such as biodiversity, water quality, and the maintenance of ecosystem services. Read all about this in our position paper “Towards a new post-2020 CAP that supports farmers and delivers public goods to Europeans”. For more about our vision on transforming the CAP visit the CAP section of our website.

Research & innovation is another fundamental cornerstone to the development of the organic sector and a sustainable food and farming system in Europe. Organic approaches must receive a high priority in the research & innovation policy agendas of the EU and Member States. To achieve this, IFOAM EU built strong coalitions with civil society organisations, researchers, farmers and companies. Together they established TP Organics, the European Technology Platform for organic food and farming. It aims to strengthen research & innovation for organics and other agroecological approaches. TP Organics identifies research priorities and innovation goals and promotes these towards policy-makers. Visit the research and innovation pages of IFOAM EU’s website to find out more about our projects and activities.

**ORGANIC MARKET AND PRODUCTION**

Over the last three decades organic food and farming has been growing year by year across Europe and it continues doing so. The EU's total area of farmland under organic production grew to 14.5 million hectares in 2017. There are now 460,000
organic farmers in the EU, representing an increase of 70% since 2007. This goes hand in hand with a significant growth of the EU’s organic retail market, increasing from €22 billion in 2012 to €37 billion in 2017.

The continuous positive development of the EU organic market is due to a combination of factors. The innovative nature of organic food and farming as well as the increasing demand of European citizens for high-quality and sustainable food production play a major role. Growing policy support has further accelerated the growth of the organic sector. The organic market in the EU is very dynamic with growth rates varying between different countries. Similar trends are visible for the per capita consumption of organic products. Generally, consumers tend to spend more on organic food every year with certain product groups achieving above average market shares. While the market for organic is growing at higher rates every year, organic production continues to grow at a much slower pace.

Browse our interactive infographic for country-specific data and trends on organic production and market data.
ORGANIC ON EVERY TABLE

WHAT DO WE WANT?

By 2030 the organic movement envisions a food and farming system across Europe that is fair, environmentally conscious, healthy and caring. To make this a reality IFOAM EU led extensive discussions with all stakeholders of the agricultural value chain. We developed a roadmap to sustainable food systems in Europe to make this vision a reality.

When we say that we want 'Organic on every table' it means that we want high-quality food to be more widely available. To achieve this, it is crucial to increase production while at the same time raise awareness of consumers and policy-makers of the economic, environmental and social benefits of organic production.

On the road to our goal we reach out to and involve food and farming actors, civil society, companies and NGOs dealing with sustainability. Policy-makers also play a key role. They can put incentives and coherent policies in place to support the ecological and social services farmers provide.

Get inspired about how you can make Europe more organic by visiting EUorganic2030 and exploring the various initiatives to are already bringing organic on every table.

WHAT DID WE DO?

In 2018, we worked tirelessly to get organic on every table. Much of our work builds on the work we have been doing in the past and that we will continue working on in the future. This way we guarantee a consistent representation of organic at the European level.

Showing organic's environmental benefits

At the root of biodiversity: seeds

To make sure that the basis of agriculture and nature – seeds – are fit for organic, we coordinated the LIVESEED project. To realise the full potential of organic production systems we need cultivars adapted to organic systems. The LIVESEED project stimulates the production of organic seeds and plant breeding all over Europe. In parallel, we also coordinated the activities of the IFOAM EU's seed expert group. Together with them we advocated for a review of the seed legislation. This legislation should include the possibility to use heterogeneous plant material in organic production. We conveyed this messageat seed expert groups meeting on the topic, organised meetings with the European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) and participated in the conference on "Seeds in the new organic regulation 2018/848" in the
Besides advocating for a review of the seed legislation, we followed the review of the EU legislation on the marketing of Plant Reproductive Material. It is important to the organic movement to ensure that it includes the production and trade of heterogenous material and open-pollinated varieties for low-input agriculture. This increases biodiversity in farming systems.

Another danger to biodiversity in Europe is patents on seeds. We advocated with the European institutions to ensure that patents are no longer granted for essentially biological processes and on native traits.

**Ensuring variety in Europe's biodiversity: keeping Europe GMO-free**

It is crucial for the organic sector that European food and farming remains GMO-free. GMOs promote uniformity and pose risks to the environment, human and animal health, farmers’ rights for seed and farmers’ independence. To enable the organic sector to keep the ability to remain GMO-free, we need an efficient regulation on GMOs. We worked towards a GMO-free Europe by advocating for regulating new genetic engineering techniques as GMOs. We welcomed the decision of the European Court of Justice that they should be regulated as such. After this, we published a legal analysis of the decision and sent a letter to Commission president Juncker together with like-minded NGOs. In the letter we highlight the need for the European Commission to implement the Court of Justice's decision.

To help the organic and GMO-free conventional sector to remain GMO-free IFOAM EU, Fédération Nationale d'Agriculture Biologique des Régions de France (FNAB), Bund Ökologische Lebensmittelwirtschaft e.V. (BÖLW e.V.) and the Organic Research Centre (ORC) published practical and political recommendations. We organised a session on this topic at BIOFACH – Europe's biggest trade fair on organic products. Besides this, we (co-)organised the final conference of the ‘Keeping GMOs out of food’ project. At this event, we presented the results of all IFOAM EU activities on GMOs to civil society and policy-makers. We also launched our new project on GMOs: ‘Keeping GMOs out of organic’, a continuation of the previous project.

**Growing in harmony with nature: ambitious pesticide legislation**

We continued working to ensure that Member States take their responsibilities about the decision-making process on GMOs and pesticides. We specifically advocated for an ambitious implementation of the EU’s Sustainable Pesticide Use Directive and monitored and contributed to the REFIT Evaluation of the EU regulations on pesticides. We did this through participating in workshops and organising meetings with MEPs. We also called on experts on plant protection products and / or fertilisers to join our new expert group on Plant Protection Products and Fertilisers. This expert group will provide expertise on legislative issues that could have significant implications for new and existing plant protection and fertiliser products of interest to the organic sector.

**Ensuring that the legislative framework takes organics' benefits into account**

IFOAM EU and FiBL published a report “Towards a new public goods payment model for remunerating farmers under the new CAP Post-2020”. In the report we urge the European Commission to transform the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) into a tool that makes agriculture more environmental and social. Based on this paper we will continue working on a practical tool for Member States to design the green architecture of their CAP Strategic Plans for 2021-2027.
Improving what goes into organic

It is important to make sure that there are enough inputs available that are suitable for organic farming. To make sure plant protection products, fertilisers and food and feed additives are conform organic's high standards we promoted the availability of inputs adapted to organic production systems and we advocated against inputs that threaten organic agriculture systems.

We did this by monitoring and advocating on general EU legislations on food and farm inputs. We kept an eye on the implementation of fertiliser and pesticide legislations and participated in relevant meetings. We organised and attended events such as the European Conference on Copper in Plant Protection and the 6 International Conference on Organic Agriculture Sciences (ICOAS).

IFOAM EU is responsible for the communication, dissemination and facilitation of the science-practice-policy dialogue in the RELACS project. This started in May and aims to develop alternatives for inputs considered contentious in organic agriculture. FiBL coordinates the project and IFOAM EU is responsible for providing policy advice and ensuring the project's communication.
Building bridges and increasing capacity

Of course, we can only get organic on every table together with policy-makers and other actors in food and farming. As European organic movement we built bridges with farming communities, like-minded organisations and actors beyond the organic sector. We achieved this via face-to-face meetings, position papers, press releases, official letters, targeted emails, our newsletter, and the IFOAM EU member extranet.

We exchanged regularly – in person and digitally – with the IFOAM EU Board, Council, Interest Group of Organic Processors and Traders (IGOP), the Interest Group of Organic Farmers (IGOF), the Interest Group of Organic Retailers (IGOR), the European Organic Comms Hub and 8 additional working groups. Of course, we constantly informed our member organisations about recent developments relevant to the organic sector in Europe.

In our work on we put a special focus on Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). We brought together different actors from this region at a roundtable to address the specific needs to develop its organic sector. At the roundtable we focussed on raising awareness about the benefits of organic agriculture and improving the environment for organic businesses. We also transformed the pilot group of communications experts among our members in an expert group.

We developed organic action plans within the framework of the SME Organics project at various face-to-face meetings with the project partners and relevant stakeholders. Moreover, we engaged in several other projects, which allowed the organisation to create links with stakeholders relevant to the organic movement, such as IoF2020, ReMiX and XF-Actors. In 2018, two team members of our office graduated from the Organic Leadership Course and we also continued to collect and show initiatives that are already bringing organic on every table on euorganic2030.bio (#EUOrganic2030, #OrganicOnEveryTable).
Exemplary initiative for ‘Organic on every table’

USING GREEN PROCUREMENT TO FOSTER SUSTAINABLE DIETS

A combination of forward-looking green procurement policy and a determination to transform food culture are the recipe for success when it comes to increasing organic in public institutions. As of 2017, the share of organic ingredients in meals in public canteens in Copenhagen has reached 89%, and this transition has reshaped the public food system as well as the meals that are served to the citizens of Copenhagen.
WHAT DO WE WANT?

To achieve our vision of a fair, environmentally conscious, healthy and caring food and farming system by 2030. We led extensive discussions with all stakeholders of the agricultural value chain. A roadmap to sustainable food systems in Europe guides us in making this vision a reality.

The second pillar of this roadmap is Improve – Inspire – Deliver. Organic has always been a force of ongoing improvement – keeping an eye on the entire production system. This makes the organic movement a driver for transformation in harmony and ideal result for people, animals and the planet.

To continue advancing food and farming system, all actors need to continue reducing the use of resources. This should happen at all levels while increasing productivity by using organic’s innovative techniques. Think about recycling and reusing inputs, improving animal health and welfare, avoiding waste and promoting the consumption of plant proteins and fewer, better animal products. To achieve this, all actors in food and farming must get involved in research and innovation projects and share their knowledge across value chain actors all over Europe. At the same time, policy-makers need to ensure an appropriate framework for organic food and farming, including more funding for organic research and innovation. Get inspired about how you can make Europe more organic by visiting EUorganic2030 and exploring the various initiatives to improve, inspire and deliver.

WHAT DID WE DO?

Showing that organic is an ally in the fight against the climate crisis

Together with the Institut du Développement Durable et des Relations Internationales (IDDRI) we conducted a detailed evaluation of their “Ten Years for Agroecology” scenario. The report “Organic agriculture can feed Europe and contribute to climate mitigation while offering broader environmental benefits” concludes that a European food system that is fully organic reduces agriculture’s direct greenhouse gas emissions with 26% compared to 2010. Taking into account both direct and indirect emissions would lead to 36% less greenhouse gases. We also funded a study by the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEPP) “CAP 2021-27: Using the eco-scheme to maximise environmental and climate benefits”.

A European food system that is fully organic reduces agriculture’s direct greenhouse gas emissions with 26% compared to 2010.

Together with IFOAM – Organics International we advocated on how agroecology and organic contribute to reducing emissions in the EU and globally during the 24th Conference of the Parties (COP 24) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). At the COP the organic movement participated in the work of the Farmers Constituency, representing the interest of organic farmers and organised a side-event titled “Speed Up the Cool Down: Scaling Up Regenerative Solutions to Climate Change”. We also participated in workshops at other events like “Achieving net-zero emissions in the agriculture sector” at the European Climate Foundation.

Moreover, we coordinated the Strategies for Organic and Low-Input Farming to Mitigate and Adapt to Climate Change (SOLMACC) project. During the last year of the project the farmers concluded that agriculture can tackle climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and remain economically viable. The project’s findings were conveyed to European and national policy-makers, representatives of the organic movement and organic farmers at the final conference.

Improving funding for organic research

Through our work with TP Organics, the European Technology Platform for organic food and farming, we substantially contributed to increasing EU funding for organic research. The collaboration of the platform unites almost 100 companies, farmers, consumers, civil society organisations and researchers active in the organic value chain from production, input & supply, to food processing, marketing and consumption in Europe. In 2018, TP Organics focused its activities on Horizon Europe, the EU research and innovation programme for the budget period 2021-2027. TP Organics demanded that research...
funded through Horizon Europe benefit EU citizens and the environment and address the needs of the organic sector.

We participated in TP Organics’ successful 4Organic Innovation Days at which innovations in the organic sector were presented. The most innovative initiative, the start-up ‘Polyfly’ that commercialises hoverflies as alternative, effective and natural pollinators received an award.

Inspiring through exemplary projects

In 2018 we demonstrated that organic food and farming can provide solutions to the challenges our food system faces. To do this we set-up the Organic Farm Knowledge platform. The platform provides access to a wide range of tools and resources about organic farming that can help improve production. It was originally set up by the OK-Net Arable project. It is now being developed further by OK-Net EcoFeed, a project that aims at helping organic pig and poultry farmers in achieving the goal of
100% use of organic and regional feed. We also took part in the ReMIX project that looks into redesigning European cropping systems based on species mixtures and the Internet of Food and Farm 2020 (IoF2020) project that researches the possibilities of the Internet of Things in European agriculture. In the IoF2020 project we demonstrated the innovative character of organic in the IoF2020 project.

As IFOAM EU we continued to be involved in the NEFERTITI project, which focuses on creating added value from exchanging knowledge to boost the uptake of innovation and improve peer-to-peer learning. Furthermore, we gave young professionals from all over Europe the opportunity to learn about the organic movement within IFOAM EU. Volunteers work with us for one year within the framework of the European Voluntary Service and increased their knowledge about the benefits of organic agriculture.

Of course, we continued collecting initiatives that are improving the organic food and farming sector in Europe. Get acquainted with them on euorganic2030.bio (#EUOrganic2030, #ImproveInspireDeliver).

Exemplary initiative for ‘Improve – Inspire – Deliver’

THE EXPERIENCE WITH THE LEADER APPROACH

Ukraine’s endowments of land resources and other production factors are internationally recognised as providing favourable conditions for arable crop production and wild collection. The goal of the Swiss-Ukrainian project "Organic Market Development in Ukraine 2012 - 2018" is to foster the growth of small and medium enterprises in the Ukrainian organic food sector by developing organic and regional food supply chains. The focus is on both national and international markets and the approach is demand driven. The project aims to strengthen the competitiveness of the country's organic sector.

MORE INFO

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Inspiring legislation

Through our advocacy work on key issues at the intersection of environmental and agricultural policies we show policymakers that organic drives transformation. To make sure that organic has the means to stay innovative, it needs more funding for research.

Our advocacy efforts focused on the new EU Organic Regulation, climate change, GMOs, seeds, inputs and biodiversity. These topics are crucial to safeguard a Europe in which the environment and the people and animals in it thrive. For our work about the organic regulation we advocated during the development of delegated and implementing acts through direct meetings.
with the European Commission and regular communication towards the Member States. In order to prepare the political and technical input to this process, a specific IFOAM EU Task Force on the implementation of the new regulation was established. We did this in constant collaboration with our members and informed them about the development of the legislative process of the new Organic Regulation. We presented our work and the possible impacts of the new organic regulation at many occasions via presentations, newsletters, briefings, webinars and a dedicated session during the 12th European Organic Congress in Vienna, BIOFACH 2018 and the 5th Organic Processing Conference in Zwolle. Moreover, we also monitored the process around the Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) to ensure that this legislation does not undermine organic.
FAIR PLAY – FAIR PAY

WHAT DO WE WANT?

The third pillar of the roadmap to achieve our vision for 2030 is ‘Fair play – Fair pay’. Today is a good time to be organic, since the market has never been bigger and seen a more rapidly growth. As the organic sector is not a niche market anymore, the supply chain actors must play their role to set up fairer and more transparent food systems. For this we need the involvement of all actors along the value chain. From farmers to processors and consumers to certifiers, power and value should be fairly distributed and the costs and benefits of food production products should be accounted for.

To make this a reality we need continuous dialogue between producers, traders, certifiers and distributors as well as new business models and supply chains generating more added value for primary producers. Organic should also capitalise on new technological developments. At the same time, policy-makers have an important role to play in providing the required framework for maintaining the balance in the value chains, accounting for the true costs and benefits of food production and encouraging information exchange and local initiatives.

Get inspired about how you can make Europe more organic by visiting EUorganic2030 and exploring the various initiatives to ensure fair play – fair pay in the organic sector.

WHAT DID WE DO?

Showing that organic is an ally in the fight against the climate crisis

Based on the preparatory work we did in 2017, we carried out several activities in 2018 that make the organic food and farming sector fairer and more transparent. We advocated for true cost accounting and value pricing. How did we do this?

We published a position paper “Towards a new post-2020 CAP that supports farmers and delivers public goods to Europeans”, calling for a new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) that rewards farmers based on their contribution to public goods, such as biodiversity, water quality, and the maintenance of ecosystem services.

We co-commissioned and released a study on transitioning towards sustainable food systems in Europe. The research, carried out by the University of Pisa, assessed 10 food related EU policies to better understand why, despite the intentions, existing policies have not succeeded in transitioning towards a sustainable food system.

“Conventional potato cultivation in Germany costs €1298/hectare in
ground water pollution alone. For organic potato production the cost on ground water pollution decreases to €0.4/hectare.”

Extract from the study “Taxation as a tool towards true cost accounting”

IFOAM EU also commissioned a study on taxation as a tool towards true cost accounting in the food and farming sector. It addressed the question whether pesticides and the like should be taxed and whether sustainable products should enjoy a reduced value-added tax. The study concludes that it is more realistic to advocate for an excise tax on environmentally unfriendly practices. Any other tax-related tool is unlikely to be implementable.

Moreover, the IFOAM EU Interest Group of Organic Retailers (IGOR) was set up in September 2018. This group started working inter alia on the topic of taxation and true cost accounting. Besides the above, we monitored a new initiative of the European Commission. It intends to develop the Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) approach for food products. Finally, we followed the debate around the potential extension of the EU ecolabel to food products and beverages.

Improving funding for organic research

Our work also focused on increasing the credibility, fairness and transparency of the organic supply chain. We did this through active involvement in providing input to the negotiations on the Unfair Trading Practices (UTPs) Directive, which was proposed by the European Commission in April 2018. IFOAM EU and other NGOs ensured the final Directive that was released in December 2018 includes important points, like enabling not-for-profit associations that have a knowledge of supply chains to file a complaint, increasing the list of prohibited UTPs and extending the scope of actors covered by the Directive.

Through our involvement in the IoF 2020 project, our members were able to take part in a €30 million European research project. We also provided expert insights to our members and other attendees of the Organic Processing Conference by organising sessions about blockchain technology, augmented reality to create transparency from farm to fork and facilitate dialogue between all value chain.
Inspiring through exemplary projects

Of course, you need a connected movement to ensure a transparent and fair supply chain. This is why we built enhanced dialogue between actors in the value chain by coordinating the ‘capacity building’ project to bring together representatives from Central and Eastern European countries.

Further, we organised 'IFOAM EU meets business', an event gathering the organic food industry in an interactive setting. The provided a platform to the IFOAM EU Interest Group of Organic Processors (IGOP) and interested food companies to discuss relevant topics in the organic sector, to share information and exchange on best practices, to understand each other's perspectives and to touch base on technical issues.

We are happy to say that we involved food and farming actors and policy-makers at regional, national and European level to great success. We did this through our advocacy work, direct meetings with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), like-minded NGOs our members, participation in relevant workshops and events, such as the Sustainable Foods Summit, and constant communication.

Of course we continued to collect initiatives that make the European organic food and farming sector fairer and more transparent on euorganic2030.bio. Find these initiatives on social media with #EUorganic2030 and #FairPlayFairPay.

Exemplary initiative for ‘Fair play – Fair pay’
LINKING GROWERS AND CONSUMERS ACROSS THE WORLD

The global food market is anonymous, which leads to ruthless exploitation of the planet and the people that live on it. Food production has hidden costs such as plastic waste, water pollution, degraded soils, climate change, social disruption and conflict. We need to reconnect the grower with the consumer, show the impacts on people and planet, reveal the True Costs of Food. That is what the Nature & More transparency system does.
GOVERNANCE

BOARD 2018

Our members elect the IFOAM EU Board at the biennial General Assembly. They elect nine Board members according to sector-related and regional criteria for two years. Once the Board is elected, its members vote for a President, a Treasurer, a Vice-President for Regulation and a Vice-President for Policy during the first Board meeting.

The Board acts as a first chamber, directs our affairs and develops detailed budgets and work programmes in accordance with the IFOAM EU Vision and internal strategy together with and our General Assembly and Council.

COUNCIL 2018

In the IFOAM EU Council you find your national representative. The IFOAM EU Council consists of a Council Member that is elected by national assemblies and a maximum of two Deputy Council Members from each EU country. The IFOAM EU Council act as a second chamber to the IFOAM EU Board and transmits national interests and specificities to the European level.

In the first meeting following the General Assembly, the Council elects a Chair and a Vice-Chair among its members and deputies for a period of two years.

In 2018, the IFOAM EU Council Chairs were:

- Chair: Évelyne Alcázar Marín (Spain)
- Vice-Chair: Dorota Metera (Poland)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sabine Eigeschnick</td>
<td>Council Member &amp; Board Vice President</td>
<td>Austria Bio Garantie</td>
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<td>Lieve Vercauteren</td>
<td>Council Member</td>
<td>BioForum</td>
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<td>Thomas Fert</td>
<td>Deputy Council Member &amp; Board Member &amp; Rapporteur for farming</td>
<td>Bio Austria</td>
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<td>Muriel Huybrechts</td>
<td>Deputy Council Member</td>
<td>Le Collège Des Producteurs</td>
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<td>Stoilko Apostолов</td>
<td>Council Member</td>
<td>Bioselena</td>
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<td>Albena Simenova</td>
<td>Deputy Council Member</td>
<td>Bulgarian Organic Products Association</td>
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<td>Andrea Vugrinovič</td>
<td>Council Member</td>
<td>Levovina Ltd</td>
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<td>Jill Leheňek</td>
<td>Council Member &amp; Board Member</td>
<td>Czech Technology Platform for Organic Agriculture</td>
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<td>Sybille Kyed</td>
<td>Council Member</td>
<td>Organic Denmark – Ökologisk Landfarming</td>
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<td>Per Köster</td>
<td>Deputy Council Member</td>
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<td>Merit Mikk</td>
<td>Council Member</td>
<td>Estonian Organic Farming Foundation</td>
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<td>Airi Vetemaa</td>
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<td>Aina Sevín</td>
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<td>Mikko Simola</td>
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<td>Kymi Organic</td>
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<td>Sylvie Dulong</td>
<td>Council Member &amp; Board Member</td>
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<td>Jean-Marc Lèvêtre</td>
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<td>Michel Reynaud</td>
<td>Deputy Council Member &amp; Board Member</td>
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<td>Peter Röhrig</td>
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<td>Kirsten Arp</td>
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<td>Aneja Kilingli</td>
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<td>Elias Mavrias</td>
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<td>Attiki Association of Organic Farmers Markets</td>
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<td>Andreas Georgiakakis</td>
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<td>Lea Bauer</td>
<td>Council Member</td>
<td>Biokontroll Hungária Nonprofit Kft</td>
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<td>Hajnalika Homoki</td>
<td>Deputy Council Member</td>
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<td>Olafur Dymundsson</td>
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<td>Bílarfa Farmers Association Iceland</td>
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<td>Stefán Glisiason</td>
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<td>Gillian Westbrook</td>
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<td>Grace Maher</td>
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<td>Eveline Gill</td>
<td>Deputy Council Member</td>
<td>Organic Trust Ltd.</td>
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<td>Antonio Compagnoni</td>
<td>Council Member</td>
<td>ICEA</td>
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<td>Riccardo Cozzo</td>
<td>Deputy Council Member</td>
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<td>Matteo Bartolini</td>
<td>Deputy Council Member</td>
<td>FederBio</td>
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<td>Gustaus Nordárklis</td>
<td>Council Member</td>
<td>ALDA</td>
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<td>Andreas Briedis</td>
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<td>Jánis Garančs</td>
<td>Deputy Council Member</td>
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<td>Virginija Lukšiêne</td>
<td>Council Member</td>
<td>Public Institution Eksagros</td>
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<td>Almantas Liorentas</td>
<td>Deputy Council Member</td>
<td>Lithuanian Association of Organic Farms</td>
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<td>Skirmantas Nkstotė</td>
<td>Deputy Council Member</td>
<td>Agropro LLC</td>
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<td>Daniela Norsen-Steiger</td>
<td>Council Member</td>
<td>Bio-Lieţzebuerg</td>
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<td>Mario Salerno</td>
<td>Council Member</td>
<td>Maita Organic Agriculture Movement</td>
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<td>Joe Sciberras</td>
<td>Deputy Council Member</td>
<td>Maita Organic Agriculture Movement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marian Blom</td>
<td>Council Member &amp; Board Member</td>
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<td>Paulien Veerman</td>
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<td>Miriam van Bree</td>
<td>Deputy Council Member</td>
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<td>Gerald Aitzena</td>
<td>Council Member</td>
<td>DEBIO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grete Serkstad</td>
<td>Deputy Council Member</td>
<td>Biofrsk Organic Food and Farming</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barre Solberg</td>
<td>Deputy Council Member</td>
<td>Olvas Ókológik Norge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dorota Mętera</td>
<td>Council Member &amp; Vice-Chair Person</td>
<td>BIOEKSPERT Ltd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tomasz Sadowski</td>
<td>Deputy Council Member</td>
<td>Institute of Genetics and Animal Breeding of the Polish Academy of Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Waldemar Fortune</td>
<td>Deputy Council Member</td>
<td>Forum Równictwa Ekologicznego / Organic Farming Forum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jaime Manuel</td>
<td>Council Member</td>
<td>Agrobio</td>
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<td>Anamaria Marian</td>
<td>Council Member</td>
<td>Bio Romania Association</td>
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<td>Milos Homola</td>
<td>Council Member</td>
<td>Ekotrend Slovakia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anamaria Slabe</td>
<td>Council Member</td>
<td>Institute for Sustainable Development</td>
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</table>
In 2018, IFOAM EU represented more than 200 members in 34 European countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Macedonia, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

Discover who were the members that helped us to make Europe more organic in 2018.

Are you keen to make Europe more organic with us? Join us today! Contact Caterina Berardi, our Internal Communications and Membership Officer for membership inquiries.
KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE WITHIN IFOAM EU

Interest groups

We have four interest groups. They consist of our members and are established to provide direct involvement from sectors in the organisation of IFOAM EU. The interest groups formulate official policies and positions of relevance for their sector:

- Interest Group of Organic Farmers
- Interest Group of Organic Processors
- Interest Group of Organic Retailers
- Interest Group of Organic Certifiers (established in 2019)

Working groups

Our working groups bring together the huge expertise of our membership. They regularly exchange on topics relevant to their areas of expertise:

- IFOAM Aquaculture Forum – EU coordination
- Central and Eastern Europe Expert Group (Capacity Building)
- European Organic Comms Hub
- Genetically Modified Organisms – GMO
- Expert Group on Plant Protection Products and Fertilisers
- Expert Group on Seed

When political developments and developments within the movement call for it, we set up task forces with our members that have excellent knowledge on the topics. In 2018 we had task forces on:

- Climate Change
- Cosmetics
- Implementation of the new regulation
- Textile

OFFICE TEAM
We employed 35 people from 20 different countries at IFOAM EU in 2018.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agrobio</td>
<td>Portuguese Association of Organic Agriculture</td>
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<td>AOLA</td>
<td>Association of Latvian Organic Agriculture</td>
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<td>AssoBio</td>
<td>Associazione Nazionale delle Imprese di Trasformazione e Distribuzione di Prodotti Biologici</td>
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<td>BioSuisse</td>
<td>Vereinigung Schweizer Bio-Landbauorganisationen</td>
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<td>BNN</td>
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<td>BOLW</td>
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<td>CAP</td>
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<td>Commission</td>
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<td>COP</td>
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<td>Council</td>
<td>Council of the European Union</td>
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<td>Debio</td>
<td>Norwegian Organic Certification Agency</td>
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<td>DG SANTE</td>
<td>European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety</td>
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<td>DIO</td>
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<td>EASME</td>
<td>Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises</td>
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<td>EC</td>
<td>Council Regulation</td>
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<td>ECJ</td>
<td>European Court of Justice</td>
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<td>Ecocert</td>
<td>Certification body for sustainable development</td>
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<td>Ecovalia</td>
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<td>GMOs</td>
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<td>IAEA</td>
<td>Istituto per la Certificazione Etica ed Ambientale</td>
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<td>ICOAS</td>
<td>International Conference on Organic Agriculture Sciences</td>
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<td>IDDR</td>
<td>Institut du Développement Durable et des Relations Internationales</td>
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<td>IEPP</td>
<td>Institute for European Environmental Policy</td>
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<td>IGOF</td>
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<td>IGOP</td>
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<td>Organic Grains for Industry</td>
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<td>MEPs</td>
<td>Members of the European Parliament</td>
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<td>NatExpo</td>
<td>International trade show for organic products</td>
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<td>NEFERTITI</td>
<td>Networking European Farms to Enhance Cross Fertilisation and Innovation Uptake Through demonstration</td>
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<td>Organic Farmers and Growers</td>
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<td>Parliament</td>
<td>European Parliament</td>
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<td>Product Environmental Footprint</td>
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<td>REFIT</td>
<td>the European Commission’s Regulatory Fitness and Performance programme</td>
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<td>Replacement of Contentious Inputs in Organic Farming Systems</td>
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<td>REMix</td>
<td>Redesigning European cropping systems based on species MIXtures</td>
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<td>Spanish Society for Organic Farming and Agroecology</td>
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<td>SMEs</td>
<td>Small and Medium-sized Enterprises</td>
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<td>SOLMACC</td>
<td>Strategies for Organic and Low-Input Farming to Mitigate and Adapt to Climate Change</td>
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LAYOUT: Atto & IFOAM EU