

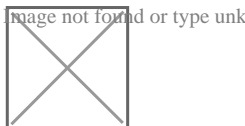


IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE ANNUAL REPORT

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► 2020

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VIDEO MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

OUR VISION FOR ORGANIC BY 2030

The European organic movement's vision for food and farming is of a fair, environmentally conscious, healthy, and caring system widely adopted in Europe by 2030. To make it happen, we need to take stock of what organic has become, to lead change and stimulate interactions with other like-minded organisations and initiatives, including fair trade, agroecology, and urban agriculture, focusing on three pillars:

- [Organic on every table](#)
- [Improve – Inspire – Deliver](#)
- [Fair Play – Fair pay](#)
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As IFOAM Organics Europe, we welcomed the European Green Deal's EU [Biodiversity](#) and [Farm to Fork](#) strategies unveiled in May 2020. These will "address the challenges of sustainable food systems in a comprehensive way, recognising the inextricable links between healthy people, healthy societies and a healthy planet".

Importantly, one of the Farm to Fork Strategy's four targets is reaching 25% of the EU's agricultural land under organic farming by 2030.

The Commission recognises organic as part of the solution to more sustainable food systems, providing European citizens with more resilient European food and farming systems while addressing the climate and biodiversity crises.

[Read the European organic movement's full vision statement](#) (also below) and our [organic roadmap to sustainable food and farming systems in Europe](#) – providing an overview of what IFOAM Organics Europe, food & farming actors and policymakers can do to transform food and farming.

Get inspired about how you can make Europe more organic by visiting EUorganic2030.bio and exploring various initiatives already making our Vision 2030 a reality.

The European organic movement's vision for 2030

Our vision for food and farming is 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 food and farming 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.

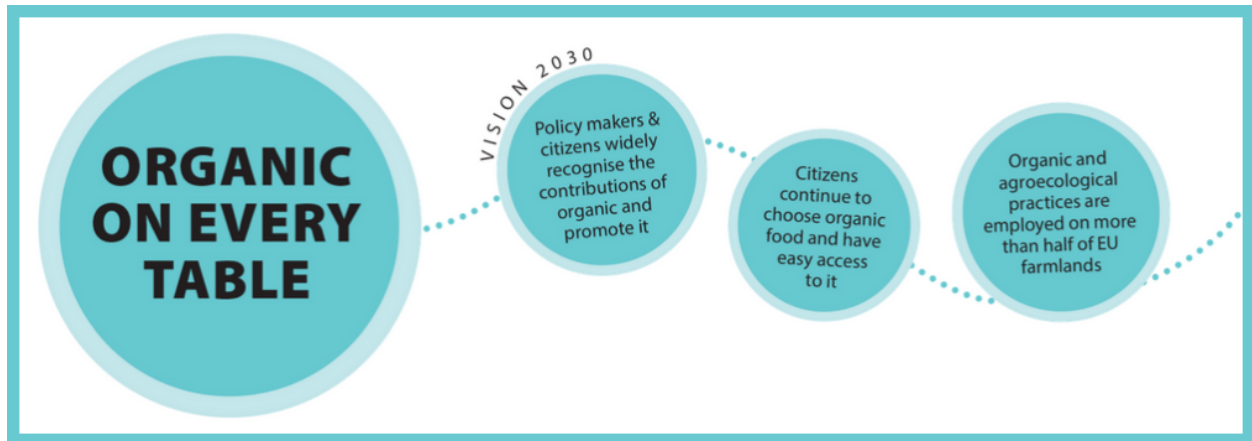
European farmers and all workers in the organic supply chain are fairly remunerated for their contribution to the health of the environment, communities, local and rural economies, and for providing flavourful and abundant food to contribute to the welfare of our planet and the quality of life of all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

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

ORGANIC ON EVERY TABLE

For us, 'Organic on every table' means high-quality and healthy food to be more widely available. This can only be achieved through increasing production and raising awareness among consumers and policymakers of organic's economic, environmental, and social benefits.



To make organic on every table a reality, we advocated policymakers to put in place incentives and coherent policies supporting farmers who provide public goods. We did this together with a vast network of food and farming actors, civil society, companies, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). Due to COVID-19, much of our advocacy work in 2020 took place online.

Organic's benefits to people and planet

EU Green Deal, Farm to Fork Strategy & promotion policies

With the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies' publication on 20 May 2020, the European Commission put organic at the heart of the transformation of Europe's food and farming sector. It recognizes that food systems are responsible for approximately 29% of the world's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and nearly 70% of all agricultural GHG emissions come from the animal sector. Furthermore, it explicitly states that "there is an urgent need to reduce dependency on pesticides and antimicrobials, reduce the use of fertilisers, increase organic farming, improve animal welfare, and reverse biodiversity loss". The Farm to Fork (F2F) Strategy intends leading a global transition towards competitive sustainability from farm to fork.

As IFOAM Organics Europe, we welcomed the target to reach 25% organic land in Europe by 2030, as well as measures to boost the demand for organic products through promotion schemes and green public procurement.

We were also happy to see the Commission's commitment to publish a new Organic Action Plan. These elements of the F2F strategy were the result of intense advocacy work and collaboration with policymakers.

TRANSFORMING FOOD & FARMING THROUGH THE EU ORGANIC ACTION PLAN 2021-2027

EU ORGANIC

Area farmed

14.6

million hectares of organic land in 2019



68.6% increase (2010-2019)



Producers
343,858



Processors
78,240

Retail sales

€41.5

billion organic retail sales in 2019



128.8% increase (2010-2019)



INTERACTIVE DATA

THE EU ORGANIC ACTION PLAN

- 23 actions
- Push-pull approach to increase production & consumption, offering many opportunities to current & future organic operators, such as:



Ringfencing at least 30% of Horizon Europe budget to topics relevant to the organic sector



Minimum mandatory criteria for organic in Green Public Procurement



Organising annual EU 'Organic Day'



Member States to develop national Organic Action Plans



Actions on taxation and true cost of food



Requesting national organic target in CAP Strategic Plans



Supporting the implementation of bio-districts



Strengthening farm advisory services



LET'S GET TO 25% EUROPEAN ORGANIC LAND BY 2030, TOGETHER! VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE

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for translation.

Ensuring a GMO-free European food and farming sector: First open-source detection test for a gene-edited crop

Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and associated farming systems promote uniformity on the field and their introduction into the environment can lead to unforeseen consequences. To avoid negative impact on the environment and health and to maintain consumer and farmer's freedom of choice, it is crucial for the organic sector that GMOs continue to be regulated to enable a GMO-free production of food and feed in Europe.

In 2018, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruled that new genetic engineering techniques are GMOs and should be regulated as such. However, a regulation is only worth so much as it can be enforced.

Thanks to a consortium of NGOs IFOAM Organics Europe was part of, an open-source detection for the first gene-edited crop on the market was released.

This is a big step forward in ensuring organic and non-organic products do not contain any products that should not be in there.

Finally, we organised two BIOFACH sessions on "[Genome editing and the health concept in organic farming – co-existence or conflict?](#)" in collaboration with Beyond GM and "[New genetic engineering techniques – current implementation of EU law and future perspectives](#)" with Bund Ökologische Lebensmittelwirtschaft (BÖLW).

Ensuring an appropriate political framework for organic: CAP post-2020

We developed a leaflet summarising the key policies to achieve the 25% organic land target in the EU by 2030.

25% ORGANIC LAND IN EUROPE BY 2030
AMBITIOUS BUT ACHIEVABLE
WITH THE RIGHT POLICIES IN PLACE

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Increased research & innovation (R&I)
Adequate budget for R&I in organic solutions applicable to all agriculture and food systems. Set up dedicated Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems and independent advisory services for organic
How? Ringfence budget in Horizon Europe and amending the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation's articles 13 and 72



Increase availability of natural solutions
Adapt registration of plant protection natural substances suitable for organic
How? Revising registration procedure in the EU Regulation on Plant Protection Products (EC) No 1107/2009



Boost demand for organic products
Develop Green Public Procurement (GPP) to include mandatory targets for organic products
How? Open a dialogue with Member States to discuss a mandatory target for organic in GPP



Promote organic consumption
Ringfence part of the budget for EU promotion policies for actions on organic farming
How? Ringfence part of yearly budget of the EU Regulation on Promotion measures concerning agricultural products (EC) No 1144/2014



Tax incentives
Internalise externalities by upholding "the polluter pays principle" in agriculture and food production
How? Introduce a reduced VAT for organic products and develop a common framework for true cost accounting



EU Green Deal in CAP objectives
The CAP's objectives should include the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies' targets
How? Amending articles 6 and 106 of the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation



National targets in CAP Strategic Plans
Analyse organics' needs and potential for further development and set up national targets for land under organic management
How? Amending article 92 of the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation



Increased CAP support for organic
Payments towards organic conversion and maintenance for Eco-schemes and Rural Development should exceed the total payments made before 2021
How? Amending article 92 of the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation



Adequate CAP budget for environment and climate actions
Ringfence 30% of Pillar 1 budget for Eco-schemes, increasing to 50% over the programming period (unspent funds should go to agri-environmental-climate of Pillar 2) and ringfence 30% of Pillar 2 excluding Areas with Natural Constraints
How? Amending article 28 and 65 of the CAP Strategic Plans Regulation



Favour system approaches to transition
Payments for system approaches shall be higher than payments for less ambitious approaches based on single farming practices
How? National CAP Strategic Plans should incentivise ambitious system redesign

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During the second half of 2020, when CAP negotiations picked up pace, we reminded the European Parliament that [the EU will not achieve its vision for sustainable food systems, including 25% of organic land by 2030, if the CAP does not align with the EU Green Deal and the Farm to Fork Strategy](#). The organic movement urged Members of the Parliament (MEPs) and Agriculture Ministers to agree to an ambitious ringfencing of the CAP budget for environmental and climate action, ensuring better rewards for farmers who protect ecosystem services, and creating a level-playing field across all Member States.

[Thanks to IFOAM Organics Europe's advocacy efforts, some good amendments were voted for during the European Parliament's online plenary in October 2020](#). These included the obligation for Member States to analyse their organic sector, assess the situation and level of support needed for its growth, and the inclusion of a new article on social conditionality. Parliamentarians also chose to ringfence 30% of pillar one to eco-schemes but did not decide about eligible practices and asked the Commission to propose a list as a delegated act. MEPs also included 40% of the budget for Areas with Natural Constraints (ANCs) in the second pillar's 30% environmental ringfencing. And while the Parliament refused to explicitly include the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies in targets, a few positive amendments were nonetheless adopted to consider these in the assessment of National Strategic Plans.

During the CAP trilogues from November 2020 to spring 2021, IFOAM Organics Europe supported all initiatives by the Commission to better integrate the EU Green Deal into the CAP and made sure organic's voice is heard during the negotiations between the three institutions.



[We also organised a panel discussion on the Farm to Fork Strategy and the CAP during our first digital European Organic Congress 2020.](#) Together with high-level speakers and more than 400 participants, we discussed how the CAP can contribute to the 25% EU organic land by 2030.

At the end, all speakers agreed: organic farming is a part of the solution and can make our food system more resilient.

During our BIOFACH session on [“Will the new Common Agriculture Policy \(CAP\) benefit organic producers?”](#), we provided an update on the CAP reform and the policy support in member states.

Finally, we were and are part of [Good Food Good Farming](#), a platform of national and EU-wide civil society organisations advocating for a fairer CAP and better allocation of the EU budget for sustainable farming. A highlight was the social media campaign under the hashtag [#GoodFoodGoodFarming](#), calling for a transformation of Europe’s agriculture.



Boosting the availability of organic seeds: LIVESEED project and patents on classic breeds

One of our priority areas is making sure that seeds, the source of plant production, are fit for organic. Therefore, the [LIVESEED project](#) is crucial for the organic sector, as it stimulates organic plant breeding and the production and use of organic seeds all over Europe. IFOAM Organics Europe is coordinating this project with 50 partners since June 2017. LIVESEED's [digital final conference](#), during TP Organics' Organic Innovation Days on 24-25 November, brought together more than 150 stakeholders and policymakers and its [social media campaign #BreedingABrightFutureBesides](#) raised awareness about the beauty and benefits of organic plant breeding to the wider public.

Additionally, we organised a session at BIOFACH on "[Organic Seed and organic heterogenous material in the new EU Organic Regulation](#)" and published a [booklet on the main project results](#).

BOOSTING ORGANIC SEEDS OF ADAPTED CULTIVARS

Seeds are the foundation of farming. Therefore, organic production should start with organic seed. Applying organic seed is mandatory according to the European organic regulation, but untreated conventional seed is still used to varying extent in different countries.

Cultivars adapted to organic systems are key for realising the full potential of organic agriculture in Europe. Specific traits are required: tolerance or resistance against pest, diseases and weeds, nutrient use efficiency. However, few organisations invest in organic breeding programmes, mainly due to the low return on investment.

To reach 100% use of organic seed of adapted cultivars we need to overcome several challenges:

- Technical difficulties in organic seed production
- Insufficient organic breeding programmes
- Lack of information regarding the availability and demand of organic seed
- Inconsistent implementation of EU organic regulation

"Networking of different initiatives in Europe is important to promote organic seed production, use, and enhance organic breeding"

Gebhard Rossmannith, Bingenheimer Saatgut

WHAT LIVESEED WILL DO

The objective of LIVESEED is to improve transparency and competitiveness of the organic seed and breeding sector and encourage greater use of organic seed.

LIVESEED will:

- Foster harmonised implementation of the EU regulation on organic seed
- Strengthen organic seed databases in the whole EU
- Investigate socio-economic aspects related to production and use of organic seed
- Improve availability and quality of organic seed
- Develop guidelines for organic cultivar testing and registration
- Develop innovative breeding approaches to widen the choice of organic cultivars

Research will cover legumes, vegetables, fruit trees, cereals and fodder crops; considering different farming systems across Europe.

"I hope that at the end we can offer recommendations to the national authorities and the EU on how to harmonise the implementation of the EU regulation on organic seed"

Monika Messmer, FiBL-CH Scientific coordinator

WORKING TOGETHER

LIVESEED has 49 partners covering 18 European countries. The consortium includes multiple actors from: research institutes, breeding companies, seed companies, organic associations (farmers, processors, retailers) and national authorities.

"Establish a well-functioning organic seed and breeding sector is key for improving organic farming in Europe"

Riccardo Bocci, Rete Semi Rurali

"LIVESEED is a unique opportunity to increase the volume and quality of organic seeds in Central-Eastern Europe"

Dóra Drexler, ÖMKI

During 2020, considerable progress has been achieved on seed and Plant Reproductive Material (PRM) available to organic production systems. With the contribution of IFOAM Organics Europe and our seed experts, the rules on 'varieties for organic production' and 'organic heterogenous material' have been specified, which will give organic producers access to a more diverse range of seeds and lay the groundwork for boosting the availability for varieties suited for organic input conditions.

In parallel, we advocated against patents on seeds from classical breeding as they hamper innovation in classical breeding, which depends on the non-limited exchange of genetic material. On 14 May 2020, the European Patent Office (EPO)'s enlarged board of appeal released an opinion putting an end to patents on classically bred plants. According to the interpretation of the Administrative Council of the EPO, "European patents cannot be granted in respect of plant or animal varieties or essentially biological processes to produce plants or animals".

The end to patents on classic breeds is a huge success for the organic movement. It allows breeders to continue working on new varieties better adapted to the changing climate and specific conditions of organic agriculture.

If the decision is properly implemented, organic breeders will not be hindered by any new patents on classically bred varieties.

Preparing the new EU Organic Regulation's implementation

We successfully advocated for postponing the new Organic Regulation (EU2018/848)'s implementation to 1 January 2022 through digital meetings with the European Commission and regular communication towards the European institutions. The new EU Organic Regulation was initially set to enter into application on 1 January 2021. Already in April 2020, IFOAM Organics Europe called on the three EU institutions asking for a one-year postponement.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, organic producers and the organic control system were under stress, making a smooth transition from the current legal framework to the new one extremely challenging. Despite the difficult task to amend a

regulation that was already published in the EU's Official Journal,

the work we did with our members paid off and implementation of the new EU Organic Regulation was postponed to 1 January 2022,

making a smooth transition from the current legal framework to the new one extremely challenging. Despite the difficult task to amend a regulation that was already published in the EU's official Journal, the work we did with our members paid off and implementation of the new EU Organic Regulation was postponed to 1 January 2022.

Besides our work on ensuring a reasonable timeline for implementing the new EU Organic Regulation, we closely followed the development of the delegated and implementing acts, providing the Commission with timely input, and updating our members.

We presented our work and the possible impacts of the new EU Organic Regulation to organic operators on many occasions via presentations, newsletters, briefings, webinars and a dedicated session during the digital [European Organic Congress 2020](#), organised in collaboration with [BÖLW](#).

Additionally, we dedicated our [Policy Day at BIOFACH to the new EU Organic Regulation](#) and presented and discussed the opportunities and challenges it will bring. A session on "[Group Certification: New Organic Regulation 2021 – regulatory changes for the certification of Groups of Operators](#)" allowed organic group operators to learn about the expected changes related to group certification, a new element in the regulation.

Organic inputs: Plant nutrition, plant protection and more

It is crucial for organic farmers to have access to suitable inputs. To ensure plant protection products (PPPs), fertilisers and food and feed additives are in line with organic's high standards we advocated for the availability of inputs adapted to organic production systems and against those threatening organic farming systems.

As IFOAM Organics Europe, we welcomed the targets of the Farm to Fork strategy for a 50% reduction in the overall use and risk of chemical pesticides, a reduction of at least 20% in the use of fertilisers and a 50% reduction in the overall sales of antimicrobials in the EU for farmed animals and in aquaculture. This supports the promotion of organic farming as reliable alternative model for reducing the current agricultural system's dependence on synthetic inputs.

We followed and kept an eye on the pesticide legislation's implementation and [launched a call for proposals to conduct research on pesticide contamination in the environment and pesticide residues in organic food](#). The research will be carried out within the framework of our "Pesticide contamination: ensuring a favourable environment for organic operators through EU legislative frameworks" project. We also organised and attended events, such as a BIOFACH session on "[How much natural inputs does the organic sector need?](#)".



IBMA AND IFOAM EU COLLABORATIVE ROADMAP

FOR ORGANIC FARMING 2019-2024



IFOAM Organics Europe also manages the [RELACS project](#)'s 'science-practice-policy dialogue' and 'communication, dissemination and facilitation' work packages. FiBL coordinates the project that started in May 2018 and will develop alternatives for inputs considered contentious in organic agriculture. In 2020, the project published two practice abstracts on [improved worm control in organic sheep farming](#) and [farm gate nutrient budgets](#).

Staying connected, building bridges, and increasing capacity

Exchanging with the organic movement and like-minded organisations

In 2020, we continued building bridges. Especially during these special times, it was more important than ever to stay connected with our members, policymakers, and civil society through digital tools. We exchanged regularly with our members and experts from IFOAM Organics Europe's Board, Council, Interest Groups of Organic Processors and Traders (IGOP), Farmers (IGOF), Retailers (IGOR) & Certification and Integrity (IGOC), our regulation experts, the European Organic Comms Hub, and more working and expert groups. Of course, we constantly informed our member organisations about recent developments relevant to organic in Europe.



To get to know our members better and stay in touch, we organised inspirational speeches throughout the year. During these, our members talked about their involvement in the organic movement, how they and their organisation are changing the European food and farming system on the ground and how the work of IFOAM Organics Europe contributes this change. Speakers included Helen Browning, Chief Executive of Soil Association; Michaël Wilde, Director of Bionext; Cristina Micheloni, Organic Farming Advisor; Felix Prinz zu Löwenstein, Chairman of BÖLW and Paul Holmbeck, Director of Holmbeck EcoConsult. We are continuing these inspirational speeches in 2021.



We also supported the European Citizen Initiative [Save bees and farmers](#), extended to June 2021, aimed at phasing out synthetic

pesticides by 2035, supporting farmers, and saving bees and nature. To further support this goal, we wrote a [joint letter to Commissioners Timmermans, Kyriakides, Wojciechowski and Sinkevičius](#), urging them to phase-out synthetic pesticides, restore biodiversity and support farmers transitioning to nature-friendly agriculture. Finally, we joined [#Together4Forests](#), a campaign encouraging people to submit their replies to the ongoing European Commission public consultation on deforestation to push for a strong EU law to keep the EU market free from agricultural and other products linked to deforestation. [The initiative gathered more than 1 million signatures, which were handed over to the European Commission on 14 December in an online event.](#)



Building bridges beyond the organic movement

In 2020, we continued building bridges within our membership, interest and expert groups, but also with policymakers, European environmental NGOs and our involvement in the European Citizen Initiative "[Save bees and farmers](#)". This campaign wants to phase out synthetic pesticides by 2035, support farmers, and save bees and nature.

[In October 2020, IFOAM Organics Europe Board Member Marian Blom was re-elected as chair of the Civil Dialogue Group \(CDG\) on Organic Farming.](#) The Chair is elected for one year and is engaged with shaping content and organisation of a CDG. [IFOAM Organics Europe president Jan Plagge was elected Vice-Chair of the CAP CDG in December 2020.](#) He chaired the CDG on the CAP for the past two years (the mandate can only be taken twice and is voted on annually). CDGs are one of the Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission (DG AGRI)'s stakeholder consultation tools to maintain an open, transparent and regular dialogue with representatives of the civil society on issues in the field of agriculture and rural development.

The [Food Policy Coalition](#), a coalition of NGOs in Brussels, was created in 2019. Since then, IFOAM Organics Europe has been active in the governance and in several task forces of this coalition. As member of the executive board of this Coalition, we are co-leading the task force on sustainable public procurement and are active in other task forces such as the task forces on agroecology, on the legislative framework for sustainable food systems, and on agriculture and climate change. Thanks to our participation in this coalition, we strengthened our working relationship with other NGOs based in Brussels such as the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), The European Consumers' Association (BEUC), and the Fair Trade Advocacy Office (FTAO).

We also continued our involvement in the [Good Food Good Farming](#) platform, and our cooperation with [IBMA](#) to promote the uptake of safe, environmentally friendly, and efficient biocontrol technologies of natural origin suitable for organic farming.

Our engagement in several Horizon2020 projects allowed us to create links with stakeholders relevant to the organic movement, such as [EURAKNOS](#), [EUREKA](#), [IoF2020](#), [SmartAgriHubs](#), [ReMIX](#) and [XF-ACTORS](#).

Finally, we continued to collect and show initiatives bringing organic on every table on [euorganic2030.bio](#) (#EUOrganic2030, #OrganicOnEveryTable) and our Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn (@OrganicsEurope).

SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR YOUNG FARMERS & ENTREPRENEURS TO BUILD ORGANIC FARM BUSINESS

ENSURING ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF FARMING

VISIT [EUORGANIC2030.BIO](https://euorganic2030.bio) FOR INSPIRING EXAMPLES AND SUBMIT YOUR OWN



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IMPROVE – INSPIRE – DELIVER

'[Improve – Inspire – Deliver](#)' is the second pillar of our roadmap. The entire organic supply chain has always been a driver of innovation – showing the organic movement's potential to drive change in harmony with ecosystems and those inhabiting them.



Organic's contribution to combatting the climate and biodiversity crises

IFOAM Organics Europe advocates for key issues at the intersection between environmental and agricultural policies, such as climate change and biodiversity conservation. In 2020, we advocated for including organic farming as a solution for issues on water, soil and biodiversity in EU policies and were involved in EU research projects looking into continuously improving organics.

With the publication of the Farm to Fork Strategy in May 2020, the European Commission made an important step towards addressing the climate and biodiversity crises. Thanks to IFOAM Organics Europe's tireless advocacy efforts, the [Farm to Fork Strategy](#) puts organic farming at the core of a transition of European agriculture towards agroecology. Furthermore, the [Biodiversity Strategy](#) clearly mentions organic farming as a solution to halt biodiversity loss.

We continued our partnership with French think tank IDDRI to develop [an evaluation of the socio-economic impacts of a transition of European agriculture towards agroecology and organic farming](#). The new study looks at the economic models of the agri-food sector and highlights the need to transition from “competitiveness on price” and economies of scale to a

production model based on quality and differentiation, which would allow to create more jobs in the sector and would be best fit to address the challenges of both the climate and biodiversity crises.

We also actively contributed to the workshops of the European Commission's Directorate General for Climate Action (DG CLIMA) aimed at preparing its '[carbon farming](#)' initiative, launched on 27 April 2021. This initiative aims at incentivizing increased carbon sequestration in agriculture soils. Increased soil carbon sequestration is a clear benefit associated with organic farming practices. But the initiative will need to ensure that actions for carbon storage also deliver benefits for biodiversity. There will be further discussions in 2021 on whether carbon markets for soils are the best policy tools to deliver these multiple benefits.

With the support of BÖLW, we finalised a leaflet explaining to policy-makers the organic approach to plant health care. It highlights that no pesticides are used on 90% of organic land, and that only natural substances are needed for some specialty crops. It argues that the EU authorisation system for pesticides needs to be adapted to ensure higher availability of the natural substances which are needed by organic farmers.

On top of that, we supported the European Citizen Initiative "[Save bees and farmers](#)", aiming at phasing out synthetic pesticides by 2035, supporting farmers, and saving bees and nature. We also took part in the [#Together4Forests campaign](#), encouraging people to submit their replies to the ongoing European Commission public consultation on deforestation to stop products linked to deforestation ending up on the market and on our supermarket shelves all across the EU, fueling biodiversity loss, climate change and human rights violations.



Finally, we continued our involvement in the [RELACS project](#) with the aim to foster the development and facilitate the adoption of cost-efficient and environmentally safe tools and technologies to phase out the dependency on and use of inputs considered contentious in organic farming systems.

Boosting organic production and consumption: the new EU Organic Action Plan

Even prior to the publication of the Farm to Fork strategy, the Commission had committed to publishing a new organic action plan (OAP) for the years 2021-2027, that would be a follow-up to the 2014-2020 organic action plan. The Commission foresaw to publish the OAP in 2020, but its publication was postponed to March 2021. Throughout 2020 we made our voice heard by

contributing to roadmap as well as the public consultation preceding the OAP and publishing a [leaflet listing the European organic movement's priorities to boost both organic demand and production](#).

We were delighted to see that the new OAP took up many of the points we had advocated for.

We particularly welcomed the:

- Minimum mandatory criteria for organic in public procurement,
- Ringfencing of at least 30% of Horizon Europe budget to topics relevant to organic, and
- Actions on taxation and the real cost of food.

On the day of the release, IFAOM Organics Europe published an [infographic on the organic action plan](#), highlighting the plan's most welcomed actions.

Ensuring research & innovation funding for organic: Horizon Europe and beyond

We continued our work with [TP Organics](#), the European Technology Platform for organic food and farming, to ensure sufficient funding for organic research. The platform unites more than 100 companies, farmers, consumer, and civil society organisations as well as research institutes active in the organic value chain from production, input and supply to food processing, marketing, and consumption in Europe.

In 2020, TP Organics focused on Horizon Europe, the EU Research and Innovation programme, shaping its budget period 2021-2027.

[Among others, the EU Green Deal call "Building a low-carbon, climate resilient future: Research and innovation \(R&I\) in support of the European Green Deal" published in September 2020 clearly mentions organic farming](#). With a budget of EUR 1 billion to boost the green and digital transition, R&I projects in 8 thematic areas will receive funding. Area 6 is about the Farm to Fork Strategy and explicitly mentions organic and agroecological practices: "The Farm to Fork Strategy, which is at the heart of the European Green Deal, [...] requires and builds on innovative solutions that can be scaled up, such as agro-ecological and organic practices, alternative sources of protein (e.g. plant-based, ocean-based, insect-based, etc.), sustainable food from the oceans and aquaculture, and personalised advice relating to sustainable healthy diets." Proposals for Area 6 will test, pilot, and demonstrate innovative systemic solutions (innovation actions) to address urgent and pressing food systems challenges.

[On top of that, the new Organic Action Plan that was published at the end of March 2021 recognises that research will be key for achieving the Farm to Fork Strategy's objectives](#). It sets aside at least 30% of the budget for R&I actions in the field of agriculture, forestry and rural areas are to be dedicated to topics specific to or relevant for organic.



TP Organics also published a [position paper on the priority challenges for organic and agroecological Research & Innovation](#) in view of preparation of the first Work Programme of Horizon Europe. The challenges laid out in the position paper are based on TP Organics' [Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda](#) and complemented with a portfolio of possible actions. Furthermore, TP Organics actively followed the preparation of the new European Partnerships, in particular the partnership candidate on agroecology living labs and research infrastructures and the partnership candidate on safe and sustainable food systems. In 2020, TP Organics participated in preparatory workshops, responded to consultations and provided comments to the draft proposals of these partnerships. Similarly, TP Organics is bringing organic into the '[Mission on Soil health and Food](#)' through organic farmer and Mission Board member Alfred Grand.

As IFOAM Organics Europe, we participated in the successful [Organic Innovation Days](#). In 2020, TP Organics' annual event was organised jointly with the [LIVESEED project](#), featuring the LIVESEED final conference and European workshop. It took place online for the first time.

IFOAM Organics Europe is a founding member of TP Organics and hosts its secretariat.

Demonstrating organic solutions for Europe's food and farming system

To show how organic food and farming can provide solutions to the challenges our food and farming systems face, IFOAM Organics Europe's Director, Eduardo Cuoco, participated in a high-level event in the European Parliament organised by the [Internet of Food and Farm 2020 \(IoF2020\)](#) and [SmartAgriHubs](#) projects. The event highlighted achievements and contributions of these two projects to EU agriculture, while also looking at the wider world and the future of new agricultural techniques.

We also continued working on the [Organic Farm Knowledge platform](#) with [other organic organisations in Europe](#). The online platform provides a wide range of tools and resources helping improve organic production. These tools include factsheets, guides, online calculation tools and videos on soil quality and fertility, nutrient management, pest and disease control, animal husbandry, ration planning, organic seed, and plant breeding. New themes and keywords have been implemented. The platform now features six main themes: Crop production, animal husbandry, soil, food chain management, environment and society, and farm management. An Action Plan was developed to further develop and improve the platform so that it eventually becomes the European reference hub for knowledge on organic farming.

Exchange knowledge on organic ORGANIC FARM KNOWLEDGE

www.organic-farmknowledge.org



Organic Farm Knowledge is a product of OK-Net Arable and OK-Net EcoFeed. These projects have received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreements No. 652654 and No. 773911 respectively.



On 1 October, [IPMWorks](#) started, a new Horizon 2020 project led by [INRAE](#), a public research institute working for the coherent and sustainable development of agriculture, food and the environment. The objective of the project is promoting the adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies. As IFOAM Organics, we are responsible for coordinating the network of participating organic demonstration farms.

We also continued our work on [BIOFRUITNET](#) project, aiming to strengthen the competitiveness of European organic fruit production through strong knowledge networks. Furthermore, we participated in the [ReMIX](#) project, looking into redesigning European cropping systems based on species mixtures and continued our involvement in the [NEFERTITI](#) project, focusing on methodologies for knowledge exchange to boost the uptake of innovation and improve peer-to-peer learning. Our participation in [FutureEUAqua](#), a project aiming at the effective promotion of sustainable growth of environmentally friendly organic and conventional aquaculture was still ongoing.

As in previous years, we offered young professionals from all over Europe the opportunity to learn about the organic movement within IFOAM Organics Europe. Five volunteers worked with us for one year within the framework of the [European Solidarity Corps](#) and increased their knowledge about organic food and farming.

Of course, we continued collecting initiatives improving organic food and farming in Europe. Get acquainted with them on EUorganic2030.bio.

ENRICHING THE GENETIC DIVERSITY OF PLANT

HUNGARIAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE BRINGS LANDRACE VARIETIES BACK INTO PEOPLE'S GARDENS AND ON THEIR PLATES

VISIT [EUORGANIC2030.BIO](https://euorganic2030.bio) FOR INSPIRING EXAMPLES AND SUBMIT YOUR OWN



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FAIR PLAY – FAIR PAY

The roadmap's third pillar to achieve our vision 2030 is '[Fair play – Fair pay](#)'. With the organic market continuing to grow throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, there is no better time to be organic. As organic went beyond a niche market, all value chain actors must play their part setting up fairer and more transparent food systems. 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.



Working towards more fairness and transparency

Throughout 2020, IFOAM Organics Europe monitored the progress of the Commission's Product Environmental Footprint (PEF), a tool that, if implemented, would display the environmental performance of a certain product (food and non-food) during its lifecycle. While IFOAM Organics Europe welcomes any initiative that promotes further sustainability, the PEF does not currently reflect what organic is good at, for example soil fertility or animal welfare, which is why the PEF was often a topic for discussion within the Interest Group of Organic Processors (IGOP) throughout 2020.

IFOAM Organics Europe Director Eduardo Cuoco attended the Forum for the Future of Agriculture (FFA) event [Rewarding sustainability in the food system](#). He was an expert speaker on 'Sustainable business models: paying for the transition' and pointed out the current system's side effect on the environment, society, economy, and wellbeing. He stressed true cost accounting to internalize the costs of food production currently borne by society and the environment.

On top of that, our colleague Silvia Schmidt, Food Policy Officer, took part in part the online event "[The Green Deal Food debate – getting prices right](#)". Together with other speakers, she discussed the European Green Deal and the Farm to Fork Strategy's influence on food prices.

Improving the organic supply chain

Our work also focused on increasing the organic supply chain's credibility, fairness, and transparency. In April 2019, the Unfair Trading Practices legislation became [Directive \(EU\) 2019/633 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 April 2019 on unfair trading practices in business-to-business relationships in the agricultural and food supply chain](#). By May 2021, it will be transposed into national legislation. As it is a Directive there is room for manoeuvre on its transposition and implementation nationally. To protect the interests of the supply chains' more vulnerable actors it is important Member States implement this Directive in the fairest way possible. This is why IFOAM Organics Europe and other associations have developed a [transposition guide](#), providing the tools to transpose the Directive transposes well to national level. We are still involved in gathering information as to how the transposition process is going.

The [transposition guide](#) helps actors in each Member State to implement the Unfair Trading Practices Directive in a way that maximises protection of vulnerable supply chain actors.

Building bridges with organic processors, traders, and retailers despite COVID-19

In December 2020, we organised '[IFOAM Organics Europe Meets Business – Bringing the organic food industry together](#)', gathering our Interest Group of Organic Processors (IGOP) and stakeholders from the entire organic supply chain. They exchanged knowledge and experiences on political and sectorial developments, their impacts on the organic value chain, as well as changes the sector will be confronted with after the new EU Organic Regulation enters into force.

Moreover, the technical IGOP met four times to discuss several topics, such as the secondary legislation of the new EU Organic Regulation, flavourings, cleaning and disinfectants, and food and environmental claims and had their annual meeting. The technical IGOP is composed of associations of processors and traders, so the IGOP annual general meeting is an opportunity for companies, members of IFOAM Organics Europe or members of members of IFOAM Organics Europe, to have their say about IGOP's and IFOAM Organics Europe's future work.

Finally, IFOAM Organics Europe's Interest Group of Organic Retailers (IGOR) met at three digital meetings to discuss how to address the COVID-19 crisis and more. We also involved other food and farming actors and policymakers at regional, national, and European level to great success despite the challenging circumstances. We did this through our advocacy work, online meetings with Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) and the Commission, like-minded NGOs, our members as well as participation in relevant online workshops and events.

Of course, we continued to collect initiatives improving fairness and transparency in European organic food and farming on [EUorganic2030.bio](#). Find these initiatives on our Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn (@OrganicsEurope) with #EUorganic2030 and #FairPlayFairPay.

ECOLOGICAL MARKET

GREEN LOGISTICS FOR A KM ZERO ORGANIC DISTRIBUTION

VISIT [EUORGANIC2030.BIO](https://euorganic2030.bio) FOR INSPIRING EXAMPLES AND SUBMIT YOUR OWN

VELUX C40 CITIES

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Caring for our own staff in times of crisis

In spring 2020, the first wave of COVID-19 caught all of us by surprise. As IFOAM Organics Europe, we did our best to ensure the health and well-being of our staff.

We provided all necessary office equipment to staff for efficient and ergonomic homeworking, such as standing desks, monitors, keyboards and the like. Furthermore, our staff received an allowance to purchase additional ergonomic equipment they can keep after COVID-19, making their home offices even more comfortable. Based on their needs, 90% of staff received dedicated trainings on project proposal writing and reporting, media relations, event management and more.

Our regular weekly and monthly meetings and digital after-work get-togethers allowed our team to interact and exchange on a more personal level. Dedicated chat and aperitivos allowed (and continue allowing) staff to exchange informally.

ORGANIC IN EUROPE AT A GLANCE

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Since 1991, the EU Organic Regulation regulates organic farming at EU level. Currently, Council Regulation (EC) no 834/2007 sets the European organic production requirements by defining its aims, objectives, and principles. Two implementing regulations (No 889/2008 and No 1235/2008) detail organic production, labelling, control and import rules. These regulations apply to all products with the organic label sold in the EU.

In 2011, the European Commission announced the revision of the legal framework for organic production. Three years later, it presented a legislative proposal to the European Parliament and Council of the EU. After a long revision process, the new organic regulation (EU) 2018/848 was adopted by the Parliament and Council and published in June 2018. It was set to apply from 1 January 2021, but due to the difficulties posed by COVID-19, IFOAM Organics Europe asked for postponing the new EU Organic Regulation's implementation with one-year. In autumn 2020, the proposal issued by the European Commission was adopted by the Council and Parliament and unanimously adopted by the Council of Ministers on 19 October 2020. Visit the [regulation section of our website](#) for more background information on the EU Organic Regulation.

Thanks to the work we did with our members, we managed to postpone the new EU Organic Regulation's implementation with one year – to January 2022.

POLICY FRAMEWORK

European organic farming practices are greatly influenced by a variety of European policy areas, including the European Green Deal (EGD), the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), and the European Framework Programmes for Research & Innovation (R&I).

With the [European Green Deal's](#) publication in December 2019, the Commission has launched "a new growth strategy that aims to transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050 and where economic growth is decoupled from resource use". It includes two important strategies for the organic sector, unveiled in May 2020: The [Farm to Fork Strategy](#) and the [EU Biodiversity Strategy](#).

The **Farm to Fork Strategy** is at the EU Green Deal's heart and meant to lead a global transition towards competitive sustainability from farm to fork,

explicitly stating "there is an urgent need to reduce dependency on pesticides and antimicrobials, reduce the use of fertilisers, increase organic farming, improve animal welfare, and reverse biodiversity loss".

Importantly, one of the Farm to Fork Strategy's four targets is reaching 25% of the EU's agricultural land under organic farming by 2030. The organic sector welcomed that the Commission recognised organic as part of the solution to more sustainable food systems. IFOAM Organics Europe believes this target is ambitious but achievable.

An important tool to reach the 25% goal and to further develop the organic sector is the 2021-2027 **Organic Action Plan**, published by the Commission on 25 March 2021. It aims at balancing increases in both production of and demand for organic products.

The **EU Biodiversity Strategy** aims to recover Europe's biodiversity by 2030. To do this, it states that 25% of the EU's agricultural

land should be farmed organically.

The **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)** is the main policy instrument that could make the many objectives of the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies a reality – as almost 40% of the EU budget goes to the CAP. Since its creation, the CAP has already undergone significant reforms. The creation of Rural Development (Pillar II) was crucial to develop organic farming and other sustainable farming practices. It is now key that this major EU policy is reformed even further to put sustainability at the core of its architecture. [IFOAM Organics Europe is calling on European to align the CAP with the European Green Deal's ambitions and targets.](#)

The **European Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation (R&I)** also have a significant impact on the organic sector and the sustainability of our food and farming system. It is crucial for organic approaches to receive a high priority on EU and Member States' R&I policy agendas and for Horizon Europe's R&I budgets for organic farming to be in line with the Farm to Fork Strategy's target of 25% organic farmland.

To achieve this, we built strong coalitions with civil society organisations, researchers, farmers, and companies. Together we established [TP Organics](#), the European Technology Platform for organic food and farming. It strengthens R&I for organics and other agroecological approaches by identifying research priorities and innovation goals and promoting these to policymakers.

ORGANIC MARKET AND PRODUCTION

Over the last three decades, organic food and farming has been growing year by year across the EU and continues doing so. The EU's organic market is dynamic with growth rates varying between countries. Policies can positively impact this growth – both production and consumption.

In 2019, the EU's total area of farmland under organic production grew to 14.6 million hectares, 8.1% of agricultural land. Organic producers are also on the rise as compared to 2018, their number increasing by 4.9% to 343,000. Accompanying these developments, the EU organic retail market significantly grew to €41.5 billion, rising by almost 11% and showing “its potential to reach the objective of 25% organic land by 2030 put forward in the EU Biodiversity and Farm to Fork strategies”, according to IFOAM Organics Europe's Director Eduardo Cuoco. Per capita, consumer spending on organic food has doubled in the last decade, reaching €84 annually in the EU.

Browse our interactive infographic with country-specific data and trends on organic production and retail.

Produced by



Data compiled by



Supported by



Co-financed by



Action co-financed by the European Commission, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development.

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This communication reflects the views of the author, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein. Data compiled by the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) and the Agricultural Marketing Information Company (AMI).

ORGANIC AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In 2015, the United Nations' General Assembly adopted [17 interlinked Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) as a “blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all by 2030”. They address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice.

Organic agriculture offers viable solutions to many problems the SDGs are meant to tackle as link to the four principles of organic agriculture: Health, Ecology, Fairness and Care.

Organic agriculture offers viable solutions to many problems the SDGs are meant to tackle as link to the four principles of organic agriculture: Health, Ecology, Fairness and Care. Investing in organic agriculture can directly impact our chances of successfully implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development based on the 17 SDGs. For instance:

- **Goal 2 – Zero hunger:** Organic farming offers many environmental and social advantages as it trains farmers in low cost agroecological farming methods, building on local management skills and resources, enabling them to grow nutritious food and combat hunger in their communities. Organic agriculture supports ecologically sound food systems that increase and stabilize yields, improve resistance to pests and diseases and battle poverty by reducing debt incurred by the purchase of chemical inputs, thus fostering food security. As 95% of our food comes directly and indirectly from soil, we need farming practices that protect our soil. That is why the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) encourages organic agriculture as one of the five forms of sustainable farming practices.
- **Goal 3 – Good health and well-being:** Healthy and sustainable food can only come from healthy sustainable agriculture. By not using harmful chemicals in growing food, chemicals which deplete soils and contaminate water, and with less antibiotics, organic farming improves the health of farmers, the environment, farm workers and society as a whole.
- **Goal 6 – Clean water and sanitation:** Organic farming prevents the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. By managing nutrients more carefully and reducing nitrogen and phosphorus leaching, organic farmers help protect our water systems from pesticide run-off and keep our water clean. Moreover, the use of compost by organic farmers instead of artificial fertilizers increases soil life and organic matter content. This creates the 'sponge effect' and allows organic farmers to use up to 60% less water compared to non-organic farms.
- **Goal 8 – Decent work and economic growth:** Sustainable agriculture practices like organic farming have a positive impact on local economies, promote resources circulation and reduce dependency on external inputs. Organic farms often create more jobs and better incomes for farmers and workers, as in addition to organic price premium organic certification can also be associated with indirect economic benefits such as training, credit, special education programs, especially in developing countries. There, organic farms are also generally perceived as a safer working environment because workers do not come into contact with harmful chemicals.
- **Goal 12 – Responsible Consumption and production:** Organic farming practices target more efficient use of natural resources such as soil, water, and air. It is for instance more energy efficient as organic farmers do not use energy-intensive synthetic nitrogen fertilizers and organic ruminants are largely fed on grass instead of energy-intensive concentrate feed. By assessing environmental, social, and economic costs and benefits of food production, and by making them 'visible', organic farming contributes to long-term sustainable food production. Raising awareness on the true cost of food production could also play a major role in reducing retail and consumer food waste.
- **Goal 13 – Climate Action:** Research shows that production of artificial fertilizers is the second largest emitter of CO₂ in agriculture. By avoiding synthetic fertilizers and through soil management practices focusing on building soil fertility (e.g., crop rotation, cover crops, minimum tillage, and compost), organic can sequester more carbon that was released through unsustainable farming. The use of compost instead of synthetic fertilizers also help organic farmers improve the water retention capacity of soil. Thus, organic farming makes farms more resilient, helps slow down climate change and adapt to weather extremities such as floods, droughts, and land degradations processes.
- **Goal 14 – Life below water:** Organic farming protects our water and its biodiversity by significantly reducing nutrient pollutions through synthetic pesticide and fertilizer use, which are one of the main causes of marine dead zones.
- **Goal 15 – Life on Land:** Organic farming increases the abundance and range of biodiversity. Organically managed lands often have more semi-natural habitats which help to protect and manage biodiversity, and host 30% more varieties of flora and fauna and 50% more individual plants compared to farms that rely on intensive agrochemical use. Organic farmers also protect, feed and enrich soil biodiversity (which represents 25% of the world's biodiversity) thanks to soil management practices supporting fertility and reducing soil erosion.



With less pesticides and antibiotics, and a healthier environment, organic farming improves the health of farmers, farm workers and society as a whole



This publication is co-financed by the European Union under the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

Andrius, V. & M. K. (2017) Human health benefits of organic food and systems: a review

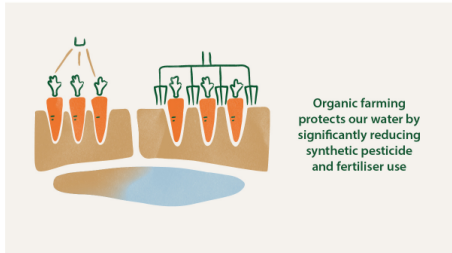


Organic farming keeps our water clean by managing nutrients more carefully and reducing nitrogen and phosphorus leaching



This publication is co-financed by the European Union under the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

Stahle, C., Witz, M., Geringer, A. (2012) Environmental performance of organic vs. non-organic crop production: A meta-analysis



Organic farming protects our water by significantly reducing synthetic pesticide and fertiliser use



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Wade, S. (2012) Co-report on production of organic food and drink: a review of the environmental benefits of organic production

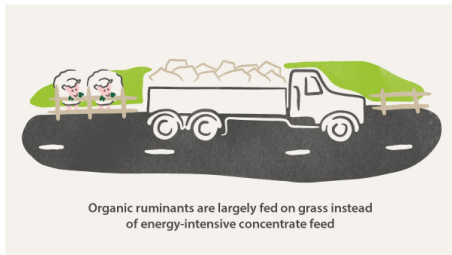


Organic farms often create more jobs and better incomes for farmers and workers



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Witz, M. (2012) Organic farming: a review of the environmental benefits of organic production

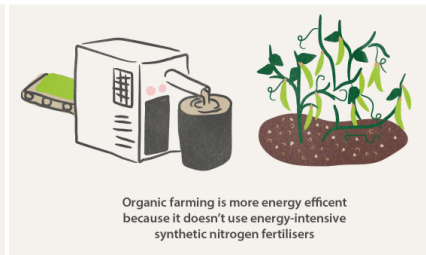


Organic ruminants are largely fed on grass instead of energy-intensive concentrate feed



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Wade, S. (2012) Co-report on production of organic food and drink: a review of the environmental benefits of organic production

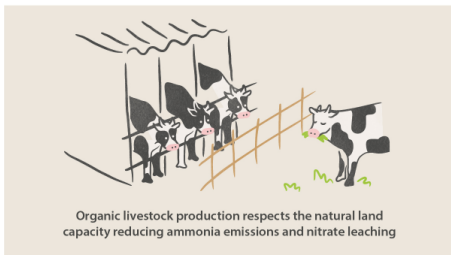


Organic farming is more energy efficient because it doesn't use energy-intensive synthetic nitrogen fertilisers



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Wade, S. (2012) Co-report on production of organic food and drink: a review of the environmental benefits of organic production

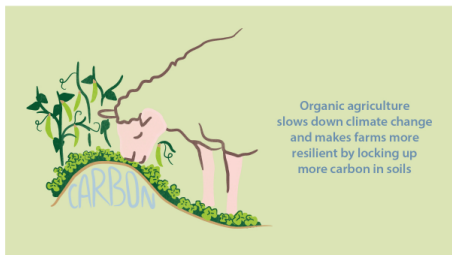


Organic livestock production respects the natural land capacity reducing ammonia emissions and nitrate leaching



This publication is co-financed by the European Union under the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

Wade, S. (2012) Co-report on production of organic food and drink: a review of the environmental benefits of organic production



Organic agriculture slows down climate change and makes farms more resilient by locking up more carbon in soils



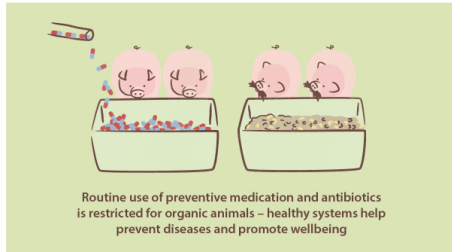
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Wade, S. (2012) Co-report on production of organic food and drink: a review of the environmental benefits of organic production



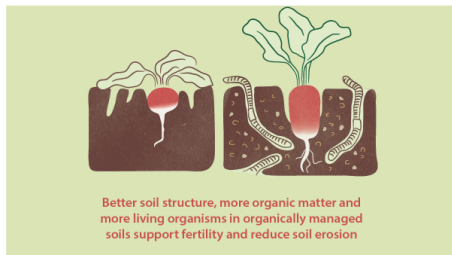
ORGANIC RESEARCH | This publication is co-financed by the European Union, under the European Agency for Food and Medication Control | Article 18 (3) (c) and (d) of Council Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003

ORGANICS EUROPE | DEVELOPMENT GOALS



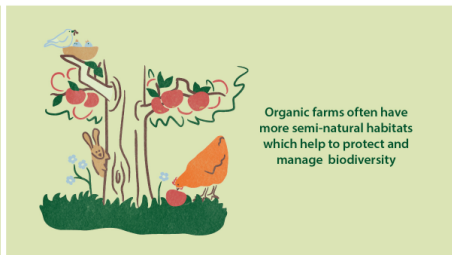
ORGANIC RESEARCH | This publication is co-financed by the European Union, under the European Agency for Food and Medication Control | Malmqvist, K., Lund, S., Rindler-Schjerve, M. (2018) Animal health and welfare in organic agriculture. <https://doi.org/10.1002/9781119411111.ch10>

ORGANICS EUROPE | DEVELOPMENT GOALS



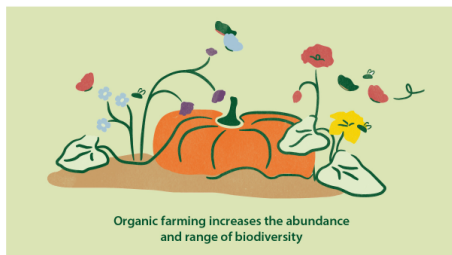
ORGANIC RESEARCH | This publication is co-financed by the European Union, under the European Agency for Food and Medication Control | Lottig, A., Miles, A., Hines, M., Steiner, C., Henschel, A., Borchert, M., Böhler, S., Thiele, S., Oden, C., Chaudhry, R. S. (2018) A century of soil carbon stocks under organic farming. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apsoil.2018.05.001>

ORGANICS EUROPE | DEVELOPMENT GOALS



ORGANIC RESEARCH | This publication is co-financed by the European Union, under the European Agency for Food and Medication Control | Norton, L. L., Johnson, P. J., Gray, A. C., Ward, R. C., Chamberlain, D. E., Hobbie, J. E., et al. (2018) The effects of organic farming on biodiversity: meta-analysis and conceptual model. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apsoil.2018.05.001>

ORGANICS EUROPE | DEVELOPMENT GOALS



ORGANIC RESEARCH | This publication is co-financed by the European Union, under the European Agency for Food and Medication Control | Pridmore, C., Miles, A., Hines, M., Steiner, C., Henschel, A., Borchert, M., Böhler, S., Thiele, S., Oden, C., Chaudhry, R. S. (2018) A century of soil carbon stocks under organic farming. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apsoil.2018.05.001>

[A factsheet from IFOAM Organics International \(IFOAM – OI\)](https://read.organicseurope.bio/publication/ifoam-organics-europe-annual-report-2020/)

[Organic Agriculture and the Sustainable Development Goals](https://read.organicseurope.bio/publication/ifoam-organics-europe-annual-report-2020/)

WHO WE ARE

FROM IFOAM EU TO IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE

During our General Assembly in summer 2020, re-elected President, Jan Plagge, unveiled the [re-branding of IFOAM EU into IFOAM Organics Europe](#). Since the establishment of our organisation in 2002, we have grown with and within the organic movement and sector. To better represent who we are to the European institutions we decided to update our presence to IFOAM Organics Europe. Our updated logo and [new website](#) reinforce this.



OUR MEMBERS

IFOAM Organics Europe is a membership-based organisation representing [almost 200 members in 31 countries](#). Working closely with our members, we ensure our positions reflect the day-to-day business of organic farmers, processors, certifiers, retailers, and other practitioners across Europe. We represent our members as the voice of organic food and farming vis-à-vis the European institutions. Thanks to our close ties with key agricultural, environmental, and technical decisionmakers at local, regional, national, and European level, the European institutions recognise IFOAM Organics Europe as the leading advocate for and voice of organic food and farming in the EU.

Discover which members are already contributing to making Europe more organic! Are you interested in becoming a member of IFOAM Organics Europe to ensure your voice is heard? [Check out our website](#) or email [\[email protected\]](#) for more information on how you can become a member!

HOW WE WORK

Interest Groups

Our four [interest groups](#) bring together the huge expertise of our members and directly involve different sectors in IFOAM Organics Europe's organisation and work. The interest groups formulate official policies and positions relevant for their sector:

1. **Interest Group of Organic Certifiers (IGOC):** IGOC's Steering Committee gathered at four e-meetings throughout the year to work on specific topics, such as the future of certification as well as organic supply chain integrity. The Steering Committee drafted a definition of the integrity of the organic supply chain, which was discussed, among other topics,

with all IGOC members during the group meeting held in December 2020.

2. **Interest Group of Organic Farmers (IGOF):** The IGOF gathered at for four e-meetings throughout the year, to discuss topics such as the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform, access to land in the EU, the Organic Action Plan, or livestock issues. Some IGOF members also decided to create a subgroup and work specifically on animal welfare labelling.
3. **Interest Group of Organic Processors (IGOP):** The IGOP organised four e-meetings throughout the year and discussed topics like the secondary legislation of the new EU Organic Regulation, flavourings, cleaning and disinfectants, and food and environmental claims. They also met online during the IGOP annual general meeting, and together with other companies during [IFOAM Organics Europe meets business in December 2020](#).
4. **Interest Group of Organic Retailers (IGOR):** The IGOR had four e-meetings throughout the year to discuss topics such as addressing the COVID-19 crisis, plastic free packaging, the Farm to Fork Strategy and the new EU Organic Action Plan.

Are you interested in becoming part of one of our interest groups? Contact [\[email protected\]](#) for questions about membership and expressions of interest about the interest groups.



Working Groups

Our [working groups](#) formulate positions, highlight important developments, and advise IFOAM Organics Europe's Board and Council. They regularly exchange on topics relevant to their areas of expertise:

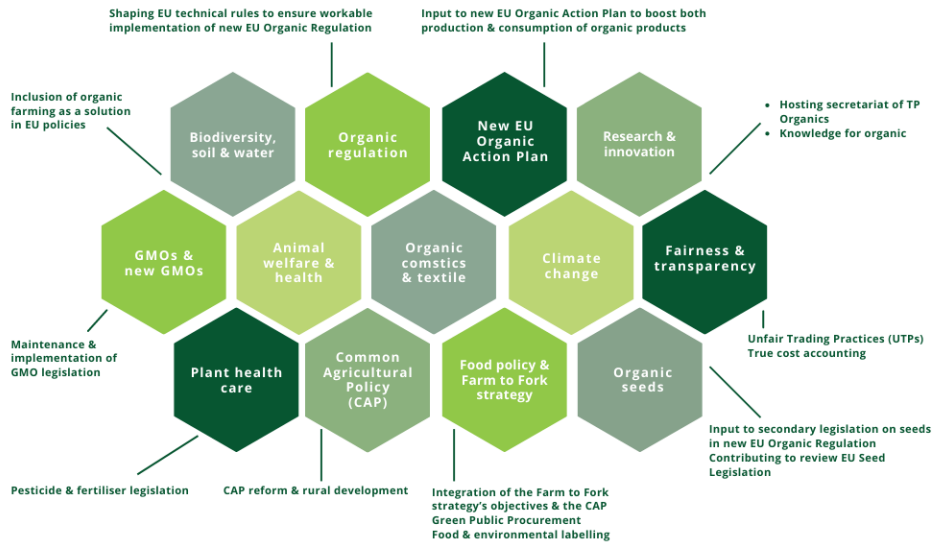
1. IFOAM Aquaculture Forum – EU coordination
2. Central and Eastern Europe Expert Group (Capacity Building)
3. European Organic Comms Hub (Expert group on communication)
4. Expert Group on Plant Protection Products and Fertilisers
5. Expert Group on Seeds

When political developments and developments within the movement call for it, we set up [task forces](#) with members excelling on the topics. In 2020, we had task forces on:

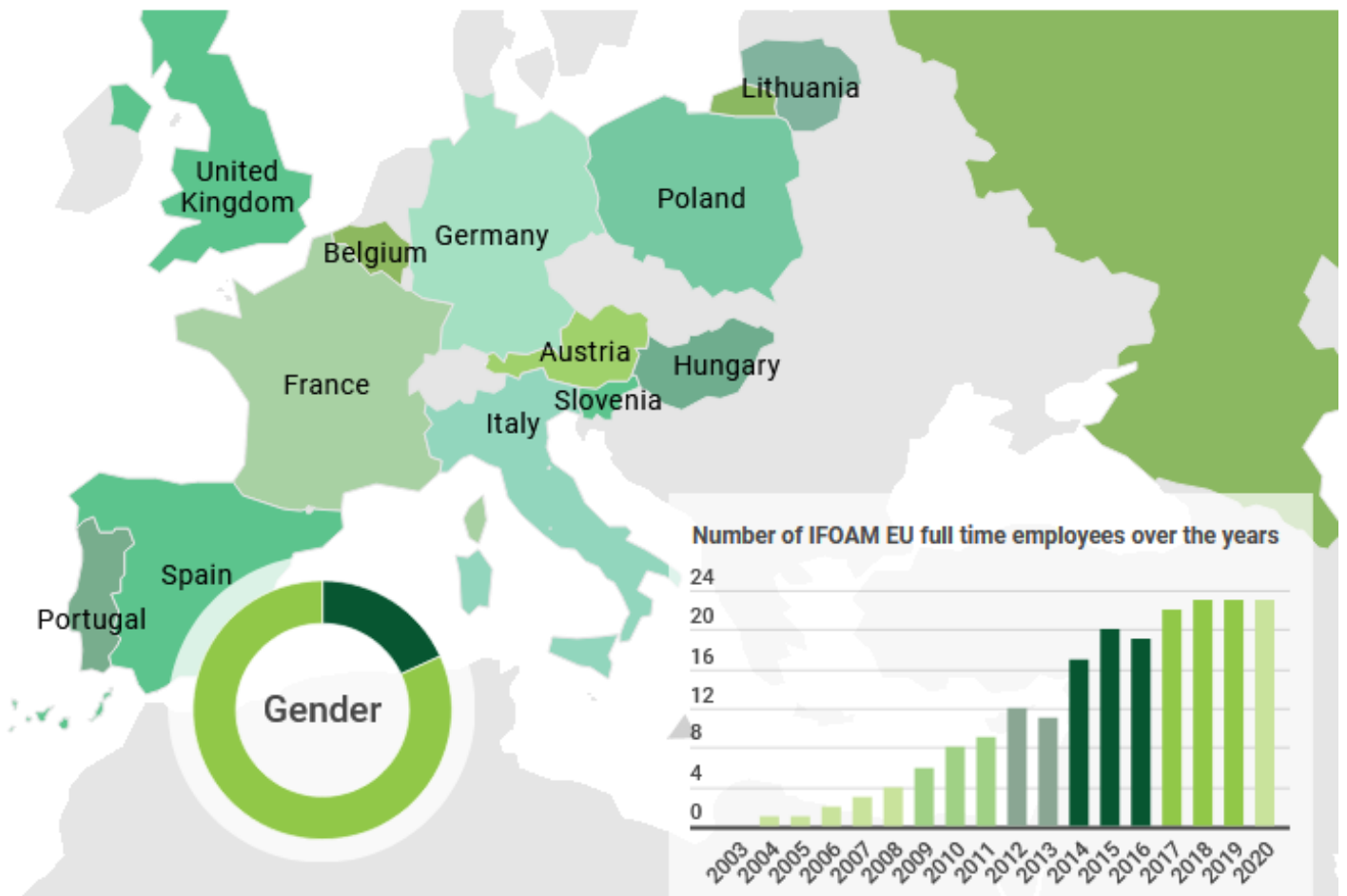
1. Climate Change and Biodiversity

2. New Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)
3. Cosmetics
4. Implementation of the new EU Organic Regulation
5. Textile

OUR ADVOCACY TOPICS



OUR TEAM



We employed 29 people from 13 different countries at IFOAM Organics Europe in 2020.





ERIC GALL (FR)
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
& POLICY MANAGER

BRISSET LENA (FR)
POLICY OFFICER ON CAP

SILVA SCHMIDT (IT)
FOOD POLICY OFFICER

SOMMER MART
POLICY COORDINATOR
(GMO, PATENT)



MATHILDE CALMELS (FR)
POLICY COORDINATOR
ON PESTICIDES, NATURAL
INPUTS AND FERTILISERS



LANG ISABELLA (AT)
POLICY COORDINATOR



PIA MÖLLER-CYRAN (DE)
ESC VOLUNTEER 2020-2021



HASELBERGER
ESC VOLUNTEER



MONICA SOUSA (PT)
FINANCIAL & OPERATIONS
MANAGER



ELENA ZIVI (BE)
HR AND PROJECT
COORDINATOR



JULIE GOSEWELLS (BE)
OFFICE COORDINATOR



**PEDROSA FERRER
CAROLINA (PT)**
ADMINISTRATIVE



BRAM MOESKOPS (BE)
RESEARCH & INNOVATION
MANAGER
FP ORGANICS SENIOR
SCIENTIFIC COORDINATOR



YULIA BARABANOVA (RU)
SENIOR RESEARCH &
STRATEGY OFFICER



AGNES BRUSZIK (HU)
PROJECT COORDINATOR
LIVESEED



AMBRA DE I
RESEARCH &
PROJECT CO



EVA BERCKMANS (BE)
COMMUNICATIONS
MANAGER



VERENA MITSCHE (DE)
COMMUNICATIONS
COORDINATOR



GAËLLE CAU (FR)
ESC VOLUNTEER 2020-2021



KATARINA ŠEŠIĆ
ESC VOLUNTEER



MARIA (DE)
iCS
ATTOR



LILI BARTA (HU)
ESC VOLUNTEER 2020-2021



GUTZEN KAJA (DE)
ESC VOLUNTEER 2019-2020



ASTA DONELAITĖ (LT)
SENIOR EVENTS AND
MEMBERSHIP OFFICER



MOLLY MATHEWS (UK)
EVENTS AND
MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANT



NURIA ALONSO SUÁREZ (ES)
ESC VOLUNTEER



JOANNA WIERZBICKA (PL)
PROJECT, FUNDRAISING &
CAPACITY BUILDING
MANAGER



FRANCESCA LILLINI (IT)
PROJECT & FUNDRAISING
COORDINATOR



BÉNÉDICT CAU (FR)
PROJECT AND
FUNDRAISING ASSISTANT



AMÉLIE STEU
ESC VOLUNTEER

PROJECTS WE WERE PART OF

The projects we coordinated in 2020

Keeping GMOs out of organic

Keeping GMOs out of organic aims at strengthening GMO-free production by organising and supporting the organic movement developing practical strategies to remain GMO-free. The project involves organic and non-GMO stakeholders, NGO representatives and EU regions working on food production and prevention of GMO contamination and is coordinated by IFOAM Organics Europe since 2014. It is co-financed by the LIFE programme, and project partners BioSuisse, DO-IT, Rapunzel, RDV Products, Software AG Stiftung, Vivi Verde Coop Italia, Fondation Salvia.



LIVESEED

LIVESEED aims to boost organic seed and plant breeding across Europe. IFOAM Organics Europe and FiBL-Switzerland coordinate the project with 50 partners covering 18 EU countries since 2017. The LIVESEED project will increase transparency and will provide recommendations on organic seeds. The project partners analyse national seed databases and factors influencing organic seed production and use. They also explore national policies, smart practices, build EU infrastructure and analyse issues on propagation. The partners also want to advance testing protocols to improve the availability of organic seeds, ensuring they are adapted to the realities of organic farmers. LIVESEED is an EU Horizon 2020-funded project.



OK-Net EcoFeed

OK-Net EcoFeed helps organic pig and poultry farmers to achieve the goal of 100% use of organic and regional feed. The three-year project will extend the [Organic Farm Knowledge platform](#). IFOAM Organics Europe coordinates the project consisting of 11 partners and 8 third linked parties from 12 countries since 2018. Dissemination towards all actors in the EIP-AGRI network is an integral part of OK-Net EcoFeed's activities. OK-Net EcoFeed is an EU Horizon 2020-funded project.

The Horizon 2020 projects we contributed to in 2020



BIOFRUITNET

BIOFRUITNET will strengthen the competitiveness of European organic fruit production through strong knowledge networks. Within BIOFRUITNET, IFOAM Organics Europe leads the knowledge transfer and dissemination through easy-to-read end user materials, such as practice abstracts and videos since 2019. IFOAM Organics Europe is also responsible for developing a communication kit to maximize the impact of BIOFRUITNET at events, fairs, and congresses. BIOFRUITNET is an EU Horizon 2020-funded project.



EURAKNOS

EURAKNOS will enhance the EU's agricultural knowledge base by co-creating "the network to connect all Thematic Networks". IFOAM Organics Europe's role is to report on similar existing initiatives, in particular to connect the future EU-wide, centralised and open-source knowledge reservoir to the already established platform Organic Farm Knowledge, to contribute to capacity building through cross-exchange visits, engaging the organic community in knowledge exchange, networking actors and multi-actor projects, as well as communication and dissemination. EURAKNOS is an EU Horizon 2020-funded multi-actor project which started in 2019.



EUREKA

Building on the proof of concept that will be established by EURAKNOS, EUREKA will build a European knowledge repository

for best agricultural practices and will boost knowledge interaction and connectivity between different knowledge reservoirs and existing initiatives. IFOAM Organics Europe's role is to contribute to the project with its expertise on organic farming and experience with multi-actor projects in the organic sector, involving organic actors in the development of the future platform and making sure it fits their needs. EUREKA is an EU Horizon 2020-funded project that started in 2020.



[FoodSHIFT2030](#)

FoodShift2030 will launch an ambitious, citizen-driven transition of Europe's food system to a low carbon, circular future. This Horizon 2020 project is promoting food systems innovations in nine cities across Europe. IFOAM Organics Europe contributes to the conceptual framework for further development of governance strategies and food policy strategies since 2020. We will also disseminate project outputs within the organic network and at our main events.



[FutureEU Aqua](#)

Since 2018, FutureEU Aqua promotes sustainable growth of environmentally friendly organic and conventional aquaculture of both major fish species and low trophic level organisms resilient to climate change. IFOAM Organics Europe's role is to work on training, capacity building, communication, and dissemination. FutureEU Aqua is an EU Horizon 2020-funded project.



[IPMWorks](#)

IPMWorks is a Horizon 2020 project that started in 2020. It will build a European farm network to demonstrate integrated pest management (IPM) strategies and to promote the adoption of such strategies via knowledge exchange. IFOAM Organics Europe's role is to build and facilitate the network of organic demonstration farms participating in the project.



[Internet of Food and Farm \(IoF\) 2020](#)

IoF2020 project is a large-scale pilot under Horizon 2020 investigating and fostering large-scale implementation of the Internet of Things in European food and farming. IFOAM Organics Europe is a project partner and represents the European organic movement since 2017.



NEFERTITI

The NEFERTITI project is an EU-wide connected network of demonstration and pilot farms to enhance knowledge exchange and innovation uptake. It established 10 interactive thematic networks, connected 45 regional clusters of demo-farmers and related actors in 17 countries. IFOAM Organics Europe is deputy network leader in two organic networks, namely arable cropping, and livestock. NEFERTITI is an EU Horizon 2020-funded project that started in 2018.



RELACS

RELACS seeks to promote the development and adoption of environmentally safe and economically viable tools and technologies to reduce the use of external inputs in organic farming systems. IFOAM Organics Europe is responsible for the communication and dissemination of project results as well as coordinating the science-practice-policy dialogue since 2018. RELACS is an EU Horizon 2020-funded project.



ReMIX

The Horizon 2020 project ReMIX exploits the benefits of species mixtures to design more diversified and resilient agroecological arable cropping systems. IFOAM Organics Europe is a project partner representing the European organic movement and ensuring knowledge transfer and dissemination towards stakeholders and policymakers since 2017.



SmartAgriHubs

SmartAgriHubs will realise the digitisation of European agriculture by fostering an agricultural innovation ecosystem dedicated to excellence, sustainability, and success. It is a €20 million project under the Horizon 2020 instrument and brings together a consortium of over 164 partners in the European agri-food sector since 2018. The project aims to realise the digitisation of European agriculture by fostering an agricultural innovation ecosystem dedicated to excellence, sustainability, and success. IFOAM Organics Europe's role is to connect the dots between SmartAgriHubs and the organic sector, disseminate project outputs and communicate key messages during the project run.



XF-ACTORS

XF-ACTORS is a project under the Horizon 2020 instrument and brings together an international consortium of 29 partners. The project aims to establish a multidisciplinary research program to answer the urgent need to improve prevention, early detection, and control of Xylella fastidiosa disease. Since 2016, IFOAM Organics Europe's role is to promote the project outcomes to all relevant stakeholders in the organic sector and ensure information about the project and its result reaches all relevant actors in Europe.

The Erasmus+ project we contributed to in 2020



European Solidarity Corps (ESC)

The Erasmus+ ESC project offers people aged 18-30 with the opportunity to immerse themselves in IFOAM Organics Europe's work by volunteering at our office in Brussels for one year. IFOAM Organics Europe is working together with sending organisations from several countries, mostly youth and environmental non-profit organisations and coordinates the project.

EVENTS WE ORGANISED



BIOFACH 2020

- **What?** The world's leading trade fair for organic food. IFOAM Organics Europe organises daily side events at the fair's European edition. The annual 'Policy Day' is organised together with BIOFACH. TP Organics co-organises the annual 'Science Day'.
- **When & where?** 12-16 February, Nuremberg, Germany
- [Browse our Twitter moments to relive the event](#)
-



European Organic Congress 2020

- **What?** IFOAM Organics Europe's high-level event to discuss and exchange with policymakers and organic stakeholders about current topics, such as the new EU Organic Regulation, the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), an Organic Action Plan, the Farm to Fork Strategy and possible scenarios for a European food and farming system.
- **When & where?** 1-3 July, online
- [Browse our Twitter moments to relive the event](#)
-



Organic Innovation Days 2020

- **What?** The Organic Innovation Days of [TP Organics](#) serve to discuss research needs and innovations within and outside the organic sector. IFOAM Organics Europe hosts [TP Organics](#)' secretariat and promotes the event.

• **When & where?** 24-25 November, online



IFOAM Organics Europe Meets Business 2020

• **What?** An annual event bringing the organic food industry closer together.

• **When & where?** 8-9 December, online

TP ORGANICS: EUROPEAN TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM FOR ORGANIC FOOD AND FARMING



By hosting TP Organics' secretariat, IFOAM Organics Europe contributes to ensure Research & Innovation (R&I) is making Europe more organic. [TP Organics](#) is the European Technology Platform for organic food and farming and plays a key role in highlighting what areas European R&I funding should focus on. The platform unites the whole organic value chain, with more than 100 companies, farmer, consumer, and civil society organisations as well as research institutes. As a European Technology Platform, TP Organics is officially recognised by the European Commission for giving input in research policy and programmes, developing research & innovation agendas and roadmaps for research action at EU and national level. R&I is crucial for the development of the organic sector and the design of more sustainable food systems. That is why TP Organics advocates for more research funding benefiting organic and agroecological approaches, while also promoting research participation and knowledge exchange between the organic actors.

THE IFOAM NETWORK



IFOAM Organics Europe is one of the regional bodies of IFOAM – Organics International, the global umbrella organisation for organic food and farming. IFOAM Organics Europe and IFOAM – Organics International collaborate closely on many important issues.

Mirroring the principles and structure of IFOAM – Organics International, we represent the organic movement and sector's interests in Europe. We strive to unite and lead the European organic movement in its full diversity to achieve positive, sustainable change around the world. Along with the other Regional Bodies, we work in line with [Organic 3.0](#) and according to the [four principles of organic agriculture](#).

[Find more information about IFOAM's different regional bodies, national groups, and sector platforms on our website.](#)

GOVERNANCE










Board 2020

The [IFOAM Organics Europe Board](#) acts as a first chamber, directs our affairs and develops detailed budgets and work programmes in accordance with IFOAM Organics Europe Vision and internal strategy together with our General Assembly and Council. Our members elect IFOAM Organics Europe Board every three years during the annual [General Assembly](#), according to sector-related and regional criteria. 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.

During our [10 General Assembly](#) in June 2020, a motion extending the mandates of IFOAM Organics Europe Board and Council was approved, so the Board elections will represent a three-year mandate as of 2020.

IFOAM Organics Europe's Board Members 2020-2023:

Board members

	Jan Plagge	President	Bioland
	Marian Blom	Board Vice President	Bionext
	Dóra Drexler	Board Vice President	ÖMKi
	Thomas Fertl	Board Member and sector representative for farming	Bio Austria
	Roberto Pinton	Board Member and sector representative for processing & trade	AssoBio
	Michel Reynaud	Board Member and sector representative for certification and treasurer	Ecocert
	Lukas Nossol	Board Member and sector representative for retailers	Denree
	Christopher Atkinson	Board Member	Soil Association
	Aira Sevón	Board Member	Kymi Organic Coop

Council 2020

















The [IFOAM Organics Europe Council](#) acts as a second chamber to the [IFOAM Organics Europe Board](#) and transmits national interests and specificities to the European level. Every three years, national assemblies – all IFOAM Organics Europe's members of a given Member State or EFTA country – elect their national representatives. IFOAM Organics Europe's Council consists of one Council member and two Deputy Council members from each EU country at most. Following the IFOAM Organics Europe [General Assembly](#), the Council elects a Chair and a Vice-Chair among its members for a three-year term.

IFOAM Organics Europe Council Chairs 2020-2023:

- Chair: Évelyne Alcázar Marín (Spain)
- Vice-Chair: Jiri Lehejcek (Czech Republic)
-

IFOAM Organics Europe's Council Members 2020-2023:

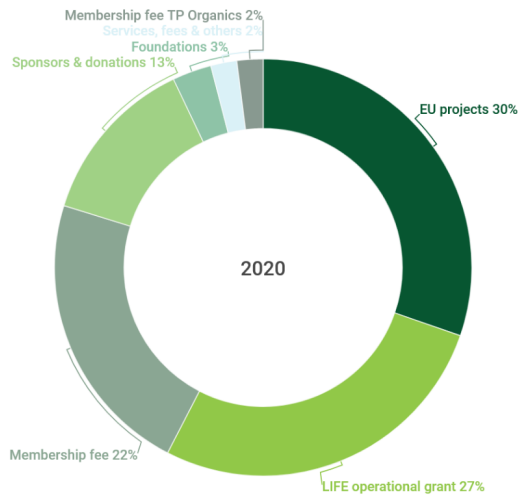
Council members

	Maria Geitzenauer	Council Member	Austria Bio Garantie
	Thomas Fertl	Deputy Council Member & Board Member & Rapporteur for farming	Bio Austria
	Lieve Vercauteren	Council Member	BioForum Vlaanderen
	Muriel Huybrechts	Deputy Council Member	Le Collège Des Producteurs
	Stoilko Apostolov	Council Member	Bioselena
	Albena Simeonova	Deputy Council Member	Bulgarian Organic Products Association
	Andrea Vugrinović	Council Member	Lokvina Ltd
	Ivica Novak	Deputy Council Member	Lokvina Ltd
	Jiří Lehejček	Council Member & Vice-Chair	Czech Technology Platform for Organic Agriculture
	Andrea Hrabalová	Deputy Council Member	Czech Technology Platform for Organic Agriculture
	Sybille Kyed	Council Member	Organic Denmark – Økologisk Landsforening
	Per Kolster	Deputy Council Member	Organic Denmark – Økologisk Landsforening
	Merit Mikk	Council Member	Estonian Organic Farming Foundation
	Airi Vetemaa	Deputy Council Member	Estonian Organic Farming Foundation
	Aira Sevón	Council Member	ESVY ry
	Susann Rannari	Deputy Council Member	Luomuliitto

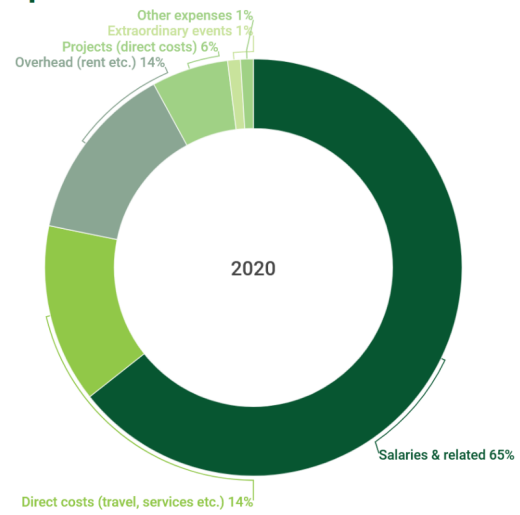
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Income and expenditure 2020

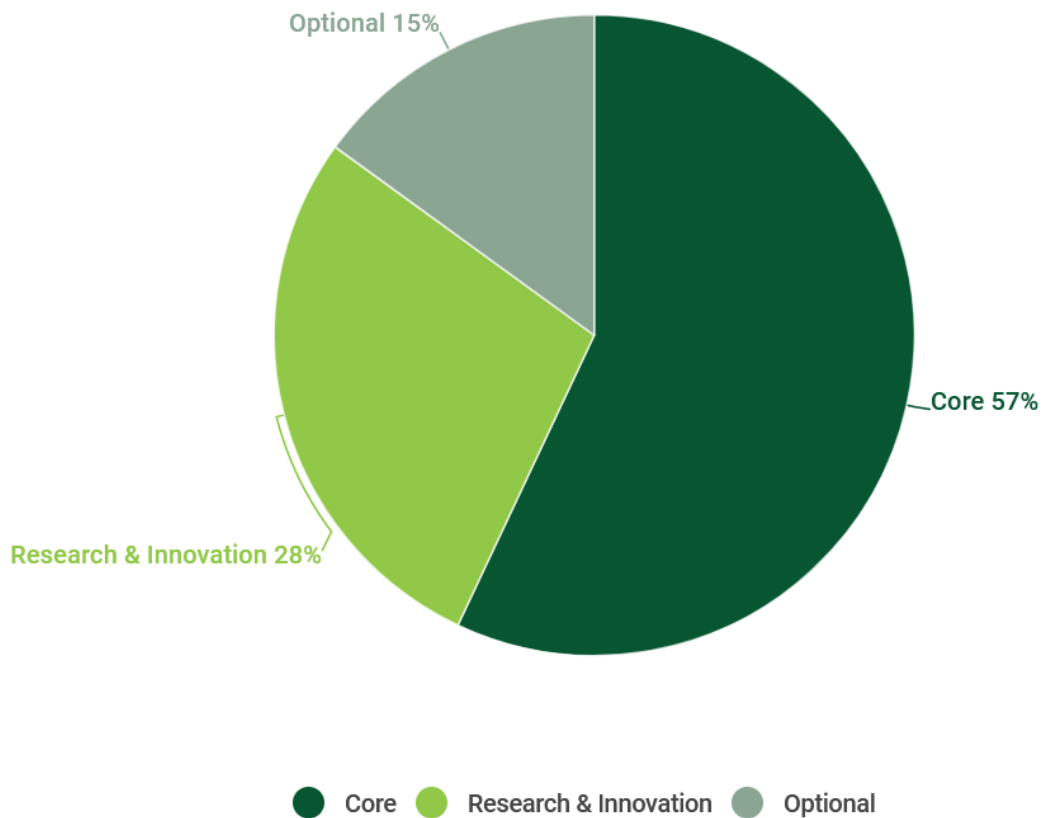
Income



Expenditure



Budget structure 2020



Core

- **Primary services provided to members** to represent their voice at EU level
- Membership fees cover one third of the core budget
- LIFE operating grant covers another third
- The remaining third is financed by foundations & service fees
-

Research & Innovation

- H2020 projects
- **Fully funded by EU grants**
-

Optional

- Specific projects to address **sector-targeted interests**: GMO project, pesticide contamination project & advocacy work outside of primary services to members
- **Funded by sector donors & foundations**
-

LIST OF ACRONYMS

Agrobio	Portuguese Association of Organic Agriculture
ALOA	Association of Latvian Organic Agriculture
AÖL	Assoziation ökologischer Lebensmittelhersteller e.V.
ANCs	Areas with Natural Constraints
AssoBio	Associazione Nazionale delle Imprese di Trasformazione e Distribuzione di Prodotti Biologici
Bioselena	Foundation for Organic Agriculture
BioSuisse	Vereinigung Schweizer Bio -Landbauorganisationen
BÖLW	Bund Ökologischer LebensmittelwirtschaftBOLW:
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
Commission	European Commission
Council	Council of the European Union
DEBIO	Norwegian Organic Certification Agency
DG	Directorate-General of the European Commission
DG CLIMA	European Commission's Directorate-General for Climate Action
DIO	Greek Inspection and Certification Organisation of Organic Products
EASME	Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
EC	Council Regulation
ECJ	European Court of Justice
Ecocert	Certification body for sustainable development
Ecovalia	Asociación Valor Ecológico
EGD	European Green Deal
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EPO	European Patent Office
ESC	European Solidarity Corps
ESVY	Southern Finland Organic Farmers Association
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FederBio	Italian Federation of Organic and Biodynamic Agriculture
FiBL	Research Institute of Organic Agriculture
FNAB	Fédération Nationale d'Agriculture Biologique
F2F	Farm to Fork Strategy
GA	General Assembly
GMOs	Genetically Modified Organisms
Humus	Farming and Social Network for Italian Organic Agriculture
IBMA	International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association
IDDRI	Institut du Développement Durable et des Relations Internationales
IEEP	Institute for European Environmental Policy
IFOAM Organics	
Europe	International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements - Europe
IFOAM Organics	
International	International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements - International
IGOC	IFOAM EU Interest Group of Organic Certification and Integrity
IGOF	IFOAM EU Interest Group of Organic Farmers
IGOP	IFOAM EU Interest Group of Organic Processors
IGOR	IFOAM EU Interest Group of Organic Retailers
INRAE	Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique
IOFGA	Irish Organic Farmers and Growers Association
IoF2020	Internet of Food and Farm 2020
KRAV	Swedish Organic Association
KYMI	Organic Grains for Industry
Luomuliitto	Finnish Organic Association
MEPs	Members of the European Parliament
MOAM	MOAM: Maltese Movement of Organic Agriculture

	Networking European Farms to Enhance Cross Fertilisation and Innovation Uptake Through demonstration
NEFERTITI	
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OAP	Organic Action Plan
OF&G	Organic Farmers and Growers
ÖMKi	Hungarian Research Institute of Organic Agriculture
Parliament	European Parliament
PEF	Product Environmental Footprint
PRM	Plant reproductive material
RELACS	Replacement of Contentious Inputs in Organic Farming Systems
REMix	Redesigning European cropping systems based on species MIXtures
R&I	Research & Innovation
SEAE	Spanish Society for Organic Farming and Agroecology
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TP Organics	Technology Platform for Organics
UPBIO	Unione Nazionale Produttori Biologici e Biodinamici
Xf	Xylella fastidiosa

COLOPHON

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GREEN ORGANICS



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LAYOUT: [Atto](#) & [IFOAM Organics Europe](#)

For further information, contact your [national Council member](#) or [the office in Brussels](#).