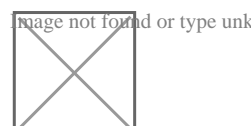




# IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE ANNUAL REPORT

» 2021



To save you ink, paper and energy the background images, videos, etc. will not be printed. To read the full publication, go to <https://read.organicseurope.bio/publication/ifoam-organics-europe-annual-report-2021/> or scan the QR-code.

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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 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, 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](#)
- 



Since May 2020 the European Green Deal's EU [Biodiversity](#) and [Farm to Fork](#) strategies will contribute to our vision to transform Europe's food and farming. They "*address the challenges of sustainable food systems comprehensively, 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 Europe 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](https://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.*

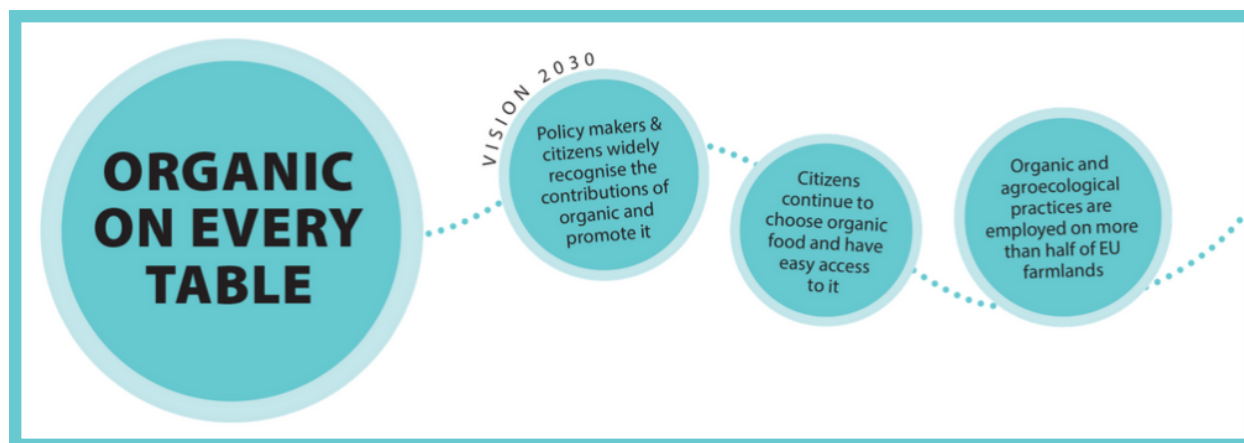
*European farmers and all workers in the organic supply chain are fairly remunerated for their contribution to the health of the environment, communities, local and rural economies, and for providing flavourful and abundant food to contribute to the welfare of our planet and the quality of life of all 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 becoming more widely available. This can only be achieved by 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 providing public goods. We did this together with a vast network of food and farming actors, civil society, companies, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

### Setting an ambitious EU agenda for organic

#### Ensuring the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies are reflected in EU 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 to lead a global transition towards competitive sustainability from farm to fork. We collaborated with other NGOs and civil society organisations, to ensure the EU stands by the Farm to Fork (F2F) strategy and its targets of 25% organic land and 50% reduction in pesticides and antibiotics by 2030, as well as measures to boost the demand for organic products through promotion schemes and green public procurement. For instance, IFOAM Organics Europe and its members advocated towards the European Commission and the Member States to ensure a target for organic farmland by 2027 and/or 2030 was set in each national Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Strategic Plan. To achieve so, we sent one report ([June 2021](#)) to the European Commission and published another one ([November 2021](#)) to assess the level of ambition and support of organic in the CAP Strategic Plans. We also met with officials of the European Commission's Directorate-Generals for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) and for Environment (DG ENV) to raise our demands.

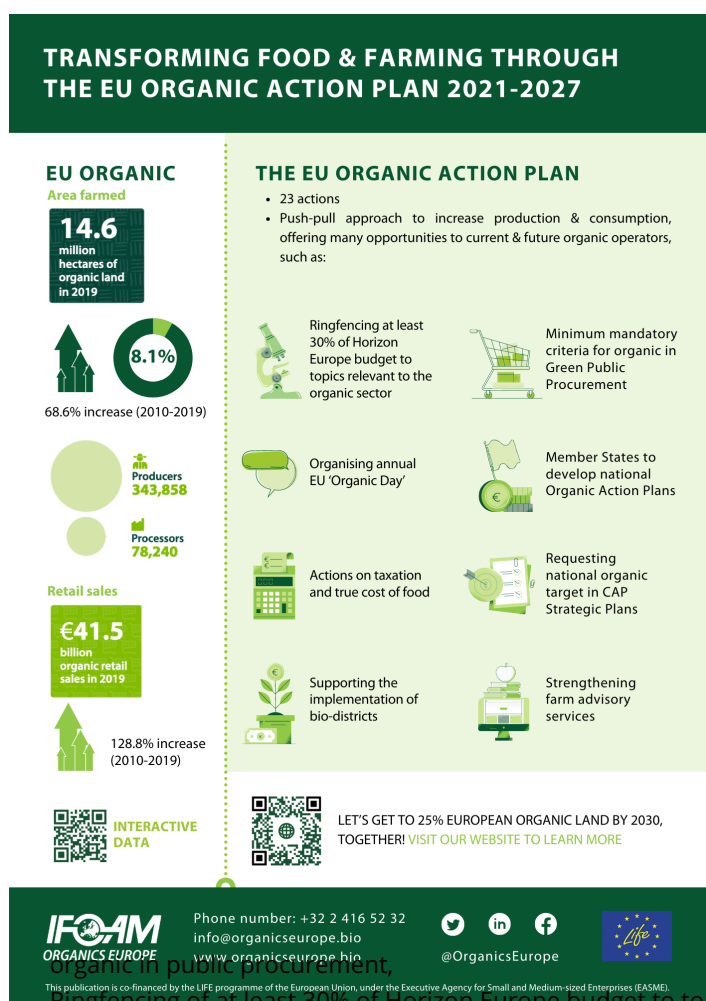
We were also happy to see the Commission's commitment to publish a new [Organic Action Plan](#) – one taking up most of the European organic movement's demands.

A testament to the importance of the Farm to Fork Strategy is the [European Parliament's own-initiative report](#). Thanks to IFOAM Organics Europe's advocacy efforts together with like-minded organisations, it supports the principles, mechanisms and rules promoting the environment and human health and recognises the contribution of organic farming to transitioning towards more sustainable food systems.

## Securing a balanced EU approach in the EU Organic Action Plan

On March 25, 2021, the European Commission published the EU Organic Action Plan for 2021-2030. [We welcomed the Commission's new Organic Action Plan \(OAP\) 2021-2027](#) and particularly its "push-pull" approach, aiming at balancing increases in both production and demand of organic products. It will be an important instrument for reaching the Farm to Fork strategy's target of 25% organic land by 2030.

To reach this objective, the European Commission wants to boost the consumption of organic food in the EU and stimulate conversion to organic farming. The Action Plan also aims to increase the contribution of organic farming to the sustainability of the European agriculture sector.



Minimum mandatory criteria for

- Actions on taxation and the real cost of food.

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

## Gearing up for a new step in the fight to keep Europe GMO-free



control in organic fruit farming.

We also published the leaflet [Plant health care in organic system approach](#). This leaflet is key to understanding Biodiversity strategies, which aim to increase organic 2030. Organic farming's unique approach to plant protection system that is less dependent on external toxic inputs. concrete policy recommendations to make this ambition

Our Policy Coordinator on GMOs, Patent and Seeds, Martin Sommer, participated in the the [new podcast series Slow Food Europe](#). The podcast is dedicated to European food and farming policies, and it gathers experts to discuss hot topics in Brussels and give insights into the European negotiations.

## Reducing pesticide use in Europe

### Explaining organic's approach to plant health



## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

### MAKE THE ORGANIC APPROACH TO BIODIVERSITY THE BASIS OF ALL PLANT HEALTH CARE STRATEGIES

- › Ensure the **Common Agricultural Policy protects the environment, biodiversity** and environmental services provided by ecosystems. The CAP should fully contribute to the implementation of the EU Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies to achieve a transition to more resilient and sustainable agricultural production systems by 2030;
- › **Promote organic plant breeding** by supporting research and development of plant varieties suitable for organic production. Ensure fair access to the EU seed market by adapting the variety registration protocols to organic varieties;
- › **Invest in research addressing indirect measures of plant protection and beneficial insects.** These aspects should be key components of EU research programmes;
- › **Support Member States to promote the use of less harmful pesticides.** National contexts should indicate which measures would be most effective in this respect, for example, introducing an excise tax on plant protection products (PPPs), introducing standard VAT rates on PPPs and lower VAT rates on substances allowed in organic products.

### IMPROVE THE AVAILABILITY OF NATURAL SUBSTANCES ACCORDING TO THE ORGANIC APPROACH TO PLANT HEALTH

- › **Introduce a definition and separate category for natural substances** in Regulation 1107/2009 – the EU horizontal legislation for placing plant protection products on the market. This is the legal pre-requisite for a dedicated authorisation process taking into account the specific characteristics of natural substances while stringently assessing their risks;
- › **Ensure coherence of horizontal and organic regulation and accelerate approval processes.** Introduce a non-binding, ex-ante assessment procedure to predict the compatibility of inputs with the organic standard. The assessment could for example be carried out by the Expert Group for Technical advice on Organic Production (EGTOP). To speed up the process, the EGTOP needs to be further professionalised in terms of funding and procedures;
- › **Expand expert knowledge on natural substances and organic agriculture** in all authorities relevant for the authorisation process at national and EU level. Set-up and/or fund initiatives to find more adequate methods of risk assessment for microorganisms, botanicals and minerals;
- › **Commit public money to finance the authorisation of natural substances of public interest.** Public funding should support the generation of the data needed for the registration of natural substances with a low return on investment, as long as they contribute to improve the food system's sustainability;
- › **Improve and develop participatory research** at national and European level to enable common applications for registration of natural substances, in close collaboration with farmers organisations and related stakeholders.

We also published the leaflet [Plant health care in organic system approach](#). This leaflet is key to understanding Biodiversity strategies, which aim to increase organic 2030. Organic farming's unique approach to plant protection system that is less dependent on external toxic inputs. concrete policy recommendations to make this ambition

## Ensuring legislation recognises organic's environmental benefits

While the European Commission is revising the Directive for sustainable use of pesticides (the so-called SUD), IFOAM Organics Europe is fully involved to promote organic agriculture as the most efficient option to reduce pesticide use. [Our contribution](#) to the public consultation on the revision of the SUD calls for prioritising organic agriculture in the Member States' National Action Plans implemented under the directive. This will contribute to achieving the Farm to Fork strategy's targets on pesticide reduction. As an organic movement, we want these targets to be enshrined in the SUD so that they become legally binding. We also call on the Commission to develop a coherent set of indicators to measure pesticide reduction considering the specificities of organic agriculture. As the current SUD suffers from a lack of implementation by the Member States, its revision should be an opportunity to consider new provisions to ensure its application on the ground. Mathilde Calmels, our Policy Coordinator on Pesticides, Natural Inputs and Fertilisers participated as a speaker at the [3 Commission stakeholder event on the revision of the SUD](#). We also continue our collaboration with IBMA (International Biocontrol Manufacturers' Association) to make sure that biopesticides already on the market remain available for organic farmers.

## Ensuring demand for organic through sustainable public procurement

We produced several important documents and advocacy materials on public procurement, both in our name and alongside other members of the Food Policy Coalition (FPC). All these deliverables advocate for a more sustainable public procurement, demonstrating its beneficial effects and outcomes. Examples are the seven key [policy recommendations on public procurement](#), that were finalised in December 2021, or the FPC's paper [Sustainable public procurement: A Goal Within Reach](#) in May 2021. We produced an [article](#) on public procurement for the IFOAM Organics Europe newsletter and a [leaflet](#) about how to include organic products in sustainable public procurement. This adds to the IFOAM Organics Europe's [infographic on the benefits of sustainable public procurement](#).

As a member of the Food Policy Coalition and co-lead of the Sustainable Public Procurement Taskforce, we identified synergies and, together, were more effective in our advocacy work – especially agreeing on joint mandatory criteria for public procurement.

During the [European Organic Congress 2021](#), we organised a session “Towards more sustainable food systems” also addressing sustainable public procurement with high-level speakers such as Director Nathalie Chaze from the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE).



## Preparing organic actors for the implementation of the new EU Organic Regulation

Organic production, labelling and controls have been regulated at the EU level since 1991. Up to 31 December 2021, the EU requirements for organic production were set by Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 defining the aims, objectives, and principles of organics. Two implementing regulations (No

889/2008 and No 1235/2008) detailed organic production, labelling, control and import rules. All products labelled as organic and sold in the EU were produced under these regulations.

This set of rules was recently replaced. After a long revision process, the new organic regulation (EU) 2018/848 was published in June 2018. It applies from 1 January 2022. Originally, this new regulation was to apply as of 1 January 2021. However, 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.

The legislative framework is often complicated and excessively hard to understand. To help smoothen this transition, we developed [guidelines to help interpret EU Organic Regulation](#) helping our members and operators navigate the new regulations. Simplification and some assistance can really make organic operators' lives much simpler.

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

The [LIVSEED](#) project increased transparency and provided recommendations on organic seeds and plant breeding. Project partners put their hearts and souls into boosting organic seed and plant breeding, analysing national seed databases and factors influencing organic seed production and use. They also explored national policies, smart practices, build EU infrastructure and analysed issues on propagation.

The partners also advanced testing protocols to improve the availability of organic seeds, ensuring they are adapted to the realities of organic farmers. Essential outcomes of the project were the systems-based breeding concept, which combines participatory approaches with modern breeding tools considering different socio-economic contexts and the [EU router database for organic seeds](#), which facilitates information exchange on seeds at the EU level.

The LIVESEED project came to an end on 30 September 2021, after 52 months of activities. During this time, several resources, tools, practice abstracts, booklets (many of which were translated into several EU languages), videos, research reports, and presentations were produced and made available through the [project website](#). All these materials are a useful source of information for all those active in organic seed and plant breeding.

Among the documents we would like to highlight:

- The booklet with project outcomes and results [LIVESEED – Boosting organic seed and plant breeding across Europe](#) ;
- [Boosting organic seed and breeding across Europe: recommendations for stakeholders and policymakers](#) (booklet);
- [Recommendations per topic and target group](#) (posters);
- [A national roadmap towards 100% organic seed by 2036](#) (policy brief);
- 

[Policy and stakeholder recommendations to boost the organic seed & breeding sector](#) (report).

## 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.



### Inspiring about organic’s benefits to pollinators

Our Policy Coordinator on Pesticides, Natural Inputs and Fertilisers participated as speaker at the EU Pollinators Week on 28 September, for the session “[EU actions for pollinators in agricultural landscapes](#)” of the European Committee of the Regions. The session aimed to share views about how the EU policy, and the future Common Agricultural Policy, should be shaped to protect and promote pollinator conservation in agricultural land. They also wrote a contribution to the stakeholder consultation on the new EU pollinators initiative, organised by the Committee of the Regions, and spoke at the 6 European Copper Conference, presenting the European strategy for copper minimisation in organic farming.

Moreover, we participated (and continue to participate) in various expert groups: the EFSA Stakeholder Forum, the EFSA Roundtable with NGOs, the Commission Expert Group on Fertilising Products, the Plenary meeting of the advisory group on the food chain and animal and plant health. We were also actively engaged in the NGO Pesticide group, which mainly focused on the revision of SUD.

### Ensuring better data-collection on organic farming

IFOAM Organics Europe welcomes the [Commission's initiative to review the Farm Accountancy Data Network \(FADN\) Regulation](#) to transform it into a Farm Sustainability Data Network (FSDN). Economic data collected at farm level should be completed with data on the environmental and social components of farms, for policy monitoring and evaluation and research. Such a holistic approach will:

- Help understand the economic, social, and environmental impacts of agricultural practices, and
- Identify which of these practices should be supported to achieve the targets set by the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies.

This should ultimately contribute to a wide uptake of sustainable practices.

We also advocated on the Commission's proposal for a [Regulation on Statistics on Agricultural Inputs and Outputs \(SAIO\)](#), calling for better data on the use of natural inputs in organic farming. This should improve the knowledge base of the sector. We were also providing input to the co-decision process.

## Ensuring funds for organic research

### Advocating for organic through TP Organics

[TP Organics](#) is one of the 40 [European Technology Platforms](#) (ETPs), officially recognised by the European Commission. As an ETP, TP Organics is the European Technology Platform for Organic Food and Farming. It develops research & innovation agendas and roadmaps for research action at the EU and national levels. R&I is crucial for developing the organic sector and designing more sustainable food systems. That is why it advocates for more research funding benefiting organic and agroecological approaches.

With the Farm to Fork Strategy's target of 25% farmland share in Europe by 2030, organic is now highly visible in the policy debate. This needs to be reflected in a bigger share of the EU budget, including Horizon Europe, to stimulate the conversion of farmers. TP Organics functions as an innovation broker and the main advocacy organisation of the organic movement for EU Research and Innovation policy. As IFOAM Organics Europe, we continued hosting and take a leading role in TP Organics in 2021.

### Three calls for organic and 20 calls related to organic in EU research & innovation funding

TP Organics has advised the European Commission on the priorities for the Seventh framework programme of the European Community for research and technological development including demonstration activities (FP7) and the EU's R&I framework programmes Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe. Our advocacy efforts through TP Organics proved to be successful:

- Between 2016-2020, the amount of funding for organic-only calls in Horizon 2020 reached EUR 38 million, compared to EUR 1.5 million (0.44%) under FP7 (Societal Challenge 2 – Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry, Marine, Maritime and Inland Water Research and the Bioeconomy + CORE Organic);
- The respective number of calls where 'organic' is mentioned increased from 6 in FP7 (WP2013) to 47 in Horizon 2020 (8 in Horizon 2020's work package 2014-2015, 21 Horizon 2020's work package 2016-2017 and 18 in Horizon 2020's work package 2018-2020).

The new [EU Organic Action Plan](#) foresees allocating at least 30% of the budget for Research and Innovation actions in the field of agriculture, forestry and rural areas to topics specific to or relevant to the organic sector. Cluster 6 of Horizon Europe has a total budget of EUR 8,952 million. The intervention area "Agriculture, forestry and rural areas" is one of 7 intervention areas in this cluster. Assuming each intervention area receives an equal share of the cluster budget, and organic receives 30% of intervention area 3, there is potentially EUR 380 million of R&I funding available for topics that are relevant for organic in Horizon Europe. The first Work Programme (2021-2022) includes three organic-specific calls as well as 20 calls where 'organic' is mentioned.

Moreover, TP Organics continues collaborating with the new EU R&I Partnerships on Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems that are part of Horizon Europe (as part of the SCAR Strategic Working Group on Agroecology and the dedicated task

forces on definitions, research needs and collaboration with other actors). The Agroecology Partnership will be a key instrument to support the upscaling of organic farming and agroecology. The Sustainable Food Systems Partnership, while focusing more on the post-farmgate side, will be a key tool for the transition to sustainable food systems. TP Organics is part of the core group that has developed the template (partnership proposal). For both partnerships, TP Organics is actively involved in the co-creation process of a Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) outlining the topics that will be translated into calls.

## Concluding and winning research projects for organic

### Finding alternatives to contentious input in organic

'Replacement of Contentious Inputs in Organic Farming Systems' ([RELACS](#)) was a Horizon 2020 project promoting the development and adoption of environmentally safe and economically viable tools and technologies to reduce the use of inputs considered contentious in organic farming systems, namely: copper and mineral oil for plant protection, recycled fertilizers and conventional manure in plant production, antibiotics and anti-worm drugs (anthelmintics) in animal production, and finally synthetic vitamins in animal production.

As IFOAM Organics Europe, we were responsible for the communication and dissemination of project results as well as the coordination of the science-practice-policy dialogue. We coordinated national workshops organised by the partners and organised a European workshop, presenting the alternatives to contentious inputs developed by RELACS and brainstormed on better adapting EU rules to ease adoption of alternative inputs.

The project release:

- [Videos](#) on new plant protection products replacing copper in organic viticulture and rose growing;
- [Scientific papers](#) on promising plant and animal protection methods and strategies for reducing the use of contentious inputs; and
- [Practical guidelines, policy documents](#) and much more.

RELACS got its spotlight at the Organic World Congress 2021, with the session "Which natural inputs do we need in organic farming systems? Discussing the future of plant protection products and fertilisers". The project had its closing event at the Organic Innovation Days 2021, where we presented its results, European roadmaps for reducing of controversial inputs, and we reported on national workshops with farmers, advisors and scientists discussing the developed alternatives.

### Inspiring organic pig & poultry farmers to use 100% organic & regional feed

OK-Net EcoFeed was a Horizon 2020 project helping organic pig and poultry farmers to achieve the goal of 100% use of organic and regional feed. The three-year project created a European network of innovation groups to facilitate the exchange and co-creation of knowledge among farmers, business actors, researchers, and advisors. It collected end-user material and developed new tools adapted to the needs of farmers and business actors.

[OK-Net Ecofeed](#) supported on-farm feed autonomy and helped producers achieve 100% organic rations for monogastric animals. Some of the main outcomes included:

- The use of sprouted seeds as valuable green fodder for animal welfare;
- The use of camelina cake as a protein-rich feed, and an efficient alternative to the protein of soy and brewer's yeast, an industry by-product rich in protein and vitamin b to be used as an alternative source of protein.

### New research projects

We successfully applied for new research projects. OrganicTargets4EU will support the achievement of the Farm to Fork Strategy's targets of reaching 25% of EU agricultural land under organic production and significantly increasing organic aquaculture by 2030. We will coordinate this project starting in September 2022.

In addition, we successfully applied three other projects: Climate Farm Demo, FarmBook 3.0, LIVESEEDing.

## First prize in the Organic Farm Knowledge

The online platform [Organic Farm Knowledge](#) was awarded the first prize in the [Digital Excellence in Agriculture in Europe and Central Asia – Regional Contest](#) in the category ‘Capacity development and empowerment’.

The contest, organised by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Office for Europe and Central Asia and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Offices for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States with almost 200 applicants from 38 countries, identified Organic Farm Knowledge as one of 28 impactful, sustainable, scalable and innovative practices using a combination of multiple technologies, enabling the digital transition of Europe and Central Asia’s agricultural sectors.

## Demonstrating organic’s innovative potential

### Organic Innovation Days

On 30 November and 1 December, the Organic Innovation Days 2021 entitled “Better inputs for organic agriculture” took place online. This public event was organised by TP Organics in collaboration with the two Horizon 2020 funded EU projects RELACS and Organic-PLUS. Both projects aim to reduce the use of contentious inputs in organic farming. Intense discussions, exchanging views on the various alternatives to contentious inputs in organic farming and strategies to minimise their use, as well as the socio-economic aspects involved, were the main themes.

### Participating in research projects

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 [SmartAgriHubs](#) projects. The event highlighted the achievements and contributions of the project 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 Organic Farm Knowledge platform provides access to a wide range of tools and resources about organic farming that can help improve production, for example practice abstracts, videos and online courses. It also aims to serve as a virtual meeting place for cross-border learning. The FAO awarded it in its contest ‘Digital Excellence in Agriculture’ (see previous chapter).

We also continued our work in the:

- [BIOFRUITNET](#) project, strengthening the competitiveness of European organic fruit production through strong knowledge networks;
- [ReMIX](#) project, looking into redesigning European cropping systems based on species mixtures;
- [NEFERTITI](#) project, focusing on methodologies for knowledge exchange to boost the uptake of innovation and improve peer-to-peer learning;
- [FutureEUAqua](#) project, a project aiming at the effective promotion of sustainable growth of environmentally friendly organic and conventional aquaculture.

As in previous years, we offered young professionals from all over Europe the opportunity to learn about the organic movement within IFOAM Organics Europe. Six 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 to improve organic food and farming in Europe. Get acquainted with them on [EUorganic2030.bio](#).



## Putting organic textiles on the EU policy agenda

In June 2021, IFOAM Organics Europe implemented the Action Plan set up with Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS). After mapping, we contacted and met around 10 several stakeholders. In parallel, we have been in the process of revising the [2017 position paper](#) on the protection of the credibility of the organic label for textiles. The process was led by IFOAM Organics Europe in 2021 on the first update, then was carried through in collaboration with GOTS, Soil Association and the Organic Cotton Accelerator in 2022. The paper will be published in May-June 2022.

## 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.



## Ensuring environmental labelling shows the full picture

Throughout 2021, 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 2021.

## 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](#). In May 2021, Member States transposed the Directive into national law, and in November 2021 they started applying it. 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, in 2019, IFOAM Organics Europe and other associations have developed a [transposition guide](#).

IFOAM Organics Europe is monitoring the process of transposition and advocating to go beyond the provisions of the directive, such as the banned number of unfair trading practices.

## Building bridges among the supply chain

In December 2021, we organised [IFOAM Organics Europe Meets Business](#), gathering our Interest Group of Organic Processors (IGOP) and stakeholders from the entire organic supply chain.

This successful platform for exchange between players from the entire (organic) supply chain – including processors, traders, retailers, and certifiers – brings together IFOAM Organics Europe's members and their members, as well as companies involved in or interested in organic (such as retailers with an organic range, or processors contemplating as to whether to start working with organic products). The event discusses current hot topics and trends in organic. In the morning session, we will talk about organic market development and societal trends, while the afternoon will be dedicated to the new EU Organic Regulation.

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.

## Caring for our staff

As new COVID-19 waves kept coming throughout 2021, we did our best to ensure the health and well-being of our staff.

We offered our staff the possibility to get all necessary office equipment for efficient and ergonomic homeworking, and have a flexible approach to office and home work.

Our regular digital weekly and monthly meetings allowed our team to stay connected in this hybrid set-up. We also organised and after-work get-togethers which 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 the EU level. Until 31 December 2021, Council Regulation (EC) no 834/2007 set 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 used to 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.

The new EU Organic Regulation 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. Thanks to the joined efforts we did together with our members, we did what seemed impossible – we managed to postpone the implementation of the EU Organic Regulation with one year. This gave many organic operators the time to (better) prepare for the changes to their day-to-day business.

Since 1 January 2022 the new Regulation (EU) 2018/848 applies and is complemented by a significant number of secondary acts (implementing and delegated regulations). Visit the [regulation section of our website](#) for more background information on the EU Organic Regulation.

## 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 Regulation on the Sustainable Use of pesticides (SUR).

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”. The European Green Deal includes two important strategies for the organic sector: the [Farm to Fork Strategy](#) and the [EU Biodiversity Strategy](#) (2020).

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 recognised organic as part of the solution to more sustainable food systems. IFOAM Organics Europe believes this target is ambitious but achievable [if the right mechanisms are in place](#).

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.

An important tool to reach the 25% goal and 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 new Organic Action Plan increases the share of research and innovation funding for organic under Horizon Europe to at least 30% of the budget for R&I actions in the field of agriculture, forestry and rural areas to topics specific to or relevant to the organic sector.

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. On 23 November 2021, the [European Parliament's Plenary adopted the new Common Agricultural Policy \(CAP\) \(2023-2027\) Regulation](#). The new CAP Strategic Plan Regulation maintains the two-pillar architecture but includes a new direction towards more subsidiarity and a performance-based delivery model. This gives Member States more responsibility and flexibility to design their CAP Strategic Plans at national level.

The new legal framework created:

- New social conditionality enhancing farmers and farm workers' rights, mandatory as of 2025. This social conditionality is based on current four EU legislative frameworks (Directive 2019/1152 on Transparent and Predictable Working Conditions, Directive 2009/104/EC on Minimum Safety and Health Requirements for use of work equipment by workers, Directive 89/391/EEC on Improvement of Safety and health of workers, Regulation 492/2011 on Freedom of movement for workers within the EU) and the EU foresees several assessments during and at the end of the CAP's implementation period;
- New 'Green Architecture' consisting of:
  - New 'Eco-schemes' with a ringfenced budget of 25% of the first Pillar after a two-year transition period (2023-2024). They will be mandatory for Member States and voluntary for farmers;
  - Nine Good Agricultural and Environmental Land Conditions (GAECs) in the first Pillar; and
  - Agri-Environmental and Climate Measures (AECMs) accounting for 35% budget of the second Pillar.

In November 2021, the Commission published the [EU Soil Strategy](#) for 2030 as one of the EU Biodiversity Strategy's commitments. The Soil Strategy addresses the importance of healthy soils for climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity, ecosystem services, food production and the economy. By 2023, the Commission is planning to table a legislative proposal on soil health to reach the objectives of the Soil Strategy and achieve good soil health across the EU by 2050 (as announced in the strategy).

On 15 December, the European Commission presented its [Sustainable Carbon Cycles](#) Communication. On the one hand, the Communication addresses how to increase carbon sequestration and scale up carbon farming as a business model, and on the other hand it discusses industrial approaches to remove carbon from the atmosphere. Carbon removal and storage should contribute to achieving the EU legally binding commitment of climate neutrality by 2050. To reach EU climate objectives, drastic emission reductions are needed. A Commission analysis suggests we must reduce the current use of fossil carbon energy by 95% if we want to reach carbon neutrality by 2050. Carbon removals in the land use sector will also play an important role to meet the climate objectives.

The Commission is expected to propose a [Regulation on the Sustainable Use of pesticides \(SUR\)](#) by mid-2022, which is a revision of the Sustainable Use of pesticides Directive (SUD). This will be one of the main tools to reach Farm to Fork's target of pesticide reduction. Advocacy work to show the key role of organic farming in the reduction of pesticides and try to make it a key element of the future proposal.

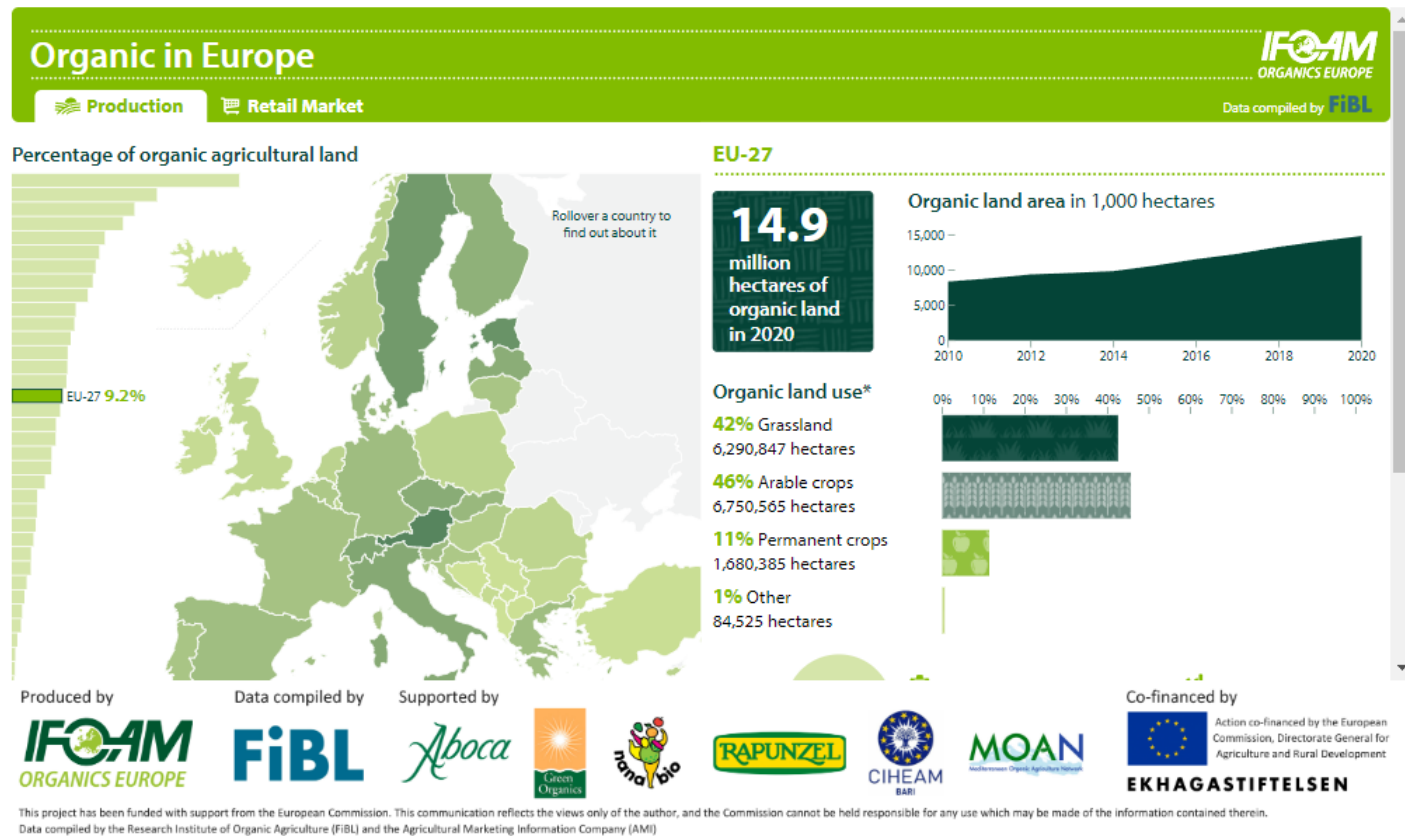
The EU Organic Day, 23 September, [launched by the European Parliament, the Commission, and the Council of the European Union in 2021](#), represents the occasion to assess trends in consumer demands, continue raising awareness of organic in the supply chain and finally, define new targets for the future of organic in Europe. This day is one of the actions in the EU Organic Action Plan to increase supply and demand for organic.

## ORGANIC MARKET AND PRODUCTION

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

In 2020, the EU's total area of farmland under organic production grew to 14.9 million hectares, 9.2 % of agricultural land. Organic producers are also on the rise as compared to 2019, with their number increasing by 1.9% to 349,551. Accompanying these developments, the EU organic retail market significantly grew to €44.9 billion, rising by almost 15% 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 €102 annually in the EU.

Browse our [interactive infographic](#) with country-specific data and trends on organic production and retail.



## ORGANIC AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted [17 interlinked Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) as an urgent call to action for all nations 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 feasible solutions to many problems the SDGs are meant to face as linked to the four principles of organic agriculture: Health, Ecology, Fairness and Care. Investing in organic agriculture can improve 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 the 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 fewer antibiotics, organic farming improves the health of farmers, the environment, farmworkers 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, and 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 of 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 the production of synthetic fertilizers is the second-largest source of emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> in agriculture. Instead of being dependent on synthetic fertilizers, organic farmers apply beneficial soil management practices to ensure soil fertility (e.g., crop rotation, cover crops, minimum tillage, and compost). This also results in higher soil carbon sequestration compared to conventional farms. Practices like the use of compost help organic farmers also to improve the water retention capacity of the soil. Thus, organic farming makes farms more resilient, helps mitigate 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 pollution 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 diversity of species. Organically managed lands often have more semi-natural habitats which help to protect and preserve biodiversity, and host on average 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 and enrich soil biodiversity (which represents 25% of the world's biodiversity) thanks to soil management practices supporting fertility and reducing soil erosion.



ORGANIC  
RESEARCH

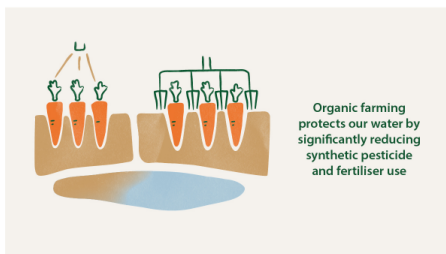


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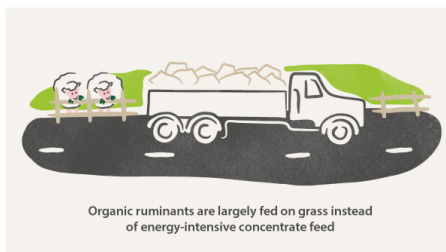
ORGANICS EUROPE



DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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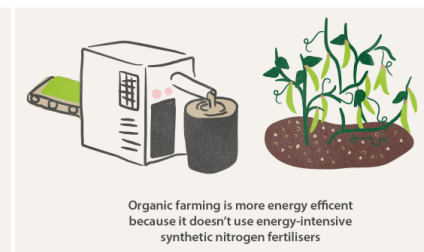


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DEVELOPMENT GOALS

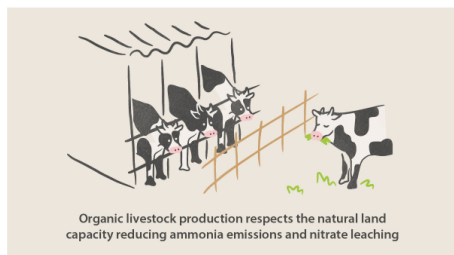


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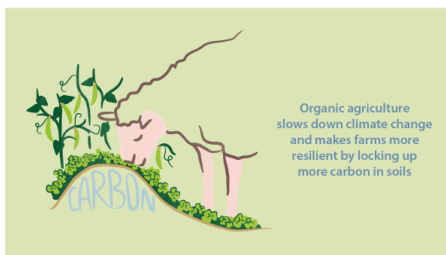
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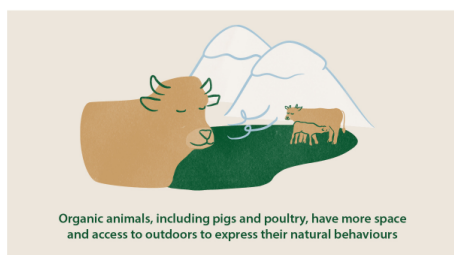


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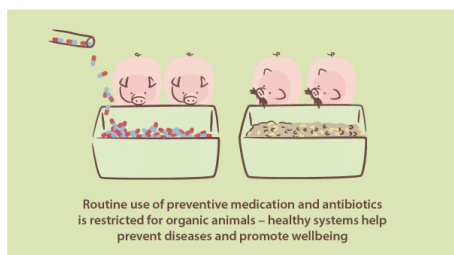


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[A factsheet from IFOAM Organics International \(IFOAM – OI\)](#)

[Organic Agriculture and the Sustainable Development Goals](#)

## WHO WE ARE

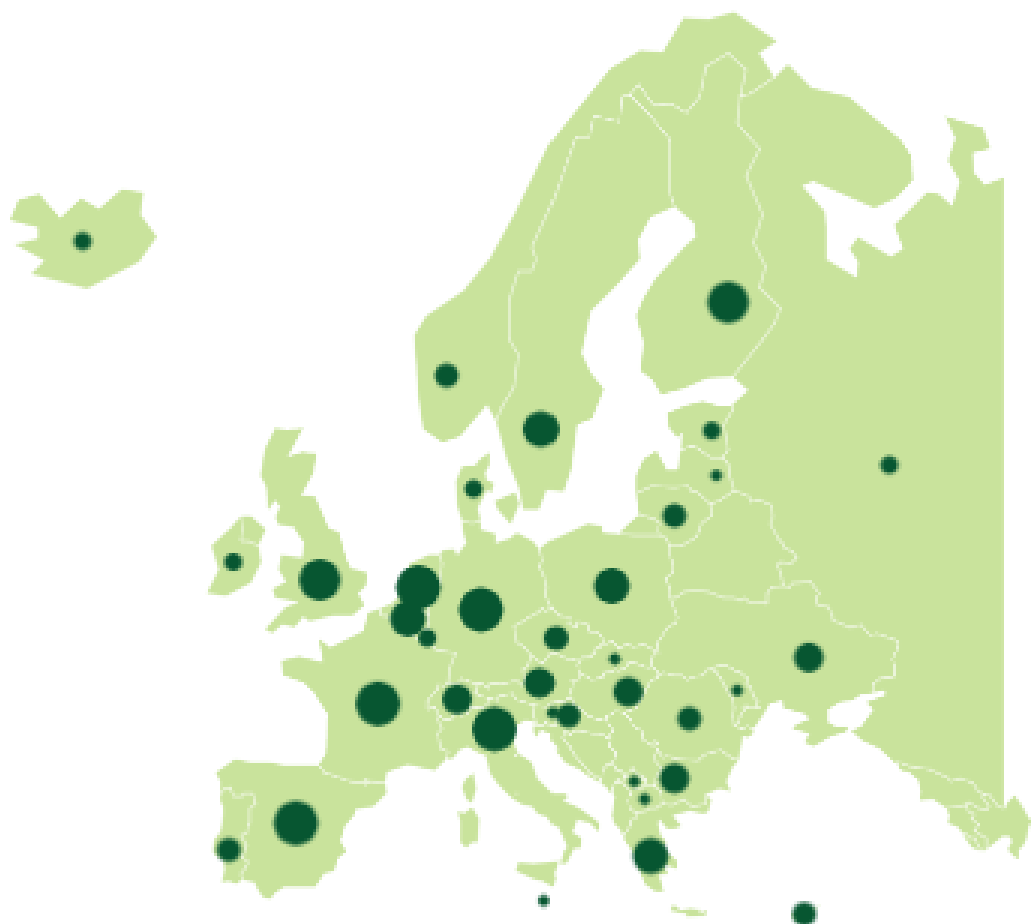
### OUR MEMBERS

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!



# Number and type of IFOAM Organics Europe members per country



Country	Total members per country	Certification body	Farmers association	Company	Processing, trade & business association	NGO (civil society)	Institute of higher education & research	Umbrella organisation	General membership based organisation
Austria	5	1	2	1		1			
Belgium	7	2	1	1		1	1	1	
Bulgaria	4	1		1			1		
Croatia	2			2					
Cyprus	2			1					
Czech Republic	3		2					1	
Denmark	3			1			1	1	
Estonia	2								
Finland	6		4		1				
France	12	1	2	2	3		3		
Germany	36	6	6	14	3	2	2	1	1
Greece	3	2				1			
Hungary	4	1	1			1	1		
Iceland	1	1							
Ireland	2	2							
Italy	1								
Latvia	1		1						



## 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):** The steering Committee gathered at five e-meetings throughout the year to work on specific topics, such as the future of certification as well as organic supply chain integrity. In July a meeting of the enlarged IGOC took place where 4 parallel workshops were done in order to design the future of certification.
2. **Interest Group of Organic Farmers (IGOF):** The IGOF gathered for four e-meetings throughout the year, to discuss topics mainly such as the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform and its link to the Farm to Fork Strategy as well as the national CAP Strategic Plans (CAP SPs). IGOF's members collaborated with IFOAM Organics Europe's Office to draft two reports assessing the CAP SPs including one '[The Ambition Gap](#)' which has been published and widely disseminated. IGOF's sub-group on animal welfare also provided support to a public consultation on this topic.
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 2021](#).
4. **Interest Group of Organic Retailers (IGOR):** The IGOR had two e-meetings throughout the year to discuss topics such as addressing the organic market, shop certification, and the EU Organic Action Plan. The IGOR steering committee also met once online in 2021.

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

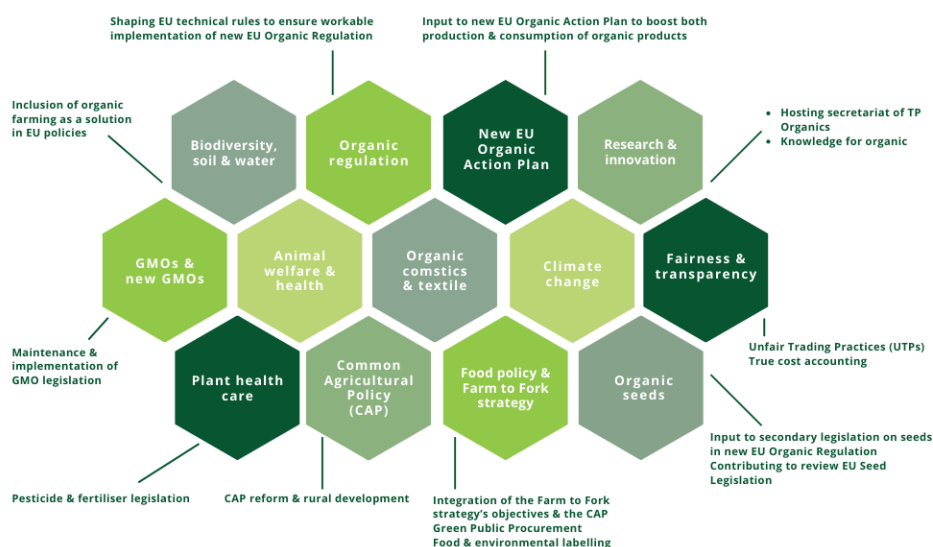
Our [working groups](#) formulate positions, highlight important developments, and advise IFOAM Organics Europe's Board and Council. They regularly exchange on topics relevant to their areas of expertise:

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:

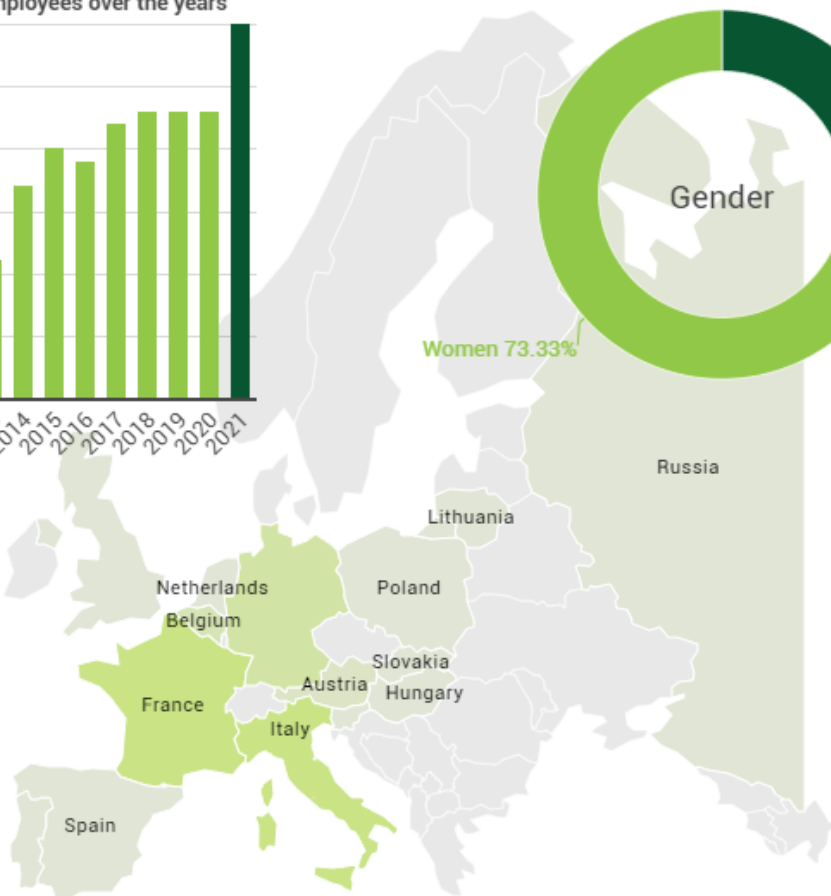
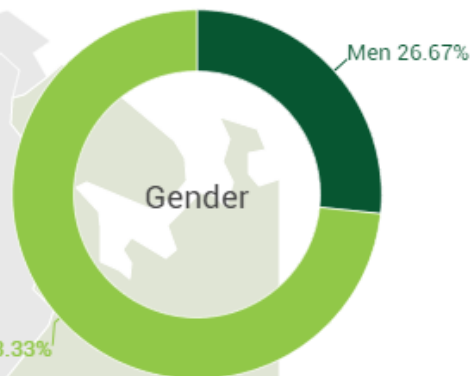
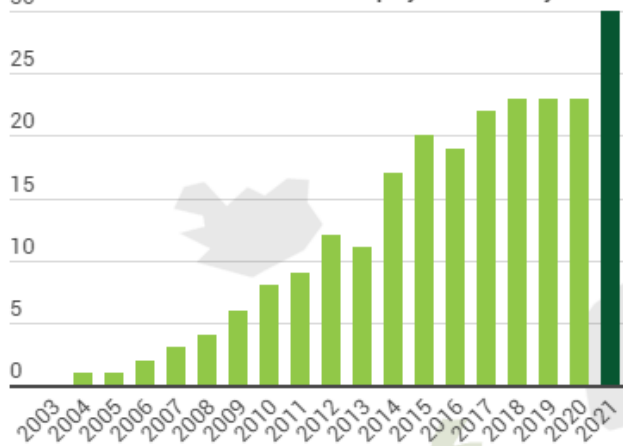
1. Climate Change and Biodiversity
2. National Contact Points new Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs)
3. Cosmetics
4. Implementation of the new EU Organic Regulation
5. Textile
6. Pesticide Use & Contamination Project

## OUR ADVOCACY TOPICS



## OUR TEAM

30 Number of IFOAM OE full time employees over the years



We employed 32 people from 16 different countries at IFOAM Organics Europe in 2021



#### POLICY



ERIC GALL (FR)  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
& POLICY MANAGER



SILVIA SCHMIDT (IT)  
FOOD POLICY ASSOCIATE  
MANAGER



MARTIN SOMMER (DE)  
POLICY OFFICER ON GMOs,  
PATENT AND SEEDS



MATHILDE CALM  
POLICY COORDINATOR  
ON PESTICIDES, N  
INPUTS AND FERT



HANNA WINKLER (AT)  
POLICY COORDINATOR  
ON AGRICULTURE AND  
CLIMATE CHANGE



AMÉLIE STEU (FR)  
POLICY ASSISTANT ON  
AGRICULTURE AND CAP



ANTOINE PAUTI (FR)  
POLICY ASSISTANT ON  
AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND  
ENVIRONMENT



MARIA VITTORIA  
BORGHETTO (IT)  
ESC VOLUNTEER 2

#### FINANCE & OPERATIONS



MONICA SOUSA (PT)  
FINANCIAL & OPERATIONS  
MANAGER



JULIE GOSEELS (BE)  
OFFICE COORDINATOR



ALEX GERY (FR)  
ESC VOLUNTEER 2021-2022

#### RESEARCH & INNOVATION



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



YULIA BARABANOVA (RU)  
SENIOR RESEARCH &  
STRATEGY OFFICER



AGNES BRUZIK (HU)  
PROJECT OFFICER LACSEB

#### COMMUNICATIONS



EVA BERCKMANS (BE)  
COMMUNICATIONS  
MANAGER



VERENA MITSCHKE (DE)  
COMMUNICATIONS  
OFFICER



ARIANNA BELLEMO (IT)  
ESC VOLUNTEER 2021-2022



AMBRA DE SIMONE (IT)  
RESEARCH & INNOVATION  
PROJECT COORDINATOR



GERNERT MARIA (DE)  
TP ORGANICS  
COORDINATOR



MARIA LADINIG (AT)  
ESC VOLUNTEER 2021-2022



## 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.



## FutureEUAqua

Since 2018, FutureEUAqua 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. FutureEUAqua 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 2021

- **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?** 17-19 February, online
- [Browse our Twitter moments to relive the event](#)
- 



## European Organic Congress 2021

- **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?** 16-18 June, Lisbon Portugal
- [Browse our Twitter moments to relive the event](#)
- 



## Organic Food Conference 2021

- **What?** An annual event bringing the organic food industry closer together.
- **When & where?** 30 September – 1 October, Warsaw Poland
- 



## Organic Innovation Days 2021

- **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?** 30 November – 1 December, online
- 



## IFOAM Organics Europe Meets Business 2021

- **What?** An annual event bringing the organic food industry closer together.
- **When & where?** 7 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 120 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.

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	Dennree
	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)
- 

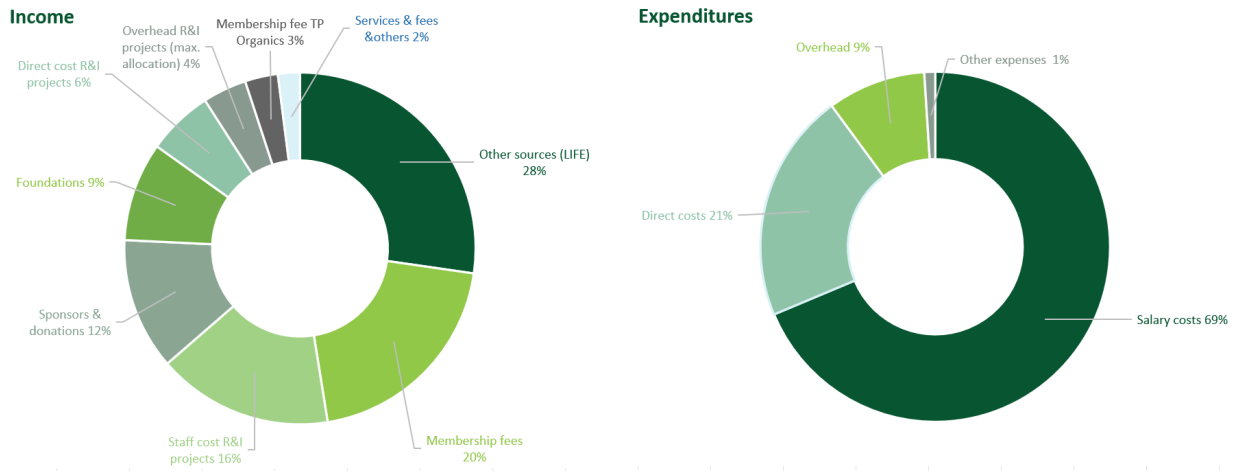
IFOAM Organics Europe's Council Members 2020-2023:

## Council members

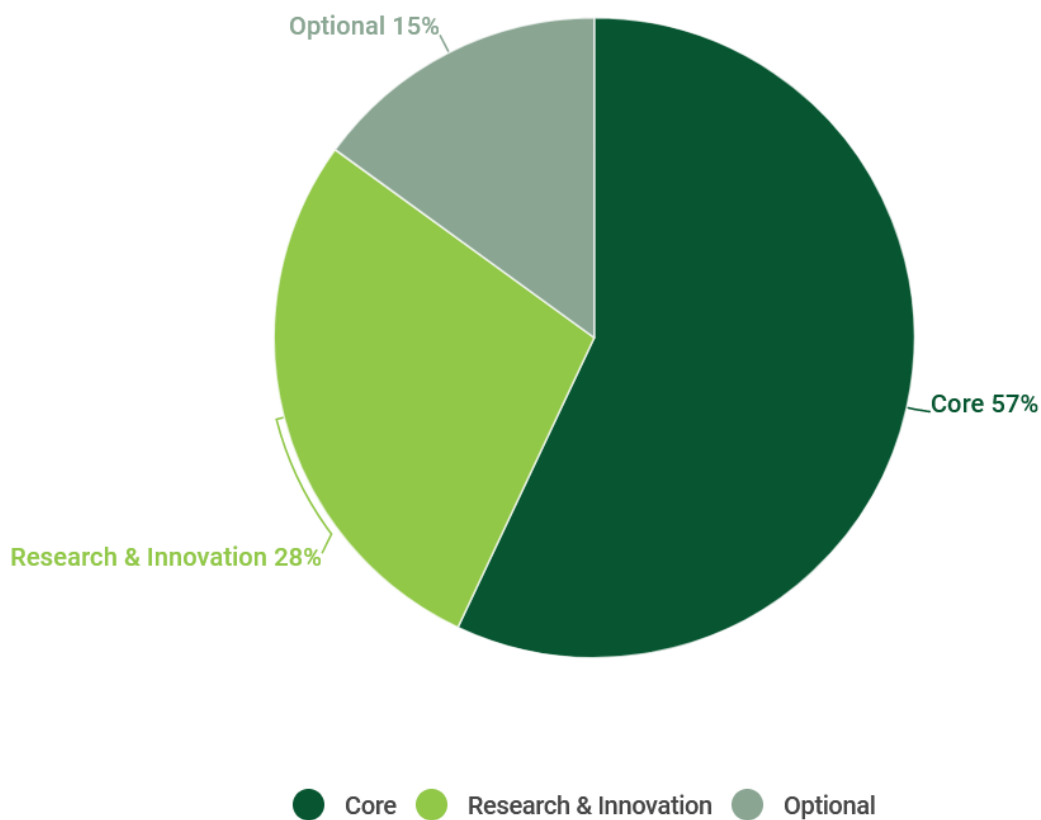
	Maria Geitzenauer	Council Member	Austria Bio Garantie
	Thomas Fertl	Deputy Council Member & Board Member & Rapporteur for farming	Bio Austria
	Lieve Vercauteren	Council Member	BioForum Vlaanderen
	Muriel Huybrechts	Deputy Council Member	Le Collège Des Producteurs
	Stoilko Apostolov	Council Member	Bioselena
	Albena Simeonova	Deputy Council Member	Bulgarian Organic Products Association
	Dijana Posavec	Deputy Council Member	Centre dr. Rudolf Steiner
	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
	Aura Lamminparras	Council Member	
	Aira Sevón	Deputy Council Member	ESVY ry
	Susann Rannari	Deputy Council Member	Luomuliitto
	David Peyremote	Council Member	FNAB
	Jean-Marc Lévêque	Deputy Council Member	Triballat-Noyal
	Michel Reynaud	Deputy Council Member & Board Member Rapporteur for Certification	Ecocert

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

### Income and expenditure 2021



## Budget structure 2021



### 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

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

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

COLOPHON

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RAPUNZEL



ABOCA



NANA BIO



CLIMATE, INFRASTRUCTURE  
AND ENVIRONMENT  
EXECUTIVE AGENCY (CINEA)



YEAR OF ORGANICS



YEAR OF ORGANICS





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

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