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## WELCOME NOTE

Dear IFOAM Organics Europe members,  
Dear reader,

I am honoured and humbled by the trust you are putting into my colleagues and me by electing us as the [new Board](#) during our General Assembly on 30 June. Also, I would like to express my special gratitude for being re-elected President of this organisation that has grown and developed significantly over the last years.

Before celebrating new beginnings and the future of the European organic movement, I would like to thank the previous Board for their fantastic work and success in developing the organic sector further. Together with the new Board, its willingness to cooperate and motivation, I am sure we will continue this work in a period of political changes and opportunities for organic.

Organic farming is a success story. The variety of [initiatives already transforming food and farming](#) towards fairer, environmentally conscious, healthy, and caring systems across Europe and its growing recognition at political level show this. Most notably, [the Farm to Fork Strategy is putting organic farming at the heart of the transition to sustainable and fair food systems](#).

Considering these and other major developments for food and farming, the [European Organic Congress 2020](#) came just at the right time. It provided the perfect platform for policy-makers, expert speakers and (organic) stakeholders from all over Europe to discuss the latest trends and our vision for a post-pandemic Europe. This year's edition took place online 1-3 July. It was co-organised with the [German Association of Organic Farmers, Food Processors and Retailers \(BÖLW\)](#), the flagship organic umbrella organisation of the country holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Participants were welcomed by Julia Klöckner, German Minister for Food and Agriculture and Felix Prinz Zu Löwenstein, Chairman of BÖLW. During five sessions, we discussed the new EU Organic Regulation, an Organic Action Plan, the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the Farm to Fork Strategy and the possible impact of Covid-19 on our food and farming system. [High-level speakers from the European Commission, European Parliament and the German Presidency of the Council of the European Union agreed that organic farming is part of the solution to transition to sustainable and fair systems in Europe.](#)

Finally, I would like to express a heartfelt 'Thank you' to the entire office team for making the update of our presence possible. We will continue our work as IFOAM Organics Europe, which I believe better represents who we are towards the European institutions. I am proud of this fresh look and invite you to [visit our new website](#) to see the results of this makeover.



As my colleague and re-elected Vice-President Mariam Blom already said during our General Assembly, we will keep working with organic farmers, processors, retailers, certifiers, researchers, and consumers to further increase the contribution of organic food and farming to a sustainable Europe. Much remains to be done and we have no time to waste to make the European food and farming system more resilient. The new FOAM Organics Europe Board and myself are committed to providing guidance to the organisation's work and making our [Vision 2030](#) a reality.

Organic regards,  
Jan Plagge  
IFOAM Organics Europe President



## POLITICAL HOTSPOT

With the publication of the EU Biodiversity and Farm to Fork (F2F) strategies, the European Commission puts organic food and farming at the heart of a transition of the food system towards sustainability, with a target to reach 25% organic land by 2030.

### **Positive words from Commissioners at European Organic Congress**

European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Stella Kyriakides, speaking at the European Organic Congress (EOC) through a video message, confirmed this ambition and said there was a “need to step up our efforts to stimulate a strong demand and uptake of organic products.” Consumers are drivers of change and could make sustainability ‘bankable,’ she argued. “This is why we will promote organic food, support green public procurement, increase the share of organic products in public catering systems, and expand organic canteens,” she added.

European Commissioner for Agriculture, Janusz Wojciechowski, also speaking at the EOC, stressed that the target was achievable and highlighted the future contribution of the upcoming EU Organic Action Plan, which should be available and open to public consultation after the summer. IFOAM Organics Europe has welcomed the Farm to Fork Strategy, which provides a clear vision, ambition and direction for the future EU agriculture and food policy. The positive words of Commissioners Wojciechowski and Kyriakides are a clear recognition of the benefits of organic food and farming for farmers, society, and nature.

### **Making 25% organic land by 2030 a reality**

While the Commission is expected to dedicate a larger share of EU funds for promotion policy and research and innovation to organic farming, most measures that can contribute to increasing organic land and production (including well-funded farm advisory services) and organic demand through public procurements, depend largely on the goodwill of Member States.

The outcome of the negotiations on the future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), entering into force in 2023, is therefore crucial. That is why IFOAM Organics Europe tries to convince Members of the European Parliament to make it mandatory for Member States to include a national target for organic land (national governments would be free to choose the relevant target) as well as a coherent strategy to boost demand in their CAP strategic plans.

The German Presidency of the Council of the European Union has indicated its intention to reach a ‘general approach’ on the CAP Strategic Plan Regulation in the Council of Ministers by October, which is ambitious but achievable. The situation in the European Parliament looks a bit more complicated, as the Environment Committee decided to withdraw from the negotiations with the Agriculture Committee, citing a lack of ambition to green the CAP and a reluctance take into account their positions. The Agriculture Committee signalled its intention to continue its work on new compromises on the CAP nonetheless, while Environment MEPs would favour more inclusive talks directly at political group level, ahead of the plenary vote, also expected by October/November. We hope that the situation will get unstuck rapidly in the European Parliament and that the new impetus given by the German Presidency to speed up the negotiations will not be at the detriment of the level of environmental ambition in the CAP. To achieve the targets of the Farm to Fork strategy to increase organic land and reduce pesticides and fertilisers use, and to halt the collapse of biodiversity in our countryside, we need a reformed CAP that can truly incentivise and help farmers to transition to agroecological practices, including organic farming through proper support for maintenance and conversion.



# 1 NEWS

## 1.1 Policy

### Organic Regulations

#### **Commission publishes Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/786 on arrangements for imports of organic products from third countries**

On 16 June 2020, the Commission published the implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/786 amending and correcting the regulation laying down detailed rules for implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 as regards the arrangements for imports of organic products from third countries Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008.

This implementing regulation falls in line with the regular update of Annexes III and IV of Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008. Respectively, the mentioned annexes represent the list of third countries and the list of recognised control bodies and control authorities for the purpose of equivalence.

The new implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/786 will enter into force 20 days following its publication in the Official Journal of the EU.

#### **IFOAM EU welcomes the Steering Committee (SC) of its Interest Group on Certification and Integrity (IGOC)**

On 6 May, IFOAM EU's Interest Group of Certification and Integrity (IGOC) elected a Steering Committee (SC) to ensure the group's decisions are taken in the common interest. The SC is composed of 6 members from different sectors to ensure all organic operators are well represented.

Jan Wicher Krol from SKAL Biocontrol, chairs the Interest Group of Certification and Integrity's Steering Committee (IGOC's SC), making sure the members' needs are taken into account and overseeing the group's position-making.

In line with the general working methods of the IFOAM EU, IGOC's SC is working on a definition of integrity in the organic supply chain and on the future of the organic certification in the short, medium, and long term.

IFOAM EU's IGOC is a forum for exchange on organic certification and integrity of the organic supply chain at national, European, and international level. The IGOC had its kick-off meeting in Brussels in September 2019 and consists of almost 50 IFOAM EU members.

## Seeds

### European Patent Office: No patents on conventionally bred varieties

On 14 May 2020, the enlarged board of appeal of the European Patent Office (EPO) has released an opinion that seems to put an end to patents on classically bred plants. This statement finally gives legal clarity in a long-lasting dispute between the Technical Board of the EPO and the European Union about how the existing rules (in particular, *rule 28(2)*) should be interpreted. Based on 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 for the production of plants or animals.*

IFOAM EU has been supporting this interpretation backed by the 38 contracting states. We have continuously advocated against patents on classic breeds as they hamper innovation in classical breeding, which depends on the exchange of genetic material. In this context, a patent means that the owner has the exclusive right to use and sell a plant variety for 25 years. This is problematic because breeding only works effectively if breeders are free to use seeds from other breeders to develop their own varieties.

To ensure breeders have an incentive to innovate, breeder's rights have been established. They give the breeder the exclusive right to sell a variety for 25-30 years but still allow other breeders to use the variety to develop their own variety. It is a system that works well in practice and enables breeders to use a broad variety of seeds to develop plants catering to consumers' expectations and agriculture's needs in a changing environment.

#### What is the relevance?

Patents on breeding entered onto the stage when genetically modified organisms (GMOs) did. GMOs were patentable from the start, which is one of the reasons why they are not used in organics. Large corporations made various attempts to file patents on plants, including on traits already present in nature. This has been successful in some cases, such as a red paprika variety (EP2140023). In this case, the patent holder has the exclusive right on resistance to the glasshouse white fly (*Bemisia tabaci*) – a natural trait in paprika which has not been invented by the company filing the patent.

This leads to a situation in which breeders were more and more limited by patents, resulting in a tangible threat to innovation in classical breeding. National governments, the European Commission and the European Parliament recognise this is a problem and emphasized that it is not the intent of (European) governments to allow these patents. The decision of 14 May marks the moment in which the European Patent Office gave in to this pressure from governments, institutions, breeders, and civil society.

#### How does it affect the organic sector?

For organic, these developments are good news. They allow breeders to continue working on new varieties that are 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. However, the interpretation has no retroactive effect and will only apply from 2017 onwards. This causes potential legal uncertainties to be clarified regarding those patent applications that have already been filed before *rule 28(2)* was introduced. IFOAM EU will closely follow this issue.



## Food policy

### Key points of the Farm to Fork strategy

The [European Green Deal](#) (EGD) was unveiled by the European Commission in December 2019 and aims for Europe to become the first carbon-neutral continent. It is 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 EGD comprises several strategies, including the Farm to Fork (F2F) strategy and the EU Biodiversity strategy, unveiled on 20 May 2020.

According to the F2F communication, the Farm to Fork strategy is at the heart of the European Green Deal. It “addresses the challenges of sustainable food systems in a comprehensive way, recognising the inextricable links between healthy people, healthy societies and a healthy planet”. The integrated approach of the F2F is mentioned several times.

The F2F strategy is composed of a [main communication](#) and an [annex](#), serving as an action plan for the F2F strategy. The strategy recognizes that food systems are responsible for approximately 29% of the world’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and that nearly 70% of all agricultural GHG emissions come from the animal sector. 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 F2F is meant to lead a global transition towards competitive sustainability from farm to fork.

The goals of the F2F are therefore to:

- Ensure that food production, transport, distribution, marketing, and consumption have a neutral or positive environmental impact,
- Preserve and restore the land and sea-based resources,
- Mitigate climate change,
- Reverse the loss of biodiversity,
- Ensure food security, nutrition, and public health.

How to enable this transition in Europe and globally? The strategy states the following and further details this on pp 15-18 of the strategy:

- The Commission has devised several R&I programmes and other funding mechanisms that support the objectives of the Green Deal,
- The Commission will therefore set up effective Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS),
- The Commission will ensure that tailored solutions help SMEs.

IFOAM EU’s members find a more detailed breakdown of what the Farm to Fork strategy puts forward on organic, the CAP, fertilisers, pesticides and much more on the [IFOAM EU member extranet](#). For more information about IFOAM EU’s work on the Farm to Fork strategy, contact [silvia.schmidt \[at\] ifoam-eu.org](mailto:silvia.schmidt@ifoam-eu.org).



## 1.2 Research and innovation

### Research and innovation advocacy / TP Organics

#### TP Organics participates in webinars on Agroecology Partnership

One of the eight European Partnerships planned in cluster 6 of Horizon Europe will be about “Agroecology Living Labs and Research Infrastructures”. Being co-funded by the European Commission and the Member States, it will be a crucial instrument to support the upscaling of organic farming and agroecology. While the real start of the Partnership is expected in 2024, [TP Organics](#) is closely following the ongoing preparations.

The European Technology Platform for Organic Food and Farming provided feedback on the European Commission’s draft partnership proposal. TP Organics recommended adding organic as an example of innovative ecological approaches and offered contributing with its experience preparing the Partnership’s Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda. It also stressed again that the partnership should build on ERA-Net CORE Organic since the ERA-Net has more than 15 years of experience in funding research into ecological processes, and organic and agroecological practices.

TP Organics participated in the European Commission webinar series from May to June on building the Partnership. The webinars served to build a shared understanding of agroecology, living labs and research infrastructures, as well as getting inspired by concrete examples such as the [Flemish Living Lab on Agroecology and Organic Farming](#) hosted by ILVO. The objective of the last webinar on 25 June was to start co-creating the Partnership in practice and to discuss how to plan the work ahead.

TP Organics is the European Technology Platform for Organic Food and Farming. IFOAM Organics Europe is a founding member and hosts its secretariat.

ERA-Net CORE Organic is a European network of national/regional ministries and research councils funding research in organic food systems.



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#### “In the name of innovation”: Two new investigative reports published by Corporate Europe Observatory

[Corporate Europe Observatory](#) recently published two investigative reports on how industry controls EU research funding. In the name of innovation, industry lobby groups have managed to control the use of €3.6 billion in EU public funds for health and climate research and innovation. They did so through two public-private partnerships, at the expense of the public interest.



Read the reports:

- [More private than public: the ways Big Pharma dominates the Innovative Medicines Initiative](#), on the Innovative Medicines Joint Undertaking (IMI)
- [Research and destroy: the factories of the industrial bioeconomy threaten the climate and biodiversity](#), on the Bio-Based Industries Joint Undertaking (BBI)

### **What happened?**

The overwhelming majority of the projects, the structure and mechanisms of these public-private partnerships ('Joint Undertakings') show that participating companies are controlling the partnerships' priorities and the use of public EU money for their own direct benefit. This is both the result of these companies sometimes abusing the partnership and a logical consequence of the way these partnerships were set up. There are seven Joint Undertakings funded between 2014 and 2020, with more than €7 billion paid by taxpayers.

The BBI is a public-private partnership to help build a 'sustainable low-carbon economy'. It consists of lobby groups representing the agribusiness, forestry, biotechnology, chemical, and fossil fuel industries on the one hand, and the European Commission's DG Research & Innovation on the other. This partnership was established to last 10 years in 2014. During this time, the public sector contributed €975 million while the private sector mostly brought in-kind resources. Industry defined the overall research priorities and drafted every annual work plan. The main purpose of BBI is to build 'biorefineries' and develop new technologies to process unlimited quantities of biomass extracted from forests and soils, threatening their role as carbon sinks, and their provision of biodiversity and food.

### **Why is it important to prevent this from happening again?**

Public research funding is a precious, strategic and societal investment in knowledge production for tomorrow, and at a time of overlapping crises – from Covid-19 to climate change – it is more important than ever that EU research policy receives the political attention and debates it deserves. These lobby groups have prevented these partnerships from meaningfully investing into research projects addressing societal challenges such as epidemic preparedness and viable climate solutions, and mostly made them fund their own commercially profitable research projects instead.

Now is a crucial time to make sure these partnerships are not renewed in a comparable form in the next EU budget. Public health and sustainability are fundamental issues that require a research & innovation policy delivering knowledge and results for all, not just profits for a few. Next to EU and national caps for total agricultural and forestry biomass production and uses and to phasing out incentives for biomass and fossil fuel use, sustainable farming practices such as organic should be supported, and investments in public research and locally embedded innovation in sustainable agriculture are needed.

Read more in the article '[In the name of innovation: Industry controls billions of EU research funding, de-prioritises the public interest](#)' on Corporate Europe Observatory's website.

## Knowledge for organic

### Stimulating digital innovations through SmartAgriHubs' RESTART and EXPAND open call

As Europe is still facing the Covid-19 crisis, it must further stimulate the development of digital innovations which can tackle the challenges currently faced by the agri-food sector. As such, SmartAgriHubs investigated the possibilities for funding research that helps our sector. Open calls were launched in May 2020 as an immediate RESPOND to the crisis. Now, SmartAgriHubs is following-up with the RESTART and EXPAND open calls, addressing the agri-food economy on the medium term.

[SmartAgriHubs](#) will assign up to 5,000,000 EUR funding to the RESTART and EXPAND open calls, addressing Digital Innovation Hubs supporting diverse stakeholders in the agri-food economy and specifically SMEs as drivers for digital innovation.

#### Why participate?

Digital innovations implemented throughout the organic value chain have a huge potential to contribute to the current and future societal challenges.

Are you a Digital Innovation Hub, or any other form of public-private partnership for innovation? Are you involved in one or more innovation experiments addressing the consequences of Covid-19? And are you looking for potential funds to support your project? [The open call is your opportunity.](#)

SmartAgriHubs' open call is also a unique chance to connect with a wider community and exchange on latest knowledge and expertise.

#### Who can participate?

Digital Innovation Hubs (DIH) as defined on the [SmartAgriHubs website](#) (1), based in one of the EU Member States or a H2020 Associated country (2).

#### How to participate to the RESTART and EXPAND open calls?

- [RESTART the economy around food systems](#)

This open call will focus on hackathon type of activities that will RESTART the economy around the agri-food related sectors and affected food systems. The objective is to generate ideas for potential Innovation Experiments that can be realised by related teams and that go beyond initial conceptual implementations.

Proposals could realise hackathons, challenges and datathons that have a direct as well as an indirect impact to mitigate effects of the corona/Covid-19 or similar (future) pandemics.

[Check the RESTART open call fiche for more information.](#)

- [EXPAND the network](#)

The major amount of funding will be assigned to the implementation of programmes by DIHs to support the realisation of Innovation Experiments. This shall specifically contribute to the expansion



of the network of DIHs and Competence Centres (CCs) as well as making available new knowledge and results from digital innovation activities.

The EXPAND open call is specifically targeting at DIHs as the main proposers facilitating the realisation of innovation experiments.

Key characteristics to submit an eligible proposal for the EXPAND the Network open call:

- The funding that is provided by SmartAgriHubs is exclusively available for developing, maturing, and providing Digital Innovation Hub innovation services
- For being eligible to receive this funding, DIHs need to support one or more Innovation Experiments (IEs) with their services.
- The overall proposal budget shall assign a maximum of 20% for DIH service provision and a minimum of 80% for realising the supported Innovation Experiment(s)
- The maximum of 20% for DIH service provision can be requested as funding from SmartAgriHubs, where the 80% should be mobilised by additional public or private sources.
- One DIH could ask for a maximum of 100,000 EUR funding in total from SmartAgriHubs in one or also several proposals.

[Check the EXPAND open call fiche for more information.](#)

Are you eligible? Register to the [SmartAgriHubs' Innovation Portal](#). It will give you access to all information needed and direct communication to the community if any questions on the application arise. After that, [start applying!](#)

#### **Proposal submission and timeline**

Proposals are called under a continuous submission scheme. They can be submitted for evaluation until closure of the open call and will be evaluated in batches at regular points in time. Currently the following dates are planned for evaluating delivered batches of proposals:

- First batch evaluation of proposals that were submitted: **before 3 September 2020, 17:00 (CEST)**
- Second batch evaluation of proposals that were submitted: **before 5 November 2020, 17:00 (CEST)**
- Dates for batch evaluations in 2021 will be published after closing the second batch evaluation.

The open call closes on **28 July 2021, 17h00 CEST**, or at an earlier date, in case the budget that is reserved for open calls in SmartAgriHubs is completely allocated.

#### **Any questions about the open call?**

Read the [call documents](#) on the dedicated page of the SmartAgriHubs Innovation Portal.

Check the FAQ and leave your question on the [SmartAgriHubs Open Call forum](#).

A Q&A webinar on the open call was held on 8 July. You find the recording on SmartAgriHubs [YouTube](#) channel.



**SmartAgriHubs is a €20 M EU project under the Horizon 2020 instrument and brings together a consortium of over 164 partners in the European agri-food sector. The project aims to realise the digitisation of European agriculture by fostering an agricultural innovation ecosystem dedicated to excellence, sustainability, and success.**

#### **Notes**

(1) Digital Innovation Hubs as defined on the Smart Agri Hubs website are public-private partnerships for innovation, providing a mix of different services to their clients. These include technology services such as R&D, provision of lab facilities, testing and validation are mainly the domain of the competence centres. Innovation ecosystem support services include community building lobbying, brokerage, knowledge sharing and advocacy.

(2) See the full list of eligibility criteria in the Programme document on the SmartAgriHubs Innovation Portal.



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#### **Share your views about Organic Farm Knowledge, the online exchange platform for organic farming & science**

Do you know the online [Organic Farm Knowledge](#) platform? We would like to hear what you think about it in our efforts to continuously improve the platform. Your feedback will help us to improve the platform's user-friendliness and usefulness. You can submit replies until 10 July.

Organic Farm Knowledge hosts a wide range of practical knowledge and tools for organic farmers and advisers helping improve farming practices. It is also a virtual meeting place for cross-border learning, promoting the exchange of knowledge among farmers, farm advisers, and scientists to increase productivity and quality in organic farming across Europe.

We would greatly appreciate it if you could give us a few minutes of your time, complete the [survey](#) and share it within your networks. You can fill out the survey in many languages – listed below.

The survey is online until 10 July and available in the following languages:

- [English \(EN\)](#)
- [Bulgarian \(BG\)](#)
- [Danish \(DK\)](#)
- [Dutch \(NL\)](#)
- [Estonian \(ET\)](#)
- [French \(FR\)](#)
- [German \(DE\)](#)
- [Hungarian \(HU\)](#)
- [Italian \(IT\)](#)
- [Spanish \(ES\)](#)

If you want to test the platform before responding to the survey, more guidance is provided [on the Organic Farm Knowledge website](#).



Originally set up by [ICROFS](#) (International Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems) in the framework of the [OK-Net Arable](#) project, Organic Farm Knowledge is currently being developed further by the project [OK-Net EcoFeed](#). Both projects are coordinated by [IFOAM EU](#) and are funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. The third core partner of the Organic Farm Knowledge platform is [FiBL](#) (Research Institute of Organic Agriculture).

For more info please contact [organic-farmknowledge@fibl.org](mailto:organic-farmknowledge@fibl.org).



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### **Now online: Website of BIOFRUITNET project**

The new BIOFRUITNET project's website is live! For three years, 15 partners will collaborate and provide practical information to farmers on tackling pests and diseases in fruit crops.

Outputs of the project will be featured on its new website [www.biofruitnet.eu](http://www.biofruitnet.eu). These outputs are publications and practice abstract – short fact sheets providing practical information aimed at farmers and advisors. These will also be available on [Organic Farm Knowledge](#), the online platform for organic farmers and advisors.

In the course of the project, videos and podcasts will be released, bringing practical information in an easy-to-digest manner.

Make sure to visit the website and keep track of the progress of the project.

[IFOAM EU is a proud partner of the BIOFRUITNET project](#). We lead knowledge transfer and dissemination through easy-to-read end user materials, such as practice abstracts, to provide practical solutions to organic fruit farmers. We will also develop a communication kit to maximise BIOFRUITNET's impact at events, fairs, and congresses.

The project [BIOFRUITNET](#) is coordinated by the international organic farmers' association [Naturland](#) and carried out in collaboration with 15 partner organisations representing 12 countries in total. They will work together for three years to provide information to the farmers in a practical way to tackle the challenges of pests and diseases in fruit crops. The [Research Centre of Organic Agriculture \(FiBL\)](#) is one of the project partners.



*This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 862850. This communication only reflects the author's view. The Research Executive Agency is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.*



**How can we shift towards more plant-based, resilient, and localized food systems? Have a look at the brand new FoodShift2030 project website to find out**

The FoodShift2030 project has just launched its new website! This four-year project aims at ensuring access to safe, healthy, nutritious, and affordable food that can nourish people and the planet by promoting a shift towards more plant-based, resilient, and localized food systems. It brings together a strong multi-actor consortium of local governments, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), non-governmental organisations (NGOs), universities, research institutes and network partners.

The website will host all project [resources](#) on [www.foodshift2030.eu](http://www.foodshift2030.eu). These will include factsheets, publications, press releases and others. The project website will also feature a '[Labs](#)' page presenting different FoodShift Accelerator Labs. These open innovation living labs are established to engage with stakeholders from the private, public, voluntary, and academic sector to tackle the different aspects of the food system.

Have a look at the [website](#) and follow @FoodShift2030 on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

IFOAM EU is proud to be a partners of the innovative FoodShift2030 project. Within the course of the project, we will contribute to the conceptual framework for further development of governance strategies and food policy strategies. We will also disseminate project outputs within the organic network and at our main events.



*This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 862716. This communication only reflects the author's view. The Research Executive Agency is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.*

**Read about heather as an alternative to control worms in sheep in RELACS' news story**

Anthelmintic resistance is spreading globally, impacting the environment and animal welfare. As organic sector we are seeking non-chemical complements or alternatives.

The RELACS partner [Scotland Rural University College \(SRUC\)](#) investigated the anthelmintic efficacy of heather extracts by performing a comparative analysis of extracts obtained from two heather species.

Read the news story "[Can we use heather to control worms in sheep in organic agriculture?](#)" to find out more and follow other developments of the [RELACS project](#) on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

The RELACS project 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 EU is responsible for the communication and dissemination of project results as well as the coordination of the science-practice-policy dialogue.



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**Are you interested in sustainable European aquaculture? Have a look at FutureEUAqua's infographic to find out about this project**

The aim of the [FutureEUAqua](#) project is to effectively promote sustainable growth of environmentally friendly organic and conventional aquaculture of major fish species and low trophic level organisms resilient to climate change. This is to meet the future challenges regarding the growing consumer demand for high-quality, nutritious, and responsibly produced food.

To give you a quick overview of what FutureEUAqua does and its expected impact, project partner [Federation of European Aquaculture Producers \(FEAP\)](#) developed a [comprehensive infographic](#). Have a look and find out what the project does for:

- Sustainable breeding,
- Ingredients and feed,
- Consumer and regulatory activities,
- Quality and safety of aquaculture products,
- Monitoring technologies, and
- Production systems.

The project started in October 2018 and will run for four years. The [Norwegian Institute of Food, Fisheries and Aquaculture Research \(Nofima\)](#) coordinates it and several partners across Europe implement it. IFOAM EU is involved in the work on training, capacity building, communication, and dissemination.



*This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 817737. This communication only reflects the author's view. The Research Executive Agency is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.*

**Help us identifying the needs and knowledge gaps in organic fruit growing – Fill out BIOFRUITNET's questionnaire**

Plant protection against pests and diseases is a big issue for organic fruit growers, as fruit is a very sensitive produce. Many organic farmers in Europe have adapted their own practices and techniques locally to successfully deal with the challenge of organic crop protection. This valuable practical knowledge often remains at the local level, instead of being shared with fruit growers facing the same problems in other regions.

Are you a technical advisor or fruit grower? Fill out BIOFRUITNET's online [questionnaire and help identify the needs and knowledge gaps on stone, pome and citrus fruit](#).



The [BIOFRUITNET](#) connects European practitioners in organic fruit and wants to make successful methods of crop protection available to all. The project's first step is getting an picture of the challenges organic fruit growers in Europe are facing as well as the strategies they are using to face these challenges.

BIOFRUITNET's partners have launched an online [questionnaire](#) for technical advisors and fruit growers to identify needs and knowledge gaps regarding stone, pome and citrus fruit. They are also collecting best-practices and inquire how farmers would prefer to access technical information about such issues.

The results of the questionnaire will allow the project to identify what knowledge and information is needed where. It will provide the basis for informative and easy to understand videos, podcasts, and e-learning courses. These formats shall be disseminated via networks, advisory services, and academic schools throughout Europe.

We encourage fruit farming advisors, practitioners as well as selected researchers in 20 European target countries to fill in the [questionnaire](#) and to suggest combinations of practices in their local contexts by 30 September 2020.

For more information on the project activities and expected results, visit the [project website](#), contact [Claude-Eric Parveaud](#) and/or your [national contact point](#).



*This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 862850. This communication only reflects the author's view. The Research Executive Agency is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.*

## 2 IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE DEVELOPMENTS

### Jan Plagge re-elected President of IFOAM Organics Europe (and a rebranding for IFOAM EU)

BRUSSELS, 30 JUNE 2020 – At its 10th General Assembly, IFOAM Organics Europe's members elected a new Board. They re-elected Jan Plagge as President. He is the President of Bioland e.V. (Germany and North Italy) and has many years of experience developing the organic sector. He has a background as an organic farmer and organic farm advisor.

Following his re-election, IFOAM Organics Europe's President Jan Plagge said: "I am honoured to be re-elected President of the European organic movement at a time when the European Union set itself a target of 25% organic land by 2030 through an ambitious Farm to Fork strategy, putting organic at the heart of a transition to sustainable and fair food systems. This is a clear recognition of the benefits of the organic food and farm system for society and our planet. But much remains to be done and we have no time to waste to make the European food system and agriculture more resilient. IFOAM Organics Europe particularly expect the German Presidency to achieve an ambitious Council position on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), so that the policy gives a clear perspective to farmers and society as a whole on how it will contribute to public goods."



The re-elected President added “I am also proud to unveil IFOAM EU’s rebranding. From now on, we will be IFOAM Organics Europe. I believe this better represents who we are to the European institutions. Our updated logo and [new website](#) reinforce this.”

Marian Blom, re-elected Vice-President and Knowledge & Innovation Project Leader at Bionext, said: “Actions from all actors of the supply chain are key to build a fair and sustainable food system. We will work with organic farmers, processors, retailers, certifiers, researchers, and consumers to further increase the contribution of organic food and farming to a sustainable Europe. I am proud that IFOAM Organics Europe represents them all, ensuring the organic movement speaks with one voice in Brussels. Our new brand is clearer and shows better how we are connected to IFOAM Organics International, the global umbrella organisation for organic food and farming.”

Dora Drexler, newly elected Vice-President and Director of ÖMKI, the Hungarian Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, stated: “A major task to reach the targets of the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies is to re-enforce the EU research efforts dedicated to agroecological approaches, to increase knowledge exchange and ensure that farmers will be able to access technical advice on how to improve their practices.”

### Special information

- Our social media handles will change to @OrganicsEurope instead of @IFOAMEU;
- As of 15 July, our email addresses will change. They will be ending on @organicseurope.bio instead of @ifoam-eu.org. Please remember to adjust it in your address book and visit our new website on [www.organicseurope.bio](http://www.organicseurope.bio).

### Background information

Jan Plagge is the President of Bioland e.V. and has many years of experience developing the organic sector. Jan has a background as an organic farmer and an organic farm advisor. He already served as IFOAM Organics Europe President for one term (2018-2020).

The Vice Presidents of the Board are Marian Blom, Knowledge & Innovation Project Leader at Bionext, the Dutch umbrella organisation for organic food and farming and Dora Drexler, Director of ÖMKI, the Hungarian Research Institute of Organic Agriculture.

The sector representatives are:

- Sector representative for farming: Thomas Fertl, Head of Department Agricultural Policy at BIO AUSTRIA;
- Sector representative for processing / trade: Roberto Pinton, Secretary General at AssoBio;
- Sector representative for certification: Michel Reynaud, Vice-President of ECOCERT SA;
- Sector representative for retail: Lukas Nossol, Representative of Dennree Gruppe GmbH.

The other Board members that were elected are:

- Christopher Atkinson, Head of Standards at Soil Association;

Aira Sevon, Council Member of Southern Finland Organic Farmers Association and Member of the Board of Directors of Kymi Organic Coop.



## Read about our vision for a sustainable European food and farming system and our achievements in 2019 in our digital annual report

[IFOAM Organics Europe's 2019 annual report is available online.](#) Read about our 2019 achievements as a European organic movement in our digital annual report. The digital format allows you to read it on the go.

In this year's edition, you will read about:

- [A message from our President, Jan Plagge](#)
- [Our vision for organic by 2030](#)
- [Our achievements](#) and steps towards '[Organic on every table](#)', '[Improve – Inspire – Deliver](#)' and '[Fair play - Fair pay](#)'
- [Organic in Europe at a glance](#): the EU's regulatory framework and the latest organic market trends
- [Who we are](#): our membership, projects, events and more
- [Our governance](#): Board, Council, and finances

Visit [www.read.organicseurope.bio/publication/ifoam-eu-annual-report-2019](http://www.read.organicseurope.bio/publication/ifoam-eu-annual-report-2019) and enjoy the read.

We are cutting down on printed publications to protect our natural resources. This is why you will find most of our future publications on [www.read.organicseurope.bio](http://www.read.organicseurope.bio), so stay tuned!



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## Saying goodbye to our colleagues

### Kaja Gutzen

Kaja joined IFOAM EU in July 2019 as a European Solidarity Corps volunteer. She was based at the Research & Innovation Unit where she worked for the LIVESEED project and TP Organics' secretariat. Kaja did great work promoting LIVESEED, writing articles about the project outcomes, organising cross-visits for farmers, and contributing on topics related to organic cultivar trials. For TP Organics, she has made a lasting legacy by drafting the member engagement and communication strategies. Kaja delivered high-quality work in a very efficient and independent way. She got the opportunity to pursue her studies in organic plant breeding and has prospects on a PhD position at the Université Libre de Bruxelles. We wish her all the best in this exciting step in her career and in her life.

## Welcoming our new colleagues

### **B er n ce Cau**

Since 2 June 2020, B er n ce is IFOAM Organics Europe’s new Project and Fundraising Assistant. She will be supporting IFOAM Organics Europe’s fundraising strategy, the implementation of the ‘Developing Organic’ project on Pesticide use and contamination and project management assistance. She initially started working for IFOAM Organics Europe as a European Solidarity Corps volunteer in the same unit in June 2019. Through this placement, she helped raising IFOAM Organics Europe’s visibility among private foundations and supervised the 2019 LIFE-programme report. This has further fuelled her interest in organic and sustainable agriculture and made her want to continue working with IFOAM Organics Europe. B er n ce is a French national who moved to Belgium in 2018 to join the Society of Audiovisual Authors as a Public Affairs and Communication intern and to complete her Master’s degree in European Policies and Project management from the University of Lille.

### **Thomas Haselberger**

After one year at IFOAM Organics Europe as a volunteer, working on the LIVESEED project’s work package on Regulation of seeds and related Policy, GMOs, Civil Dialogue Groups and Covid-19, Thomas has started his new role as policy assistant on 2 June 2020. He will work on climate change, biodiversity (in line with his academic background in Social Ecology) and animal welfare. Thomas will partly be involved in the Erasmus+ project on Innovative Land Strategies and he will coordinate the IFOAM Organics Europe’s Interest Group of Organic Farmers. He is looking forward to these new responsibilities and to continue some of his previous work at IFOAM Organics Europe.

### **Molly Mathews**

Since 1 July, Molly is IFOAM Organics Europe’s new Events and Membership Assistant. She is a British International Relations graduate who grew up in Spain. Since joining IFOAM Organics Europe as a European Solidarity Corps volunteer 10 months ago, she had the opportunity to work on IFOAM Organics Europe’s 10th General Assembly and the European Organic Congress 2020, both in unexpected online circumstances due to Covid-19. Through both these events, she has gained valuable skills in event organisation field and internal communication, as well as having the opportunity to work closely and get to know IFOAM Organics Europe’s members and governing structures. She is looking forward to continue contributing to the organisation’s upcoming events and supporting the improvement of IFOAM Organics Europe’s membership structure and coordination.

## **3 EVENTS**

### **3.1 Preview of events**

#### **NATEXPO, the first organic event to defy the crisis**

21-22 September, Lyon, France

On 21 and 22 September, NATEXPO will be the first major event for organic professionals after the outset of the Covid-19 crisis. This Lyon event will be an opportunity to take stock of a new situation, which has given a new boost to sales of organic products in France.

At a time when the French suddenly multiplied the number homecooked meals, many chose organic ingredients for their cooking. In supermarkets, sales jumped by 63% in value in the first week of



lockdown compared to the same period in 2019 – even surpassing the growth registered by conventional products by 23 percentage points. In specialist organic stores, the average basket size also increased significantly over the period, by around 55%, as noted by 95% of professionals questioned in a recent survey by BioLineaires & Ecozept, supported by Natexbio & Synadis Bio, in partnership with Biopanel.

Organic products have clearly fulfilled consumers' expectations in their search of authenticity, proximity, and quality. Many of them are produced locally and have often been less prone to stockouts and thus succeeded in fulfilling requirements at short notice. Once again, organic products have proven their importance and confirmed their essential place on the market.

### **NATEXPO: find out everything about the latest trends**

NATEXPO is a tool accompanying all players in the sector, enabling brands and retailers to better understand market developments, particularly in view of the Covid-19 crisis, which has shaken up the sector. Visitors of NATEXPO will discover how specialist stores have quickly adapted to a new situation.

To date, nearly 600 exhibitors have confirmed their presence. NATEXPO is expecting further exhibitor registrations and hopes to welcome 680 exhibitors and more than 10,000 visitors.

Following these long months during which business relations have been atypical, NATEXPO will offer organic market players an opportunity to meet up and exchange.

To enable the event to take place in the safest and most comfortable conditions for exhibitors and visitors, the organisers will be taking all the security measures as circumstances require.

Go to [www.natexpo.com](http://www.natexpo.com) to stay up-to-date.

## **3.2 Review of events**

### **More than 1,000 discussed the new Organic Regulation, Common Agriculture Policy, and future of our food system at first digital European Organic Congress**

1-3 July 2020, online

On 1-3 July, the first online edition of our [European Organic Congress](#) took place with more than 1,000 participants. This year's theme was 'Organic in Action'.

Julia Klöckner, German Minister for Agriculture and Food, Felix Prinz zu Löwenstein, Chairman of the [German Association of Organic Farmers, Food Processors and Retailers \(BÖLW\)](#) and re-elected President of IFOAM Organics Europe, Jan Plagge welcomed more than 500 participants on the first day of the congress. Julia Klöckner opened stating the recently published Farm to Fork Strategy offers a huge opportunity for organic, which Germany will seize during its Presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU) to further promote organic production and consumption. Two pecha kucha presentations exemplifying 'Organic in Action' followed.

Of course, the European Organic Congress is not complete without a session on the new EU Organic Regulation, moderated by IFOAM Organic Europe's Regulation Manager, Emanuele Busacca. Nicolas Verlet, Head of the Organics Unit of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI), informed participants that the first drafts of all implementing and



delegated acts were submitted to the relevant Committees and are currently at different stages in the intensive legal process. Marian Blom, IFOAM Organics Europe Vice-President, Michel Reynaud, IFOAM Organics Europe Board Member and sector representative for certification and Georg Eckert, President of EOCC informed about the main expected changes for organic operators and control bodies and provided input and critical remarks from the sector. The panel also touched on the possible postponement of the application of the new EU Organic Regulation to 1 January 2022 – an option the European Commission is currently assessing. IFOAM Organics Europe, other EU agri-food federations, the EU Member States and the Committee on Agriculture of the European Parliament (COMAGRI) agree this postponement is needed to ensure a smooth transition and to allow organic operators, control bodies and Competent Authorities to get ready for the foreseen changes in their day-to-day operations.

The second day started with a session ‘25% organic land by 2030: How can the CAP contribute’, moderated by Eduardo Cuoco, IFOAM Organics Europe’s Director and attended by more than 400 participants. During his opening speech, Wolfgang Bartscher, Director-General for Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission stated that the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies offer a great opportunity for the EU to move out of the current crisis in a sustainable way. However, he also pointed out that it is crucial to consider the various situations throughout the EU and ensure adequate funding for organic farming. Afterwards, a high-level panel composed of Walter Dübner, Head of Division Agricultural Production and Horticulture of the German Ministry for Food and Agriculture, Norbert Lins, Member of the Parliament (MEP) and chair of COMAGRI, and Jan Plagge, President of Bioland and IFOAM Organics Europe exchanged on the possibilities for integrating the organic target into the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). According to Jan Plagge, [the CAP should require Member States to set national targets in their CAP Strategic Plans, provide sufficient funding for the maintenance of and conversion to organic farming and ensure a fair remuneration of farmers providing public goods](#). All speakers agreed that organic farming is a part of the solution and can make our food system more resilient.

The afternoon session on day two focused on a new European Organic Action Plan. Nathalie Sauze-Vandevyver, Deputy Director General of DG AGRI, said the European Commission will make sure that the new Organic Action Plan will build on the lessons learnt and best practices of the previous one. She invited everyone to contribute during a public consultation that will be launched after the summer break. During the following three break-out sessions moderated by Dr. Alexander Gerber, chair for farming at BÖLW, Lukas Nossol, IFOAM Organics Board member and Representative of Denree as well as Dr. Alexander Beck, chairman of the Assoziation ökologischer Lebensmittelhersteller (AöL), participants discussed the different possible aspects of the new Organic Action Plan. One of the key take-aways of this session was that increasing awareness of organic values is crucial to strengthen organic value chains as demand is driving the sector.

This year’s European Organic Congress ended with a session ‘European agriculture and resilient food systems in a post-Covid-19 world’, led by Eric Gall, Policy Manager at IFOAM Organics Europe. In a video message, Stella Kyriakides, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety said that there is no change without ambition when referring to the 25% organic land target laid out in the Farm to Fork Strategy. The CAP is and will continue to be a key tool in reaching this target and must promote organic production and consumption at the same time. After this strong opening statement, a high-level panel composed of Tassos Haniotis, Director of Strategy, Simplification and Policy Analysis at DG AGRI, Thomas Waitz, MEP, Olivier de Schutter, Co-chair of [the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems \(IPES-Food\)](#), Sarah Compson, International Development Manager at [Soil Association](#), and Sébastien Treyer, Executive Director of the [Institute for Sustainable Development](#)



[and International Relations \(IDDRI\)](#), further discussed our vision for the future of food and farming with the more than 300 participants that had tuned in. Panellists and attendees concluded that Covid-19 is a tiny rehearsal for a much bigger crisis, the climate crisis and we need to transition to an agricultural systems providing resilience and mitigating its effects on the environment, and not just producing food.

Relive the congress by going through our [Twitter Moments](#), [browsing #EOC2020](#), and watching the congress recording (available on the [congress website](#) and our [YouTube channel](#) as of next week).

We would like to thank our speakers, participants, technical consultants, co-organisers, sponsors, supporters, and media partners for making this congress possible.



## **LIVESEED international workshop identifies top priorities to work towards 100% organic seed** 25-26 June 2020, online

LIVESEED's international workshop on 25-26 June put the spotlight on North-West Europe and the EU organic regulation's implementation on organic seed in this region. The meeting was initially planned as physical workshop at seed company Bejo Zaden. However, the Covid-19 pandemic moved the event online, turning out a great success with high participation and engagement.

### **Smart practices**

A workshop's main focus was best practice exchange among participants on boosting the production and use of organic seed in Europe. National Seed Expert Groups on a variety of topics (including arable crops, fruits & vegetables) were identified as an effective tool to manage derogation lists and



national targets for specific crop types. On top of this, expert groups can also assess the suitability of a variety for organic farming, as the Danish example shows.

In the context of derogations, a national annex listing crops for which no derogation can be requested is a way to restrict derogations. Such national annexes are already successfully implemented in many countries of the North-Western European region. France takes this principle of categorization further by specifying 3 different types of derogatory status. They range from a general authorization (if no availability of organic seed on territory) to off-derogation (if sufficient availability). In addition, there is also an 'alert screen', meaning that the species is in a transitional phase and derogations will not be possible anymore soon.

Finally, roadmaps at national and European level were identified as crucial to gradually increase the percentage of organic seed per crop. This way, seed companies get the opportunity to gradually increase supply while also giving farmers more clarity for long-term planning.

### **The seed database**

The new EU Organic Regulation brings about a number of changes to the seed database. National Authorities will have to extend the functionality of the database to make it easier for suppliers placing their offers online and for farmers to get a better overview of the availability of organic seeds. Regarding the type of seeds, the 'new' database will also host the new category of 'Organic Heterogenous Material as well as in-conversion seeds.

The European Router Database, currently in development as part of the LIVESEED project, will play a crucial role in connecting seed offers within Europe. Seed suppliers and national authorities are currently testing it and it will be officially launched in November. If you are interested to join the testing phase, we invite you to get in touch with [Xenia Gatzert](#) from FiBL.

### **Strategy to reach 100%**

One of the highlights of the workshop was the panel session, including national authorities, seed companies, farmers, and the European Commission. To reach LIVESEED's ambitious target of 100% organic seed by 2035, panellists identified the need to install and expand national seed expert groups and to improve the seed databases. Those national seed expert groups are already widespread in North-Western European countries and serve as role-model for other Member States. In addition, the crucial role farmers and breeders was acknowledged, just like the need for more capacity-building allowing them to make an even greater contribution.

Most importantly, clear roadmaps for the percentage of organic seed per crop are needed on national and European level. France is a good example showing how this can work in practice. Participants and panellists were impressed by the benefits of the French approach and suggested it to be implemented all over Europe. The panel was insightful and maintained a highly constructive spirit that is at the heart of the LIVESEED project.

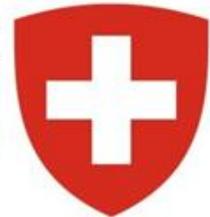
The workshop was organized by Bionext in cooperation with IFOAM EU, FiBL, Bejo and ECO-Plant Breeding and intended for competent authorities, control bodies, database managers, seed suppliers, policy makers, farming associations and other interested stakeholders from North-western European countries.



LIVESEED is an EU Horizon 2020-funded project aiming to boost organic seed and plant breeding across Europe. IFOAM EU and FiBL-Switzerland coordinate the project with 50 partners covering 18 EU countries.



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### **More than 100 tuned in to online OK-Net EcoFeed Thematic Group meeting!**

26 May 2020, online

On Tuesday 26 May 2020, the Thematic Group meeting brought Innovation Groups involved in the [OK-Net EcoFeed](#) project together with external interested operational groups.

During the webinar, practical experience carried out within the OK-Net EcoFeed project were presented and supported by videos and presentations to convey the OK-Net EcoFeed's knowledge and feed the discussion. All attendees participated with great enthusiasm, animating the debate on achieving 100% organic and regional feed for pigs and poultry.

Chairman Bram Moeskops presided over the meeting that was organised in cooperation with [EURAKNOS](#). Participants discussed the new business area "Green protein" as a cost efficient and climate friendly system. Erik Fog and Kristian Lundgaard-Karlshøj from Denmark talked about their success on "[Grass Protein – local and climate friendly](#)" and "[Green protein for pigs and poultry](#)" respectively.

Lindsay Whistance from the Organic Research Centre (ORC) moderated the session on the OK-Net EcoFeed practical experience in laying hens, broilers, and pigs. Mike Mallett and Jerry Alford from the Soil Association talked about the [feed potential of sprouted seeds in laying hens](#). Lone and Lars Hedegaard and Sanna Steinfeldt (Aarhus University) explained how lactic acid bacteria might influence intestinal health in broilers while Carl Sheard with Antoine Roinsard from the French research institute of organic farming (ITAB) showed the latest results on [foraging pigs on protein-rich fodder](#).

Concluding the meeting, Helga Willer (FiBL) introduced the [Organic Farm Knowledge \(OFK\) platform](#) and announced the launch of the [OFK survey](#).

Positive feedbacks on the webinar brought up the potential and added value of online meetings. Despite the general lack of familiarity with the virtual meeting tools, a webinar is a perfect opportunity to reach a greater number of attendees, including the otherwise reluctant part of the public.



For further updates and links to the videos visit the [OK-Net EcoFeed website](#).



*This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 773911. This communication only reflects the author's view. The Research Executive Agency is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.*

## **TP Organics webinar on Horizon Europe attracts 59 participants**

5 May 2020, online

On 5 May 2020, TP Organics held a successful webinar about Horizon Europe, giving a preview of the EU's next research & innovation framework programme. Based on [TP Organics' December 2019 briefing](#), the webinar provided TP Organics and IFOAM EU members with a better understanding of the structure and timeline of the 100 billion EUR research & innovation programme and of the Missions and European Partnerships as new instruments in Horizon Europe.

The webinar's focus was on cluster 6, 'Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment' (part of pillar 2) and the Strategic Plan 2021-2024 which gives direction to the first Work Programme. Cluster 6 was explained in more detail, in particular the two intervention areas 'Agriculture, forestry and rural areas' and 'Food Systems', as were the Mission on 'Soil Health and Food' and the Agro-ecology Partnership (a partnership on agroecology living labs and research infrastructures). An assessment of Horizon Europe by TP Organics followed, including opportunities for research into organic and agroecological approaches as well as risks posed by the Innovation Principle.

Participants also got an insight into TP Organics' new [Position Paper](#), describing priority challenges and corresponding portfolios of actions for the first Work Programme of Horizon Europe. Lastly, the new Green Deal Call under Horizon 2020 was presented, including its draft timeline and structure, with a focus on Area 6, 'Farm to Fork' and Area 7, 'Ecosystems and Biodiversity'.

59 participants joined the webinar, showing the organic community's great interest in EU research & innovation. As IFOAM EU member, you can access the recorded webinar [via the IFOAM EU member extranet](#). For more information about IFOAM EU membership, contact [IFOAMEU\\_membership@ifoam-eu.org](mailto:IFOAMEU_membership@ifoam-eu.org). For questions about access to the IFOAM EU member extranet, contact [communication@ifoam-eu.org](mailto:communication@ifoam-eu.org).



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## 4 MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC – SUPPORT IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE

### IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE MAIN SPONSOR 2020

The contributions of sponsors allow IFOAM Organics Europe to focus on its most important work – representing organic stakeholders. This funding is a means to co-finance IFOAM Organics Europe events, projects and publications and is a highly valued contribution to our work.



## 5 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

21-22 September 2020

[NATEXPO 2020](#)

Lyon, France

24-25 November 2020

[Organic Innovation Days](#), LIVESEED final conference for stakeholders and policy-makers & LIVESEED European workshop

Brussels, Belgium (tentatively, will be held as online event depending on evolution Covid-19)

8 December 2020

IFOAM Organics Europe Meets Business

Brussels, Belgium



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