ORGANIC IN EUROPE

PROSPECTS & DEVELOPMENTS FOR ORGANIC IN NATIONAL CAP STRATEGIC PLANS

BELGIUM
# ORGANICINEUROPE

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreword</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgian country card</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU-27 country card</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU-27 overview</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical notes</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colophon</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
‘Organic in Europe - Prospects and developments for organic in national CAP Strategic Plans’ highlights how much of the national CAP budgets will need to be dedicated to organic farming in all Member States to reach the EU Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies’ average target of 25% organic land by 2030.

IFOAM Organics Europe presented this study at its General Assembly on 29 June 2021. The study visualises the efforts every country needs to put into place to reach their potential national targets, which should fairly contribute to the EU average 25% target.

In 2019, Europe had an organic land area of 9%, with average payments rates of €213.15/hectare. Only 64% of the certified organic area is currently receiving organic support payments, amounting to almost €2 billion of CAP support/year (Note: Average payment rate, percentage of certified area supported, and total spend are 2018 data).

Achieving 25% organic land in the EU by 2030 would require the EU to:
- Triple its organic land area between 2019 and 2030;
- Increase its overall CAP expenditure 3-5-fold by 2030;
- Dedicate 9-15% of the CAP budget to organic (instead of 3% as in 2018).

Achieving 25% organic land in the EU by 2030 would require Member States to:
- Increase payment rates per hectare before 2030 – to consider increases in costs since payments rates were last set in 2014;
- Some individual countries with low levels of support for organic farming would need to consider a 5-10-fold increase in expenditure to deliver realistic targets for their national organic land area.

According to IFOAM Organics Europe, Member States should introduce a national target for organic land in their CAP Strategic Plan, based on an analysis of the organic sector’s production needs, and of its contribution to the CAP, EU Green Deal, Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies’ objectives. The Commission should ensure that all CAP Strategic Plans include a target for organic land representing a fair contribution to the EU’s 25% target. Countries have different baselines and should have different targets, and Member States with already more than 25% organic land should also continue to develop organic farming. This is in line with the EU Organic Action Plan’s call for all Member States to set a target and national strategic plan for developing their organic sectors.

The document is commissioned from an independent researcher and provides readers with an overview for the EU and each Member State. On 27, and an EU country card, the following information is available:
- Key indicators of production, market, and CAP support;
- Scenarios for CAP expenditure and their effect on the 2030 organic area;
- An overview of the current CAP support payments;
- Information about a national organic action plan; and
- Other policy support measures impacting the organic land area.

‘Prospects & developments for organic in national CAP Strategic Plans’ and individual country cards are available on https://www.organicseurope.bio/library.
### Key Indicators 2019

#### Production
- 93,118 ha (6.9%) organic agricultural land, 0.06 of EU agricultural land
- 2,394 organic producers on average farms of 38.9 ha
- 31,789 ha (3.7%) \(^1\)
- 1,418 ha (6.9%) \(^1\)
- 58,123 ha (12.1%) \(^1\)

#### Market
- €779 million retail sales
- €68 per capita
- 1,585 organic processors

### 2030 Scenarios for CAP Expenditure\(^2\) & Organic Area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>National organic area share</th>
<th>Average annual growth</th>
<th>Organic area (kha)</th>
<th>CAP expenditure (M€/year)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Certified</td>
<td>Supported by the CAP</td>
<td>2018 rates</td>
<td>2018 rates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2014-2019</strong></td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Linear(^4)</strong></td>
<td>11.5%</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Potential(^5)</strong></td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
<td>271</td>
<td>242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Enhanced(^6)</strong></td>
<td>23.6%</td>
<td>22.1%</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>286</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2018, conversion/maintenance support was paid on 89.4% certified area at 243 €/ha/year average. Based on these scenarios, a 20% by 2030 target is challenging but achievable, but would 3-4 times the current expenditure. If achieved, this would contribute 0.17% to the EU target of 25% by 2030.

1 Share of national total for category
2 CAP support for organic conversion and maintenance, including national co-financing
3 These values are further explained in the technical note that is available on www.organicseurope.bio
4 Linear trend growth continuing on 2014-2019 basis
5 Target proposed by independent researcher, regional official target of 30% for Wallonia
6 Enhanced target needed to reach EU 25% target

———

1 Share of national total for category
2 CAP support for organic conversion and maintenance, including national co-financing
3 These values are further explained in the technical note that is available on www.organicseurope.bio
4 Linear trend growth continuing on 2014-2019 basis
5 Target proposed by independent researcher, regional official target of 30% for Wallonia
6 Enhanced target needed to reach EU 25% target

———

"Prospects & developments for organic in national CAP Strategic Plans’ full publication"
CURRENT CAP, NATIONAL POLICY SUPPORT & ACTIONS NEEDED

**CAP SUPPORT PAYMENTS (IN €/HA/YEAR)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Conversion</th>
<th>Maintenance</th>
<th>Conversion as % of Maintenance</th>
<th>Actions Needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>390-550</td>
<td>240-400</td>
<td>138-163%</td>
<td>Maintain or increase funding levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>550-1050</td>
<td>400-900</td>
<td>117-138%</td>
<td>Maintain or increase funding levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>390-1050</td>
<td>240-900</td>
<td>117-163%</td>
<td>Maintain or increase funding levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>270-350</td>
<td>120-200</td>
<td>175-225%</td>
<td>Maintain or increase funding levels</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DRAFT PLANS FOR CAP 2023-2027 ORGANIC SUPPORT TO BE...**

Maintained, funded as P1 eco-scheme (maintenance), P2 agri-environment-climate measures (AECMs) (conversion).

REGIONAL ORGANIC ACTION PLANS

- 2013-2020
- In Belgium, its regions, Flanders and Wallonia, have agricultural competences
- Target by 2020:
  - 18% of national area (Walloon, no Flemish targets)
  - Progress towards achieving targets: Behind target
- Separate regional plans in Wallonia and Flanders
  - Wallonia by 2030: 30% of national area and 18.7% share of retail sales value
  - Need for new Flemish action plan

### OTHER POLICY SUPPORT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Combination with other Agri-Envi Measures</th>
<th>Current Context</th>
<th>Action Needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Combinations with many agri-environment options possible</td>
<td>Maintain/develop combinations/specific options for organic farms to benefit from synergies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Support Investments, Market Development & Promotion**

- Organic farming applications prioritised in some regions
- Maintain/develop support options to promote organic market development

**Support for Advice, Training, Innovation & Research**

- Organic applications prioritised in some regions
- Maintain/develop support options to promote knowledge and innovation

### LEGEND

- Annual crops
- Horticulture crops
- Permanent crops
- Grassland
- Production
**PROSPECTS & DEVELOPMENTS FOR ORGANIC IN NATIONAL CAP STRATEGIC PLANS EU-27**

### KEY INDICATORS 2019

**PRODUCTION**
- 14,120,629 ha organic agricultural land (9%)
- 340,277 organic producers on average farms of 41.5 ha
- 6,439,751 ha (6.6%)¹
- 1,561,271 ha (14.9%)¹
- 6,050,165 ha 12.4%)¹

**MARKET**
- €38,774 million retail sales
- €87 per capita
- 75,674 organic processors

**CAP SUPPORT (2018)²**
- 8,450,000 ha supported
- 64.3% of certified area at average of 213 €/ha/year
- 1,803 M€/year expenditure

### 2030 SCENARIOS FOR CAP EXPENDITURE² & ORGANIC AREA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Organic area share</th>
<th>Average annual growth</th>
<th>Organic area (kha) Certified</th>
<th>Organic area (kha) Supported by the CAP</th>
<th>Cap expenditure (M€/year) 2018 rates</th>
<th>Cap expenditure (M€/year) +25%³</th>
<th>If 100% certified area supported⁴</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2014-2019</strong></td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>14,121</td>
<td>9,094</td>
<td>1,932</td>
<td>2,415</td>
<td>3,797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LINEAR TREND⁴</strong></td>
<td>15.0%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>23,503</td>
<td>15,017</td>
<td>3,278</td>
<td>4,097</td>
<td>6,482</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NATIONAL TARGETS⁵</strong></td>
<td>21.2%</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>33,220</td>
<td>20,962</td>
<td>4,405</td>
<td>5,506</td>
<td>8,817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ENHANCED⁶</strong></td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
<td>39,165</td>
<td>24,713</td>
<td>5,193</td>
<td>6,491</td>
<td>10,394</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2018, conversion/maintenance support was paid on 64.0% certified area at 213.15 €/ha/year average. Based on these scenarios, a 25% by 2030 target is challenging but achievable, and would require a 3-5 fold increase in expenditure. If achieved, the current national targets would contribute 21.21% to the EU target of 25% by 2030.

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¹ Share of national total for category
² CAP support for organic conversion and maintenance, including national co-financing
³ These values are further explained in the technical note that is available on www.organicseurope.bio
⁴ Linear trend growth continuing on 2014-2019 basis
⁵ EU outcome based on current national targets
⁶ Enhanced national targets needed to reach EU 25% target

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"Prospects & developments for organic in national CAP Strategic Plans" full publication
### CURRENT CAP, NATIONAL POLICY SUPPORT & ACTIONS NEEDED

#### CAP SUPPORT PAYMENTS (IN €/HA/YEAR)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Annual crops</th>
<th>Horticulture crops</th>
<th>Permanent crops</th>
<th>Grassland</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>CONVERSION</strong></td>
<td>0-1,209</td>
<td>0-6,000</td>
<td>0-2,855</td>
<td>0-600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MAINTENANCE</strong></td>
<td>0-853</td>
<td>0-3,800</td>
<td>0-2,855</td>
<td>0-450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CONVERSION AS % OF MAINTENANCE</strong></td>
<td>100-478%</td>
<td>100-300%</td>
<td>100-128%</td>
<td>100-465%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### ACTIONS NEEDED

- **Ensure conversion costs fully recognised**
- **Focus on provision of public goods**
- **Reduce focus on premium prices as a reward for marketing activities**

#### DRAFT PLANS FOR CAP 2023-2027 ORGANIC SUPPORT TO BE...

- Increased by Member States, funded as Pillar 1 eco-schemes and/or Pillar 2 agri-environment-climate measures (AECMs), to deliver 25% target, market and public goods.

### EU ORGANIC ACTION PLAN

- **2021-2027**
- **Target by 2030: 25% share of organic area**
- **Future plans: Encourage development of Member States' action plans, research to support future policies**

### OTHER POLICY SUPPORT

- **Combination with other agri-envi measures**
  - **Current context:** Mixed range of eligibilities - combinations may be required, possible, restricted or prohibited
  - **Action needed:** Ensure opportunities for enhanced public good delivery building on synergies with organic management

- **Support investments, market development & promotion**
  - **Current context:** Good EU policy framework for investment, procurement and promotion
  - **Action needed:** Encourage Member States’ adoption of support options for organic market development, consistent with EU action plan, improve market data availability

- **Support for advice, training, innovation & research**
  - **Current context:** Good framework for advice, training and EIP operational groups with focus on organic in Rural Development Plans, but patchy implementation by Member States
  - **Action needed:** Encourage Member States’ adoption of support options for knowledge and innovation, consistent with EU action plan

### LEGEND

- **Annual crops**
- **Horticulture crops**
- **Permanent crops**
- **Grassland**

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*Prospects & developments for organic in national CAP Strategic Plans’ full publication*
Below table provides you with an overview of the prospects and developments for organic in national CAP Strategic Plans for the European Union as well as each Member State. On the left, you can find the current share of organic land, followed by the current (2018) CAP support. The numbers in columns ‘Corresponding CAP expenditure’ refer to the minimum (least ambitious) and maximum (most ambitious) amounts a country could allocate to achieving the national/organic movement and enhanced scenarios detailed on the following country cards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Organic area share</th>
<th>Current (2018) CAP support (M€/year)</th>
<th>Potential organic area share</th>
<th>Corresponding CAP expenditure (M€/year)</th>
<th>Enhanced organic area share</th>
<th>Corresponding CAP expenditure (M€/year)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EU-27</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td>1,803</td>
<td>21.1%</td>
<td>4,405/8,817</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>5,193/10,394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>202/313</td>
<td>47.2%</td>
<td>238/369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>59/82</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
<td>69/97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>84/199</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>100/235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croatia</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
<td>75/103</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
<td>89/121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>6.9/11.3</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>8.1/13.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>88/113</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>104/133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>10.9%</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>104/150</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>123/178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estonia</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>30.0%</td>
<td>27/39</td>
<td>35.4%</td>
<td>31/46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>104/141</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>122/166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>615/1,504</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>726/1,776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>9.7%</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>704/1,091</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
<td>831/1,288</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>179/444</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
<td>212/525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungary</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
<td>72/163</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
<td>85/192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td>63/81</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
<td>75/96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>35.0%</td>
<td>870/1,938</td>
<td>41.3%</td>
<td>1,027/2,289</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>48/64.5</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>56.7/76.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuania</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
<td>66/108</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
<td>78/127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>7.2/10.5</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>8.5/12.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malta</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0.002</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>0.01/0.10</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>0.01/0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>76.6/119.6</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>90.4/141.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>140/249</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>166/294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>8.1%</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
<td>65/85</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
<td>77/100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
<td>163/362</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>192/428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovakia</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18.0%</td>
<td>31/46</td>
<td>21.2%</td>
<td>36/54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenia</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15.0%</td>
<td>15/19</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
<td>17/23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>410/1,102</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>484/1,302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>35.0%</td>
<td>130/279</td>
<td>41.3%</td>
<td>154/330</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
KEY INDICATORS 2019

PRODUCTION AND MARKET

- The organic land area, the retail sales value (total and per capita) and operators number data (producers and processors) for 2019 are from FiBL data sets available on https://statistics.fibl.org/europe.html. These data are consistent in most cases with Eurostat data, with some exceptions (e.g. Germany);
- The breakdown by organic land use category (arable land, permanent crops, grassland) is from FiBL: https://statistics.fibl.org/visualisation/crops.html;
- The total agricultural land area (UAA) and breakdown by main land use type data for the % share calculations are from Eurostat https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/data/database, but relate to 2016, the latest year for which data are currently available.

CAP SUPPORT

- The total support expenditure, share of certified area supported and average support per hectare values for each country and the EU-27 are 2018 data from a not yet published report compiled by the Thünen Institute.

2030 SCENARIOS FOR CAP EXPENDITURE & ORGANIC AREA

THE COLUMNS

- National organic area share: This is the share of national agricultural area (Utilised Agricultural Area or UAA) farmed under organic principles. Values are actual for 2019 and estimations for 2030, determined as indicated below for each scenario;
- Annual average growth rates are calculated on the basis of the start and end values for each period, in the historic case 2014 and 2019, in subsequent scenarios 2019 and 2030. These values assume a constant growth percentage each year, although it is likely that over time these growth rates will diminish as the sectors grow larger.
- The linear trend values are estimated using linear regression analysis of the data for all years from 2014 to 2019, not only the start and end values, to forecast the outcome in 2030.
- Organic area (kha):
  - Certified: Initial 2019 data increased as appropriate for each scenario
  - Supported by the CAP: assuming same share of certified area receiving organic conversion and maintenance support as in 2018.
- CAP expenditure (million EUR):
  - Total annual expenditure (million EUR, 2018 average rates): Based on 2018 average payment per hectare data from Thünen Institute report, multiplied by area supported. Values include both EU and national co-financing.
  - 2018 rates +25%: Expenditure if 25% increase in payment rates (million EUR): Assumes that the 2018 average payment per hectare are increased by 25%.
  - If 100% certified area supported: Assumes that the 2018 +25% average payment per hectare is applied to all certified area. In some countries unsupported land is permanent grassland where a lower rate of payment might be expected, so these values represent top end of range.
CURRENT CAP, NATIONAL POLICY SUPPORT & ACTIONS NEEDED

CAP SUPPORT PAYMENTS (IN €/HA/YEAR)

- Conversion & Maintenance: Data on organic conversion and maintenance payment rates for different land use types are for 2019 (reflecting the 2015-2020 rural development programmes) and sourced from the Thünen Institute report. Payment ranges reflect crop type, area and regional variations – full details are available in the report.
- Conversion as % of maintenance: this is the percentage value of conversion payments compared to maintenance payments, directly calculated from the two values above. Given payments are calculated on an income foregone basis, and conversion normally entails additional investment and restructuring costs, as well as lack of access to organic premium prices, conversion payments might be expected to be substantially higher than maintenance payments, at least for the first 2-3 years until full organic status is achieved.
- Plans for CAP 2021-2027 organic support to be....: Information on future CAP plans reflect responses to IFOAM Organic Europe’s survey (April-May 2021) of its national member organisations.

NATIONAL ORGANIC ACTION PLAN

- Data on current national action plans is obtained from the Thünen Institute report.
- Information on future action plans reflect responses to IFOAM Organics Europe’s 2021 survey of member organisations.

OTHER POLICY SUPPORT

- Assessments of other support policies (Current context and Actions needed) reflect the judgement of the consultant based on the Thünen Institute report.
- Information was integrated and validated by IFOAM Organics Europe’s Council members.

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