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## WELCOME NOTE

Dear readers,

I would like to welcome you back after the winter break and take this opportunity to wish you a healthy, caring, and organic new year. As 2022 has already made its first steps, we are looking forward to the opportunities and challenges it will bring for the European organic sector and movement.

### **Guidelines for the EU Organic Regulation**

Following a long revision, the new EU Organic Regulation (EU) 2018/848 officially entered into application on 1 January 2022. To aid organic producers, traders, competent authorities, and control bodies navigate the new and complex legal framework, IFOAM Organics Europe has developed dedicated regulation guidelines. Our [EU Organic Regulation guidelines](#) will help you read and interpret the basic regulation and its 24 secondary regulations that contains many cross-references.

[The beta version of this tool is online for our members](#) – for free and they will find [login details on our member extranet](#). Do note that we are currently finalising the guidelines and the final version will be online in the coming weeks. We will keep you posted!

More about the main changes the EU Organic Regulation brings is also available [further in this newsletter](#).

### **Celebrating the Year of Organics on many occasions!**

Besides the entry into application of the new EU Organic Regulation, 2022 will be an important celebratory year for organic movement.

We are celebrating our [20<sup>th</sup> anniversary](#), our colleagues at [IFOAM – Organics International their 50<sup>th</sup>](#) and [IFOAM Organics Asia their 10<sup>th</sup>](#)! Throughout 2022, we are planning a joyful year and celebratory year with special events. These will be the perfect occasion to reflect on relevant developments and thank farmers, processors, retailers, certifiers, and other organic stakeholders who have been and continue creating a more sustainable, effective, and healthy food system. Without you it would have been impossible!

We reserved the spring season, the moment where everything starts to bloom and grow, for a celebratory event in Brussels. For this event, we will invite our members, sponsors and EU policy makers who assisted and guided us during all these years. Do not worry if you cannot be there, there will be many other events at which we will get to celebrate together!

Should you feel inspired, please do share your birthday wishes and our shared accomplishments as text and/or video with [communication@organicseurope.bio](mailto:communication@organicseurope.bio) (EU) and [communication@ifoam.bio](mailto:communication@ifoam.bio) (global). They might get a place in our communication about #OrganicsEurope20 and the #YearOfOrganics on our online platforms and live events. Because, without you, we would not have succeeded!



## Putting the spotlight on organic youth

One of the celebratory event we are organising is with FIBL Switzerland and Bio Suisse. Together we are realising IFOAM Organics Europe's Youth Event (#OEYE2022) in August. We will welcome young farmers, students, and interested actors from the value chain to network, discuss and develop knowledge and awareness on organic amongst youth.

The event will be the first of many in the coming years, and the Year of Organics will be the best occasion for involving and connecting new generations with the benefits of organic food and farming.

We invite you to [keep an eye on our website](#) and social media (@OrganicsEurope on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) & soon to start [Instagram](#)) for updates. We look forward to celebrating our anniversary with many of you digitally and/or in person!

Remember, the future and 2022 are organic!  
Eduardo



## POLITICAL HOTSPOT

On 16 December, the European Commission presented its 2022 promotion policies, aiming to *inter alia* open new markets and opportunities for organic in the agri-food sector. Just under 40% of promotion policies' budget (€70 million) is dedicated to promoting sustainable and organic products.

Promotion policies support actors of the sustainable and organic food sector, either by assisting existing projects or accompanying the creation of new businesses. Created in 2014, promotion policies did not always focus on organic. This changed in 2021, when the Farm to Fork Strategy set the objective of promoting organic agri-food products. To help realise this, the European Commission has put organic in the spotlight by creating a specific budget for promoting organic products inside and outside the EU.

### **43% more budget for promoting organic than in 2021**

This year, the European Commission allocated €185.9 million on promoting European agri-food products. Just under 40% of this budget (€70 million) is dedicated to the promotion of sustainable and organic products. This is a 43% increase compared to the 2021. This shows the dedication with which the organic movement has seized this opportunity last year, as the Commission adjusts the proposed amounts annually, based on the previous year's submissions.

### **What programmes does the Commission support?**

#### **Promotion programmes may consist of:**

- 'Simple' programmes: Submitted by one or more proposing organisations from the same Member State; and
- 'Multi' programmes: Submitted by at least two proposing organisations from at least two Member States or one or more Union organisations.

#### **Programmes are also divided among those aimed at:**

- Promoting projects within the **internal market (IM)**; and
- Promoting projects within **third countries (TC)**.

**It means that four types of programmes exist:** simple programmes in the internal market, simple programmes in third countries, multi programmes in the internal market, and multi programmes in third countries.

The allocated budget for simple programmes promoting organic and sustainable products is **€27 million**. The allocated budget for multi programmes promoting organic and sustainable products is **€43 million**.

This budget has been established in coherence with figures from last year. For example, the 2022 budget for simple programmes in the internal market has been more than doubled due to a high demand in 2021. The 2022 budget for simple programmes in third countries has been lowered, due to more modest application rates in 2021.



### **Can you receive support? Who's eligible to apply**

**Trade or inter-trade organisations, producer organisations, agri-food bodies** can apply for funding for their activities planned to be implemented over a period of at least one but not more than three years. These activities should consist of promotional activities and information campaigns. For example, public relations, advertising, points of sales activities, participation in events and fairs of national, European and international importance, social media activities, online promotion campaigns, etc.

### **What is the procedure to apply?**

The [call for proposals](#) to apply for promotion policy funds was published on 20 January (Searching for "AGRIP" may help in finding the calls for proposals faster).

The deadline for submitting projects is 21 April 2022 at 17:00 CET, and the Commission issues its decision regarding which projects will be co-financed in October 2022. The Research Executive Agency (REA) manages the allocation of funds.

For a more detailed agenda, the [Commission has created an infographic](#) about the life cycle of promotion programmes.

### **Useful links**

[European Commission's presentation](#) summarizing what promotion policies are and how to apply;  
[The REA's website dedicated to promotion policies](#);  
[REA's FAQs on promotion policies \(updated in April 2021\)](#).

**Promotion policies are a crucial moment for the organic movement. Let's not miss the opportunity!**

IFOAM Organics Europe members have access to the following useful tools on our member extranet:

- Recordings of [IFOAM Organics Europe's February 2021 "Ask the experts" session on promotion policies and how to apply for the funds](#);
- [A detailed Q&A on promotion policies and how to apply for these funds](#).

### **New EU Campaign to stimulate organic purchasing behavior in supermarket**

Also Sweden, Finland, The Netherlands, and Belgium are joining forces to stimulate the sales of organic products. This four European Countries started a project to increase the impact on organic growth, aiming at achieving a higher organic market in line with the European Commission Action Plan. Read more about this project on our [dedicated article](#) and take action!

For information about what you can gain from being a member, read [our membership page](#) and contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio). You can contact the same email address for access rights.

For more information on promotion policies and IFOAM Organics Europe's work on this issue, please contact [antoine.pauti@organicseurope.bio](mailto:antoine.pauti@organicseurope.bio).



# 1 NEWS

## 1.1 Policy

### Organic Regulations

#### New EU Organic Regulation: Guidelines & main changes

After a 10-year long process, the new EU Organic Regulation has started to apply on 1 January 2022. The basic Regulation (EU) 2018/848 was published in June 2018, while the secondary legislation has been developed in the following 2.5 years, with the last secondary regulations published on the EU Official Journal on 29 December 2021.

#### Guidelines to help operators navigate the legal labyrinth

So far, the secondary legislation consists of 15 Delegated Regulations and 7 Implementing Regulations. But others have to come in the next months. **To help organic producers and traders, competent authorities and control bodies navigate these regulations, IFOAM Organics Europe has developed [guidelines to the EU Organic Regulation](#).**

This IT tool, [free for our members](#), puts together relevant requirements for certain categories under one chapter. For example, if you are a poultry producer you will find all recitals, definitions and requirements relevant to your activities under one chapter, and you will not need to open 10 different regulations.

On the top of that, when the EU Organic Regulation refers to other EU legislations, links to these are provided as well

For more information on the tool, please refer to [our website](#). IFOAM Organics Europe members find [login details on our member extranet](#). Contact [organicregulation@organicseurope.bio](mailto:organicregulation@organicseurope.bio) for more information and/or to sponsor the guidelines.

#### Main changes the EU Organic Regulation brings

Below you can read the **main changes** of the new EU Organic Regulation. Please consider that many others are not in this summary. For a complete overview, we refer you to the guide we mention above.

##### Main changes on production

The scope has been enlarged and now includes products closely linked to agriculture such as beeswax, sea salt, wool and others;

The concept of soil-bound cultivation is strengthened – with a few exceptions;

In relation to plant reproductive material (e.g., seed), the use of heterogeneous material and varieties adapted to organic farming is incentivized;

Rules for poultry have been integrated with additional requirements, e.g., on pop-holes and limits to the multi-level systems. Rules for parent poultry and pullets as well as for rabbits and deer have been added;

Where there are changes which require structural interventions, transitional rules are provided;

On aquaculture, the possibility of using non-organic juveniles is very limited.

### Main changes on the food processing side

The use of natural flavourings is restricted to few categories and rules for organic flavourings are established;

The use of ion exchange and adsorption resin techniques is only allowed for baby food and wine products;

Engineered nanomaterials are also banned;

The flexibility regarding the origin of the ingredients for the indication of origin passes from 2% to 5%; After a transitional period, there will be a list of cleaning and disinfection products allowed to be used in food processing and storage.

### Main changes on control and certification

Low-risk operators will be exempted from the mandatory physical inspection visit, that can be performed every 24 months. In any case, a verification of compliance is required every 12 months. Such exemption applies only to operators in the EU. As for the certificate, there are mandatory models to be followed, for both EU and non-EU operators. New approaches for dealing with suspected non-compliances and residues are established, for both operators and control actors;

New rules for group certification are established and are very detailed with some significant changes for operators in the Global South;

The group certification system may be applied also for small farmers in the EU and worldwide. According to the previous regulation, group certification was only possible for countries in the Global South.

### Main changes on international trade and imports

The current equivalency agreements with 14 Third Countries have to be renegotiated under the form of Trade Agreements within 5 years. The control bodies recognised for the purpose of equivalency need to be recognised for the purpose of compliance within 3 years. In practice it means that the requirements of the New EU Organic Regulation will apply in Third Countries with a 1-1.5 year delay compared to the EU. Also, new rule at the EU borders for imported products apply.

The Commission has recently updated and published its [Frequently Asked Question](#) document on the Organic Regulation.

For more information on the EU Organic Regulation and IFOAM Organics Europe's work on this issue, please contact [emanuele.busacca@organicseurope.bio](mailto:emanuele.busacca@organicseurope.bio). Please note that we will **only respond to our members' requests**.

For information about what you can gain from being a member, read [our membership page](#) and contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio)



## Update on consolidated version of Regulation (EU) 2018/848

After ten years of activities, the New EU Organic Regulation (EU) 2018/848 has entered into application. As expected, many delegated and implementing regulations related to the new EU Organic Regulation (EU) 2018/848 have been published the last days of 2021.

A consolidated version of Regulation (EU) 2018/848 has been published as well, but it only includes a part of the total secondary legislation: 9 out of 23-24 secondary acts.

You can find below (and in the [specific IFOAM Organics Europe webpage](#)) the new acts recently published in the EU Official Journal:

- (Partially) [Consolidated Regulation \(EU\) 2018/848](#)
- [Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2021/2304](#) on the complementary certificate on the use of antibiotics
- [Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2021/2306](#) on the import of organic products and the certificate of inspection
- [Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/2307](#) on documents and notifications for imports
- [Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/2325](#) updating the list of equivalent control bodies/authorities operating in Third Countries (including withdrawal of 5 control bodies operating in India under the equivalency agreement, therefore only for unprocessed plant products)
- [Implementing Regulation \(EU\) 2021/2119](#) on record keeping, declarations and certificates. Including the 1-year postponement of the use of TRACES (this was already communicated to you)
- [Corrigendum](#) to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2021/771

Visit our website for more information on the [Organic Regulations](#) and IFOAM Organics Europe's position on the [organic supply chain integrity](#).



**GOLDEN SPONSORS OF OUR PROJECT**

**DEVELOPING ORGANIC: PESTICIDE USE AND CONTAMINATION**



## Feedback to the public consultation on animal welfare

The European Commission launched [a public consultation on the revision of the EU legislation on animal welfare](#). IFOAM Organics Europe provided feedback, with input based on exchanges in its Farmers Group.

In our feedback, we recalled that the EU Organic Regulation 2018/848 states: **“the observance of high standards for health, the environment and animal welfare in the production of organic products is intrinsic to the high quality of those products”**, highlighting the fact that organic farming pays close attention to animal well-being and should be regarded as an animal welfare best practice for other types of agriculture.

Therefore, all animals should be respected and given the opportunity to display their natural behaviors. Farmers should select species and breeds that can thrive in their local conditions and for which mutilations are kept at a minimum.

We affirmed **our support to creating an animal welfare labelling system** putting forward adequate and species-specific animal welfare practices, in which the organic standard is clearly identifiable. For instance, IFOAM Organics Europe believes that a model like the egg label, which was implemented by the European Union in 1999 under the method of production (MOP) labelling option, uses an easy-to-understand and to implement ranking system and did not put too much extra costs or burdens on producers, and is thus a relevant model for other agricultural products.

We also stressed our support **to minimising transport duration** to reduce the stress animals face, as stated in the EU Organic Regulation. To do so, it is important to have **all support needed to have enough local and regional slaughterhouses for organic**, as, currently, organic livestock farmers may not have slaughterhouses for organic in close proximity. Farmers cannot be penalised by factors that are outside of their control, such as their proximity to a slaughterhouse. The **personnel involved in keeping and transporting animals should be properly trained** to ensure specific animals' needs.

Moreover, **organic farmers should be rewarded for the public goods that they deliver**, through higher animal welfare standards, but also through the protection of the environment and of natural resources and through the reduction of inputs.

IFOAM Organics Europe's members can read our full feedback on [our member extranet](#).

Feel free to reach out to [amelie.steu@organicseurope.bio](mailto:amelie.steu@organicseurope.bio), Policy Assistant on Agricultural Policies and the CAP, if you want to have more information. Please take notes that we prioritize our members' requests.

For more information on **the CAP and IFOAM Organics Europe's work** on this issue, please contact [amelie.steu@organicseurope.bio](mailto:amelie.steu@organicseurope.bio). IFOAM Organics Europe members can find more information on [the member extranet](#) and background materials in the [arguments database on the member extranet](#) (main messages, arguments/FAQs, visuals & videos).



**IFOAM Organics Europe's Interest Group of Organic Farmers (IGOF)** is one of IFOAM Organics Europe's four interest groups. [Our interest groups](#) provide direct input from the different sectors in IFOAM Organics Europe's organisation. They formulate policies and positions relevant to their sector.

IFOAM Organics Europe's members can access [a list of its current members](#) and [the terms of reference](#) on the member extranet.

Are you an IFOAM Organics Europe member who is:

- An organic farmer interested to become part of the IGOF? Contact [amelie.steu@organicseurope.bio](mailto:amelie.steu@organicseurope.bio);
- Having issues accessing the member extranet? Contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio).

For information about what you can gain from being a member, read [our membership page](#) and contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio).



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## Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

### **New CAP delegated and implemented acts approved – Ongoing approval process of CAP national Strategic Plans**

On 11 January, the Parliament's Committee on Agricultural and Rural Development (COMAGRI) approved most of the CAP 2023-2027 Regulations' delegated and implemented acts. The Commission is expected to draft the remaining ones during the first quarter of 2022.

At the same time, Member States need to submit their CAP Strategic Plans, detailing how they plan to realise the goals set in the CAP 2023-2027. At the time of writing, 19 Member States submitted their CAP Strategic Plans and 8 missed the deadline. The ball is now in the European Commission's camp to review them.

#### **Briefing on Strategic Plan Regulation's articles**

As IFOAM Organics Europe, we have put together [a briefing gathering all the relevant CAP 2023-2027 Strategic Plans Regulation's Articles for our members](#). Our members can use this as legal basis to advocate for more support for organic in their national Strategic Plans.

#### **Member States' CAP national Strategic Plans & organic movement's feedback to them**

Member States had to submit the first draft of their CAP national Strategic Plans by 31 December 2021. [Nine countries out of 27](#) missed the first deadline: Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Romania, Slovakia. The Czech Republic, Latvia, Lithuania and Luxembourg submitted it later in January.



Based on our members' feedback, the first draft submitted by the 19 Member States are similar to [our November 2021 assessment](#), meaning that **the national Strategic Plans are not ambitious enough to properly support organic farming and reach the 25% target of land under organic production in Europe by 2030**. [Read more about this on our CAP page](#).

### What's next?

A consolidated internal report will be available around mid-[February on our members' extranet](#). This will be ahead of the publication of the Commission's observation letters, expected by the end of March. The observation letters will provide Member States with recommendations on their CAP Strategic Plans and an assessment whether they comply with the CAP 2023-2027 Strategic Plans Regulations and if they contribute to the overall CAP objectives.

**It will be the last opportunity to ask the Commission to request Member States more support to organic in countries where there is a lack of measures or budget targeted to the sector.** Indeed, after the release of these observation letters, Member States will have to integrate the recommendations and submit their final CAP Strategic Plan.

The Commission has to approve CAP national Strategic Plans by 31 December 2022, but the sooner they do this the better. Farmers need to plan their investments for the coming years, and can do this based on the CAP support they will receive.

For more information on the CAP and IFOAM Organics Europe's work on this issue, please contact [amelie.steu@organicseurope.bio](mailto:amelie.steu@organicseurope.bio). IFOAM Organics Europe members can find more information on [the member extranet](#) and background materials in the [arguments database on the member extranet](#) (main messages, arguments/FAQs, visuals & videos).

Are you an IFOAM Organics Europe member and you do not have access to our member extranet? Or did you encounter issues logging in? Contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio).

For information about what you can gain from being a member, read [our membership page](#) and contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio).



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## GMOs & Seeds

### New GMOs: What's next for Europe & state-of-play legislative process

As covered in [previous editions of our newsletter](#), the European Commission has been moving forward with plans to create a new and specific legal framework for "novel genomic techniques" (NGTs or new genetic engineering techniques/newGM).

#### Moments to have your say

In September and October, the Commission conducted a [public consultation on the Inception Impact Assessment for "new genomic techniques"](#). This was open to all citizens and organisations and aimed at identifying crucial issues for the Commission to consider before preparing its actual Impact Assessment.

The Commission has not yet specified how the input to this consultation will feed into its upcoming Impact Assessment – this includes comments of IFOAM Organics Europe, national organic organizations and organic producers.

What is clear, however, is that **the Commission has announced the public consultation on the Impact Assessment for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2022**. It will be open for 3 months and launch on the ['Have your say'](#) website.

As IFOAM Organics Europe, we will participate in this consultation, representing the European organic movement's voice. We will communicate with and about this to our members ahead of time.

#### First discussions among EU Environment Ministers

Since our last update, the topic has been discussed at the Council of Environment Ministers on 20 December 2021. Austrian Minister for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology, Leonore Gewessler, initiated this discussion, emphasising that newGM should be on the agenda of environmental ministers since a legal framework should include:

A comprehensive risk assessment that builds on transparent and science-based criteria; and  
Freedom of choice, based on clear labelling for products of NGTs/newGM.

These points from the Austrian Minister received support from several Member States, including Bulgaria, Cyprus, Slovakia, Germany, Hungary and Luxembourg. Some environmental Ministries like France remained more ambiguous, and others demanded 'lighter' Regulation, like Estonia, Denmark, and the Netherlands.

The meeting was the first instance that environmental Ministers spoke on the new Commission plans in an Environment Council meeting. Previously, the issue had been discussed among Agricultural Ministers.

#### Which Ministries are/should be responsible for (new) GMOs?

It is not new that Environmental Ministers are working on genetic engineering in food and agriculture. This was the case until 2009, when Commission President Barroso, who was in charge at the time, decided to transfer the responsibility of the GMO file from the Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENVI) to the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE).



Until then, Environment Ministers and the Environment Council had the lead in taking decisions on the GMO legal framework and GMO authorisations. And there were good reasons for it, as **the release of GMOs into the environment is a biosafety issue, with potential environmental impacts** – this is also the case of new Genetic Engineering techniques.

For more information on GMOs and new GMOs and IFOAM Organics Europe’s work on this issue, [read our webpage on GMOs and new GMOs](#) and contact [martin.sommer@organicseurope.bio](mailto:martin.sommer@organicseurope.bio). IFOAM Organics Europe members can find more information on [the member extranet](#) and background materials in the [arguments database on the member extranet](#) (main messages, arguments/FAQs, visuals & videos).

For information about what you can gain from being a member, read [our membership page](#) and contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio).



## Climate Change

### Update on the revision of the LULUCF Regulation

As part of the [Fit for 55 package](#), several legislative initiatives aim to support the European target of reducing at least 55% of net greenhouse gas emission by 2030. One of these initiatives is the revision of the LULUCF (Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry) Regulation which addresses agriculture's CO<sub>2</sub> emission from cropland and grassland, and emissions from forestry and wetlands.

The revision proposal from the European Commission, released in July 2021, contains as main updates:

- A 2030 EU-wide target of net greenhouse gas removals of 310 million tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent to move away from the current 'no-debit' rule; and
- A new policy framework that includes all agricultural emissions in the land use, land use change and forestry sector, also those currently covered by the Effort Sharing Regulation. This so called AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) pillar should reach EU-wide climate neutrality in the combined land sector by 2035.

In the European Parliament, the proposal has been referred to the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI Committee) with Ville Niinistö (Verts/ALE, Finland) as rapporteur and they have already published a [draft report](#). We are currently closely following the debate in the ENVI committee and also in the AGRI committee on their [draft opinion](#). The Parliament's plenary is expected to vote on this in spring.

As IFOAM Organics Europe, we believe the focus of climate action should lie on drastic emission reductions, but the land use sector can play an important role by sequestering carbon. Additional actions should be taken to preserve and enhance carbon sinks. Agroecological and organic farming practices are already recognised as having the potential to increase carbon sequestration in soils. This is why we are also closely following the developments on the carbon farming initiative – to ensure it delivers not only on carbon sequestration and multiple benefits for biodiversity and the environment.

For more information on climate change and IFOAM Organics Europe's work on this issue, please [check out our website](#) and contact [hanna.winkler@organicseurope.bio](mailto:hanna.winkler@organicseurope.bio). IFOAM Organics Europe members can find more information on [the member extranet](#) and background materials in the [arguments database on the member extranet](#) (main messages, arguments/FAQs, visuals & videos).

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### Policy brief outlining key points for a “Carbon Farming Scheme”

In December 2021, the European Commission presented its Communication on '[Sustainable Carbon Cycles](#)', which addresses how to increase carbon sequestration and scale up carbon farming as a business model (see also our [previous article](#)).

The think tank and policy research institute IDDRI has published [a policy brief outlining the key points for a “Carbon Farming Scheme”](#) that contributes to climate mitigation and supports other objectives of the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies. The key messages are:



- A carbon farming scheme should target a systemic transition of farming systems by adopting a multi-dimensional approach that goes beyond a focus on carbon and also considers matters like, for example, diversification of agroecosystems and/or reducing dependency on external inputs;
- Such approach must be associated with a reduction of production and consumption of animal products in the EU;
- Carbon farming should go beyond the farm level and also be deployed at the value chain and/or landscape level;
- Funds should be based on a multidimensional certification framework and should be directed to support systemic and sustainable farm system transformation.

For more information on climate change and IFOAM Organics Europe's work on this issue, please [check out our website](#) and contact [hanna.winkler@organicseurope.bio](mailto:hanna.winkler@organicseurope.bio). IFOAM Organics Europe members can find more information on [the member extranet](#) and background materials in the [arguments database on the member extranet](#) (main messages, arguments/FAQs, visuals & videos).

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## Plant health care

### Trialogues on Regulation on Statistics on Agricultural Inputs and Outputs to start

On 10 December, the Council of the EU approved its mandate for negotiations on the Regulation on Statistics on Agricultural Inputs and Outputs (SAIO). This means the trialogues can start as the European Parliament already agreed on its position [in November 2021](#). The first round of negotiations is supposed to take place on 3 February.

The SAIO Regulation is supposed to provide the necessary data to monitor three of the six key quantified Farm to Fork targets for 2030:

The share of agricultural land under organic farming,  
The reduction of the overall use and risk of chemical pesticides, and  
The reduction of nutrient losses.

However, the Council's position is very disappointing, as Member States have weakened the provisions intended to enable a reliable monitoring of progress. **IFOAM Organics Europe particularly disagrees with the position of Member States to limit the collection of data on organic agriculture to crop and animal production, while the SAIO regulation covers also agricultural prices, nutrients, and pesticides.**

Furthermore, **the Council refuses any improvement of data collection on pesticide use, which will make it impossible to know whether the EU has achieved the target of reducing pesticide use by 50% by 2030.**

IFOAM Organics Europe will closely monitor the trialogues' developments, expected to last at least until May 2022. Together with environmental NGOs in Brussels, we will keep putting pressure on the co-legislators and the Commission to ensure the EU has adequate tools at its disposal to monitor the progress on the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies.

Please contact [mathilde.calmels@organicseurope.bio](mailto:mathilde.calmels@organicseurope.bio) for questions on pesticides and natural inputs. IFOAM Organics Europe members can find more information on [the member extranet](#) and background materials in the [arguments database on the member extranet](#) (main messages, arguments/FAQs, visuals & videos).



Do note that we prioritise our members' requests. For information about what you can gain from being a member, read our membership page and contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio).



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## Revised Directive for a Sustainable Use of pesticides expected on 23 March

The indicative calendar of the European Commission for the first half of 2022 mentions the launch of a “Nature restoration package” on 23 March. This package includes two legislative initiatives:

- A proposal for a revised Directive for a Sustainable Use of pesticides (SUD), and
- A proposal for a Regulation establishing nature restoration targets.

The SUD will be the main lever to achieve the Farm to Fork Strategy's target for a reduction of pesticide use by 50% by 2030.

IFOAM Organics Europe has:

Advocated to make this target legally binding in the revised SUD, an option that has also been explored in the study commissioned by the Commission – which will support the impact assessment of the revision of the SUD, which will also be published on 23 March;

Argued to prioritise organic farming to reach the pesticide reduction target; and

Questioned the prominence of new technologies, like drones and precision farming, in the policy options assessed by the consultant in charge of the study supporting the impact assessment.

If the Commission respects its calendar, 23 March will launch the co-decision process on the SUD. It is likely that the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety will be responsible for this dossier in the European Parliament, while in the EU Council, it will be the Environment Ministers.

IFOAM Organics Europe members can find more information on [the member extranet](#) and background materials in the [arguments database on the member extranet](#) (main messages, arguments/FAQs, visuals & videos).

Please contact [mathilde.calmels@organicseurope.bio](mailto:mathilde.calmels@organicseurope.bio) for questions on pesticides and natural inputs. Do note that we prioritise our members' requests. For information about what you can gain from being a member, read our membership page and contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio).



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## Join pan-European testing for pesticide residues during #GoodFoodGoodFarming action month in October 2022

In the bodies of farm workers and city inhabitants, in people's bedrooms and children's playgrounds – pesticide residues at harmful levels for our health have been detected in many places all over Europe. Besides human health, planetary health also suffers from pesticide contamination, which degrades our soils and threatens the diversity of insects, birds and animals.

While citizens, farmers and scientists call for a substantial reduction of pesticides, decisionmakers at national level and in the European institutions are acting slow.

As part of [Good Food Good Farming](#), we want to make politicians feel public pressure, so they make policies protecting the health of farmers, consumers and nature.

**Between 1 and 31 October 2022, during the action days Good Food Good Farming, we will engage citizens in as many European countries as possible to participate in a pan-European testing action to find out whether they have pesticide residues in their bodies.** The tests offer an interesting and hands-on option for people to participate, encouraging them to find out not only about the effect of pesticides on their individual bodies but on the society and nature surrounding them. Presenting the results of this cross-border testing will allow us to attract media attention and ultimately create political pressure on national ministers and EU decision makers.

We invite you to join this campaign and support the testing action. Here is how you can get involved: Be the **focal point to coordinate the testing in your country!** In each country, there will be one to two organisations which will take on the responsibility to coordinate the testing, lead the mobilisation and press work with help from the European coordination of the campaign. We would need your help to collect the samples and send them to the laboratory, and to help us translate materials for mobilisation and communication;

**Participate in the testing and mobilise others!** If you are interested to participate in the testing, whether as individuals or organising an event with others, you can receive the materials and briefing.

If IFOAM Organics Europe's members want to get involved, as focal point or as participant, please get in touch with [amelie.steu@organicseurope.bio](mailto:amelie.steu@organicseurope.bio). If you are not one of our members, please reach out to [dietschmann@goodfoodgoodfarming.eu](mailto:dietschmann@goodfoodgoodfarming.eu) (she/her), campaign communicator at GFGF. We will then share all the details on the implementation of the tests and the next steps.

Since 2018, [#GoodFoodGoodFarming](#) is campaigning to stir up EU food and farming policies and make them greener and fairer. GFGF gathers citizens, activists, farmers, bee-keepers, chiefs and many more demanding a sustainable transition of food production and agriculture, with a substantial reduction of the use of pesticides. IFOAM Organics Europe is a member of GFGF's Steering Committee.

In October 2022, GFGF mobilises for the action days #GoodFoodGoodFarming which saw the participation of over 350 organisations and 181 events in many European countries during the last edition in 2021.



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## Food Policy

### Sustainability labelling: Product Environmental Footprint not suitable for agri-food products

Sustainability labelling has to be one of the major food-related political topics of 2022. As the think tank IDDRI outlines in [its report 'Environmental food labelling: revealing visions to build a political compromise'](#) (in French) different labels support different visions of the future agri-food system and, therefore, choosing a certain label over another can either support or oppose a transition towards more sustainable food systems.

#### Why now?

In its [Farm to Fork Strategy](#), the European Commission will:

1. “Examine ways to harmonise green claims”; and
2. “Create a sustainable labelling framework that covers (...) the nutritional, climate, environmental, social aspects of food production”.

For the first point, the Commission’s Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV) intends to publish a “regulation on substantiating green claims based on the PEF/OEF” in March 2022. The Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) leads on the second initiative and aims to address sustainability labelling in the context of the sustainable food systems legislative framework, expected in 2023.

#### What about this PEF and why is it contested?

The PEF stands for Product Environmental Footprint, a tool aimed to assess the environmental impact of a certain product, that the European Commission has been working on for the past 10 years.

As IFOAM Organics Europe, we expressed the European organic movement’s concerns regarding the PEF in [our 2021 position paper](#). The bottom line is that **the PEF per its construction inherently favours intensive rather than extensive production systems**. Indeed, while this methodology is relevant for manufactured industrial products, it is not adapted to food products. For example, it gives aberrant results where eggs from caged hens get the best score, whereas free range, organic eggs score worse. The reason for this is that **when applied to food, PEF is merely an indicator of yield that does not consider externalities such as impacts on biodiversity, pesticide use and animal welfare**.

As such, the PEF methodology applied to food products has been criticised by civil society, farmers and an increasing number of retailers and processors.

It is worrying that the European Commission seems to be basing its substantiating claims regulation on the PEF, as it may indicate that the PEF will also be used as a basis for the sustainability label.

#### What alternatives to the PEF?

One of the alternatives to the PEF that has seen the light in France is the PlanetScore, a tool that assesses the environmental impact of a certain product, by also looking at externalities such as biodiversity, the impact of pesticides on the environment and the method of production.

While the PlanetScore is based on a life cycle analysis (LCA), it also includes additional information such as impact on biodiversity.



Find out more about the PlanetScore [in French] [in writing](#) and [an explanatory video](#).

IFOAM Organics Europe's members will be able to view the "Let's discuss organic" recording on sustainability labelling and the PlanetScore that will be available on our [member extranet](#).

For questions about sustainability labelling and/or the PlanetScore please contact [silvia.schmidt@organicseurope.bio](mailto:silvia.schmidt@organicseurope.bio).

## **Have your say! European Commission public consultations on nutrition labelling & nutrient profiles**

Until 7 March, the European Commission is consulting stakeholders on two public consultations:  
[Revision of rules on information provided to consumers](#)  
[Facilitating healthier food choices – establishing nutrient profiles](#)

All stakeholders, as well as citizens, are invited to provide their feedback to these consultations! Public consultations are preceded by an initial roadmap that stakeholders can provide feedback to. While the links to the two initiatives mentioned above vary given the different content of the respective roadmaps, the public consultation questionnaire is the same and it is up to the respondent to assess which questions are most relevant to them.

The consultation **revision on the rules on information provided to consumers** focuses on nutrition labelling, origin labelling and date marking. IFOAM Organics Europe had [provided feedback to the roadmap](#) regarding this initiative stressing that a nutrition label is not the most effective in changing consumer behaviour. Consumers must be given the tools to analyse and understand that information through nutrition education and awareness raising. IFOAM Organics Europe also expressed its concern related to the NutriScore as this label does not take into account the naturalness of food products.

The consultation about **establishing nutrient profiles** is interesting, as nutrient profiles have been on the Commission's agenda for quite a while. They were first mentioned as a legislative undertaking at the time of the publication of Regulation 1924/2006 on nutrition and health claims made on foods. Establishing nutrient profiles means that not every type of food will be able to bear nutrition and health claims. For instance, IFOAM Organics Europe believes that ultra-processed foods should not be allowed to bear claims.

For more information about this and IFOAM Organics Europe's work on this issue, please contact [silvia.schmidt@organicseurope.bio](mailto:silvia.schmidt@organicseurope.bio). Do note that we prioritise our members' requests.

For information about what you can gain from being a member, read [our membership page](#) and contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio).





Moreover, [studies have shown](#) that canteen staff benefiting from sustainable public procurement had higher job satisfaction and requested less sick leave.

Therefore, sustainable public procurement, including a share of organic products, has important benefits: positive consequences for public budgets, well-being of the staff, less food waste, positive impact on the environment, to name a few. Sustainable public procurement in public canteens is a real [low-hanging fruit](#), to which IFOAM Organics Europe is strongly committed. Our [feedback](#) on the forthcoming new legal framework on sustainable food systems is the latest example.

For more information on sustainable public procurement and IFOAM Organics Europe's work on this issue, please contact [antoine.pauti@organicseurope.bio](mailto:antoine.pauti@organicseurope.bio). Please do note that we prioritise our members' requests. For information about what you can gain from being a member, read [our membership page](#) and contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio).

### **Get inspired: New EU campaign to stimulate organic purchasing behavior in supermarkets**

Organic umbrella organisations in Sweden, Finland, The Netherlands, and Belgium are joining forces to stimulate the sales of organic products. On 1 February, IFOAM Organics Europe members from these countries will start a project through [the EU's promotion policies](#). The project includes a consumer campaign with the aim to learn from each other and increase impact on organic growth. Sales of organic products will be stimulated by using 'nudges', subtle adjustments in the supermarket, to influence consumer behavior. Much needed, due to the action plan of the European Commission to dedicate at least 25% of agricultural land to organic production by 2030. Next to increasing awareness and trust in the European organic certificate, the campaign aims to achieve a higher market share in all four countries.

Most European countries encounter the same issue: a relatively small group of consumers seems responsible for the largest part of the sale of organic products. In addition, the price remains the biggest barrier to buy organic, as organic is perceived as expensive. As research shows, even though most consumers say they want to buy organic, they often don't. Thus, we can speak of an intention behavior gap.

By applying 'nudges' in and around the supermarket the customer is subconsciously being helped in his choice, at the time and place of purchase. Previous pilots have already shown that by only changing small things on the shelf or in the supermarket, this can already make a huge difference in the sales of organic products. In addition to the nudging campaign in the supermarkets, this project is aimed at increasing the awareness of and trust in the EU-organic label, also an important driver in the purchasing behaviour of organic products. Stimulating the consumption of organic products is urgently needed, given the ambition of the European Commission to dedicate a quarter of the European agricultural area to organic farming by 2030. For this reason, the EU Commission has made a subsidy available to stimulate local organic markets through a campaign for the duration of three years.

By working together, the four countries aim to increase the impact of campaign and growth of organic products. By taking up this challenge together, the countries expect to increase the impact of the campaign and to gain more insights and knowledge, than doing so on their own. By granting the subsidy, the countries feel supported by the European commission in choosing this joined approach.

[End. This is a slightly edited version of a press release issued by our members.]



## About promotion policies

Promotion policies are key for the organic European movement and sector and helping to achieve the EU Farm to Fork Strategy & EU Green Deal's goals.

The European Commission presented its 2022 promotion policies in January, aiming to open new markets and opportunities for organic in the agri-food sector. You can read more about eligibility criteria, procedures and funds on the [dedicated website](#).

IFOAM Organics Europe members can access to the following useful tools on our member extranet:

- Recordings of [IFOAM Organics Europe's February 2021 "Ask the experts" session on promotion policies and how to apply for the funds](#);
- [A detailed Q&A on promotion policies and how to apply for these funds](#).

Contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio) for access rights (issues). For information about what you can gain from being a member, read [our membership page](#) and contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio).

## 1.2 Research and innovation

### Research and innovation advocacy / TP Organics

#### A Soil Deal for Europe

##### What are EU Missions?

Missions are a new instrument under [Horizon Europe](#) to bring concrete solutions to some of the EU's greatest challenges. The five EU Missions aim to support Europe's transformation into a greener, healthier, more inclusive, and resilient continent. TP Organics, the European Technology Platform for organic food and farming hosted and co-founded by IFOAM Organics Europe, follows the mission '[Soil Deal for Europe](#)', which aims for at least 75% of all soils in the EU to be healthy by 2030. The proposed mission combines research and innovation, education and training, investments and the demonstration of good practices using "living labs" (networks of actors for place-based co-creation) and "lighthouses" (places to showcase good practices). A network of 100 living labs and lighthouses to co-create knowledge, test solutions and demonstrate their value in real-life conditions will lead the transition to healthy soils. The Mission was officially launched at the end of September 2021.

##### First round of applications now open!

The [first Missions Work Programme](#) (2021-2022) was published at the end of 2021. It contains 8 calls to support the implementation of the mission, from incentives and business models for soil health to "Next generation soil advisors". Deadline to submit proposals is **24 March 2022**. If you are planning to apply for a call for the Soil Mission, or if you are interested in joining a consortium, you are invited to respond to a short [Expression of Interest survey](#) **by the end of January**. The results and contacts will be shared with all participants to help you find project partners/consortia.



First living labs will be funded through annual calls under the Horizon Europe Missions Work Programme 2023-2024 (expected to be published early in 2023). TP Organics is currently preparing a position paper with organic research needs for healthy soils in Europe.

### **Mission Board call for experts**

The European Commission launched a [call for experts](#) to join the five Mission Boards, with up to 15 independent experts advising on the implementation of the [EU Missions](#), including the '[Soil Deal for Europe](#)'. The main tasks of the new Mission Boards will be to promote the EU Missions by raising citizens' awareness and to advise on the Mission's implementation plan, building on the work of the first phase Mission Boards (in charge until December 2021).

### **Why apply?**

The Mission Board members from across Europe and beyond will have diverse profiles, from business, public administration, science, culture, citizen engagement, and civil society organisations. If you want to help implement the Missions and devise, demonstrate, implement and upscale solutions on the ground, apply by 2 February 2022, 17:00 CET by submitting your application .

### **EU Missions Info Days**

The [EU Missions Info Days](#) will take place on 18 and 19 January 2022 and can be followed [online](#) (no registration needed). On Day 1, from 15:40-17:35 CET, participants can learn more about preparing and submitting a successful proposal. The Soil Mission will be presented on Day 2, from 14:00-16:00 CET.



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



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## **1.3 Knowledge for organic**

### **A knowledge platform for organic farming – Constantly further developed**

The [Organic Farm Knowledge](#) platform is constantly working to evolve, keep the tools up to date, increase the reach and make the content accessible through different channels. The knowledge platform strives to make content accessible in multiple languages and is prioritising this.

[An introduction video to the Organic Farming Knowledge Platform](#) explains platform and helps viewers better understand its offer and wide range of tools for organic farming. The video is now also available in [Italian](#) on the Organic Farm Knowledge [YouTube Channel](#) and will soon be available in other languages.



Detailing the latest tools, organic practitioners can discover the application of best practices with preventive effects, such as the use of compost, organic additives, cover crops and green manure, developed through the [Best4Soil](#) project.

New tools are available on animal husbandry and organic fertilisation in young apple orchards!

We invite you to browse the platform for new tools and recommendations. To stay up to date and to be informed about new tools on the platform you can subscribe to the [Organic Farm Knowledge newsletter](#) and follow the Organic Farm knowledge platform on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for news and events.

Learn more about Organic Farm Knowledge at [www.organic-farmknowledge.org](http://www.organic-farmknowledge.org).

Organic Farm Knowledge was originally set up by [ICROFS](#) (International Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems) in the framework of the [OK-Net Arable](#) project. It is currently being developed further by the project [OK-Net EcoFeed](#). Both projects are coordinated by [IFOAM Organics Europe](#) 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).



*Organic Farm Knowledge is a product of OK-Net Arable and OK-Net EcoFeed. These projects have received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreements No. 652654 and No. 773911 respectively. The information contained within this platform only reflects the author's view. The Research Executive Agency is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.*

## **BIOFRUITNET recommendations for stronger organic fruit growing systems**

Knowledge sharing is key for bringing together innovative ideas and identify new solutions in organic farming. The Horizon 2020 [BIOFRUITNET](#) project aims to collect, evaluate, and select locally known strategies and best practices and make them easily accessible to organic fruit growers across Europe.

### **Two years of gathering information in 18 countries**

Over the past two years, BIOFRUITNET sampled and analysed information from farmers over 18 European countries. This allowed to pinpoint the most concerning obstacles to the organic pome, stone and citrus fruit growing systems in the northern, central and southern Europe. Farmers' experience and their best practices preferences are the starting point to foster knowledge flow and support European organic fruit growers. From here, the BIOFRUITNET consortium applied a multi actor approach where project partners and external experts assessed the efficiency of the collected measures, identified knowledge gaps and proposed recommendations for further research.



### **Using European data to deepen local knowledge on organic fruit growing**

BIOFRUITNET stresses the importance of local or regional strategies. There is the need to deepen the knowledge on pests and diseases that are emerging in specific areas and identify varieties that are resilient to biotic and abiotic stress in given local conditions. This is because the needs in organic fruit growing differ across Europe with obstacles that may be unique to certain regions or have different relevance among various areas. Codling moth (*Cydia pomonella*), the most common pest in apple and pear, is only one of the many examples. Its infestation results in injured apples that are not suitable for the market, and it leads to severe economical losses. The damage is potentially much higher in the Southern regions, like Italy and France, where the pest reproduces up to three times more than in Denmark or Sweden.

### **Recommendations to strengthen fruit growing systems**

To further strengthen organic fruit growing systems, BIOFRUITNET recommends:

- Focus on breeding varieties that are less susceptible to several diseases and pests. Such varieties would be a valuable solution to reduce the use of external inputs and enhance yields stability;
- Pest and disease control is the major limitation to organic fruit growing, particularly those regarding emerging and invasive species:
  - New strategies must be developed that include innovative and sustainable solutions like the release of beneficial insects and the use of vibrations;
  - Strategies for the minimisation of copper input and the use of mineral oils are still not sufficient. Registration process of plant protection products and basic substances suitable for organic farming should be adapted to the specific characteristics of natural products;
- Functional biodiversity should be intensified as much as possible. Local and regional research should focus on understanding the interrelations of measures enhancing general biodiversity and the antagonists of key pests. The effects of climate change on these interrelations should also be elucidated;
- New concepts of orchard design are needed. In many cases, organic orchards systems have only one variety and one rootstock over large areas leading to systems susceptible to pests and diseases:
  - To answer to the climate change pressure and foster economically viable systems and high-quality fruit production, innovative management strategies for diversified organic fruit orchards are needed;
  - Focus should be given to the best combinations of species and of varieties adapted to the different regions of the EU.

For more information about the project and its activities visit [BIOFRUITNET's website](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

[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. 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.



## **New scientific publication on riboflavin supplementation in organic chicken feed**

The [RELACS project](#), which aims at finding alternatives to contentious inputs in organic farming, released a new scientific paper inquiring methods and strategies for adjusting riboflavin supplements in organic feeds.

The study finds that supplementing 4mg riboflavin per kg feed is recommended for ensuring healthy hens and chicks.

To achieve this result, researchers compared two feeding experiments. Experiment A compared different riboflavin supplementations in parent stock hens and cockerels, while experiment B compared different levels of riboflavin supplementations in their offspring. Based on their findings, comparably low levels of riboflavin supplementation to parent hens and their offspring (broilers) resulted in no clinical symptoms of vitamin B2 deficiency in either hens or chicks. A supplementation level of 4mg riboflavin per kg feed is therefore recommended as it resulted in healthy animals.

[Learn more about these findings and other scientific publications on RELACS's website.](#)

Visit the [RELACS website](#) to learn more and follow the latest project's developments on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) using [@RELACSeu](#) and [#RELACSeu](#).



the science-practice-policy dialogue.

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 the coordination of



RELACS has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 773431. 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.

## **New tools and practices for organic dairy sector from the NEFERTITI project**

Looking for inspiration for improving organic dairy farming? Check out the new videos from the [NEFERTITI project](#) that showcase tools and practices used in Brittany, France. Partners of the Horizon 2020 project NEFERTITI had a chance to visit Trévarez experimental organic farm last November. The farmers use mobile milking robots that allows them to have 100% grazing for up to 200 days a year. Another advantage is that there is no additional feed or concentrate used to attract cows for milking. Learn more about the innovation by watching the [farm demo video](#).

Another organic farmer in Brittany, Alain Normant, has been experimenting with crossbreeding and once-a-day milking at his farm. The result is a low-cost production system that ensures a higher margin per litre of milk. Importantly, it also brings a better work-life balance for the farmer as the milking is done only once a day. [More details in the video from the NEFERTITI cross-visit.](#)



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 a partner in the project.

Make sure to follow @NEFERTITI EU on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) & [YouTube](#) to stay tuned about the latest updates.

## **Pilot of EU FarmBook platform open-source knowledge platform – Join webinar on 23 February!**

The [Horizon 2020-funded EUREKA project](#) is developing a proof of concept for a new European-wide, centralised and open-source knowledge reservoir platform that makes results from all EU multi-actor projects available and easily accessible. The pilot of this new ‘EU FarmBook’ is now ready for you to test and provide your feedback!

### **Why participate?**

You are invited to take part in a 1-hour webinar on 23 February 2022, from 14:00-15:00 (CET), where you will be introduced to the project’s context and ambition. You will get an overview of the FarmBook concept, its content and functionality, and will discover the pilot FarmBook during hands-on testing. Finally, during a Q&A and feedback session with mentimeter, you will be able to share your views on the platform’s functionality and user-friendliness, testing its “look and feel” and how well it provides you with the information you are looking for. Please [register by 18 February](#).

### **Why the EUREKA project?**

The future of farming and forestry is knowledge intensive, and research, innovation and knowledge sharing are key enablers for achieving the ambitious EU policy agendas of the [Farm to Fork Strategy](#) and the [European Green Deal](#). However, greater efforts are needed to improve knowledge exchange between science and practice. A substantial gap exists between good science being undertaken in EU-funded Research and Innovation (R&I) projects and the uptake and application of this science in practice. Too many project results and innovative solutions are not reaching the people who could use them.

To share practical knowledge outputs produced by EU R&I projects more fully and effectively with farmers, foresters, advisors and other rural businesses making decisions about the practical, day-to-day management of food, farming and forestry businesses across Europe, “[EURAKNOS](#) and [EUREKA](#) have built a solid foundation for the future EU knowledge reservoir that will make an increasing volume of practice-orientated knowledge more easily accessible, interactive and accessible” (Inge Van Oost, Policy Officer at DG AGRI, European Commission).

It will grow and continue to be enriched with input from public and private partners in EU-funded research and innovation projects, ranging from large-scale EU-level multi-actor projects to more local EIP-AGRI Operational Groups.

### **About EUREKA**

[EUREKA](#) is building a European knowledge repository for best agricultural practices, while also boosting 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. EUREKA is an EU Horizon 2020-funded project that follows up the work of sister project [EURAKNOS](#) on Thematic Networks.

To stay up to date about the project, subscribe to the newsletter at the end of the [website](#) where you will also find a short introduction video and all the developed personas to understand the needs of the future end users, including organic farmer Marta.



*EUREKA has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 862790.*

## 2 IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE DEVELOPMENT

### **Exclusive for members: *Let's Discuss Organic!* continues in 2022**

In 2022, we will continue with our monthly, member-only *Let's Discuss Organic!* sessions. These online live sessions will offer our members the opportunity to engage with experts in the organic sector.

We organised the following exciting sessions:

- Thursday, 3 February from 14:00 to 15:30 CET: *Sustainability Labelling & the PlanetScore.*
- Monday, 14 March from 14:00 to 16:00 CET: *European R&I partnership on agroecology living labs and research infrastructures – what it is about and how to get involved.*
- Thursday, 7 April from 14:00-15:30 CET: *Organic Textiles.*
- Tuesday, 10 May from 14:00-15:30 CET: *Revision of the Directive on the Sustainable Use of pesticides (SUD).*
- Tuesday, 31 May, from 14:00-15:30 CET: *Climate Change and Carbon Farming.*

To join these sessions, use the registration links on our [member extranet](#).

If you are a member and unable to attend the session, do not worry. All recordings of the *Let's Discuss Organic* sessions will be available on the members extranet afterwards!

Are you interested in these sessions but not an IFOAM Organics Europe member? Contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio) for information about what you can gain from being a member.



## Help us celebrate our birthday and the Year of Organics

This year, we will be celebrating our 20th anniversary. Together with [IFOAM – Organics International](#)'s 50<sup>th</sup> and [IFOAM Asia](#)'s 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, 2022 will also mark the Year of Organics.

Throughout 2022, we are planning a joyful year and celebratory year with special events. These will be the perfect occasion to reflect on relevant developments and thank farmers, processors, retailers, certifiers, and other organic stakeholders who have been and continue creating a more sustainable, effective, and healthy food system. Without you it would have been impossible!

To help us celebrate, we are calling on you, our members, supporters & sponsors. Send us your testimonial and be visible!

Should you feel inspired, please do share your birthday wishes and our shared accomplishments as text and/or video with [communication@organicseurope.bio](mailto:communication@organicseurope.bio) (EU) and [communication@ifoam.bio](mailto:communication@ifoam.bio) (global). They might get a place in our communication about #OrganicsEurope20 and the #YearOfOrganics on our online platforms and live events. Because, without you, we would not have succeeded!

Looking ahead, we reserved the spring season, the moment where everything starts to bloom and grow, for a celebratory event in Brussels. For this event, we will invite our members, sponsors and EU policy makers who assisted and guided us during all these years. Do not worry if you cannot be there, there will be many other events at which we will get to celebrate together!

Visit [our website](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Facebook](#) to stay tuned. We look forward to celebrating with many of you digitally or in person!



## They make it happen! Nature & More, a connective system for a responsible True Cost Accounting

The hidden cost of food production has a detrimental impact on our planet. Our [Vision 2030](#) for food and farming is of a fair, environmentally conscious, healthy, and caring system widely adopted in Europe. As movement and sector we are already leading the way towards its goals, together with food and farming actors across Europe.

In the Netherlands, Eosta developed [Nature & More](#), an innovative system which enables a transparent connection between consumers and (organic) growers. The Nature & More trace & tell system products include a code, which, when entered on the website, provides complete information about the farmer's operation and efforts, including images and video.

Through the integrated sustainability model, Nature & More shows the impact of the production in 6 categories: Climate, Water, Soil, Biodiversity, Health and Social Coherence. In many cases, the system calculates the value of these impacts in terms of money, the so-called True Cost Accounting. In this way it allows consumers to compare the impacts of organic food with non-organic food and make responsible choices.

Read more about this initiative on [euorganic2030.bio](#), and share it on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#). Find out what other initiatives are transforming food and farming in Europe on social media using #EUorganic2030.



*The work of IFOAM Organics Europe on this topic is co-financed by the LIFE programme of the European Union, under the under the Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). This publication only reflects the views of the authors and its sole responsibility lies with IFOAM Organics Europe. CINEA is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.*



**HAVE AN INITIATIVE THAT TRANSFORMS FOOD AND FARMING? VISIT  
EUORGANIC2030.BIO TO SEE INSPIRING EXAMPLES AND SUBMIT YOUR OWN!**



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## Submit your initiative & inspire!

As European organic movement we are gathering existing initiatives and projects that are transforming food and farming. As frontrunner and source of innovation, we are convinced that, together, we can make organic and truly sustainable farming widely available and recognised. You can contribute by sharing your initiative!

Do you have an initiative:

- That can be an inspiration to other food and farming actors and policy-makers;
- Is not older than 5 years;
- Is helping bring organic on every table, improve organics further, and make the value chains more transparent and fair?

Submit it now on [EUorganic2030.bio](http://EUorganic2030.bio)! If your initiative meets our vision, it will be profiled on [EUorganic2030.bio](http://EUorganic2030.bio) and we will promote it on our social media using #EUorganic2030.

Have an initiative? Visit [EUorganic2030.bio](http://EUorganic2030.bio).



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## Volunteering at IFOAM Organics Europe: Personal development through international experience

Through the experience that JINT gives me at IFOAM Organics Europe and in the city of Brussels, I am getting to know the heart of Europe and the EU in a new way. I understand the whole network better and I am even happier to be part of it!

I have always believed that it is important to travel beyond borders to better understand the situation in other countries and the world, understand why certain things are done the way they are and what can be learned from them or where there is room for improvement. That is why I decided to go abroad again, to develop myself personally and to reach a new horizon.

The ESC programme and IFOAM Organics Europe offer me the best conditions to achieve this. I received a very nice welcome and was quickly integrated into the team. From the beginning on, I was involved in the tasks of the Research and Innovation Unit and slowly integrated into my new working environment. In the beginning, everything was new to me and I tried to understand everything as fast as possible to support my new team as much as I could.

I quickly settled into the new daily routine in Belgium, and I enjoy new challenges every day. Of course, sometimes they overwhelm me, but usually they motivate me even more, as I love to learn new things. I get to help my colleagues write content for websites, write proposals, organise events, prepare meetings, manage social media and much more.



In my free time, I have already had the opportunity to get to know different sides of Belgium. Together with other volunteers we always find new places and cities to explore and sometimes we go beyond the borders of Belgium. JINT organises meetings where volunteers can get to know each other and exchange experiences. There is also a language course to learn the local language.

After half of my stay, I can personally say that I have already developed in many ways, experienced the advantages of Belgium, and learning to better appreciate many things from home in Austria.

Of course, it is always difficult to leave your home, familiar surroundings and get out of your comfort zone. So far, it has always been worth it for me, and I can already look back on many great memories. Being brave, discovering new things and opening up to the unknown is very important not only personally but also professionally!

The success of IFOAM Organics Europe's ESC projects has been recognised by SALTO-YOUTH, the official Resource Centre of the European Commission working on European priority areas within the youth field. A recent publication from SALTO called "[Showing Solidarity for... Thematic Priorities in the European Solidarity Programme](#)", included IFOAM OE's project "Empowering Youth for a Sustainable and Strong Europe" and carried out between 2019-2020, as one of 9 case studies all over Europe. It has been shown as a best practice for its meaningful contribution to the European Green Deal priority for *Environmental protection, sustainable development and climate action*.



*The volunteering project is funded by the European Solidarity Corps programme of the European Union. The sole responsibility of the content lies with the author and communication reflects only the author's view. The National Agency and the European Commission are not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.*

## Saying goodbye to our colleagues



### Verena Mitschke

IFOAM Organics Europe's communications team is sad to say goodbye to Verena Mitschke, who is pursuing her passion in projects. We are thankful for the two years during which she was part of our team, and for her time as EVS-volunteer before that. Since January 2019, Verena was an invaluable team member who coordinated our project communication, notably the [RELACS project](#)'s communication, events communication, and expert group of organic communicators. Besides her work on this, she was also a valuable contributor to our arguments database, a driving force in maintaining and developing our IT tools, in front of and behind the screens. We thank Verena for her enthusiasm, optimism and hard work and wish her the best!



### **Molly Mathews**

IFOAM Organics Europe is saying goodbye to our colleague Molly, who was a dedicated teammate in Events and Membership team. Molly has joined IFOAM Organics Europe back in 2019 as a EVS-volunteer, and has rapidly grown in the organization and the unit. She was closely working with IFOAM Organics Europe's Members, Board and Council on many internal communications activities, as well as on events like European Organic Congress, Organic Food Conference, IFOAM Organics Europe Meets Business and many more. We are very grateful for all Molly's hard work and the wonderful new ideas she brought to us. We wish her great new challenges in the new career pursuit!



### **Ágnes Bruszik**

The Research & Innovation Unit is saying goodbye to Ágnes Bruszik who has left IFOAM Organics Europe at the end of January. Ágnes joined IFOAM Organics Europe at the end of 2018 to coordinate the LIVESEED project. Now that LIVESEED has come to an end, she decided to explore new career options. IFOAM Organics Europe and the entire LIVESEED consortium are very thankful for the dedication and energy Ágnes has put into the project to make it successful. She managed to coordinate the hard work of 49 partners from 18 European countries and was an invaluable support to all Work Package leaders. Undoubtedly, she has raised the bar of what means efficient project management. We all wish her success and happiness in the next steps of her career.



### **Maria Vittoria Borghetto**

Maria Vittoria joined IFOAM Organics Europe as ESC volunteer in September 2021. She worked on several topics within the policy unit. For instance, many members will have received emails from her as she was responsible for the representation of IFOAM Organics Europe in the European Commission's Civil Dialogue Groups (CDGs). Maria Vittoria also made important contributions in terms of mapping the similarities and differences between organic and regenerative agriculture.

We are happy to know that Maria Vittoria is currently fulfilling her dream of carrying out a PhD and we wish her all the best in this new career!

## **Welcoming our new colleagues**



### **Agnes Modrovich**

Agnes Modrovich is a Hungarian national who is joining our team as new Events & Membership Assistant. Angie has been living in Belgium for five years during which she completed two Master's degrees – one in Communication, and another one in Management. Prior to her role at IFOAM Organics Europe, she worked as a Visitor Management Assistant for the Parliamentarium, Membership & Communication Intern, and Membership Junior Assistant for Hydrogen Europe. In her free time, Angie enjoys adventurous activities.





### **Laura Sauques**

Laura Sauques is joining IFOAM Organics Europe's Policy Unit as new ESC volunteer! Laura is from South-West France where she did a Bachelor of Law, including a year on Erasmus, in Belfast. After, she moved to Normandy to pursue a Master's degree in International Trade and Management during which she spent a semester in Texas and an internship in Iceland. Laura has worked for a think-tank specialised in corporate law – overseeing monitoring environmental law and its implication on the businesses. She continued her journey as a Project Assistant with the International Secretariat of Water. Laura loves hiking, especially in the mountains, and discovering new places.

## **3 EVENTS**

### **3.1 Preview of events**

#### **Participate to the international Conference on Organic Fruit Growing “Ecofruit” 21-23 February 2022, online**

The International Conference on Organic Fruit Growing “Ecofruit” will take place as an online conference 21-23 February 2022.

Participants will communicate and discuss the latest results connected with organic fruit production systems and their improvement, but also have the opportunity to network, and start new co-operations.

Further details and registration on the [Ecofruit](#) website.

#### **Adjust your planners - BIOFACH postponed to 26-29 July 2022**

The most important yearly appointment of the organic movement worldwide, BIOFACH was postponed to the 26-29 July and will take place both in person and digitally.

At the fair, organic operators from across the supply chain, organic association representatives and decision makers and many more meet, exchange and learn.

Normally, BIOFACH takes place mid-February. However, due to the health-related situation, it was exceptionally postponed. [Read more in BIOFACH's official press release.](#)

### 3.2 Review of events

#### Reminder: IFOAM Organics Europe Meets Business 2021 available for members!

Did you miss [IFOAM Organics Europe Meets Business 2021](#)? Access the event recordings is available to our member on [IFOAM Organics Europe member extranet](#) where you also find all speaker presentations.

Another heart-felt 'Thank you' goes out to our members, speakers, participants, sponsors and funders for making this 4<sup>th</sup> edition of IFOAM Organics Europe Meets Business possible!

Please contact [events@organicseurope.bio](mailto:events@organicseurope.bio) for any additional information on the event. For information about what you can gain from being a member, read [our membership page](#) and contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio).



*We're hiring!*

- **Human Resources** Consultant
- **Communications** Coordinator

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**APPLY NOW!**

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

### IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE MAIN SPONSOR 2021

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.

### IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE KEY SUPPORTER 2021



### IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE MEDIA PARTNER



### ORGANIC REGULATION GUIDE GOLDEN SPONSORS



## 5 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2022

The Year of Organics

Global

#YearOfOrganics

21-23 February 2022

[International Conference on Organic Fruit Growing](#)

Online

26-29 July 2022

[BIOFACH 2022](#)

Nuremberg, Germany

#biofach #vivaness

31 August-2 September 2022

IFOAM Organics Europe Youth Event

Frick, Switzerland

#OEYE2022

23 September 2022

[EU Organic Day](#)

European Union

#OrganicEU #EUorganicDay

29-30 November 2022

[Organic Innovation Days](#)

Brussels

#OID2022

2022

[10-year anniversary of IFOAM Asia](#)

[20-year anniversary of IFOAM Organics Europe](#)

[50-year anniversary of IFOAM Organics International](#)



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