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## WELCOME NOTE



Dear readers,

I would like to thank you for the enthusiasm and the support you have given IFOAM Organics Europe in the past 20 years. It is only by your hard work every day, and your contributions in all size, shape and form that we were able to [celebrate 20 years of the organic movement in Brussels on Wednesday 11 May 2022!](#)

Before the reception, we held a high-level panel highlighting how organic is part of the solution to the climate and biodiversity crises we are currently facing.

We were honoured to have Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission, among our speakers. He vigorously argued in favour of the EU Green Deal and its targets, in particular the 25% organic land target by 2030. The Vice-President encouraged a long-term view for food security, advocating for a real change in the agricultural system to support future demands in a more sustainable way. As an end note, Mr Timmermans encouraged the organic movement and IFOAM Organics Europe to keep up the good work.

The event continued with an interesting panel about making the European market more organic, in the context of the transition to more sustainable food systems.

The protagonists of this discussion were Natalie Chaze, Director of Food sustainability and International Relations of the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE); Jan Groen, Founder & CEO of Green Organics; Pierrick De Ronne, President of Biocoop; Beate Huber, President of FIBL Europe and Aina Calafat Rogers, part-time organic farmer. The main take-aways of this discussion we need to change the way in which the food chain works. If we want to reach 25% organic land in Europe by 2030, we need to scale up. Both push and pull approaches work for this – ensuring that market and farmland growth go hand in hand. For the market, restaurants and food in public kitchens provide good opportunities, just like transparency – for example using the Planet Score on consumer goods to avoid greenwashing.

Last but not least, the concluding discussion with Wolfgang Bartscher, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) and IFOAM Organics Europe's President Jan Plagge on reaching the 25% organic target through a supply chain approach. In this, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) plays a pivotal role, and especially the national targets. Member States should be ambitious in setting goals for organic and make sure they can realise their ambitions with a budget



that matches these.

We ended the event celebrating some of our long-term partners and sponsors by giving them personalised awards, showing our appreciation for their continued commitment and support. For a full report of the event, [read our dedicated article](#).

If you could not be there, you can relive the first half of our celebratory year by going through our [Twitter moments](#), reading our event's [Twitter thread](#), perusing our photo [album on Facebook](#), watching the [video recording](#), and keeping an eye on our [anniversary page](#).

Once again, we would like to show our gratitude to those who made it possible, and we are looking forward to continuing the celebration throughout the rest of the year and achieving incredible results all together. We are glad many stakeholders and policymakers now share our [2015 vision of more organic land in Europe](#). It's a key success of our movement.

We remind you that [we are still celebrating our 20-year anniversary throughout 2022](#).

If you would like to be a part of this celebration, feel free to send in your written and/or video testimonials to tell us about your experience with us. Contact [communication@organicseurope.bio](mailto:communication@organicseurope.bio) to learn more.

I would also like to remind you that you can [apply to the EU Organic Awards](#) until 8 June. These awards the European Commission organises are an excellent way to put the organic sector in a positive light. We encourage all of our members to consider applying!

Organically yours,  
Jan Plagge



## POLITICAL HOTSPOT

As of 17 May 2022, the European Commission sent [24 observation letters](#) to Member States on their CAP Strategic Plans, to which Member States provided their feedback. We expect the Commission to send the remaining letters by 10 June 2022.

### **Key points to address on lack of organic farming support**

The European organic movement welcomes the Commission's relevant observations on the lack of ambition to support organic farming in several countries. Indeed, **the Commission identified the relatively low organic farmland targets** set in the Netherlands (3.85% by 2027), Denmark (22.6% by 2030 whereas 25% could be reachable) or Ireland (7.5% by 2027). Besides, the Commission also pointed at **insufficient budgets to properly boost organic farming** in several countries. This includes France, where withdrawal of the budget to support maintenance of organic farming could lead to deconversions as of 2023, and the Netherlands, which set no specific organic scheme. In Finland, Croatia, and Cyprus the budget for conversion is equal to the one for maintenance although farmers in conversion face more challenges and needs to change their practices.

**Some organic farmland targets were identified as satisfying by the Commission but IFOAM Organics Europe believes that these countries have the potential to do more.** This is the case for Austria, that set a 30% target by 2027 but 40% by 2030 would have been more in line with the 25% organic target average in the EU. In Portugal, despite the share of organic farmland already reaching 18% in 2021, the country set a 19% target 2027.

**Some countries also lack budget to reach their target.** In Spain, the budget allocated for organic farming for the entire CAP period 2023-2027 is €752 million which is not even enough to maintain the current organic area. To reach a potential target of 25% by 2030 (the Spanish government set a target of 20% by 2030) it would need €1,100 million per year to support the organic area.

**Concerns also remain for the organic movement in several countries where organic farmers do not benefit from a clear comparative advantage or have seen their advantage decreased.** Not all CAP Strategic Plans properly remunerate organic farmers for the benefits their practices have on the environment and biodiversity compared to other types of farming. For instance, in Austria the organic measure will be combined with a biodiversity measure (UBB) and organic farmers will have additional requirements than the EU Organic Regulation to fulfil. Basic payments per hectare will be reduced for organic grassland (€225 to €215) and organic arable land (€230 to €205) compared to the previous CAP period, whereas the basic payment to meet UBB for conventional farming will increase (from €45 to €70).

### **Organic movement warns against misused interpretation of overlapping payments**

This perceived 'double funding' allegedly occurs in several countries including Spain, France, Austria, Germany, Finland and Ireland. **It is crucial that the calculation methods used by Member States enable organic farmers to combine their organic schemes with other measures** such as eco-schemes, agri-environmental and climate measures (AECMs) and rural development measures (RDM) **and do not suffer from a reduction of payments.** In Germany, the perceived double funding issue between Eco-schemes and RDM means that farmers taking part in eco-scheme extension of grassland will face €50 deductions in RDM (eco premium payments). In Ireland, where organic farmers choose the conservation of specific farmland birds (to meet relevant objectives set under the Nature Directives) farmers must forgo their organic payment on that farmland even though it is not a requirement of the EU organic regulation.



### **Will the Member States review their copy?**

In Member States' feedback to the Commission's Observation Letters, it is worrying to read that **some are reluctant to apply the Commission's observations** and upgrade their final draft CAP Strategy Plan. The European organic movement encourages the Commission to continue the discussion with Member States to ensure that plans are reviewed. In the Civil Dialogue Group on the CAP taking place on 13 May, the Commission, represented by director of DG AGRI Wolfgang Bartscher, reiterated its wish to approve all plans by summer to ensure farmers can properly plan their activity for 2023 when the new CAP Strategic Plan Regulation will enter in force as of 1 January 2023. He also insisted that many Member States should first provide a more convincing "narrative" on how their CAP measures will contribute to the EU Green Deal.

An internal assessment of the Commission's Observation Letters is available for our members [on the extranet](#).

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, FAQs, visuals & videos). Contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio) for access rights (issues).

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# 1 NEWS

## 1.1 Policy

### Organic Regulations

#### Guidelines to help interpret EU Organic Regulation now online

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 was developed in the following 2.5 years, with the last secondary regulation published on the EU Official Journal on 29 December 2021.

*For more information on the main changes the EU Organic Regulation brings, please refer to [our website](#).*

#### The new EU Organic regulation: Much more difficult to read

To date, the following secondary legislation has been adopted and published:

- 15 delegated regulations, and
- 7 implementing regulations.

In addition, 7 regulations and 6 corrigenda have been published to correct mistakes of the secondary legislation. This means that **a total of 35 different documents need to be opened and consulted** to have a full picture of the new EU Organic Regulation and other documents will follow in the coming months.

The new EU Organic Regulation also contains many references to other EU horizontal legislations (on food, official controls, fertilisers, flavourings, etc.).

As you will understand by now, reading the new EU Organic regulation is far from easy!

But do not worry, IFOAM Organics Europe developed guidelines to help you navigate such legal labyrinth! Following a process that took a bit longer than we planned, they are finally available on [regulation.organicseurope.bio](http://regulation.organicseurope.bio).

#### How our regulation guide will help you!

As we wrote, there are many references across other (legal) texts, so we structured items to provide clarity:

- The new EU Organic Regulation and its secondary legislation are consolidated by grouping areas. For example, organic food processors find all the requirements relevant to their activities presented in a logical order and without having to open and consult many different legal acts;
- **Definitions and recitals** are available with a single click;
- **Articles of other EU legislations** mentioned in the new EU Organic Regulation are also available with a single click;
- We highlighted **main changes compared to previous EU Organic Regulations**;
- We also provided **comments and explanations** of unclear points or of points where there is room for interpretation.

As of now, 9 chapters have been developed and ready to be consulted and 4 chapters are being finalized:

1. Scope
2. Organic plant production
3. Organic poultry
4. Organic herbivores
5. Organic pigs
6. Organic aquaculture (available soon)
7. Organic beekeeping (available soon)
8. Organic food processing
9. Organic wine
10. Labelling (available soon)
11. Control and certification
12. International trade and imports
13. Group certification (available soon)

We encourage you to provide us with feedback while you are using the guide, please do so emailing us at [organicregulation@organicseurope.bio](mailto:organicregulation@organicseurope.bio). As you will see, this was (and is) a big amount of work and some things could still be fixed. We welcome your feedback!

### **What can you find in each chapter?**

The legal text is put in a logical order, including basic regulation and relevant secondary regulations.

On the left side, you find the line number. When this number is underlined, you can hover over that number with the mouse and an annotation will pop up showing the legal reference of that text. It will tell you from which regulation and article that text comes from.

In the text, you will find many links (they will be underlined). Those links will open other pop-up windows with:

- Articles of other EU legislations (e.g., wine, fertilisers, etc.), so that you will not need to look for and consult this other EU legislation. Sometimes it happens that such article in the pop up makes references to even other legislations. You will also find the articles of this third legislation in a second pop up;
- Comments explaining the legal text;
- The explanation of what changes compared to the previous EU Organic Regulation or whether that text is brand new;
- If you see a (R), by clicking on it, the recital relevant to that article will pop up as well.

The annexes of the regulation are reported as PDF-document. You can find the simple versions as well as the versions with the Track Changes compared to the previous organic regulation.

### **How to access the guidelines**

*(Are you already a sponsor? Find out how to access the guidelines in the next section)*

Every **IFOAM Organics Europe member will have one access for free!** Please coordinate internally and let us know whom in your organisation will benefit from this free access- this should be an individual email address (ie. [Jane.doe@organicseurope.bio](mailto:Jane.doe@organicseurope.bio), not [info@organicseurope.bio](mailto:info@organicseurope.bio)).



If you are [an IFOAM Organics Europe member](#) and you would like more accesses or accesses for your members, a (reduced) contribution will be asked.

**Members of IFOAM regional bodies and IFOAM– Organics International** will also benefit from a reduced contribution. The secretariat of each regional body will also get one free access. Please email the contact details of this person to [organicregulation@organicseurope.bio](mailto:organicregulation@organicseurope.bio).

For **non-member, the full price will apply** (see below). Reach out to [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio) if you have any questions about membership.

Please note that access to the guidelines will be granted to individual's professional email addresses, so for example [jane.doe@organicseurope.bio](mailto:jane.doe@organicseurope.bio), not [jane.doe@gmail.com](mailto:jane.doe@gmail.com) or [info@organicseurope.bio](mailto:info@organicseurope.bio).

Are you interested in getting more accesses for your organisation? **Consider becoming a sponsor and get free access!** Reach out to [organicregulation@organicseurope.bio](mailto:organicregulation@organicseurope.bio)

For access:

1. Go to [regulation.organicseurope.bio](http://regulation.organicseurope.bio);
2. More than 1 access in your organisation? You can streamline this process and register and pay for all users at once when you login for the first time- select 'add another account' in the registration window.
2. Register your **professional** email address and information onto the website and choose the category that applies to you (see below table, we will verify this information);
3. Follow the payment instructions that will appear. Payment can be made with PayPal (has an option for Visa and Mastercard);
4. After successful payment, you can login with your professional email address and the password you selected;
5. Bookmark [regulation.organicseurope.bio](http://regulation.organicseurope.bio) for easy access later.

### How to access the guidelines as sponsors

Depending on your sponsorship category, you can have free accesses to these guidelines- 99 for golden sponsors, 50 for silver sponsors and 30 for bronze sponsors.

For access, send us the information of those in your organisation who should have access.

Once we have added you:

1. Go to [regulation.organicseurope.bio](http://regulation.organicseurope.bio);
2. Register your **professional** email address and information onto the website and choose the category that applies to you 'Sponsors of the Developing Organic: Regulation Guidelines project';
3. After filling in all your information **using your organisation's address** (so, [jane.doe@organicseurope.bio](mailto:jane.doe@organicseurope.bio), not [janedoe@gmail.com](mailto:janedoe@gmail.com)), you will have free access;
4. Bookmark [regulation.organicseurope.bio](http://regulation.organicseurope.bio) for easy access later.



Who	Price per access
Members of IFOAM Organics Europe	1 <sup>st</sup> access free then €150
Members of members of IFOAM Organics Europe	€150
Members of	
IFOAM Organics International	
IFOAM AgriBioMediterraneo	
IFOAM Organic Asia	
IFOAM America Latina	€150
IFOAM North America	
IFOAM Euro-Asia	
IFOAM Southern African Network	
INOFO	
Non-members	€300
Operators from low and mid-income countries (according OECD)	€75

If you still have any questions after reading this or want to receive more information, please reach out to [organicregulation@organicseurope.bio](mailto:organicregulation@organicseurope.bio).

We want to thank our sponsors who made setting up this guide possible. Without you, it would not be here. If you also want to become a sponsor (and get free access to the guide), please email [organicregulation@organicseurope.bio](mailto:organicregulation@organicseurope.bio).

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## GMOs

### **Commission opens public consultation on new legislation for new genetic engineering techniques**

The EU Commission launched a 12-weeks consultation period in the context of the Impact Assessment for new legislation for ‘New Genomic Techniques’ (new genetic engineering techniques or NGTs).

The consultation takes the form of a questionnaire, available on the [“Have your say” website](#) and open for participation from citizens, companies and associations. The deadline for submitting your application is 22 July. To participate, you need to register or use an existing account.

IFOAM Organics Europe will reply to this consultation on behalf of the European organic movement. We will share a technical analysis of the questionnaire with our members by June.

### **Consultation fails to provide available policy options**

In a first assessment, the Impact Assessment and related public consultation reveal various shortcomings, however. Based on the EU guidelines for better Regulation<sup>1</sup>, an impact assessment should identify available policy options, based on which the benefits, costs, risk of unintended consequences and implications for different stakeholders can be assessed.

In this light, it is striking that the public consultation is failing to name concrete options on how the rules could look like and thereby **does not give stakeholders like the organic sector the opportunity to provide concrete feedback to different ways forward.**

This is somewhat unusual, given that policy options were presented in other (related) legislative procedures, for example the review of rules for Plant Reproductive Material. This is an unsatisfactory basis for a public consultation and keeps stakeholders in the dark on the scenarios analyzed in the impact assessment and how the economic impacts on the whole food chain (including organic production) would be assessed.

### **Creating a new legal framework for NGTs could leave GMOs undetectable**

As IFOAM Organics Europe, we already expressed our concerns that taking NGTs out of the existing legal framework applying to GMOs for agriculture and food is worrying news. This could leave organic food systems unprotected, as GMO’s traceability in the food chain is essential to avoid contaminations, which lead to economic losses for organic and GMO-free operators (who live up to high organic quality standards and consumer expectations).

Currently, the traceability and labelling system is laid out in a Regulation and two Directives (2001/18, 1829/2003 and 1830/2003).

Connected to this is an apparent lack of concrete proposals on how to ensure co-existence with existing agricultural practices. This should be a key element of any legislation regarding NGTs and the current approach of the Commission is a worrying sign, as it suggests that this issue has not been properly investigated yet – despite IFOAM Organics Europe having raised this issue repeatedly.

**Given these shortcomings, there is limited possibility to provide concrete feedback in the context of this consultation. Concrete policy options should be provided as soon as possible to respect the guidelines for Impact Assessments and allow meaningful stakeholder participation.**

For more information on GMOs and new GMOs and IFOAM Organics Europe's work on this issue, please 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). Contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio) for access rights (issues).

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## Climate Change

### **New IFOAM Position Paper on carbon farming is published**

In our [new position paper](#), we highlight the need for a holistic and multi-dimensional approach to carbon farming – focussing not only on the amount of carbon stored in soils but also on biodiversity protection and the systemic transition of farming systems towards agroecology.

After the presentation of the ‘Sustainable Carbon Cycles’ communication in December 2021, we expect the European Commission to publish a legislative proposal for the certification of carbon removals by the end of 2022.

IFOAM Organics Europe has also [contributed to the recent public consultation](#) on the certification of carbon removals. It is in this context that we released our position paper, in which the European organic movement urges for a carbon farming approach that goes beyond a carbon-focused one and explains their concerns about carbon markets. Absolute emissions should be a priority and agriculture should not compensate for greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) emissions from other sectors. Furthermore, first movers, such as organic farmers, who are already contributing to increased soil carbon sequestration should not be penalised by a carbon farming scheme. A multi-dimensional and systemic approach is essential to avoid greenwashing and to support a transition of our food system towards agroecology.

### **Organic farming should be recognized as a carbon farming practice, given its holistic approach to climate and nature.**

Changing the way in which we produce food can make a big difference in mitigating climate change, can help farmers to adapt and to become more resilient, and can also contribute to biodiversity protection. Organic farming offers a systemic approach for reducing GHG and increasing soil carbon sequestration while sustaining healthy soils and protecting biodiversity. We outline the multiple benefits of organic farming for climate and biodiversity in a [recent document](#).

For more information on carbon farming and IFOAM Organics Europe’s work on this issue, please contact [hanna.winkler@organicseurope.bio](mailto:hanna.winkler@organicseurope.bio). IFOAM Organics Europe members can find more information on climate change on [the member extranet](#) and background materials in the [arguments database on the member extranet](#) (main messages, arguments/FAQs, visuals & videos). Contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio) for access rights (issues).

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## Parliament's environment committee votes on climate regulation

This week, the European Parliament's Environment (ENVI) Committee has voted on several pieces of legislation for the Fit for 55 package – the European Commission's climate package to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030. Among these legislative initiatives was the LULUCF, or Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry, Regulation also covering CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and removals from agriculture and forestry.

In their report, the ENVI Committee adopted several important amendments:

- Members of the European Parliament supported the target to increase EU carbon sinks of 310 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq at EU level (in 2030) adding 50 Mt removals from carbon farming;
- Agricultural non-CO<sub>2</sub> emissions should stay under the Effort Sharing Regulation. No combined AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) pillar should be introduced. This is crucial to ensure that agricultural emissions are not hidden by forestry removals and the agricultural sector also contributes to ambitious emissions reductions;
- Sector-specific sub-targets for croplands, grasslands and wetlands were introduced;
- Several biodiversity considerations were introduced across the legislation.

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

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## Plant health care

### Sustainable nutrient management: our contribution to the European Commission's public consultation

In Europe, surplus nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) in the environment are already exceeding safe planetary boundaries – for N by a factor of 3.3 and for P by a factor of 2. These are vital for plant growth, so they are used as fertilisers. However, if they enter the environment in too large quantities, they cause considerable environmental damage to end up polluting our soils, water and air.

The Commission has proposed to tackle this environmental threat with an Integrated Nutrient Management Action Plan (INMAP), which should be adopted by the end of 2022. This action plan should help to achieve the EU target of reducing nutrient losses by at least 50% by 2030, as the Biodiversity and Farm to Fork strategies state.

As IFOAM Organics Europe, we contributed to the Commission's public consultation on the future INMAP to put organic farming at the heart of sustainable nutrient management. The INMAP should propose measures to ensure a more sustainable application of nutrients, tackling nutrient pollution at source, increasing the sustainability of agriculture and other sectors, and stimulating the markets for



recovered or recycled nutrients. Therefore, our contribution to the consultation particularly emphasises:

- The key aspects of organic's approach to plant nutrition allowing to reduce nutrient pollution (key role of ecological processes and recycling, prohibition of synthetic fertilisers);
- The economic resilience of organic farms which are less affected by the volatility of the synthetic fertiliser market;
- The needs to anticipate the compatibility of recycled fertilisers to be placed on the market with organic farming rules.

IFOAM Organics Europe will monitor closely the development of the INMAP by the Commission. We will aim for it to provide a clear framework for reducing nutrient releases in the agricultural sector and putting organic farming at the forefront.

Curious to read our full contribution to the public consultation? [The reply is available on the Commission's 'Have your say' website](#). For more information on fertilisers and IFOAM Organics Europe's work on this issue, please contact [mathilde.calmels@organicseurope.bio](mailto:mathilde.calmels@organicseurope.bio).

### **Additional information**

Discussions on the future INMAP are an opportunity for the organic sector to start discussions on identifying criteria for the acceptance of recycled fertilisers in organic farming. These discussions are even more crucial as the EU seeks to reduce its dependence on Russia for synthetic nitrogen fertilisers, due to the war in Ukraine. IFOAM Organics Europe will soon launch a new Task Force on Recycled Fertilisers, to develop a common position of the organic movement on additional sources of recycled inputs compatible with the principles of organic farming. This would allow the INMAP to integrate the necessary tools to support the growth of the organic sector towards the target set by the Farm to Fork Strategy – 25% of EU area under organic production by 2030.

For more information on plant health and IFOAM Organics Europe's work on this issue, please contact [mathilde.calmels@organicseurope.bio](mailto:mathilde.calmels@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). Contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio) for access rights (issues).

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## Food Policy

### Public consultation on the Sustainable Food System law: Stakeholders invited to provide feedback!

On 28 April, the European Commission [opened its public consultation](#) for the sustainable food system framework initiative. All stakeholders, including citizens, are invited to provide their input to this public consultation.

The legislative framework on sustainable food systems will lay down general principles and objectives for sustainability labelling of food products and for minimum criteria for sustainable public procurement of food. This framework also foresees a definition of what a sustainable food system entails.

The European Commission takes into account the replies given by stakeholders during the public consultation to shape the legislative proposal on sustainable food systems.

IFOAM Organics Europe already submitted its vision of the future of the EU food system when providing [feedback for the roadmap](#) on the sustainable food systems law in October 2021 (request for feedback on the roadmap precedes request for feedback for the public consultation). In it, IFOAM Organics Europe made suggestions on subjects such as sustainability labelling, sustainable public procurement, pesticide reduction, plant-based food, true cost accounting and GMOs.

The deadline for replying to this [public consultation](#) is 21 July 2022.



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### European Parliament report on the organic action plan published

On 3 May, the European Parliament's Plenary voted on its own initiative report on the Commission's [organic action plan](#) (OAP). Rapporteur MEP Schmiedtbauer (Austria, EPP) who sits in the AGRI committee of the European Parliament led this work.

The Parliament's report on the OAP recognises organic farming as one of the main components on the EU's path towards more sustainable food systems, as well as its contribution to ecosystem services by delivering many positive externalities and benefits for climate change mitigation, biodiversity and soil protection. Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) highlighted that organic farming will contribute to achieving the objectives of the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies. They also stressed that organic's environmental benefits must be supported by a Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) rewarding organic farmers for the public goods they deliver, through the protection of the environment and of natural resources, the reduction of inputs and higher animal welfare standards.



The organic food and farming movement looks forward to further collaborating with MEPs, relevant institutions and interested stakeholders to make this EU Organic Action Plan a success in the years to come.

For more information on the European Organic Action Plan and IFOAM Organics Europe's work on this issue, please contact Silvia Schmidt.



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## **IFOAM Organics Europe's roundtable on organic canteens gathers torchbearers for fruitful exchanges**

On 28 March, IFOAM Organics Europe organised a roundtable on organic canteens, bringing together relevant actors in the field to exchange best practices regarding organic products in public procurement. Associations, municipalities, certifiers, local actors participated in the discussion with twenty-two people from seventeen different organisations attending. The roundtable was divided into three panels dedicated to three major topics for organic canteens.

The first panel tackled the state of play and challenges related to advocacy and policymaking on organic canteens. The exchange centred around EU political developments on public procurement, and more practical issues, such as the different legal regimes in the EU Member States, the lack of data on certain points such as the leverage effect of organic public procurement, and the need for a better technical help for farmers to achieve a necessary transition.

The second panel covered good practices. Clara Garrone started by presenting Mouans-Sartoux's Food Project. This panel was an opportunity for a rich, in-depth exchange, highlighting local initiatives, like in Paris and Rome, but also allowing for displaying beneficial practices, like the valuable effects of training within the transformation chain, or networking between communities.

The third panel was dedicated to networks and levels of action. It started by the presentation of Ecocert's study on micro-transition pathways and exchanges on the need for integrating every part of the chain and the concrete challenges it triggered followed. The panel put a special focus on logistics, transportation, administrative needs for actors that must organise and adapt to these questions. Farmers' concerns on their capacity to organise, respond tenders and procurement calls, were covered in depth.

Following these three panels, the [Buy Better Food Campaign](#), in which IFOAM Organics Europe is strongly involved, was presented to the members by its coordinator.

For any question on public procurement, please contact [antoine.pauti@organicseurope.bio](mailto:antoine.pauti@organicseurope.bio).





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## **European Commission's promotion policies: 157 projects submitted in 2022**

The European Commission [has recently published](#) the results of its call for tenders under the 2022 edition of the promotion policies (through the voice of the European Research Executive Agency (REA)).

By 21 April 2022, the Commission received 157 projects (116 SIMPLE, 41 MULTI). Applicants from 21 countries have applied for this funding.

The Commission has not published the precise breakdown yet, and it is therefore difficult to know which share of these projects are related to organic food, agriculture and farming. IFOAM Organics Europe still wants to thank and congratulate those who participated and wish them success.

As a reminder, the Commission has pledged a total of €185.9 million to promote European agri-food products. There is a special focus on campaigns in line with the ambition of the European Green Deal, such as the EU Organic Action Plan.

The REA will evaluate proposals by August 2022. In October, the European Commission will decide on the allocation of the funds, before actions start at the beginning of 2023. Have a look at [the Commission's infographic about the life cycle of promotion programmes](#).

For more information, read the [Annual Work Programme \(AWP\) for 2022](#), discover the [European Commission's presentation](#) on promotion policies, and the [REA's website](#) dedicated to promotion policies.

Do not hesitate to contact [antoine.pauti@organicseurope.bio](mailto:antoine.pauti@organicseurope.bio) with any questions you may have.



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## **Opening public consultation on EU school fruit, vegetables, and milk scheme**

On 5 May, the European Commission [opened its public consultation](#) for the revision of the EU school scheme, that supports the supply of fruits, vegetables, milk and certain milk products to children together with educational activities. All stakeholders, including citizens, are invited to provide their



input to this public consultation. The Commission will review the EU school scheme as well as the measures fixing this EU aid, building on the lessons from its implementation in 2017.

The European Commission considers replies stakeholders give during the public consultation to shape the proposal for a regulation.

IFOAM Organics Europe will provide its input to this public consultation, developing upon the [feedback](#) that the organisation had provided in the context of the roadmap on the same topic. Importantly, IFOAM Organics Europe asks for the EU school scheme to be in line with the objectives of the Farm to Fork strategy, and to support the 25% organic land target by 2030.

The deadline for replying to this [public consultation](#) is 28 July 2022.



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## Organic operators can apply for EU Organic Awards until 8 June 2022

In 2022, the European Commission organises the first edition of the annual European Organic Awards. These awards are dedicated to rewarding European actors who greatly contribute to enhancing, developing, and stimulating the organic value chain. Aimed to reward European organic excellence, the EU Organic Awards consist of 7 categories and 8 awards.

Organic farmers play a crucial role in the growth of the sector, and this role is firmly recognised in the EU Organic Awards. Two categories are specifically dedicated to **farmers**: one for the best male organic farmer, and another for the best female farmer. The awards also celebrate the entire value chain, with categories for best **organic SME** (including processors), best organic **food retailer**, and best **organic restaurant**. In the final three categories, the role of the wider community is recognized, with awards for best organic **city**, best organic **region** and best organic **bio-district**.

The application period was [officially opened on March 25](#) 2022, marking the anniversary of the [European Organic Action Plan](#) and in line with its aim to raise awareness of organic production and increase the demand for organic products. As a true pan-European collaborative venture, the organic awards partners, namely the European Commission, IFOAM Organics Europe, the European Economic and Social Committee, the European Committee of the Regions, and COPA-COGECA, will identify the best organic projects developed within Europe and award them on a dedicated ceremony taking place on the EU Organic Day, 23 September 2022.

Until 8 June you can [apply for the organic awards](#)! Your project could be the winner, receive wider visibility and inspire many practitioners to make the switch to organic and be part of the solution to many crises we are facing, including food security, biodiversity, and climate crises.

Do you have questions? Check out our [website or](#) contact us at [EUorganicawards@organicseurope.bio](mailto:EUorganicawards@organicseurope.bio).





EU  
 Organic

A W A R D S

- Best organic farmer (female & male)
- Best organic region
- Best organic city
- Best bio-district
- Best organic SME
- Best organic food retailer
- Best organic restaurant

**Put yourself forward in one of these categories!**

APPLY NOW!

#EUOrganic Awards

## Textiles

### EU strategy for sustainable and circular textiles: Shortcomings and promises

On 30 March, the European Commission published its [strategy for sustainable and circular textiles](#). This strategy is part of the [Circular Economy Action Plan](#), the latter being one of the pillars of the European Green Deal. While IFOAM Organics Europe regrets that organic textiles are not mentioned as such, we welcome the forthcoming reopening of the [2011 EU Regulation on Textile Labelling](#).

#### Textiles, among the most polluting industries

In the strategy, the Commission identified textiles as one of the most polluting industries, accounting “for the fourth highest negative impact on the environment and on climate change and third highest for water and land use”. In addition to its consumption of fossil energies, the textile sector is based on a dangerous and highly unsustainable growth model, for climate, the environment, and consumers. The textile industry accounts for:

- 16.1% of the world’s insecticide use,
- 5.7% of the world’s pesticides use,
- 8.2 million tonnes of chemicals per year, and
- 6.7% of global greenhouse gas emissions

The Commission’s strategy seeks to address these issues by supporting stricter eco-design requirements, or actions on green claims, for example.

#### Can textiles be sustainable?

The current lack of regulation at EU level allows for terms such as eco, green, conscious, or even "organic" to be used to define textiles, regardless of any substantiation.

The term "organic" is not protected for textiles in the same way as it is for food. Consumers are particularly sensitive to these issues of false claims, greenwashing, and labelling. [Eurobarometer](#)



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[surveys](#) have shown that 86% of them want labels on clothes with indications about environmental and labour conditions.

### **Organic, part of the solution, if the term is protected**

IFOAM Organics Europe advocates for organic textiles to be recognised as part of the solution at EU level and asks for organic textiles to be mentioned and recognised in upcoming Commission initiatives on textiles. Indeed, organic textiles have important environmental benefits: they use no hazardous pesticides and fertilisers, have less global warming potential, and cause less acidification or eutrophication.

The recognition of an organic label would tackle the issue of false organic claims, by putting the protection of the “organic” term at the same level that it is for food. In short, the recognition of the term “organic textiles” is an important part of the solution to make the textile industry more sustainable and respectful of the environment and consumers.

[Have a look at our infographic](#) for a visual representation of the issue and visit our [visit our new webpage](#). Our members can also watch the dedicated session of [Let's discuss organic!](#) on our member extranet.

For more information on organic textiles and IFOAM Organics Europe’s work on this issue, please contact [antoine.pauti@organicseurope.bio](mailto:antoine.pauti@organicseurope.bio). IFOAM Organics Europe members can find more information on [the member extranet](#). 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 Knowledge for organic

### Wrapping up the RELACS project: Policy roadmaps, videos & other publications

The RELACS project, which aims at finding alternatives to contentious inputs in organic farming, came to an end on 29 April. We would like to thank all actors involved for turning great ideas into reality.

Wrapping everything up, the project released nine new scientific papers abstracts, four practice abstracts, one news story, three roadmaps and one new video.

We developed three policy roadmaps that still needs to be approved by the European Commission:

- A [European roadmap for reducing contentious inputs used in livestock production \(antibiotics, anthelmintics, vitamins\)](#);
- A [European roadmap for phasing-in new nutrient sources](#);
- A [European roadmap for reducing contentious plant protection products \(copper, mineral oil\)](#).

For practitioners, the following practices abstracts are newly available on:

- Fertilisers
  - [Phosphorus sources for organic agriculture](#)
  - [Nitrogen efficiency of organic fertilisers](#)
- Anthelmintics: [Duddingtonia flagrans: biocontrol fungus for reducing the use of anthelmintics](#)
- Copper: [Copper reduction strategies in tomato production](#)

The following scientific publications are now available:

- From the lab to the farm: using a multi-actor approach to foster sustainable parasite control ([Athanasiadou et al., 2021](#)),
- Evaluating the impact of essential oils on bovine mammary alveolar tissue cells in vitro ([Chylinski et al., 2021](#)),
- Current use of contentious inputs in European organic animal production ([Athanasiadou et al., 2021](#)),
- Selecting botanicals for mastitis control: efficacy and safety characterization of essential oils ([Tavares et al., 2021](#)),
- Current use of contentious inputs in European organic animal production ([Athanasiadou et al., 2021](#)),
- Duddingtonia flagrans: a promising biocontrol agent for gastrointestinal nematodes ([Maurer et al., 2021](#)),
- Revision of vitamin E recommendations for ruminants in organic agriculture ([Steinshamn et al., 2021](#)),
- Animal health and welfare planning for European organic dairy herds – development and expansion ([Walkenhorst et al., 2021](#)),
- In vitro testing of plant extracts and essential oils as antimicrobials in organic farming ([Walkenhorst et al., 2021](#)).

Moreover, the last news story is available now. [On-farm trials on alternatives to anthelmintics during the RELACS project](#), explain the trials done by farmers interested in testing alternative parasite control strategies.

Last but not least, do not miss the [latest video](#) on the vibrational signal in orchards as a control tool.

Visit the [RELACS website](#) to learn more and revisit the project's developments on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) using @RELACSeu and #RELACSeu. The project will keep posting on social media until autumn 2022.



*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 was responsible for the communication and dissemination of project results as well as the coordination of the science-practice-policy dialogue. RELACS was an EU Horizon 2020-funded project.*



*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.*



## 2 IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE DEVELOPMENT

### **Celebrating 20 years of the European organic movement in Brussels**

On Wednesday 11 May 2022, more than 100 people representing the European organic supply chain, consisting of farmers, processors, retailers, certifiers, including researchers and more, gathered in Brussels to celebrate the 20 years anniversary of IFOAM Organics Europe.

The event started with Eduardo Cuoco, our Director, welcoming the guests and recollecting the growth of organic in Europe in the past years. “The organic movement’s presence in Brussels has grown alongside the number of organic producers and processors in Europe over the last twenty years, and organic farming is now recognised as the leading European project to make our food system more sustainable. The 25% organic target of the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies is a recognition of the benefits of organic agriculture for the environment, farmers, and consumers. Much remains to be done to make agriculture more resilient and in line with planetary boundaries, but the organic movement can be proud of what has been achieved so far for the recognition of its contribution to many European policy objectives. Consumers also trust organic, the fact that the market grew to €44.8 billion proves this. Our director concluded by inviting the evening’s moderator, Rose O’Donovan, Chief Editor of Agra Facts to the stage.

#### **High level debate with Frans Timmermans: We need to change our ways**

Frans Timmermans, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission joined Rose O’Donovan on stage for a high-level exchange about the European Green Deal. During the panel, the Executive Vice-President addressed his vision saying that: “We need to change our ways to avoid catastrophies, recharge our economy with new energy, so to create better and sustainable jobs as well as creating an international environment based on good and positive relationships on peace rather than on conflict”. Timmermans urged for a long-term view on food security, adding that “There will be no food shortages in Europe”. There is a global food crisis which is not based on food scarcity but rather because “we cannot get enough food from where it’s produced to where it’s needed”.

As Frans Timmermans underlined, the Commission’s commitment of the EU Green Deal to organic comes from their belief in its benefits for the climate, environment, soil, biodiversity, animal welfare and socio-economic benefits. The Executive Vice-President concluded by encouraging the European organic movement to “Keep doing the good work they have been done in the past years”, contributing to solving climate and biodiversity crises.

#### **Panel debate: More organic on the EU market**

The second panel covered the topic of ‘More organic on the EU market’ with the motto ‘Empowering citizens and supply chain actors in the transition to sustainable food systems’. Nathalie Chaze, Director of food sustainability and international relations at the EU Commission’s Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE), affirmed that “We have a lot to learn from the organic movement” when it comes to collaboration. Jan Groen, founder and CEO of Green Organics, reflected on organic farming’s role, affirming that it requires “long-term planning” and as it is dependent on the activities of neighbouring farmers, there are “many variables and regulations that should be considered”.

Pierrick De Ronne, Biocoop’s President, highlighted the importance of a correct labelling system, saying “We started using the Planet Score as we found that consumers wanted to see if farmers used pesticides in the production”. On the same note, De Ronne further emphasized the crucial aspect of transparency for organic retailers in Europe and the need to act and tax harmful practices. For what



concerns the 25% organic land target in Europe for 2030, Beate Huber, FiBL Europe's President, said that "we need to scale up" and both "push and pull the market and farmland growth". For this, restaurants and food in public kitchens provide good opportunities.

Concluding, Aina Calafat Rogers, part-time organic farmer and IFOAM Organics Europe's Deputy Council member, addressed the issue of greenwashing and the need for a legislation, saying that "We don't call things by their name. Everything can be called sustainable while it's not".

#### **Concluding session: The CAP's role reaching 25% organic land**

Wolfgang Burtscher, Director-General of the EU Commission's Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) and Jan Plagge, IFOAM Organics Europe's President Took part to a concluding session about reaching the 25% organic target through a supply chain approach.

Burtscher reminded everyone that Member States' CAP National Strategic Plans were assessed, and the Commission had sent observation letters. On the same note he added "We looked closely at matches between the target for organic land and the budget attributed to these". Our Director reflected on the Commission's 25% organic land target and its importance, adding that "Such target keeps the minds of Member States focused, especially because in many Member States there is no coherence between the CAP National Strategic Plan target and budget."

#### **Ending the evening with thank you's where they are due**

Closing the formal part of the event, our Director called several IFOAM Organics Europe sponsors and members to the stage to receive an award for their long-term support and cooperation with the European organic movement.

These awards also aimed to symbolically thank the whole European organic supply chain for their constant work for advancing organic knowledge and making Europe more organic.

Did you miss the event? Do not worry, you can experience the event by watching the video recordings on our [youtube channel](#), take a look at our [Twitter-thread covering](#) all the panel sessions, read our [press-release](#), and check out our [website's 20-year anniversary page](#) for news, updates and pictures.

We would like to remind you that [we are still celebrating our 20-year anniversary throughout 2022](#). If you would like to be a part of this celebration, feel free to send in your written and/or video testimonials. Contact [communication@organicseurope.bio](mailto:communication@organicseurope.bio)



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## They make it happen! Improving the sustainability of agriculture in the Puglia region

Organic contributes to promoting and delivering healthy and sustainable food. This is part of our [Vision 2030](#) set out and shared by the European organic movement. As movement and sector, we are already leading the way towards its goals, together with food and farming actors across Europe.

Pastificio Attilio Mastromauro Granoro, or Granoro, produces a wide range of products such as pasta and tomato-based products. For this, it uses raw materials grown in accordance with Italian methods of organic agriculture. Granoro produces a pasta with 100% PUGLIA wheat. This initiative is inspired by a desire to enhance the sustainability of agriculture in Apulia and to strengthen the direct links between local farmers and consumers. Its motto is the attentiveness to environmental issues, local and traditional production, and valuing typical products.

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.



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## Share your organic initiative transforming food and farming & get visibility!

Across Europe, a range of organic and other initiatives are already changing food and farming, paving the way for the organic movement's shared Vision 2030. If we work together, we can make organic and sustainable farming more widely available and acknowledged.

Share your initiative with us at [euorganic2030.bio](#), it will serve as an inspiration to other food and farming actors as well as policymakers. If it meets the goals of our vision, we will promote your project on social media, highlighting strategic actions to show that fair, ecologically responsible, healthy, and compassionate food and farming systems are possible!

Need inspiration? Have an initiative? Visit [euorganic2030.bio](#).



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## The Year of Organics toolkit – Celebrate with us

[This year, the European organic movement will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

The year of organics comes at the perfect time to raise awareness and recognize organic food and farming as part of the solution to climate and biodiversity crises. Now more than ever we need to underline the positive effects of organic and celebrate it worldwide, together!

To help you amplify our messages and celebrate our birthdays, IFOAM – Organics International published [the Year of Organics toolkit](#). In the toolkit, you will find visuals and messages you can freely use to help us spread the word about the Year of Organics and the benefits of organic!

### How does it work?

Simply visit the [Year of Organics toolkit](#), click on the card of your choice, find the content relevant to you in its attachments, and save the free videos and visuals directly onto your device. From soil, climate crisis, to biodiversity and inputs, you will find key messages, posters, and useful logos to share on social media, in your presentations, as part of your communication campaigns, on your website, or on any other channel!

**Help us spread the word by using the official Year of Organics toolkit. Make sure to post on social media using [#YearOfOrganics](#) and tag [@OrganicsEurope](#) and [@IFOAMOrganic](#)!**

To stay up to date with further information regarding the Year of Organics, keep an eye on our [website](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#).

## Saying goodbye to our colleagues

### Maria Ladinig



IFOAM Organics Europe is saying goodbye to Maria Ladinig who has left the organisation at the end of April. Maria joined the Research & Innovation Unit in September 2021 as volunteer in the ESC programme. Maria supported the secretariat of TP Organics, where she took care of membership management and assisted in the organisation of the Organic Innovation Days. In addition, Maria helped improving [Organic Farm Knowledge](#) and prepared a funding application for the platform. Maria left the organisation earlier than planned because of a job opportunity in her home country. All colleagues, and the entire organisation, are very thankful for all the work she did for IFOAM Organics Europe and TP Organics. We all wish her success and happiness

in the next steps of her career.

## Welcoming our new colleagues



### **Lisa Sinnhuber**

Lisa Sinnhuber is from Bavaria, Germany and joined IFOAM Organics Europe as Research and Innovation Coordinator at the start of May. She completed her bachelor's degree in Nutrition Science and her master's degree in Social Ecology focusing on Sustainable Agriculture and Nutrition in Vienna. Lisa worked for Sarah Wiener Stiftung in Berlin, spent two seasons on the fields of an organic vegetable farm in Massachusetts, and did a traineeship at the EU Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE). She likes hiking and small bike tours.



### **Anna Tuzzato**

Anna Tuzzato is the new addition to the Communication Team! Before becoming the new Communications Coordinator, Anna gained communications experience at Oceana, an NGO for ocean conservation, and the European Investment Bank. Her studies were in Communications (BA Univesita' degli Studi di Padova) and in Corporate Communications (MA Alma Mater Studiorum-Universita' di Bologna). Anna loves singing, gardening and watercolour painting.



### **Lucia Canonero**

After completing her master's degree in Conference Interpreting at the University of Bologna, Lucia Canonero moved from her hometown, Genoa, Italy, to Brussels to start working at IFOAM Organics Europe. As Personal and Administrative Assistant, she is going to support our Director, Eduardo, in his daily work and the 'Finance, Legal, Operations and Employee Engagement' Unit in its many tasks. She loves learning foreign languages, cooking vegetarian meals, and browsing vintage clothing stores. We look forward working alongside

Lucia and warmly welcome her in the team!

### 3 EVENTS

#### Preview of events

##### **FoodSHIFT 2030 - Webinar Farm to Fork strategy**

**30 May, online**

Right at the start of the EU Green Week, FoodSHIFT 2030's next webinar will discuss why we need the EU Farm to Fork strategy. During these difficult times with the war in Ukraine, energy prices are soaring, as is the cost of living. There have been panicked calls for more intensive farming and a scaling back of green ambitions which are threatening our food system, and a fairer, greener and healthier Europe.

During this webinar, our Policy Associate Manager, Silvia Schmidt, will highlight the importance of the EU Farm to Fork Strategy to achieve the EU Green Deal's ambitions and our goal for resilient food systems – now and in the future. Other speakers include Vicki Hird, Head of Sustainable Farming at Sustain, and Christian Bugge Henriksen, the coordinator of FoodSHIFT 2030.

[Register now](#) and join the webinar on 30 May at 11:00 CEST.

Visit the [FoodSHIFT 2030 website](#) to learn more about the project and follow the latest developments on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#) using @foodshift2030.

[FoodShift2030](#) will launch an ambitious, citizen-driven transition of Europe's food system to a low carbon, circular future. This Horizon 2020 project is promoting food systems innovations in nine cities across Europe. More information about the nine FoodSHIFT Labs is available [on the FoodSHIFT2030 website](#). Follow the project on social media using @FoodSHIFT2030 on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

IFOAM Organics Europe contributes to the conceptual framework for further development of governance strategies and food policy strategies. We will also disseminate project outputs within the organic network and at our main events



*FoodSHIFT 2030 has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement number 862716. This communication only reflects the author's view. The Research Executive Agency is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.*



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## European Organic Congress 2022: Gastronomy and organic policies 16-17 June 2022, Bordeaux, France

On 16 and 17 June, the organic movement meets again at Bordeaux for the annual European Organic Congress. IFOAM Organics Europe, together with INTERBIO Nouvelle-Aquitaine, have organized an exciting and topical agenda which will include plenary sessions, a workshop, and many networking opportunities. Explore [the full programme on our website](#).

However, this year's programme is not only about policy! We have added something extra. Keep reading to discover some of the special gastronomic and organic activities.

Participants can discover the typical gastronomy of France's southwest. There will be a wine tasting with typical organic wines from the region Nouvelle-Aquitaine. Together with the Bordeaux Wine Council (@CIVB or @BordeauxWinesUK), you will discover the history of the southwest vineyards and their evolution to more organic production.

The Congress will also host a unique tasting session of France's only organic oysters. Discover the Island of Ré's shellfish farming during lunch on 16 June. [Frédéric Voisin](#) will introduce his incredible oyster production.

Moreover, the networking dinner will take place at [Darwin ecosystem](#). These former military barracks are eco-rehabilitated and are among the most visited in the city. Located on Bordeaux's right bank, in the Bastide district, Darwin is a dynamic place where people work, come for lunch (organic of course!), have drinks, stroll, read, discover street art, and choose to consume differently.

To top it off, you can choose to discover Bordeaux emblematic places committed to organic products, like a wine estate! Following the congress, we can go on an excursion to discover some



innovative projects committed to a more organic future. Reserve your spot now [via the registration portal](#).

Keen to enjoy all the gastronomic activities, network with organic actors and get up to speed on the EU policies touching on organic? [Join us at the European Organic congress 2022!](#)



### **Under 40 and into organic? Register now for Organics Europe Youth Event 31 August-1 September, Frick, Switzerland**

Our new event, Organics Europe's Youth Event will welcome organic's new generation in Frick Switzerland on 31 August and 1 September 2022. Are you younger than 40? Secure your spot now at [Organics Europe Youth Event's registration page](#).

This year, we are organising our new event together with [the Research Institute for Organic Agriculture \(FiBL\)](#) and [BioSuisse](#). We want to create a platform for young actors interested and/or involved in organic. The youth event will offer sessions to learn about new and innovative ideas in the organic sector, network, and be inspired by the role youth can play in creating a more sustainable food system.

At this premiere of Organics Europe's Youth Event, we will explore: "Organic and You(th) – Together for sustainable food systems".

[Read the full programme on our website](#) and have a look at a short preview:

- **Panel discussion** on how we can build sustainable food systems. Actors from various parts of organic will discuss transformation steps and the role of organic and youth;
- **Keynote** by transition networks co-founder Rob Hopkins, in which he will talk about the power of imagination, and how the radically low carbon future we have to create will only be created if we harness imagination, storytelling, street art and poetry to create longing for that future. Expect a participatory, interactive exploration of the power of 'What If', and inspirational stories of change from around the world;
- **Inspirational hour:** European entrepreneurs, farmers, and activists pitch their innovative company, project, or organisation in organic production;
- **Discussion** to talk about sustainability challenges for the organic food system and create new ideas on how to overcome these;



- **Overnight excursions** (1-2 September) on topics such as “Chances and challenges of agroforestry systems” and “Taste the waste: Reducing food waste and creating circular food systems.”

Inspired? [Book your spot for Organics Europe’s Youth Event!](#)

It’s the first time that we are organising this event, so please:

- Share it widely among your networks
- Reach out to us if you have ideas about further promoting it
- Share it on social using #OEYE2022 and #OrganicYouth, feel free to tag @OrganicsEurope, @FiBLorg & #BioSuisse

Have a look at [our video in which young organic farmers, advocates, and producers tell us why they are involved in the organic movement.](#)

## Review of events

### Farm Demo Conference 11 May 2022

On 11 May 2022, the Farm Demo conference showed how knowledge-sharing promotes sustainable agriculture. Three Horizon 2020 projects – [NEFERTITI](#), [IPMWORKS](#) and [IPMDecisions](#) – jointly organized the event.

NEFERTITI’s and IPMWORKS’ approaches are based on networks of pioneer farmers using sustainable agricultural practices. These practices are then disseminated between farmers through demonstration events and knowledge sharing, coordinated by advisors. IPMWORKS focuses on the holistic implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) while NEFERTITI covers a wider range of sustainability issues. IPM Decisions provides access to Decision Support Systems to NEFERTITI and IPMWORKS.

In the final panel, IFOAM Organics Europe’s Research and Innovation Manager, Bram Moeskops took part discussing the “Future of demo farms networks for sustainable agriculture” with Jean Baptiste Dollé (IDELE, FR) and Stefan Top (AVR / CEMA, BE).

Jean Baptiste Dollé is the coordinator of the Horizon Europe project Climate Farm Demo that will start in October 2022. The project will build on the experience of NERFERTITI and IPMWORKS on demo farm networks. Jean Baptiste stressed the importance of dissemination of sustainable practices to reach farmers outside demo farm networks.

Stefan Top emphasized that new technology supports sustainable agriculture as it reduces the need for agricultural inputs like pesticides and fertilizers.



Countering this, Bram Moeskops stated that we first have to redesign our farming system to make it more sustainable. To fulfill the Farm to Fork Strategy's goal of 25% organic agricultural land in the EU by 2030, 1 million farmers and producers would have to enter the organic system according to calculations of IFOAM Organics Europe.

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.

[IPMWORKS](#) promotes the adoption of IPM strategies, based on a EU-wide network of farmers, who will both progress further in the adoption of IPM – through peer-to-peer learning and joint efforts – and demonstrate to other farmers holistic IPM approaches. IFOAM Organics Europe is a partner in the project.

You can follow @H2020IPMWorks on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) & [YouTube](#) to stay tuned.



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

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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.

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### ORGANIC REGULATION GUIDE GOLDEN SPONSORS



## 5 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2022

The Year of Organics

Global

#YearOfOrganics

8 June 2022

[EU Organic Awards](#)

Deadline for the submission for applications

16-17 June 2022

[European Organic Congress](#)

Bordeaux, France

#EOC2022

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

11-12 October 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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