

MAKING ORGANIC PRODUCTS IN SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT HAPPEN

Organic products in public procurement can play a key role in making the target of 25% of organic land by 2030 a reality. This leaflet lays out how European, national, regional and local authorities can incorporate more organic into their public procurement.

Want to know why more organic and sustainable public procurement is a win-win? Check out our infographic.



Build capacity of NGO's and organic sector

NGO's and organisations within the organic sector have great potential to mobilize actors along the value chain.

How? By providing financial support through funds dedicated to capacity building of NGOs and other organisations. These measures can achieve a bottom-up approach – encouraging collaboration and supporting the creation of expertise to start a transformation with broad stakeholder involvement on the ground.



Set a national/regional target for organic in sustainable public procurement

Targets have aspirational effects and encourage action.

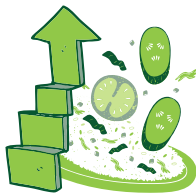
How? By including mandatory targets for organic in public procurement, authorities decrease uncertainty for procurers, which is currently one of the main reasons for pursuing a 'business as usual' model of procurement. Having a clear statement that sustainable procurement targets are a priority of public authorities encourages change at all levels. So, setting targets at European, national, regional and local levels helps stimulate and encourage change.



Introduce an organic certification scheme (for hotels, restaurants & cafés)

Implementing a national scheme to certify organic production.

How? Create a certification scheme for organic products and make it easy for Member States to introduce it at national level. Recognising high-performance kitchens is a point of pride and highly motivating for workers and leaders interested in branding.



Transform the procurement system step by step

Start with kitchens in childcare centres and schools, and tackle other public institutions, sector by sector.

How? By training staff in public canteens. Teaching staff and giving easy access to technical and practical support, helps with purchases and implementation on the ground. Studies show higher work satisfaction and fewer sick days in staff who have successfully included organic products in public procurement.



Establish mentoring systems

Facilitate interaction and exchange of best practices between experienced sustainable procurers and other interested authorities, within and between Member States.

How? By creating a platform for continuous support from other authorities and kitchens who have gone through the process and enable peer-to-peer learning. This ensures a long-term effect and follow up and gives the opportunity for targeted problem solving, while increasing motivation and spill over^{1,2}.

Sources:

1 Simcoe, Timothy & Toffel, Michael. (2014). Government green procurement spillovers: evidence from municipal building Policies in California. *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*. 68. 10.1016/j.jeem.2014.09.001.

2 Daugbjerg, C., (2020). Policy capacity and organic conversion of kitchens in the Danish public sector: Designing and implementing innovative policy, Department of Food and Resource Economics (IFRO), No. 2020/01 https://static-curis.ku.dk/portal/files/235354286/IFRO_Commissioned_Work_2020_01.pdf