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## WELCOME NOTE

Dear readers,

Summer has arrived all over Europe and harvesting season is upon us. Summer mood is not slowing down our office, which is keeping up the good work. The organic movement is also not taking a break from its activities, just like crops continue growing, a lot is going on this season.

This month's 2022 edition of the [European Organic Congress](#) (EOC) was a great success. Co-organised with [INTERBIO Nouvelle-Aquitaine](#), it provided the perfect platform for policymakers, expert speakers and (organic) stakeholders from all over Europe to discuss the latest trends and our vision for a post-pandemic Europe. Read on in our newsletter for [a full report about the 2022 European Organic Congress](#).

As many of you know, [BIOFACH 2022](#) is coming up for its special summer edition 26-29 July in Nürnberg, Germany. The fair is a great occasion for organic operators of the entire supply chain, organic associations, and decision-makers to meet, exchange and learn. This year, participants will be able to join both in-person and digitally. Have a look at [the events we are organising at BIOFACH and join us!](#) We will contribute with several sessions on policy, regulation, and research. Our President, Jan Plagge, will engage in a conversation with the European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Janusz Wojciechowski at [Policy Day: A new Policy and Regulatory Framework for Organics, opportunities and challenges](#) on 26 July. Our Vice President, Marian Blom, will take part in the session [The future of certification in organic: A new organic regulation, a target for 25% organic land: What impact on organic certification system?](#) on 28 July. And, of course, feel free to come and say 'hi' at Hall 3A, booth 517 (yes, our booth has moved).

Later in the summer of 2022, we are launching the first-ever [Organic Europe Youth Event](#) (OEYE 2022), which will take place in Frick, Switzerland from 31 August-1 September. This event is open to youth interested in organic and, will provide them with a platform to discuss the potential and challenges of the organic sustainable food system. Participants in the youth event will grow their professional network, marking the starting point of a permanent network for European organic youth. Make sure to share this event with your network and have a look at [the videos we have created](#) together with co-organisers BioSuisse and the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL).

In September, the European Commission will approve national Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) 2023-27 Strategic Plans. National governments are now reviewing their draft and sending it back to the Commission. [On 7 June 2022, we published a press release](#) sharing our observations and raising our demands to Member States and the Commission on the review and approval of the CAP Strategic Plans. [On 7 June 2022, we published a press release](#) sharing our organic farmers' observations and raising our demands to Member States and the Commission on the review and approval of the CAP Strategic Plans. We called on:

Member States to increase their support for organic farming; and

The Commission to continue their dialogue with Member States to make sure they modify their plans to increase their interventions and budgets for organic and so, the overall environmental ambition before approving them.

Also in September there will be the first full-blown edition of the [EU Organic Day](#), on September 23.



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That day also marks the first-ever [EU Organics Awards](#). Are you organising your own activity to highlight EU Organic Day in your own country? Let us know and email information about your initiative to [communication@organicseurope.bio](mailto:communication@organicseurope.bio). Are you in need of inspiration for activities on that day? Have a look at [our member-only webinar](#) where our members share what they will do!

Last but not least, 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 hope to see you at one of our upcoming events soon! And remembers, don't panic, the future is organic!

All the best,  
Eduardo

## POLITICAL HOTSPOT

On 22 June, the European Commission published two important legislative proposals related to the implementation of the Farm to Fork strategy: the [Regulation on the Sustainable Use of plant protection products](#) (SUR) and the [Nature Restoration Law](#) (NRL), which constitute the so-called "EU Nature Protection Package".

Through these two legislative proposals, the European Commission sets ambitious key targets to achieve the transition towards a sustainable food system. In the SUR proposal, the European Commission proposes to make the Farm to Fork Strategy's target of a 50% reduction in the use and risks of chemical pesticides by 2030 legally binding at EU level. The [NRL proposal sets binding restoration targets](#) for specific habitats and species (including pollinators and agricultural ecosystems) which should cover at least 20% of the EU's land and sea areas by 2030, and ultimately all ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050.

### **Two proposals that survived the disinformation on food security**

IFOAM Organics Europe welcomed the fact that the European Commission presented these two proposals on 22 June and resisted pressure from Member States for further delay. Member States and private sector lobbies have been reluctant to adopt EU legally binding targets for pesticide reduction since the publication of the Farm to Fork Strategy in May 2020. But in the last months, they have strengthened their call for a postponement of the Commission's Nature Protection Package, using the pretext of the war in Ukraine to falsely argue that it would endanger food security in Europe in an already difficult period.

The Nature Protection Package was initially supposed to be presented on 23 March but the Commission postponed its release to the 22 June. The publication of this package puts an end to the attempts of the past months to water down the Farm to Fork Strategy's ambitions and now allows to start the democratic co-decision process within the European Parliament and the Council of the EU.

### **Towards a strengthened EU policy framework for pesticide reduction...**



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According to the Commission's proposal, Member States will have to define national pesticide reduction targets (between 35% and 60%, depending on their starting point) to contribute to the EU-wide target of 50% reduction of chemical pesticide use and risks by 2030. Member States should establish National Action Plans explaining how they intend to achieve their national targets.

A positive point for the organic sector is that the Commission asks Member States to link their National Action Plan for pesticide reduction, with the parts of the CAP Strategic Plans setting out plans to increase organic farming and contribute to the Farm to Fork Strategy's target for 25% of organic farmland by 2030. This clearly acknowledges the role of organic farming in pesticide reduction and the needs for Member States to provide sufficient support to organic farming.

**... severely hindered by biased result indicators**

**However, the most needed ambition of the Regulation on the Sustainable Use of plant protection products in pesticide reduction will be pointless if the indicator to measure pesticide reduction is not fixed.** IFOAM Organics Europe is disappointed that the EU Commission did not fix the indicator to measure progress towards EU and national pesticide reduction targets.

This indicator, based on the methodology of the Harmonised Risk Indicator 1 (HRI-1) adopted in 2019 by Member States, presents two major failings:

1. It indicates a supposed reduction which is mainly due to a decrease in sales of substances that are no longer approved, and not to an actual reduction in pesticide use (according to the [European Court of Auditors](#)); and
2. It [wrongly establishes causality between the amount of pesticide used and the resulting risk](#), which unfairly discriminates alternatives to synthetic pesticides based on natural substances. Therefore, with the biased methodology of the HRI-1, any switch from conventional to organic farming would be shown as an increase of the risks from pesticide use, which is absurd as it is wrong.

[Relying on a misleading indicator to measure pesticides reduction is ineffective and unfair to organic farmers who strive to find alternatives to toxic synthetic pesticides](#), as IFOAM Organics Europe and environmental NGOs denounced in a press release two weeks ago. This biased indicator based on the widely criticised HRI-1 will absolutely need to be fixed by the European Parliament during the co-decision process, otherwise the SUR will not support the reduction target of 50% synthetic pesticides by 2030 mentioned in the F2F strategy.

**“Take time to develop other indicators,” they say. Really?**

Some argue that it is necessary to wait for the EU to collect data on pesticide use (available as of 2028 according to [the new EU Regulation on statistics on agricultural inputs and outputs \(SAIO\)](#)) to propose a better indicator. In the meantime, the HRI-1 methodology would be the best way to calculate an indicator based on sales data.

This is not true. Reliable indicators based on pesticide sales data already exist and are implemented by some Member States. This is the case of the [French indicator NODU](#) (Number of Unit Doses) implemented by the French authorities to measure progress towards pesticide reduction. The NODU gives information on the intensity of the use of pesticides, with an indicator in hectares reflecting the total area that would be treated with the active substances sold annually. The advantage of this

indicator is that it does not discriminate against natural substances because it considers the doses (in kg/ha) of active substances.

During the co-decision process, IFOAM Organics Europe will continue to [propose reliable and implementable alternative indicators](#) to measure pesticide reduction. The progress towards the Farm to Fork pesticide reduction target cannot be monitored on the basis of the HRI-1, otherwise the SUR will fail to achieve a real pesticide reduction, as the previous Directive (SUD) did.

## 1 NEWS

### 1.1 Policy

#### Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

#### Update on CAP 2023-2027 Strategic Plans, Common Market Organisation & long-term vision for rural areas

Where are we at with the CAP 2023-2027 Strategic Plans and reform process? What do we do on the Common Market Organisation? What do we suggest for a long-term vision for rural areas? Let's discover it in this article.

#### State of play of the CAP Strategic Plans

The European Commission [sent all its Observation Letters](#) to national governments on their CAP Strategic Plans. The governments are now reviewing their draft and sending it back to the Commission. The plans are supposed to be approved by the end of the summer / September 2022.

[on 7 June 2022, IFOAM Organics Europe published a press release](#) sharing our observations and raising our demands to Member States and the Commission on the review and approval of the CAP Strategic Plans. We called on:

- ② Member States to integrate the Commission's observations to increase their support to organic farming; and
- ② The Commission to continue their dialogue with Member States to make sure they modify their plans to increase their interventions and budgets for organic and so, the overall environmental ambition before approving them.

Our members find [a document gathering the Commission's observations](#) on organic farming, Farm to Fork's targets, animal welfare and climate **for all CAP Strategic Plans** on our member extranet.

#### New initiative on the CAP 2023-2027 performance framework

We are also working on [the Commission's public consultation](#) on a draft Implementing Regulation on the CAP 2023-2027 performance framework and data for monitoring and evaluation. The aim is to define the:

- ② Evaluation activities to assess the CAP,
- ② Data that EU countries must provide,
- ② Content in the evaluation plan.

This initiative is an opportunity for IFOAM Organics Europe and the organic movement **to request data on organic farming and on the benefits of the CAP Strategic Plan's interventions on the climate,**

**environment, pesticide use and risk reduction, biodiversity and animal welfare** to assess whether Member States increased their overall climate and environmental ambition as requested in the Implementing CAP Strategic Plans' Article 105. We will share the feedback to this public consultation at the end of June. **The deadline of the public consultation is 30 June.**

#### **The Common Market Organisation's Article 210 on Sustainability Agreements: ongoing activities**

IFOAM Organics Europe provided feedback to [the Commission's public consultation](#) on the sustainability agreements to welcome the initiative Article 210 has created. This article offers an opportunity to elaborate agreements across the whole value chain to ensure achieving environmental and animal welfare goals, while providing a minimum compensation remuneration to farmers. **We believe it can be a game changer because it will incentivize farmers who already implement farming practices with high standards** in terms of environment, animal welfare and biodiversity to continue doing so. Our members can [read our feedback on our member extranet](#).

In this regard, our German member Bioland was showcased as case study for the sustainability agreement they are working on to define fair prices for producers in the dairy sector, during the European Network for Rural Development's Thematic Group on Sustainability Agreements on 1 June. IFOAM Organics Europe and its French member INTERBIO Nouvelle-Aquitaine also participated.

Parliament's report on the long-term vision for rural areas

On 29 April 2022, [the European Parliament drafted its own initiative report on 'the long-term Vision for the EU's Rural Areas](#) 'Towards stronger, connected, resilient and prosperous rural areas by 2040' (2021/2254(INI)) to comment on [the European Commission's vision](#) published on 30 June 2021 (COM(2021)0345).

The Rapporteur is S&D Member of the European Parliament Carvalhais for the European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture (COMAGRI). The Committee on Regional Development (REGI) is associated committee and the Rapporteur for the opinion is EEP Member of the European Parliament Alvaro.

**IFOAM Organics Europe prepared suggestions of amendments to mention the Farm to Fork Strategy and organic farming** as opportunities to have resilient rural areas and sustainable farming systems. **We also suggested that the support to bio-districts is relevant** as they represent a new rural development model based on a participatory approach, the preservation of agricultural landscape and biodiversity, the cultural heritage and gastronomy, related to organic agriculture and food production.

The deadline for amendments was 25 May. The next steps will consist of discussions and a vote in the COMAGRI, before a vote in Plenary foreseen in September 2022.

For more information on the CAP, the CMO, Rural Development 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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## Organic Regulations

### IFOAM Organics Europe launches a guidance on the use of Flavourings in Organic Food

One of the new EU Organic Regulation (EU) 2018/848's novelties is the restriction of the use of **natural** flavourings in organic products and the possibility to produce and certify **organic** flavourings.

According to the previous Organic Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, all kinds of natural flavourings were allowed in organic processing. According to the new requirements applying from 1 January 2022, only certain natural flavouring can be used in organic food.

Taking the example of a lemon flavouring, only the first category listed below can be used for organic processing:

- **Natural lemon flavouring (YES)**, at least 95% is obtained by lemon;
- **Natural lemon flavouring with other natural flavourings (NO)**, it tastes like lemon but less than 95% is obtained by lemon;
- Natural flavouring (NO), lemon is not there.

As the production of flavourings and their composition are quite complex topics, organic producers and control bodies still have many questions.

This is why IFOAM Organics Europe has just launched a guidance to the use of flavourings in organic food, that is now available to the public.

For more information on the new 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' questions.

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To help organic producers and traders, competent authorities and control bodies navigate the legal labyrinth of 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.

If you have any questions about these guidelines and/or access to them, please contact [organicregulation@organicseurope.bio](mailto:organicregulation@organicseurope.bio).

## GMOs

### Public consultation on new genomic techniques still ongoing + Member briefing

The 12-weeks consultation period of the European Commission in the context of the Impact Assessment for new legislation for 'New Genomic Techniques' (new genetic engineering techniques or NGTs) is still ongoing. Operators, associations, and citizens have the possibility to express their views until 22 July.

The consultation takes the form of a questionnaire, available on the ["Have your say" website](#). To participate, you need to register or use an existing account.

IFOAM Organics Europe will reply to this consultation, representing the European organic movement. While [the Impact Assessment and related public consultation reveal various shortcomings](#), IFOAM Organics Europe will reply to this consultation on behalf of the European organic movement.

These are the core points that IFOAM Organics Europe will bring forward:

- A comprehensive legislation should include those provisions that are already in the current legal framework, including risk assessment, traceability, and labelling provisions;
- Appropriate traceability and labelling provisions that are implementable and enforceable must entail an obligation for all actors in the food chain to ensure traceability. What this means in practice, is that it must be clear for all actors in the production or consumption chain if a product from NGTs was used in the process;
- As stated by the EU Commission: *"application of NGTs in the agri-food system must not undermine other aspects of sustainable food production, e.g. as regards organic agriculture, or biodiversity"*. Everything will depend on the existence of a gapless traceability system, addressing the issue of potential income loss for (organic) producers due to contaminations and labelling requirements;
- Both operators and consumers have different requirements regarding transparency and the means on how information is transmitted. Operators need a gapless traceability system that provides transparency at every stage of the production chain. Consumers need an easy-to-access label on the final product to inform their choice;
- Finally, a proposed reduction of the concept of sustainability to plant traits would be misleading and does not have the capacity to substantially support the systems change in agriculture that is needed and which organic farming is a part of. A production system can only be sustainable by combining different inputs and agricultural practices that preserve the natural capital (soils, water, biodiversity etc.), not a single plant trait in itself.

We would like to encourage stakeholders in the sector and movement to take this opportunity to express your views as well until 22 July!

Our members can join an ad hoc information session on the topic on 1 July, from 11:00-12:00. [Read more about our member extranet](#).



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

### European Parliament votes on climate 'Fit for 55' package

The European Parliament has adopted their position on the revision of the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) Regulation. This Regulation is part of the 'Fit for 55' package, a set of legislative proposals to reach the EU's climate objectives.

In their position, Members of the European Parliament supported the Commission's proposal of an EU 2030 target of at least 310 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> eq net removals. The Parliament did, however, not endorse the proposal of the Commission to combine all land use emissions under one policy instrument called AFOLU pillar (Agriculture, Forestry and other Land Uses).

This is an important decision to make sure that agricultural emissions are not hidden by forestry removals. However, another step in this direction, a proposal for a sub-target for cropland and grassland, has not been adopted. In the adopted position a reference is made to organic farming as a potential solution to turn cropland and grassland from currently net emitters of greenhouse gases to become a source of net removals.

We will follow the developing position of the Council closely, which is the next step in the negotiations.

For more information on climate change 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 [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

### Agreement on agricultural statistics (SAIO)

On Thursday 2 June, the Council of the EU and the European Parliament reached an agreement on the new EU Regulation on statistics on agricultural inputs and outputs (SAIO). This new Regulation will



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improve the collection of data on agricultural production, crop products, agricultural inputs and prices at EU level.

Discussions on this technical file were highly political, as reliable data are key to monitor the implementation of EU policies and especially the progress towards the Farm to Fork Strategy's targets on pesticides, fertilisers and antimicrobials (respectively -50%, -20% and -50% by 2030).

Key outcomes of this new Regulation are:

Data about pesticides use will be collected and published annually (until now, only data on pesticides sales were collected). The first set of data will be collected in 2026 and disseminated in 2028. The data on pesticide use should include active substances placed on the market and used in agricultural activities by crop and area;

The number of statistics collected from organic farmers will be increased (the detailed dataset will be established via implementing acts). In particular, the data on pesticide use will distinguish between organic and non-organic farming;

The data on chemical inputs in agriculture will include not only pesticides and fertilisers but also veterinary products.

The [final compromise text of the SAIO Regulation](#) should be adopted by formal votes in the European Parliament and the Council of the EU in the coming months.

Please contact [eric.gall@organicseurope.bio](mailto:eric.gall@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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## **Contribute to the Commission's consultation on the future EU integrated nutrient management action plan (INMAP)**

The Commission is preparing an Integrated Nutrient Management Action Plan (INMAP) as announced in the EU Biodiversity and Farm to Fork strategies and the Zero Pollution Action Plan. This will help achieve the 2030 zero pollution targets with a focus on minimising pollution at source.

The Commission has opened a public consultation on the future INMAP for 3 months and EU stakeholders and citizens are invited to reply to an [online questionnaire](#) about the possible elements of the future INMAP.

The INMAP should be built up on two axes: how to reduce nutrient pollution and how to better recycle nutrients. Measures targeting farming practices (manure management and fertilisation practices) will be at the heart of this action plan. This is an opportunity for the organic movement to promote the holistic approach to plant nutrition in organic farming as part of the solution to reduce nutrient pollution and close nutrient cycles.

In addition, the war in Ukraine pushes the EU to reduce its dependency on chemical nitrogen fertilisers, by developing the EU market of recycled fertilisers. There, the organic sector should ensure that recycled fertilisers to be placed on the market will be compatible with organic farming rules.

Therefore, IFOAM Organics Europe encourages its members to contribute to the Commission's public consultation on the future EU INMAP, until 26 August. IFOAM Organics Europe will also reply to the online questionnaire.

For more information on plant health and IFOAM Organics Europe's work on this issue, please contact [eric.gall@organicseurope.bio](mailto:eric.gall@organicseurope.bio).



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## Biodiversity, soil and water

### Nature restoration law is published

On 22 June the European Commission published the proposal of a [Nature Restoration Law](#) together with the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulation. After a three months delay [due to industry lobbying](#), the organic movement welcomes the presentation of these two important pieces of legislation.

The [proposal for a Nature Restoration Law](#) includes nature restoration targets and the obligation of Member States to prepare national restoration plans laying out the necessary restoration measures to meet the targets and obligations. The plans will then be submitted to the European Commission and will be assessed.

Key targets for agricultural ecosystems include:

- Reverse the decline of pollinator populations by 2030 and achieve thereafter a continuously increasing trend of pollinator populations until satisfactory levels are achieved;
- Implement restoration measures to enhance biodiversity in agricultural ecosystems;
- Increasing the trend and reach satisfactory level of the following indicators:
  - Grassland butterfly index;
  - Stock of organic carbon in cropland mineral soils;
  - Share of agricultural land with high-diversity landscape features;
- Implement restoration measures reach set targets of the common farmland bird index;
- Implement restoration measures for organic soils in agricultural use constituting drained peatlands on at least:

- (a) 30 % of such areas by 2030, of which at least a quarter shall be rewetted;
- (b) 50 % of such areas by 2040, of which at least half shall be rewetted;
- (c) 70 % of such areas by 2050, of which at least half shall be rewetted.

Organic farming is already contributing to increased biodiversity and enhanced soil organic carbon stocks on farms and can therefore be a key solution to reach the nature restoration targets in agricultural ecosystems.

For more information on nature restoration & biodiversity 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 biodiversity [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

### Delving into public consultations: The sustainable food system framework initiative and the EU school scheme

July will be a hot month! In part because of deadlines to public consultations geared at transforming the European food system.

#### The sustainable food systems framework initiative

We have regularly reported in this newsletter on the European Commission's incoming [framework initiative on sustainable food systems \(SFS\)](#). As part of the Farm to Fork strategy, what looks like a future legislation will try to act holistically on the whole food system in all 27 EU member states. The SFS is a key text in maintaining and meeting the aspirations of the [Farm to Fork \(F2F\) Strategy](#), the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the European Green Deal.

The SFS framework initiative will likely cover key areas of EU agri-food legislation. IFOAM Organics Europe believes that such a framework should ensure a coherent and good governance, fair wages for farmers, address food environments as a whole and act on key policy domains such as [sustainable public procurement](#), GMOs and new breeding techniques (NBTs), pesticides use and sustainability labelling. On all these topics and others, IFOAM Organics Europe had the [opportunity to react in October 2021](#) to the inception impact assessment, as the first step of this initiative's co-construction.

The second stage, through this public consultation, is now underway - The deadline for [responding to this public consultation](#) is the 21<sup>st</sup> of July 2022.

#### EU school scheme: An opportunity for organic

The second important issue is the [revision of the EU school scheme](#), a legal instrument that supports the supply of fruits, vegetables, milk and certain dairy products to school children across the EU, alongside educational activities.



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As for the SFS framework initiative, IFOAM Organics Europe had already provided its input to this policy-making process, with [feedback provided in the context of the roadmap](#). In the latter, IFOAM Organics Europe asked 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.

IFOAM Organics Europe reminded the European Commission that ambitious public procurement schemes already exist in Europe, and that the review of this scheme should increase its ambitions in terms of organic products distributed in schools. IFOAM Organics Europe will respond to the public consultation with its members, also through exchanges with our partners from the project [SchoolFood4Change \(SF4C\)](#). The deadline for [responding this public consultation](#) is 28 July 2022.

For more information on the sustainable food system framework, the EU school scheme and IFOAM Organics Europe's work on this issue, please contact [antoine.pauti@organicseurope.bio](mailto:antoine.pauti@organicseurope.bio).

### **Sustainability labelling & the PEF – Closed event in the European Parliament**

Green Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) [Benoît Biteau](#), [Claude Gruffat](#) and [Michèle Rivasi](#) held an invitation-only event in the European Parliament about the shortcomings of the Product Environmental Footprint (PEF) and its implications for the future sustainability label. The aim of this meeting was to organise an exchange between the Commission, MEPs and stakeholder representatives on the PEF's methodology.

NGO representatives intervened on behalf of consumers, environmental organisations and animal welfare organisations – namely the European Consumer Organisation ([BEUC](#)), the European Environmental Bureau ([EEB](#)) and [Eurogroup for Animals](#) – as well as representatives from Franprix, Danone and the cooperative Terrena. Commission representatives from the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI), Environment (DG ENV), Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE), and Maritime affairs and fisheries (DG MARE) were also present.

#### **Planet Score, only label measuring 'external costs'**

The Institute of Organic Food and Farming in France ([ITAB](#)) presented the [PlanetScore methodology](#), the only existing and well developed label that supports a transition to more sustainable food systems rather than further intensification, [according to think tank IDDRI](#).

The ITAB, NGOs as well as company representatives present at the meeting raised their concerns regarding the PEF, a methodology based on life-cycle analysis that in its current form does not adequately account for externalities such as the impact of pesticides, the impact on biodiversity, or animal welfare. For instance, such a methodology makes it quite difficult to differentiate between different methods of production in terms of environmental impact, leading to results where organic and local vegetables score the same as imported and conventional vegetables – an A.

IFOAM Organics Europe is concerned that the PEF in its current form will be used as the methodology underpinning the upcoming EU-wide sustainability labelling, as this would likely lead to better scores being placed on products that were produced intensively, rather than extensively. For instance, eggs from caged hens score better than free range or organic eggs.

IFOAM Organics Europe members can enjoy reading [our member-only briefing on the sustainability labelling, the PEF and the PlanetScore](#).

For more information on sustainability labelling and IFOAM Organics Europe's work on this issue, please contact [silvia.schmidt@organicseurope.bio](mailto:silvia.schmidt@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).

## Textiles

### The importance of an organic label for textiles

#### What is the issue with textiles?

The organic textile market is rapidly growing and the textile industry may be victim of greenwashing to satisfy European consumer demand for the sustainability of their purchases. At the same time, conventional textiles have an important impact on the environment and climate, with constant and significant exposure of the environment and workers to pesticides and chemicals, coupled with considerable greenhouse gas emissions.

#### How are organic textiles part of the solution?

On all these points, organic textiles answer the tremendous challenge of the sector's necessary transition to a more sustainable system. Organic fibre growers do not use hazardous chemicals or synthetic pesticides. IFOAM Organics Europe argues that an organic label could cover both fibre production and textile processing. It would reduce greenwashing and secure an organic outlet. You can find all the information on organic textiles in this [infographic](#) developed by IFOAM Organics Europe and on our [dedicated website page](#).

IFOAM Organics Europe is working in a concrete way to get an organic label for textiles recognised. First, we are in the process of revising our [position paper](#) on the issue. Moreover, since the end of 2021, we set up a network of NGOs and actors active on this issue and ready to support our work.

#### How does the European organic movement contribute?

Our work is also reflected in our strong involvement in policymaking. After reacting to the European Commission's [strategy on sustainable and circular textiles](#), published in March, by welcoming the reopening of the 2011 regulation as a first step towards the recognition of organic textiles in Europe, we continue to be involved.

In mid-June, we submitted our response to the [questionnaire on the transition pathway](#) in the textile sector (covering topics as broad as sustainability, digitalisation and resilience of the sector) to the European Commission. We have also recently reacted to the [proposed regulation amending the ecodesign requirements](#), notably on textiles, highlighting the need for reflection on the organic label.

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

## 1.2 Research and innovation

### Research and innovation advocacy / TP Organics

#### Update on EU Research & Innovation Partnerships on Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems

TP Organics, follows the development and implementation of two new European Research & Innovation Partnerships that will be launched in 2023/24:

- The partnership candidate on agroecology living labs and research infrastructures (in short: Agroecology Partnership); and
- The one on sustainable food systems for people, planet and climate (in short: Sustainable Food Systems Partnership).

Both partnerships will be co-funded by Member States and/or regions. More details on all partnerships are available on the [Commission's website](#).

#### Partnership development

SCAR Strategic and Collaborative Working Groups serve as convening platforms for the Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems Partnerships (i.e., [SCAR-AE](#) and [SCAR FS SWG](#)). TP Organics brings in the interests of the organic sector as observer in SCAR-AE and member of Task Forces 1, 2 and 6 as well as through participation in the co-drafting of the partnership templates and the elaboration of the partnerships' Strategic Research & Innovation Agendas (SRIAs), which provide concrete roadmaps to achieve the partnership's long-term vision and objectives.

#### Agroecology Partnership preparation

Two preparatory Coordination and Support Action (CSA) projects advise the development of the AE Partnership: [ALL-Ready](#) (European Agroecology Living Lab and Research Infrastructure Network, coordinated by INRAE France) and [AE4EU](#) (Agroecology for Europe, coordinated by ISARA-Lyon). ALL-Ready aims to prepare a framework for a future European network of living labs and research infrastructures that will enable the transition towards agroecology throughout Europe while AE4EU seeks to build a European agroecological network to speed up the transition towards sustainable agriculture and food systems.

The 6 key objectives include increasing the connections between relevant actors, developing skills and methods for setting up research infrastructures and living labs, analysing and preparing funders, improving human and social capital as well as capacity to tailor policy interventions, and supporting the development of the partnership by developing a road map and framework.

TP Organics is ALL-Ready External Advisory Board member and regularly provides input to both projects. There will be a new application period for the ALL-Ready pilot network launched in December 2021, currently composed of 15 pilot members in the 13 partner countries, in June 2022 – find more information soon on the [ALL-Ready website](#) and get involved! Membership will last from October 2022 to November 2023 (until the end of the project), on a volunteer basis, and entails providing expert

input, your LL/RI experience, insight into your activities, active participation at network meetings (once per year), participation in workshops, events, surveys, Agroecology “Network of Networks” in which TP Organics is part to strengthen existing capabilities to support agroecological transformations of agriculture and wider food systems in Europe.

The SRIA consultation process will kick off in July 2022 and will include a survey to consult relevant stakeholders at European and national level (2-stage process in both cases) as well as an open consultation for the public through a dedicated web platform – stay tuned and take part!

### **Sustainable Food Systems Partnership**

The Sustainable Food Systems (SFS) Partnership aims to accelerate the transition toward healthy diets that are safe and sustainably produced in resilient EU and global food systems. It will coordinate, align, and leverage European and national R&I efforts. Based on collective and inclusive actions, the partnership will provide the knowledge base for realising European SFS Policies. It will work on the following thematic areas: Change the way we eat; change the way we process and supply food; change the way we connect with food systems; and change the way we govern food systems. programmes organised across the Work Packages, and testing, validation and reflection on project outputs.

To develop context-based and site-specific solutions to the central question: “Which mechanisms will strengthen the agroecological research and innovation ecosystems in Europe?”, AE4EU has set up and facilitates 3 living labs in 3 countries (Italy, the UK and the Netherlands). Learn more about the workshops already held [on the ae4eu website](#). Moreover, the project has set up a European

Transversal (cross-cutting) activities will include (work in progress):

- Pooling R&I resources and programming (calls for R&I projects) will also target industry/SMEs and collaboration with organisations in non-EU countries/Africa;
- A **Food Systems Observatory** will be launched as a European platform and network to follow and describe EU food systems’ status, challenges and sustainability, to assist decision-makers and stakeholders, and to develop methods for assessing food system sustainability;
- A **Food Systems Knowledge Hub** will be established as a network of transformative R&I labs to identify, build on and make available relevant knowledge and experience;
- **Knowledge sharing and scaling** will include the adaptation of knowledge systems, innovation platforms and science-policy interfaces for ensuring impact.

TP Organics is part of the **Food Systems Knowledge Hub** which will identify, build on and make available relevant knowledge and experience generated from previous national and EU R&I programmes and projects on food systems and Food System Living Labs, following a bottom-up, participatory approach to food system innovations.

Moreover, TP Organics is a member of the core group that drafted the partnership proposal (template or action plan) and has been invited as a member of the Advisory Board of the new Horizon Europe CSA project **FOODPathS**, a Preparatory action for the partnership coordinated by INRAE France. Stay tuned – we will keep you informed about the consultation for the SRIA!



TP Organics is the European Technology Platform for Organic Food and Farming. IFOAM Organics Europe is a founding member and hosts its secretariat. Visit [www.tporganics.eu](http://www.tporganics.eu) for more information and follow its [Twitter](#) @TPorganics.



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## Knowledge for organic

### Shifting school meals and schools for increased resilience

Schools are the place where many young people learn about healthy diets and a sustainable food culture if this can be promoted and experienced. The EU-funded “SchoolFood4Change” (SF4C) project builds on this potential, seeing schools and school meals as catalysts for systemic change on a broad societal level. The project will provide innovative solutions and tailored, locally adaptable good practices for schools, school meal providers, responsible public authorities, and policymakers, in line with the EU’s Farm to Fork Strategy and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The focus lies on education and empowerment of children and adolescents, given their vulnerability to diet-related conditions and disadvantaged environments on the one hand, while, on the other hand, acknowledging their transformative power and ability to drive change.

To achieve the ambitious goal of enabling community-wide food system change, SF4C follows a holistic multi-level approach, based on the cumulated expertise of established European organisations and networks, sustainable food procurement and nutrition specialists, scientists, chefs, and dietitians. This involves the development of innovative and sustainable food procurement, the promotion of Planetary Health Diets and cooking, and the introduction of the so-called “Whole School Food Approach”, a defined framework for municipalities and schools targeting the achievement of child-friendly food culture and involving all related actors linked to the school environment.

More precisely, the project will translate theoretical findings into specific criteria for sustainable (public) food procurement and into a collection of concrete school menus – proving that locally adapted school meals can be healthy, sustainable and, at the same time, cost-effective. Following a “train the trainers” approach, cooks and urban food enablers will be educated on planetary health cooking to put theory into practice. By establishing a dialogue and direct exchange between schools, its pupils, and local farmers, SF4C aims to make the topic of sustainable and healthy food more tangible, particularly for young generations. Pupils will experience and understand the impact of sustainability and health-oriented changes along the whole food system chain.

The effectiveness of the above-described measures will be demonstrated through conducting an integrated assessment of socioeconomic, environmental, and health impact(s) of the developed menus and changed processes throughout the entire duration of the project. Many learnings and results will be made available to the public, while local and regional governments, as well as cities and schools, will be involved in the course of the project to support its replicability (also beyond schools) and the amplification of sustainable and healthy food culture.

The SF4C project started in January 2022. It includes 43 partners (including affiliates), who contribute to the ambitious target of reaching at least two million EU citizens, by directly impacting over 3,000 schools and 600,000 young people in 12 EU countries.

With a focus on children, who are the adults of the future, and strong trust in youth action competence, SchoolFood4Change strives for a long-lasting impact on the whole food system that will benefit both the people and the planet.

Interested parties can contact [amalia.choa@iclei.org](mailto:amalia.choa@iclei.org), (Project Coordinator at, ICEI – Local Governments for Sustainability,) for further information or in case of questions. Additional information on the project and a detailed overview of all project partners is available on [the EU Community Research and Development Information Service \(CORDIS\)](#).

### **Alternatives to contentious input in organic - Heritage of RELACS project**

The RELACS project developed and researched alternatives to contentious inputs in organic crop production – copper and mineral oils, nutrient inputs – and livestock production – anthelmintics, antibiotics and vitamins. Starting from a list of alternatives at various maturity levels, we can proudly say that many have reached the final stage for on-farm implementation.

Together with the other project partners, we produced a great number of documents:

- 3 [roadmaps](#) for European policymakers
- 26 [scientific publications](#) for scientists
- 20 [practical guidelines](#) for farmers and practitioners
- 8 [deliverables and reports](#)
- 7 [news stories](#), and 1 coming soon
- And several [videos summarising RELACS' results](#)

Even if the project ended in April 2022, the research heritage of RELACS will certainly guide many future developments in organic crop production. A big thank you to all who made it possible.

Visit the [RELACS website](#) to learn more and read up on the project's deliverables. You can also follow it on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) using @RELACSeu and #RELACSeu (active until autumn 2022).

RELACS promoted 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 sought 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 DEVELOPMENTS

### Relive our 20-years anniversary reception

Last month, [more than 100 people representing the European organic supply chain and movement](#), consisting of farmers, processors, retailers, certifiers, including researchers and more, gathered in Brussels to celebrate the 20 years anniversary of IFOAM Organics Europe.

Commission Vice-President Frans Timmermans attended the event and addressed the need to “change our ways” and urged for a long-term vision on food security. Moderated by Chief Editor of Agra Facts, Rose O’Donovan, the event continued with a panel debate focusing on organic in the European market and concluded with a session on the CAP’s role on reaching 25% of organic land, which saw the participation of 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.

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

### Do you have an initiative that is transforming food & farming? Share it with us, get visibility & inspire others!

To make the EU Green Deal a reality, we will need to transform food and farming. The organic movement has always been a frontrunner and source of innovation. Across Europe, organic and other initiatives are already transforming food and farming, on the path to our shared Vision 2030 and a more sustainable food and farming system.

Together we can make organic and truly sustainable farming widely available and recognised. If you have an initiative that can be an inspiration to other food and farming actors as well as to policymakers, let us and the world know and submit it to [EUorganic2030.bio](#).



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If your initiative is deemed to meet the goals of our vision, we will promote it on our social media – showcasing strategic actions to show that fair, environmentally conscious, healthy, and caring food and farming systems are possible!



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## **They make it happen! Green public procurement in Copenhagen’s public kitchens**

Organic contributes to promoting and delivering healthy and sustainable diets. 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.

Denmark is at the forefront of organic conversions in public canteens, achieving a national government goal of 60% organic. This organic agenda, pursued since 2001, sees an intense collaboration among organic farmers, food companies and wholesalers in Organic Denmark.

The Municipality of Copenhagen has the explicit goal of [reaching 90% organic throughout the procurement of all the 900 kitchens](#) that produce meals across the city. In recent years, the municipality has put much effort into ensuring that the organic transition in the kitchens will be supported by quality, organic procurement and tenders that encourage the market to develop the organic and sustainable parts of their product ranges.

As a direct result, recent years have seen a professionalisation of the organic supply lines into the canteens, schools, hospitals and nursing homes, where it is now possible to get a wide range of organic products in catering sizes, freshly butchered organic meat in a wide variety of cuts, and a wide diversity in the offering of seasonal fruits and vegetables.

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.

As IFOAM Organics Europe, we are actively advocating for sustainable public procurement. Are you curious? Read more about it on our [Food policy page](#) and check out its benefits in [our infographic](#).



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## **3 EVENTS**

### **3.1 Preview of events**

## ClieNFarms public policy workshop on climate-neutrality and food security 8 July, online

On 8 July 2022, IFOAM Organics Europe is organising the first online public policy workshop of ClieNFarms on climate-neutral farming while ensuring food security.

The war in Ukraine has put food security at the centre of the political debate. While availability and affordability of food are a top priority for all, increasing production at the expense of the environment is not the solution. We need to make our food production systems less reliant from external inputs (like fossil fuel, fertilisers, imported feed, etc.) and more resilient. In this workshop, we will shed light on this debate and discuss solutions for climate-neutral farming while ensuring food security.

There will be inspiring talks from Alexander Müller ([TMG Think Tank for Sustainability](#)) and Nathalie Bolduc ([the think tank IDDRI](#)). After this, a policy debate will take place with representatives of the EU Commission, [COPA-COGECA](#), [the European Environmental Bureau \(EEB\)](#) and [IFOAM Organics Europe](#).

[Read agenda of the event and register.](#)

The Horizon 2020 project ClieNFarms aims to make farms climate neutral. The project will set up 20 cases studies where systemic solutions will be tested and evaluated using up-to date modelling approaches and multicriteria assessment tools. IFOAM Organics Europe ensures that the results of the projects feed into EU policies.

You can follow ClieNFarms on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).



*ClieNFarms has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101036822. 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.*

## Join us at BIOFACH 2022 26-29 July 2022, Nürnberg, Germany

The most important yearly appointment of the organic movement, BIOFACH, takes place on 26-29 July 2022 in Nürnberg, Germany. This year, participants will be able to join both in person and digitally. Have you had a look at [our BIOFACH 2022 programme](#) yet? We contribute with a wide range of sessions on policy, regulation, and research.

On 26 July, we host EU policy day, themed “A new policy and regulatory framework for organics, opportunities and challenges.” The high-level speakers during this session include EU Commissioner for Agriculture, Janusz Wojciechowski, and Member of the European Parliament, Norbert Lins. They will discuss the CAP national Strategic Plans’ alignment with the Farm to Fork strategy and its potential for the development of organic. Of course, there will also be a special focus on the new EU Organic Regulation – how it fits the EU’s new political ambitions, as well as its implementation in the EU and beyond in view of renegotiation trade and organic equivalency agreements.



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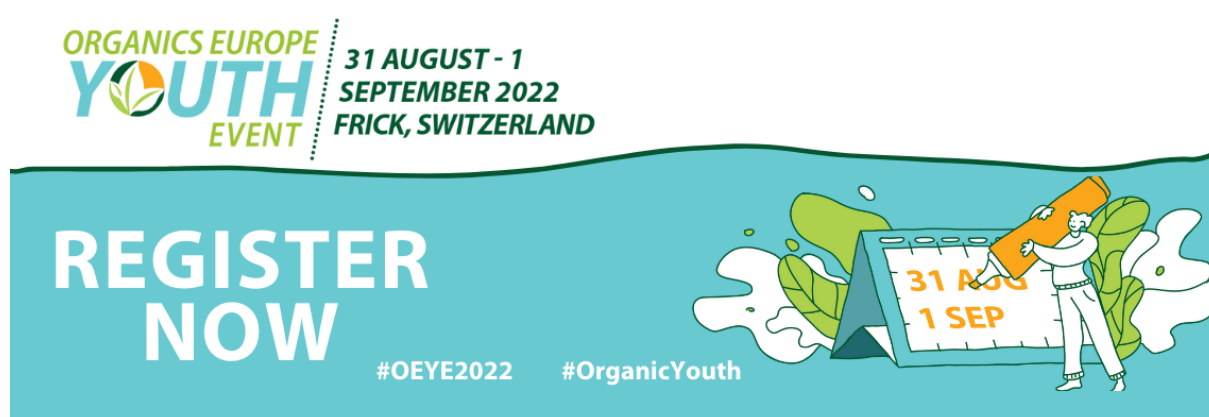
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On 28 July, we organize a session addressing carbon farming, as well as an in-depth insight into the future of organic certification. These sessions will discuss organic in the context of topical subjects such as climate change, new technologies and the pandemic.

On 29 July, [TP Organics](#) hosts [science day](#), during which experts in the field discuss tech-enabled innovations in the agri-food sector. Drawing on the latest market developments, this session will show how digital technologies can strengthen local and small-scale food businesses.

For the full programme and speaker line-up, visit [BIOFACH's website](#). We hope to see you there! And, of course, feel free to come say hi at Hall 3A, booth 517 (yes, our booth has moved).

### Are you under 40 and interested in organic? Join the first European Organic Youth Event 31/8-1/9, Frick, Switzerland



The banner features the event logo on the left, which includes the text 'ORGANICS EUROPE YOUTH EVENT' and '31 AUGUST - 1 SEPTEMBER 2022 FRICK, SWITZERLAND'. The central text reads 'REGISTER NOW' in large white letters, with the hashtags '#OEYE2022' and '#OrganicYouth' below it. On the right, there is an illustration of a person in a white uniform holding a large orange pencil, standing next to a calendar that shows '31 AUG' and '1 SEP'.

Are you under 40 and active in the organic supply chain? Or have an interest in organic? Get ready as the first edition of [Organics Europe's Youth Event](#) is coming up soon!

Together with our partners, FiBL Switzerland and Bio Suisse, we created an exciting programme. FiBL will host the youth event in its recently opened new office in Frick, Switzerland, from 31 August to 1 September 2022.

#### What's in it for you?

You can expand your professional network, gain innovative ideas from field experts, be part of the next generation's organic youth network and explore the practical side of Swiss ecological production as part of the excursion on 2 September.

We are thrilled to announce the confirmed list of speakers is now published on [our webpage](#). A preview! For the inspirational hour, we will welcome:

- **Krassimir Benjamin** – CEO and Chief Chocolatier, Bio Benjamin
- **Alice Fauconnet & Freddy Hunziker** – Co-founders, New Roots
- **Arthur Petrie** – International Director, LemonAid & ChariTea
- **Jan Trávníček** – Founder, Czech Organics

**Interested and/or inspired?**



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Check out the [Organics Europe Youth Event page](#). Are you convinced? [Book your spot for Organics Europe's Youth Event now!](#) Until 30 June you still enjoy an 'early bird' discount.

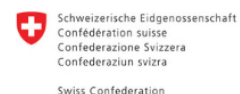
It's the first time that we are organising this event, so we can use your help! Please consider:

- Sharing the event among your networks (on [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#));
- Reach out to us at [events@organicseurope.bio](mailto:events@organicseurope.bio) if you have ideas about further promoting it and/or networks to share it with;
- Share it on social using #OEYE2022 and #OrganicYouth, feel free to tag @OrganicsEurope, @FiBLorg & #BioSuisse

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Federal Department of Economic Affairs,  
Education and Research EAER  
Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG

## EU Organic Day approaches: Share your initiative, we will give it visibility 23 September 2022, across Europe

EU Organic Day is just around the corner, and we are looking forward to celebrating its first fully fledged edition with the entire organic value chain! [Launched in 2021](#), this day represents the ideal occasion to raise awareness of organic and its benefits, evaluate Europe's progress towards achieving its goal of 25% organic land by 2030, trends in consumer demand, and the implementation of the EU Organic Action Plan.

**As European organic movement, we are calling on our members to share their initiatives with us!** We will promote your local inspirational, actions, events and possibly much more! Are you planning an activity and want to share with us? Write us at [communication@organicseurope.bio](mailto:communication@organicseurope.bio). We are looking forward to collaborating with our entire network to make this annual EU Organic Day a success and spotlight the European organic movement!

For more information, visit our dedicated webpage. Our members can also find more information and inspiration by other members in recordings of the 'Let's discuss organic' sessle on our [member extranet](#).

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

## Final event of SmartAgriHubs project



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**26-28 September 2022, Lisbon, Portugal**



26-28 September, the SmartAgriHubs projects will have its final event in Lisbon, Portugal. On Monday 26 September, members of the SmartAgriHubs project will gather and celebrate the closure of the project.

On Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28 September, the SmartAgriHubs ecosystem will open its door to the European agricultural and digital innovation community. There will be several workshops and lectures on the challenges and opportunities of the digitisation and digitalisation of agriculture. Various Horizon 2020 projects will be present, and there will be an exhibition open to representatives of the industry and agricultural organisations.

[Register for the event on the SmartAgriHubs website.](#)

Follow @SmartAgriHubs on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#) to stay tuned about the latest updates or visit the project's website [www.smartagrihubs.eu](http://www.smartagrihubs.eu).

[SmartAgriHubs](#) will realise the digitisation of European agriculture by fostering an agricultural innovation ecosystem dedicated to excellence, sustainability and success. It is a €20 million EUR project under the Horizon 2020 instrument and brings together a consortium of over 164 partners in the European agri-food sector. The project aims to realise the digitisation of European agriculture by fostering an agricultural innovation ecosystem dedicated to excellence, sustainability, and success. IFOAM Organics Europe's role is to connect the dots between SmartAgriHubs and the organic sector, disseminate project outputs and communicate key messages during the project run.



*SmartAgriHubs has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 818182. 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.*

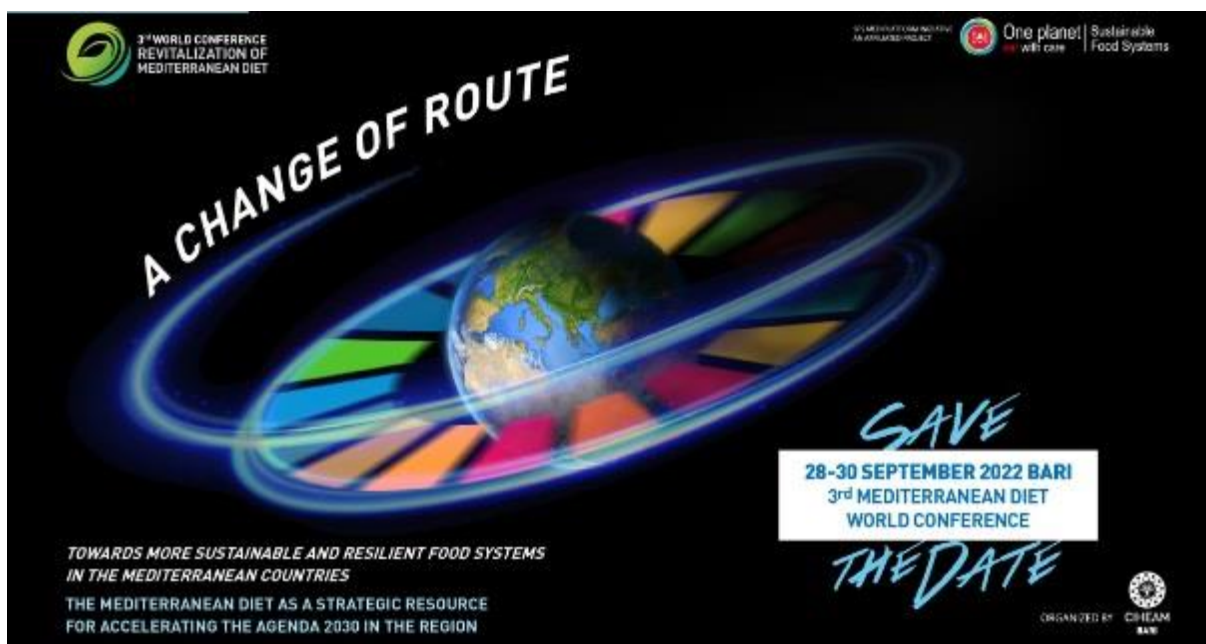
**Conference: Is it possible to have a more sustainable Mediterranean diet?**  
**28-30 September, Bari, Italy**



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There is a need for a change of course to Sustainable Food Systems (SFS), in which the Mediterranean diet represents the leverage for the application of the One Health approach. This is why CIHEAM Bari, the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari, is organizing the third [World Conference on the Mediterranean Diet](#) in Bari.

"Change of Route Towards More Sustainable and Resilient Food Systems in Mediterranean Countries: the Mediterranean Diet as a Strategic Resource to Accelerate the 2030 Agenda in the Region", is an occasion to discuss how to improve the sustainability and resilience of food systems in the Mediterranean and celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the CIHEAM.

The event is affiliated with the SFS-MED Platform, a tool for international and multistakeholder collaboration capable of addressing the many challenges faced by countries bordering the Mediterranean and beyond, and furthering the achievement of the 2030 Agenda Goals.

For more information, visit [CIHEAM's website](#).



**Organic Innovation Days 2022: Living labs & lighthouse farms in organic**



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– Email: [info@organicseurope.bio](mailto:info@organicseurope.bio)

**11-12 October 2022, Rumbek-Beitem & Brussels, Belgium**



After two virtual editions of the [Organic Innovation Days](#), this year's edition will once again take place as a physical event on 11-12 October! As the only EU event on organic and agroecological research and innovation organised by TP Organics, the European Technology Platform for organic food and farming hosted by IFOAM Organics Europe, the Organic Innovation Days provide a unique opportunity to meet and network with stakeholders and EU decision-makers.

### **What to expect**

This year's Organic Innovation Days are dedicated to living labs and lighthouse farms in the organic sector and will feature the launch of TP Organics' study on this theme.

**Day 1, 11 October** will be hosted by agri- and horticultural research and knowledge centre [Inagro](#) (Flanders, Belgium – a bus will be organised from Brussels). Exemplary cases from different parts of Europe analysed in the study will be presented such as [ÖMki On-Farm Living Lab](#) etc., followed by an innovation workshop on how to implement the study recommendations. In the afternoon, we will visit the Inagro trial farm (14 ha sandy loam mixed vegetable and arable cropping farm, certified organic since 2003), celebrating its 20-year anniversary this year. The different trials conducted on the farm are always demand-driven by the organic farmers in Flanders.

**Day 2, 12 October** will take place at [BluePoint Brussels](#), with keynote speeches from the European Commission and Thünen Institute of Farm Economics which will make the link to EU research & innovation policy (Horizon Europe) and to conversion to organic agriculture. The highlight will be the high-level policy debate with the European Commission and experts from the organic sector on the new Horizon Europe instruments EU Mission 'A Soil Deal for Europe' and the European R&I Partnership candidate on agroecology living labs and research infrastructures.

In the afternoon, the Stakeholder Forum for TP Organics Members will take place as a space for organic and agroecological stakeholders to exchange about and discuss recent developments and the past and future activities of TP Organics.

Download the [draft agenda](#) and stay tuned – always find upcoming updates on the [dedicated event webpage](#)! Do not miss this opportunity to get the latest insights into organic research and innovation at European level – [register](#) by **8 September**!

Are you a member of TP Organics? Please fill in the dedicated [registration form](#) for the **Stakeholder Forum by 13 September**.

TP Organics are looking forward to welcoming you in person!

TP Organics is the European Technology Platform for Organic Food and Farming. IFOAM Organics Europe is a founding member and hosts its secretariat. Visit [www.tporganics.eu](http://www.tporganics.eu) for more information and follow its [Twitter](#) @TPorganics.



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## Got pesticides in your body? It's your last chance to find out

Pesticides threaten our food and farming systems. They kill pollinators like bees, reduce the quality of soils, endanger the health of farmers and field workers and their toxic impact does not stop at the farm gate. Through the food we eat, they find their way into our bodies and environments.

People are aware of this: 1.2 million European citizens signed the European citizens' initiative [Save Bees and Farmers](#) calling for a drastic reduction of pesticides.

As a member of the Good Food Good Farming (GFGF) coalition, **we invite you to participate in this European citizens-science action before 30 June 2022**. An independent laboratory will conduct the analysis for [30 different pesticides](#).

For more information on how to participate, you can check [GFGF's website](#) and/or contact GFGF's coordinator [beushausen@goodfoodgoodfarming.eu](mailto:beushausen@goodfoodgoodfarming.eu).

### What is Good Food Good Farming (GFGF)?

Since 2018, the coalition [#GoodFoodGoodFarming](#) is campaigning to stir up EU food and farming policies and make them greener and fairer. GFGF gathers citizens, activists, farmers, beekeepers, chiefs and many more demanding a sustainable transition of food production and agriculture, with a substantial reduction of the use of pesticides.

In October 2022, GFGF will mobilise 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.



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.

### 3.2 Review of events

#### **CORE Organic final research seminar 17-18 May, Brussels, Belgium**

The [CORE Organic](#) final research seminar, co-organised by TP Organics, took place on 17-18 May 2022 at University Foundation in Brussels in the presence of 60 participants – in person and online.

The event served both to close the Cofund period (with ERA-NETs not being part of Horizon Europe anymore) and to officially launch of the future CORE Organic Pleiades network. TP Organics is a stakeholder partner in the CORE Organic network which is funding transnational research for organic for more than 15 years. CORE Organic Project Manager Ivana Trkulja facilitated the whole event.

#### **Day 1: Presenting 17 projects and fishbowl debate**

On Day 1, the 12 diverse [CORE Organic Cofund](#) projects and the [5 new projects](#) selected in the CORE Organic call “Organic farming systems for improved mixed plant and animal production” were presented by the coordinators during a “Science Bazar”. [The descriptions of all projects are in TP Organics’ Innovation Arena](#). Participants stressed :

- ② The importance of a multi-actor, participatory and holistic food systems approach;
- ② Farmers should be included as real consortium members from the beginning;
- ② The organic sector is knowledge intensive and innovative by default; and
- ② Organic innovations are relevant for the whole food system, driving sustainability.

Lieve De Cock, Expert, Advisor and Coordinator of Network Organic Food and Farming Research (NOBL), one of TP Organics’ National Technology Platforms, presented the situation in Flanders regarding organic farming and research and innovation. NOBL will be integrated in the new [Living Lab Agro-ecology and Organic Agriculture](#). Her presentation was followed by Research Coordinator Joran Barbry presenting research and knowledge centre [Inagro](#) which is conducting applied research driven by demand and which can be considered as an original living lab. **You have the chance to visit Inagro and its trial farm at TP Organics’ [Organic Innovation Days on 11 October](#).**

In the fishbowl debate “On bottlenecks and opportunities in organic and sustainable R&I”, Dirk Reheul, professor at Ghent University summarised the evaluation outcomes of the CORE Organic Cofund projects and gave recommendations, for example projects should have a clear focus and results that are ready for practice. Messages should be defined in a clear language (i.e., accessible for end users). Good cooperation among project partners is key, and awareness should be raised about good research practices. He also called for real interactivity between stakeholders and end users, prioritisation of end-user categories, the inclusion of a communication expert and use of particular channels such as [Organic Farm Knowledge](#), connection with similar projects, the local environment and with

policymakers, sending them the results directly at crucial moments, and measuring the impact of dissemination activities (e.g., in terms of new applications or enterprises).

Alexander Beck, Chair of German organic food processors' association AöL and representative of the [ProOrg project](#), called for stimulating new market systems as well as true cost and consumer studies. The conventional farming system is highly dependent on external inputs (in particular fossil fuels), which is one of the reasons for the crisis following the Ukraine war. Organic is part of the solution, but the market is stagnating for the first time. The lost connection of consumers to nature and the reality of farming means lost benefits and possibilities for society and future generations. It is crucial to show the benefits organic provides, both towards farmers and the public, and to address weaknesses, building organic knowledge and innovation systems (AKIS) at local to European level. Focus should be on the whole food system, not only farming, since the purpose of farming is to supply humans with food. SMEs need access to innovation and research results. At the same time, involving partners from industry makes it possible to harvest feedback.

Bram Moeskops, Senior Scientific Coordinator of TP Organics agreed with Susana Gaona Sáez, Research Programme Officer at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) that the European Green Deal with the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies, the Organic Action Plan, Horizon Europe and the new EU R&I partnerships (on biodiversity, agroecology, sustainable food systems and animal health) provide opportunities. The living lab approach will be one way to involve all stakeholders. Thematic Networks and Horizon projects, e.g., the new call on developing EU advisory networks on organic agriculture, were named as ways to disseminate results. The partnerships also explore new ways of funding (in the long term) and doing research, connecting projects to EU level. In this context, the CORE Organic network would be valuable in ensuring synergy rather than duplication and dilution with other terms, in networking with the organic movement and aligning with bigger initiatives, remaining the pioneer of sustainable food and farming systems.

Hans-Jörg Lutzeyer, Senior Advisor to the European Commission's DG Research and Innovation, came in the fishbowl to add that the Commission is testing ways of better integrating SMEs, e.g., in projects with African countries, using 3rd party cascading funding to further explore (unintended) results. Jakob Sehested, Director at International Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems (ICROFS) called for documenting public goods to make the business case, translating the information into pricing and the market. Research needs to be implemented.

## **Day 2: Public-private-policy forum**

Day 2 featured a Public-Private-Policy forum kicking off with presentations of the two new EU R&I Partnerships for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems (part of Horizon Europe). Nicolas Tinois, Chair of [SCAR-AE](#) highlighted that organic will have a strong role in the future partnership, which will work with living labs and research infrastructures. Daniela Lüth, Policy Officer at DG Research & Innovation introduced the Sustainable Food Systems Partnership which will also include citizen engagement as a key element.

In the subsequent panel debate, Jonas Lazaro-Mojica, Manager Food Policy, Science and R&D EU Projects, and European Technology Platform 'Food for Life' Secretariat at FoodDrinkEurope mentioned TP Organics' Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda, which outlines concrete research needs of the sector, as pointing the way forward. The COVID-19 and Ukraine crises have shown that everything is

interlinked. Jean-Marc Chourot, Head of Office Research and Innovation at French Ministry for Agriculture and Nutrition (MAA) stressed the need for industry to become more sustainable and described organic as a model with more respect for the environment for our own sake. Henri Delanghe, Deputy Head of Unit, Organics, DG AGRI introduced the EU Organic Action Plan. Research and innovation are key. 30% of the budget for R&I actions in the area of agriculture, forestry and rural areas will be allocated to research that is specific to or relevant for organic. He stressed that the Ukraine war would not change anything; the Farm to Fork target of 25% organic farmland by 2030 in Europe would be long term.

Roberto Pinton, Owner of Pinton Organic Consulting and representative of Italian Organic Trade Association AssoBio pointed out that companies have responsibility and should contribute to research funding, support the farmers they are sourcing material from, set up knowledge exchange activities and provide them with impartial advice. At the same time, farmers should not become dependent on the companies, nor should they be trapped in integrated supply chains (as is often the case in the conventional sector). Funding for organic research has been very low in the past and needs to increase to at least 25%. R&I budgets for organic farming under Horizon Europe need to be in line with the Farm to Fork target of 25% organic farmland. **Boosting R&I funding for organic will help increase productivity.** We need to catch up funding for organic as a driver for change, not stop it because of assumed lower productivity. Organic innovations are open to be used also in conventional food and farming, thus investment in organic R&I benefits the agri-food system as a whole. In particular with regards to global food security we need to transition to agroecological systems such as organic that can respond to climate change, phase out pesticides and maintain vital biodiversity, whilst providing a sufficient and healthy diet for a growing population with increasing nutrition-related diseases.

The event ended with the Governing Board meeting in the afternoon, where Stéphane Bellon from French research institute INRAE shared his vision: Organic is still dynamic and the prototype of sustainable agriculture, contributing to public goods and being able to transfer innovations, experiences and techniques to wider agriculture, but it is challenged by other forms of agriculture (e.g., conversion agriculture, regenerative agriculture). With new operators we will have even more diversity, which needs to be combined with a clear identity. What models of agriculture and food do we want to support? The future of organic is collective.

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## **Webinar: Farm to Fork, Why a sustainable food strategy is the only option to solve today's and tomorrow's crises**

**30 May**



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The webinar, [Farm to Fork - Why a sustainable food strategy is the only option to solve today's and tomorrow's crises](#) organized by EU Horizon 2020 project FoodSHIFT2030 took place 30 May, as part of the EU Green Week.

This webinar, chaired by Dirk Wascher, Innovation Manager of the FoodSHIFT2030 project, brought together several of experts to provide their insights on the topic of the necessity of a sustainable food strategy to overcome crisis to come. Among the speakers was our colleague, Silvia Schmidt, Policy Associate Manager at IFOAM Organics Europe. Along with her, Vicki Hird, head of sustainable farming at Sustain, the Alliance for Better Food and Farming in the UK, Christian Bugge Henriksen, Project Coordination at FoodSHIFT2030 and Olav Kjørven, Senior Director of Strategy at EAT.

Silvia's intervention summarized the political developments following the war in Ukraine regarding the Farm to Fork strategy, especially the attacks of the conventional agricultural lobbies and agribusinesses lobbies in light of the alleged food security issues and the answers of civil society, researchers, and public institutions to these. They emphasized the necessity of implementing the Farm to Fork Strategy as this is the only way to build food systems likely to resist to crisis like this one.

Following on this, Vicki highlighted the current vulnerability of European food systems, and zoomed on some key issues such as the land use framework that needs to be rethought but also nutritional security, that encompasses the food aspect as well as the farm strategy. Finally, she called for a better connection between urban, peri urban and rural areas. It is on this topic that Christian continued and provided insights on how the cities and rural areas could be connected, and which benefits would arise from this. The role of cities and cooperation between different local EU food system projects has been emphasized, as well as the cooperation between local initiatives and national policies. Finally, Olav focused on the need to define healthy diets and implement them, with the support of cities and local actors.

The event ended with questions from the audience. As a question was raised about the future of the Farm to Fork and the possibilities to accelerate its implementation, Silvia reminded that everyone needs to be bring along this transition including the farmers that are the cornerstone of this strategy. She also pointed out the potential of the Sustainable Food Systems law, an initiative of the European Commission that is planned to be carried out in 2023: this aims to define what Sustainable Food Systems are.

Visit the [FoodSHIFT2030 website](#) to learn more and follow the latest project's 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.*

## A more organic future: ten take-aways of the European Organic Congress 2022



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We were thrilled, after two years of digital events, to meet again at [the 2022 European Organic Congress](#). Below you find our ten key take-aways from the Congress. The recordings will be available online in the coming days on [our YouTube account](#), so those of you who could not make it can revisit the event and learn from our high-level policymakers and expert attendees.

1. In a moving press conference, the Ukrainian organic movement talked about the impact of the war in Ukraine on organic production and the supply chain. [The European organic movement expressed its solidarity with the Ukrainian organic movement](#), with participants giving the Ukrainian delegation a heartfelt standing ovation.
2. Organic has a systemic approach and is part of the solution to tackle complex issues like the climate and biodiversity crises because it provides more than just food – it is good for soil and water, it provides for biodiversity, and environmental & health benefits. Many speakers stressed this point.
3. Participants and high-level speakers from the European Commission, European Parliament and local governments agree that the 25% target of organic land by 2030 should be a



guideline for the national CAP Strategic Plans.

4. The European Commission affirmed that many EU Member States need to increase their targets for organic land and the budget tied to realise them in their national CAP Strategic Plans. [We need a Common Agricultural Policy that provides public money for public goods.](#)
5. Consumer transparency is key in terms of environmental information. Sustainability labelling can be an opportunity for this, but the European Commission's proposed 'Product Environmental Footprint' favours intensive agriculture, as it does not adequately consider externalities such as the impact on biodiversity, impact of pesticides, and animal welfare. At this stage, the [Planet Score](#) is the most complete label supporting a transition to more sustainable food systems – measuring a product's score when it comes to pesticides, biodiversity, climate, and animal welfare.
6. The new EU Organic Regulation applies from 1 January 2022. The European Commission announced that rules for organic salt and insects are in the pipeline. More details on the regulation are available on [the Commission's website](#), [our website](#) and in [our regulation guidelines](#).
7. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 resulted in never-seen-before sales of organic products. While the growth of organic was less impressive in 2021 compared to 2020, the overall organic market is steadily growing! Check out the latest data on [the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture \(FiBL\)'s website](#).
8. During three parallel sessions, participants discussed: how the organic supply chain is resilient and should remain so in light of the recent crises; that the organic sector needs to be more active in co-creating solutions reflecting the needs of agroecological practices in light of digitalising agriculture; and that organic offers many solutions in the fight against climate change – but when it comes to carbon farming, conceptual and practical concerns need to be solved first to ensure a contribution to climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity protection.
9. Around 260 participants from all over Europe and the world (hi, Japan, the United States, and Sri Lanka!) attended our first in-person Congress in two years. Frequently heard terms: [CAP Strategic Plans](#), [regeneration and youth in organic](#) and "It's too hot outside".
10. A heart-felt 'Thank you' to our members, speakers, participants, co-organisers, sponsors, funders, media partners and technical support! You made this Congress possible and exciting.
11. *We give you an 11<sup>th</sup> take-away for the price of 10!* Did you miss the chance to take part, or do you want to relive the Congress? Watch the Congress videos (available on [our YouTube channel](#) very soon), go through our [Twitter Moments](#), and revisit [#EOC2022](#).

In case you attended our European Organic Congress 2022, we would like to ask you to help us improve by taking a few minutes to fill in [the Congress evaluation form](#) and give us your feedback on the programme and format of the event.

Stay tuned about the date and location of the next edition of the European Organic Congress by visiting [www.europeanorganiccongress.bio](http://www.europeanorganiccongress.bio) and following @OrganicsEurope on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#). IFOAM Organics Europe will post updates about the Congress with #EUOrganic2030 and #EOC2022.

Feel free to contact [congress@organicseurope.bio](mailto:congress@organicseurope.bio) if you have any questions about the Congress.



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## Welcoming the national Organic Ambassadors to Brussels

21 June

On June 21, the European Commission hosted a meeting of the recently created EU network of national Organic Ambassadors. These organic ambassadors are officials appointed by the Member States championing organic production at national level and serve as contact point for the exchange of best practices at EU level. During the meeting, IFOAM Organics Europe's Director, Eduardo Cuoco, shared best practices on the topics of bio-districts and short supply chains.

After the meeting, IFOAM Organics Europe hosted an informal organic reception in cooperation with the European Commission and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability within the framework of [the SchoolFood4Change project](#). The event was an occasion to network and discuss how Green Public Procurement (GPP) and local food policy can boost organic in the EU.



*SchoolFood4Change Works has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101036763. 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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## 4 MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC – SUPPORT IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE

IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE MAIN SPONSOR 2022

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.



*Aboca*



## 5 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2022

The Year of Organics

Global

#YearOfOrganics

26-29 July 2022

[BIOFACH 2022](#)

Nuremberg, Germany

#biofach #vivaness

31 August-1 September 2022

[IFOAM Organics Europe Youth Event](#)

Frick, Switzerland

#OEYE2022

23 September 2022

[EU Organic Day](#) & EU Organic Awards ceremony

European Union

#OrganicEU #EUorganicDay

11-12 October 2022

[Organic Innovation Days](#)



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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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