

No 95
September
2017

IFOAM EU
NEWSLETTER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- » 3 WELCOME NOTE
.....
- » 4 POLITICAL HOTSPOT
.....
- » 5 1 NEWS FROM IFOAM EU WORKING FIELDS
.....
- » 5 1.1 Regulation
.....
- » 6 1.2 Policy
.....
- » 13 2 IFOAM EU DEVELOPMENTS
.....
- » 14 3 EVENTS
.....
- » 14 3.1 Preview of events
.....
- » 16 3.2 Review of events
.....
- » 19 4 MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC
– SUPPORT IFOAM EU
.....
- » 21 5 CALENDAR OF EVENTS
.....

No 95
September
2017



A delegation of IFOAM EU met with Tsironis Gianni, Greek Minister of Agriculture, to discussing the CAP post2020 and the future development of organic food and farming in Greece on 28 June; © Eduardo Cuoco

WELCOME NOTE

Dear readers,

Food is central to human life. It nourishes us, supports our communities and is a corner-stone of our culture. Yet the way we produce and consume food can cause many problems threatening the health of our farms, people and the planet.

But there is good news. The last few years have seen a major shift, with the need for good food and farming increasingly taking centre stage and a firm position on the agendas of the media, public institutions, of businesses and citizens. However, the challenge remains how to transform our food and farming systems.

The organic movement has been and continues to be a front-runner when it comes to setting the stage for fair, environmentally conscious, healthy and caring food and farming systems across **the globe**. At the European level, these efforts shape up in **IFOAM EU's Vision 2030**. The cornerstones of our vision are:

- **Organic on every table:** The contribution of organic to sustainable food systems is recognized by policy-makers and citizens and is matched with a growing land share & supply of organic products
- **Improve – Inspire – Deliver:** Organic food and farming systems are resilient and continuously improving their performance, and they inspire a positive change in our knowledge systems and diets
- **Fair play – Fair pay:** Value and power are fairly distributed among all the operators in the supply chain, and that the costs and benefits of food production are accounted for

To make this vision a reality, we will launch a roadmap to sustainable food and farming systems in Europe – including a publication and website with inspiring initiatives – at the **11th European Organic Congress**.

This roadmap is the result of extensive discussions led by IFOAM EU in its collective vision development process. Those exchanges have shown that only through the

joint efforts of everyone with a stake in the food system will it be possible to achieve our vision. This roadmap is an invitation to us all to start – or continue! – actively shaping the agri-food systems that we want to see in Europe and beyond.

Follow live updates about the Congress, the roadmap and inspirational examples on Twitter using #EUorganic2030.



Sincerely
Eduardo Cuoco
IFOAM EU Director

**ORGANIC
ON EVERY
TABLE**

**FAIR PLAY
FAIR PAY**

**IMPROVE
INSPIRE
DELIVER**

POLITICAL HOTSPOT

The negotiations on the new organic regulation continue to surprise. On 28 June, during the 18th trilogue between the Maltese Presidency, the Parliament's Rapporteur Martin Häusling and the Commissioner Phil Hogan, a political compromise at the eleventh hour was reached.

The usual next step would be approval by the 28 National Agriculture Ministers and by Parliament. In the Parliament, the compromise first has to be approved by the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (COMAGRI) and then by all 751 Members in plenary. Experience shows that, once an agreement has been reached by the negotiators in the trilogues, endorsement by the Council and the Parliament are usually a formality. However, the organic file seems to be a particular case.

Opinions on the outcomes of the negotiations: the Parliament

The Parliament's Rapporteur, **Martin Häusling**, presented the outcomes of the last trilogue in the meeting of COMAGRI on 10 July. Mr Häusling reported that a solid, albeit imperfect, compromise had been reached. He also stated that a failure of the negotiations would have been a problem for the European Union and for ongoing and future negotiations on other dossiers.

The Shadow Rapporteur of the European People Party (EPP), Mr Norbert Lins, added that, as usual in politics,

the compromise reached is probably less than ideal for the different parties involved. Mr Lins further stressed that big progress had been made in comparison to the beginning of the process, specifically with regards to strictly regulating controls, harmonising the import regime, and management of residue findings. The Shadow Rapporteur of the Socialist and Democrats (S&D), Mr Eric Andrieu, stated that the compromise will allow the organic sector to face the current and upcoming challenges.

Other Members of the Parliament were not so convinced about the success of the negotiations. Mr Herbert Dorfmann (EPP) considered the compromise not good at all. He was particularly unhappy about the solution on residue findings. Mr Marc Tarabella (S&D) recognised the steps forward made in the areas of seed derogations, the establishment of a database and import, but he noted steps backward with regards to management of pesticide residues, a reduction of controls and flexibility on the principle of cultivation related to the soil. Mr Tarabella did not share the enthusiasm of the negotiators and expressed disappointment that, after 20 months of negotiations, there are still plenty of shortcomings in the compromise.

Opinions on the outcomes of the negotiations: the Commission

Finally, the Commission made an intervention. It recognised that the initial objective of the negotiations

was much more ambitious. However, the fact that a compromise was reached, although imperfect showed the capacity of the institutions to still negotiate successfully. According to the Commission, it would have been much more damaging for the image of both the organic sector and the EU institutions to appear not being able to come to an agreement. In short: the Commission considered the compromise not ideal but acceptable.

What happened in the Council & what is next?

During the Council meeting of 17 July, the 28 National Agriculture Ministers were supposed to provisionally endorse the outcomes of the trilogue, before the text is checked by lawyers-linguists. However, the item was taken off the agenda at the last second. This shows that Member States may still not be completely united on this file.

The file will now continue to follow the usual procedure for a first reading agreement. This means that the Parliament and the Council will only approve the text when it is finalised, after a check by the EU's legal services, expected by October 2017. This means that the final vote from the entire Parliament can be expected at the end of 2017, or at the beginning of 2018.

1 NEWS FROM IFOAM EU WORKING FIELDS

1.1 REGULATION

NEW IMPLEMENTING REGULATION PUBLISHED

In August, a new Regulation amending Annex IV of the 'organic import' Regulation (EC) No 1235/2008 was published. Through the new Implementing Regulation (EU) 2017/1473 the recognition of the Bolivian control body Bolicert as 'equivalent' has been suspended.

All the 'organic' regulations published from 2007 onwards and all the compiled versions of Regulations (EC) No 834/2007, (EC) No 889/2008 and No 1235/2008 can be found on [the IFOAM EU website](#).

ON STEVIA REBAUDIANA

The Commission has recently updated the catalogue of 'novel food' changing the entry of Stevia rebaudiana: tea, herbal and fruit infusions containing or prepared with leaves of Stevia are not subject to Regulation (CE) No 258/97 on Novel Food as these kinds of product were on the market as a food or food ingredient before 15 May 1997 and therefore their use is not considered as 'novel'.

Therefore, if there are not national legislations which restrict it, it is possible to certify the plant and the above-mentioned products as organic. [Consult the updated catalogue of novel food](#).



© Triin Viilvere

1.2 POLICY

» CAP

RESULTS OF CAP PUBLIC CONSULTATION SHOW SIGNIFICANCE OF PUTTING SUSTAINABILITY AT THE HEART OF EU FARM POLICY

The results of the Commission's public consultation on the future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) clearly show the necessity for a new deal between farmers and citizens. A new deal should make the CAP fit for purpose for the modern age. According to IFOAM EU, the CAP should have sustainability in all its dimensions – economic, social and environmental – at its heart.

Following the launch of the **results** at the Commission's **The CAP: Have Your Say** stakeholder conference in Brussels, IFOAM EU stressed **in a press release** that the next CAP reform is a huge opportunity to promote a full transition of European agriculture towards sustainable farming. It added that farmers and EU citizens must work together to ensure fair farm incomes and the delivery of public goods demanded by society are not in conflict. IFOAM EU's Vision Paper '**A CAP for healthy farms, healthy people and healthy planet**' offers solutions that can address these tensions and better use the CAP to confront the sustainability challenges facing the agri-food sector.

Speaking after the conference, IFOAM EU Vice-President, Jan Plagge, who was part of the IFOAM EU delegation, said the results underlined the need for change in the approach towards the future CAP. Mr Plagge added that the organic movement offers solutions that put public health, fair income for the farmers and environmental performance at the centre of EU farm policy. This is an alternative to the current focus on commodity-led production, which neglects small and medium sized farmers' and citizens' needs.

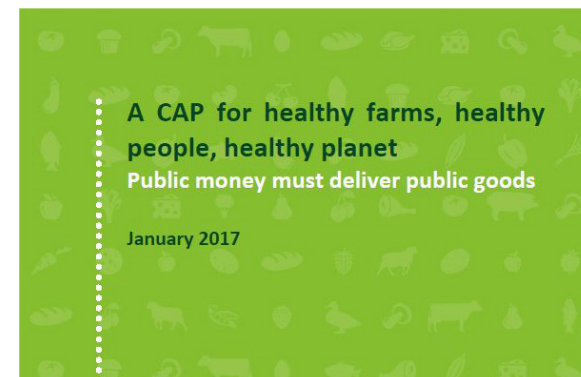
The CAP: Have Your Say conference brought together over 200 stakeholders from across the food and farming sector to take stock of the results of the consultation and to see how they match the scientific evidence from the ground compiled by the Commission. The results of both the consultation and the on-the-ground analysis will feed into a Communication on modernising and simplifying the CAP, to be published by the Commission later in 2017. The Communication will assess the different options for possible policy developments.

Ministers to discuss risk management for CAP Post-2020 at Informal AGRIFISH Council

Elsewhere, the **informal meeting** of the AGRIFISH Council on 3–5 September, under the Estonian Presidency, will focus on the use of risk management tools under the CAP post-2020.

IFOAM EU maintains that calls for the next CAP reform to place greater emphasis on risk management tools, such as insurance schemes which aim to address market volatility, can end up promoting moral hazard and channelling public money into the pockets of the financial services industry. Instead IFOAM EU believes that rewarding and incentivising farmers to deliver public goods will offer more chances of supporting stable farm incomes, meeting societal expectations and increasing farm resilience by reducing dependency on external inputs in the long-term.

For more information about the latest developments on the CAP, including **IFOAM EU's vision for public goods under the CAP post-2020**, please contact [stephen.meredith\[at\]ifoam-eu.org](mailto:stephen.meredith[at]ifoam-eu.org)



Read **our Vision Paper** and learn how we can better use the CAP to confront the sustainability challenges facing the agri-food sector

CALL FOR CONSULTATION ON UNFAIR TRADING PRACTICES IN THE AGRI-FOOD SECTOR

In July the European Commission published an **inception impact assessment** concerning the initiative to improve the food supply chain and more particularly to tackle unfair trade practices (UTP). This initiative began with a European Parliament resolution in June 2016 and was followed by a Council of Ministers' incentive for the Commission to undertake an impact assessment. This paper was based on the research done by the Agricultural Markets Task Force, composed of 12 independent experts led by former Dutch Minister for Agriculture. The report highlighted the need to improve the three following areas: unfair trading practices, market transparency and possibilities for farmers to cooperate.

The public consultation on UTP governance & market transparency is anticipated to begin mid-Aug and to last until mid-Nov 2017. The results of the consultation will be used by DG AGRI to decide whether to propose measures in the form of a legislative or non-legislative proposal in March 2018.

› GMOs

IFOAM EU URGES MR JUNCKER NOT TO AUTHORIZE GMOs FOR CULTIVATION

A few months ago, the European Commission proposed the authorization of three GMOs: the renewal of maize MON810, and authorizations of maize Bt11 and 1507. **On 27 March**, a majority of Member States voted against these new authorizations. Because Member States did not reach the qualified majority, the European Commission must now decide on the future of these proposals.

IFOAM EU urges the European Commission not to authorise these new GMOs for cultivation. Indeed, every new GMO authorisation heightens the risk of contamination and increases the costs of remaining GMO-free. It jeopardizes the development of the organic sector, which is GMO-free by definition.

To support this demand, IFOAM EU widely shared on social media the **video of Friends of the Earth Europe** asking Mr Juncker to decide definitively not to authorize these GMOs. You can also support our demand while by sharing IFOAM EU's **French** and **English** twitter messages.



We have to say no to new GMOs authorisations in Europe. [Get informed in Friends of the Earth Europe's video](#)

› SEEDS

DECISION OF THE EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE ON THE EXCLUSION FROM PATENTABILITY OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS EXCLUSIVELY OBTAINED BY AN ESSENTIALLY BIOLOGICAL BREEDING PROCESS

In November 2016, the European Commission adopted **a legal notice about the interpretation of Directive 98/44** on the legal protection of biotechnological inventions, which concluded that the intention of the EU legislator, with the adoption of this Directive was to exclude products obtained by “essentially biological processes” from being patented. This interpretation is different from the practice of the European Patent Office (EPO), which has granted an increasing number of patents on products obtained from such processes (**e.g. tomato and broccoli cases**).

Even if the interpretation of the European Commission was not mandatory, the EPO initiated discussion on the interpretation of the Directive and decided on **29 June** to amend its implementing regulation to exclude from patentability plants and animals exclusively obtained by an essentially biological process.

IFOAM EU welcomes this decision but regrets that it is not going far enough and that it does not prevent the patentability of native traits, the only solution to protect breeders and farmers from patents on life. A coalition of NGOs will continue to analyse how the EPO grants patents to make sure its practice is conform to the new decision.

› FOOD, FARMING AND ENVIRONMENT

MISSED OPPORTUNITY TO RECOGNISE ORGANIC FARMING IN THE REVISION OF THE EU' FERTILISERS LEGISLATION

On 13 July, there was a vote in the European Parliament's Internal Market and Consumer Protection Committee (COMIMCO), the lead committee on the **report** concerning the **Commission's proposal for a Regulation** on rules of fertiliser products on the Single Market.

MEPs in COMIMCO missed the opportunity to take account of the EU organic rules under a new fertilisers regulation, despite strong opinions from both the AGRI and ENVI committees in this direction. They also declined a proposal to label all organic fertilisers that are not permitted in organic agriculture but which do contain terms such as 'organic', 'biological', 'ecological', or their abbreviations 'bio' or 'eco' in its commercial name.



A small positive step was COMIMCO's decision the labelling of organic fertilisers can be done using figures based on the average content. This recognises the special character of organic fertiliser and the difficulty to measure the exact quantifiable nutrient contents. In addition, a compromise was found on the requirement to label organic fertiliser components, with exemptions only for quantities below 1%. This exemption would be problematic since in organic farming 100% of organic fertiliser components and products needs to be in line with the organic principles.

The Plenary of the European Parliament is expected to vote on this file at the beginning of October 2017. This vote will be followed by trilogue negotiations between the Parliament, Council, and Commission. IFOAM EU will continue to monitor the discussions and advocate for an explicit recognition of organic farming in the final Parliament and Council positions.

PEOPLE4SOIL – SAVE THE SOILS OF EUROPE WITH YOUR SIGNATURE!

Soil is fundamental to human life on Earth. It holds a multitude of different organisms, which interact and contribute to the global cycles. Soil controls the flow of water and chemical substances between the atmosphere and the earth. It is a key element in a climate system, which helps to regulate amount of CO₂ in atmosphere. A healthy soil is crucial for organic agriculture!

Increasing degradation of soils both in the EU and at global level is a dangerous reality for all of us. Erosion, soil sealing, loss of organic matter, compaction, salinisation, landslides and contamination have negative impacts on human health, food security, natural ecosystems, biodiversity and climate, as well as on our economy.

This is why European Citizens' Initiative People4Soil was created to have soil recognised as a common good by putting pressure on the European institutions to adopt specific legislation on soil protection.

To succeed, European Citizens' Initiative needs to reach one million signatures until 12 September. If you want to help, **take action now and sign the petition!**

Read more about the People4Soil initiative and its key demands on their website.

People4Soil is a free and open network of European NGOs, research institutes, farmers' associations and environmental groups that is concerned about the increasing degradation of soils both in the EU and at global level.



CLIMATE CHANGE

IFOAM EU'S CLIMATE CHANGE RESOURCES NOW AVAILABLE IN SPANISH

Thanks to the efforts of Écovalia, our video **Transforming agriculture to combat climate change** is now available in Spanish.

Watch the video **Agricultura ecológica, la gran herramienta contra el cambio climático** now.



Watch the video **Agricultura ecológica, la gran herramienta contra el cambio climático** now. Don't speak Spanish? Watch the **English version**

1.3 EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION POLICY / TP ORGANICS

INNOVATING FOR ORGANICS: NEW PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS OPERATIONAL GROUPS



TP Organics has prepared an online brochure highlighting four examples of Operational Groups from four different countries (France, Germany, Belgium, Austria). Three of the groups do engage both organic and conventional farmers. All groups produce outcomes that are relevant beyond organics, for the whole agri-food sector.

The conclusion of the publication shows that there is a lot of interest from farmers, advisers and researchers to develop new, sustainable and more environmental friendly farm practices. **Read the brochure online.**

Operational Groups are the EIP-AGRI's (European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability) main tool to detect innovative responses to concrete problems and to turn them into practical use in the agricultural sector. Operational Groups are funded under the Rural Development Programmes of Member States and regions. As an annex to the brochure a list of all National Rural Networks is available for those who want to find out more about implementation rules in their Member State or region.

The composition of Operational Groups should be tailored to the objectives of the specific project and will vary from group to group. In total 3025 groups are expected to be funded in the period 2014–2020. Only around 300 started yet, more than 10% of them are dealing with organic farming.



LAUNCH OF THE REMIX WEBSITE: REDESIGNING EUROPEAN CROPPING SYSTEMS BASED ON SPECIES MIXTURES



Species mixtures, also known as intercroops, crop associations or 'plant teams', are well known for their ability to enhance resource use efficiency, improve the control of pests, diseases and weeds and increase crop productivity and resilience in variable climatic conditions. However, a number of practical challenges, such as the absence of specific adapted varieties for mixes and the lack of locally adapted management practices hinder their widespread adoption in Europe.

The ReMIX project will tackle the main aspects related to the introduction of species mixtures in EU agricultural systems, by addressing the agricultural value chain as a whole. ReMIX is a 4-year collaborative research programme that will produce scientifically credible, but also socially valuable new knowledge, both for conventional and organic agricultural systems. It is funded by the EU in the frame of the Horizon 2020 programme. For more information, visit the [website](#), and follow ReMIX on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).



This project received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 727217. 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 provide

HOW CAN IOT BRING ORGANICS FORWARD?



Organic food and farming are one of the fastest growing sectors in Europe with innovation as their driving force. Internet of Things is an area that promises to provide solutions and support organic in its mission to help transition to the sustainable food and farming systems.

IoT technology offers new possibilities for all the actors in the organic value chain, from producers to distributors to consumers. Organic systems are rooted in the idea of working with nature to minimize the use of external inputs. Wireless sensors that detect micro-climatic and physical conditions of the plants can become a powerful ally in organic farmers' quest to control pests and diseases. They can also help farmers save precious resources such as water, and bring down the labour costs thus increasing farmers' competitiveness and resource efficiency.

The technology can also indicate the quality of the crops and predict an optimal harvest moment, making farmers' planning and logistics easier. At the same time, as retailers and traders can get more accurate information about the expected delivery time, the quality and origin of produce, consumers can enjoy the freshest products on their table from a farm that they trust.

Sensors attached to the animals can give a timely signal to the farmer if there is a health issue while also providing a complete health history to the vets, which in turn can assure a better care and health outcomes for the animal. The use of weight estimation devices can give farmers a real-time insight on animal growth as well as tailored advice on optimum feeding regimes.

Finally, organic is a quality scheme which requires proper labelling and certification. IoT can provide solutions based on traceability tools, on-line registration of operations, and continuous mass balances based on sensors and immediate communication to producer and to certification bodies. The advantages would be a decreased risk of fraud and bureaucratic burden, especially for small producers who are often disadvantaged by the complexity of certification systems.



© Triin Viilvere

What stands in the way?

These are just a few ways in which IoT technology can improve organic farmers' decision making, competitiveness, farm sustainability and traceability along the value chains. As any other technology, IoT comes with a number of challenges that needs to be addressed to ensure its uptake and the benefits for all actors.

One of the major concerns for organic food and farming sector might be the loss of traditional knowledge and know-how as IoT technology becomes more prevalent. Organic farmers used to rely on their observational skills and had time to assess the state of the crops or animals and come up with a solution. With the increase of farm size due to higher demand for example, the technology steps in to make the decision making and production process quicker and more manageable but also less dependent on personal judgements. A current challenge is thus finding a way to combine traditional knowledge with IoT as well as to preserve and pass on this knowledge.

A related challenge is linked to the farmers' skills necessary to operate IoT devices effectively. Even the most user-friendly devices and apps require a certain capacity on behalf of the user to operate smoothly without the need for continuous advisory support. Given an increasingly ageing population trend in

the farming communities in Europe, this might be a considerable challenge for the future. The scale of operations and the investments costs associated with IoT technology might make the digital divide between small and large organic farms even more acute.

Finally, as in the case of conventional agriculture, the big data collected, analysed and stored by various IoT devices raises legitimate concerns about data access, management and privacy.

What is already working?

While IoT technology is yet to be taken up by the majority of organic food and farming actors, there are successful examples of its use in various parts of Europe. For instance, in Italy a tech company AURORAS used wireless sensors to predict three powdery mildew outbreaks in an organic vineyard 12 hours in advance. The predictions helped save around EUR 8000 for the farmer. In the UK, software companies Senseye and Libelium joined forces to increase the crop production and competitiveness of nine organic farms across the country. The installed and connected sensors monitored environmental conditions (humidity, soil moistures, temperature etc.) to predict and warn farmers about threats to their crops.



IFOAM EU is a partner in [the Internet of Food and Farm 2020 \(IoF2020\)](#) project. A number of project case studies explore [the use of the Internet-of-Things \(IoT\) in organic farming](#). Visit the new [IoF2020 website](#) to get informed for the latest news about the project and to sign up for the IoF2020 newsletter to follow the case studies as they unfold; © Triin Viilvere

AGRISPIN PROJECT ENDS: FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS & LESSONS LEARNED

The **AgriSpin** project aimed at creating space for agricultural innovations through amplifying good examples of innovation support systems. The project tried to achieve this aim by exploring a number of selected innovation cases during 13 **cross-visits** in the project partners' countries. The lessons learned in the project and innovation cases studied are now **available online**.

IFOAM EU was a partner in the project and has compiled an **overview of the cases** with an organic and agroecological focus explored throughout the cross-visits. These cases included examples of process, technological, governance, and socio-economic innovation in various EU countries carried out by organic farmers, processors, companies, cooperatives and often with a support of local governments.

The list and description of other cases that were part of cross-visits is available in the **synthesis report**. The tools used in the cross-visits as well as ideas on how to kick start, support and carry out innovation in agriculture are outlined in this **inspirational guide**. A more detailed analysis on the innovation support practices used in the cases is **available online**.



Internet of Food & Farm 2020' is funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme of the European Union under the Grant Agreement no. 731884



AgriSpin is a multi-actor project that received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 652642. The goal of the partners has been to identify and recommend best fit practices for innovation processes and innovation support services. For more info about AgriSpin project, visit www.agrispin.eu

2 IFOAM EU DEVELOPMENTS

IFOAM – ORGANICS INTERNATIONAL AND IFOAM EU DISCUSS THE ORGANIC FUTURE

On 3 July, IFOAM – Organics International visited IFOAM EU's offices in Brussels. On a full-day exchange between the offices, the two organisations discussed the future of organic and tangible strategies to transform food & farming.



© Eduardo Cuoco

A REVIEW OF VOLUNTEERING AS AN EVS AT IFOAM EU

IFOAM EU hosted four EVS volunteers from Hungary, Slovakia, Croatia and Estonia between June 2016 and June 2017. Kata, Tereza, Tonci and Triin were a great addition to the IFOAM EU team and contributed to the work of their respective units with great enthusiasm for the organic movement.

Each of them learned a lot in the area they were volunteering in (communications, EU policies, project management and research). Additionally, internal trainings and visits to various events gave them an insight into how a European NGO works, the influence of EU policies and the importance of sustainable food

production for the environment and the climate. To complement their experience, the volunteers spent time at Belgian organic farms and were immersed into all aspects of the life of an organic farmer.

Another highlight of their stay was the organisation of a meetup between young professionals from NGOs working on climate change. The main objective of the meeting was to connect with other young people that are beginning their careers within fields related to climate change, as well as to learn about each other's work and to exchange views on pressing issues.

IFOAM EU would like to thank you Tereza, Kata, Tonci and Triin for the enthusiasm and dedication with which they contributed to making Europe more organic.



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

3 EVENTS

3.1 PREVIEW OF EVENTS

11TH EUROPEAN ORGANIC CONGRESS – WHAT WE WANT FOR ORGANIC IN EUROPE BY 2030

5–7 September 2017, Tallinn, Estonia

By 2030, the European organic movement aims to achieve:

- **Organic on every table:** The contribution of organic to sustainable food systems is recognized by policy-makers and citizens and is matched with a growing land share & supply of organic products.
- **Improve – Inspire – Deliver:** Organic food and farming systems are resilient and continuously improving their performance, and they inspire a positive change in our knowledge systems and diets.
- **Fair play – Fair pay:** Value and power are fairly distributed among all the operators in the supply chain, and that the costs and benefits of food production are accounted for.

Are you curious as how we are going to make this happen? Follow [#EUorganic2030 on Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for live updates

Find out who will be joining us and consult [the full programme](#) and [the excursion programme on the Congress website](#).

JOIN NATEXPO – FRANCE'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE SHOW FOR ORGANIC PRODUCTS

22–24 October 2017, Paris Villepinte, France

In October, organic trade professionals will gather in Villepinte, Paris Nord, for **Natexpo, France's biggest trade show for organic, health food and ecological products** (link is external). A strictly trade-only show, Natexpo reveals the newest organic trends emerging in a buoyant market and new products from buyers in all categories.

With 20% internationals among 720 exhibitors, an increase of 35% in surface area compared to 2015, and 14% of non-French visitors from 76 different countries, Natexpo continues its international deployment with the aim of helping trade professionals in their growth ambitions, whether searching for new export markets or widening their product sourcing channels.

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR ORGANIC INNOVATION DAYS 2017 & BROKERAGE EVENT

15–17 November 2017, Brussels, Belgium

Registration is open for the 3rd edition of the **Organic Innovation Days**, which will be held in Brussels 15–17 November 2017. The event will be hosted by the **representation of the Tuscany region**. It will gather actors from the organic and conventional food & farming sector as well as policy-makers to discuss the latest innovation in agriculture and food, in organics and beyond. At the event, the winners of this year's Call for Innovations will be announced, who will present their innovative and successful solution they have developed to address the needs of the organic sector.

This year's edition is enriched with the **OK-Net Arable Final Conference** where the best practices to improve yields in organic farming will be presented followed by a discussion on knowledge exchange and innovation support in organic farming. In addition, a brokerage session to foster organic actors' participation in joint research projects will be held on the last day of the Organic Innovation Days.

Visit the TP Organics website for detailed information on the agenda and register for the event before 30 October.

5TH ORGANIC PROCESSING CONFERENCE

16–17 JANUARY 2018
Zwolle, The Netherlands

SAVE THE DATE



This event is co-financed by the European Union, under the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME). The sole responsibility for this communication lies with IFOAM EU. The EASME is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.

3.2 REVIEW OF EVENTS

LIVESEED KICK-OFF MEETING



19–21 June 2017, Leuven, Belgium

The kick-off meeting of the Horizon 2020 project LIVESEED took place from 19 to 21 June. 60 people gathered to discuss the activities of the first year and how to reach the goal of 100% organic seed by 2037. The project officer from the Research Executive Agency of the European Commission provided his support regarding administrative and financial issues. Annette Schneegans Programme Officer at DG AGRI stated that LIVESEED is the largest organic research project in terms of budget and number of partners. As member of the advisory board Micaela Colley from the Organic Seed Alliance in the US and Gabriele Berg from Technical University Graz provided input and shared their vision of LIVESEED stated that LIVESEED is the largest organic research project in budget and size of partners. As member of the advisory board Micaela Colley from the Organic Seed Alliance in the US and Gabriele Berg from Technical University Graz provided input and shared their vision of LIVESEED.

LIVESEED's main activities in the coming months will be state-of the art research on organic seed health,

analysis of seed availability and derogations in EU Member States. The first missions to analyse national organic seed systems will start in September in the Baltic states. Follow LIVESEED's developments on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). The official homepage with detailed information will be online shortly.



Participants of the kick-off meeting in Leuven; © IFOAM EU



This project received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement 727230. 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

DEMETER WORKSHOP ON ORGANIC PLANT BREEDING

22–23 June 2017, Bingenheimer Saatgut, Germany

The 'Business models for organic plant breeding' workshop, which was organised by Demeter in cooperation with IFOAM EU, was well attended by representatives from organic seed companies, NGOs, researchers, organic farmers and breeding initiatives. The discussion focused on the marketing of organically bred varieties and how companies like Kultursaat identify relevant business openings in order to develop their activities. The state of play on new gene technologies was also presented since it can have direct implication on the organic breeding sector, according to the legislative framework that will be decided at EU level. The presentations were followed by workshops where the participants had the opportunity to exchange on different aspects on how to market organically bred seeds i.e. how to build up networks to support organic plant breeding and what the market expects from organic varieties. The workshop was concluded with an excursion in the fields of Bingenheimer Saatgut where the participants had the chance to see research on new varieties ex-situ and to visit the company.

IFOAM EU FARMERS GROUP & IFOAM EU PROCESSORS GROUP MEET

26–27 June 2017, Athens, Greece

The first joint meeting of the IFOAM EU Farmers Group and Processor Group took place in Athens, Greece on 26–27 June. The two IFOAM EU interest groups discussed topics of common interest. This included discussions on the Product Environmental Footprint, transparency and fairness in the supply chain and the relationship between the development of organic standards and private B2B standards. The groups also met with their own constituency. The farmers group mainly discussed the CAP post-2020, capacity building priorities for farmer associations and biodiversity management on organic farms. The processors group discussed processing issues such as authorised ingredients and processing techniques, the organic trade equivalency agreement between the US and the EU, and the availability of organic raw materials in the EU. The meeting also included an excursion to an organic vegetable farm nearby Athens cultivating a wide range of crops under traditional terrace management on a biodiverse landscape, and to a processing facility producing organic cereals, juices and snacks with a quite wide range of products.

IFOAM EU WELCOMES PLANS TO DEVELOP A STRATEGY FOR THE ORGANIC SECTOR IN GREECE AT ORGANIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT EVENT IN GREECE

28 June 2017, Athens, Greece

IFOAM EU, together with its Greek member organisations, welcomed the intentions of Alternate Minister of Rural Development and Food, Yiannis Tsironis, to develop a strategy to stimulate a viable future for the organic sector in Greece which he outlined at a recent public in Greece. The high-level public event on 'Organic Opportunities for Sustainable Rural development in Greece', organised by IFOAM EU in association with Attiki Association of Organic Farmers Markets, BioHellas and DIO, at the Agricultural University of Athens on 28 June 2017, brought together organic stakeholders and other experts to discuss ways public policies such as the Common Agricultural Policy can help to support the development of organics in Greece.

In the first panel of the event, moderated by IFOAM EU Director Eduardo Cuoco, the discussion focused on how the next CAP Post-2020 can better deliver on the principle of 'public money for public goods' based on a new deal between farmers and citizens. The speakers included Laurent Moinet, Chair of the IFOAM EU Farmers Group who present IFOAM EU's Vision for the next CAP, Alexandros Koutsouris, from the Athens Agricultural University who highlighted the importance of enabling

agroecological stakeholder innovation, Konstantinos Liarikos from WWF Greece who stressed the importance of the CAP as a land management policy and Chrysoula Skorditi from the Northern Greece Association of Organic Farmers who provided the Greek farmers' perspective.

In the second panel, moderated by the President of IFOAM AgriBioMediterraneo Charikleia Minotou, the discussion focused on how to make Greece more organic from farm to fork. The panel included Thomas Fertl, IFOAM EU Board member who outlined IFOAM EU's Vision for Organic in Europe 2030 and opportunities for the Greek sector. This was followed by national stakeholder perspectives from Kyriakos Palasides of the National Association of Certification bodies in organic farming, Thodoris Arvanitis of Attiki Association of organic farmers markets, Jenny Gkiougki of Community Supported Agriculture Greece, Athanasios Koutsianis of Apivita and Mavika Iliou from the Green banking of Piraeus Bank.



At the info session with the Greek organic sector Eduardo Cuoco & Stephen Meredith introduce IFOAMEU & in turn learn about organic in Greece ; © Effimia Chatzinikolaou

AGRISPIN PROJECT END CONFERENCE: SPACE FOR INNOVATION IN AGRICULTURE

3 July 2017, Chania, Crete

IFOAM EU took part in the final **AgriSpin** conference organised at the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania, Crete. The AgriSpin partners and external participants discussed the results and the recommendations of the project. The focus of the conference was on strengthening innovation in agriculture by looking at the innovation process, the stages of innovation and innovation support services. The final recommendations of the project and the inspirational booklet with the best practice examples will be available on **AgriSpin website** in the autumn.



Discussions at the AgriSpin end conference in Crete; © AgriSpin partners



AgriSpin is a multi-actor project that received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 652642. The goal of the partners has been to identify and recommend best fit practices for innovation processes and innovation support services. For more info about AgriSpin project, visit www.agrispin.eu

KEEPING GMOs OUT OF FOOD: IFOAM EU EVENTS ON NEW GENETIC ENGINEERING TECHNIQUES, SEEDS AND FEED CONTAMINATION

6–7 July 2017, Bingenheim, Germany

In July, IFOAM EU organized two events on GMOs, as part of its **Keeping GMOs out of food** project. The workshop on new genetic engineering techniques was an opportunity to better understand this technical topic and the consequences for the organic sector of the ongoing debate on their legal status. The second day was dedicated to the roundtable on seeds and feed contaminations. IFOAM EU presented its draft position paper on how 'zero tolerance policy' should be implemented in the EU to avoid seeds contamination. All participants exchanged their experiences on how to interpret tests and react to feed contaminations.

We would like to thank Bingenheimer Saatgut for hosting these events, Rapunzel for providing sweet supplies and all our sponsors, without whom these discussions would have not been possible. All documents (presentations and minutes) are available on IFOAM EU's member extranet. If you are a member and do not have access to these files, and if you would like to be part of the next events organized on GMOs, please contact [pauline.verriere \[at\] ifoam-eu.org](mailto:pauline.verriere@ifoam-eu.org)



Participants to the Keeping GMO out of food project visit Bingenheimer Saatgut; © Christoph Bollessen & Pauline Verriere

4 MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC – SUPPORT IFOAM EU

IFOAM EU KEY SUPPORTERS 2017

The contributions of sponsors allow IFOAM EU to focus on its most important work – representing organic stakeholders. This funding is a means to co-finance IFOAM EU events, projects and publications and is a highly valued contribution to our work.



wessanen

SUPPORT THE 'KEEPING GMOs OUT OF FOOD' PROJECT

The '**Keeping GMOs out of food**' project is a three-year project (2014–2017) aimed at protecting the food chain against GMO contamination. The project aims to develop practical materials for the organic and GM-free sector and lead advocacy work through:

- Analysis of the current legal framework
- Assessment of the socio-economic impact of the cultivation and of GMOs in the EU
- Lobby meetings and a high level conference
- Practical strategies developed with a Roundtable
- Discussion in focussed sector, national and European workshops
- Publication of practical guidelines to avoid GMO contamination in the food chain

IFOAM EU previously released **Preventing GMO contamination – An overview of national "coexistence" measures in the EU** in the frame of the 'Keeping GMOs out of food' project.

For further information, contact [pauline.verriere \[at\] ifoam-eu.org](mailto:pauline.verriere@ifoam-eu.org)

HELP US TO MAKE EUROPE MORE ORGANIC

Write to communication [\[at\] ifoam-eu.org](mailto:ifoam-eu.org) or call +32 (0)2 808 79 91 to find out which sponsorship opportunities are available and suit your organisation

GREEN ORGANICS

Your Partner In Organic Potatoes, Vegetables and Fruits

Imports & exports of fresh and industrial organic potatoes,
vegetables and fruits. Custom designed and reliable services
for supplying and marketing your organic products.



Green Organics BV | De Kromme Rijn 1 | 8253 RG Dronten
T +31 321 38 53 40 | F +31 321 38 53 41 | info@greenorganics.nl | www.greenorganics.nl

5 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- › 5–7 September 2017 **11th European Organic Congress**
Tallinn, Estonia
- › 28 September 2017 **European Commission conference on Modern Biotechnologies in agriculture**
Brussels, Belgium
- › 22–24 October 2017 **Natexpo**
Paris, France
- › 9–11 November 2017 **19th Organic World Congress**
New Delhi, India
- › 15–16 November 2017 **Nordic Organic Food Fair 2017**
Malmö, Sweden
- › 15–17 November 2017 **Organic Innovation Days & Horizon 2020 Brokerage Event**
Brussels, Belgium
- › 16–17 January 2018 **5th Organic Processing Conference**
Zwolle, The Netherlands
- › 17–18 January 2018 **Bio-Beurs**
Zwolle, The Netherlands
- › 14–17 February 2018 **BIOFACH 2018**
Nuremberg, Germany



The IFOAM EU's farmers and processors group met for a fruitful discussion in Athens, Greece, on 26–27 June; © Effimia Chatzinikolaou

IFOAM *MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC*
EU GROUP

Rue du Commerce 124, 1000 Brussels, Belgium
Phone: +32-2-280 12 23
Fax: +32-2-735 73 81
Email: [communication \[at\] ifoam-eu.org](mailto:communication@ifoam-eu.org)
www.ifoam-eu.org  

© IFOAM EU 2004 to 2017

Please send any comments or contributions to the newsletter to [communication\[at\]ifoam-eu.org](mailto:communication@ifoam-eu.org).

For further information contact your national board member or the office in Brussels.

Editors IFOAM EU Newsletter: Eric Gall, Magdalena Wawrzonkowska, Eva Berckmans, Triin Viilvere

Newsletter layout: Diana Jastrzębska & Paweł Maszerowski, **Heroldart**



This publication is co-financed by the European Union, under the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME). The sole responsibility for this communication lies with IFOAM EU. The EASME is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.