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IFOAM EU
NEWSLETTER

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF IFOAM EU IN 2018

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Romanian State secretary, Alexandru Potor, and IFOAM EU Director Eduardo Cuoco met in the frame of the SMEs ORGANICS event and discussed organising an event in Romania in June 2018. Keep an eye on our newsletter to stay tuned!

15 YEARS OF



14 May 2018, Brussels

- Council meeting

15 May 2018, Brussels

- 9th General Assembly
- Anniversary reception

16 May 2018, Brussels

Public event on climate change mitigation
and adaptation of the EU's agriculture sector

Visit www.ifoam-eu.org for more information

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Help us to make the celebration of our movement's 15-year anniversary memorable! Find out what's in it for you, contact communication [a] ifoam-eu.org



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.

WELCOME NOTE

Dear readers,

I am happy to say that IFOAM EU's members will gather for **IFOAM EU's 9th General Assembly in Brussels on 15 May 2018**. I hope that many of our members will be present.

The General Assembly is the primary decision-making body of IFOAM EU. The General Assembly reviews and decides on the general policies and direction of our organisation. At the General Assembly our members are called upon to take decisions and act, such that we can together provide a common voice from the organic movement in Europe via motions presented by the current Board and our members.

For this reason, the participation of all our members is essential so that we can properly discuss important matters, including finance and our strategic direction, and vote democratically on crucial issues for our organisation to guarantee a viable structure, which is able to face future challenges the organic sector faces in Europe.

At its **9th General Assembly**, IFOAM EU's members will also elect the new IFOAM EU Board, by voting for 9 candidates nominated by the IFOAM EU Nomination

committee and / or our members. The Board – IFOAM EU's first chamber – along with the Council – IFOAM EU's second chamber – will lead the organisation for the next 2 years (2018–2020).

To prepare the ground for the upcoming Board and to maintain a continuity of the work done, the current Board has prepared a report with recommendations and explanations that create our legacy for the future. **Visit our website to find out more about IFOAM EU's structure.**

2018 is a year of particular importance because **IFOAM EU is turning 15!** With the participation of our members, colleagues, and other important guests, we will celebrate our hard work, our impactful projects and our successes during our **anniversary celebration in Brussels on the evening of 15 May**.

On 16 May, we would like to invite you to participate in our public event on climate change and farming. During the event in Brussels, the results of **the SOLMACC project** will be showcased. SOLMACC is a project that has been promoting climate-friendly farming practices for the last four years and scientifically monitoring the climate impact of implementing four farming practices at twelve European organic

demonstration farms. The project is funded by **the LIFE-programme**.

The different SOLMACC partners (IFOAM EU, FiBL, Bioland, AIAB and Ekologiska Lantbrukarna) and participating farmers will be present to share their experiences and offer an insight into the socio-economic implications of implementing the practices and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The event 'Farmers tackling climate change: systemic solution for greater mitigation and adaptation of EU's agriculture sector' is open to everyone but **registration is required**.

We hope to see you in Brussels at one of these events!



Christopher Stopes,
IFOAM EU President

POLITICAL HOTSPOT

THE DEBATE ON THE CAP REFORM INTENSIFIES AHEAD OF THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL

The revision of the post-2020 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) will formally start when the European Commission publishes its legislative proposal, expected in late May. This will be followed by discussions and amendments from the European Parliament and the Council of the EU until a final text is agreed. Nonetheless, the current discussion in the Council and

Parliament on the Commission **Communication** of last November on the CAP reform already provides a basis for debate. As the Commission services consult each other and work towards finalising the text of the proposal in the coming weeks, European legislators are laying down their positions and key messages. IFOAM EU contributed to the discussion, with the release in April of the report with FiBL **Towards a new public goods payment model for remunerating farmers under the CAP Post-2020**.

The European Parliament is currently preparing its initiative report on the "Future of food and farming". This non-legislative dossier, for which MEP Herbert Dorfmann is the rapporteur, is currently in the Parliament's agricultural committee. The 1.300 amendments tabled on this short non-legislative draft report show the high level of interest in the Parliament

on the CAP reform. One concern in the Parliament about the Commission's idea to have a "New Delivery Model", is that giving enhanced flexibility to Member States to set their own CAP objectives and carry out their own audits could fragment this European policy and the European agricultural market. Compared to the Commission, the Parliament seems to favour a limited increase in flexibility to define national CAP strategic plans, within a single European set of tools to choose from, as well as control and audit functions standardised across the EU. On the overall structure of the policy, the draft report and most of the amendments proposed avoid the issue of deep reform, preferring to keep a similar two pillars structure as it is today. Moreover, there are calls to remove Greening in pillar one, but there are few requests so far to replace it with something more ambitious such as an Eco Scheme. Several MEPs ask to move away from a compliance payment model towards a results-oriented CAP, but little is mentioned of what these results should be, or how this public money is linked with the delivery of public goods to society. In March, IFOAM EU explained its priorities concerning this report to lead MEP Dorfmann and several of the key MEPs in charge of this dossier, the work will continue ahead of the vote in Committee.

The Council of the EU, made of the governments of the 28 Member States, has also been discussing and preparing its position on the CAP. At the last meeting

of national Agricultural Ministers on 19 March, it was expected that common Council Conclusions would be published, but five Member States did not agree to sign the Conclusions, and therefore the text had to be downgraded to **Presidency Conclusions**. This unusual event shows that there are significant divisions within the Council, but also that the issue causing the rift – distribution of Direct Payments between countries – is and will continue to be of the highest priority at national level. The 23 governments that did sign the Presidency Conclusions support a significant flexibilization and simplification of CAP implementation, including keeping to basic indicators and streamlined reporting. If this were to be implemented, it is hard to expect that the CAP could deliver on complex socio-economic and environmental objectives, such as the EU's commitments to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. In terms of environmental and climate protection, the Conclusions support a "a higher level of ambition" under both CAP pillars and "remunerating farmers for the public goods they provide", although there is no detail on how this could be done or with what instruments, other than that it should be simple and flexible. IFOAM EU followed this debate in Council closely and published press releases during the **previous meeting in January** and again for the Presidency Conclusions in **late March**.

To summarize, the Parliament seems to favour a modest reform of the CAP with a similar structure and it has doubts about the new flexible model outlined by the Commission. The Council is struggling to find consensus with tensions rising between Member States on the distribution of money, while there are calls for simplification and flexibility that could reduce the effectiveness of the policy. In this complex debate, as the Commission drafts its proposal, it should consider what European consumers want and farmers need, then focus on long term solutions for the challenges that the agricultural sectors face. Maintaining the status quo is not an option, to keep its relevance the new CAP must be forward looking and must demonstrate its contribution to public goods. Beyond 2030, **IFOAM EU's vision** is of a CAP guided by the core principle that public money must deliver public goods.

ORGANIC IN EUROPE

▶ EXPLORE THE INTERACTIVE MAP

Category	Percentage	Value
EU-28 Organic land area	10.3%	10.3 million hectares
Organic land use breakdown		
46.8% Grassland	4.8%	4,807,473 hectares
41.1% Arable crops	4.3%	4,118,851 hectares
8.7% Permanent crops	0.9%	1,189,700 hectares
4.0% Other	0.4%	394,119 hectares
Producers		237,523
Processors		49,968
EU average (EU-28)		1.26%

PRODUCTION & RETAIL DATA BY COUNTRY ◀

ifoam-eu.org/en/organic-europe

Produced by **IFOAM EU GROUP** MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC

Data compiled by **FiBL**

Co-financed by Action co-financed by the European Commission, Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development

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1 NEWS FROM IFOAM EU WORKING FIELDS

1.1 POLICY

› CLIMATE CHANGE

LESS AND BETTER: CIVIL SOCIETY CALLS FOR ACTION ON INDUSTRIAL ANIMAL FARMING

20 civil society organisations, including IFOAM EU, called on the European institutions to fundamentally change the currently unbalanced food and farming system. The organisations want the institutions to accelerate the transition towards more sustainable and healthier diets that are higher in plant-based food and contain less and better produced meat, dairy and eggs. Such a shift would be beneficial in the context of mitigating climate change and supporting environmentally friendly practices, improving animal and human health and welfare, as well as guaranteeing food security and supporting farmers' livelihoods. **The letter** further stressed that farmers adopting more sustainable and higher animal welfare farming methods, e.g., organic farming, must be encouraged and rewarded. This letter finally calls on the EU institutions to carry out a "comprehensive assessment of the health and environmental impacts of the industrial animal farming sector and formulate clear policy recommendations".

› CAP

FIBL STUDY SHOWS THAT REFORMING THE COMMON AGRICULTURE POLICY (CAP) CAN BETTER SUPPORT FARMERS AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO DELIVER PUBLIC GOODS

A recent report on the CAP by the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) was released by IFOAM EU on 10 April. Titled **Towards a new public goods payment model for remunerating farmers under the CAP Post-2020**, it explores smart and cost-efficient ways to reform the EU Common Agricultural Policy, focusing on rewarding farmers for the public goods that they bring to society and rural areas with a special focus on protecting the environment.

The recommendations of the report are ambitious, yet realistic, and build upon the architecture of the current CAP and **the Commission's CAP Communication of 2017**. The focus is on further developing voluntary robust measures under pillar II of the CAP, while increasingly mainstreaming sustainability measures in pillar I with a new and more ambitious scheme to replace the current greening measures. In addition, it introduces the underlying principle of a results-oriented CAP, where objectives are clear, and a farm's

performance is assessed by objective agricultural sustainability assessment tools (e.g. SMART). This results-oriented approach bases compensation on performance, allowing farmers to use their potential as 'sustainable entrepreneurs'.

With the post-2020 CAP reform process well under way and the Commission proposal expected by the end of May, **this report** represents another important contribution of the organic movement to this debate.

Towards a new public goods payment model for remunerating farmers under the CAP Post-2020

Read our new report



» GMOS

THE ONGOING AND FUTURE WORK OF IFOAM EU ON GMOS

The ability of the organic sector to produce and supply high level quality food, cosmetics and textile at a decent cost is under threat from the increasing risk of GMOs contamination. That is why IFOAM EU launched the **'Keeping GMOs out of food'** project in 2014.

This project has enabled the organic sector to hold strategic debates during three roundtables and three workshops, to work on a **common position on new genetic engineering techniques**, to study the **impacts of GMOs on European agriculture**, to **study national 'coexistence' measures in the EU to prevent GMO contamination** and to propose practical solutions to avoid them (with practical guidelines to avoid contamination to be published in 2018). The 'Keeping GMOs out of food' project will end with a final event to review the main achievements of the project in June 2018.

However, with the development of new genetic engineering techniques – or so called 'new breeding techniques', e.g., gene editing – that are not yet regulated as GMOs, the freedom to use seeds which have not been genetically engineered is at stake. In July, IFOAM EU will launch a new project 'Keeping GMOs out of organic'. This project will continue to build the capacity of the organic movement to minimise the risk

of the release of GMOs in the environment. This new project will focus on making sure that new genetic engineering techniques will be regulated as GMOs under Directive 2001/18/EC. The project will identify the difficulties faced by the organic sector to remain GMO-free and will develop practical solutions to ensure farmers' access to GMO-free seeds.

For question related to the project, to participate to the new project of IFOAM EU and/or sponsor the advocacy work on GMOs and new genetic engineering techniques, please contact [pauline.verriere \[@\] ifoam-eu.org](mailto:pauline.verriere@ifoam-eu.org).



Read our study to get informed on the strategies value chain actors in seed production, feed (maize and soy), soy for food and cotton use to ensure GMO-free production and processing.

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION GAVE GREEN LIGHT TO THE BAYER-MONSANTO MERGER

Despite the **mobilisation of the civil society**, the **European Commission approved the acquisition of Monsanto by Bayer on 21 March**. Because the merger 'creates the largest global integrated seed and pesticide player', the European Commission asked for some guaranties that there 'will be effective competition and innovation in seeds, pesticides and digital agriculture markets also after this merger'. To do so, Bayer and Monsanto will have to sell off some of their assets related to seeds and pesticides. Before being effective, this merger still needs to obtain the approval from other international markets.

This decision of the European Commission takes place in a context of already high concentration in the agri-food sector. The European Commission already gave its green light for two other mergers: Dow and Dupont, ChemChina and Syngenta. The three companies that would result from these mergers would represent 70% of the agrochemicals industry and would hold 60% of seeds property. In that context, and despite the few guaranties required, the optimism of the European Commission for an effective competition is difficult to share...

For more information about the concentration of power in the agri-food sector, read the IPES-Food report **'Too big to feed'**.

» FOOD, FARMING AND ENVIRONMENT

PLANT HEALTH CARE IN ORGANIC FARMING

The revision of the European legislation on “plant protection products” will be the chance to highlight the specific approach of organic farming to plant health, and IFOAM EU is already active to provide input in the REFIT process. As a system approach, plant health care in organic farming is mainly done through indirect and preventive measures internal to the agroecosystem. Where external substances are needed, inputs are limited to naturally occurring substances with a considerably lower unpredictable risk as much as possible.

To develop a more supportive legislative environment, existing regulations, especially Regulation (EU) 1107/2009 on the placement of plant protection products on the market, must be modified to meet the needs of the organic sector.

This includes amongst other things:

- Special registration procedures with a specific risk assessment for naturally occurring substances
- A basic substance category to register substances whose use is of public interest, but the return of the investment is not attractive
- Recognition of multiple uses of naturally occurring substances
- A special concept of “minor use” for naturally occurring substances
- Ensuring that all the possible precautionary measures are taken to prevent pesticide contamination

IFOAM EU opened a call for experts to participate in the new expert group for plant protection products & fertilisers to further elaborate a strategy on plant health care for organic farming. Are you interested in joining these expert groups? Continue reading about the new expert group in the [section ‘IFOAM EU developments’ of this newsletter](#).

1.2 EU RESEARCH & INNOVATION POLICY / TP ORGANICS

TP ORGANICS CALLS FOR MISSION FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS IN THE 9TH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH & INNOVATION



In its response on a Commission's consultation on the 9th Framework Programme for Research & Innovation (FP9), TP Organics called for a mission for Sustainable Food Systems, with following goals to be achieved by 2030:

- 50% farmland managed according to organic and agroecological principles
- 75% pesticide reduction
- increase (on-farm) biodiversity
- 100% animal welfare
- 50% food waste reduction
- 100% sustainable diets

The implementation of this mission will require interdisciplinary research & innovation on farms and in the food industry, based on strong relations among farmers, value chain actors and citizens. We need research to design biodiverse farming systems, make better use of biological processes, better integrate land, food and farming policy, set-up transparent and fair supply chains, and promote sustainable diets.

The concept of "missions" has been proposed by the European Commission to create measurable impacts in FP9, and transform science, technology, industry and society. Missions should have a clearly defined, measurable target to be achieved through a portfolio of research and innovation actions. Read more about the concept of missions in the [report of professor Mazzucato](#) and read the [position paper of TP Organics on FP9](#).

NEW EIP-AGRI BROCHURE: COLLABORATE TO INNOVATE

A new EIP-AGRI brochure highlights examples of successful collaboration of Operational Groups with other organisations and provides inspiration and tools for knowledge exchange within the EIP-AGRI network. EIP-AGRI Operational Groups are innovative projects that aim to find practical solutions to problems which farmers are facing. Operational Groups bring together partners with complementary knowledge, such as farmers, researchers, farm advisers, agribusinesses and others. More than 3,200 Operational Groups are planned by national and regional Rural Development Programmes for the period 2014-2020. Operational Groups can benefit from networking and collaborating with organisations from outside their own project and from other regions and countries. Established Operational Groups or those interested to set-up one

and explore options for collaboration beyond the usual network can find inspiration in [this new EIP-AGRI brochure](#). The brochure includes an article on a [project between German organic farmers and the Dutch Louis Bolk Institute](#) to prevent nutrient losses.



LIVESEED ANALYSES THE SITUATION REGARDING ORGANIC SEED DURING NATIONAL VISITS



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IFOAM EU coordinates the LIVESEED project, of which one of the objectives is to strengthen organic seed production and use, and to improve the implementation of the organic regulation on the topic of seed. During the last months the project partners have visited Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Hungary, Greece, Bulgaria and Romania to understand, evaluate and analyse the current state of organic seed in the countries.

National project partners have organised meetings with the ministry, certifiers, seed producers and organic farmers. Information has been exchanged on the practices, problems and opportunities regarding organic seed.

After visiting seven countries it became clear that many national differences exist: the organic seed databases are developed and used to a varying extent; and organic seed production ranges from farmer-led to mainly dependent on external imports. In all countries the project partners met motivated stakeholders that want to increase organic seed production and use, and from every country the project collected best-practices and inspirations that will be published.

The next step of the project is to organise regional workshops to bring the stakeholders together to discuss the future actions to reach the aim of 100% organic seed. For further questions, please contact alexandra.fuss [a] ifoam-eu.org. Read more about the project on www.liveseed.eu or [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



Participants to the LIVESEED project visited the Ministry of Agriculture of Bulgaria, on 9 February 2018.



This project received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement Liveseed (No 72723).

OPEN CALL INTERNET OF FOOD & FARM 2020 – PRE-HARVESTING PHASE OPEN



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IoF2020, the leading €35m EU-project on large-scale IoT innovation in agri-food which IFOAM EU is part of, is launching a €6m open call at the Internet of Things (IoT) Week in Bilbao in June 2018.

In 2017, the IoF2020-project has established an initial community with diverse European stakeholders, developing innovative IoT-based solutions for the European food and farming industry. Nineteen use-cases organised around five trials (arable, dairy, fruits, meat and vegetables) develop, test and demonstrate IoT technologies in an operational environment in Europe, benefiting both conventional and organic agri-food chains.

The primary objective of the Open Call is to increase the scale and impact of the IoF2020 initiative. Project holders are now invited to submit their ideas to the IoF2020 support team.

To get more information about the open call and be in touch with the support team, visit [the IoF2020 website](#)

Check out the video of the IoF2020 stakeholder event in Almeria.



IoF2020 has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement no. 731884.

**RESEARCH OUTCOMES
ON XYLELLA FASTIDIOSA
PUBLISHED BY XF-ACTORS
AND PONTE PROJECTS**



The main achievements obtained to date in the research on the bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa* have been resumed in a technical report that summarises the findings presented during the European conference on *Xylella fastidiosa* and the annual meeting of the projects, held in November 2017 in Palma de Mallorca, Spain.

Entitled “European research on *Xylella fastidiosa*”, this document provides a snapshot of the current EU research programs and an update of the most relevant results addressing this emerging pathogen accomplished by both projects. The document reports on the research tasks investigating multiple aspects of the diseases caused by *X. fastidiosa*: the genetic and biology of the pathogen, the vector(s), the host plants, the spread patterns, diagnosis and early detection, modelling and tools for risk assessment.

The complete document is available in English. Visit the [website](#) for more information or reach out to communication [a] xfactorsproject.eu

The research was performed in the frame of PONTE and XF-ACTORS – projects funded by the European Union within the Horizon 2020 programme.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 727987.

TRANSFORMING FOOD & FARMING- MAKING IT HAPPEN

VISION 2030

**ORGANIC
ON EVERY
TABLE**

**IMPROVE
INSPIRE
DELIVER**

**FAIR PLAY
FAIR PAY**

➤ Visit EUORGANIC2030.BIO for inspiring examples and submit your own



2 IFOAM EU DEVELOPMENTS

IFOAM EU WILL HOLD ITS 9TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON 15 MAY – IFOAM EU MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

IFOAM EU invites its members to the 9th General Assembly in Brussels, Belgium, on 15 May.

This is a three-day event:

14 May 2018, 14:30–18:30, **IFOAM EU Council meeting**, including the elections of the Chair and Vice-Chairs

- This meeting is open only to IFOAM EU Council members

15 May 2018, 9:00–16:30, IFOAM EU General Assembly and Board Elections

- The General Assembly is open only to IFOAM EU Members and observers

15 May 2018, 19:00, **IFOAM EU 15-year anniversary** celebrations

- These celebrations are open for invitees only

16 May 2018, 9:00–13:00, **public event** on 'Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation of EU's agriculture sector – showcasing organic farmers tackling climate change from the SOLMACC project'

Register for this event. IFOAM EU members find more information about the General Assembly on **the IFOAM EU member extranet**. Do note that this information is available **for IFOAM EU members only**. If you are an IFOAM EU member and you do not have access to these files, please contact [caterina.berardi \[at\] ifoam-eu.org](mailto:caterina.berardi@ifoam-eu.org).

ARE YOU AN EXPERT ON PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS AND/OR FERTILISERS? – JOIN THE NEW IFOAM EU EXPERT GROUP!

A call for experts is now open to join an IFOAM EU expert group on **Plant Protection Products and Fertilisers**. This group will provide expertise on legislative issues that could have significant implications for new and existing plant protection and fertiliser products of interest to the organic sector.

- Relevant working areas include the current **REFIT evaluation** performed by the European Commission, new organic regulation, specific guidance for the approval of mineral substances, fertiliser products legislation.
- For an overview of issues relevant to the organic sector, please refer to the IFOAM EU position paper on **Plant Health Care in Organic Farming (April 2016)**.
- The deadline for members to express their interest in participating to the Plant Protection and Fertiliser Expert Group is by close of business Monday, 30 April 2018. Please take the time to **fill in the online form**. Participation to the group is open to all members of IFOAM EU.

IS YOUR INITIATIVE LEADING EUROPE TO A MORE SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM?

Submit your initiative now!

IFOAM EU is collecting successful initiatives and projects that are transforming food and farming in Europe.

The initiatives should be projects and programmes that are not older than 4 years and that address one of the following aspects:

- Organic on every table: initiatives and examples that make organic widely available and recognised
- Improve – inspire – deliver: initiatives and examples that develop organic further and inspire others
- Fair play – fair pay: initiatives and examples to achieve more transparency and fairness in the value chain

Need inspiration? Go to euorganic2030.bio and find many – new – initiatives! You're invited to submit your own initiative too! Relevant submissions will be profiled on EUorganic2030.bio and on social media using [#EUorganic2030](https://twitter.com/EUorganic2030).



SAYING GOODBYE TO:



Triin Viilvere

In March, IFOAM EU's communications unit said goodbye to Triin Viilvere. In 2016, Triin joined IFOAM EU for a one-year EVS experience. Her bright personality, dedication and hard work made her an invaluable team member. After her EVS experience Triin stayed on to assist the team with many tasks, the most noteworthy updating **the interactive infographic with organic market and production data**, and coordinating the design of the second edition of '**SME Organic Action Plans – Development, Implementation and evaluation**' and the **best practices the participating regions are using to develop organics**. We will miss Triin's bright personality and wish her all the best in her future endeavours!

WELCOMING OUR NEW COLLEAGUES:



Nicolas de la Vega

In March, Nicolas joined IFOAM EU's policy unit as Policy Officer for Agriculture and CAP. He has been living in Brussels for several years, working in agricultural policy at the European Parliament and more recently with the anaerobic digestion sector on manure processing and fertilisers. Previously Nicolas worked at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Rome on climate change adaptation and with the NGO network BBO Brussels working on development cooperation in ACP countries. Nicolas holds a Bachelor's degree in Politics from the University of Canterbury and a Master's Degree in EU policy from the University of Maastricht. He is a native speaker of Spanish and is fluent in English and French.



Silvia Schmidt

In March, Silvia joined IFOAM EU as Food Policy Officer and she works both in the policy and regulation units. Silvia is Italian / German but has been living in Brussels for several years. She holds a Bachelor's degree in nutrition and public health from the Amsterdam University College and a master's in food safety from Wageningen University. She has previously worked at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE) and for the European Community of Consumer Co-operatives (Euro Coop). Her motivation to join IFOAM EU stems both from her interest in food policy developments, as well as from the drive to make health and the environment a priority.

3 EVENTS

3.1 PREVIEW OF EVENTS

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF IFOAM EU – 9TH IFOAM EU GENERAL ASSEMBLY & BOARD ELECTIONS (IFOAM EU MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS ONLY)

9:00–16:30, 15 May 2018, Brussels, Belgium

IFOAM EU invites its members to the 9th General Assembly in Brussels, Belgium, on 15 May. Between 9:00–16:30 IFOAM EU's members & observers will hold the biannual **General Assembly and elect a new Board**.

Register for this event. IFOAM EU members find more information about the General Assembly on **the IFOAM EU member extranet**. Do note that this information is available for IFOAM EU members only. If you are an IFOAM EU member and you do not have access to these files, please contact [ifoameu_membership @ifoam-eu.org](mailto:ifoameu_membership@ifoam-eu.org).



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.

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF IFOAM EU – ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS (INVITATION ONLY)

19:00–23:00, 15 May 2018, Brussels, Belgium

Following the 9th General Assembly, we will celebrate 15 years of making Europe more organic! We have sent out invitations to this event. Should you have received an invitation, but you did not receive one? Please contact [ifoameu_membership @ifoam-eu.org](mailto:ifoameu_membership@ifoam-eu.org).



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Do you want to help us celebrate 15 years of IFOAM EU? Get in touch with communication [@ifoam-eu](mailto:ifoam-eu) and hear what's in it for you!



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CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF IFOAM EU – PUBLIC EVENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND ORGANIC FARMING

9:30–13:00, 16 May 2018, Brussels, Belgium

Farmers, policy makers, researchers and experts will gather for half a day to find systemic solutions for tackling climate change within the agriculture sector. The final results of the **SOLMACC** project will be presented, including policy recommendations and in-person accounts from the farmers who have been implementing climate-friendly practices for the last four years. Videos describing the practices and a practical manual on implementation will be launched.

Register for this event.



This event is supported through the LIFE financial instrument of the European Union in the frame of the SOLMACC project (agreement number: LIFE12 ENV/SE/0008000).

SUSTAINABLE FOODS SUMMIT

7–8 June, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

The upcoming Sustainable Foods Summit will focus on health impacts, sustainable ingredients, and green marketing. For the tenth consecutive year, the European edition of this executive summit will be hosted in Amsterdam, on 7–8 June. The premier Sustainable Food Awards will be co-hosted alongside the summit, giving recognition to operators who are helping build a sustainable food industry. The awards reception will take place on the evening of 7 June.

Organised by Ecovia Intelligence, the Sustainable Foods Summit provides an excellent platform to debate and discuss major sustainability issues facing the food industry. It will look at the role of organic, fair trade and other eco-labels in the food industry. Read more on the [Sustainable Foods Summit's website](#).



12th EUROPEAN ORGANIC CONGRESS
25–26 SEPTEMBER 2018
VIENNA, AUSTRIA

SAVE THE DATE
and join us in Vienna, Austria,
on 25–26 September 2018

Organisers:

IFOAM MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC
EU GROUP

Bio AUSTRIA

Supporters:

Green Organics **wessanen** **ARIZA** **Naturland**

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.

The poster features a green border and a background of various food icons. The top section has a stylized illustration of red flowers and green grass. The text is in bold, green, sans-serif fonts. The bottom section contains logos for the organizers and supporters, along with a disclaimer from the European Union.

3.2 REVIEW OF EVENTS

IFOAM EU FARMERS GROUP STEERING COMMITTEE MEETS

7 March 2018, Brussels, Belgium

The IFOAM EU Farmers Group Steering Committee met to discuss on plant protection products, animal welfare, food policy, Organic Regulation Implementing rules and the revision of the CAP. The draft report by IFOAM EU and FiBL on the CAP was assessed, and the group then discussed the agenda and preparations of the next Farmers Group meeting in June 2018. Two IFOAM EU projects were presented during the meeting: OK-Net EcoFeed and RELACS!

IFOAM EU DISCUSSED PATENTS ON SEEDS AT DANSEED SYMPOSIUM

13 March 2018, Denmark

At the invitation of Copa Cogeca, IFOAM EU participated to the DanSeed Symposium. Both conventional and organic breeders are highly concerned by the increasing number of patents on seeds granted by the European Patent Office, that threaten the existing European breeding innovation model. While the EPO agreed to exclude essentially biological processes from patentability, it did so but with a narrow interpretation that still considers selection without crossing or random mutations as patentable.

Copa Cogeca and IFOAM EU consider that the scope of patents should be restricted to the technical process

used to produce plants or animals and that seeds and genetic traits that can be found in nature and obtained through conventional breeding cannot be patented, whatever the breeding process described in the patent. Copa Cogeca and IFOAM EU will continue to cooperate to make these exclusions from patentability legally binding.

Regarding new genetic engineering techniques there are diverging views among seed companies and between Copa Cogeca and IFOAM EU on which techniques should fall under the scope of the EU legislation on GMOs. However, there is a common understanding that it is essential to ensure transparency to breeders, seed companies and farmers on which technologies are used to produce the seed varieties used by farmers. **The programme and presentations are available on the Danseed website.**

SME ORGANICS – USING ACTION PLANS TO DEVELOP ORGANICS



Dissemination event

23 March 2018, Brussels, Belgium

During the public event on “Using Action Plan to Develop Organics” organised at Business Europe in Brussels on 23 March 2018, project partners across seven EU-regions, plus the Aargau Canton (Switzerland) presented the first phase results of the **SME ORGANICS projects**. During this first phase, the focus was put on the importance of Regional Organic Action Plan in enhancing SMEs competitiveness and sustainability.

There was a panel discussion at the event on how Organic Action Plans can help SMEs to fully utilise different policies and reach common aims to meet EU, national and regional goals. This is very relevant in the context of a growing European organic sector and increasing interest in organic food and farming amongst many policy makers and stakeholders.



Project partners during the panel discussion 'Using action plans to develop organics' at SME ORGANICS' dissemination event © Triin Viilvere

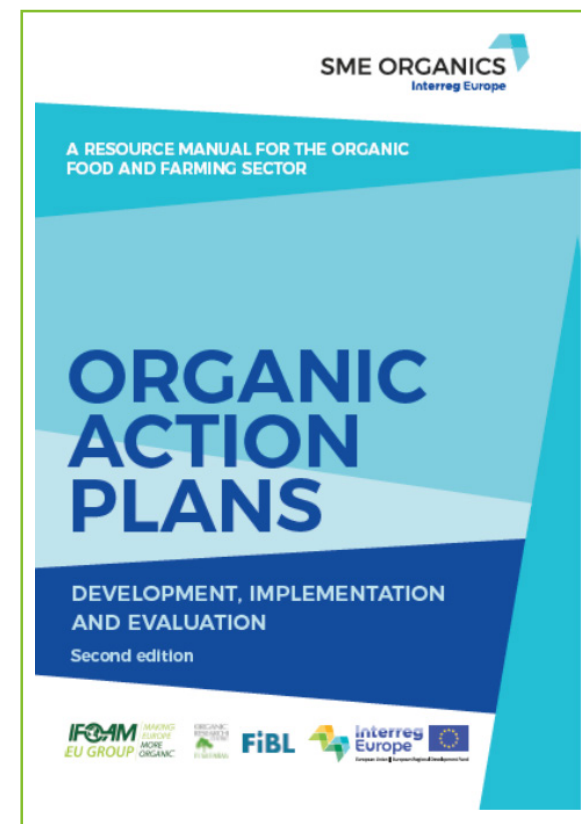
SME Organics' first phase outputs

24 March 2018, Brussels, Belgium

Drawing on the results of the project's first phase, the second edition of '**SME Organic Action Plans – Development, Implement and evaluation**', was launched during the dissemination event. This publication explores how Organic Action Plans can be used to support SMEs involved the development of the whole organic value chain at different EU levels. Moreover, and as part of the learning process, **best practices examples** at regional level were shared among partners and stakeholders under the strategy of develop organic further and inspire others. Read more about the best practices on euorganic2030.bio.

IFOAM EU thanks all the project partners for their commitment to the success of the first phase project and for their work to make Europe more organic.

For more information about the project, please read the **SME ORGANICS brochure** and visit [the project website](#).



Are you interested in developing an Organic Action Plan, or interested in the development, implementation and evaluation of Organic Action Plans? Then the SME ORGANICS' recent publication is a must read!

INTERBIO NOUVELLE-AQUITAINE DISCUSSES FAIRNESS IN ORGANICS

27 March 2018, Mussidan, France

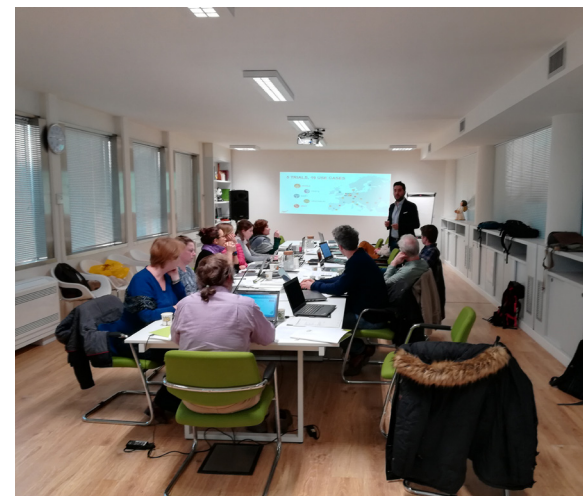
As part of the SME Organics project, a Forum of regional organic supply chains was organised in Mussidan near Bordeaux by InterBio Nouvelle Aquitaine. This second edition was dedicated to fairness in the organic food supply chain. IFOAM EU participated and re-affirmed that fairness was a key principle of **the Vision 2030** and of the **organic roadmap**. Several concrete initiatives of the French organic sector aimed at ensuring a remunerating price to farmers were presented, such as Biocoop range of products **“Ensemble”**, which applies to 600 products and gathers 2,612 farms, and other fair trade initiatives which benefit both European and Southern producers.

IFOAM EU'S INTEREST GROUP FOR ORGANIC PROCESSORS COMES TOGETHER

27 March 2018, Florence, Italy

At the IFOAM EU Interest Group for Organic Processors' meeting, processors discussed – among others – the current organic regulations (specifically Annexes VIII and IX of Reg. EC No 889/2008), the future organic regulation as well as other topics such as the availability of organic lecithin in the EU, the use of organic bakery release agents, and the issue of supplementation and fortification of organic products. In addition to the fruitful discussions, the delicious food was also very appreciated.

The meeting was organised with the support of **Assobio**, the Italian Organic Processors' Association and kindly hosted by the pioneer organic company **Probios**.



IFOAM EU's Interest Group for Organic Processors met in Florence, Italy on 27 March

4 MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC – SUPPORT IFOAM EU

IFOAM EU KEY SUPPORTERS 2018

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.



SUPPORT THE 'KEEPING GMOs OUT OF FOOD' PROJECT

The 'Keeping GMOs out of organic' project is a two years and a half project (2018–2020) following the 'Keeping GMOs out of food' which will end in June 2018. This new project aimed at:

- Strengthen GMO-free organic food production by organising and supporting the organic movement in its effort to develop practical strategies to stay GMO free and to facilitate discussion with the GMO-free sector.
- Develop positions and coordinate advocacy work to maintain the ability of the organic sector to remain GMO-free.

This new project will have a specific focus on new genetic engineering techniques, to follow the crucial ongoing discussion at the European level and make sure these new techniques will be regulated as GMOs.

IFOAM EU previously released

- Preventing GMO contamination – An overview of national “coexistence” measures in the EU
- Socio-economic impacts of GMOs on European agriculture

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 or call +32 (0)2 808 79 91 to find out which sponsorship opportunities are available and suit your organisation.

TERRASANA IS ALL ABOUT POSITIVE EATING

TERRASANA

Positive eating: what does this mean?

Positive eating reflects the positive feeling people get when they find organic food that includes at least five things:

- ✓ It is truly tasty food, with a great taste. Food you can really enjoy, alone, with your family and with your friends. You see, feel and taste the goodness.
- ✓ It doesn't contain any unnecessary ingredients like flavourings and artificial additives.
- ✓ Responsible choices -for body as well as environment- are made. For example when it comes to sugars and fats we use extra virgin olive oil instead of palm oil and blackstrap molasses instead of refined sugars, when possible.
- ✓ We communicate with understandable straightforward, clear and fair information and ingredient declaration.
- ✓ It has the potential to help provide a positive development because it's organic, sustainable and fair. It helps farmers, doesn't pollute the earth, soil and water & is made with green energy.

Wide product range

TerraSana offers more than 500 products in nine categories. They contain the best ingredients from all over the world. All are organic, fair and delicious. These three elements will always point back to TerraSana's vision: positive eating for everyone!

Modern appearance

For the past two years, TerraSana has been updating the full range of products. Most recently, we introduced a completely updated Mediterranean line with 50 delicious specialties. The new packaging is modern, friendly and inviting. Enjoyment is the main message, as this is what makes Mediterranean food so broadly appealing. Every product has their own special story. With the new design, also quality improvements were made, like crackers with olive oil instead of palm oil. At the same time, unique Spanish soups were introduced, made from vegetables, olive oil, wine vinegar and salt only. Also, beautifully handcrafted premium pasta's, including 7 gluten free varieties -made of i.e. 100% oats or 100% chickpeas- were presented.

Trendy Japanese cuisine

TerraSana offers more than 90 truly authentic Japanese products in a trendy look. TerraSana has been an expert in the careful selection of Japanese products for years. With knowledge of macrobiotics, years of importing experience and close monitoring of current trends, a wonderful organic Japanese product line with a modern twist has been developed. It focuses on all the good things Japanese cuisine has to offer: mostly low in fat and calories, small portions and lots of fresh and fermented products.

Europeans are already used to so many different types of cooking, why should we leave this special cuisine undiscovered?

✓ bio-organic

Organic nut butters, produced in our own building.

TerraSana offers a complete range of 16 kinds of nutbutters and seedpastes. They are produced CO2 neutrally. TerraSana's core value is not only to be responsible with food products, but also the whole process behind it - from production to transport. Working in a sustainable manner, with solar energy and green options where we can, is very important in our organisation and gives us a smile on our face every day. That is why we have solar panels on our rooftop that provide the energy that is needed for the production of our nut butters. Of course, we recycle our waste and all transport is CO2 compensated.

TerraSana is the accessible no-nonsense brand on the shelves of organic food stores. Our products make you taste and feel the goodness!

Want to know more about TerraSana, its products and the production?

Visit terrasana.com or follow TerraSana on social media.



NUT BUTTERS



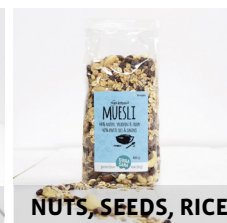
MEDITERRANEAN



BREAD



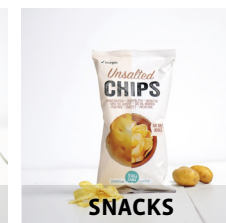
JAPANESE



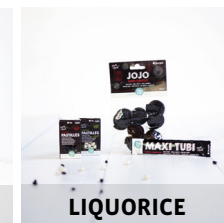
NUTS, SEEDS, RICE



RAW SUPERFOOD



SNACKS



LIQUORICE



MAPLE SYRUP

5 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- › 22–23 April 2018 **Natural & Organic Products Europe**
London, the United Kingdom
- › 15 May 2018 **Celebrating 15 years of IFOAM EU
9th IFOAM EU General Assembly & Board elections
(IFOAM EU members and observers only)**
Brussels, Belgium
- › 15 May 2018 **Celebrating 15 years of IFOAM EU
Anniversary reception (invitation only)**
Brussels, Belgium
- › 16 May 2018 **Celebrating 15 years of IFOAM EU – Public event
on climate change and organic farming**
Brussels, Belgium
- › 7–8 June 2018 **Sustainable Foods Summit**
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- › 22–23 June 2018 **IFOAM EU Farmers Interest Group meeting**
Sibiu, Romania
- › 23–24 September 2018 **Natexpo**
Lyon, France
- › 25–27 September 2018 **12th European Organic Congress**
Vienna, Austria
- › 14–15 November 2018 **Natural Products Scandinavia & Nordic Organic
Food Fair**
MalmöMässan, Sweden
- › 14–17 November 2018 **XIII SEAE Congress on Organic Farming**
La Rioja, Spain
- › 27–28 November 2018 **Organic Innovation Days**
Brussels, Belgium

15 YEARS OF



MAKING
EUROPE
MORE
ORGANIC

14 May 2018, Brussels

- Council meeting

15 May 2018, Brussels

- 9th General Assembly
- Anniversary reception

16 May 2018, Brussels

Public event on climate change mitigation and adaptation of the EU's agriculture sector

Visit www.ifoam-eu.org for more information



Celebrate 15 years of IFOAM EU with on 14–16 May. Visit www.ifoam-eu.org for details about the events we are organising or go to chapter 3.1

IFOAM MAKING
EU GROUP EUROPE
MORE
ORGANIC

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