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## WELCOME NOTE

Dear reader,

Welcome to our last newsletter edition before the EU elections and summer break. In only a few days many of us will go out and vote for EU policymakers that will decide on environmental, agricultural and rural policies between 2024 and 2029.

The outgoing European Commission set [a clear goal to make Europe climate-neutral by 2050](#) – accompanied by many cross-cutting strategies to realise this. Among the most relevant to the organic sector are the [Farm to Fork Strategy](#) and the [EU Biodiversity Strategy's](#) goals to boost our biodiversity, reduce synthetic pesticide and antibiotic use. To achieve this, it chose organic agriculture as the key tool and set a target of 25% of agricultural land under organic management by 2030.

While hurried legislative processes at the end of this legislature [endanger the EU's environmental ambitions and threaten biosafety and consumers' choice](#), it is crucial to keep in mind that we all need to act to transform our current agricultural system to one [with vibrant rural areas and sustainable food systems](#). Read why and how the European organic movement wants to achieve this in our [political hot spot](#).

Of course, to realise this we can all do our part – as organic movement, concerned citizens and policymakers. We can go out and vote between 6 and 9 June, vote on the daily with the food we buy and keep an open ear for others' concerns.

As it is crucial to keep exchanging and building bridges, we keep nurturing the next generation of organic leaders. Whether it is [exchanging with them](#) at our Organic House in Brussels or [building resilient futures together at the Organics Europe Youth Event](#) in Bari, Italy, on 8-9 July, we need to keep shaping our joint future.

Of course, we also continue strengthening the European organic movement. On 20 June our members are meeting at our annual General Assembly – the annual event where IFOAM Organics Europe's members can provide their direct input. We invite all our members to [consult the agenda and register on our member extranet](#).

[Building a common vision for the future of organic food & agriculture](#) happens to be the theme of our annual European Organic Congress on 10-12 September in Budapest, Hungary. At our annual flagship policy event we have invited many (newly) elected policymakers to start exchanging with them about our common future for the agrifood systems we want.

Soon after the congress, on 23 September, we will celebrate [EU Organic Day](#). We will soon start collecting our members' activities to highlight innovative examples.

- ⇒ Are you organising something? Submit your activity now (please note that we prioritise our members' activities because we receive many examples)!
- ⇒ Are you considering to organise something? [Get inspired](#) by last year's activities.

And, of course, the EU Organic Award ceremony is also taking place on 23 September. Check out the [past winners of the awards!](#) And, if you know of an excellent example, share information about the awards with them – they happen every year and applications open in March. Past applicants and nominees can reapply too!

In these grey and often trying times, remember that what we do matters, both as individuals and movement. Remember to vote on 6-9 June and, on the daily when making your food choices.

Don't panic, the future is organic!  
Eduardo Cuoco,  
IFOAM Organics Europe's Director



## POLITICAL HOTSPOT

Ongoing farmers' protests highlight the need to address concerns about unfair pricing and competition in European agriculture. The objectives laid out in the European Green Deal are essential yet often wrongly blamed for the struggles of farmers, as most environmental legislation was blocked or diluted with minimal impact on farmers to date.

While farming contributes to the climate and biodiversity crises, it can also be part of the solution to them and help revivify rural areas. Organic food and farming are part of the solution:

1. It is a sector marked by growth and resilience, with nearly 480,000 organic producers across Europe and retail sales reaching €53 billion in Europe;
2. It offers environmental benefits – such as enhancing biodiversity, sequestering carbon, and fostering soil health; and
3. It brings substantial socio-economic advantages such as revitalizing rural economies, creating employment, and promoting healthier lifestyles. For instance, the Food and Agriculture Organisation confirmed that a 10% demand shift from conventional to organic farming is expected to result in a net gain of almost 44.000 jobs.

A central question guiding the work of IFOAM Organics Europe has been: How can our food system adapt to and mitigate climate change, support adequate nutrition, and ensure stable livelihoods for farmers?

The EU elections have reinforced our commitment to these queries, leading us to distil our priorities in the EU organic movement's manifesto. Our vision for an EU with vibrant rural areas and sustainable food systems lists 6 priorities:

1. Reimagining the Common Agricultural Policy to promote biodiversity & support extensive practices: The next CAP should improve farmers' conditions, reduce administrative burdens, and align with the European Green Deal to better support organic and other agroecological practices;
2. Strengthening the economy & the sustainability of food systems through sustainable procurement: Mandatory criteria in public procurement would increase the demand for organic products and promote sustainable food systems;
3. Improving consumer choice by raising awareness about the true cost of food and promoting organic;
4. Improving consumer choice by addressing greenwashing: All environmental claims should be substantiated and terms such as “regenerative” should be used without greenwashing. In this context, the methodological choice used to substantiate claims is not only a technical, but also a political decision. The current method put forward for substantiating a claim favours intensive products and therefore does not support the transition to sustainable food systems;
5. Encouraging farmer-led innovation by promoting biocontrol: Biocontrol methods should be available as alternatives to synthetic pesticides, with legislative and financial measures to ease their integration into agricultural practices;
6. Encouraging farmer-led innovation through education, innovation, and knowledge: Knowledge exchange and innovation in organic farming is key and should be supported by robust policies and funding to support educational initiatives and the development of organic farming networks.

IFOAM Organics Europe members are invited to translate the EU organic movement's manifesto. Links to it and communication materials are available on our: [member extranet](#) > [hot topics](#) > [EU elections Language matters](#)

If you are an IFOAM Organics Europe member who has trouble accessing our member extranet, please:

1. Check that you are not using the extranet in a browser that is already logged in to another SharePoint environment (or use a private browser to login);
2. Check [our extranet login guidelines](#), including an overview of possible problems and solutions on p. 8;
3. If that does not work, please reach out to [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio), including the email address you are using to login and a screenshot of the error message.



## NEWS

### Policy

#### 1.1.1 Organic Regulations

##### Civil dialogue group about plant protection products & imports

On 24 May, the European Commission held a Civil Dialogue Group (CDG) on organic farming. While the many stakeholder present contributed to a diverse presentation of market and policy topics, regulation-related questions are a must-have for this CDG's agenda. This time discussions focused on plant protection products and imports.

On **plant protection products** (PPPs), the European Federation of Honey Packers and Distributors ([F.E.E.D.M.](#)) presented a study on sources of phosphonic acid. On behalf of IFOAM Organics Europe, Friedhelm von Mering ([BöLW](#)) presented the benefits of organic farming regarding pesticides, focusing on biocontrol. Henri Delanghe, Deputy Head of the Organic Unit at the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI) shared information on the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA)'s technical report on non-authorised substances in organic products.

We are in the homestretch of starting a new era in **organic imports** is based on compliance. The organic sector follows this entire process closely, so the Commission's information session and stakeholder presentations were followed with great interest. We understood that, from the 52 re-applicant certification bodies (CBs), the first 20 have already been assessed. The Commission acknowledges the need for a certain transition period that can be granted in the form of a derogation included in a delegated act amending Regulation (EU) 2021/1698.

Our members can read a more detailed debrief about this CGDs on organic farming, PPPs, organic imports and the next steps in assessing control bodies in [our member extranet news item](#).

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#### Information for IFOAM Organics Europe's members

IFOAM Organics Europe advises and discusses policy options with the Commission and other stakeholders at meetings of the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI)'s Civil Dialogue Groups (CDG). As a member, you can read the key points of the recent CDG meetings on our [civil dialogue groups extranet space](#) and get access to debriefs, minutes and other documents of the CDG meetings.



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## 1.1.2 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

### CAP “simplification”: Missed opportunity fails to answer farmers’ demands

Following farmers’ protests, the European Commission proposed a Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) reform which has now been approved in votes in the European Parliament’s Plenary on 24 April 2024 and the Council on 13 May. With the reform approved, its measures will apply to environmental claims as of 2024.

As European organic movement, we believe this proposal will not address the crucial issues of unfair pricing and decent incomes for which farmers have been protesting for months. The proposal fails to address the systemic cause of farmers’ anger: imbalances in the agri-food supply chain. The only outcome of this vote will be **significantly lower environmental delivery of the CAP**, without providing more incentives for farmers to engage in sustainability initiatives.

We believe the CAP should:

I put environmental delivery of farms as a priority by incentivising and supporting farmers who want to re-design their farms, making them more resilient in case of crises and deliver more for the environment; and Address the crucial issues of prices and income, notably by improving the farmers’ position in the food chain.

Interested to learn more? Read on:

- Press release: [Vote on CAP simplification, a missed opportunity for farmers & citizens](#)
- [Commission proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council amending various regulations related to the CAP](#)
- European organic movement’s work on the [Common Agricultural Policy](#)
- Organic agriculture and its benefits for climate and biodiversity – [Report](#) and [visualised](#)
- Or contact [laura.sauques@organicseurope.bio](mailto:laura.sauques@organicseurope.bio).

While the current CAP (discussed in this article) only entered into force in 2023, discussions for the CAP post 2027 are in full swing in the European institutions. Our [Interest Group of Organic Farmers \(IGOF\) launched its subgroup on the post-2027 Common Agricultural Policy \(CAP\)](#).

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### Technical workshops future CAP – From food security to solidarity & rural areas

On 16-17 May 2024 the European Commission organised the last technical workshop for Solidarity and Rural Communities in the next Common Agricultural Policy (CAP). As IFOAM Organics Europe, we were present at all five technical workshops and our guest speakers presented at four of them. Below we summarise the workshops.

The technical workshops are not over. Their inputs will now be examined by the Commission who will feed these into their reflections on the next CAP.

While discussions on the CAP post-2027 in the Commission are ongoing, we will make sure the organic movement is present in these reflective stages. Our [Interest Group of Organic Farmers is already working on the CAP post-2027](#).



### A summary of the CAP technical workshops

On **resilience**, Erika Olsson, President of the Swedish Organic Farmers Association ([Ekologiska Lantbrukarna](#)) presented how organic farms are resilient to environmental and economic crisis.

During the **food security** workshop, IFOAM Organics Europe presented its view on food security, detailing that organic and other agroecological approaches are the best way to guarantee long-term food security. [Read TP Organics' briefing on food security for more information](#). The United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) presented [its four pillars of food security](#) and recalled Europe's role in global production and consumption – both in economic terms and in light of the climate and environmental crises.

The **sustainability** workshop was the opportunity to welcome the European Alliance for Regenerative Agriculture ([EARA](#)) to the Brussels bubble. They presented their [vision](#) for the next CAP. Discussing how to reward farmers engaged in sustainable methods of production better in the next CAP, IFOAM Organics Europe presented the mechanisms of organic certification. This was a useful reminder as not many in Brussels are familiar with [organic certification and the regular control and reinforcement](#) it has in place to ensure trusted products.

During the **performance and governance** workshop, participants discussed CAP simplification and assessing farms' sustainability without adding extra burdens for farmers. Agroecology Europe presented their analytical frameworks specifically designed to assess where a farm is on the trajectory of transition towards agroecology, the [OASIS system](#). At this workshop, participants debated the crucial question of the CAP's governance and which changes it needs.

Finally, the workshop on **solidarity and rural communities** took a broader look of the CAP, going beyond agricultural communities looking at those who operate in rural areas. Of course, many presentations focused on farmers (especially the demographic decline, its drivers and implications) but also looked at the relationships between farmers, agriculture and other key sectors of rural economy (such as tourism, services, etc). The workshop's participants particularly emphasised the need for public services in rural areas. During this workshop, IFOAM Organics Europe presented [biodistricts](#), namely the [Cilento biodistrict](#) which came to be thanks to the region's organic farmers creating a project gathering all rural actors in the area (mayors, citizens, shops, local markets, etc). This example was the opportunity to show the role of organic in the sustainable development of rural areas, benefiting to the environment, farmers, citizens and the local economy.

If you are interested in this topic, have a look at the EU organic movement's manifesto for the next political mandate – [reimagining the Common Agricultural Policy is one of its priorities](#).

### Information for IFOAM Organics Europe's members

IFOAM Organics Europe's members find all information about the technical workshops in the Civil Dialogue Groups space on the [member extranet](#). If you want to get more details, please check our [civil dialogue groups extranet space](#) > meeting documents > CAP > technical workshops.

Should you have any questions regarding Civil Dialogue Groups and/or would like to share relevant information or topics to cover in upcoming CDGs please write to [civildialoguegroups@organicseurope.bio](mailto:civildialoguegroups@organicseurope.bio).

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### 1.1.3 GMOs and seeds

[New genomic techniques, what comes up?](#)





Despite significant political pressure to reach an agreement among the EU institutions before the European elections in June 2024, the legislative process on the Commission's proposal on so-called “New Genomic Techniques” (NGTs) is still ongoing. While the European Parliament has reached [a position](#) and finalised its official ‘first reading’ of the file ([read our view on this in our February press release](#)), all eyes are now on the European Council and the upcoming Hungarian Presidency, which is still struggling to reach a compromise.

### **Quick refresher: The European Commission's regulatory proposal on NGTs**

Despite these risks and opposition from civil society – [more than 420,000 European signed a petition expressing their concerns](#) – on “New Genomic Techniques” to adapt the current regulatory framework on genetic engineering on 5 July 2023. This proposal came after significant political pressure and following a [2021 study](#) from the European Commission. The Commission published its [legislative proposal](#) on “New Genomic Techniques” to adapt the current regulatory framework on genetic engineering on 5 July 2023. This proposal came after significant political pressure and following a [2021 study](#) from the European Commission.

The draft legislative proposal adopts a differentiated approach in the regulatory framework, based on the risk profiles of the NGT crops, and categorizes NGT crops into “Category 1 NGT plants” and “Category 2 NGT plants”. Category 1 crops are less regulated than Category 2 crops: No risk assessment, traceability, and labelling are required anymore – merely a verification procedure and a public register to facilitate transparency on the seed level;

For Category 2 crops the existing GMO legislative framework still largely applies, except for certain rules related to risk assessment, the provision of detection methods, and additional regulatory incentives for certain crops deemed to be “sustainable”.

After the Commission published its proposal, the so-called co-decision process started. This means both the European Parliament and the European Council (EU Ministers responsible for the topic) try to find their positions on the proposal.

### **The Parliament rushed to reach an agreement on its position**

On 7 February 2024, the European Parliament reached an agreement on [their position](#) in its Plenary which it adopted with a narrow majority. On 24 April, the European Parliament voted to close the text's first reading, which means that the next European Parliament cannot re-open the discussions on their position before trilogue negotiations take place. (A [trilogue](#) is the non-public negotiation process between representatives of the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission.)

This process was exceptionally rushed by Members of the European Parliament in charge of the file as they wanted to close the file before the European Parliamentary elections (6-9 June 2024). The text received support mostly from conservative groups (EPP, ECR, ID) and the liberal party (Renew), whereas the social democrats (S&D), greens (Greens/EFA) and left party (GUE/NGL) partially opposed the text.

The text of the Parliament's position remains close to the Commission's proposal but introduces some additional provisions on traceability and labelling for Category 1 NGT crops.

### **All eyes on the European Council now**

After two failed attempts by the European Council to reach a “general approach”, once in December 2023 and then again in February 2024, the Council has yet to reach a common position. (A political agreement among European Ministers forming the European Council's position for trilogue negotiations)

The most divisive issue preventing a general approach among EU Ministers is the impact that patents on NGT plants would have on the European breeding sector ([this infographic](#) and open [letter](#) explain the issue). There are also several secondary issues. For example, some Member States have concerns about labelling and safeguards for the GM-free and organic sectors.

### **What happens next and when?**



Once the European Council has reached a general approach, trilogue negotiations are expected to start. However, it is unclear how long it will take EU Ministers to agree on a general approach, just like the trilogue negotiations which can only start after that. This highly depends on policymakers' political will and the scope of discussions around the topic, especially around controversial questions.

This dossier is loaded with controversial topics. To name a few:

- Scientific validity of the proposed equivalence criteria of NGTs to conventional breeding;
- Legislative separation between Category 1 NGTs from Category 2 NGT crops – criticised by various scientific bodies including the French food safety authority (see here its reports from [November 2023](#) and [January 2024](#).);
- Producers' and consumers' freedom of choice with questions about full-scale traceability and labelling for all NGTs.

Summing up, there is a lot of uncertainty surrounding the potential timeline of the legislative process. Following the Belgian chairmanship during the first half of 2024, the Hungarian government will take over the Council Presidency from July to December 2024, and which the Polish government will preside.

It remains to be seen to what extent the discussions will proceed under the upcoming presidencies.

#### Further resources

For detailed information on old and new GMOs (NGTs):

Check out [myths about organic & NGTs](#),

Read the paper [Sustainability in organic breeding](#),

Watch [our video explaining what new GMOs are and why we need to keep them regulated](#),

Visit our website page on [\(new\) GMOs](#), or

Contact [helene.schmutzler@organicseurope.bio](mailto:helene.schmutzler@organicseurope.bio) for more information. Please do note that we prioritise our members' requests.

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#### Researching detection methods & digital solutions for products derived from new genomic techniques

From January 2024 to June 2027, IFOAM Organics Europe is part of a technical research project called DARWIN. It aims to develop, test, and validate no less than 9 new detection methods and new digital solutions for new GMO crops obtained through new genomic techniques (NGTs).

Why? Current detection methods were designed for old GMOs, which leaves a clear DNA signature in the modified genome. With NGTs, the changes to the DNA can be much more subtle and made within the existing DNA of the organism rather than introducing foreign DNA, and therefore these changes are more of a challenge





to detect. So, without detection methods, there is a risk that plants and crops genetically modified using NGTs, i.e. *new* GMOs, will be able to spread throughout the supply chain of food and feed products.

This clearly has important implications not only for biosafety and the monitoring of these crops after the release into our environment, but also for freedom of choice for producers and consumers. Namely, detection methods underpin the testing, certification, and accurate labelling of our food products, in order to distinguish products made by, consisting of or containing new GMOs and those that are GM-free, including organic and non-GMO labels. Adequate detection methods are crucial to underpin traceability and labelling throughout the whole supply chain.

For more background information, read [our previous article](#).

### **About the DARWIN project**

The [DARWIN project](#) aims to develop, test, and validate 9 new detection methods for new GMO crops obtained through NGTs from 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2027. In full, it wants to “Transition to safe & sustainable food systems through new & innovative detection methods & digital solutions for plant-based products derived from new genomic techniques, under a co-creation approach”.

This is a crucial project for food and farming systems that want to remain GMO-free. So, as IFOAM Organics Europe we are part of the work package ‘Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) Collaborative Stakeholder Ecosystem’. Together with our partners, we will bring together a diverse stakeholder group in a regulatory and policy roundtable in 2024. This will result in policy recommendations in 2025 (based on the roundtable’s results) and a workshop with key stakeholders in 2026.

To find out more about the DARWIN research project [visit its website](#), read its [recent press release](#) and follow DARWIN on [LinkedIn](#) and [X](#).



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### **Plant Reproductive Material Regulation legislation could advance organic plant breeding**

On 24 April, the European Parliament voted on the Plant Reproductive Material Regulation (PRM) legislation. Members of the European Parliament endorsed most of the amendments proposed by the Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development (COMAGRI), recognising the important role seeds and seed diversity play for a healthy food and farming system. The legislation could contribute to a balanced regulation and conducive environment for organic plant breeding.

In [our press release](#), Eric Gall, our Deputy Director, said: “Our food system should be resilient. This review of the EU seed legislation has the potential to re-introduce much needed genetic diversity and could be a first step to make sure organic breeders and farmers have access to plant biodiversity – specifically allowing the adaptation of seed variety registration rules. This will enable agrobiodiversity and ensure that plant genetic resources are not concentrated in the hands of only a few big actors.”

Because organic farmers do not use synthetic pesticides and only a limited amount of fertilisers, they need Plant Reproductive Material (PRM), such as seeds and seedlings, specifically bred to perform well under organic conditions. This also allows all other farmers access to a wide range of PRM.

Further reading:

- Press release: [EU Parliament advances organic plant breeding with new PRM legislation vote](#)
- [Position paper on the review of EU rules on Plant Reproductive Material \(2022\)](#)
- [Plant Reproductive Material in the new Organic Regulation \(EU\) 2018/848 \(2019\)](#)
- [Sustainability in organic breeding. Improving the entire system or adjusting some genes?](#)



- [IFOAM Organics Europe's work on organic seeds](#)
- Infographic: [New genomic techniques & patents, a ticking time bomb](#)
- Video: [Organic plant breeding and its contribution to food production](#)
- Research project: [LIVESEEDing](#), promoting growth of organic seed and plant breeding for the transition to more sustainable local food systems

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#### 1.1.4 Plant health care

##### [Policies should promote uptake of biocontrol](#)

The European organic movement and international biocontrol manufacturers call on the European Commission to ensure [faster registration and uptake of biological plant protection solutions](#), which would significantly reduce the use of synthetic pesticides.

Organic farmers ensure the agroecosystem they work in is healthy so they can reduce external inputs and mainly rely on preventive and indirect agronomic measures to manage pests and diseases. But, for some crops biocontrol solutions complement these agronomic practices. These products are commonly used to complement preventive and indirect plant protection measures which form the basis of sustainable and organic farming systems. However, farmers do not have biocontrol readily in their toolbox due to a reduced availability of biocontrol products and limited knowledge on their correct use.

[Read IFOAM Organics Europe and the International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association \(IBMA\)'s call](#) for more details. If you are interested in this topic, have a look at the EU organic movement's manifesto for the next political mandate – [biocontrol is one of the priorities](#).

For more information on biocontrol and plant protection and IFOAM Organics Europe's work on this issue, please [visit our website](#) or contact [maria.zintl@organicseurope.bio](mailto:maria.zintl@organicseurope.bio). Do note that we prioritise our members' requests.

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### 1.1.5 Food policy

#### Organic movement meets Commission President Ursula von der Leyen

On 26 April, IFOAM Organics Europe met with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen for a discussion on the future of EU agriculture. Our President, Jan Plagge; Director, Eduardo Cuoco; and Policy Officer Hanna Winkler and representatives of the [European Coordination Via Campesina](#) discussed organic and peasant farmers' role in the EU's future agriculture policy directly with the head of the Commission.

During the meeting, we exchanged on organic's pivotal role in safeguarding our livelihoods, strengthening resilience of EU agriculture and strategies to ensure fair prices for farmers and a stronger role in the supply chain. This led to exchanges on making EU agriculture more sustainable, competitive and fair.

Our President and Director emphasised that the sector needs less top-down bureaucracy and more bottom-up innovation and stressed that agriculture should remain at the heart of EU policies – regardless of governmental and institutional changes. Our representatives also underlined organic's importance as long-term EU project which should be continues to be EU agrifood's flagship initiative – just like the EU Green Deal does.

Summing up, we are encouraged to see that Commission President acknowledges the voice of the organic sector. Meetings like this underscore the importance of collaboration and forward-thinking initiatives to improve our agri-food sector. To build a more sustainable and resilient European food sector it is essential to ensure organic remains at the centre of the dialogue on the future of agriculture.

Some of the points speaking points reflect [our manifesto with organic's priorities for the next EU political mandate](#) to get to an EU with vibrant rural areas and sustainable food systems.



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#### NGOs call for climate action & fair agrifood systems – 31 May; 1 June & throughout October 31 May 2024, Brussels, Belgium

On 31 May, the NGOs who are part of the Good Food Good Farming coalition gathered in Brussels for its annual gathering. For one day, several national coalitions and Brussels-based organisations discussed the Common Agricultural Policy and the different roles and learnings of the farmers' protests. They learned about the current CAP's revision – from its implementation until the last reform – from experts like Natasha Foote (Arc2020) and Andrzej Nowakowski (The Greens/EFA) and got critical insights from a mixed panel of farmers and environmental NGOs. The coalition's work monitoring changes of the CAP Strategic Plans will continue. As IFOAM Organics Europe we will of focus on the changes impacting organic farmers.

We can't eat promises! On Saturday 1 June, some of our staff attended a demonstration calling for both climate action and a fair transition of our agri-food systems. Along with NGOs and grassroots movements, all participants gathered at Place de l'Albertine in Brussels, **urging politicians to improve farmers' conditions, halt environmental rollbacks, and strengthen climate policies.**

Good Food Good Farming (GFGF) and Climate Action Network Europe (CAN Europe) organised the demonstration uniting environmental and agrifood movements ahead of the EU elections. It was a highlight in Good Food Good Farming's months-long campaign to keep food and farming on the agenda of the EU elections on June 6-9. Since



January 2024, GFGF representatives from 27 EU countries have hosted events including film screenings, panel discussions and farm visits to raise awareness about the huge influence European politics have on our food and farming systems and the critical nature of the elections.

[Read Arc2020's report about the demonstration.](#)

### **Annual action month**

October, Europe

Since 2018, every October marks [Good Food Good Farming Action Days](#) . Groups and initiatives active on agri-food topics from across Europe organise a local event and become part of a broad movement at the same time.

There are no strict rules for the event, everything that is related to good food and farming works: a harvest festival, seed fair, film screening, farm-visit, picnic, protest or public discussion – everything is welcome!

Interested to join? Is it simple: [Register your event via an online form](#) (available over the summer). Your event and all the others will be available on an interactive map, a great opportunity to make noise around your own demands for European #GoodFoodGoodFarming!

### **About Good Food Good Farming**

The alliance Good Food Good Farming (GFGF) campaigns for sustainable food and farming across Europe. Since 2023 it focuses on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulation (SUR) and the Sustainable Food Systems law (SFS). The campaign organises annual European Days of Action 1-31 October. Are you interested to learn more or take part? [Subscribe to the GFGF newsletter](#) or [find your national contact for the Good Food Good Farming alliance](#).



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## **1.1.6 Fairness and Transparency**

### **Commission's proposed measures on unfair trading practices**

In April 2024, the European Commission unveiled its non-paper [Position of farmers in the food supply chain: next steps](#). In this article, we explore the measures in the aforementioned non-paper related to [unfair trading practices](#) (UTPs).

#### **Immediate measures**

The Commission will create an [EU agri-food chain Observatory](#) (AFCO) to monitor production costs, margins, and trading practices in the agri-food supply chain. The call for applications to take part in this observatory has been published in the meantime.

In addition, the Commission published [a report on implementation of the UTP directive across all Member States](#) in April 2024. It states that the UTP directive is a recent instrument and its “enforcement is gaining traction”. The report does not seem to identify major problems with the implementation or the enforcement of the UTP directive. The Commission will also analyse the strengths and weaknesses of the UTP directive’s enforcement, particularly for cross-border issues.

#### **Short-term measures**

The Commission intends to strengthen Producer Organisations (POs) and reduce administrative burdens for their recognition, as well as support fair-trade voluntary schemes to improve farmers' remuneration and define minimum characteristics for such schemes.



Moreover, the Commission intends to develop new rules for cross-border enforcement of UTPs which would entail enhanced cooperation between national enforcement authorities to address difficulties in cross-border cases.

### Medium-long term measures

The Commission intends to launch the first evaluation of the UTP directive in May 2023, with findings to be reported by 2025.

For more information on fairness in the supply chain and IFOAM Organics Europe's work on this issue, please [visit our website](#) or contact [silvia.schmidt@organicseurope.bio](mailto:silvia.schmidt@organicseurope.bio). Do note that we prioritise our members' requests.

## Research and innovation

### 1.1.7 Research and innovation advocacy / TP Organics

Soil health and global food security – Organic & biocontrol's contribution  
25 April 2024

On 25 April 2024, high-level experts and policymakers deliberated the different areas regarding biocontrol, organic soil health and research and innovations projects across different geographical areas. A high-level panel discussed barriers to and options for increasing the uptake of biocontrol and bio-stimulants.

Reducing the EU's use of synthetic pesticides and fertilisers is a key part of the European Green Deal. With the EU elections around the corner, the panellists agreed that such reduction – while ensuring farmers have access to biocontrol – should continue to be a priority of the next political mandate, to benefit the health of both people and plants – and the planet -, as should be policies supporting natural solutions in organic farming.

Read [the full article about the soil health event on TP Organics' website](#).

Why is biocontrol important? Read more in our article [Policies should promote uptake of biocontrol](#).

TP Organics, The European platform for organic research and innovation hosted by IFOAM Organics Europe, hosted the event "Soil health and global food security: Research & innovation for productive and sustainable agriculture", co-funded by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

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

Read [IFOAM Organics Europe and the International Biocontrol Manufacturers Association \(IBMA\)'s call](#) for more details. If you are interested in this topic, have a look at the EU organic movement's manifesto for the next political mandate – [biocontrol is one of the priorities](#).



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### 1.1.8 Knowledge for organic

#### 1.1.8.1 Spotlighted project

Organic Farm Knowledge: Free, online knowledge exchange for organic food & farming

Organic and agroecological farming systems are knowledge-intensive and rely on a two-way approach. Research priorities are based on farmers' needs and the latest research results are translated and made accessible to



farmers and advisors. An effective flow of sound knowledge between scientists, farmers, and advisors will speed up the transition to sustainable food and farming systems.

Organic farmers have always been pioneers beyond technological innovations – among its many social innovations are free knowledge sharing. An excellent example of this is Organic Farm Knowledge.

Since 2016, the [Organic Farm Knowledge platform](#) has been stimulating knowledge exchange among organic farmers, farm advisors and scientists. To date, about 800 materials from 22 EU-funded projects are freely available. Check the [Search toolbox](#) function and find tools with practice-oriented recommendations of your interest and field.

### **Who uses the platform?**

In April 2024, 28% of the platform's 20,000 users are organic farmers, followed by 14% advisors. Interestingly, 9% of the users are non-organic farmers while 6% are farmers in conversion to organic. This shows the need for knowledge sharing and a tool like the Organic Farm Knowledge.

### **Why use the platform?**

The Organic Farm Knowledge platform provides recent, relevant and tried solutions to farmers and advisors active in organic – or wanting to make their practices more sustainable.

This includes:

- Science-based, easy-to-use tools with practical recommendations translated in 16 languages;
- Access to knowledge relevant for organic in a one-stop-shop way. While search engines provide some direction, the results they give require extra efforts from farmers to determine if they are relevant for organic;
- A meeting hub supporting peer-to-peer communication between farmers and advisors within and across countries/regions: the [Organic Advisory Directory](#);
- Cross border knowledge access. Knowledge shared through the platform may be of relevance for regions with a similar climate, such as Northern Africa, the Middle East, North America, or Eurasia.

### **Can you contribute?**

Do you have interesting tools? Contact us via the [Suggest a tool](#) button.

Are interested in knowledge exchange among farmers? Have a look at the EU organic movement's manifesto for the next political mandate – [developing research for organic is among the priorities for the next political mandate](#).

### **About the platform & its future**

Within the [OrganicTargets4EU](#) project, Organic Farm Knowledge is expanding the organic knowledge reservoir even further to continue encouraging online knowledge exchange between organic actors. In the coming months, 30 new tools will be made available on new topics. For example, organic certification and regulation and organic aquaculture.

[Subscribe](#) to the newsletter to receive periodic updates, and do not forget to follow the Organic Farm knowledge platform on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for news and events. For more information contact [ambra.desimone@organicseuroe.bio](mailto:ambra.desimone@organicseuroe.bio)

Organic Farm Knowledge was set up by [ICROFS](#) (International Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems) in the framework of [OK-Net Arable](#) and [OK-Net EcoFeed](#) developed it further. Both projects were coordinated by [IFOAM Organics Europe](#) and are funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. The third core partner of the Organic Farm Knowledge platform is [FiBL](#) (Research Institute of Organic Agriculture).

### **About OrganicTargets4EU**





The Horizon Europe project OrganicTargets4EU (2022-2026) aims to help reach 25% of agricultural land under organic farming and a significant increase in organic aquaculture by 2030. IFOAM Organics Europe leads this project which is working on outcomes that will drive the growth and development of the organic sector focussing on policy implementation, evidence-based decision making, increased and coordinated Research & Innovation and increased knowledge sharing. The project results will be discussed in a multi-actor policy dialogue and it will make recommendations for the CAP strategic plans and EU/national organic action plans from 2025-2027 and from 2028 onwards.

Visit [the project website](#) for more information and follow its hashtag #OrganicTargets4EU on [LinkedIn](#) and [X](#) or contact [ambra.desimone@organicseurope.bio](mailto:ambra.desimone@organicseurope.bio).



OrganicTargets4EU is funded by the European Union (Grant no. 101060368) and by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) (Grant no. 22.00155). Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union, European Research Executive Agency (REA) or Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI). Neither the European Union nor any other granting authority can be held responsible for them.

### 1.1.8.2 Knowledge for organic Starting the first European network of organic advisors 9-11 April 2024

Last April, 18 European project partners of the [OrganicAdviceNetwork project](#) met for three days planning the first steps to set-up and roll out a European network of advisors specialised in organic to strengthen organic advisory services.

#### **Creating and animating a European network**

OrganicAdviceNetwork will organise 30 cross-visits with seasoned organic advisors and advisors interested in organic. They will visit sites relevant to advisors across five geographical zones and across topics: 20 visits for arable and ruminant and 10 for vegetable, fruit and viticulture sectors. The network will also develop continuous knowledge exchange activities ranging from soft skills trainings to online training modules on diverse agricultural topics to support both new and experienced organic advisors.

The project will pay attention to conventional advisors and young graduates interested in acquiring skills in organic practices and advice.

#### **Strengthening organic advisory services**

Besides building a network and exchanging, the project will identify and promote successful business models for structuring and financing organic advisory services through an "Organic Advice Contest".

Read more in [the project's press release](#) and [watch the OrganicAdviceNetwork launch video](#).

#### **About the OrganicAdviceNetwork**

The [OrganicAdviceNetwork project](#) will create and animate a network of advisors and advisory services for the organic sector across Europe. It will do so via in-person and online trainings and courses on a wide variety of agricultural topics to help conventional advisors or young graduates interested in becoming organic advisors. Organic advisors with different levels of experience will exchange with their peers. The project will also research the finance and business-side of establishing a European network of organic advisory services.

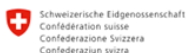
Advisory services from 14 European countries are involved in the project but **all types of organic advisors and advisory services willing to join the network and/or attend the trainings are very welcome!**

As IFOAM Organics Europe we lead on this project. For more information, please contact [claire.morelle@organicseurope.bio](mailto:claire.morelle@organicseurope.bio) and [stefano.orsini@organicseurope.bio](mailto:stefano.orsini@organicseurope.bio).





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OrganicAdviceNetwork is funded by the European Union (Grant no. 101134850) and by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) (Grant no. 23.0639, 101134850). Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union, European Research Executive Agency (REA) or Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI). Neither the European Union nor any other the granting authority can be held responsible for them.”

### Practical knowledge about intercropping in organic systems available

Scientists and local actors from across Europe are investigating intercropping’s benefits for soil health, fertiliser use, weed and disease control as well as product quality. They are looking into suitable machinery, innovative food processing techniques, and new market avenues for various products from intercropping systems. This happens in the scope of the [IntercropValuES project](#) which, in parallel, is also running 13 co-innovation case studies developing local and innovative agri-food chains based on intercropping practices.

The 13 co-innovation case studies (CICS) have different focal points across different areas:

- Five on organic agriculture: [CICS#4 France](#), [CICS#5 Germany](#), [CICS#11 Italy](#) and [CICS#13 Switzerland](#) and [CICS#3 UK](#)
- Eight cover mixed farming practices (organic and conventional): [CICS #1 Denmark](#), [CICS #2 Sweden](#), [CICS #7 La Réunion](#), [CICS #8 Spain](#), [CICS#10 France](#), [CICS#9 Serbia](#), [CICS#6 Greece](#), and [CICS#12 Mozambique](#).

Read the [first practical recommendations from the co-innovation case studies](#) and practice abstracts about intercropping in organic systems:

- [Growing organic faba bean and wheat for food, Switzerland](#)
- [Intercropping wheat and pea for on-farm pasta production, Serbia](#)
- [Reducing risk of grain legume production through intercropping in temperate climates, Sweden](#)
- [Marketing organic intercropped rapeseed oil, UK](#)
- [Marketing organic intercropped rapeseed oil, UK](#)
- [Control of the parasitic weed Dodder in buck wheat or lentil cultivation through intercropping with linseed in Central Italy](#)

All these and more practice-oriented materials are available [here](#) on the [IntercropVALUES project website](#).

IntercropValuES is a multi-disciplinary and multi-actor project, bringing together scientists and local actor of the agri-food chain. 27 participants, 15 countries and 3 continents from a wide diversity of organisations and stakeholders. IFOAM Organics Europe represents the organic movement.

Follow the project on [www.intercropvalues.eu](http://www.intercropvalues.eu), [X](#), [Facebook](#) & [LinkedIn](#) and learn about [intercropping and the IntercropVALUES project](#).






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IntercropVALUES is funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Executive Agency (REA). Neither the European Union nor REA can be held responsible for them.

[Open webinar on biodiversity management in organic greenhouses](#)



We are organising a series of free and open webinars relevant to organic farming as part of our involvement in the project [IPMWORKS](#). In June, we will cover biodiversity inside and outside organic greenhouses from a Mediterranean and Central European perspectives.

 28 June  
 14:00-15:30 CEST  
 Teams, [Link to join](#)

### Why this webinar?

Invasive pests against which no Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies are in place may severely damage greenhouse farmers' crops. Examples of these growing concerns are pests like Thrips parvispinus in vegetable greenhouses, the Tomato brown rugose fruit virus, aphids in cucurbits, and Drosophila suzukii in Portugal, Belgium to name a few.

Climate change and globalisation increases the intensity of these pests. Integrated control, especially the development of biodiversity, is a way to mitigate these pests. Organic farmers ensure the agroecosystem they work in is healthy so they can reduce external inputs and mainly rely on preventive and indirect agronomic measures to manage pests and diseases.

These webinars create a space for agricultural practitioners and experts to learn about and exchange on topics relevant to organic agriculture.

### About the projects

[IPMWORKS](#) promotes the adoption of cost-effective Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies, based on an EU-wide network of farmers. 31 partners from 16 European countries will progress the adoption of IPM – through peer-to-peer learning and joint efforts – and demonstrate how to other farmers how holistic IPM “works” by reducing farmers' reliance on pesticides with better pest control, reduced costs and enhanced profitability.

It is a Horizon 2020 financed project gathering coordinated by the French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment (INRAE). Within the project, IFOAM Organics Europe is responsible to support organic farmers and promote their successful strategies within and outside of the project.

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



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IPMWORKS has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101000339. 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.



# IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE DEVELOPMENTS

## Updates for members

EU Organic Day is coming up - Get ready to be visible on/around 23 September 2024

On 23 September 2024 Europe will celebrate its 4th EU Organic Day! We call on the European organic movement to get visible, celebrate this day and raise awareness of organic and its many benefits to people, planet & economy.

Every year, many of our members celebrate organic – in person, online and according to their own flavours. So, we want to ask: what are your plans for this year's 23 September?

We invite you to share your initiatives via this [online form](#) so we can give them visibility. Please note that we will prioritise our members' event due to the many submissions.

Need some inspiration? Curious to see what kind of initiatives took place last year? Visit the [EU organic day page on our website](#) for inspiration! Visit the [EU organic day page on our website](#) for inspiration!

Of course, EU Organic Day also marks the awards ceremony of the [European Organic Awards 2024](#) at the European Commission in Brussels, during which the winners of this year's edition will be announced! If you're interested to watch it, follow us on social media, as we will post the live-streaming link on the day itself.

## What do we offer our members?

We will do the work for you! Ahead of the EU Organic Day we will provide our members with customisable messages and visuals a social media campaign. We will also share their initiatives in the interactive map on our website and on our social media platforms.

For more information on the EU Organic Day, please [visit our website](#). Our members will find all materials on our [member extranet](#) > [hot topics](#) > EU Organic Day (available by the end of August). For questions, please contact [communication@organicseurope.bio](mailto:communication@organicseurope.bio). Do note that we prioritise our members' requests.

Does this sound interesting to you but you aren't an IFOAM Organics Europe member? Contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio). They are available for your membership-related questions and extranet access rights (issues).

## About EU Organic Day

Officially launched in 2021 by the European Parliament, the Commission, and the Council of the European Union, this day represents the occasion to, among others, assess trends in consumer demands, continue raising awareness of organic in the supply chain and finally, define new targets for the future of organic in Europe.



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## We need your help on how we can improve our services

We want to better meet your needs as IFOAM Organics Europe member. Help us do this by sharing how you engage with us and help us identify which membership services we can improve and which ones are working well.

We would greatly appreciate it if you could share your feedback by completing the [membership questionnaire by 1 September 2024 \(link to member extranet\)](#). It will only take a few minutes of your time but can advance our organisation as we will use your responses to shape our work programme for the coming years.

We encourage all IFOAM Organics Europe members to participate so we can get a complete picture on the member experience we offer. We look forward to sharing the results with you in autumn 2024.





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### Communicating about organic to audiences across the political spectrum

On 8 May, many members joined us for a political communications oriented webinar in the Let's Discuss Organic series. The materials of this session are now available for all members on our [member extranet](#) > [hot topics](#) > EU elections Language matters.

What can you find there? Materials of [Language matters](#) include:

- The sessions' presentation & recordings
- The organic movement's manifesto for the 2024 EU elections
  - In full, listing the EU organic movements' priorities for next political mandate for an EU with vibrant rural areas and sustainable food system
  - A more visual version with the demands in brief
- Social media visuals
- All these materials as editable version for IFOAM Organics Europe members who want to translate these materials

If you have trouble accessing our member extranet, please:

1. Check that you are not using the extranet in a browser that is already logged in to another SharePoint environment (or use a private browser to login);
2. Check [our extranet login guidelines](#), including an overview of possible problems and solutions.

If that does not work, please reach out to [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio), including the email address you are using to login and a screenshot of the error message.

### About the Let's Discuss Organic series

Let's Discuss Organic is more than just a webinar series exclusive to IFOAM Organics Europe's members. It is a community of passionate individuals dedicated to promoting organic food and farming's active role in the transformation to a sustainable food system.

These webinars are an opportunity for our members to access first-hand information about EU-related policies and activities from Brussels-based experts.

Does this sound interesting to you? Consider joining these sessions and gain valuable insights to your work, engage in meaningful discussions, and ask the expert(s). Information about and registration links for these sessions are made available on our member extranet's [news page](#) and [calendar](#).

Were you unable to attend or missed a previous session? All presentations and recordings are accessible on our [member extranet](#) > [hot topics](#) > [member-only updates](#) > [Let's Discuss Organic](#) so you can re-watch the webinars and review the content at your convenience.

Does this sound interesting to you but you aren't an IFOAM Organics Europe member? Contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio). They are available for your membership-related questions and extranet access rights (issues).



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### Civil Dialogue Groups (CDG) meetings: Report on wine, 14 May

IFOAM Organics Europe's office staff, our members and experts regularly advise and discuss policy options with the Commission and other stakeholders at meetings of the Directorate General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG AGRI)'s Civil Dialogue Groups (CDG).

To make our voice heard we participated to the CDG meeting on wine on 14 May 2024. On the agenda:

- State of play of the wine market in the EU and trade development;
- Implementation of new wine labelling rules under the Common Organisation of Markets (CMO) Regulation;
- Oenological practices for de-alcoholised and partially de-alcoholised wines;
- US – EU Wine Dialogue meeting;
- Exchange on the directive on unfair commercial practices – round table.

Members can find the full debrief, presentations and agenda on our member extranet > [Civil Dialogue Group](#) > Meetings documents. Are you an IFOAM Organics Europe member who does not have access to our member extranet yet? Contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio).

### How do Civil Dialogue Groups (CDG)'s works and how can you get involved?

#### Option 1: Assigned member

Assigned members of a CDG can attend CDG meetings and have the right to take the floor. They are assigned following a short and easy application process. IFOAM Organics Europe members who are interested in a seat in the CDGs can write to [civildialoguegroups@organicseurope.bio](mailto:civildialoguegroups@organicseurope.bio). Following your application, our Board assigns the selected members for a two-years mandate.

#### Option 2: Observer

It is also possible to join CDG meetings as an observer (online). We make the observer link available to all our members on member extranet > [Civil Dialogue Group](#) > Events.

### Information for IFOAM Organics Europe's members

IFOAM Organics Europe's members can read about the key points of the recent CDG meetings on the [member extranet](#). If you want to get more details on any topic, please check our [civil dialogue groups extranet space](#) and get access to debriefs, minutes and other documents of the CDG meetings.

Should you have any questions regarding Civil Dialogue Groups and/or would like to share relevant information or topics to cover in upcoming CDGs please write to [civildialoguegroups@organicseurope.bio](mailto:civildialoguegroups@organicseurope.bio).

Are you an IFOAM Organics Europe member who does not have access to our member extranet yet? Contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio) for access rights (issues).



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### General Assembly 2024: Register now & agenda available

20 June 2024, Brussels, Belgium

We would like to inform our members that the General Assembly's (GA) agenda is now published on the [member's extranet](#) accessible via the pathway: [General Assembly](#) > Upcoming GA documents > GA2024\_06\_20. The agenda provides our members with organisational updates and important discussions on the next political mandate following the European elections. It will also include an update of the internal strategy revision.





By participating in the GA as a member, you contribute to shaping the direction of our organisation and maintaining our democratic and representative processes. This year's GA also offers the opportunity to strengthen our collaborative approach towards the new political mandate for a successful and united future of the European organic movement.

Register now for this year's GA as a voting or observing member through the registration links shared on [member's extranet](#).

### **About the General Assembly (GA)**

Every year IFOAM Organics Europe's members all meet at the General Assembly (GA). Members, Board representatives, Council members, and staff gather from all over Europe in the democratic pursuit of a common voice for organic.

During the GA, members review and decide on the general policy and direction of the IFOAM Organics Europe, including financial matters, modifying Statutes and electing IFOAM Organics Europe's Board (every three years).



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### **Invitation to Council members to strategy workshop 10 September 2024, Budapest, Hungary**

We are pleased to invite (y)our national representative(s) to take part in IFOAM Organics Europe's internal strategy workshop physically on 10 September, 9:00-12:00 CEST (before the European Organic Congress starts) in Budapest, Hungary.

Why should you attend the workshop?

1. You are vital to refresh our strategy: Your strategic insights will guide us through changing political priorities and achieving the 25% organic target by 2030;
2. You represent your country: Share valuable insights, discuss with peers and learn (from) what is happening in other countries;
3. You learn about evolving EU political priorities: Together we ensure our strategy remains relevant in the face of political shifts.

We would like to remind you to accept or decline the calendar invitation inviting you to the internal strategy workshop from our colleague, Francesca Lilliu, from 2 May 2024 as soon as possible. Thank you in advance for notifying us of your attendance!

Please save the date of [this year's last Council meeting](#), online on 19 November, 10:00-13:00 CET.

IFOAM Organics Europe's second chamber, the Council, is one of the driving forces behind the democratic functioning of our organisation as it creates a vital link between each countries' members and IFOAM Organics Europe. [Learn more about our democratic governance structure](#).



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## Need inspiration communicating organic's benefits for the **climate** and **biodiversity**?



Did you know that, as IFOAM Organics Europe member, you can receive push notifications when we upload member-only news on the extranet? Follow these simple steps:

Download the SharePoint app to your mobile device (& allow notifications)

Visit our [member extranet](#) on the same device

Open the menu in the top right corner & click on 'Follow'

Are you an IFOAM Organics Europe member and you do not have access to the member extranet yet? Or do the steps above not work? Please [check our FAQ](#) or contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio).

Like the visuals and infographics on our website?

As our member, you are welcome to translate them into your own language

Contact [communication@organicseurope.bio](mailto:communication@organicseurope.bio)

### Updates about the organisation

[Saying goodbye to our colleagues](#)

#### Selene Capalbo

After 5 months in our communications team, Selene is leaving IFOAM Organics Europe to continue building her experience as trainee at Euractiv. We are grateful for the time she dedicated to us, her positive energy and eagerness to learn and help on the EU Organic Awards, newsletter and much more. We wish her all the best in this new endeavour and in her future career.

#### About the ESC Programme

The European Solidarity Corps (ESC) provides young people residing in Europe with the unique chance to express their personal commitment through a full-time voluntary activity in a foreign country for a period of up to 1 year. Young volunteers can develop new skills and, therefore, improve their personal, educational and professional development. More information about ESC is available on [the ESC website](#).



Are you interested in the organic movement and want to experience its day-to-day work? Stay tuned and be ready to apply – you could be part of our team!



**EUROPEAN  
SOLIDARITY  
CORPS**

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## EVENTS

### Preview of events

Join our network of advisory services and advisors – [OrganicAdviceNetwork](#)  
26 June 2024, online

External advisory services and advisors with organic competences or an interest in organic are invited to join the [OrganicAdviceNetwork project's](#) network. On 26 June 2024 we will present planned activities and discuss possible levels of engagement of more advisors in the project.

Do you want to know more about OrganicAdviceNetwork? Are you interested to participate in project activities or discuss potential collaborations? Join us online:

 26 June  
 15:00-16:30 CEST  
 [Join us on Teams](#)

The OrganicAdviceNetwork project aims to create and animate the first-European network of organic advisors. [It kicked-off last April and the project activities are now starting.](#)

### About the OrganicAdviceNetwork (OAN)

The [OrganicAdviceNetwork project](#) will create and animate a network of advisors and advisory services for the organic sector across Europe. It will do so via in-person and online trainings and courses on a wide variety of agricultural topics to help conventional advisors or young graduates interested in becoming organic advisors. Organic advisors with different levels of experience will exchange with their peers. The project will also research the finance and business-side of establishing a European network of organic advisory services.

Advisory services from 14 European countries are involved in the project but **all types of organic advisors and advisory services willing to join the network and/or attend the trainings are very welcome!**

As IFOAM Organics Europe we lead on this project. For more information, please contact [claire.morelle@organicseurope.bio](mailto:claire.morelle@organicseurope.bio) and [stefano.orsini@organicseurope.bio](mailto:stefano.orsini@organicseurope.bio).



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[Open webinar on biodiversity management in organic greenhouses](#)

28 June 2024, online

We are organising a series of free and open webinars relevant to organic farming as part of our involvement in the project [IPMWORKS](#). In June, we will cover biodiversity inside and outside organic greenhouses from a Mediterranean and Central European perspectives.

 28 June  
 14:00-15:30 CEST  
 Teams, [Link to join](#)

### Why this webinar?

Invasive pests against which no Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies are in place may severely damage greenhouse farmers' crops. Examples of these growing concerns are pests like Thrips parvispinus in vegetable



greenhouses, the Tomato brown rugose fruit virus, aphids in cucurbits, and *Drosophila suzukii* in Portugal, Belgium to name a few.

Climate change and globalisation increases the intensity of these pests. Integrated control, especially the development of biodiversity, is a way to mitigate these pests. Organic farmers ensure the agroecosystem they work in is healthy so they can reduce external inputs and mainly rely on preventive and indirect agronomic measures to manage pests and diseases.

These webinars create a space for agricultural practitioners and experts to learn about and exchange on topics relevant to organic agriculture.

### About the projects

[IPMWORKS](#) promotes the adoption of cost-effective Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies, based on an EU-wide network of farmers. 31 partners from 16 European countries will progress the adoption of IPM – through peer-to-peer learning and joint efforts – and demonstrate how to other farmers how holistic IPM “works” by reducing farmers’ reliance on pesticides with better pest control, reduced costs and enhanced profitability.

It is a Horizon 2020 financed project gathering coordinated by the French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment (INRAE). Within the project, IFOAM Organics Europe is responsible to support organic farmers and promote their successful strategies within and outside of the project.

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



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IPMWORKS has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101000339. 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.

### Organics Europe Youth Event: Fully booked & programme update 8-9 July 2024, Bari, Italy

We are thrilled to announce that second edition of the [Organic Europe Youth Event](#) (OEYE) 2024 is fully booked. Thank you for applying in large numbers, we are grateful about your enthusiasm about the event after only one edition.

While this means that we are unable to accept further registrations, we are thankful to anyone who registered and showed interest cannot wait to meet you in Bari on 8 July.

The event is themed "Building Resilient Food Futures" and participants will explore topics such as sustainable public food procurement, local food policies, digitalising farming, and biodistricts. Participants to this year’s youth event will get to engage in panel and group discussions, educational lectures, and informative parallel sessions about hot topics in the organic field.

Below a few highlights from OEYE 2024’s programme.

#### Panels:

- Who is who in sustainable food systems? Agroecology, organic, biodynamic, and regenerative. Together for sustainable farming;
- Growing green: Insights from organic entrepreneurs;

#### Learning lectures (choose two):

- Unlocking opportunities: Youth and access to land;
- Sustaining communities: Biodistricts’ potential feeding rural vitality;



- Gender in agriculture: Empowering women, nurturing food system changes;
- Growing forward: Farming in the digital age.

Parallel sessions (choose two):

- Organic content creators: Practical ways to make organic attractive with an organic content creator;
- Open innovation: How it can support young people in innovating their organic businesses at both process and product levels;
- Leadership workshop: Creating a young organic leader's network;
- Fostering local food democracy: Exponents of the Italian Local Food Policies Network;
- Living Labs: Enabling ecosystems and strong support for innovation in both rural and urban areas;
- How can young people play a role in sustainable public procurement?
- Inclusivity: On immigration and wage slavery.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Bari and meeting the next generation of organic leaders! All information about the event is available on the [Organics Europe Youth Event 2024 page](#).



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### “Being Organic in EU” makes Organics Europe Youth Event field trips possible

8-9 July 2024, Bari, Italy

BEING ORGANIC in EU is supporting the Organics Europe Youth Event excursions. Thanks to this contribution participants to the youth event get to experience the reality of being an organic producer first-hand.

Event attendees can join one of these two field trips.

**ANDRIANI SPA** in Gravina di Puglia

[Andriani](#) came to be in 2009 with a precise idea: innovate the production and marketing of pasta, creating a naturally gluten-free product, a healthy and unique flavour, with a variety of new ingredients (rice, corn, quinoa, buckwheat, amaranth, lentils, and peas). Product and process innovation has always characterized the management approach of the Andriani Group, which has always combined competitiveness with sustainability.

**Cuonzo Organic Farm** in Bitonto

[Cuonzo Organic Farm](#) is a family business farm with around 30 hectares of olive groves, immersed in the hilly area of Bitonto, always considered “city of oil”. The company is run by owner Franco and his daughter Letizia and together they decided to marry the philosophy of organic farming to offer their customers the highest quality





natural product. In 2017, the traditional crusher was replaced by a proto-reactor to which is added a photovoltaic power plant.



### About Being Organic in EU

The BEING ORGANIC in EU project is a promotion campaign proposed by FederBio in cooperation with Naturland co-financed by the European Union under EU Regulation No. 1144/2014, which aims to increase and strengthen the consideration of European organic farming in the Italian and German markets by raising awareness and recognition of EU organic farming practices and the EU organic logo. Visit [www.beingorganic.eu](http://www.beingorganic.eu) and follow it on social media using #beingorganiceu.

### European Organic Congress 2024 – Win a free ticket!

10-12 September 2024, Budapest, Hungary

We are delighted to announce our special offer for the European Organic Congress 2024 – **a free ticket challenge!** Take your chance to gain a free entrance ticket to the full 3-day programme of the [European Organic Congress](#) in Budapest, Hungary, on 10-12 September.

### How can you win a free ticket?

Take 4 easy steps:

- 1) Click “Repost with your thoughts” on [our LinkedIn post](#);
- 2) Add “Meet me at European Organic Congress 2024 in Budapest, Hungary on 10-12 September! #EOC2024” or any other comment using #EOC2024;
- 3) Tag [@IFOAM Organics Europe](#) and [@ÖMKi - Hungarian Research Institute of Organic Agriculture](#)
- 4) If you are among those who collected most reactions to your post among the participants you might win a free EOC ticket.

As simple as that! The free ticket challenge will run until **15 June 23:59 CEST**.

### Already purchased your ticket but keen to participate in the challenge?

Don't worry, in case you win the challenge, we will refund you the price of your ticket. On 17 June we will announce a winner – one of the people with most reactions to their repost (likes and other reactions, comments, reposts in total).

### Would you like to buy a ticket?

If you want to secure your spot, enjoy our generous discount and [get your ticket today](#). Early-bird fares are available until 30 June – make sure you can enjoy it!

Why join? Network with over 200 participants from across Europe, enjoy dynamic sessions, and take part in excursions to local organic operators – we are waiting for you to join the sector's flagship policy event!

Keep an eye out for updates on the [Congress' website](#) and follow [@OrganicsEurope](#) #EOC2024 #EUorganic2030 on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).





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**Save the date: Natexpo 2024, same time and place, new format**  
**23-24 September 2024, Lyon, France**

The international tradeshow for organic products, Natexpo, will be back 23-24 September 2024 at Eurexpo Lyon, France. Every year, Natexpo is a key moment for the sector to demonstrate its incredible ability to innovate, progress and mobilise to take even more steps forwards and pursue a development that is both positively impactful and necessary.

The exhibition's teams are already hard at work to make the 2024 show in Eurexpo Lyon a success for the whole profession. The show's format has therefore been revised to better cater to the expectations of visitors and exhibitors, and to market realities.

**New format**

For this new edition, Natexpo is ringing the changes and adopting a new, more compact format, over two days, Monday and Tuesday. This opening period only on weekdays includes the Monday to maximise the mobilisation of the retail sector. The exhibition stands options have been simplified, with a choice between stand space only and fitted stands to save exhibitors time and energy. Another new development at the show is Natexpo Tchín! Fizz on the stands and music in the aisles: come and enjoy a festive and relaxing moment on Monday evening from 6pm to 9pm, open to both visitors and exhibitors.

**Same quality**

93% of the exhibition's visitors are looking for information on new organic trends and innovations. Natexpo is the perfect place to do just that. The show offers an incubator space at the heart of the show: the Seeds Village and the Big Splash, to highlight the innovation in the sector. Trends are also on display in the New Products Gallery, a showcase for exhibitor innovations and a platform for exciting new finds, visited by all the journalists and visitors looking out for new products.

Another reflection of the organic world's limitless inventiveness: the Natexpo Awards, which since 2005 have distinguished the most original, useful and eco-friendly products launched on the market over the previous year, through 11 categories representing the entire organic sector, with, in addition, an International Special Commendation, rewarding the most innovative product presented by a non-French company. Presented by a jury made up of experts, journalists and professionals from the organic and nutritional sectors, the Natexpo Awards provide proof to retailers and consumers of the added value and the standout nature of the product.



Natexpo offers the perfect opportunity to fill up on innovation and meet future business partners. Save 23-24 September in your planner for Natexpo 2024 at Eurexpo Lyon, France.

For more information on this new edition, visit [www.natexpo.com](http://www.natexpo.com).

### Nordic organic leaders will debate the future of organic

9-10 October 2024, Stockholm, Sweden

On 9-10 October, IFOAM Organics Europe will facilitate one of the most important debates at this year's edition of the [Nordic Organic Food Fair](#) in Stockholm. Bringing together organic leaders from the Nordic region, the annual debate is a huge draw for retailers, press, and professionals who come for important updates about the future of organic – including challenges and vital opportunities for the year ahead.

Taking place for the first time at Kistamässan Stockholm, the 'Big Nordic Organic Debate' will bring together organic leaders from Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Iceland. These experts will share their valuable insights regarding the state of organic in their respective markets and will delve into vital trends for retailers to watch. Last year's debate which was facilitated by IFOAM Organics Europe's Deputy Director, Joanna Wierzbicka, featured Aura Lamminparras (CEO of Pro Luomu r); Charlotte Bladh André (CEO, Organic Sweden); Helle Borup Friberg (CEO, Organic Denmark); Eyglo Bjork Olafsdottir (Chairman, Organic Iceland); and Markus Lohne Hustad (CEO, Økologisk Norge).

"It is always both inspiring and rewarding to discuss the market development for organic food with our Nordic neighbours. Our markets look different in many ways, but we still have a lot to learn from each other. What strengthens me the most is hearing how we are all working hard to change the food system with organic as part of the solution," says Charlotte Bladh André CEO at Organic Sweden.

Joanna Wierzbicka, Deputy Director at IFOAM Organics Europe added: "We are excited to continue partnership with Diversified Communications, a company with a proven track record of promoting sustainability and innovation in the food industry. By combining our resources, we enhance our understanding of market trends and challenges and exchange ideas. That helps us more effectively address current industry challenges, making meaningful impact on the sector's progress."

More details about the debate will be announced in the coming weeks.

### Discover the future of organic at Nordic Organic Food Fair 2024

The Nordic Organic Food Fair will bring together hundreds of certified organic food and drink brands with thousands of retailers and foodservice professionals. From Sweden to Denmark, Greece to Italy, Norway to Spain – the show will display a variety of international products as well as home-grown local brands.

Visitor registration will open soon. **To register your interest, or to enquire about exhibiting, visit the [official website](#).**

### Review of events

#### Starting the first European network of organic advisors

9-11 April 2024

Last April, 18 European project partners of the [OrganicAdviceNetwork project](#) met for three days planning the first steps to set-up and roll out a European network of advisors specialised in organic to strengthen organic advisory services.

### Creating and animating a European network

OrganicAdviceNetwork will organise 30 cross-visits with seasoned organic advisors and advisors interested in organic. They will visit sites relevant to advisors across five geographical zones and across topics: 20 visits for



arable and ruminant and 10 for vegetable, fruit and viticulture sectors. The network will also develop continuous knowledge exchange activities ranging from soft skills trainings to online training modules on diverse agricultural topics to support both new and experienced organic advisors.

The project will pay attention to conventional advisors and young graduates interested in acquiring skills in organic practices and advice.

### **Strengthening organic advisory services**

Besides building a network and exchanging, the project will identify and promote successful business models for structuring and financing organic advisory services through an "Organic Advice Contest".

Read more in [the project's press release](#) and [watch the OrganicAdviceNetwork launch video](#).

### **About the OrganicAdviceNetwork**

The [OrganicAdviceNetwork project](#) will create and animate a network of advisors and advisory services for the organic sector across Europe. It will do so via in-person and online trainings and courses on a wide variety of agricultural topics to help conventional advisors or young graduates interested in becoming organic advisors. Organic advisors with different levels of experience will exchange with their peers. The project will also research the finance and business-side of establishing a European network of organic advisory services.

Advisory services from 14 European countries are involved in the project but **all types of organic advisors and advisory services willing to join the network and/or attend the trainings are very welcome!**

As IFOAM Organics Europe we lead on this project. For more information, please contact [claire.morelle@organicseurope.bio](mailto:claire.morelle@organicseurope.bio) and [stefano.orsini@organicseurope.bio](mailto:stefano.orsini@organicseurope.bio).



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### **IFOAM Organics Europe at NOPEX: Market trends session**

14-15 April 2024, London, England

Joanna Wierzbicka, Deputy Director at IFOAM Organics Europe and in charge of Strategic Initiatives, was invited to speak at the [Natural Food Expo](#) in London on 15 April 2024. The fair attracted thousands of retailers, category buyers, distributors, and exporters, covering over 500 natural and organic brands, with a significant presence of European exhibitors.

Joined by other experts such as Alex Cullen, Commercial & Marketing Director at Soil Association Certification, Anton Järild, Communication Strategist at Organic Sweden, and Hannah Gibs, Programme Manager at Sustain, the panel our Deputy Director was part of explored the trends shaping the European organic market. The panel also delved into the opportunities and challenges of organic industry growth in the UK. The conversation yielded valuable insights into supporting the organic sector and promoting an industry wide vision, making organic products accessible and affordable for all.



14-15 April 2024 | ExCel, London



Rue Marie-Thérèse 11 – 1000 Brussels – Belgium – Phone: +32 2 280 12 23 – Email: [info@organicseurope.bio](mailto:info@organicseurope.bio)

## Deep-dive into challenges & opportunities for Organic Heterogeneous Material

29 April 2024, online

The 3<sup>rd</sup> LiveSeeding online workshop on Organic Heterogeneous Material (or OHM) united almost 50 participants. Stakeholders from across Europe, ranging from researchers, breeders and seed producers to public authorities met on 29 April 2024 to take a step back and discuss challenges in OHM development, marketing and policies.

### What is Organic Heterogeneous Material?

OHM refers to a genetically and phenotypically diverse plant grouping of a single plant species, e.g. wheat or maize, produced in accordance with Article 3 of the EU Organic Regulation. In contrast to varieties, variety mixtures or synthetic varieties, OHM is characterized by its dynamic nature to evolve and adapt to different growing conditions due to repeated natural and human selection.

### Discussing common OHM issues across professions

The 3<sup>rd</sup> OHM workshop discussed some of the shared challenges stakeholders are facing when it comes to OHM development, marketing and the policy framework.

In four presentations, experts in their respective fields introduced the following topics:

- EU policy developments: Our colleague Ilsa Phillips updated attendees on policy developments within the triologue negotiations of the EU proposal on plant reproductive material;
- OHM value chains: Dr Odette Weedon from Kassel University presented the results of a research project studying examples of OHM value chains for bread baking in Germany;
- Traceability: Diego Guidotti from Aedit covered digital tools for managing OHM traceability developed within the LiveSeeding project;
- Market uptake: Sebastian Kussmann from the organic breeding initiative GZPK (Switzerland) concluded with an overview of first results on his survey on opportunities and challenges of the market uptake of OHM.

Following these introductions, participants took a deep dive into their concrete challenges and experiences with OHM in three breakout rooms. Among the breakout groups's highlights:

- It is important to engage new partners in OHM development, seed production and marketing and clarify open policy questions, e.g., the responsible authorities for official seed controls;
- Stakeholders should work together to demonstrate the credibility and potential of the OHM concept;
- Often opposing concerns, e.g., there are too many or too few options to register intellectual property rights on OHM, need to be actively addressed;
- Modular solutions adapted to specific situations should be possible;
- On policies, partners interested in OHM should remain active in their countries – especially at this stage of the triologue negotiations – ensuring an optimal policy framework for OHM.

[The presentations of the two previous OHM workshops are available on LiveSeeding's YouTube channel.](#)

### About LiveSeeding

LiveSeeding is a 4-year Innovation Action on organic seed and plant breeding to accelerate sustainable and diverse food systems in Europe, which started in October 2022. It provides science-based evidence and best practice solutions to help achieve 100 % organic seed. The project has a budget of 6.6 million Euro, funded by the European Union, the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI) and UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). To deliver on such an ambitious goal, LiveSeeding brings together 37 organisations from a wide range of sectors operating in 16 European countries.

Learn more about and follow the project on [www.liveseeding.eu](http://www.liveseeding.eu), [LinkedIn](#), [X](#) and [Facebook](#).



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**UK Research and Innovation**



### High-level organic retailers meet in Italy

2 May 2024, Bologna & Conegliano, Italy

For two days, our members of the high-level retailers' group (IGOR) met in Italy. Invited by EcorNaturasi they visited the facilities of the Italian pioneer in Bologna and Conegliano and learned more about their vision for agriculture and food retail.

#### Exchanging on retailers' role in sustainability

Members of the high-level IGOR exchanged on the organic movement's vision and considered how retailers can play their part in making the agri-food system more sustainable. They looked at different angles of this question from supporting organic farmers in times of crisis to engaging customers so they can play a more active role in the much-needed transition to sustainable agrifood systems.

#### Visiting high-tech facilities and farms

While [EcorNaturasi](#) is firmly looking ahead and investing in modern technologies improving organic food retail, it remembers the [organic movement's principles](#). After visiting the company's facilities of Bologna, the participants visited the Conegliano farm of one EcorNaturasi's Presidents, which produces high-quality wines and cheese.

The group also visited a second farm in San Michele, supported by EcorNaturasi as part of their vision to ease farmers' access to lands and provide them with the technical and financial support to do so – on the condition that they engage in organic farming. San Michele farm is a perfect example of a farm operating with nature, managing an adequate number of animals to work in harmony with the natural ecosystems of the land. The farm is producing different type of cheese and milk and selling this directly on the farm.

#### About our IGOR

IFOAM Organics Europe's Interest Group of Organic Retailers (IGOR) is one of IFOAM Organics Europe's four interest groups. [Our interest groups](#) provide direct input from the different sectors in IFOAM Organics Europe's organisation. They formulate policies and positions relevant to their sector.

IFOAM Organics Europe's members can access [a list of its current members](#) and [the terms of reference](#) on the member extranet.

Are you an IFOAM Organics Europe member who is:

- Active in processing and/or trade interested to become part of the IGOP? Contact [silvia.schmidt@organicseurope.bio](mailto:silvia.schmidt@organicseurope.bio);
- Having issues accessing the member extranet? Contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio).

Are you interested in becoming part of the IGOP? You have to be a member of IFOAM Organics Europe to do so. Contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio) for details.



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### Annual organic farmers meeting: New steering committee & CAP post-2027

2 -3 May 2024, Frick & Zurich, Switzerland

For this year's annual meeting, our interest group of organic farmers (IGOF) gathered in Switzerland on 2- 3 May. [Bio Suisse](#) graciously hosted this annual meeting attended by organic farmers' organisations from all over Europe. On the agenda: electing a new steering committee, discussing the future of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and, of course visiting local organic farms.





### Day 1: Electing a new steering committee & discussing the CAP

The first day took place in Frick, at the facilities of the Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL). The IGOF learned more about Bio Suisse and their strategy to develop organic in Switzerland. It was particularly insightful to see how they operate, influenced by the EU but anchored in the Suisse national context. In Switzerland the "bud", Bio Suisse's label is a symbol going beyond the organic regulation. The group also learned about FiBL, its research, concrete outputs and processes related to the projects – including ongoing work on improving plants' natural resistance through innovative breeding techniques and new varieties.

### **A new steering committee**

After, the IGOF elected the following five (dual) applications to be the interest group's steering committee:

- Michael Kjerkegaard: An organic cattle farmer and new chair of [Organic Denmark](#);
- Aina Calafat Rogers & Isabel González:
  - Aina works for Sociedad Española de Agricultura Ecológica y Agroecología ([SEAE](#)) and is part-time farmer and seed producer in Mallorca;
  - Isabel González is an organic cattle farmer from the North of Spain;
- Hans Bartelme and Lea Ilgeroth-Hiadzi:
  - Hans is an organic farmer, producing eggs and pig meat and cultivating soy, wheat, spelt, triticale and rye;
  - Lea is policy consultant at [Naturland](#);
- Katerina Urbankova: Manager of [PRO-BIO Association of Organic Farmers](#) in the Czech Republic;
- Fiona Marty and Hugues Loury:
  - Hugues Loury is an organic dairy farmer in Northwest of France;
  - Fiona is European affairs officer at the French organic farmers' association (FNAB).

### **The CAP post-2027**

Following the elections, the group had long talks about the European organic movement's position and next vision of the CAP post-2027. This process kicked off during the IGOF's 2023 annual meeting after which they continued discussions in two online plenaries. In Switzerland the subgroup of farmers who prioritised the topic could present their work and discuss it with all members of the interest group.

What does the organic movement want for the next CAP? In June 2024, IFOAM Organics Europe's internal democratic decision-making process is reviewing the concrete proposal, but these are the principles for the CAP post-2027:

- **The CAP needs to build upon existing sustainable farming systems, organic on top.** The CAP reform should enable a wide transition towards agroecological systems, building up on existing systems;
- **Organic farming is the only legally regulated systemic agricultural approach** and the most advanced sustainable farming system to benefit of legal protection. So, the CAP's new structure should favour organic farming as the only legally regulated agroecological system in the EU;
- **Introduce a whole-farm approach as CAP pillar.** The future CAP should end the distribution of untargeted payments that are only conditioned by single practices measures. It does not make sense to compare a systemic approach like organic farming with single practices like the current CAP does. A whole-farm approach is the incentive for farmers to engage in a systemic transition and reward those already engaged;
- **A new approach to basic income to ensure a better redistribution of the CAP funding** Because the current market and power imbalances in the agrifood supply chain, farmers cannot make a living from their work. Because of the current market and imbalances of power in the agri-food supply chain, farmers cannot make a living from their work. The new CAP should address this, notable by strengthening the Common Organisation of Markets Regulation and an ambitious revision of the Unfair Trading Practices Directive. However, while these measures are established and implemented, it is crucial to provide farmers with a safe, stable income so they can project and invest in the future. Therefore, IFOAM Organics Europe recognize the need for a basic income but proposes a change of metric in the calculation, since the hectare metric showed its shortcomings and does not favour an ambitious redistribution, whether in terms of the fund distribution for the farms but also for the repartition of funds between basic income and environmental measures.



## Day 2: Farm visits

The next day, the group had the chance to meet and visit the farm of Urs Brändill, President of Bio Suisse, a dairy farm in the north of Zurich. Urs presented its farm, now operated and modernized by his son while his daughter in law was hosting a group of children in the farm as part of a project. Every Friday morning, children can come to the farm rather than childcare centre, to reconnect kids to the farms and the food they eat.

Urs discussed Bio Suisse's relationship with Coop, one of the main retailers of Switzerland and emphasised the benefits of this cooperation for both sides. Bio Suisse is also engaged in protecting its farmers since it provides support and help when it comes to business negotiations, technical support on market prices, etc. He then received an award from Ecovalia for the work Bio Suisse does. Ecovalia organised a ceremony in Spain to reward organic actors for their outstanding work in the organic sector. Bio Suisse was rewarded for their work on setting and ensuring social standards in organic production.

Finally, the group finished this meeting by visiting the vineyard Weingut Besson-Strasser, a biodynamic vineyard producing one of the best quality wines of Switzerland. Here, the group saw the work realized on choosing the right varieties, especially local varieties of wine offering a better resilience in case of climatic events. The challenges experienced by the vineyard were also mentioned, whether in terms of the use of copper to protect the plants, or other traditional techniques used that are showing great results against the frost. The vineyard is exporting a significant share of its wine, while it can also be bought directly on the farm, also during some events (tasting, dinners organized). This farm shows a great example of diversification of the farm activities since it's managing everything from the production, processing and selling of its products.

We would like to thank all farmers who took the time off at their farms to make this into a successful meeting engaged in making Europe more organic!

## **About our IGOF**

IFOAM Organics Europe's Interest Group of Organic Farmers (IGOF) is one of IFOAM Organics Europe's four interest groups. [Our interest groups](#) provide direct input from the different sectors in IFOAM Organics Europe's organisation. They formulate policies and positions relevant to their sector.

IFOAM Organics Europe's members can access [a list of its current members](#) and [the terms of reference](#) on the member extranet.

Are you an IFOAM Organics Europe member who is:

- An organic farmer interested to become part of the IGOF? Contact [laura.sauques@organicseurope.bio](mailto:laura.sauques@organicseurope.bio);
- Having issues accessing the member extranet? Contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio).

Are you interested in becoming part of the IGOF? You have to be a member of IFOAM Organics Europe to do so. Contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio) for details.



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## **IFOAM Organics Europe at the American Organic Week**

11-19 May, USA

From 11-19 May, IFOAM Organics Europe's President, Jan Plagge and Director, Eduardo Cuoco were in the US at the [Organic Week](#). Besides attending and speaking at this event, they reconnected with the American organic movement and had dense agenda.

## **Connecting with a pioneer: The Rodale Institute**



During their stay our President and Director called on the [Rodale Institute](#), a Pennsylvania-based non-profit institution working on organic farming research since its founding in 1947. Together with CEO Jeff Tkach, and Chief Scientific Officer Dr. Andrew Smith they inspected the long-term [Farming Systems Trial](#), which has been researching organic and conventional farming practices over the past 43 years.

The trial's data showcased how organic yields can match conventional ones and that an organic manure system is the most profitable one. They also exchanged on organic and regenerative organic agriculture, and how it can transform the food system.

### **Sharing an EU perspective at the American Organic Week**

On the first day of the Organic Week, our President and Director meet with key stakeholders in the North American organic sector, such as the University of Wisconsin, Whole Foods Market, and the Canada Organic Trade Association.

On day 1, our President Jan Plagge spoke at the Organic Week on [Organic export opportunities & challenges](#) together with Sarah Gorman (Organic Trade Association), Chris Anderson (Sustainable Strategies Advisor), and Tia Loftsgard (Canada Organic Trade Association). During his speech, Mr Plagge highlighted the importance of good trade and equivalency agreements to favour the import and export of organic products and the development of organic markets. Later they attended an award ceremony recognising [leading individuals in organic](#) for their work in developing USA organic.

On day 2, our Director Eduardo Cuoco inspired the audience on [Ambitious Goals: Learning from Europe's Organic Action Plan](#) providing an overview of the EU's strategy and policies set in place to reach the EU Green Deal & EU Farm to Fork's objective of 25% agricultural land under organic management by 2030. He discussed the "push and pull" measures to boost both production and consumption and took stock of where the EU is at and what the challenges are ahead.

Jan Plagge also took the time to interview Bob and Chris Anderson, two of the first organic farmers in the US who have had an important influence on organic initiatives in the states.

We hope this visit will lay the basis for stronger overseas cooperation and build a shared vision for organic.



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### **NGOs call for climate action & fair agrifood systems – 31 May; 1 June & throughout October 31 May 2024, Brussels, Belgium**

On 31 May, the NGOs who are part of the Good Food Good Farming coalition gathered in Brussels for its annual gathering. For one day, several national coalitions and Brussels-based organisations discussed the Common Agricultural Policy and the different roles and learnings of the farmers' protests. They learned about the current CAP's revision – from its implementation until the last reform – from experts like Natasha Foote (Arc2020) and Andrzej Nowakowski (The Greens/EFA) and got critical insights from a mixed panel of farmers and environmental NGOs. The coalition's work monitoring changes of the CAP Strategic Plans will continue. As IFOAM Organics Europe we will focus on the changes impacting organic farmers.

We can't eat promises! On Saturday 1 June, some of our staff attended a demonstration calling for both climate action and a fair transition of our agri-food systems. Along with NGOs and grassroots movements, all participants gathered at Place de l'Albertine in Brussels, **urging politicians to improve farmers' conditions, halt environmental rollbacks, and strengthen climate policies.**



Good Food Good Farming (GFGF) and Climate Action Network Europe (CAN Europe) organised the demonstration uniting environmental and agrifood movements ahead of the EU elections. It was a highlight in Good Food Good Farming's months-long campaign to keep food and farming on the agenda of the EU elections on June 6-9. Since January 2024, GFGF representatives from 27 EU countries have hosted events including film screenings, panel discussions and farm visits to raise awareness about the huge influence European politics have on our food and farming systems and the critical nature of the elections.

[Read Arc2020's report about the demonstration.](#)

### **Annual action month**

October, Europe

Since 2018, every October marks [Good Food Good Farming Action Days](#) . Groups and initiatives active on agrifood topics from across Europe organise a local event and become part of a broad movement at the same time.

There are no strict rules for the event, everything that is related to good food and farming works: a harvest festival, seed fair, film screening, farm-visit, picnic, protest or public discussion – everything is welcome!

Interested to join? Is it simple: [Register your event via an online form](#) (available over the summer). Your event and all the others will be available on an interactive map, a great opportunity to make noise around your own demands for European #GoodFoodGoodFarming!

### **About Good Food Good Farming**

The alliance Good Food Good Farming (GFGF) campaigns for sustainable food and farming across Europe. Since 2023 it focuses on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulation (SUR) and the Sustainable Food Systems law (SFS). The campaign organises annual European Days of Action 1-31 October. Are you interested to learn more or take part? [Subscribe to the GFGF newsletter](#) or [find your national contact for the Good Food Good Farming alliance](#).



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## **INSPIRING EXAMPLES**

[EU Organic Day is coming up - Get ready to be visible on/around 23 September 2024](#)

On 23 September 2024 Europe will celebrate its 4th EU Organic Day! We call on the European organic movement to get visible, celebrate this day and raise awareness of organic and its many benefits to people, planet & economy.

Every year, many of our members celebrate organic – in person, online and according to their own flavours. So, we want to ask: what are your plans for this year's 23 September?

We invite you to share your initiatives via this [online form](#) so we can give them visibility. Please note that we will prioritise our members' event due to the many submissions.

Need some inspiration? Curious to see what kind of initiatives took place last year? Visit the [EU organic day page on our website](#) for inspiration! Visit the [EU organic day page on our website](#) for inspiration!

Of course, EU Organic Day also marks the awards ceremony of the [European Organic Awards 2024](#) at the European Commission in Brussels, during which the winners of this year's edition will be announced! If you're interested to watch it, follow us on social media, as we will post the live-streaming link on the day itself.

### **What do we offer our members?**



We will do the work for you! Ahead of the EU Organic Day we will provide our members with customisable messages and visuals a social media campaign. We will also share their initiatives in the interactive map on our website and on our social media platforms.

For more information on the EU Organic Day, please [visit our website](#). Our members will find all materials on our [member extranet](#) > [hot topics](#) > EU Organic Day (available by the end of August). For questions, please contact [communication@organicseurope.bio](mailto:communication@organicseurope.bio). Do note that we prioritise our members' requests.

Does this sound interesting to you but you aren't an IFOAM Organics Europe member? Contact [membership@organicseurope.bio](mailto:membership@organicseurope.bio). They are available for your membership-related questions and extranet access rights (issues).

### **About EU Organic Day**

Officially launched in 2021 by the European Parliament, the Commission, and the Council of the European Union, this day represents the occasion to, among others, assess trends in consumer demands, continue raising awareness of organic in the supply chain and finally, define new targets for the future of organic in Europe.



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## MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC – SUPPORT IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE

### IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE'S MAIN SPONSORS 2024

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



### IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE'S MEDIA PARTNER



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**IFOAM ORGANICS EUROPE'S PARTNERS**

**nordic organic food FAIR**

**9-10 OCTOBER 2024**  
KISTAMÄSSAN  
STOCKHOLM

**SCANDINAVIA'S TRADE EXPO FOR CERTIFIED ORGANIC FOOD & DRINK**

**BOOK YOUR STAND TODAY!**

**FIRST TIME**  
in Stockholm



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

6-9 June 2024  
[EU elections 2024](#)  
European Union

20 June 2024  
[IFOAM Organics Europe General Assembly 2024](#)  
[Members only] Brussels, Belgium / Online (Teams)

28 June 2024  
[Webinar on biodiversity management in organic greenhouses](#)  
Online, Teams

8-9 July 2024  
[Organics Europe Youth Event 2024](#)  
Bari, Italy

10-12 September 2024  
[European Organic Congress 2024](#)  
Budapest, Hungary

23 September 2024  
[EU Organic Day](#)  
Europe

23 September 2024  
[EU Organic Awards ceremony](#)  
Brussels, Belgium

23-24 September 2024  
[Natexpo](#)  
Lyon, France

October 2024  
[Good Food Good Farming Action Days](#)  
Europe

9-10 October 2024  
[Nordic Organic Food Fair 2024](#)  
Kistamässan Stockholm, Sweden

22-23 October 2024  
[Organic Innovation Days](#)  
Brussels, Belgium

11-14 February 2025  
[BIOFACH 2025](#)  
Nuremberg, Germany

IFOAM Organics Europe's members will find early and more information about member-only events in our [member extranet calendar](#). If the direct link does not work, scroll down on the landing page until you see 'Network: Events and meetings'



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