



Report on the stakeholder organic sector mapping in Europe

ORGANIKO LIFE+ PROJECT

Revamping organic farming and its products in the context of climate change mitigation strategies

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Department of Environment



Ινστιτούτο Γεωργικών Ερευνών





Executive summary

Purpose

The decision to prepare a *Report on the stakeholder organic sector mapping in Europe* has been agreed - as part of the project's *Action A.1: Evaluation of the current situation and assessment needs of the organic farming sector in Cyprus - Activity A1.3: Stakeholder organic sector mapping* - during the *ORGANIKO LIFE+* kick-off meeting, which has taken place at the *Cyprus University of Technology*, in Limassol, on 16 and 17 September 2015. The task has been taken up by *Kyoto Club*, with the purpose to map major EU organic farming stakeholders outside Cyprus, with which Cypriot ones might develop networking and co-operation and with whom, in order to multiply their impact and effects, the *Organiko* project results may then be shared.

Outcomes

The mapping exercise has allowed the identification and assembling within a single document of the main European organic farming stakeholders. The desk research findings and the data collected through *Kyoto Club*'s Members and Partners are complemented by relevant Internet websites and links covering the major European organic agricultural sector's dimensions of research, information, legislation, policies, programmes, funding opportunities and priority campaigning issues targeted by NGO networks.

Results

The following stakeholders' categories have been identified and details about their activities reported:

- A. The institutional stakeholders: the European Commission, Parliament and Council.
- B. Selected EU organic sector NGO stakeholders' networks.
- C. Selected national organic sector NGO stakeholders – in Denmark, France, Germany, Italy and the United Kingdom.

Conclusions

The report aims at being a tool for communication, dissemination and networking of the *Organiko* project, but also a source of information to join forces and best practices so that organic farming may continue increasing its role within Cyprus and EU agriculture and be fully recognized and supported by national and EU decision-makers for its contribution also to climate change mitigation strategies.



Σύνοψη

Σκοπός

Η απόφαση να ετοιμαστεί μια *Αναφορά για τη χαρτογράφηση των φορέων του βιολογικού τομέα στην Ευρώπη* – η οποία είναι μέρος της Δράσης A.1: *Evaluation of the current situation and assessment needs of the organic farming sector in Cyprus* και της Δραστηριότητας A1.3: *Stakeholder organic sector mapping* – έχει συμφωνηθεί κατά τη διάρκεια της εναρκτήριας συνάντησης των εταίρων του έργου *ORGANIKO LIFE+*, η οποία πραγματοποιήθηκε στο Τεχνολογικό Πανεπιστήμιο Κύπρου στις 16-17 Σεπτεμβρίου 2015. Η δραστηριότητα αυτή έχει ανατεθεί στο *Kyoto Club*, με σκοπό τη χαρτογράφηση σημαντικών φορέων της ΕΕ που δραστηριοποιούνται στον τομέα της βιολογικής γεωργίας, με τους οποίους οι Κύπριοι φορείς θα μπορούσαν να αναπτύξουν δικτύωση και συνεργασία και με τους οποίους, προκειμένου να πολλαπλασιάσουν τις επιπτώσεις τους, θα μπορούσαν να μοιραστούν τα αποτελέσματα του έργου.

Αντίκτυπος

Η άσκηση χαρτογράφησης επέτρεψε τον προσδιορισμό και τη συγκέντρωση σε ένα ενιαίο έγγραφο των κυριότερων ενδιαφερομένων μερών της Ευρωπαϊκής βιολογικής γεωργίας. Τα ευρήματα της έρευνας μας και τα δεδομένα που συλλέχθηκαν μέσω των μελών και των συνεργατών του *Kyoto Club* συμπληρώνονται από σχετικές ιστοσελίδες και συνδέσμους καλύπτοντας όλες τις διαστάσεις του Ευρωπαϊκού τομέα βιολογικής γεωργίας σε θέματα έρευνας, πληροφόρησης, νομοθεσίας, πολιτικών, προγραμμάτων, ευκαιριών χρηματοδότησης και εκστρατειών προτεραιότητας που στοχεύονται από δίκτυα ΜΚΟ.

Αποτελέσματα

Οι ακόλουθες κατηγορίες ενδιαφερομένων έχουν εντοπιστεί και αναφέρονται λεπτομέρειες σχετικά με τις δραστηριότητές τους:

- A. Οι θεσμικοί φορείς: η Ευρωπαϊκή Επιτροπή, το Κοινοβούλιο και το Συμβούλιο.
- B. Επιλεγμένα δίκτυα ΜΚΟ της ΕΕ στον τομέα των βιολογικών προϊόντων.
- C. Επιλεγμένοι εθνικοί ΜΚΟ που δραστηριοποιούνται στον τομέα της βιολογικής γεωργίας - στη Δανία, Γαλλία, Γερμανία, Ιταλία και το Ηνωμένο Βασίλειο.

Συμπεράσματα

Η αναφορά στοχεύει να αποτελέσει εργαλείο επικοινωνίας, διάδοσης και δικτύωσης του έργου *ORGANIKO LIFE+* αλλά και πηγή πληροφόρησης για να ενώσει τις δυνάμεις και τις βέλτιστες



πρακτικές ώστε η βιολογική γεωργία να συνεχίσει να αυξάνει τον ρόλο της στη γεωργία της Κύπρου και της ΕΕ και να αναγνωριστεί πλήρως και να υποστηριχτεί από τους εθνικούς και κοινοτικούς φορείς λήψης αποφάσεων για τη συμβολή της και στις στρατηγικές μετριασμού της κλιματικής αλλαγής.

The institutional stakeholders: the European Commission, Parliament and Council

The [European Commission's Agriculture and Rural Development/Organic Farming website](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/index_el.htm) - in Greek: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/index_el.htm - includes the details of the EU legislative framework and the European Commission's reference information on:

- **Organic Farming** (explanations on the natural life cycles of the organic production, regulatory aspects on the international trade, organic certification, studies – the 2004 [European Action Plan for Organic Food and Farming](#); the 2011 [Use and efficiency of public support measures addressing organic farming](#); the 2013 [Evaluation of EU law on organic farming](#); the 2014 [Action Plan for the future of Organic Production in the European Union](#)).
- **Consumer Trust** (Certification and Confidence: the Organic Logo guarantees, food qualities policy, controls and inspections including the strict EU [Environmental](#) and [Animal Welfare](#) requirements, short food supply chains promoting local food markets and partnerships to boost the rural economy).
- **EU Funding opportunities** (the post 2013 CAP [More efficient and transparent CAP](#); [CAP and Rural Development \(2014-2020\)](#); the new [European Innovation Partnership \(EIP\)](#) and the future agricultural research supported by the *Horizon 2020 programme for investment in research and innovation* which will pay specific attention to organic farming; the “How to become an organic producer in the EU” agenda).
- **EU Policy** (the EU Legislation, a brief overview, the historical background since the 1991 EU farm policy reform, the Regulatory Committee on organic production, the Civil Dialogue Group represented by the Advisory Group on Organic Farming (AGOP), the main European quality schemes on Food Quality Policy).
- The **Kids' corner** and the **Downloads**, with infographics and other visual materials.

[TP Organics -The European Technology Platform](#) (ETP) for organic food and farming research. *It integrates views of the organic sector and civil society to represent a broad perspective on research*



and development priorities that can leverage organic food and farming's potential to address contemporary challenges. As other European Technology Platforms, TP Organics plays a key role in highlighting where the focus of research and development funding should be placed - <http://www.tporganics.eu/index.php/home.html>

The [European Parliament](#) has been working on the revision of the Regulation on organic production and labeling of organic products:

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2015/568317/EPRS_BRI\(2015\)568317_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2015/568317/EPRS_BRI(2015)568317_EN.pdf)

and the **Agriculture Committee** voted, last 13 October 2015, a draft text and gave the rapporteur and his shadows a mandate to launch negotiations with the Council on the final wording of new legislation, along **the following priorities**: *organic farmers, processors, traders and importers must meet higher but realistic sustainability criteria and undergo strict food fraud checks to boost trust in the EU organic label, said agriculture MEPs on Tuesday. They introduced measures to avoid contamination of organic food, including on mixed organic and conventional farms, and endorsed plans to help small farmers turn organic.*

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20151013IPR97385/Organic-food-boosting-EU-production-and-enhancing-consumer-trust>

The [European Council](#) and its current Dutch Presidency has organic farming policies among its priorities. On Monday 11 January 2016: *Launching the debate on the post-2020 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), with the aim of responding better to global climate and food security challenges, increasing the effectiveness of existing greening measures, simplifying current CAP rules and focusing on SMEs, will be at the core of the Dutch presidency, the Netherlands' farm minister, Martijn van Dam, told the agriculture committee on Monday. The presidency would "strive to reach a political agreement" on new organic production rules...*

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20160112IPR09521/Dutch-Presidency-priorities-discussed-in-committee>

Selected EU organic sector NGO stakeholders' networks

[IFOAM EU](#) - is the European umbrella NGO for organic food and farming. *We fight for the adoption of ecologically, socially and economically sound systems based on the principles of organic agriculture – health, ecology, fairness and care. With more than 160 member organisations our work spans the*



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entire organic food chain and beyond: from farmers and processors, retailers, certifiers, consultants, traders and researchers to environmental and consumer advocacy bodies – also with [AgriBioMediterraneo](#) - in 16 Mediterranean countries, including both Cyprus and Italy, with two major aims: A. To promote, develop and disseminate information, knowledge and expertise related to Mediterranean Organic Agriculture and food production. B. The connection between Organic Agriculture and Sustainable development.

European Coordination Via Campesina – which regroups the organisations formerly gathered in the European Farmers Coordination (CPE 1986-2008) and other farmers' and agricultural workers' organisations of Denmark, Switzerland, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Greece, and Turkey. Our principal objective is the struggle for other food and agricultural policies based on more legitimacy, fairness, solidarity and sustainability, which are necessary in Europe to ensure food security, food safety, public health, employment in rural areas and to tackle the issues of the global food crisis and climate change.

WWOOF: For more than forty years WWOOF has spread, with a bottom-up approach, from country to country in a very organic way with each new group being independently owned and operated, yet being part of a larger network: *WWOOF enables people to live and volunteer on a variety of organic properties. Volunteers (WWOOFers) help on the land and home for 4-6 hours a day and hosts provide the food and accommodation. If you want to have hands on experience, learn and share organic and sustainable ways of living then WWOOF might be for you.*

FiBL - Research Institute of Organic Agriculture – an independent, non-profit, research institute with the aim of advancing cutting-edge science in the field of organic agriculture. *FiBL's research team works together with farmers to develop innovative and cost-effective solutions to boost agricultural productivity while never losing sight of environmental, health and socio-economic impacts. Alongside practical research, FiBL gives high priority to transferring knowledge into agricultural practice through advisory work, training and conferences. FiBL has offices in Switzerland, Germany and Austria and numerous projects and initiatives in Europe, Asia, Latin America and Africa.* **Organic Europe**: the European section of the Organic World website, is maintained by FiBL and contains statistics, country reports, many useful updates and references.



Fertilcrop – European Network: The overall aim of the FertilCrop network is to develop efficient and sustainable management techniques aimed at increasing crop productivity in organic farming systems. To achieve this, the mutual interactions of crop plants with weeds and co-cultivated plants, with soil macro- and micro-organisms in their physically and chemically determined environment influencing C and N pools and fluxes as well as greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions will be studied.

CORE Organic - CORE Organic is the acronym for "Coordination of European Transnational Research in Organic Food and Farming Systems". The overall objective of CORE Organic is to enhance quality, relevance and utilization of resources in European research in organic food and farming and to establish a joint pool for financing transnational research in organic food and farming.

Selected national organic sector NGO stakeholders

Denmark:

Biodania: is the organisation for producers of organically grown fruit and vegetables. Biodania was founded in 1993 for the purpose of co-ordinating production and sale to supermarket chains in Denmark.

International Center Research in Organic Food System - ICROFS: initiates, coordinates, and participates in national and international research activities within organic farming and food systems. *Our vision is, that the principles of organic farming on the basis of research and good management become a global reference for sustainability in food systems.*

Organic Denmark: Organic Denmark (Økologisk Landsforening) is an association of companies, organic farmers and consumers in Denmark. *We have more than 160 member companies within the food industry, and we are the largest representative of the organic food industry in Denmark.*

France:

FNAB – The National Organic Farming Federation (in French only).



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Created in 1978 and spread all over the country it remains the only French national organic farming professional network to advocate and lobby for organic farming in all its various components.

SYNABIO - (mostly in French only).

The national platform of 120 member enterprises and distribution chains accounting for around 50% of the French organic market.

Centre National de Ressource en Agriculture Biologique – (in French only) ABioDoc, the National Organic Farming Resource Center, managing *Biobase*, the largest collection of data and documents in the French language on organic farming. *Biobase* is accessible to all those interested via the ABioDoc website.

Germany:

Bioland: (in German only) - Bioland is since 45 years one of the leading association for organic farming in Germany. About 6,200 farmers, gardeners, beekeepers and winegrowers produce according to the Bioland standards. In addition more than 1,000 processors such as bakeries, dairies, butchers, restaurants and traders are also Bioland partners. Together they share common values that benefit people and environment.

BNN, Bundesverband Naturkost Naturwaren, the *Association of Organic Processors, Wholesalers and Retailers which represents the interests of the organic food and natural goods sector on a political and economical level. The association participates in the constitution of national and international legislative projects, for example in the enhancements of the EU-Organic Regulations. Furthermore, it issues press relations and is active in public relations.*

BÖLW, Bund Ökologische Lebensmittelwirtschaft - (in German only) the *German Federation of the Organic Food Industry*, the largest German umbrella organisation including organic producers, manufacturers and retailers.



Italy:

Associazione Italiana per l'Agricoltura Biologica - AIAB: (in Italian only), the Italian Association for Organic Farming, Italy's historic organic farming association, bringing together producers, professional staff, citizens and consumers to train, research – through AIAB's FIRAB, the Italian Foundation for the Organic Farming Research - advocate and lobby, nationally and internationally for the development of organic farming.

Federbio: the Federation of Italian national associations of farmers and other operators involved in all stages of organic and biodynamic agriculture. It is membership-based, with a group-structure according to the various categories of members which currently include: farmers, processors and distributors, service providers, certification bodies, cultural and environmental associations, consumers' organizations, researchers.

Sistema d'Informazione Nazionale sull'Agricoltura Biologica – SINAB, the National Information System on Organic Farming set up with the objective to constantly update organic farming stakeholders on national and international developments, legislation and policies on organic farming at the international, European, national and regional level. Research & Experimentation: survey of the activities provided by the main scientific national institutions. Regions: for each Italian Region, information on legislation, Control Bodies, Research Institutes and statistics. Services: news, agenda, press review. Bio-Statistics: data warehouse of the national statistics on organic farming.

United Kingdom:

Community Supported Agriculture: CSA Network UK is the only organisation working solely to promote Community Supported Agriculture across the UK. *We are a co-operative that brings together CSA farms to connect, exchange their skill and knowledge and promote a fairer model of food production.*

Soil Association: The Soil Association was founded in 1946 by a group of farmers, scientists and nutritionists who observed a direct connection between farming practice and plant, animal, human and environmental health. *Today, we are the UK's leading membership charity campaigning for healthy, humane and sustainable food, farming and land use. We have over 150 staff based in Bristol and Edinburgh and working as certification inspectors across the country.*



SOPA, Scottish Organic Producers Association:

Not only do we represent more organic businesses than any other organisation in Scotland we also represent an increasing number of organic businesses in England and Wales. Since 1988 we have been at the forefront of Scotland's organic industry. We adopt a pragmatic approach in all that we do: A. protect and uphold the organic integrity of all products produced by our members and certified by SFQC to the SOPA organic standards. B. support our members in building financially and environmentally sustainable businesses. C. Work in a trusting and fair way with all our industry partners

