

Editorial

The 5th newsletter of the ORGANIKO LIFE+ project presents a summary of the project activities for the period October 2017 – May 2018. During this period, the project preliminary results were discussed at the European Parliament, in the presence of MEPs and stakeholders. The data analysis of the children's health intervention trial results, ran by CUT, was completed and the results were presented to children and parents. ARI continues sampling gas samples from static chambers in apple and barley pilot farms on a weekly basis. Soil sampling and analysis are also on-going, and parameters like nitrogen, nitrates, and ammonium from the pilot farms are measured. Public awareness events were organized in Italy and Cyprus and the dissemination of the project was systematic through social media, TV and radio channels.

Read more about our latest project activities in this newsletter. Enjoy!

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ORGANIKO LIFE+ project

ORGANIKO is a LIFE-co-funded project with duration of 4 years (2015–2019), coordinated by the Cyprus University of Technology jointly with three partners: the Agricultural Research Institute (CY), the Department of Environment from the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment (CY) and the Kyoto Club (IT). The ultimate goal of the project is to demonstrate the comparative advantages of organic versus conventional farming and products using indicators of:

- Mitigation efficiency to climate change
- Agronomic and environmental quality
- Decreased body burden of children to diet-based pesticides
- Healthy food promotion for better children's health

[Read more...](#)



Project Activities

European Parliament event

During the 2018 EU Green Week, the ORGANIKO LIFE+ project organized an event titled “Climate Change Mitigation, Organic Agriculture and Human Health: Status Quo and New Data” on 23 May, in the European Parliament in Brussels. The aim of the event was to showcase organic agriculture as a means to mitigate climate change and present scientific evidence of possible links between organic diet and human health. The event was organized in three sessions with speakers from the EU Parliament, the EU DG Environment, the International Federation of Organic Agriculture in Europe (IFOAM), NGOs and university members. [Read more...](#)



Five distinguished members of the European Parliament (including the Cypriot MEPs, Mr. Mavrides, Mr. Sylikiotis, Mr. Papadakis and Mr. Hadjigeorgiou) attended our event.

ORGANIKO LIFE+ Open Day

The ORGANIKO LIFE+ Open Day for the children who participated in the study “Organic diet and children’s health” and the awarding of participation certificates took place on Saturday, April 28 at the premises of the Cyprus University of Technology. The event, which was organized by the Cyprus International Institute for Environmental and Public Health, presented the general results of the study to a number of parents and children from the 6 elementary schools in Limassol that participated in the survey. [Read more...](#)



The Commissioner for the Environment, Ms Ioanna Panagiotou awarded the certificates of successful participation to each child separately.

2nd Short Chain of Organic Fruit and Vegetables

The Cyprus International Institute for Environmental and Public Health of the Cyprus University of Technology (CUT) organized on February 6th the “2nd Short Chain of Organic Fruit and Vegetables” in collaboration with the Cyprus Organic Farmers Association and the CUT Environmental Policy Office, within the framework of the ORGANIKO LIFE + project. The event took place at the Pefkios Georgiadis courtyard of CUT, with over 200 university students and staff. [Read more...](#)



The event was broadcast live by the radio station SUPER FM

4th Legislative and technological workshop in Italy

The 4th Legislative and technological workshop took place on November 29 at the conference hall of the renovated Roman Temple of Emperor Hadrian, within the activities of the 10th Qualenergia? Forum, a two-days event dedicated to the energy sector. The first session of the day, focusing on the connections among the organic sector and the Italian energy business areas and their potential contribution to lower the greenhouse gas emissions, represented an opportunity to explain the LIFE+ ORGANIKO project, and to compare and analyse the organic supply chain and how it is linked to the sustainable energy production business. [Read more...](#)



The speakers involved were Roberto Calabresi, Rachele Invernizzi – Federcanapa, Andrea Ferrante, Maria Stella Scarpinella and David Chiamonti.

3rd Study visit in Italy – Bolzano and Parma

The 3rd study visit in Italy took place between November 20–22, 2017. We met very interesting people at numerous places:

- Bioland Verband Südtirol [Read more...](#)
- Parma University Hospital [Read more...](#)
- Renon–Selva Verde CO2 measuring station [Read more...](#)
- Laimburg Research Station [Read more...](#)
- NOI Techpark [Read more...](#)
- EFSA [Read more...](#)



From left to right: EFSA, Renon–Selva Verde CO2 measuring station and Laimburg Research Station.

Educational workshops for farmers in Cyprus

The workshop, in addition to the presentation of the Organiko project and results reached so far, has: given a view of the national organic market by ISMEA; analyzed the contents of the new law, thanks to the intervention of sen. Maria Teresa Bertuzzi, MP who is the official lecturer of the new legislation in the House of Parliament; supplied the most recent OF data published for Italy by the Agriculture Ministry OF research institute SINAB; learned about the latest EU reform of the organic farming legislation by Confagricoltura. [Read more...](#)



A final round table has involved four organic companies which shared their expertise and answered to questions by the audience.

3rd Training course for local authorities and farmers in Italy

To take into account the most recent EU developments in the sector, the Italian House of Parliament has approved a new framework OF legislation, which is currently in the Senate for its final debate and approval. The course, in addition to the presentation of the Organiko project and results reached so far, has supplied the most recent OF data published for Italy by the Agriculture Ministry OF research institute SINAB; analyzed the contents of the new law, thanks to the video participation, during the whole training, of Alessandra Terrosi, MP who has coordinated [Read more...](#)



The training course has been organized in collaboration with IN.N.E.R and their sister organizations, the Cilento Biodistrict and AIAB Campania – the Campania regional branch of AIAB, the Italian OF Association,

Deliverables

- ❑ [The impact of organic diet intervention on antioxidant capacity and biomarkers of inflammation and oxidative stress: A systematic review](#)
- ❑ [Organic farming and climate change: Literature Review](#)
- ❑ [Stakeholder Organic Sector Mapping in Cyprus](#)
- ❑ [Stakeholder Organic Sector Mapping in Europe](#)
- ❑ **Informative material (flyers in Greek)**
 - ❑ [Πέντε Λόγοι για να Προτιμήσετε Βιολογικά Τρόφιμα](#)
 - ❑ [Βιολογική Γεωργία και Κλιματική Αλλαγή](#)
 - ❑ [Βιολογικά Προϊόντα στη Ζωή μας](#)
- ❑ [Plant Nutrition Fertility Scheme in organic farming systems: Apples and Barley](#)
- ❑ [Review Report on Irrigation Management Scheme](#)
- ❑ [Review Report on Soil Fertility Improvement Scheme](#)
- ❑ [Βιολογική καλλιέργεια κριθαριού – Protocol for organic farming practices in barley](#)
- ❑ [Βιολογική καλλιέργεια μηλιάς – Protocol for organic farming practices in apples](#)
- ❑ [The Behavioral Model of the Cypriot Consumer of Organic Food: The Foundation of a National Strategic Plan for Promoting the Consumption of Organic Food](#)

Milestones

- ✓ Introduction of organic food items in school canteens for the first time (following communication with the Ministry of Education in Cyprus).
- ✓ The biggest in duration (40 days organic diet) and number of participating children (150 children), health intervention study in Europe and beyond (worldwide) has been completed in Cyprus.
- ✓ Business opportunities in organic barley between FederBio, Italy and Cypriot organic farmers.
- ✓ Implementation of two short-chain organic markets at a university (Cyprus University of Technology, CUT) premises with the collaboration of the Cyprus Organic farmers association (COFA) and the CUT Green Office.
- ✓ Manuscripts were submitted and are under preparation by ARI and CUT.
- ✓ 2 notice boards disseminating the project were placed at the sides of the Nicosia-Limassol highway.
- ✓ Work has been commenced regarding the final conference of the project scheduled to take place on 11-12 April 2019.
- ✓ The so far progress and findings of the ORGANIKO LIFE+ project were discussed in the Parliament House of Cyprus via a question made by a Senate member regarding the project's impact.
- ✓ A member of the ORGANIKO LIFE+ consortium, Dr. M. Omirou was appointed as a member of the Cyprus National Council of Organic Farming.
- ✓ The recent Green Public Procurement plan for Cyprus includes organic food options for public authorities and organizations; ORGANIKO LIFE+ members contributed to the discussions before the implementation of this plan.
- ✓ Organic lifestyle starts at primary school -- this was the title of our innovation that was among the shortlisted applications for the Call for Organic Innovations 2017 at the EU level. While our innovation was not selected as the winner, the jury found it promising. The EU TP Organics platform featured it in the Innovation Arena on its website.

Videos

- [Research study "Organic diet and children's health"](#)
- [Discussing the behavior model of the Cypriot consumer of organic products - RIK morning show](#)
- [Preparation of organic meals for children participating in the study "Organic diet and children's health" - RIK morning show](#)
- [Organic farming and its links to climate change and health](#)

Contact us

