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ANNUAL REPORT
2017

IFOAM EU 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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Commonly used terms

CAP: Common Agriculture Policy

Commission: European Commission

Council: Council of the European Union

GMOs: Genetically Modified Organisms

NGETs: New Genetic Engineering Techniques

LULUCF: Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry

Parliament: European Parliament

Cover picture: © Triin Viilvere

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As outgoing President of IFOAM EU it is my pleasurable duty to welcome you to this annual report. The purpose of this document is to inform our members and all others of what IFOAM EU does to make Europe more organic. This is the last annual report that I'll be signing before our 9th General Assembly, which we are combining with our 15-year celebration and an important public event on climate change and organic, part of our SOLMACC European research project funded by the EU. Building on the successful establishment of our organisation under the leadership of former President Francis Blake, I have served as President since 2009. I now stand aside so that the new Board and our new President, can provide a fresh energy to the great work of IFOAM EU. As we move on, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the good work that IFOAM EU does.

The organisation has achieved a great deal during my time as President. IFOAM EU has worked through an important structural change. We have developed and implemented [a coherent strategic plan](#) that importantly includes building the capacity of the organic sector in all parts of Europe. We have strengthened our shared ambitions with IFOAM – Organics International including through the global [Organic 3.0](#) initiative. We have developed and launched our vision for the organic sector to 2030: for organic on every table, to improve, inspire and deliver better food and farming and to ensure fair play and fair pay in the food and farming supply chain. We have ensured that this vision is in line with the global [Sustainable Development Goals](#) which underpin the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Moreover, we have worked to increase the scale and scope of IFOAM EU, with increasing numbers of members as well as increasing our hugely competent and dedicated staff. Our focus is the European Union and we are grateful for the financial and practical support from organic farmers, processors, businesses and organisations that make our work possible. We are guided by the vital need to think global and act local.

I have had the pleasure to serve IFOAM EU whilst three European Agriculture Commissioners have held office, Mariann Fischer-Boel, Dacian Cioloş and Commissioner Phil Hogan since 2014. We are grateful for the support that has been provided to our organisation by the European Commission over the years. Our staff have implemented many important and well targeted projects - and this professional work continues. We have led the way in [making Europe more organic](#) and we have worked alongside (and hugely valued the contributions from) like-minded organisations to achieve this. And it is working – since 1985 the area of organic land has grown to 12.1 million hectares in 2016, the number of organic producers to 295,123, the number of organic processors to 62,652 and the market for organic food has grown to €30.7 billion organic retail sales in 2016. Truly, IFOAM EU has worked to make Europe more organic!

In research and innovation, through [TP Organics](#), we have ensured that more resources are devoted to relevant organic priorities and projects. We have teamed up with others that are promoting agroecology to maximise the scope for change in farming systems through organic and agroecological approaches. In organic regulation there has been tireless, expert and seemingly unending work on guiding the negotiation of the review of the 'old' regulation over the past four years. In organic policy we have lobbied for reform of the CAP so that it matches the urgent need to achieve a better food and farming system for all European citizens; we have worked for a GM free Europe. The prize that IFOAM EU is working towards is clear: to protect and improve the livelihoods of producers, to enable a better, more fair and healthier food supply chain, to enhance our environment and protect biodiversity in all its forms, to fight for climate action and to improve the health and welfare of our farm animals.

Ultimately an organisation depends on its staff; neither its Board nor its President can make good for a deficit in the quality staff. We are fortunate to have an excellent group of dedicated and committed people working long hours. We have been led by our former Director, Marco Schlüter, and for the past two years by our new Director, Eduardo Cuoco. Under this competent leadership I am confident that the new Board and President will find it easy to continue to effectively support IFOAM EU to achieve and exceed the goals we have together set.



Christopher Stopes
Outgoing IFOAM EU
President

Organic market and production

The EU's total area of farmland under organic production grew to 12.1 million hectares in 2015. This was accompanied by a market growth to 30.7 billion EUR. Between 2005 and 2016 the size of the EU organic retail market tripled from 11.8 billion in 2005 to 27.1 billion EUR in 2016. The continuous positive development of the EU organic market can be attributed to a combination of factors: the innovative nature of organic food and farming, the increasing demand of European citizens for high-quality and sustainable food production, and policy support.

The growing organic market in the EU is very dynamic but growth rates vary greatly between countries, just like the per capita consumption of organic food. In general, consumers are spending more on organic food every year with certain product groups achieving above average market shares, e.g., organic eggs and dairy. This increase in demand for organic products is reflected in an increase in processing and imports, partially also because organic production in Europe lags. The market for organic is growing at higher rates every year, while organic production continues to grow at a much slower pace.

Source: Data based on data compiled by FiBL based on Eurostat and national data sources. Taken from <http://www.ifoam-eu.org/en/organic-europe>. Last consulted on 9 May 2018; The World of Organic 2017, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL) and IFOAM – Organics International

ORGANIC IN EUROPE AT A GLANCE

EU and policy regulatory framework

Organic farming and production has been regulated by the **EU organic regulation** at EU level since 1991. Today the European requirements for organic production are set by Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 defining the aims, objectives and principles of organic farming and production, and by two implementing regulations (No 889/2008 and No 1235/2008) detailing the organic production, labelling, control and import rules. All products labelled as organic and sold in the EU must be produced in accordance with these regulations. At the end of 2011 the EU Commission announced the revision of the current legal framework governing organics. In 2014 a legislative proposal was published and forwarded to the EU Parliament and the EU Council. Years of discussions followed and in June 2017 the negotiation between the three EU Institutions came to an end. The EU Parliament adopted the final text in April 2018, while the EU Council in May 2018. The date of application of the new regulation will be 1 January 2021. You find an overview of the European organic movement's work and position regarding the new organic regulation on [the regulation section of the IFOAM EU website](#).

Other EU policies that greatly impact organic in Europe are the **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)** and research and innovation policy. With almost 40% of the EU budget going to the CAP the decisions made by EU policymakers about which farming systems and practices to promote directly shape the kind of food system we have in the EU. While the CAP has also played a role in the development of organic farming in Europe, investments in organic farming account for a mere 1.5% of current EU agricultural spending. The fact remains that despite improvements over the past decades, sustainability is still not at the core of the CAP's architecture, making the policy ill-equipped to address the challenges facing the agri-food sector from food security to environmental degradation and climate change. IFOAM EU is calling for a fundamentally new approach to the CAP which can transition European agriculture towards greater sustainability as part of an ambitious implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. To this end, forthcoming CAP reforms need to set in motion a new deal between farmers and citizens that secures fair incomes, increases farm resilience, whilst meeting societal expectations. IFOAM EU's vision on transforming the CAP can be found on [the CAP section of the IFOAM EU website](#).

Adequately funded research & innovation is fundamental to the further development of the organic sector and in the transition to sustainable food & farming systems in Europe organic approaches must receive a high priority in the **research & innovation policy agendas** of the EU and Member States. To achieve this, IFOAM EU built a broad and strong coalition by joining forces with civil society organisations, researchers, farmers and companies. Together they established [TP Organics](#), the European Technology Platform for organic food & farming, which aims to strengthen research & innovation for organics and other agroecological approaches that contribute to sustainable food and farming systems. TP Organics identifies research priorities and innovation goals and promotes these towards policy makers. The platform also promotes broader participation in research and knowledge exchange within the organic movement. Visit [the research and innovation pages of IFOAM EU's website](#) to find out more about our projects and activities.





ABOUT IFOAM EU

Representing the organic movement in the EU

At the date of publishing this report (May 2018), IFOAM EU celebrates its 15-year anniversary of advocating for organic food and farming with the European institutions. In 2003, our office in Brussels was established to coordinate European advocacy work for the adoption of ecologically, socially and economically sound systems based on the principles of organic agriculture – health, ecology, fairness and care. In 2017, the staff of our umbrella organisation consisted of 21 full-time equivalents and four one-year European Volunteers. Working closely with our members, we represent the voice of organic food and farming vis-à-vis the European institutions. Through our close ties with key agricultural, environmental and technical decision-makers at local, national and European level IFOAM EU is recognised by the EU institutions as the leading advocate for organic food and farming on EU level.

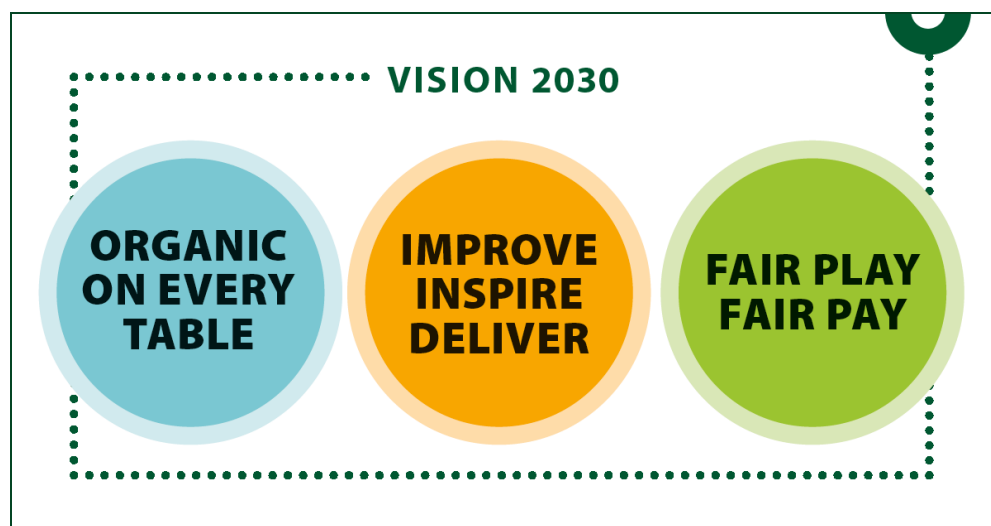
IFOAM EU hosts the secretariat of [TP Organics](#) – the European Technology Platform for organic food and farming research – playing a key role in highlighting where the focus of research and innovation funding should be placed. We also collaborate closely with [IFOAM – Organics International](#), the global umbrella organisation for organic agriculture.

IFOAM EU's membership

IFOAM EU is a membership-based organisation that represents more than 190 members in 34 European countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Macedonia, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Ukraine.

We work closely with our members to ensure that our positions correctly reflect the day-to-day business of organic farmers, processors, certifiers and other practitioners across Europe's widely differing Member States. For more information about our governance and operating structures, interest groups and working groups, visit [the IFOAM EU website](#) and consult [our short overview](#). [Discover which members are already contributing to making Europe more organic together with us!](#) Are you interested in becoming a member of IFOAM EU to ensure that your voice is heard? Send an email to [IFOAMEU_membership \[at\] ifoam-eu.org](mailto:IFOAMEU_membership[@]ifoam-eu.org).

Leading the transformation of food and farming in Europe



In 2013, IFOAM EU started a participatory process aimed at leading the change in the food and farming system. We have been taking time to collectively set our own agenda, aiming towards a vision for organic in Europe to 2030. Our aim was to define where the organic sector and movement want to be in 2030 and what strategies are needed to get there. This culminated in the launch of the organic Vision 2030 [Transforming food and farming](#) at the 9th European Organic Congress in 2015. After this, we started developing a mid-term strategy to propel the European organic movement into 2030. This strategy has been developed via various consultation exercises – both during face-to-face meetings, as well as digitally. It happened in parallel to the development of the organic movement's vision on a global level – [Organic 3.0](#) – as performed by our colleagues at IFOAM – Organics International.



By 2030 the organic movement works for fair, environmentally conscious, healthy and caring food and farming systems across Europe in line with three pillars:

- [Organic on every table](#)
- [Improve – Inspire – Deliver](#)
- [Fair play – Fair pay](#)

To make this a reality we have put together an [organic roadmap to sustainable food and farming systems in Europe](#). This Roadmap provides an overview of what IFOAM EU, food & farming actors and policy-makers can do to reach our vision by 2030.

IFOAM EU's VISION: TRANSFORMING FOOD & FARMING

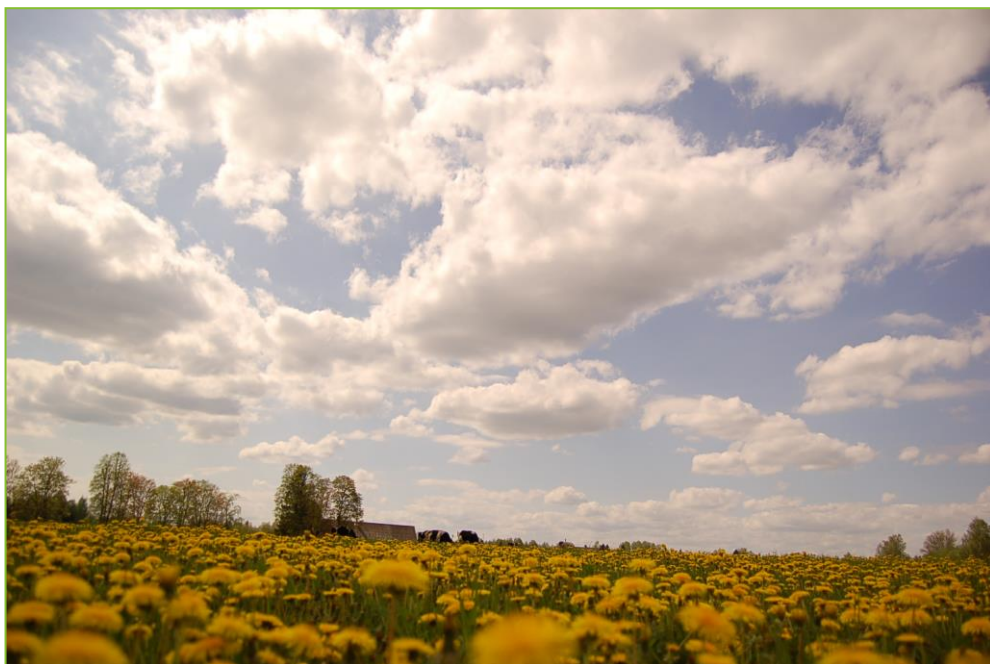
Our vision for food and farming is of a fair, environmentally conscious, healthy and caring system widely adopted in Europe. The European organic movement continues to lead change, believes in holistic approaches and thrives on interactions with other like-minded initiatives, including fair trade, agroecology and urban agriculture.

Driven by the support of citizens and by building bridges with other stakeholders in the food and farming system, we are committed to achieving more than half of Europe's agricultural land managed according to organic principles of health, fairness, ecology and care, providing fresh, seasonal, fairly priced as well as minimally and carefully processed organic food to every European home, workplace and institution.

The European organic movement stimulates and rewards the further development of organic systems, improving the resilience and environmental performance of organic production systems, while innovative tools for upholding the integrity of the supply chain promote trust. Policy makers and citizens widely recognise and value the contribution of organic farming to the delivery and support of vital ecosystem services to society.

As we move forward towards our goal of being a model for sustainable farming and food systems, we support a culture of innovation based on holistic principles leading to more resilient and productive farming systems, greater biodiversity, better food quality, more appropriate processing and fairer supply chains. New and indigenous, locally adapted varieties and breeds suited to organic farming practices and local conditions are encouraged and preserved. Farm animals are healthy, live in stress-free conditions and contribute to the sustainability of organic farms.

European farmers and all workers in the organic supply chain are fairly remunerated for their contribution to the health of the environment, communities, local and rural economies, and for providing flavourful and abundant food to contribute to the welfare of our planet and the quality of life of all people. The organic movement works towards a paradigm shift in education and learning to strengthen the connection between environmentally and socially responsible food choices. People reconnect to food production by actively engaging with short supply chains.





The topics we advocate on to transform food and farming

To achieve our vision of fair, environmentally conscious, healthy and caring food and farming systems across Europe, IFOAM EU is actively working on the following topics together with food & farming actors and policy-makers:



The projects we are involved in that make Europe more organic

Projects IFOAM EU coordinates:

European Voluntary Service (EVS) projects;

- **What?** Targeting young people between the ages of 18-30, the EVS programme provides the opportunity to fully immerse oneself in IFOAM EU's work by volunteering at the office in Brussels for one year in different units. In 2017, two EVS projects were implemented and a third one was developed and granted funding. The first project ended in August and involved young people from Croatia, Estonia, Hungary and Slovakia. The second project started in June and is involving young people from Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Poland and Spain;
- **When?** June 2016 – August 2017 and June 2017 – June 2018;
- **Who?** The project partners included sending organisations from countries mentioned above, which are usually youth and environmentally focused non-profit organisations;
- **IFOAM EU's role?** Coordinator;
- **Funding?** Erasmus + programme.

LIVESEED:

- **What?** The objective of LIVESEED is to improve transparency and competitiveness of the organic seed and breeding sector, encouraging greater use of organic seed.



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

Cultivars adapted to organic systems are key for realising the full potential of organic agriculture in Europe;

- **When?** June 2017 – May 2021;
- **Who?** LIVESEED has 49 partners covering 18 European countries. The consortium includes multiple actors from: research institutes, breeding companies, seed companies, organic associations (farmers, processors, retailers) and national authorities;
- **IFOAM EU's role?** Overall project coordinator and involved in several tasks including organisation of national visits to better understand the different policy-contexts and bottlenecks for organic seed use in the different Member States. These visits are followed-up by stakeholder workshops to find ways forward to improve use of organic seed;
- **Funding?** Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation framework programme.

Keeping GMOs out of food:

- **What?** The project aims to strengthen GMO-free organic food production by organising and supporting the organic movement in its efforts to develop practical strategies to stay GMO free. It does this by identifying the status quo, future needs, and strategies to organise supply of specific GMO-free inputs, discussions of national and regional situations and in the different GM-free supply chain sectors. These fed in to [practical guidelines to avoid GMO contaminations](#) in the food chain. The project also aims to develop positions and coordinate advocacy work for a legal framework that provides food chain operators with better conditions to remain GMO-free at a reasonable price by;
- **When?** 2014 – 2018;
- **Who?** Organic and non-GMO stakeholders, NGO representatives and EU regions working on food production and prevention of GMO contamination;
- **IFOAM EU's role?** Project coordinator;
- **Funding?** Co-financed by the LIFE programme, and project partners BioSuisse, DKV, DO-IT, Ecocert, Rapunzel, RDV Products, Software AG Stiftung, Vivi Verde & Zukunfts Stiftung Landwirtschaft.

OK-Net Arable – Exchange knowledge, enhance organic farming:

- **What?** The complexity of organic farming requires farmers to have a very high level of knowledge and skills. But exchange on organic farming techniques remains limited. OK-Net Arable promoted the exchange of knowledge among farmers, farm advisers and scientists to increase productivity and quality in organic arable cropping all over Europe;
- **When?** March 2015 – February 2018;
- **Who?** The consortium of OK-Net Arable is composed of 19 partners working in research, farm advice and research dissemination. Through the partners, OK-Net Arable worked with 14 farmer innovation groups, located in 10 countries distributed throughout Europe;
- **IFOAM EU's role?** Project coordinator, communication and dissemination;
- **Funding?** Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation framework programme.

SOLMACC – Strategies for Organic and Low-Input farming to Mitigate and Adapt to Climate Change:

- **What?** The project has been promoting and measuring the impact of climate-friendly farming practices. Four climate-friendly farming practices have been the focus, with 12 organic demonstration farms in Sweden, Germany and Italy implementing the practices and working with scientists to monitor progress. The practices are: optimised on-farm nutrient recycling, optimised crop rotations, optimised tillage management, agroforestry;
- **When?** September 2013 – August 2018;
- **Who?** SOLMACC is being implemented by five partners: IFOAM EU, Bioland, AIAB, FiBL and Ekologiska Lantbrukarna;
- **IFOAM EU's role?** IFOAM EU acts as day-to-day coordinator, while Ekologiska Lantbrukarna is officially the lead beneficiary;
- **Funding?** Co-financed by the LIFE programme, the Ekagastiftelsen foundation and the Mercator foundation.



Projects IFOAM EU contributes to:

Agrispin:

- **What?** AGRISPIN analysed best practices for supporting innovation;
- **When?** March 2015 – August 2017;
- **Who?** AGRISPIN had 15 partners, and was coordinated by SEGES, a Danish farm advisory service;
- **IFOAM EU's role?** IFOAM EU contributed with case studies in the organic sector and / or agroecology focus;
- **Funding?** Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation framework programme.

Internet of Food and Farm 2020:

- **What?** The project Internet of Food & Farm 2020 (IoF2020) explores the potential of IoT-technologies for the European food and farming industry. Nineteen use-cases organised around five trials (arable, dairy, fruits, meat and vegetables) develop, test and demonstrate IoT technologies in an operational farm environment all over Europe;
- **When?** 2016 – 2020;
- **Who?** 70+ partners from 14 EU countries;
- **IFOAM EU's role?** To ensure that organic is represented and that organic innovative practices are included;
- **Funding?** IoF2020 is part of [Horizon 2020 Industrial Leadership](#) and supported by the European Commission with a budget of 30 million EUR.

ReMIX:

- **What?** ReMIX exploits the benefits of species mixtures to design more diverse and resilient arable cropping systems;
- **When?** May 2017 – April 2021;
- **Who?** ReMIX is composed of 23 partners from 13 countries, representing academia and research, advisory services, farmers and the agricultural equipment industry;
- **IFOAM EU's role?** Knowledge transfer and dissemination towards stakeholders & policy-makers;
- **Funding?** Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation framework programme.

SME ORGANICS:

- **What?** SME ORGANICS brings together regional governments, development agencies, organic food and farming, enterprise bodies, universities and research institutes from eight regions across Europe. As part of a participatory learning process, partners and stakeholders exchange and share experiences of best practices for devising Organic Action Plans. The development of these action plans covers areas such as production and processing, commercialisation and marketing, training and advice, and organic value chain efficiency and governance, that can support the competitiveness and sustainability of organic SMEs in their region;
- **When?** April 2016 – March 2020;
- **Who?** Regional governments, development agencies, organic food and farming, enterprise bodies, universities and research institutes from eight regions across Europe;
- **IFOAM EU's role?** Advisory partner;
- **Funding?** Interreg Europe, the programme that helps to stimulate cooperation between regions in the EU.

XF-Actors:

- **What?** The first research project in Europe is entirely devoted to research on the bacterium Xylella Fastidiosa. A multidisciplinary research programme implemented by an international consortium of 29 partners;
- **When?** November 2016 – October 2020
- **Who?** An international consortium of 29 partners;
- **IFOAM EU's role?** Communication and dissemination of project's results
- **Funding?** Horizon 2020, the EU's research and innovation framework programme.



IFOAM EU President Christopher Stopes opening the 11th European Organic Congress; © Triin Viilvere



Eduardo Cuoco moderating the session at the Organic Innovation Days; © Tsvetelina Plamenova

The events that make Europe more organic

What we organise:

- The annual [European Organic Congress](#)
- The bi-annual Organic Processing Conference

Are you interested in supporting the European Organic Congress or the Organic Processing Conference? Contact [communication \[at\] ifoam-eu.org](#) to hear what is in it for you and what is possible for your organisation / company.

What we co-organise:

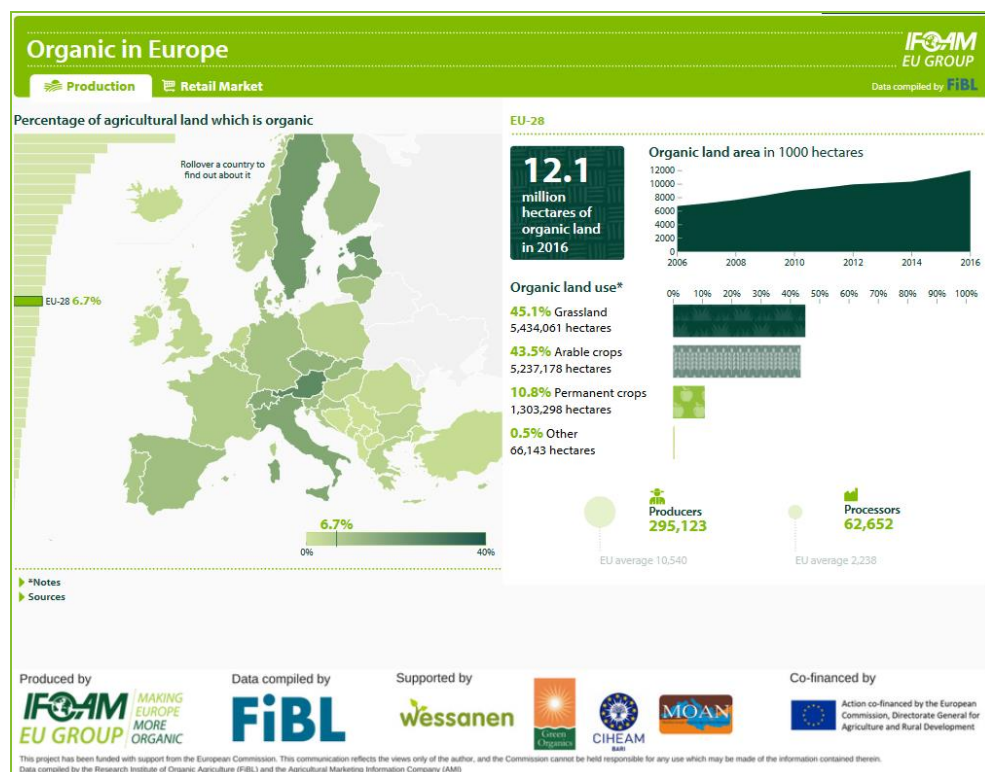
- TP ORGANICS' [Organic Innovation Days](#)

Are you interested in supporting the Organic Innovation Days? Contact [info \[at\] tporganics.eu](#) and find out what is possible for you.

The events we are patron of / promote / contribute to:

- Ecofruit
- Natexpo
- Natural & Organic Products Europe
- Nordic Organic Expo / Natural Products Scandinavia
- The Sustainable Foods Summit

Are you interested in having IFOAM EU as a patron of your event? Contact [communication \[at\] ifoam-eu.org](#) to hear what is possible.



Browse interactive organic production and retail data on www.ifoam-eu.org/organic-europe

ORGANIC ON EVERY TABLE

What do we want?

VISION 2030

Policy makers & citizens widely recognise the contributions of organic and promote it

Citizens continue to choose organic food and have easy access to it

Organic and agroecological practices are employed on more than half of EU farmlands

What did IFOAM EU do?

Helped to ensure that the rules and economic value of organic productions stimulates conversion by researching which strategies organic producers can use to keep their production GMO-free in the study '[Socio-economic impacts of GMOs on European agriculture](#)' and by presenting a concept for a more effective and cost-efficient Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) by integrating sustainability assessment in the design, targeting and monitoring of policies and in payment allocation in a report published with FiBL titled '[Towards a new public goods payment model for remunerating farmers under the CAP Post-2020](#)'.

Promoted the availability of inputs adapted to organic systems, fought against inputs that threaten organic production:

Promoted the availability of inputs adapted to organic systems

- By coordinating [the LIVESEED project](#) that aims to boost organic seed production and plant breeding across Europe. Cultivars adapted to organic systems are key for realising the full potential of organic agriculture in Europe;
- By (co-)organising various events, such as the [conference 'Seed as commons', our session on breeding & farmers' rights at Biofach 2017](#), the workshop '[Business models for organic plant breeding](#)' workshop', the '[Keeping GMOs out of food](#)' project's [workshops](#) to discuss about new genetic engineering techniques; seed and feed contaminants; and GMO-free processing aids and additives and how to ensure their availability on the market for the future; by managing the IFOAM EU seed expert group and advocating for a review of the seed legislation and the possibility to use heterogenous plant material in organic production;
- By monitoring and advocating on general EU legislations on Farm and Food input: from Plant Protection Products to Fertilisers, from Seed to Food & Feed additives;
- By questioning how the European Patent Office grants patents on seeds, to prevent the patentability of native traits;
- By preparing a project to phase out contentious inputs in organic agriculture and find alternatives. The project – RELACS – will start on 1 May 2018.

Fought against inputs threatening organic production

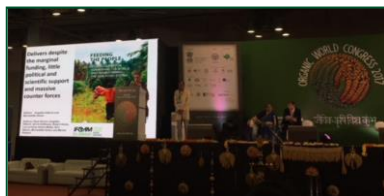
- At various events, such as the European Commission's High-Level Conference on Modern Biotechnologies where IFOAM EU Vice President Jan Plagge reiterated our [position on new genetic engineering techniques \(NGETs\)](#) stating that for the organic movement all NGETs should be considered as techniques of genetic modification that should be regulated like GMOs;
- Organised an internal debate with our members and actively participated to the drafting of the international position paper issued in November 2017;
- Together with other civil society organisations IFOAM EU urged the European Commission not to authorise new GMOs for cultivation, e.g., in a [joint letter with other NGOs](#) and a technical annex to the Commission, and [in a social media campaign #JunckerBanGM](#);
- Monitored developments in the European Parliament regarding the revision of the EU's fertiliser marketing laws.



Biofach 2018: Launch of the study 'Socioeconomic impacts of GMOs on the European agriculture'; © Stephen Meredith



Jan Plagge, IFOAM EU Vice President, presenting the position of the organic sector at the European Commission's High-Level Conference on Modern Biotechnologies © Annegrete Grafen



Angelika Hilbeck, from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, speaking about the unfulfilled promises of GM crops at the Organic World Congress © Eric Gall



Claudio Serafini, Director of the 'Organic Cities Network Europe' & Eduardo Cuoco, Director of IFOAM EU after signing the agreement about the Organic Cities Network



IFOAM EU, Friends of the Earth Europe, Slow Food, Compassion in World Farming and Oxfam-Solidarité presented the statement to the current President of the AGRI Council Roderick Galdes, Maltese Parliamentary Secretary for Agriculture, Fisheries and Animal Rights

Built bridges with farming communities and like-minded organisations to develop strategic cooperation:

- At events we led, such as the 'International workshop on the EU organic regulation and its application in EU countries and non-EU countries' at the 9th Meeting of the Mediterranean Organic Agriculture Network (MOAN);
- At events we attended, such as IFOAM – Organics International's '[19th Organic World Congress](#)' in India, that was attended by more than 1.000 farmers, or the first Agroecology Europe Forum in Lyon, France;
- Together with other civil society organisations we stressed that more needs to be done to ensure that the EU and national governments have a truly ambitious implementation of all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the social media campaign [#MakeEuropeSustainableForAll](#);
- Two staff members of IFOAM EU graduated from [the Organic Leadership Course](#) at Biofach 2017, and two new staff members joined the 2017-2018 course.

How IFOAM EU involved food & farming actors

Engaged & created links with actors beyond the organic sector at our annual 11th European Organic Congress and [events at Biofach 2017](#), as well as in our projects: AGRISPIN, the Internet of Food and Farm 2020, SME Organics, ReMIX & XF-ACTORS.

Moreover, we worked towards building sustainable value chains to ensure economic viability and avoid dependence on subsidies, and we continued to improve communications about the benefits of organic production for society and the environment, by creating [infographics about the multiple benefits of organic](#) and will disseminate these widely in 2018.

Furthermore, as part of IFOAM EU's capacity-building programme with focus on Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), we brought together actors from that region to address specific needs in developing the organic market in their countries.

How IFOAM EU engaged with policy-makers

Advocated policy-makers for reforming the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to ensure that environmental and socio-economic outcomes delivered by farmers are fully incentivised and rewarded:

- At various face-to-face meetings with MEPs, Commissioners, senior officials and officers, as well as meetings with like-minded organisations, and during events like our session [at Biofach 2017](#);
- By sending [open letters](#) to Commissioner Phil Hogan [ahead of](#), responding to and calling on our members to reply to the Commission's [CAP communication – the future of food and farming](#) to call for a fundamentally new approach to the CAP that would strengthen the environmental and socioeconomic performance of the agrifood sector;
- By calling for a fundamental reform of the CAP under the slogan '[Good food, good farming – Now!](#)' with over 150 civil society organisations;
- By releasing our vision paper '[A CAP for healthy farms, healthy people, healthy planet](#)' and releasing a report published with FiBL titled '[Towards a new public goods payment model for remunerating farmers under the CAP Post-2020](#)';
- Informed IFOAM EU's members about the developments regarding the CAP-reform at various face-to-face meetings, in our [newsletters](#), via targeted emails, and on the IFOAM EU member extranet to prepare them for engaging with policy-makers at national level.

Advocated policy-makers to use green procurement to stimulate sustainable diets in public canteens and private sector mass catering, by laying out the ground work for [our collaboration with the Organic Cities Network](#) and the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, and commented on the new EU guidelines on Green Public Procurements.

Advocated policy-makers to prioritise access to land for new organic and transitioning farmers in the frame of the CAP, and we participated to the '[Access to land in Europe: Learning from the Field](#)' conference and highlighted how a rethink of subsidies under the CAP Post-2020 based on the principle of public money for public goods could better facilitate access to land for sustainable agriculture.



The participants of the Kick-Off Meeting of the Remix Project at Toulouse; © INRA

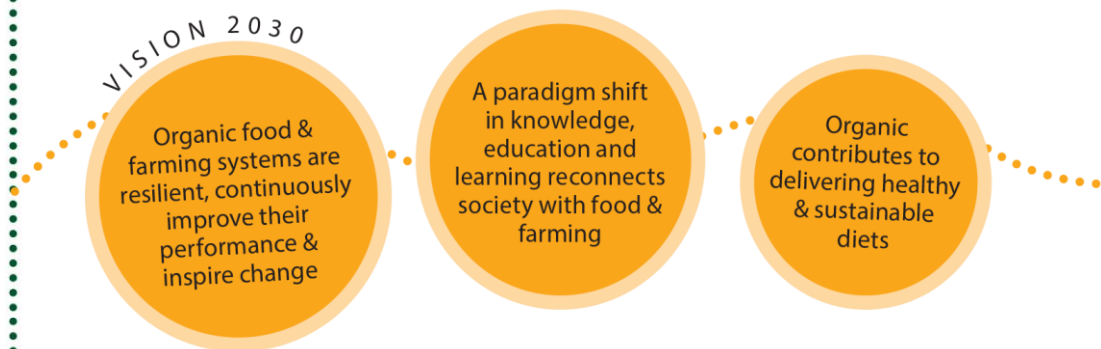


Thomas Fertl, IFOAM EU Board Member & Rapporteur for Farming; Michel Reynaud, EOCC Board Member; Matej Hudec, Head of the Agriculture and Fisheries Unit of the Permanent Representation of the Slovak Republic to the European Union; Sabine Eigenschink, IFOAM EU Vice President for Regulation and Certification; and Luc Gauduchon, Food R&D Manager, Léa Nature at EU Policy Day at BIOFACH 2017



IMPROVE – INSPIRE – DELIVER

What do we want?



What did IFOAM EU do?

Demonstrated the solutions organic food and farming can provide to the challenges facing our food systems:

- By animating the [organic farm knowledge platform](#) as part of the OK-Net Arable project. The platform contains more than 150 materials with practical solutions for improving organic arable systems
- By participating in and conveying results of the [IoF2020 project](#) that researches the possibilities of the Internet of Things on EU agriculture with more than 70 partners from the conventional and organic food value chain;
- By taking part in the [ReMIX research and innovation project](#), together with 22 other partners to redesign European cropping systems based on species mixtures.

Advocated for key issues at the intersection between environmental and agricultural policies:

New EU Organic Regulation and other relevant regulations

- Monitored, analysed and advocated strongly and intensely – together with our members – on the review process for a New Organic Regulation to get to a future legislative framework that does not obstruct the successful development of the organic sector;
- Established two task forces – on organic cosmetics and on organic textile – to find a solution to protect the term organic in these two fast-growing sectors;
- Monitored the new initiative of the Commission that intends to develop Product Environmental Footprint approaches for food products.

Climate change

- By calling for an ambitious Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR), and honest and transparent accounting rules in the Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) Regulation, by ourselves and [with other NGOs in a social media campaign](#);
- In IFOAM EU's Farmers Group meeting by organising a face-to-face meeting focussed on tackling climate change mitigation and adaptation, and a public event debating the contribution of organic farming to help meet the challenges of climate change;
- By organising [an event on the potential of agriculture to reduce greenhouse gas emissions](#) together with BirdLife, Fern, Carbon Market Watch, Transport & Environment, CAN Europe and EEB in the European Parliament;
- By organising **three** events in the frame of [the SOLMACC project](#) that were attended by policymakers of EU, national & regional level, e.g., a session on practical research for climate protection in organic agriculture during Biofach and a socio-economic workshop in February 2017, an expert policy recommendations workshop in November 2017;
- By further promoting our report '[Organic Farming, Climate Change Mitigation and Beyond. Reducing the Environmental Impacts of EU Agriculture](#)' and [the new Spanish version of it](#), as well as [our video highlighting organic agriculture's potential to mitigate and adapt to climate change](#) and [the new Spanish version of it](#);
- By facilitating a meet-up on climate change between young professionals, including interns and trainees from NGOs working on climate change organised by our one-year EVS-volunteers.

GMOs and pesticides

- To ensure that Member States take their responsibilities in the decision-making process of GMOs and pesticides, IFOAM EU monitored [the European Commission's proposal to a modification of the comitology procedure](#). The amendments to this

proposal by the Committee on Agriculture were in line with [the demands of IFOAM EU and like-minded NGOs](#);

- By supporting the European Citizen Initiative ‘Stop glyphosate’, and by updating our members about the ongoing processes regarding its reauthorisation at EU-level in our newsletters;
- By calling for an ambitious implementation of the EU’s Sustainable Pesticide Use Directive and by actively participating in the REFIT consultations that started in the Autumn of 2017 and are continuing until November 2018.

Biodiversity

- Advocated for and monitored the developments of the European Commission’s proposal to ban pesticides on Ecological Focus Areas (EFAs);
- Called for better targeted implementation of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, stressing that biodiversity loss and environmental degradation need to be addressed both inside and outside the Natura 2000 network, adding that the best way to encourage farmland biodiversity and to protect high nature value farmland areas was to create a more supportive policy environment for organics – using the CAP and other related agri-food policies.

Helped to increase the EU funding dedicated to organic research, and showcased organic innovation:

- By hosting the secretariat of TP Organics, the European Technology platform for organic food and farming. TP Organics works to strengthen research & innovation for organics and other agroecological approaches. The platform unites nearly 100 companies, farmers, consumers, civil society organisations and researchers active in the organic value chain from production, input & supply, to food processing, marketing and consumption in Europe. Thanks to the efforts of TP Organics, the Horizon 2020 Work Programme published in October 2017 included one call with a budget of 10 million EUR specifically dedicated to “improving animal welfare in organic and low-input farming”, and another nine calls with a total budget of 140 million EUR that explicitly mentioned that the proposed projects should benefit the organic sector;
- Showcased the innovative character of organic in the [‘Internet of Food and Farm 2020’ project](#).

How IFOAM EU involved food & farming actors

Improved how we grow and process food:

- By hosting regular – face-to-face and virtual – meetings of the IFOAM EU Interest Group of Organic Processors, and the IFOAM EU Farmers Interest Group, including a [two-day joint meeting of the two interest groups](#);
- By regularly briefing our members – and asking them to advocate at national level – about the political process in Brussels on the review process for a New Organic Regulation, which will apply from 1st January 2021;
- By setting up a Central Eastern Europe (CEE) expert group, consisting of actors involved in the development of food value chains in the CEE to support them in addressing specific challenges in their countries;
- By participating in and conveying results of the [IoF2020 project](#) that researches the possibilities of the Internet of Things on EU agriculture with more than 70 partners from the conventional and organic food value chain; to increase the uptake of cutting edge technologies that provide a solution for challenges relevant to organic food and farming thus fostering the sector’s further growth;
- By coordinating [the SOLMACC project](#), in which farmers demonstrate that organic farming can contribute to a more climate-friendly agriculture thanks to optimised on-farm nutrient recycling, optimised crop rotations, optimised tillage management and agroforestry;
- By informing food & farming actors about new rules on feed for aquaculture animals, on imports of organic products from other countries, and on trade agreements with third parties;
- By co-organising a meeting with the European Sustainable Phosphorus Platform on “Closing nutrient cycles in organic farming” in December 2017. Acknowledging that nutrient cycles should be closed as locally as possible, the meeting showed the need to identify acceptance criteria for recycled nutrient products in organic farming.

Promoted sustainable diets and the consumption of healthy food at a session of the 11th European Organic Congress in Tallinn.



The IFOAM EU farmers and processors groups met for a fruitful discussion in Athens, Greece, on 26–27 June 2017



In TP Organics' brochure you find four examples of Operational Groups engaging both organic and conventional farmers



Bram Moeskops, Research & Innovation Manager at IFOAM EU presenting the OK-Net Arable platform at the EIP-AGRI workshop



SME Organics' 7th fields visit to region Łódzkie in Poland. Nic Lampkin presenting SME Organics; © SME ORGANICS

Engaged in knowledge generation and sharing:

- By co-organising and promoting TP Organics' Organic Innovation Days and the 'Call for Innovations';
- By coordinating the OK-Net Arable project that launched [a knowledge platform](#), and by regularly sharing the knowledge generating in the project on IFOAM EU's communication channels;
- Through visits to different Member States to better understand the different local policy contexts and bottlenecks regarding organic seed use in Europe in the frame of the LIVESEED project;
- By partnering in the AgriSpin project, organising a seminar for organic stakeholders to share insights and recommendations of the project, and compiling [an overview of the cases with an organic and agroecological](#) focus explored throughout the project;
- By outlining recommendations on making climate-friendly farming more economically viable and how to overcome certain challenges in the SOLMACC publication '[Viable climate-friendly farming: Socio-economic strategies](#)';
- In the monthly online meetings of our pilot group of communications experts in organic;
- In the first-ever joint workshop with the EIP-AGRI Service Point '[Organic is operational](#)' where members of Operational Groups active in the organic sector shared experiences, and by promoting TP Organics' online brochure '[Innovation for organics](#)' [Organic Agriculture in EIP-AGRI Operational Groups](#);
- By giving young professionals from across Europe the opportunity to learn about the organic movement at IFOAM EU for one year in the frame of [the European Voluntary Service project](#).

How IFOAM EU engaged with policy-makers

Advocated policy-makers to increase research funding and support development of formal education and advisory systems with an organic focus:

- By monitoring the [European Innovation Partnership on Agricultural Productivity & Sustainability \(EIP-AGRI\)](#), and participating in the EIP-AGRI Advisory Board ("Subgroup on Innovation"), and co-organising the workshops, such as the 'Organic is operational' one in Hamburg on 17 June 2017;
- By contributing to TP ORGANICS' position paper for the 9th Framework Programme for Research and Innovation '[Research and Innovation for Sustainable Food and Farming](#)';
- By participating to, and in some cases chairing, numerous DG AGRI Civil Dialogue Groups (CDGs) on organic farming, the CAP, Environment and Climate Change, and many more.

Developed and implemented organic action plans in [the SME ORGANICS project](#) at [various face-to-face meetings and meetings with the project partners](#).

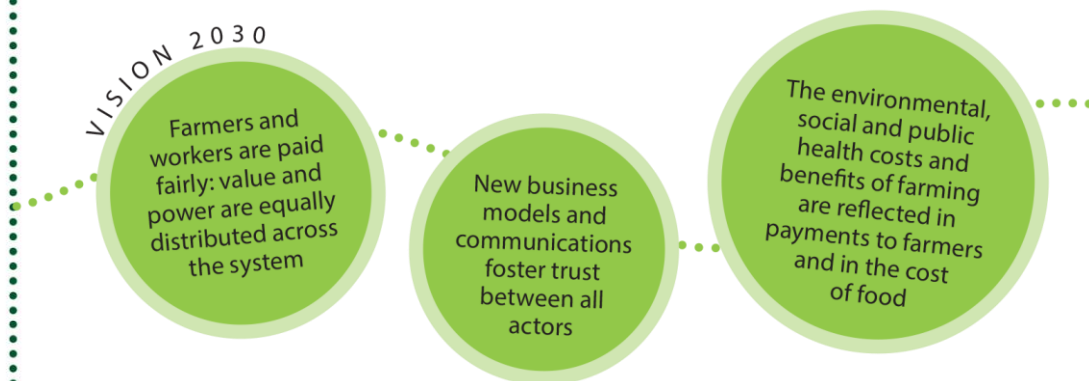
Ensured coherence between policies related to food, farming, health, education and the environment:

- By advocating European and national institutions to ensure that the organic regulation meets the needs of the organic movement, and to ensure that there's coherence between the organic regulation and other policies impacting organic, e.g., the Common Agriculture Policy, Green Public Procurement, the EU Biodiversity and Habitat Directives, etc.;
- By promoting the European Citizen Initiative [People4Soil](#) to call on the European Commission to put soil protection back on the EU political agenda.



FAIR PLAY – FAIR PAY

What do we want?



The bulk of IFOAM EU's work to generate fair play and fair pay will start in 2018 with the European Commission's proposal for a Directive on unfair trading practices (UTPs) in the food supply chain.

In 2017, IFOAM EU, together with a broad range of over 250 civil society organisations in the frame of [SDG Watch Europe](#), have put forward an alternative scenario for the Future of Europe entitled [Scenario 6: Sustainable Europe for its Citizens](#). This scenario was proposed as an alternative approach to the European Commission's White Paper on the Future of Europe which was launched in March 2017 and proposes a future that has a strong focus on Europe's core social values – democracy and participation, social justice, solidarity and sustainability, respect for the rule of law and human rights, both within Europe and around the globe. This call is largely embedded in IFOAM EU's vision for 2030, namely with the fairness we would like to achieve.

What did IFOAM EU do?

Advocated for true cost accounting and value pricing in the frame of our CAP advocacy work, and **increased the credibility, fairness and transparency of the organic food chain by supporting the development of new certification and inspection tools.**

- By publishing an IFOAM EU vision for a new CAP that would reward farmers based on their contribution to public goods, such as biodiversity, water quality, and the maintenance of ecosystem services;
- By developing a study on a new payment modelling system that rewards farmers for the public goods they deliver to society together with FiBL titled '[Towards a new public goods payment model for remunerating farmers under the CAP Post-2020](#)';
- By co-commissioning a study on transitioning towards sustainable food systems in Europe that will be released in 2018;
- By working with other NGOs and a university on a scoping paper on an EU Sustainable Food Policy;
- By monitoring the new initiative of the Commission that intends to develop Product Environmental Footprint approaches for food products.

Built the capacity of organic associations and enhanced dialogue between actors in the value chain:

- in our 'capacity building' project by bringing together representatives from Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries;
- by bringing together IFOAM EU's Interest Group on Organic Processing and IFOAM EU's Interest Group on Organic Farming for discussions in Athens;
- By initiating discussions with organic retailers for a better involvement in IFOAM EU;
- By promoting the AgriSpin conference focussing on the role of advisors and innovation support services, tools and methods to stimulate innovation processes, and best fit practices collected through 13 cross-visits.



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



IFOAM EU Director Eduardo Cuoco moderating the session of 'The true cost of food products'; © Sustainable Foods Summit



A delegation of IFOAM EU met with Tsironis Gianni, Greek Minister of Agriculture, to discussing the CAP post2020 and the future development of organic food and farming in Greece on 28 June 2017



How IFOAM EU involved food & farming actors

Started working on developing and promoting new tools to create transparency from farm to fork and enhance dialogue between all value chain actors by ensuring our members contribute to the IoF2020 project, and by preparing multiple sessions about blockchain technology, augmented reality etc. for the 5th Organic Processing Conference (that took place in January 2018).

Started working on developing a code of conduct for fair pricing and fair relationships for value chain actors by contributing to IFOAM – Organic International's paper on true cost accounting.

Communicated about the danger of megamergers in agribusiness – Dow and Dupont, Syngenta and ChemChina, and Bayer and Monsanto – together with other civil society organisations. As these mergers will increase problems caused by industrial farming, while the growing interest in fair, local and organic products shows that the European consumers are looking for a more sustainable food system.

How IFOAM EU engaged with policy-makers

Advocated policy-makers to develop a unified framework of indicators for true cost accounting and value pricing, which helps reward practices that deliver public benefits:

- By commissioning and – together with FiBL – developing a study on a new payment modelling system that rewards farmers for the public goods they deliver to society together with FiBL titled '[Towards a new public goods payment model for remunerating farmers under the CAP Post-2020](#)'
- By IFOAM EU's Director Eduardo Cuoco moderating a session 'The true cost of food products' at [the Sustainable Foods Summit](#).

Advocated for the development of a comprehensive production and market information system and encourage exchanges of price and production data by updating [our interactive infographic](#) of market and production data.

Advocated for promoting cooperation between value chain actors and support for (local) rural approaches to rural empowerment:

- By calling on EU policy-makers, together with other farming organisations and NGOs, to make concrete efforts to address Unfair Trading Practices in the food supply chain during various Civil Dialogue Group meetings and by replying to a Commission consultation;
- By cooperating to the SME ORGANICS project that brought together regions to exchange on regional development of organic;
- By meeting with its Greek member organisations and e Minister of Rural Development and Food, Yiannis Tsironis, to develop a strategy to stimulate [a viable future for the organic sector in Greece](#).

For all of the above by replying to the European Commission's public consultation '[Initiative to improve the food supply chain](#)'.

GOVERNANCE

IFOAM EU 2017 Board

The Board is the executive body that is elected by the General Assembly according to sector-related and regional criteria. In 2017, the Board members were:

Christopher Stopes

President
EcoS Consultancy

Sabine Eigenschink

Board Vice President for Regulation & Certification
Austria Bio Garantie

Thomas Fertl

Board Member & Rapporteur for Farming
Bio Austria

Jan Plagge

Board Vice President for Policy
Bioland

Bavo Van Den Idsert

Board Treasurer & Rapporteur for Processing and Trade
VBP Biologisch

Évelyne Alcázar Marín

Board member
Ecovalia

Sylvie Dulong

Board Member
FNAB

Sybille Kyed

Board Member
Organic Denmark – Økologisk Landsforening

Jiří Lehejček

Board Member
Czech Technology Platform for Organic Agriculture



IFOAM EU 2017 Council

The Council consists of nationally elected representatives and substitutes from 31 countries that make up the IFOAM EU Council, which brings together national interests and specificities at the European level. In 2017, the Council members were:

 Austria	Sabine Eigenschink Council Member & Board Vice President for Regulation & Certification Austria Bio Garantie	Thomas Fertl Deputy Council Member & Board Member & Rapporteur for farming Bio Austria
 Belgium	Lieve Vercauteren Council Member BioForum	Muriel Huybrechts Deputy Council Member Le Collège Des Producteurs
 Bulgaria	Albena Simeonova Council Member Bulgarian Organic Products Association	Stoilko Apostolov Deputy Council Member Bioselena
 Croatia	Jelena Petrov Council Member Dalmatia EKO	Marko Sever Deputy Council Member Croatian Organic Agricultural Association Andrea Vugrinović Deputy Council Member Lokvina Ltd
 Czech Republic	Jiří Lehejček Council Member & Board Member Czech Technology Platform for Organic Agriculture	
 Denmark	Sybilie Kyed Council Member & Board Member Organic Denmark – Økologisk Landsforening	Per Kolster Deputy Council Member Organic Denmark – Økologisk Landsforening
 Estonia	Merit Mikk Council Member Estonian Organic Farming Foundation	Airi Vetemaa Deputy Council Member Estonian Organic Farming Foundation
 Finland	Mikko Simola Council Member Kymi Organic	Aira Sevón Deputy Council Member ESVY ry Marika Auersalmi Deputy Council Member MaBio Oy
 France	Sylvie Dulong Council Member & Board Member FNAB	Jean-Marc Lévesque Deputy Council Member Triballat-Noyal
 Germany	Peter Röhrig Council Member BÖLW	Kirsten Arp Deputy Council Member BNN Antje Kölling Deputy Council Member Demeter
 Greece	Konstantinos Dimitriadis Council Member DIO	Elias Mavrias Deputy Council Member Attiki Association of Organic Farmers Markets Andreas Georgakakis Deputy Council Member Biohellas

 Hungary	Éva Sándorné Ács Council Member Kishantos Rural Development Centre	Lea Bauer Deputy Council Member Biokontroll Hungária Nonprofit Kft
 Iceland	Olafur Dyrmondsson Council Member BiRala Farmers Association Iceland	Stefán Gíslason Deputy Council Member Vottunarstofan Tun ehf.
 Ireland	Gillian Westbrook Council Member IOFGA	Grace Maher Deputy Council Member IOFGA Eveline Gill Deputy Council Member Organic Trust Ltd.
 Italy	Antonio Compagnoni Council member ICEA	Riccardo Cozzo Deputy Council Member BioAgriCert Livia Ortolani Deputy Council Member AIAB
 Latvia	Gustavs Norkārkliis Council member ALOA	Līga Lojina Deputy Council Member Ekoprodukti
 Lithuania	Edita Karbauskienė Council Member Lithuanian Association of Organic Farmers – Gaja	Antanas Svirskis Deputy Council Member Lithuanian Association of Organic Farmers – Gaja
 Luxembourg	Daniela Noesen-Steiger Council Member Bio-Lëtzebuerg	
 Malta	Mario Salerno Council Member Malta Organic Agriculture Movement – MOAM	Joe Sciberras Deputy Council Member Malta Organic Agriculture Movement – MOAM
 The Netherlands	Bavo Van Den Idsert Council Member & Board Treasurer & Processing-trade Sector Rapporteur Bionext	Marian Blom Deputy Council Member Bionext Paulien Veerman Deputy Council Member Bionext
 Norway	Gerald Altena Council Member DEBIO	Grete Serikstad Deputy Council Member Bioforsk Organic Food and Farming
 Poland	Dorota Metera Council Member BIOEKSPERT Ltd.	Tomasz Sakowski Deputy Council Member Institute of Genetics and Animal Breeding of the Polish Academy of Sciences Ewa Rembalkowska Deputy Council Member Faculty of Human Nutrition and Consumer Sciences
 Portugal	Jaime Manuel Carvalho Ferreira Council Member Agrobio	Alexandra Maurer da Costa Deputy Council Member Agrobio

 Romania	Avraham Marian Cioceanu Council Member Bio Romania Association	
 Slovakia	Milos Homola Council Member Ekotrend Slovakia	
 Slovenia	Anamarija Slabe Council Member Institute for Sustainable Development	
 Spain	Évelyne Alcázar Marín Council Member & Board Member Ecovalia	Víctor González Council Member SEAE Isidre Martínez Deputy Council Member SEAE
 Sweden	Marianne Schönning Council Member Swedish Ecological Farmers Association	Maria Wivstad Deputy Council Member Swedish university of Agriculture (SLU) Paula Quintana Fernandez Deputy Council Member KRAV
 Switzerland	Barbara Früh Council Member FiBL	Hans Ramseier Deputy Council Member Bio Suisse
 United Kingdom	Christopher Stopes President & Board Member EcoS Consultancy	Chris Atkinson Council Member Soil Association Lawrence Woodward Deputy Council Member Beyond GM

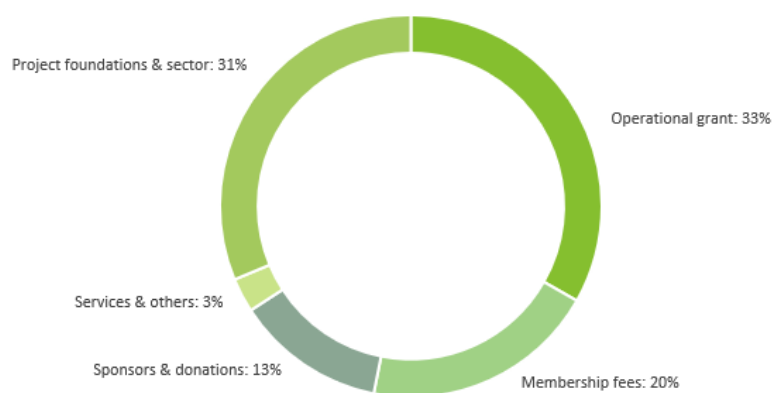
2017 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Total income: 1,490,176.61 EUR

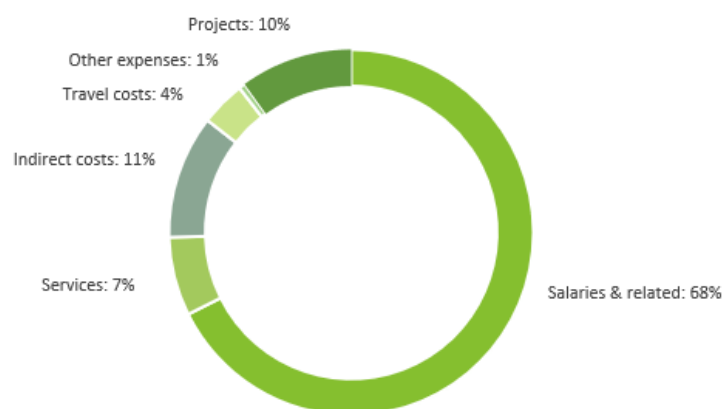
Total costs: 1,437,862.05 EUR

Result: 52,314.56 EUR

Income



Expenditure





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