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## WELCOME NOTE

Dear members,

I am feeling honored and humbled with the trust you put in me and my colleagues of the Board by electing us during the 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Brussels on 15 May.

Before we raise the glass to new beginnings, I would like to take a moment to thank my predecessor Christopher Stopes and the former Board for the relentless and fantastic work they have done for the development of the organic sector. I am feeling confident that with the collective expertise and drive of the new elected Board members, we will be able to continue building on this work, in an exciting and decisive time for the organic sector.

Organic farming is a success story. It is already transforming food and farming towards fairer, environmentally conscious, healthy and caring systems across Europe. It has the potential to contribute to delivering public goods such as improved soil and water quality or increased biodiversity in all European regions. This contribution should be reflected in the future Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) that should reward (organic) farmers for the public good they deliver to the society. More on the CAP reform can be found in [the political hot spot of this newsletter](#). The debate on CAP will be continued at the [12<sup>th</sup> European Organic Congress](#) in Vienna, Austria, 25-26 September 2018, where we hope to meet many of you.

Last, but not least, I would like to look back at the events that took place in Brussels 15 and 16 May. During the General Assembly on 15 May, 80 members from 20 countries approved all nine motions, which they felt have the potential to contribute positively to 'Making IFOAM EU fit for the future' and we thank them for this trust.

The 15 years anniversary of the IFOAM EU office in Brussels and the future of IFOAM EU were celebrated with the cutting of a big birthday cake in the presence of some 150 guests, including decision-makers, representatives of other Brussels based agri-food and environmental organisations and members during a wonderful evening in the heart of Brussels.

The two-day event concluded with the final conference of [the SOLMACC project](#) where innovative practices in organic farms for mitigating climate change were presented by the project partners and [political recommendations](#) were debated by a panel and distinguished speakers. Read the report about the event further in this newsletter.

Finally, let me also introduce the new newsletter layout that evolves over time. After 99 issues of our newsletter, we have now converted to a new format that is responsive, mobile-friendly, indexed on search engines and more user friendly! If you prefer to print our newsletter, you can still do so using this file, however we encourage you to think before you print.

I am looking forward to work with all of you.

Organic regards,  
Jan Plagge  
IFOAM EU President

## POLITICAL HOTSPOT

On 1 June 2018, the European Commission published its long-awaited proposal to revise the EU's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for the 2021-2027 period. [Read IFOAM EU's first reaction.](#)

The CAP's full [proposal](#) is composed of three European Regulations along with their annexes, and an impact assessment explains the Commission's reasoning behind the proposed measures. The most relevant CAP text is the Regulation laying out the CAP Strategic Plans, which includes the policy's objectives, definitions, rules on financial contributions and CAP's general architecture. This article will introduce the proposed CAP budget, followed by the new elements in the architecture relevant for the organic sector and the expected agenda for the revision.

### The budget proposal

The Commission's [budget proposal](#) of last May foresees a 365 billion euro budget for the whole 2021-2027 CAP, separated into 286 billion euros for Pillar I (mainly direct payments) and 78 billion euros for Pillar II on Rural Development. Compared to the current programme, that represents a cut of the CAP's total budget of 5% in current prices. Considering an average of 2% rate in inflation over the next decade, the cut would be 15%. Pillar I would have a budget cut of 11% and cuts would be most severe for Pillar II on Rural Development by up to 26% (both numbers are adjusted for inflation). The Commission proposed to increase the percentage of national co-financing in Rural Development to compensate for part of the cuts, but this is likely to make Pillar II less attractive for national authorities as they may choose to transfer money away from Pillar II to Pillar I which is 100% EU financed. The discussion on the CAP's budget will intensify in the coming months, with many actors in the farming sector asking to maintain support for agriculture.

### What changes?

The proposal maintains the current CAP's two pillar structure and its main elements, including direct payments and rural development, but it also makes several important changes. Greening payments under Pillar I are removed and their main requirements, i.e., crop diversification, permanent grassland and Ecological Focus Areas, are incorporated in the CAP's new enhanced conditionality applying to all farmers.

The Commission proposes to replace greening with a new "Eco Scheme" under Pillar I, that would be 100% EU financed and voluntary for farmers who choose to do more for the environment and climate action. This new scheme offers the opportunity to support different environmental actions in farming, e.g. organic agriculture, and to better adapt these actions to the local context. While Eco Schemes offer many opportunities in theory, the CAP proposal lacks detail on the types of measures that could be eligible or how to prioritise them. Another issue that should be addressed is the lack of a minimum budget for Eco Schemes in the proposal that could result in big differences in ambition from one country to another. The proposal continues to include Rural Development support for organic farming conversion and maintenance, as part of the measures which are under the Environment and Climate objectives that have a minimum of 30% spending of the second Pillar's budget.

The proposed CAP does not set a list of specific agricultural practices as it is the case for Greening today. Instead it relies on a flexible and decentralised management approach that requires Member States to:

1. Set their own agricultural measures for farmers, designed to fulfil a set of European objectives;
2. Track farmer's performance towards fulfilling these objectives; and
3. Report progress to the European Commission, supported by measurable indicators.

It is proposed that both Eco Schemes and Rural Development Programmes will be designed and managed using this results-based approach.

### What's next?

In the coming months both the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union will amend the Commission's proposal separately to make their own positions and then they will negotiate to reach a compromise. It is likely that the European Parliament elections in May 2019 will delay the revision of the CAP, possibly into 2020. If this is the case, a transition period may be necessary to avoid disruptions when the new CAP applies in January 2021. The procedure to set the EU budget (including CAP allocations) will run in parallel and is likely to advance quicker. IFOAM EU will actively participate in the CAP discussion to ensure that it will get closer to the organic food and farming movement's vision of a CAP that rewards better farmers who deliver more public goods.

For more information about IFOAM EU's upcoming CAP work, please contact [nicolas.delavega \[at\] ifoam-eu.org](mailto:nicolas.delavega@ifoam-eu.org).

## 1 NEWS FROM IFOAM EU WORKING FIELDS

### 1.1 Regulation

#### The new EU organic regulation will apply from 2021

The new EU organic regulation was adopted by both the European Parliament on 19 April, and the Council of Ministers on 22 May. It has been officially published in the Official Journal of the European Union since 14 June. The new legislation will apply from 1 January 2021. [Find out what will change for you, organic farmers, processors & certifiers.](#)

### 1.2 Policy

#### Climate Change

**Learn more about climate-friendly farming in the SOLMACC videos, advocacy leaflet, policy recommendations and during open field days**

Twelve organic demonstration farms are implementing climate-friendly practices in Germany, Italy and Sweden in the framework of the SOLMACC project. Discover these practices, how farmers implemented them and their findings by [watching SOLMACC's latest videos](#).

If you are around, you can visit the participating farms during their [open field days](#) in the upcoming months. For more information on ways to increase mitigation and adaptation of the agriculture sector, consult SOLMACC's newly drafted [policy recommendations](#) and [advocacy leaflet](#).



SOLMACC is supported with the contribution of the LIFE financial instrument of the European Union (agreement number: LIFE12 ENV/SE/000800).

## CAP

### Civil society calls for a European food policy – The EU needs a blueprint for food and farming

[A study commissioned to the University of Pisa by IFOAM EU together with Slow Food, Friends of the Earth Europe, and the European Public Health Alliance](#) found that the European Union has no consistent, coherent or complete food policy. The absence of an overarching framework means that the current food and farming policies are failing to adequately protect public health and the environment, or to make the farming sector sustainable.

Given the policy inconsistencies found, the study backs up calls for the EU to develop a coherent policy framework which can bring forward a transition towards a sustainable food and farming system. This can start by a stronger integration of health and environmental objectives into food and agriculture policies, as well as ensuring that the new CAP is results-oriented, and that the payment system is geared towards public goods.

[IFOAM EU issued a press release on this study.](#) [Read the study](#) and [the briefing](#).

## Food, farming and environment

### Unfair Trading Practices: IFOAM EU is working on a position on the European Commission's legislative proposal

On 12 April the European Commission published [a legislative proposal for a directive on Unfair Trading Practices \(UTPs\) in business-to-business relationships in the food supply chain](#). This legislative proposal was years in the making and was welcomed by decision-makers as well as most European associations involved on the topic. The timeline for amending the proposal is rather strict as the rapporteur for this dossier, MEP Paolo de Castro (S&D), foresees to present his draft report in European Parliament's Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development on 10 July. A vote on the draft report is foreseen by the end of September.

IFOAM EU is working on a position paper, as well as carrying out advocacy activities towards the rapporteur and shadow rapporteurs of the dossier. Our main goal is to highlight that, although IFOAM EU welcomes this Commission's proposal as a first step towards ensuring fair prices for producers and fairness in the supply chain, there are several points that could be strengthened. These are:

- The narrow scope of application in terms of actors covered under this proposal;
- The restricted list of UTPs which are explicitly prohibited, which allows for other UTPs to not be covered under this legislation; and

The weak articles with regards to designating the enforcement authority, filing complaints and detailing the mechanism of cooperation between competent authorities.

### The Commission envisages the re-authorisation of copper as a plant protection product

According to information obtained by IFOAM EU, the European Commission envisages the re-authorisation of copper compounds as active substances for plant protection products (PPP), and the preparation of a mandate to EFSA for the development of a specific risk assessment guidance for mineral substances.

The European Commission envisages a re-authorisation of copper at the following conditions:

- For 5 years rather than 7 years,
- With a maximum amount of 4 kg per hectare and year, and
- Copper would remain on the list of ‘candidates for substitution’.

The organic movement welcomes the fact that the Commission envisages copper to be re-authorised, and the development of specific guidance documents for the adequate risk assessment of mineral substances. Nevertheless, the introduction of a smoothing mechanism, (a limit of 20 kg over five years), is vital for a successful minimisation of copper use.

Copper has been an important component of plant protection strategies in both conventional and organic farming to fight fungal and bacterial diseases. Over the last few years, the use of copper has been reduced significantly, and organic farming associations in several Member States have also initiated minimisation strategies which have identified ways to reduce copper use even further. IFOAM EU and several of its members are already involved in national and EU-wide research activities and remain committed to leading research efforts on the reduction and alternatives to copper. However, there are no reliable alternatives yet available and copper remains the only fungicide available for use against many diseases. The Commission and Member States will continue to discuss the re-authorisation of copper at EU expert committee’s meetings in July and October

### **General food law: the unsuccessful attempt of the European Commission to bring more transparency**

In response to the [European Citizen Initiative to ban glyphosate](#), the European Commission decided to increase the transparency of authorisation processes related to food. The [proposal](#) of the European Commission, released in April 2018, affects many areas like GMOs, additives and plant protection products.

IFOAM EU welcomes the willingness of the European Commission to improve the transparency of the EU risk assessment in the food chain but has some concerns about the proposal as some provisions could actually worsen the situation. In particular, the current proposal would extend the type of information that could be considered as confidential, e.g., regarding GMOs, ‘DNA sequence information’ and ‘breeding patterns and strategies’ may now be considered as potentially confidential. However, such information is crucial to avoid contamination and to provide the breeding sector with enough information, for example to identify varieties covered by patents.

In the coming months, IFOAM EU will work on the adoption of this text to make sure that transparency related to food law improves. The European Commission expects the text to be adopted before the end of the current legislature.

### **End of the first phase of the SME Organics project**

In April, the first phase of SME ORGANICS project has finished (2016-2018). During this time, the partners conducted regional diagnosis based on a SWOT analysis of the organic sector in four large thematic areas:

- Production and processing,



- Commercialization and marketing,
- Training and advice, and
- Organic value chain efficiency and governance.

The project partners also mobilized stakeholders at the regional level to include their contributions in the development of the Regional Action Plans, carried out the exchange of experience and interregional learning among project partners and regional stakeholders, and carried out the strategic thinking processes at regional level to identify the relevant measures to be integrated into the regional policies.

During this first phase, partners identified synergies and complementarities between different policy and funding instruments, and have developed Regional Action Plans with tailored funding and policy mixes.

Tools that were developed during this first phase are a method guide on developing Organic Action Plans '[SME Organic Action Plans - Development, Implementation and evaluation](#)', and [best practices the participating regions are using to develop organics](#).

The second phase has now started and will end in 2020. During this phase, the Organic Action Plans that were developed in each region will be implemented.

The overall objective of SME ORGANICS is to improve policies and programs under the Investment for Growth and Jobs goal in order to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of SMEs in the organic sector of seven EU regions plus Aargau Canton (Switzerland).

### 1.3 EU Research & Innovation Policy / TP Organics

#### Horizon Europe should transform food & farming, guided by the Sustainable Development Goals

On 7 June, the European Commission published its proposal for Horizon Europe, the EU's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation for the period 2021 to 2027. TP Organics, the European Technology Platform of the organic movement, welcomes the proposal but urges the European Parliament and Members States to ensure Horizon Europe makes a clear choice for sustainable development.

Under the European Commission's proposal, €10 billion will be dedicated to the "Food and Natural Resources" cluster in the "Global Challenges" pillar. According to the proposal, this budget will be used to support the transition to sustainable consumption and production and restoring planetary health. The proposal links the objectives of "Food and Natural Resources" to the Sustainable Development Goals but is not clear on how these objectives will be achieved. TP Organics calls for a Mission for Sustainable Food & Farming Systems guided by organic and agroecological principles. This means promoting circular systems, building on systemic interactions, using diverse crops and animals, relying on biological processes for soil fertility and controlling pests. It involves better integration of land, food and farming policies, setting up fair and transparent supply chains and promoting sustainable diets.



[Read the full reaction of TP Organics on the Horizon Europe proposal.](#)



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### **Follow OK-Net EcoFeed and learn about efforts to reach 100% organic and regional feed**

In January 2018, IFOAM EU started coordinating the project OK-NET EcoFeed. Visit [www.ok-net-ecofeed.eu](http://www.ok-net-ecofeed.eu) and follow the project @ecofeed on [Twitter](#) to learn more about how the project is helping farmers, breeders and the organic feed processing industry in achieving the goal of 100% use of organic and regional feed for pigs, broilers and laying hens.

A key objective of organic farming is the closing of nutrient cycles, but it is difficult to achieve. Feed and livestock production, in particular of pigs and poultry, are concentrated in different regions. Animal feed has to be imported from regions far away. In addition, organic farmers have difficulties in sourcing protein feed of organic quality. The lack of organic and regional feed threatens both the sustainability of organic agriculture as well as consumers' confidence. The goal of OK-Net EcoFeed is to find solutions for 100% use of organic and regional feed and facilitate exchange of knowledge among farmers to implement these solutions.

Follow @ecofeed and the [website](#), to get regular updates on the project activities, for example on the synthesis of scientific and practical knowledge about organic feed production for pig and poultry, and the extension of the organic [farmknowledge.org](http://farmknowledge.org) platform to cover the topic of animal feed for pigs and poultry.



OK-Net EcoFeed has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 773911. 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.

### **Get involved in the new EIP-AGRI Focus Groups**

A call for experts for two new EIP-AGRI Focus Groups on the following topics will be launched soon:

- 'Non-chemical weed management' in arable cropping systems;
- 'Pests and diseases in olive trees'. The group will cover integrated pest management (IPM), agroecology and organic farming.

Are you an expert on one of these topics? Apply for a seat in the Focus Groups. More information will be available on the [EIP-AGRI website](#) soon.

The new Focus Group on "[New feed for pigs and poultry](#)" has started working at its first meeting in Finland on 7-8 June. The main aim of this new Focus Group is to identify the 'knowledge gaps' and to find solutions / recommendations for new feed for pigs and poultry. The experts will also investigate and propose innovation actions and ideas for Operational Groups. [Read about](#) the tasks and members of the group.





## Improving inputs in organic farming - new Horizon 2020 project 'RELACS' started

The new project Replacement of Contentious Inputs in Organic Farming Systems (RELACS) provides a unique opportunity for farmer organisations, advisory services and researchers to work together and contribute to even higher environmental standards in organic farming.

Organic farmers adhere to high standards in producing quality food while protecting the environment. However, organic farming needs to improve continuously to keep meeting its ambitious objectives. RELACS will foster the development and adoption of cost-efficient and environmentally safe tools and technologies to:

- Reduce the use of copper and mineral oil in plant protection,
- Identify sustainable sources for plant nutrition, and
- Provide solutions to support livestock health and welfare.

As a system approach to sustainable agriculture, organic farming aims to effectively manage ecological processes whilst lowering dependence on off-farm inputs. The RELACS partners will evaluate solutions to further reduce the use of inputs across Europe as well as in countries on the Southern shore of the Mediterranean. IFOAM EU joined the project to ensure solutions work in the real world of farming. IFOAM EU will facilitate a dialogue between farmers, scientists and policy makers which will result in recommendations for fair and practical EU rules for their implementation. Farm advisory networks in eleven European countries will reach out to farmers to ensure effective dissemination and adoption of the tools and techniques.



RELACS has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 773431. The information contained in this communication only reflects the author's view.

## Participate in the open call and join the IoF2020 community

On 5 June, the [IoF2020 open call](#) for new use cases (best practices) was launched at the [Internet of Things \(IoT\) week in Bilbao](#). The call is open for projects with a high impact on the supply chain, a high level of technical feasibility & innovation as well as a strong economic sustainability also in new regions.

Who can apply? A coherent team of IoT agri-food supply chain actors (no single participants). Projects are eligible to costs from €300k up to €500k.

The two main challenges of the Open Call are:  
Covering new regions like North and East Europe, and/or  
Involving post-farm stakeholders or other agrifood sectors.

The deadline for preregistration of the proposal is **31 August 2018**. To find more info and submit your proposal go to [the website of the IoF2020 Call](#).

The [Internet of Food & Farm 2020 \(IoF2020\)](#) project, part of Horizon2020, explores the potential of IoT-technologies for the European food and farming industry. The aim of the project is to make precision farming a reality and to take a vital step towards a more sustainable food value chain.



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

## 2 IFOAM EU DEVELOPMENTS

**Is your initiative leading Europe to a more sustainable food system?  
Submit your initiative now!**

IFOAM EU is collecting successful initiatives and projects that are [transforming food and farming in Europe](#).

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

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

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



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**Saying goodbye to our colleagues:**

Artur Sikora

Artur Sikora started his EVS at IFOAM EU's communications unit immediately after graduation from secondary school in June 2017. During the year he spent at IFOAM EU Artur developed into a proactive and invaluable team member. We will miss his cheerful spirit, eagerness to learn and keen eye for design. We wish him all the best in his future endeavours at university!

Tsvetelina Plamenova

Tsvetelina Plamenova joined IFOAM EU in June 2017. She started her EVS at IFOAM EU assisting with events, finance and office management and had a taste of communications during the second half of



her EVS. Tsvetelina's kind personality and dedication to making the environment a better place will be remembered and missed. We wish her all the best for the future!



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### **Welcoming our new colleagues:**

#### Maria Gernert

After graduating from high school, Maria worked on organic farms in the south of France before studying "Nutrition, Health and Food Business" at Fulda University of Applied Sciences. Having specialised in communication, she gained practical experience in public relations during an internship at Naturland. During her Master studies of "Sustainability in Food and Service Industries" at Münster University of Applied Sciences, Maria expanded on her knowledge in food systems transformation. She participated in two international research projects, campaigned for the local fair-trade shop and worked as a research assistant, preparing Biofach 2019's theme before joining the research and innovation unit. Maria is convinced that the inspiring, intercultural atmosphere of IFOAM EU will improve her communication and project management skills and broaden her horizon.

#### Verena Mitschke

After completing her Bachelor's Degree in International Economics and Development at Bayreuth University, Verena moved to the Netherlands to pursue a master's in International Development Studies at Wageningen University. During her studies, Verena focused on rural development, resource management and climate change. This brought her to Tanzania, where she did an internship and conducted field research on sustainable ways of farming. Furthermore, her stays in South Africa and Uganda as well as her work for a refugee centre improved her intercultural and communication skills.

Verena's personal interest in organic food production and project management perfectly fits in with IFOAM EU and her role as an EVS in the project and fundraising team. She hopes to improve her skills and knowledge regarding the above and learn more about the European policies on agriculture and rural development.

#### Ariane Takyi

Ariane is 21 years old, of Ghanaian / Ivorian descent, born in Germany and living in England before coming to Brussels. She completed her Bachelor of Arts in International Development at the University of Portsmouth where she focused on microfinance, corruption, and agriculture. Currently, she is taking a sabbatical from her Master of Arts in European Politics at the Universities of Göttingen, Germany, and Strasbourg, France.

Ariane's family runs an organic farm in Ghana and their work has inspired her to get more involved in agriculture. So far, she has been involved in agricultural / environmental campaigns and interned as a Research Consultant on pesticides. She hopes to use her skill set to help spread the message of sustainable farming systems and organic principles.

Aside from studying and campaigning, Ariane enjoys roaming new cities and experiencing different cultures through food, people and the arts.



Erasmus+

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#### Meriam Ghedira

After completing her EVS at the policy unit of IFOAM EU Meriam is joining the Regulation Unit to work especially on the implementing and delegated acts of the new organic regulation. Meriam is an agricultural engineer and graduated at the National Institute of Agronomy in Tunisia. Additionally, she completed a 'masters of expertise' covering organic agricultural pillars at the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari in Italy. Meriam developed her master thesis on international trade of organic products, with a proposal of an equivalence between different national organic legislations, for a better harmonization, also at the Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari.

#### Isabella Lang

After completing her EVS at the Project Unit of IFOAM EU Isabella is joining the Policy Unit as Policy Analyst. Her main working areas are around topics concerning plant health care and plant nutrition in organic farming, climate change as well as the organisation of the farmers interest group. Isabella is an agronomist, graduated from BOKU university in Vienna and holds a Master degree in organic farming and agroecology. Isabella has work experience on different organic farms, mainly working with organic vegetables, dairy cows and goats and bees keeping. As her big interest is traveling, Isabella gathered these experiences on organic farms in Uganda, Central America and the Mühlviertl (Upper Austria).

## 3 EVENTS

### 3.1 Preview of events

#### **Final event of IFOAM EU's GMOs project – Debate on New Genetic Engineering Techniques: what is at stake for the agricultural sector?**

11 July 2018, Brussels, Belgium

On 11 July, IFOAM EU organises the final event of its project '[Keeping GMOs out of food](#)' (2014-2018). The main achievements of the project will be presented, as well as IFOAM EU's upcoming work on this topic.

There is also room for debate at the event. The main organisations representing the agricultural sector in Brussels – IFOAM EU, La Via Campesina, Copa Cogeca, as well as the European Commission – will debate what is at stake with new genetic engineering techniques. Beatrix Tappeser, State Secretary of the German State of Hessen and former head of biosafety for the German environmental agency will open the debate.

[Have a look at the provisional agenda for more details.](#) For more [information](#) or to register to this event, please contact [pauline.verriere \[at\] ifoam-eu.org](mailto:pauline.verriere@ifoam-eu.org).

#### **Save the date for the European Copper Conference**

15-16 November 2018, Julius Kühn-Institut, Berlin-Dahlem, Germany

The third edition of the [European Copper Conference](#) will be co-organised by IFOAM EU together with the Julius Kühn-Institut (JKI) and the Bund Ökologische Lebensmittelwirtschaft e.V. (BÖLW). The conference will be held in English and will be organised around three thematic blocs – guidance for risk assessment for mineral substances, European copper minimisation strategies and research and innovation

### 3.2 Review of events

#### **IFOAM EU's 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly & celebrating 15 years of representing organics in Brussels**

15 May 2018, Brussels, Belgium

On 15 May, IFOAM EU held its 9<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in Brussels, Belgium. 79 members from 20 countries joined the event in Brussels to discuss the future of the organisation and to elect a new board.

On the agenda of the IFOAM EU membership were topics like making IFOAM EU fit for the future. The members agreed on the importance of having a strong and balanced representation of the organic supply chain and stressed the importance of continuing to work on the improvement of the internal structure and its decision making processes.

Members elected the Board who will guide the organisation in the next two years:

- IFOAM EU President: Jan Plagge (DE), President of Bioland e.V. and has many years of experience developing the organic sector. Jan has a background as an organic farmer and an organic farm advisor;

- IFOAM EU Vice Presidents of the Board: Marian Blom (NL), Knowledge & Innovation Project Leader at Bionext, and Jiří Lehejšek (CZ), Foreign Affairs Coordinator at the Czech Technological Platform for Organic Agriculture;
- Treasurer: Virginija Lukšienė (LT), Head of Development at EKOAGROS PI;
- Sector representative for farming: Thomas Fertl (AT), Head of Department Agricultural Policy at BIO AUSTRIA;
- Sector representative for processing / trade Roberto Pinton (IT), Secretary General at AssoBio;
- Sector representative for certification: Michel Reynaud (FR), Vice-President of ECOCERT SA;
- Other Board members: Sylvie Dulong (FR), Winemaker at AGROBIO Gironde and Kristin Karlsson (S), Member of Organic Sweden.

Following the General Assembly, IFOAM EU members and invited guests joined a reception celebrating 15 years of IFOAM EU in Brussels. During the evening IFOAM EU propositions for the Future of the CAP were discussed together with Mr Pierre Bascou, Director at DG AGRI on Sustainability and income support, and with Mr Herbert Dorfmann, Member of the European Parliament and rapporteur on the Future of the CAP initiative report.



This event is co-financed by the European Union, under the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME). The sole responsibility for this communication lies with IFOAM EU. The EASME is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided.

### **Demonstrating the SOLMACC project's success at the final event**

16 May 2018, Brussels, Belgium

This summer the [SOLMACC project](#) comes to an end. To showcase the positive impact that farmers can have on tackling climate change, its myriad stakeholders have gathered during the final conference. Scientists, farm advisors and organic farmers involved in SOLMACC presented results achieved since the project's kick-off back in 2013, when 12 demonstration farms in Sweden, Germany and Italy started implementing climate-friendly practices linked to optimised on-farm nutrient management, crop rotation, tillage systems and agroforestry.

The event was hosted by Martin Häusling (MEP) and the Hessen Permanent Representation to the EU, with Dr. Beatrix Tappeser, State Secretary of Hessen. Mr. Häusling started off the event with a discussion around the need of a more systemic approach to increase climate change mitigation and adaptation in the agriculture sector, detailed in SOLMACC's [policy recommendations](#). Conclusions of the expert panel highlighted the need for farmers to be adequately supported through public schemes in the CAP to be able to provide public goods, such as greater biodiversity.

Visit the SOLMACC website to see [presentations from the event](#), watch the latest [videos](#) on climate-friendly practices, read the latest [SOLMACC newsletter](#) and consult our [brochure on more economically viable climate-friendly farming](#).



SOLMACC is supported with the contribution of the LIFE financial instrument of the European Union (agreement number: LIFE12 ENV/SE/000800).

## **Over 60 researchers from eleven European countries gathered to discuss intercropping**

15-17 May 2018, Ancenis, France

IFOAM EU and the ReMIX project's research partners met to exchange on the current status of different tasks, to discuss preliminary results and plan the second year of the project at the TERRENA cooperative in Ancenis (France) 15-17 May.

Faithful to its multi-actor approach, the scientific sessions of ReMIX were complemented with practical work at the multi-actor level, through different workshops scattered across the three-day meeting. Different actors of the TERRENA cooperative value chain, such as farmers, advisors, processors, industrial partners and the cooperative CEO were interviewed, allowing ReMIX scientific partners to get an overview of the existing lock-ins in the system that prevent a wider uptake of species mixtures. "The innovative set-up of the annual meeting favoured the creation of a mutual learning framework in which ReMIX partners were able to exchange on concrete aspects of species mixtures with the actors in the value chain, sharing their knowledge and getting direct insight into actors' needs at the grassroots level", said Eric Justes, scientific coordinator of ReMIX, currently at CIRAD (France).



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 727217

## **Call for an EU food policy – IFOAM EU at the EU Food and Farming Forum for a fairer food system**

29-30 May 2018, Brussels, Belgium

IFOAM EU participated to the [EU Food and Farming Forum](#) that took place on 29-30 May. The International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems ([IPES-Food](#)) and its co-chair and former UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food Olivier De Schutter were the organisers of this event, which was aimed at co-constructing a set of policy proposals addressed to the EU for a comprehensive narrative of the "Common Food and Agriculture Policy".

More than 250 stakeholders – including farmers, civil society organisations, academics and policy-makers – came together to underline the need to transition towards a more sustainable food system.

IFOAM EU's participants highlighted how organic agriculture is a means towards achieving this goal. During the two days of the event, participants worked on a set of policy proposals – including proposals related to the CAP – which would lead to greater policy coherence, considering the UN Sustainable Development Goals and other policies such as environment, climate, public health, access to land, cooperative models and trade (short supply chains).

## **#Double\_WTF: Where's the food, without the farmer - European Youth Event workshop**

1-2 June 2018, Strasbourg, France

IFOAM EU's one-year EVS volunteers – Artur, Isabella, Meriam and Tsvetelina – organised a workshop at the European Youth Event [#EYE2018](#) in the EU Parliament in Strasbourg. At the biannual event around 10,000 young people discuss the future of Europe and the most important topics of their generation. Therefore, IFOAM EU volunteers decided to put organic farming and especially the role and needs of young farmers on the agenda.





Their interactive workshop focused on topics of access to land for young farmers and presented concrete strategies like Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), extra-familial farm succession and community land trusts as entrance possibilities into organic farming. Obstacles like land concentration, missing gender equality, i.e., the lack of female farm managers, and access to adequate training and finance were discussed with 50 interested participants from more than ten different countries.

The overall spirit of the workshop was clear: young, often very well-educated people are interested in a career in practical farming but face several obstacles. Only with a coherent and supportive policy for young farmers and innovations in the sector we can ensure a stable generation renewal which is important for the further growth of the organic sector.

### **Exchange to learn about organic seed production**

7 June 2018, France

For three days, participants to the LIVESEED cross-visit exchanged knowledge about organic seed production in France. The organic seed producer [UBIOS](#) opened its doors to 20 participants from all over Europe. ITAB invited seed producers from Bulgaria, Romania, Poland, Hungary, Spain, Portugal, Italy and Greece who had the chance to visit the seed cleaning station, talk to farmers who produce cereal seeds and to share their knowledge with each other. The practice of one young farmer to use intercropping in seed production (Faba bean x wheat) was inspiring.

The concept of these cross-visits is to enable mutual learning process amongst professionals engaged, inspire and stimulate regional partners to initiate changes in their systems, forge relationships as a basis for a professional network that can sustain after the project period. This task is coordinated by IFOAM EU within the LIVESEED project. More visits are planned in the Netherlands, Italy and Germany in 2019-2020. A short report and practical materials on organic seed production will be published on [www.liveseed.eu](http://www.liveseed.eu).

### **Adding value to food for sustainability: IFOAM EU moderates session at the Sustainable Foods Summit**

7-8 June 2018, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> European edition, the Sustainable Foods Summits focused this year on health impacts, food ingredients and green marketing.

Emanuele Busacca, IFOAM EU's Regulation Manager, was invited to moderate the session on 'Food Ingredients for sustainability'. Among the many topics that were discussed at the conference was how blockchain technology and satellite data analysis can be used to improve the transparency of the food supply chain, and how to take the next steps to improve sustainability in food packaging, e.g., by replacing petroleum-based plastics with bioplastics.


### **IFOAM EU gives an organic twist to the World Fair Trade Organisation's biennial European conference**



The World Fair Trade Organisation (WFTO) organised its two-day biennial conference aimed at universalising Fair Trade principles through an EU sustainable and fair production and consumption agenda. The organic sector and Fair Trade share many values such as the respect for the environment, fair prices, transparency and accountability.

The first day of the conference focused on how to spread such principles across EU policies by 2024, with a focus on the European Parliament elections in 2019. During the second day, IFOAM EU Director Eduardo Cuoco contributed to the workshop "Domestic Fair Trade and Northern Producers: which synergies with the Networks of existing European producers?" by introducing Organics 3.0 and giving practical examples in terms of what the organic sector is doing in terms of supporting fair trade, fair remuneration to farmers and putting in place progressive and responsible social and environmental policies.

## 4 MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC – SUPPORT IFOAM EU IFOAM EU key supporters 2018

The contributions of important work –  means to co-finance highly valued contribution to our work.

sponsors allow IFOAM EU to focus on its most representing organic stakeholders. This funding is a IFOAM EU events, projects and publications and is a



## 5 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

11<sup>th</sup> of July 2018

Final event of the 'Keeping GMOs out of food' project  
Brussels, Belgium

6-7 September 2018

[GMO-free Regions Conference](#)  
Berlin, Germany

23-24 September 2018

[Natexpo](#)  
Lyon, France

25-27 September 2018

[12<sup>th</sup> European Organic Congress](#)



Vienna, Austria

14-15 November 2018

[Natural Products Scandinavia & Nordic Organic Food Fair](#)

MalmöMässan, Sweden

15-16 November 2018

European Conference on Copper in Plant Protection

Near Berlin, Germany

27-28 November 2018

Organic Innovation Days

Brussels, Belgium



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