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Dear Friends,

this newsletter collects baseline information that members of IFOAM EU must know to appreciate the results of our slogan “working for organic farming in Europe”, which we strive for in the representation of the organic sector, in meeting the different needs, but also in defining the future we expect and intend to turn into reality. Though all content provided in this newsletter is important, I would like to highlight two that I find personally relevant.

One: A few days ago we sent a letter to the new head of the organic farming unit in DG Agriculture, where we proposed to include further requirements in the organic regulation (EC) No 834/2007 for improving the environmental performance of operations involved in organic processing and trade. As a first step, we therefore proposed the requirement that an organic operation producing and trading food and feed must establish a basic environmental management system. This system must guarantee that the company is able to measure and evaluate its own environmental performance.

I believe that companies must provide benefits to society by means of good management practices, meeting the demands for goods and services, creating jobs with fair salaries, innovating and contributing to human progress and/or paying taxes for public services and infrastructure. The main objective of a company is the creation of wealth, but the current society expects more than the mere creation of economic wealth. Environmental and social wealth is also increasingly valued and expected. Organic companies and operators must create such value to gain and maintain recognition in today’s society.

Two: One of the main characteristics of IFOAM EU is its ability to collect ideas and proposals of the entire European organic sector. In addition to publications, the events we organise are good tools to exchange experiences and discover other territories and organisations. In this sense, I would like to emphasise the “ORGANIC DAYS” in Cyprus as an opportunity to learn more about our organisation, share knowledge and experiences among one another, gain in-depth local know-how through the excursion and broaden our horizons during the conference. See you there!

José Luis García Melgarejo
Treasurer IFOAM EU Group
1. NEWS FROM IFOAM EU WORKING FIELDS

1.1. Organic Regulation

**EOCC and IFOAM EU Pesticide Residues Guideline**

On 13th September the EOCC (European Organic Certifiers Council) will launch its new Pesticide Residues Guideline and on 14th September organise a follow-up seminar for Certification Bodies on the implementation of the guideline. The agenda of the seminar, registration information and fees are available at the [EOCC website](#).

The IFOAM EU Group published its **Pesticide Residues Guidelines** at the end of 2011. Both the IFOAM EU Group and the EOCC initiative aim to provide expertise to the market in order to reduce the sector’s vulnerability to contamination and fraud. The IFOAM EU Group will compare the two initiatives and evaluate the new elements presented in the EOCC guidelines. Where applicable, the IFOAM EU Group will take into account relevant elements for its work on the update of its guidelines planned for the end of the year.

**IFOAM EU Group letter on Annexes I, II, XII and Article 21 of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008**

The IFOAM EU Group presented its concerns about the Commission working document for amendments to Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 on Annexes I, II, XII and Article 21 in its [letter](#) to the European Commission on 06th July 2012. The concerns specifically regard the definition of factory farming, feed from holdings in conversion, fertilisers, soil conditioners and nutrients, pesticides and plant protection products, and the improvement of the organic certificate that is obligatory for organic producers.

The IFOAM EU Group had already expressed its initial position in its [letter of 17th May 2012](#). The issue was briefly discussed at last SCOF (Standing Committee on Organic Farming) from 11th to 12th July, where the discussion also shortly focused on Article 21. Many Member States have been against the rules on feed in conversion as proposed by the Commission. In September, an updated Commission document will be prepared and presented to the Member States for further discussion.
IFOAM EU Experts met with Commission on plant protection products to be taken off Annex II

A delegation of the IFOAM EU Group met with Commission officials of Directorate-General for Health & Consumers (DG Sanco) on 27th June. Points of discussion were the use of plant strengtheners and plant protection products as basic substances in organic farming and the impact of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market. The problem is that substances listed in Annex II of Organic Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 such as Lecithin, Quassia extract -ed from Quassia amara and Calcium hydroxide are proposed to be taken off, as these substances are not registered in the EU.

The IFOAM EU Group is therefore applying to have those substances registered as basic substances to ensure that they can be used also in the future. Basic substances, regulated in Article 23 of Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009, are active substances not predominantly used for plant protection purposes but nevertheless useful in plant protection either directly or in a product consisting of the substance and a simple dilutent. They are not placed on the market as a plant protection product.

IFOAM EU Group proposition on environmental performance

In its letter of 05th July 2012 to the European Commission, the IFOAM EU Group proposed to introduce further requirements to Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, improving the environmental performance of operations involved in organic processing and trade. This would maintain credibility of the organic sector in terms of striving towards a holistic approach capable of offering solutions for society’s future challenges. The idea of defining parameters and evaluating environmental performance is not new - it is functioning well in EMAS (eco-management and audit scheme), which was established 20 years ago. As a first step, the IFOAM EU Group proposes to establish a basic environmental management system based on the experiences from EMAS. This system must guarantee that the company is able to measure and evaluate its own environmental performance. All processes of primary production carried out at farm level are exempted from the obligation to prepare an environmental management scheme. The IFOAM EU Group is still working on developing a position on whether and how to exclude smaller companies.

Mr. João Onofre is new Head of the Organic Farming Unit at DG Agri

On 1st July 2012 Mr. João Onofre began in his new post as Head of the Organic Farming Unit in the European Commission. Mr Onofre has been working in the department of International Affairs at DG Agriculture and therefore has experience with challenges in the areas of EU certification and control systems as well as the worldwide recognition of EU standards in mutual agreements with third countries. One of his most important tasks will be the review of the Organic Regulation (EC) No 834/2007, where IFOAM EU will be at his service.

The IFOAM EU Group has welcomed the Commission’s new head of unit for organic farming in a get-to-know meeting in which the IFOAM EU representatives presented organic farming and the positions of the IFOAM EU Group to him.

The IFOAM EU Group also bids farewell and thanks Mr Onofre’s predecessor, Jean François Hulot for his five years of dedicated work for organic farming within the European Commission.

See more in IFOAM EU Group’s press release.
Sexed sperm
After a discussion of 1.5 years, the board of the IFOAM EU Group has come to a position on the use of organic sexed sperm in organic production. The organic sector in the EU is divided: while in some countries the organic sector is open to the use of sexed sperm, other countries believe that there is no place for the use of sexed sperm in organic production. For the time being, the IFOAM EU Group is against any rules for the use of sexed sperm in organic production in the EU organic regulation. Currently, sexed sperm is not regulated at EU-level in organic farming. Therefore, the legal situation should stay unchanged and the use of sexed sperm will continue to depend on national approaches and legislation.

Most recent EduOFP meeting and seminar on International Cooperation
The last project meeting of the Leonardo da Vinci project European Education Concept and Forum for Organic Food Processors (EduOFP), in which members of the IFOAM EU Specialist Group Organic Processing (IFOAM EU SGOP) take part, was held in Espoo, Finland, from 11th to 12th June. Additional experts joined this meeting and different educational and legal aspects of organic food processing were discussed. Additionally, a seminar on international cooperation for Finnish organic industry players was organised by Organic Food Finland in the afternoon of 12th June. Following the speeches and presentations, the participants debated about the possibilities for the Finnish organic sector to participate better in international cooperation. Focus was placed on the recently-founded Pro Luomu organisation, which aims to develop the whole organic value chain in Finland, as well as to play a role in the international cooperation of the Finnish organic sector.
Next EduOFP meeting and seminar Quality and Integrity in the Netherlands

The next meeting of the EduOFP project (European Education Concept and Forum for Organic Food Processors (EduOFP)) is planned for 02nd to 03rd October 2012 in the Netherlands. In addition to the discussion of the educational aspects of organic food processing, a short open seminar on Quality and Integrity in the Netherlands will be held on 03rd October. VBP, the Dutch association for organic traders and producers, and AFI, the Anti-Fraud Initiative, are currently working out the programme of this seminar. The seminar will be held in English and targets the employees of organic trade and processing companies, and inspectors of control bodies. More information will be available soon on this [website](#).

2nd IFOAM EU Group Conference on organic food processing

The IFOAM EU Group, together with AoeL and FiBL Germany, will organise its 2nd Conference on organic food processing. After last year’s conference in Poland, this year’s conference will be held in Frankfurt, Germany, on 26th and 27th November. During the first conference the participants discussed the status and further development of organic processing rules and practices, with a special focus on the sector’s environmental performance. The second conference “Future of organic food processing – sustainability, integrity, quality” aims to continue and extend this debate with current topics.

The plenary sessions will be accompanied by parallel sessions of workshops on:

- Sustainability: Ecological and social performance of organic food processing and trade
- Integrity: Credibility of the organic sector: certification, control requirements, traceability and imports
- Quality: Careful processing and quality of processed organic foods

Each workshop will consist of presentations of selected posters, a moderator introduction and discussions among the invited representatives of European Institutions in the form of a world café. This world café will give all participants, representing organic producers and traders, organisations, certifiers, scientists, advisors and stakeholders the possibility to exchange experiences, ideas and concepts on different topics. At the end of each workshop the participants will summarise all discussions and work out recommendations for the organic processing sector in the EU.

For more information and registration visit the conference [website](#).
COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY (CAP)

IFOAM EU calls on decision-makers to deliver a green and fair CAP

The IFOAM EU Group challenged decision-makers to move away from supporting an agro-industrial intensification model of food and farming through the CAP and to prioritise ecological intensification in order to effectively respond to current challenges facing EU agriculture at the Commission’s Conference on the “CAP towards 2020: Taking Stock with Civil Society” on 13th July. In his presentation to participants attending the workshop on CAP and Natural Resources, Jan Plagge, Chairman of the IFOAM EU Farmer Sector Group, stressed the need for organic farming as a system approach to be clearly recognised with adequate funding under the new reform to help drive the sector, adding that public money must reward farmers for their environmental performance and not compensate them for income foregone.

Earlier that morning, ahead of the conference, IFOAM EU and civil society groups gathered in front of the Charlemagne building to call on decision-makers to deliver a green and fair CAP reform. Representatives from the IFOAM EU Group and other groups, together with a group dressed as cows asked the Agriculture Commissioner Dacian Ciolos and conference delegates if they would make Friday the 13th a lucky day for EU food and farming reform by calling for a new CAP that explicitly promotes agro-ecological practices and systems of production which are proven to protect the environment, ensure long-term food security, and create diverse and resilient communities. On the fringes of the demonstration, Magda Stoczkwicewicz, Director of Friends of the Earth Europe, representing the different organisations, spoke with the Commissioner about the need to deliver a credible green and fair food and farming policy for the future.

The IFOAM EU Group has been meeting with key members of the European Parliament ahead of the 13th July deadline for the tabling of amendments to the European Parliament’s Agriculture and Rural Development reports on the CAP legislative package. The Committee is expected to discuss compromise amendments in September and October with a vote on non-budgetary aspects in November. Elsewhere, IFOAM EU is continuing to meet Member State officials in Brussels, where a partial agreement on the legislative texts is envisaged for the closing months of 2012 before official trilogue talks open up between the European Commission, the Council and the Parliament.
Call to take part in the Good Food March to Brussels

Farmers and activists from across Europe met at Chant d’Oiseau in Brussels on 12th July as preparations continue for the Good Food March to Brussels, of which the IFOAM EU group is a partner. At the meeting, campaigners exchanged information on how the march is taking shape in their respective countries and strategies to ensure further mobilisation. From 25th August, farmers and civil society activists will travel from all over Europe to demand a CAP reform that addresses the needs of farming communities and wider society. Marchers will descend on Brussels on 19th September, where they will invite decision-makers to a Good Food Brunch in the European Quarter. A Conference on the CAP reform, organised by ARC 2020 and Slow Food, will follow the Brunch as representatives from the March meet the decision-makers to outline their vision for food and farming post-2013. Further information can be found on the Good Food March website, where citizens can also submit their demands through a Photo Campaign developed ahead of the March. EU Citizens are currently being encouraged to contact their MEPs to call on them to deliver a real reform and inviting them to engage constructively with farmers and civil society.

Member States divided over risk management measures in new rural development programmes

Discussions during the Agriculture Council on 16th July showed that Member States are divided about the Commission proposals to include risk management measures in the rural development programmes. These risk management measures are seen as a means to compensate farmers in the event of a loss of production representing 30% of their annual income. A number of Member States voiced serious concerns about the introduction of an income stabilisation tool (IST), as it could have serious negative impacts on necessary funding for measures related to environmental delivery and climate action, and create huge administrative burdens. Other national farmer ministers came out strongly in favour of the new risk
management tools, with some calling for the proposed 65% co-financing rate for EU contributions to be increased to up to 80% or 90%. An informal Agriculture Council will take place between 9th and 11th September in Nicosia, Cyprus, focusing on the potential of European agriculture to contribute to food production and renewable and environmental public goods with an emphasis on water and soil management and land abandonment in different climatic regions. Rural development will remain the key topic for discussion at the next Agriculture Council in Brussels on 24th and 25th September.

**New Farmer Sector Group outlines its priorities for the coming year**

The interim steering committee of the IFOAM EU Group’s new Farmer Sector Group (FSG) has outlined its work programme for the coming year, with a clear focus on the Common Agricultural Policy, consultations on organic standards, capacity building and a general vision for the future of organic farming following its first meeting held in Upper Normandy on 05th July.

The FSG, launched on the fringes of the European Organic Congress in Copenhagen, Demark, on 18th April 2012 to strengthen the voice of farmers within the IFOAM EU Group, seeks to create better connections between organic farmers and increase their involvement in the policy process.

Jan Plagge, interim Chair of the steering committee, said: “This new Farmer Sector Group not only seeks to strengthen the position of organic farmers and producers within the IFOAM EU Group, but will allow farmers from different countries to share their experiences and solve problems through greater capacity building, while at the same time linking farmers with other actors across the organic movement.” Christopher Stopes, President of the IFOAM EU Group, added: “We hope that as many organic farming associations as possible will join this new sector group representing farmers and producers within the IFOAM EU Group”. The first meeting of the Farmer Sector Group will take place in Brussels on 14th and 15th November 2012, with future activities and events set to take place in farming regions across the EU in 2013.
**ENVIRONMENT**

**New publication about High Nature Value (HNV) farming**
A new book by the Institute for Agroecology and Biodiversity (IFAB) and the European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism (EFNCP) on “High Nature Value Farming in Europe, 35 European Countries: Experiences and Perspectives” was presented to policy-makers and stakeholders in Brussels on 12th July. The book looks at the diversity of HNV farming systems ranging from semi-natural pastures and meadows to orchards and species-rich arable land and their contribution to maintaining biodiversity and landscapes, as well as to cultural and natural heritages all over Europe.

**Biodiversity: Latest data show significant reductions in farmland birds since 1980**
More than 300 million farmland birds have been lost since 1980 as a result of more intensive farming systems and practice, including the overuse of chemicals and monoculture cultivations, according to the latest indicators and trends from the European Bird Census Council.

**Climate: FAO launch project to measure livestock carbon footprint**
The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has launched a project in collaboration with researchers, agri-industry, governments and NGOs to quantify the carbon footprint of the livestock sector. The project aims to improve the long-term sustainability of the sector.

**Commission readies specific rules on seeds & sprouted seed production**
The Commission is set to table specific rules to ensure the safety of seeds and sprouted seed production, covering both seeds produced in the EU and imports, in a bid to avoid a repeat of the deadly Shiga toxin-producing E.Coli outbreak in sprouted seeds last summer. DG SANCO officials outlined that four measures are currently in the pipeline:

» the approval of sprout producers in the EU

» microbiological criteria for seeds and sprouted seeds (for both EU-produced and imports) – if not compliant, sprouted seeds may not be placed on the market

» traceability of seeds in the EU

» hygiene controls for the production of seeds intended for sprouting.

Member States have informally backed these measures, but a formal vote is set to take place after the summer - followed by EP scrutiny - with adoption likely by December. Furthermore, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) will be requested to draw up a risk assessment on the safety of food of non-animal origin.
Animal Welfare Strategy


Specifically on labelling, the European Parliament calls on the Commission to accelerate the evaluation on the labelling of meat from animals slaughtered without stunning and to present its report before 2013. The IFOAM EU Group wants to make sure that the higher organic standards in animal welfare are recognised in this context.

Animal Cloning

“It is the Commission’s intention to come up with a specific regulation and legislative proposal on animal cloning,” were the words of Mr John Dalli, European Commissioner for Health & Consumer Policy, after the collapse of the tri-ilogue negotiations on the Novel Food Directive in March 2011. In his interview in July 2012 he pointed out the importance of an in-depth impact assessment to accompany a legislative proposal on animal cloning. The impact assessment, preceding the legal proposal, will take into consideration animal cloning, the establishment of traceability of imported reproduced material of cloning and also the trade of products from cloned animals (such as meat or milk) and will be published by the end of 2012.

Techniques of animal cloning for food production are unacceptable and unnecessary for sufficient and healthy food supply. The organic sector is against any use of meat and other animal products from cloned animals as well as their offspring/descendants. Therefore, the IFOAM EU Group calls for a ban on the cloning of animals for food production in the EU, the import and sale of imported food products originating from cloned animals, as well as their offspring/descendants.
**Workshop on agro-ecological innovation**

As part of their project “Agro-ecological innovation: from best practice to policy frameworks”, IFOAM EU, TP Organics and ARC 2020 held a successful workshop on 11th and 12th July. Around 35 participants from across Europe attended the event.

The first day started with an analysis of the obstacles and key factors for successful knowledge exchange and participative innovation. After an overview of the results of the questionnaire (see previous newsletter) by Bram Moeskops (TP Organics), Susanne Padel (TP Organics, Organic Research Centre) explored knowledge and innovation systems for agro-ecology. The next presentation was given by Luca Colombo (FIRAB), who called for a democratisation of agricultural research. The three presentations provided a good basis for a first round of discussion. The need to **reward farmers for participating in research and in research policy** was mentioned by several participants.

In the afternoon, representatives from the European Commission presented the new EU framework for research and innovation under Horizon 2020 and the structure of the forthcoming European Innovation Partnership “Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability”. After an introduction to two other important research networks, namely the Joint Programming Initiative on Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change, and ERA-nets, the participants were invited to develop policy recommendations to enhance agro-ecological innovation. Among the many demands, the
participants stated that the EU should recognise the diversity of approaches towards sustainable agriculture and food systems. We should prevent that one paradigm, namely the one of sustainable intensification, dominates the research agenda.

Urs Niggli (TP Organics, FiBL) started the second day of the workshop by presenting his vision on agro-ecological innovation. He warned that the organic movement cannot claim the agro-ecological research agenda. Instead of quarrelling with other approaches such as integrated production or low-external input sustainable agriculture (LEISA) we should learn from each other. Urs Niggli’s presentation was followed by three hours of intensive brainstorming on agro-ecological innovation projects. Participants came up with three highly interesting proposals: (1) a network of farmer research clubs, more broadly formulated as ‘producer-led agro-ecological innovation partnerships’, (2) improving productivity & food supply by strengthening local consumer-producer initiatives, and (3) democratic governance of common goods.

The two-day workshop was an ideal opportunity for people from within and outside of the organic movement to exchange viewpoints. Starting from the enormous basis agro-ecology already has, participants developed better insight in how to spread this knowledge and how to enhance the uptake of agro-ecological innovation.

All slide shows presented at the workshop are available at agro-ecoinnovation.eu

Last call for research projects in the FP7 Agriculture programme

On 10th July the European Commission launched the last call for research projects in the so-called FP7 Cooperation Work Programme Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnologies. In 2014, the FP7 programme will be followed up by Horizon 2020, the new EU framework for research and innovation.

TP Organics managed to have one research topic from its Strategic Research Agenda included in the Work Programme, namely the Assessment of organic aquaculture for further development of European regulatory Framework. This will be a research project of minimum 3 years with a budget of € 1.5 million.

In addition to this project, the EU will fund an ERANET+ for organic agriculture and food research, which will be the successor to the current ERANET Core Organic II. In contrast to Core Organic II, the new ERANET+ will get additional funding from the EU, besides the funds made available by the participating countries.

A number of other calls make reference to the organic sector: The ERANET on ICT-technologies for sustainable agriculture will work in consultation with TP Organics. In the call on boosting the outreach of research, Organic E-prints is mentioned as a communication tool. Besides other sectors, organic production should be considered in a research project on agriculture and trade development in the EU’s Eastern Neighbours. Finally, organic certification should be part of a research project on assuring quality and authenticity in the food chain.
1.3. EU Research Policy/TP Organics

**Last update on Horizon 2020**

As the European Parliament enters its summer recess, it is time to draw conclusions from this very intensive winter and spring. TP Organics did a thorough analysis of Horizon 2020, the new framework programme for research and innovation, met several key MEPs, rapporteurs and shadow rapporteurs of the document, and proposed amendments to the legislative proposals. Furthermore, two events were organised on the future of agricultural research for the next seven years: a hearing in the ITRE (Industry, Research and Technology) Committee in March, where TP Organics was present with two speakers, and a conference in cooperation with the NGO Alliance at the beginning of June.

All this work has been very successful, resulting in six amendments proposed by TP Organics being accepted at the meeting of the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development on 10th July. TP Organics will continue its advocacy work in the decision-making process in the European Parliament.

**STOAS Project Kick-off**

Representatives from IFOAM EU met with project partners for the kick-off meeting of the STOAS project (Sustainability Training for Organic Advisers) which took place at the Kaloe Organic Agricultural College Aarhus, Denmark, on 03rd and 04th July. The meeting was organised by the project coordinator - Videncentret for Landbrug - to gather partners in order to set the framework of this two-year project. The meeting also provided participants with the opportunity to get updated on the situation of the organic advisory services in several European countries.

The STOAS project involves eight partners and is funded by DG Education and Culture (European Commission) within the framework of the Lifelong Learning Programme. The project aims at developing educational material and training for improving advisors’ knowledge on sustainability. More information will follow soon.
2. IFOAM EU GROUP OFFICE & INTERNAL STRUCTURE

THANK YOU TO EX-BOARD MEMBER
LEEN LAENENS

Leen Laenens has quit her job as director of BioForum Flanders and as a board member of IFOAM EU Group this month. The IFOAM EU Group would like to thank Leen Laenens for her dedicated years as a very active and supportive Belgian board member and for her work in service of organic farming in Flanders, Belgium and Europe. Her great contribution to the sector and her support in the recruitment of staff for the IFOAM EU office, her wisdom and facilitation skills, her perseverance to secure a gender-balanced board and her contributions to IFOAM EU Group’s financial stability over the past eight years is very much appreciated.

The IFOAM EU Group wishes Leen all the best for her retirement that she will surely fill with exciting and useful activities.

NEW REGULATION COORDINATOR:
EMANUELE BUSACCA (IT)

I come from Vasto, in Abruzzo, a region famous for its national parks and natural reserves and for its Montepulciano red wine. As a result of growing up there, I developed a passion for nature and environmental issues. During my studies in Agriculture Science and Technology at the University of Florence and during my period at the University of Aberdeen (UK), I focused my interests on every form of nature-based agriculture such as permaculture, biodynamic agriculture and, of course, organic farming. I also try to transfer my professional interest to my private life. As a consumer, I prefer buying eco-friendly products and using non-polluting means of transport, both for my health and that of our world.

After a period of almost 4 years as Foreign Affairs Coordinator in an important Control and Certification Body for Organic Farming in Italy (Suolo e Salute srl), I successfully applied for the Regulation Coordinator position at IFOAM EU Group and, since 01st July, have started my new professional life here in Brussels. I consider it as a big step forward in my career and as a possibility to follow very closely the work of the Commission and the legislation process related to organic farming.
Farewell to Regulation Trainee:
Lena Tuszynski (DE)
Over the last 6 months, Lena Tuszynski worked as a Regulation Trainee at the IFOAM EU Group office. She assisted the Food legislation Coordinator Andrzej Szeremeta and worked on different issues related to organic regulation. Lena helped with the preparation of the new regulation dossier “European Organic Regulations (EC) No 834/2007, 889/2008 and 1235/2008”, and the ongoing tasks in the field of greenhouse, poultry and organic processing. She was also involved in the organisation of the IFOAM EU stand at the Green Week in the EU Commission as well as in the IFOAM EU seminars at BioFach, the workshop on control and imports and the participation of the IFOAM EU Group in the AGOF.

The IFOAM EU Group thanks Lena for her enthusiasm and engagement in her support for the IFOAM EU Group and the European Organic Sector. We wish Lena success for her plans with further traineeships at EU Institutions and for her PhD studies.

New Project Trainee:
Silvia Corrado (IT)
I received ‘farming roots’ from my family, having spent my childhood in a small south Italian city where agriculture is the first source of sustenance, and where farmers still care about the importance of soil, respecting biological cycles and dealing with nature that can be generous and hostile at the same time. As a graduate in International Relations at the University of Perugia (IT) with a strong background in EU Policies, I decided to combine my academic skills with a personal keen interest in Organic Agriculture and Sustainable Development. With IFOAM EU’s projects team I finally have the opportunity to further develop my professional abilities in an expanding sector, which is gaining in importance among EU Institutions, providing a concrete support to the development of projects like Life + 2012-2014.
Support IFOAM EU Group!
Next to membership fees, sponsoring is the only other financial input that can guarantee the carrying out of independent advocacy work and a proper presentation of the organic movement in Brussels.

To gain a wide number of sponsors, the IFOAM EU Group offers a variety of sponsorship options – there is at least one that will fit your needs!

The IFOAM EU Group will be pleased to jointly develop with you the best sponsoring option with you. An excellent way of gaining recognition on a European level for 2012 is supporting the **IFOAM EU-FiBL-AOEL Processors’ Conference in November 2012**. Get in contact with us for the fine-tuning of your sponsor ideas:

LenaWietheger@ifoam-eu.org
Tel: +32 2 808 79 91

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**Key Sponsor Presentation**
**IFOAM EU key sponsors 2012:**
**ARIZA, CAAE and ICEA/FECD**

ARIZA, CAAE and ICEA/FECD show their support for the work of IFOAM EU by a financial cooperation with IFOAM EU throughout the year 2012. Their money will be used to co-finance IFOAM EU events, projects and publications and is a highly valued contribution to our work.

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**IFOAM EU Sponsorship in Action!**

Sponsorship awards at the 6th European Organic Congress

5th European Organic Congress

Processing Conference, 2011

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Organic Days in Cyprus
IFOAM EU Group invites you to participate in the “Organic Days in Cyprus”. The event will take place during the Cypriot EU Council Presidency and encloses three individual events that will take place on 24th, 25th and 26th September at the Sun Hall Hotel, Larnaca, Cyprus.

The Organic Days are a cooperation project between the IFOAM EU Group, the Cyprus EU presidency, the European Commission, Pasybio and TP Organics.

Conference 25 September:
Research Conference
“Organic and Low Input Agriculture: Implementing Innovation to respond to EU Challenges”
Starting from an overview of several EU-funded organic research projects, the conference will assess the important contribution the organic sector has to make to the European research agenda, how stakeholders are best involved in research and innovation, and which opportunities Horizon 2020 will offer organic and low-input agriculture.

Conference 26 September:
Future farming in times of climate change and water scarcity
“Rural development and sustainable farming approaches for Mediterranean areas and beyond”
To feed into current EU and Member States’ policy debates on the CAP post-2013, rural development programmes, the implementation of the water framework directive and the climate strategy, the IFOAM EU Group, the Cyprus EU Presidency and Pasybio (representing the Organic sector in Cyprus) – are organising this high-level expert conference. Speakers will include policy-makers and stakeholders from the European Commission, European Parliament, Cypriot government, economy, science and the organic food sector.

The conferences will be preceded by an excursion to discover the rural economy and society in Cyprus.

Registration for the 3-day event is possible via the website of Organic Days.
The IFOAM EU Group as a co-organiser hopes to see many representatives of the organic movement in Brussels on 04th and 05th September! You can find our preliminary Programme here. To register, please fill in the registration form. Registration deadline is 22nd August 2012.

IFOAM EU meets business
The IFOAM EU Group will organise its 3rd “IFOAM EU meets business” event on 15th October 2012 in Brussels. With this annual meeting - an open dialogue between organic businesses and the organic representation in the EU - the IFOAM EU Group follows three aims: to discuss how to place organic food with more and more non-organic labels appearing on the food market, to identify elements to increase future cooperation between organic companies and the IFOAM EU Group, and to help the IFOAM EU Group in shaping future work priorities. Organic companies are invited to join this forum! More information is available at the following website.
## 4.2. Calendar of events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20-24 August</td>
<td><strong>12th Congress of the European Society for Agronomy</strong></td>
<td>Helsinki, Finland</td>
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<tr>
<td>August - 19 September</td>
<td><strong>Good Food March</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Across Europe</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>4-5 September</td>
<td><strong>7th GMO free Europe Conference</strong></td>
<td>Brussels, Belgium</td>
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<tr>
<td>8-11 September</td>
<td><strong>sana: 24th International exhibition of organic and natural products</strong></td>
<td>Bologna, Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>12-14 September</td>
<td><strong>2nd IFOAM Animal Husbandry Conference</strong></td>
<td>Hamburg, Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>24-26 September</td>
<td><strong>Organic Days in Cyprus</strong></td>
<td>Larnaca, Cyprus</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 September</td>
<td><strong>The European Food Security Conference: Better Farming For A Sustainable European Food Supply</strong></td>
<td>Brussels, Belgium</td>
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<tr>
<td>26-27 November</td>
<td><strong>IFOAM EU Processing Conference</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
IFOAM EU Vice-president Dorota Metera contributes to making Friday, 13th July a lucky day for the CAP at the Commission Conference on the future of Europe’s farming.

The IFOAM EU Group acknowledges the financial support of the European Community, DG Environment throughout the year 2012. The sole responsibility lies with the IFOAM EU Group, and the Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information provided by IFOAM EU Group.

This newsletter exists to inform IFOAM members about the work of the IFOAM EU Group and its liaison and coordination office in Brussels. The IFOAM EU Group is the European Regional Group of the worldwide umbrella organisation IFOAM and is responsible for all matters related to organic farming with a Europe-wide scope.

Information IFOAM EU Group: http://www.ifoam-eu.org

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Please send any comments or contributions to the newsletter to communication@ifoam-eu.org.

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