Without help, Hungarian non-profit organisation Kishantos could get land-robbed for 452 hectares (more details on p. 3)
SAVE KISHANTOS – A CALL TO ACTION

SAVE KISHANTOS, HUNGARY’S OUTSTANDING ORGANIC FARM AND EDUCATION CENTRE!

Kishantos has been serving sustainability and democracy in Hungary for 21 years. Kishantos is a victim of land grabbing, but we can still save Kishantos with your help.

Kishantos Rural Development Centre is an NGO-based civil institution and grassroots initiative by local people. The centre has two main parts: a Folk High School Centre and a 452-hectare organic demonstration farm. Its main mission is to spread up-to-date knowledge, and the ideas of sustainability and democracy. The organic demonstration farm surrounds the education centre.

The Hungarian Government gave the Kishantos Rural Development Centre non-profit organisation the right to lease 452 hectares of land for in 1998. The Folk High School Centre works on the basis of the ideas of N.F.S. Grundtvig, the great Danish thinker. His idea was “the school for life” where the living dialogue and the experience are the main instruments of education. The school and the whole Centre are financed by the income from the farm.

The lease for the state owned land is valid until 31 October 2013. But last October, the Hungarian Land Fund (representing the State as the owner) called issued an open call tender for the rent of the lands in ten lots. According to the decision of the Hungarian Land Fund, the Kishantos non-profit Organisation will lose all the land as of 1 November 2013.

The persons and companies who “won” the tender for leasing the land have no experience in organic farming. Some of them do not have experience in farming at all! If any of them will start to cultivate the land, Kishantos will very likely lose its qualification as a BIO SUISSE organic farming area and the Folk High School Centre will also disappear as it was financed by the farm income.

Kishantos will be the victim of a government-assisted land grab.

Kishantos is very unique: it a reference project in Europe where sustainable agriculture, ecological farming, education and democracy have been functioning together in perfect harmony, and is proof that these basic values can really work together to serve society.

I personally support the efforts to save Kishantos.

Please tell your colleagues and friends about this and send a letter to Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán (orbanviktor@orbanviktor.hu) and Minister for Rural Development Sándor Fazekas (miniszter@vm.gov.hu) with a copy to savekishantos@gmail.com.

Marco Schlüter
IFOAM EU Director

Suggested letter:

“Dear Prime Minister Viktor Orbán,
Dear Minister Sándor Fazekas

I am (We are) deeply concerned about the fate of the Kishantos organic farm and Folk High School Centre. Kishantos Rural Development Centre has been a symbol of environmental, economic and social sustainability and democracy. However, as a result of the decision of the Hungarian Land Fund (NFA), the Kishantos Rural Development Centre would lose all the land of its organic demonstration farm (452 hectares) as of 1 November 2013. This would mean an end to the internationally well-known and highly respected farm and education centre.

The establishment and the operation of Kishantos Rural Development Centre has been helped by German taxpayers’ money as well as German and Danish experts, institutions and communities in many ways. The decision to terminate the Centre will be another serious support to those voices which declare that providing Western European funding to Hungary is a waste of money, because this money is misused and the investments made possible by such money are insecure. (we) believe that it would be a big mistake to give support to such voices.

For these reasons we ask you to annul the above mentioned decision of NFA and guarantee that Kishantos Rural Development Centre will continue its outstanding work during the coming years.

Sincerely yours,”
KICK-OFF MEETING OF THE FOCUS GROUP ON ORGANIC FARMING

The kick-off meeting of the focus group on organic farming took place on 23–24 September in the Organic Research Centre (UK), with IFOAM EU Director Marco Schlüter invited to give an opening speech. The 20 members have very different backgrounds. Some are farmers and farm advisors, while a good majority are scientists. All EU regions are represented. The topic of the focus group is the yield gap in organic arable farming. In the first meeting, all the reasons for and aspects of the yield gap were mapped, and ranked according to importance. The next step is to formulate scientific and practical solutions. The ultimate goal is to improve the performance of organic farms and to promote best practices of organic farming.

KICK-OFF MEETING OF THE FOCUS GROUP ON PROTEIN CROPS

This first meeting of the focus group on protein crops was held on 12–13 September at Agrifirm in the Netherlands. The overall aim of the focus group is to provide input into the EU research & innovation agenda and reduce the import of plant protein, particularly soy meal, by 50%. Contrary to IFOAM EU’s expectations, the focus of the group is very narrow. It only deals with the supply side of the equation – the demand side is out of scope. Eight key themes were identified at the meeting: building and protecting yield, breeding, diverse cropping, diverse animal production, using diverse protein crop supplies, sustainability, building transitional supply chains, and knowledge exchange.

Sustainability was also listed as a theme, but was in general not considered of utmost importance. The focus group did not discuss some notable issues such as climate change and biological nitrogen fixation.

It is clear that discussions are going in the wrong direction. IFOAM EU will try to bring in themes such as environmental benefits provided by leguminous crops and reduction of protein demand through promoting pasture-based livestock production.

GUIDELINES FOR PROGRAMMING THE EIP IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

IFOAM EU has developed guidelines explaining how Rural Development programmes can implement the EIP. The Rural Development regulation specifies that the EIP shall promote a transition towards agroecological production systems. The EIP is meant to be a bottom-up process. Organic associations should take this opportunity and convince their national or regional authorities to implement the EIP for the benefit of organic farming and agroecology. IFOAM EU’s guidelines are meant to help in this regard. You can find them [here](#).
1 NEWS FROM IFOAM EU WORKING FIELDS

1.1 REGULATION

UPDATE ON THE ORGANIC REGULATION REVIEW PROCESS

After 2012 and 2013 input collection activity, including expert hearings, public consultation open to all citizens and stakeholders, and specific advisory meetings with stakeholders, the Commission is finalising the impact assessment report and the legislative proposal in connection with the review of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007.

The impact assessment report analyses the socio-economic and environmental impacts of the proposed policy options to change the current regulation.

When finalised, both documents, impact assessment report and legislative proposal will be submitted to the College of Commissioners (probably end 2013). After the official adoption from the College of Commissioners, the two documents will be transmitted to the Council and the European Parliament. This transmission is expected to occur in March 2014.

According to the co-decision process set by the Lisbon Treaty, the Council and European Parliament will likely discuss the proposal for two years and therefore a new possible regulation replacing current Reg. (EC) No 834/2007 would be expected to enter into force in 2016 or 2017.

IFOAM EU – COMMISSION MEETING ON PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS

On 7 October 2013, IFOAM EU representatives, including experts of the internal Plant Protection Product Task Force, met Commission representatives from DG AGRI and DG SANCO on issues regarding the alignment of Reg. (EC) No 889/2008 with horizontal legislation on plant protection products.

In fact, according to regulation (EC) no 1107/2009 every plant protection product needs to be approved and registered to be used in agriculture (for both conventional and organic agriculture).

Currently, the main complications are:

1. Some products currently listed in Annex II of Reg. (EC) No 889/2008 of the organic regulation have not yet been registered, since registration applications are very demanding in terms of time and resources and there is not a significant enough commercial interest in completing this registration process.

2. Many traditional substances were not previously considered “plant protection products” and were authorised for use in organic at Member State level. According to the horizontal legislation some will now be considered “plant protection products” and therefore will need to be included in Annex II of Reg. (EC) No 889/2008.

Applications for Quassia and Calcium Hydroxide have been submitted to DG SANCO by IFOAM EU Group in 2012 but both substances are still under evaluation.

The organic regulation is obliged to fulfil the requirements of horizontal legislation and substances that are not registered according to Reg. (EC) No 1107/2009 cannot be authorised in organic farming.

This means that substances like Quassia or Calcium Hydroxide (and others) risk being deleted from Annex II in the coming months and that would mean the protection products available to organic farmers would be reduced further.

At the meeting, the Commission representatives expressed understanding for substances for which applications have been submitted and decision is pending, and recommended that organic sector prepare applications for substances that are essential for organic farming. If applications are denied or not made in the future, the substances will also be removed from Annex II of the organic regulation (EC) No 889/2008.
NEW DOCUMENTS ON THE EU ORGANIC WEBSITE

A new webpage with information on the organic regulation review has been recently added to the EU Commission website. In particular details on the different steps of the impact assessment such as hearings with experts, public on-line consultation and Advisory Group on Organic Farming meetings are available.

In addition, the EU Commission published the report on the results of the Organic Consultation (Jan–April 2013).

The vast majority of the almost 45,000 responses to the EU Commission’s online consultation on organic came from consumers. Some highlights from the Commission’s analysis of the results: Concern for the environment is the first reason given for purchasing organic products (83%), with avoiding GMOs and pesticides coming in second (81%). Consumers perceive a need to have harmonised and demanding organic regulations, and request that organic processors and traders measure their environmental performance. Nevertheless, 71% said they trust organic products today. More research & innovation support is requested for organic in four areas: “Economic and social dimension of organic farming” (58%), “Seeds and plant propagating material adapted to low-input agriculture” (52%), “Local production of protein in-rich crops” (48%) and “Waste management”.

NOP-JAS ORGANIC EQUIVALENCE

On 26 September 2013, the U.S. and Japan announced that starting from 1 January 2014, organic products certified in Japan and in the U.S. may be sold as organic in either country. This new agreement shouldn’t impact the European market and European producers, since the U.S. and Japan are both recognised as equivalent by the European organic regulation. It will however stimulate U.S. and Japanese producers.

ECOCERT / IMO

At the end of September 2013, an important event occurred in the organic certification world. Ecocert, the leader for organic farming certification, has finalized the acquisition of IMO swiss AG (Switzerland) and IMO Institut für Marktökologie GmbH (Germany). This agreement between Ecocert and IMO illustrates the willingness to create a new partnership between two of the most important certification bodies for organic farming. For the clients of these companies no major changes should be found, but now, for Rainer Bächi, founder of IMO says: “The future of organic is: working together.”

IFOAM EU ORGANIC PROCESSING EXPERTS MET IN PARIS

The meeting of IFOAM EU Interest Group on Organic Processing (SGOP) took place in Paris on 26–27 October 2013. Organic processing experts discussed several topics such as the recent EGTOP food report mandates, new potential concepts for organic labelling to propose during the organic regulation review and the organic yeast issue. The next meeting will take place in March 2014.
1.2 POLICY

CAP & AGRICULTURE

EU LEADERS FINALISE POLITICAL AGREEMENT ON CAP REFORM, BUT WITH LIMITED SUSTAINABLE AMBITION

Final agreements on CAP reform, reached by chief EU negotiators in June and September 2013, were approved by the European Parliament’s Agriculture Committee (COMAGRI) on 30 September and by senior Member State officials from the Agriculture Council’s Special Committee on Agriculture (SCA) on 7 October. Approval by both bodies paves the way for a “first reading” agreement of the CAP 2014–2020. This is subject to ratification by all European Parliament MEPs in a vote plenary expected to take place in Strasbourg in either October or November, when 40 or more MEPs could table further amendments to the texts. However, it would be unlikely to find a majority as it would trigger “second reading” negotiations between the EU institutions and delay the CAP reform process until 2015/2016. If ratified by MEPs the final legal texts should be adopted by all EU Institutions by the end of 2014.

IFOAM EU questions whether the final deal can deliver a greener & fairer CAP

Following COMAGRI’s endorsement, IFOAM EU criticised the final deal outcomes in a press release, as the agreement reached cannot deliver a real paradigm shift in agricultural sustainability by 2020. In particular, IFOAM EU highlighted COMAGRI’s failure to ensure that the use of fertilisers and pesticides are not completely banned on ecological focus areas under Pillar 1 greening requirements and its acceptance of many questionable exemptions to greening. IFOAM EU also pointed to the disproportionate cuts to the rural development budget and the need now for Member States to make the best use of all the tools under Pillar 1 and 2 that can boost the development and expansion of agro-ecological approaches such as organic farming.

Negotiations on CAP transition rules for 2014 & preparation of implementing rules move forward

In September, COMAGRI members also agreed a negotiating mandate on CAP transition rules for 2014 ahead of inter-institutional negotiations between the Parliament, Council and Commission. These transition rules are set out in order to ensure continuity between the current and newly reformed CAP regulations. At time of press senior Member State officials from the SCA were due to adopt a revised approach before the first round of negotiations scheduled for 17 October. The Commission is now in the process of drawing up implementing rules, so called “delegated acts” and “implementing acts,” in order to bring the new regulations into force between 2014 and 2015. These rules are scheduled to be published and adopted in early 2014. Stay up-to-date on our advocacy work and campaigning activities by visiting the thinkingCAP blog or contact stephen.meredith [at] ifoam-eu.org.

SUSTAININGAS UPDATE: WORKSHOPS AND WEBINARS HAVE STARTED!

Webinars and workshops on how Biogas production can provide income opportunities for organic farms and contribute to overall farm sustainability are taking place between October 2013 and March 2014. The free training sessions are targeted at organic farmers, biogas consultants and associations, green energy companies, and interested consumers. If you are interested in learning more about organic biogas or the current trends and developments on sustainability criteria, technical and economic requirements and best practice register now. For further information visit Sustainingas.
IFOAM EU AND CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS LAUNCH ADVOCACY MATERIALS TO SUPPORT CAP IMPLEMENTATION

IFOAM EU and other civil society groups in the ARC 2020 network have developed a **CAP Implementation toolkit** to support members in their efforts to salvage the few green and fair outcomes set out in the final political deal reached by the EU Institutions in September. IFOAM EU has also produced a number of **factsheets** that show how organic farming support and other rural development measures can improve water quality, soil health, biodiversity and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

IFOAM EU has also issued the first of a series of **best practice leaflets**, looking at Organic Training and Market Development under the Danish Rural Development Programme. New leaflets will be issued on a rolling basis over the coming weeks and months. All materials are designed to assist organic farmers and campaigners in their advocacy activities towards national and regional authorities to make best use of the new and existing tools made available under CAP and Rural Development.

Organic farmers and other stakeholders are strongly encouraged to take part in **upcoming conferences and workshops** on CAP and new rural development programmes during October and November in:

- **Brussels:** IFOAM EU **workshops** on Rural Development Programmes after CAP reform: Opportunities for organic farming and agro-ecology and European Innovation Partnership for Agriculture: Potential for innovation in sustainable food systems on 7 November during “Making Europe More Organic.”
- **Brussels:** Conference on **Rolling out of the greening measures and recommendations for biodiversity-friendly Rural Development policy post 2013** on 29 October (organised by CEEweb for Biodiversity, Fundatia ADEPT and EEB)
- **Turin, Italy:** Conference on Rural Development: a critical opportunity for people and biodiversity (organised by Birdlife Europe and national partners)
- **Brussels:** **European Rural Parliament** in Brussels on 13 November 2013 (organised by the European Rural Community Association, European Rural Alliance and the Partnership for Rural Europe network for Central and Eastern European Member States)

**AGRICAPTURE CONTEST: WIN A WEEKEND AT AN ORGANIC FARM IN ITALY!**

The AgriCAPture photo contest has entered its final stage. Vote for your favourites until 31 October and help them win a prize weekend on an organic farm in Italy.

**More details here**
DAIRY CONFERENCE

EU Agriculture Commissioner Dacian Cioloş has unveiled plans to set up a market observatory to monitor the development of milk production, consumption patterns and market volatility at the recent “The EU dairy sector: developing beyond 2015” conference. Rudolf Vierbauch from BIOAUSTRIA attended on behalf of IFOAM EU.

The market observatory will provide an early warning system for all dairy farmers as well as offering market analysis. At the conference, stakeholders exchanged on the measures needed to support the phasing-out of the quota system in 2015. The Commission will send a report about the conference to the European Parliament and AGRI Council by December 2013. A report on the dairy market, including a review of the 2012 EU Milk Package implementation will be presented in June 2014.

SEED & SOIL

MORE DIVERSITY IN OUR FIELDS

On their 8th meeting in Basel, breeders, conservation organisations, gardeners and farmers exchanged on practices of participatory wheat breeding, strategies to bring crops from traditional varieties to the market and the challenge of assessing new technologies in plant breeding. Facing the ongoing revision of the EU legislation on the marketing of plant reproductive material, different scenarios for legislative frameworks were discussed. Diversity movements and organic breeders plead for a legislation that favours the preservation and further development of agrobiodiversity instead of putting disproportionate burden on those breeders, farmers and conservation initiatives who work for greater diversity of traditional varieties as well as new varieties that are suited for organic farming and specific local conditions.

STRENGTHEN ORGANIC PLANT BREEDING

The European Consortium for Organic Plant Breeding (ECO PB) held its 7th European Workshop on Organic Seed Regulation on 9–10 October. Seed companies active in organic breeding, representatives of ministries, scientists and organic farmer organisations exchanged about the situation in the different member states. The availability of certified organic seed varies significantly from member state to member state, so does the quality of information available for growers in the seed databases about available varieties. Strategies to progress towards increased use of organic seed, to strengthen organic breeding activities and to maintain the use of farm saved seed especially from traditional and local varieties have been discussed.

TIME TO SAY NO TO GM MAIZE

On 26th September, the European Court of Justice (ECJ) assessed that the European Commission acted too slowly in the process on the applications for their genetically modified (GM) maize variety TC1507 for cultivation. The seed and chemical company Pioneer Dupont had sued the European Commission for delaying the procedure. However, the judgement does only concern the Commission calendar on this subject. The maize plants produce an insecticide and are herbicide resistant. Therefore, they are suspect to pose risks to non-targeted butterfly species and their cultivation is likely to lead to increased herbicide use. A clear decision to reject the authorisation of this maize for cultivation in the standing committee of member state representatives or the Council would have helped to escape the deadlock. High time to say no to GM plants.
After nearly a decade of deadlock in the Agriculture Council, the European Commission is reconsidering the fate of the EU Soil Directive proposal. The Commission insists that it remains committed to the proposal in an Annex to a recent Communication on “Regulatory Fitness and Performance (REFIT): Results and Next Steps”, published on 2 October. However it also states that the current proposal may be dropped if there is no possibility to adopt the Directive before Parliament Elections in June 2014. This is based on the intention that a plan would be tabled under a new Commission. The Directive has been stalled since 2006 by a blocking minority of member states including Germany, France, United Kingdom, Austria, Netherlands and Malta. These delays have been strongly criticised by IFOAM EU who have continued to call for the binding legal framework to be at the heart the 7th EU Environment Action Programme to 2020. For further information see IFOAM EU’s Position Paper on the EU Soil Directive.

FiBL Germany, AIAB, Bioland Beratung, Ekologiska Lantbrukarna and IFOAM EU are about to start cooperating on a 5-year research and policy project. The outcomes of the LIFE-funded project ‘Strategies for organic and low-input farming to mitigate and adapt to climate change’ will help further establish the benefits these farming systems and thereby also positively contribute to influencing relevant EU policies. A demonstration farm network will be set up in Germany, Italy and Sweden and the farmers will integrate optimised climate-friendly practices into their farming management system. The impact of these practices on climate change mitigation and adaptation, economic viability and technical feasibility will be monitored. The project results will be widely disseminated and brought forward to political decision makers in the EU.

The European Parliament Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development, held a meeting on 24 September 2013 in Brussels, which sought to bring together stakeholders from various sectors to discuss the next steps for implementing targets over the next seven years. Civil society groups outlined that more needs to be done build on the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 in order to halt the loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystem at degradation. In particular civil society groups, including IFOAM EU, pointed to the potential of a win-win approach that safeguards and enhances biodiversity, while contributing to rural development and green job creation.
FOOD

CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS HIGHLIGHT POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF EU-US TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

At the European Commission International Aspects of Agriculture Advisory Group, civil society groups spoke out on the potential impacts of the Transatlantic Trade Investment Partnerships (TTIP) on food and farming in Europe. The transparency of the negotiations was also called into question by stakeholders. In particular, a recent report ‘How fair and sustainable food and farming could be permanently damaged by a transatlantic trade deal’ published by Friends of the Earth (FOEE) and the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP) pointed to a potential decline in farming standards in the EU as a consequence of the trade agreement. A deal is expected to be reached by the end of 2013. However, the talks are currently on hold as a result of the on-going US Government shutdown of non-essential services.

SUSTAINABLE FOOD AND FAMILY FARMING

IFOAM EU has submitted a contribution to the European Commission Stakeholder Consultation on the Sustainability of the Food System outlining the contribution of the organic sector as a leading model of sustainability. The consultation aims to explore how the EU can transition towards a more resource efficient and sustainable food system. In another Commission consultation on Family Farming IFOAM EU highlighted the IFOAM position on role of smallholders in organic farming. This consultation, based primarily on a multiple choice questionnaire, aims to feed the upcoming Commission conference on Family farming: A dialogue towards more sustainable and resilient farming in Europe and the world to be held in Brussels on 29 November 2013.
From 3–4 October 2013 the fourth meeting of the OrganicDataNetwork project (Data Network for better European Organic Market Information) took place in Montpellier, France. The meeting started with a presentation of the region and the data from the organic sector in France.

The outcome of the first survey, collecting data from the European organic sector, was presented and showed that the data are very heterogeneous and difficult to compare. It was decided to bring the classifications in line with the European CPA codes (statistical classification of products by activity) as a first step towards the harmonisation of organic market data. Within the project, a second survey has been carried out to collect organic data from all participating countries. A common database is being set up with the collected data and the results from the surveys will be published soon.

The day continued with results from the consistency checks which have been carried out on the data collected in the first survey, and the execution of these checks to improve data quality was explained. It was decided that all partners need to carry out consistency checks on their data and that guidelines will be set up to explain the procedure. The general aim is to avoid further inconsistencies and to draw the data collectors’ attention to potential sources of these inconsistencies.

In the afternoon case studies on how to improve data quality in selected countries Germany, United Kingdom, France, Italy, Czech Republic and the Mediterranean region were presented, including tasks that will be carried out to increase and deepen harmonization, depending on the respective country.

On the second day dissemination activities and future publications – the “Code of practice and Manual” and “Report on the synthesis of the key results and the proposal recommendation” – were discussed. The “Code of practice and Manual” will contain information about organic market data collection: how to proceed and how to improve data quality. This manual will facilitate future data collection and help those working on this issue. The project will again contact Eurostat for a presentation of the results and to propose solutions regarding collection and processing of data.

The next project meeting will take place in Tallinn in May 2014, but before that the OrganicDataNetwork project will also be present at BioFach in February 2014 with a workshop presenting the outcomes and results so far.

**HORIZON 2020**

The publication of the first calls of Horizon 2020 is foreseen for 11 December. The calls will feature multi-actor projects as a new type of project, which will have to involve diverse stakeholders throughout the project and project consortia will have to be composed of key actors with complementary types of knowledge. This means projects must include a sufficient number of high-quality knowledge exchange activities. The objectives of the projects should be targeted to the needs and problems of the end-users. This multi-actor approach offers an opportunity for the organic sector, given its history of strong collaboration across disciplines and between researchers and producers.
2 EVENTS

2.1 PREVIEW OF EVENTS

ORGANIC VISION 2030 WORKSHOP: 8 NOVEMBER

Organic food and farming has come a long way. The time of organic pioneers is over and organic produce is more and more present in mainstream distribution channels. The time has come for the organic movement to assess what the path to the future should be. In an internal process, steered by IFOAM EU, organic stakeholders from the entire European food chain will develop a vision for the next 20 years. This process will be started in November 2013 with a one-day event as part of the 10th anniversary of IFOAM EU Group and will continue until 2015. Use this opportunity to share your vision for our organic future and hear what the others have to say! Intriguing key note speeches will set the scene for lively discussions. More information on the event page.

MEMBERS REGISTER FOR FARMER INTEREST GROUP: 7 NOVEMBER

FSG members and IFOAM EU farming member organisations can now register for the internal meeting of the IFOAM EU Farmers Sector Group which will take place on the fringes of the “Making Europe More Organic” event on 7 November. Launched in Copenhagen in April 2012 to strengthen the voice of farmers within IFOAM EU, this internal specialist group seeks to create better connections between organic farmers and increase their involvement in the policy process. It provides members with regular updates about issues relevant for them within the EU policy framework and facilitate exchange between farmers in different farming regions in the EU.

TERRA SÃ (AGROBIO): PORTO, 29 NOVEMBER – 1 DECEMBER

Dating from 1988, the Terra Sã (Terra Sana - National Fair of Organic Agriculture) has become one of biggest organic food & farming events in Portugal by gathering more than 80 exhibitors, including producers, shops and business services and actors of production in the sector, as well as associations environmental protection, renewable energy and craftsmanship. Last year the Fair was held in Lisbon and gathered about 12,000 visitors.

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**CORE ORGANIC BROKERAGE EVENT (IN CO-OPERATION WITH TP ORGANICS):**
**BRUSSELS, 18 DECEMBER, 11:00–17:00**

Core Organic is a consortium of 24 partners from 20 countries funding organic research. The new call will be an ERA-Net Plus call which means the European Commission provides co-funding. Together with the national funds, the total budget of the call will be 10 million euro.

It will be launched in the first week of December and will be presented at this event. Participants will have the opportunity to find partners and discuss project ideas. Registration for the event will be possible in November when a pre-announcement with call text and contributions per partner country will be published. Contact info[at]tporganics.eu for more information.

**SETTING THE NEW STRATEGIC RESEARCH AGENDA FOR ORGANICS AND AGROECOLOGY:**
**BRUSSELS, 19 DECEMBER, 11:00–16:30**

TP Organics invites you to provide input to the revision of its Strategic Research Agenda. In the afternoon, representatives from the Commission and transnational funding bodies will be asked how they will address the challenges identified at the morning workshop.

TP Organics published its first Strategic Research Agenda in 2009. It has been very successful, as about one third of the topics have been funded. In order to assure the relevance of the Agenda, it is now time to adapt it to the new policy context (Horizon 2020 and EIP for Agriculture) and to new challenges that have emerged in the (organic) food & farming sector. The workshop will contribute to this. Please register before 5 December.
Making Europe More Organic
Celebrate 10 years of IFOAM EU in Brussels

6 November Excursion: Organic Policy Making in Action
7 November Conference: European organic political and legal framework
Gala dinner: Celebrate 10 years of IFOAM EU in Brussels
8 November Organic 2030: Build the European organic future

Look forward to seeing you there
The IFOAM EU team
2.2 REVIEW OF EVENTS

NATURAFood FAIR IN POLAND

Also this year IFOAM EU has been a partner of the International Fair of Organic and Regional Food NATURAfod. The sixth edition took place from 11 October 2013 in Łódź, Poland.

During the fair, IFOAM EU organised a seminar covering different topics: the current organic regulation review, the possible changes in the organic control system and the presentation of a project on harmonisation of data collection. IFOAM EU also presented its position on the reform of the CAP in the “Organic Farming - The Common Agricultural Policy after 2013” seminar organised by the Polish Ministry of Agriculture.

SOIL ASSOCIATION 2013 CONFERENCE: “GOOD FOOD FOR ALL’ CAN BECOME THE NORM”

The Soil Association 2013 Conference showcased cutting edge solutions and approaches to the environmental and public health challenges of our day. Bringing together high profile speakers and practical people from a range of backgrounds the conference shared and inspired best practice, raised new questions and championed ways to feed this generation and the next healthily and humanely. The conference was a great opportunity to meet, network and share new ways of thinking with hundreds of other likeminded people. Presentations from both the first and the second day are available online.

© Soil Association
This year we are celebrating 10 years of IFOAM EU’s presence in Brussels with major achievements for organic food and farming in Europe. IFOAM EU’s lobbying work improves and sustains the framework organic stakeholders need to operate successfully in Europe.

The political and legal framework for organic farming in the EU is set by the European Institutions, and the uniting power of IFOAM EU gives the European organic movement the possibility of bringing its needs to the political decision makers and enables the movement to achieve so much.

Help to make organic’s impact in Europe stronger – donate today

Everyone who donates this year will have their (organisation) name and amount published. Top donors first!

Contact us:
laura.ullmann [at] ifoam-eu.org
Tel: +32 2 808 79 91

Although IFOAM EU has been in existence since 1990, first as an internal working group and later as a regional group of IFOAM, the Brussels-based liaison and coordination-office was only established in 2003.

Over these 10 years, IFOAM EU Group has been ensuring organic presence at the heart of the EU, helping more than 160 member organisations to sound their unified voice at all levels of the European Institutions.
## 4 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<td>20–22 October</td>
<td>Natexpo 2013</td>
<td>Paris, France</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 October</td>
<td>Rolling out of the greening measures and recommendations for biodiversity-friendly Rural Development policy post 2013</td>
<td>Brussels, Belgium</td>
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<td>6–8 November</td>
<td>Making Europe More Organic IFOAM EU 10 year anniversary celebration</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 November</td>
<td>Rural Development: a critical opportunity for people and biodiversity</td>
<td>Turin, Italy</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 November</td>
<td>Farmer Sector Group meeting (IFOAM EU members only)</td>
<td>Brussels, Belgium</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 November</td>
<td>First European Rural Parliament</td>
<td>Brussels, Belgium</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 November</td>
<td>IFOAM EU Seed Event</td>
<td>Brussels, Belgium</td>
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<tr>
<td>29 November – 1 December</td>
<td>Terra Sana – National Fair of Organic Agriculture</td>
<td>Porto, Portugal</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 December</td>
<td>Core Organic Brokerage Event</td>
<td>Brussels, Belgium</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 December</td>
<td>Setting the new Strategic Research Agenda for Organics and Agroecology</td>
<td>Brussels, Belgium</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This newsletter exists to inform IFOAM EU 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.


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Please send any comments or contributions to the newsletter to communication[@]IFOAM-EU.ORG. For further information contact your national board member or the office in Brussels.

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