

Action Plans for Organic Food and Farming

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About IFOAM EU



IFOAM EU

Operations and organisation

160 members in all 28 EU member states, EFTA and EU candidate countries:

- Organic farming associations
- Organic food processors, retailers, traders
- Organic food and farming advisors and researchers
- Organic certifiers

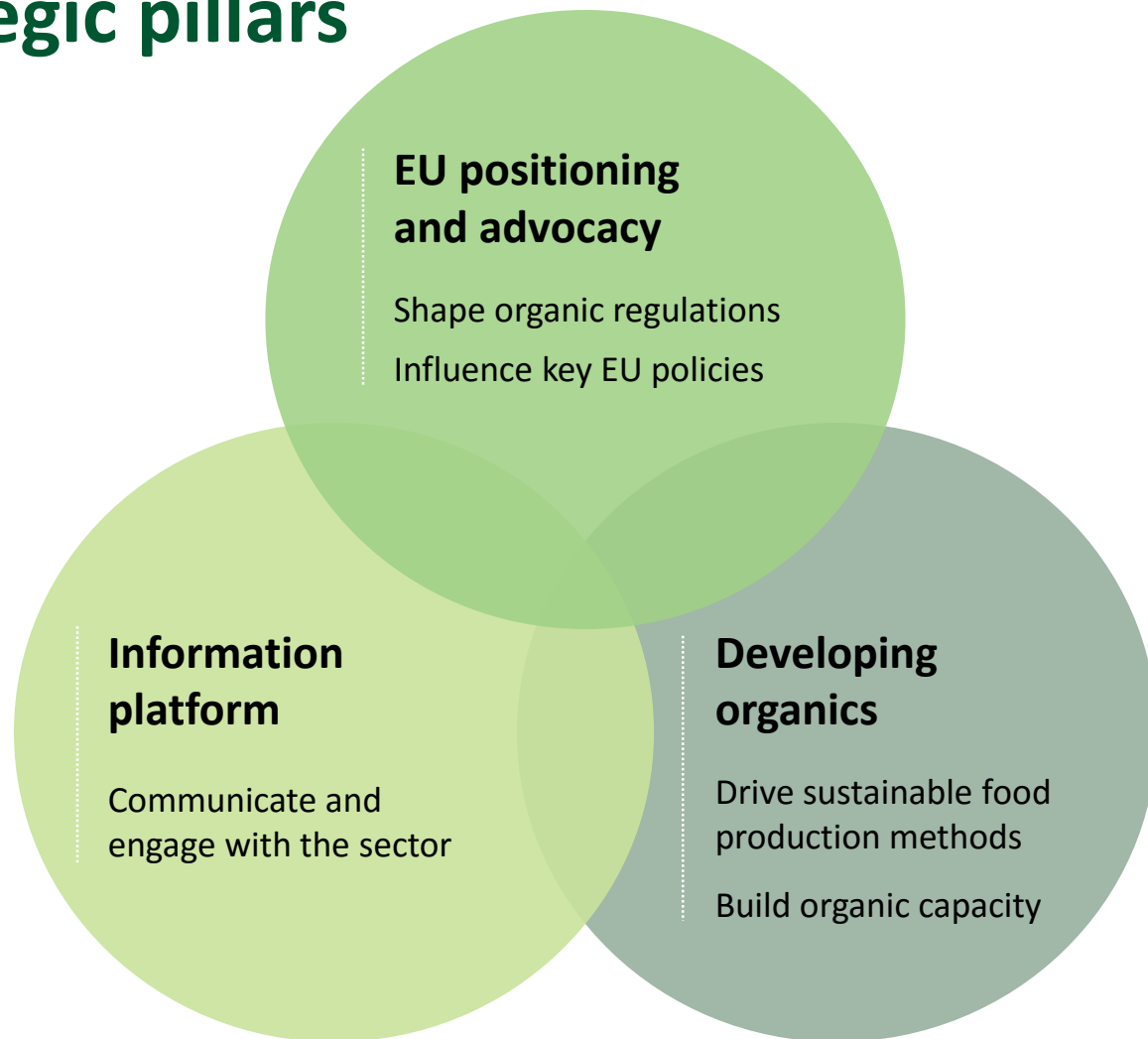
Based on the IFOAM principles of organic agriculture

- Health, Ecology, Fairness & Care.



IFOAM EU

Strategic pillars



EU policy

Relevant for organic food & farming?

Research & innovation

Horizon 2020
European Innovation
Partnerships

GMOs

Coexistence
Seed threshold
GMO approval

Organic regulations

EU regulation review
Greenhouse, poultry, feed &
processing implementing rules
Organic Regulation 834/07

CAP & rural development

Animal welfare & health

EU labels

Organic label
Eco-label
Quality schemes and
promotion programmes

Environmental policies

7th Environmental action plan
Soil Directive
Water Blueprint
Biodiversity EU 2020 Strategy
Sustainable Consumption

Climate change

The new cross-cutting issue

Food safety

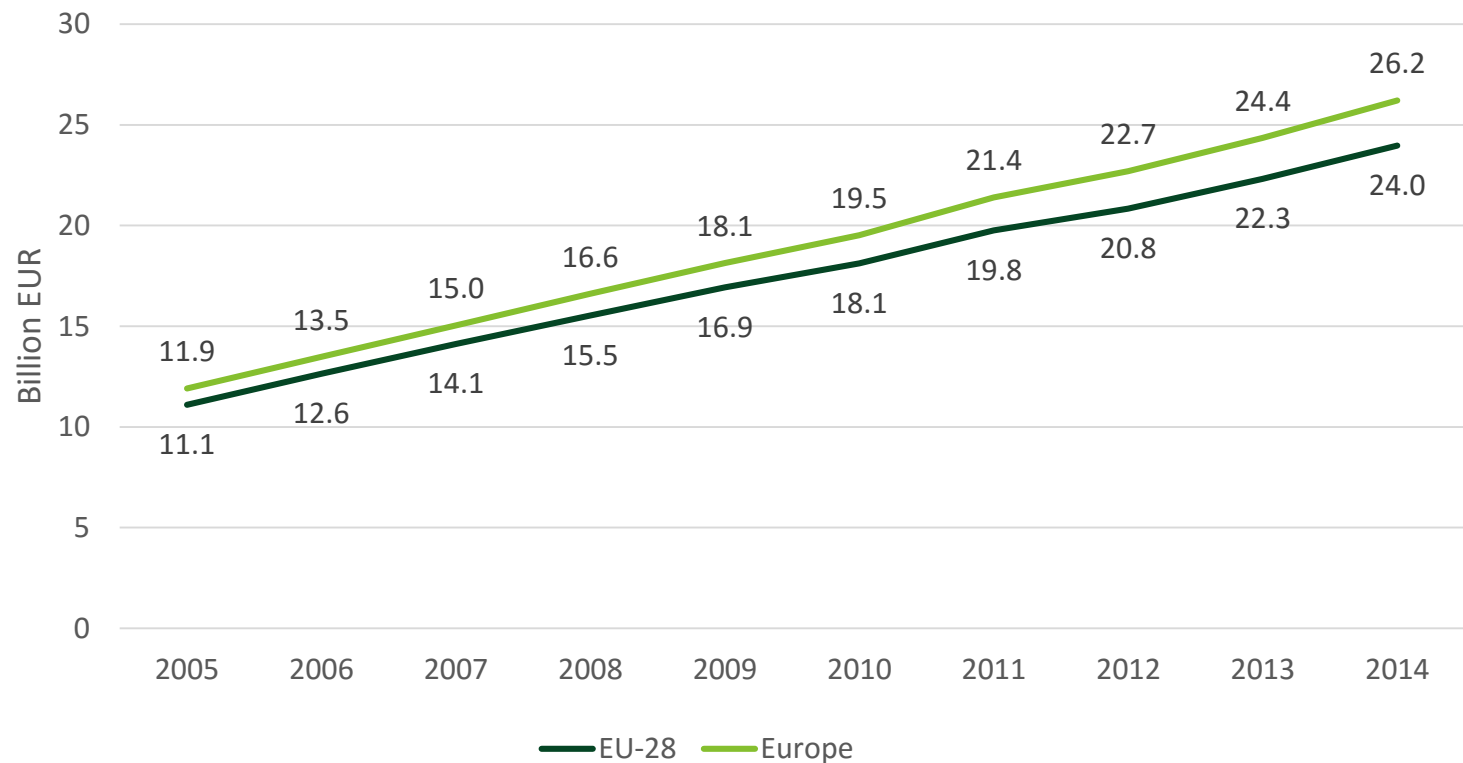
Hygiene Legislation
Food/Feed control
Pesticide registration

Promotion policy

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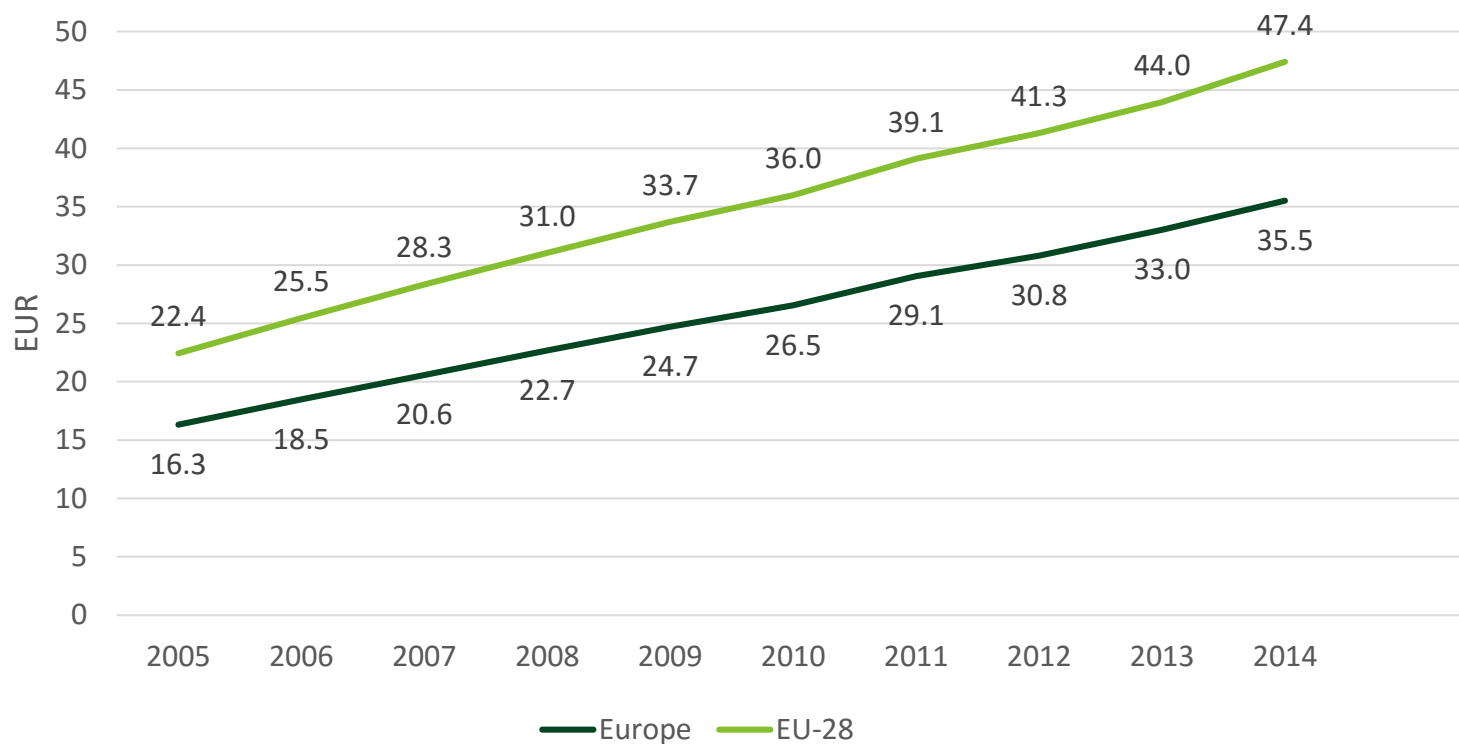
European Production and Market Trends

Growth of organic retail sales in Europe, 2005-2014



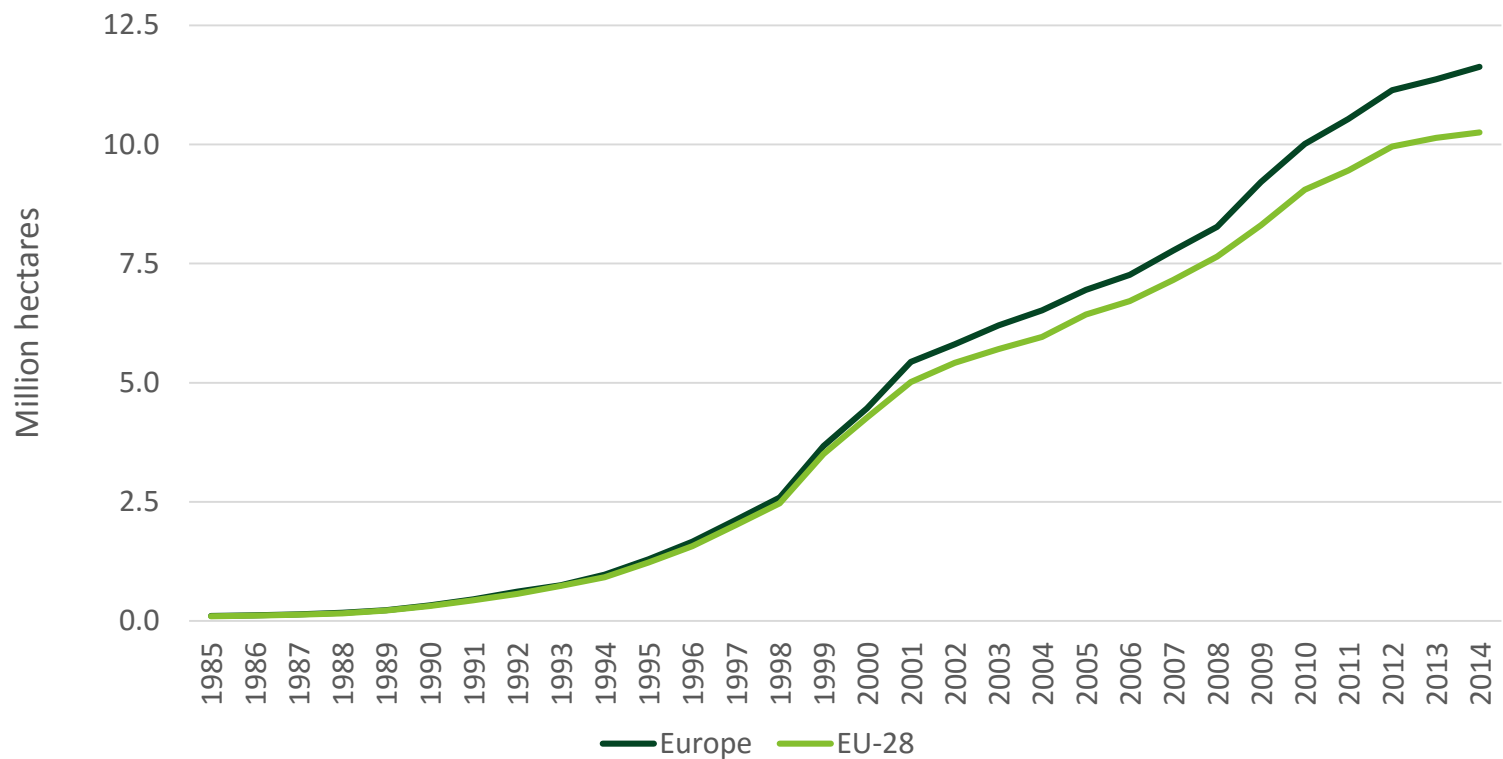
Source: FiBL-AMI surveys 2006-2016 and OrganicDataNetwork surveys 2013-2015

Growth of per capita consumption in Europe, 2005-2014



Source: FiBL-AMI surveys 2006-2016 and OrganicDataNetwork surveys 2013-2015

Growth of organic farmland in Europe, 2005-2014



Source: Lampkin, Nic, FiBL-AMI surveys 2006-2016 and OrganicDataNetwork surveys 2013-2015

The organic supply and demand paradox

- Market for organic products is still growing dynamically at EU level and increased in 2014 by 7.4%.
- Organic production has slowed down to average growth rate of 1.1% per annum in 2014.

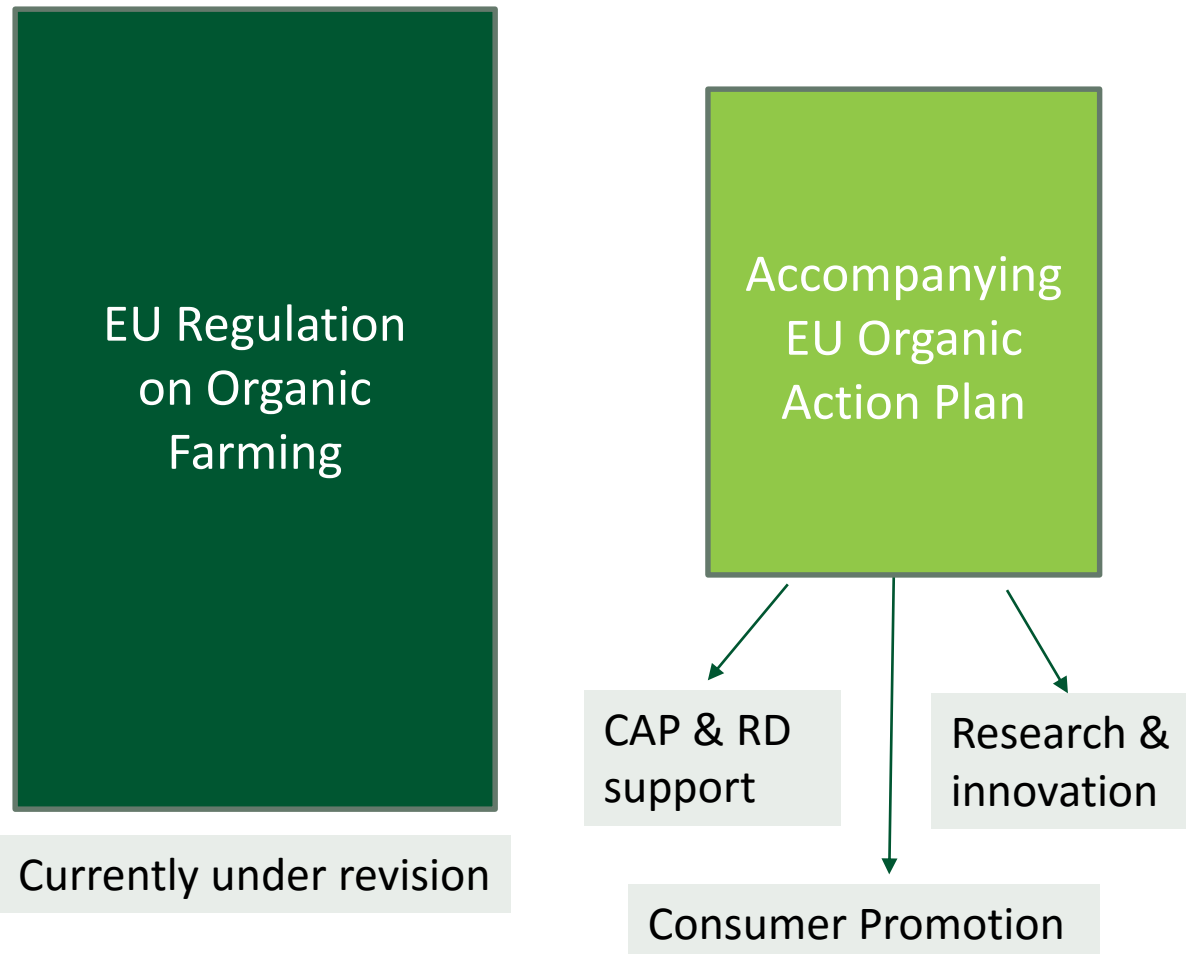


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Organic Action Plans



EU Policy Framework for Organics



EU Organic Action Plan (2014)

Commission recommends Member States to use

European Agricultural Fund for
Rural Development (EAFRD)
€99 bn

European Maritime & Fisheries Fund
(EMFF)
€5.7 bn



State of OAPs at the beginning of 2016 (Responses 31 countries)

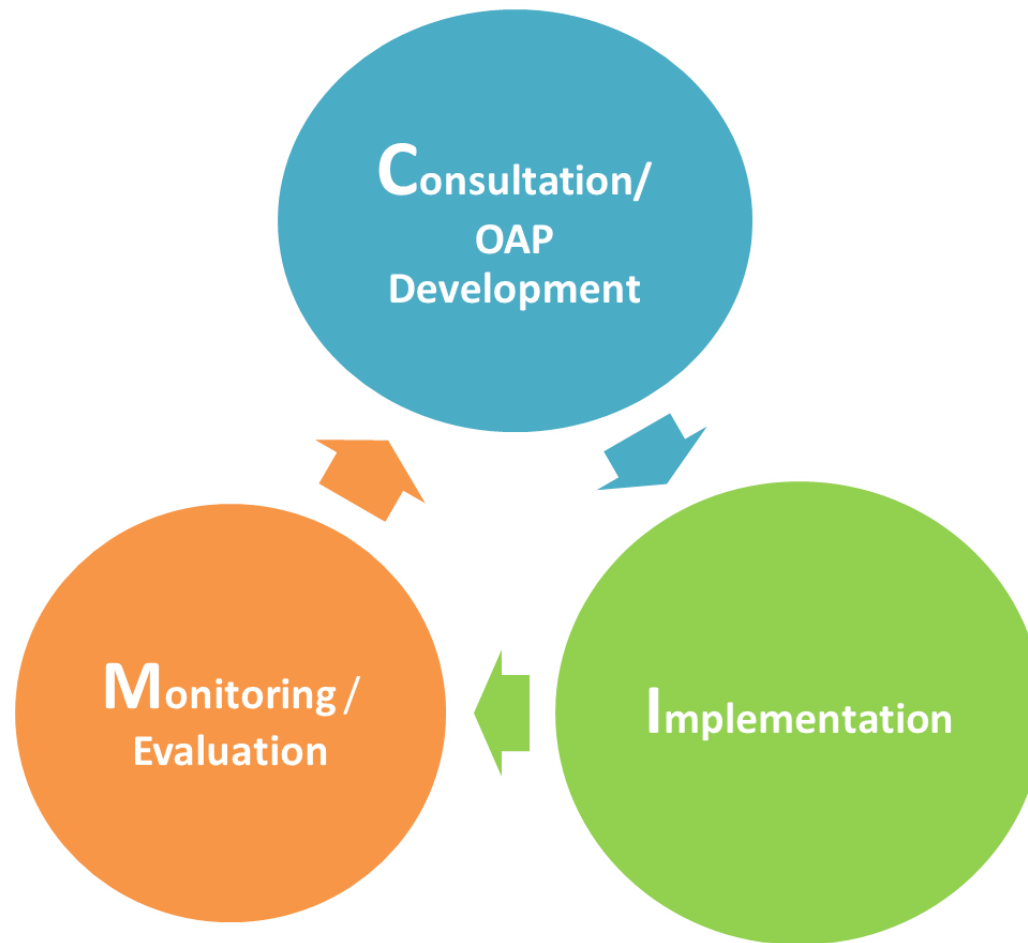
Type of Initiative	Country
National organic action plan (or similar integrated support programme)	Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland , France, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, Poland, Slovenia
Regional organic action plans (in some parts)	Belgium (Wallonia and Flanders); Germany (Bavaria); Spain (Valencia, Castile and León, Basque Country and the Canary Islands); Switzerland (Fribourg and Jura) United Kingdom (Scotland)
No current national organic action plan	Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom



Six case studies

Country/region	CZ*	DK	FR	DE*	ES-AND*	UK-SCO* **
Organic share of national farmland, 2014	11.1%	6.3%	4.1%	6.3%	6.9% (ES)	3.3% (UK)
Organic share of national food market, 2014	0.7%	7.6%	2.5%	4.4%	1% (ES)	1.2% (UK)
Consumption food (per capita), 2014	€7.3	€162	€73.4	€96.6	€ 21.7	€33 (UK)
Start of OAP development	2010	2013	2013	2015	2007	2015
implementation period	2011 - 15	2015-18	2013-17	2016 -20	2007-13	2016-20
Approach (top-down, bottom-up, mixed government & stakeholders)	Top-down	Top-down (later mixed)	Mixed	Top - down	Mixed	Mixed

Three critical stages of the Organic Action Plan Process





Consultation and plan development

- 1 -1.5 years before implementation starts
- Often strong stakeholder involvement at the start, but continuity not necessarily ensured.
- Should involve some status quo analysis

In Germany, there is a broad participatory process for the new Programme that is due to be implemented from 2017 with seven key action fields.



Case studies priority objectives

Objectives of OAPs	High priority	Low to medium priority
To promote organic production/supply	CZ, DE, DK, FR, ES-AND, UK-SCO	
To promote domestic demand	CZ, DK, FR, ES-AND, UK-SCO	
To promote export of organic products	DK, FR, UK-SCO	CZ
To promote organics across many public institutions	DE, DK, ES-AND, UK-SCO	CZ
To support the organic business sector	CZ, DK, FR, ES-AND, UK-SCO	DE
To speed up the transition to organic production	DE, DK, FR, UK-SCO	CZ
To reduce challenges in production and develop resilience	DK, FR, UK-SCO	CZ
To establish a stable, long-term, prosperous and competitive market for organic products in harmony with organic farming principles	DK, FR	ES-AND UK-SCO
To educate and train the actors across the whole chain	FR, ES-AND, UK-SCO	CZ



Quantitative targets

- Many plans only have qualitative targets/objectives
- Some have very ambitious (unrealistic) targets
- Other have dropped specific quantitative targets (e.g. DK) or extended the deadlines (e.g. CZ)
- The Estonian plan includes many targets that can be monitored
 - 50% increase in the proportion of organic farming production compared to total production of Estonian agriculture since 2014
 - 65% increase in the Net Value Added (€) per labour unit in organic farming compared to 2013).
 - 20% increase in the proportion of frequent (weekly) organic food consumers,
 - 220 enterprises engaged in organic food preparation and processing
 - tripling of the value of the products processed in organic processing units compared to 2013.





Implementation

- Lasts from one up to eight years
- Influenced by changes in Government with some notable exceptions (e.g. Czech Republic, Denmark)
- Does not necessarily related to CAP cycles
- Most OAP refer to CAP payments

Specific budgets for the Action Plan only in Denmark and France.





Monitoring/ Evaluation

- Is important to learn what works, continuously and when a plan period finishes
- Not well developed in most current plans
- Very few examples of formal evaluations

Three successive OAPs in the Czech Republic, each based on analysis of the former plan using SWOTS.

In the German strategy process, the sequence "analysis, concept development and implementation" is performed separately for each of the 7 Action Fields



What do Organic Action Plans include?

- OAPs set out a number of actions to support the development and growth capacities of the organic sector in a specific country or region.
- Most OAPs have focus areas and support measures which cover a number of themes to assist the development needs of the sector including
 - *Information and awareness raising*
 - *Training and education*
 - *Research, innovation and development*
 - *Producer support*
 - *Market development*
 - *Measures related to inspection, certification and regulations*



How are Organic Action Plans applied in practice?

1. Information and awareness raising

France

- Multi-partner information programmes and actions to increase amongst schoolchildren, parents, teachers (e.g. school gardening, visits to organic farms and tastings)

Scotland

- Initiatives to raise awareness of the economic, environmental and social value of Scottish organic produce for different stakeholders e.g. consumers, procurement and catering teams, businesses, public and private bodies

2. Training & education

France

- Better integration of specific features of organic farming in agricultural vocational education
- Diverse range of organic farming training offerings in advanced and/or specialist courses
- More higher-profile continuous education options for organic farmers and food supply chain actors

Germany

- Examining improvements to the advice system for farmers interested in conversion (including role of federal government and regions)

How are Organic Action Plans applied in practice?

3. Research & innovation

France

- More funds for agro-ecological research
- Developing synergies and mutual complementarity between activities specific to organic farming and those of other types of production
- More effective dissemination and wider sharing of research results

Scotland

- Identifying and addressing the key technical and practical challenges of organic production and distribution
- Collecting and distributing biodiversity data on Scottish organic farms

4. Producer support

France

- Creation of an aid system that is more stable, easier to understand and that offers more incentives over the whole programme period with the goal of ensuring farm viability
- supporting organic conversion and maintenance
- increasing the priority allocation of funds for investment in agro-ecological projects and the development of organic farming in geographical areas with water-related issues.

Denmark

Special support payments for organic land and fruit production to reduce nitrogen levels

How are Organic Action Plans applied in practice?

5. Market development

Denmark

- promote organics in local municipalities and schools through government subsidies for schools for organic fruit and vegetables and for educational activities and materials for schools.
- support public catering to go organic (with financial support and advice for public institutions)
- increase the share of organic food in public procurement in 2015-2016

Scotland

- activities are aimed at market development, (improving the collection and distribution of market intelligence on Scottish organic food and drink throughout the supply chain)
- Conduct feasibility studies for a Scottish organic brand and for a more cooperative marketing strategy for Scottish organic products

6. Inspection, certification and regulations

Czech Republic

Focus on improving inspection in the area of animal welfare through the development of the methods and training for organic farming inspectors

France

- argue for the consideration of specific features of organic farming in general regulations (e.g. plant protection products, seeds, fertilising materials and livestock breeds)
- improvements to specific organic farming regulations (both at EU and national level)

Four general recommendations

Effective Organic Action Plans should:

- identify and address the specific needs of the organic sector in the country or region;
- have a specific budget and sufficient human resources for consultation, implementation and communication;
- use a broad set of instruments that tackle the organic sector's supply and demand needs;
- integrate regular monitoring and evaluation.



Recommendation for organic stakeholders

An Organic Action Plan is a strategic instrument for achieving organic sector goals in the context of wider policy goals

- *For policymakers, a key consideration for supporting the organic sector through an Action Plan will be the contribution of the organic sector to meeting overarching policy goals.*
- *This includes biodiversity, soil protection and climate change strategies, health and well-being, clean water, a reduction in antibiotic use, green growth and job creation.*



2nd recommendation for organic stakeholders

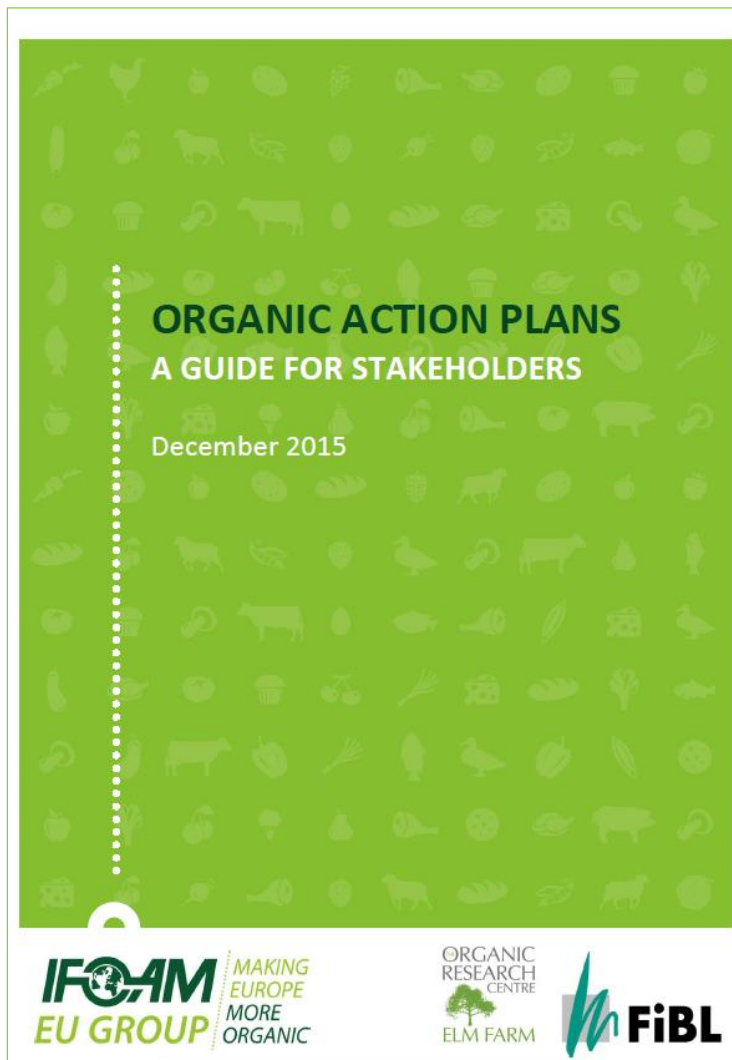
Aim for broad stakeholder participation to support Organic Action Plan development and implementation

- *All actors in the organic supply chains and the sector should aim to work together to reach a common position on the political process at an early stage*
- *Environmental NGOs can be good allies*
- *Involving actors from the conventional agri-food sector is likely to lead to wider political acceptance*
- *Synergies through public-private partnerships can help achieving more with less funding*
- *Examples (CZ, DK) show that continuity can be achieved despite change in government*



Thank you for your attention!

Stakeholder Guide available online!



IFOAM EU website:
<http://tinyurl.com/jywl3l2>

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