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Enhancing SME competitiveness and sustainability in the organic sector



SME ORGANICS
Interreg Europe



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The experience in Puglia has just ended. Thanks to Apulia Region and Ciheam - Bari for the organization of

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3rd SME ORGANICS Field Visit to Apulia

The third inter-regional visit of SME Organics was held from 6th to 8th of February and focused on territorial development, local demand, training, traceability/certification and innovation in the organic industry. It was aimed to promote the successful experiences and the policies and programs supporting the organic sector in Puglia. It involved 50 participants among stakeholders and representatives of the 11 project partners from 7 European Countries (Belgium, Finland, France, Italy,

Poland, Romania, and Spain) and Switzerland. During the 3-day programme including workshops, field visits and meetings, producers, distributors of the Apulian organic chain and representatives of associations, active stakeholders of the project, presented their experiences and good practice examples.

[Click here for further information](#)



2nd SME ORGANICS Field Visit to Navarra

The Second Interregional Field Visit of SME Organics Project took place in Navarra (Spain) on 30th November - 1st December hosted by **Department of Rural Development, Environment and Local Administration of the Government of Navarra** and **Regional**

Development Agency of Navarra (SODENA), in collaboration with **INTIA**. The visit aimed at knowing real experiences of producers, distributors and associations working in organic production and included the participation of more than fifty project partners and stakeholders.

[Clik here for further information](#)



1st SME ORGANICS Field visit to Aargau (Switzerland)

The first interregional field visit of the SME ORGANICS project took place in Aargau (Switzerland) on 8-9 September. It was hosted by **FiBL**

(Research Institute of Organic Agriculture), one of the world's leading research and information centres for organic agriculture, which works together with farmers to develop innovative and cost-effective solutions to boost agricultural productivity while never losing sight of environmental, health and socio-economic impacts. Within SME ORGANICS FiBL is in charge of developing the diagnosis and the Organic Action Plan for the Canton of Aargau.

[Click here for further information](#)



Regions invest n organic for sustainable development

Organic food and farming have grown beyond a niche, but there are

discrepancies across Europe in terms of its overall development. So that more regions can benefit, the **Interreg Europe programme** has awarded funding to SME ORGANICS, a new European Cooperation project. Within the project the 8 participating regions will work and share experiences on specific measures to support the competitiveness of SMEs of the **organic sector** by developing regional organic action plans.

[Clik here for further information](#)

Last Events

Biofach



The organic trade mets at the organic exhibition in Nuremberg from 15 - 18 February 2017.

Further information by [**clicking the link**](#).

Workshop: Using action plans to develop organics in Europe

Presenter



Stephen Meredith
Deputy Policy Manager /
IFOAM EU Group



Speakers



Andrea Hrabalová
External consultant for
Organic Food and
Farming / Bioinstitut



Otto Schmid
/ FIBL - Forschungsinstitut
für biologischen Landbau



Jérôme Cinef
/ INTERBIO Nouvelle-
Aquitaine

With a strong demand for organic products, there are great opportunities for stakeholders to work with policymakers to grow a more sustainable agri-food sector. The workshop discussed how organic action plans can provide a framework for devising strategies, targets and funding mechanisms and help regional and national organic sectors develop.

Biofach Congress

Date: 16.02.2017

Time: 3:00 PM - 3:45 PM

Location: Room Budapest, NCC Ost

Next Events

5th Field Visit Lombardy



The visit is scheduled to 19th-21th of April.

Updated information [**clicking the link**](#).

5th Field Visit Southern Ostrobothnia



The visit is scheduled to 7th-9th of June.

Updated information [**clicking the link**](#).

Project summary

The organic market in the European Union has developed significantly in recent years, the total value being approximately 19.7 billion euro with a 9% growth rate in 2011. As organic production grows in Europe, the sector's focus is on competitiveness and sustainability. While EU public policies have played an important part in the development of the EU organic sector, regional authorities have huge potential to prioritise support for organic approaches, such as market development. In this respect, the EC proposal for an Action Plan for Organic Food and Farming encourages regions to find the most adequate policy and funding mix to support the development of the regional organic sectors.

The overall objective of SME-ORGANICS is to improve policies and programmes under the Investment for Growth and Jobs goal in order to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of SMEs in the organic sector of 7 EU regions plus Aargau Canton (Switzerland). The project aims at supporting SMEs in improving their performance in order to enforce the growth capacity of the entire organic regional sector in regional, national and international markets. The interregional learning process will take place around four areas: i) production and processing; ii) commercialization and marketing; iii) training and advice; iv) organic value chain efficiency and governance.

The main outputs of the project will be: Method Guide, Diagnosis reports of the regional organic sectors, Good Practice Guide, Policy Road Map, Regional Policy Briefs and Regional Action Plans with recommendations for integration into RIS3. Stakeholders benefiting from the project will be all actors in the organic value chains at the regional, national and EU level: cooperatives, agri-food industries, retailers and distributors of organic products, advisory services,

chambers of commerce and agriculture, experts on regulatory issues of the organic sector, policy makers, EU's DGs and other initiatives in the organic sector.

Partners



Further information in our web:

<http://www.interregeurope.eu/smeorganics/>

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