

## ORGAP NEWSLETTER

Sixth Issue - July 2008

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The ORGAP research project was an EU funded policy support project under the 6<sup>th</sup> Research Framework Programme of the European Union with the goal to give scientific support for the implementation of the European Organic Action Plan, launched in June 2004 by the European Commission. The ORGAP project started in May 2005 and was finalised on 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2008.

As for the project the most relevant activity in the period from middle March to end of April 2008, was the final report containing new findings and recommendations for the European Commission on the EU Organic Action Plan, the final version of the Organic Action Plan Evaluation Toolbox (ORGAPET) and the ORGAP Manual as an instrument to easily understand the need to evaluate organic action plans.

The 6<sup>th</sup> issue of the OrGAP Newsletter is the last one, which informs about the project achievements, the final recommendations and an update of the state of national and EU Organic Actions Plan.

The authors of the newsletter thank all the readers for following up our activities and invite all readers to check our project webpage ([www.orgap.org](http://www.orgap.org)) to get the final information and reports from the project.

## II. ORGAP PROJECT OUTCOMES AND RESULTS

### Structure of the final synthesis report of the ORGAP Project

The synthesis of the final ORGAP Project with policy recommendations, can be downloaded from the project webpage: <http://www.orgap.org/publications.html>

The report has the following chapters:

1. Introduction
2. A brief history of Organic Action Plans in Europe
3. Organic Action Plans: what we know and what we don't know
  - What makes a successful action plan?
  - Stakeholder involvement
  - Coherence & consistency of action plans: The EU OAP example
- How to evaluate & monitor the implementation of OAP: the ORGAPET approach
4. Results & discussion (conclusions: what we have learned from ORGAP)
5. Policy recommendations

The aim of this synthesis report (Deliverable 14) is not only to summarise the project results but to put them in a wider context. Therefore the report does not strictly follow the structure of the different workpackages but focuses more on the lessons learnt from the project. Chapter 1 describes the background and the objectives, structure and the outcome of the ORGAP Project. In chapter 2 a brief history about organic action plan development is given, in particular about the European as well as national organic action plan for organic food and farming. In chapter 3 the authors write about organic action plans – what we know and do not know. This includes success factors, stakeholder involvement, coherence and consistency issues and the how to evaluate organic action plans with ORGAPET. In chapter 4 the Golden Rules for organic action plans. The final chapter 5 consolidates the recommendations of the whole project arising from the various different work packages in one place. The editors hope that this final project

synthesis report helps to initiate a process of evaluation and progressive development of Organic Action Plans at the European, national and regional level.

### Some preliminary recommendations where to go next with the EU OAP

A table containing the main comments from the ORGAP Project Advisory Committee and the WP leaders' from the last project meeting in Brussels 10&11/01/08, is presented in table 1.

**Table 1:- EU Organic Action Plan – follow up measures?**

Action points	Where to go next – follow up measures?
1 Promotion	The effects of the campaign should be studied carefully. If the EU wants to achieve something (make a real impact), a second campaign based on the evaluation and sufficient funding should be launched
2 Standards database	It should be used as a tool for harmonisation! The database seems quite useful and it is important that the Commission ensures its maintenance as the "Organic Revision Project" has ended.
3 Market data	The data collection should be enlarged taking giving more attention to processed products and trade. It is important that EUROSTAT follow their plans and integrate a more detailed chapter on organic farming.
4 Fruit & vegetables support	No further action needed
5 Website for support	The European Commission should do this
6 Rural development	Follow up necessary.
7 Research	Stronger inclusion of research for organic food and farming in the 7 <sup>th</sup> EU Framework Programme, related to the whole food chain and the impact of organic foods on healthy diet
8 Define principles	Task Force for further development and adoption of principles
9 Ensure integrity	Make the operators more responsible – liability. Improving control procedures based on modern electronic tools. Force the countries to a more efficient cooperation.
10 Harmonise standards	Development of instruments to discover disharmonised implementation Regular observation of implementation practice related to (dis)harmonisation. EU-wide information system on interpretation and implementation practice.
11 Expert panel	Transparency in the composition, working tasks and responsibility of the Expert panels.
13 Risk-based inspections	Public reports and implementation of instrument. An evaluation of the results should be planed and carried out.
14 Analytical	Cooperation and linkage with competent authorities and private institutes

Action points	Where to go next – follow up measures?
methods	having a deep knowledge in analytical manners should be enforced. Focus should be on cross-inspection as this is a very effective instrument (but also difficult for the inspection body and therefore not used very much)
16 Better co-ordination	The coordination of the competent authorities has to be improved. The interface between control bodies, competent authorities and organic operators needs to be re designed in order to enable an efficient and proper communication.
19 Third country equivalency	A tool for the equivalency assessment should be developed. Establishing the new regulation; studying the results of the introduction of the new regulation.
20 Global harmonisation and trade	More emphasis should be put on the further development of Codex Alimentarius Guidelines

Source: ORGAP Advisory Committee Brussels, 2008

Other actions: 12 (GMO's protection); 15 (Parcel identification); 17 (Accreditation system); 18 (Supervision reports) and 21 (Recognition of EU standards), did not receive any suggestions. Other policies areas not covered by the EU OAP were mentioned to be included in the EU Organic Action Plan: Quality and healthy diet and food chain orientation.

### **LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE ORGAP PROJECT – Evaluation criteria and procedures for Action Plans of Organic Food and Farming.** Schmid O.<sup>1</sup>, Lampkin, N.<sup>2</sup>, Jeffreys, I.<sup>2</sup>, Dabbert, St.<sup>3</sup>, Eichert, Ch.<sup>3</sup>, Michelsen, J.<sup>4</sup>, Zanolì, R. and Vairo, D.<sup>5</sup>, González, V.<sup>6</sup>

Within the EU funded project ORGAP ([www.orgap.org](http://www.orgap.org)), a toolbox was developed for the evaluation of the European as well as national action plans for organic food and farming. Also recommendations and a resource manual for policy makers and stakeholders were elaborated. These were based on the analysis of national organic action plans as well as stakeholder and expert consultations. The analysis showed that several EU member states have emphasised the need to balance the supply-push policies with more market-focused demand-pull policies. An integrated approach is required and this has been more or less achieved through the formulation of multi-functional Organic Action Plans, which also meet the dual role of organic farming to provide public good and satisfy consumer demand. Eight Organic Action Plans reviewed in the ORGAP project, vary with regard to the elaboration process, targets, objectives and the emphasis of measures on certain areas (e.g. market versus environment orientation). This is due to quite different political and socio-economic framework conditions for organic farming in these countries. It revealed that the weaknesses identified in the status quo analysis of the organic sector have only partly been translated to the targets and measures included in the action plan documents. Definition of the priorities for development of organic agriculture

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must be agreed by all relevant stakeholders. The priorities, and hence the programmes, will depend on correct analysis of the issues (and conflicts) that need to be addressed and clear objectives with measurable outcomes (for effective evaluation).

More info. See. [www.orgap.org](http://www.orgap.org)

## **A resource manual for the development, implementation and evaluation of Organic Action Plans**

In 2004, the European Action Plan for Organic Food and Farming was launched. Many European countries have also developed their own national Organic Action Plans to promote and support organic agriculture.

As part of the EU funded ORGAP project (*“European Action Plan of Organic Food and Farming - Development of criteria and procedures for the evaluation of the EU Action Plan for Organic Agriculture”*) a toolbox to evaluate and monitor the implementation of national and European Action Plans has been developed.

In order to communicate the results of this project as widely as possible, a practical manual for initiating and evaluating Organic Action Plans has been produced.

This manual has been created to inspire the people, organisations and institutions involved, or with an interest, in the organic food and farming sector to engage in the initiation, review, revision and renewal of regional, national and European Organic Action Plans.

The objectives of the manual are to provide:

- a tool for stakeholder involvement in future Action Plan development and implementation processes at EU, national and regional level
- a guide to the use of the Organic Action Plan Evaluation Toolbox (ORGAPET) developed through the project

The manual summarises the key lessons learnt from more than 10 years experience of development, implementation and evaluation of Organic Action Plans throughout Europe.

The Organic Action Plan Evaluation Toolbox (ORGAPET), which includes comprehensive information to support the Organic Action Plan development and evaluation process is included with the manual as a CD-ROM, and is also accessible on-line at [www.orgap.org/orgapet](http://www.orgap.org/orgapet).

### **Table 2. Organic Action Plans: Development, implementation and evaluation Index of the ORGAP Manual**

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## The Golden rules for Organic Action Plan (Manual)

1. EU rules of good governance require stakeholder participation and transparency. Thus, stakeholders such as decision-makers, policy-makers, related administrations, programme managers, and stakeholders from organic sector and neighbouring sectors, as well as potential beneficiaries should participate in the Action Plan development process as early as possible and preferably from the very beginning. The development of the Action Plan will benefit from a participatory approach to stakeholder integration, as this approach will integrate the varying values and perspectives on the subject from the very outset and will help ensure high degree of acceptance of the outcome of the process. As stakeholder processes bear the risk of putting the brake on policy development, efficient procedures of stakeholder integration must be used. The ideal stakeholder is legitimated by a powerful group of actors, can make substantial contributions to the issue, is interested and has the required resources at his/her disposal (time, money, information).
2. Good communication is essential to the acceptance and the success of the Action Plan, thus an effective strategy and sufficient resources for its implementation, covering the entire period of the Action Plan development, must be allocated. Communication helps legitimise the Action Plan and allows for the exchange of information and support.
3. An Organic Action Plan is a means to an end and not an end in itself. Thus Action Plans serve as a strategic instrument to achieve the policy goals of a national or regional government. The views on the desired policy goals to be achieved and organic farming's potential to contribute to these policy goals might differ between government and organic sector stakeholders. The Action Plan therefore needs to make explicit the strategic view of the role organic farming should play in the general context of agricultural policy.
4. In order to ensure a targeted and tailored policy design, the objectives underlying an Action Plan need to be precisely formulated at the outset. Operational objectives are specific, measurable, accepted, realistic and time-dependent. As Organic Action Plans tend to be an instrument addressing a multitude of objectives, it is essential to prioritise the objectives and to find compromises between divergent and sometimes conflicting interests of the various stakeholders. Vague objectives may be supported by all influential stakeholders, however precisely formulated objectives allow for better monitoring and evaluation of the Action Plan.

5. Prior to any formulation of Action Plan steps and measures, the potential as well as the obstacles of the organic sector must be identified during a status-quo analysis against the background of the Action Plan objectives. Using structured approaches like the SWOT Analysis allows for responding directly to the identified weaknesses and strengths.
6. Parallel to the status-quo analysis, policy areas related to the Action Plan and their impact to organic agriculture must be reviewed. This review helps identify potentially conflicting or supportive policy areas.
7. The steps, action points or measures of an Action Plan directly respond to the results of the of the organic sector status-quo analysis, taking account of the prioritisation of the objectives. Steps, action points and measures are targeted and tailored to the respective problems in a way that is effective, efficient and feasible.
8. A good implementation plan will help in the successful delivery of the action points. The plan must take account of the different administrative levels involved and the competence at each level necessary for implementation. The action points must be matched with sufficient financial and personnel resources.
9. A successful Action Plan will involve a range of relevant government departments and ministries as well as Agriculture and Food, including for example: Health, Education, Sustainable Development, Environment and Research.
10. The main focus areas of Action Plans and other policies for organic food and farming should consist of a balanced mix of 'supply-push' and 'demand-pull' policy measures through integration of market and public support mechanisms. Such a broad approach also implies a focus on specific issues that need to be addressed with tailored measures, at national or regional level.
11. Countries with a short tradition in Action Plan development and countries with emerging organic sectors should consider following questions:
  - a. Does the personnel and financial resources of NGOs allow for active participation?
  - b. Are relevant stakeholders experienced in stakeholder processes?
  - c. What is the level of knowledge of governmental and non-governmental stakeholders about Action Plans as well as about organic food and farming?
  - d. Are training and seminars required to provide stakeholders with the basic knowledge required for Action Plan development?
12. Monitoring and evaluation procedures are to be included from the outset. A central part of an Action Plan is the definition of indicators for evaluation and the establishment of appropriate systems for capturing relevant data for evaluation.
13. Action Plan evaluation is a vital part of the policy cycle and a tool for further development of the plan. Evaluation procedures should therefore be an integral part of the Action Plan.
14. Successful evaluation will have a clearly defined purpose and the scope and must be planned from the outset in accordance with the state of organic sector state development. The type of evaluation required, and a definition of how and by whom the results are to used is necessary. Evaluation procedures should aim to meet appropriate international standards.

### **Report on preliminary analysis of the EU Organic Action plan (Deliverable 11).**

The aim of this report is to provide a first evaluation of the EU Organic Action Plan (OAP) and the Organic action plan evaluation toolbox (ORGAPET). This was be done in two steps:

1. the first step does provide a policy analysis of the EU Organic Action Plan in order to identify the potential risks and problems associated to its implementation, and assess the quality of the main indicators from the ORGAP evaluation toolbox;
2. the second step does develop strategies aimed at resolving the potential conflicts and exploiting the synergies in order to facilitate implementation of the EU OAP at national level.



These two aims were reflected in the methodological and results structure of this report. The first aim dealt with the identification of potential implementation problems, while the second one is addressed to analyse the EU Action Plan implementation.

Furthermore the report contains a qualitative assessment of the system of indicators proposed with the Organic Action Plan Evaluation Toolbox (ORGAPET).

The report can be downloaded from the ORGAP Website (Deliverable 11): <http://www.orgap.org/publications.html>

## **ORGAP Forum: Synthesis of the relevant results**

ORGAP Forum has stimulated electronic debates on the most relevant topics related to EU Action Plan for Organic Food and Farming (EU-OAP). Unfortunately the contributions and number of participants were lower than expected. This was due to the strong involvement of the organic stakeholders in the debate of a New EU Regulation, which was a part of the EU-OAP, but had a different entry point. In order to strengthen the input to the project, the Forum topics were also put on the agenda of the IFOAM EU Group meetings and in several meetings of the Organic Farming Advisory Committee to the European Commission. Most relevant questions/comments are presented in this report.

### **Question 1. Should stakeholders take the role of experts in policy processes?**

- **Stakeholders must take the role of experts in the policy making processes on organic food and farming.** Expert committees play an important role in the making of food policy in the EU and in Member states. Organic food and farming is a controversial issue in agricultural policy and among agricultural scientists. This is because organic food and farming is based on values that differ from those of mainstream agriculture, food production and consumption. Therefore, there are only few neutral experts in advising committees for the launching of OAP who promote (the values of) organic food and farming. Therefore persons and organizations that agree represent the organic values must be included in any group advising on policies promoting organics. These persons and organizations ought to be found within the organic movements - the key stakeholder of organic food and farming.

### **Results**

- **Organic should become the new normal way of production.** In order to achieve this, the organic movement should embrace as many people as possible from the regular food production. By selecting only stakeholders who are against organic, two major production streams start existing beneath each other. Organic food should be normal food with special added value because it is protective of the environment.
- **We really need more than one type of food production** - for the sake of consumers and for the sake of agricultural development. However, when developing organic food and farming through OAP, not only organic stakeholders should take part in the process. On issues such as food distribution on the mass food market - involving supermarkets, international trade etc. - too little expertise is available in the organic sector. On this aspect organic policy makers need advice from expertise in the functioning of food production and distribution in general - and the potential of organic food to may increase its share in the food market. In addition to scientific market knowledge, successful marketing of organic food is based on finding commercial actors willing to market the products. Some of them do it for purely commercial reasons while others do it out of strong belief in the values of organic food and farming. Hence, if organic food is to prosper in the food market, representatives of both organic and conventional food and farming organizations and firms need to be involved in developing and realizing OAP.
- **Stakeholders involvement in OAP is mentioned in the majority of the National/Regional programs?** OAP in Europe, is a relevant tool that can be used to improve the regulations. Stakeholders involvement is also mentioned in the EU OAP in the revision of the EU Regulation. But if we at EU level, the task of organizing the stakeholders' participation well is difficult with allocated resources. task is very difficult to organise well this participation, with appropriated resources. As an example of this, last week the Commission has discussed and approved the General approach of the new EU Regulation on Organic Agriculture, including the 0,9 % threshold of GMO's in organic products in accidental cases, although a broader majority of organic stakeholders were against this part. The question here is which type of stakeholders opinions should be taken into account in organic regulations? The general stakeholders or the organic stakeholders? Organic farming is one specialized approach, however it is not the goal of policymakers to create an organic niche, but to make our environment as sustainable as possible. Therefore, there should be an exchange of values between regular and organic

stakeholders that allows learning from each other. This does not mean that the organic world should lower their own standards to meet with regular production schemes. Instead learning from each other can bring out the best in both worlds. Currently, the organic world is acting as if there is nothing to learn from regular food chains, which is not true. And even if it was, there is always the possibility to make the regular food producers more aware of their pollution, when they are involved as stakeholder and participating in actions. Of course, to not frustrate the process of policymaking, the participating stakeholders should be part of the regular food production and underline the philosophy of the organic food production, to prevent a devaluation of the organic regulations.

- **Conventional stakeholders should be included in discussions and sharing experiences** for the development of the OAP. The problem here is how we can get non organic stakeholders involved and contributing to the support of organic farming sector, which eventually could reduce conventional sector power and influence. An example of non organic stakeholders, participating in the development of organic farming, can be seen in Denmark. From the start big companies in Denmark, who were not specifically specialised in organic, cooperated in the development of an organic chain, particularly in milk production. The results are very clear: Denmark is the world leading country in organic market shares, with an overall market share of almost 7% in 2006. Milk production is performing outstanding with a market share of around 25%. Of course, the issues in other production chains still need to be resolved. However, this shows the added value, when non organic stakeholders participate in the process.
- According to previous research done by Michelsen et al. it appeared that if **organic agriculture organisations define conventional agriculture as their main opponent** and insist on criticising conventional agriculture - the conventional agriculture has the power and the ability to bring conversion to organic agriculture to a halt - see for instance the situation in France and England. However, if organic agriculture cooperates with conventional agriculture - as they do in Austria, Sweden and Finland (also Denmark and certain Italian regions) - then organic agriculture will prosper. And you cannot accuse any of the last mentioned countries to work for a watering down of the characteristics of organic agriculture. One way of dealing with the conflict between organic and conventional agriculture is to accept the market perspective which is the basis for the EU OAP - and begin to adapt organic agriculture to market demand. This does not imply weaker production standards, but it should imply an adaptation of products to mass market conditions. When conventional stakeholders are invited they usually only participate in those meetings where they feel they have some interest in the issue. Their interest in organic farming is not to make it easier to become organic but to make clear distinctions because they know a lot about how to cope with market forces.
- **General farmers' organisation have sometimes problems in establishing a common general position in some controversial aspects**, as in the case of establishing thresholds for GMO's in unavoidable contamination cases. On the other hand, as organic and conventional farmers are together in the same organisation, it is easier to share and sometimes to promote Organic Farming development to the point in which conventional farmers see interest.. This is evident in Spain as the majority of the organised organic farmers are members of general farmer's organisations and not pure organic farmer's organisation.
- It must be up to the stakeholders themselves to define **what is better for the development of organic farming**, and for European politicians to define what is most convenient for the EU agriculture and citizens. The main argument for including organic stakeholders in policy making is that the interaction of organic stakeholders and politicians is expected to result in political decisions more in line with the needs of organic agriculture than if general agriculture experts are involved. Almost by definition this will imply a better development for organic agriculture although not all stakeholders can expect to become fully satisfied. From a theoretical standpoint, it seems that organic agriculture movements - on the national as well as on the European level - will optimize their political influence if they develop strategies that include clear goals for their efforts (including the definitions of what a better development of organic farming means) and specific ways to reach the goals. The

strategies may range from strong positions on some issues to pragmatism on other issues - and include coalitions with various types of other stakeholders. The strategies should also deal with issues such as how to interact with general agriculture organisations and how to deal with organic farmers which are not members of organic agriculture organisations.

- It might be supportive for the development of strategies for European organic agriculture organisations, if international organic agriculture organizations such as IFOAM initiate a (on internet?) discussion or an exchange of experiences between various organic agriculture organizations at any level - the world, Europe or neighbouring countries. It seems important in such a process to accept that various actors understand organic agriculture in different ways. For instance, you cannot expect organic pioneers or other specific stakeholders to keep a monopoly or other type of specific influence over organic agriculture policy once it is accepted that the EU - and hence EU politicians and experts - regulate the sector. However, the current policy processes show that no one wishes to spoil the identity of organic agriculture

### **Question 2. Organic action plans "success" and financial support**

Some opinions say that the success of OAP is depending on how much the financial support is given by Governments. Other experts involved in OAP consider that only the opportunity to coordinate policies for organic farming and the Guidance given by the OAP is sufficient to develop organic food and farming. In the case of the EU OAP, limited funds were made available to support the 21 Actions. The OAP is more a set of recommendations and suggestions for the Member States, which are free to be applied in national territories. The evaluation of the "success" of an OAP could consider some indicators related to the funds invested (per organic food volume sold; aids given to farmers per €/ha, etc.). Currently, we only have information on support for organic farmers for conversion or some market figures, but less data on the impact of money invested in OAP Policy Frameworks. Promotion Campaigns have different impacts depending on the quantity of money invested per country.

#### **Results**

- No relevant contributions were given

### **Question 3. Was the EU Organic Action Plan a backdoor to get GMO's in Organic Produce?**

The European Council recently has approved the new EU Regulation 834/2007 on organic production, which will replace the current Reg. 2092/91 on January 2009. This new regulation is one of the main results of at least 8 Actions from the EU OAP. The new Regulation specifies a GMO threshold of 0,9 % for accidental contamination cases in organic as approved by the EU general legislation on GMO's, which defines the content of GMO contamination below which a product does not have to be labelled as containing GMO. This means that European consumers could find organic foods containing GMO's below 0,9 %, not labelled in the organic market on January 2009 on-wards. This was never included in any (private/public) organic regulation or standard. The GMO issues have always been a very controversial subject in Europe. Several EU organic stakeholders are not prepared to accept this threshold set by the EU Commission. However there are others who consider that Community legislation must be followed above the legislative or particular opinions of an individual county or organisation. The EU authorised certification bodies (CBs) within the EU will be applying different criteria to consider what GMO's accidental contamination is and consequently differences in de-certification processes will occur. Some CBs in the EU Member States, announced they will ignore this threshold, and other have not yet stated what type of threshold they will accept. This is not the first time that certain countries/sectors within the EU have rebelled against an EU law concerning GMO's. It's reasonable to expect a big debate on this issue and more definitive definitions of the positions that other organisations intend to take. In this context, from the point of view of stakeholders it is important to know this aspect in any evaluation of OAP.

#### **Results**

- No relevant opinions given (see different press releases of IFOAM EU Group)

**Question 4. Will the new EU logo stimulate organic local markets in Europe?**

The EC has communicated the news of the need to postpone the introduction of the proposed new mandatory EU 'bio' logo, part of the new organic regulation to come into force on 1st January 2009. But it's not clear if the obligatory EU logo for organic produce will enhance the development of organic local markets or by the contrary i create some trade barriers for organic foods imports from third countries to the EU countries

**Results**

- No relevant opinions given (see IFOAM EU Group position).

### III. ORGANIC ACTION PLANS NEWS FROM AROUND EUROPE

#### ***National Organic Action Plans update***

The IFOAM EU Group, in close cooperation with the ORGAP Consortium Partners, has searched and collected information about National Organic Action Plans in the different EU Members States. In the next table below the results are summarised.

**Table 3: National Organic Action Plans in the European Union (30<sup>th</sup> April 2008)**

Country	Description of organic Actions Plans
<b>Austria</b>	Currently Austrian organic sector is negotiating the Next Action Plan with the Agriculture Ministry. It should be presented by April, 15 <sup>th</sup> . The old one can be downloaded on the webpage: More info: <a href="http://land.lebensministerium.at/article/articleview/16396/1/4955/">http://land.lebensministerium.at/article/articleview/16396/1/4955/</a>
<b>Belgium</b>	The Flanders Regional Agriculture Government has started and participatory process involving the Organic Sector, still ongoing that will result in a new Organic Action Plan. This Organic Action Plan for 2009-2012 will be presented by our Minister of agriculture during the "bio-week" 2008 (first week of June). More info: L. Laenens: <a href="mailto:leen.laenens@bioforum.be">leen.laenens@bioforum.be</a>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	<i>The first OAP has been launched in 2008 with following strategic goals: a) Development of the organic products market (internal &amp; external); b) 8% of the agricultural land under cultivation shall be managed following the methods of organic production by 2013; c) An effective legal framework supporting the development of organic farming shall be established by 2007; d) Scientific research in organic farming shall be oriented towards practice, a system shall be developed for education, training and consultancy in organic farming by 2010; e) An effective system for inspection and certification of the organic products shall be developed. Total budget of the Plan 82 000.000 €. Sources: EU funds (50 %); SAPARD Programme; EU Agricultural Fund for RD (2007-2013); National budget 50 %).</i> More info: S. Nikolova. <a href="mailto:svetla.nikolova@agrolink.org">svetla.nikolova@agrolink.org</a> . ( <a href="http://www.mzgar.government.bg/MZ_eng/RuralAreas/NOFAP_FINAL_en.pdf">www.mzgar.government.bg/MZ_eng/RuralAreas/NOFAP_FINAL_en.pdf</a> )
<b>Cyprus</b>	No information available
<b>Denmark</b>	The Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries has asked DARCOF to lead a work that synthesizes the knowledge on the future possibilities for development of a market-based growth in the Danish production, manufacturing and turn-over of organic products. The background for the work is the challenges posed by the recent growth in the organic sector both nationally and internationally. Among other issues, the work will focus on the importance of maintaining the organic quality and consumer trust. The work is centred around the assessment of four scenarios including an extrapolation of existing trends into a redoubling of the Danish organic food market in 2015, two scenarios of a quadrupled market (based on either domestic production or on imports), and a scenario of collapse of the Danish organic food market. A synthesis report is scheduled for ultimo 2008. More info, DARCOF ( <a href="http://www.darcof.dk">www.darcof.dk</a> )
<b>Estonia</b>	In 2004 an Office for Organic Farming was established in the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA). This office was responsible for the development of Estonian Organic Farming Action Plan. A national OAP was approved on May 9, 2007 for the period 2007-2013. Proposal for the OAP was coming from organic farming organisations in 2004-2006, from 6-7 workshops and several smaller meetings, with different stakeholders including

Country	Description of organic Actions Plans
	<p>MoA representatives. Measures of the OAP are divided into 6 sections: production; processing; marketing; education, advise and information; research; legislation and inspection.</p> <p>More info: Estonian Organic Farming Foundation (M. Merit) e-mail: Mikk merit@ceet.ee</p>
<b>Finland</b>	<p>National OAP is in process and the Finnish government is involved. The organization Luomuliitto has proposed a bigger OAP, together with different organic farming entities and organisation.</p> <p>More info: V. Vilkuna [visa.vilkuna@luomuliitto.fi]</p>
<b>France</b>	<p>The French new Environment policy ("Le Plan Barnier") after a wide consultative process over several Months, followed by the French press and public, has included Organic farming, like the target of 20% of farmland to be organic by 2020 and a new assessment framework for GMO's. The process itself has been seen as highly novel, as it bypassed the parliamentary process and was not led by established institutions. It involved a large national consultation of stakeholders (FNAB was involved) on 6 themes. The one on 'sustainable production &amp; consumption' was mainly about agriculture; debates in cities; roundtables (on climate, health, biodiversity, and democracy). Several hundred detailed proposals were considered and most were agreed. The results were launched in a historical speech by the President. The need for a new assessment for GMOs and for a diversified system of sustainable and organic agriculture was emphasised . The law is being prepared and will be voted on this year. Two thematic workshops will be organised in 2008, on 'sustainable production &amp; consumption' and on 'gene &amp; biodiversity' in Paris.</p> <p>More info: O. Clement E-mail: oclement@fnab.org www.legrenelle-environment.fr (English).</p>
<b>Germany</b>	<p>The German Federal Organic Farming Scheme (FOFS) was established in 2002. In it's currently 2nd period (2008 – 2011) the program is capitalized with 16 Mio € per year. The current FOFS contains measures more research oriented than in the first years (in 2007 about 70 new R&amp;D projects were started). The Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection (MFACTP) will prolong the program until 2015. The main measures of the FOFS are: a) to practical relevance to support R&amp;D, also in cooperation with other European partners, b) to ameliorate the knowledge transfer (from science into practice); c) to develop and support advisory services; d) to support education, instruction and information concerning the agricultural production, processing and trade sector; e) to inform and educate the consumer.</p> <p>More info (MFACTP) webpage: <a href="http://www.bmelv.de">http://www.bmelv.de</a> ; and Hohenheim University: C. Eichert E-mail: eichert@uni-hohenheim.de</p>
<b>Greece</b>	<p>The Greek Agriculture Ministry announced that the organic policy is under consultation, but there is no clear procedure for contributions.</p> <p>More info: Charikleia Minotou [charmini@otenet.gr]</p> <p>Relevant addresses: www.dionet.gr; www.bio-hellas.gr; www.qways.gr; www.bio-geolab.gr; www.minagric.gr; www.greencontrol.gr; www.a-cert.gr</p>
<b>Hungary</b>	<p>No organic action plan in force.</p> <p>More info: Association Biokultura Central. E. Acs Sandomé. E-mail: <a href="mailto:kishantos@enternet.hu">kishantos@enternet.hu</a>. <a href="http://www.biokultura.org">http://www.biokultura.org</a></p>
<b>Ireland</b>	<p>A new Organic Action Plan was agreed with Department of Agriculture. It should be available. More info: Irish Organic Farmers and Growers Association The Organic Action</p>

Country	Description of organic Actions Plans
	<p>Plan for Ireland will be launched by the Minister for Food &amp; Horticulture at the beginning of May. There is an embargo on distributing it before then. Essentially, it sets a target of converting 5% of the agricultural land area in Ireland to organic production by 2012. Helen Scully - Organic Trust Ltd. E-mail: <a href="mailto:organic@iol.ie">organic@iol.ie</a> &amp; M. Lynch <a href="mailto:mly@eircom.net">mly@eircom.net</a></p>
<b>Italy</b>	<p>The Italian OAP is very general and has been approved the 15th of December 2005. At the same time in the same year a specific programme for the implementation of the OAP has been approved, which includes 4 strategic objectives. 1) Penetrate international markets; 2) Reinforcement and qualification of supply chain and trade organisation; 3) Increase the domestic demand for organic products and public communication; 4) Reinforcement and improvement of Public system and farms services. Law no. 311 of the 30/12/2004 had foreseen a specific public expenditure item with effects in the Italian OAP for year 2005 (5 Million €). The latest action is about marketing and supply chain management and was issued on 12/11/2007 with funding of € 1.100.000. Through this tool the Ministry will meet the demand of non-processed organic products, to improve the integration of supply chain actors and to contribute to the organic market organisation costs. In addition, the initiatives taken into consideration concern actions for the organisational improvement in relation to the organic system dimension and to improve quality of organic product. In 2007 a new framework regulation for R&amp;D in the field of organic farming has been issued by the Minister of Agriculture. This call is not related to the OAP, which does not concern research. Next project call will run from June to September 2008.</p> <p>More info: D. Vairo. <a href="mailto:daniela@agrecon.univpm.it">daniela@agrecon.univpm.it</a></p>
<b>Lithuania</b>	<p>There is no action plan in force.</p> <p>More info: E-mail: <a href="mailto:Selekcentras@lzi.lt">Selekcentras@lzi.lt</a></p>
<b>Latvia</b>	<p>The Latvian Association of Organic Agriculture has worked out the Organic Agriculture Development Programme for the years 2007-2013.</p> <p>Aims of the development programme are based on the current situation and as follows: 1) Development of modern and economically feasible organic agriculture enterprises. To ensure this, it is necessary to encourage co-operative development and co-operation of production and processing enterprises with the aim of ensuring higher added value products in sufficient amounts for the consumers; 2) Increase of knowledge and awareness, and availability. It is important to inform the society about the positive influence of organic agriculture on the nature and landscape, by ensuring a positive attitude to organically produced food products and their quality; 3) Ensuring of positive influence on the environment, including the improvement of the living conditions of animals and their wellbeing, breeding of animals appropriate for the conditions of Latvia and introduction of up-to-date technologies in the production process. For the implementation of the OAP activities, Latvian Association of Organic Farming contributes with market stimulation programmes („Market development of organically produced products”) co-financed by the EU and Latvia Funds (150.000€). Within the programme, the trademark „Ecoproduct of Latvia” is ensured. OAP made on the basis of the Rural Development schemes. Not yet officially approved by the Ministry of Agriculture.</p> <p>More info: D. Kreismane. E-mail: <a href="mailto:dzidra.kreismane@llu.lv">dzidra.kreismane@llu.lv</a></p>
<b>Luxembourg</b>	<p>Actually, there is no OAP in force. The Ministry of Agriculture started with a first of the stakeholders meeting 3 years ago. There were about 5 meetings and since one year, there is a civil servant in the Ministry in charge to design the OAP together with our 2</p>

Country	Description of organic Actions Plans
	<p>representatives of the organic farmers organisations, the processors, the traders. Now this Working Group is busy, to establish some budget for actions in 2009. The main activities will be: promotion campaign for consumers, and for farmers to convert, some first steps of on-farm research.</p> <p>More info: R. Aendekerk, e-mail: <a href="mailto:aendekerk@biolabel.lu">aendekerk@biolabel.lu</a></p>
<b>Malta</b>	<p>No OAP in force. Promised that Gozo (the small sister island) will become into an eco-island.</p> <p>More info: MOAN, E-Mail: <a href="mailto:info@moam.org.mt">info@moam.org.mt</a></p>
<b>The Netherlands</b>	<p>The Ministry will spend 49,2 Mio € in the period 2008-2011 on organic sector. Aims are: 1) A better cooperation between organic agriculture and conventional farmers that are in the frontline of sustainability and 2) Develop the organic sector into a robust independent sector. Specific goals for general aim 1 is: a) research for organic is partly focused on issues that are important in conventional agriculture; b) 15 joint initiatives in society that connect organic and conventional agriculture; c) 10 innovations from the organic sector are being applied in conventional farming. For the general aim 2: a) annual 10% growth in consumer spending on organic food; b) annual 5% growth in organic land; c) 10% of all research money funded by the Ministry of Agriculture for policy supporting research will be allocated to organic. Furthermore, the Ministry signed a declaration together with large commercial companies (caterers, supermarkets, etc.) and with a range of non-profit organisations to promote organic products in their businesses or amongst their members.</p> <p>More info of the new policy document from the Dutch ministry of Agriculture for organic production in 2008 – 2011. M. Blom E-mail: <a href="mailto:Blom@biologica.nl">Blom@biologica.nl</a>.  <a href="http://www.minlnv.nl/cdlpub/servlet/CDLServlet?p_file_id=24885">http://www.minlnv.nl/cdlpub/servlet/CDLServlet?p_file_id=24885</a>  <a href="http://www.minlnv.nl/cdlpub/servlet/CDLServlet?p_file_id=23687">http://www.minlnv.nl/cdlpub/servlet/CDLServlet?p_file_id=23687</a></p> <p>Other links: Press release, announcing the new Dutch Organic Action Plan (in Dutch) <a href="http://www.minlnv.nl/portal/page?_pageid=116,1640333&amp;_dad=portal&amp;_schema=PORTAL&amp;_news_item_id=22939">www.minlnv.nl/portal/page?_pageid=116,1640333&amp;_dad=portal&amp;_schema=PORTAL&amp;_news_item_id=22939</a>. New OAP (in Dutch) <a href="http://www.minlnv.nl/portal/page?_pageid=116,1640321&amp;_dad=portal&amp;_schema=PORTAL&amp;_file_id=23687">www.minlnv.nl/portal/page?_pageid=116,1640321&amp;_dad=portal&amp;_schema=PORTAL&amp;_file_id=23687</a></p>
<b>Poland</b>	<p>Poland has no Action Plan for Organic Food and Farming, but a 3-years information. Campaign started in November 2006 with a total budget of 3 millions of €.</p> <p>More info <a href="mailto:dorota.metera@qdn.net">dorota.metera@qdn.net</a>, <a href="http://www.bioekspert.waw.pl">www.bioekspert.waw.pl</a></p>
<b>Portugal</b>	<p>An OAP was proposed by the Government in 2005, including the target to achieve 7 % in 2008 and presented in public. However this Plan was not implemented due to change in policies (Mr. Barroso went to the EU Commission).</p> <p>More info: Jorge Ferreira. E-Mail: <a href="mailto:jferreira@agrosanus.pt">jferreira@agrosanus.pt</a>; <a href="http://www.agrosanus.pt">http://www.agrosanus.pt</a></p> <p>After three years without any financial support there's now a financial support under the Agro-environmental Programme for conversion of production systems (<a href="http://www.proder.pt">www.proder.pt</a>), including organic farming, but this support is some not often compatible with small farmers and also it's too much bureaucratic, managed by official not familiar with organic farming. This support varies from 75€/ha (pastureland) to 900€/ha (vegetables). A national framework for the support of organic agriculture will be launched. INTERBIO is working with the aim of getting a priority status for organic farming projects.</p> <p>More info: F. Serrador (Certiplanet) e-mail: <a href="mailto:certiplanet@sapo.pt">certiplanet@sapo.pt</a>.  <a href="http://www.certiplanet.pt">http://www.certiplanet.pt</a>. E-mail: <a href="mailto:interbio.bio@gmail.com">interbio.bio@gmail.com</a></p>

Country	Description of organic Actions Plans
<b>Romania</b>	<p>No OAP in force. In 2004 an Organic Farming Research Strategy was developed and in 2005 the Measure 3.3. "Agricultural production methods designed to protect the environment and maintain the countryside" was established. One of the sub measures of the Pre-accession support was Organic farming with the following aims: to satisfy the growing demand for organic products and promote the development of a domestic market; to support and increase the competitiveness of organic farming; to support the development of organic farming as an environmentally friendly method of food production in 5 selected pilot areas.</p> <p>More info: Ion Toncea [ion_toncea@yahoo.com].</p>
<b>Slovakia Republic</b>	<p>A report about the Slovak OAP performance from the point of view of the Slovak Agricultural Research Centre for the previous years to 2007 is being prepared. Official State bodies for Organic Farming are the Ministry of Agriculture of Slovakia (<a href="http://www.mpsr.sk">www.mpsr.sk</a>) and the Central Controlling and Testing Institute in Agriculture (<a href="http://www.uksup.sk">www.uksup.sk</a>). In March 2005 the Slovak Republic has made a SWOT analyse as the first step for a National OAP. The targets are: a) Organic farming development - 5 % of the total agricultural land; b) Reaching at least 30 % of certified organic products in domestic market; c) create the knowledge and information database about organic farming; d) promote benefits of this farming system; e) Establish the tradition „organic farming days“ in Slovakia; f) providing the knowledge and organic research results transfer into the practice; g) improving the coordination on all levels; h) Establishing an advisory and consultancy system; i) establish demonstration farms for different purposes. Currently this OAP is slowly being developed.</p> <p>More info: Z. Lehocka. E-mail: <a href="mailto:lehocka@vurv.sk">lehocka@vurv.sk</a></p>
<b>Slovenia</b>	<p>The first Slovenian OAP until 2015 has been passed almost two and a half years ago. The overall implementation is hampered by lack of resources (the OAP was not supported with specific budget) and there is a low level of visibility among governmental actors and stakeholders apart from those directly connected to the organic sector. Among the measures implemented are those within Rural Development Programme 2007-2013: per area payments within 2nd axis; supporting producer groups for information and promotion activities for products under food quality schemes (includes organic production) within 1st axis. Another 1st axis measure, supporting farmers who participate in food quality schemes (organic farming), was announced but has not been published yet. Several other suggestions for RDP measures have not been taken up.</p> <p>An important activity was also the first national promotional campaign for organic farming and food in 2007 (ca. 4 months long) that was financed by national budget only. Regarding priority areas, the most worrying is the lack of implementation of measures in relation to advisory activities, training and knowledge transfer. Also lagging behind the schedule is the legal protection against GMO contamination (coexistence law). From the side of the Agricultural Ministry, no evaluation or meeting was conducted related to the implementation. There were few events dealing with OAP implementation organised by non-governmental stakeholders.</p> <p>More info: Anamarija Slabe [anamarija.slabe@itr.si]</p>
<b>Sweden</b>	<p>Around 1st of December a National Organic Action Plan OAP was finalised and given to the Ministry. There had been a Working Group with different persons from the sector also government, working for 1.5 years with the OAP. The goals was set in 2006 of what one would achieve until 2010, 20 % of the arable land certified organic, a large increased of consumption of organic milk, eggs, beef meat and an increased consumption of organic pork meet and poultry meat. A goal for the public consumption</p>

Country	Description of organic Actions Plans
	<p>was set to 25% of the food products at the end of 2010. The OAP plan includes some very valuable ideas which are now being used. Some of them will have minor effects until 2010.</p> <p>More info: K. Sjö Dahl-Svensson E-mail: <a href="mailto:Kjell.Sjodahl-Svensson@krav.se">Kjell.Sjodahl-Svensson@krav.se</a></p>
<b>Spain</b>	<p>National/State Organic Action Plan (OAP) has been approved in 2007 with the global aim to establish the baseline for the policy action of the Agriculture Ministry for organic farming in the next (2007-2010) and to facilitate a consensus with the regions and the most representatives organic stakeholders. The final purpose of this OAP is to contribute to develop the organic sector in Spain implementing a set of specific actions in all the organic production, processing, marketing and distribution and consumption chains and also in education and research areas. Specific aims are structured in 3 strategic objectives: a) to promote the development of Organic Farming, in particular the primary sector, with education, Research, inputs regulation, rural development tools use and recognition of organic Farming specificities; b) to improve the knowledge and to promote the consumption and marketing of organic products, as it's the most relevant challenge in Spain, mainly stimulating the internal demand thought and adequate information for consumers, accompanied of the improvement of marketing structures of the products; c) to improve institutional collaboration, management of resources for the organic sector, contributing to a better coordination, improving communication and the collaboration between all private and public sector agents involved in organic sector. In Spain there are 8 different Regional OAP in force: Andalusia, Asturias, Baskenland, Castilla La Mancha, Catalunya (not official approved), Extremadura, Galizia and Madrid.</p> <p>More info: See: <a href="http://www.mapa.es/es/alimentacion/pags/ecologica/plan_integral.htm">http://www.mapa.es/es/alimentacion/pags/ecologica/plan_integral.htm</a></p>
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<p>There is no National Organic Action Plan, but 4 Regional Organic Action Plans in all the territories (England; Scotland, Wales and Nord Ireland),</p> <p>See also regional table</p> <p>More info: see <a href="http://www.organic.aber.ac.uk/policy..">http://www.organic.aber.ac.uk/policy..</a></p>

Source: IFOAM EU and ORGAP Consortium members 2008

### Regional Organic Actions Plan in the European Union

Apart from the Member States National Organic Action Plans in the European Union there are several Regions which has approved. In the following table, we are presenting information gathered by the project about some of them.

**Table 4: Regional organic action plan**

Country	Description of organic Actions Plans
<b>Berlin-Brandenburg (Germany)</b>	<p>The launch of a regional organic action plan (runtime and financing still open) was announced in February 2008 (Biofach, Nuremberg). The next steps and relevant measures will be prepared in conjunction of the Agricultural Ministry of the state Brandenburg and the organic umbrella organisation in Berlin-Brandenburg, the Fördergemeinschaft Ökologischer Landbau Berlin-Brandenburg (FÖL). The main aim will be to boost home-grown organic products and to implement a vital organic processing industry surrounding one of Germany's organic market hot-spots, the capital of Berlin.</p> <p>More info (in german):  <a href="http://www.bio-berlin-brandenburg.de/presse/detailansicht/meldungen/mehr-bio-fuer-stadt-und-land-woidke-kuendigt-landesaktionsplan-oekolandbau-an-mluv//102/">http://www.bio-berlin-brandenburg.de/presse/detailansicht/meldungen/mehr-bio-fuer-stadt-und-land-woidke-kuendigt-landesaktionsplan-oekolandbau-an-mluv//102/</a>.</p>
<b>Andalusia (Spain)</b>	<p>First Regional OAP developed during the last 4 years (20-2006), with a budget of 33,6 millions of €. About 65% was devoted to support production conversion, 9% was for Research, 8,6 % for improving processing of organic produce, 6% to support organic consumption. The rest (7,4 %) was for different measures supporting training education system, organic certification and organic sector better coordination. The plan has supported 45 projects 2.8 millions €. The Andalusian Government approved a 2nd OAP for 2007-2013.</p> <p>More info:  <a href="http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/agriculturaypesca/portal/opencms/portal/navegacion.jsp?entrada=tematica&amp;tematica=650">http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/agriculturaypesca/portal/opencms/portal/navegacion.jsp?entrada=tematica&amp;tematica=650</a></p>
<b>Asturias (Spain)</b>	<p>First Regional Organic Action Plan (2007-2009) investing 14,7 millions of €. This OAP recognise the relevance of organic farming as a sustainable agriculture, contributing to the landscape and environment and as a system to deliver quality foods. Aims of the OAP are: a) to stimulate the development of organic production and husbandry, and foods processing with aids, together with distribution and marketing topics; b) to improve the consumer confidence; c) to increase knowledge of the organic sector and harmonising and further development of the control systems, helping to build-up structure of the organic sector for a better coordination. Asturias is member of the European GMO Free Regions Network.</p> <p>More info: <a href="http://www.copaeastur.org/noticias.aspx">http://www.copaeastur.org/noticias.aspx</a></p>
<b>Extremadura (Spain)</b>	<p>The First Regional OAP was approved by the Regional Parliament in 2007. The OAP has defined 6 main aims, but only 4 are being developed now. Action 1 Support for organic farmer's organisation started in September 2008. A tax reduction for organic farmers of 0,95 % is being applied.</p> <p>More info: (in spanish) at:  <a href="http://aym.juntaex.es/organizacion/explotaciones/cepae/que_es/">http://aym.juntaex.es/organizacion/explotaciones/cepae/que_es/</a></p>
<b>Castilla La Mancha (Spain)</b>	<p>The OAP (2007-2011), started in January 2007, with 12 specific aims and 44 measures. Planned public investment from the Regional Agricultural Ministry (Consejería de Agricultura) for the next 5 years, funded with 29 millions of €. More info:  <a href="http://www.jccm.es/agricul/paginas/comercial-industrial/consejosreguladores/Resumen_Plan_Estrategico_Agr_Eco.pps">www.jccm.es/agricul/paginas/comercial-industrial/consejosreguladores/Resumen_Plan_Estrategico_Agr_Eco.pps</a></p>
<b>Basque country (Spain)</b>	<p>Approved this year a Regional Law with several measures to promote organic farming and to achieve 20 % of organic farming surface in 2020</p>

Country	Description of organic Actions Plans
<b>Catalunya (Spain)</b>	The final draft of the Catalonian OAP has been presented to the organic Advisory Committee in Catalanian. The OAP will incorporate 110 measures in the period (2008-2012). There are 3 main actions related to revision of the legal framework for the organic production and certification system and the promotion campaign. More info: <a href="http://www.ccpae.org/lang-es/inici.php">www.ccpae.org/lang-es/inici.php</a>
<b>Madrid (Spain)</b>	Launched a Regional OAP (2005-2007) investing 3 millions of €. There is no further detailed information. More info: <a href="http://www.caem.es">http://www.caem.es</a>
<b>Galicia (Spain)</b>	The regional government of Galicia Region has formulated an OAP, with the consensus of all the sector stakeholders with 54 measures with the aim to increase 3 times the organic production in the region in the next five years (2008-2013). For this purpose an investment of 39,4 millions of € the majority (78%) devoted to the modernisation and enhancement the profitability of the organic farms. This funds will be increased with 9,6 millions of € from private sources. More info: <a href="http://mediorural.xunta.es/agricultura/principal/index.php">http://mediorural.xunta.es/agricultura/principal/index.php</a>
<b>North Ireland (UK)</b>	Published in May 2006. This followed an earlier Organic Farming in Northern Ireland Development Strategy published in 2001. More info: <a href="http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/fisheries-farming-and-food/organic-crops/organic-action-plan-group.htm">http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/fisheries-farming-and-food/organic-crops/organic-action-plan-group.htm</a>
<b>Scotland (United Kingdom)</b>	The first Scottish action plan was published in 2003. The third annual report has recently been published and documents achievements with respect to financial and advisory support for organic farming, marketing and research. Organic support payments have been increased, although access is not universal with a point system used to determine eligibility. More info: <a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Agriculture/Agricultural-Policy/15869/3748">http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Agriculture/Agricultural-Policy/15869/3748</a>
<b>England (United Kingdom)</b>	First English action plan for organic farming was published in 2002 The English target (70% of UK market for indigenous foods supplied by domestic producers by 2010) is very much market focused, taking account of the high reliance of the UK organic food market on imports. With most of the original action points delivered, and a review of progress published in 2004, the current focus is on integrating future work with the English Sustainable Food & Farming Strategy. More info: <a href="http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/organic/policy/actionplan/index.htm">http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/organic/policy/actionplan/index.htm</a>
<b>Wales (United Kingdom)</b>	First Organic Action Plan was published in 1999. Currently implementing the 2nd Organic Plan 2005-2010 With stronger emphasis on market development and consumer promotion, but also actions to support research and extension for producers and financial support for organic horticulture. The Wales OAP has a target of 10-15% in 2010. More info: (See <a href="http://www.organic.aber.ac.uk/policy">http://www.organic.aber.ac.uk/policy</a> ).

Source: IFOAM EU and ORGAP Consortium members 2008

**Table 5: Organic Action Plans in non EU members states and accession countries**

Country (*)	Description of organic Actions Plans
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<b>Albania</b>	<p>No Organic Action Plan in force till now. But for the first time a governmental decision to subsidy the organic certification scheme at 50% of the cost, is in force since this year, both for domestic ad foreign market. More info: Shoqata e Bujqesise Organike/Organic Agriculture Association (L Ferruni)</p> <p>More info: E-mail: [organic@icc-al.org]</p>
<b>Norway</b>	<p>A working group has made a draft proposal for a National Organic Action Plan , which was delivered at the end of February 2008 to the Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food. The Ministry has not yet decided whether the draft proposal will be accepted as it is, or if amendments/adjustments will be made. It is expected that the official OAP will be presented by June 2008. It is not decided if an abstract of the plan will be available in English.</p> <p>More info: E. Mohr: <a href="mailto:Emil.Mohr@slf.dep.no">Emil.Mohr@slf.dep.no</a></p>
<b>Switzerland</b>	<p>No action plan in place.</p> <p>More info: Otto Schmid, FiBL <a href="mailto:otto.schmid@fibl.org">otto.schmid@fibl.org</a></p>
<b>Turkey</b>	<p>Turkish Organic Action plan was drafted for the first time on 27/09/2007 by the EU funded "Organic Agriculture For Turkey" project of MARA. The project was outsourced to an international consortium for 15 Months. The draft was afterwards discussed at the National Guidance Committee for Organic Agriculture. But It is not finalised yet, is in the MARA's teams hands to be finalised and start the implementation. There is a draft document with ideas and comments from stakeholders which are still not implemented. In the other hand some OAP activities have already been done. More info: V. Ananias. Strategy development and networking director Bugday Association for Supporting Ecological Living. IFOAM &amp; EEB member, ECEAT &amp; WWOOF Turkey Kucukkuyu Canakkale Turkey.</p> <p>More info: E-mail <a href="mailto:victorananias@bugday.org">victorananias@bugday.org</a> <a href="http://english.bugday.org">http://english.bugday.org</a> <a href="http://english.tatuta.org">http://english.tatuta.org</a></p>

Source: IFOAM EU and ORGAP Consortium members 2008

#### IV. OTHER RELATED NEWS AND EVENTS

##### **Ireland: A new organic farming action plan has been launched by the Food Minister Trevor Sargent. 30<sup>th</sup> April 2008**

The *Organic Farming Action Plan* addresses the government's target of 5% of land area in organic production by 2012. Mr. Sargent issued a statement which also highlighted the benefits of organic farming, including the retention of Carbon in the soil which is important in the context of climate change. "The Programme for government's 5% target is indeed challenging," he said. "I am confident that, with the full support of all stakeholders, implementation of the actions outlined in the plan will greatly assist in achieving the target". He acknowledged the progress that has been made to date since the establishment of the national steering group for the organic sector and outlined the financial incentives to go organic. Payments of over 21,500 € per year are available in the two-year conversion period to a farmer with 55 hectares followed by an annual payment of 16,000 € when fully organic. Source: [http://www.edie.net/news/news\\_story.asp?id=14579&title=Organic+action+plan+for+Ireland](http://www.edie.net/news/news_story.asp?id=14579&title=Organic+action+plan+for+Ireland)"Organic action plan for Ireland"

##### **Organic products and climate change**

A recent study by the Soil Association showed that two organic products sold through supermarket giant Tesco generated no more and in some cases less greenhouse gases than the same amount grown non-organically.

It claims organic farming avoids the release of large amounts of carbon compared to non-organic. Reasons for this include that organic farmers always have grass in their crop rotations and use manure or compost. (<http://www.soilassociation.org/web/sa/saweb.nsf/shop/index.html>)

##### **QLIF course on HACCP for the organic sector**

QLIF in cooperation with CCFRA offers training courses that enable delegates to obtain an introduction to the principles of HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point) and the practicalities of implementation with special reference to organic production. The workshops will use case studies in accordance with the interests of the delegates. All the training sessions will provide an opportunity to work with crop or animal topics on all the training dates.

Workshop venues and dates are:

- UK on 29th September
- Switzerland on 23rd October
- Poland on 26th November

Read more on the [programme and information for registration \(pdf\)](#)

## V. ORGANIC ACTION PLANS ADDRESSES

***Czech Action Plan:***

Action Plan of the Czech Republic for the Development of Organic Farming until 2010. . Ministry of Agriculture, 2004.

For more information see: URL: <http://www.agronavigator.cz/ekozem/attachments/AP.pdf>

***Danish Action Plan:***

Danish Action Plan II Development in organic farming (Aktionsplan II økologi I udvikling). Ministeriet for Fødevarer, Landbrug og Fiskeri, 1999.

For more information see: URL: <http://www.dffe.dk/Default.asp?ID=8012>

***English Action Plan:***

Action plan to develop food and farming in England. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, 2004

For more information see: URL: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/organic/actionplan/>



**German Action Plan:**

Federal Organic Farming Scheme. Federal Ministry of Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture, 2001.

For more information see: URL: <http://www.oekolandbau.de/cfsubs/pdf/010302.pdf>

**Dutch Action Plan:**

Dutch Policy Document on Organic Agriculture 2005-2007. Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and food quality, 2005.

For more information see: URL:

[http://www9.minlnv.nl/servlet/page?\\_pageid=112&\\_dad=portal30&\\_schema=PORTAL30&\\_pitem\\_id=92764](http://www9.minlnv.nl/servlet/page?_pageid=112&_dad=portal30&_schema=PORTAL30&_pitem_id=92764)

**Action Plan of Andalusia:**

Andalusian Action Plan for Organic Farming (Plan Andaluz de Agricultura Ecológica). Consejería de Agricultura y Pesca, 2002.

For more information see: URL:

[http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/agriculturaypesca/prospectiva/Ecologico1\\_doc.pdf](http://www.juntadeandalucia.es/agriculturaypesca/prospectiva/Ecologico1_doc.pdf)

**Italian Action Plan:**

Italian National Action Plan for Organic Agriculture and Organic Products (Piano d'Azione nazionale per l'Agricoltura Biologica e i Prodotti Biologici). Ministro delle Politiche Agricole e Forestali, 2005. For more information see: URL:

[http://www.sinab.it/allegati\\_news/352/Piano\\_Azione\\_nazionale\\_plur15aprile05uff.pdf](http://www.sinab.it/allegati_news/352/Piano_Azione_nazionale_plur15aprile05uff.pdf)

**Slovenian Action Plan:**

Plan of Long-Term Development of Organic Farming in Slovenia (Načrt dolgoročne razvoja ekološkega kmetijstva v Sloveniji). Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food, 2005..

For more information see: URL: <http://www.mkgp.gov.si/index.php?id=576>

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