

Implementation of policy recommendations on Organic Farming:

A cross-country synthesis of
national policy workshops in 11
European countries

Report

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Corinna Zerger
Daniela Vairo
Anna Maria Häring
Raffaele Zanoli
Stephan Dabbert

Executive Summary

Organic Farming has become an inherent part of European agriculture in the Old and New EU Member States (MS) and specific policy support for Organic Farming has been developed in all MS. Policy support has played a significant role in stimulating Organic Farming growth, however, the conditions for the development of Organic Farming differ widely between Member States. The CAP Reform 2003 continued the Rural Development Regulation and the MS have the chance to revise their Rural Development Programmes by the end of 2005. Once again, this poses the question of how to develop a policy framework that ensures the further development of Organic Farming.

Methodology

There is no single 'best way' of policy development for Organic Farming. However, in order to design policies or to assess the transferability of "good practices" from one country to another, it is essential to understand the specific national environments, policy practices and their impact on the development of the Organic Farming sector. This requires a broad debate among stakeholders. Thus, a structured form of participation of and consultation with policy stakeholders was developed to contribute to a scientifically based formulation of policy recommendations at the national and EU level. Stakeholder involvement was achieved through a series of workshops (one national, one EU level and a second national workshop). These workshops were designed as to facilitate policy learning among stakeholders of a country and across countries in the European countries involved.

In May 2005, the third of this series of workshops was conducted in 11 European countries (AT, DE, DK, CH, CZ, EE, HU, IT, PL, SI, UK) according to common guidelines (Vairo et al. 2005b). The objective of this third series of workshops was to develop a set of policy instruments expressed as operative policy actions to support the further development of Organic Farming in each specific country's environment, however, based on previously (in the EU level workshop) defined priority policy goals. First, policy instruments developed during the 1st national workshop in each country were matched with the policy goals developed in the EU workshop. In addition, stakeholders developed new policy instruments where appropriate and chose the two most important policy instruments per policy goal. Finally, national experts specified policy actions, expressed in operative terms, for each of the selected policy instruments. This report presents the synthesized results from all 11 countries.

Results

Policy actions proposed with the aim to change the tax system were to tax polluting inputs, to reduce or exempt taxes for consumers of organic products and organic producers, and to tax GMO-products. For example, it was discussed to implement a tax on chemical fertilizers and pesticides in combination with a VAT reduction/exemption for organic products at 0% to 5%.

Communication with consumers could be supported by a range of policy instruments for which detailed policy actions were defined: public information and

promotion campaigns, OF in school education, labelling, support of open days on farms, and the ongoing funding of an internet portal. Details of policy actions included, for example, specific topics to be addressed by promotion campaigns: environmental issues; health, wellness and food quality; a clear definition of OF; the basic principles of OF and organic products; comparisons of conventional and organic agriculture; regional diversity and biodiversity. A broad range of means to be used by these campaigns were proposed and priority target groups were defined.

An improvement of the inspection and certification system could be achieved via diverse policy actions supporting the following topics related to policy instruments: improvement of standards, simplification and harmonization of the Organic Certification system, improvement of inspection and certification bodies, introduction of a risk-based inspection & certification system, introduction of computerised databases concerning inspection/certification, covering of control costs by increasing subsidies, publication of inspection results. For example, proposed policy actions with regard to the improvement of standards and the OF regulation were to develop a manual including the updated regulation (present statutes and analyses) with clear interpretations and examples for farmers, processors, but also for inspectors of the control body. Another proposal concerning the simplification of the certification system was to allow self-administered inspections on small farms.

Concerning capacity building and networking, specific policy actions were developed for a range of policy instruments. The most favoured policy instrument to address capacity building was “technical education and training for advisors”. Policy actions to implement this policy instrument targeted a pronounced multiplication effect by, for example, preparing “train the trainers” programmes, developing advisory systems, producing information and training materials. The most favoured policy instrument to enhance networking was the development of a national Organic Farming committee or an organic umbrella organisation. Policy actions developed included the establishment of a commodity council in the MoA with a clear activity description and proposals for the personal structure.

A range of policy instruments for research and development in Organic Farming were addressed by policy actions: e.g. support of OF research in general and in several specific fields, and implementation of participatory approaches to OF research. Policy actions regarding the support of OF research generally proposed to increase the extent of R&D for OF on all levels (EU, National, regional), including sufficiently high budgets. Approaches to be taken to OF research should be problem- and practice-oriented and interdisciplinary. Topics to be addressed were benefits of OF, quality and processing, plants/ animals and nature/ environment.

Concerning GMO, concrete policy actions were developed for the following policy instruments: definition of strict sets of rules on GMO and on coexistence, strict liability rules, designation of GMO-free zones, and ban on GMO. In order to address these issues, it was proposed that the EU regulation should define the same zero-point thresholds in all European countries at a low level. Concerning liability, strict rules should place the liability for all damages by GMO on the user.

The policy goal “Organic Farming as a role model for sustainability, rural development, multifunctionality” was addressed by the following topics related to policy instruments: 2nd Pillar of the CAP, Organic Farming support, political

commitments, development of an Organic Action Plan. Policy actions specifying policy instruments related to the 2nd Pillar of the CAP aim at giving priority to OF in the rural development programmes, e.g. by prominent placement within the strategy plans of the European Union, the state and the federal states. For example, at least 50% of the resources within the RDP should be continuous and clearly assigned for agro-environmental measures- and among these at least 50% for Organic Farming. Concerning Organic Farming support, it was suggested developing a European framework to encourage Organic Farming schemes within the RDP. In addition, funds from non-agricultural sources should be allocated, e.g. from the Sixth Environment Action Programme.

The most favoured policy actions to implement policy instruments related to the policy goal “Organic market development” were an improvement of the structure and organization of direct marketing by local initiatives and a stimulation of public procurement. Policy actions proposed were e.g. the support of local initiatives (local markets, on-farm-selling etc), incentives for regional marketing on different levels (region specific production and processing), and course offerings for farmers. Another proposal was to change the legislation on public procurement giving priority to organic products. This should be supported by providing chefs and consumers information in organic food.

Conclusions

To design policies, a broad political debate among stakeholders is essential. The developed bottom-up approach to stakeholder involvement in agricultural policy design was a first step towards policy learning, innovation and transfer for the Organic Farming sector in the EU. A range of policy instruments for the long-term development of Organic Farming with detailed policy actions for their implementation were developed. These policy recommendations have the potential to spread widely within the Organic Farming sector in Europe. A very large group of stakeholders in agricultural policy, from very different backgrounds and countries, participated in the different steps of the process and had the opportunity of an intensive exchange of information on the issues. Furthermore, this policy learning process was supported by several written documents on the outcomes of each step and policy discussion papers on related issues.

Preface

The European Commission agreed on the “European Action Plan on Organic Food and Farming” in October 2004. Therein the Commission proposes detailed measures for a Common Policy for the Organic Farming and Food sector, with the aim to support the development of the sector. This Action Plan provides Member States, for the first time, with a common framework for the further development of policies for Organic Farming. For Member States, this provides an opportunity to stronger emphasise Organic Farming in their revised Rural Development Plans and develop national Action Plans for Organic Farming. The revised Rural Development Programmes will be finalised by the end of 2005 by the Member States.

One effort to contribute to the further development of Organic Farming Policy in Europe is the project "Further development of Organic Farming Policy in Europe, with Particular Emphasis on EU Enlargement" (EU-CEEOPF).

In Mai/ June 2005, a group of 8-14 national stakeholders of the Organic Farming and general agricultural policy sector met for workshops in eleven countries (AT; CH; CZ; DE; DK; EE; GB; HU; IT; PL; SI) to discuss how policy instruments related to Organic Farming could be implemented at national level. The main objective was to develop concrete policy actions for the implementation of Organic Farming policies in each country. Furthermore, the process is intended to facilitate policy learning among stakeholders of a country.

The objective of this report is to provide a cross-country analysis of this series of national workshops- for all participants and other interested stakeholders of the Organic Farming sector in the European Union.

The report is structured in 5 main chapters. Chapter 1 provides an introduction to the process of stakeholder involvement envisaged in this effort of which the 3rd series of national workshops is part.

Chapter 2 outlines the approach to stakeholder involvement taken, information on methodological procedures followed and tools used. Summary results are presented and discussed in the following chapters 3 and 4, while detailed and national results are provided in Annex B and C. Final remarks on the results of the workshops are presented in chapter 5. Information on the composition of workshop groups is given in Annex A; annex D provides the evaluation of the workshop concept and conduct by participants and facilitators.

The results presented in this report are based on stakeholders' assessment.

Abbreviations

CAP: Common Agricultural Policy

CDO: Controlled Designation of Origin

CGDO: Controlled and Guaranteed Designations of Origin

DEFRA: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, UK

EAFRD: European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development

EU: European Union

GMO: Genetically Modified Organisms

HACCP: Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point

MoA: Ministry of Agriculture

MoE: Ministry of the Environment

NGO: Non-Governmental Organisation

OF: Organic Farming

PDO: Protected Designation of Origin

PGI: Protected Geographical Indication

R&D: Research and Development

RDP: Rural Development Plan

TGI: Typical Geographical Indication

TSG: Traditional Speciality Guaranteed

UAA: Utilisable Agricultural Area

VAT: Value Added Tax

WTO: World Trade Organization

Country's abbreviations

AT: Austria

CH: Switzerland

CZ: Czech Republic

DE: Germany

DK: Denmark

EE: Estonia

HU: Hungary

IT: Italy

PL: Poland

SI: Slovenia

UK: United Kingdom

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List of Contributors

Organisers and facilitators

	Name	Institution
AT		
Organiser	Markus Schermer	Centre for Mountain Agriculture, University of Innsbruck
Moderation	Gabriele Gigler	
Assistant	Norbert Gleirscher	Centre for Mountain Agriculture, University of Innsbruck
CH		
Organiser	FiBL, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, Frick	
Moderation	Hans Schüpbach	Landwirtschaftliche Beratungszentrale, Lindau
Assistants	Otto Schmid	FiBL, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, Frick
	Heidrun Moschitz	FiBL, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, Frick
	Matthias Stolze	FiBL, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, Frick
CZ		
Organiser	VÚZE Research Institute of Agricultural Economics Brno	
Moderation	Andrea Hrabalová	VÚZE Brno
Assistants	Kamila Koutná	VÚZE Brno
	Jitka Handlová	VÚZE Brno
DE		
Organiser	Corinna Zerger	Institute of Farm Economics, University of Hohenheim
Moderation	Peter Feindt	
Assistants	Heike Kuhnert	
	Anna Maria Häring	University of Applied Sciences, Eberswalde
	Carolyn Klumpp	Institute of Farm Economics, University of Hohenheim
	Christian Eichert	Institute of Farm Economics, University of Hohenheim
DK		
Organiser	Ass. Prof. Dr. Johannes Michelsen	Dept. of Political Science and Public Management, University of Southern Denmark
Moderation	Ass. Prof. Dr. Johannes Michelsen	Dept. of Political Science and Public Management, University of Southern Denmark
		Dept. of Political Science and Public Management, University of Southern Denmark
Assistants	Mette Meldgaard	University of Southern Denmark
	Maria Kondrup	Copenhagen Business School
EE		
Organiser	Estonian Organic Farming Foundation	
Moderation	Pille Liivaauk	Estonian Institute of Economic Research
Assistant	Airi Vetemaa	Estonian Organic Farming Foundation
HU		
Organiser	Institute of Environmental and Landscape Management, St. Istvan University, Gödöllő	
Moderation	Bálint Balázs	Institute of Environmental and Landscape Management, St. Istvan University, Gödöllő
		Institute of Environmental and Landscape Management, St. Istvan University, Gödöllő
Assistants	Györgyi Bela	Institute of Environmental and Landscape Management, St. Istvan University, Gödöllő
	Katalin Balázs	Institute of Environmental and Landscape Management, St. Istvan University, Gödöllő

IT		
Organiser	Prof. Raffaele Zanolì	Polytechnic University of Marche
Moderation	Prof. Raffaele Zanolì	Polytechnic University of Marche
Assistants	Daniela Vairo	Polytechnic University of Marche
	Maria Elena Paladini	Polytechnic University of Marche
	Susanna Vitulano	Polytechnic University of Marche
PL		
Organiser	Krystyna Gutkowska	Faculty of Human Nutrition and Consumer Sciences, Warsaw Agricultural University
	Sylwia Zakowska-Biemans	Faculty of Human Nutrition and Consumer Sciences, Warsaw Agricultural University
Moderation	Maciej Kozakiewicz	University of Łódź
Assistants	Józef Tyburski	University of Warmia and Mazury
	Sylwia Zakowska-Biemans	Warsaw Agricultural University
SI		
Organiser	Anamarija Slabe	Institute for Sustainable Development
Moderation	Vida Ogorelec Wagner	Modra d.o.o.
Assistants	Ariana Lucija Tratar Supan	Institute for Sustainable Development
	Alenka Bratusa	Institute for Sustainable Development
UK		
Organiser	Phillipa Nicholas	Institute of Rural Sciences, University of Wales Aberystwyth
Moderation	Nicolas Lampkin	Institute of Rural Sciences, UWA
Assistants	Alison Vaughan	Institute of Rural Sciences, UWA
	Ian Jeffreys	Institute of Rural Sciences, UWA

Workshop participants

Name	Organisation
AT	
Tanja Daumann	Presidential Conference of the Chambers of Agriculture, Austria
Andreas Graf	Presidential Conference of the Chambers of Agriculture, Austria
Toni Hubmann	Tonis Freilandeier, Organic egg producers company
Heidi Kottinig	ARGE Bioregionen, Association of organic processors in Austria
Ruth Kratochvil	University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna
Hans Matzenberger	Austria Bio Garantie, Control and Certification body
Karl Plsek	Federal Ministry for Health and Women
Alexandra Pohl	Bio Austria, Organic Farmers Association
Alois Posch	Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Economy
Iris Strutzmann	ÖBV, Association of Farmers in Mountain Areas
Johannes Tomic	Bio Austria, Organic Farmers Association
CH	
Sybil Anwander	COOP (Supermarket chain)
Ruth Genner	Green party of Switzerland, Zürich
Markus Johann	Biofarm Cooperative (wholesaler, farmer organisation)
Stefan Kausch	Private Consultant

Armin Meyer	Advisory Centre LBL
Gustav Munz	Federal Office of Agriculture (BLW), Bern
Urs Niggli	Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL)
Stefan Odermatt	BIO SUISSE (Farmers umbrella organisation)
Hansjoerg Walter	Swiss Farmers Association (SBV), Swiss People's party
CZ	
Jiří Brázda, Mgr.	Ministry of Environment
Milan Drgáč	Regional centre of PRO-BIO White Carpathians
Abrahám Hofhanzl	Ministry of Environment
Martin Leibl	Ministry of Agriculture
Jan Moudrý	University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice
Michal Pospíšil	Association of private farmers
Roman Rozsypal	Advisor to OF
Kamil Toman	Eco farm northwest
Petr Trávníček	PRO- BIO Šumperk
Antonín Valder	Czech University of Agriculture in Prague
Tomáš Zídek	VÚZE Praha
DE	
Ingo Braune	BMVEL, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Organic Farming dept.
Stephan Dabbert	University of Hohenheim, Institute of Farm Economics
Alexander Gerber	BÖLW, Federation of organic producers, processors and retailers (umbrella organisation for organic agriculture)
Dietmar Groß	AbL e.V., Alternative Farmer's Union
Robert Hermanowski	FiBL Germany, Research Institute of Organic Agriculture
Jutta Jaksche	vzbv, Federal association of the Consumer Advice Centre
Bernd Jansen	Ekoconnect, International Centre for Organic Agriculture of Central- and Eastern Europe, Dresden (before: Ministry for Agriculture of Saxony)
Uta Meiners	DBV, Farmer's Union
Jochen Neuendorff	GfRS, Organic Farming Control Body
Wolfgang Neuerburg	MUNLV, Ministry of Agriculture of North-Rhine Westphalia, Organic Farming dept.
Diethelm Rohrdanz	LaVes, Agency for Consumer Protection and Food Safety of Lower Saxony, Organic Farming dept.
Ursula Stratmann	BfN, The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
DK	
Kitt Bell Andersen	Directorate of Forest and Nature (Ministry of Environment)
Poul Henrik Hedebo	Member of Parliament
Paul Holmbeck	Organic Denmark (main organic association)
Erik Steen Kristensen	DARCOF (DK organic research centre)
Rikke Lundsgaard	The Danish Nature Conservation Organisation
Bo Nytofte	Bo & Co – trader of organic fruits and vegetables
Thomas Roland	Consumer Council Denmark
Lotte Dige Toft	The Plant Directorate (Ministry of Food)
Evald Vestergaard	Dairy farmer and cheese producer

EE

Eve Ader	Plant Production Inspectorate
Aivar Kallas	Saaremaa Farmers Union
Ly Kogermann	advisor
Anne Luik	Estonian Agricultural University
Merit Mikk	Centre for Ecological Engineering
Jaan Nõmmik	TÜ Eesti Maheliha
Aivar Pikkmeets	Mätiku farm
Margot Pomerants	Ministry of Agriculture
Tiiu Saks	OÜ Austan Loodust
Juhan Särgava	Saidafarm AS

HU

Sándorné Ács	Kishantosi Rural Development Public Benefit Company
Elemér Gyurasits	Agricultural and Rural Development Ministry
Matthew Hayes	Nyitott Kert Foundation
Bartha Ágnes Köváryné	Agricultural Chamber of Bács-Kiskun County
Sándor Ollé	Piszkei Öko Ltd.
Réka Rusói	Biokontroll Hungária Public Benefit Company
Adrienn Sárközy	Biokontroll Hungária Public Benefit Company
Eszter Szőnyi	Biokultúra Association

IT

Marco Camilli	COLDIRETTI- General Farmer Unions
Paolo Carnemolla	FIAO (Federazione Italiana Agricoltura Organica) – Italian federation of organic agriculture
Gianni Cavinato	ACU (Associazione Consumatori Utenti) – Consumer organisations
Augusto Congionti	Confagricoltura, Sezione Produzioni Biologiche- General Farmer Unions, Organic Production Unit
Pina Eramo	CIA (Confederazione Italiana Agricoltori) – General Farmer Unions
Andrea Ferrante	AIAB (Associazione Italiana Agricoltura Biologica) – Italian Organic Farming Association
Marco Lamonica	Green Party
Roberto Pinton	Consortium (Consorzio Biologico per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile) – Organic consortium for sustainable development
Fabio Maria Santucci	University of Perugia & GRAB-IT (Group for Research on Organic Agriculture – Italy)
Francesco Torriani	Coop. Alce Nero- Organic Farmers Cooperative
Marialuisa Villa	Altroconsumo – Consumer organisations

PL

Jan Krzysztof Ardanowski	National Council of Agricultural Chambers
Mieczysław Babalski	EKOLAND Association
Radosław Gawlik	Greens 2004
Anna Kasperlik	Polish Ecological Club, Branch of Gliwice
Marek Krzysztoforski	Agriculture Advisory Centre in Brwinow Branch of Radom,

	Ecological Education Centre
Piotr Metera	Agro-Futuro
Robert Nowak	National Council of Agricultural Chambers
Dariusz Pomykała	Agriculture Advisory Centre in Brwinow – Branch of Radom
Monika Rzepecka	Agricultural and Food Quality Inspection Service
Wiktor Szmulewicz	Mazovian Agricultural Chamber
Jerzy Antoni Sobociński	Board of the Mazovian Voivodeship
Elżbieta Sowińska	National Union of Farmers, Circles and Agricultural Organizations
Steve Sperlakis	Symbio Sp. z o.o.
Jerzy Szymona	Agricultural University of Lublin & Ekogwarancja PTRE, certifying firm
Jożef Tyburski	University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn
Wiesław Wawiernia	Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development
Danuta Zarzycka	Rolnik Ekologiczny s.c.

SI

Martina Bavec	Agricultural Faculty Maribor
Jernej Demšar	Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry of Slovenia
Marjana Dermelj	Umanotera – Foundation for Sustainable Development
Sonja Dolinšek	Mercator Business System
Boris Fras	Union of Slovenian Organic Farmers' Associations
Sonja Jurcan	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food
Marjana Peterman	Slovenian Consumers Association
Polona Repič	Agricultural Faculty Maribor- Institute for inspection and certification
Cirilia Hlastan Ribič	Ministry of Health
Alma Vičar	Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning

UK

Ian Alexander	English Nature
Gundula Azeez	Soil Association
Lucy Bjorck	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Alex Dinsdale	National Farmers Union (NFU)
Robert Duxbury	True Food Values
Dominic Dyer	Food and Drink Federation
Sue Fowler	Organic Centre Wales (OCW)
Mark Measures	Private Consultant
Christopher Stopes	EcoS Consultancy
Roger Unwin	DEFRA
Lawrence Woodward	Elm Farm Research Centre (EFRC)

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1 Background and objectives: Why a series of policy workshops?

1.1 Background

Organic Farming has become an inherent part of European agriculture in the European Union as well as in many New Member States. Accordingly, agricultural policy has addressed Organic Farming in all EU countries and most Central and Eastern European countries (Prazan et al. 2004). The conditions for the development of Organic Farming differ widely between Old and New Member States (Dabbert et al. 2004). Very different patterns of Organic Farming development have been combined under a new and unique market and policy framework.

To ensure a sustainable development of Organic Farming, it is necessary to develop policy recommendations on how a complementary and sustainable development of Organic Farming can be fostered in Old and New Member States in view of the CAP Reform 2003 policy framework and the European Action Plan on Organic Food and Farming.

To account for the national differences in development stage of the Organic Farming sector, institutional framework and social capital in each country and to produce applicable policy innovation, bottom-up approaches to policy design are necessary. When addressing Organic Farming policy in the EU, the main objective must be to involve all national stakeholders and policy makers of the European Commission in identifying the parameters that could guide the further development of European Organic Farming policy post EU-expansion.

Based on this consideration, a structured form of participation of and consultation with these policy stakeholders was developed to contribute to a scientifically based formulation of policy recommendations on national and EU level. Stakeholder involvement is achieved through two national and one EU level workshop (Figure 1-1), which are managed as to facilitate policy learning among stakeholders of a country and across countries.

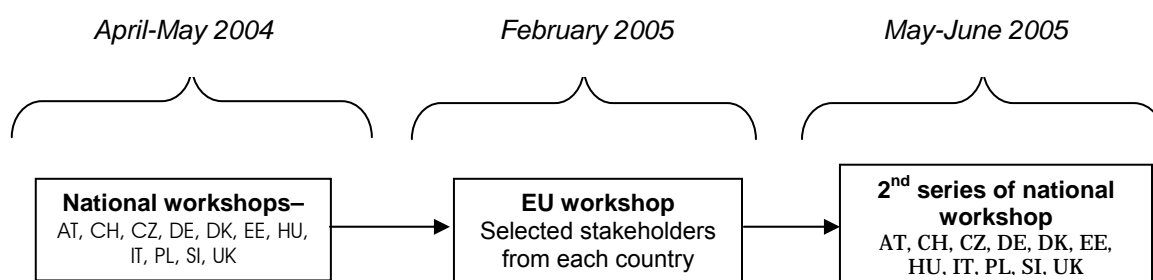


Figure 1-1: The series of workshops

In April/Mai 2004 a first series of **national workshops** has taken place in 11 European countries (AT, CH, CZ, DE, DK, EE, HU, IT, PL, SI, UK) to assess the effectiveness of different policy instruments in each country, and to develop suggestions for 'future' policy instruments and strategies to positively influence the development of the Organic Farming sector in the respective country. Strengths

and weaknesses of Organic Farming policy, and opportunities and threats to the Organic Farming sector in each country were addressed and potential policy instruments were developed. One of the intentions of this workshop was to facilitate policy learning among organic sector representatives within each country and to provide a first input to an EU-wide policy discussion (Häring and Vairo 2004b).

In February 2005, an **EU-wide workshop** with selected stakeholders from each country provided a platform to exchange ideas on the future of Organic Farming policy in the EU. The most important objective of this workshop was to define 5 major policy goals for the future implementation of Organic Farming policy at national level and to make proposals on the weight which should be given to each policy goal at different administrative levels. Close personal contact of participants in this workshop facilitated policy learning between countries and provided a platform to form alliances and decide on further action (Zerger et al. 2005, Vairo et al. 2005a).

In a **second series of national workshops** in all countries in May/ June 2005, the design and implementation of specific national policy instruments addressing the developed EU policy goals was discussed in detail. The main objective was to develop concrete policy actions and responsibilities for the implementation of Organic Farming policies at the national level.

This series of three workshops follows a general concept of policy design and implementation:

- *Identification* of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) of the Organic Farming sector and policy
- *Definition* of policy instruments to address weaknesses, opportunities and threats (only for WOT)
- *Recommendations* of policy goals at the EU level
- *Matching* of policy instruments to national circumstances
- *Implementation* of policy instruments at the national level (development of specific policy actions on national level).

Approaching policy innovation by such a series of workshops intends to integrate the different administrative levels of policy design and implementation and provides a platform for policy makers, sector representatives and other stakeholders to exchange ideas. Furthermore, such a process can generate a linkage between the creation of a national stakeholder's network and the EU commission for future discussions.

Thus, the objectives of the described process were to assess existing agricultural policies and their impact on Organic Farming together with actors in the Organic Farming sector. Thereby relevant organic policies might be identified which may be transferred (*policy transfer*) through emulation, adaptation or simply more or less coercive acquisition (as it has happened in the case of the New Member States) (Evans and Davies 1999).

In summary, this series of workshops is an effort in bringing together stakeholders of the Organic Farming sector in a structured way. It is part of a larger project with the objective to develop recommendations for improving the prospects for Organic Farming growth in EU states in view of the CAP Reform 2003 policy framework:

“Identification of the dimensions of a new European Organic Farming Policy post EU-expansion” (EU-CEEOPF).

1.2 Objectives

The objective of this report is to present the cross-country results from the last series of national workshops. Focus lies on the formulation of concrete policy actions for the implementation of the policy instruments that have been developed in the 3rd series of national workshops and in the previous ones.

Thus, in view of the CAP Reform 2003 and the national implementation of the European Action Plan for Organic Food and Farming, this report is an EU-wide summary of Organic Farming policy recommendations developed by actors of the Organic Farming sector and relevant policy stakeholders of each of the involved European countries.

The dissemination of these results among the participants and other interested actors of the Organic Farming sector shall facilitate policy learning among stakeholders and provide the base for coalitions able to generate future actions. Furthermore, the purpose of this report is to exchange information among people working on different sectors and to help policy makers, organic and non-organic producers, processors, distributors, advisors and academics to exchange ideas and improve their cooperation.

2 A methodological approach to policy innovation

There is no single 'best way' of facilitating policy innovation in Europe. To compare innovation performances, and even more, to assess the transferability of "good practices", it is essential to understand the specific national environments behind these performances and policy practices. As said by Liikanen 'the challenge [for EU countries] is not to copy the best performers, but to define their own original innovation policy, taking into account specific strengths, weaknesses, priorities and cultural and institutional traditions. This supposes a broad political debate among stakeholders (Cordis News Interview 2001), which is the objective of the realized and the previous workshops.

The general research approach used in the presented effort is based on the interaction between social subjects (*interactive social research* or *action research*: Todhunder 2001) and on a collaborative policy learning procedure (Dolowitz and Marsh 1996, 2000; Rose 1991, 1993; Stone 2003). Interactive social research allows to involve "ordinary" people in the development and implementation of research "through the development of common knowledge and critical awareness" (Todhunder 2001). This process involves the researcher identifying the user group, working in close collaboration with the users and getting them involved in identifying research questions, in analysing research results and in their interpretation.

2.1 Concepts

2.1.1 Qualitative research

Unlike quantitative research, which is orientated towards natural sciences, qualitative market and social research tends to focus on humanities. Testing hypotheses is not central, which means that researchers do not search for regularities and standardisation but rather concentrate on the need for communicability and subjectivity. The qualitative approach aims at reaching a profound understanding of a subject area, by concentrating on discovering and reconstructing complex interrelations of meanings (Zanoli 2004).

Qualitative research methods were developed in the social sciences to enable researchers to study social and cultural phenomena (examples of qualitative methods are action research, case study research and ethnography). Qualitative data sources, in this specific case, include participant observation, group discussion, and the researcher's impressions and reactions.

The motivation for doing qualitative research, as opposed to quantitative research, comes from the observation that, if there is one thing which distinguishes humans from the natural world, it is our ability to talk! Qualitative research methods are designed to help researchers understand people and the social, cultural and political contexts within which they live (Myers 1997).

2.1.2 Action research

„Action research aims to contribute both to the practical concerns of people in an immediate problematic situation and to further the goals of social science simultaneously. Thus, there is a dual commitment in action research:

- the theoretical moment of study, analysis, observation and knowledge of an actual situation, and
- the practical one of action, change of the situation following an integrated and dynamic process.

Accomplishing this twin goal requires the active collaboration of researcher and client, and thus it stresses the importance of co-learning as a primary aspect of the research process” (O’Brien 1998).

Action research generally works through three basic phases:

1. Look: building a picture and gathering information. In this situation the problem to be investigated is defined and described and the context in which it is set.
2. Think: interpreting and explaining. Here the situation is analysed and interpreted. From this point of view, this is an approach to research that is problem-solving oriented.
3. Act: resolving issues and problems. According to Lewin (1948), founder of this scientific approach, three are the most important aspects of the action research: its participative nature, its democratic impulse, its simultaneous usefulness both in the field of social sciences and the field of social changes. In fact, according to Lewin “a way to study a problem is that to observe it in its change” (Lewin 1948). In this context, the use of the group was seen as a fundamental tool to obtain a change, the starting point of each action that leads to a change. The concept of learning has a critical meaning. A change produces new learning which generates itself a change, following a cyclical and dynamic process.

In the action research field, participants co-produce knowledge through their mutual collaboration- and different experiences and competences of participants represent an enrichment opportunity for the survey process. In this context, the importance of realizing group discussions instead of individual interviews is clear: a group discussion allows you to exchange information and ideas and gives you the experience of working in a team. In a group discussion ideas can be generated, shared, “tried out” and responded to by others. Apart from the benefit of gaining insight into people’s shared understanding of everyday life, group discussion research permits observation of the interaction of a group on a given topic (Atteslander 2000). The interaction offers the potential that opinions are manifested and insights and data are produced which would not evolve from outside stimulus only (Morgan 1988). It enables participants to ask each other questions, as well as to re-evaluate and reconsider their own understanding of their specific experiences. Group discussions are particularly suited to obtaining several perspectives on the same topic and the underlying reasoning (Häring 2003).

2.1.3 Collaborative working in group discussions

The collaboration inside a group is considered as one of the more favourable moments of learning, since collaboration implies synergy, a common effort to the realization of a particular objective. In the field of learning/working theory, a new approach has emerged in the last years: “collaborative working/learning” (De Kerchove 2004). One of the central aspects of this new approach is the concept of

“sociality”, which means more relevance to the co-operation and interaction processes. Cooperation favours the development of a critical thought; it increases the abilities to problem solving and contributes to the development of cognitive abilities. To make learning/working processes successful, the group facilitator has to be able to guarantee certain conditions:

- the interdependence between the group members,
- the sharing of the tasks and the management of the group process,
- the purpose to construct something of new.

2.1.4 Multi stakeholder processes, policy learning, policy transfer and network creation

Multi stakeholders processes (MSPs) can be defined as “processes which aim to bring together all major stakeholders in a new form of communication, decision-finding (and possibly decision-making) on a particular issue” (Hemmati 2002).

The benefits include:

- Quality: stakeholders add specific experiences and knowledge of issue areas that are not as easily accessible to others.
- Credibility: MSPs include groups that do not represent the same interests.
- Likelihood of impact and implementation: being part of an MSP and thus partly responsible for its outcomes can increase people’s commitment to the outcomes and enhance their efforts to communicate and implement them.
- Societal gains: democratic participation, equitable involvement and transparent mechanisms of influence create successful communication across interest groups and competitors. Consensus-building and joint decision-making can increase mutual respect and tolerance and lead societies out of deadlock and conflict on contentious issues.

“Stakeholders are those who have an interest in a particular decision, either as individuals or representatives of a group. This includes people who influence a decision, or can influence it, as well as those affected by it.” (Hemmati 2002).

Different approaches, concerning the selection of participants, are present in literature. In many studies it is argued to use a trilateral or tri-sectorial approach, which includes governments, the private sector and “civil society”. For Hemmati (2002), the definition of stakeholder groups has more successfully been based on careful analysis of an issue area and on thinking “outside the box” of established “lists” of stakeholder groups.

Knowledge and spread of information are central to ‘policy transfer’ (for a deeper investigation on the concepts of ‘policy transfer’, ‘lesson-drawing’ and ‘policy learning’ see Dolowitz and Marsh 1996, 2000; Rose 1991, 1993; Stone 2003). Policy transfer can take place across time, within countries and across countries and concern both voluntary and coercive transfers. We can distinguish two main types of transfers:

- soft transfers (emulation), and
- hard transfers (copying) (Evans and Davies 1999).

Accession of EU Eastern countries is obviously a very coercive type of policy transfer. At the same time, the New Member States cannot (yet) influence the adoption of EU policies, and adaptation of the acquisition generally has not been negotiable. On the other side, much of the acquisition is very general, and it comes in the form of a “soft” (non-binding) law that leaves national governments room for manoeuvre. Also, in many cases the New Member States are very impatient to learn from the EU countries in order to use Western experience to get the transformation process for the developing, in this specific case, of Organic Farming sector (Schüttpeitz 2004). Nevertheless, ‘transfer could lead to implementation failure’ (Dolowitz and Marsh 2000, p. 21). Three factors could contribute to policy failure: the case of ‘uninformed transfer’, the case of ‘incomplete transfer’ and the case of ‘inappropriate transfer’ (James and Lodge 2003). From this point of view, even if ‘trans-national policy learning’ is encouraged, there is a need for the countries involved in the process to analyse which initiatives in the countries with a developed OF sector have been successful for the growth of Organic Farming. Moreover, it is important to verify if in the ‘borrowing’ country all conditions are given to transfer the crucial elements of what made the policy or institutional structure a success in the originating countries.

2.1.5 Application of the concept in the series of workshops

The presented multi-stakeholder process is based on stakeholders of the Organic Farming sector and policy makers in Europe. To address its overall objectives, a detailed procedure was developed as it was outlined in Chapter 1.1.

The process of multi-stakeholders involvement, policy learning, and the creation of networks (among actors in a same country and among actors of different countries) started during the 1st series of national workshops and developed in the further process is explored in the following. The results achieved in these workshops are an example of an international effort to spread innovative ideas concerning the development of policy goals, policy instruments and policy actions for the Organic Farming sector.

The series of workshops have emphasized the importance of information and knowledge sharing for the Organic Farming policy sector in the involved European countries, EU New Member States and Switzerland from three points of view:

- At the national level, it is an opportunity to facilitate policy learning among stakeholders of a country and to come to agreements that could serve as a basis for future actions. One purpose of the workshops was to help actors involved to exchange their ideas, to improve cooperation and to exchange information among people working in different sectors. In addition, for Member States the agreement on the European Action Plan in October 2004 provided an opportunity to stronger emphasise Organic Farming in their revised Rural Development Plans and to develop National Action Plans for Organic Farming.
- At the trans-national level, it is an opportunity for the EU New Member States to learn from the countries with a developed OF sector (learning by doing) about the process of further alignment with EU standards and to adopt the EU body of legislation (Dabbert et al. 2004). In addition, for the New Member States the chance consists in reducing the differences in national innovation performances. Furthermore, the workshop process

offers the opportunity for stakeholders from the Old Member States to get new and innovative ideas exceeding the policy instruments and measures that have already been tried out. Thus, the series of workshops have an enormous potential for the exchange of good practice and learning within the Union (Cordis News Interview 2001).

- The results of the workshop process represent the first EU-wide summary of policy recommendations for Organic Farming and their implementation on national level. The recommendations have been developed by relevant policy stakeholders of each of the involved European countries, EU New and Old Member States as well as Switzerland in view of the CAP Reform 2003 and the Organic Action Plan. The aim was to generate a linkage between the creation of a national stakeholder's network and the EU commission for future discussions.

Knowledge and information generated and transferred by these workshops favour the establishment of national networks. The creation, management and transfer of knowledge become crucial for international cooperation on development. Through national and trans-national networks, participants can build alliances and develop a common language. With the active participation and involvement of stakeholders, these networks have the potential to influence decision-makers in policy implementation.

The term "policy" is used to refer to an area of state activity (Organic Farming sector) that consists of a set of goals and set of instruments for achieving those goals. In the following, the term "policy instrument" will be used to refer to the determinate means that are used to realise the goals of policy. The term "policy implementation" refers to the process by which those policy instruments are put to work (policy actions). A description of policy implementation will typically refer to the institutions, personnel, coordinating mechanism and resources that are made available to put the policy instruments into effect (Dickson, 2003). Thus:

Policy goals have been agreed on in the EU-workshop in order to address the five major problem areas for the development of the organic sector. They present a framework for the future implementation of Organic Farming policy instruments.

Policy instruments have been developed mainly in the 1st workshop in order to address specific weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the Organic Farming sector.

Concrete **policy actions** have been developed in the 3rd series of workshops. They specify the design and implementation of the policy instruments that had been developed before, giving clear proposals for responsibilities, resources, addressees and times.

2.2 The workshops – third series

In the third step of the multi-stakeholder process, the third series of workshops, qualitative group methods (group discussion and brainstorming) were used to identify new policy instruments, to select the most relevant following the EU recommendation on policy goals and to make suggestions for the concrete implementation of the selected policy instruments on national level. The interpretation of the results allows the development of policy recommendations for the development of Organic Farming in the EU.

2.2.1 Process

Multi-stakeholder processes can fail to deliver positive results if they are not properly planned, structured, managed, led and supported, and if there is insufficient common vision. For the third series of workshops, a detailed workshop manual (Vairo et al. 2005b) was developed and distributed to all national workshop organisers. Workshops were held in 11 countries (AT, CH, CZ, DE, DK, EE, HU, IT, PL, SI, UK). In addition to instructions for the organisers and facilitators, information explaining the background and the aim of each step was provided in the workshop procedure (Vairo et al. 2005b). Particular attention was given to the time and resources needed.

All partners were asked to appoint facilitators to conduct the workshop in their countries.

The developed **workshop procedure** outlined in the workshop manual contained an introductory section which was designed as to create a pleasant, workable atmosphere among workshop participants. The rules for participating in the discussion were laid down, to ensure that everyone had the opportunity to contribute to the discussion without any individuals dominating. A short presentation of the background of the project, the overall objectives of the workshop and the presentation of the workshop procedure followed.

The workshop procedure was structured in 2 main phases:

1. Matching of policy instruments developed during the 1st national workshop to national circumstances following the EU recommendation on policy goals -and development of new policy instruments if national stakeholders considered them missing.
2. Development of detailed policy actions to address policy instruments concerning the selected goals.

Participants were asked to come to the national workshop with a personal assessment and some ideas on which were the most important policy instruments to address each of the outlined policy goals and which policy instruments might be missing in their opinion. Therefore, a list of policy goals resulting from the EU workshop and a corresponding list of policy instruments (resulting from the 1st national workshop) had been sent to each participant before the workshop.

During the 1st phase (**Matching of policy instruments and development of new ones**), stakeholders discussed policy instruments, developed new ones and chose the two most important policy instruments per policy goal.

During the 2nd phase (**Development of policy actions**), national experts were required to develop concretely the actions of the chosen policy instruments. In other words, for each policy instruments chosen, the actions had to be articulated in operative terms.

Facilitators were asked to hold a debriefing session immediately after the workshop in order to note central topics and problems (with moderation, equipment, participants' activity and general impressions). National organisers were to report all results of their country's workshop following a given report structure (Vairo et al. 2005b).

National workshops were conducted in the respective native language. Participants, facilitators and organisers shared the same cultural background. This

allowed organisers not to overlook points that required a deep understanding of the language and culture. The results from each country were distributed to all participants, translated to English and sent to the organisers for analysis.

2.2.2 Participants

Following the multi stakeholder process, between 8 and 14 participants were invited to each national workshop. The workshop groups were supposed to represent the diversity of stakeholders in the Organic Farming sector. Four groups were to be represented: policy makers, organic sector representatives, other “non organic sector representatives”, and “third parties” (see Appendix A). Although this small number of people participating gives only limited ability to generalise findings to a whole population, the likelihood that the participants were a representative sample was assured by a careful selection of participants (Friedrichs 1990; Häring 2003). Participants attending the 2nd national workshop should have been the same as in the 1st national workshop. Since not all of the participants of the first workshop were able to participate, other participants were selected and invited according to the recruitment questionnaire already used for the previous participants selection (Häring and Vairo 2004a), based on their expertise.

2.2.3 Tools

The most important objective of this workshop was to develop detailed policy actions for the EU recommendations on policy goals.

Starting point for the national workshop was the participants’ personal assessment on which were the most important policy instruments to address each of the outlined policy goals and which policy instruments might be missing in their opinion. In a second stage, for each of the most important policy instruments selected specific actions were developed.

For what concerns the 1st stage, the **brainstorming** tool was used. Concerning the 2nd stage, a specific methodological approach was used: the **SMART approach**.

Brainstorming for policy instruments

In the first part of the workshop, the brainstorming tool was used in order to select the most relevant policy instruments (for each goal developed on EU level) for the national context and develop eventually new policy instruments if national stakeholders considered some significant ones missing.

Brainstorming is a lively technique that helps a group to generate as many ideas as possible in a short time period. This technique is used to identify problems, analyse causes, select alternative solutions, plan strategically, generate ideas for e.g. marketing change, and handle many other situations. Brainstorming involves creating an atmosphere in which people feel uninhibited and free to propose the sort of wild and improbable solutions to problems that often point to the best course of action (Osborn 1991).

Recently, an extension of this probing technique, called “Ecological Communication”, was developed by Liss (1992). Liss points out that the respect for the individual and the context are the basis for any collaborative discussions and decisions. In other words, group participants are stimulated to participate in the

discussion through a moderation of communication which helps avoiding dogmatism, the monopolisation of discussion of some participants, and to maintain the discussion focused on the subject of the workshop. Liss (2001) called the participants attitude to encourage during brainstorming sessions, “deep and active listening”.

Brainstorming is a double funnel–shaped process. In the beginning, this technique encourages diverging thinking and the generation of as many ideas as possible in a short time period.

In this phase, some basic rules need to be followed (Chae 1997):

- Criticism is ruled out: negative judgments of ideas must be withheld until later.
- Free-wheeling is welcomed: the wilder the idea the better; it is easier to tame down than to think up.
- Quantity is wanted: the greater the number of ideas, the more the likelihood of winners.
- Combination and improvement are sought.
- In addition to contributing ideas of their own, participants should make suggestions how ideas of others can be turned into better ideas; or how two or more ideas can be joined into still another idea.

Perception plays a relevant role in the creative thinking process; in fact, in the perceptive phase we use mental schemes/systems to understand the actual situation. If these schemes are too rigid, the risk/threat is to observe the actual situation just from one point of view -while the creative thinking originates from the combination of more possible actual situations.

After this first phase, called “storms of ideas”, the “rational” phase follows, where the ideas produced are assessed on the basis of specific feasible criteria. This is the converging phase: ideas are selected, assessed and the most interesting ones are chosen.

SMART approach

In the second part of the workshop, national experts were required to develop detailed actions for each of the most important policy instruments selected. For this phase, guidelines for the detailed definition of the policy actions were defined (see Chapter 4).

To concretely develop the actions for each policy instrument selected, a SMART approach has been used. SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-based) represents an easy method to formulate the objectives that have been set (formulation of policy actions) to ensure they will be more easily accepted by the team. A more acceptable objective means better cooperation and easier consensus building within the team (Le Bon 2005, Tailor 2004).

Specific: Clearly defining exactly what should be realized, helps to focus activities. Verbs that are clearly understood should be used. e.g. ‘reduce’ or ‘increase’ instead of ‘change’. If possible, specific information on who is involved, and where the action should take place should be included. For example, a policy instrument to ‘develop a new product’ is general and not very helpful. But a goal to ‘develop a

software product that enables professionals to manage their work flow better' is specific and provides a powerful focus. Objectives should have its expected outcome stated as simply, concisely and explicitly as possible.

Measurable: It relates on how the objective might be evaluated. e.g. 'increase the number of people who buy organic products' instead of just 'increase organic purchase'. It might be useful to state how much change is expected. e.g. 'increase organic consumption by 15%' instead of just 'increase organic consumption'. A measurable objective has an outcome that can be assessed either on a sliding scale (1-10), or as a hit or miss, success or failure.

Achievable: Is it reasonably possible to achieve the objective? E.g. 'eliminate conventional production' is a bit ambitious. An achievable goal has an outcome that is realistic, given the current situation, resources and time available in each country.

Relevant: Does the objective really reflect the priorities of the stakeholders involved? Broad participation in the planning process helps to ensure that the defined objectives are truly relevant. A relevant policy instrument should help achieving the higher policy goal.

Time-Bound: Objectives that have a clear time frame are more likely to be met, e.g. 'printing and distribution of no. 10.000 leaflets explaining and showing the meaning of organic food by the 15th of June 2006.' A time-bound objective includes realistic timeframes. Split objectives into the:

- Short term (e.g. for the next month)
- Medium term (e.g. for the next year)
- Long term (e.g. for the next 3 years).

A complete objective should answer the questions 'who' 'what' 'when' and 'where'.

2.3 Analysis

2.3.1 Content analysis

Content analysis is a research tool used to determine the presence of certain words or concepts within texts or sets of texts. Researchers quantify and analyse the presence, meanings and relationships of such words and concepts and make inferences about the messages within the texts, the writer(s), the audience, and even the culture and time of which these are a part. Texts can be defined broadly as books, book chapters, essays, interviews, discussions, speeches, conversations, or really any occurrence of communicative language. To conduct a content analysis of any such text, the text is broken down into manageable categories on a variety of levels - word, word sense, phrase, sentence, or theme - and then examined using content analysis (Palmquist 2001).

Systematic coding, data analysis and theoretical sampling procedures enable the researcher to make sense of much of the diverse patterning in data. This allows to develop theoretical ideas at a higher level of abstraction than the initial data description (Zanoli 2004).

2.3.2 Coding for content analysis

Data analysis tends to be an iterative (non linear) process in qualitative research. The term used by Johnson and Christensen (2003) to describe this process is interim analysis.

The major stage of qualitative data analysis is when researchers develop codes. The researcher reads transcribed data and divides the data into meaningful analytical units (segmenting the data or coding). Data analysis often follows three steps:

- Open coding (reading transcripts line-by-line and identifying and coding the concepts found in the data).
- Axial coding (organizing the concepts and making them more abstract).
- Selective coding (focusing on the main ideas, developing the story, and finalizing the grounded theory).

The coding process is "complete" when no new concepts are emerging from the data and the theory is well validated.

Given that coding represents a system for sorting participants' statements, there are many ways to code statements; no single coding system is absolutely right.

When coding, the researcher needs to be led partly by the original list of themes and project objectives, partly by what is known about policy in their country and partly by the insight that gradually surfaces during the qualitative research process.

2.3.3 Validity and reliability

Whereas quantitative methods use generally accepted criteria to assess the objectivity and validity of a measurement, in qualitative research such criteria are replaced by those relating to the reliability of subjective assessments. If research results are to be valid, the data on which they are based, the individuals involved in their analysis and the processes that yield the results must all be reliable.

Reliability assesses the extent to which any given research design is free from the biases of the procedure followed or the latent idiosyncrasies of the individual analysts, often called random errors (Kinnear and Taylor 1996). Reliability is a necessary, but not a sufficient, condition for validity (Krippendorff 1980). For example, two judges with the same prejudices may agree on their analysis, but be totally wrong by all other standards. A computer program can be reliable in repeatedly carrying out a certain procedure, but, if the procedure is wrong, the results, albeit reliable, will be invalid.

Validity has to do with the absence of so-called systematic errors in measurement and analysis. In qualitative analysis, reliability can be assessed in terms of the stability of results (or minimisation of inconsistencies in coding by the same coder – the weakest form of reliability), reproducibility of results (or inter-subjective/coder reliability: minimisation of inter-observer disagreements), and accuracy (or minimisation of systematic deviations from a norm). Accuracy is the strongest form of reliability (Krippendorff 1980).

2.3.4 Analysis of policy instruments

In the given research process, a form of a conceptual analysis framework is used. Each policy instrument was examined focussing on identifying terms present in the text. These terms may be implicit as well as explicit.

Specifically, each country had developed a list of policy instruments with their respective definitions. During the coding process, researchers read the concepts and the definitions in order to better define the appropriate code.

Generally, a priori codes (codes that are developed before examining the current data) or inductive codes (codes that are developed by the researcher by directly examining the data) may be used (Johnson and Christensen 2003). In this specific context, both priori codes and inductive codes were used. Codes developed during the 1st series of workshop were used as the basis for the coding process since both workshops dealt with policy instruments for the Organic Farming sector; in this way the reader is facilitated in reading results of the 2nd series of workshops and able to compare the results between the two series of workshops.

A list of codes was developed by two researchers on the basis of the results from eleven countries. Cases of disagreement were discussed and – if appropriate – recoded. During the coding process of the information of all countries, the list was checked repeatedly for reliability. The codes were applied to policy instruments and their definitions. At the end of the process, the final coding list was completed for all countries. The degree of agreement provides an indicator of the reliability of the final coding (see Table 2-1).

Table 2-1: The interreliability index of two independent “coders”: the coding of policy instruments

	Policy instruments	
	F/N	i
all countries	61,00%	0,78

i=inter-reliability index;

F=frequency of agreement between judges;

N=total number of judgments

For what concerns policy actions, no coding process was developed. Policy actions defined for each policy instrument were listed, explained and in some cases re-worded if the concept was not fully understandable.

2.4 Conclusion

This study was designed to achieve the highest level of accuracy in analysing and synthesising the results. The following operating standards in collecting and analysing policy instruments and policy actions data were adopted:

- Common data collection procedures (Detailed manual on workshop procedure for group discussions and the reporting system) were agreed and used consistently in all countries investigated.

- The workshop group discussion results (policy instruments with definitions and policy actions) were performed on a country by country basis (to allow specific linguistic issues to be taken into consideration) but using a common reporting system.
- A central meta-analysis of all country reports made it possible to resolve inconsistencies in inter-subjective coding.
- The coding of policy instrument concepts/data was performed by two independent judges in order to achieve and assess inter-coder reliability. For the coding, lists derived from the comparison among all eleven countries' results, an index of inter-coder reliability (Perrault and Leigh 1989) was calculated and any disagreements were resolved by discussion.
- Coders involved in the research received specific training in order to assure that the coding of data conformed to the standards required.

3 Policy instruments

A large number of policy instruments for the development of the Organic Farming sector were identified in 11 national workshops by the stakeholders. Policy instruments were grouped by a coding process. To structure these codes further, groups of codes were summarised under 8 topics corresponding to the 8 policy goals developed during the EU-Workshop (Zerger et al. 2005). These are used to present the information in the following (see Figure 3-1).

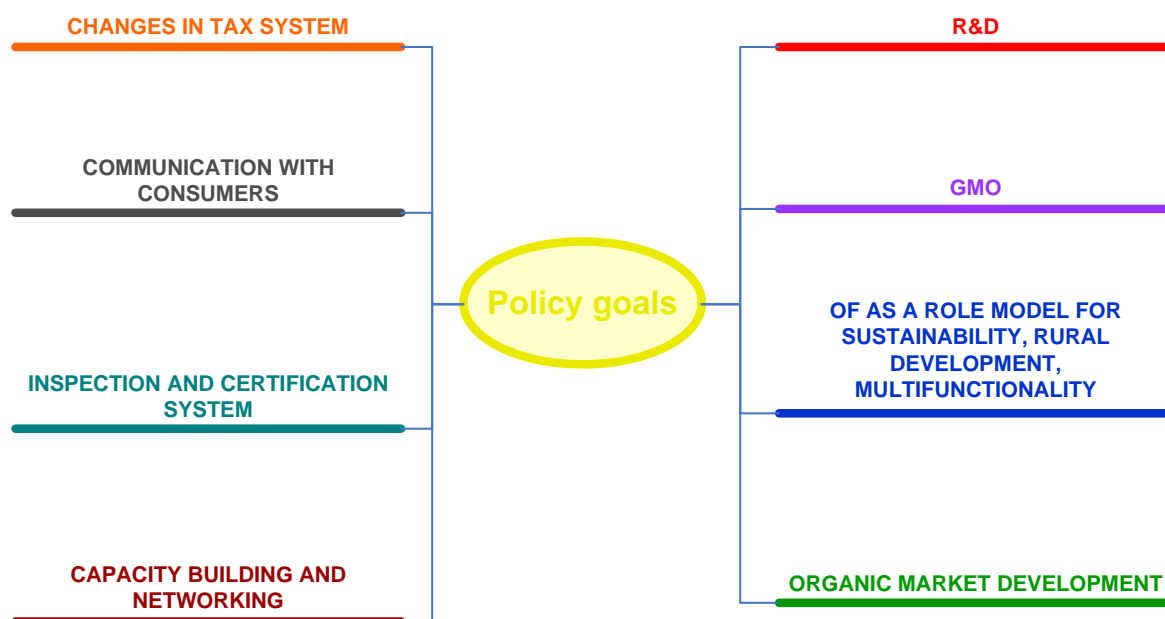


Figure 3-1: List of codes corresponding to the policy goals defined in the EU workshop

The EU workshop had focussed on the 5 most voted policy goals:

- Tax policy for Organic Farming
- Promote experienced-based consumers awareness
- Inspection and certification: risk-based, effective, harmonised, EU oversight
- Capacity building and networking
- R&D targeted on organic priorities.

In addition, it was decided to also bring three other topics forward for discussion:

- “GMOs”, as the votes for GMO had split up over three goals,
- “Promote OF as a role model for sustainability”, because this policy goal considers changes in general policy design issues, and
- “Market development as part of RDP” because of the relevance of market for the Organic Farming sector and because market issues had been discussed very intensively.

The policy instruments defined during the 1st national workshop had been matched to the list of 8 policy goals previous to the workshop by the research team. On the basis of this list, in the 2nd National workshops national experts defined which were the most important policy instruments to address each of the outlined policy goals and developed new policy instruments if relevant ones were considered to be missing.

Policy instruments developed by the workshop's participants were then grouped according to topics by the research team and for each code (policy instrument), several sub-codes came out. These have been visualised in the figures of this chapter.

Furthermore, many of the policy instruments that have been expressed could be considered more as strategies for the development of the Organic Farming sector rather than specific policy instruments. This was not a problem since a large part of the policy instruments identified were developed into detailed policy actions by stakeholders afterwards (a description can be found in chapter 4).

This chapter provides an overview on all the policy instruments that have been developed for each of the 8 policy goals developed during the EU workshop. At the beginning of each section (3.1-3.8), a summary mind map of all developed policy instruments is given as an overview. A full description of all proposed policy instruments is provided in Annex B.

3.1 Changes in tax system

Figure 3-2 provides a summary of all developed policy instruments for the specific topic/policy goal “Changes in tax system”. A full description of all the proposed policy instruments is provided in Appendix B.

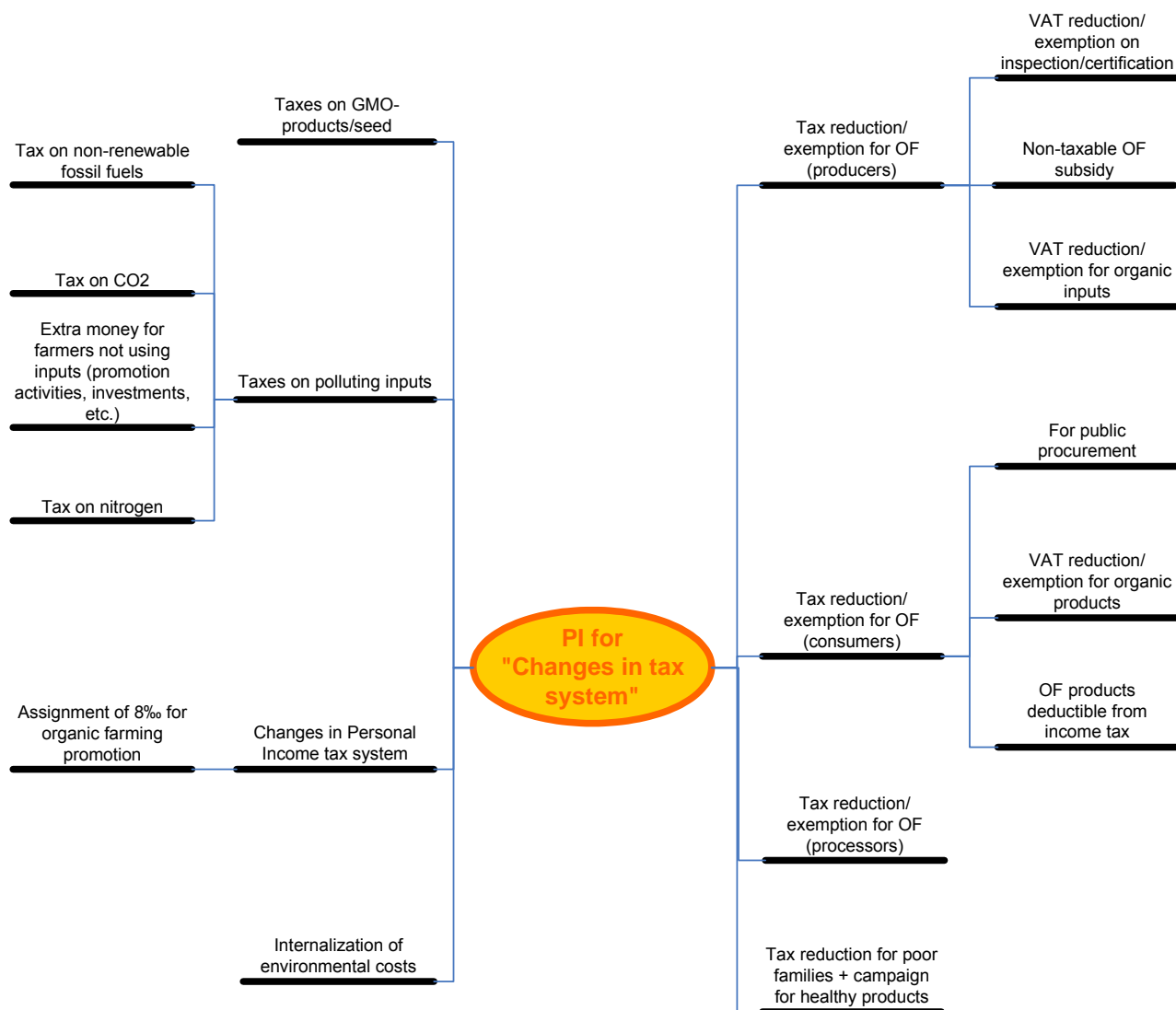


Figure 3-2: List of policy instruments developed for the “Changes in tax system” policy goal

Concerning proposals for changing the tax system, two different approaches could be noticed: one aiming at reducing/exempting taxes for OF, and the other aiming at raising taxes on conventional farming practices.

As for the first approach, a reduction or exemption in taxes was proposed for producers, consumers, processors as well as for public procurement. In order to actualise a tax relief for organic producers, it was proposed to exempt taxes on OF subsidies or to reduce VAT for organic inputs and services and organic inspections/ certifications respectively. For the purpose of favouring consumers, a

VAT reduction/ exemption for organic products was suggested. It was also proposed that organic products should be deductible from income tax.

Regarding the second approach, stakeholders suggested raising taxes on GMO-products and –seed as well as on polluting inputs. In this way, environmental costs of agricultural practices could be internalised. More specifically, participants from many countries were in favour of raising taxes on pesticides and synthetic fertiliser/ nutrients. Other propositions were to tax transport, fossil fuels, or CO₂ emissions. An additional idea was to give the extra money gained by a new tax to a fund focusing on promotional activities or investments of farmers not using these inputs.

Furthermore, two more proposals concerning a change in the income tax system were made: since taxpayers in Italy can choose to assign 8‰ of the Personal Income Tax to a specific Institution (Catholic Church, Institution for natural and artistic valorisation, etc.), participants proposed to offer the possibility to assign this 8‰ to the support of Organic Farming promotion. In the Czech Republic, there is the possibility to decrease the tax base by up to 5% - when using this amount for promotion. Stakeholders proposed to increase the knowledge about this possibility and to specify the purpose “for the promotion of OF and organic products“ in the tax regulation.

In Switzerland, it was suggested reducing the tax burden for families with a lower income- and accompany this measure by information campaigns for organic products.

3.2 Communication with consumers

Figure 3-3 provides a summary of all developed policy instruments for the specific topic/policy goal “Communication with consumers”. A full description of all the proposed policy instruments is provided in Appendix B.

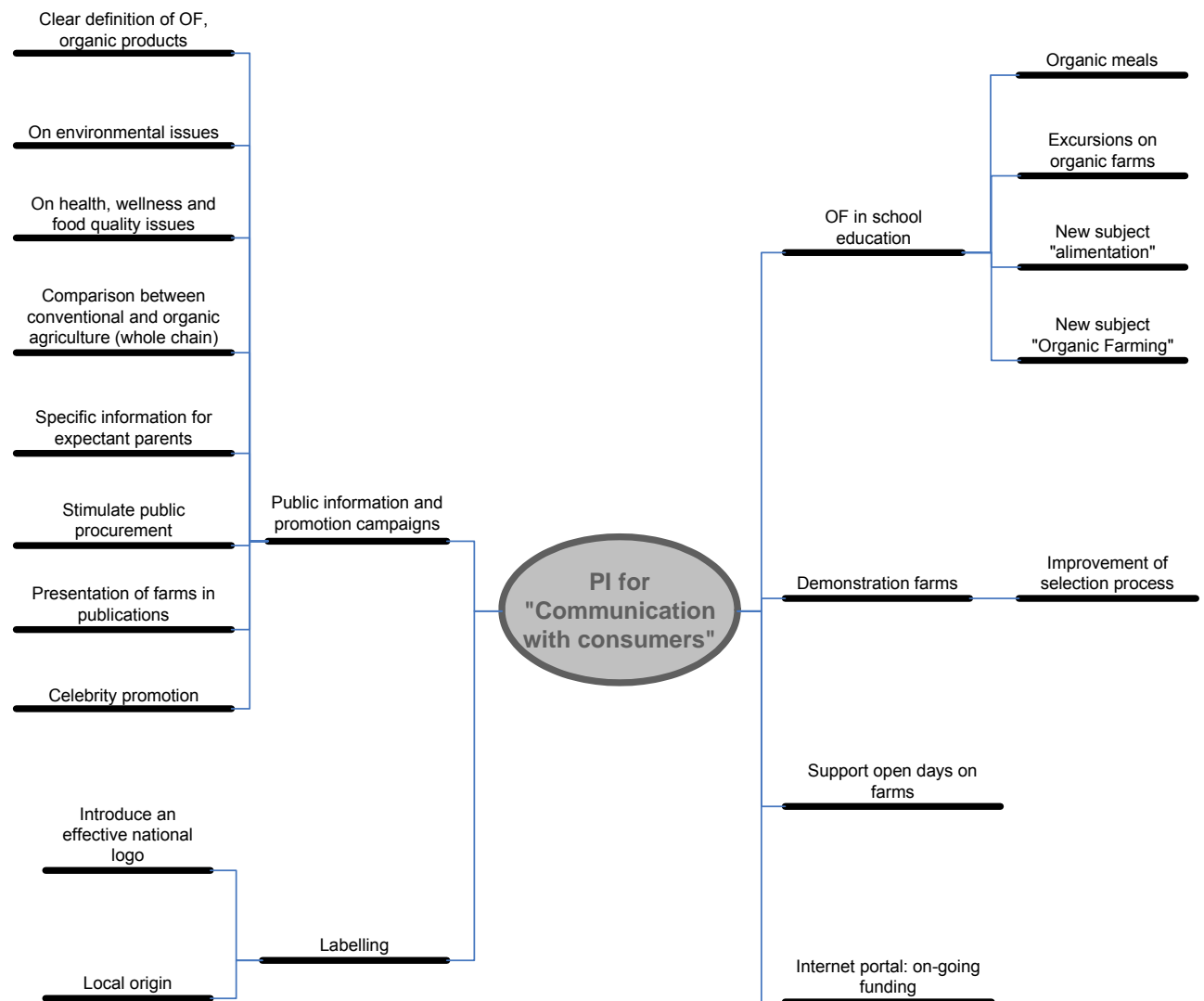


Figure 3-3: List of policy instruments developed for the “Communication with consumers” policy goal

Regarding communication with consumers, there two policy instruments were discussed predominantly: “OF in school education” and “public information and promotion campaigns”.

As for the first point, stakeholders from many countries suggested introducing a new subject “Organic Farming” in the curricula of schools. Another new subject to be introduced in order to develop awareness of consumption could address “alimentation and home economics”. Moreover, state support for school excursions on organic farms as well as the introduction of organic meals in schools was considered very helpful.

Concerning the second point, public information and promotion campaigns should include information on the environmental benefits of OF, on food quality and health issues and on the differences between conventional and organic agriculture. It was also stated that a clear definition of Organic Farming and organic products should be given to the public and that information campaigns should include specific information for expectant parents. Another proposal was to use celebrities for the promotion of organic food. Moreover, stakeholders claimed that organic farms should regularly be presented in publications and journals.

Another issue discussed in four countries was “Labelling”. The introduction of an effective and popular logo for organic products was seen as the first step in an integrated communication strategy. Further policy instruments concerning communication with consumers aimed at supporting open days on farms, improving the selection process of demonstration farms, securing an on-going funding for the OF internet portal and increasing public procurement of organic food.

3.3 Inspection and certification system

Figure 3-4 provides a summary of all developed policy instruments for the specific topic/policy goal “Inspection and certification system”. A full description of all the proposed policy instruments is provided in Appendix B.

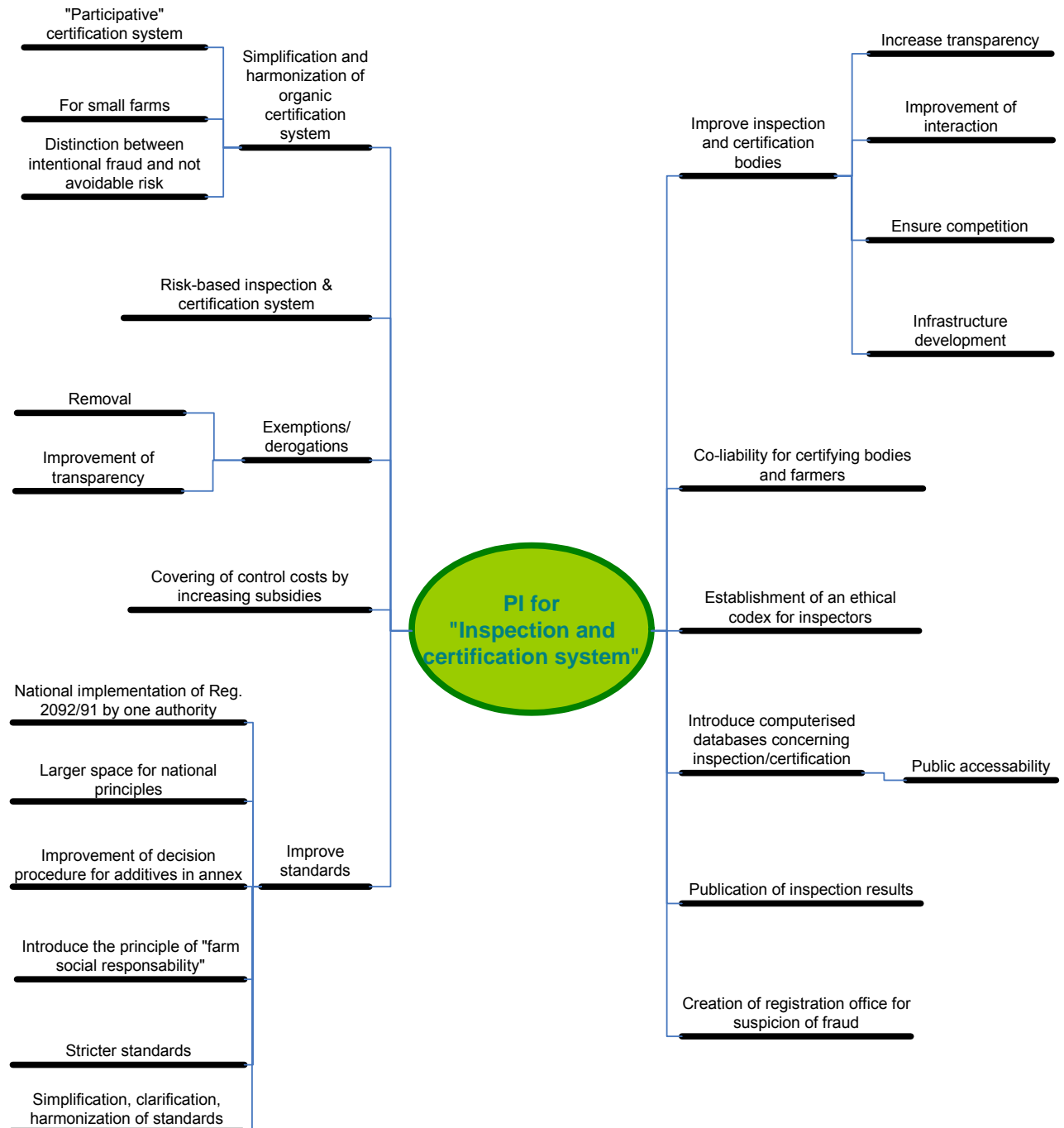


Figure 3-4: List of policy instruments developed for the “Inspection and certification system” policy goal

Issues discussed under this heading dealt with organic inspection and certification on the one hand and organic standards on the other hand.

Concerning standards, experts from many countries asked for a simplification, clarification and harmonisation of organic standards within the EU. But it was also claimed to increase the space for national principles. Moreover, experts proposed to introduce the principle of “farm social responsibility”, meaning the introduction of social-, labour- and ethical standards into the organic regulation. It was also claimed to strengthen standards in order to improve the integrity of organic products. Danish stakeholders stated that the decision procedure for additives in the annex of the EU regulation had to be improved in order to have fewer additives permitted. German experts claimed that the nationwide implementation of the EU regulation should be concentrated on one national authority.

Regarding the inspection and certification system, participants from many countries pleaded for a simplification and a harmonisation. Hungarian stakeholders stated that inspections on small farms should be easier and self-administered. In Italy, a “participative” certification system was asked for in order to generate credibility: it would suppose a joint responsibility for all segments interested in guaranteeing product and process quality. Swiss participants also suggested strengthening the personal responsibility in inspection and certification and making a clear distinction between intentional fraud and not avoidable risk. The introduction of a risk-based organic certification system was considered important by stakeholders from four countries.

As for the inspection and certification bodies themselves, it was stated that that transparency should be increased and that interactions on different levels of the supply chain had to be improved. Moreover, it was considered important to develop the controlling infrastructure and to ensure competition between inspection and certification bodies. In addition, stakeholders proposed to remove derogations and to improve transparency related to the certificates of exemption. Furthermore, the introduction of a co-liability system for farmers and certifiers was proposed.

Further proposals concerning inspection and certification aimed at publishing inspection results, introducing computerised databases, publishing the bearers of certificates in a publicly accessible data base, creating an ethical codex for inspectors and creating a registration office for suspicion of fraud. Finally, it was claimed that control costs should be covered by increasing subsidies.

3.4 Capacity building and networking

Figure 3-5 and Figure 3-6 provide a summary of all developed policy instruments for the specific topic/policy goal “Capacity building and networking”. A full description of all the proposed policy instruments is provided in Appendix B.

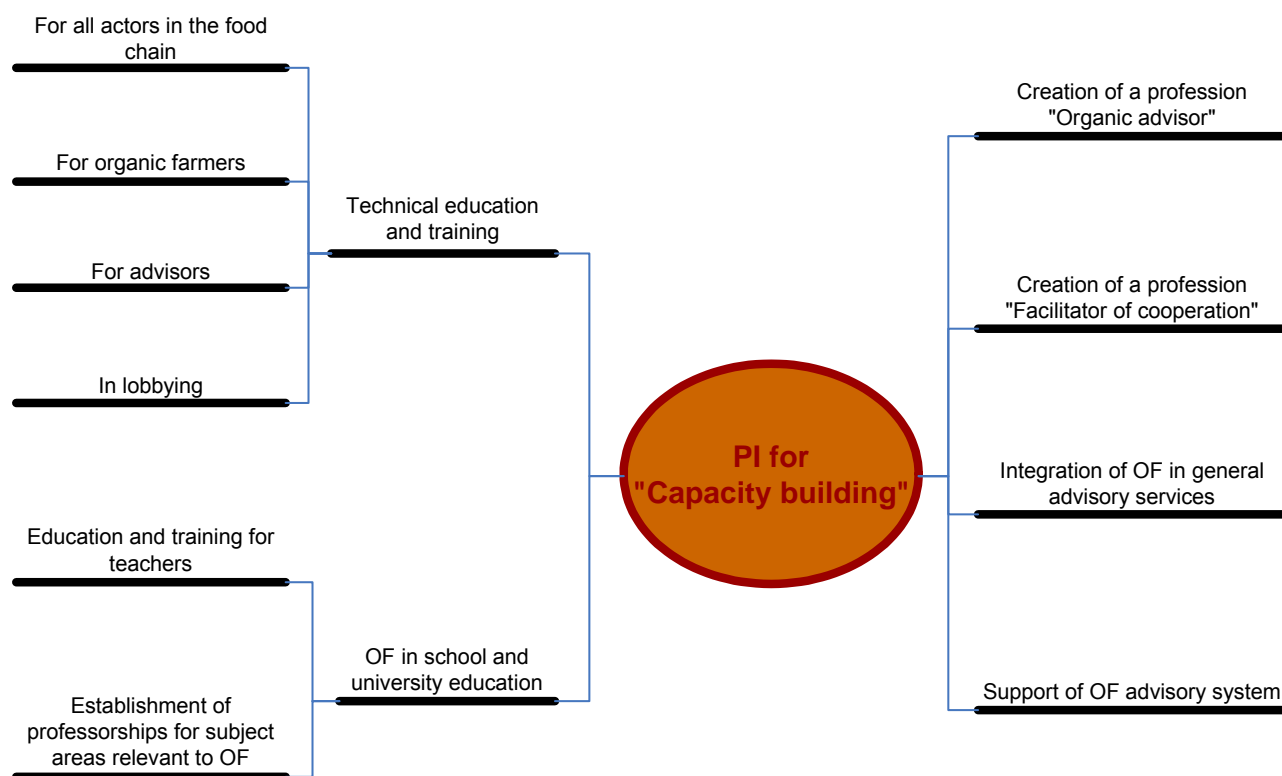


Figure 3-5: List of policy instruments developed for the “Capacity building” policy goal

Concerning capacity building in the OF sector, it was stated that OF should be taught in schools and universities. Education and training for teachers was considered important. There were two proposals to establish professorships for subject areas relevant to OF and to create new apprenticed professions: “Organic advisors” could improve advisory services in OF and “facilitators of cooperation” could mediate in the organic sector.

Moreover, technical education and training for all actors in the supply chain (e.g. the integration of OF in farmer’s vocational training) as well as for advisors was considered fundamental. In addition, training in political lobbying for organic NGOs should be supported.

In general, OF should be integrated in the general advisory services. In addition, stakeholders stressed the fact that state support should be provided for an OF advisory system. Finally, to strengthen the OF advisory system, a network of show farms should be created.

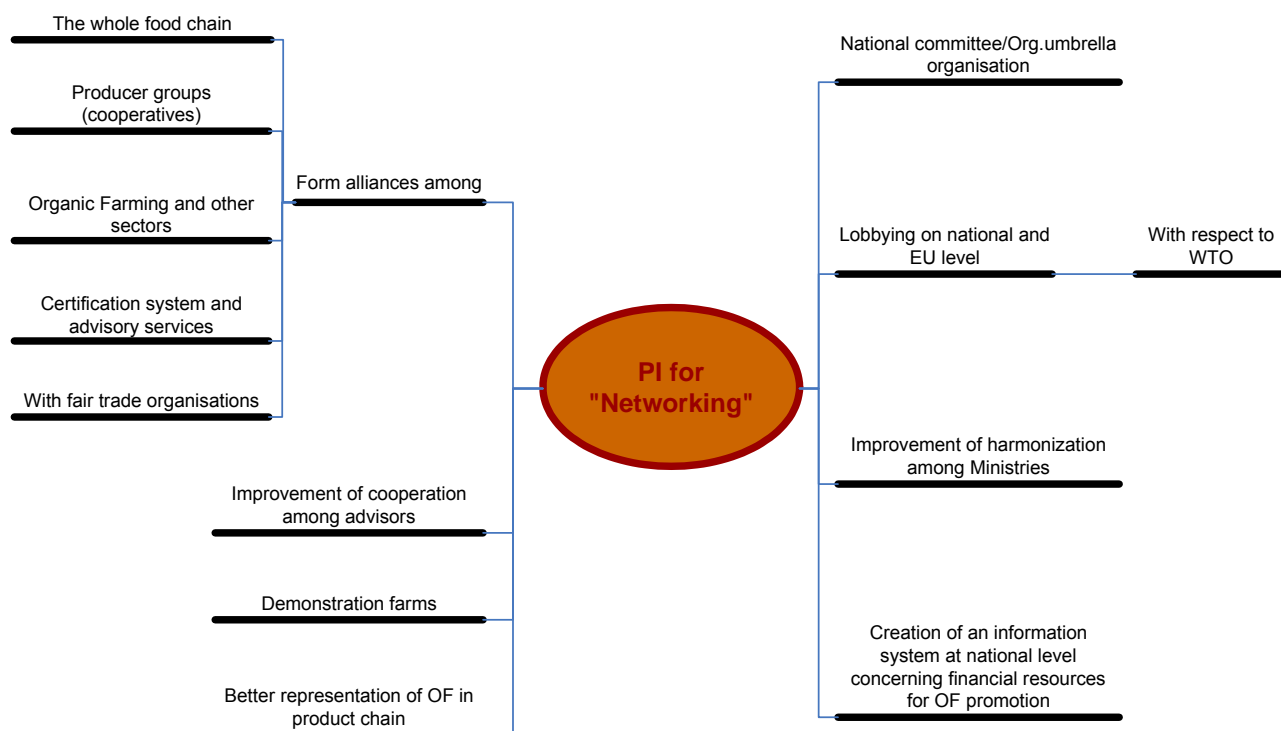


Figure 3-6: List of policy instruments developed for the “Networking” policy goal

Concerning networking, stakeholders from four countries stated that an umbrella organisation for OF should be created. Proposals ranged from the creation of a “National committee” at the Ministry, to the creation of a national advisory committee for changes in the EU-Regulation or to the establishment of a “commodity council” or “national organic networks” bundling OF farmers, retailers, processors, policy actors.

In five countries, experts considered it important to form alliances among the whole organic food chain. It was also underlined that OF should be better represented in the product chain committees. Moreover, it was proposed to form alliances between producer groups (cooperatives), as well as among the certification system and advisory services.

Networking among OF and other sectors (e.g. health, food, sustainable development) was considered important as well as cooperation activities with fair trade organisations. Besides, stakeholders asked for an improvement of cooperation among advisors and for a harmonisation of Ministries’ activities with regard to OF. It was also proposed to create a contact point at national level informing about possibilities for drawing financial resources for OF projects. And last but not least, strengthening lobby activities on national and EU level was considered important as well as lobbying with regard to the WTO negotiations.

3.5 Research and Development

Figure 3-7 provides a summary of all developed policy instruments for the specific topic/policy goal “R&D”. A full description of all these proposed policy instruments is provided in Appendix B.

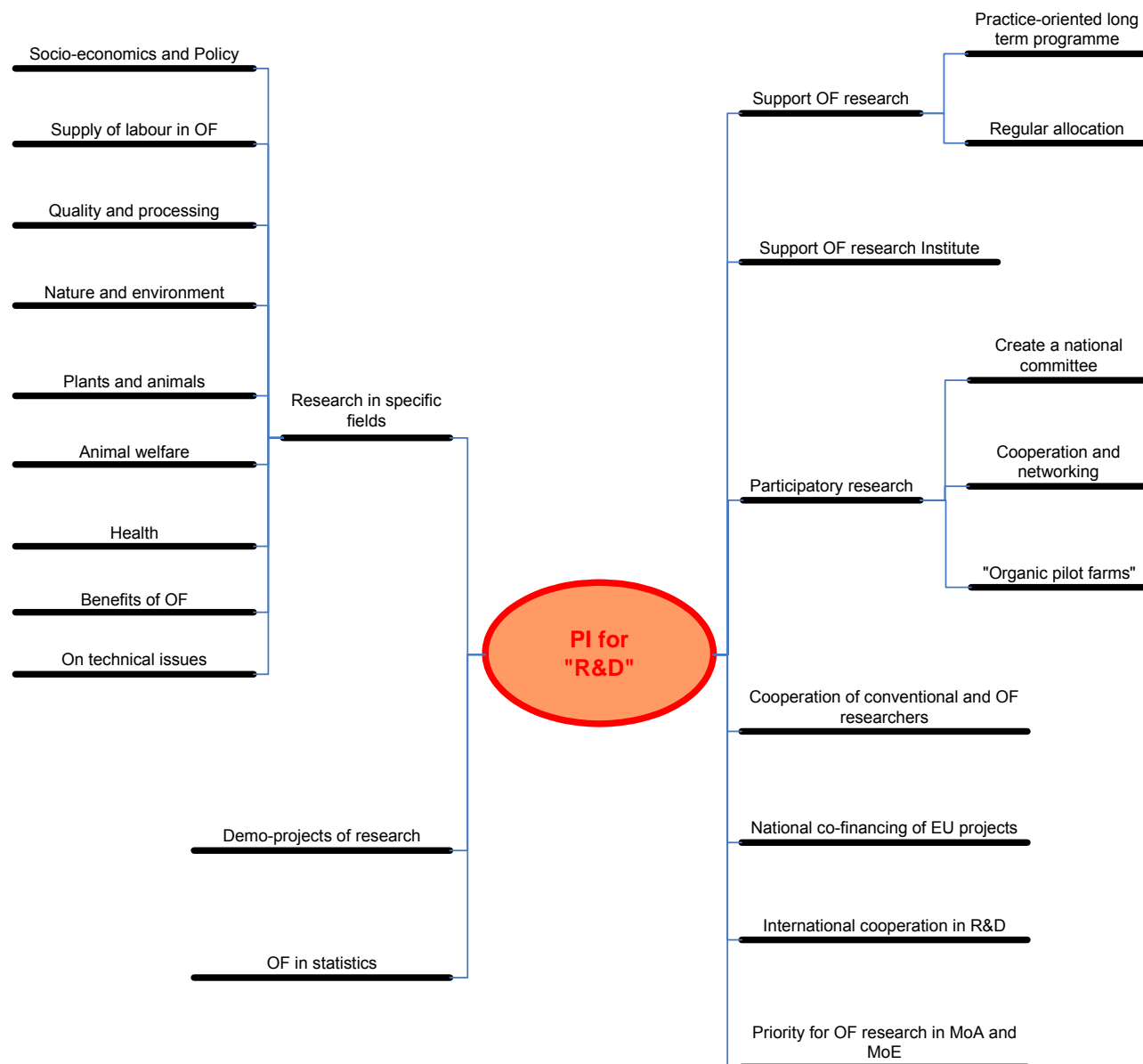


Figure 3-7: List of policy instruments developed for the “R&D” policy goal

Stakeholders from six countries asked for an increase in support for OF research—including the enhancement of a long-term R&D programme and the regular allocation of specific funds. More specifically, support of an OF research institute and the establishment of demo-projects of research on organic farms was suggested. It was claimed that the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment should give priority to OF research and provide a special budget for projects related to OF. Another suggestion was to introduce OF as a parameter in

all relevant registers and statistics, and to use FADN (Farm Accountancy Data Network) for evaluating OF economic results.

Furthermore, participatory research was considered important by experts from four countries. This should include cooperation and networking between research institutions and farmers (e.g. the “organic pilot farms”- project in Germany) as well as the creation of a national research committee bringing together different stakeholders. Besides, international cooperation in OF research as well as cooperation of conventional and organic researchers was asked for.

Concerning research in specific fields, it was suggested supporting research on the benefits of OF, on animal welfare, on nature and environment, and on the effectiveness of products admitted in OF. Furthermore, research on quality and processing, on health aspects of organic food, on technical issues, on plant and animal production, on the supply of labour on farms, and on socio-economics and policy was considered important.

3.6 GMO

Figure 3-8 provides a summary of all developed policy instruments for the specific topic/policy goal “GMO”. A full description of all these proposed policy instruments is provided in Appendix B.

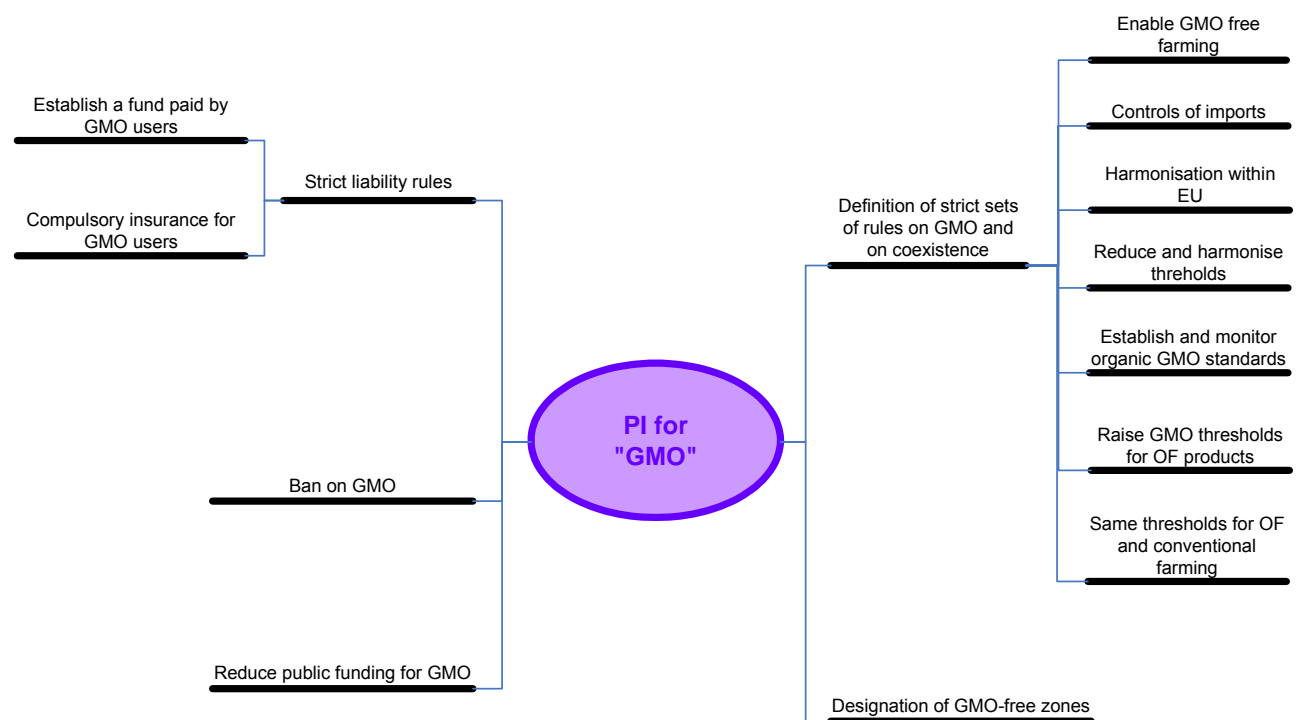


Figure 3-8: List of policy instruments developed for the “GMO” policy goal

The definition of strict sets of rules on GMO and coexistence, the establishment of strict liability rules and the designation of GMO-free zones were the issues that have been discussed most.

With regard to the first point, it was stated that the possibility of GMO-free farming had to be ensured by an appropriate legislation. To counter the threat of a GMO contamination from abroad, strict controls of imports were considered

necessary. Regulation on GMO should be harmonised within the EU and thresholds for GMO contamination should be reduced and harmonised. Concerning thresholds for GMO contamination in organic products, it was suggested raising them up to 0,9% (instead of 0%). Others said that the same thresholds should be valid for organic and conventional products. On the other hand, the establishment and monitoring of specific organic GMO standards was suggested.

The establishment of strict liability rules was claimed by stakeholders from seven countries. In this context, it was asked for the introduction of compulsory liability insurances for farmers using GMOs as well as for the establishment of a fund serving as a guarantee for incoming damages.

The designation of GMO-free zones was proposed by experts from several countries. This was considered the best possible solution to avoid GMOs. Moreover, it was considered important to ensure that rigorous research standards were imposed on future private, GM industry funded research.

Other policy instruments concerning GMO were the implementation of a total ban on GMO, the reduction of public funding for GMO and the establishment of a requirement for licensing and notification of GM crops.

3.7 Organic Farming as a role model for sustainability, rural development, multifunctionality

Figure 3-9 provides a summary of all developed policy instruments for the specific topic/policy goal “OF as a role model for sustainability, rural development, multifunctionality”. A full description of all these proposed policy instruments is provided in Appendix B.

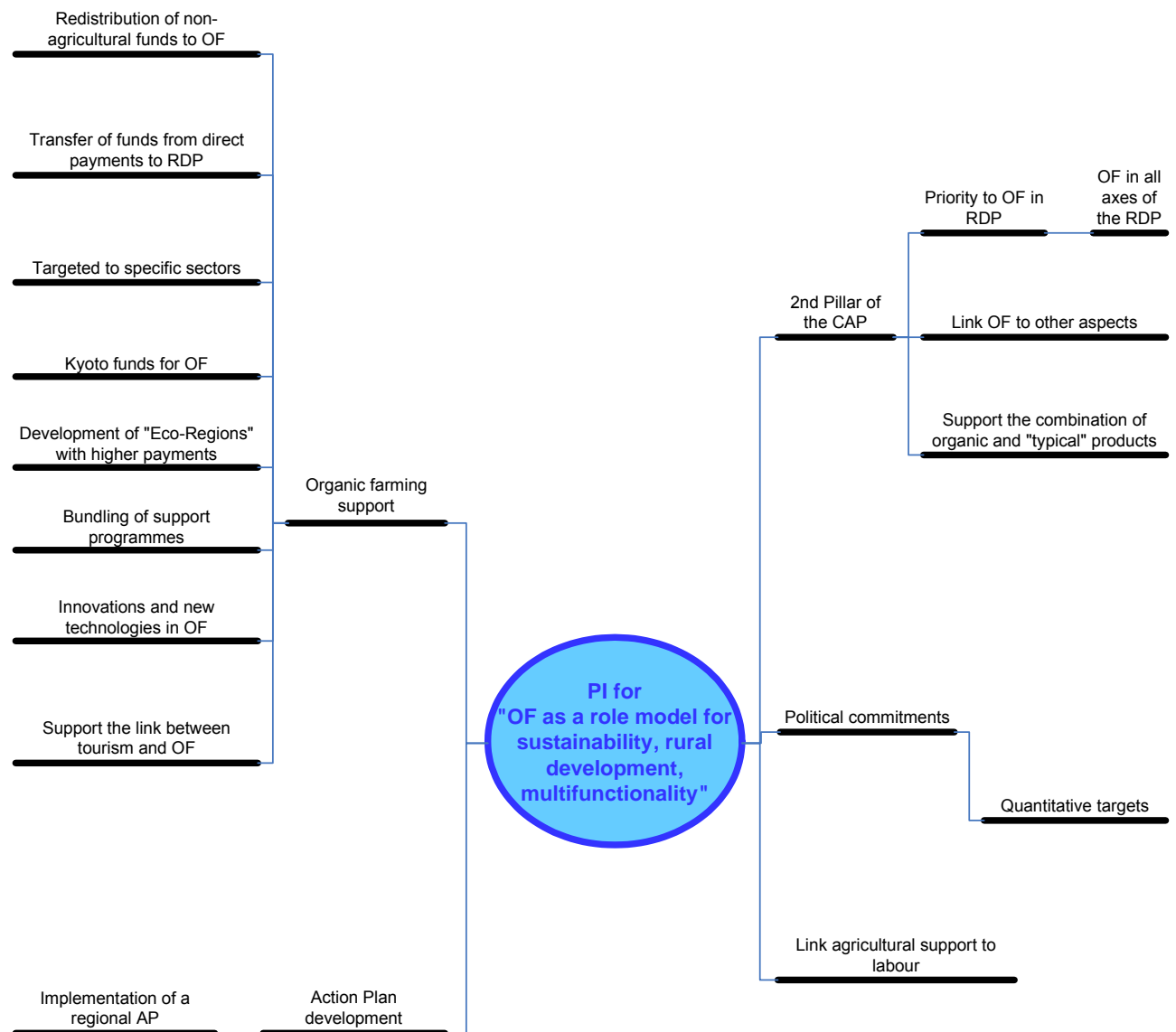


Figure 3-9: List of policy instruments developed for the “OF as a role model for sustainability, rural development, multifunctionality” policy goal

Two policy instruments were discussed predominantly: “Organic Farming support” and “2nd pillar of the CAP: Priority to Organic Farming in the Rural Development Programmes”.

Concerning “Organic Farming support”, it was claimed to transfer funds from direct payments to RDP measures or to redistribute part of the spending from non-agricultural measures within the RDP to OF. Moreover, it was proposed to enhance OF payments for the conversion of farms in specific sectors that were still developing (e.g. horticulture), to support innovations and the development of new technologies and to strengthen the link between OF and tourism. It was also suggested bundling support programmes, as there were many different programmes that dealt with pilot schemes or pre-operating studies. Another proposal was to use Kyoto funds for the support of OF- as Co2 emissions were less in OF than in conventional agriculture. Swiss participants presented the concept of “Eco-Regions”: Payments for OF should be raised in regions where a sustainability concept based on ecological and social criteria had been developed.

The second point (“Priority to OF in RDP”) was considered important by stakeholders in 8 countries. In this context, it was also stated that the linking of OF with other goals (e.g. nature, tourism, sustainable development) should be supported. Danish stakeholders considered it important to implement OF as an important tool in all three axes of the national RDP, and not to have one special part for OF. Experts from Italy claimed to provide specific funds for the combination of organic and “typical”.

Moreover, stakeholders asked for the implementation of regional action plans, for linking agricultural support to income and labour and for a clear positioning of agricultural policy in favour of OF (including the formulation of quantitative targets).

3.8 Organic Market development

Figure 3-10 provides a summary of all developed policy instruments for the specific topic/policy goal “Organic market development”. A full description of all these proposed policy instruments is provided in Appendix B.

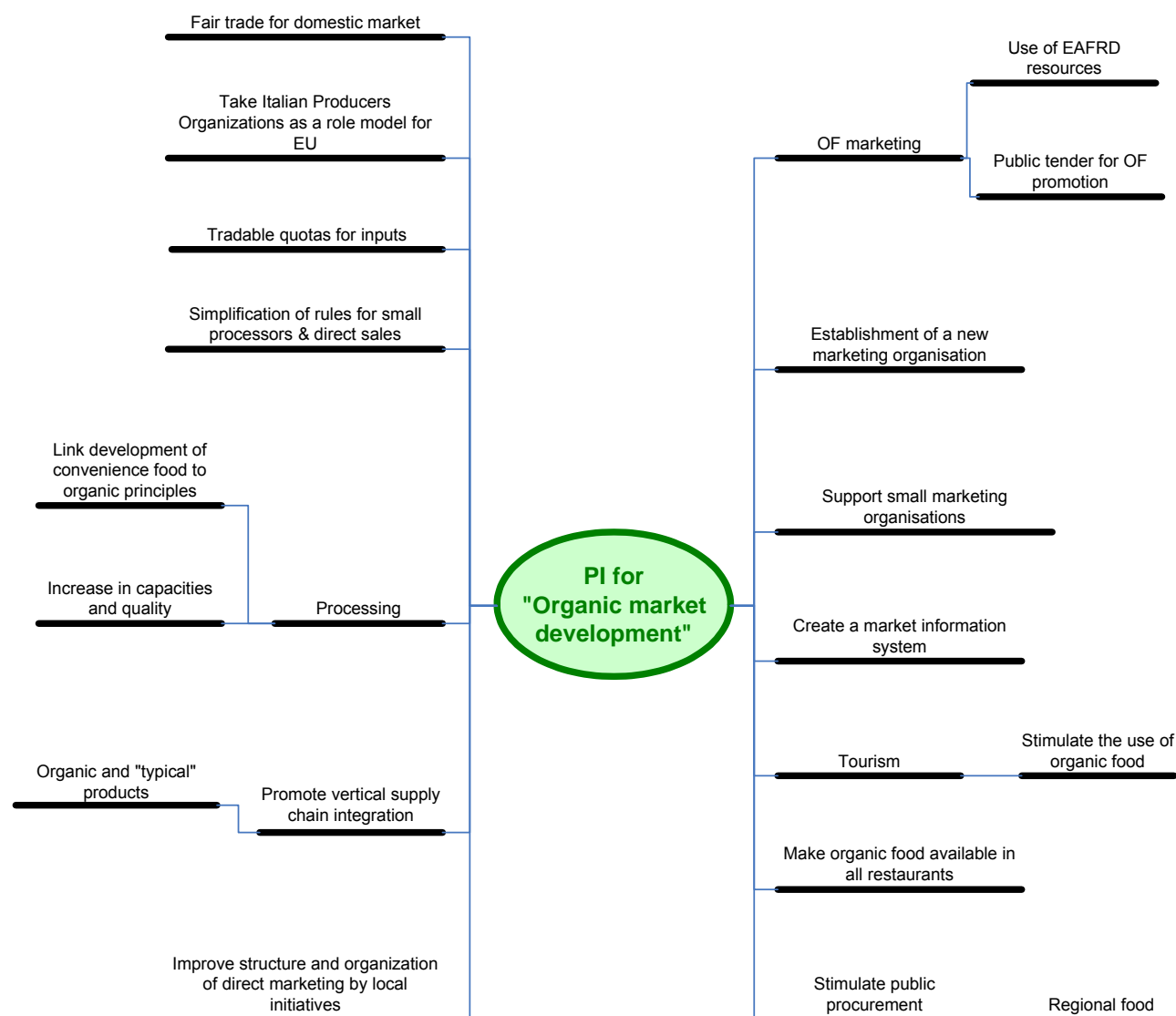


Figure 3-10: List of policy instruments developed for the “Organic market development” policy goal

Again, market development was a theme that has been discussed a lot in the workshops.

An important point was the improvement of structure and organisation of direct marketing by local initiatives -which was mentioned by stakeholders from five countries. This should include the establishment of local organic food cooperatives. It was stated that developing local food links and shorter supply

chains could bring consumers closer to their food producers. A re-regionalisation was seen as a counter movement to current globalisation in the organic sector.

Another big theme discussed in five countries was the stimulation of public procurement of organic food, e.g. in schools, kindergardens, health care facilities, public canteens etc. Moreover, it was emphasised that the use of regional food in public procurement should be stimulated as it could indirectly support OF. It was also claimed to focus on the promotion of organic food in tourism and to make organic food available in all restaurants.

Other proposals concerning market development were the creation of a market information system and the establishment of a new marketing organisation. Italian stakeholders proposed to take the Italian producers organisation for fruit and vegetables as a role model for the EU. Moreover, it was proposed to support small marketing organisations and to simplify the rules for small processors and direct sales. Danish stakeholders asked for fair trade in the domestic market- as Danish products were less competitive than foreign products.

Concerning OF marketing, Czech stakeholders stated that a public tender for OF promotion activities should be established in order to give more than one organisation the possibility to draw on financial resources from the marketing fund. Regarding processing, it was claimed to increase capacities and quality. The development of convenience food should be linked to organic principles. Moreover, it was stated that the vertical supply chain integration should be promoted and that supply-chains concerning organic and “typical” should be developed together.

An innovative proposal came from UK: stakeholders suggested introducing tradable quotas for agricultural inputs such as fertilizer, pesticide and energy. The initial allocation should be on a per hectare basis. In this way, smaller or less intensive farmers would have a product that they could trade and which provided them with an income; and larger, more intensive farmers would have the option of buying quota at a fair price.

4 Policy actions

This chapter presents the main outcomes of the discussions on concrete policy actions.

According to their importance, in each country the developed list of policy instruments was reduced to a total of 2 instruments per policy goal. A detailed list of possible policy actions to implement each of the top 2 policy instruments selected is presented in Appendix C.

To develop policy actions, following the SMART methodological approach, guidelines for their detailed definition were defined and based on 5 steps:

1. How actions will be implemented (description of the concrete action to be taken, structured in subsequent steps to be implemented);
2. Who will take responsibility for implementation (name of the person/organisation in charge of implementing the action);
3. Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms (main costs and estimated budget; organisations/actor that will implement the action concretely);
4. Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action (who will be eligible as beneficiary/addressee of the action);
5. Which will be the expected times for starting implementation and finalise the action (date when the action will start and date when it is expected to be finalised).

This chapter provides a summary of all policy actions developed for the most important policy instruments identified for each of the 8 policy goals. The list of policy instruments developed into policy actions is presented according to the number of nominations.

For policy instruments that have been developed into policy actions in most countries, a general overview on all the corresponding policy actions developed is provided. This does not necessarily mean that the policy actions described here can be considered the only most relevant. Sometimes policy actions linked to a specific policy instrument that has been mentioned just once can be more relevant than those linked to a policy instrument mentioned several times. Thus, it is important to clarify that, according to the framework of this study, existing policy actions can be considered relevant if they are original or unusual within the current policy context.

The following overview is restricted to step 1 (the implementation of the actions). For a more detailed description (responsibilities, resources etc, please refer to Appendix C. Please note that stakeholders in different countries had quite differing approaches sometimes. This chapter represents a subsumption of what has been said in different countries; statements can even conflict in particular cases.

4.1 Changes in tax system

With regard to changes in the tax system, the following policy instruments have been developed into policy actions:

- Taxes on polluting inputs (in 7 countries)
- Tax reduction/exemption for OF (consumers) (in 4 countries)
- Tax reduction/exemption for OF (producers) (in 2 countries)
- Taxes on GMO-products/seed (in 2 countries).

The point that has been discussed most, “**taxes on polluting inputs**”, subsumes proposals for the introduction of taxes on chemical fertilizers, pesticides, but also on nutrients, fossil energy, food miles and CO₂. A supplementary suggestion was to put the money collected this way into a fund supporting farmers not using these inputs. It was also emphasised that such “Eco-Taxes” should not necessarily result in an increase of the overall tax load (depending on the distribution of the additional tax revenue). Moreover, it was proposed to combine a tax on fossil energy with incentives for alternative energy use. A problem was seen in the over-proportional disadvantage for domestic agriculture; therefore, such measures were deemed to be implementable on EU or WTO level only.

Concerning the concrete way of implementing such measures, it was proposed to first form a consensus on national level, and then coordinate the measures on EU-level. It was also suggested performing a feasibility study, analysing the economical impact, clarifying the utilisation of the received funds, defining the tax rate and the amounts and identifying potential loopholes. The policy action should go together with a VAT reduction for organic products and cover the thereby reduced tax-income.

Concrete policy actions regarding a **tax reduction/exemption for OF referring to consumers** were developed in four countries. As an example, a VAT reduction/exemption for organic products was suggested (e.g. to 0% or 5%). This would allow selling organic products to consumers at a cheaper price and therefore increase consumption and demand for organic products. In a first step, lobby work for a VAT reduction was considered important: Organic Farming organizations should concretely present a proposal for changing the VAT legislation. To evaluate the proposal, an analysis of the economical impact (the reduced sum of VAT in national budget) should be conducted.

An interesting proposal was to make OF products deductible from the income tax. The implementation should be effected via the tax declarations or via reductions for certain insurances (e.g. life insurance, social security). However, the proof of organic purchases seemed difficult: it was considered feasible only via automatic systems (chip cards of supermarkets). At the end of the year, a list of the data saved could be made and attached to the tax declaration. The major problem would be that only purchases at retailers were registered, and that organic products were not always marked as organic on the receipts. Furthermore the system might require new technical equipment for retailers.

4.2 Communication with consumers

Concerning communication with consumers, concrete policy actions have been worked out for the following policy instruments:

- Public information and promotion campaigns (in 11 countries)
- OF in school education (in 5 countries)
- Labelling (in 2 countries)
- Support open days on farms (in 1 country)
- Internet portal: on-going funding (in 1 country).

“Public information and promotion campaigns” is the only policy instrument that has been chosen and concretised in all countries. Concrete proposals were to inform consumers on environmental issues; on health, wellness and food quality issues; to clearly define OF; to inform about the basic principles of OF and organic products and to compare conventional and organic agriculture. Further topics could be regional diversity, biodiversity, sustainability and the protection of ground water. Such “new parameters for competition” could renew the interest and understanding for OF.

Means to be used in order to stimulate consumers’ awareness range from the presentation of farms in publications to the promotion of OF by celebrities, TV spots, regular programs on TV, movies, but also topical articles in the press, info leaflets, cd-roms, billboards/ posters and websites. Moreover, it was suggested enabling farm visits and meetings of producers and consumers, to organise events/ information days, to conduct promotion campaigns for organic products in the shops and enhance organic agro-tourism. Specific information should be given to expectant parents and health clubs, consumer organizations or family schools could play a role in the promotion of OF. Another suggestion for increasing consumers’ awareness was to stimulate organic public procurement: the use of 100% organic products in public canteens should be compulsory and combined with food educational programmes. In addition, it was suggested arranging the periodical presence of an expert (nutritionist, agronomist) in school canteens for education and comparative tasting, and to establish TV series on organic food & cuisine.

In order to accomplish such public information and promotion campaigns, it was proposed to first research reviews to generate material, to work out a marketing and communication strategy and to draw up a campaign plan. In two countries, it was proposed to first verify existing and proved measures and to check which ones were worth being assigned and multiplied on long term rather than developing and introducing new ones. Furthermore, it was suggested increasing the budget for information campaigns and for the promotion of organic products. A media campaign was supposed to last several years and to target especially at the emotional level of consumers. An idea was to establish private-public partnerships and conduct campaigns in cooperation with companies. Moreover, it was considered important to enable self-advertising of farms: therefore, the public sales fund law should be amended in order that money for sales promotion remained with the organic farmers.

In five countries, policy actions concerning **OF in school education** have been worked out. More specifically, it was proposed to introduce Organic Farming as a subject in the curricula of schools, and to develop appropriate teaching units/ methods and to generate teaching materials. The issue of sustainable consumption should also be integrated in the curriculum. Moreover, project weeks targeted on ecology and Organic Farming were considered helpful. In order to assure an adequate education, it was also suggested implementing special training courses for teachers and other actors in education and to coordinate their activities on a national level.

In addition to courses in schools, it was considered important to establish and finance integrative and practical projects with relation to OF, e.g. visits on organic farms and organic school gardens. In this context, it was proposed to train charismatic organic farmers/ actors to transfer the information about OF in schools. Another proposal was to offer simple organic healthy meals (preferably local products) in schools as well as organic snacks during the breaks.

4.3 Inspection and certification system

With regard to changes in the inspection and certification system, the following policy instruments have been developed into policy actions:

- Improve standards (in 7 countries)
- Simplification and harmonization of Organic Certification system (in 6 countries)
- Improve inspection and certification bodies (in 3 countries)
- Risk-based inspection & certification system (in 2 countries)
- Introduce computerised databases concerning inspection/certification (in 2 countries)
- Covering of control costs by increasing subsidies (in 1 country)
- Publication of inspection results (in 1 country).

Policy actions with regard to the improvement of **standards** and OF regulation respectively have been developed in seven countries. The actions that have been proposed and the objectives behind are quite differing. A simplification, clarification and harmonization of standards was proposed in two countries and specified as follows: it was proposed to work out a manual including the updated regulation (present statutes and analyses) with clear interpretations and examples for farmers, processors, but also for inspectors of the control body. In addition, an attempt should be made to simplify the legislation in order to make it more suitable for organic farmer's practical life. Moreover, it was proposed to revise and harmonise the standards across the countries. Therefore, in a first step, consultations with ministries, inspection and certification bodies, experts and farmers at national level as well as with other countries were considered necessary. In a second step, the proposals should be presented to the EU Commission and to local authorities and finally, the new standards were to be implemented.

The introduction of stricter standards was asked for in two other countries: on the one hand, it was suggested establishing stricter standards for processing and

transport and new standards regarding energy. This objective should be achieved via the implementation of a technical development project and a grassroots research project. On the other hand, it was claimed that standards within countries and across the EU needed to be compared and contrasted - and differences in standards interpretation needed to be identified. Furthermore, the principles of Organic Farming should be enshrined into the EU regulation and workshops, research papers etc. were considered necessary to regularly facilitate the evolution of standards. Furthermore, it was suggested introducing labour, ethical, social and economic minimum standards in production, processing and trade of organic products (linked to IFOAM standards). In addition, the implementation of a respective certification („organic – ISO Certification“) was considered useful. These actions should ensure a fair treatment of organic farmers (principle of "farm social responsibility").

A review and evaluation of the decision procedure concerning the annex on additives of the EU Reg. 2092/91 was also asked for - in order to have fewer additives admitted in OF. The evaluation should be accomplished with the participation of stakeholders (e.g. IFOAM EU group). It was stated that at the moment, the policy process with a qualified majority tended to have too many additives permitted because Member States were "horse-trading".

Another claim was to accomplish the implementation of Reg. 2092/91 by one National authority instead of several regional authorities. In a first step, the effects of this measure should be estimated and the extent of coordination should be clarified. Then, a contract between the regions should be concluded.

Policy instruments concerning a **simplification and harmonization of the organic certification system** have been concretised in five countries.

Inspection results should be used to develop the certification process and, where possible, subsequently reduce the administrative burden. It was considered especially important to identify current practices across the EU. Actions aiming at a revision of the certification system should include: consultations with ministries, inspection and certification bodies, experts and farmers at national level as well as with other countries, the preparation of proposals to the EU Commission and local authorities and finally the implementation of a new system. Therefore, information and training should be provided for producers, processors, sellers, certifying bodies and advisors.

In one country, it was considered especially important to discuss and determine the difference between intentional fraud and not avoidable, general contamination risk. Personal responsibility in inspection and certification should be strengthened and at the same time, stricter sanctions should be introduced.

Another proposal was to allow partial self-assessment based on a risk assessment of fraud potential. Especially inspections on small farms should become easier and self administered: the controlling should be organized by local organic producers every year.

4.4 Capacity building and networking

Concerning capacity building (CB) and networking (N), concrete policy actions have been worked out for the following policy instruments:

Capacity building:

- Technical education and training for advisors (in 4 countries)
- Technical education and training for organic farmers (in 2 countries)
- OF in school and university education (in 2 countries)
- Support of OF advisory system (in 1 country)
- Technical education and training for all actors in the food chain (in 1 country)
- Technical education and training in lobbying (in 1 country)

Networking:

- National committee/ Org. umbrella organisation (in 3 countries)
- Form alliances among Organic Farming and other sectors (in 2 countries)
- Form alliances among the whole food chain (in 2 countries)
- Form alliances among producer groups (cooperatives) (in 2 countries)
- Better representation of OF in product chain (in 1 country)
- Demonstration farms (in 1 country)
- Improvement of cooperation among advisors (in 1 country).

The policy instrument that has been worked out most with regard to capacity building was “**Technical education and training for advisors**”. It was suggested preparing training programs for advisors in order to “train the trainers”. In order to develop advisory systems, it was also proposed to produce information packages, training materials and software and to enhance an activities programme co-financed by the regions and the farms. Moreover, the advisory system could be strengthened by designating show farms and advisory centres and preparing a related database. Another suggestion was to implement Organic Farming as a topic in the vocational training of advisors.

Regarding networking, policy actions concerning the creation of a **National committee/ an organic umbrella organisation** have been developed. On the one hand, it was suggested establishing a commodity council. To achieve this, discussions with the MoA were considered necessary: an activity description should be worked out and proposals for the personal structure of the council should be made.

A specific proposal was to create a national OF committee at the Ministry with internal and external experts. It should aim at monitoring and planning of OF

policy at ministry-, regional- and stakeholder level and contribute to define the strategies for Organic Farming policy. The establishment and the designation (max 15 people) should be done by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. The committee should be composed of organic producers, a processor, an importer, a distributor, a consumer, representatives of the regions and one person from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, from the Ministry of Health and from the Ministry of Environment each.

Furthermore, in order to achieve a better coordination along the food chain, the installation of national organisation structures for respective market partners (farmers, processors, trade, retailers, policy) was proposed. As a first step, a “round table”/an institutionalised forum of discussion for the market actors should be installed. There, „terms of references“ (including the definition of responsibilities and duties for each partner) should be discussed and developed.

4.5 Research and Development

With regard to research and development, the following policy instruments have been specified by policy actions:

- Support OF research (in 6 countries)
- Research in specific fields (in 5 countries)
- Participatory research (in 3 countries)
- International cooperation in R&D (in 1 country)
- OF in statistics (in 1 country)
- Priority for OF research in MoA and MoE (in 1 country)
- Support OF research institute (in 1 country).

Policy actions regarding the **support of OF research** were developed in 6 countries. Generally, it was stated that the extent of R&D for OF should be increased on all levels (EU, National, regional). A sufficient budget for co-financing (e.g. for international projects) should be provided. A more specific procedural suggestion was to work out an Organic Farming research programme, approve it by the Ministry of Agriculture, designate the funds and then implement the research. Moreover, it was claimed that specific evaluation criteria for tenders should be established.

It was considered particularly important to regularly allocate specific funds for OF research. In two countries, it was proposed to enhance a long-term R&D-programme for OF. Possible themes should be problem- and practice-oriented questions. The research programme should be conducted interdisciplinary (including the integration of practitioners) and existent research on EU-level should be coordinated. Selection criteria for research projects should be based on previous/back competences and the quality of the research programme.

Policy actions concerning **research in specific fields** were worked out in five countries, namely policy actions regarding research for the benefits of OF, for quality and processing, for plants and animals and for nature and environment. It

was stated that Organic Farming should be a priority in research and that interdisciplinary research projects should be conducted. Research on the benefits of OF should mainly focus on its positive effects on health, employment, income, environment and nature, and work out the consequential charges for society.

The elaboration of project proposals should be based on analyses of problems in Organic Farming sector, and accordingly projects should be selected and implemented.

Furthermore, it was suggested that a research project could do a stock take of current practices, the aim being to get a picture across Europe as to how close Organic Farming was to being the sustainability model. A follow up research project in combination with a skills development programme should then ensure that practices were improved in areas where OF was found to be lacking. The programme could be done at the EU and National level and would be the basis for OF promotion - as it demonstrated a real desire for the industry to develop and improve.

4.6 GMO

Concerning GMO, concrete policy actions have been worked out for the following policy instruments:

- Definition of strict sets of rules on GMO and on coexistence (in 5 countries)
- Strict liability rules (in 4 countries)
- Designation of GMO-free zones (in 4 countries)
- Ban on GMO (in 2 countries).

Policy actions aiming at **strict sets of rules on GMO and on coexistence** were developed in order to ensure and guarantee the possibility of GMO-free farming. Therefore, proposals on co-existence had to be prepared which in praxis prevented any possibility of unwilling GMO contamination in agriculture -in production and processing as well as in seeds. The development of a strict legislation on GMO should be accompanied by the establishment of an effective monitoring and inspection system (incl. penalty system). It was also explicated that thresholds had to be reduced and harmonised within the EU. Therefore, the EU regulation should define the same instrumental zero-point thresholds in all European countries (at a low level).

In one country, it was proposed to establish and monitor organic GMO standards (e.g. 0.1% limit of detection), in combination with specific contamination controls for the organic sector. Such specific control standards would act as a second layer of defence against GMO contamination. By contrast, in another country, it was considered important to have the same thresholds for OF and conventional farming. It was argued that if GMO thresholds specific for the OF sector were implemented, additional wattles for OF would be built up. Therefore, a cross-reference in the EU Council Regulation No. 2092/91 to the GMO-Labeling Council Regulation should be established.

Strict liability rules placing the liability for damages by GMO firmly on the GMO user were asked for and specified by policy actions in many countries. A law or decree should guarantee that farmers insure themselves against third-party damage or loss caused by the use of GMO. More specifically, the required minimum amount of money should be at 500.000 €/year, with compulsory provisional payments guaranteed by a bank. Another proposal was to install an obligatory fund supplied by the users of GMO in order to pay for damages (done to OF) as well as for the costs of examination of GMO free products.

4.7 Organic Farming as a role model for sustainability, rural development, multifunctionality

With regard to the policy goal “Organic Farming as a role model for sustainability, rural development, multifunctionality”, the following policy instruments have been developed into policy actions:

- 2nd Pillar of the CAP (in 9 countries)
- Organic Farming support (in 5 countries)
- Political commitments (in 2 countries)
- Action Plan development: implementation of regional AP (in 1 country).

Concerning the **2nd pillar of the CAP**, policy actions have been worked out in nine countries, most of which concentrating on policy actions aiming at giving priority to OF in the rural development programmes. More specifically, it was argued that, by State regulation, at least 50% of the resources within the RDP should be continuous and clearly assigned for agro-environmental measures- and among these at least 50% to Organic Farming.

The aim should be that OF turned up prominently within the strategy plans of the European Union, the state and the federal states. An idea was to first analyse RDP measures in order to find potential connections with OF. In this context, it was proposed to set up a complete list of possible measures and to establish special sub-measures targeted to OF. Another proposal was to develop criteria to evaluate the production and processing of organic products. It was specified to improve support for OF in the following areas: investments and for certification costs (in order to increase competitiveness), diversification, processing, maintaining old varieties of plants and animal breeds, educational programmes for farmers, children and consumers. OF should especially be supported within transfer payments, the National environmental programme as well as LEADER/ INTERREG.

Moreover, it was even proposed that Art. 69 Reg.1782/03 should relate only to measures concerning CDO, CGDO, POD and Organic Farming. Furthermore, it was considered useful to decrease production capacity limits for OF. Another proposal was to change the process (method) of the preparation of the RDP in order to assure a better communication between the sectors and to include the interested public as well as NGOs and other actors. In order to achieve this, it was considered useful to organise a conference, workshops, or a web forum.

In one country, it was considered important to have not one special part for OF in the RDP, but to mention OF in all sections. Lobbying should be intensified with a

very broad number of organisations. So a lobby strategy should be worked out on how OF could be used in the RDP concerning employment, nature, health and other aspects. A linking of Organic Farming with other aspects and goals (e.g. nature, environment, tourism, and sustainable development) was asked for in another country as well. In order to achieve this, it was specified that there should be a call for project proposals and pilot projects demonstrating OF as the basis for multifunctionality in rural areas.

Policy actions related to **Organic Farming support** included several items. On the one hand, it was suggested that all payment schemes across the European Union should be described and monitored at EU level and in this way, a framework to encourage Organic Farming schemes within the RDP should be provided. Moreover, within the RDP, more funds should be spent on OF originating from non-agricultural measures and sources. A territorial agreement should be drawn up promoting cooperations between public and private actors of a specific area for the realization of particular projects which enable to improve the local context. Resources for its implementation could come from the Sixth Environment Action Programme (Kyoto, biodiversity, environment, health and life quality, resources and wastes).

It was also considered important to evaluate existing national support schemes. National payment schemes should be uniform and targeted to specific sectors. Support should be based on existing environmental payments, but also include socio-economic and quality goals. Moreover, it was considered important to move conversion payments into higher-level schemes. In order to support the link between tourism and OF, specific project proposals, e.g. for “Bio-Hotels” should be elaborated and submitted.

A specific proposal was to offer higher direct payments to farms that were situated in an “Eco-region” – if the region generated an added value and farms were regionally linked. Therefore, minimal requirements should be defined, and a support scheme should be developed.

Furthermore, it was proposed to transfer funds from direct payments to RDP. In order to achieve this, organic organisations should make a proposal and accordingly, the MoA should submit the new payment schemes to the European Commission.

4.8 Organic Market development

Concerning Organic market development, concrete policy actions have been worked out for the following policy instruments:

- Improve structure and organization of direct marketing by local initiatives (in 6 countries)
- Stimulate public procurement (in 5 countries)
- OF marketing (in 2 countries)
- Create a market information system (in 1 country)
- Establishment of a new marketing organisation (in 1 country)
- Processing: increase in capacities and quality (in 1 country)

- Promote vertical supply chain integration (in 1 country)
- Take Italian producers organizations as a role model for EU (in 1 country)
- Tourism: stimulate the use of organic food (in 1 country)
- Tradable quotas for inputs (in 1 country).

In most countries, policy actions concerning **an improvement of structure and organisation of direct marketing by local initiatives** were developed.

In order to implement this policy instrument, it was proposed to support local initiatives (local markets, on-farm-selling etc), to give incentives for regional marketing on different levels (region specific production and processing), and to offer courses for farmers. More specifically, it was proposed to establish a special fund within the MoA, where local initiators and marketer (farmers) could apply for support.

It was stated that structure and organisation of direct sales could be improved by creating clear legal regulations concerning on-farm processing and direct sales. Other ideas were to establish food festivals and awards with a clear organic focus (e.g. regional food sheds), to develop regional tourism and consumer guides, to establish a website with an internet fair for organic products and last but not least to develop a code of practice on how these initiatives could operate in order to maintain consumer confidence.

As a basis for the proposed policy actions, the creation of political frame conditions, e.g. the increase of investment support for producers and processors and increased measures under the LEADER-program were considered necessary.

Policy actions concerning the **stimulation of organic food in public procurement** were worked out in five countries. A proposition was to conduct a background study analysing possibilities of using organic food in public kitchens. It was also suggested changing the law on public procurement in order to give priority to organic products in public procurement.

Moreover, information should be provided for chefs and consumers, e.g. on the benefits of Organic Farming. In addition, specific sales promotion measures for organic products in public canteens should be developed -and possibly integrated into the Rural Development Programmes. A further proposal was to establish a program of targeted practical pioneer initiatives to link organic business and procurement.

A concrete proceeding regarding the introduction of organic food in public canteens was also proposed: first, Organic Farming organisations should make a proposal to the MoA, and then the latter should prepare a support scheme for covering the higher price of organic food- which in a further step should be approved by the Ministry of Finances. The support scheme should then be implemented by the paying agency.

In addition to the actions presented above, it was mentioned that food in public catering should not only be organic, but also regional. Therefore, goals for a regional supply policy ("from the region, to the region") should be defined and implemented.

5 Final Remarks

The results of the workshops exposed in this report present a snap-shot of the appraisal of Organic Farming experts concerning policies for Organic Farming.

Presented results on policy instruments and on policy actions are the original statements by workshop participants. Thus, results are based on the opinions of stakeholders of very different professional backgrounds and cultural settings. At times, this resulted in quite contrasting statements on the same issue. Therefore, it is important to know that results do not represent a group consensus.

In the frame of the EU-CEEOPF– Project („Further Development of Organic Farming Policy, with Particular emphasis on EU enlargement“), identical workshops have been conducted in 11 European countries in May/ June 2005 as a third step of a process built on two series of national workshops and one European workshop. The specification of policy instruments and the formulation of concrete measures for their implementation is particular for these third series of workshops. Many of the policy instruments that were discussed had been developed in the first national workshops (in 2004) already. New policy instruments have also been developed- but just a few of them were transformed into concrete measures. This highlights the fact that relevant themes concerning Organic Farming Policy were already explored in the first series of workshops and now further implemented in the 3rd series of workshops.

Which are then the “new” policy instruments (compared with the previous series of national workshops), that have been further worked out and developed into policy actions?

Concerning the tax system, Austrian stakeholders suggested making organic products deductible from the income tax- as a preventive measure for health as well as for environmental protection. In the Czech Republic, it was claimed to change the existent law on income tax in order to make subsidies for OF non-taxable. In addition, a taxation of CO₂ emissions was proposed by German stakeholders in order to charge practices that were considered harmful for society. Finally, Czech stakeholders proposed to create a special fund with money gained by a new tax on artificial fertilizers and pesticides which could be used only by farmers not using these inputs. The fund should be used for promotion activities of quality products as well as for new investments.

Policy instruments developed to improve communication with consumers seem to be fully identified in the 1st national workshop already since no new ideas arose in these 2nd workshops. A specification came out of the German workshop, where stakeholders suggested introducing the subject “alimentation and home economics” at schools. The aim was to create a general basis for the development of consumer’s awareness: in this context Organic Farming could play a major role.

In order to simplify and harmonize the organic inspection and certification system, Swiss participants suggested strengthening personal responsibility by making a clear distinction between intentional fraud and not avoidable risk. Concerning the improvement of standards, some new policy instruments have also been developed. In Germany, stakeholders claimed to concentrate the national implementation of the EU Reg. 2092/91 on one National authority. Danish stakeholders asked for a review and evaluation of the decision procedure

concerning the annex on additives of EU Reg. 2092/91 with the aim to have fewer additives admitted in OF. Finally, Italian stakeholders proposed to introduce the principle of “farm social responsibility”: OF should include social justice and social rights in standards and certification. Austrian experts suggested introducing labour and ethical standards for a fair treatment of organic farmers.

With regard to capacity building, training in political lobbying for OF was considered important in Slovenia since especially the NGO sector had very low capacities in political lobbying. In addition, another priority action should be to educate and train teachers: professors as well as teachers on all levels of formal and informal education lacked knowledge on OF and its benefits for the environment and health. Concerning networking, again no new policy instruments were developed into policy actions.

Concerning the support of OF research, Italian stakeholders stated that it was particularly important to regularly allocate specific funds. Czech stakeholders claimed that the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Environment should give priority to OF research and provide a special budget for projects related to OF. In addition, they asked to use FADN (Farm Accountancy Data Network) for the evaluation of Organic Farming economic results. In general, OF should be introduced as a parameter in all relevant registers and statistics- as requested by Danish stakeholders. In this way it would be possible to compare OF and conventional farming data for researchers use and for consumer communication. Finally, in Italy it was suggested creating a national OF research committee aiming at coordinating of OF research and bringing together key stakeholders.

With regard to GMO, just one new policy instrument was developed into policy actions. German experts considered it important to have the same thresholds for OF and conventional farming in order not to build up additional wattles for OF.

In order to develop the concept of “Organic Farming as a role model for sustainability, rural development and multifunctionality”, some new policy instruments have been specified. Swiss participants proposed to develop the concept of “Eco-Regions” with higher payments: farmers of a region could get higher direct payments for OF if a sustainability concept was established on community level. Hungarian stakeholders asked for the implementation of regional action plans. Finally, German experts asked both to link agricultural support to income and labour and to bundle support programmes.

New policy instruments were identified and developed into policy actions for the organic market development as well. British experts suggested introducing tradable quotas for agricultural inputs, although the issue of complexity and bureaucracy associated with tradable quotas was raised. Italian participants proposed to take the Italian Common Market Organization for fruits and vegetables as model for the EU. Czech stakeholders suggested establishing a public tender for OF promotion in order to give more than one organisation the possibility to draw on financial resources from the marketing fund. In addition, it was proposed to use resources from EAFRD for the promotion of OF. In Austria, stakeholders suggested strengthening and improving artisan and small scale processing- which should not only increase in quantity and capacity but also improve in quality. Finally, in Switzerland, experts asked for the promotion of organic food in tourism.

With regard to the method, a multi stakeholder process was adopted in order to represent the diversity of stakeholders in the organic farming sector. The evaluation of the workshops showed that participants from almost all countries described the mix of stakeholders as “good” or “interesting”. In addition, the wide spectrum of participants was appreciated: participants were described as highly active and working effectively and efficiently. Altogether, the workshop was considered a good possibility to meet actors in Organic Farming.

The collaboration inside a group is considered as one of the more favourable moments of learning, since collaboration implies synergy, that is a common effort to the realization of a particular objective. Cooperation favours the development of a critical thought, it increases the abilities to problem solving and contributes to the development of cognitive abilities. The level of cooperation within the workshop was described as high, although people with quite different perspectives were present. The opportunity for a good communication without being conditioned by “formal situations” was also appreciated. On the other hand, it was criticised that some discussions were too much influenced by positions of a minority or deadlocked at some point. In addition, it was noticed that contributions sometimes only reflected the official standpoint of stakeholders and less personal experiences.

In spite of these critique points, knowledge and information that were generated and transferred by the workshops favoured the establishment of national networks. Stakeholders noticed that the workshop was considered a good possibility to meet actors in Organic Farming and lots of information was exchanged. Some participants appreciated that everybody got aware that OF stakeholders could work together and focus at the strenghts of Organics. The discussions were considered very useful regarding the preparation of a national OF Action Plan and regarding the possible implementation of concrete political measures for Organic Farming. This gave an excellent opportunity to come up with new/strengthened alliances, especially in those countries where the national Organic Action Plan is still in preparation. In effect, knowledge and spread of information are central to “policy transfer”.

In retrospect, the workshops have contributed to an intensive exchange of Organic Farming’s stakeholders in all the countries. Incitations from the workshops could enter in their activities and into the process of further development of the Rural Development Programmes. Hopefully, this report can update all participants and the interested public regarding current discussions on Organic Farming policy in the enlarged European Union. Thus, it provides an opportunity for Organic Farming stakeholders to get ideas from other countries concerning the concrete implementation of policy instruments for Organic Farming. Last but not least the results of this third series of workshops will feed in the EU-CEEOPF- project’s final report with policy recommendation for the European Commission.

A Participants

In each national workshop, between 8 and 14 participants were present. A general overview of the number of participants for the 2nd national workshop in each country is shown in Table A-1.

Table A-1: Number of participants during the 2nd national workshop and number and percentage of new participants (compared to the 1st workshop) in each country

	No. of participants	New participants	% of new participants
AT	11	6	55
CH	9	3	33
CZ	11	1	9
DE	12	1	8
DK	9	4	44
EE	10	3	30
HU	8	4	50
IT	11	4	36
PL	17	14	82
SI	10	3	30
UK	11	4	36
Total	119	47	
Average	11	4	39

The minimum number of participants was reached in every workshop. Hungary had the minimum number of participants, followed by Switzerland and Denmark, where 9 participants took part. This comparatively low attendance was mostly due to short-time cancellations. The maximum number of participants was exceeded in Poland, where 17 experts took part in the workshop: during the workshop, due to the high number of participants, participants were split up in four subgroups instead of the two foreseen.

For causes of continualness, it has been wished to preferably invite the same participants who had already taken part in the first national workshops. This claim has been met in most cases: in most of the countries, about or less than 1/3 of the participants were “new” to the process, meaning that they did not take part in the first national workshop (see Table A-1). However, in Poland, more than 80% of the participants were new and in Austria, Hungary and Denmark around half of the participants were new. New participants mostly replaced somebody who had taken part in the first workshop; so they mostly came from the same organisation or at least from the same stakeholder group. In some cases, organisers had the impression that participants new to the project have found it a bit difficult to engage in the beginning.

The workshop groups were supposed to represent the diversity of stakeholders in the Organic Farming sector. The following four groups were to be represented:

- Policy makers
- Organic sector representatives
- Other non organic sector representatives
- Third parties

The participants belonging to the **policy makers** should have at least some active involvement in national policy development or implementation. To depict diversity of the various sectors of government, the following had to be covered:

- Agricultural
- Environmental
- Economic
- Regional development.

The **organic sector representatives'** expertises to be selected should be familiar with the national conditions of Organic Farming. In this case, expertise has an operational, practical meaning. For diversity, this group should be constituted so as to cover the Organic Farming sector as much as possible:

- Farmers
- Certification bodies
- Agro business representatives (processors, marketing, distribution).

Participants representing the **non organic sector representatives** should primarily have a *non-organic* perspective. Participants are active in different fields of the non-organic sector:

- General farmer unions
- Environmental protection agencies
- Consumer organisations

Participants belonging to the **third parties** should be selected so that the group as a whole has a pluriform constitution:

- Advisors
- Academics
- Other experts (journalists, consultants...).

Each group was to be represented at minimum by 2 participants in each workshop. Figure A-1 shows the composition of participants for each national group.

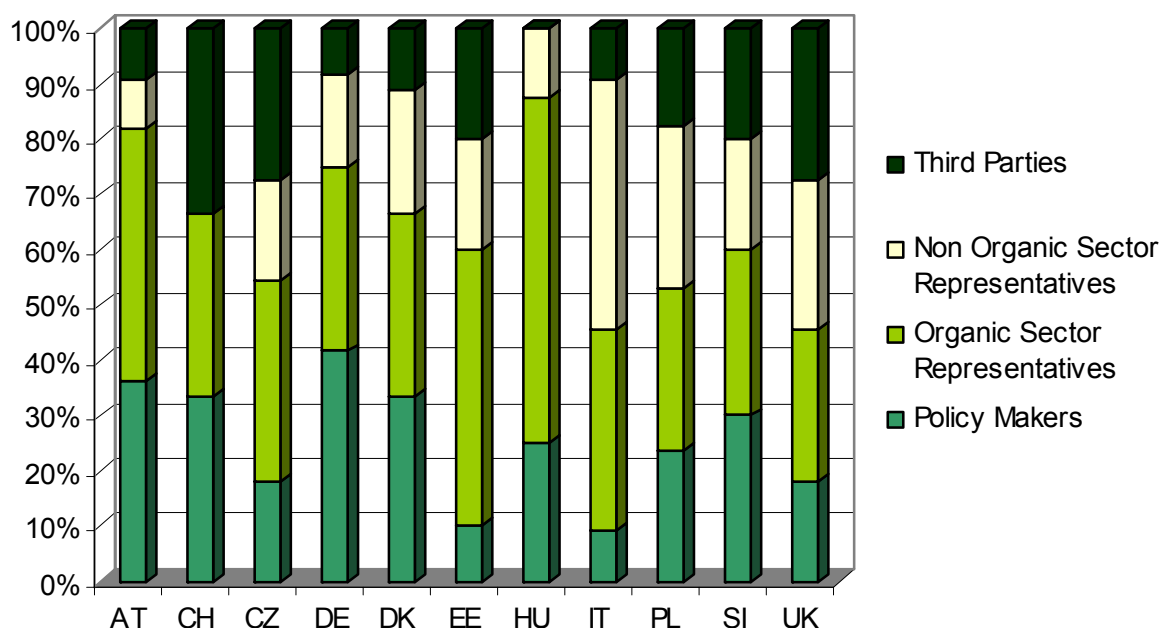


Figure A-1: Participants for each national workshop on the basis of the recruitment criteria

Not all experts recruited participated in the workshop and thus not all types of stakeholders were observed in all countries.

Just in two countries, HU and CH, participants coming from one of the four groups were absent. In Hungary, the representatives of the organic sector were overrepresented. There was no “third party” representative and only one “non organic sector” representative. In Switzerland, one participant represented the “policy makers” group, but also had a function classifying him as a “non organic sector” representative. However, critical non organic sector representatives were missing; therefore there was no significant level of conflict during the workshop.

“Third party” representatives were underrepresented in five countries, mostly in connection with an overrepresentation of “organic sector” representatives. In EE and IT, only one “policy maker” representative was participating. In Estonia, it was considered very useful that the representative of the Ministry of Agriculture responsible for the preparation of a national OF action plan participated in the workshop. But another representative of the Ministry who had been invited, and who would have liked to participate was not able to come.

In PL, with its high number of participants, a minority dealt directly with Organic Farming. 2/3 of the participants represented institutions for which Organic Farming is not a main domain but which may play a key role in the realization of Organic Farming policy in the EU.

In Denmark, the representative of the ministry cancelled his participation the same day and the farmer union’s representative was excused. In Germany, an agro business representative had regrettably cancelled his participation, but unlike the first workshop, a Ministry representative was present. Although opposing opinions, there were no direct conflicts but rather dynamic discussions.

B Policy instruments: Detailed descriptions

B.1 Changes in tax system

Taxes on GMO-products/seed

Stakeholders from SI, PL and EE claimed that taxes should be imposed on GMO-products/ seeds. Polish participants justified this by calling GMO a threat to Polish farming, particularly for Organic Farming. Experts from Estonia argued that a tax on GMO-seed would be a good way of implementing the polluter pays principle.

Taxes on polluting inputs

Participants in AT, CH, IT, SI and EE stated that taxes should be raised on polluting inputs (e.g. pesticides, synthetic fertiliser/ nutrients). Austrian and Slovenian stakeholders also claimed to tax transport. Such a policy instrument was considered as a good way to internalize the external costs of intensive production systems and to implement the polluter pays principle.

Participants from Estonia and Austria said that in this way, total costs ("true costs") of conventional farming were reflected. Such a measure would therefore reduce the price difference between conventional and organic products.

Swiss stakeholders stated that such a tax would help reducing the negative impacts of conventional farming systems on the environment and could therefore help agriculture to become more sustainable. It was considered an incentive for farmers not to use conventional pesticides, fertilisers or nutrients. However, some participants were concerned whether this policy instrument would be effective for Organic Farming support (and for a more sustainable use of resources) if only introduced on National level. It was also discussed whether in the current political debate lowering taxes on organic products would rather be accepted than introducing higher taxes on farm inputs.

In the Czech Republic, participants claimed to integrate OF into the ecological (environmental) tax reform initiated by the Ministry of Environment. The idea was that the **extra money** gained by a new tax on artificial fertilizers and pesticides should be given to a special fund managed by the Ministry of Environment- which could only be used by **farmers not using these inputs**. The fund should mainly be focused on promotional activities of quality products as well as special projects and investments according to the Ministry's priorities – which would often comply with Organic Farming's objectives.

In Germany, most participants did not consider it desirable to favour OF as a basic principle. Instead, they proposed to raise a **tax on CO₂** emissions (which was, in effect, considered equivalent to a tax on all fossil energy sources). The reason behind was to charge practices that were bad for society.

German stakeholders also demanded a raise of **tax on mineral nitrogen** throughout the EU.

Czech experts asked for a **tax on fossil (non-renewable) fuels**.

Changes in Personal Income tax system

In Italy, taxpayers can choose **to assign 8‰ of the personal income tax** to a specific Institution (Catholic Church, Institution for natural and artistic valorisation, etc.). Considering this, Italian stakeholders proposed to provide the possibility to assign this rate **to Organic Farming promotion**.

In the Czech Republic, there is the possibility to decrease the tax base by up to 5% - when using this amount for promotion. Stakeholders proposed to increase the knowledge about this possibility and to specify the purpose “for the promotion of OF and organic products” in the tax regulation.

Internalisation of environmental costs

Danish participants stated that an internalization of the environmental costs of agricultural practices was a basic precondition for fair competition at the market. More specifically, German stakeholders claimed that the costs for the purification of ground water should be shared equitably.

Tax reduction/exemption for OF (producers)

In Poland, stakeholders suggested reducing tax rates for organic producers in order to improve Organic Farming’s cost effectiveness. This would increase the interest of farmers to convert to Organic Farming and stimulate the development of Organic Farming.

In the Czech Republic, according to the participants, all types of subsidies were taxed as a general income of the farm. However, Czech stakeholders claimed to change the law on income tax so that **subsidies for OF were non-taxable**.

Hungarian stakeholders asked for a VAT reduction for Organic Farming. Italian workshop participants suggested that instead of increasing VAT for pesticides and chemical fertilizers, a **VAT reduction/exemption for organic inputs and services** would be appropriate.

In order to reduce certification costs, Italian stakeholders suggested **reducing or disposing VAT for organic inspections/ certifications**. That way, organic production could be stimulated. It was proposed that the costs of certification should be taken over by the regions.

Tax reduction/exemption for OF (consumers)

In Austria, stakeholders suggested that **OF products should be deductible from the income tax**. They justified their proposal by saying this was a preventive measure for health as well as for the active protection of the environment. However, practical problems were anticipated concerning the recording and the proof of organic consumption on the tax declaration.

Participants also discussed whether electronic systems of the supermarkets could be used for this purpose. Another subject for discussion was how to prove shopping expenses on farmers markets, where not always proper receipts were written.

Stakeholders from IT, HU, EE and CZ proposed to establish a **VAT reduction/exemption for organic products**. Estonian and Czech workshop participants stated that a VAT reduction/ exemption for org. products allowed selling organic

products to consumers at a cheaper price and therefore increased consumption and demand for organic products. This would also be beneficial to the organic farmers.

In Hungary, participants considered this policy instrument much more probable than an internalisation of external costs of conventional agriculture.

In Italy likewise, stakeholders thought that an increase in VAT for inputs from conventional agriculture was not an adequate way, since the share of Organic Farming in total Italian agriculture was only at 5%. Instead, farmers who polluted less should benefit. Therefore, a VAT reduction/exemption for organic products was considered appropriate.

To stimulate the sourcing of organic food, British stakeholders proposed to adopt tax or other monetary incentives to enhance **organic public procurement**.

Tax reduction/exemption for OF (processors)

Czech stakeholders proposed to establish a tax advantage for processors of organic products in order to support the organic market.

Tax reduction for poor families + campaign for healthy products

Swiss participants suggested modifying the income tax system. The tax burden for families should be reduced, in particular for those with a lower income, so that they could afford buying organic products. This measure should be supported by health insurance companies, e.g. with information campaigns. One of the major reasons for choosing this instrument was the concern that in the next years, problems with an unbalanced nutrition would rise. In this context, it was argued that organic agriculture could play a role in an information campaign for healthier nutrition.

B.2 Communication with consumers

Public information and promotion campaigns

Concerning the themes of public information, German stakeholders considered it important to communicate the results of an investigation on OF's merits. Stakeholders from the United Kingdom emphasised that it would be important to increase the understanding of Organic Farming amongst conventional farmers.

To reach new consumer groups, Danish participants claimed that new parameters for competition between organic and conventional agriculture had to be defined. These could be themes like nature protection, ground water etc. that could renew the interest and understanding for OF.

Czech participants asked for a coordinated strategy for an information campaign with a clear timetable. The background was that in the Czech Republic, in the eyes of Czech workshop participants, marketing activities were not coordinated – although a special department for marketing of high quality products within the state agricultural interventional fund (SZIF, paying agency) had been established in 2004 and a marketing campaign had been started. Instead of an uncoordinated support for fairs, some books, some articles in journals etc., it was considered important to decide where, to whom and how OF should be presented. The main

aim of the campaign should be to give the wide public basic information on OF through an understandable and clear **definition of Organic Farming and organic products**. In order to show how much parameters of organic food were better than conventional food, it was considered necessary to formulate clear and understandable messages for different age-groups.

Austrian and Danish participants called for information and promotion campaigns stressing the **environmental benefits of Organic Farming**. It should be pointed out that Organic Farming could evidentially provide clean water, a GMO free environment, protection of nature etc. Polish stakeholders also considered it important to build consumer awareness regarding the need to protect the environment, shaping social sensitivity to matters of balanced development.

Stakeholders from AT, UK, EE and CH stated that **public information on food quality and health issues** in relation to OF was important:

In Switzerland, participants claimed to increase consumer information on health issues (diet and food quality) through long-term information campaigns. It was stated that an information campaign, organised similar to the AIDS campaigns, for a more balanced nutrition could show that Organic agriculture can contribute importantly to the aims mentioned above. When organising such a campaign, the organic movement should work together with the government and the private sector. One participant also emphasised the social dimension of such a campaign, as rising health costs affected the whole society.

Estonian stakeholders stressed that people's knowledge on health issues connected to the quality of conventional and organic food was quite low. Many consumers considered all Estonian agricultural production as "almost organic", although the usage of pesticides would grow quickly in Estonia. It was claimed to communicate the presence of pesticide residues in conventional food (even if under the allowed limits) to the consumers.

In DE and the UK, it was proposed to inform the public on **the differences between conventional and organic agriculture (in the whole chain)**:

In Germany, stakeholders proposed that information should include issues of alimentation habits. Moreover, it should consider the whole food chain, including home consumption and questions of packaging.

Participants from UK suggested launching a campaign to educate consumers about nutritional and food quality aspects as well as the impact of different agricultural systems and technologies. In such a campaign, the benefits of Organic Farming for the environment, animal health and welfare etc. should be highlighted. These issues would raise consumer awareness on the central role that food production systems play in determining all sorts of quality issues (nutritional, environmental etc.) and would enable consumers to make more informed decisions about their food purchasing (and therefore potentially increase the market for organic food).

According to German stakeholders, public information campaigns should include **specific information for expectant parents**.

In the Czech Republic, participants stated that organic farms should regularly be **presented in publications** and journals in order to promote them and to introduce them to the broad public.

Italian stakeholders underlined that consumer education could be achieved by **stimulating public procurement** of organic food: therefore, organic food should be introduced and promoted in public kitchens, schools, kindergartens etc.

In the United Kingdom, participants stressed there was a need to consider the methodology of “getting the message across”. The most effective mode of promoting nutritional issues in the United Kingdom for a long time had been the help of Jamie Oliver (celebrity chef). His work in association with the Soil Association had raised the profile of nutritious school meals. Considering this, stakeholders suggested asking **celebrities to promote organic food**.

Labelling

Slovenian participants felt that for the further development of Organic Farming, an adequate, constant and targeted communication with consumers was vital. With regard to that, an adequate labelling was seen as the first step in an integrated communication strategy between producers and consumers. As consumers often did not know the differences between different ways of production and their influence on environment and health, it would firstly be necessary to distinguish between certified organic and general conventional products. Only then, other communication activities such as public campaigns could be successful.

Hungarian and Estonian stakeholders suggested **introducing an effective and popular national logo** for organic products. Hungarian participants considered it particularly important that consumers recognised local organic products. In Estonia, the new national organic label had been introduced in April 2005. However, according to the stakeholders, up to now there haven't been any promotion campaigns for the label and the awareness of consumers was very low. Therefore, workshop participants claimed that the introduction of a label should always be accompanied by promotion campaigns explaining e.g. Organic Farming principles.

German participants proposed to **label the local origin** of products.

OF in school education

In CH and PL, several participants felt that the communication in schools needed a particular attention- as a very broad target group could be reached via school education. One participant mentioned that this policy instrument would be a countermeasure to the general trend of reducing soft skill courses in the curricula at school level (such as cooking and housework courses). Introducing modern teaching approaches e.g. with sensory testing of different foods might provide an opportunity to re-integrate soft skill courses in the curricula at school level.

German stakeholders stated that concrete references to agriculture were important in education on alimentation. Practical teaching units on demonstration farms could help to enable emotional experiences concerning alimentation. Participants also suggested introducing the **subject “alimentation and home economics”** at general education schools. It was considered important to create a general basis for the development of the awareness of consumption. In this context, organic products could play a major role.

Czech participants also considered it important to offer state support for **excursions on organic farms**.

Danish stakeholders informed that it was not common in DK to have school meals, but that there was a discussion on it. Stakeholders felt it would be a good way in promoting organic food and giving the awareness about organic food already at an early stage of life - especially in the big towns. The introduction of **organic meals in schools** should go together with integrated information on OF.

Workshop participants from CZ, AT and DE proposed to introduce a **new subject "Organic Farming"** in the curriculum of schools:

In the Czech Republic, stakeholders considered it important for the future OF development to build a relation and knowledge on OF among the young generation (small children and students). It was said that there were successful examples when children affected their partners in relation to OF. In a first step, a new subject in primary schools, accredited by the Ministry of education, should provide information about OF, and in a next step secondary schools should be concentrated on.

Austrian stakeholders also proposed that all public education institutions should include Organic Farming as a topic in their curricula to increase the awareness building among young and future consumers. It was stated that existing experiences in other areas (like waste separation) had shown that educative work especially with children and young people could have sustained success. Additionally, this target group could be easier approached in the frame of school education than adults in their working environment.

German participants stated it would be specifically important to compulsory implement OF in the curricula of technical schools.

Demonstration farms: improvement of selection process

In Germany, stakeholders claimed that the selection process of demonstration farms had to be clarified, including new models of financing. It should be avoided that only those farms applied as demonstration farms that needed the extra money: demonstration farms should reflect the state of OF (or even be role models) but not the "bottom end".

Support open days on farms

In Italy, workshop participants stressed that OF promotion should be based on direct consumer's experiences. With regard to that, financial support for open days on organic farms providing e.g. food tasting and information on Organic Farming should be granted. Stakeholders from Germany argued that "Action days" for OF (open days on farms, in whole food-shops etc.) would be a good way to authentically demonstrate the basics and principles of OF.

Internet portal: on-going funding

In Germany, stakeholders claimed to clarify the future role and sponsorship of the German internet portal for OF. It was considered especially important to secure an on-going funding. At the moment, the internet portal would have the character of a project, being put into question every year. The proposition was to make ZADI (German Centre for Documentation and Information in Agriculture) the responsible body for the internet portal.

B.3 Inspection and certification system

Simplification and harmonization of organic certification system

A simplification and harmonisation of the organic certification system was considered important by experts from IT, PL, UK, EE and DE.

Italian stakeholders felt that the documentation for the control authorities was too complicated: a bureaucratic simplification in the procedures would result in an improved inspection/certification system.

Polish participants claimed to improve the control and certification system in order to raise consumer confidence in organic products. Products sold directly from the farm should be locally controlled.

In the United Kingdom, experts stated that the inspection and certification processes had to be improved by properly implementing existing regulations. Moreover, harmonization, oversight, increase in transparency and the reduction of administrative burden were considered important.

Estonian stakeholders proposed a revision of the inspection and certification system in order to avoid a “bureaucratic overkill” in all levels of the supply chain. It was criticized that there were too many papers and data to be handled. It was considered reasonable, especially in countries with a state inspection system (like Estonia), that the needed data for the certification authority and paying agency were identical and could be presented just once.

In Germany, participants proposed to evaluate the control- and certification system. A gradual revision of the EU Council Regulation for OF was suggested-aiming at a harmonisation of the certification system and the inclusion of operational systems of quality assurance. A research program should aim at the evaluation of Annex III.

German stakeholders suggested harmonising the control certificates as well.

Hungarian stakeholders proposed that **inspections on small farms** should be easier and self administered. On the other hand, Italian participants did not feel that systems of self-certification were a good idea. They argued that the risk of fraud was independent of the farm size. But they also claimed to establish specific certification systems for small farms. The inspection and certification procedures should be revised in order to avoid a “bureaucratic overkill”. The aim should be a **“participative” certification system**. It was stated that small farms were not able to sustain the high costs of the bureaucratic system. Therefore, farmer’s organisations themselves should guarantee an ethical coherence of organic products (bottom-up certification). Such a “participative” certification process would generate credibility because it assumed a joint responsibility of all segments interested in guaranteeing product and process quality. It was stressed that this process assumed an integration of all actors involved in production, consumption and advisory of certified products (community based certification).

In addition, in Switzerland, participants also suggested strengthening the personal responsibility in inspection and certification. A clear **distinction between intentional fraud and not avoidable risk** (which was out of control of the actors, e.g. small traces of residues in the environment, “found almost everywhere”) should be made. The aim should be to harmonise the inspection concepts of the OF sector and those of the food safety inspection concepts of the

state authorities (Swiss cantonal food inspection agencies and Federal office of agriculture). This could e.g. lead to an agreement on stricter sanctions if the actors did not fulfil their self-responsibility tasks.

Risk-based inspection & certification system

The introduction of a risk-based inspection and certification system was considered important by stakeholders from CH, DE, PL and EE.

In Switzerland, there was a general agreement that the regulatory process governing Organic Farming (i.e. how inspection and certification were carried out) had developed in such a way that Organic Farming was getting unattractive for many farmers and processors. It was felt that this needed to be addressed with a very high priority; therefore inspection and certification should be more targeted on specific risks.

Estonian stakeholders likewise said that a more risk based inspection was needed in order to improve the efficiency of the inspection system and to concentrate on the places of higher risks (e.g. farms selling labelled products in big quantities).

Exemptions/ derogations

Concerning derogations in OF practice, participants from the United Kingdom stated that derogations currently allowed practices that deviated from consumer's expectations of what "organic" was. Considering this, a **removal of derogations** would improve the integrity of organic products.

German participants said that **improving transparency** concerning the certificates of exemption was imperative.

Covering of control costs by increasing subsidies

Czech stakeholders claimed that costs for OF certification should be covered within OF subsidy (by increasing area payments). The background was that the certification body (KEZ) had increased its fee according to the situation abroad in 2005. Participants felt that the costs of certification (together with high bureaucratic efforts) discouraged farmers, especially from small farms, to keep farming organically. However, it was still considered necessary to keep some participation of farmers in the certification process in order to be motivated and well prepared for the controls.

Improve standards

Czech participants asked for a **simplification, clarification, harmonization of standards**. It was proposed to agree on a common interpretation of the rules of control and certification. It was considered useful to work out a manual including the updated regulation with clear interpretations and examples for farmers, processors, but also for inspectors of the control body. In a second step, the EU legislation should be changed and simplified. The reason behind was that a very difficult and complicated regulatory framework often caused farmers' mistakes- due to a wrong understanding of the rules.

In Estonia, participants stated that there were a lot of interpretation possibilities and differences between countries. Therefore, they proposed to revise and harmonise the standards across the countries in order to provide quality products. The trade between countries could be easier if the standards were simpler and more harmonised. It was stated that standards should be more based on principal issues rather than including very detailed requirements for all possible cases. At the same time, the regional differences should also be taken into account.

In Denmark, it was proposed to establish **stricter standards** for processing and transport and new standards regarding energy. The aim was to increase the integrity of OF. Participants from the United Kingdom stated that the EU organic regulation needed to be developed to better meet the goals of Organic Farming. An example of development could be to remove derogations in order to improve the integrity of organic products (see above).

Italian participants proposed introducing the **principle of "farm social responsibility"**. The Organic Farming system should include social justice and social rights in standards and certification. This needed to be integrated in the whole food system, and shouldn't fall solely on the farmer. Fair trade was considered an important aspect of the farm social policy.

Austrian stakeholders also suggested introducing labour and ethical standards for a fair treatment of organic farmers –which were linked to IFOAM Standards. This policy instrument aimed especially on social and ethical standards in production, processing and trade with organic produce. An appraisal of organic agriculture exclusively on the base of the produce seemed not sufficient for some of the participants, because Organic Farming would represent a whole system – and not only a mode of production.

Danish stakeholders asked for a review and evaluation of the **decision procedure concerning the annex on additives** of the EU Reg. 2092/91. The evaluation should be accomplished with the participation of stakeholders (e.g. IFOAM EU group). The aim of this policy instrument was to have fewer additives admitted in OF. It was stated that at the moment, the policy process with a qualified majority tended to have too many additives permitted because Member States were “horse-trading”. Moreover, in DK, there would be no possibility to make stricter standards than the ones in the EU legislation.

Czech stakeholders suggested simplifying the EU legislation in order to have a **larger space for national principles**. Participants from the United Kingdom claimed to allow higher standards to develop in the member states in order to enable a continuous development of the regulations.

In Germany, according to the workshop's participants, it is the task of the regions to implement the EU Reg. 2092/91. Considering this, stakeholders claimed to concentrate the **realisation schemes within the scope of the EU Reg. 2092/91 on one National authority**. The aim was a more harmonic approach of the authorities within Germany and a reduction of bureaucracy.

Improve inspection and certification bodies

Slovenian stakeholders stated that the **interaction of inspections** on different levels of the supply chain **should be improved**. More specifically, OF inspections on organic farms and in the processing units should be better coordinated with general market-, veterinary etc. inspection bodies- especially in

order to improve the communication on eventual violations. It was felt that currently, general (non-organic) inspection bodies did not enough control the organic origin etc. in the retail chain.

In Hungary, workshop participants said that the organic certification body, Biokontroll Hungaria Ltd., was underdeveloped and could not fulfil its certification and controlling functions. Therefore, it was considered important to **develop the controlling infrastructure**.

Italian stakeholders claimed to **increase transparency** in inspection & certification bodies.

According to Czech stakeholders, it was important to **ensure competition between** the inspection and certification bodies. It was said that the KEZ (the OF inspection service) had a monopoly in organic inspection and certification in the CZ. It was emphasised that this monopoly had to be stopped, as stress on effectiveness would be bigger if there was more competition.

Co-liability for certifying bodies and farmers

In Italy, the introduction of a co-liability system concerning inspection and certification was suggested. The idea was that if an organic producer did not respect the rules, both inspectors and farmers would be legally responsible.

Establishment of an ethical codex for inspectors

Czech participants underlined that currently inspectors were paid per hour and therefore unnecessarily extended appointments. Considering this, experts suggested establishing an ethical codex for inspectors in order to remedy these abuses and to decrease bureaucracy.

Introduce computerised databases concerning inspection/certification

In Italy, according to the participants, not all inspection bodies use computerised databases. To change this, the use of IT applications should be made compulsory and a common protocol should be agreed on in order to have a better information management. Polish stakeholders also stressed that the control of organic production should be based on the use of modern information/ communication technologies between OF actors.

In Germany, it was proposed to publish the bearers of certificates in a **publicly accessible data base**, so that traders could get more information on (potential) market associates.

Publication of inspection results

Slovenian participants agreed that Organic Farming still lacked transparency; and that publicly available data on the violation of the rules and about the measures for prevention and sanction of violations were missing. Therefore, inspection results should be published and the general public should be informed about how to access to this data.

Creation of registration office for suspicion of fraud

In Germany, experts suggested creating a registration office throughout the EU for suspicion of offences against the EU-Reg. 2092/91. Up to now, there would be no contact point where one could express a suspicion anonymously. It was stressed that reporting farmers should not have to worry about disadvantages.

B.4 Capacity building & Networking

Capacity building: Technical education and training

A proposal from British participants was to develop initiatives for better skills **for all actors in the food chain** and for organic industry participants (including producers, processors, retailers, public procurement, caterers etc.) as well as initiatives for a better understanding of Organic Farming systems among non-organic farmers.

Estonian stakeholders stated that Organic Farming was still not well covered in educational institutions, e.g. in agricultural schools. They therefore claimed to establish training possibilities in Organic Farming in **farmer's** vocational training.

Swiss participants also emphasised that Organic Farming and sustainability issues in general should be included in the curriculum of vocational training for farmers. In Switzerland, special curricula's for "Organic Farming" were now recognized. Experts stated that the state should even in priority promote Organic Farming - in particular in the new EU member states - because support for Organic Farming had almost been inexistent for a long time.

Austrian stakeholders were convinced that the formation in vocational training was a crucial factor for the competence and the self image of farmers -and thus again important for the further development of organic agriculture.

Stakeholders from SI, EE, IT and AT considered it important to offer training **for advisors** in OF:

Slovenian stakeholders underlined that there was a significant lack of knowledge in the general agricultural advisory service and a very low capacity for OF advising in the private sector. They proposed to train agricultural advisors for Organic Farming. Estonian stakeholders asked for possibilities of training in Organic Farming in the vocational trainings of advisors. In Italy, participants claimed that an advisory system for OF should be established/ improved. This would include the creation of computerised systems as well as an enlargement of training for advisors.

Political **lobbying** in relation to OF was perceived as a real problem in Slovenia; according to the stakeholders, especially the NGO sector had very low capacities. Therefore, training in political lobbying for Organic Farming was considered important. Lobbying should be inspirational and include more animations and actions. In addition, participants asked for one person with adequate negotiation competences working for OF at each ministry.

Capacity building: OF in school and university education

Estonian stakeholders stressed that general education and training on OF should be accomplished at schools and universities. Even in the Estonian Agricultural University, the curricula of Organic Farming would still be missing.

Austrian stakeholders asked for new teaching methods for OF, e.g. in school education.

In Slovenia, more education and training in OF was claimed. The reason was that experts whose task was education and training – professors as well as teachers on all levels of formal and informal education- lacked knowledge on Organic Farming and its benefits for the environment and health. Priority action would therefore be to **educate and train these teachers**. It was underlined that the best education would be an experienced-based one.

In Germany, participants suggested establishing **professorships for OF** related subjects -as there were many subject areas important for OF at universities that were not manned.

Capacity building: creation of a profession "organic advisor"

German stakeholders also proposed to establish an apprenticed profession „Organic advisor“ in order to achieve better advisory services in OF.

Capacity building: creation of a profession "facilitator of cooperation"

In Germany, it was also suggested creating a new profession „facilitator of cooperation“. The background was that people were needed to support cooperation and mediation within the branch of agriculture and to help building up structures in OF. The organic actors on their own would be swamped with such a task.

Capacity building: integration of OF in general advisory services

Swiss stakeholders stated that OF advisory services should be better integrated in the general advisory services. Moreover, the private sector, which also offered advice for farmers, should be supported.

Capacity building: support of OF advisory system

Estonian stakeholders called for the establishment of an Organic Farming advisory system with state support. According to the participants, a general advisory system in Estonia did not really exist. For several years, there had been a constant restructuring of the system with the result that advisors quit the job and farmers did not trust the advisors and the system. Considering this, experts felt that the establishment of a special OF advisory system could help.

In Poland, stakeholders proposed to **strengthen the advisory system by the use of a network of show farms**. Advisory bodies should be assisted with routine research results on Organic Farming including the testing of product quality, the development of optimal methods for organic cultivation, work on permissible production inputs, plant protection chemicals and animal breeding. Based on this research, the effectiveness of these methods should be evaluated. This way, it could be ensured that advisors had the necessary knowledge.

Networking: Form alliances

Stakeholders from DE, AT, HU, SI and CH proposed to **form alliances among the whole food chain**.

German participants suggested that regional networks of „Healthy food“ could bundle the whole food chain and cover activities from primary production to school meals.

Austrian stakeholders claimed to support “ARGE Bioregionen”: organic actors should be bundled especially in processing and marketing sectors, in order to develop a united and coordinated appearance. This was considered to increase negotiation powers with market partners as well as communication of market requirements to the farmers and their organisations.

Stakeholders from Hungary suggested building an economic organisation of organic producers to develop the market.

Slovenian experts said that organizations/ cooperations were crucial for a better communication between stakeholders and for market development. Therefore, all subjects (producers, processors, retailers...) in the supply chain had to be supported in forming marketing organizations based on their interest.

In Switzerland, participants stated that the state should act as a moderator and offer initial platforms for discussions between the different stakeholders of the supply chain in case where the private sector did not sufficiently work together- e.g. for specific marketing issues of organic agriculture.

In Poland, stakeholders proposed to enhance joint activities between existing businesses / **producer groups** mainly in the realm of “low level initiatives” in order to create an organic food market. Such networks could strengthen the organic food market development.

Hungarian participants underlined that, as the regional and local cooperation of producers would be weak, organic cooperatives should be developed.

In Germany, it was proposed to encourage networking of OF **with other sectors**, e.g. Health and Nutrition. One reason for strengthening cooperation of OF with other actors was to break down prejudices and fears of conventional farmers in order to open the "close shop" OF.

Experts from the United Kingdom stated that there was a need to link Organic Farming integrally into other government policy areas, particularly sustainable development and health. It was generally agreed that government could “do better than it was currently doing” to promote Organic Farming. The sustainable development debate needed to be directly linked with Organic Farming.

German participants emphasised that the **control- and certification services should better work together with the advisory services** in OF.

In Switzerland, it was proposed to envisage alliances with **fair trade organisations** in order to represent the interest of the organic agriculture movement in the WTO negotiations.

Networking: Improvement of cooperation among advisors

Austrian participants stated that the current situation of the organic advisory system in Austria was less characterized by the lack of advisors than by the lack of coordination. Advisors would belong to different organisations (agricultural chambers, producer associations etc.) and would work in the same area without using possible synergies. As a positive example for successful cooperation (also of organic and conventional advisors) the so called "centres of competence" were named, which existed in some regions of AT.

Networking: demonstration farms

Czech workshop participants claimed to create a network of around 21 demonstrative organic farms in the Czech Republic. At the moment, the CZ had no system how to show organic farms to the public, to schools and to interested conventional farmers. It was stated that the Institute of Agriculture and Food Information (ÚZPI) as a state institution responsible for advisory should be responsible for this network and set up the rules, fees, contracts etc. The demonstrative farms should help improving consultancy and should serve advisors to demonstrate farmers how their advice could be used in praxis (new technologies, plant management etc.). So the main group of beneficiaries would be farmers (organic and conventional); in a next step, students and the public could benefit.

Networking: Better representation of OF in product chain

Hungarian stakeholders asked for a better and more effective representation of Organic Farming interests in the product chain committees.

Networking: National committee/ Org. umbrella organisation

CZ, AT, IT, UK were in favour of the creation of a National committee/ an umbrella organisation for OF.

Czech participants proposed to set up a commodity council for organic products. According to the experts, activities of that council could be: feedback from OF actors to the MoA, information about problems and needs which should be solved in research and development, preparation of arguments for an information campaign etc. The council should serve to improve the communication between organic farmers and processors, but also with MoA and other state institutions. It should also improve communication with conventional associations like the Agrarian chamber and with international institutions acting in agriculture like COPA-COGECA (Committee of Professional Agricultural Organisations in the EU/ General Confederation of Agricultural Co-operatives in the EU).

In Austria, it was stated that a bundling of different sectors along the food chain (farmers, processors, retailers, and policy actors) was missing. Thus the organic sector as a whole would lack contact persons and lobbyists. In addition to that, a dialogue between the different market actors would only partially exist, which would result in a lack of coordination. Therefore, stakeholders suggested implementing national networks aiming at an increase of the participation of organic agriculture in the various boards and committees. Moreover, support should be given to organic networks like "Bio Austria", "ARGE Bioregionen", or organic certification structures („Bio-Partner-Austria“).

Italian stakeholders suggested creating a national OF committee at the Ministry with internal and external experts. It should aim at monitoring & planning of OF policy at ministry-, regional- and stakeholder level and contribute to define the strategies for Organic Farming policy. It was underlined that a National Committee would already exist- which however did not have any influence in the setting of policies.

In the United Kingdom, discussion centred on concerns that the organic sector was very splintered and that one organisational body was needed to bring the organic sector together through training, advice, developing links between local food groups, representing the organic industry in policy development etc. There was a general agreement that this should be a publicly-funded organic umbrella organisation and that there should be links to the EU in order to represent the UK organic industry in Brussels.

In Germany, stakeholders stated that, taking the UK as an example, an advisory committee for the EU-Reg. 2092/91 should be created, aiming at discussing the effects of legal changes in advance.

Networking: lobbying on national and EU level

In Denmark, a proposal was to strengthen lobbying towards the EU and upgrade the existing EU working group in order to gain a stronger influence on EU policies. National NGO's should focus more on their European representatives, because many important decisions were taken at European level.

In Switzerland, it was proposed to envisage more and stronger networking and lobby work on national and EU level in order to represent the interests of the organic agriculture movement in the **WTO negotiations**. One of the reasons to choose this policy instrument was that in the eyes of several participants, the WTO neither recognised nor mentioned Organic Farming as a farming system which provided a different farming approach to conventional farming systems. However, it was underlined that organic agriculture was the only farming system which was world-wide defined and regulated through the Codex Alimentarius Guidelines and privately through the IFOAM Basic Standards and accreditation system.

Networking: improvement of harmonization among Ministries

Italian stakeholders asked for an improvement of the harmonization among Ministries concerning Organic Farming; for example in the fields of liability and competences on plant protection products.

Networking: Creation of an information system at national level concerning financial resources for OF promotion

In the Czech Republic, it was proposed to increase information about possibilities for drawing financial resources for projects connected with OF promotion. At present, the majority of resources would be wasted because the right people did not know about it. This could be improved if there was one person in the ministry who was able to inform about possibilities for drawing resources for projects.

B.5 Research and Development

Research in specific fields

Stakeholders from SI, DE and the UK stated that research on the **benefits of OF** was necessary. German stakeholders underlined that it was always difficult to find arguments to prove the benefits and advantages of OF in public discussions. As the merits of OF were not accepted in society, a scientific board was considered necessary to clarify scientific opinions and to assess OF's merits. First, research on the merits of OF for society should be conducted, e.g. in interdisciplinary research projects -and a scientific consensus should be reached. Then, these results could be communicated to the consumers.

German workshop participants also claimed to support research on **animal welfare** in OF.

Czech stakeholders emphasised that the Ministry of Health should be involved in the research on OF- especially concerning the topic: "**health** aspects of organic food".

Experts from DE and the UK stated that it would be important for the future of OF to support research on the optimisation of OF concerning sustainability, **nature and environment**. In the UK, the discussion had centred on whether promoting Organic Farming was appropriate- as it suggested that Organic Farming had already reached its goals in terms of sustainability, which participants felt it had not. It was agreed that there was a need to identify how Organic Farming was currently performing, and base any promotion honestly on what was all ready being done. In addition, the move towards the improvement and attainment of Organic Farming goals should be high lightened. Concerning environmental effects of OF, Italian participants proposed to conduct research on the effectiveness of products admitted in OF. An evaluation should show which of them were real effective or harmful, and which of them were dangerous for the environment and for health (ex.: rotenone) and should be substituted.

British stakeholders stated that **R&D on technical issues** was important.

In Poland, it was considered important to conduct research on organic **plant and animal** production- as there would be a very marginal academic output in the scope of organic methods of plant cultivation and animal breeding.

In Switzerland, participants were very much in favour of putting more emphasis on research on organic food **quality& processing**- in particular on intrinsic quality of organic products. One researcher however warned that it might be an illusion to get significant scientific evidence on the hypothesis that organic food positively affected human health by giving more money to this research area. The interaction between food quality and human nutrition would be too complex. It was also mentioned that Organic Farming was a process-oriented approach and not an end-product approach. Therefore, the "quality of the production process" should also be taken into consideration and the problem of residues in organic products should be addressed. Polish participants also felt that research on organic food processing and quality was lacking. They saw the necessity of a vertical integration and controls according to the food chain certification criteria ("from field to table").

British experts said that R&D aiming at **policy** development was important. They emphasised that this area needed to be highlighted as a separate issue as it did not

always fall into the “standard” categories of R&D. In Switzerland, it was claimed to increase **socio-economic** research. Socio-economic projects should in particular consider consumer expectations, as well as the socio-economic impact of development and change of standards and regulations. Moreover, in many existing research projects, socio-economic aspects of Organic Farming should be taken much more into account. In Denmark, it was proposed to target some R&D projects at showing how OF could meet the targets of the rural development programmes. That way, OF could become an even stronger tool in the RD-programmes.

In Germany, participants felt that the effects of OF concerning the **supply of labour** should be evaluated and quantified. It was felt that the results of such an evaluation could provide good arguments for a support of OF.

Demo-projects of research

In the Czech Republic, it was claimed to establish a network of exemplary companies in order to demonstrate the realised results of research (e.g. new technologies for OF).

OF in statistics

Danish stakeholders claimed that OF should be introduced as a parameter in all relevant registers and statistics. Information regarding OF should be collected separately. The reason behind was to be able to compare OF and conventional farming for research and for consumer communication on a continuous and reliable basis.

Czech participants said that FADN (Farm Accountancy Data Network) should be used for evaluating OF economic results order to gain reliable statistical data.

Support OF research

In SI, AT, HU and EE, participants claimed to generally increase support for research on Organic Farming. Estonian stakeholders said that currently OF research had to compete with mainstream research and was often considered as unimportant. The implementation of the national Organic Farming research programme would allow using the limited resources in the most efficient way.

In Germany, the enhancement of a **long-term R&D-programme** for OF was suggested. Possible themes should be problem- and practice-oriented questions- as there would still be many weak points in terms of practical cultivation.

Concerning the support of OF research, Italian stakeholders thought it was particularly important to **regularly allocate specific funds**.

Support OF research institute

Czech experts asked for support for the “Bioinstitut” in order to strengthen its position. The “Bioinstitut” had been established in 2004 under the title " Institute for OF and sustainable landscape development". Its founders are: the Palacky University Olomouc, PRO-BIO (Association of Ecological farmers) and FiBL

(Research Institute of Organic Agriculture) Switzerland. According to the stakeholders, it is focused on research in OF sector, consultancy for farmers and education for schools and consumers. The main aim of the policy instrument was to increase the involvement of the state in the Bioinstitut. As a support by the MoA was considered very unlikely, other sources of aid by the state were discussed –e.g. money from local municipalities (regions) or money from projects such as Interreg.

Participatory research

In the United Kingdom, experts suggested that participatory R&D networks could act as a trigger for success in resolving technical issues.

Estonian participants proposed to establish bottom-up research programmes. Organic Farming research should be conducted on different levels in an integrated system. Therefore, **cooperation and networking** between different actors (research institutions, farmers, individuals etc.) was needed. For the practical implementation of methods and demonstration, it was suggested establishing demonstration farms.

In Germany, experts underlined that the transfer of research results into practice was as important as research itself. As an example, in the project „**Organic Pilot Farms**” in North-Rhine-Westphalia, the chamber of agriculture and a university would conduct field tests on organic farms in cooperation with the farmers.

The creation of a **national OF research committee** aiming at the coordination of OF research and bringing together key stakeholders was suggested as a policy instrument in Italy. The participation of different stakeholders should ensure a co-ordinated implementation of research and technology transfer for the sector development.

Cooperation of conventional and OF researchers

Czech participants asked for support of a closer cooperation of conventional and OF researchers.

National co-financing of EU-projects

German stakeholders stated that a national co-financing of EU-projects could strengthen research in Germany and make it easier to attract EU-projects.

International cooperation in R&D

Austrian stakeholders suggested strengthening and promoting an EU-wide transfer of knowledge and installing institutionalised platforms for discussion. They argued that an international exchange and cooperation in research on organic agriculture meant a cost reduction as well as a qualitative improvement of research results by the use of synergies.

Priority for OF research in MoA and MoE

In the Czech Republic, stakeholders asked for keeping priority on OF in the National agency for agricultural research (by the MoA). At the moment, OF is named among the main themes, but not prioritized. It is planned to have a separate section only for projects within the ecology sector. Participants stated that research on OF should also be focused on by the Ministry of Environment. In addition, both Ministries should coordinate their activities in order not to make overlap particular research themes.

B.6 GMO

Strict liability rules

Participants from AT, CH, DE and the UK asked for strict liability rules concerning GMO - to provide a maximum of legal security from contamination for Organic Farming.

Austrian stakeholders emphasised that strict liability rules should include the shifting of the burden of proof. This would e.g. mean that the user of GMO had to prove that he had not violated coexistence regulations.

Similar proposals were given by participants from Switzerland: they feared that the farmer not using GMO but who was affected by a GMO contamination had to prove who was responsible and if this actor had not been cautious enough. This might be very difficult and costly. Experts therefore claimed that the responsibility and the financial burden should be with those who brought GMO into circulation: The user of GMO should have to prove that no problems were caused by GMO, and he should bear the costs of analysis. Likewise, in DE, it was claimed that GMO users should account for measures of quality assurance of farmers not using GMO.

German stakeholders also asked for “comprehensive liability regulations”, but there was no consistent position about this point within the group. It was however agreed that the polluter-pays-principle should also be applied to damages caused by the application of GMO.

To be sure that farmers using GMO were able to pay for all possible damages, participants from the UK, CH, IT and EE considered a **liability insurance** for farmers using GMO as an essential tool in any GMO co-existence strategy. It was argued that if it was not possible to avoid the cultivation of GMO crops, then at least GMO producers should be obligated to compensate the damages of farmers whose products had been contaminated.

Likewise, Czech participants claimed that damages of farmers not using GMO had to be compensated. Therefore, they suggested that GMO-users should pay a certain amount of money to a **fund** which would serve as a guarantee for income damages.

Ban on GMO

Polish stakeholders underlined that policy should concentrate attention on health safety of consumers as well as on environmental issues. Therefore, a ban on the arbitrary release of GMOs was considered essential.

Hungarian participants also claimed for a GMO ban for the whole country, because the intrusion of GMO into agriculture would be a dead-end street for Organic Farming.

Reduce public funding for GMO

British stakeholders emphasised that, even though public approval for GMO was low, a disproportionate amount of money was spent on GMO. Instead, policy should recognize consumer/market demand and reduce public funding for GM.

Definition of strict sets of rules on GMO and on coexistence

British stakeholders underlined that a GMO co-existence strategy should be established, including strict regulations governing the co-existence of organic and GMO. In Germany, it was proposed to define the codes of “good agricultural practice” concerning the handling of GMO. British stakeholders said that a GMO co-existence strategy should include the requirement for licensing and notification of GM crops.

Participants from SI and PL stated that an appropriate national legislation should **ensure and guarantee the possibility of GMO-free farming** (including Organic Farming). Slovenian stakeholders agreed that proposals on co-existence had to be prepared which in praxis prevented any possibility of unwilling GMO contamination in agriculture -in production and processing as well as in seeds. Polish stakeholders stated that the most effective assurance for GMO-free OF was a total ban on the cultivation of GMO and on the use of GMO products.

To counter the threat of a GMO contamination, German participants claimed strict **controls of imports**.

Czech participants stated that rules for GMO should be **harmonised within the whole EU**.

Stakeholders from Italy noted that **thresholds had to be reduced and harmonised**. Actually, there were different “zero thresholds” (threshold under which most of the instruments of analysis are not sensitive) within the EU. Therefore, it was considered necessary to have an EU regulation which defined the same instrumental zero-point thresholds in all European countries at a low level.

In the United Kingdom, it was proposed to **establish and monitor organic GMO standards**, in combination with specific contamination controls for the organic sector. It was felt that if the coexistence strategy failed in controlling GMO's in OF, it was necessary to have a set of specific control standards that would act as a second layer of defence against GMO contamination. As part of this, there was discussion about whether the concept of 'non-GMO' or 'GMO free' was most appropriate for Organic Farming, as the definitions differed quite significantly in terms of the level of standards that would need to be imposed. 'GMO free' suggested that there was no GMO present at all, whereas 'non-GMO' indicated that, whilst every attempt was made to prevent GMO contamination, tolerance levels did exist. Moreover, British stakeholders said that there was a need to ensure that rigorous research standards were imposed on future private, GM industry funded research. This was considered important because it was feared that the GM industry would do more and more research to try to disprove government-funded farm evaluations concerning GMO.

In contrast, German experts considered it important to have the **same thresholds for OF and conventional farming**. They argued that if there were

GMO thresholds specific for the OF sector, additional wattles for OF would be built up.

Czech stakeholders pleaded for a harmonized **raise of tolerance thresholds** for the content of GMO in organic products up to 0,9% (currently, there would be zero tolerance in the CZ, but more in other countries).

Designation of GMO-free zones

The designation of GMO-free zones was considered important in SI, AT, CH and EE.

In Estonia, experts claimed that the prevention of GMO was the best possible solution to avoid GMO contamination. There should be possibilities for regions (e.g. local communities or counties) to declare themselves as GMO-free zones.

In Slovenia, participants stated that the present legislation on GMO-free zones was very “messy”. They considered it necessary to prepare an overview of activities and responsibilities with regard to GMO. Communication between farmers, the public and persons responsible for legislation had to be improved.

Austrian participants wanted to have Austria declared a GMO free zone –with no use of GMO in seeds, feeds, processing etc. They said that the maximum security from contamination could only be achieved by banning the use of GMO in clearly demarcated areas of a sufficient size. Participants regarded such a measure as the most efficient solution; however the possibilities of its realisation within the frame of current agricultural policy were strongly doubted.

Swiss stakeholders considered it necessary to officially define what a "GMO free region" was. They agreed that when launching GMO free regions, first the suitability of several existing or envisaged legal instruments and measurements had to be investigated. Regulations to consider would include e.g. the "Genlex" (Swiss law for GMO) for liability issues, but also laws for rural planning/ development or the legislation on property rights. In a second step, the regions had to be regulated in a legally binding form (e.g. 80 % of all land owners had to agree) and the state should approve and recognise the regions. This was considered important because a declaration of a GMO-free region would be obsolete if only one farmer within this region cancelled his commitment.

Furthermore, stakeholders claimed that in the Swiss “Bio-Regions” (regions with a high number of organic farms and a high share of area under agri-environmental measures), all farmers should commit to farming without GMO. It was mentioned that the policy instrument of GMO free regions might be an option for Switzerland as a whole or at least for some regions.

B.7 OF as a role model for sustainability, rural development,
multifunctionality

Organic Farming support

Italian stakeholders claimed to increase and **redistribute part of the spending from non-agricultural measures** and sources within the RDP to Organic Farming.

In Estonia, experts stated that **funds from direct payments should be transferred to RDP measures**. Increasing Organic Farming support would help to keep current organic farmers continuing and encourage new farmers to convert to OF. Stakeholders emphasised that OF should be made attractive to the processing sector. Therefore, the organic production sector had to grow in order to reach the needed amounts of products.

In the United Kingdom, it was proposed to maintain or enhance differential payments under entry levels schemes for Organic Farming. In addition, these payments should be enhanced for the conversion of farms in **specific sectors** that were still developing (e.g. organic horticulture).

Italian participants pointed out that by-products of traditional agriculture practices led to the emission of greenhouse gases which caused climate change (measure 3.4 of Kyoto Protocol). In contrast, Organic agricultural practices could reduce the general emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from farm equipment as well as from the transport of imported agricultural products. For this reason, it was suggested using **Kyoto funds for Organic Farming**.

Swiss participants proposed to further develop the direct payment scheme with the aim of promoting "Eco-Regions". Stakeholders explained that a regulation on "Ecological Quality" had already been introduced by the Swiss government in 2002. This regulation allowed farmers to get higher direct payments for ecological compensation areas, if a special landscape development concept was established on community level. A similar approach should be applied for the **"Eco-Regions": farmers of a region could get higher direct payments** for Organic Farming if a sustainability concept had been developed with a bottom-up approach based on commonly agreed ecological and social criteria. Several participants wanted to further develop the concept of whole farm conversion and to combine it with the concept of "Eco-Regions".

German stakeholders underlined that **support programmes should be bundled**, because there were many different programmes that dealt with pilot schemes or pre-operating studies.

Czech stakeholders stated that **innovations and development of new technologies** of OF should be supported (e.g. small machines).

The majority of the participants in CH agreed that the **link between tourism and organic agriculture** should be strengthened on a National and regional level. New alliances should be initiated and in this context, regional Organic Farming organisations could play a major role.

Action Plan development: implementation of regional AP

In Hungary, stakeholders asked for the implementation of regional action plans. Local efforts in capacity building were considered important for Organic Farming.

2nd Pillar of the CAP

Participants from AT, CZ, DE, SI, IT, PL, HU and EE considered it important to give **priority to OF in the Rural Development Programmes**.

In Hungary, participants stated that currently Organic Farming was not even mentioned in the National Rural Development Plan.

Estonian experts said that Organic Farming should be prioritised in RDP measures as a model for sustainable rural development.

Slovenian experts saw a need to clearly set Organic Farming on the first place in RDP because Organic Farming did not only provide environmental and other public benefits, but also had comparative market advantages compared with conventional ways of agriculture.

In Italy, participants emphasised that relating to art. 69, EU Member States might retain up to 10 % of national ceilings referred to each sector to grant additional payments for specific types of farming. These had to be types of farming that were important for the protection of the environment or for improving the quality and marketing of agricultural products. Behind this background, stakeholders stated that concerning funds, grants and investments, priority should be given to Organic Farming.

Polish stakeholders underlined that a Program for the Development of Rural Areas should comprise the creation of zones of Organic Farming. Moreover, Organic Farming should be included when searching for alternative sources of earnings, e.g. agro tourism with the possibility of the supply of organic food.

In the Czech Republic, experts proposed that organic farms should get more points in projects within the new programmes of EAFRD. This way, they could attract subsidies more easily and increase their competitiveness (e.g. regarding investments).

In Denmark, it was considered important to have not one special part for OF in the Danish RDP, but to mention OF in all sections. It was stressed that **OF should be seen as an important tool in all three axes** of the Danish implementation of the RDP. Participants also stated that such an approach made sense on EU-level as well, but this could only be reached on long term.

Slovenian stakeholders stated that the **linking of Organic Farming with other aspects** and goals (e.g. nature, environment, tourism, and sustainable development) should be supported.

Italian participants pointed out that in the Rural Development Programmes, difficulties in **combining organic and “typical”** (Regulation (EEC) 2081/92: PDO and PGI; 2082/92: TSG; 823/87: CDO and CGDO wines, TGI) arose. Therefore, specific funds for the combination of organic and “typical” should be provided.

Political commitments

In Austria, one part of the participants demanded a clear positioning of agricultural policy in favour of OF (e.g. in the question of GMO use). However others stated that the allocation of financial support for organic agriculture was over proportional, which gave an indication for a favourable treatment of Organic Farming.

Polish stakeholders said that policies should formulate **quantitative targets** for OF. A target for OF acreage could be 10% of organically managed farmland by 2020.

Link agricultural support to labour

German experts said that premiums in agriculture should be linked to income and labour. The background was that, in the current premium systems, distortions of competition and discrimination of OF could occur. Attaching support at the initialisation of labour could compensate the inequities.

B.8 Organic Market development

Fair trade for domestic market

Danish participants stated that as DK was a small country with high production costs, there were certain problems in obtaining a fair competition between Danish and foreign products - especially regarding vegetables. Therefore, stakeholders emphasised that policy should find ways to make prices and the origin of products more transparent in order to get to fairer conditions for Danish farmers.

Take Italian producers organizations as a role model for the EU

Italian participants proposed to take the Italian Common Market Organization for fruits and vegetables as model for the EU.

Tradable quotas for inputs

British stakeholders suggested introducing tradable quotas for agricultural inputs. They explained that in a first step, the total quota, and initial allocation of quota should be set by the government and the trading price would be determined by the market. Rather than being based on current usage, initial allocation should be on a per hectare basis, so that those currently performing well were not disadvantaged. Smaller or less intensive farmers would have a product that they could trade and which provided them with an income; and larger, more intensive farmers would have the option of buying quota at a fair price. Stakeholders were convinced that this system had definite benefits over direct input taxation, especially with respect to the impact it had on conventional farmers. However, the issue of the complexity and bureaucracy associated with tradable quotas was raised.

Processing

In Austria, participants proposed to strengthen and improve artisan and small scale processing. Processing structures for organic food in Austria should not only **increase in quantity and capacity, but also improve in quality.**

Participants also demanded the preservation of traditional and artisan skills in the production and processing of organic food. Some participants criticised that the current structure of (and especially the cooperation within) the processing sector was insufficient.

British participants stated that the **development of convenience foods should be linked to core organic principles.**

Promote vertical supply chain integration

In Italy, stakeholders emphasised that a good economical and entrepreneurial strategy in the organic sector was to promote the vertical supply-chain integration.

Relations among production and processing system and the marketing of organic products should be made more efficient & effective in order to increase organic consumption.

Italian experts also suggested developing the supply-chains concerning **organic and “typical”** (Regulation (EEC) 2081/92: PDO and PGI; 2082/92: TSG; 823/87: CDO and CGDO wines, TGI) together.

Improve structure and organization of direct marketing by local initiatives

Participants from SI, the UK, AT, DE and EE stated that structure and organization of direct marketing could be improved by local initiatives.

German stakeholders said that OF was far away from a regional marketing. Therefore, instruments should be developed for the regional marketing of organic food.

Estonian experts said that the most logical market for organic products was the local market. Unfortunately, local actors often lacked capacity to start co-operation and launch local sales activities- therefore local initiatives and direct marketing should be supported.

A re-regionalisation was suggested in AT as a measure to further develop domestic markets and to strengthen food sovereignty. It was understood as a counter movement to current globalisation in the organic (and conventional) sector. Experts suggested increasing domestic consumption in public and semi-public institutions (schools, hospitals ...). The promotion of regional, short supply chains and closed circuits of production, processing and consumption was seen as a mean to support Organic Farming.

Austrian participants also called for the installation of local markets and local production –especially in CEE (Central and Eastern European) countries: emphasis was put on the model function of Organic Farming. However, increasing exports in countries with a developed organic sector and developing export markets was regarded ambiguous for the general development of organic agriculture.

In UK, it was proposed to develop local, regional, authentic and cultural food initiatives that should take into consideration the authenticity and cultural aspects of organic food. This should include the establishment of organic co-operatives.

British participants were convinced that by developing local food links and shorter supply chains, consumers could become closer to their food producers and get the opportunity to ask questions on their food production systems. Developing a food culture would be part of developing local food links and encourage people to enjoy sourcing and cooking their food. This could open alternative markets for OF and break the current stranglehold held by major retailers.

Likewise, Polish stakeholders suggested facilitating contacts of consumers with organic food. They considered it necessary to activate the organic farm product market by promoting local markets and applying direct sales to promote local organic products. In PL, experts also stated that an improvement of structure and organisation of direct sales was necessary. Direct sales should be promoted, and an internet catalogue indicating the supply sources of organic products and the locations of organic farms was considered helpful.

Slovenian participants stated that the support of local initiatives (organization of local markets, on-farm selling etc.) should be combined with public procurement efforts.

OF marketing

Czech stakeholders reported that since 2004, there has been a marketing fund under the department for marketing of high quality products within the National agricultural intervention fund. The department had made a tender and chosen one marketing agency which from then on provided all promotion financed from this fund. According to the stakeholders, the problem was that this agency was not focused on OF and it was not good to present all products the same way. Therefore, a **public tender for OF promotion** should be established in order to give every organisation (of course with necessary experience and knowledge) the possibility of taking financial resources from this marketing fund for the promotion of OF.

In CZ, it was also proposed to **use resources from EAFRD** (article 30 and 31, focused on supporting of promotion for products national quality) for the promotion of OF. Thus a notice should be put in the document indicating that organic products were main candidates for that sort of support.

Simplification of rules for small processors & direct sales

Czech participants stated that one of the biggest barriers to organic processing development were the very strict, difficult rules, hygienic regulations etc. - especially for processing on farm. They claimed that there should be exceptions in the regulations for small processors and for selling products on farms.

Support small marketing organisations

Czech participants called for an adjustment of the rules for the support of sales organisations. Nowadays the condition for supporting marketing organizations would be a minimum limit of sold produce. Stakeholders suggested that this minimum level of selling amount should be decreased- especially for sales of organic products.

Establishment of a new marketing organisation

Hungarian stakeholders suggested that a state subsidized bottom up organisation could concentrate on market integration and initiate the marketing.

Create a market information system

Polish participants asked for an effective market information system at regional, national and EU level. It was stated that in the process of globalisation and internationalisation of consumer behaviours, sharing of reliable information was necessary.

Tourism: stimulate the use of organic food

In Switzerland, a majority of participants believed that the promotion of organic food in tourism should be focussed on. This measure was mainly seen in the responsibility of the private sector. The role of the state could be to provide an incentive to initiate or support the use of organic food in hotels and restaurants. Participants proposed e.g. to make the use of organic food an eligibility criteria for a VAT reduction in catering trade, hotels and restaurants.

Make organic food available in all restaurants

In the United Kingdom, stakeholders proposed to develop the concept of the “organic consumer”. This would mean to expect that wherever you went for a meal you should have organic food available- in the same way as the requirements of vegetarians were now recognised.

Stimulate public procurement

Stakeholders from SI, AT, DE, the UK and EE stated that public procurement of organic food had to be stimulated.

Participants in SI agreed that there was a need for changing public procurement. The law on public procurement should be altered in order to give priority to organic products.

German participants proposed to promote organic food in public canteens, with a main focus on health care facilities.

British experts agreed that the potential of public procurement in public bodies to develop the organic market was significant - as their budgets were extensive. It was requested that regulatory aspects needed to be considered when identifying mechanisms for implementing this policy instrument.

Estonian participants were convinced that best quality food should be served to children, so the usage of organic food at schools’ and kindergartens’ canteens was considered desirable. Moreover, with good organic school meals, the “new organic food consumer’s generation” could be established. Big and stable purchasing from the public sector would also stimulate the growth of organic sector.

In Germany, stakeholders suggested linking the out-of-home market with regional approaches and to supply meals in schools and day-care-centres by regional value-added chains. Using **regional food in public procurement** could indirectly support OF.

A re-regionalisation was also mentioned in AT as a measure to develop further domestic markets and to strengthen food sovereignty. The idea behind was an increase of demand of local food by domestic consumption in public and semi-public institutions (schools, hospitals etc.).

C Policy actions: Detailed descriptions

In this chapter, the policy actions developed by participants of the workshops are described. The headings of the tables refer to the code of the policy instrument; then the proposed policy actions related to the respective policy instrument follow.

C.1 Changes in tax system

Table C-1: Taxes on polluting inputs

Subcode/ Country						
-	-	-	-	Extra money for farmers not using named inputs (promotion activities, investments, etc.)	Tax on nitrogen	Tax on CO2
SI	AT	IT	EE	CZ	DE	DE
How actions will be implemented?						
Increase VAT for pesticides and chemical fertilizers on 20%*	1) INPUT approach:	Law or regulation	Organic Farming and environmental organizations are making proposal to the Ministry of Agriculture	Integration of OF issue into the Ecological (environmental) Tax Reform of MoE. Taxes should be imposed on fertilisers and pesticides. In this way collected money put into the fund (for promotion e.g.) for those who do not use these inputs (OF).	Tax on mineral nitrogen throughout the EU	Emission levy
*(which is normal rate, instead of current 8,5%)	tax on fertilizers, pesticides (according to the example of Denmark) taxation of fossil energy and on food miles, and these instruments should be used in combination with incentives for alternative energy use.	Define appropriate tax rate in order to cover the reduced tax-income of the previous policy instrument and have extra money for other organic-related expenditures	Ministry of Agriculture is making proposal to the Ministry of Finances		(Reason for the measure: effects on N-use, experiences, etc.)	(or tax on all fossil energy sources)
	A problem for these instruments was seen in the over proportional disadvantage for Austrians conventional agriculture in the EU- context. Such measures were deemed to be implementable on an EU or WTO level only.		Analysis of the economical impact (the additional sum of levy in national budget)		Starting point: producer	Steps:

How actions will be implemented? (Continuation)						
SI	AT	IT	EE	CZ	DE	DE
Progressive introduction of tax on environmental pollution in agriculture	Eco-taxes based on the principle of "the polluter pays" should not necessarily result in an increase of the overall tax load, but in a reduction (depending on the distribution of the additional tax revenue) >It seems to be important to discuss the principle in the general public to achieve a better position for organic agriculture (less polluting)		Proposal to the parliament for changing the legislation		Steps: Initially formation of a consensus within the Germany, afterwards coordination of the fellow EU members	a) Formulation of a comprehensive concept for an emission levy upon CO2 – consistent and throughout the EU;
	2) END-OF-PIPE approach:				Performance of a feasibility study; clarification of the utilisation of the received funds in the framework of a concept; definition of tax rate and amounts; identification of potential loopholes.	b) Clarification of the effects on organic agriculture (incl. transport sector) analogue Measure 1a) (N tax)
	This approach aims at an internalisation of external costs by private regulations (deposit system for packaging and recycling etc). Also this approach needs an EU level for implementation.					
Who will take responsibility for implementation?						
Ministry of finance in cooperation with MoA, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Health, Chamber of Agriculture, Economic Chamber	Policy, associations (lobby) for Organic Farming, EU, WTO	Parliament	Ministry of Agriculture, Organic Farming Bureau – proposal	Ministry of Environment – Mr. Jiří Brázda	Ministry of Finances and MoA	a) Ministry of Finances, Ministry of Economics and Ministry of the Environment
		Government (Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Economy and Finance)	Ministry of Finances - implementation	NGO – for example Association of Ecological Businessmen	Voting in the Federal Council and the Parliament and the legislators of the EU members respectively	b) sub-orders (for clarification of the effects on OF)
					Implementation after adoption: fiscal authorities	

Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?						
SI	AT	IT	EE	CZ	DE	DE
No impact	Financial res.: additional financial resources mobilised	300 Millions €	No additional financial resources needed	0 CZK, it is a case of non-allowable expenses that nobody pays.	Conception: Ministry of Finances and MoA (staff appropriations)	Conception: Ministry of Finances, Ministry of Economics and Ministry of the Environment (staff appropriations)
	Human res.: political lobbying needed to achieve a "de-neo-liberalisation" of tax policy and general economy.		Preparation is made by the initiators from Organic Farming and environmental ngo sector and by the personnel of the ministries		Funds for studies: about 2 Mio. € [doubted within the group]; Utilisation of existing studies / department research results (e.g. FAL (Federal Agricultural Research Centre))!	Funds for studies: 10–20 Mio. €, as there are fewer studies available than in measure 1a) (N tax)
			Implementation is made by the personnel of the ministries			
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?						
Users of pesticides and chemical fertilizers	Environment (indirectly society), ministry of finance, organic sector	The whole supply-chain	Conventional producers	Organic farmers	Users of the fertiliser: garden plot holders, farmers, households	All CO2-producers
					Fertiliser industry	
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?						
Start: 1.1.2006	10 years from start to finish	Beginning of 2006	Proposals for changing the legislation - 2006	Start: 15.6.2005	First proposal: Autumn 2005	First proposal: Autumn 2005
End: 1.1.2007		Structural measure	Implementation - 2007	Finish: June 2007-2008	Introduction of the tax: 1.1.2009, open-ended	Introduction: 1.1.2010
					Evaluation: 2012	Evaluation: 2013

Table C-2: Tax reduction/exemption for OF (consumers)

Subcode/ Country			
OF products deductible from income tax	VAT reduction/ exemption for org. products	VAT reduction/ exemption for org. products	VAT reduction/ exemption for org. products
AT	IT	HU	EE
How actions will be implemented?			
Organic consumption must be tax-deductible. The implementation is effected via the tax declarations or via reductions for certain insurances (e.g. life insurance, social security).	Law or regulation:	Lobby for the VAT reduction	Reducing VAT for organic products to 5%.
The proof seems difficult to the participants, it seems feasible only via automatic systems (chip cards of supermarkets). At the end of the year, a list of the data saved is made and attached to the tax declaration.	0% VAT for all organic certified products		Organic Farming organizations make a proposal to the Ministry of Agriculture.
The major problem is that only purchases at retailers are registered; organic products are not always marked as organic on the receipts. Furthermore it might require new technical equipment for retailers.	Voluntary transparent price system		The Ministry of Agriculture makes a proposal to the Ministry of Finances.
			Analysis of the economical impact (the reduced sum of VAT in national budget).
			Proposal to the parliament for changing the VAT legislation.
Who will take responsibility for implementation?			
The minister of finance has the legal possibility for tax reductions.	The Parliament	Ministry officials	Ministry of Agriculture, Organic Farming Bureau: proposal
The retailers have the possibility to introduce the systems required.			Ministry of Finances: implementation
NGOs consumer organisations have to do the political lobbying.			
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?			
Financial resources required:	160 Millions € (taken from taxes on conventional inputs)	Ministers and representatives	Additional sums are added to the national budget from taxes on pesticides, mineral fertilizers and GMO-seeds.
• The ministry of finance has to turn down the tax claims			The preparation is made by the initiators from Organic Farming, the environmental NGO sector and by the personnel of the ministries.
• The retailers have to bear the cost to introduce the new system			The implementation is made by the personnel of the ministries.
Human resources:			
• Additional administrative work			
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?			
Regular consumers (who buy in supermarkets)	Consumers	The organic sector	Organic producers, processors, traders
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?			
5 years from the start to finalisation	Beginning of 2006	Sep. 2005	2006 - Proposals for changing the legislation
	Structural measure		2007 - Implementation

Table C-3: Tax reduction/exemption for OF (producers)

Subcode/ Country	
Non-taxable OF subsidy	-
CZ	PL
How actions will be implemented?	
By amendment (novella) of the Act No 586/1992 of the Coll., on income tax	Information campaigns
	Legislative initiative
	Legal act
Who will take responsibility for implementation?	
Mr. Antonín Valder - Czech University of Agriculture in Prague (as designer)	Initiative group acting for the benefit of Organic Farming
Deputy (member of parliament) - representatives of Ministry of Agriculture or Ministry of Environment	
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?	
costs of document and proposal preparation (time of Mr. Valder work)	Meeting costs
Financial headquarters should realize the action.	Costs of conferences and information materials
	Consumer lobby, associated of organic food producers
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?	
Organic farmers	Polish parliament and government
	Organic Farming lobby
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?	
Start: now in June 2005 (it will be discussed)	2005-2006
Finish: 1.1.2007	

Table C-4: Taxes on GMO-products/ seed

Subcode/ Country	
-	-
SI	PL
How actions will be implemented?	
Development of legislation that provide a special fund for sanitation of eventual GMO-contaminated areas should be set up	Informational campaigns
	Legislative initiative
	Legal act
Who will take responsibility for implementation?	
MoA, government, Chamber of Agriculture	Initiative group acting for the benefit of Organic Farming
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?	
Private and public.	Meeting costs
Private: farmers who want to grow GMO pay into this fund.	Costs of conferences and information materials.
Public: should be used if money from private sources runs out.	Consumer lobby,
Eventual surplus should be used for promotion of Organic Farming.	Association of organic food producers
No need for additional human resources.	
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?	
Farmers growing GMOs	Polish parliament and government
	Organic Farming lobby
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?	
Start: 1.1.2006	2005-2006
Implementation: 1.1.2007:	

C.2 Communication with consumers

Table C-5: Public information and promotion campaigns I

Subcode/ Country					
-	-	Clear definition of OF, organic products	On environmental issues	On environmental issues	On environmental issues
SI	DK	CZ	AT	PL	DK
How actions will be implemented?					
Several years media campaign for promotion of OF	A new strategic launch of organic products made to reach new consumer groups, in a way where basic principles for Organic Farming are used in an offensive way	Work out marketing and communication strategy	Increase of budget for promotion of organic products, information campaigns and their implementation	Education of children and youth – educational classes, supplying organic food to school and university cafeterias	Using the positive differences to conventional/ the benefits of Organic Farming in a stronger way in information campaigns
		Later use that strategy to draw up campaign plan.	Elaboration of specific promotional measures and their implementation	Education through the mass- media – regular programs on the television, topical articles in the press	By targeting funding to information about organic benefits
		Possible forms of presentation: Billboards, TV spot in prime time.	Promotion campaigns should target especially on the emotional level of consumers and delineate clearly from “close organic” products		
Who will take responsibility for implementation?					
“Organic” experts and NGOs (consumers’, Organic Farming, environmental)	The organic sector (“Organic Denmark” (the org. association)) with organic issues as their only goal	PRO-BIO – Association of Ecological Farmers	Financing : EU, MoA, Ministry of Health	ARMR /Agency for the Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture/ – payment services, organic food producers	The office for Food, Fisheries and Agro Business administering the funding, different partners apply for specific projects due to the goal.
		SZIF (State agricultural intervention fund) – marketing agency	Implementation: AMA (Agrar Markt Austria Marketing), Bio-Austria in Cooperation with market partners (retailers) and NGOs in the environmental and health sectors	Editorial board of agricultural programs at national public TV, press	
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?					
Financial – ministries (MoA, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Health) and Chamber of Agriculture, Economic Chamber	Support to practitioners working with basic innovation	Marketing study – 0,5 mil CZK (Czech crown)	Fin. res. increase of AMAs organic budget from present 12% to 20%	20% subsidy of costs of purchasing organic foods for cafeterias – the producer receives the subsidy from the EU fund	10 million kr. and translation of research results
Human resources. 1,5 person (experts and NGO)		Campaign – 150 000 CZK	The major problem is that the budget of AMA is tied to the marketing funds raised from the respective product sectors. Additionally organic farmers produce less (according to more extensive ways of production and accordingly pay less.	advertising budget – 2 million zł;	
Material costs and labour costs		1. phase: (now-end of 2006) finances from national sources	Hum. res.: increase of capacities in implementing organisations.	association of organic food producers, consumer lobby;	

		2. phase (from 2007) finances from EAFRD		marketing experts	
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?					
SI	DK	CZ	AT	PL	DK
General public and consumers	Consumers/ companies	Consumers	In the long term the health sector will benefit, on a shorter and middle range : organic farmers, processors and retailers	young consumers – students of all educational levels	Those who decide what to eat. Both professionals and consumers.
		Organic farmers – their sales will increase		adult consumers	
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?					
Start: 1.1.2006	As fast as possible	Start: 1st Phase: June 2005- end of 2006	Not defined	2005 - 2007	A part of the 2006 rural development program
End: 1.1.2009		2nd Phase: from 2007			

Table C-6: Public information and promotion campaigns II

Subcode/ Country				
Stimulate public procurement	On health, wellness and food quality issues	On health, wellness and food quality issues	Comparison between conventional and organic agriculture (whole chain)	Comparison between conventional and organic agriculture (whole chain)
IT	CH	EE	DE	UK
How actions will be implemented?				
Compulsory use of 100% organic products in public canteens	1. List of arguments elaborated with the following themes: Nutrition, health, regional diversity and biodiversity, sustainability	1. Promotion campaigns of organic products in the shops	Cp. package of measures within the BÖL (Organic Action Plan Germany)	Research reviews to generate material;
Action should be taken for those public canteens not respecting the regulation (this is already possible according to Italian law)	2. Multiplication of existing and proved actions rather than developing and introducing new ones	2. Consumers education (health clubs, consumer organizations, family schools etc.) by organizing information days and publishing information materials	Check if there are measures to be assigned on long term (and if yes which)	Develop guidelines for businesses on content;
Food educational programmes in school canteens and organic agri-tourisms	3. posters, TV spots, Info leaflets, events		Additional possibilities: E.g. movie as well as information about conventional production	Develop websites – upgrade Food Standards Agency (FSA) and DEFRA (UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) by linking with organic;
Periodical presence of an expert (nutritionist, agronomist) in school canteens for education and comparative tasting (between conventional and organic products)	4. Information campaign linked to national identification symbol (e.g. a VIP)		Commitment of producers and marketers to make information available; enable visits at farms	Producers to meet consumers – e.g. in schools;
Training of cooks	5. Campaigns of firms: private-public partnership		Amendment of the sale fund law: Money for sales promotion should remain with the organic farmers (so that they can carry out self- advertising)	Produce leaflets and cd-roms.
TV series (organic food & cuisine)				

Who will take responsibility for implementation?				
				A joined up approach between DEFRA, the FSA, the National Farmers Union (NFU) and organic bodies such as the Soil Association. Consumer groups and businesses will also have input in getting the message across.
Local authority	Swiss foundation for the promotion of health	1. Organic producers, processors and traders	MoA	
Schools	Federal office of health	2. Ministry of Agriculture		
Regions (Minister offices)	Federal office of agriculture			
	Organic Farming Sector: BIO SUISSE (umbrella organisation of Swiss organic farmers), FiBL (Research Institute of Organic Agriculture)			
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?				
25 Millions €/year		1. EU funds, private sector contribution funds – personnel costs, costs of materials and products; Organic producers, processors and traders; consultants	a) Inspection and recommendations: External studies, about 200.000 €	Financial budget of € 1 million/annum sourced from businesses, private bodies, EU promotion funds and levy boards.
EU funds (promotion and training)	ca. 3 Mio Euros per year	2. National budget, EU funds– personnel costs and costs of materials; Personnel of the Ministry of Agriculture, experts	b) Continuation of the recommended measures: 10–15 Mio. € p.a.	
Ministry of Health and Agriculture (for communication)	Coordination: one person,			
Regions - Agriculture Minister office (Rural Development Programmes for information activities)	resources of the involved organisations.			
Catering enterprises				
Local authority (increase boarding charge)				
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?				
Consumers	Consumers,	1. Consumers, both adults and children	a) MoA and groups involved	Consumers and schools.
Whole sector	Market actors: processors, trade	2. Consumers, both adults and children	b) Consumers	
	Canteens			
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?				
2007	Focus on few measures, but with a long term perspective	1. Implementation – 2006	a) From now until summer 2006	Need to begin implementation now as there are new people in DEFRA (and potentially FSA) who could drive this forward. Input would then be on going.
	5 years	2. Preparation and partial implementation – 2006	b) 2007–2011	

Table C-7: OF in school education

Subcode/ Country				
-	-	New subject "Organic Farming"	New subject "Alimentation"	Organic meals
CZ	CH	AT	DE	DK
How actions will be implemented?				
A: Grants for excursion in organic farms	1. Integrate the issue of sustainable consumption in the curriculum	Inclusion of organic agriculture as a topic in the curricula of schools	a) Development of teaching units and generation of teaching material	Organic healthy choices for a simple meal, promoted by an information campaign.
B: Introduction of new OFsubject into schools	2. Visits on organic farms with schools.	Elaboration of special teaching methods and materials for organic agriculture	b) Admission of the subject within the curriculum	Local products should be preferred.
	3. Project weeks targeted on ecology and Organic Farming	Special training courses for teachers and other actors in education as well as coordination of their activities on a national level.	c) Advanced training of the teachers	Keeping the pressure at the Minister
	4. Offer organic snacks during l breaks	Establishment of integrative and practical projects with relation to organic agriculture	d) Offering thematic units (e.g. farm visits)	
	5. Organic school gardens			
	6. Itinerant-preacher-approach: charismatic farmers / organic actors should be trained to transfer information about organic agriculture in schools			
Who will take responsibility for implementation?				
Representatives of Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports	Initiated by the organic movement, addressed to national and cantonal education directorates	Ministry of education, regional boards of education (Landesschulräte) teachers organic organisations (Bio Austria), farmers, (e.g. via schools on the farm)	Ministers for education of the federal states in collaboration with ministries of agriculture and organic agriculture associations	Ministry of Families
	Swiss Farmers Union			
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?				
A: 5 million CZK	Money transfer within the education budgets	Fin. res.: increased financial means for specific projects	a) Materials: already designed by BÖL (Organic Action Plan Germany)	10 million Kr + expertise in the area
B: 200 thousand CZK		Hum. res.: increase of capacities for the elaboration of curricula and teaching aids for organic agriculture	b) Educational administrations with available staff	
A:Grant Ministry of Education, Youth a Sports			c) Institutes of the federal states (institutes for advanced training of teachers)	
B: Grant for consultancy from Ministry of Environment			d) capital assigned to the schools, school development associations, sponsors	

Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?				
CZ	CH	AT	DE	DK
A: Primary schools, Secondary/grammar schools – further, everybody who will show interest and apply for	Teachers, pupils, parents	Pupils and youth	Students, teachers, parents	The responsible persons for the meals in the schools. The municipality
		General public and society		
B: pupils – first from primary schools after that also from secondary/grammar schools				
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?				
A: 2005- preparation	Measures should run throughout the whole time of schooling (not limited to one specific year in school)	Not defined	From now on and continuously	1-3 years
2006-2007- realization				
B: 2005 preparation				
2006- 2007 – experimental schools				
2008 - into other schools				

Table C-8: Labelling

Subcode/ Country	
Introduce an effective national logo	Introduction of an effective national logo
HU	EE
How actions will be implemented?	
Initiation of a tender with user (consumer) and professional evaluation and effective PR	1. National media campaign for the national label
	2. Publication of information materials
	3. Creation and updating of the internet database of organic farmers who sell organic products (and their product list)
	4. Mapping organic farms, placing of signs referring to organic production at farm on the gates of the farms (centrally organized)
Who will take responsibility for implementation?	
Agrár Marketing Centrum	1. Ministry of Agriculture, Organic Farming Bureau and Organic Farming organisations
	2., 3. Organic Farming organizations
	4. Organic Farming organizations, farmers
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?	
Expert fees, planning budget, presentation and TV spot	Costs of the campaign (articles and advertising), costs of publications, costs of the web-site design and administration, costs of mapping farms, preparation of the signs
	EU funds, national budget, farmers own contribution
	Personnel of the Ministry of Agriculture, Organic Farming Bureau, Organic Farming organizations, farmers
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?	
Consumers and producers	Consumers, public
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?	
Oct. 2005 – June 2006	Preparation and implementation: during 2006

Table C-9: Support open days on farms

Subcode/ Country
-
IT
How actions will be implemented?
Create an open-day farm register
Develop new organic standards for these farms: fully converted, adequate hosting capacity, equipment & infrastructures, civil liability insurance for children, etc.
An annual visit for all school levels should be introduced in the teaching programmes
Who will take responsibility for implementation?
Local education office (Provveditorato)
Regions (Agricultural Minister Office)
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?
National, regional and province funds for training (Minister office for Training) – 30%
Chambers of Commerce (to decrease family payments/ contribution) – 30%
Agricultural Minister office (Rural Development Programme – measures aimed at increasing consumers information) – 40%
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?
Farms
School students
Community/ society
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?
Beginning of 2007 (Start of the Rural Development Programmes)

Table C-10: Internet portal: on-going funding

Subcode/ Country
-
DE
How actions will be implemented?
Institutionalisation of the internet portal
Who will take responsibility for implementation?
ZADI (German Centre for Documentation and Information in Agriculture) as responsible body
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?
350.000 € p.a.
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?
Traders, consumers, multipliers
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?
From April 2006 on and continuously

C.3 Inspection and certification system

Table C-11: Improve standards

Subcode/ Country						
Simplification, clarification, harmonization of standards	Simplification, clarification, harmonization of standards	Stricter Standards	Stricter Standards	Improvement of decision procedure for additives in annex	Introducing the principle of "farm social responsibility"	National Implementation of Reg. 2092/91 by one authority
CZ	EE	DK	UK	DK	AT	DE
How actions will be implemented?						
Work out the manual book of presence statutes, analysis of current legislation and their simplification.	Revision and harmonization of the standards – consultations with ministries, insp&cert bodies, experts and farmers at national level as well as with other countries	Technical development project	Developments will be linked directly to the EU Organic Revision Project;	An evaluation of today's procedure, with participation of stakeholders (IFOAM EU) (would hopefully lead to another procedure)	Elaboration of ethical, social and economic minimum standards in production, processing, and trade with organic products (model : IFOAM)	a) Estimation of effects, clarification of the extent
The attempt to simplify the legislation. It should start from practical life of organic farmers.	Preparation of the proposals to the EU Commission and local authorities	Grassroots research project	Principles of Organic Farming to be enshrined into the EU regulation;	Goal to ensure organic integrity	Implementation of respective certification („organic – ISO Certification")	b) Treaty ("Staatsvertrag") between the federal states
	Implementation of the new standards		Standards within countries and across the EU need to be compared and contrasted;			
			Differences in standards interpretation need to be identified;			
			R&D into technical ways to deal with and promote standards changes;			
			Workshops, research papers etc. to regularly facilitate standards evolution;			
			A process needs to be developed to encompass the above.			

Who will take responsibility for implementation?						
CZ	EE	DK	UK	DK	AT	DE
Mr. Martin Leibl – Ministry of Agriculture	Changes on EU level - EU Commission	The office for Food, Fisheries and Agro Business	The organic movement and organic standards bodies will need to work closely with member states, the commission, DEFRA and ACOS (Advisory Committee on Organic Standards).	DG Agri Danish Minister of Family should put pressure	Not defined	The respective ministries of federal states in responsibility
	Changes on national level Ministry of Agriculture, Plant Production Inspectorate (insp&cert authority)					Minister presidents
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?						
Costs:1 million CZK – work and print	EU and national funds – personnel costs	Experience with integrity/identity	A grant will be required to support the above group.	Technical expertise both with procedures and organic integrity		Are saved.
300 – 500 thousand CZK – specialist work, comparison	Personnel of the Ministry of Agriculture, Plant Production Inspectorate (insp&cert authority), Agricultural Registers and Information Board (paying agency), experts	Development funding for practitioners				(Objection: growing efforts for coordination)
Covered by: Ministry of Agriculture						
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?						
Organic farmers, processors, consumers	Organic farmers, processors, traders as well as inspection and certification bodies	Innovators	Certification bodies and the whole food chain will be beneficiaries.	EU-Commission, Danish Ministry for Families, EU-Parliament, national parliament.	Organic farmers due to certification and market positioning, labourers due to social minimum standards, consumers due to increased transparency of products	Traders, authorities (control authorities, boards of control)
		The food industry				
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?						
Start: 1.6.2005 – preparation, analysis	Preparation – 2006	Short term Danish projects	This will be an on-going process beginning with the outputs of the Organic Revision Project (due to end in February 2007) being used to create a development plan for the way forward.	EU research 7. Framework programme		a) Autumn 2005
1.7.2006- start of the action	Implementation on national level – 2007	Long term EU-standards		The commissions evaluation of the organic regulation		b) End of 2006
	Implementation on EU level – 2009					

Table C-12: Simplification and harmonization of Organic Certification system

Subcode/ Country				
-	-	-	For small farms	Distinction between intentional fraud and not avoidable risk
PL	UK	EE	HU	CH
How actions will be implemented?				
Identifying and defining specific areas and the scope of new standards:	Identify current practices across the EU;	Revision of inspection and certification system – consultations with ministries, insp&cert bodies, experts and farmers at national level as well as with other countries	controlling should be organized by local organic producers every year; the farm plans should be ready before the inspection	Start debate about kind of risks with Federal office of agriculture, cantonal health protection agencies, Federal office of health
Reconnaissance of the situation regarding specific areas in member states	On farm inspection results to be made publicly available – phase in over 2 year period;	Preparation of the proposals to the EU Commission and local authorities		Discussion about how to distinguish fraud and general contamination risk
Preparation of draft standards	Use inspection results to develop certification process (refine it) and subsequently reduce administrative burden where possible;	Implementation of the new system		Increase personal responsibility and at the same time introduce more strict sanctions.
Providing information, training – producers, processors, sellers, certifying bodies, advisors.	Allow partial self-assessment based on a risk assessment of fraud potential.			Adaptation of sanctions: e.g. farmers which have not applied sufficient quality assurance measures, might in the worst case be excluded from being certified as “organic”.
Who will take responsibility for implementation?				
Appointing a group of experts by the Ministry (e.g. Organic Farm Board) issuing the proposal of the European Commission and participating in the work of the European Commission.	The EU commission would be responsible for the regulation change allowing inspection results to become publicly available. DEFRA would be responsible for implementing this regulation in the UK. Commercial certifiers and accreditation bodies may need to be involved in overcoming confidentiality issues.	Changes on EU level - EU Commission	Biokultura local organisers	Bio Suisse and FiBL
		Changes on national level Ministry of Agriculture, Plant Production Inspectorate (insp&cert authority), Agricultural Registers and Information Board (paying agency)		Addressed to Federal Office of health and Federal office of Agriculture as well as cantonal food laboratories
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?				
Costs of preparing expert appraisals and opinions	EU resources will be required for initial investigation of current practices across EU. Resources could be freed up in the UK through the potential reduction in administrative burden.	EU and national funds – personnel costs. More effective system is also cost-effective	fees for the controlling of local farms for the local inspectors, budget for the education and training	There is already a database about residues at FiBL which can be further developed.
Costs of meetings for the purpose of discussing and establishing principles, standards and definitions.		Personnel of the Ministry of Agriculture, Plant Production Inspectorate (insp&cert authority), Agricultural Registers and Information Board (paying agency), experts		

Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?				
PL	UK	EE	HU	CH
Producers, processors, sellers, inspection and certification bodies, advisors.	Certification bodies and farmers would benefit from the reduced administrative burden and the whole food chain would benefit from the increased transparency of inspection results.	Organic farmers, processors, traders as well as inspection and certification bodies	smallholders under 1 ha	Experts
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?				
1 - 2 year – preparing expert appraisals, agreements, consultations	The process of phasing in publication of inspection results should be undertaken over the next two years, in line with the re-examination of the EU regulation, the development of the English Organic Action plan and ACOS (Advisory Committee on Organic Standards) programmes.	Preparation – 2006	March 2006 - continuous	permanent
3 year – Working out a compromise and approval in the European Commission.		Implementation on national level – 2007		
		Implementation on EU level – 2009		

Table C-13: Inspection and certification bodies

Subcode/ Country		
Improvement of interaction	Increase transparency	Infrastructure development
SI	IT	HU
How actions will be implemented?		
Establishment of communication and coordination of inspection and control bodies (market inspection, veterinary inspection, organizations for control and certification of Organic Farming)	inspection reports and results to be published (on paper and on the internet)	state tenders
	to increase and train consumers associations involvement/presence in certification bodies (through courses)	
	to verify certification bodies conformity to the Italian and EU regulation (ISO 65 o EN 45011)	
	inspectors register	
	civil liability of certification bodies (otherwise sanctions)	
Who will take responsibility for implementation?		
MoA, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Economy–market inspection	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Biokontroll Hungaria
Comment: there has to be a further detailed definition of who will take responsibility for implementation of promoting these information (if and where they are available)	Regions	

Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?		
SI	IT	HU
Expert services of ministries (MoA, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment)	2,5 Millions €/year (on Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Regions funds)	computers and laptops, (HACCP compatible) laboratory infrastructure
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?		
Market inspection, veterinary inspection, organizations for control and certification for Organic Farming, general public	Consumer	controlling agency
	Sector	
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?		
2006	Beginning of 2006	2005 - 2007
	End of 2007	

Table C-14: Risk-based inspection & certification system

Subcode/ Country	
-	-
CH	DE
How actions will be implemented?	
Revision of the inspection and certification concept in the Bio-Regulation	Evaluation of the existing Annex 3 under efficiency aspects
Harmonisation between inspection and certification bodies,	Research program with at least 4 member states
Development of a better system of self-declaration	
Clear distinction between requirement for quality assurance and market regulation	
Harmonisation of regulations on a world-wide level (EU, USDA, Japan)	
Who will take responsibility for implementation?	
Roundtable Bio Suisse	Assignment of the EU-commission (requires much labour)
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?	
Internal activity of private organic sector organisations	1 Mio. €
Working group	(Opinion of minority: at least 240.000 €)
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?	
Stakeholders	Commission and member states
	Concerned groups (private and public boards of control, eco-companies)
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?	
A pilot project should start immediately	2006
A catalogue of measures should be established in 2007	

Table C-15: Introducing computerised databases concerning inspection/ certification

Subcode/ Country	
-	-
IT	PL
How actions will be implemented?	
Compulsory use of computerised systems	Identification of critical control points in specific areas of organic production
Improve, revise and simplify inspection procedures and forms	Working out HACCP principles of food production by organic methods
	Preparation of an IT system permitting the sharing of information between interested subjects (administrator, producers)
Who will take responsibility for implementation?	
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Team comprised of representatives from:
Regions	Legislation – Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development /MARD/
	Supervisory authority
	Certifying bodies
	Advisory services
	Other inspection services – commercial, sanitary, veterinary
	Polish Accreditation Centre
	Producers
	Commercial firm for software preparation
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?	
500.000 € for 2/3 years (on Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Regions funds)	Expert appraisal costs – analysis of specific areas of organic production in each sector
	Costs of pilot programs to verify critical control points in a given sector of organic production
	Costs to work out a catalogue of identified critical control points
	Costs to work out instructions and a HACCP manual for organic production
	Costs to prepare, test and implement software
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?	
Sector	Certifying bodies, supervisory authority, advisory services, producers
Consumer	
Public administration (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Regions)	
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?	
Beginning of 2006	1 year – analysis of situations in specific sectors and reconnaissance of control problems of certifying bodies as well as proposed changes in the supervisory system by the supervisory office
End of 2008	2 year –drawing up a catalogue of critical control points and conducting pilot programs
	3 year – verification and acceptance of final catalogues of critical control points and the HACCP manual.

Table C-16: Covering of control costs by increasing subsidies

Subcode/ Country
-
CZ
How actions will be implemented?
Suggest and work out, change of OF scheme within EAFRD (include certification costs)
Who will take responsibility for implementation?
VUZE - Research Institute of Agricultural Economics
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?
Costs: 0 CZK (Czech crown) – employees of VUZE within their job activities
5 million per year – inspection costs covered from EAFRD
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?
Organic farmers, processors
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?
2007 – the start of EAFRD
2013 – the end of EAFRD

Table C-17: Publication of inspection results

Subcode/ Country
-
SI
How actions will be implemented?
- Gathering and processing of data on organic inspection (control) results
- publication of results on the web
- informing public about the availability of these data
Who will take responsibility for implementation?
Implementation: Inspection organizations
Supervision: MoA
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?
Inspection and certification organizations, USOFA (Union of Slovenian Organic Farmers ' Associations) and other NGOs
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?
General public, consumers
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?
2006

C.4 Capacity building and networking

Table C-18: Capacity building: Technical education and training for advisors

Subcode/ Country			
-	-	-	-
SI	IT	PL	EE
How actions will be implemented?			
Preparation of training programs for advisors (trainers), training of trainers	Training courses for agronomist and farmers	Developing training materials	1. Including the Organic Farming topic into curricula of primary and secondary schools, agricultural colleges and Agricultural University.
	Develop extension and advisory services	Training for advisors	2. Preparation and implementation of vocational trainings to the farmers and advisors
	Produce information packages & dedicated softwares	Preparing leaders in advise services	
	Activities programmes co-financed by the Regions and farms (opportunity to use "de minimis" aid)	Designating show farms and preparing a related database (30)	
		Furnishing advisory centres and show farms	
Who will take responsibility for implementation?			
CAFS (Chamber of Agriculture)	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry		1. Ministry of Education
	Regions	Academic centres, Agriculture Advisory Centre in Radom, agricultural extension offices, administration, self-government authorities.	2. Ministry of Agriculture
	General Farmers Unions		
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?			
Educational institutions, CAFS	Rural Development Programmes (3.000 €/farms)	Coverage of operating costs (in the scope of demonstration services) of show farms in various types of production and agrotourism, handicrafts, folk art, regional products.	1. National budget, EU funds – personnel costs and costs of materials; Personnel of the Ministry of Education, teachers
Important: active participation of private sector – NGOs (farmers' associations, private institutes) as trainers	Regional funds	Costs of training materials and advisor instruction.	2. National budget, EU funds – costs of training; Organic Farming organizations, experts
	Farmers (a small % will be paid by the farm: historically farm does not pay advisory service)		
	European Social Fund (ESF) – for training		
	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry – for information packages & softwares		

Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?			
Advisors for farming, organic farmers	Technicians	Advisors, academic community, educational facilities, producers, consumers	1. Pupils, students
	Farmers		2. Farmers, advisors
	General Farmers Unions		
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?			
SI	IT	PL	EE
Start: from 1.1.2006 onwards	2007	2005- 2006	1. Preparation of the curriculars - 2006; implementation from 1.09.2008
			2. Preparation of the curriculars - 2006; implementation from 2007

Table C-19: Capacity building: Technical education and training for organic farmers

Subcode/ Country	
-	-
EE	AT
How actions will be implemented?	
1. Including the Organic Farming topic into curricula of primary and secondary schools, agricultural colleges and Agricultural University.	Installation of OF-working groups to improve the self image of organic farmers
2. Preparation and implementation of vocational trainings to the farmers and advisors	Creation of special training courses for organic farmers
	Establishment of a special training course with "organic certificate" (focus on closed circle economy and sustainability) to make organic farmers proud of their organic knowledge and OF)
Who will take responsibility for implementation?	
1. Ministry of Education	Bio Austria (Association of the Austrian organic farmers) + Partners
2. Ministry of Agriculture	Public organisations (Ministry of science, MoA...)
	Social partners, political parties
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?	
1. National budget, EU funds – personnel costs and costs of materials; Personnel of the Ministry of Education, teachers	None, better use of existing funds
2. National budget, EU funds – costs of training; Organic Farming organizations, experts	
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?	
1. Pupils, students	Organic farmers
2. Farmers, advisors	
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?	
1. Preparation of the curriculars - 2006; implementation from 1.09.2008	Two years from development to implementation
2. Preparation of the curriculars - 2006; implementation from 2007	

Table C-20: Capacity building: OF in school and university education

Subcode/ Country	
-	Education and training for teachers
EE	SI
How actions will be implemented?	
1. Including the Organic Farming topic into curricula of primary and secondary schools, agricultural colleges and Agricultural University.	“Training of trainers” – for educators working in formal and informal education
2. Preparation and implementation of vocational trainings to the farmers and advisors	
Who will take responsibility for implementation?	
1. Ministry of Education	USOFA (Union of Slovenian Organic Farmer's Associations), MES (Ministry of Education and Sport), SCA (Slovenian Consumers Association), other NGOs with relevant expertise
2. Ministry of Agriculture	
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?	
1. National budget, EU funds – personnel costs and costs of materials; Personnel of the Ministry of Education, teachers	3 persons for formal and 3 persons for informal education, total 240.000 EUR/year
2. National budget, EU funds – costs of training; Organic Farming organizations, experts	
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?	
1. Pupils, students	“Training of trainers” –
2. Farmers, advisors	Formal: for teachers/professors in primary schools, colleges, universities;
	Informal: local administration staff, NGO experts...
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?	
1. Preparation of the curricula - 2006; implementation from 1.09.2008	1st phase: 3rd quarter of 2005
2. Preparation of the curricula - 2006; implementation from 2007	2nd phase: 1.1.2007 till 1.1.2009

Table C-21: Capacity building: support of OF advisory system

Subcode/ Country
-
EE
How actions will be implemented?
Creation of the basic support system for organic Creation of special organic advisory group
Who will take responsibility for implementation?
Ministry of Agriculture
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?
EU and national funds, farmers contribution (e.g. 25% of direct advisory cost) – creation of the system personnel costs, costs of advisory support
Personnel of the Ministry of Agriculture, advisors
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?
Advisors and their clients - farmers
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?
Implementation – 2006

Table C-22: Capacity building: Technical education and training in lobbying

Subcode/ Country
-
SI
How actions will be implemented?
Training for lobbyists, training of lobbyists for Organic Farming
Who will take responsibility for implementation?
USOFA (Union of Slovenian Organic Farmer's Associations)
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?
Foreign experts for lobbying
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?
Organic farmers, NGOs, traders, consumers
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?

Table C-23: Networking: National committee/ Org. umbrella organisation

Subcode/ Country		
-	-	-
CZ	AT	IT
How actions will be implemented?		
Discussion with Mrs.Kamila Matoušková (MoA) and with leadership of Ministry of Agriculture.	Installation of national organisation structures for respective market partners (framers, processors, trade, retailers, policy)	Establishment by Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (max 11-15 people)
Work out the activity description.	Creation of an institutionalised forum of discussion for the market actors	Designation by Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (by decree)
Proposal for personal structure of the council.	Discussion and participators development of „terms of References“ (including responsibilities and duties for each partner	Composition: 3 organic producers, 1 processor, 1 importer, 1 distributor, 1 consumer, 1 from Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, 1 from Ministry of Health, 1 from Ministry of Environment, 2 Regions
	This instrument does not aim for the fusion of market actors but for better coordination along the food chain. As a first step a "round table" should be installed.	
Who will take responsibility for implementation?		
	Initiation an coordination by Bio Austria	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Mr. Martin Leibl – Ministry of Agriculture (he will take the main responsibility)		
Members of council: PRO-BIO		
Green Marketing		
Mr. Michal Pospíšil (Association of private farmers).		
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?		
Costs: 0 CZK	Financial resources are needed for the coordination efforts	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry funds (max 10.000 €/year for meetings organisation)
	On a middle range additional capacities for coordination are necessary	No attendance fee
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?		
Everybody in OF movement	Organic sector in general (Bio Austria, ARGE Bioregionen, processors, retailers, certification bodies	Sector
State administration	Policy with a central forum of discussion	Public Administration
Consumers		
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?		
Start: since 1.1. 2006	Initiation of an „informal forum of discussion“: 6 to 12 months	2006: prompt realization
	Establishment of organisational structures: 2 years	

Table C-24: Networking: Form alliances among Organic Farming and other sectors

Subcode/ Country		
-	-	-
DE	UK	PL
How actions will be implemented?		
Encouragement of networking projects of the OF sector, e.g. with	Establish an organic movement forum for the UK;	Creating and initiating cooperation in various forms (associations, foundations, producer groups)
· Consumer protection organisations,	Role would be as an independent advocacy group and would not replace any action plan group;	Regional / national events for promotion, initiating contacts, presenting experience (e.g. wholesalers, processors, sellers, retailers).
· Environmental associations,	Forum could lobby relevant bodies (wide scope) on behalf of the organic sector;	
· Health organisations,	Forum to seek out champions to advance sector;	
· Educational institutions	Forum would provide solid evidence in favour of OF on an on-going basis;	
· Conventional farmers: joint fortification of the sector and safeguarding of market shares	Forum would provide a strategy for access to government.	
Who will take responsibility for implementation?		
MoA, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Health	Soil Association (Organic Food and farming organisation) would initially establish the Forum.	Industry wide federations, producer associations, industry associations, self-government administration, advisory services, business chambers
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?		
According to aim („Positive effects for posterity without sinning against taxpayer“)	Self-funded by organisations participating in the Forum. Would require time input from sector representatives.	costs for: support to create groups of farmers, sellers, consumers
5 Mio. € p.a.		support for information sharing
		organisation of events and festivals
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?		
See above	The Government (ministers and high level civil servants), key non-government organisations and the scientific community	Producers (all participants in the organic food production chain), consumers
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?		
2006 and continuously (10 years)	Forum to be established and running on an on-going basis in 2-year time frame.	2005-2007

Table C-25: Networking: Form alliances among the whole food chain

Subcode/ Country	
-	-
SI	HU
How actions will be implemented?	
Support organisation of producers (on the base of their interest) into marketing organization	Biokultura Association establishes a marketing organization for the vertical integration of the organic market: initiating networking of producers regionally
Who will take responsibility for implementation?	
Local communities, associations of organic farmers	Biokultura Association
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?	

RDP	Employment of marketing experts, infrastructure
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?	
Consumers - wide market supply	Farmers, consumers and all participants of the organic value chain
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?	
Permanent task	March 2006 – March 2008

Table C-26: Networking: Form alliances among producer groups (cooperatives)

Subcode/ Country	
-	-
PL	HU
How actions will be implemented?	
Creating and initiating cooperation in various forms (associations, foundations, producer groups)	Modification in the regulation of sales cooperatives to ease cooperation of organic producers in sales and marketing
Regional / national events for promotion, initiating contacts, presenting experience (e.g. wholesalers, processors, sellers, retailers)	
Who will take responsibility for implementation?	
Industry wide federations, producer associations, industry associations, self-government administration, advisory services, business chambers	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, regional associations of Biokultura Association (Organic certification body)
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?	
Costs:	Printing, organization, and budget for establishing cooperatives
support to create groups of farmers, sellers, consumers	
support for information sharing	
organisation of events and festivals	
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?	
Producers (all participants in the organic food production chain), consumers	Organic farmers
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?	
2005-2007	Jan. 2006 – Dec. 2007

Table C-27: Networking: Better representation of OF in product chain

Subcode/ Country	
-	
HU	
How actions will be implemented?	
Network analysis and evaluation of Organic Farming organizations, structured dialogue with the product chain committees, Organic Farming delegates in the committees.	
Who will take responsibility for implementation?	

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural development coordinates other ministry departments responsible for the civil outreach; Biokultura Association initiates the order of delegation.
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?
Officials of the ministries; Biokultura Association organizes forums for a structured dialogue.
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?
Organic farmers
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?
Apr. – Oct. 2006

Table C-28: Networking: demonstration farms

Subcode/ Country
-
CZ
How actions will be implemented?
Define types of organic farms (suitable representatives)
Choose the best one – discuss participation in the network (about 21 representatives)
Negotiate with ÚZPI (Institute of Agriculture and Food information) about covering of network
KIS (Regional information system) and Agronavigátor – put it in their web pages
Check up farmers' interests
Offer for farmers, activities description
Create the catalogue of model farms
Contract proposal
Who will take responsibility for implementation?
EPOS – Association of Organic Advisors (manager of EPOS will be responsible)
Cooperation with the manager of PRO-BIO (Association of Ecological Farmers)
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?
Costs: 200 thousand CZK
Covered by EPOS, PRO-BIO, ÚZPI
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?
Organic farmers, processors
Teachers, students
Public
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?
Start: 1.1. 2007

Table C-29: Networking: Improvement of cooperation among advisors

Subcode/ Country
-
AT
How actions will be implemented?
Combination of advisory services of farmers associations and chambers of agriculture in regional „centres of competence“ as a focal point of reference for organic farmers
Who will take responsibility for implementation?
Bio Austria regional offices in combination with the respective chambers of agriculture
Responsibility for national coordination: presidential conference of the regional chambers of agriculture, LFI (Rural Institute of Further Education), MoA
The efforts should include also private advisory firms
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?
Fin res.: resources are made available through transregional coordination in special sectors (like fruit and vegetable) and through synergies with conventional farmers
Basic financing required for national coordination increased budget for upgrading of advisors.
Hum. Res.: additional capacities in organic advisory system
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?
Present and future organic farmers
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?
To implement a national advisory structure app. 1 year. Coordination continuous

C.5 Research and Development

Table C-30: Support OF research

Subcode/ Country					
				Practice-oriented long term programme	Regular allocation
SI	AT	HU	EE	DE	IT
How actions will be implemented?					
Increase funds for research related to health aspects of Organic Farming; tests/experiments on animals and human regarding nutritional aspect	Increase of budget on all levels (EU, National regional)	specific evaluation criteria for the tenders	Preparation of the Organic Farming research programme	Main focus of the Ministry for Education and Research for 10 years	Priority programme of long-term research
	Allocation of financial and human resources in favour of organic agriculture		Approval of the programme by the Ministry of Agriculture and designating the funds	Stronger orientation of the departmental research towards organic agriculture	Selection criteria based on: previous/back competence, quality of the research programme, quality of human resources
	Sufficient budget for co-financing (e.g. for international projects)		Implementation of the research	Long-term BÖL (Organic Action Plan Germany)	Co-funding through criteria
	One problem is seen in the fact that at present the budget used for organic research is difficult to estimate			Fundamental requirements: interdisciplinary (integration of actors and need from practitioners), long-term, coordination of the existent research on EU-level	Stakeholders selection guided/controlled
				Themes of the program should be problem- and practice-oriented questions (in contrast to 5b) "legitimizing" research)	
Who will take responsibility for implementation?					
Ministry of Health, MoA	For the allocation of financial resources: EU, national and regional state	all tendering institutions and evaluation centers	Preparation – Organic Farming organizations, research institutions, experts, farmers	Initiators: Representatives of the organic agriculture associations and scientists concerned, government parties (Parliament, since question of budget)	National Committee c/o Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
	For implementation: Universities, different research institutions.		Programme management and approval of the project – Ministry of Agriculture, experts	Ministry for Education and Research and MoA	
	For practical application: policy, farmers associations, market actors, farmers				

Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?					
SI	AT	HU	EE	DE	IT
EU, national	Fin res.: increase of funds	publication of research results in conferences, leaflets and internet	National budget, EU funds and programmes, other international and national funds	10 Mio. € p.a.	Technical and Scientific Committee for project selection (anonymous)
			Research institutions, experts, Organic Farming organizations, farmers		National Committee (adjustments)
					At least % equal to the organic UAA incidence on research funds allocation (national-regional coordination, interregional funds + Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry)
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?					
consumers	(organic) framers (organic) processors	research institutions, university research groups	Researches and farmers as end users of the research results.	Directly: Scientists	The research world
	Decision makers in policy and on the market			Actual target group: Actors of the value-added chain	Organic producers
	research institutions				
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?					
Start: 1.1.2006	Not defined	Oct. 2005- Dec. 2013	Proposals and preparation - 2006	Start in 2007	Annual from 2006
End: 2010			Implementation of research - 2007	2 years of a definition phase in advance and 10 years of operating time	

Table C-31: Research in specific fields

Subcode/ Country				
Benefits of OF	Benefits of OF	Quality and processing	Plants and animals	Nature and environment
SI	DE	PL	PL	UK
How actions will be implemented?				
Elaboration of project proposals based on analyses of problems in Organic Farming sector, selection of projects, implementation	Interdisciplinary research projects with main focuses on health, employment, income, environment and nature, consequential charges for society	Establishing a priority for research in Organic Farming	Establishing a priority for research in Organic Farming	A research project to do a stock take of current practices, the aim being to get a picture across Europe as to how close Organic Farming is to being the sustainability model;
		Conducting academic research	Conducting academic research	Tighten up inspection rigour to improve practices found to be lacking;
				Follow up research project with skills development programme to ensure practices are improved in areas where OF is found to be lacking;
				Programme would be basis for OF promotion as it demonstrates real desire for industry to develop and improve;
				Could be done at the EU and UK level.
Who will take responsibility for implementation?				
Ministries, existent research and expert organization, NGOs	Ministry for Education and Research	Ministry of Science and Information Technology	Ministry of Science and Information Technology	Persuade the commission to undertake a large-scale EU project. Action plan groups would then be responsible for promoting at a national level. The project could just as easily be undertaken at a national level and would then require input from DEFRA.
	Private research institutions should also be included	Academic institutions, agricultural universities	Academic institutions, agricultural universities	
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?				
National, private, EU (7th framework and other)	Much less than for 5a),	5 million EURO – 16 research topics	5 million EURO – 16 research topics	Preference for a large scale EU-funded project, otherwise a DEFRA-funded review of current practices for the UK.
	1 Mio. € during 10 years	80% - EU, 20% - national funds	80% - EU, 20% - national funds	
		academics – universities, academic institutes	academics – universities, academic institutes	
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?				
Producers, processors, consumers	Directly: Scientists	Consumers, producers, processors through press publications and conveying information to the mass media.	Consumers, producers, processors through press publications and conveying information to the mass media.	The whole supply chain.
	The results shall serve consumers, politicians, actors of society			

Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?				
SI	DE	PL	PL	UK
Permanent	Start October 2007	5 years	5 years	The stock taking process to begin as soon as possible and to finish in 2-year time frame.
	2 years of a definition phase in advance and 10 years of operating time			

Table C-32: Participatory research

Subcode/ Country		
Create a national committee	Cooperation and networking	Cooperation and networking
IT	UK	EE
How actions will be implemented?		
Create a National Committee with the aim of coordinating OF research with the participation of different stakeholders	Create participatory R&D networks:	
14 people: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (Research Minister in Agriculture), Ministry of Scientific Research and Technology, Ministry of University Education and Research, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Health (Health Office), 3 Regions, National Council of Research, GRAB-IT (Group for Research on Organic Agriculture – Italy), 2 producers and 1 processor (nominated by organic producers), Association of Technical Inputs, Operators for Organic and Eco compatible Farming (ASSOMETAB), Mediterranean Seed Association (ASSEME)	Form an inclusive network of research institutes, user groups and intermediaries (e.g. IOTA, Institute of Organic Training and Advice) the functions of which are to identify research priorities, conduct research, disseminate research and balance conflicting objectives.	Establishment of the research network among relevant research institutions, experts, Organic Farming organizations and farmers.
Organize the state of research per year		Selection and designation of demonstration farms.
Develop an organic research database		Co-operation in research activities and organizing the field days on research locations and demonstration farms.
Newsletter/ Web page		
Dissemination		
Who will take responsibility for implementation?		
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	DEFRA	Leading research institutions and Organic Farming organisations
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?		
1 secretary's office (2, 3 people full-time)	£200,000 per year	National budget, EU funds and programmes, other international and national funds
150.000 €		Personnel of research institutions and Organic Farming organizations; experts and farmers
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?		
The research world	Network members	Researches and farmers as end users of the research results.
Organic producers		General public
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?		
1/9/2005 + 6 months	Network to be up and running by 2007.	Preparation and start of implementation - 2006

Table C-33: International cooperation in R&D

Subcode/ Country
-
AT
How actions will be implemented?
Installation of an interactive research data bank on EU-level, networking of existing platforms
Strengthening on farm research (integration of farmers as researchers)
In Austria: Coordination of different research institutions and research projects by Bio Austria (already installed)
Increased focus on target group oriented publication of research results (e.g. for farmers, consumers)
Increased publication of research results in media and popular science. Integration of end-users in the extension of knowledge transfer.
Installation of regional / national information networks for researchers with regard to their research projects
Who will take responsibility for implementation?
Ministry of science and EU for commissioning and financing
For implementation: researchers and research institutions under the coordination of Bio Austria
For vulgarisation: researchers, interest groups, advisory institutions (leaflets)
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?
Financial resources: sufficient financing of research networks
Human resources: additional resources for the vulgarisation of research results and for coordination work in the research network
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?
(Organic) farmers, processors, consumers, research institutions, financing institutions via improved quality of results
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?
Installation of a national research network for OF: 3 years from start

Table C-34: OF in statistics

Subcode/ Country
-
DK
How actions will be implemented?
Aim: OF must be a parameter in all relevant registers and statistics > Going through all kinds of registering as well as statistics to make sure information regarding OF is collected separately and is possible to get out again separately.
Who will take responsibility for implementation?
An administrative decision in each ministry/ department.
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?
Human resources: Manpower and maybe IT expertise to make sure the necessary framework is in place/ information's will be collected. Much information is already collected, but it is not possible to use them in a simple way asking for them. It could be seen as a rational use of working expenses.
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?
Public authorities, researchers, the organic sector
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?
1 year

Table C-35: Priority for OF research in MoA and MoE

Subcode/ Country
-
CZ
How actions will be implemented?
Reinforced priorities by Ministry of Agriculture and especially Ministry of Environment through coordination of conditions.
Discussion with Mrs. Blanka Černa manager of NAZV (National agency for agricultural research), to arrange meeting with representatives of Ministry of Environment (MŽP)– Mr. Jiří Fereš and Mr. Petr Nahrail who are responsible for projects in MŽP.
Focus on coordination of projects to prevent overlapping topics
Who will take responsibility for implementation?
Mr. Tomáš Zidek - Inspection of Organic Farming + VÚZE (Research Institute of Agricultural Economics) and Mr. Jan Moudrý - University of South Bohemia, České Budějovice
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?
0 CZK
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?
Research applicants, advisors and than organic farmers
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?
Start: 1.6. 2005
End: 31.12. 2005

Table C-36: Support OF research institute

Subcode/ Country
-
CZ
How actions will be implemented?
Financial participation of the state in support of the Bioinstitute
Create the public procurement for Bioinstitute
Ask for it: Mrs. Kamila Matouškovou, from the Ministry of Agriculture.
Who will take responsibility for implementation?
Mr. Bořivoj Šarapatka – Palacky University, Olomouc, Department of Ecology
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?
Covered by: Ministry of Agriculture - but it was said during the discussion that it is impossible to expect the state participation in Bioinstitute (small possibility of interest of MoA)
Other sources: regions of country
Interreg – project
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?
Researchers, advisors, students
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?
Start: end of 2006

C.6 GMO

Table C-37: Definition of strict sets of rules on GMO and on coexistence

Subcode/ Country				
Enable GMO free farming	Enable GMO free farming	Reduce and harmonise thresholds	Establish and monitor organic GMO standards	Same thresholds for OF and conventional farming
SI	PL	IT	UK	DE
How actions will be implemented?				
Development of legislation; establishment of effective inspection system incl. effective penalty system	legislative initiative – creation of a law concerning the principles of protecting against uncontrolled spread of GMOs in plant and animal production	EU regulation on the same instrumental zero thresholds in Europe.	Organic Farming claims to be non-GMO, but aims for GM free;	Establishment of a cross-reference in the EU Council Regulation No. 2092/91 to the GMO-Labeling Council Regulation
	creation of GMO free zones		0.1% limit of detection;	
	monitoring and control system		In event of contamination, common protocols need to be established with agreement of the whole sector rather than individual certification bodies.	
Who will take responsibility for implementation?				
MoA, Ministry of Health, Ministry of the Environment	EU and domestic legislative and executive authorities, e.g. Agriculture and Food Quality Inspection	EU on the basis of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry initiative	ACOS (Advisory Committee on Organic Standards) should lead with wide consultation (including Organic Action Plan Groups).	Federal government acts on the EU commission
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?				
Public, and violators of the rules (penalties)	5 million EURO – EU funds		ACOS resources.	None
	staffing of provincial branches of the Agriculture and Food Quality Inspection			
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?				
Farmers; indirectly consumers	Producers, consumers – information about created legal acts	Market	Organic licensees.	Directly: EU-commission
		Italian commercial operators		Traders and consumers
		Consumers		
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?				
Till the end of 2005	Adoption and introduction of the law starting 1 January 2007	Soon	Develop and have in place in the next two years.	At once and in perpetuity

Table C-38: Strict liability rules

Subcode/ Country			
-	-	Compulsory insurance for GMO users	Compulsory insurance for GMO users
AT	UK	IT	EE
How actions will be implemented?			
„polluter pays“ principle: installation of an obligatory fund to cover liability to be supplied by users of GMO to pay for damages (done to OF) as well as for the costs of examination of GMO free products	Draft and implement a national liability law based on DE and DK models – liability placed firmly on the GMO user;	Law or Decree: Farmers should insure themselves against third-party damage or loss caused by the use of GMOs, with a required minimum amount of 500.000 €/year, with compulsory provisional payments guaranteed by a bank.	Organic Farming and environmental organizations are making proposal to the Ministry of Agriculture and to the Ministry of Environment and are implementing the relevant public campaign
	Law to include accompanying co-existence rules (including rules of notification of field trials).		Ministry of Agriculture is making proposal to the Ministry of Finances
			Proposal to the parliament for implementing relevant legislation
Who will take responsibility for implementation?			
Ministry of agriculture in cooperation with the respective EU institutions (in the area of agriculture, environment and health)	An anti-GM non-government organisation to make the case nationally and to the EU parliament and DEFRA (and Scottish equivalent) to implement on a national level.	Ministry of Production Activities	Ministry of Agriculture, Organic Farming Bureau – proposal
		Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Ministry of Finances - implementation
		Ministry of Environment	
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?			
Fin res.: increased administrative work load for control of GMO use and the installation and administration of liability funds.	The Environmental Law Foundation will be required to draft the law and support from Members of Parliament will be required to push the issue forward at a national level. The involvement of agricultural bodies such as Farmers Union of Wales (FUW) and COPA (Comité des Organisations Professionnelles Agricoles) would increase the credibility of the action. Funding for legal advice would be needed - this could come from sponsorship.		No additional financial resources needed. Preparation is made by the initiators from Organic Farming and environmental ngo sector and by the personnel of the ministries.
			Implementation is made by the personnel of the ministries
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?			
GMO- free working farmers and processors , consumers	The GMO user.	Economic system	Conventional producers using GMO-s
		Citizens	
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?			
Implementation of a fund to cover liabilities within the next three years	Action is all ready underway on this and how fast it progresses will depend on who the incoming Minister is.	The implementation could be immediate after the law or decree is passed.	Proposals and preparations for implementing the legislation - 2006
			Implementation - 2007

Table C-39: Designation of GMO-free zones

Subcode/ Country			
-	-	-	-
SI	AT	CH	EE
How actions will be implemented?			
Designation of criteria, by adequate legislation	Declaration of respective EU, national and regional legislation, reformulation of coexistence regulations on EU-level	1. Definition of "Gentech-free" (GE-free) regions.	Organic Farming, general farming and environmental organizations are making proposal to the Ministry of Agriculture and to the Ministry of Environment and are implementing the relevant public campaign
	Safeguarding of „GMO- free regions“ i.e. via voluntary renunciation by farmers and processors accompanied by legislative regulations (EU, national)	2. Introduction of a legal framework for GE-free regions.	Ministry of Agriculture, Organic Farming bureau is making proposal to the Ministry of Justice
	Positioning of Austria as GMO free region on the market	3. Lobbying for a GE-free region all over Switzerland., with the help of the already submitted "5 years Moratorium" Initiative, which will be voted by the Swiss population within one year.	Proposal to the parliament for implementing relevant legislation
		4. Development of a label for GE-free production	
Who will take responsibility for implementation?			
MoA, Ministry of Health, Ministry of the Environment	For legal action: agricultural and environmental policy (Ministry of Health and MoA)	Swiss Working group on Gene technology (SAG)	Ministry of Agriculture, Organic Farming Bureau – proposal
	for political lobbying: NGOs, Bio Austria (Association of the Austrian organic farmers)	BIO SUISSE (Umbrella organization of the Swiss organic farmers)	Local governments, private persons are establishing GMO-free zones
	In this regard also the sensibilisation of retailers and a sufficient positioning and labelling of products is necessary (which results in a de facto legislation)	Federal office for environment,	
		Federal office of justice	
		Federal office for Rural development ARE	
		cantonal offices for spatial planning	
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?			
national	Fin res.: increased financial requirements due to improved monitoring and control systems on national level as well as on the level of enterprise and along the supply chain.	Costs comparable to other national-wide lobby campaigns that are carried out in the system of direct democracy in Switzerland	No additional financial resources needed. Preparation is made by the initiators from Organic Farming and environmental NGO sector and by the personnel of the ministries.
			Implementation is made by the local governments, private persons
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?			
Farmers; indirectly consumers	Consumers	Policy makers, administrators, farmers and landowners.	Farmers not willing to use GMO-s, public
	GMO free working farmers (organic and conventional)		
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?			
Till the end of 2005	Implementation of legal action: 5 to 6 years	Until the end of the proposed Moratorium period of 5 years, which excludes any release of GMO in agriculture (but does not completely exclude laboratory research for Genetic Engineering) which, if it will be accepted most likely will be terminated until 2009	Proposals and preparations for implementing the legislation - 2006
	Implementation of GMO free areas : 2 years		Implementation - 2007

Table C-40: Ban on GMO

Subcode/ Country	
-	-
PL	HU
How actions will be implemented?	
Legislative initiative – creation of a law concerning the principles of protecting against the uncontrolled release of GMOs – creation of regulations and guidelines defined by the directive	Decision by a referendum
Monitoring and control system	
Who will take responsibility for implementation?	
EU and domestic legislative and executive authorities, e.g. Agriculture and Food Quality Inspection	Government officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?	
5 million EURO – EU funds	The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development should establish a compensation fund from payments of the GMO producers
Staff of provincial branches of the Agriculture and Food Quality Inspection	
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?	
Producers and owners of GMO patents and licenses, consumers – information about created legal acts	Producers and consumers
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?	
Adoption and introduction of the law starting 1 January 2007	As soon as possible

C.7 Organic Farming as a role model for sustainability, rural development, multifunctionality

Table C-41: 2nd Pillar of the CAP I

Subcode/ Country			
Priority to OF in RDP	Priority to OF in RDP	Priority to OF in RDP	Priority to OF in RDP
IT	PL	HU	EE
How actions will be implemented?			
Art. 69 Reg. 1782/03 should relate only to CDO, CGDO, POD, Organic	Separate activity in the framework of RDP – Improvement of the packages of agri-environmental programs (e.g. improvement of the buffer zone package within agri-environmental programs), processing support, maintaining old varieties of plants and animal breeds;	Rural Development Plan should include Organic Farming and give priority for organic agriculture	Analysis of RDP measures in order to find potential connections with Organic Farming
Priority to OF in all measures	Courses for organic farmers and farmers intending to farm organically. The creation of educational farms – base of organic farms used in advisory services (apprenticeship, research);	State regulation	Proposals:
At least 50% of resources to agro-environmental measures (among these at least 50% to organic)	Training, courses, educational classes for children and youth, open days on farms, informational brochures		- Organic Farming as bonus in selection criterias
Cost of organic certification to be paid by the Regions			- special sub-measures targeted to Organic Farming
Derogation of production capacity limits for Organic Farming			
Who will take responsibility for implementation?			
Regions	MoA- preparing a new RDP 2007-2013	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Rural Development – proposing amendments into RDP
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry art. 69	Environment Ministry – preparation of criteria for packages associated with environmental protection		Decision of the Government
			Implementation – Agricultural Registers and Information Bureau (paying agency)
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?			
Regions	Increasing the RDP budget by 20% to support Organic Farming	Decision-makers need to be educated and informed in multifunctionality, sustainability system theory and ecology themes. The budget of such campaign could be financed through EU funds.	Reallocation of existing resources (both EU and national) for agricultural support
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, art. 69			Personnel of the responsible authorities

Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?			
IT	PL	HU	EE
Organic farmers	Farmers	Organic Farming associations	Organic farmers and processors
Organic food industry	Producer organisations		
	Consumers		
	Non-government organisations		
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?			
Rural Development Programmes 2007	2005 – 2007	Modification of the national Rural Development Plan	2006 – proposals
			2007 – implementation (with new RDP)

Table C-42: 2nd Pillar of the CAP II

Subcode/ Country				
Priority to OF in RDP	Priority to OF in RDP	Priority to OF in RDP	Priority to OF in RDP: OF in all axes of the RDP	Link Organic Farming to other aspects
SI	AT	DE	DK	SI
How actions will be implemented?				
Change the process (method) of RDP preparation in order to assure communication between the sectors, inclusion of interested public - NGOs and other actors; organization of a wider public consultation: conference, workshop, web forum	Development of criteria to evaluate production and processing of organic products	Aim: Organic agriculture turns up prominently within strategy plans (EU, state, federal states)	Make common material to use in the lobby strategy on how organic farming/processing/innovation can be used in the rural development programme (employment, nature, health, environment, water, biodiversity)	Call for project proposals - support for pilot projects connecting Organic Farming with other areas (nature, environment, tourism – sustainable development in general) that can demonstrate OF as the basis for multifunctionality of rural areas
	Improvement of support for OF in the following areas	Setting up of a complete list of possible measures (these measures should be developed in a way that they are usable for organic agriculture)	Intensification of lobbying and cooperation with a very broad number of organisations	
	competitiveness (increase of support for investments increase of the support for certification costs)		This is the most actual possibility to have political influence. If it succeeds, it will have a long lasting effect also for future programs. And the program has quite a bit of money attached.	
	environmental programme (ÖPUL) and transfer payments			
	LEADER, INTEREGG			
	Improved use of increase of funds for diversification (regional projects of OF)			

Who will take responsibility for implementation?				
SI	AT	DE	DK	SI
MoA	For elaboration and financing: EU, MoA, representatives of regions	Federal states of the FRG	"Organic Denmark" and the Nature Conservation organisation could be main actors, but in a broad cooperation	MoA, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Economy): call for project proposals*
	As consultants: Interest groups (e.g. Bio Austria and agricultural chambers)			Comment: * Project with pilot examples of organic farms: holders would be different ministries announcing call for proposals; resources: in cooperation between different sectors.
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?				
National budget for conference and workshop, MoA staff (employers)	Fin. Res.: increased funds for investment support, environmental program and transfer payments	Open question: How much of the total budget should go to organic agriculture?	Priority for manpower and effort in the organisation. Possibility to coordinate with a development (R&D) programme	Fund for development of rural areas, tourism and regional development
	Redistribution of funds towards OF	Which are the decisive criteria? (Agricultural area?)		
	Hum. Res: Installation of regional advisory boards			
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?				
Ministries, NGOs, organic producers, processors, other	Organic farmers, processors	Directly: Politicians	Politicians, but also the rural district population so Organic Farming is prioritized prior to other tools	Organic farms, tourism organizations, farmers' organizations, other NGOs, administrations of protected areas
	Regional Initiatives	Indirectly: Farmers		
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?				
End of June 2005 (concept of the process - approval of this initiative)	Elaboration and implementation of planning still this year	From 2007 on	Very urgent a decision is taken in 3/4 year, so the effort has to be enforced immediately	Start: March 2006 (funds from the new financial perspective)
				End: December 2008

Table C-43: Organic Farming support

Subcode/ Country				
Targeted to specific sectors	Support the link between tourism and OF	Development of "Eco-Regions" with higher payments	Redistribution of non-agricultural funds to OF	Transfer of funds from direct payments to RDP
UK	CH	CH	IT	EE
How actions will be implemented?				
EU to describe and monitor payment schemes across EU;	1. Evaluation of existing support schemes.	1. Definition of minimal requirements for "Bio/Eco-Regions"	"Territorial agreement": this is an instrument for the local development. The aim is to promote cooperation between public and private actors of a specific area for the realization of specific projects to improve the local context and to favour new private investments in order to produce positive externalities.	Organic organizations making the proposal, Ministry of Agriculture proposing new payment sums to the Commission.
EU to provide a framework for encouragement of Organic Farming schemes within the R.D.P;	2. Elaboration and submission of specific project proposals, e.g. for "Bio-hotels".	2. Develop a support scheme for "regional organic".	Resources should come from: Sixth Environment Action Programme (Kyoto, biodiversity, environment health and life quality, resources and wastes)	
Uniformity of schemes across the UK;		Higher direct payments for farms that are situated in a "Bio-/Eco-Region" if an added value is generated in the region and farms are regionally linked.	Chambers of Commerce, municipalities (canteens, markets), and local health enterprises (hospital canteens) should work together	
Base on existing environmental payments, but also include socio-economic and quality goals;				
Conversion payments move into higher-level schemes to allow use of capital payments to assist conversion.				
Who will take responsibility for implementation?				
The EU will be responsible for developing the framework for encouraging the provision of Organic Farming schemes and DEFRA will be responsible for other issues.	For the evaluation: Agricultural advisory centre LBL. Lindau.	1. Bio Suisse (umbrella organisation for Organic Farming in Switzerland) with their regional member organisations (in a bottom-up process).	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Rural Development – proposing amendments to RDP
		2. in a second step: involvement of Federal administration (Federal office of agriculture) and cantons.	Ministry of Industry	Approval – from the Government and Commission
			Chambers of Commerce	Implementation – Agricultural Registers and Information Bureau (paying agency)
			Local authorities	
			Regions	
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?				
Resources could be transferred directly from Pillar I to Pillar II.	Resources are available on federal (state secretariate for economic affairs), as well as on cantonal level.	Financial resources from other support schemes.	Regions	Reallocation of existing resources (both EU and national) for agricultural support
		Managers are needed for regional platforms.	It is necessary to quantify the Sixth Environment Action Programme	Personnel of the responsible authorities

Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?				
UK	CH	CH	IT	EE
Organic producers	Actors in tourism and regional representatives of the Organic Farming movement	Regional agriculture, trade, tourism, forestry, public transport.	Organic farmers	Organic farmers
			Consumers	
			Citizens	
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?				
Beginning now (2005) to influence rural development policy and then on-going.	Not discussed.	implemented in a model region by 2010		2006 – proposals
				2007 – implementation (with new RDP)

Table C-44: Political commitments

Subcode/ Country	
-	Quantitative targets
AT	PL
How actions will be implemented?	
Start of a broad discussion on an agricultural Leitbild.	Establishing a priority – no less than 10% of available farmland in organic production by 2020.
	Working out support mechanisms.
Who will take responsibility for implementation?	
MoA, regional states, chamber of agriculture, social partners (chambers, labour unions)	Working out directives
Interest groups (e. g. Bio Austria, chambers of agriculture)	MoA, negotiations with EU member countries
Regional actors	
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?	
	Activity realisation costs depend on planned support mechanisms.
	Experts, non-government organisations, trade unions
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?	
	Farmers
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?	
	2005-2020

Table C-45: Action Plan development: implementation of regional AP

Subcode/ Country	
-	
HU	
How actions will be implemented?	
Regional action plans will be initiated through regional municipalities. Action plans will promote organic production and usage in the region, and introduce organic food in local schools and municipality institutions.	
Who will take responsibility for implementation?	
The regional municipalities	
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?	
Municipality resources and local producers could use the local infrastructure.	
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?	
Municipalities, institutions, local farmers	
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?	
March 2006 – March 2008	

C.8 Organic Market development

Table C-46: Improve structure and organization of direct marketing by local initiatives

Subcode/ Country					
-	-	-	-	-	-
PL	PL	UK	EE	SI	AT
How actions will be implemented?					
Organisation of local sales.	Creating clear legal regulations concerning farm processing and direct sales	Establish food festivals and awards with a clear organic focus;	Preparation of the special fund in the Ministry of Agriculture	Support to local initiatives (organization of local markets, on-farm selling) and change of the Law on public procurement by giving priority to organic products	Implementation of goals for supply policy „ from the region, to the region“
Internet fair of organic products – starting up and operating a web site	Identification of production and sales regions	Establish new market outlets with a clear organic focus (e.g. regional food sheds);	Local initiators and marketers (farmers) applying for support and implementing the activities		Creation of incentives for regional marketing on different levels(support for region specific production and processing)
	Organisational support	Develop tourism and consumer guides;			Creation of necessary political frame conditions (increase of investment support for producers and processors increased measures under the LEADER-Program)
	Courses for farmers	Develop a code of practice on how these initiatives operate to maintain consumer confidence.			
Who will take responsibility for implementation?					
Consumer lobby	Legislative initiatives, MoA, Ministry of Economics and Labour	Rural development agencies, regional DEFRA offices, regional organic groups and businesses, with input from Tourism Boards and local initiatives (e.g. slow food) and local authorities.	Ministry of Agriculture, Organic Farming Bureau – preparation of the support scheme	Ministry of Finances: rules for public procurement	Consumers
Lobby of organic food producers	Improvement of the direct sales structure and organisation in specific regions – local government, occupational organisations, producer groups, sales organisations		Local initiators and marketers (farmers) – applying for support and implementation of the initiatives	Producers' associations: development of local market – cooperatives	Bio Austria
					Political responsables in respect to the elaboration and implementation of frame conditions

Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?					
PL	PL	UK	EE	SI	AT
Purchase of easily dismantled stands, payment of space at fairs (0,4 million zł);	Funds from EU structural funds for regional development and self-government organisations – 5%	Rural development funds from rural development agencies and DEFRA will be use to fund projects and regional co-ordinators. An estimated £250K/annum would be required on an on-going basis.	National budget	RDP for local initiatives - MoA	Fin. res.: increase of funds in the frame of the programme for rural development
Costs to set up a web site;	Local government, farmers		Preparation is made by the initiators from Organic Farming and by the personnel of the ministries		Reshuffling of funds from market payments to diversification.
Employees of local self-governments;			Implementation is made by personnel of the Ministry of Agriculture and local initiators and marketers (farmers)		
Organisers – producer organisations.					
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?					
Consumers	Organic farmers, processors, consumers, self-governments	Local consumers, tourists and local businesses (whole supply chain).	local initiators and marketers (farmers), consumers	Public sector – public procurement, consumers	Organic farmers, processors, consumers,
Farmers					Environment
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?					
2005- 2007	2005 – 2007	Start by linking into budgeting exercises and roll out initiatives from 2006/07.	2006 - Proposals	From autumn 2005 onwards	2 to 3 years
			2007 - implementation		

Table C-47: Stimulate public procurement

Subcode/ Country				
-	-	-	-	regional food
SI	DE	UK	EE	AT
How actions will be implemented?				
Support to local initiatives (organization of local markets, on-farm selling) and change of the Law on public procurement by giving priority to organic products	Providing information for kitchens and consumers	Establish a program of targeted (identify champions) practical initiatives to link organic businesses and procurement;	Background study of possibilities of using organic food in public kitchens. Promotion among potential users of organic food.	Implementation of goals for supply policy „from the region, to the region“
	Development of specific sales promotion measures for organic products in public canteens (possibly integrated into rural development programmes)	Combine this with communication (meetings) of benefits of Organic Farming, availability and regulatory issues.	Organic Farming organizations are making proposal to the Ministry of Agriculture	Creation of incentives for regional marketing on different levels(support for region specific production and processing)
			Preparation of the support scheme for covering the higher price of organic food in the Ministry of Agriculture	Creation of necessary political frame conditions (increase of investment support for producers and processors increased measures under the LEADER-Program)

How actions will be implemented? (Continuation)				
SI	DE	UK	EE	AT
			Approval by the Ministry of Finances	
			Implementation of the support scheme by Agricultural Registers and Information Bureau (paying agency)	
			Procurements and purchasing made by public bodies	
Who will take responsibility for implementation?				
Ministry of Finances: rules for public procurement	Federal states	Rural development agencies, regional DEFRA offices, regional organic groups and businesses, local authorities and champions of Organic Farming. The Institute of Public Procurement and Supply will supply valuable support and advice.	Organic organizations – promotion	Consumers
Producers' associations: development of local market – cooperatives			Ministry of Agriculture, Organic Farming Bureau – preparation of the support scheme	Bio Austria
			Agricultural Registers and Information Bureau (paying agency) – implementation of the support scheme	Political responsables in respect to the elaboration and implementation of frame conditions
			Public bodies – implementation of the procurements, purchasing of organic food	
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?				
RDP for local initiatives - MoA	2 Mio. € p.a.	Rural development funds from rural development agencies and DEFRA will be use to fund projects and regional co-ordinators. An estimated £250K/annum would be required on an on-going basis.	Reallocation of existing resources (both EU funds and national budget) for agricultural support	Fin. res.: increase of funds in the frame of the programme for rural development
			Preparation is made by the initiators from Organic Farming and by the personnel of the ministries	Reshuffling of funds from market payments to diversification.
			Implementation is made by the personnel of the paying agency and public bodies	
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?				
Public sector – public procurement, consumers	Directly: Cooks, operators of the institutions.	Visionary individuals (champions) in hospitals, schools, prisons, nursing homes, meals on wheels, Ministry of Defence.	Public kitchens, consumers	Organic farmers, processors, consumers,
	Indirectly: Workers' councils, trade-unions			Environment
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?				
From autumn 2005 onwards	2007–2013	To begin now and continue for a 5 year period.	2006 - Proposals and promotion	2 to 3 years
			2007 - implementation	

Table C-48: OF marketing

Subcode/ Country	
Public tender for OF promotion	Use of EAFRD resources
CZ	CZ
How actions will be implemented?	
Enforced grant programs for promotion of OF (cooperation with SZIF)	Work out articles 30 and 31 (support for promotion of high quality products) and send to
Negotiate with SZIF (participation of Mr. Martin Leibl from MoA)	Mr. Tomáš Václavík (PRO-BIO, Green marketing) for control and completion
Accept public tender rules	PRO-BIO – Mr. Petr Trávníček and Mr Kamil Toman (Eco farm northwest)
	Enforced and work out in the text.
Who will take responsibility for implementation?	
PRO-BIO (Association of Ecological Farmers)	Mr. Tomáš Zídek Mrs. Jiřina Šlaisová (she is responsible for certain part of EAFRD).VÚZE (Research institute of Agricultural Economics)
Mr. Tomáš Václavík , Green Marketing within PRO-BIO – organic food sales and marketing	
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?	
Preparation and desing made by Green Marketing	Costs: 0 CZK (Czech crown; within their job activities)
Perform by SZIF (State Agricultural Intervention Fund) within its marketing fund	
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?	
Organic farmers and processors	Organic food processors
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?	
Start: June 2005	Start: 17.5.2005
Finish. December 2006	Finish. 30.6. 2005

Table C-49: Establishment of a new marketing organisation

Subcode/ Country	
-	
HU	
How actions will be implemented?	
Biokultura Association establishes a new economic organisation concentrating on market integration	
Who will take responsibility for implementation?	
The leader of Biokultura Association	
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?	
Civil organization with state subsidies	
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?	
Organic farmers, merchants and processors	
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?	

Immediate action

Table C-50: Create a market information system at regional, national and EU level

Subcode/ Country
-
PL
How actions will be implemented?
National decrees, EU directives concerning:
Development of an information system in regions
Development of a national system
Creation of a European system
Who will take responsibility for implementation?
European Commission
Governments – relevant ministries
Administration and regional self-governments
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?
Costs to set up and operate the information system
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?
Sellers
Consumers
Farmers
Exporters
Importers
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?
2005 – 2007

Table C-51: Processing

Subcode/ Country
Increase in capacities and quality
AT
How actions will be implemented?
Strengthening of artisan and small scale processing:
Support of networking for processors (Best practice: BÖL (Organic Action Plan) in Germany)
Support of the creation of organic clusters (partnerships between farmers and processors)
Development of special marketing measures for small regional processors
Increased support within the new program for rural development
Preservation of traditional knowledge and skills
Who will take responsibility for implementation?

Interest groups (Bio Austria)
Agricultural policy

Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?
AT
Fin res.: increase of funds within rural development for this regard
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?
Organic processors (artisan processors)
Consumers
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?
2 to 5 years

Table C-52: Promote vertical supply chain integration

Subcode/ Country
-
IT
How actions will be implemented?
Organic Producers organisations
Supply-chain contracts
Develop direct marketing (farm shops, associated production facilities – quantity limits)
Who will take responsibility for implementation?
Regions
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?
Rural Development Programmes (priority)
Territorial agreement
Chambers of Commerce
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?
Producers
Market
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?
Rural Development Programme 2007

Table C-53: Take Italian producers organizations as a role model for EU

Subcode/ Country
-
IT
How actions will be implemented?
Recognize organic Producers Organizations at EU level (horizontal instrument)
To reduce limits for Producer Organizations (PO) admission in organic sector (50 farms)
10% regional production (organic Gross Output of the datum PO)
75% production of PO members
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry should push for the PO recognition at EU level
Who will take responsibility for implementation?
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (decree or law)
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?
Increase and use existing PO financial resources
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?
Organic producers
Market, consumers
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?
Within the year 2005

Table C-54: Tourism: stimulate the use of organic food

Subcode/ Country
-
CH
How actions will be implemented?
1. Roundtable with Organic Farming sector and tourism.
2. Introduction of financial incentives, through VAT reduction for hotels and restaurants using organic food (cross compliance).
Who will take responsibility for implementation?
1. BIO SUISSE
To contact cantonal business development institutions and on national level the ministry of finance.
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?
Relatively small resources needed,
(e.g. 0.5 person for coordination project finances through Federal Office of Agriculture)
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?
1. Hotels and restaurants in the regions.
2. Organisations of the hotel and restaurant industry.

Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?
CH
The discussion could be taken up in the autumn session of the Swiss parliament in 2005, when the reduced VAT tax for tourism institutions will be discussed.
A Concept should be elaborated until spring 2006 (mainly based on a private agreement between stakeholder organisations to use more Swiss and organic products in tourism and hotels).
Implementation in 2007.

Table C-55: Tradable quotas for inputs

Subcode/ Country
-
UK
How actions will be implemented?
Develop research and identify relevant resources to be reduced and then design the trading system (which will include the process of allocation).
Who will take responsibility for implementation?
DEFRA will take responsibility at the national level and the EU for EU level trading.
Which resources will be used both in financial and human terms?
Staff time will be required to investigate the resources and to design the scheme. An agency would also be needed to administer the scheme. The trading scheme could be self-funding by taking a percentage of every trade. Another source of funding could be to swap the remnants of Pillar I into the quota system (Pillar II).
Who will specifically be the addressees or recipients of the action?
All registered farmers.
Which will be the expected times for starting implementation, and finalise the action?
Implementation would be as soon as possible and linked to the phasing out of single farm payments.

D Evaluation of workshop concept and conduct by participants and facilitators

This chapter presents the results of qualitative evaluations made by the participants as well as the facilitators/ organisers.

D.1 Qualitative assessment by participants

Organisation

In nine countries, the organisation of the workshop was accentuated very positively: it was stated that the workshops were conducted well, efficiently, fluently and professionally. The presentation prior to the discussion was judged fine and the preparation of the workshop was considered good by several participants. Several stakeholders appreciated the location and/or the food.

Whereas two participants lauded the timing, many stakeholders criticised the time pressure. Stakeholders from different countries stated that time was insufficient for such ambitious goals/ big tasks. Because of time restrictions, more serious and concrete proposals could not be worked out, results would partially be casual and the topics developed could not fully be legitimated. Finally, it was stated that the day had been very long and that the workshop could have been extended on two days.

Concerning the organisation in general, one participant had the feeling that the workshop was a bit chaotic. In one country, moreover, it was criticised that the workshop took place one day after the election.

Participants

Participants from almost all countries described the mix of stakeholders as “good” or “interesting”. In addition, it was appreciated that the spectrum of participants was wide and that also “non-partners” were around the table. The workshop was considered a good possibility to meet actors in Organic Farming. Participants were described as highly active and working effectively and efficiently. The working groups were described as competent, appropriately chosen, high-quality, and knowledgeable.

On the other hand, participants from different countries criticised that some central actors were missing, e.g. environmental NGOs, the RDP department of the Ministry of Agriculture, the inspection and certification body for organic processing, policy makers, stakeholders from processing and distribution or sector representatives. Some stakeholders complained that participants have cancelled in the last minute, left earlier, or arrived belatedly. In one country, it was criticised that the choice of members of a small group on specific topics did not always consider their competences. Thus time was lost for orientation.

Discussions/ Atmosphere

In all countries discussions were characterised as good, exciting, lively, interesting, constructive, open, multi-perspective, fruitful, useful, practical, disciplined, high

level and stimulating. Atmosphere was marked as very good, open, friendly, creative and activity creating. Concerning the involvement of participants, it was stated that ideas were exchanged actively, and that personal contributions were very useful. The level of cooperation within the workshop was described as high, although people with quite different perspectives were present. Somebody mentioned the “nice provocations on standpoints and policy around the table” and someone else appreciated the long perspective discussion. The opportunity for a good communication without being conditioned by “formal situations” was also appreciated. Finally, working in groups allowed a good and effective discussion

On the other hand, it was criticised that discussions were too much influenced by positions of a minority or deadlocked at some point. In addition, it was noticed that contributions sometimes only reflected the official standpoint of stakeholders and less personal experiences. It was also stated that some participants did not talk and no one knew what they thought.

Another participant was disappointed that discussions were limited on the national level, without a reference to the EU level and someone else stated that energy was wasted for unrealistic measures.

Moderation

Many participants from nine countries felt that their workshop was well moderated. This helped many constructive ideas to emerge and ensured the relevance of the workshop. It was lauded that the process was guided with a firm hand, with good energy and conscious about the participants’ differences.

On the other hand, participants felt that decisions were taken too hastily after a quick brainstorming. Thus, the choice of two policy instruments often was not usable in the end. Moreover, it was stated that sometimes facilitation was a bit slow: the facilitator might have speeded discussion if he had been stricter over the terms which were listed as “policy instruments” (some of those listed on cards were considered merely statements or aspirations).

Concept

The topic of the workshop was considered very relevant and it was stated that such a workshop was needed. Several participants felt that the methodology was fine and that the workshop was well structured. The approach was referred to as businesslike, constructive, problem-oriented and interesting.

It was stated that the interesting concept elicited most opinions and opportunities and encouraged a creative approach to the subject: the process covered a wide range of topics and issues and the innovative workshop style kept everyone involved. One participant appreciated the cooperation of people with multi-perspectives and the feedback from the Brussels workshop.

On the other hand, several participants criticised the strict methodological framework, which constricted the discussion, and the methodological guidelines, too circuitous to achieve the goal. But it was also argued that more methodological guidelines should be given.

Concerning the pre-workshop materials, it was criticised that the list of policy instruments was not understandable, not well structured and that policy goals and

policy instruments were mixed together. Somebody complained that the preparation of participants was not sufficient and that homework in advance was missing.

Participants from several countries felt the workshop was too broad, not concrete enough, and that it covered too many themes. In addition, it was argued that the consensus approach from the EU-project had maybe lowered the diversity of ideas and that structural limits were deriving from an “agreement system”. It was also criticised that the aim of the workshop should be clarified and expressed more clearly.

Finally, some participants stressed the fact that the issues were not targeted to the current national policy. An interesting proposal was that attendees of the workshop should be paid.

Results

The results of the workshop were judged “successful” and “productive” by several participants.

Stakeholders noticed that participants were exchanging lots of information and thus the workshop helped increase awareness and acquaintance with Organic Farming. Some participants appreciated that everybody got aware that OF stakeholders could work together and focus at the strengths of organics (although time and money were lacking). In other words, the workshop was considered a good possibility to meet actors in Organic Farming. It was felt that new and useful ideas as well as tangible policy projects were developed and it was agreed how to progress them. Participants appreciated that many perspectives were explored, that the workshop brought practical answers and interesting solutions regarding Organic Farming and that conclusions were relatively realistic.

It was noted that OF needed more visions and such workshops/projects would draw the view to the horizon: in other words the workshop created the conditions for further development of Organic Farming.

The discussions were considered very useful regarding the preparation of a national OF Action Plan and regarding the possible implementation of concrete political measures for Organic Farming. Especially the EU-perspective and the relation to whole European wide discussions were appreciated by several participants. One participant from CH stated that it was good to be able to enter the Swiss view in European policy work.

On the other hand, some participants criticised that the results were not binding and wondered if the policy instruments were implemented. It was feared that nobody would check the realization of the planned actions. The possibility to ensure funding for task realisation was seen very pessimistic.

Somebody felt that it was like “starting all over again”, another person said that the “wheel could not be invented again” and that pioneer spirit was missing. It was also criticised that not enough focus was put on concrete political activities and that the workshop brought no conclusion for the concrete agricultural policy. Several participants complained that the topics were too broad and too little concrete and that the complexity of the theme often led to abruptions of the discussion without a satisfactory result. It was also complained that not enough

background information about the system was provided to develop the concrete descriptions of the policy actions.

D.2 Qualitative assessment by facilitators

The qualitative evaluation, based on individual observations made by facilitators, resulted in a list of positive aspects.

1. **Good climate of discussion among the participants:** A very convenient and friendly communication among participants was highlighted many times. In addition a more open discussion-based approach compared to the 1st workshop was mentioned positively. Some conflicts arose but they were faced by facilitators. Discussions in the small groups were in general very productive.
2. **Good instructions and definitions:** The guidelines for the workshop were considered much easier and more understandable compared with the 1st national workshop.
3. **Good composition and number of participants:** A right balanced mixture between various stakeholders and market actors was highlighted although more participants had been expected (2 countries). Participants were strongly motivated.
4. **Interesting outcomes generated:** The results and outcomes deriving from the discussion were assessed very positively - especially in respect of a continuation of the discussion and the implementation in the daily policy work. Some interesting innovative ideas came up.
5. **Excellent opportunity to come up with new/strengthened alliances:** This referred especially to those countries where the national organic action plan is still in preparation. In addition, working with the implementation process of the rural development programme was seen as the most important option for political influence with possible long lasting results.

Finally, some critique points have been highlighted by facilitators in each country which are very important for improving the methodological approach used in the workshop and the structure of the programme for future uses

1. **Time constraint:** The workshop was considered too short to achieve its objectives in an appropriate manner. Especially the first part of the workshop (presentation and discussion of policy instruments) was considered too intensive. In other words, the one-day programme schedule was considered very tight: in countries where a 2 days workshop was organised, facilitators highlighted the advantage of this structure.
2. **Results not specific enough:** Due to the restricted time frame, the expected praxis-relevant and efficient policy instruments could only partly be fulfilled; in addition it was difficult to develop very precise policy actions as it had been expected.
3. **Some confusion in instructions and definitions:** This referred mainly to the introduction and 1st section which needed considerably more time than previewed, because some participants were not clear about the objectives of the workshop as well as about the terminology used.

4. **Issues not targeted to the current national policy:** The content, for some countries, should be more focused on national agricultural policy.

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