ORGANIC TARGETS 4EU

Role of AKIS for the organic sector & AKIS factsheets

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Outline

- Objectives
- AKIS for organic: Assessment of AKIS, methodology
- Overview factsheets and main findings
- Policy recommendations in connection with advice, training and networking

Objectives

- Assess the **key drivers and lock-ins** for the organic sector
- **Develop scenarios** for reaching the organic F2F targets
- **Production and Market** analysis:
  - Where can increases in organic farmland be achieved?
  - What is the socio-economic impact of these increases in primary production, value chains, and markets
  - What mechanisms can drive demand for organic food?
- Foster **Knowledge and Innovation** to:
  - Strengthen organic advisory services
  - Stimulate exchange of scientific and practical knowledge
  - Increase R&I investments in the organic sector
- **Multi-actor policy dialogue** to:
  - Support the implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), EU Organic Regulation, Organic Action Plan

The consortium

18 project partners

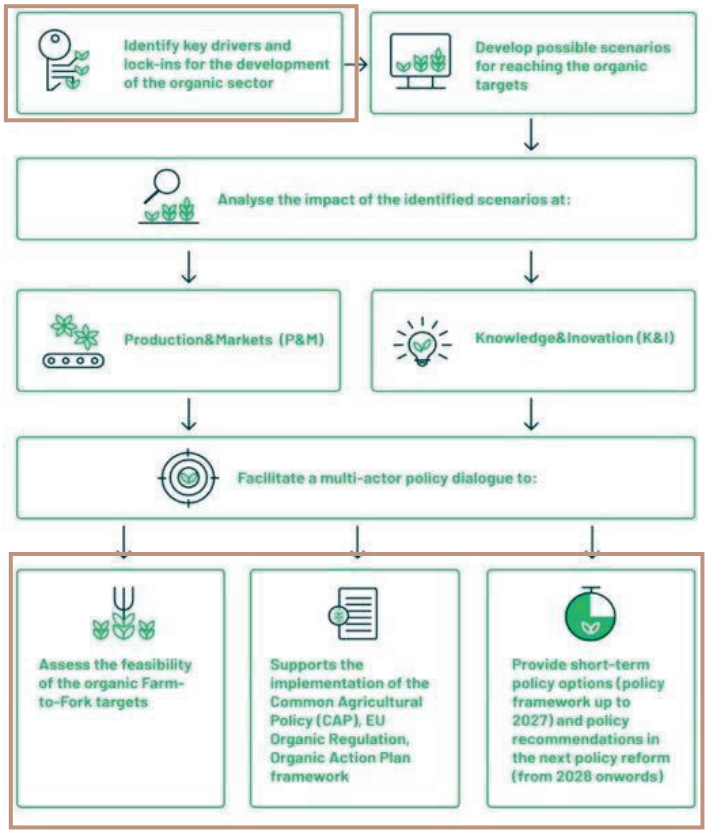
8 focus countries represented by a **Practice Partner** with close connections with producers/value chain actors

- 7 focus countries (agriculture): DE, HU, DK, IT, RO, AT, FR
- 2 focus countries (aquaculture): GR, DE

Geographical distribution:

- From North-West to Central-East and South
- Different stages of organic development in terms of farmland and market demand as well as potential for future development

AKIS for organic



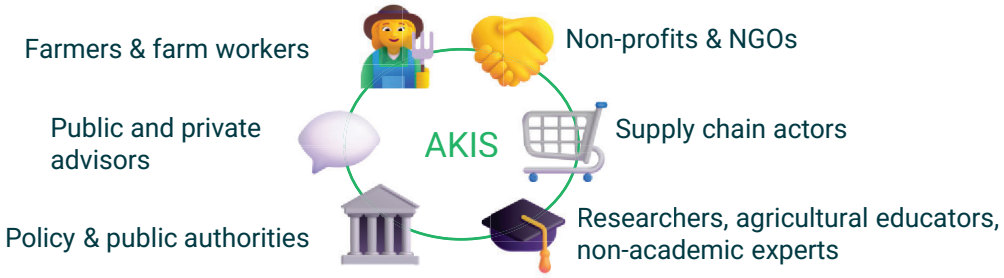
ORGANIC TARGETS 4EU

To achieve the ambitious organic targets by 2030, 780.000 new business will need access to organic Information

- Assessment of the developments in agricultural/ aquacultural knowledge and innovation systems (AKIS) and knowledge provisions for processors and retailers
- Current state of play and the future actions to be taken to effectively upscale the knowledge and innovation systems in these countries

Assessment of AKIS for organic

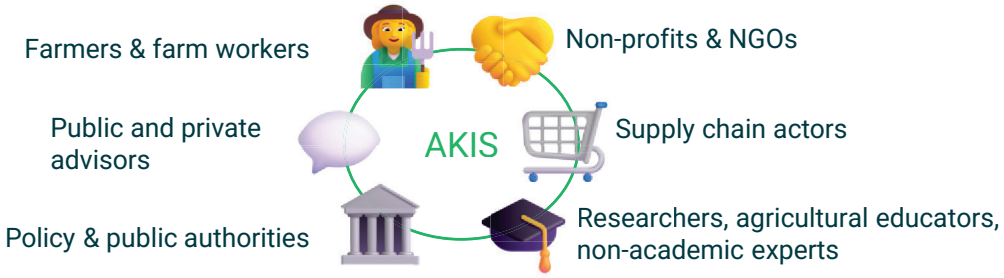
"The Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS) can be defined as a system that links people and organisations to promote mutual learning, to generate, share and utilise agriculture-related technology, knowledge, and information within a country or a region"



Assessment of AKIS for organic

"The Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS) can be defined as a system that links people and organisations to promote mutual learning, to generate, share and utilise agriculture-related technology, knowledge, and information within a country or a region"

- While the F2F targets provide a framework for boosting AKIS structures, there is a lack of knowledge about how such provisions are implemented in practice
- Knowledge about the organisational structure and functions of AKIS for organic in EU countries is lacking
- A well-functioning AKIS for organic is dependent on conventional AKIS actors and their willingness to support organic farming



Assessment of AKIS for organic

Methodology:

Expert interviews (78 interviews)

- organisational strengths, weaknesses, and lock-ins of AKIS for organic
- knowledge needs for organic processors and retailers
- knowledge provisions for organic processors and retailers

Online survey (163 responses)

- AKIS organisation, organic advisory services, training, education and policy framework

Country reports to give country-specific overview of the main characteristics of the AKIS for organic

8 Focus countries (Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy and Romania)

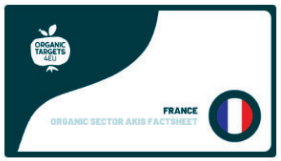
AKIS factsheets

Austria – Organic Sector AKIS Factsheet

Read More

Denmark – Organic Sector AKIS Factsheet

Read More



France – Organic Sector AKIS Factsheet

Read More

Germany – Organic Sector AKIS Factsheet

Read More

Greece – Organic Sector AKIS Factsheet

Read More

Hungary – Organic Sector AKIS Factsheet

Read More

ORGANIC TARGETS 4EU

TRANSFORMATION SCENARIOS FOR BOOSTING ORGANIC FARMING AND ORGANIC AQUACULTURE TOWARDS THE FARM-TO-FORK TARGETS

LEARN MORE

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AKIS factsheets

HUNGARY

ORGANIC SECTOR AKIS FACTSHEET

SUMMARY REFLECTIONS

ORGANIC SECTOR AGRICULTURAL KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION SYSTEMS

In Hungary, the organic Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS for organic) is in need for more central coordination efforts and dedicated funding. Currently, AKIS for organic is characterized by a network of few dedicated public and private actors: influential actors like ÖMKi and the Hungarian Organic Farmers Association, supported also by certifying organizations, input providers, and progressive NGOs. There is potential for further support of AKIS development in actors such as farmers' organizations and the Chamber of Agriculture's advisory network. Coordination and collaboration within the organic AKIS are weak, with sporadic cooperation driven by enthusiastic individuals, hindering system integration. Enhanced collaboration and resource allocation are critical for sustainable development, emphasizing the need for improved coordination efforts to strengthen Hungary's AKIS for organic.

Hungarian organic production needs more practice-oriented research, more dissemination work, backed up by local scientific evidence. Efforts should be made to increase consumer awareness and create a stable and growing organic sector and a stronger internal market. Cooperation and better communication between organic actors (producers, traders, umbrella organisations, certifiers and research institutions) is essential.

Regarding organic food processing and retail, there's a noticeable gap in specialized assistance for navigating organic market entry, certification requirements, and available subsidies. Existing organizations primarily focus on aiding conventional farmers, leaving newcomers to rely on the information from well-established processors. Certification bodies hold the problem of conflict of interest and are described as slow in the interpretation of international regulations.

GENERAL INFORMATION

MAIN CULTIVATED CROPS

1 Cereals

2 Oilseeds

3 Fruits

CROPPING PATTERN (% OF UAA)

Arable Land 81.8%

Permanent Grassland 14.9%

Permanent Crops 3.2%

CONTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURE TO ECONOMIC OUTPUT
3.66 % (2022)

CONTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURE TO EMPLOYMENT
3.45 % (2022)

UTILIZED AGRICULTURAL AREA (UAA)
4,921,740 Hectares (2020)
52.9 % of Total Area (2020)

AKIS factsheets

HUNGARY
ORGANIC SECTOR AKIS FACTSHEET

ORGANIC SECTOR OVERVIEW

The organic sector in Hungary has expanded rapidly over the last two decades. Between 2001 and 2021, the area under organic farming increased by 271%; by 2021, the area fully converted and under conversion to organic farming has reached 5,9% of the utilized agricultural area (UAA) by 2021, which is a total of 293.000 ha certified or under conversion. The organic sector in Hungary is highly export-oriented, with approximately 85% of the organic production going into export. Exports are mainly raw materials or products with low added value.

GROWTH OF ORGANIC AREA (2001-2021)
271%

AQUACULTURE PRODUCTION
N.A.

GROWTH OF ORGANIC RETAIL (2001-2021)
N.A.

NO. OF PRODUCERS
5,129

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS
20 / 18 (million €)

NO. OF PROCESSORS
489

DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION
3.04€/Person

NO. OF IMPORTERS
61

MAIN CROP TYPES

1. CEREALS
2. OILSEEDS
3. FRUIT

SUPPORTING STRATEGIES, POLICIES & REGULATIONS

The Organic Action Plan (2014-2020) aimed to develop AKIS. The renewed National Action Plan for the Development of Organic Farming (2022) emphasises the need to improve advisory services for organic farming by the Chamber of Agriculture. In line with this policy goal, the Chamber of Agriculture aims to build a specialised advisory network by 2024 and to publish sector-specific technical guidelines for farmers to facilitate a successful conversion to organic farming. A task force on organic R&D was established in early 2023 by the Ministry of Agriculture to improve R&D in organics and to coordinate relevant research of AKIS actors. In the absence of a comprehensive policy strategy, sporadic activities, like project grants (e.g., the MNVH, EIP Agri Operational Groups) support AKIS development.

AKIS factsheets

HUNGARY
ORGANIC SECTOR AKIS FACTSHEET

KEY COMPONENTS & FUNCTIONS OF AKIS FOR ORGANIC

KNOWLEDGE CREATION, RESEARCH & INNOVATION

ÖMKi has a leading role in organic research and knowledge exchange together with few dedicated researchers working at different university departments or public research institutes, and a number of innovative organic farmers. At ÖMKi, co-creation, Living Labs and on-farm experiments are in practice in addition to traditionally structured scientific work. Research activities are funded by local and/or international projects, which usually have a duration of 2–5-years. The experts interviewed highlight that small and medium-scale organic farmers are usually more open to research collaboration, while larger producers have the financial means to involve (often foreign) advisors in case they wish to overcome specific technological challenges. Producers of organic plant protection materials (e.g., Biocont Ltd.) also have advisory services and set up on-site trials to measure the effectiveness of their products and to develop them further.

ADVICE AND CONSULTANCY

The advisory network planned by the Chamber of Agriculture for 2024 should make advisory services available to all farmers. However, there are few staff specialised in organic farming, and relevant professional training to help advisors understand the differences between organic and conventional methods has not been started, which is hampering farmers' transition. Advice is currently limited to administrative assistance on the application process for organic subsidies. More complex and production-related technical assistance relies mainly on the expertise of international input providers and grain traders. As they are not independent consultants, their activities are not subsidised. Accordingly, farmers tend to turn directly to certification bodies to find out the basic compliance requirements. Although they are not formally independent either, their informal advice meets farmers' knowledge needs. A few international organic advisors are also active in Hungary at larger scale operations, who can afford the extension service costs.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Different training programmes are available on organic farming at the different levels of the education system often for free or at low costs. More complex training programmes by for-profit and not-for-profit organisations come with an attendance fee. While there is no 'formal' qualification for converting farmers, there are shorter courses on organic farming topics offered outside the formal higher education system. Workshops and training on organic farming are usually organised as part of international research projects. There is one MSc programme on organic farming (at MATE University of Life Sciences). However, no BSc-level programme allows to embark on the matter, while organic farming generally remains underrepresented in a broad portfolio of sustainability-related courses.

AKIS factsheets

Assessment of AKIS for organic

Results:

- **Development of AKIS for organic differs** among the focus countries somewhat related to the scale of the organic sector in the country
- Countries with well-established AKIS: **more national policy support and collaboration in well-established networks of actors, especially with conventional AKIS actors** -> (Austria, Denmark)
- In countries with less developed AKIS, a very important role is played by **private market** actors, certification bodies and crucial role of EU programmes e.g. EIP-AGRI -> (Hungary and Romania)
- **Key actors** needed for a well-functioning AKIS for organic **are already present** in the AKIS of **all focus countries**
- **Local networks are important knowledge hubs**, but also compensate for the deficiencies of the organic provisions in AKIS -> (Romania, France, Germany, Italy)
- Focus of organic themes in AKIS is limited to **production-based,** less on business, markets and environment

Policy recommendations (Draft)

Strengthening Knowledge & Advice for Organic Farming	Empowering Farmers through Peer-to-Peer Learning	Building a Framework for Organic Advice & Training in AKIS	Improve networking, training, and access to research for advisors	Investing in Training, Education & Public Awareness
Define • knowledge about innovative organic farming as an essential part of AKIS and FAS in the future CAP • how knowledge and information for organic farming should be supported within AKIS at regional, national and European level **Provide** easy access to conversion information & advice (e.g., conversion checks und in DK) **Inspire** farmers with examples of innovative organic farmers through demonstration farm networks (aimed at farmers), field days and organic farming awards	**Include** peer-to-peer networks and mentoring in CAP intervention measures **Develop** guidance for combining peer learning, one-to-one, and group advice **Recognize** their social and motivational role in supporting organic transitions	**Map** organic AKIS actors (build on Organic Advice Network, i2connect, ModernAKIS) **Extend** the range of services (advice, training, networking) to cover processing, marketing, catering and supply chain development **Facilitate** accreditation of advisors with organic expertise, e.g., to provide CAP supported advice	**Strengthen t**he links between advisors and the R&D system (including EIP-AGRI OG) **Support** National and European knowledge hubs regularly updated with new materials **Provide** opportunities to exchange knowledge with colleagues in other countries (e.g., cross visits). **Develop** mentoring programmes where experienced organic advisors can pass on own knowledge and skills to new entrants	**Targeted** national funds for organic training (professionals) and education (students) at all levels from vocational to academic levels **Create** training opportunities in organic for all actors in supply chains and the general public **Make** it easier for farmers to obtain training in organic farming and agroecology **Strengthen** in-person (such as cross visits) and virtual exchange opportunities (such as https://orgprints.org; https://www.aeprints.org/; https://organic-farmknowledge.org/)

Thank You!

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