North-West Development Region
ROMANIA
2018-2023

North-West
Regional Development
Agency

ORGANIC ACTION PLAN

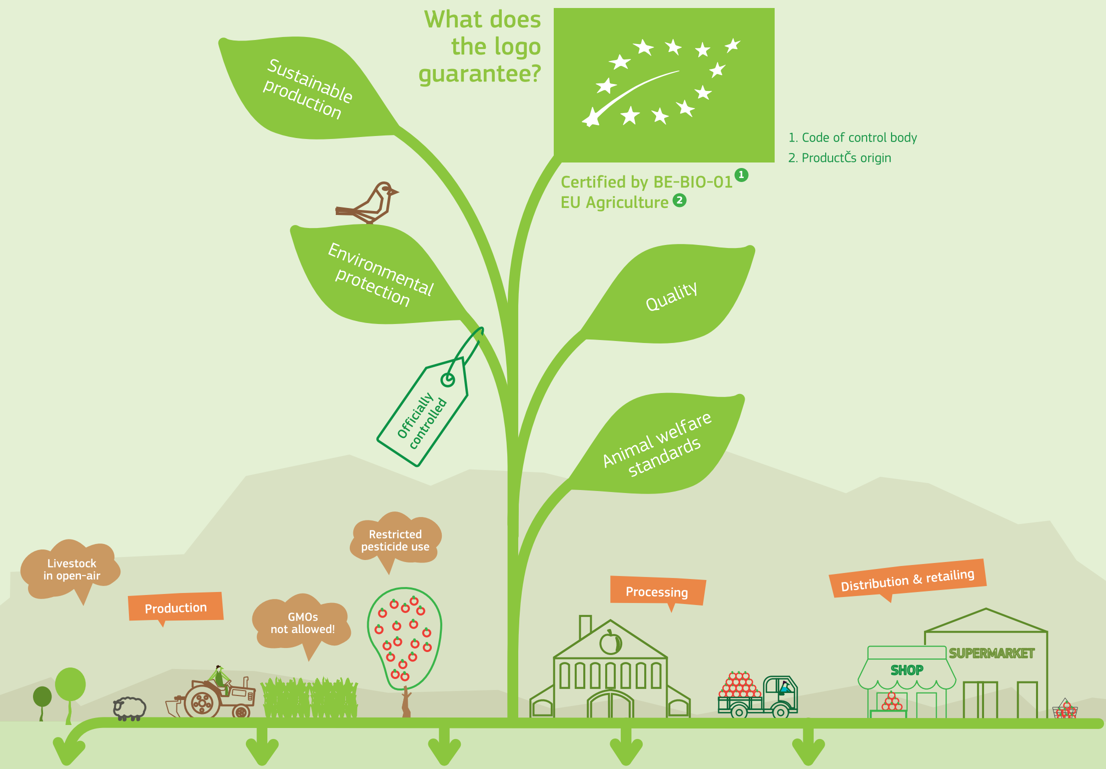
SME ORGANICS
Interreg Europe

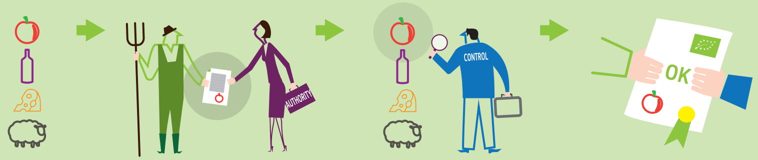
European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

European Commission

THE ORGANIC LOGO OF THE EU

Organic farming is a way of producing food that seeks to respect the environment.
It applies to all kinds of products e.g. fruit, vegetables, meat, milk, wine, cheese, eggs, grains, coffee, chocolate, fish & seafood.





Farmers, processors, distributors, retailers and importers must adhere to strict EU rules if they want to use the EU organic logo.

Operators notify and describe their activity to the **authority** responsible for organic controls in their Member State;

Operators are **inspected** by a public or private control body. If the result is positive, operators receive a certificate and can market their products as organic;

Operators are inspected at least **once per year** to ensure that they respect organic rules.

Whenever you buy organically certified food, you can be confident that it has been produced in accordance with strict EU environmental and animal welfare rules, and is checked regularly.

ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic/

Agriculture and Rural Development

North-West Development Region, ROMANIA 2018-2023

Aims and objectives

Executive summary

Priority Areas and Measures/Actions

State of the art

Local Stakeholders Group







Executive summary

The Regional Organic Action Plan is a premiere in Romania and aims at the sustainable development of the organic sector along the value chain over the next 5 years, by proposing concrete actions, underpinned to strategic and specific objectives.

The Regional Action Plan is anchored in the Action Plan for future of the Organic Production in the European Union launched by the European Commission in 2014, being consistent with both the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the Cohesion Policy of the European Union. The elaboration of this document is based on the methodology of the SME Organics project, with the contribution of the most important organizations in supporting the development of organic farming in Europe, IFOAM-EU and FiBL from Switzerland, through interaction with success stories from partner regions and by the significant contribution of the members of the Local Stakeholders Group (LSG) of the project. LSG consists of representatives of 35 organizations relevant to the organic sector in the North-West Region and represents a true "Organic Sector Regional Forum", set up along the value chain, with a significant share allocated to institutions that provide local and regional governance. The committee consists of: local public authorities, governmental rural and urban funding agencies, inspection and certification bodies for organic, universities, agricultural high schools and research institutes, clusters and associations with agri-food and organic profile, LEADER Groups and not last, organic certified operators - producers, processors, traders.

The detailed analysis of the organic sector in the North-West Region, fit into the national and European framework, enriched by the contribution of the main organizations and authorities in the field, as well as with the current financing opportunities, has built the basis of the elaboration of a grounded and realistic plan, reflecting the identified local needs on all components of the value chain, including the governance ones. Organic food and farming has steadily developed in Romania over the past 20 years, based on national legislation introduced since the year 2000 and on the European regulations which we have adopted after joining the European Union in 2007. While the institutional, legal and financial frameworks are regulated, there are other areas that require support for sustainable development of the organic sector, such as processing and marketing, building local /regional /national market, spreading information and building awareness, providing advice and education, research and innovation.

The objective of the Regional Action Plan is to point out the priority areas for improvement and the proposed measures suggested for implementation in the next 2-4 years. Potential financing sources and proper stakeholder organisations are also highlighted, in order to ensure a realistic planning and implementation of the reco-mmended actions.

The implementation of the Action Plan for the period 2018 - 2020/2023 will equally depend on the involvement of public authorities at the level of support policies and funding programmes, as well as on private initiatives at the level of farms, companies, associations and LEADER groups, to submit and run projects and actions in the proposed directions. For the success of implementation, anchoring to existing funding sources is needed, as well as to future public-private partnerships or future public allocations based on the stringent reported needs. North-West RDA will ensure the monitoring of the imple-mentation of the Regional Action Plan until the end of the SME Organics project, in 2020.

State of the art

2016 Key figures

GLOBAL AND EUROPEAN LEVEL

Organic agriculture becomes a global phenomenon: 50 mil ha and 2,7 mil producers in 178 countries, from just 200.000 in the year 2000

EU 28 Organic farmland: 12,1 mil ha - 21% from global organic farmland, from 5,7 mil in 2002; 6,7% from total farmland, from 3,6% in 2004

Organic market 80 mdl Euro global market, an average raise of 16%
The biggest BIO-markets: USA - 35,8 mdl euro and Germany - 9,5 mld euro
The biggest organic market share: Denmark - 8,4% organic products
The highest consumption/capita: Switzerland - 262 euro/ inhabitant

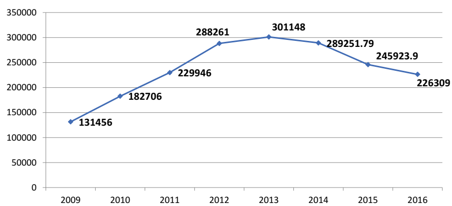
EU 28 Organic operators: 368.292 operators, out of which 82,6% producers/ farms; 60.000 operators in Italy, 42.500 in France, 38.500 in Germany

Global leaders: Australia - 22,7 mil ha; EU: Spain - 2 mil ha, Italy - 1,5 mil ha, France - 1,4 mil ha: biggest share of organic farmland: Lichtenstein - 30%, Austria - 21,3%, Sweden - 17%

NATIONAL LEVEL

- The country having the most agricultural holdings in Europe (1/3), due to the high fragmentation degree (many individual holdings, very small average size per holding, few farms)
- almost half of the population living in rural areas;
- 226.309 ha of organic farmland, including under conversion (11th in the EU ranking) - decrease of the organic farmland starting from 2012
- only 2,1% of farmland is organic in Romania
- Tulcea (30.750 ha) and Timis (30.455 ha) are the counties with the largest organic areas in the country (27% of the national organic farmland).
- 28% of the organic farmland is covered by cereals (percentage above the EU average) and more than the 25% consist of grassland)
- main Romanian organic products are: wheat, maize, sunflower, rape, soy beans, grapes, wild berries;
- 283.486 organic livestock heads, mostly poultry and sheep
- 10.562 organic operators (7th in the EU ranking), decreasing constantly since 2012; 95% of organic operators are producers (way above the EU average), 160 processors, 244 traders, 35 exporters and 26 importers;
- the counties having with the most organic operators: Alba (2131), Suceava (950), Cluj (690)
- 80 mil euro – represented the Romanian organic market in 2014, with a low quota of 3,7 euro/capital

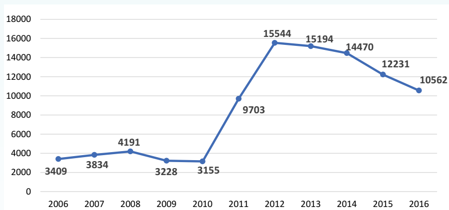
Organic farmland in Romania
- hectares, including conversion -



REGIONAL LEVEL

- 45% of the regional population is located in rural areas
- 20.200 hectares of organic farmland, including conversion (9% of the organic farmland in Romania): Cluj - 6018 ha, Bistrita-Nasaud - 5280, Satu Mare – 3435
- large variations in the counties Bistrita-Nasaud and Sălaj (decrease by 63% of the certified farmland as compared to 2014) and Maramures (decrease by 75% compared to 2014)
- only 1.4% of agricultural farmland in region is organic
- 30% of the organic lands in the region are agri-food cultures (excluding crops for animal feed), the most extensive ones being: 1131 ha plum crops (half in SM), 681 ha apples (MM and BN), 640 ha maize 1/3 in SJ), 520 ha soybean (SM), 539 ha of wheat (1/2 SM), 273 ha of raw wheat, 291 ha nut trees, 168 ha of sea buckthorn, 143 ha oats, 117 ha sunflower, 111 ha vineyard (CJ and BH) and 142 ha of wild flora, medicinal and aromatic plants (2/3 in SM)
- 37.421 organic livestock heads, out of which 66% sheep
- 3261 organic operators, representing 28% of the Romanian organic operators (North-West Region occupies the 2nd place in the national hierarchy after the Center Region), out of which only 3% are firms / farms, the rest being individual holdings
- 97,5% of the organic operators in the region are producers (above the national average), only 29 processors and 34 certified traders.
- few organic processed products in the region : milk and dairy products, juices (primarily from apple and sea buckthorn), bee products (mostly honey and pollen), flour and cereal bars.

Organic operators in Romania



SWOT ANALYSIS OF in the North-West

Main strengths and opportunities

- favorable natural conditions (land quality, climate)
- large share of population in rural areas, involved in agriculture
- generally low use of chemical fertilizers and herbicides
- well-developed educational environment: agri-food high-schools and two agri-food universities in the region
- well-developed R&D for the agri-food sector: universities and research centers
- well-developed ITC sector, which can support on-line trade platforms and innovations in agri-food
- existence of traditional value chains, short value chains between producer and consumer via family baskets (including organic products, but not exclusively)
- financing opportunities available, both from Rural Development Programme/ Common Agricultural Policy, but also from other Operational Programmes (Regional, Human Capital, Competitiveness) and national funding schemes
- existing functional clusters and professional associations which can incorporate organic objectives and perform appropriate actions to achieve them
- approval of Fruits and Vegetable Supply Programme in public schools, including pilot Warm Meal Programme - future perspectives for introducing organic quota, linking to the recommendation of Green Procurement at the EU level, including agri-food
- existence of LEADER based Local Action Groups (private-public) having tailor-made strategy and implementation can enforce organic measures to the specific needs of each territory, including for the organic component
- potential of adoption of globally available innovative inputs (seed and planting material, biofertilizers, bio-stimulators), and processing technologies
- development potential of organic agriculture using ITC technologies, both in production techniques (as precision agriculture) as in marketing (on-line platforms)

Definition of main development problems – basis for priority areas

- insufficient use of organic production potential
- low processing infrastructure and low added value of the organic offer and products
- week distribution channels and selling points for the organic products
- “organic” is still an unclear concept at the level of public information and of the local/national organic supply
- low demand and consumption of organic products (due to poor on inadequate awarness, but also to the fact that the state/ public authorities are not part of the request)
- lack of advice and technical consultancy (insufficient transfer of knowledge to practice)
- lack of R&D services request from the organic sector
- financial and institutional barriers for the organic operators
- poor horizontal and vertical cooperation along the organic value chain (under-developed market for organic products)

THE ORGANIC SECTOR
Development Region, Romania

Main weaknesses and threats:

- small number of companies/farms acting in organic sector
- high fragmentation of the organic farmland, mostly own by individuals
- few associative structures, lack of organic producer associations
- lack of processing units, very few processors, no added value products
- lack of awareness regarding organic products and methods (very often confused especially with traditional products or assimilated with simply countryside products), lack of information towards the consumer, therefore lack of trust in organic products
- week organization of the (organic) value chain, lack of dedicated marketing and promotion exclusively organics, lack of specialized distributors: few dedicated shops, almost no dedicated markets, no HORECA adopting organic meals (restaurants or catering), non-fiscal house-delivery systems
- no request for organic products from the state/ public consumers (schools, hospitals, canteens)

- week training and advice offer, both public and private, not designated exclusively for organic - lack of local specialists in organic farming, week geographical coverage with specialists;
- week financial support directly offered by local/regional authorities
- R&D: lack of accredited laboratories for the necessary tests to be performed according to the organic legislation
- low living standard, low income levels for the majority of the population – barrier for purchasing more expensive organic products
- ending the multiannual payment arrangements to APIA leads to severe decrease of the number of organic operators, which remain without subsidies and many do not reapply due to severe conditions and delays in past payments
- the cost of certification tax is difficult to bear without any funding support
- massive import of the organic products, under the Single Market free trade
- national legislation more restrictive than the EU in the organic agriculture field - bureaucracy, obligation of annual registration in the County Agricultural Agencies
- lack of predictability of political and fiscal environment of agricultural policies and frequent changes of the institutional framework
- highly centralized sector, inexistent local / regional public policies (in agriculture sector/ organic) – no tailor-made policies and programmes for specific regions
- there is no regional vision (and no dedicated regional authority in the agri and rural development field), no visible collaboration of the 6 counties from the region from the organic sector point of view

Mission – Vision 2030

MAKING EUROPE MORE ORGANIC

ORGANIC ON EVERY TABLE:

- Policy makers and citizens widely recognize the contribution of organic and promote it
- Citizens continue to choose organic food and have easy access to it
- Organic and agroecological practices are employed on more than half of EU farmlands

IMPROVE - INSPIRE - DELIVER

- Organic food & farming systems are resilient, continuously improve their performance & inspire change
- A paradigm shift in knowledge, education and learning reconnects society with food & farming
- Organic contributes to delivering healthy & sustainable diets

IFOAM

FAIR PLAY- -FAIR PAY

- Farmers and workers are paid fairly: value and power are equally distributed across the system
- New business models and communications foster trust between all actors
- The environmental, social and public health costs and benefits are reflected in payments to farmers and in the cost of food

Long-run vision [2035] from the Regional Development Plan 2014-2020

Following the principles of sustainable development, the communities from **North-West Development Region of Romania** acknowledge together to valorize the natural, material and human resources, the historical traditions and intercultural aiming to a constant development which will bring Northern Transylvania among the most dynamic regions in Europe

Overarching aims and objectives

DEVELOPING THE ORGANIC SECTOR BY IMPROVING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE OPERATORS

- Strengthen the organic food and farming sector by sustaining the organic production, increasing the organic area by 40%, to 2,5% from total regional farmland (currently 1,6%) and increased no of operators by 20%
- Developing the organic processing capacity by having 60 processors with minimum 120 local products (currently 30 processors)
- Increase organic knowledge of operators by having 1000 operators benefitting from training and/or consultancy
- Enhance the R&D impact on the organic food and farming by having 50 operators using local R&D services, 20 innovations introduced

DEVELOP EFFICIENT ORGANIC VALUE CHAIN

- Improve distribution and sales of the organic products – by 50 new channels (20 public catering units), increasing sales by 20%
- Create better synergies by strengthening stakeholders collaboration
- Increased promotion of the organic products by having 1000 products/ promoted operators

INCREASE THE DEMAND/ CONSUMPTION OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS

- Awareness raising on the organic products by having 50.000 people better informed
- Support organic catering, both public and private

DEVELOP REGIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY TO SUPPORT ORGANIC SECTOR

- Strengthen the administrative capacity of the public sector (including trainings for experts)
- Improving legislative framework Strengthen public-private cooperation mechanism

PRIORITY AREA / MEASURES

1. SUSTAINING ORGANIC PRODUCTION

1.1. Granting financial aid to producers in order to compensate increased expenses and reduced yields associated with organic production, including support for the certification tax, purchase of bio-fertilizers, bio-fungicides and insecticides supply
1.2. Organic certification of areas belonging to NATURE 2000, HNV (High Natural Value), mountain areas including forest areas – in order to produce organic crops from wild flora
1.3. Establishment of Organic Seed Bank in order to ensure the availability of raw material for producers

2. DEVELOPING THE PROCESSING OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS

2.1. Financial aid for processors with a reasonable co-financing (mainly for infrastructure but also for supply of organic raw products)
2.2. Common infrastructure development for processing (public or private) – processing factories for dairy, vegetable, bakery, milling, shambles products
2.3. Support the absorption of organic raw materials other in non-agri-food sectors - cosmetics, cleaning products, pharmaceuticals, food supplements, constructions, textiles, etc.

3. INCREASE KNOWLEDGE OF OPERATORS AND EXPERTS

3.1. PRODUCTION – Training sessions and technical advice **for farmers** to ensure conversion / or maintenance of organic practices
3.2. PROCESSING – training and customized technical advice **for organic processors** / processors willing to go organic
3.3. PROCESSING - cooking classes in order to learn the processing phases of organic products
3.4. PROMOTION, MARKETING, SALES – marketing, promotion and sales classes for operators

Planned output	Target group	Implemen-ted by	Financed by

increasing the organic area by 40%, to 2,5% from total regional farmland (currently 1,6%) and increase no of operators with 20%

30.000 organic ha 3600 organic producers	Producers	APIA DAJ	PNDR MADR
5.000 organic ha 30 public forest offices and 100 protected areas certified	Public Forestry Districts/Producers	APIA , Inspection and Certification Bodies	PNDR
1 Seed Bank	Producers	DAJ USAMV	MADR

60 processors with min. 120 local products (currently 34 processors)

90% grant 60 processors	Processors	APIA GAL	PNDR
10 joint infrastructures	Processors	DAJ Agri-food Associations	MADR CJ
20 SMEs using organic raw materials	Processors	NW RDA AFIR DAJ	POR POC PNDR MADR

1000 operators and 200 experts benefiting from trainings and/ or consultancy

1000 farmers trained	Producers	GAL, Associations DADJ	PNDR MADR
100 processors trained/advised	Processors	GAL, Associations DADJ	PNDR MADR
50 HORECA participants trained	Processors	Associations HoReCa	POCU
300 operators trained	All operators	Associations GAL, NGOs	POCU PNDR

PRIORITY AREA / MEASURES
3.5. TECHNICAL EXPERTS – training sessions on updated organic practices for **public advice officers**
3.6. TECHNICAL EXPERTS - **Resource Center for Organic Agriculture / BIO Academy Platform** – database with lcu local specialists and technicians in different expertise areas (including farmers who may share their experience)

4. INCREASED PROMOTION OF THE ORGANIC PRODUCTS

4.1. Support the **participation of organic operators to organic /agro fairs and exhibitions**, national and international level
4.2. Flagged booths with organic products in agri-food markets/ shops and agro-food events properly labeled
4.3. Organizing organic markets and events - annual festivals, markets/ periodic non-permanent local fairs
4.4. Developing a regional brand Produced in Transylvania, including organic and traditional products
4.5. Awarding organic agriculture/sector: hosting contests – most organic village/ area, the most organic menu/ restaurant, ECO certificates for the towns where the production and consumption are higher
4.6. Developing **Regional Export Support Office**/s for agri-food products, including organic

5. AWARENESS RAISING ON THE ORGANIC PRODUCTS

5.1.National awareness campaign CHOOSE ORGANIC (radio, TV, caravans, online) in order to inform the population on the existence and quality of the organic products and identifying the proper label
5.2. Dissemination sessions (including tasting) on different types of consumers directly at their location (kindergartens, schools, universities, corporations, public administrations)
5.3. Agro-educational (organic) farms – best practices exchange in school programs (events like Public Open Doors) in order to facilitate direct contact with consumers from early ages
5.4. Developing a network of agro-educational/ social farming/ touristic farms - including various specializations on crops, animals or processed products

Planned output	Target group	Implemented by	Financed by
60 experts trained	Public experts	DAJ	MADR
1 Center 200 specialists data base	Public and private experts	ITAE FNAE DAJ	MADR

➡ 1000 products/ promoted operators

Planned output	Target group	Implemented by	Financed by
100 operators	All operators	Operators, Associations	MMACA MADR
100 marked spaces	All operators	Associations Traders	MADR CJ Private
10 events	All operators	Local associations (public, private)	MADR CJ
1 regional brand	Producers Processors Traders	Cluster FNAE	CJ
10 events	Town halls, HoReCa	DADJ Local associations	MADR CJ
20 operators assisted	Traders	Cluster	Private

➡ 50.000 people better informed

Planned output	Target group	Implemented by	Financed by
50.000 people informed	Individuals	MADR Associations	MADR CJ
50 sessions, 1000 individuals reached	Individuals (children, students, corporates, public servants)	Organic Associations	MADR CJ
10 farms 10 schools 500 visitors	Scholars, pupils	Agri-food/ Organic Associations	MADR CJ
1 network of 20 farms	Farms - producers, processors	County local associations GAL	CJ PNDR

PRIORITY AREA / MEASURES

6. IMPROVING DISTRIBUTION AND SALES OF THE ORGANIC PRODUCTS

6.1. Developing short distribution chains between producers/ processors and consumers, private or public - green baskets, agreements between private and public institutions, others
6.2. Establishment of BIO-specific sale-points / stores in cities - including fresh, unprocessed products
6.3. Increasing organic distributors' logistic capacity - support for storage and distribution, expansion of distribution channels
6.4. Elaborate periodic reports by applying consumer surveys and disseminating information to guide the delivery of organic products tailored to the local / regional / national market
6.5. Conduct a **labeling program for private and public catering establishments** to mark the use of organic products / menus

7. STRENGTHEN RDI IN THE ORGANIC SECTOR

7.1. Establishment of a **Quality Certification and Product Authenticity** Center, for traceability and authentication services of certified products, for testing services required by exporters / required by inspection and certification bodies (which are no longer Romania)
7.2. Developing new seeds and planting material in the organic system - set up of new varieties of hybrids, based on the native genetic background with sustainable physiological qualities suitable for consumption, resistance to diseases and pests, with increased biological capacity of weed suppression, allowing the exclusion pesticide use
7.3. Development of eco / bio-fertilizers, bio-stimulators, bio-fungicides and insecticides to protect and stimulate organic production
7.4. Development of related innovative products: as cosmetics, intelligent packaging, etc

8. IMPROVE LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

8.1. Procedures and legislation - Reducing barriers to entry and maintenance in the organic farming system (elimination of annual renewals, simplification of forms, etc.)

Planned output	Target group	Implemen-ted by	Financed by
50 new channels (20 public catering units), increasing sales by 20%			
50 short chains	Consumers (individual, corporate, state)	Associations	Private
20 organic sale points	Consumers	Private stores Associations	Private CJ
10 traders supported	Traders	OTIMMC AFIR CJ	MMACA MADR, CJ
2 reports/ year, disseminated	All operators	Organic associations USAMV	MADR POC Private
1 labeling programme 10 units labeled	HoReCa	Organic Associations (FNAE, Bioterra)	MADR CJ Private
50 operators will benefit from R & D, innovation cu - 50 operators will benefit from RDI			
1 R&D Center 50 R&D services	Exporters Inspection & certification bodies	R&D Institute/ University	MADR CJ Private
20 innovations introduced	Researchers Producers	R&D Institute/ University	POC MADR Private
10 innovations introduced	Researchers Bio-inputs traders	R&D Institute/ University Private R&D	POC MADR Private
10 innovations introduced	Researchers Processors	R&D Institute/ University Private R&D	POC PN III
Reduce burden Increase no of operators	Producers Processors Exporters	MADR	

PRIORITY AREA / MEASURES
8.2. Procedures and legislation - Appropriate implementation of legislation to support the operation of the short-term value chain (including access to supermarkets)
8.3. Public procurement - Introducing a green quota for public procurement in the catering sector (in its own public canteens / for the supply of schools, kindergartens, hospitals, etc.)

9. DEVELOPMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY OF PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS

9.1. Services and public information - Establishment of a **Regional Eco-Barometer** - Regional Network, which will ensure the integrated monitoring of the ecological sector and constantly provide local / regional / national / European public information, organizing common information events between counties, etc
9.2. Services and public information – Increased transparency on the evolution of the ecological sector at local / regional level, in conjunction with national information – elaborating and publishing trend reports / publications of the ecological sector at regional and national level, success stories, technical recommendations for product orientation and supply of green products
9.3. Establishment of a **public BIO Agency,** subordinated to MADR, to ensure territorial synergies with all the county bodies with attributions in this sector/ National Regulatory Authority for Ecological Products (on the ANSVSA model)

10. STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION BETWEEN ORGANIZATIONS WITH AWARDS IN THE ORGANIC FIELD

10.1. ECO- Regional Permanent Forum (public-private, on the value chain) - for reaching common goals, organization of public consultations with organic operators on topics of interest, reaching synergies among activities carried out in activities
10.2. Regional Institute for Organic Farming - collaboration between universities, research institutes, private and public experts, for the provision of specialized services, tests and analysis, technicians, trainings
10.3. Financial support for agri-food associations for the development of ecological sector actions (financing for staff, office facilities, promotion, specific actions, etc.)
10.4. Establishment and development of **associations of organic producers and associations along the value chain for specific products** (financing for staff, office facilities, promotion, specific actions, etc.)

Planned output	Target group	Implemen-ted by	Financed by
Efficient sales	Producers Processors Traders	MADR Stores/ selling points	
Organic quota of 5% in public catering	Public HoReCa	MF CJ Town Halls/ schools	

Market intelligence Public information	Operators, General public	DAJ	MADR
Market intelligence Public information	Operators, General public	DAJ	MADR
1 national body	Public experts	MADR	MADR

Better synergies	Operators Public bodies NGOs R&D	Associations (BIOTERRA, FNAE)	CJ MADR
Available data basis, Synergic competences	Producers Processors	ITAE? FNAE? University	Private? MADR POC POCU
10 supported associations	NGOs	Agri-food Associations	MADR CJ
5 supported organic associations	NGOs	AFIR GAL Associations	PNDR CJ

SME Organics Local Stakeholders Group North-West Development Region, Romania

- **Public authorities:** Cluj, Salaj and Bistrita-Nasaud Agriculture County Offices, former Agriculture Chambers Cluj and Salaj, former Cluj Inspection Division appointed as stakeholder by Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
- **Governmental agencies:** Cluj-Napoca Office for Financing Rural Investments, appointed by AFIR Nord-Vest (Intermediate body for most of the CAP measures)
- **Inspection and certification bodies:** EcoInspect Cluj and ECOCERT Romania
- **Education and research organisations:** USAMV Cluj-Napoca, Faculty of Environment from Oradea University, National Institute for Research and Development for Isotopic and Molecular Technologies INCDTIM, Alexandru Borza Secondary School (with agricultural profile)
- **LEADER Groups:** FNGAL – National Federation of Local Action Groups, GAL Tara Oasului, GAL Maramures Vest, GAL Poarta

Apusenilor, GAL Poarta Transilvaniei, GAL Tinutul Haiducilor, GAL Valea Somesului

- **Organic associations:** FNAE – National Federation for Organic Agriculture, BIOTERRA – National Association of Organic Farmers
- **Agri-food association and clusters:** AgroTransilvania Cluster, ACCPA Crisana – Association for Research and Promotion of Agrifood products, Slow Food Transylvania, Transylvania Taste Cluster, Cluj IT Cluster (with two member companies supporting the agri-food on-line sales)
- **Organic traders:** BioHolistic, CasaBIO and Taf Presoil (Luna Solai)

ASSOCIATED STAKEHOLDER ORGANISATIONS

IFOAM-EU, International Federation for Organic Agricultural Movements

FiBL - Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, Switzerland;

Organic Research Center UK

MADR - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development from Romania

A.R.A.D - Romanian Association for Sustainable Agriculture

BIO- Romania Association

APIA Cluj – Agency for Payments and Intervention in Agriculture (for CAP Measure 11)

Organic operators from North-West Region

LIST OF ACRONYMS:

AFIR - Agency for Financing Rural Investments

APIA - Agency for Payments and Intervention in Agriculture

BIOTERRA - National Association of Organic Farmers

CJ - County Councils

DAJ - County Offices for Agriculture and Rural Development

FNAE - National Federation for Organic Agriculture

GAL - LEADER Rural formal Groups

ITAE - Technology Institute for Organic Agriculture (NGO)

NV RDA - North-West Regional Development Agency

MADR - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

MFP - Ministry of Public Finance

MMACA - Ministry for Business, Commerce and Entrepreneurship

OTIMMC - Territorial Offices for SMEs

PNDR - Rural National Development Plan - from CAP

POC - Competitiveness Operational Programme

POCU - Human Capital Operational Programme

POR - Regional Operational Programme

USAMV - University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine

European Commission

SUPPORT FOR ORGANIC PRODUCERS IN EUROPE

The new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

From 2015, all EU Member States must use 30% of direct payments to finance farmers for sustainable agricultural practices ('greening').

If you are an organic farmer, you will not need to change your practices to comply with greening.

Rural development programmes (2014-2020)

New support for active farmers for conversion to, and maintenance of, organic farming practices.

Member States can also provide additional support to organic farmers and operators through a variety of flexible funding opportunities to promote, for example: cooperation in food chain to boost innovation; development of quality schemes for agricultural products; creation of producer groups or organisations etc.

Information on organic farming under t he new CAP

EU co-financing is available to organic farming associations, farmers' unions, environmental organisations and other stakeholders to support them in explaining organic farming under the new CAP to the public, farmers, and others active in rural areas.

Fisheries and Maritime measures

Support for conversion of conventional aquaculture production methods into organic aquaculture through the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).

School Fruit and Vegetables Scheme (SFVS) and School Milk Scheme (SMS)

The EU funds voluntary schemes enabling schools to source organic products and integrate organic-related topics.

This funding possibility strengthens links between schoolchildren and organic farming and helps ensure the demand of organic products in the long-term.

Research and Innovation

Support for groups of farmers, researchers, advisors, businesses, NGOs, etc. from rural areas to work together on innovative projects through the EIP AGRI. Funding is provided through the EAFRD and Horizon 2020, the biggest ever EU Research Innovation programme.

Promotion of EU organic farming

EU funding for trade/inter-trade organisations to support raising awareness of EU organic production, controls and logo among consumers.

All kinds of promotion activities on internal market and in countries outside the EU are considered. Usually the EU funds up to 50%, the applicant at least 20%, and Member States co-finance the remainder.

ec.europa.eu/agriculture/organic
ec.europa.eu/agriculture
enrd.ec.europa.eu
ec.europa.eu/fisheries

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