

# Organic Action plans: A guide

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Organic Futures:  
An Action Plan for Organic Food and Farming in Scotland



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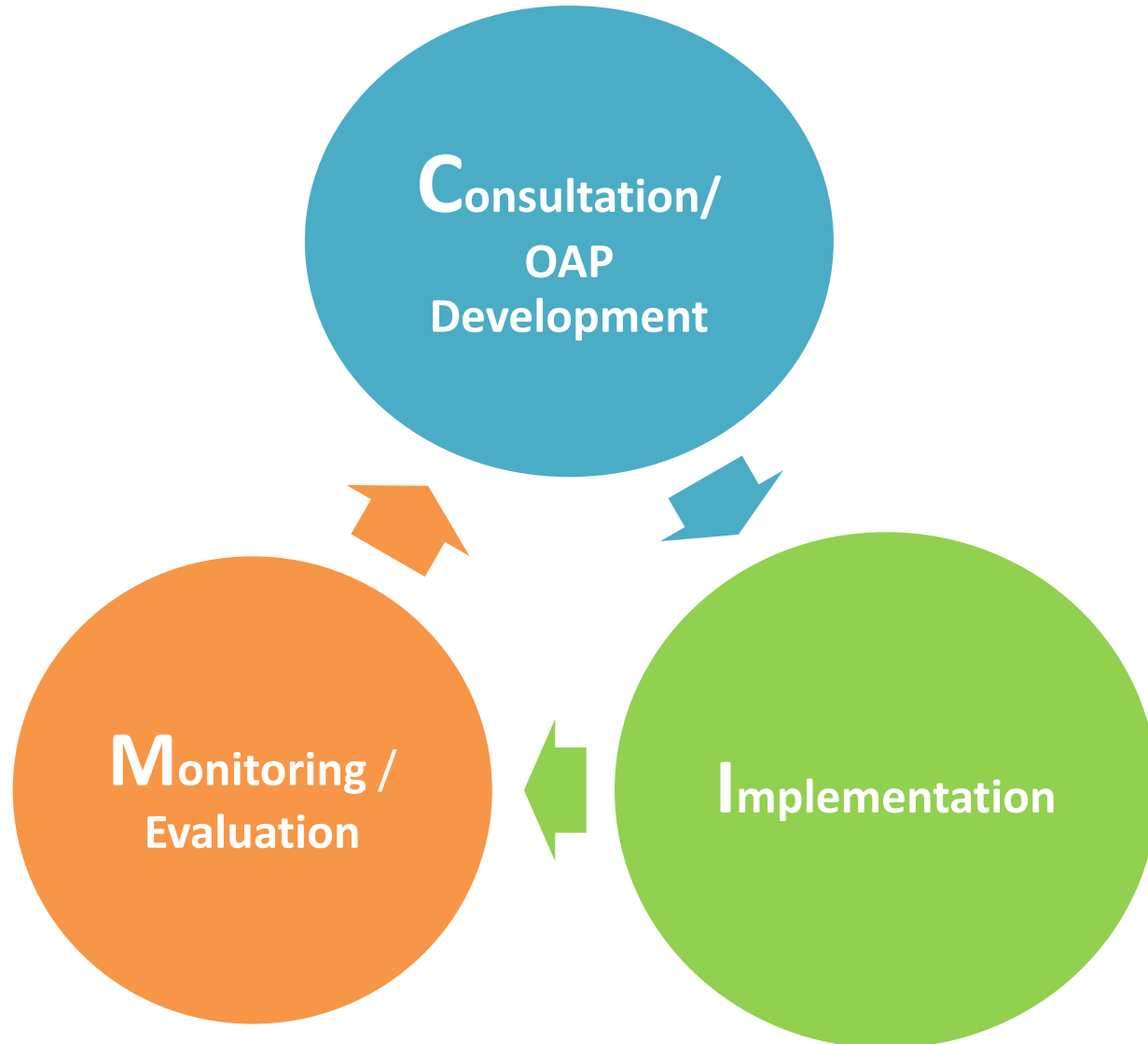
# State of OAPs at the beginning of 2016 (Responses 31 countries)

Type of Initiative	Country (EU and EFTA countries)
National Organic Action Plan (or similar integrated support initiatives/programs)	<b>13 countries:</b> Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France , Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, Poland, Slovenia
Regional OAPs in some parts	<b>4 countries:</b> Belgium (Wallonia and Flanders), Spain (Andalusia, Valencia, Castilla León, Pais Vasco and the Canary Islands), Switzerland (Fribourg, Jura), United Kingdom (Scotland)
No current OAP activity	<b>14 countries:</b> Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden

# Six case studies

Countries/regions	CZ	DK	FR	DE	ES-AND	UK-SCO
Organic share of national farmland in 2013	11.6	6.4	3.9	6.4	ES: 6.5	UK:3.3
Consumption food in 2013 (€/head)	6.6	163	69	92	ES: 21	UK: 33
Start of current OAP development	2010	2013	2013	2015	2007	2015
implementation period	2011 – 15	2015-18	2013-17	2016 - 20	2007-13	2016-20
Start of previous OAPs	2011	1995		(2001)	2002	2013

# Three critical stages of the Organic Action Plan Process



# Stakeholder scoring of the OAP in their country (criteria from ORGAP)

Criteria for a good Organic Action Plan	Score
Participatory involvement of stakeholders and good communication during the entire period of OAP development	Medium
Objectives are clear and can realistically be achieved	Medium
Objectives are based on a status quo analysis	Medium
Actions are tailored to the respective problem	Medium
Sufficient financial and human resources to implement the plan	<b>Low</b>
Good balance of 'supply-push' and 'demand-pull' policy measures	<b>Medium to low</b>
Regular monitoring of achievements (evaluation) has been included from the outset of the plan	<b>Medium to low</b>



## Consultation and plan development

- **1 -1.5 years before implementation starts**
- **Often strong stakeholder involvement at the start, but continuity not necessarily ensured.**
- **Should involve some status quo analysis**

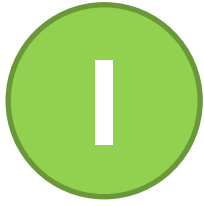
In Germany, there is a broad participatory process for the new Programme that is due to be implemented from 2017 with seven key action fields.

Objectives of Organic Action Plans	High priority in the case studies
To promote organic production/supply	All case studies
To promote domestic demand	CZ, DK, FR, ES-AND, UK-SCO
To promote export of organic products	DK, FR, UK-SCO
To promote organics across many public institutions	DE, DK, ES-AND, UK-SCO
To support the organic business sector	CZ, DK, FR, ES-AND, UK-SCO
To speed up the transition to organic production	DE, DK, FR, UK-SCO
To reduce challenges in production and develop resilience	DK, FR, UK-SCO
To establish a stable, long-term-prosperous and competitive market for organic products in harmony with OF principles	DK, FR,
To educate and train the actors of the whole chain	FR, ES-AND, UK-SCO,



# Quantitative targets

- **Many plans only have qualitative targets/objectives**
- **Some have very ambitious (unrealistic) targets**
- **Other have dropped specific quantitative targets (e.g. DK) or extended the deadlines (e.g. CZ)**
- The **Estonian** plan includes many targets that can be monitored
  - ◆ 50% increase in the proportion of organic farming production compared to total production of Estonian agriculture since 2014
  - ◆ 65% increase in the Net Value Added (€) per labour unit in organic farming compared to 2013).
  - ◆ 20% increase in the proportion of frequent (weekly) organic food consumers,
  - ◆ 220 enterprises engaged in organic food preparation and processing
  - ◆ tripling of the value of the products processed in organic processing units compared to 2013.



# Implementation

- Lasts from one up to eight years
- Influenced by changes in Government with some notable exceptions (e.g. Czech Republic, Denmark)
- Does not necessarily related to CAP cycles
- Most OAP refer to CAP payments

**Specific budgets** for the Action Plan only in Denmark and France, in the other case study countries not yet decided.

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## Monitoring/ Evaluation

- **Is important to learn what works, continuously and when a plan period finishes**
- **Not well developed in most current plans**
- **Very few examples of formal evaluations**

Three successive OAPs in the Czech Republic, each based on analysis of the former plan using SWOTS.

In the German strategy process, the sequence "analysis, concept development and implementation" is performed separately for each of the 7 Action Fields

# Transparency and communication



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- BW** Institute of Betriebswirtschaft
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## Recommendation for organic stakeholders

**An Organic Action Plan is a strategic instrument for achieving organic sector goals in the context of wider policy goals**

- *For policymakers, a key consideration for supporting the organic sector through an Action Plan will be the contribution of the organic sector to meeting overarching policy goals.*
- *This includes biodiversity, soil protection and climate change strategies, health and well-being, clean water, a reduction in antibiotic use, green growth and job creation.*

## 2<sup>nd</sup> recommendation for organic stakeholders

### Aim for broad stakeholder participation to support Organic Action Plan development and implementation

- *All actors in the organic supply chains and the sector should aim to work together to reach a common position on the political process at an early stage*
- *Environmental NGOs can be good allies*
- *Involving actors from the conventional agri-food sector is likely to lead to wider political acceptance*
- *Synergies through public-private partnerships can help achieving more with less funding*
- *Examples (CZ, DK) show that continuity can be achieved despite change in government*

## Four general recommendations

### Effective Organic Action Plans should:

- identify and address the specific needs of the organic sector in the country or region;
- have a specific budget and sufficient human resources for consultation, implementation and communication;
- use a broad set of instruments that tackle the organic sector's supply and demand needs;
- integrate regular monitoring and evaluation.

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