



Further development of Organic Farming Policy in Europe, with Particular Emphasis on EU Enlargement

The EU-CEE-OFP project aims to identify how the complementary development of Organic Farming in both existing EU states, Switzerland, and in Central and Eastern European (CEE) Accession states can be fostered through policy design and innovation.

Addressing the issue of complementarity requires a detailed knowledge of present conditions at both production and policy levels. At the production level, it is necessary to gather data on the structure and development of the OF sector. At the policy level, it is necessary to know the existing policy measures and their impacts on that structure in order to identify policy instruments that are successful or have the desired impacts.

Organic Farming Policy activities will be analysed

Organic Farming Policy activities in both EU and CEE Accession states will be analysed in detail, recognising the two very different points from which the states have started with organic farming and the very different conditions under which their agricultural sectors operate. The main outcome of the project for policy makers will be:

- An evaluation of whether the conditions for the establishment and effective operation of the necessary political institutions charged with elaborating OFP exist, and
- How they can be further developed in a complementary way.

To prepare such a policy recommendation, lessons learnt from the EU experience in elaborating and co-ordinating OF related aspects of Agenda 2000 need to be assessed and a more detailed picture of the dynamics of OF development in CEE states is required.

Specific objectives

The overall goal of defining parameters to guide the further development of European OFP can be divided into the following objectives:

1. Evaluate the overall impact of implementing organic policy measures on OF in EU states and Switzerland.
2. Evaluate the regional/spatial impact of existing and potential OF relevant policies on farm structures and the pattern of production in EU states and Switzerland.
3. Describe the development of OF and analyse its relationship to the policy and regulatory environment in CEE Accession states.
4. Analyse the extent of development and implementation of regulations for organic farming as well as the domestic and export markets for organic products in CEE Accession states.
5. Model and analyse the farm level economic impacts of OFP and Agenda 2000 implementation as well as the EU enlargement in selected European countries.
6. Analyse the capacity of relevant policy networks to establish and operate an 'OF Action Plan' process and the acceptance by policy actors of 'successful' or 'potentially successful' OFP instruments.
7. Involve CEE, EU and EU Commission and national policymakers in identifying the parameters that could guide the further development of European OFP post EU-expansion in current EU states, Switzerland and CEE Accession states in a complementary manner.



The project will be undertaken in four broad phases

In line with the objectives identified earlier, the project will be undertaken in four broad phases, which includes a total of seven workpackages. The selection of countries that will be investigated varies from phase to phase and is presented below:

Phase 1

Phase 1, incorporating Workpackage 1 and 2, investigates all EU states and Switzerland.

Workpackage 1 will document policies applied in these states and will analyse comparatively the development of OF between the periods 1997-1999 and 2000-2003 to determine the impact of OF policy measures implemented (including changes during these periods). In *Workpackage 2* regional data on organic production will be collected.

Phase 2

Phase 2, incorporating Workpackage 3 and 4 investigates all CEE Accession states. *Workpackage 3* examines the development of OF and the current policy and regulatory environment of OF in CEE Accession states. Further, it examines whether the set of potential policy initiatives, instruments and institutional developments recommended for use in the EU to obtain sustainable growth of OF is valid in examined CEE states. *Workpackage 4* will identify the development of domestic regulations for organic agriculture and domestic markets for organic products. These are two areas considered to be important foundations for the development of the OF sector, which have not been covered by other research to the same extent as for EU member states.

Phase 3

Based on the outcomes of these two concurrent phases, *Phase 3*, incorporating Workpackages 5 and 6, is designed as an in-depth analyses of two relevant issues that concerns both EU and CEE countries. In *Workpackage 5*, the impacts of the Agenda 2000 reform on profitability and relative competitiveness as well as the possible financial and structural impacts of EU enlargement on organic farms will be examined. In *Workpackage 6*, the 'political conditions' for the development of OFP and the 'political feasibility' of changing OF relevant policy instruments will be analysed by

examining the capacity of the existing national policy process and actors to successfully implement institutional reforms (e.g. OF Action Plan process).

Phase 4

Phase 4 consists of *Workpackage 7* and will draw together policymakers from the European Commission, EU and CEE states, Switzerland and other stakeholders. All states that are investigated in phase 3 will also be involved in this phase that is designed as an integrative part of the project with in total three workshop series at national and EU level.



The project will cover all EU-15 member states, Switzerland and CEE Accession states (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia)

Detailed research efforts will be concentrated on the following selected countries:

- Austria, Denmark, Switzerland Germany, the United Kingdom and Italy
- The Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia

Facts on EU-CEE-OFP-project

The full title of the project is: "Further development of Organic Farming Policy in Europe, with Particular Emphasis on EU Enlargement". The work is supported by the EU Commission under the 5th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development Quality of Life and Management of Living Resources.

Project partners

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Universität Hohenheim, DE

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How to follow the project

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The primary website for the EU-CEE-OFP project is at:

<http://www.irs.aber.ac.uk/EUCEEOFp/index.html>

As the project evolves, seminar programmes, proceedings, reports etc. will be available on the website.

The first project reports which have been delivered to the European Commission are now available on the website:

- Report on Harmonisation of Regulations and Standards for Organic Agriculture in the Central and Eastern Europe Accession Countries and the European Union
- Development of Organic Farming and the Policy Environment in Central and Eastern European Accession States, 1997-2002
- Report on the development of political institutions involved in policy elaborations in organic farming for selected European states

The results of the first series of national workshops examining the effectiveness of current policy instruments and proposals for future policy can also be accessed from the website.