

EUROPEAN ORGANIC AWARDS 2022

LAUNCHED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

The European Commission has launched for the first time the European Organic Awards rewarding different actors who greatly contribute to enhancing, developing and stimulating the organic value chain.

Applications must be submitted from 25 March 2022 to 8 June 2022 via the links available in the award categories section on the European Commission webpage.

The Awards are jointly organized by the European Commission, the European Economic and Social Committee, the European Committee of the Regions, IFOAM Organics Europe and COPA-COGECA.

Increases in organic farming, aquaculture and food contribute greatly to reductions in the use of chemical fertilisers, pesticides and anti-microbials and have positive effects on our climate, the environment, biodiversity and animal welfare. Organic production has been identified as playing a key role in the achievement of the objectives of the [European Green Deal](#), the [Farm to Fork strategy](#) and the [Biodiversity strategy](#). For this reason, the Commission has defined a target of 25% of EU agricultural land under organic farming by 2030 and a significant increase in organic aquaculture. Moreover, to stimulate organic production and consumer demand for organic products the Commission has adopted the [Action Plan for the Development of Organic Production](#) in March 2021, aiming at increasing public awareness of the characteristics and benefits of organic production.

For this purpose, the Action Plan includes the launch of annual awards recognizing excellence in the organic value chain. They aim to reward the best and most innovative organic actors, contributing to the reduction of agriculture's impact on the environment and climate, and to the achievement of EU Biodiversity and Farm to Fork strategies.

The EU Organic Awards scheme comprises 7 categories. They acknowledge different actors along the organic value chain, that developed an excellent, innovative, sustainable and inspiring project producing real added value for organic production and consumption.

Online application forms will be available on 25 March 2022, but all interested actors can start preparing their submission using the *preview application forms* presented in the website for every category:

- Best organic farmer
- Best organic city
- Best organic region
- Best organic bio-district
- Best organic SME
- Best organic food retailer
- Best organic restaurant



Every actor who has developed and implemented, or is still implementing an innovative, sustainable and replicable project for organic production in the EU, can apply for the 2022 EU Organic Awards. The European Commission's website presents more information about the different categories, the application procedure, and the general eligibility criteria.

All applications will be assessed by the EU Organic Awards Jury against the following horizontal award criteria:

- Excellence: The awardee must have developed an excellent initiative producing real added value, good results and impact for organic production.
- Innovative character of the project which should demonstrate new approaches, new organizational methods, or the development of new (or significantly) improved results for organics.
- Sustainability pillars (environmental, social and economic) of the project and their future as a self-standing initiative.
- Transferability and possibility to replicate the project elsewhere in the EU: The project shall demonstrate that it represents good practice in a wider EU context and that it inspires or could inspire other places.

The awards winners will be celebrated in the framework of the European Union Organic Day on 23 September 2022. The winners will receive a non-financial recognition award and greater public visibility for their project.

[IFOAM Organics Europe](#), which is one of the organizers of the Award and celebrates its twenty years of activity for the promotion of organic production in the European countries, is disseminating information to all its members to encourage their participation. Also [Copa-Cogeca](#), the European voice of farmers and agri-food cooperatives, promotes the participation of its partners in this initiative.

To know more and participate

[EU Organic Awards in European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

[Launch of the EU organic awards | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

[Organics at a glance | European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)

[European Organic Awards 2022 in IFOAM website](#)

[20 years anniversary of IFOAM Organics Europe](#)

[EU Organic Awards in Copa Cogeca \(copa-cogeca.eu\)](#)

[European Economic and Social Committee](#)

