



8th European Organic Congress
10 – 12 September 2014
Bari, Italy

Implementing innovative ecological solutions for farmers and rural communities

Rural Development Programmes - European Innovation Partnership - Organic Regulation Review

European organic sector stakeholders will gather on 10-12 September in Bari, Italy, for the [8th European Organic Congress](#) to meet policymakers and decision makers from the Italian EU Presidency, the European Commission, and Parliament to discuss the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead for EU organic food and farming. The Congress will focus on new Rural Development Programmes, the European Innovation Partnership for Agriculture and the Organic Regulation Review.

The new CAP and national Rural Development Programmes in 2015

Member states and regions will launch Rural Development Programmes under the new EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in 2015. One of aims of the 8th European Organic Congress is to discuss the impact on farmers and rural communities throughout Europe and to articulate ideas how to use the new programmes to stimulate greater delivery of public goods and green job creation.

The opportunities of the European Innovation Partnership for Agriculture

The European Innovation Partnership for Agriculture (EIP-AGRI) aims to bring rural development, farming and research together. It presents many opportunities and can be used to put eco-functional intensification at the heart of the EU productivity and sustainability objectives. How will this new policy instrument be implemented? How can organic and agro-ecological approaches contribute to its development? Many farmers, experts and political representatives attending the Congress in Bari can share solutions.

The new European Organic Regulation

The European Commission [has presented](#) a new organic legislative proposal to the European Parliament and AGRI Council that will be determined during the co-decision process. The organic sector faces the prospect of considerable regulatory changes in the coming years. The Congress is an opportunity for the organic stakeholders to reach out to policymakers and decision makers as well as the general public to offer solutions for how the new Regulation can help to make Europe more organic and drive innovation in sustainable food production.

The 8th European Organic Congress is organised by [IFOAM EU](#), the [CIHEAM-IAM Bari \(Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Bari\)](#), the [Italian Ministry of Agriculture](#) and the Italian EU Presidency.

[Online registration](#) is open (20% early bird discount until 20 May) and the programme is available on the [8EOC website](#).

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