

**MOAN - MEDITERRANEAN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE NETWORK
6TH NETWORK MEETING**

**BUILDING TRUST IN ORGANIC CONTROL SYSTEMS FOR BETTER TRADE
RELATIONS: A MEDITERRANEAN PERSPECTIVE**

Skopje, 15-17 May 2012

BACKGROUND

The 6th MOAN meeting will be held in Skopje, MKD on 15-17 May 2012. As usual, it will be a three-day meeting including one-day international workshop, one-day session devoted to the presentation of the organic sector of the hosting country and to a technical visit and an internal Network meeting for updates and discussion of the following activities.

Building on the outcomes of the 5th MOAN meeting held in Tunisia in 2009 (<http://moan.iamb.it>), with the help of international experts and the contribution of Network members, the first day international workshop will focus on institutional trust building mechanisms in trade relations, addressing, more specifically, some timely issues like:

- ✓ EU Member States' concern for quality of controls in Third Countries and competition of organic imports from Third Countries flooding the domestic and EU markets;
- ✓ Mediterranean Third countries' interest for barriers reduction in organic trade (i.e. easier access to EU markets) and capacity building in the interaction with EU and MS institutions;
- ✓ some Mediterranean Third countries' interest in setting up an organic market supervision and surveillance system to allow for diversification of the product range in the national organic market;
- ✓ all Network countries' interest in creating and consolidating good (extra- and intra-regional) trade relations based on reliable and transparent control systems, reliable data on organic trade and effective communication mechanisms.

OBJECTIVES

With a specific Euro-Med geographical focus the international workshop aims to:

- ✓ provide participants an overview of governmental rules and schemes affecting organic trade relations;
- ✓ deepen the understanding of roles and challenges of Competent Authorities in organic controls to build better trade relations;
- ✓ share knowledge and experience about existing (good and bad) practices and lessons learnt in irregularities/infringements management, communication (formal and informal) procedures and organic trade data management;
- ✓ discuss opportunities for public-private collaboration in organic controls;
- ✓ identify areas of common interest for drafting cooperation projects.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- ✓ Improved understanding among Network members of challenges and opportunities associated to rules and schemes affecting the organic trade.
- ✓ Identification of best practices in organic market supervision and surveillance and data collection for future reference in: *i)* developing national organic systems; *ii)* drafting institutional agreements; *iii)* designing cooperation initiatives.
- ✓ Fostering partnerships between North and South as well as among Southern Mediterranean countries for a better trade of organic products.

PROGRAMME

Monday, May 14th

Arrival to Skopje

Accommodation at Hotel Holiday Inn

Dinner at hotel

Tuesday, May 15th

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON: "BUILDING TRUST IN ORGANIC CONTROL SYSTEMS FOR BETTER TRADE RELATIONS: A MEDITERRANEAN PERSPECTIVE"

Morning

09:00 – 09:30 Welcome note

*MAFWE official representatives/minister
CIHEAM and MAIB representatives*

SESSION 1

09:30 – 13:00 CONFERENCE SESSION

Chairperson: *Mohamed Ben Khédher, CTAB (Technical center for organic agriculture), TUN and MOAN Steering Committee*

09:30 – 10.30 ACHIEVING EQUIVALENCE: HOW CAN GOVERNMENTS CONTRIBUTE TO ENHANCE MARKET ACCESS FOR ORGANIC PRODUCTS?

Would time be mature for a Mediterranean organic regional standard? Recommendations from ITF/GOMA and IFOAM Family of Standards approaches

David Gould, IFOAM (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements)

10:30 – 11:00 ROLES AND CHALLENGES FOR COMPETENT AUTHORITIES IN ORGANIC CONTROLS FOR BETTER TRADE RELATIONS.

Lessons learnt from EU experience on good practices in irregularities and infringements management and communication

Robin Fransella, DEFRA (United Kingdom Government Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs)

11:00 – 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 12:00 CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT AND ENFORCEMENT.

Insights from an accreditation body's perspective and experience

David Crucefix, IOAS (International Organic Accreditation Service)

12:00 – 12:30 IMPROVED ORGANIC TRADE DATA FOR A BETTER PLANNING OF THE ORGANIC SECTOR DEVELOPMENT.

Insights from recent and future research work

Susanne Padel, ORC (Organic Research Centre), GBR

12:30 – 13:00 Questions and Debate

13:00 – 14:30 Lunch break

Afternoon

SESSION 2

14:30 – 17:00 DISCUSSION ROUNDS

Chairperson: *Uygun Aksoy, Ege University Faculty of Agriculture, TUR and MOAN Steering Committee*

(including invited contributions from MOAN country delegates and representatives of some CBs working in the Mediterranean and Balkans)

14:30 – 15:30 ROUND 1: Best practices and lessons learnt in communication and irregularities and infringements management in MOAN member countries

15:30 – 16:00 Coffee break

16:00 – 17:00 ROUND 2: Best practices and lessons learnt in organic trade data management in MOAN member countries

SESSION 3

17:30 – 18:00 WORKSHOP CONCLUSIONS

MOAN Steering Committee

Evening

18:15 – 20:00 Guided tour in Skopje

20:30 Official Dinner with the minister of agriculture in the national restaurant with traditional Macedonian food

Wednesday, May 16th

Morning

SESSION 4 **09:00 – 10:15** **WORKSHOP ON:**
ORGANIC DATA NETWORK PROJECT OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES AND MOAN CONTRIBUTION
facilitated by Susanne Padel, ORC (Organic Research Centre), United Kingdom

SESSION 5 **10:15 – 12:00** **ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN MKD: HISTORY, MAIN ACTORS, CURRENT TRENDS AND PROSPECTS**
facilitated by Olivera Bicikliski, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, MKD

10:15 – 10:30 **PRESENTATION OF THE MACEDONIAN ORGANIC SECTOR**

10:30 – 11:00 **CERTIFICATION BODIES – BALKAN BIOCERT AND PROCERT**

11:00 – 11:15 **INSTITUTE FOR ACCREDITATION OF MKD (IARM)**

11:15 – 11:30 **MACEDONIAN ORGANIC PRODUCERS FEDERATION (FPOPM)**

11:30 – 11:45 **SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN ORGANIC AGRICULTURE**

Representatives from University Goce Delcev, Stip

11:45 – 12:00 **THE REGIONAL RURAL DEVELOPMENT STANDING WORKING GROUP IN SOUTH-EAST EUROPE-NETWORKING OF THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE FROM SOUTH-EAST EUROPE**

12:00 – 13:30 **Lunch break**

Afternoon

SESSION 6 **13:30 – 14:30** **MOAN INTERNAL MEETING:**
Updates on national organic statistics and support policies; proposals for the next meeting
facilitated by MOAN Coordination Committee

14:30 – 15:00 **Coffee break**

SESSION 7 **15:00 – 17:00** **WORKSHOP ON:**
QUALITY AND ORIGIN-BASED PRODUCTS IN THE BALKAN AREA: SYNERGIES WITH ORGANIC AND PROSPECTS FOR DEVELOPMENT (MOANPlus event); with the participation of selected public and private actors operating in the field of quality and origin-based products in the Balkan area.
facilitated by Lahcen Kenny, IAV-Hassan II, MAR and MOAN Steering Committee

17:00 – 19:00 **TECHNICAL TRIP**



MOAN

visit to an organic farm/complex Kamnik

Free evening

Thursday, May 17th

08:00 – 20:00 TECHNICAL TRIP TO OHRID LAKE (visit to an organic farm on the way)

Dinner at hotel

Friday, May 18th

Departure from Skopje