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## MEETING REPORT

### The meeting location and topic

The ninth MOAN meeting was held in Chania, Crete on October 23-27, 2017 at Maich Institute the Greek brother institute of CIHEAM Bari. The thematic topic of this assembly was the EU organic regulation and its application in EU and non-EU countries.

The three-day gathering (Annex 1) included a half day dedicated to the organic sector of the hosting country, one day technical visit, a half day of MOAN internal meeting and updates about the countries organic sector and one day workshop co-organised with IFOAM EU to discuss the proposal for the new EU organic regulation.

This meeting gathered twenty nine (29) participants: eighteen (18) country representatives from MOAN countries, the four (4) members of MOAN secretariat, two (2) IFOAM EU experts, and four (4) speakers from the Greek organic sector (Annex 2).

### The meeting major facts

#### Day 1, morning – presentation of the Greek organic sector

The meeting started at 09.20 with the welcome addresses of the local authorities; the regional governor of Crete, the vice mayor of Chania, the Deputy Minister on behalf of the Ministry Rural Development and Food, *Ioannis Tsironis* and the director of Maich *George Baourakis*. The CIHEAM Bari director, *Maurizio Raeli* closed the welcoming notes highlighting the role that MOAN network can play in the Mediterranean organic sector.

*Lina Al-Bitar*, from MOAN secretariat outlined the achievements of the Network and its interactions with the field of research, cooperation, education and training within the Mediterranean.

*Eduardo Cuoco*, the director of IFOAM EU who was not able to join intervened, through a skype video call, introducing the IFOAM EU's Vision 2030 and its three cornerstones (Organic on every table, Improve – Inspire – Deliver and Fair play – Fair pay) explaining the IFOAM EU roadmap toward sustainable food and farming systems.

*Charalampos Kasimis*, the SG of Agricultural Policy and Management of EU funds at the Hellenic Ministry of Rural Development and Food (MRDF) presented the Hellenic Rural Development Program 2014-2020 and its prospects pointing out the measures from which the organic sector directly and indirectly benefit.

*Tzavara Eleni*, the head of the Crop Production Department within the Directorate of Quality Systems, Organic Farming & GIs, of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food gave an

overview of the organic sector in Greece referring to its history, statistics and control system with an emphasis to the organic crop production sector.

Subsequently, Gagiogiakis *Athanasios*, from the Animal Production and Fish Farming Department of the Ministry of Rural Development and Food gave details about the organic animal and processing sectors. He concluded his intervention with a section on the measures of the national RDP specifically concerning the organic sector.

*Emmanouil Kabourakis*, gave an outline of the organic farming sector in Crete from its beginnings and tackling its fields of production, processing, certification, marketing as well as the advisory, training and education related programs and prospects.

*Tzinaki Eleni*, from the export company ASPERSA bio-kriti provided an insight into the export oriented marketing experience of high quality organic vegetables and fruits guaranteed by the scrutinizing quality tests her company applies to their contract farms in Crete.

After the presentations, the audience addressed several questions mainly regarding the measures of the RDP targeting the organic and the ASPERSA company initiative.

### **Day 1, afternoon - MOAN internal meeting**

After lunch break, the internal MOAN meeting took place and consisted of a round-table exchange of news and updates related to the organic sector in each country.

Notes were taken by MOAN secretariat and will be shared afterwards with members for content check.

After the updates exchange, three countries proposed to host the 10<sup>th</sup> MOAN meeting in 2018:

- Lebanon, period preferably between September-October
- Algeria, period preferably between October - December
- Montenegro, no particular preference

The three country representatives, committed to get formal approval for the meeting, and will respectively communicate their Minister's response to MOAN Secretariat by end-December 2017. Details will be finalised and communicated to MOAN General Assembly as soon as all the proposed hosting countries give feedback.

Some themes and topics to be covered were also proposed:

- local market
- tools to boost the action plan/regulation issues
- how to meet organic with the ecological principles and sustainable agriculture

### **Day 2 – workshop on EU organic regulation and its applications**

The second day was entirely dedicated to the International workshop on “EU organic regulation and its application in EU and non-EU countries”, facilitated by IFOAM EU experts.

The morning session started with a brief presentation by *Emanuele Busacca* from IFOAM EU on the current EU import regime, compliance and equivalence, and the changes proposed in the new EU regulation proposal followed by an open discussion on the topic.

Then the boot camp 1 started with the formation of a two working groups on residue management. The group discussion was longer than previewed and the session ended by lunchtime.

After lunch break, the working session gathered the two groups and discussion on the topics of group certification and seed database involved all the presents. The output of the discussion are detailed in Annex 3.

### **Day 3 - technical visit**

The technical tour started with a visit to the Monastery of Chrysopigi, at a short distance from Chania. A coenobitic community of sisters manages the Monastery, dedicated to our Lady of the Life-Giving Spring, popularly known as '*Chrysopigi*', the Golden Fountain. Apart from being a place of pilgrimage and of importance for the Greek Church, it is famous for its organic olive, olive oil and soap production as well as for raising ecological consciousness through environmental education program for schoolchildren and students, as well as other groups of young people. The sisters cultivate also the Monastery lands to provide food for the community and its visitors.

The next step was the visit to the Manousakis Winery in Vatolakkos, a winery that started with the idea of an immigrated man who wanted to invest in an ecologically, high quality and new technology winemaking in his hometown. Since the field was inaccessible due to the pouring rain, the tour included a visit to the pressing and storage unit, the cave where wine is stored, and the bottling area. It was concluded with a wine tasting and a very rich and flavoursome buffet.

Subsequently, the program previewed a lunch break, after which the field trip was interrupted due to the adverse weather conditions.

Once back to Maich, MOAN secretariat convened for an unscheduled round table meeting to confer about the approval issue of the MOAN Document for the network's mission, activities, and governing rules presented and discussed last June in Paris, as well as about other outstanding issues of the network.

The animated discussion, led to defining the situation of the follow up on the MOAN document. Four different situations emerged:

- **document officially approved** no need for further follow-up **(8)**: Egypt, France, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine, Portugal, Spain and Tunisia
- **document to be sent again to the MOAN representative (4)**: Algeria, Italy and Turkey
- **representative will follow up on his/her own** and update MOAN secretariat **(2)**: FYROM, Lebanon and Serbia
- **document cannot be officially approved (2)**: Slovenia and Malta.

Representatives from Greece and Jordan were not present at this meeting. MOAN secretariat will follow up the issue directly with the representatives of these countries as well as with the other country representatives who did not participate to Chania's meeting (Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia).