



Design and testing  
new VET frameworks  
for the transfer and recognition  
of organic livestock  
management skills in Europe



Newsletter No. 2

# LIVORG

## Design and testing new VET frameworks for the transfer and recognition of organic livestock management skills in Europe

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Dear readers,

the first nine months of the project LivOrg are over. The time was mainly used for dissemination purposes, to introduce the project to relevant stakeholders, create and maintain the LivOrg Facebook site and prepare two of the main deliveries of the project: the Pilot VET curriculum for organic livestock production and Laboratories to support the business transition “from fathers to sons/daughters” and to support members of ethnic minorities to work in the organic livestock sector, respectively.

A second partnership meeting also took place during this summer. We would like to use this Newsletter to present the main outcomes of the second partnership meeting and inform about the structure and content of the upcoming Pilot Courses and Counselling Laboratories.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Project meeting in Valladolid - 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014

The second transnational partnership meeting of the project LivOrg was held in Valladolid, Spain, on 14 and 15 July



2014 and was organized by the Spanish partner INFODEF. One of the main outcomes of the meeting was the finalization of the General Framework for the 80 hour Pilot Course and Counselling Laboratories (see below) that will begin in September / October 2014. The General Framework was established during the previous months due to the contribution of all partners and the technical advice of the German partner EkoConnect. During the first day of the meeting the partners worked in two small groups to assess and determine the learning outcomes (skills, knowledge and competences) for the Pilot Courses and Counselling Laboratories. This will be the basis for creating the national training plans. In addition to knowledge transfer in class and on the farm the training methods of Pilot Courses and Laboratories will be supplemented by an E-learning module. Furthermore, outdoor activities will be videotaped to produce video lessons. The content and work extents of both modules were set during the meeting.

Abb. 1: Partners responsible for implementing the Pilot Course discussing the final General Framework.



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The first part of the second working day was dedicated to the preparation of the Interim Report which has to be submitted to the Executive Agency in November. The lead partner, ERIFO, explained the rules that need to be followed to collect the necessary documents for the Interim Report after the first year of the project. During the last hours of the meeting, the partners analyzed the upcoming tasks and defined the deadlines according to the application form and the project state of art. At the end of the second working day the partners agreed on the third transnational meeting to be held in Dresden, Germany in February 2015. The meeting will be hosted by the German partner EkoConnect.



## Implementation of the Pilot Courses and Counselling Laboratories:

The Pilot Courses and Laboratories will start in September and October 2014. According to the results of the second partnership meeting the training content and training plans will be written now. The national training plan and the launch of the PILOT and LAB activities will be promoted through the Project channel (LivOrg Facebook Group) and social media, and website of each partner.

- **Pilot Courses (PILOTS):**

The Pilot course “Practitioner in Organic Livestock Management” with duration of 80 hours will be held in the following four partner countries: Greece, Italy, Germany and Estonia.

The target groups could differ between the partner countries and PILOT editions will be addressed to students, graduates and farmers but also to unemployed or inactive people.

In Germany the pilot course will be held in collaboration with the University of Cooperative Education Saxony - Dresden State Academy and Gaea e.V..

Each pilot course consists of **4 training units**:

1. Disease prevention and alternative treatment methods
2. Feeding and housing systems in organic livestock production
3. The set-up of an Organic Certification Action Plan for a company in conversion
4. The health and safety rules for the organic livestock management activities

The content of the training units will be taught and assessed by an integrated flexible blended approach in a formal and informal way: in class (30 hours), outdoor / on farm (45 hours) and via e-learning (5 hours).

▪ **Counselling Laboratories (LABS):**

During the project two LAB editions will be established. The aim of the Laboratories is the development of counselling methods to support the business transition “from parents to their children ” - to stimulate the “individual hidden entrepreneurial skills” (Intergenerational approach) and the development of innovative methods to support members of ethnic minorities to work in the sector of organic livestock production (Interethnic approach), respectively.

The Counselling Laboratories, also have duration of 80 hours, and will be implemented by the partners IPED from Poland and INFODEF, Spain.



Each Laboratory consists of **3 training units**:

Laboratory 1 (Interethnic approach):

1. Business plan for the set-up of a new Organic Farm
2. Entrepreneurial skills framework and entrepreneurial spirit through an interethnic organic farming environment
3. The administrative and legal frameworks to run and manage an organic farm

Laboratory 2 (Intergenerational approach):

1. The Business plan for further development of an Organic Farm
2. Entrepreneurial skills framework and entrepreneurial spirit through the intergeneration process of an organic farm
3. The administrative and legal frameworks to run and manage an organic farm

The content of the training units will be taught and assessed in class (10 hours), outdoor / on farm (20 hours) and via Business Incubator (50 hours). Business incubators are dedicated to start up and early-stage companies. Among others main services are mostly help with business basics, networking activities, marketing and management assistance.



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## Video lessons

During the Pilot Courses and Counselling Laboratories each partner will videotape the outdoor activities (learning on farm) in order to produce a **video lesson** with a length of 15 to 20 minutes each. At the second partnership meeting in Valladolid each partner choose a topic for the video lesson:

1. Organic livestock health management skills - EkoConnect e.V. (Germany)
2. Organic livestock process and sustainable development - MAICh - Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania (Greece)
3. Organic farming activities and health & safety - ENFAP Toscana (Italy)
4. The welfare and housing in the organic livestock activities - Estonian University of Life Science (Estonia)
5. Organic farming: tradition and innovation: an intergenerational matter - IPED (Poland)
6. Organic farming: entrepreneurship and inclusion - INFODEF (Spain)

Based on the produced video lessons ERIFO will extract and edit 6 video trailers to promote and disseminate the main results of the PILOT and LABS.



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