

WINNERS OF THE EUROPEAN ORGANIC AWARDS 2022

ORGANIZED BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

On 23 September 2022, the European Commission announced the eight winners of the first [EU Organic Awards](#). Coming from Austria, Belgium, Croatia, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and Sweden, all the different actors represent the growth and innovation of the European organic sector and value chain, and their contribution to reducing agriculture's impact on the climate and the environment.

The eight winners have been chosen from a pool of over 200 submissions from 26 Member States. The jury for the awards was composed of representatives from the Commission, the European Economic and Social Committee, the European Committee of the Regions, COPA-COGECA and IFOAM Organics Europe as well as representatives from the European Parliament and the Council of the EU.

The EU Organic Awards have been organized including 7 categories, acknowledging different actors along the organic value chain, that developed an excellent, innovative, sustainable and replicable project producing real added value for organic production and consumption.

[For each of the eight winners a video presentation is available on the website to know its practice:](#)

- *Best (female and male) organic farmer to.*
Nazaret Mateos Álvarez who runs in Spain an organic mushroom production site in the north of Spain. She developed a unique cultivation method maximising product quality while minimising input and cutting drastically the consumption of water.
David Pejić who runs in Croatia the oldest organic farm close to Zagreb, growing over 60 different crops. The farm is engaged in education, training and advisory activities with an on-site bakery and a restaurant as well.
- *Best organic region* to Occitanie in France. Organics is a priority for the development of Occitanie, in the south of France. Currently, 19% of all agricultural land is under organic farming, involving 608 285 hectares and 13 265 farms. The target is to achieve 30% of all agricultural land under organic farming by 2030. A comprehensive approach is taken, involving an inclusive regional governance and the complete value chain from production to consumption.
- *Best organic city* to Seeham, located in the northwest of Austria and member of the [Organic Cities Network Europe](#). Public canteens in the city, kindergartens and schools cook and serve 100% organic food. There is also an intensive collaboration with touristic infrastructures, bringing organics to gastronomy and hotels.
- *Best organic bio-district* to [Associazione Bio-Distretto Cilento](#) in Italy. This Bio-district invests in the sustainable and local production of food, linking tourism initiatives like bio-beaches and bio-trails to it, benefiting job creation, social cohesion and the revitalization of the area.



- *Best organic SME* to the [Goodvenience.bio](https://www.goodvenience.bio) in Germany. With its ten employees, this enterprise produces handcrafted and organic broths, soups, sauces, spices and oils. It puts a strong emphasis on sustainable, circular and innovative production and promoting healthy diets via a recipe blog and cooking videos.
- *Best organic retailer* to [La ferme à l'arbre de Liège](https://www.lafermealearbedeliège.be) in Belgium. This small-scale supermarket located on a farm, sells organic products such as meat and flour across the region since 1978. With a strong focus on sustainable and circular production, the company also uses green energy, avoids packaging and limits transport emissions by focusing on local procurement.
- *Best organic restaurant* to [Lilla Bjers](https://www.lillabjers.se) in Sweden. Located in Gotland island in the Baltic sea, Lilla Bjers is an organic farm and restaurant operating under the 'seed-to-plate' concept. 300 different crops are grown on a farm which preserves biodiversity and is free from fossil-fuel. The restaurant has become a hub for training young organic farmers and chefs.

The awards ceremony was organized on the EU Organic Day on 23 September 2022. The winners have been invited to an event in Brussels to collect their awards at the presence of institutional representatives including the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union, the European Economic and Social Committee, the European Committee of the Regions, COPA-COGECA and IFOAM Organics Europe. Providing examples of best practices, the winners have been able to explain their project to a broader public.

These Awards have been launched in 2021 in the framework of the European Union Action Plan for the Development of Organic Production. Increases in organic farming, aquaculture and food greatly contribute 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](https://ec.europa.eu/euro-observatory/en/organic), the [Farm to Fork strategy](https://ec.europa.eu/euro-observatory/en/organic) and the [Biodiversity strategy](https://ec.europa.eu/euro-observatory/en/organic). For this reason, the Commission has defined the 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](https://ec.europa.eu/euro-observatory/en/organic) in March 2021, aiming at increasing public awareness of the characteristics and benefits of organic production, 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.

To know more

[Winners of the EU organic awards](#)

[Article in agriculture.ec.europa.eu](https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu)

[Winners of EU Organic Awards in copa-cogeca.eu website](https://copa-cogeca.eu)

[Winners of the EU Organic Awards - IFOAM Organics Europe](#)

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

