



Progress Report: ROMANIA

Work Package: WP01 - Regulation & policy framework regarding production, use, and transparency of organic seed

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1. About the report

This report is part of the Work Package 01 of the [LIVESEED project](#), which explores EU Member States in terms of their implementation and best practices connected to the EU Organic Regulations, in the contexts of national regulatory and policy frameworks.

After the [Country Report on the National Visit](#) and the Report of the [Regional/National Workshop](#), this Progress Report shall, on one hand, reflect on actions taken by stakeholders ([blue tables](#)). Those actions have been formulated and committed to during the National workshop by the Declaration of Organic Seed (see Annex I in Report of the Regional/National Workshop), but such actions might also have been carried out by the stakeholders without having made a respective commitment before. On the other hand, this report shall elaborate developments in regulation compared to the previous reports, ergo the previous years, of the LIVESEED project ([green tables](#)).

To promote an easy assesment, actions and developments are sub-categorized into different topics, similar to those used in the workshop report.

This report has been produced in the framework of the Horizon 2020-funded project LIVESEED. The main aim of LIVESEED is to boost the production and use of organic seeds and plant breeding for organic agriculture across Europe. It is co-ordinated by IFOAM EU, and its scientific coordinator is FIBL-CH.

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2. Evaluation of Progress

1.1. Database

1.1.1. Committed actions of the Declaration of Organic Seeds

The Tulcea farmers send a letter to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development suggesting the possibilities for improvement of the database

The Tulcea farmers did not send to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development the letter suggesting possibility for improvement of the seeds database.	Period / Date
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1.1.2. Regulatory and general developments concerning the database

Regulatory and general developments compared to previous years of the LIVESEED project

The Agriculture Ministry improved its internal management system of organic agriculture operators but not yet the seeds database operability and user-friendly interface. This is due to the fact that the organic seeds availability is low. A lot of efforts are still needed to tackle the basic concerns of organic agriculture and organic seed production.

There are several problems:

1. The cost justification. The ministry has the perception that a better seed database will not solve the problem of organic seeds availability.
2. There's a lack of data on the amount of seeds needed. Information is needed on the amount of seed that farmer uses and the ratio of farm-saved seed and seed from external sources.

Period / Date

1.2. Derogations

1.2.1. Regulatory and general developments concerning derogations

Regulatory and general developments compared to previous years of the LIVESEED project

Romania is adapting its internal regulations to sustain more organic farmers and to comply the EU Regulation. Organic farmers have been consulted to modify the internal Ministry Order for 1253/2013 about the rules for operators registration in organic agriculture.

Period / Date

1.3. Research

1.3.1. Committed Actions of the Declaration of Organic Seeds

The Tulcea farmers set up trials on a surface of 58 ha for organic inputs, including different organic varieties

The process is on-going. The land proposed for trials was not in the farmer's property and it is not organic. It has been leased and started the conversion for organic agriculture.	Period / Date
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1.4. Training/Information/Communication

1.4.1. Committed Actions of the Declaration of Organic Seeds

Certification bodies actively inform organic producers about the organic seeds database existence	
Certification bodies actively inform organic producers about organic seeds database existence and organic seeds regulation during the annual inspection.	Period / Date
Participants of this workshop are actively involved in the debates regarding the implementation of the new Organic Regulation	
Participants of the LIVESEED National Workshop were actively involved in implementation of the new Organic Regulation , mainly, in the first two month of 2020, like Eco-Start symposium at Iasi, on 28.02.2020 https://m.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=305272627496111&id=101421377881238&set=a.140394560650586&source=48&refid=13&tn=%2B%3D	Period / Date
Teodor Terpez (Permaculture Institute) initiates a social media platform that will help the exchange of information between organic seed producers and farmers about organic seed offers and demands	
A facebook platform was established (seed house): https://www.facebook.com/casasemintelor/ It is a platform for seed savers in Romania. It is a community seed bank. One of their objectives is to cultivate conservation varieties in organic agriculture and organic seed.	Period / Date
Tulcea farmers organize a meeting in the coming year in Tulcea on the topic of organic seeds	
The meeting of Tulcea farmers was postponed in the end of 2020, due to Covid-19.	Period / Date
Marius Casis (Romanian Association for Sustainable Agriculture) organizes a special session on Organic Seeds at the 3rd edition of organic agriculture fair ECO-INT Natural Taste	
The 3 rd edition of organic agriculture fair ECO-INT Natural took place in Bacau, on 11 – 12 October 2019. During this meeting, there was a presentation and discussion on organic seed.	Period / Date

1.5. Production and Use of Organic Seeds

1.5.1. Committed Actions of the Declaration of Organic Seeds

Donau Soja offers support for specific soybean seed multiplication of organic seeds if it will be requested from producers	
Reflection on developments/progress: https://www.facebook.com/dragos.costin.522/videos/3343826122378599/	Period / Date

1.6. Other

1.6.1. Committed Actions of the Declaration of Organic Seeds

NARDI Fundulea researchers offer adapted seeds and technical support for organic agriculture	
NARDI Fundulea offered technical support of organic farmers. A special session was organised as well as a field day with organic farmers, authorities, researchers and breeders in which the LIVESEED plots of organic research centre were presented. This session has stimulated questions about organic agriculture practice and policy.	2019-2020



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<p>https://www.facebook.com/lapar2019/posts/2915195265255600</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/lapar2019/posts/2911979118910548</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/lapar2019/posts/2911772952264498</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/cameraagricolanationala.2015/posts/1981838921946301</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/cameraagricolanationala.2015/posts/1981845838612276</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=58j8rjsjVUo&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR3nX_BAnTpQUqmXoRveSYNinl3utMqjJf_C_PcCN4TvWYFTL6U9-GlPcg</p> <p>https://agro-tv.ro/agricultura-ecologica-o-noua-provocare-pentru-romania-emil-dumitru-este-nevoie-de-masuri-de-sprijin-speciale/?fbclid=IwAR3AjkDEJRpGwZ9lr2QmpqgilGAeT8-esfCVayZQtvH3j20q5DEwdG2we80</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutul National de Cercetare-Dezvoltare Agricola (NARDI) Fundulea/Romania organized the traditional “Field Day of the Wheat and Barley ” on 25 June 2020, together with LAPAR, the biggest farmers Association in Romania. The number of participants had to be limited due to COVID restrictions. • Farmers, policy makers, researchers and media visited the LIVESEED experiments. Screening field trials of wheat and barley genotypes for T2.1.1, „Development of new testing and organisational models for high quality seeds for the organic sector” and T3.2.2. "New breeding methods and co-design approaches for optimised perennial crop mixtures, with a focus on grass/legume mixtures (alfalfa and red clover x Lolium, Dactylis, Festuca and Trifolium alexandrinum). • The participants remarked the heterogeneous materials – dynamic populations and CCPS, some old genotypes from wheat collection and the very low number of ears in relation to plants/m². This could be due to extreme dry spring and other limiting factors of the soil that are still unknown. 	
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1.6.2. Non-committed, concrete actions by stakeholders (may be left empty)

NARDI Fundulea activities	(Progress)
<p>Research, Innovation and Technological Assistance Centre for Organic Farming of NARDI Fundulea cultivates each year about 12 ha pre-base organic seeds of wheat, soybean, camelina, alfalfa, coriander or Silybum marianum and open pollinated maize and sunflower, that are available to organic farmers from different regions of Romania. In this organic research centre, over 300 crop varieties are tested of wheat, barley, triticale, spelt, oats, maize, millet, peas, lentil, soybean, alfalfa, sunflower, linseed, camelina and herbs plants. Also, different sowing times, crop rotations and organic inputs are tested.</p>	<p>2019-2020</p>



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3. Summary of Progress

- The Agriculture Ministry improved its internal management system of organic agriculture operators but not yet the operability and user-friendly interface of the seed database. This is also because the Ministry does not share the perception that a database can make a substantial change to increase the production and use of organic seed. In general, more information is needed on the use and production of seed by organic farmers in Romania. This information could be collected in a system that is connected to a future Romanian seed database.
- In general, Romania is still very much in a process of adapting its procedures to the EU Organic Regulation. This implies that Romania progresses at a different pace than other Member States regarding organic seeds.
- Efforts have been started to conduct testing trials under organic conditions. As the land is still in-conversion, first results are not expected soon.
- Information sharing and communication on organic seeds has increased since the LIVESEED national workshop in Rumania.
- Activities such as a field day with organic farmers, authorities, researchers and breeders, in which the LIVESEED plots of organic research centre were presented, showed that these sessions stimulate questions and discussion about practices of organic agriculture and policy.



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Annex I: Overview of Organic Regulation

The following tables show relevant articles in the organic regulation and give support to the evaluation on national developments/progresses in this report.

1.1. Database (T1)

EC No 889/2008	
Article 48: Database	<p>1. Each Member State shall ensure that a computerised database is established for the listing of the varieties for which seed or seed potatoes obtained by the organic production method are available on its territory.</p> <p>2. The database shall be managed either by the competent authority of the Member State or by an authority or body designated for this purpose by the Member State, hereinafter referred to as 'manager of the database'. Member States may also designate an authority or a private body in another country.</p>
Article 49: Registration	<p>3. Each Member State shall decide in which period of the year the database has to be regularly updated for each species or group of species cultivated on its territory. The database shall hold information with regard to that decision.</p>
Article 51: Registered information	<p>1. For each registered variety and for each supplier, the database referred to in Article 48 shall contain at least the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the scientific name of the species and the variety; (b) the name and contact details of the supplier or his representative; (c) the area where the supplier can deliver the seed or seed potatoes to the user in the usual time needed for the delivery; (d) the country or region in which the variety is tested and approved [...] (e) the date from which the seed or seed potatoes will be available; (f) the name and/or code number of the control authority or control body in charge of the control of the operator <p>2. The supplier shall immediately inform the manager of the database if any of the registered varieties are no longer available. The amendments shall be recorded in the database.</p> <p>3. Besides the information specified in paragraph 1, the database shall contain a list of the species listed in Annex X (Species for which organically produced seed or seed potatoes are available in sufficient quantities and for a significant number of varieties [...]).</p>
Article 52: Access to information	<p>1. The information in the database referred to in Article 48 shall be available through the internet, free of cost, to the users of seed or seed potatoes and to the public. [...]</p> <p>2. The Member States shall ensure that all users [of seed and seed potatoes] are informed, at least once a year, about the system and how to obtain the information in the database.</p>
Article 53: Registration -fee	<p>3. Each registration may be subject to the levying of a fee, which shall represent the cost of inserting and maintaining the information in the database [...]. The competent authority of the Member State shall approve the amount of the fee charged by the manager of the database.</p>



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1.2. Derogations (T2)

EC No 889/2008	
Article 49: Registration	2. Any variety which has not been registered in the database shall be considered as unavailable.
Article 6: Specific principles applicable to agricultural activities	(i) without prejudice to Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 2100/94 and to the national plant variety rights granted under Member States' national law, the possibility for farmers to use plant reproductive material obtained from their own farms in order to foster genetic resources adapted to the special conditions of organic production;
Article 45: Use of seed or vegetative propagating material not obtained by the organic production method	<p>3. Species for which it is established that organically produced seed or seed potatoes are available in sufficient quantities and for a significant number of varieties in all parts of the Community are set out in Annex X. The species listed in Annex X may not be subject of authorisations pursuant to paragraph 1(b), unless these are justified by one of the purposes referred to in paragraph 5(d).</p> <p>4. Member States may delegate the responsibility for granting the authorisation referred to in paragraph 1(b) to another public administration under their supervision or to the control authorities or control bodies referred to in Article 27 of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007.</p> <p>5. Authorisation to use seed or seed potatoes not obtained by the organic production method may only be granted in the following cases: (a) where no variety of the species which the user wants to obtain is registered in the database referred to in Article 48 (b) where no supplier, meaning an operator who markets seed or seed potatoes to other operators, is able to deliver the seed or seed potatoes before sowing or planting in situations where the user has ordered the seed or seed potatoes in reasonable time; (c) where the variety which the user wants to obtain is not registered in the database referred to in Article 48 and the user is able to demonstrate that none of the registered alternatives of the same species are appropriate and that the authorisation therefore is significant for his production; (d) where it is justified for use in research, test in small-scale field trials or for variety conservation purposes agreed by the competent authority of the Member State.</p>
Article 45: Use of seed or vegetative propagating material not obtained by the organic production method	<p>6. The authorisation shall be granted before the sowing of the crop.</p> <p>7. The authorisation shall be granted only to individual users for one season at a time and the authority or body responsible for the authorisations shall register the quantities of seed or seed potatoes authorised.</p> <p>8. By way of derogation from paragraph 7, the competent authority of the Member State may grant to all users a general authorisation: (a) for a given species when and in so far as the condition laid down in paragraph 5(a) is fulfilled; b. for a given variety when and in so far as the conditions laid down in paragraph 5(c) are fulfilled</p> <p>9. Authorisation may only be granted during periods for which the database is updated in accordance with Article 49(3)</p>
Article 54: Annual report	1. The authorities or bodies designated to grant authorisations in accordance with Article 45 shall register all authorisations and shall make this information available in a report to the competent authority of the Member State and to the manager of the database.
Article 55: Summary report	The competent authority of the Member State shall, before 31 March each year, collect the reports and send a summary report covering all authorisations of the Member State from the previous calendar year to the Commission and to the other Member States.[...] The information shall be published in the database [...]. The competent authority may delegate the task of collecting the reports to the manager of the database.



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