

- **Building a Pan European Organic Farming Learning Community**

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OH-FINE pan-European Organic farming learning Community (OFC)

Aim:

to create a permanent, pan-European space that **connects a group of people** sharing common interest, knowledge, and practice in organic farming, by supporting European farmers and smallholders with **better knowledge, stronger cooperation, and more transparency**, this will help make organic food more **trustworthy, sustainable, and reliable** for consumers.



Scope of the OFC



Geographical coverage and diversity: five regional contexts (Ireland, Lithuania, Poland, Bulgaria, Spain), with additional insights from Austria, Belgium, and Switzerland and the wider EU region where relevant.

Thematic key focus: cereals, oilseeds, protein crops, and livestock systems

What means the OFC in the OH-FINE project

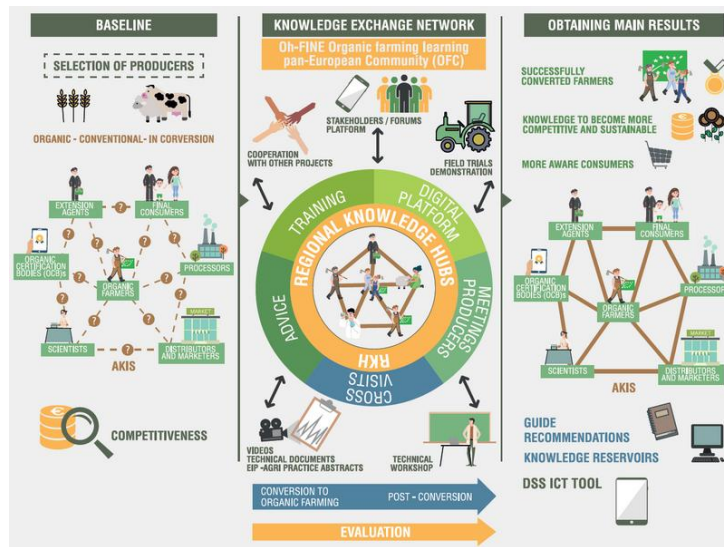
Empower farmers (conventional, converting, and organic) by giving them **easy access to practical and reliable knowledge** that responds to real on-farm needs.

Translate research and innovation **into practice**, bridging the gap between science and daily farming decisions.

Reduce fragmentation in organic knowledge flows by strengthening Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) at both regional and European levels.

Connect relevant regional and European actors (farmers, advisors, researchers, policymakers, value-chain actors, and consumers) into one learning ecosystem.

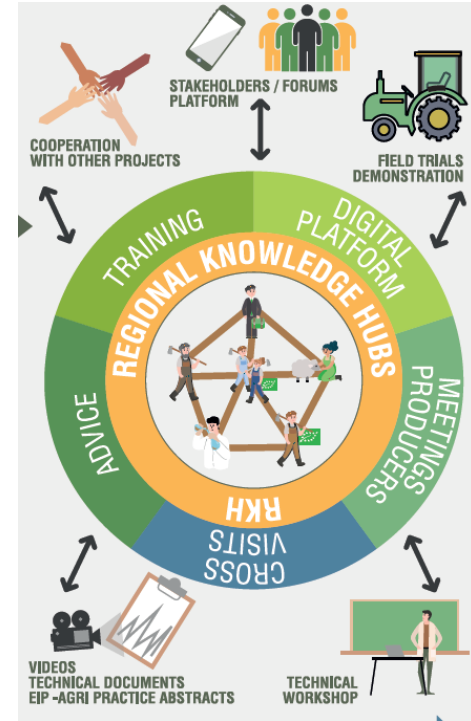
Accelerate the adoption of innovative and sustainable organic practices, particularly during conversion and post-conversion phases.



How the OFC wants to achieve this

To fulfill its aim, the OFC:

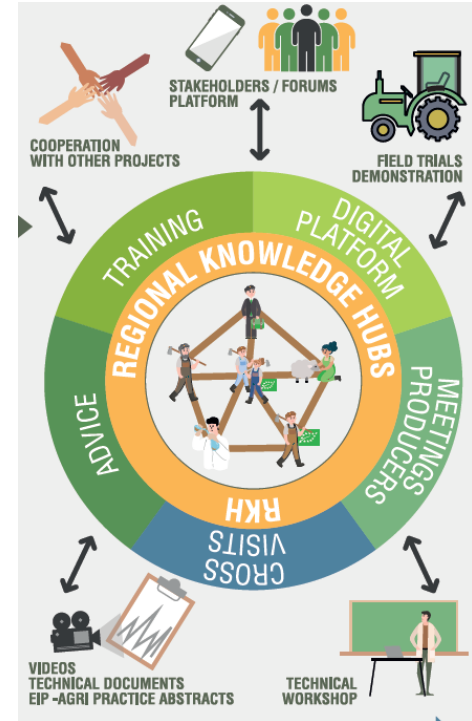
- offers a **mix of learning formats** to accommodate different user needs and contexts:
 - **In person** activities including training activities, demonstration days, cross-visits, workshops, international forums with collaborative workshops and panel discussions.
 - **Digital resources including technical documents, practice abstracts**, videos, technical fact sheets, policy briefs.
- operates through five **Regional Knowledge Hubs** adapted to local conditions and needs.
- provides a **multilingual digital knowledge repository** and creates a **Decision Support System (DSS) tool**.



How the OFC wants to achieve this

To fulfill its aim, the OFC:

- **actively promotes dialogue** between farmers, advisors, researchers, policymakers and consumers.
- **supports multi-actor engagement, co-creation, and peer learning** through fora, demonstration activities and workshops.
- integrates **physical** and **digital learning spaces**.
- includes **monitoring and feedback** to continuously improve how knowledge is shared.



Farmer-centred activity design



- activities are guided by the **real needs and priorities of farmers (organic, in-conversion and conventional)** in the case study countries by farmers groups.
- ensuring that all OFC activities remain is **practical, relevant and directly usable.**
- farmers are **primary operational focus**, but full spectrum of knowledge needs in organic farming can be included.
 - Including market and consumer related concerns

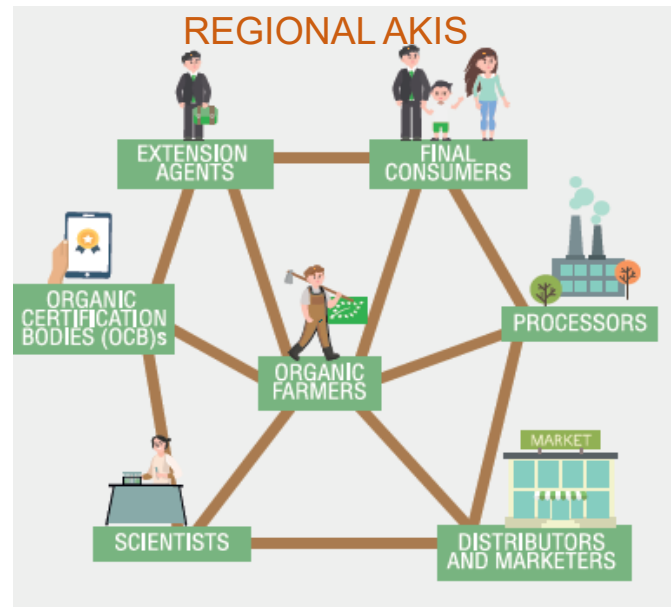
Five Regional Knowledge Hubs

Bulgaria, Ireland, Lithuania, Poland and Spain

Aim: support case study groups of producers with collecting and sharing and applying knowledge and practices **tailored to the agronomic, climatic, and socio-economic conditions and specific needs of the region**

Each hub:

- stakeholder mapping and analyses to **identify relevant stakeholders and organisations** in region and **local experts** related to specific needs.
- **organise activities to establish connection** with local stakeholders and engaging them in workshops, training sessions, and network events related to **specific regional needs** translated in a **hub activity plan**.
- dedicated space on the OH-FINE digital platform to share and access region-specific knowledge.



Online Organic Farming Community environment

The **OH-FINE digital platform** offers a tailored digital environment for each hub, including:

- regional hub profiles and activities
- applicable regulations and policy frameworks
- technical guidance, advisory services, and training centres
- region-specific knowledge and support networks
- interactive space for exchange and to foster collaboration within the local AKIS (producers, market players, experts, advisors, ...).



Other OFC activities

- Experiments in Austria, Switzerland and Belgium
- Demonstration activities
- Technical workshops

- Cross-visits
- Collaboration with other projects

- **3 international forums** with collaborative workshops and panel discussions covering overarching themes **relevant to the wider organic system**, including production, value chains, consumer concerns, policy, innovation, and societal impact of organic farming.



Ensuring relevance, impact and continuous improvement



Activities:

- Structured monitoring procedures to track activities and performance across all learning hubs
- Analytics of online engagement on the knowledge platform (participation, content use, interaction)
- Post-event evaluations to assess the relevance, quality, and immediate outcomes



People:

- Creation of a (internal) dynamic European database of relevant actors
- Mapping roles, expertise and collaboration potential



Learning & impact:

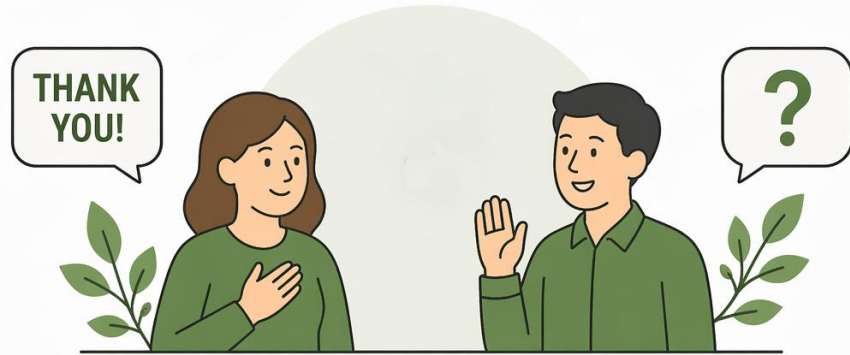
- Impact-oriented evaluations focusing on learning value, practical uptake and contribution to the organic system
- Continuous improvement enabling adaptation, refinement and responsiveness
- Identification and scaling of best practices

Key take-home messages for consumer organisations

- OH-FINE recognises consumers as **essential stakeholders**
- Consumer organisations are welcome as **partners in learning and awareness as bridges between producers and consumers**
 - **participate in the regional knowledge hub and their activities**
 - **share your concerns and knowledge needs**
 - **participate in the forums**
 - **visit our digital knowledge platform**
- The project improves **trustworthiness of organic food**, not just yields
- Contribute to a more transparent organic food system where consumers – producers are better connected
- Stronger organic farming systems ultimately benefit **citizens, not only farmers**



Contact your regional knowledge hub manager and be engaged
Dynamic European stakeholder database



**THANK YOU VERY MUCH
FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**

— ANY QUESTIONS? —



Contact

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Organic Farming Innovations Network Europe



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