The certification of organic canteens all around Europe

Prof. Dr. Carola Strassner, MBA
Sustainable school catering: Comparing Italian and other European experiences
Congress, Bologna, 27th-28th May 2010
Legal framework in the European Union

  “mass catering” excluded

- **old**: Council Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91
  no specific mention
Authority for organic certification in the EU

The EU institutions

European Council (summit)
European Parliament
Council of Ministers (Council of the EU)
Court of Justice
Court of Auditors
Economic and Social Committee
Committee of the Regions
European Investment Bank
Agencies
European Central Bank
European Commission
Directorates-General
Agriculture & Rural Development (DG AGRI)
The EC delegates organic certification to the EU Member States

- Currently quite a variety of ways of dealing with certification of organic catering amongst the 27 Member States:

  - national law,
  - national recommendations,
  - private standards.
## Comparison amongst iPOPY countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>iPOPY country</th>
<th>Ministry responsible for organic agriculture</th>
<th>… delegated to …</th>
<th>organic certification is delegated to</th>
<th>national organic label</th>
<th>state regulation for canteens</th>
<th>state label for canteens</th>
<th>private regulations for canteens</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry</td>
<td>Office for Organic Agriculture and for Sustainable Agricultural Activities</td>
<td>private CBs (n=20)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>(officially) no</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry</td>
<td>Food Safety Authority (Evira)</td>
<td>state CBs (n=15)</td>
<td>Luomu</td>
<td>yes</td>
<td>yes, special Organic Cuisine and older Smiley System</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries</td>
<td>Danish Plant Directorate &amp; Danish Veterinary and Food Administration</td>
<td>state CBs (n=11)</td>
<td>Stats-kontrolleret økologisk</td>
<td></td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>Ministry of Agriculture and Food</td>
<td>private CB (n=1)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>yes, Debio's standards</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection</td>
<td>private CBs (n=23)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>yes, compulsory organic certification by national law</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>yes, 3 of the 8 organic agriculture associations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Office for Organic Agriculture and for Sustainable Agricultural Activities
Mattilsynet
Federal Agency for Food and Agriculture
iPOPY regulation schemes

- Approved private inspection bodies
  - Italy
  - Norway
  - Germany

- No official organic certification of mass catering
  - Finland
  - Denmark

- Designated inspection bodies
Further studies - what we did

2 online-surveys

Survey I:
Addressed to 190 certification bodies in all European member states and to Switzerland, Liechtenstein…

Survey II:
Addressed to 150 (experts) persons who are involved in the field of Out-of-home business (civil servants, scientists, etc.)
Answers came from …
Q: How do you assess your satisfaction level with the present situation of the Organic Certification in Out-Of-Home Businesses in Europe?

- Nearly 50% of professionals are unsatisfied.
Q: What is your opinion on a possible EU-wide harmonised organic certification scheme for restaurants and catering?

80% of certifying bodies and professionals surveyed think this will mainly have positive impacts.

Cert bodies n=26
Professionals n=17
Q: Which stakeholders should be involved to discuss a possible future harmonisation of catering and restaurant certification in Europe?

Cert bodies and Professionals:
- Caterers: 66% (Cert bodies), 56% (Professionals)
- Political authorities: 66% (Cert bodies), 47% (Professionals)
- Certification bodies: 79% (Cert bodies), 56% (Professionals)
- Organic associations: 75% (Cert bodies), 60% (Professionals)
- Other NGOs: 47% (Cert bodies), 66% (Professionals)
- Other stakeholders: 47% (Cert bodies), 66% (Professionals)
Q: Who do you think would be the strongest drivers in the process of a possible future harmonisation in Europe?
What are our main conclusions?

- Especially the certification bodies are **not satisfied** about the different regulation systems of organic certification of **mass catering** within Europe.

- There is **no correlation** between the satisfaction level of the participants and the type of country regulation.

- **80%** of all participants can think of **mainly positive impacts** regarding a potential EU-harmonisation.

- As important stakeholders and drivers for a potential process, all important institutions i.e. **certification bodies, organic associations, caterers and political authorities**, should be involved in this process.
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contact: strassner@fh-muenster.de