TP Organics Proposal for HORIZON 2020

Action plan 2011
and comments to the first outline of EU Commission for parliament and Council

Otto Schmid,
IFOAM EU Vice-President for research
Horizon 2020 – Objectives and structure

**Europe 2020 priorities**

**Shared objectives and principles**
Common rules, toolkit of funding schemes

**Tackling Societal Challenges**
- Health, demographic change and wellbeing
- Food security and the bio-based economy
- Secure, clean and efficient energy
- Smart, green and integrated transport
- Climate action & Resource Efficiency including Raw Materials
- Inclusive, innovative and secure societies

**Industrial Leadership and Competitive Frameworks**
- Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies (ICT, nano, materials, bio, manufacturing, space)
- Access to risk finance
- Innovation in SMEs

**Excellent Science Base**
- European Research Council
- Future and Emerging Technologies
- Marie Curie actions on skills, training and career development
- Research infrastructures

**Supporting the objectives:**
European Institute for Innovation and Technology
Joint Research Centre

Simplified access
International cooperation
European Research Area
Dissemination & knowledge transfer

Source: EU Commission – Presentation to Advisory Committee for organic farming
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Funding (million euro, 2014-20)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health, demographic change and wellbeing</td>
<td>8 033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime resources &amp; the bioeconomy</td>
<td>4 152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secure, clean and efficient energy*</td>
<td>5 782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smart, green and integrated transport</td>
<td>6 802</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials</td>
<td>3 160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclusive, innovative and secure societies</td>
<td>3 819</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Additional €1 050m for nuclear safety and security from the Euratom Treaty activities (2014-18). Does not include ITER.

Source: EU Commission – Presentation to Advisory Committee for organic farming
Focus on Innovation-related Measures: A proposal for a European Innovation Partnership Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability

Rural Development Policy stimulating innovation:

- Knowledge transfer
- Cooperation measures (including pilot and demonstration projects)
- Farm Advisory Services
- Investment in physical assets

Synergies with EU Research Policy:

- Horizon 2020 Challenge: Food security, sustainable agriculture & bio-based economy
- Joint Programming Initiative ‘Agriculture, food security and climate change’
- Member State co-operation in the European Research Area (ERA-NET)
- European Technology Platforms (e.g. Food for Life, Plants for the Future, etc)
- SCAR (Standing Committee for Agricultural Research)

Source: EU Commission – Presentation to Advisory Committee for organic farming
European Technology Platforms (ETPs) to close the innovation gap
EU Commission first outline of Horizon 2020 for parliament & Council

- a single framework,
- full integration of innovation,
- a focus on the major societal challenges,
- a more inclusive approach,
- more emphasis on public-private partnership (e.g. new sustainable business models) and
- risk finance for research and innovation.

- BUT THERE ARE STILL MAJOR GAPS
What are the gaps and deficits in first outline of Horizon 2020 – view of TP Organics

• Too much emphasis on technological innovation (from technical experts) for the benefit of only few large businesses
• Assumption: only new knowledge creates innovation and not traditional knowledge or the combination of new & existing.
• Still a top down approach regarding knowledge generation (Knowledge based but not knowledge-shared!)
• insufficient inclusion of civil society, e.g. when assessing suitability and desirability of technologies
What are the gaps and deficits in first outline of Horizon 2020 – view of TP Organics – part II

- Linked to a very much biotech industry influenced concept of the Bio-economy (role of agriculture reduced to producing cheap biomass – ecosystem services and social services neglected
- Too much emphasis on resource efficiency and not resource-conservation/saving (not taking re-bound effect into account)
- Socio-economic research mentioned but not fully integrated. Social innovation mentioned but in an isolated way
- SMEs important, is it to “help to make them bigger”??
Six potential themes of TP Organics for the 8th Horizon 2020 framework research programme – **how is it taken up in first EU Commission outline**

1. **Eco-functional intensification**: A novel approach to global food stability and security
   => ecological intensification is mentioned, but not clarifying if this relies on natural processes

2. **The economics of output/low external input farming and more resource efficiency and resource conservation/saving**
   => low external input/High output is not mentioned, however strong emphasis on resource efficiency

3. **Health care schemes for livestock**
   => preventive animal health care schemes and animal welfare is hardly mentioned.
Six potential themes of TP Organics for the 8th Horizon 2020 framework research programme – how is it taken up in first EU Commission outline

4. Resilience and “sustainagility” as the predominant approach to secure farm productivity and economy in times of change

=> The need for “adaptative capacities” of farms as condition for better resilience and less vulnerability to climate change, to scarcities and to other (financial, social and ecological risks) are not mentioned.

5. From farm diversity to food diversity to the health and well-being of citizens

=> biodiversity is mentioned but not the need for a diversity of authentic food and sustainable consumption. No integrated health concept visible for health and well-being through.

Also a need for a diversity of research approaches – not just modern biotech, nano, etc.

6. Create centers for innovation in farming communities

=> Innovation partnerships often mentioned, however in a very technical orientation and not specifically linked to framing communities.
Main messages to policy makers

More emphasis should be given in Horizon 2020:

• Resource saving and better adaptability to climate change through eco-functional intensification and high output/low external input farming agro-ecology and public goods orientation

• Not just technological leadership but also social leadership for a fair economy with more socio-economic research and innovation.

• Importance of broad and institutional knowledge base through participatory research approaches involving stakeholders based on the combination of new and traditional/existing knowledge
Outlook

• Until now - DG Research supportive of organic sector research:

• Several projects recently financed:
  Organic Data network, Sustainable organic and low input dairying (SOLID), Innovative strategies for low input and organic farming systems

• Some projects in the pipeline: Managing semi-natural habitats, plant growth bio-effectors, Improve animal health in organic farming systems.

• However, not clear yet how the Organic food and farming sector/research will be considered in Horizon 2020

• We need committed people and political pressure!
Thank you for your attention

• For the opportunity to present our ideas here today
• Those that have provided valuable feedback
• To all those that have supported and contributed to TP Organics

For further information see www.tporganics.eu