Fact sheet no. 2: Why become a national editor for Organic Eprints?

http://www.orgprints.org

Organic Eprints is an open, online archive for research in organic agriculture, with more than 17,000 publications from over 30 countries, more than 15,000 registered users and more than 150,000 visits per month. Organic Eprints has become a key source of organic research communication in Europe, and is continuing to expand.

Any user can submit research papers, project descriptions or other kind of eprints to Organic Eprints, which ensure its great diversity and richness. Each eprint submitted to Organic Eprints undergoes a quality check by a national editor before it is made publicly available. This fact sheet gives background on what a national editor does, and why you should become a national editor.

Tasks of a national editor:

• To verify that the eprints submitted by researchers or authors in your country relate to organic food and farming systems,
• And to verify that the information associated with the paper (i.e. metadata) is appropriate and correct.
• Note: editors are not expected to review the content of papers.
• To manage the eprints, i.e. send them back to authors if necessary, implement changes requested by the authors, reorganize eprints if needed.
• To act as contact point for users in your country.
• To develop a structure for the country/organization/project hierarchy in the research affiliation tree.
• To be part of the Organic Eprints editorial board, the forum for further discussions on editing and on improvement of the archive.
• To translate instructions into the national language, if needed.

You will also have the possibility to contribute to the future development and improvement of the archive by:
- taking part in the discussions of the editorial board of national editors
- promoting the archive and increase its use in your country, by motivating authors, institutions, conferences to use organic Eprints to deposit papers. Promotion tools, material and suggestions are available for editors to use as they see fit in their countries, or to improve as needed
- establishing an entrance to Organic Eprints in national research portal(s)
- translate instructions for Organic Eprints into the national language
- clarify the copyright situation for major national journals.

Who are the national editors of Organic Eprints

There are currently national editors in many European countries and a few in other continents. Most of the current national editors are employed by a ministry or research institute dealing with organic agriculture, and generally have a background in organic agriculture science, information or administration.

Why are we looking for an editor in your country?

There is an interest in Organic Eprints in your country, as shown from the eprints submitted and the number of registered users. We would like to expand our editorial team to better cover the needs of researchers and users in your country, and further develop the use of Organic Eprints.

If the language of your country is not English, we also need an editor able to review eprints in your language(s).
National editors may be designated by their employer or be editors on a voluntary basis. Organic Eprints does not have means of funding editors, but editors’ employers generally recognize the value of having a national editor and make this part of a person’s job.

Being a national editor is not intensive and represents only a little part of a person’s time! No editor considers herself/himself overwhelmed, and if that ever happened, Organic Eprints partners would take measures to assist.

**Why should I become a national editor?**

By becoming a national editor, you will improve the dissemination of organic research in your country. You will also contribute to the further growth of Organic Eprints and to increasing its visibility worldwide.

This will take a small part of your time, but will make a big difference!

National editors contribute to the development of the archive according to their inclination, time, preferences and possibilities. All contribute to ensuring the quality of the archive content. In addition, some are interested in the electronic system itself and how to improve it, some in finding solutions to promote the archive in their countries, some in increasing the use of the archive.

**Are there any requirements for being a national editor?**

A prior use of the system as registered user may help but is not a prerequisite. National editors should however:

- be interested in helping to make the research from their country visible,
- be interested in further development of Organic Eprints;
- have internet access;
- be at ease with using an online system (although the system is not difficult to use once familiar with it).

**Practical considerations**

As an editor, you will not start from scratch, but will benefit from existing experience and material:

- an editor manual (under continuous review);
- direct assistance from the archive administrator & coordinator and other editors as needed;
- emails notifying you of new entries to be edited for your country (daily, weekly or monthly as per your own choice);
- an email list of national editors, i.e. the Organic Eprints editorial board, which will be the forum for further discussions on editing and on improvement of the archive;
- promotion material and suggestions on how to promote the archive in your country.

**How to contact us?**

Organic Eprints team in ICROFS: ilsea.rasmussen@icrofs.org.

Visit Organic Eprints at [http://www.orgprints.org](http://www.orgprints.org)