

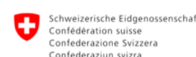


Deliverable 3.1

Financial support for advice in organic: the CAP and other measures



OrganicAdviceNetwork is funded by the European Union (Grant no. 101134850) and by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research, and Innovation (Grant no. 23.0639, 101134850). Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union, European Research Executive Agency or Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research, and Innovation. Neither the European Union nor any other the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



Document Summary

The Project

Grant Agreement Number:	101134850
Project Name:	Reaching 25% of organic farmland in the EU by stronger and better-connected organic advisors and organic advisory services
Project acronym:	OrganicAdviceNetwork
Programme:	Horizon Europe
Project Coordinator:	Claire Morelle (IFOAM Organics Europe)

Dates

Duration:	48 months
Start date of Project:	01-04-2024
End date of the Project:	31-03-2028

Deliverables

Deliverable Title:	Financial support for advice in organic: the CAP and other measures
Due date Deliverable:	30/09/2025
Actual Submission date:	30/09/2025
Related Work package:	WP3
Deliverable Lead:	ÖMKi
Author(s):	Katalin Szepekuthy (ÖMKi), Peter Jobbágy (ÖMKi)
Contributor(s):	Didem Aydurmus (HNEE), Claire Morelle (IFOAM EU), Susanne Padel (IFOAM EU)

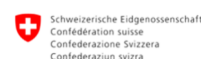
Dissemination level

P	Public	X
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CI	Classified, as referred to Commission Decision 2001/844/EC	

Type

R	Document, Report	X
DEM	Demonstrator, Pilot, Prototype	
DEC	Websites, Patent Fillings, Videos, etc	
Other	(Please describe the type)	

OrganicAdviceNetwork is funded by the European Union (Grant no. 101134850) and by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research, and Innovation (Grant no. 23.0639, 101134850). Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union, European Research Executive Agency or Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research, and Innovation. Neither the European Union nor any other the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



Executive Summary

This deliverable assesses the financial support mechanisms for advice in organic agriculture in the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) 2023–2027 and alternative funding sources. It goes beyond analysing the existing mechanisms in theory and looks at what is effectively used in practice.

Strengthening advisory services is central to achieving the EU's Green Deal and Farm to Fork target of 25% organic farmland by 2030. The OrganicAdviceNetwork project supports this transition by capturing the current advisory landscape, including funding frameworks in particular, building a network of advisors with competencies in organic and formulating policy recommendations.

The report reviews the CAP architecture and identifies interventions¹ most relevant to advisory services working on organics: knowledge transfer (KNOW), cooperation (COOP, EIP-AGRI, EU and national CAP networks), and sectoral measures (ADVI1, TRAINCO, COACH, ORGAN, ADVIBEES). It focuses at 13 Member States and shows that while advisory-related interventions are frequently included in national Strategic Plans, their design, uptake, and funding levels vary considerably.

Complexity, administrative burdens, and insufficient targeting of organic needs reduce effectiveness to support organic advisory services in many countries. Key findings include:

- **Dependence on CAP support:** In many Member States, the CAP remains the backbone of advisory financing, though countries such as Denmark rely more on national systems.
- **Underused opportunities:** Sectoral interventions for producer organisations (ADVI1, COACH, TRAINCO and ORGAN) and apiculture (ADVIBEES) could strengthen collective capacity but remain poorly implemented or unfunded.
- **Alternative funding:** Farmers' associations, EU-funded projects (Horizon, Interreg), and processors provide important supplementary financing, while the bank and retail sectors play also role.
- **Knowledge transfer tools:** Demonstration farms, regional groups, and native-language publications are highly valued, while communication channels are shifting.

The report concludes that although the CAP provides significant, yet uneven, opportunities for supporting organic advisory services, improvements are needed. Member States should streamline and simplify administrative procedures and ensure make full use of and ensure timely implementation of the interventions foreseen in their Strategic Plans. Complementing CAP support with alternative financing and stronger collective structures—particularly producer organisations—will be essential for building advisory credibility, capacity, and outreach. These insights, together with forthcoming assessments of advisor education (Task 3.2) and a SWOT analyses of the organic advisory system (Task 3.4), will inform national action plans and EU-level policy recommendations to reinforce advisory systems and accelerate the organic transition.

¹ We use measure and intervention synonymously as it is common practice

Table of contents

Executive Summary	ii
Table of contents	iii
List of figures	v
List of tables	v
Abbreviations	vii
1 Introduction	1
2 Overview CAP support interventions for farm advice	3
2.1 CAP intervention structure	4
2.1.1 Mandatory interventions implemented by Member States for farmers (BISS, CRISS, CIS-YF, Eco-schemes)	6
2.1.2 Environmental and production-oriented interventions for farmers- (ENVCLIM and CIS)	6
2.2 CAP interventions supporting organic farming	7
2.3 Knowledge transfer, advice, cooperation and innovation interventions (KNOW, COOP, ADVI1, COACH, TRAINCO, ORGAN, ADVIBEES)	8
2.4 Beneficiaries of CAP and requirements	9
2.4.1 Farmers	9
2.4.2 AKIS and other actors	9
3 Advisory services	12
3.1 Evolution of Farm Advisory System in CAP	12
3.2 Acknowledged or accredited advisors	14
3.2.1 Other non-acknowledged/non-accredited advisors from AKIS	15
4 Methodology	16
4.1 Overview of the assessment framework	16
4.2 Overview of the assessment criteria	18
4.3 Limitations	20
5 Results and discussion	22
5.1 Knowledge exchange and dissemination of information (KNOW)	23
5.1.1 Evaluation of the intervention from the partner organisation's perspective	26

5.2	Cooperation, European CAP Networks, European Innovation Partnership (COOP)	28
5.2.1	Additional detail on the cooperation activities that can be funded under Article 77.....	29
5.2.2	Evaluation of the COOP measure in the core countries	31
5.3	Sector specific interventions.....	32
5.3.1	Measures for producer groups ADVI1, TRAINCO and COACH	33
5.3.2	Producer organisations in the organic sector.....	34
5.3.3	Evaluation of the ADVI1, TRAINCO and COACH measures by the partner organisations	35
5.3.4	ORGAN – Organic and Integrated Production	35
5.3.5	Advisory services for apiculture (ADVIBEEES).....	36
5.3.6	Evaluation of ADVIBEEES measure by the partner organisations	36
5.4	Alternative financing sources.....	36
5.5	Assessment of various tools provided by organic farming advisory services in the core countries of the OrganicAdviceNetwork	39
6	Conclusion	42
7	Literature	44
8	Appendix.....	47
8.1	Architecture of CAP 2023-2027	47
8.2	Advisors linked to the knowledge system in the core countries	52
8.3	Advisory services	53
	Terminology.....	53
	Introduction of advisory system in the Organic Advice Network core countries	53
8.4	Interventions supporting or involving advisory services	58
8.5	KNOW, COOP and sectoral interventions in the Catalogue of CAP Interventions for the countries covered in this report.....	62

List of figures

Figure 1 farming shares of EU and MS agricultural land area, including policy-supported and certified land in 2018 (actuals), land planned to be supported by 2027 and targeted to be certified organic by 2027 or 2030.	8
Figure 2 Number of beneficiaries advised under Measure 2.1.....	13
Figure 3 Knowledge and dissemination of knowledge measure in the CAP Strategic Plans of the core countries of OrganicAdviceNetwork (2023-2029).....	25
Figure 4 Planned Total Public Expenditure and Total EU Expenditure (2023-2029) of COOP interventions (including LEADER) in the countries of the OrganicAdviceNetwork.	31

List of tables

Table 1 Selected and evaluated interventions from REGULATION (EU) 2021/2115	17
Table 2 Key assessment criteria in the framework of Task 3.1	19
Table 3 Mentioning of CAP interventions related to advisory activities in CAP Strategic Plans of the core countries of OrganicAdviceNetwork,	22
Table 4 Evaluation of the CAP interventions related to advisory service by the partner organisation of OrganicAdviceNetwork.....	23
Table 5 Evaluation of alternative financing sources of advisory services by the partner organisations of OrganicAdviceNetwork Project	37
Table 6 Assessment of various tools provided by organic farming advisory services in the core countries of the OrganicAdviceNetwork	40
Table 7 Architecture of CAP 2023-2027. The interventions, which are relevant for organic advisory services are with bold letters.	47
Table 8 Number of advisors linking to advice and knowledge system in the member states's CAP Strategic Plans	52
Table 9 CAP interventions supporting or involving advisory services	58
Table 10 Rural development measure: Knowledge exchange and dissemination of knowledge (KNOW) individual advise for farmers.....	62
Table 11 Rural development Knowledge exchange and dissemination of knowledge (KNOW) demonstration farms.....	63
Table 12 Rural development Knowledge exchange and dissemination of knowledge (KNOW) AKIS, training, creating new services	63
Table 13 COOP measure	65
Table 14 Sectoral measure: Advisory services and technical assistance, in particular concerning sustainable pest and disease control techniques, sustainable use of plant protection and animal health products, climate change adaptation and mitigation, the conditions of employment, employer obligations and occupational health and safety (ADVI1)	70
Table 15 Sectoral: coaching to other producer organisations and associations of producer organisations recognised under Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 or under Article 67(7) of this Regulation, or to individual producers, COACH	72

Table 16 Sectoral: training including coaching and exchange of best practices, in particular concerning sustainable pest and disease control techniques, sustainable use of plant protection and animal health products, and climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as the use of organised trading platforms and commodity exchanges on the spot and futures market, TRAINCO.....	73
Table 17 Sectoral: organic or integrated production ORGAN.....	75
Table 18 Sectoral interventions: advisory services, technical assistance, training, information and exchange of best practices, including through networking, for beekeepers and beekeepers' organisations ADVIBEES	76

Abbreviations

ADVI1	Advisory Services and Technical Assistance (in fruit and vegetables, hops, olive oil, table olives and other sectors) [CAP intervention]
ADVIBEES	Apiculture – advisory services, technical assistance, training, information and exchange of best practices [CAP intervention]
AEFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
AKIS	Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System
APOs	Association of Producer Organisations
BISS	Basic Income Support for Sustainability [CAP intervention]
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CIS	Coupled Income Support
CIS-YF	Complementary Income Support for Young Farmers [CAP intervention]
CMO	Common Market Organization
COACH	Coaching (in fruit and vegetables, hops, olive oil, table olives and other sectors) [CAP intervention]
COOP	Cooperation [CAP intervention]
CRIS	Complementary Redistributive Income Support for Sustainability [CAP intervention]
CSA	Community Supported Agriculture
EAFRD	European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
EAGF	European Agricultural Guarantee Fund
EIP	European Innovation Partnership
EIP-AGRI	European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability
ENVCLIM	AgriEnvironmentClimate Measures [CAP intervention]
EU-FAS	European Union Farm Advisory System
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
FAS	Farm Advisory System
GAECs	Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions
HNEE	Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development
KNOW	Knowledge Exchange and Dissemination of Information [CAP intervention]
LEADER	Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale ²
MS	Member State
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
OG	Operational Groups
ORGAN	Organic or Integrated Production (in fruit and vegetables, hops, olive oil, table olives and other sectors) [CAP intervention]
ÖMKi	Hungarian Research Institute of Organic Agriculture
PDO	Protected Designation of Origin

² LEADER is about bottom-up rural development, giving local communities the power to decide how to use CAP funds to address their specific needs. The abbreviation comes from the French name.

POs	Producer Organisations
PGI	Protected Geographical Indication
RDP	Rural Development Program
SCAR	Standing Committee of Agricultural Research
SMRs	Statutory Management Requirements
TRAINCO	Training and Exchange of Best Practices (in fruit and vegetables, hops, olive oil, table olives and other sectors) [CAP intervention]
TSG	Traditional Speciality Guaranteed

1 Introduction

This deliverable aims to assess the actual and potential use of measures of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and other forms of support for supporting organic advisory services. For a deeper understanding of the current organic advisory system and its potentials, this kind of assessment is of central importance. Looking at the financial dimension and see what is actually working, in particular provides the groundwork for improving the situation for organic farm advice across Europe.

The report is one of several within the OrganicAdviceNetwork project analysing the advisory system supporting organic farming, starting with a mapping of existing advisory service (Task 1.1, see Aydurmuş and Münchhausen, 2025) and an analysis of the education and training for advisors in organic (Task 3.2 Lesieur, Fraignac and Rouault 2025). Combined with later tasks the results will contribute to developing policy recommendations on how to build capacity and strengthen advice for organic. The reports complement the creation of the first European network of organic advisors and network animation through online courses, workshops and in-person knowledge exchange. The term 'advisor' is understood in a broad sense, referring to actors who influence farmers' decisions and who self-identify as being part of farm advisory services (see also Section 3 and Appendix 8.3).

The mapping of advisory services with organic expertise was based on 350 responses (Aydurmuş and Münchhausen, 2025). It showed a mix of public and private bodies, NGOs and farmer organisations. Advisory service sizes ranged from one person to organisations with 1,000+ staff, though the majority were micro-enterprises. Half of advisory services covered in the study relied heavily on public funding for their overall financing, indicating the potential importance of European funds. Other funding sources include membership fees or private financing including service fees, but no funding model was dominant (Aydurmuş and Münchhausen, 2025, p. 20-25). The study highlights the importance of better understanding the different funding sources that advisory service with organic expertise can utilise, including funding support through the CAP. This is what this report provides.

The report commences with an introduction to the overarching structure of the CAP in relation to the present funding period, which extends from 2023 to 2027. This is aimed at those working in advice related to organic, who might not be so familiar with the CAP and its recent changes, but who might be able to make use of some measures. The CAP includes interventions supporting organic farming directly, as well as measures that support or involve advisory services. For example, the provisions for EU-Farm Advice Service (EU-FAS), first introduced in all Member States (MS) during the 2007–2014 CAP period in a limited way, was further developed in this period with new interventions. Important for the understanding of interventions for knowledge exchange is also the concept of the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS) and the support for operational groups as part of the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP AGRI). Member States had to write National Strategic Plans stating how they intent to implement the CAP in their country, including the newly introduced interventions. In line with the language use of the European Commission, we will use intervention and measure interchangeably.

For the analysis of the CAP Strategic Plans and other support measures in the core countries of the project, the Hungarian Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (ÖMKi) supported by Eberswalde

University for Sustainable Development (HNEE) developed and refined a framework for funding mechanisms listed in National CAP Strategic Plans³ that could support advisory service. This framework was applied across different geographical zones and national contexts in 13 of the project's 14 core countries. Here Switzerland was not included, because it is not EU Member State. The project partners completed a survey covering National CAP Strategic Plans and other funding sources used by advisory services with organic expertise. The data collection took place in 2024 and early 2025, i.e. not long after the beginning of the new CAP period and before all potentially relevant measures had been introduced in some of the Members States.

This report presents the data. After an overview of the CAP with a particular focus on support measures for advice, the following chapters describe and summarize the data collection methods and the results of our empirical research. They provide an analysis of the results, offering insights into the framework's suitability, key findings, and potential areas for improvement.

Together with the key finding of Task 3.2 "Identify and assess the educational systems related to organic farming", claims will be developed and evaluated in national workshops where a SWOT-Analysis of the organic advisory system (Task 3.4), in each core country will be conducted. The outcomes of the workshops will be used for drafting an action plan and policy recommendations on how to strengthen organic advisory services in each country later in the project (Task 4.1, 4.2, 4.3).

³ https://agridata.ec.europa.eu/extensions/DashboardCapPlan/catalogue_interventions.html

2 Overview CAP support interventions for farm advice

Assessing CAP interventions in general is a complex and at times difficult task given the historically grown convoluted nature of the European agricultural policies. This is commonly acknowledged:

"Since its introduction, the CAP has evolved significantly.... The diversity of European agriculture has however rendered it challenging to have an administration system of the CAP which is both common and simple. The resulting architecture includes basic mandatory tools complemented by a number of voluntary ones, where details are largely set at EU level. However, a range of exceptions and derogations exists. Reforms have attempted to reduce this complexity; nevertheless, there is still significant room for improving the CAP's coherence and increasing its understanding." (Barel et al., 2023, p.2)

Clarity and consistency hence are not a given, although there are clear efforts for simplification.

The current CAP framework was established in 2021 by *Regulation (EU) 2021/2115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 2 December 2021, which sets out the rules for the CAP Strategic Plans to be drawn up by Member States and financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), repealing Regulations (EU) No 1305/2013 and No 1307/2013* (hereinafter referred to as the CAP Regulation). For the 2023–2027 programming period, Member States are required to include a defined set of compulsory interventions in their CAP Strategic Plans. While the official programming period runs from 2023 to 2027, many national CAP documents – and even EU databases (European Commission, 2025) – refer to the period 2023–2029. This reflects the fact that CAP rules allow for a two-year closure phase after 2027, during which Member States can complete ongoing multiannual commitments (such as agri-environment contracts, cooperation projects, and training programs), make final payments, and carry out audits and evaluations. Moreover, if no agreement on a new CAP is reached in time, the current framework may continue until the next one is adopted. Thus, although the legal framework and budget allocations are tied to 2023–2027, the practical planning horizon often extends to 2029, covering the full cycle from implementation to closure.

The CAP is built upon a two-pillar system, each backed by a different EU fund:

- Pillar 1 – Agricultural income support & market measures, fully financed by the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF). This includes direct payments to farmers and mechanisms to stabilize markets. Sectoral interventions (wine, fruits and vegetables, hops, olive oil, apiculture, potatoes etc.) are now classified as part of Pillar 1 in the 2023–2027 CAP. Previously (before the 2023–2027 reform), these measures were treated as “Common Market Organisation (CMO)” interventions, sometimes described as “market measures,” separated from the two-pillar CAP logic. sectoral interventions are now also financed from EAGF.
- Pillar 2 – Rural development, co-financed via the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). This pillar focuses on environmental protection, innovation, competitiveness, and the revitalization of rural areas.

The two-pillar architecture remains central in the current 2023–2027 period, integrated through CAP Strategic Plans tailored by each Member State.

The general objectives of the CAP, defined in Art. 5 of the CAP Regulation, are to foster a smart, competitive, resilient and diversified agricultural sector ensuring food security, environmental care and climate action contributing to achieving the environmental and climate-related objectives of the EU, and to strengthen the socio-economic fabric of rural areas. The success of reaching the objectives depends on the combined performance of various actors, including farmers, as well as advisors, agricultural training and educational systems, researchers and farmer organisations often referred to as the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS). The Farm Advisory System (FAS) is a part of the AKIS system, which operates very differently in Member States. Within the CAP, especially since the 2013 reform and reinforced in 2023–2027, AKIS promotes a shift from top-down knowledge transfer towards interactive, co-creative processes, requiring advisory and research actors to adapt their roles and strengthen collaboration with farmers and other stakeholders. Advisors do not only provide technical help for farmers, but also support innovations, create and share knowledge and support cooperation (van Oost, 2022).

Result indicators

Result indicators are CAP monitoring tools that track the implementation and success of interventions by measuring progress toward specific objectives in a comparable and quantifiable way across Member States. Altogether there are 44 result indicators in the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) framework 2023–2027. Of those, **indicator R.2 – Linking advice and knowledge systems** measures the share of a Member State’s budget dedicated to advisory services, training, knowledge exchange, innovation, and connections with research (AKIS), showing how well advice and knowledge systems are supported and integrated.

2.1 CAP intervention structure

An intervention is the basic module of the CAP Strategic Plans of Member States, covering both Pillar 1 and Pillar 2. Understanding interventions as modules is important because they serve as a common reference point for analysing and comparing how different Member States design their support schemes to achieve shared objectives.

In earlier periods of the CAP, the term ‘measure’ was used, mainly for rural development, while the 2023–2027 reform uses the broader notion of ‘intervention’. We use the terms intervention and measure synonymously as it is common practice.

Under the current Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), interventions are structured into three main types (see also Table 7 in the Appendix):

- **Direct payments** (Pillar 1) provide income support to farmers, usually linked to fulfilling basic environmental and land management requirements, ensuring stability and resilience in agricultural production. Direct payments may be coupled or decoupled payments. A decoupled payment is not linked directly to production. The farmer receives the subsidy simply because they are farming the land and meeting basic requirements (e.g. keeping land in good agricultural condition, respecting environmental rules), regardless of what or how much they produce. Coupled payments under the CAP are targeted direct aids directly linked to production, typically granted for protein crops, rice, cotton, sugar beet, certain

fruit and vegetables, and for livestock such as dairy cows, suckler cows, sheep and goats. They are directed to support sectors facing specific challenges.

- **Rural development interventions** (Pillar 2) support broader objectives such as improving competitiveness, fostering innovation, promoting sustainable land management, and strengthening rural communities.
- **Sectoral interventions** (Pillar 1) apply to one or multiple specific agriculture sectors, for example, to the apiculture sector, the wine sector, or other eligible sectors (such as fruit and vegetables, olive oil, hops, potatoes, etc.). These interventions – part of market support - provide targeted support to producer organisations or groups of farmers to enhance market orientation, competitiveness, and sustainability within that sector.

Some interventions are mandatory for farmers wishing to receive support, while others are voluntary for farmers but must be made available by Member States. Certain interventions are widely known, whereas others address more specific groups and are therefore less familiar.

The primary **beneficiaries** of the Common Agricultural Policy are agricultural producers (the current CAP regulation uses the word: active farmer), as the system is designed first and foremost to provide income support and stability for farmers. At the same time, the CAP extends beyond primary producers: a range of other actors also receive support under both Pillar 1 and Pillar 2. Producer organisations are financed to strengthen collective action and market resilience, while AKIS actors – such as advisory services, demonstration farms, knowledge brokers, and partly research institutions – are supported to foster knowledge exchange, innovation, and skills development. In this way, the CAP not only sustains farm income but also invests in the wider ecosystem of organisations that enable more competitive, sustainable, and resilient agriculture.

As every Member State uses the same intervention structure – meaning the common set of CAP measures defined at EU level – their approaches can be compared more easily. When analysing how advisory activities are supported under the CAP, attention should be directed to a limited set of measures that explicitly target knowledge exchange and advisory services.

For a full understanding of the CAP architecture, the complete list of interventions and their allocation within the two-pillar system can be found in the Appendix 8.1. This overview helps to illustrate how the wide range of instruments is structured and provides the basis for analysing their role in supporting farmers, advisory actors, and other stakeholders. The next section presents a selection of the most relevant interventions in greater detail, focusing on those that are typically known and used by the organic sector.

In following section, we introduce some interventions in the order of their relevance for organic agriculture and advisory services – not in alphabetical order, nor in the sequence used in the CAP regulation – but according to our interpretation of their importance for the sector.

2.1.1 Mandatory interventions implemented by Member States for farmers (BISS, CRISS, CIS-YF, Eco-schemes)

The Basic Income Support for Sustainability (BISS) is the most important mandatory intervention that Member States have to provide. BISS is an area-based, decoupled payment to active farmers. Farmers who wish to receive BISS and other direct payments must comply with the CAP's conditionality system. This system brings together the former cross-compliance and greening rules into one framework, setting out Statutory Management Requirements (SMRs) and Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions (GAECs). These rules form the baseline for protecting the environment, tackling climate change, maintaining soil and water quality, and safeguarding animal and plant health. They apply to all beneficiaries.

Alongside these core obligations, Member States are also required to make available several additional schemes that farmers can choose to join. Eco-scheme interventions under Pillar 1 are a key example: Member States must dedicate at least 25 % of their direct payment envelope⁴ to these schemes, which reward farmers for adopting practices beneficial to the climate, environment, biodiversity, and animal welfare. Other interventions that are compulsory for Member States but voluntary for farmers include the Complementary Redistributive Income Support for Sustainability (CRISS), which shifts support towards small and medium-sized farms, and the Complementary Income Support for Young Farmers (CIS-YF), which provides an additional top-up to encourage generational renewal in farming.

2.1.2 Environmental and production-oriented interventions for farmers- (ENVCLIM and CIS)

The ENVCLIM interventions under Pillar 2 of the CAP, formally referred to as Agri-Environment-Climate Commitments, play a pivotal role in supporting sustainable farming transitions, particularly in organic agriculture. Unlike production-oriented subsidies, ENVCLIM is designed to reward extensification and practices that reduce farming intensity in favour of environmental benefits. This includes support for conversion to organic farming as well as the continued maintenance of organic practices. ENVCLIM payments also incentivize higher animal welfare standards and diverse grassland management, although support for arable systems remains comparatively limited (Frelich-Larsen et al., 2024). Crucially, these payments are decoupled from production outputs: farmers receive support regardless of their harvest level, as long as they implement the agreed environmental practice. Their focus lies on reducing input intensity, protecting biodiversity, improving soil and water management, and fostering climate adaptation, rather than boosting yields.

In contrast, Coupled Income Support (CIS) measures under Pillar 1 are explicitly production-oriented: they provide targeted payments linked to specific crops (such as protein crops, sugar beet, rice, fruit and vegetables) or livestock (dairy, suckler cows, sheep and goats) in order to maintain or increase production. This instrument helps to stabilize markets, sustain sectors under economic pressure, and preserve regional traditions that might otherwise disappear. While ENVCLIM and CIS sometimes

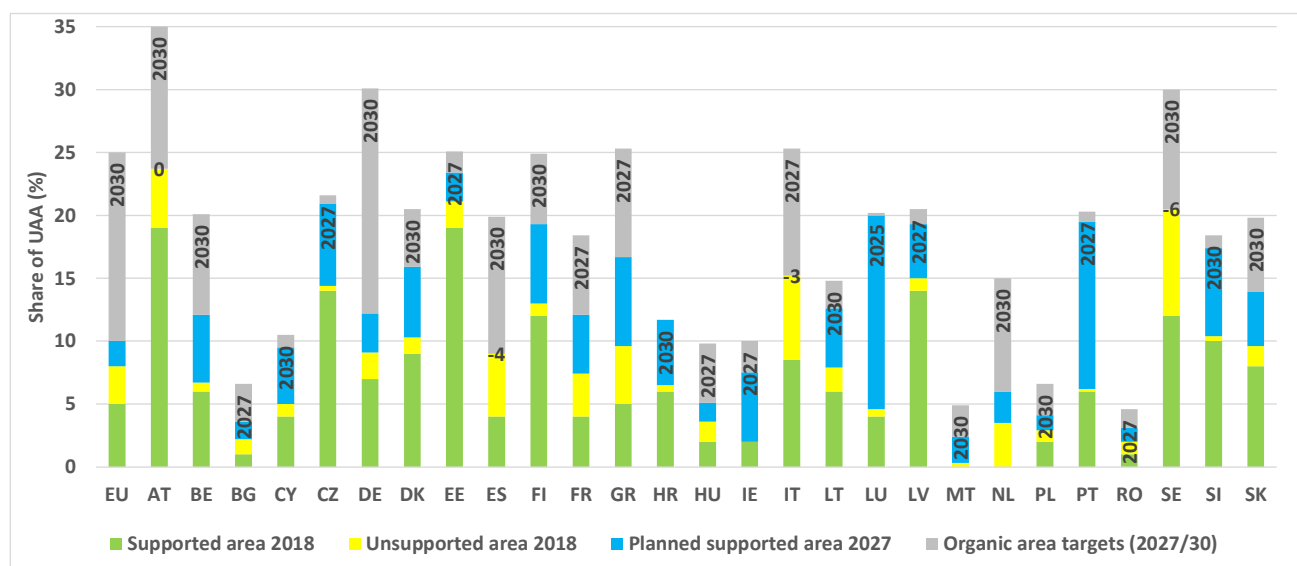
⁴ In the CAP context, *envelope* usually means a financial allocation reserved for a specific purpose or intervention.

operate in the same sectors, they function on fundamentally different logics: ENVCLIM rewards environmental performance, whereas CIS rewards production. It is not excluded that a farmer may apply for both ENVCLIM and CIS support at the same time. Both measures provide direct financial support to farmers, meaning payments go directly to those implementing the practices or maintaining output. Advisory services are not direct beneficiaries of these schemes, but in practice they often gain indirectly, as farmers rely on advisory support to design farm management changes, meet scheme requirements, and document compliance.

2.2 CAP interventions supporting organic farming

Member States have set out in their CAP Strategic Plans the extent to which they intend to achieve more conversion to organic farming by 2030. Area payments (ENVCLIM interventions) are not the only instrument available in the CAP to support organic farming. In the current CAP, MS could choose to support conversion to and maintenance of organic farming either as a Pillar 1 Ecoscheme (Art. 31), fully-funded by the EAGF, or as a Pillar 2 RDP agri-environment measure (Art. 70), part-funded by EAFRD and part by national co-financing (Lampkin et al., 2024). Member States may also grant special consideration to organic farms in investment support or processing and market support of organic products. They can also use training and advisory services or the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) to support organic farming.

The share of organic farmland in the EU has been increasing in the last decades, reaching 10% on average in 2023. However, the target set in the Farm to Fork Strategy, one of main strategies of the EU Green Deal that aims at reaching 25% organic farmland by 2030 needs a strong support system for farmers and advisory services alike. Figure 1 illustrates that most Member States have not budgeted sufficient funding for reaching the national targets of organic farmland by 2030.



Source: Lampkin et al. (2024)

Figure 1 farming shares of EU and MS agricultural land area, including policy-supported and certified land in 2018 (actuals), land planned to be supported by 2027 and targeted to be certified organic by 2027 or 2030.

2.3 Knowledge transfer, advice, cooperation and innovation interventions (KNOW, COOP, ADVI1, COACH, TRAINCO, ORGAN, ADVIBEEES)

The CAP framework also encompasses interventions aimed at strengthening knowledge, advice, cooperation, and innovation as part of the Rural Development measures in Pillar 2.

- The KNOW measure focuses on knowledge exchange and information actions, facilitating the spread of good practices and innovation.
- The COOP measure covers cooperation activities including the formation of EIP-AGRI Operational Groups. These two interventions are the most relevant interventions for advisory services.

Besides KNOW and COOP interventions, there are some less well-known interventions which are clearly relevant for advisory services. These interventions are sector-specific, meaning they are only available to farmers in the specific sector, and eligibility is further limited to those operating in a cooperative form (i.e. cooperatives and other producer groups, producer organisations):

- ADVI1 provides farm advisory services, helping farmers comply with legal requirements and improve sustainability.
- COACH covers targeted coaching activities, often linked to improving farm management or innovation uptake.
- TRAINCO supports training and coaching activities in a combined format.

- ORGAN promotes organic and integrated production systems.
- ADVIBEEES is a sector-specific advisory measure tailored to apiculture.

While these measures are not individually mandatory for every actor, they form part of the compulsory menu of interventions that each Member State must include and make available in its CAP Strategic Plan, ensuring that advisory, training, cooperation, and sector-specific support is integrated alongside direct payments and environmental schemes. The beneficiaries of these measures are several CAP stakeholders including farmers, advisory services, AKIS actors, producer organisations, and public institutes.

2.4 Beneficiaries of CAP and requirements

2.4.1 Farmers

The Common Agricultural Policy is first and foremost designed to support farmers, who remain the main beneficiaries and the central target group of its instruments. Direct payments and rural development measures are structured to provide income stability, safeguard production, and encourage the uptake of more sustainable practices on farms. Yet, the scope of the CAP extends beyond individual producers.

2.4.2 AKIS and other actors

The concept of Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Systems (AKIS) emerged in the early 2000s, when the World Bank and FAO adapted innovation system theories to the agricultural sector, highlighting that knowledge creation and uptake depend on the interaction of multiple actors rather than linear transfer from research to farmers. Building on these foundations, the European Union embraced and further developed the AKIS approach through the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR) and the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI). Today, AKIS is embedded in the CAP 2023–2027 framework, with Member States required to describe and strengthen their national AKIS in their National Strategic Plans to ensure effective knowledge exchange, advisory services, and innovation support. Actors within the Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS) are explicitly supported, particularly under Pillar 2, to facilitate knowledge exchange, innovation, and capacity building. These interventions acknowledge that sustainable agricultural transformation cannot be achieved by farmers alone but requires the active involvement of the wider ecosystem of organisations that provide advice, generate knowledge, and support collective action.

Farm Advisory System

The Farm Advisory System (FAS) is a dedicated system within the CAP that ensures farmers have access to professional guidance. Advisors may come from public institutions, private organisations, or mixed arrangements, but they must operate impartially and independently in order to be eligible for CAP support. This safeguard is intended to guarantee that farmers receive unbiased advice tailored to their needs. More detailed rules on the financing and organisation of FAS are presented later in this document (see Section 3.1.)

Market actors in the innovation process

While impartiality and independence are strict requirements for the Farm Advisory Service, cooperation projects implemented through AKIS and EIP AGRI often involve market actors as well. In this context, organisations may appear in an advisory role even if, by their very nature, they cannot fully guarantee independence. Such market actors – meaning stakeholders with a direct commercial interest, such as input suppliers, processors or buyers in the value chain, crop protection companies, technology providers – may thus also provide advisory functions. The purpose of innovation projects is to generate viable solutions with lasting impact, which makes the involvement of market actors both necessary and justified. In addition, those organisations often referred as “consultants,” although not part of the formal FAS, also play an important role by contributing practical expertise and bridging knowledge into farming practice.

Producer organisations

Producer organisations (POs) are formally recognized groups of agricultural producers, established under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), particularly in sectors such as fruit and vegetables, wine, olive oil, hops, and apiculture. Their legal foundation (EU/2013/1308) lies in the historic CAP’s market organisation framework, which allows farmers to voluntarily come together to strengthen their collective position in the food supply chain. The CAP emphasizes **collective capacity building** with the central aim to improve market efficiency, ensure stable outlets for agricultural products, and enhance the bargaining power of small and medium-scale farmers. Advantages include:

- Stronger bargaining position: By pooling their supply, producers can negotiate better prices and conditions with processors, retailers, and wholesalers.
- Risk-sharing and stability: POs reduce individual farmers’ exposure to market fluctuations, natural risks, and changing consumer demand.
- Access to support schemes: Recognized POs are eligible for EU co-financing under operational programs, which support investments in innovation, sustainability, marketing, and crisis management.
- Improved efficiency: Collective logistics, storage, processing, and marketing lower transaction costs and increase competitiveness.
- Knowledge and advisory services: Many POs provide technical advice, training, and innovation transfer, strengthening farm-level productivity.
- Environmental and sustainability measures: Operational programs often include actions for reducing pesticide use, improving resource efficiency, and promoting organic or integrated production.

In 2020, 1603 producer organisations and 31 transnational producer organisations were recognized in the fruit and vegetables sector in the EU27. The importance of producer organisations varies widely across the EU, shaped by farm structures, traditions of cooperation, and CAP implementation. POs are strong in Spain (527), Italy (289), France (220), Poland (196) and Greece (128), particularly in fruit, vegetables, wine, and olives, where they structure supply and exports. The role of producer

organisations in the EU fruit and vegetable sector differs widely across Member States. Spain and Italy have well-developed systems, where operational programmes focus on consolidating supply, investing in post-harvest infrastructure, improving quality schemes, and promoting environmentally friendly practices. In France, POs are notable for branding and marketing activities, including the use of crisis tools such as market withdrawals to stabilise prices. By contrast, in Central and Eastern Europe, POs remain weaker: in Bulgaria and Romania complex recognition procedures and low levels of trust among producers limit their effectiveness, while in Hungary and Croatia POs are confined to niche sectors with only modest overall impact. (European Commission, 2022).

Other actors

Interbranch organisations, research institutes, national and regional public bodies or authorities can also be beneficiaries of several interventions related to knowledge transfer.

3 Advisory services

Advisors and advisory services have long existed across Europe in a variety of forms – some closely linked to universities and agricultural faculties, others embedded in national research institutes, chambers of agriculture, or cooperative structures, and in the organic sector often operating somewhat outside the mainstream system through NGOs or specialized networks. This diverse landscape provided farmers with knowledge, but it was fragmented and unevenly accessible until 2007.

Advisory services for organic farming were largely developed and delivered by **NGOs, organic farmers' associations, and dedicated certification bodies**, often with only limited connection to public advisory institutions or universities. This meant that organic advice evolved as a **parallel system**, responsive to the specific needs of organic producers but somewhat peripheral to the mainstream agricultural knowledge infrastructure until 2007. In some cases, Farm Advisory System actors had already integrated organic farming advice into their activities, but at the beginning this was not a mandatory requirement. Issues such as biodiversity, animal welfare, and other environmental and social aspects only became obligatory components of advisory services in the current period starting in 2023, whereas in organic advisory these elements had long been of central importance.

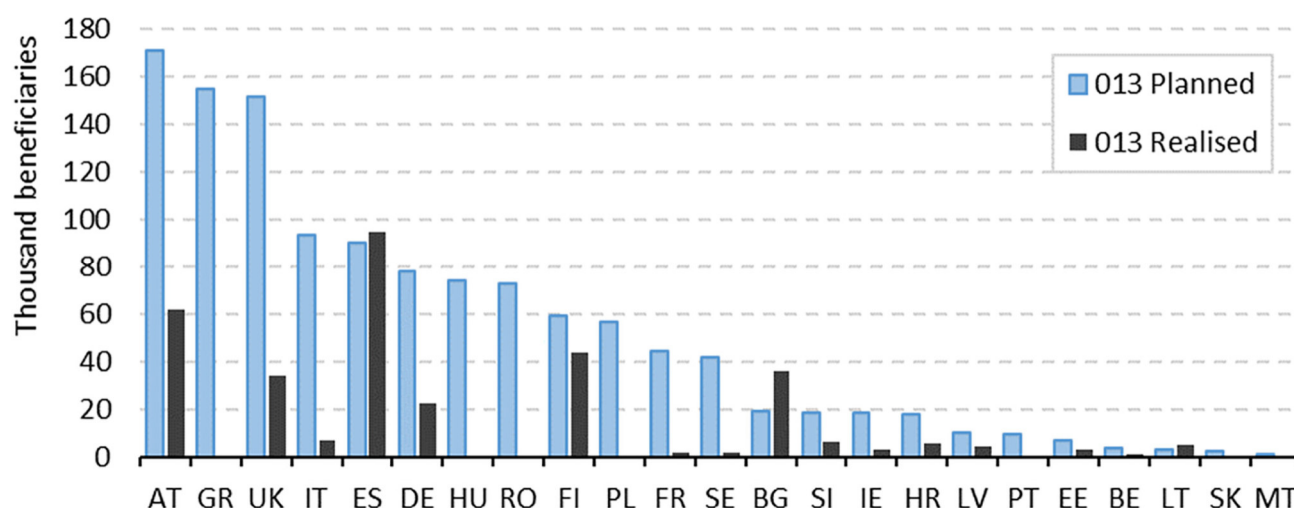
3.1 Evolution of Farm Advisory System in CAP

The European Union Farm Advisory System (EU-FAS) was introduced as a mandatory element in all Member States during the **2007–2014** CAP period, with a primary link to cross-compliance requirements. EU-FAS was established to support farmers in meeting EU standards, a function considered particularly important for the newer Member States. Advisory services on compliance topics were delivered by accredited bodies, while under Pillar 2, Member States had the option to provide funding for such services. The overall impact, however, remained limited due to the narrow focus of the scheme and its administrative complexity. Within the framework of EU-FAS, Member States were required to designate and certify, or “accredit,” advisory bodies authorized to provide services on a defined set of cross-compliance topics. This accreditation acted as a form of national recognition that certain public or private bodies were competent to deliver advisory services under CAP rules, but it did not constitute a formal accreditation in the sense of international standards.

Between 2014–2022, EU-FAS remained compulsory for Member States and the scope expanded, including environmental and sustainability goals (e.g., Greening, Water Framework Directive, Integrated Pest Management). Advisory support in Pillar 2 was not directly linked to EU-FAS and diversified through Rural Development Program Measure M2,⁵ covering uptake of advice, setting up advisory services, and advisor training. Only a small share of farmers benefitted from CAP Measure M2.1, reaching about 5% of eligible beneficiaries. Information on who received support is limited, as there is no systematic monitoring of demographic or structural characteristics. Studies highlight that,

⁵ M2 (Measure 2) was the name of the advisory services support in the CAP period 2014-2021. Code 2.1 for “help benefiting from the use of advisory services”.

in practice, advisory support has tended to reach primarily larger farms and investment-oriented beneficiaries (Labarthe and Beck 2022). At the same time, a significant share of the funds earmarked for advisory services has remained unused. This underutilisation was partly the result of Member States not launching advisory programmes in certain years or implementing them under conditions that did not generate sufficient participation from either advisors or farmers (see Figure 2).



Source: ADE based on 2018 AIR dataset by Labarthe-Beck (2022)

Figure 2 Number of beneficiaries advised under Measure 2.1

In the current CAP period (2023–2027), EU-FAS is no longer tied to direct payments. Instead, a broader range of advisory providers can contribute to CAP objectives, but with requirements for impartiality and independence. This means that advisory services are no longer limited to helping farmers comply with payment conditions but instead are embedded in AKIS and can use broader tools to support knowledge sharing, sustainability, and innovation. Selection and funding are decided by Member States, and advisory measures must be integrated into the national AKIS strategy within the CAP Strategic Plans. In the current period, CAP support for advisory work is broader, with a stronger focus on knowledge sharing, innovation support, and integration into wider innovation policies – going beyond direct one-to-one advice. Independent and impartial organic advisory services are particularly important in this context, as organic farming requires tailored expertise on regulation, agroecological practices, and input substitution, and their strengthening directly contributes to the EU’s 25% organic land target.

Although advisory activities are generally understood to encompass a wide range of actors and functions, the assessment of the impact of the EU’s Common Agricultural Policy must be based on the definition established in the CAP Regulation.

The current CAP regulation (Art. 15, Point 3) establishes a clear requirement that advice provided under the CAP must be **impartial**, and that advisors must be suitably **qualified, adequately trained, and free from conflicts of interest**. This obligation applies to advisors and advisory bodies delivering services financed by EU or national funds within the CAP Strategic Plans (2023–2027). According to

our interpretation and practice, the requirements of independence and impartiality apply specifically to members of the Farm Advisory System (FAS) (see Appendix 8.3). By contrast, other consultants and advisors who are not part of the FAS – including market actors such as input suppliers or buyers – may still play a role in innovation projects, where their involvement is justified by the need to develop solutions that remain viable under real market conditions. Other forms of advice, often referred to in practice as consultancy, may also be offered by well-qualified and trained actors, but since they are not necessarily independent of commercial interests, they are considered separately.

3.2 Acknowledged or accredited advisors

Reliable figures on the number of agricultural advisors in the EU are not available, and only estimates can be drawn. Overall, it is estimated that around 200,000 advisors were financed through CAP sources in the EU in 2023 (AKIS Connect, n.d.). However, no comparable data exist on how many of these advisors were specialized in, or allocated to, organic farming. One example is the i2connect homepage, which by December 2024 contained 174 organisational entries and 3,464 individual entries for advisors with expertise in organic farming worldwide. Another example is the Organic Farm Knowledge Platform, where organic advisory services are listed. The Organic Farm Knowledge platform provides a listing of **organic advisory services** across Europe and internationally. The collection features **more than 50 organisations** spanning at least **15 countries**, including Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Moldova, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom, as well as international umbrella structures. The listed organisations represent a **broad spectrum of actors: International federations and directories, national producer associations and NGOs** coordinating organic advice, **research and competence centres** providing advisory services and knowledge transfer, **public advisory bodies and chambers of agriculture** with organic sections, **networks and specialised initiatives, private consultancies**. However, the validation process for inclusion in these databases is unclear. Ideally, entries should indicate the professional field (such as organic farming) and be subject to annual review, linked to professional training and an evaluation of the advisor's activities. In Task 1.1, of this project the mapping exercise identified **364 individual entries** across participating countries. Each of these actors declared themselves to be an **advisory service with activities in the field of organic farming**, reflecting the diversity and breadth of advisory provision within the sector. This dataset provides an important baseline for understanding the scope of organic advisory services in Europe

Given the many influencing factors, it is not possible to make a strong claim about the relationship between supportive financing and the number of organic advisors in a given country, though it is reasonable to assume that favourable funding conditions have a positive effect on the availability of organic advisory services.

Countries differ in how they manage advisor information: some publish public registries, others keep internal lists maintained by competent authorities, and where advisory services are fully public, accreditation is handled internally, and advisor lists are not disclosed. In general, there is no information available on what proportion of independent advisors are active in the field of organic farming but this is available in some countries. For instance, in Hungary, the national advisory registry shows that around two-thirds of independent advisory organisations, and roughly half of all registered

advisors, have declared organic farming as one of their service areas (Nemzeti Agrárgazdasági Kamara, n.d.).

3.2.1 Other non-acknowledged/non-accredited advisors from AKIS

The i2connect project carried out a survey of farm advisory systems and published country reports in 2021, introducing the AKIS (Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System, including the Farm Advisory Systems), which were updated for most of the countries in 2024. The reports cover advice in general and refer to organic production related advice in several countries. The latest information on the AKIS of individual Member States and on the AKIS tasks, objectives and financing set out in the CAP Strategic Plans of individual Member States has been published in the ModernAKIS project country reports. In the OrganicTargets4EU project, the organic AKIS systems of the participating countries were reviewed, with particular attention to advisory services. According to the OrganicTargets4EU project results, organic advisory ecosystems involve a wide range of actors, including public bodies (such as chambers of agriculture and product councils) and government authorities that provide policy support, funding, and regulation; research institutes and educational institutions that generate knowledge and build farmer capacities; and cooperations like EU CAP Network Operational Groups that foster multi-actor innovation. Private consultancies, input suppliers, and independent advisors deliver specialised, market-driven services, while farmer organisations—including cooperatives, producer groups, and organic associations—strengthen peer learning and market access. Control bodies ensure compliance with organic standards, and media as well as digital platforms disseminate information and connect stakeholders. In some regions, organic communities, such as Italian bio-districts, integrate local farmers, consumers, authorities, and businesses to promote agroecological resource management. Based on these reports, a compiled and supplemented overview of the advisory systems in the core countries of the OrganicAdviceNetwork project is provided in Appendix 8.3 of this publication.

4 Methodology

For the evaluation of advisory services targeting the organic sector within the CAP Strategic Plans, an Excel-based analytical framework was developed and systematically applied in the project's core countries, with the exception of Switzerland which is not part a beneficiary of the CAP. In addition, a literature review was carried out to map relevant actors, practices, and support mechanisms. External sources included the European Commission website, the CAP Strategic Plans of the project partner's countries, and projects related to AKIS, advisory services, and organic advisory services. The framework and the accompanying guidelines are available upon request.

4.1 Overview of the assessment framework

The data collection tool was organized in three main areas:

- **CAP interventions:** Identification and evaluation of CAP-funded advisory initiatives, including their effectiveness and outreach.
- **Alternative financing mechanisms:** Examination of non-CAP funding mechanisms, including regional, national, and private sector initiatives.
- **Availability and effectiveness of advisory services:** Mapping the presence and accessibility of advisory services in different countries.

The framework's main objectives were to identify and assess the implementation of CAP interventions across countries, to analyse how organic advisory services are funded, and to examine how they are embedded in national intervention structures. The key criteria for assessment were relevance, scale and inclusivity, and financial adequacy (see Section 4.2). Beyond mapping the presence of interventions, the framework also enables the identification of gaps, overlaps, and opportunities for strengthening advisory support in line with CAP objectives and the specific needs of the organic sector.

To support its use, a set of guidelines was prepared, providing an overview of the most relevant CAP interventions affecting the organic sector, and suggesting specific interventions that project partners should search for in their own National Strategic Plans (Table 1). The framework was designed in autumn 2024, piloted in five project partner countries (BG, DE, EE, FR, IT) during October–November 2024, and subsequently applied in all core countries (AT, BE, BG, DE, DK, EE, ES, FR, HR, IT, HU, PT, RO) between January and March 2025. In countries where CAP Strategic Plans are organised at the regional level (Belgium, Germany, Italy, Spain), the framework was implemented in two to three selected federal states. The project partner countries are located across the different geographical regions of Europe.

Table 1 Selected and evaluated interventions from REGULATION (EU) 2021/2115

Intervention Code	Type of intervention	Legal basis	Intervention activity	Beneficiaries	Financing logic
Pillar 1, financed from EAGF available only for producer organisations					
KNOW	Knowledge exchange and dissemination of information	Art. 78	Individual advisory	Farmers Advisors ⁽¹⁾	EU + mandatory national co-financing
			Demonstration farms		
			Information services		
			Supporting AKIS services		
			Supporting back-office activities AKIS/advisory		
COOP	Cooperation	Art. 77	EIP-AGRI (Art 127) Operational groups	Farmers Advisors Researchers Businesses NGOs Other rural actors ⁽²⁾	EU + mandatory national co-financing
			European CAP networks (Art 126)	Coordinated by EU Commission	
			National CAP Network (based on Article 126)	Implemented by Member States involving relevant actors ⁽²⁾	
			LEADER (based on Article 31 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060	Leader local action groups ⁽³⁾	
			Support producer groups/organisations (based on Art 67 and 68)	Recognised producer groups/organisation ⁽⁴⁾	
Pillar 1, financed from EAGF available only for producer organisations, sector-specific ⁽⁵⁾					
ADVI1	Advisory services and technical assistance	Art. 47(1) point (b)	Planned, but not introduced in several MS.	Recognised producer groups/organisation ⁽⁴⁾	EU share + POs' own funds
TRAINCO	Training & exchange of best practices	Art. 47(1) point (c)			
ORGAN	Organic or integrated production	Art. 47(1) point (d)			
COACH ⁽⁶⁾	Coaching	Art. 47(2) point (j)			
ADVIBEES	Advisory services, technical assistance, training, information& exchange of best practices	Art. 55(1) point (a)	Planned, but not introduced in several MS.	Recognised producer groups/organisation ⁽⁴⁾	EU share + POs' own funds

Notes to Table 1

- (1) Depends on Member State, measures are often combined
- (2) Beneficiaries can be farmers, advisors, researchers, businesses, NGOs, and other rural actors. Farmers/foresters must be directly involved.
- (3) For LEADER Projects: farmers, foresters, SMEs, municipalities, NGOs, and local citizens' groups – in line with Local Development Strategy; LEADER Managers: Local Action Groups (mixed public-private partnerships with balanced decision power).
- (4) Recognised producer groups and producer organisation in named sectors, recognised by the Competent Authority of the Member States. Sectors specifically mentioned are fruit and vegetables sector, apiculture, wine, hops, olive oil and table olives sector and other sectors (as referred to in 1308/2013 and Annex VI of the CAP regulation)
- (5) The advisory intervention concerning the wine sector was not evaluated, as, according to the CAP Regulation, it relates primarily to working conditions, employer obligations, and occupational health and safety.
- (6) The COACH measure was not listed among the examples in the framework, as it was not implemented at the time of drafting, although this measure may be also relevant to other producer organisations.

The project partners evaluating the interventions represent a highly diverse set of organisations, ranging from small entities with a limited outlook to large institutions with extensive international experience. Some provide direct advisory services, while others are primarily involved in innovation projects, working mainly with individual farmers but with limited experience in supporting producer groups. Together they include public and private advisory services, research institutes, and farmer organisations, reflecting the broad spectrum of actors engaged in organic advisory services. In a later phase, during the project annual meeting in Bulgaria (April 2025) once all partners completed the framework for their respective country, a weighting exercise was carried out with the involvement of project partners, based on the responses received up to that point.

The qualitative evaluations submitted by the project partners were quantified and used as the basis for the overall assessments.

Note on digital tools: During the preparation of this deliverable, digital tools such as DeepL (for translation) and ChatGPT (for drafting, rephrasing, and text support) were used to facilitate the writing process. These tools were applied as aids; the authors take full responsibility for the analysis, interpretation, and final content of the report.

4.2 Overview of the assessment criteria

Table 2 provides the assessment criteria that were explained in the guidelines for national partners.

The assessment of CAP measures focuses on how these measures support organic agriculture, their impact on farmers and advisory services, and the adequacy of their funding structures. We were interested to get a first and personal impression of the relevance of the interventions to advisory organisations that provide advice in organic. The national advisory partners of OrganicAdviceNetwork have a good understanding of the advisory landscape in their country but are engaged in different aspects of advisory and innovation processes. This influences the perspectives reflected in their responses.

Table 2 Key assessment criteria in the framework of Task 3.1

CAP measures supporting organic advisory services
<p>Relevance to advisory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of sectors the measure applies, and relevance to the advisory (including innovation and knowledge share) specifically
<p>Relevance to the organic sector specifically</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beneficiaries of the measures • Identification of the primary recipients of funding (e.g. farmers, farmer groups, advisory services directly)
<p>Observation on the measure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of whether the funding structure is appropriate • Whether the planned financial aid sufficiently covers costs
Alternative financing mechanisms supporting organic advisory services
<p>Existence and availability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether the funding source supports organic advisory services in their country, with specific questions for each funding type.
<p>Relevance to the organic sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of the importance of each funding source using a four-point scale (1: No relevance, 2: Low relevance, 3: Moderate relevance, 4: Very important, 0: Unable to judge).
<p>Scope of reach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach of advisory services supported by each funding mechanism: • Number of farmers reached (if known) • Number of advisors supported (if known)
Assessment of various tools provided by organic advisory services
<p>Availability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whether the service is available in their country • Service Provider • Identification of the institution or entity providing the service
<p>Relevance to the organic sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of the importance of each service using a four-point scale: (1: No relevance, 2: Low relevance, 3: Moderate relevance, 4: Very important, 0: Unable to judge)
<p>Funding mechanism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of the financial source supporting the activity, including: • Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) funding • Other national or international measures • Private sector funding

For the **assessment of alternative financing mechanisms** for organic advisory services, the survey respondents were asked to provide insights into the role of various funding sources play in sustaining advisory services for organic producers. This analysis helped identifying key funding stakeholders, possible gaps in financial support, and opportunities for improving advisory services. Respondents received a list of financing sources (banking sector, private foundations, retail chains, food-processing industry, input companies, private independent advisors, farmers' associations, organic certification bodies, EU-funded projects (Horizon, Erasmus, Interreg), and nationally funded project) and were asked to evaluate them.

For the **assessment of various services provided by organic farming advisory organisations**, the survey respondents were asked to evaluate the following advisory services: subsidised advice for organic farmers, subsidised advice for in-conversion farmers, private/commercial advice, regional groups, conferences and seminars, publications in the native language, demonstration farm networks, phone helpline, electronic database in the native language, national coordination, podcasts on organic agriculture, and YouTube/social media channels on organic agriculture.

4.3 Limitations

Although the framework was in principle designed to enable a comprehensive assessment of each country, this is not fully reflected in the results. A central reason for this limitation was that, at the time of data collection (autumn 2024 and spring 2025), most interventions under the 2023–2027 CAP cycle had either only very recently been implemented and lacked sufficient information to assess their impact or had not yet been implemented. The potential of certain interventions was not yet known to actors in the sector, which explains their limited participation in the supported activities.

It should also be noted that effectiveness indicators – such as the number of farmers and beneficiaries reached, and the practical experiences associated with the uptake of different support forms – are not yet available and will only become accessible towards the end of the 2023–2027 CAP period. Looking ahead, however, the roll-out of these interventions offers an opportunity for existing actors to reinforce their networks, for new partnerships to emerge, and for advisory and cooperation structures to become stronger and more impactful as practical experiences accumulate.

The perspectives of those filling in the framework may be reflected in their responses; while some organisations were directly engaged in providing advice to farmers (e.g.: BE, HR, HU) others had a stronger focus on innovation processes (e.g.: IT, DE, RO, DK). Activities linked to producer groups, mostly relating to specific sectors were largely unknown. To complement their own perspectives, partner organisations also consulted external experts, which further informed their responses. Several organisations participating in the project – particularly public bodies – indicated that they do not always have clarity on the exact CAP intervention financing their activities, since funds are often channelled through broader national or regional programmes (e.g. AT, DK, BE). A particular challenge encountered by the project partners was the identification of sector-specific CAP interventions linked to advisory services, including the clarification of their legal basis and the recognition of measures that could potentially create advisory opportunities for farmer groups. This proved especially difficult because, although such measures are formally included in the CAP Strategic Plans of several Member States, no financial resources have been allocated to their implementation.

It should also be noted that the complex nature of the CAP also leads to a mosaic of different approaches and practices that are difficult to categorise and go beyond what can be captured by a general survey. For instance, in Germany, organic model regions aim to increase organic production and establish regional value chains. There are currently 75 of such regions in Germany, located in the federal states of Bavaria, Hessen, Lower Saxony, North Rhine-Westphalia and Baden-Württemberg. However, such projects are not permitted to provide technical production advice and must refer such matters to regional advisors. Not all federal states receive EU funding for these regions. Bavaria, for example, does not. Similar regions “biodistricts” exist in other countries, in Italy, Austria too.

Finally, we assumed that some form of identification system should exist to facilitate the comparative analysis of CAP Strategic Plans, as has been common in previous CAP periods. The “**Catalogue of interventions**”⁶ available on the EU website is a highly valuable resource but remains difficult to locate and is not easily retrievable via search engines. Unlike the PDF version of the CAP Strategic Plans on the Commission website, the Catalogue is a living resource that is updated when MS modify their CAP Strategic Plans once a year. In this way modifications can be easily traced, rather than through separate official communications. For example, in Hungary the original Plan contained three KNOW interventions, which were later merged into two.

⁶ https://agridata.ec.europa.eu/extensions/DashboardCapPlan/catalogue_interventions.html

5 Results and discussion

In this section we provide an overview of the CAP interventions related to advisory activities for the core countries of OrganicAdviceNetwork. Each measure was evaluated based on the responses received to the framework and cross checked using the database available on the Commission's website on CAP measures.

Table 9 in the Appendix 8.4 presents the measures under discussion indicating their code, type, legal basis in the CAP regulation, sector, eligibility criteria /target group, source of financing and financing logic (whether they are typically co-financed from national funds in addition to the EU budget), and, where applicable, possible measure types. In Table 3 the evaluation of the National CAP Strategic Plans is summarised, indicating which interventions are applied in the core countries of OrganicAdviceNetwork. Subsequently, in Table 4, the feedback of the partner organisations is presented.

Table 3 Mentioning of CAP interventions related to advisory activities in CAP Strategic Plans of the core countries of OrganicAdviceNetwork,

CAP intervention	Member States	AT	BE	BG	DE	DK	EE	ES	FR	HR	HU	IT	PT	RO
KNOW		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
COOP		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
EIP-AGRI		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
National /European CAP networks		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ADVI1		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
COACH			✓	✓				✓			✓	✓		
TRAINCO		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ORGAN		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		
<i>Fruits-vegetable sector</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Olives-sector</i>										.		✓		
<i>Potatoes-sector</i>												✓		
<i>Dairy-sector</i>				✓										
<i>Hop-sector</i>					✓									
ADVIBEEES		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

✓ Advisory service is mentioned in the Member State's CAP Strategic Plan, by that given intervention.

Rows with italic letter indicates the sectors, where an intervention is planned. Sector specific interventions are the ORGAN, ADVI1, COACH, TRAINCO, ADVIBEEES interventions.

Source: Own compilation based on the Commission database and answers by the project partners.

Table 4 Evaluation of the CAP interventions related to advisory service by the partner organisation of OrganicAdviceNetwork

CAP intervention	Member States	AT	BE	BG	DE	DK	EE	ES	FR	HR	HU	IT	PT	RO
KNOW		4	4	3	4		4	0	4	3	3	3	3	2
Advisory services and technical assistance		4	4	2	4		4	0	4	2	4	3	4	2
Training and demonstration programs		4	4	3	0		4	0	3	2	0	3	0	2
Information services		4	4	3	0		0	0	3	4	1	3	0	2
COOP		4	4	4	2	0	4	4	4	0	4	4	4	2
EIP-AGRI		0	4	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	2	0	0
National and European CAP networks		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
ADVI1		4	2	3	0	0		0	0		3	2	0	2
COACH			0	0				0			0			
TRAINCO		4	2	4		0		0	0	2	3	2	0	2
ORGAN		4	2		0	0		0	0		0	4		
<i>Fruits-vegetable sector</i>		4	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	0	2
<i>Olives</i>												2		
<i>Potato sector</i>												2		
<i>Dairy</i>			3											
<i>Hop-sector</i>					2									
ADVIBEEES		4	2	4	2	0	3	0	2	4	4	1	0	0

Importance: 1 - non relevant; 2 - some relevant; 3 – relevant; 4 - very relevant; 0 - cannot judge (or not evaluated)

Rows with italic letter indicates the sectors, where an intervention is planned. Sector specific interventions are the ORGAN, ADVI1, COACH, TRAINCO, ADVIBEEES interventions.

Source: own compilation based on the answers of the project partners.

5.1 Knowledge exchange and dissemination of information (KNOW)

Regulation (EU) 2021/2115, Article 78, sets out the framework for “Knowledge exchange and information” interventions within rural development. The measure is an integral part of each Member State’s AKIS, contributing to the CAP’s overarching objectives of economic viability, environmental sustainability, and vibrant rural communities. Regarding advisory services, this is the most relevant and probably best-known measure. The measure covers several activities, and depending on the construction and the country, farmers or advisory services may be the beneficiary of the payment, but in most of the cases the advisory organisation itself.

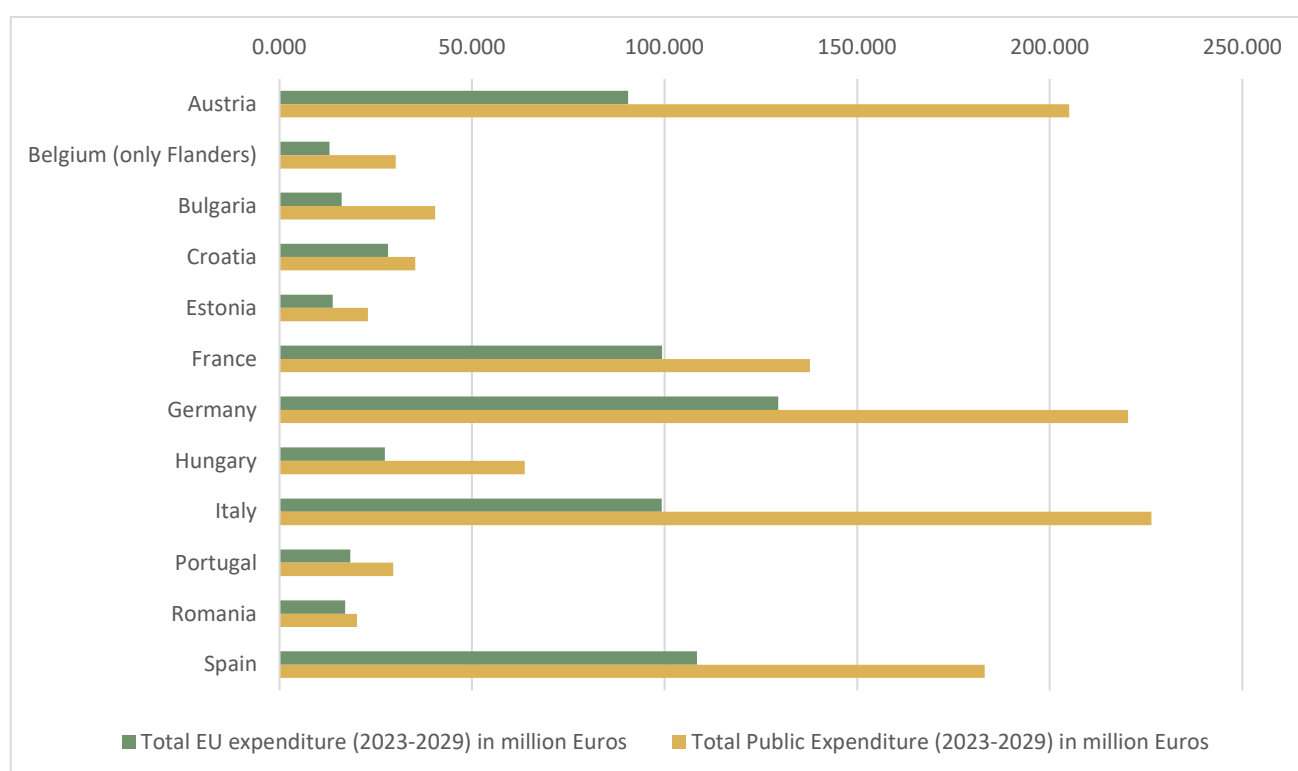
The KNOW measure under the Rural Development Chapter of EU Common Agricultural Policy 2023–2027 supports the transfer of knowledge, skills, and innovation in agriculture, forestry, and rural areas. Its primary objective is to ensure that farmers, foresters, rural entrepreneurs, and advisors have access to up-to-date, practical, and research-based information, enabling them to improve sustainability, competitiveness, and resilience. It also fosters links between research, advisory

services, and practitioners, contributing to the development of a well-functioning Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS) in each Member State.

Support is typically co-financed by the EU and national or regional budgets, with payments based on eligible costs for the approved actions. Delivery channels may include face-to-face training, demonstration farms, workshops, farmer-to-farmer exchanges, digital learning platforms, training (face-to-face learning) and study visits. Activities must align with CAP objectives, especially in areas such as climate action, biodiversity protection, innovation uptake, and digitalization. Eligible activities include:

- Vocational training and skills development for farmers, foresters, and advisors.
- Demonstration activities, pilot farms, and practical trials showcasing innovative techniques.
- Information campaigns and dissemination of good practices.
- Farmer and forest exchanges, including study visits and mentoring schemes.
- Development of educational materials and digital learning tools.
- Facilitation of multi-actor networks, including European Innovation Partnership (EIP-AGRI) Operational Groups.
- Establishing new services
- Backoffice services for AKIS.

All activities must be provided by organisations or individuals with proven competence and experience in the relevant subject areas. Actions should be tailored to the needs of the target groups and promote the application of newly acquired knowledge in practice. Monitoring and evaluation should track participant numbers, types of activities, and evidence of uptake of innovations or practices after the intervention. Support for advisory services shall only be granted for advisory services that comply with Article 15 of the CAP regulation. The KNOW intervention is implemented with considerable variation across Member States. These elements can be grouped and consolidated, so that ultimately only two or three distinct measures remain. Demonstration farms, for example, are treated differently depending on national choices: in certain cases, they are designed as independent interventions, while elsewhere they are integrated into broader knowledge-sharing activities. Similarly, the organisation of AKIS structures and their supporting back-office functions are in some Member States established as stand-alone interventions, whereas in others they are embedded within wider knowledge and innovation support schemes. This diversity in design and scope makes it particularly difficult to compare the implementation and effectiveness of the KNOW measure across countries.



Source: Own compilation based on Catalogue of CAP interventions

Figure 3 Knowledge and dissemination of knowledge measure in the CAP Strategic Plans of the core countries of OrganicAdviceNetwork (2023-2029)

Figure 3 presents the planned EU and total public expenditure under the KNOW measure in the CAP Strategic Plans of the OrganicAdviceNetwork core countries. Denmark and Walloon region of Belgium did not allocate any budget to this measure, and therefore no Danish and Walloon data is included in the figure. Instead, Denmark maintains a well-functioning advisory system financed through national funds, without relying on CAP resources. Even before the introduction of CAP interventions for advisory services and innovation, advisory and experimental initiatives were already funded nationally or privately. As a result, analysing CAP advisory-related activities in Denmark is problematic, since no EU funding was allocated to the KNOW measure. Farmers in Denmark generally pay directly for most advisory services they use on farm, including those related to organic farming. In Wallonia, where the KNOW measure is not applied, advisory services are mainly financed through regional government funds and project-based support schemes, complemented in some cases by farmer contributions. Detailed data on the individual interventions and planned support can be found in the Appendix 8.5 *KNOW, COOP and Sectoral Interventions in the Catalogue of CAP Interventions* for the countries covered in this report.

We cannot estimate the proportion of organic farmers who use individual advisory services, whether provided by public or private providers. However, it is likely that in Member States where producers receive any CAP support typically use the assistance of advisory organisations to access this support. Similarly, we cannot estimate the proportion of the KNOW budget reaching the organic sector, but it is clear, that both private and public advisory services are aware that these measures are available for organic activities too.

The efficacy of this measure is evaluated by the reached number of advisors and farmers (see Appendix 8.2 Table 8). It should be noted, however, that this efficacy is assessed only through planned indicators, meaning that the targets are set in advance by the Member States, while real uptake and impact will only be known in the later stages of the CAP period.

5.1.1 Evaluation of the intervention from the partner organisation's perspective

The intervention related to the activities “Advisory services and technical assistance” has been evaluated by the survey respondents in several countries.

The measure was considered useful for advisory organisations in Austria, Belgium, Germany, Estonia, France, Hungary and Portugal (see Table 4).

- In Flanders (Belgium), this is a new measure, so its effectiveness is yet unknown, but promising.
- In Hungary, there are two measures: individual advisory (two years of funding) and the launch of a new advisory service. The later measure may be attractive to professional advisory services, as the call's evaluation criteria clearly require full-time advisors, making part-time advisors (e.g., researchers) ineligible. The unit cost is low (based on 2020 data): the hourly rate is about €33 which does not cover the real costs. Moreover, only contact hours are paid, even though preparation time is necessary for farm visits.
- In Lower Saxony (Germany), the measure is considered not very bureaucratic, which makes the relatively low farmer participation (around 40%) surprising. The measure covers only individual advisory services, while group activities are financed separately by the federal state.
- In Portugal, it is considered effective, but the administrative burden can be high; subsidies help lower costs, but the complexity may limit access.
- In Estonia, it is effectively used by the target group of advisors. The support rate covers 90% of the cost, with a maximum of €2,700 per year per farmer, calculated on an hourly basis (€47.7/hour). The annual budget is €1 million, but demand for advisory services exceeds the available resources. Hence, the budget is insufficient to meet all needs.

This intervention was evaluated as a moderate effective intervention in Italy.

- In Italy, the measure includes functional and instrumental services (e.g., laboratory analysis, market studies, digital platforms) and may include vouchers; it can also be integrated into EIP-AGRI Operational Groups.

This intervention was evaluated as less effective intervention in Bulgaria, Croatia, Estonia and Romania, and not evaluated in Spain.

- In Bulgaria, the measure does not provide specialized or individual advice on organic farming, and organic producers are seeking other ways and forms of consultancy and for obtaining information.

- In Croatia, the measure directly supports advisors, mainly young professionals, across the whole country.
- In Romania, the measure is seen as overly administrative.

The intervention with the activities related to **“Trainings and demonstration programs”** has been evaluated by respondents in several countries (see Table 4).

It was evaluated with high relevance and effective intervention in Austria, Belgium and Estonia.

- In Flanders (Belgium), it is considered as definitely effective, although recent changes have reduced funding for Landwijzer (the training centre for organic farming), forcing it to restructure its training.

This intervention was evaluated as medium effective measure in Bulgaria, France and Italy.

- In Bulgaria, the measure would be more effective if organic production were included in the required scope of topics.
- In Croatia, it directly supports advisors, mainly young professionals, across the whole country.
- In Italy, the key beneficiaries of training initiatives are accredited organisations that may lack specific expertise but are registered in regional repositories and have training facilities. They often recruit external experts to deliver technical training, sometimes without a thorough needs assessment. The intervention includes information events (e.g., demonstration days, videos, informative material), in-person and online courses, seminars, practical sessions, study trips, and demonstration projects. These demonstration activities take place on real farms or research stations and involve testing and disseminating technological innovations, as well as process, product, and organisational improvements. While the measure is designed to strengthen links between agriculture and research, its operability and benefits for the organic sector remain unclear.

This intervention was evaluated as less relevant, or not known intervention in Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Portugal, Romania, Spain.

The measure **“Information services”** has been evaluated by respondents in several countries (see in Table 4).

It was evaluated effective in Austria, Belgium and Croatia.

- In Flanders (Belgium), demonstration projects are considered highly effective. They are mostly implemented by applied research organisations and focus on showcasing good practices or innovations. On average, one demonstration project per year is directed towards organic farming, with a budget of €100,000.
- In Croatia, information services offer their services via e-learning, which could increase its effectiveness.

It was evaluated as medium effective in Bulgaria, France and Italy:

- In Bulgaria, the measure would be more effective if organic production was explicitly included in the scope of topics.
- In Italy, the intervention aims to enhance the professional skills and abilities of workers in agriculture, forestry, and rural sectors. It supports training and professional updating for economic operators through courses, farm visits, practical sessions, exchanges, coaching, tutoring, and internships. Notably, farmers cannot be direct beneficiaries of coaching and tutoring, which would be ideal for peer-to-peer learning. This limitation should be reconsidered, given restrictions on double farm payments⁷. The measure is essential, though its overall impact is somewhat limited. It has been adopted in organic farming in the past, enabling better stakeholder outreach. Organic advisors can play a role, but better integration with sectoral organisations or as part of innovation and training initiatives is needed. The most suitable intervention formats for advisors appear to be information desks, technical meetings, workshops, and information products such as bulletins, newsletters, and factsheets.

This intervention was evaluated as less relevant intervention, or not evaluated in Germany, Estonia, Hungary, Portugal, Romania and Spain.

- In Hungary, the program could become successful, publicly funded advisory organisations help producers apply for organic subsidies and other forms of support, as well as solve technological problems, but now its relevance cannot be judged.

5.2 Cooperation, European CAP Networks, European Innovation Partnership (COOP)

The Cooperation (COOP) interventions of the Rural Development part of Common Agricultural Policy are among the most forward-looking components of the CAP Strategic Plans for 2023–2027. Anchored in Article 77 of the Regulation (EU) 2021/2115, they are designed to promote joint action, strengthen innovation, and build collective solutions to challenges that extend far beyond the capacity of individual farms. The CAP recognises that problems such as climate change, market volatility, biodiversity decline, and technological transition can only be effectively addressed through cooperation between farmers, advisors, researchers, businesses, and rural communities.

Unlike farm-level measures, COOP interventions embody cooperation as a **policy principle**. They provide a framework for collective projects where knowledge is co-created, and risks are shared. Their central ambition is to **stimulate partnerships across the agri-food system**, creating spaces where new practices can be tested, and knowledge can flow between science and practice. In doing so, they enable systemic innovation, which is vital for achieving the EU's Green Deal, Farm to Fork, and Biodiversity Strategy targets. Under the COOP intervention Member States can support projects of

⁷ In the CAP context, *double payment* (or *double funding*) means that a farmer or organisation receives financial support twice for the same practice, cost, or activity from different interventions or funding sources. EU rules prohibit double payments, because support should be complementary rather than overlapping.

the EIP operational groups, prepare and implement LEADER, promote and support recognised quality schemes and their use by farmers; support producer groups, producer organisations or interbranch organisations, prepare and implement smart-village strategies and support other forms of cooperation (see more detail below).

In addition to Article 77, Articles 126 and 127 provide guidance on additional activities at national and European level, and establish the framework for the CAP Network and for the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI). Both instruments are highly relevant, as they provide platforms where organic advisory organisations act as principal actors in driving innovation and facilitating the exchange of knowledge. **Article 126** defines the national and European CAP networks. The task of the CAP Network is, inter alia, to foster innovation in agriculture and rural development and to support peer-to-peer learning and the inclusion of, and the interaction between, all stakeholders in the knowledge-exchange and knowledge-building process. **Article 127** defines the European Innovation Partnership (EIP). EIP promoting agricultural innovation, supporting operational groups, fostering knowledge sharing and dissemination. The EU and national CAP networks are directly supported through the **technical assistance provisions** (Article 94) of the CAP Strategic Plan Regulation (Articles 126–127), rather than under any specific intervention measure.

5.2.1 Additional detail on the cooperation activities that can be funded under Article 77

EIP-AGRI (based on Article 127)

The European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI) promotes innovation through multi-actor Operational Groups that connect farmers, advisors, and researchers. These groups are funded under the CAP Strategic Plans, making EIP-AGRI a key tool for linking research with practice and strengthening AKIS.

Operational Groups (OGs) are in the centre of cooperation interventions. OGs are multi-actor teams (farmers, advisors, researchers, enterprises, NGOs) formed to solve a concrete problem or seize an opportunity. They embody the EIP’s “interactive innovation” model: they agree on the problem, co-design the trial or solution, co-validate results on real farms, and share what works. Legally, OGs financed via cooperation form part of the EIP (Article 127), and each OG must draw up a project plan grounded in farmers’ needs. Many OGs operate across borders and must disseminate their plans and results through national/EU CAP networks—by design, their outputs feed advisory and peer-to-peer learning channels.

LEADER (based on Article 31 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060)

COOP can finance the preparation and implementation of LEADER strategies. This instrument places local partnerships (Local Action Groups) in the driver’s seat for territorial development, which is particularly useful when agricultural innovation, diversification, bioeconomy projects, or ecosystem-service schemes depend on local assets and social capital. LEADER’s community-based governance complements farm-level innovation by aligning it with place-based. However, as **LEADER is not directly connected to organic advisory, it is not discussed in greater detail here.**

Quality schemes recognized by the EU or Member States

COOP can promote and foster quality schemes recognized by the EU or Member States (e.g., PDO/PGI/TSG, organic). This strand of cooperation strengthens collective identity, traceability and credibility—prerequisites for value-adding strategies that reward sustainable practices. The Regulation also empowers the Commission to set extra requirements around transparency and traceability for these schemes.

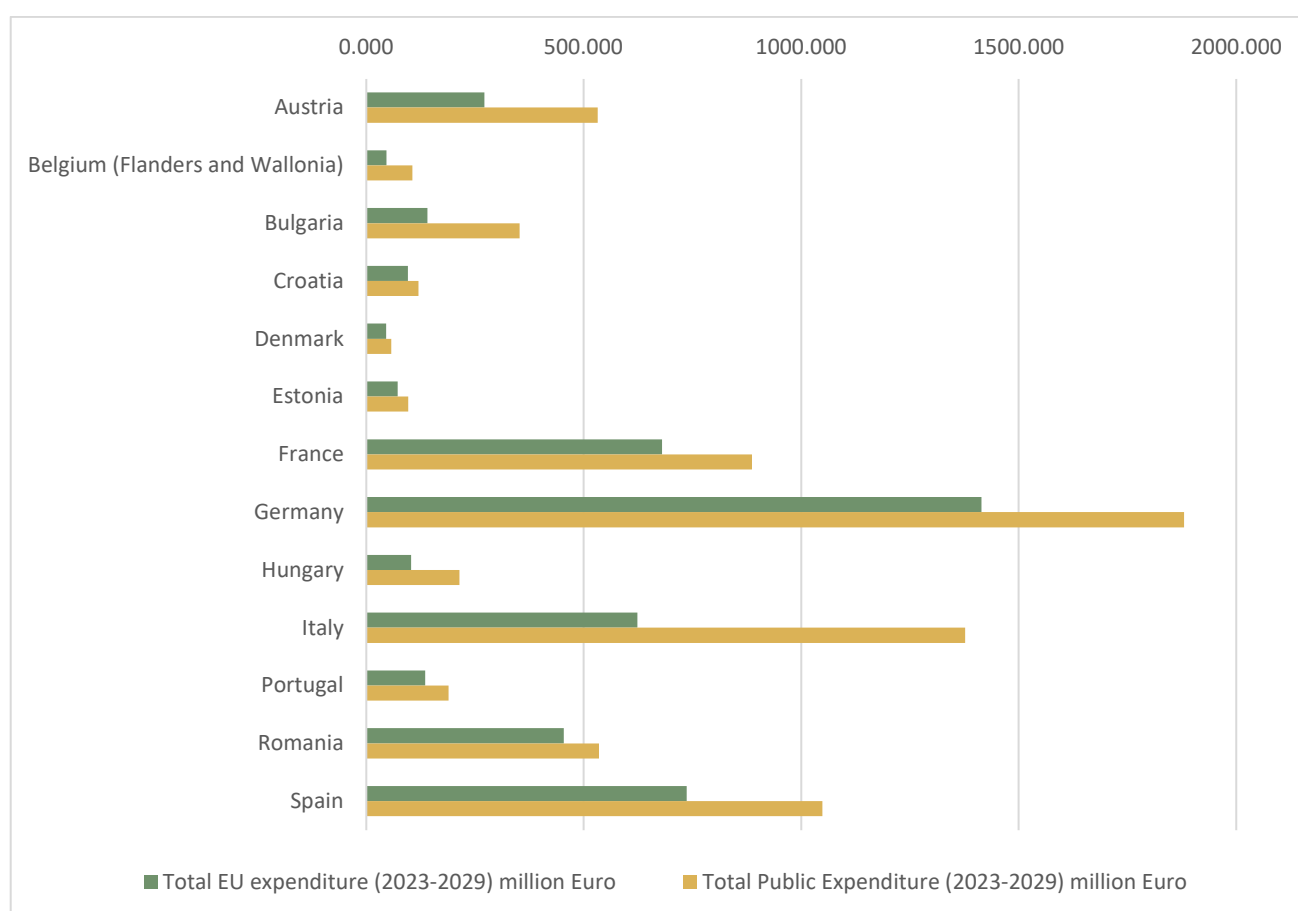
Producer groups/organisations (based on Art 67 and 68)

COOP can support producer groups and organisations (and interbranch bodies), which are essential to rebalance bargaining power and to coordinate investment, logistics, and information flows along supply chains. In practice, these structures often host advisory activities—such as benchmarking, joint technical support, or shared data—and thus become effective channels for spreading new practices across many farms at once. This support is not limited to the establishment of new producer organisations but also complements sectoral measures under Pillar 1, where producer groups and organisations play a central role in implementing market-related interventions.

Smart villages

Smart villages use cooperation to bring digital and social innovation to rural areas—connectivity, data platforms, shared machinery, digital advisory tools, short-chain logistics, and service hubs. This is where agritech meets rural public goods: a living lab for advisory to test and diffuse digital solutions at community scale.

Other types of cooperations let Member States back **joint environmental and climate actions**, landscape-level biodiversity projects, catchment-scale water management, collective carbon farming pilots, or collaborative market initiatives (e.g., local procurement, logistics hubs).



Source: Own compilation based on: EU Commission database

Figure 4 Planned Total Public Expenditure and Total EU Expenditure (2023-2029) of COOP interventions (including LEADER) in the countries of the OrganicAdviceNetwork.

Figure 4 shows the planned total expenditure and planned EU expenditure in the countries of OrganicAdviceNetwork, while Table 13 in the Appendix 8.5 shows the planned expenditures, by COOP intervention types in these countries.

5.2.2 Evaluation of the COOP measure in the core countries

Across the OrganicAdviceNetwork countries, the COOP measure (Art. 77) is implemented with varying priorities, but two types of interventions stand out as most widely used: EIP Operational Group projects and sectoral cooperations. Their evaluation is summarised in Table 4. The COOP intervention under the CAP is an umbrella measure that supports different forms of collective action. Its interventions typically target the preparation and implementation of EIP operational groups, preparation and implementation of LEADER, promotion and support quality schemes recognised by the European Union or by the Member States and their use by farmers, support producer groups, producer organisations or interbranch organisations, preparation and implementation of smart-village strategies, finally support other forms of cooperation. Beneficiaries therefore range from farmer groups, producer organisations, and cooperatives to advisory services, SMEs, NGOs, and research actors, depending on the specific intervention.

The European Innovation Partnership (EIP-AGRI) is recognised and evaluated as a relevant intervention in Flanders (Belgium), where every year more than 20 new Operational Groups are launched, of which two to four have organic relevance. The measure is also mentioned as known in Estonia, Germany (Saxony), Hungary, and Italy, but was not reported in other countries. By contrast, interventions linked to the European and national CAP networks were only mentioned by France, and not mentioned at all by the other project partners.

Cooperation interventions are most often connected to producer organisations (POs). These were evaluated as highly relevant in Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, France, Hungary, Italy, Portugal and Spain less relevant in Germany and Romania, and not mentioned in Denmark and Croatia. Producer organisations (POs) are sector-specific, with relevant sectors indicated in Table 4.

Country feedback illustrates both opportunities and challenges. COOP interventions related to POs in Bavaria and Saxony (Germany) are considered relevant but rarely implemented. In Croatia, the intervention shows potential for the organic sector if producers are mobilised to cooperate. Estonia has recently launched the scheme, offering aid rates of up to 80%, but farmers reported that initial application rounds were administratively complex despite the measure being well designed. In Portugal, cooperation projects are valued for strengthening networks and advisory support, while in Italy the measure is linked to innovation and digitalisation, though with limited reference to advisory services. In Hungary and Romania, however, the measure is either not yet launched or poorly connected to knowledge provision, which reduces its effectiveness.

Overall, the diversity of design and implementation demonstrates the adaptability of the COOP measure but also makes cross-country comparisons difficult. While some Member States focus narrowly on EIP Operational Groups, others extend cooperation to organic farming, value chain development, or territorial collaboration. This variation reflects national priorities but complicates evaluation of the measure's EU-wide impact.

5.3 Sector specific interventions

Some interventions related to advisory and knowledge transfer are specially designed for producer organisations and can only be used in certain sectors. Article 47 highlights sectors such as fruit and vegetables, hops, olive oil and table olives, among others, where targeted sectoral measures must be supported with advisory services. Usually, a dedicated share of the programme budget is reserved for advisory activities. Operational plans typically specify how many farmers should be reached, how many hours should be delivered, or what financial value should be allocated to advisory support. Beyond these quantitative targets, the operational plan also defines the type of advisory services to be provided, the methods of delivery (e.g. individual consultancy, group training, demonstrations), and the expected results. Each plan must be approved by the national authority, monitored regularly, and adjusted if necessary to ensure that advisory objectives are effectively achieved within the sectoral programme.

5.3.1 Measures for producer groups ADVI1, TRAINCO and COACH

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) offers several complementary knowledge-transfer instruments—**ADVI1**, **TRAINCO** and **COACH**—which collectively aim to strengthen the capacity of agricultural producers to adopt sustainable, innovative, and market-responsive practices. Although each measure has its own emphasis, they are closely related in objectives, design, and target audience. Because ADVI1, COACH and TRAINCO are sectoral interventions under Article 47, support is channelled through recognised producer organisations, association of producer organisations or interbranch associations meaning individual producers access these services only via membership in such organisations. This eligibility criterion ensures that funding is channelled to collective entities, fostering collaboration, knowledge sharing, and more efficient use of resources.

ADVI1 delivers advisory services and technical assistance. This measure provides tailored, expert guidance—often in the form of one-on-one or small group sessions—covering areas such as sustainable crop and livestock management, environmental compliance, and business development. Under the producer-group eligibility rule, advisory services are contracted and managed at the group level, ensuring that the advice benefits multiple members simultaneously, encourages shared problem-solving, and aligns with the group’s strategic priorities. An overview of ADVI1 interventions is given in the Table 14 in the Appendix 8.5.

COACH, while not a separate legal article, is embedded within TRAINCO and represents the **coaching component** i.e. ongoing, personalised support that builds on formal training and advisory inputs. Coaching activities typically include mentoring by experienced producers, facilitated reflection sessions, and practical follow-up visits. As with TRAINCO and ADVI1, only producer groups can apply for coaching support, meaning that the process is inherently collaborative. This structure reinforces sustained engagement, since coaching relationships are maintained at the organisational rather than purely individual level. An overview of the COACH interventions is given in the Table 15 in the Appendix 8.5.

TRAINCO focuses on **training and knowledge exchange**. It supports activities such as structured training programmes, demonstration events, study visits, and exchanges of best practices. Its thematic scope often includes sustainable pest and disease control, the responsible use of plant protection and animal health products, climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, occupational health and safety, and skills for participating in organised trading platforms and commodity exchanges. By restricting access to producer groups, TRAINCO promotes peer-to-peer learning environments where members can collectively benefit from training investments and apply new practices more broadly within their networks. An overview of the TRAINCO interventions is available in the Table 16 in the Appendix 8.5.

Because these measures share the same beneficiary profile—**registered producer groups**—they can be seen as a coordinated package rather than isolated tools. In practice, they are often deployed in complementary fashion: ADVI provides the immediate, technical foundation; TRAINCO develops structured learning and exposure to innovations; and COACH ensures that training is translated into practice through mentorship and real-time support. The group-based eligibility model amplifies their impact by encouraging mutual accountability, economies of scale in service delivery, and the

diffusion of knowledge throughout the membership. This design choice reflects the CAP's emphasis on collective capacity building. Producer groups, as formal entities, have the organisational structure to plan and manage activities, to pool resources, and to ensure that knowledge transfer is not fragmented. The exclusivity of these measures to group applicants also acts as a lever for strengthening producer organisations, enhancing their role in agricultural knowledge and innovation systems (AKIS), and fostering long-term resilience in the sector.

Under CAP Regulation (EU) 2021/2115, measures such as **ADVI1, COACH, TRAINCO or ORGAN are optional**. Member States may omit them when drafting Strategic Plans, either because they prioritize other goals within limited budgets or because similar support is delivered through different instruments (e.g. sectoral aid, operational groups, rural development or Eco-schemes). The ADVI1 measure is planned in Austria, Belgium (Flanders), Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, Romania and in Spain. TRAINCO is planned in Austria, Belgium (Flanders), Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, France, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Spain. COACH is planned in Belgium (Flanders), Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, Spain. No budget is allocated to these activities.

5.3.2 Producer organisations in the organic sector

It is common that **fruit, vegetables, wine, dairy POs** in countries like **Italy, Spain, France, Austria, Germany, Hungary**, etc., include organic lines and benefit from CAP operational programmes. However, fully organic POs appear less frequent, usually POs handle non-organic and organic products as well. These producer organisations -as organically certified operators- do post-harvest activities, storing, distribution, processing, export and import. We have no reliable information on how many POs are active in the organic -sector or to what extent, but their importance is probably underestimated. Direct sales, including CSA schemes, are particularly important in the organic sector but commonly handle only small volumes while large volumes handled by large commercial operators. For example, in Italy⁸ and in Spain, POs with organic activities are typical in the fruit-vegetables and olive sector, in Austria in the fruit-vegetable sector, in Hungary the fruit-vegetable sector too (they buy up and process elderberries, cherries, sea buckthorn, apples, sweetcorn).

Since advisory services are an integral part of the operational programmes of POs, advisors working within these groups must be familiar with organic principles. This suggests that the role of advisors within producer organisations in the organic sector may be more relevant than is currently recognised.

⁸ Some examples from Italy: Bio Südtirol (South Tyrol): an organic apple producers' organisation . It provides advisory services, and innovation support to members, under the fruit and vegetables CMO, Agribiologica Toscana (Tuscany): an organic PO that includes advisory services and promotion of organic farming practices, TerraBio Soc. Coop. / Terra Bio: cooperative with regional presence focusing on organic supply, R&I and services.

5.3.3 Evaluation of the **ADVI1**, **TRAINCO** and **COACH** measures by the partner organisations

Partner organisations identified the **ADVI1** measure in their CAP Strategic Plan: in Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Hungary and Spain in the fruit-vegetable sector, in Germany in the hop sector, in Italy in the fruit-vegetable, olive and potato sector. Partners in Croatia, Portugal and Romania did not identify any specific sector. All partner organisations identified that this measure is for producer groups, and they have also stated that this measure has not been initiated.

Partner organisations identified **TRAINCO** measure in the CAP Strategic Plan: in Austria, Croatia, Portugal and Romania without specifying any sector, in the case of Belgium, Bulgaria and Hungary identifying the fruit-vegetable sector, in the case of Italy in the fruit-vegetable, olive and potato sector. The partner organisations identified that this measure is for producer groups, and they have also stated that this measure has not yet been initiated.

The partner organisations did not identify **COACH** measure in their CAP Strategic Plan: this measure was not mentioned in the framework as an example.

5.3.4 **ORGAN – Organic and Integrated Production**

The **ORGAN** measure supports the adoption and maintenance of organic or integrated production methods in specific agricultural sectors chosen by the Member State in its CAP Strategic Plan. Its goal is to improve sustainability, product quality, and environmental performance while enhancing the market value of sectoral products.

The measure is implemented within sectoral operational programmes (e.g., fruit-vegetables, olive oil, wine, hops, potatoes, other eligible sectors), delivered by recognised producer organisations (POs), Associations of POs (APOs), or producer-led cooperatives. Support may include assistance for conversion to organic or integrated production, maintenance of existing certified organic/integrated systems, technical support and certification costs. The eligible activities are adoption of organic farming methods in the chosen sector, in line with EU Organic Regulation. Certification costs linked to organic/integrated status can be covered, as well as training and technical support to maintain compliance. and investments in equipment or infrastructure needed for organic/integrated production. This measure is sector-specific: only available in the sectors selected in the CAP Strategic Plan, most of the cases are only the fruit-vegetable sector, in the case of Italy the olive sector and potato sectors are involved. The measure related to organic (or integrated, where applicable) certification: support is conditional upon compliance with EU organic or integrated production standards. Actions must be part of the operational programme of recognised producer organisations. This measure is complementary, can be combined with other sectoral interventions, like **ADVI1**, **COACH**, or **TRAINCO** for the same sector.

Although this measure is planned in the CAP Strategic Plan of Austria, Belgium (both Flanders and Wallonia), Germany, Denmark, Spain, France, Hungary and Italy, no budget is allocated at all. An overview of the **ORGAN** interventions is available in the Table 17 in the Appendix 8.5.

5.3.5 Advisory services for apiculture (ADVIBEEES)

The ADVIBEEES measure as part of the sectoral interventions for apiculture provides advisory services and technical assistance tailored to the needs of producer organisations in the apiculture sector. Its purpose is to improve bee health, productivity, and product quality, while supporting sustainable beekeeping practices and enhancing the competitiveness of the beekeeping sector. This measure is implemented only in the apiculture sector, as part of the national apiculture programme within the CAP Strategic Plan. This measure is delivered by recognised beekeepers' organisations, cooperatives, or associations, or by approved advisory bodies with expertise in beekeeping only. It is EU co-financed under the sectoral apiculture budget, with possible national and beekeeper contributions.

Eligible activities are bee health management advice, including disease prevention and treatment (e.g., Varroa control), introducing good beekeeping practices to improve hive productivity and sustainability, advice on queen breeding and genetic diversity preservation, advice on product quality assurance for honey, wax, pollen, and other bee products. Technical guidance on compliance with EU standards and labelling requirements, and training support for new entrants to beekeeping is also supported.

The beekeeping sector is of strategic relevance to the organic sector, as pollination underpins both agricultural productivity and ecological sustainability. Unlike conventional systems, organic farming depends heavily on ecosystem services, making the health and resilience of pollinators a cornerstone of organic production. Enhancing the landscape's capacity to support bees is therefore not only beneficial for apiculture but also for other agricultural sectors, biodiversity, nature conservation, and rural tourism. Measures that increase natural forage availability throughout the season strengthen bee populations by diversifying their diet and improving microbial richness in food and water, which in turn enhances their vitality and resistance to pests and diseases. These objectives align closely with wider agroecological and climate adaptation goals, such as water retention and landscape rehabilitation. For this reason, the beekeeping sector should be recognised as a priority area within the CAP, with organic advisory services playing a key role in integrating apiculture into broader strategies for landscape management, ecological restoration, and sustainable rural development. An overview of the planned ADVIBEEES interventions is available in the Table 18 in Appendix 8.5.

5.3.6 Evaluation of ADVIBEEES measure by the partner organisations

Project partners generally identified the ADVIBEEES measure as an opportunity for advisory organisations to engage. However, they noted that the programme takes a general approach and does not specifically address organic beekeeping. The Hungarian CAP Strategic Plan mentions that sharing results from environmental monitoring can expand farmers' knowledge of agriculture's environmental impacts, which may in turn strengthen motivation for nature-friendly practices such as organic beekeeping.

5.4 Alternative financing sources

We also approached the question of financing resources beyond the CAP interventions. In this section, an overview is provided about a diverse range of existing financing sources. Within the

framework, several known alternative financing models were outlined, accompanied by an open question inviting partner organisations to investigate and indicate whether comparable models are present in their respective countries. This approach was intended to gather insights on the diversity of financing mechanisms across Member States and to assess whether innovative or non-traditional solutions could provide additional support for advisory activities. The summary of the results is presented in Table 5.

Table 5 Evaluation of alternative financing sources of advisory services by the partner organisations of OrganicAdviceNetwork Project

Alternative financing source	AT	BE	BG	DE			DK	EE	ES	FR	HU	HR	IT	PT	RO
Country															
Region		Flanders		Bavaria	Lower-Saxony	Saxony									
Bank-sector	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	.	-	3	-
Private foundations	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	3	.	-	2	-
Retail-chain	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	.	-	3	-
Food-processing industry	-	-	4	3	2	2	2	-	.	-	3	.	-	-	-
Input-companies	-	3	-	1	2	2	4	-	3	-	-	.	-	3	3
Private independent advisors	-	4	-	2	2	2	-	-	3	-	-	.	3	-	-
Farmers associations	4	4	-	4	3	4	4	4	0	-	-	.	3	-	-
Organic certification bodies	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	3	-	2	.	2	-	3
EU projects	2	2	-	2	-	2	2	-	.	-	2	.	0	-	3
National projects and measures (including subnational or regional level sources)	3	2	-	3	-	3	-	-	3	4	3	.	2	-	3

Importance: 1- non relevant; 2 - some relevant; 3 – relevant; 4 - very relevant; 0 - cannot judge (or not evaluated); - not mentioned; missing data

Mapping the diversity of advisory services revealed that a broad spectrum of **alternative financing sources** is used across EU Member States (Aydurmuş and Münchhausen 2025). But awareness, accessibility, and actual use in the organic sector remain uneven. Table 5 shows that the **banking sector** is the seen as least relevant by the respondents. In most countries, respondents reported that there are no dedicated banking products to support organic advisory services, or that such options are not known or accessible. This suggests that even though mainstream banks address the specific needs of organic farmers, advisory is not targeted, or this activity is not known by the partner organisations. There are some initiatives, ethical and sustainability-oriented banks, like Triodos Bank, which is an ethical bank operating in Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands, the UK, and Spain, which finances farms that are certified organic, in conversion, or aligned with organic principles. This can include supply chain actors like retailers and distributors. Umweltbank (in Germany) finances ecological projects—solar, biomass, sustainable construction, and notably, ecological agriculture. Other banks, like Landwirtschaftliche Rentenbank (Germany) is a development agency offering low-

interest loans for agriculture, explicitly includes organic farming, environmental protection, and agritech innovation via intermediated credit channels. Also, the European Investment Bank & EU-Level Financing, which provides massive lending support for agriculture, bioeconomy, and sustainability investments—channelled through intermediaries and focused on green, inclusive agriculture and climate resilience. However, the responses indicate that these banks do not provide support for organic advisory services at present.

By contrast, **EU Horizon projects** stand out as alternative source of financing and support. European projects or programs mentioned that provide resources for advisory training, innovation, and building cooperation structures include Interreg, i2connect, Climate Farm Demo, OrganicClimateNet, OrganicTargets4EU, and ModernAKIS. These projects are especially relevant because they combine funding with knowledge-sharing, thereby strengthening advisory capacity and organic networks rather than only delivering financial capital but project-based funding is likely to be time limited.

Farmers' associations constitute another major pillar. Organic farmers associations that own private labels such as Bioland, Demeter, Naturland, or BIO Austria operate on a membership basis. Farmers who wish to market their products under these labels must first comply with the EU organic standards, and in addition join the association. Membership usually entails either a fixed annual fee or a contribution proportional to the turnover of labelled products. These payments secure the right to use the private label and, at the same time, finance the broad range of services that the associations provide—such as technical advice, training, marketing support, political representation, and on-farm research. In this way, the income from label use and membership directly sustains the advisory function of farmers' associations. In contrast, the EU organic logo, which is a public label, can be used free of charge by all farmers and processors who are certified under the EU organic regulation. In this case, the cost is not attached to the label itself, but to the mandatory inspection and certification process, which is carried out by accredited control bodies and financed through annual certification fees.

The **food-processing industry** is an emerging but uneven player. In some countries, dairies, slaughterhouses, or fruit-vegetable processors employ advisors who support their suppliers, including those engaged in organic production. This creates a form of “in-kind” financing, where processors secure supply quality by investing in advisory or technical support. However, in many cases this is not specific to organic, and thus its impact on the sector is limited.

Input companies (seed suppliers, biocontrol agents, soil enhancers) are also relevant in some Member States. They often provide technical support and advice as part of their sales strategy, which indirectly substitutes for advisory services. While such support may benefit organic farmers, it also raises questions of independence and impartiality. However, in some places, the only advice offered might be connected to sales (see Aydurmuş and Münchhausen 2025).

Organic certification bodies play a role in certain contexts, though their advisory contribution varies widely. In some countries, they provide training and guidance materials; but basically conflict-of-interest rules prevent them from advising farmers, as inspectors are limited to control functions. This reflects the tension between maintaining impartiality and providing useful technical support.

Beyond institutional actors, **private foundations** and **independent advisors/NGOs** were highlighted as particularly important in some contexts. Foundations such as Carasso or Ecocert provide funding for organic projects, while in Hungary, ÖMKi initially benefitted from foundation support before integrating into larger EU and national projects. Independent advisory organisations (e.g. the NGO DEAFAL in Italy)⁹ are often pioneers in regenerative and organic practices, offering technical assistance, training, and project-based consultancy.

Retail chains were mentioned only occasionally. While some international retailers (e.g. Carrefour, Lidl, Aldi, Billa, SPAR group) support organic initiatives, in many countries retail engagement in financing or supporting organic production remains minimal, or unknown.

National projects and measures (including subnational or regional level sources) were very relevant in France, relevant in Austria, Bayern and Saxony, Hungary, Romania, and Spain, had some relevance in Belgium and Italy, and not mentioned Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, and Portugal.

Taken together, the findings suggest that **EU projects and farmers' associations are the most relevant and widely used alternative financing channels**, as they combine resources with advisory and networking functions. **Foundations and independent NGOs** fill important gaps in certain Member States, while **processors and input companies** offer partial solutions, albeit often tied to commercial interests. The **banking sector and retail chains** remain the least relevant and least utilised sources for organics at present. Importantly, the data shows that many of these mechanisms are *known* at the European level but not necessarily *used* in practice at national or farm level. This underlines both the untapped potential and the structural challenges of broadening the financing base for the organic sector beyond CAP subsidies.

5.5 Assessment of various tools provided by organic farming advisory services in the core countries of the OrganicAdviceNetwork

Within the framework, the availability of different types of advisory services and knowledge transfer opportunities for organic farmers was evaluated, including for subsidised advice, for in-conversion and organic producers, private advice, but also group activities and a range of media (see Section 4 and Table 6).

Subsidised advisory services—both for organic and in-conversion producers—are consistently rated as highly relevant across countries. This indicates that financial support for targeted advice remains the backbone of knowledge transfer in the organic sector.

Demonstration farm networks and regional groups also score prominently, showing that practical, peer-to-peer learning and collective structures are considered essential for disseminating knowledge and strengthening farmer engagement. Also, **conferences, seminars, and publications in native languages** are likewise seen as important tools, highlighting the need for accessible, context-specific information.

⁹ Delegazione Europea per l'Agricoltura Familiare di Asia, Africa e America Latina

Digital and media-based tools show more variation. Electronic databases in the national language are considered relevant in several countries, as well as social media channels, while podcasts channels are unevenly recognised—valued highly in some (e.g. Belgium, Estonia, Denmark) but almost absent in others (e.g. Austria, Hungary). This reflects differing levels of digitalisation and communication traditions within the organic farming communities. YouTube and other some social media are established and widely used for knowledge transfer, offering rapid outreach but also posing risks of information overload. Podcasts are comparatively newer and less developed, reflecting both farmers’ listening habits and limited content production. With greater investment in high-quality audio content, podcasts could become an important complementary tool for reaching farmers.

Table 6 Assessment of various tools provided by organic farming advisory services in the core countries of the OrganicAdviceNetwork

	AT	BE	BG	DE Bavaria	DK	EE	ES	FR	HR	HU	IT	PT	RO
Subsidised advice for organic producers	4	4	-	4	na	4	3	4	0	2	0	4	3
Subsidised advice to in conversion producers	4-	4	-	4	na	4	3	4	-	2	na	4	3
Private / commercial advice	-	3	3	2	4	na	2-	2	-	2	3	3	3
Regional groups	3	-	-	4	4	na	4	3	-	2	4	3	3
Conferences and seminars	3	3	3	4	4	4	4-	4	-	4	na	4	3
Publications on native language	4	4	-	3	4	4	3	4	-	4	na	3	3
Demonstration farm networks	4-	4	-	3	-	4	2-	4	-	4	na	3	3
Phone helpline	3	3	-	3	4	na	4-	0	-	na	na	0	0
Electronic database on native language	4	3	3	2	4	4	-	0	-	na	2	3	4
National coordination	2	3	-	3	4	4	3	2	-	na	na	4	0
Podcasts on organic agriculture	2	na	3	na	4	na	2-	0	-	na	2	2	3
Youtube/Social media channel on organic agriculture	3	4	-	na	4	4	2	3	-	3	na	3	3

Importance: 1- non relevant; 2 - some relevant; 3 – relevant; 4 - very relevant; 0 - cannot judge (or not evaluated); - not mentioned; na: not available

National specificities

It should be noted that this evaluation is based on subjective assessments by the partners (Table 6).

- Austria and Germany (Bavaria) emphasise structured advisory and group-based knowledge exchange, but report limited use of newer digital tools.
- Belgium and Estonia stand out for assigning high relevance to online and social media communication channels, suggesting stronger integration of modern outreach methods.

- In Hungary, more than 50% of registered technical advisors are accredited in the field of organic agriculture under the rules of the technical advisory system. While their knowledge is generally adequate on legislative matters, it is often insufficient when it comes to technology, value chains, and marketing. Demonstration farms and publications in the native language are the most relevant knowledge transfer tools, while organic podcasts are notably absent.
- Southern Member States (Italy, Portugal, Spain) place strong importance on demonstration farms and advisory structures, reflecting the value of practical learning in diverse agro-ecological contexts.
- Romania and Bulgaria also highlight advisory support and demonstration networks but with varying degrees of accessibility and effectiveness.

Overall, the evidence suggests that while advisory services, farmer networks, and demonstration farms form the **core pillars of knowledge exchange in organic farming**. National approaches differ in how much they integrate digital platforms and modern communication channels. Countries with well-developed organic sectors tend to have a more diversified toolbox, whereas others still depend mainly on traditional advisory tools.

6 Conclusion

Advisory services for the organic sector are a mix of public and private bodies, NGOs and farmer organisations. About half of the organisations rely on public funds, but they face a multidimensional and often fragmented policy environment, including financing under the CAP.

The analysis conducted in this deliverable shows that several CAP interventions exist to provide direct or indirect support to advisory services: knowledge transfer (KNOW), cooperation (COOP for various groups such part of EIP-AGRI), and sectoral measures (ADVI1, TRAINCO, COACH, ORGAN, ADVIBEES). Beneficiaries of these CAP interventions are diverse covering farmers, farm advisory system, market actors, producer organization and other AKIS actors. Nevertheless, the relevance of these support interventions strongly depends not only on their formal existence but also on their level of bureaucracy, accessibility, visibility, and specificity to organic. In some countries, well-established national systems function effectively without EU funding, such as in Denmark and Wallonia, while in others the CAP remains a critical backbone of advisory financing.

A persistent weakness of the current CAP is its complexity. The architecture of interventions, spread across Pillar 1, Pillar 2, and sectoral measures, is difficult to navigate even for experienced actors. This complexity is likely to lead to delay in implementation and reduce uptake with the risk of excluding smaller organisations and less resourceful advisors. At the same time, creative use of measures and alternative financing sources—such as from farmers' associations, EU projects, or processors—shows that advisory organisations adapt to opportunities.

The Catalogue of Interventions¹⁰ of the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development emerges as an indispensable yet underutilised resource to understand the structure of the interventions, also for the annual modification of the CAP Strategic Plans. Advisors and policymakers should make systematic use of the Catalogue in order to remain informed about current rules and opportunities.

Requirements and needs for accreditation of advisors that can deliver CAP services, and the procedures used, remains uneven across Member States. While CAP rules stipulate impartiality and independence, there is no common assurance that advisors possess the policy literacy required to integrate EU priorities such as the Green Deal, Farm to Fork, the Soil Mission, or the Biodiversity Strategy into their daily work. Members states should explore how accreditation systems can be broadened to include such knowledge and skills. This also applies to organic farming, for which advisors should be equipped with both regulatory knowledge and agroecological expertise, but this is not consistently ensured.

Sectoral interventions that target producer organisations also hold considerable untapped potential, particularly but not only for the fruit and vegetable sector. Producer organisations can serve as effective vehicles for pooling resources, coordinating logistics, and jointly employing technical advisors, thereby creating more resilient advisory structures. As climate change increasingly shapes

¹⁰ https://agridata.ec.europa.eu/extensions/DashboardCapPlan/catalogue_interventions.html

European agriculture, these organisations could play a decisive role in reorganising production systems: shifting from vulnerable large-scale monocultures toward more diversified, smaller-scale, and locally embedded systems. Such a transition would not only make better use of limited resources but also provide valuable employment opportunities in rural areas. Moreover, strengthening producer organisations could contribute to the year-round availability of local food, aligning climate adaptation strategies with broader societal goals of food security and rural development.

Finally, the assessment of advisory tools highlights that while traditional channels—demonstration farms, regional groups, publications in the native language—remain central, modern tools like podcasts and other digital media are still insufficiently developed. Larger advisory organisations, in particular, should expand their use of these channels to reach broader and more diverse farmer audiences.

In sum, the CAP provides significant but uneven opportunities for organic advisory services. To allow them to make full use of these, Member States need to streamline administrative burdens, strengthen accreditation frameworks, invest in modern communication tools, and ensure timely implementation of the planned interventions. Only by combining these steps with alternative financing channels and stronger collective structures such as producer organisations, advisory services can build the credibility, capacity, and outreach needed to meet the ambitious goals of the EU's Green Deal and Farm to Fork Strategy.

Together with the key finding of Task 3.2 (Identify assessing the educational systems related to organic farming), the results of this task will be used to carry out a SWOT analysis of the organic advisory system in each core country through a national workshop with stakeholders of the organic sector (Task 3.4). The outcomes of the workshops will be used for drafting an action plan and policy recommendations on how to strengthen organic advisory services in each country and across Europe.

Acknowledgement

The authors would like to thank all **partner organisations of the OrganicAdviceNetwork project** for their valuable contributions to this deliverable. Special appreciation goes to the national experts and colleagues who collected data, provided country-level analyses, and shared their professional insights on advisory systems and financing. In particular, we would like to thank **Claire Morelle (IFOAM Organics Europe)**, **Susanne Padel (IFOAM Organics Europe)**, and **Didem Aydurmus (HNEE)** for their dedicated input, critical review, and insightful discussions, which significantly enriched this deliverable.

The deliverable benefited from the collaboration of many dedicated individuals across the participating countries. Their expertise and commitment were essential in compiling the evidence, refining the framework, and shaping the findings presented in this report.

7 Literature

- AKIS Connect. (n.d.). *Member states in action*. <https://akisconnect.eu/member-states-in-action>
- Almeida, R., Campos, V., Ribes, A., & Correia, M. C. (2022). *AKIS and advisory services in Portugal: Updated report for the AKIS inventory (Task 1.2)*. i2connect. <https://meteodocs.llkc.lv/index.php/s/k9DycCMaTtfzBQB#pdfviewer>
- Aydurmuş, D., & von Münchhausen, S. (2025). *Deliverable 1.1. Mapping of organic advisory services*. OrganicAdviceNetwork. <https://www.organicadvicenetwork.eu/project-deliverables>
- Bae, S., Birke, F. M., Gerster-Bentaya, M., Selensky, F., Giacomelli, E., Ketelhodt, C., Kolbeck, M., Hartmann, M., Asensio, P., & Knierim, A. (2024). *AKIS and advisory services in Germany: Report for the AKIS inventory (Task 1.2)*. i2connect. <https://meteodocs.llkc.lv/index.php/s/WMNxF2cR4wrjkoj#pdfviewer>
- Barel, S., Buchholzer, F., Rudolf, K., Legowski, M., Pagliacci, C., de la Puente, J.A., & Brncic, A. (2023). CAP CROSS-CUTTING OBJECTIVES...explained. DRIVING SIMPLIFICATION. EU CAP Network https://eu-cap-network.ec.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2023-03/cap_briefs_10_simplification_0.pdf
- Birke, F. M., Bae, S., Schober, A., Wolf, S., Gerster-Bentaya, M., & Knierim, A. (2022). *AKIS in European countries: Cross analysis of AKIS country reports*. i2connect. https://i2connect-h2020.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/2022-12-02-AKIS-cross-analysis_updated.pdf
- Chicudean, D., & Popa, R. (2022). *AKIS and advisory services in Romania: Report for the AKIS inventory (Task 1.2)*. i2connect. <https://meteodocs.llkc.lv/index.php/s/QY6XgzB2pyMwCLG#pdfviewer>
- Cristiano, S., Carta, V., Proietti, P., Lasorella, M. V., Menna, C., Tudini, L., Costantini, G., & Lai, M. (2024). *AKIS and advisory services in Italy: Updated report for the AKIS inventory (Task 1.2)*. i2connect. <https://meteodocs.llkc.lv/index.php/s/csFcQJc6r7NacJd#pdfviewer>
- European Commission (n.d.). *CAP Strategic Plans: Catalogue of interventions*. https://agridata.ec.europa.eu/extensions/DashboardCapPlan/catalogue_interventions.html?page=ContentByType#
- European Commission: Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development, ECORYS and IfLS (2022), *Synthesis of evaluation reports from Member States regarding their national strategies for sustainable 2013-2018 operational programmes in the fruit and vegetables sector – Final report*, Publications Office of the European Union, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2762/396335>
- Frelh Larsen, A., Riedel, A., Scheid, A., Jägle, J., Springer, K., Bogner, J., Wiltshire, J., Freeman, D., Crotty, F., Kiresiewa, Z., Rouillard, J., Bibu, T., Landgrebe-Trinkunaite, R., Malek, Z., Pępkowska-Król, A., Morkvėnas, Ž., Nyárai, O., Karoglan, S., Hološková, A., ... Záhradník, M. (2024). *Towards climate friendly and resilient agri-food systems in Central Eastern Europe: The role of agroecological practices, sustainable diets, and holistic policies*. Ecologic Institute.
- Gáborné Jakab, Á., Varga, Z., & Vér, A. (2024). *AKIS and advisory services in Hungary: Updated report for the AKIS inventory (Task 1.2)*. i2connect. <https://meteodocs.llkc.lv/index.php/s/JdHCrJ7AiMLGSnG#pdfviewer>
- Herzog, F., Miron, E. T., Stadler, M., Neubauer, E., & Nutz, A. (2024). *AKIS and advisory services in Austria: Updated report for the AKIS inventory (Task 1.2)*. i2connect. <https://meteodocs.llkc.lv/index.php/s/qc6odQwp4KLpXCf#pdfviewer>

- Jelaković, K., Hrsto, O., Vagan, J., & Željezić Ramqaj, A. (2024). *AKIS and advisory services in Croatia: Updated report for the AKIS inventory (Task 1.2)*. i2connect. <https://meteodocs.llkc.lv/index.php/s/cpHqm5Jdwtr9Q7A#pdfviewer>
- Klitgaard, K. (2021). *AKIS and advisory services in Denmark*. i2connect. <https://meteodocs.llkc.lv/index.php/s/GqAPZeJGL4BwnS6/download>
- Labarthe, P., Ansaloni, M., Laurent, C., Bellostas, N., Sutherland, L. A., Barbu, R., ... & Zarokosta, E. (2020). *D4.1: Evaluation of EU-FAS. AgriLink*.
- Labarthe, P., & Beck, M. (2022). CAP and advisory services: From farm advisory systems to innovation support. *EuroChoices*, 21(1), 5–14.
- Lampkin, N., Lembo, G., Rehburg, P., De Simone, A., Jahrl, I., Moeskops, B., Stolze, M., & Orsini, S. (2024). *D1.2 Assessment of agricultural and aquaculture policy responses to the Farm-to-Fork Strategy's organic targets*. OrganicTargets4EU. <https://organictargets.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/OT4EU-Deliverable-1.2-Version-2.0-Final-140624.pdf>
- Lesieur, B., Fraignac, J., & Rouault, Z. 2025. *Deliverable 3.2. Identify and assess the educational systems related to organic farming*. OrganicAdviceNetwork. <https://www.organicadvicenetwork.eu/project-deliverables>
- Lybaert, C., & Debruyne, L. (2020). *AKIS and advisory services in Belgium: Report for the AKIS inventory (Task 1.2)*. i2connect. https://modernakis.eu/wp-content/uploads/i2connect_AKIScountryreport_Belgium_Final.pdf
- Nagy, G., Krall, A., Szépkuthy, K.A., & Zölei, A. (2025). *AKIS factsheets of OrganicTargets4EU*:
Austria. https://organictargets.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/AKIS-Factsheet_Austria.pdf
Denmark. <https://organictargets.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/AKIS-Factsheet-Denmark.pdf>
France. <https://organictargets.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/AKIS-Factsheet-France.pdf>
Germany. <https://organictargets.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/AKIS-Factsheet-Germany.pdf>
Hungary. <https://organictargets.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/AKIS-Factsheet-Hungary.pdf>
Italy. <https://organictargets.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/AKIS-Factsheet-Italy.pdf>
Romania. <https://organictargets.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/AKIS-Factsheet-Romania.pdf>
- Nemzeti Agrárgazdasági Kamara. (n.d.). *A NAK által nyilvántartott aktív szaktanácsadók*. Nemzeti Agrárgazdasági Kamara. Retrieved September 25, 2025, from <https://www.nak.hu/a-nak-altal-nyilvantartott-aktiv-szaktanacsadok>
- Padel, S., Kunya, Z., Lampkin, N., Jónász, N., & Szépkuthy, K. (2025). *D.5.2 Analysis of barriers of conversion and recommendations for strengthening organic advisory services and capacity building*. OrganicTargets4EU. https://organictargets.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/OT4EU_D5.2_Analysis-of-barriers-of-conversion.pdf
- Rehburg, P., Becker, S., & Grajewski, R. (2022). *Where does the CAP money go? Design and priorities of the draft CAP Strategic Plans 2023–2027*. ResearchGate. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/361279380_Where_does_the_CAP_money_go_Design_and_priorities_of_the_draft_CAP_Strategic_Plans_2023-2027
- Sturel, S., & Naïtlho, M. (2024). *Updated report for the AKIS inventory (Task 1.2)*. i2connect. <https://meteodocs.llkc.lv/index.php/s/TyBtkyY8LTc6npc#pdfviewer>

- Sutherland, L. A., Madureira, L., Elzen, B., Noble, C., Bechtet, N., Townsend, L., Zarokosta, E., & Triboulet, P. (2022). What can we learn from droppers and non-adopters about the role of advice in agricultural innovation? *EuroChoices*, 21(1), 40–49.
- Tamsalu, H. (2024). *AKIS and advisory services in Estonia: Updated report for the AKIS inventory (Task 1.2)*. i2connect. <https://meteodocs.llkc.lv/index.php/s/WNpHcoSPZNQEst3#pdfviewer->
- Todorova, I. (2024). *AKIS and advisory services in Bulgaria: Updated report for the AKIS inventory (Task 1.2)*. i2connect. <https://meteodocs.llkc.lv/index.php/s/j32w242ZaYsRJ5E#pdfviewer>
- Trueba, J. P. R., Zarco, R. C., & Barral, C. N., & Gomez, R. S. (2024). *AKIS and advisory services in Spain: Updated report for the AKIS inventory (Task 1.2)*. i2connect. <https://meteodocs.llkc.lv/index.php/s/j8aNeigwZEsNre6#pdfviewer>
- van Oost, I. (2022). *CAP Strategic Plans 2023–2027: New roles & tools for farm advisors in interactive projects*. i2connect. https://i2connect-h2020.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/04_CAP-Strategic-Plans-2023-2027_New-roles-tools-for-farm-advisors-in-interactive-projects.pdf

8 Appendix

8.1 Architecture of CAP 2023-2027

Table 7 Architecture of CAP 2023-2027. The interventions, which are relevant for organic advisory services are with bold letters.

Code	Type of intervention	Source of financing	Reference in Regulation EU 2021/2115
Pillar 1 direct, decoupled payments			
BISS	BISS (21) - Basic income support for sustainability	EAGF	Title III, Chapter II, Section 2, Subsection 2
CRISS	CRISS (29) - Complementary redistributive income support for sustainability	EAGF	Article 29
CIS-YF	CIS-YF (30) - Complementary income support for young farmers	EAGF	Article 30
Eco-scheme	Eco-scheme (31) - Schemes for the climate, the environment and animal welfare / Art. 31(7)(b) - Compensatory payment	EAGF	Article 31(7), first subparagraph, point (b)
Eco-scheme	Eco-scheme (31) - Schemes for the climate, the environment and animal welfare / Art. 31(7)(a) - Additional payment to BIS	EAGF	Article 31(7), first subparagraph, point (a)
Pillar 1 direct, coupled payments			
CIS	CIS (32) - Coupled income support	EAGF	Article 32
Pillar 2 rural development payments			
ENVCLIM	ENVCLIM (70) - Environmental, climate-related and other management commitments	EAFRD	Article 70
ANC	ANC (71) - Natural or other area-specific constraints	EAFRD	Article 71
ASD	ASD (72) - Area-specific disadvantages resulting from certain mandatory requirements	EAFRD	Article 72
INVEST	INVEST (73-74) - Investments, including investments in irrigation	EAFRD	Article 73, Article 74
INSTAL	INSTAL (75) - Setting up of young farmers and new farmers and rural business start-up	EAFRD	Article (75)
RISK	RISK (76) - Risk management tools	EAFRD	Article 78
COOP	COOP (77) - Cooperation	EAFRD	Article 77

Code	Type of intervention	Source of financing	Reference in Regulation EU 2021/2115
KNOW	KNOW (78) - Knowledge exchange and dissemination of information	EAFRD	Article 78
Pillar 1 Sector specific payments Fruit and vegetables, hops, olive oil table olives and other sectors referred to in Article 42, point (f)			
INVRE	INVRE (47(1)(a)) - investments in tangible and intangible assets, research and experimental and innovative production methods and other actions	EAGF	Article 47(1), point (a)
ADV11	ADV11 (47(1)(b)) - advisory services and technical assistance, in particular concerning sustainable pest and disease control techniques, sustainable use of plant protection and animal health products, climate change adaptation and mitigation, the conditions of employment, employer obligations and occupational health and safety	EAGF	Article 47(1), point (b)
TRAINCO	TRAINCO (47(1)(c)) - training including coaching and exchange of best practices, in particular concerning sustainable pest and disease control techniques, sustainable use of plant protection and animal health products, and climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as the use of organised trading platforms and commodity exchanges on the spot and futures market	EAGF	Article 47(1), point (c)
ORGAN	ORGAN (47(1)(d)) - organic or integrated production	EAGF	Article 47(1), point (d)
TRANS	TRANS (47(1)(e)) - actions to increase the sustainability and efficiency of transport and of storage of products	EAGF	Article 47(1), point (e)
PROMO	PROMO (47(1)(f)) - promotion, communication and marketing including actions and activities aimed in particular at raising consumer awareness about the Union quality schemes and the importance of healthy diets, and at diversification and consolidation of markets	EAGF	Article 47(1), point (f)
QUAL	QUAL (47(1)(g)) - implementation of Union and national quality schemes	EAGF	Article 47(1), point (g)
ORCHA	ORCHA (47(2)(d)) - replanting of orchards or olive groves where that is necessary following mandatory grubbing up for health or phytosanitary reasons on the instruction of the Member State competent authority or to adapt to climate change	EAGF	Article 47(2), point (d)
WITHD	WITHD (47(2)(f)) - market withdrawal for free-distribution or other destinations, including where necessary processing to facilitate such withdrawal	EAGF	Article 47(2), point (f)

Code	Type of intervention	Source of financing	Reference in Regulation EU 2021/2115
HARIN	HARIN (47(2)(i)) - harvest and production insurance that contributes to safeguarding producers' incomes where there are losses as a consequence of natural disasters, adverse climatic events, diseases or pest infestations while ensuring that beneficiaries take necessary risk prevention measures	EAGF	Article 47(2), point (i)
COMM	COMM (47(2)(l)) - communication actions aiming at raising awareness and informing consumers	EAGF	Article 47(2), point (l)
TRACE	TRACE(47(1)(h)) - implementation of traceability and certification systems, in particular the monitoring of the quality of products sold to final consumers	EAGF	Article 47(1), point (h)
CLIMA	CLIMA (47(1)(i)) - actions to mitigate and to adapt to climate change	EAGF	Article 47(1), point (i)
SETUP	SETUP (47(2)(a)) - setting up, filling and refilling of mutual funds by producer organisations and by associations of producer organisations recognised under Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013, or under Article 67(7) of this Regulation	EAGF	Article 47(2), point (a)
INVVO	INVVO (47(2)(b)) - investments in tangible and intangible assets making the management of the volumes placed on the market more efficient including for collective storage	EAGF	Article 47(2), point (b)
GREEN	GREEN (47(2)(g)) - green harvesting consisting of the total harvesting on a given area of unripe non-marketable products which have not been damaged prior to the green harvesting, whether due to climatic reasons, disease or otherwise	EAGF	Article 47 (2) point (g)
NOHAR	NOHAR (47(2)(h)) - non-harvesting consisting of the termination of the current production cycle on the area concerned where the product is well developed and is of sound, fair and marketable quality, excluding destruction of products due to a climatic event or disease	EAGF	Article 47 (2) point (h)
COACH	COACH (47(2)(j)) - coaching to other producer organisations and associations of producer organisations recognised under Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 or under Article 67(7) of this Regulation, or to individual producers	EAGF	Article 47(2), point (j)
3COUN	3COUN (47(2)(k)) - implementation and management of third-country sanitary and phytosanitary requirements in the territory of the Union to facilitate access to third-country markets	EAGF	Article 47(2), point (k)
STORE	STORE (47(2)(c)) - collective storage of products produced by the producer organisation or by its members, including where necessary collective processing to facilitate such storage	EAGF	Article 47(2), point (c)
Pillar 1 Sector specific payments in apiculture			
ADVICEES	ADVICEES (55(1)(a)) - advisory services, technical assistance, training, information and exchange of best practices, including through networking, for beekeepers and beekeepers' organisations	EAGF	Article 55(1), point (a)
INVAPI	INVAPI (55(1)(b)) - investments in tangible and intangible assets, as well as other actions	EAGF	Article 55(1), point (b)(i)

Code	Type of intervention	Source of financing	Reference in Regulation EU 2021/2115
ACTLAB	ACTLAB (55(1)(c)) - actions to support laboratories for the analysis of apiculture products, bee losses or productivity drops, and substances potentially toxic to bees	EAGF	Article 55(1), point (c)
PRESBEEHIVES	PRESBEEHIVES (55(1)(d)) - actions to preserve or increase the existing number of beehives in the Union, including bee breeding	EAGF	Article 55(1), point (b)(ii)
COOPAPI	COOPAPI (55(1)(e)) - cooperation with specialised bodies for the implementation of research programs in the field of beekeeping and apiculture products	EAGF	Article 55(1), point (e)
PROMOBEEES	PROMOBEEES (55(1)(f)) - promotion, communication and marketing including market monitoring actions and activities aimed in particular at raising consumer awareness about the quality of the apiculture products	EAGF	Article 55(1), point (f)
ACTQUAL	ACTQUAL (55(1)(g)) - actions to enhance product quality	EAGF	Article 55(1), point (g)
Pillar 1 Sector specific payments in wine sector			
RESTRVINEY	RESTRVINEY (58(1)(a)) - restructuring and conversion of vineyards	EAGF	Article 58(1), first subparagraph, point (a)
INVWINE	INVWINE (58(1)(b)) - investments in tangible and intangible assets in wine-growing farming systems, excluding operations relevant to the type of intervention provided for in point (a), processing facilities and winery infrastructure, as well as marketing structures and tools	EAGF	Article 58(1), first subparagraph, point (b)
INFOR	INFOR (58(1)(h)) - information actions concerning Union wines carried out in Member States encouraging responsible consumption of wine or promoting Union quality schemes covering designations of origin and geographical indications	EAGF	Article 58(1), first subparagraph, point (h)
PROMOWINE	PROMOWINE (58(1)(k)) - promotion carried out in third countries	EAGF	Article 58(1), first subparagraph, point (k)
GREENWINE	GREENWINE (58(1)(c)) - green harvesting, which means the total destruction or removal of grape bunches while still in their immature stage, thereby reducing the yield of the relevant area to zero and excluding non-harvesting comprising of leaving commercial grapes on the plants at the end of the normal production cycle	EAGF	Article 58(1), first subparagraph, point (c)
HARINWINE	HARINWINE (58(1)(d)) - harvest insurance against income losses resulting from adverse climatic events assimilated to natural disasters, adverse climatic events, animals depredation, plant diseases or pest infestations	EAGF	Article 58(1), first subparagraph, point (d)
ACTREPUT	ACTREPUT (58(1)(i)) - actions undertaken by interbranch organisations recognised by Member States in the wine sector in accordance to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 aiming at enhancing the reputation of Union vineyards by promoting wine tourism in production regions	EAGF	Article 58(1), first subparagraph, point (i)

Code	Type of intervention	Source of financing	Reference in Regulation EU 2021/2115
INWINESUST	INWINESUST (58(1)(m)) - investments in tangible and intangible assets aiming to enhance the sustainability of wine production	EAGF	Article 58(1), first subparagraph, point (m)
INOVWINE	INOVWINE (58(1)(e)) - tangible and intangible investments in innovation consisting of development of innovative products, including products from, and by-products of, wine making, innovative processes and technologies for the production of wine products and the digitalisation of those processes and technologies, as well as other investments adding value at any stage of the supply chain, including for knowledge exchange and contribution to adaptation to the climate change	EAGF	Article 58(1), first subparagraph, point (e)
DISTIL	DISTIL (58(1)(g)) - distillation of by-products of wine making carried out in accordance with the restrictions laid down in Part II, Section D, of Annex VIII to Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013	EAGF	Article 58(1), first subparagraph, point (g)

8.2 Advisors linked to the knowledge system in the core countries

Table 8 Number of advisors linking to advice and knowledge system in the member states's CAP Strategic Plans

Member State	Target value (2023-2029)	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Austria	820	8	746	766	784	796	808	820
Belgium-Flanders	3 600	Not planned	500	1 120	1 740	2 360	2 980	3 600
Belgium-Wallonia	18	Not planned	8	18	18	18	18	18
Bulgaria	320	Not planned	90	140	200	250	300	320
Croatia	3 025	Not planned	605	1 210	1 815	2 420	3 025	Not planned
Denmark	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned
Estonia	6 653	Not planned	803	2 213	3 323	4 433	5 543	6 653
France	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned	Not planned
Germany	1 000	10	160	350	550	700	850	1 000
Hungary	14 640	582	3 506	6 430	9 354	12 278	14 639	14 640
Italy	30 355	Not planned	738	738	4 981	14 840	20 559	30 355
Portugal	2 517	Not planned	Not planned	511	1 019	1 528	2 034	2 517
Romania	2 571	Not planned	500	900	1 371	1 771	2 171	2 571
Spain	8 259	68	1 095	2 413	4 422	6 395	7 509	8 259

Source: https://agridata.ec.europa.eu/extensions/DashboardCapPlan/result_indicators.html

According to the observations of the partner organisations the target value indicated in the CAP Strategic Plans must mean different activities : in some countries the number of advisors, and in other countries the contact cases.

8.3 Advisory services

Terminology

In agricultural policy and practice, the term advisory is understood in different ways. In its broadest sense, advisory refers to everyone who influences farmers' decisions, whether directly or indirectly. From this perspective, the sources of advice include not only professional advisors, but also family members, peers, input suppliers, veterinarians, or even local community actors. All of these channels contribute to shaping the choices farmers make, reflecting the reality that farm decision-making is embedded in a wide network of influences. However, there is also a stricter interpretation, which limits the term advisory to impartial and professional actors whose primary responsibility is to provide objective guidance. In this sense, advisory services are seen as independent from commercial interests, and they include public extension systems, accredited consultants, or other neutral experts. This narrower understanding is particularly relevant in policy contexts, where transparency, accountability, and impartiality are required to ensure that farmers receive trustworthy information when public funds or regulatory compliance are at stake. Together, these two interpretations highlight both the complexity of advisory ecosystems in practice and the importance of clear definitions when designing or evaluating advisory measures.

The Deliverable 1.1 used concepts such as 'farm advice' and 'advisory'. (Aydurmuş and Münchhausen 2025). 'Farm advice', or more concretely 'advice' refers to expert guidance, recommendations, or instructions given to farmers to help, not only with conversion and organic practices, but any support that can help farmers in their work. The concept of 'advisory' covers as many actors in the field as possible. When we talk about advisory, in most cases we include all actors who influence the farmer in some way and contribute to their knowledge. This includes independent and non-independent actors, input and machinery distributors, commercial agents, seed distributors, plant protection specialists, buyers, other farmers, and, in the case of farmers operating in a cooperative, the cooperative's internal advisor, the research and development sector, and vocational training and higher education providers are also included in the advisory process.

Introduction of advisory system in the Organic Advice Network core countries

In **Austria**, the Landwirtschaftskammern (Chambers of Agriculture) in each federal state are the main providers of CAP-funded advisory services. They have the infrastructure, accreditation, and contracts with the Ministry of Agriculture (BMLUK) to implement advisory measures under the CAP Strategic Plan. Private or independent advisors are not prohibited from contracting with agricultural producers, but their services will not be CAP-funded (Herzog 2024). Austria's organic sector benefits from early policy interventions and strong consumer demand, with 26.5% of agricultural land organic or under conversion by 2021. Its AKIS is robust, supported by a well-established network of actors, the primary objectives of the AKIS are the promotion of knowledge exchange, innovation, using sustainable practices, and organic farming. LEADER programmes and EIP-Agri projects are successfully used in Austria. Organic advisory services are offered by organic associations and the Chamber of Agriculture. Bio Austria Association through the cooperation with the Chamber can use national funds for advisory since 2017 (Nagy et al., 2025).

In the 2 regions of **Belgium** different systems exist. In **Flanders** a system called Kennisportefeuille is working, which allocates a fix subsidy amount to each farmer (2000 euros for 2 years). Farmers can use this amount for advice and training of their choice, from a range of approved advisory services. **Wallonia** implemented the Farm Advisory System under the name “Système de conseil Agricole”, they were integrating the already existing advisory services into a system. The advisory activities of the services are regularly monitored in the Système de conseil Agricole. In 2016, 23 advisory services and 129 advisors were in the system. (Lybaert & Debruyne, 2020)

In Bulgaria, the advisory system is coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MZHG). The main state actor is the National Agricultural Advisory Service (NAAS), which has nationwide coverage with regional offices and, according to the I2connect report, mainly deals with medium-sized and smaller farms. Its services are free of charge. Private sector actors, accredited independent advisors, agricultural cooperatives, professional organisations and NGOs are also present, operating on a market basis. A relevant degree, professional experience and further training are required, and technical advisors are accredited by the ministry. (Todorova, 2024)

In **Croatia**, the advisory system is centrally coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture (Ministarstvo poljoprivrede). The main state actor is the Croatian Chamber of Agriculture (Hrvatska poljoprivredna komora, HPK), which has national coverage and regional offices. Services are provided by the HPK advisory network, accredited private consultants, universities and research institutes. The service provides free state/chamber advice on a wide range of topics. (Jelakovic et al. 2024)

A long-established, structured, and professionalized advisory network through DAAS (Danish Agricultural Advisory Service), SEGES Innovation, and 29 regional advisory centres exists in **Denmark**. These advisory bodies are accredited and monitored internally and through the CAP Strategic Plan’s governance framework (Klitgaard 2024). Denmark stands out as a global leader, with organic products making up approximately 13% of the retail food market and organic land covering 11.5% of UAA by 2021. Its AKIS model combines participatory and top-down approaches, with early integration of organic into general advisory services and strong state involvement in promotion. The main actors of the organic AKIS are ICOEL (Innovation Centre for Organic Farming), Organic Denmark (Økologisk Landsforening; farmer owned, mostly strategic and political), SEGES Innovation (R&D for conventional farming), and advisory service providers. Internationally relevant actor is international Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems (ICROFS) at Aarhus University, which supports knowledge exchange between research and extension. Advisory services are widely available through conventional providers, covering technical, financial, legal, and marketing support; challenges include limited public funding and uneven regional prioritization of organic conversion. All conventional advisory organisations (public and private actors and Universities, mainly Aarhus University) offer services in organic farming. (Nagy et al., 2025). Since the 1980-ties specialized organic advisors have been employed by the companies owned by the farmers associations. The CAP Strategic Plan of Denmark is focusing on digitalisation, but unfortunately did not plan but budget for advisory.

In Estonia, central coordination is carried out by the Estonian Ministry of Rural Affairs and Agriculture (Maaeluministerium). The main state actor is the Foundation Rural Economy Research Centre (METK), which coordinates the advisory network in conjunction with research and statistical services. Advisory services are provided by accredited private consultants, agricultural cooperatives, research

institutes and universities. Relevant qualifications, professional experience, regular training and accreditation are required. Of particular note is e-PRIA, a digital agricultural administration portal where farmers can also request advisory services (Tamsalu 2024).

France uses a mixed model, with national framework regulations and advisory services provided by public, chamber and private actors. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Ministère de l'Agriculture et de la Souveraineté alimentaire) is responsible for central coordination. Main actors: Chambres d'Agriculture (departmental and regional chambers of agriculture), CETA (professional private farmer groups), accredited private advisors, cooperatives, NGOs, and research institutes. (Sturel-Naitlho 2024). France has seen a 561% expansion in organic land from 2001–2021, with organic farming covering 9.6% of UAA but only 6.6% of food retail share. Its AKIS is marked by interdisciplinary structures and bottom-up collaboration, involving NGOs and Chambers of Agriculture, though fragmented policy support and inadequate national coordination remain issues. Advisory services are supported by multiple actors, yet suffer from funding constraints, regional disparities, and limited digital knowledge-sharing platforms. The number of advisors offering organic services have increased, but their number and expertise is not sufficient (Nagi et al., 2025). The lack of funding for advisory services in some regions further intensifies competition between advisory structures. Underfinancing is one the main problem is the knowledge sharing. Training scheme for organic advisors exist, RESOLIA for advisors of agricultural Chamber (Nagi et al. 2025).

Due to its federal structure, **Germany** does not have a unified national advisory network; the 16 federal states (Bundesländer) operate their own systems. The Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMLEH) provides the legal and financial framework, while implementation is the responsibility of the federal states. The accreditation of specialist advisors takes place at the federal state level; there is no uniform national system. Professional qualifications, experience in the field, and further training are basic requirements, while customer satisfaction feedback, professional review, and audits are used as quality assurance tools. In most of the federal states public advisory services operate, while in some states only private advisory services are available (e.g. Thuringia and Saxony-Anhalt) and mixed models also exist. (Bae et al., 2024) Germany's organic sector has grown significantly—organic land increased by 183% between 2001 and 2021—but constitutes only around 11% of UAA and 7% of the retail market. AKIS is strong and institutionalized, with federal and Länder-level coordination, and longstanding R&D programs like BÖL and EIPAGRI. Advisory services are regionally structured: public services in some regions, Chambers or private providers in others, with organic organisations also involved. Despite good overall availability, fragmentation across regions and insufficient practical knowledge transfer from research to practice limit effectiveness (Nagy et al., 2025). In Germany the Bundesprogramm Ökologischer Landbau (BÖL) Federal Organic Farming Scheme is a practiceoriented research program, which also focuses on knowledge share. EIP-AGRI programmes has been implemented since 2014, and 16% of the operational groups has been focusing on topics relevant in organic agriculture. Organic advisory is not the same in the federal states of Germany, public and private systems, funded from CAP or from other sources exist parallel. Important actors are the organic associations, where the advisory systems support the development of the value chain as well. There are shortcomings in the availability of organic advisory services in the eastern part of the country.

In **Hungary**, the Hungarian Chamber of Agriculture manages the registration and annual approval of independent advisors and advisory services (Gáborné et al., 2024). At the time of the Organic Advisory Network mapping survey (spring 2025) 470 individual advisors and 101 advisory services were registered as independent advisors, offering advice for organic farming, eligible for CAP financing, 50% of the independent advisors and 68% of the advisory services). Hungary's organic area increased by 271% from 2001–2021, reaching 5.9% of UAA, but domestic retail share remains very low (around 1%) and production is heavily export-oriented. AKIS is fragmented, with weak institutional coordination among research, extension, and organic actors. Advisory services are limited: capacity building efforts led by the Chamber of Agriculture are underway (e.g., plan to build a specialised advisory network), but high certification costs, low consumer demand, and weak cooperation restrict effectiveness). Advice is usually limited to technical assistance on the application process for organic/CAP subsidies. Advisors of input providers and representatives of trading companies, and organic control bodies are relevant actors in knowledge transfer. A few international organic advisors are also active in Hungary at larger scale operations, who can afford the extension service costs (Nagi et al., 2025). The role advisors of the producer organisations and the advisors of processing companies is unknown and underestimated.

It is characteristic of **Italy** that each Italian region (Regioni) and autonomous province (Province autonome) operates its own agricultural advisory system. As national coordinator, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry (MASAF) sets the basic principles within the framework of the CAP Strategic Plan, while implementation is a regional responsibility. The service is provided by regional agricultural offices, Centri di Assistenza Agricola (CAA) – agricultural service centres, cooperatives, accredited private consultants, universities and research institutes. Accreditation is a regional competence and is mandatory for all consultants providing CAP-supported services. Requirements include specialised qualifications, relevant experience and compulsory further training. Quality assurance is based on regional monitoring, performance evaluation and customer satisfaction surveys (Cristiano et al. 2024). Italy's organic farming comprises 16.7% of UAA, second only to Austria, but the domestic market lags—organic sales are just 4% of total food expenditure. AKIS is highly fragmented across regions, with insufficient national coordination and no dedicated organic funding. Advisory services are mostly provided by private bodies, with limited public support. Processors and traders with organic lines have important role in market-driven advisory with internal consultants within their quality departments. Training and consultancy exist but are unstructured and regionally inconsistent, with a lack of multi-disciplinary and integrated advisory systems (Nagi et al., 2025).

In **Romania**, central coordination is carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR). The main state actor in terms of technical assistance is the ANCA (Agenția Națională de Consultanță Agricolă -National Agricultural Advisory Agency), with countrywide coverage. ANCA offices, universities, research institutes, accredited private consultants, cooperatives and NGOs are involved in providing technical advice. The accreditation of actors is supervised by MADR. The focus of the advice is on mutual compliance, environmental and climate protection, organic farming, precision technologies, animal welfare, and market development. (Chicudean-Popa, 2022) Romania has seen remarkable growth—1916% increase in organic land area by 2021—yet organic accounts for only 4.3% of UAA and a tiny share of retail sales (0.2%). AKIS remains weak, burdened by short-term

funding focus, fragmentation among organic actors, and a weak internal market. Advisory and extension services are inconsistent; export-driven development undermines domestic coordination, and lack of trust in policy support further weakens institutional advisory capacity. (Nagi et al., 2025).

In **Portugal**, central coordination is the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Ministério da Agricultura e da Alimentação). The main state actors are the Regional Directorates for Agriculture and Fisheries (Direções Regionais de Agricultura e Pescas – DRAP). Technical advisory services are provided by the DRAP offices, agricultural cooperatives, producer organisations, accredited private service providers, and research institutes.

Spain has a highly decentralized system, with each of the 17 autonomous communities (Comunidades Autónomas, CCAA) operating its own agricultural advisory structure. National coordination is provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (**MAPA**), which establishes the legal framework through the CAP Strategic Plan. Technical advisory services are provided by regional agricultural offices, cooperatives, producer organisations, accredited private service providers, research institutes, and universities. In addition to the national AKIS framework, there are regional research and knowledge transfer networks (e.g. Andalusia – IFAPA; Catalonia – IRTA).

8.4 Interventions supporting or involving advisory services

Table 9 CAP interventions supporting or involving advisory services

Code	Type of intervention	Legal basis	Sector	Intervention	Eligibility criteria/Target group	Pillar	Fund	Financing logic
KNOW	Knowledge exchange and dissemination of information	Art. 78	Not applicable	Advisory services and technical assistance	Depending on the MS, individual farmers and/or advisory services. MS often combined the intervention.	2	EAFRD	EU + mandatory national co-financing
				Demonstration farms				
				Information services				
				Supporting AKIS services				
				Supporting back-office activities of AKIS/advisory services				
COOP	Cooperation	Art. 77	Not applicable	EIP-AGRI (based on Article 127)	Farmers, advisors, researchers, businesses, NGOs, and other rural actors. Farmers/foresters must be directly involved.	2.	EAFRD	EU + mandatory national co-financing
				European CAP networks (based on Article 127)	The EU CAP Network is coordinated by the European Commission.			
				National CAP network (based on Article 126)	all relevant CAP stakeholders (farmers, advisors, researchers, NGOs, businesses, authorities) can			

Code	Type of intervention	Legal basis	Sector	Intervention	Eligibility criteria/Target group	Pillar	Fund	Financing logic
					be involved. They form Operational Groups.			
				LEADER (based on Article 31 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060	Eligible to manage LEADER: Local Action Groups (mixed public-private partnerships with balanced decision power). Eligible to apply for LEADER projects: farmers, foresters, SMEs, municipalities, NGOs, and local citizens' groups – depending on what the Local Development Strategy allows in that territory.			
				Producer groups/organisations (based on Art 67 and 68)	Producer groups and producer organisations, if they are approved by the MS			
ADVI1	Fruit and vegetables, hops, olive oil, table olives and other sectors referred to in Article 42, point (f) – advisory services and technical assistance	Art. 47(1), point (b)	Sectorspecific, depending on the MS	This measure is planned, but not introduced in several MS-s.	Producer groups and producer organisations	1.	EAGF	EU share + POs' own funds

Code	Type of intervention	Legal basis	Sector	Intervention	Eligibility criteria/Target group	Pillar	Fund	Financing logic
TRAINCO	Fruit and vegetables, hops, olive oil, table olives and other sectors referred to in Article 42, point (f) – training and exchange of best practices	Art. 47(1), point (c)	Sectorspecific, depending on the MS	This measure is planned, but not introduced in several MS-s.	Producer groups and producer organisations	1.	EAGF	EU share + POs' own funds
ORGAN	Fruit and vegetables, hops, olive oil, table olives and other sectors referred to in Article 42, point (f) – organic or integrated production	Art. 47(1), point (d)	Sectorspecific, depending on the MS	This measure is planned, but not introduced in several MS-s.	Producer groups and producer organisations	1.	EAGF	EU share + POs' own funds
COACH	Fruit and vegetables, hops, olive oil, table olives and other sectors referred to in Article 42, point (f) - coaching	Art. 47(2), point (j)	Sectorspecific, depending on the MS	This measure is planned, but not introduced in several MS-s..	Producer groups and producer organisations	1.	EAGF	EU share + POs' own funds

Code	Type of intervention	Legal basis	Sector	Intervention	Eligibility criteria/Target group	Pillar	Fund	Financing logic
ADVICEES	Apiculture – advisory services, technical assistance, training, information and exchange of best practices	Art. 55(1), point (a)	Sectorspecific (only bee sector)		Producer groups and producer organisations	1.	EAGF	EU share + mandatory national public co-financing

8.5 KNOW, COOP and sectoral interventions in the Catalogue of CAP Interventions for the countries covered in this report

The catalogue of CAP interventions contains all the interventions planned by member states. At the end of this document, we include tables showing the plans for all discussed interventions by Member State. These were put together by filtering the Catalogue of CAP Interventions. We provide them here so that readers can easily see the relevant information without having to search the online database themselves.

Table 10 Rural development measure: Knowledge exchange and dissemination of knowledge (KNOW) individual advise for farmers

Member State	National Intervention Code	Intervention Name - English	Total EU expenditure (2023-2029)	Total Public Expenditure (2023-2029)
Austria	78-02	Knowledge transfer for agricultural and forestry themes (technical and personal training and information)	26 355 900	60 000 000
Belgium-Flanders	3,13	Tailor-made education and advice – demand-driven	4 987 527	11 598 901
Belgium-Flanders	3,14	Tailor-made education and advice – supply-driven	5 552 521	12 912 840
Bulgaria	II.II.1.	II.I.1.: Consulting services and enhancement of advisory capacity	10 000 081	25 000 203
Germany	EL-0801	Advice	86 610 146	151 073 508
Estonia	0,2	Advisory support	3 600 000	6 000 000
Spain	7202	Advisory services	65 522 737	108 519 469
France	78,01	Access to training, advice; dissemination and exchange of knowledge and information	99 364 529	137 721 151
Croatia	78.02.	Support for the provision of advisory services	14 117 647	17 647 059
Hungary	RD60_A04_A DP_78	Advisory services	24 937 644	57 994 521
Italy	SRH01	provision of advisory services	34 603 354	80 096 534
Portugal	C.5.3	Advice	5 078 182	8 523 921
Portugal	F.12.2	Use of Advisory Services	68 000	80 000
Romania	DR-38	Advice on agricultural business	6 868 425	8 080 500

Table 11 Rural development Knowledge exchange and dissemination of knowledge (KNOW) demonstration farms

Member State	National Intervention Code	Intervention Name - English	Total EU expenditure (2023-2029)	Total Public Expenditure (2023-2029)
Belgium-Flanders	3,12	Demonstration projects	2 435 316	5 663 526
Germany	EL-0802	Skills development, demonstration activities and knowledge sharing	42 884 179	69 226 223
Hungary	RD58_A01_TRA_78	Training and demonstration programmes	2 465 753	5 734 310
Italy	SRH05	demonstration actions for agriculture, forestry and rural areas	7 088 620	16 141 126

Table 12 Rural development Knowledge exchange and dissemination of knowledge (KNOW) AKIS, training, creating new services

Member State	National Intervention Code	Intervention Name - English	Total EU expenditure (2023-2029)	Total Public Expenditure (2023-2029)
Austria	78-01	Farm and forestry advisory services	18 117 036	40 500 000
Bulgaria	II.И.2.	Vocational training and knowledge acquisition	6 183 720	15 459 300
Estonia	0,1	Support for the development of the Knowledge Transfer and Innovation System (AKIS)	10 200 000	17 000 000
Spain	7201	Knowledge transfer, training and information activities	42 916 954	74 601 856
Croatia	78.01.	Support for knowledge transfer	14 117 647	17 647 059
Italy	SRH06	Back office services for AKIS	13 090 920	28 179 248
Italy	SRH04	information actions	12 272 281	27 315 148

Italy	SRH02	training of consultants	3 134 088	7 222 074
Italy	SRH03	training of farmers, agricultural, animal husbandry, food businesses and other private and public actors for the development of rural areas	29 075 567	67 415 347
Portugal	C.5.4	Agri-environmental and Climate Knowledge	171 812	300 138
Portugal	F.12.1	Establishment of Advisory Services	170 000	200 000
Portugal	E.2.1	Establishment of Farm and Forestry Advisory Services	1 360 000	1 600 000
Portugal	F.11.2	Information actions	255 000	300 000
Portugal	E.2.2	Provision of Farm and Forestry Advisory Services	10 625	12 500
Portugal	C.5.5	Specialised Technical Follow-Up – Knowledge Exchange	7 262 474	12 087 160
Portugal	C.5.2	Training and information	3 484 321	5 882 706
Portugal	F.11.1	Vocational Training	425 000	500 000
Portugal	E.1.1	Vocational training and skills acquisition	85 000	100 000
Romania	DR-37	Knowledge transfer	10 190 613	12 070 458

Table 13 COOP measure

Member State	National Intervention Code	Intervention Name - English	Total EU expenditure (2023-2029)	Total Public Expenditure (2023-2029)
Austria	77-02	Cooperation	120 163 518	273 675 000
Austria	77-05	LEADER	130 200 000	210 000 000
Austria	77-01	Participation in food and ornamental plant quality schemes	6 007 077	13 700 000
Austria	77-04	Reactivation of the vacancy through awareness-raising & counselling, development concepts & management for local and city core reinforcement	5 814 630	13 250 000
Austria	77-03	Rural innovation systems in the framework of the European Innovation Partnership	6 144 474	14 000 000
Austria	77-06	Support to Operational Groups and Innovation Projects under the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability – EIP-AGRI	3 401 010	7 750 000
Belgium-Flanders	3.17	EIP Innovation Project Call	7 911 190	18 398 116
Belgium-Flanders	3.18	Leader – Design Local Development Strategy	150 500	350 000
Belgium-Flanders	3.19	Leader – Realisatie Local Ontwikkeling Strategy	25 429 200	50 931 000
Belgium-Wallonia	373	Co-operation in the field of health	1 297 800	3 500 000
Belgium-Wallonia	372	Cooperation in the area of tourism	1 483 200	4 000 000
Belgium-Wallonia	374	EIP Cooperation – Innovation	834 670	2 250 999
Belgium-Wallonia	371	LEADER	9 937 440	26 800 000
Bulgaria	II.Ж.2	Cooperation for short supply chains	3 800 000	9 500 000
Bulgaria	II.Ж.4	Promotion and support of quality schemes recognised by the Union or the Member States and their use by farmers	2 075 693	5 189 233
Bulgaria	II.Ж.1.	Support for European Innovation Partnership Operational Groups	16 335 145	40 837 862

Bulgaria	II.Ж.3	Support to producer organisations or producer groups	5 000 000	12 500 000
Bulgaria	II.Ж.5	The implementation of operations, including cooperation activities and their preparation, selected under the local development strategy.	113 865 060	284 662 644
Germany	EL-0702	European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-Agri)	119 349 000	156 229 000
Germany	EL-0703	LEADER	1 246 106 365	1 643 728 636
Germany	EL-0701	Networks and cooperation	49 120 300	80 055 249
Denmark	25	Local Action Groups (LAG)	46 262 400	57 828 000
Estonia	3.4	Development of short supply chains and local market	3 600 000	6 000 000
Estonia	0.3	Innovation cooperation projects – EIP Operational Group projects	12 000 000	15 000 000
Estonia	8.4	Leader – Community-Led Local Development (CLLD)	47 589 703	59 487 129
Estonia	9.4	Support for cooperation on control programmes for animal diseases	5 992 560	9 987 600
Estonia	3.3	Support for the development of recognised producer organisations	1 470 000	2 450 000
Estonia	3.2	Supporting the implementation of Union and national quality schemes	2 400 000	4 000 000
Spain	7165	Cooperation for the environment	9 690 271	19 508 157
Spain	7132	Cooperation for the promotion of agricultural products and foodstuffs in quality schemes (7132 Non-IACS)	41 025 837	66 061 621
Spain	7163	Cooperation for the structuring of the territory	3 787 000	6 225 733
Spain	7161	Cooperation of Operational Groups of the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-Agri)	131 025 778	171 701 246
Spain	7169	Cooperation on farm succession	8 422 523	15 870 265
Spain	7191	Cooperation projects to promote producer organisations or groups	7 598 500	12 415 000
Spain	7131	Cooperation to promote participation in quality schemes for agricultural products and foodstuffs (7131 Non-IACS)	4 488 158	7 092 051

Spain	7162	Innovation Cooperation Groups not related to EIP-Agri	14 119 643	27 971 954
Spain	7119	LEADER	516 654 229	722 031 180
France	77.04	Cooperation for generational renewal in agriculture	2 383 173	4 549 335
France	77.03	Cooperation for the promotion, marketing, development and certification of quality schemes	16 648 150	28 225 699
France	77.02	Encouraging organisations, producer groups or interbranch organisations	2 487 500	3 014 706
France	77.01	European Innovation Partnership	63 262 300	78 808 681
France	77.05	LEADER	502 089 706	626 159 022
France	77.06	Other cooperation projects meeting the objectives of the CAP	52 312 400	95 044 735
France	77.07	Support for pilot projects and development of new products, practices, processes and techniques in the French ORs	41 500 000	51 529 412
Croatia	77.01.	Aid for farmers' participation in quality schemes	3 011 765	3 764 706
Croatia	77.03.	Support for EIP Operational Groups	4 080 000	5 100 000
Croatia	77.02	Support for information and promotion activities carried out by groups of producers in the internal market	941 176	1 176 470
Croatia	77.04.	Support for short supply chains and local markets	1 990 588	2 488 235
Croatia	77.05.	Support for the establishment and operation of producer organisations	4 235 294	5 294 118
Croatia	77.06.	Support for the LEADER (CLLD) approach	82 338 579	102 923 224
Hungary	RD37_F04_FRC_77	Co-operative support for forest fire prevention and risk reduction	3 135 000	7 290 698
Hungary	RD46_R05_GIJ_77	Cooperation in the case of an existing national quality scheme or a PDO/PGI/GI/TSG or organic product registered in an EU quality scheme	547 950	1 274 302
Hungary	RD61_A05_EIP_77	European Innovation Partnership (EIP) cooperation	6 575 352	15 291 516
Hungary	RD07_B03_YFO_77	Generational renewal, economic transfer cooperation	1 232 877	2 867 155

Hungary	RD57_R15_LDR_77	Preparation and implementation of LEADER strategies	81 757 330	163 514 661
Hungary	RD51_R11_TUC_77	Rural development cooperation for active and eco-tourism development in the region	547 950	1 274 302
Hungary	RD52_R12_BIC_77	Rural development cooperation for the development of a biomass-based economy	547 950	1 274 302
Hungary	RD49_R09_SCC_77	Rural Development Cooperation for the Development of Short Supply Lances	684 932	1 592 864
Hungary	RD50_R10_SEC_77	Rural development cooperation for the development of social enterprises	547 950	1 274 302
Hungary	RD56_D03_SVC_77	Rural development cooperation to support the digital transition of small municipalities (smart village)	547 950	1 274 302
Hungary	RD47_R06_QSJ_77	Support for adherence to quality assurance and management systems	547 950	1 274 302
Hungary	RD45_R04_GIS_77	Support for cooperation to establish a new PDO/PGI/GJ/TSG and to carry out a new activity related to the operation of the quality scheme in the framework of EU quality schemes	547 950	1 274 302
Hungary	RD48_R07_QSP_77	Support for information and promotion activities for quality schemes	547 949	1 274 302
Hungary	RD44_R03_POG_77	Support to producer groups, producer organisations	5 479 452	12 742 912
Hungary	RD15_W04_COP_77	Supporting sustainable water management communities that improve water efficiency	547 945	1 274 291
Italy	SRG07	cooperation for rural, local and smart villages	40 816 608	90 939 486
Italy	SRG09	Cooperation on innovation support actions and services in the agricultural, forestry and agri-food sectors	9 991 719	21 223 310
Italy	SRG06	Leader – implementation of local development strategies	420 096 791	923 493 924
Italy	SRG03	participation in quality schemes	6 804 302	15 281 518
Italy	SRG05	preparatory support Leader- Support for the preparation of rural development strategies	2 140 329	4 611 864
Italy	SRG10	promotion of quality products	47 784 222	106 878 749
Italy	SRG02	setting up of producer organisations	5 373 125	11 085 000

Italy	SRG01	support EIP AGRI Operational Groups	74 028 969	164 699 086
Italy	SRG08	support for innovation pilot and testing actions	16 732 050	38 850 000
Portugal	D.1	Community Led Local Development (CLLD)	104 999 895	149 999 850
Portugal	E.14.1	Cooperation for Innovation	183 600	216 000
Portugal	C.4.3.2	Inter-professional organisations	502 634	850 000
Portugal	E.16	LEADER	11 800 631	13 883 095
Portugal	F.3	LEADER	8 439 670	9 929 023
Portugal	F.9.1	Operational Groups	297 500	350 000
Portugal	C.5.1	Operational Groups for Innovation	7 700 000	11 000 000
Portugal	E.3.2	Production in quality schemes	29 750	35 000
Portugal	C.4.3.1	Setting up of producer groups and organisations	1 182 669	2 000 000
Portugal	E.9.1	Setting up of producer groups and organisations	85 000	100 000
Portugal	F.10.1	Support for participation in Quality Schemes	45 900	54 000
Portugal	C.4.2	Support to the Promotion of Quality Products	847 187	1 410 000
Romania	DR-34	Cooperation and innovation in agriculture through EIP Operational Groups	17 000 000	20 041 176
Romania	DR-36	Leader – Community Led Local Development	424 750 000	500 000 000
Romania	DR-33	Setting up of producer groups in the agricultural/fruit sector	12 750 000	15 444 706

Table 14 Sectoral measure: Advisory services and technical assistance, in particular concerning sustainable pest and disease control techniques, sustainable use of plant protection and animal health products, climate change adaptation and mitigation, the conditions of employment, employer obligations and occupational health and safety (ADVI1)

Member State	National Intervention Code	Intervention Name - English	Sector	Total EU expenditure (2023-2029)	Total Public Expenditure (2023-2029)
Austria	47-20	Advisory services and technical assistance in the field of environment	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
Belgium-Flanders	2.f10	Fruit and Vegetables Operational Programmes – Individual cultivation guidance and group guidance on climate change adaptation and mitigation.	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
Belgium-Flanders	2.e04	Fruit and vegetables operational programmes – Individual cultivation guidance and group guidance on sustainable pest and disease control techniques, sustainable use of plant protection products and sustainable use of resources	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
Belgium-Flanders	2.k03	Fruit and Vegetables Operational Programmes – Individual guidance and group guidance on working conditions, employers’ responsibilities and health and safety at work.	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
Belgium-Flanders	2.f12	Operational programmes Fruit and Vegetables – Guidance of POs for environment/climate	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
Belgium-Wallonia	2102	Sectoral intervention F – Council	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
Bulgaria	I.Γ.2.3	Advisory services and technical assistance, in particular concerning sustainable animal disease control techniques, sustainable use of products for animal health, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and	Milk and milk products	-	-
Bulgaria	I.Γ.1.4	Interventions related to advisory services and technical assistance, in particular concerning sustainable pest and disease control techniques, sustainable use of plant protection products and animal health, adaptation to the modification of	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-

Germany	SP-0401	Advice to hop growers on sustainability	Hops	-	-
Germany	SP-0102	Advisory services and technical assistance	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
Denmark	11B	Advisory services and technical assistance, etc.	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
Spain	1IS501802V1	Operational programmes in the fruit and vegetables sector. Advisory services and technical assistance	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
France	67.01b	Advisory and technical assistance services	Rice	-	-
France	67.02b	Advisory and technical assistance services	Live trees and other plants, bulbs, roots and the like, cut flowers and ornamental foliage	-	-
France	67.04b	Advisory and technical assistance services	Dried fodder	-	-
France	67.05b	Advisory and technical assistance services	Other sectors covering products listed in Annex VI	-	-
France	67.06b	Advisory and technical assistance services	Other sectors covering products listed in Annex VI	-	-
France	50.01b	Consultancy and technical assistance services	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
France	64.01b	Consultancy and technical assistance services	Olive oil and tables olive	-	-
Croatia	47.1.b.01.	Advisory services and technical assistance	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
Hungary	SC11_A03_FVA_47	Advisory services and technical assistance – fruit and vegetables	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
Italy	ISO IS ortofrutta02	Operational programmes in the fruit and vegetables sector Advisory services and technical assistance	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
Italy	IS olivicolo 47.1b	Operational programmes of olive oil and olive producer organisations (POs) and their associations (APOs)	Olive oil and tables olive	-	-

Italy	ISP IS patate 02	Potato Operational Programmes – Advisory services and technical assistance	Other sectors covering products listed in Annex VI	-	-
Portugal	B.1.8	Advice and technical assistance	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
Romania	IS-LF-02	Advisory services and technical assistance, in particular with regard to sustainable pest and disease control techniques	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-

Table 15 Sectoral: coaching to other producer organisations and associations of producer organisations recognised under Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 or under Article 67(7) of this Regulation, or to individual producers, COACH

Member State	National Intervention Code	Intervention Name - English	Sector	Total EU expenditure (2023-2029)	Total Public Expenditure (2023-2029)
Belgium-Flanders	2.j-2j01	Fruit and Vegetables Operational Programmes – guidance to other POs, APOs and coaching of individual producers	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
Bulgaria	I.Г.1.10	Coaching to other producer organisations and associations of producer organisations recognised under Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 or to individual producers;	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
Spain	1IS501817V1	Operational programmes in the fruit and vegetables sector. Guidance to other producer organisations and associations of producer organisations or individual producers	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
Hungary	SC29_I10_FVC_47	personalised advice – fruit and vegetables	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
Italy	ISOIS ortofrutta 17	Operational programmes in the fruit and vegetables sector – Providing guidance services to other producer organisations and associations of producer organisations	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-

Italy	ISP IS patate 17	Operational programmes in the potato sector – Provision of guidance services to other producer organisations and associations of producer organisations	Other sectors covering products listed in Annex VI	-	-
Italy	IS Olivicolo - 47.2j	Operational programmes of olive oil and olive oil producer organisations (POs) and their associations (APOs)	Olive oil and tables olive	-	-

Table 16 Sectoral: training including coaching and exchange of best practices, in particular concerning sustainable pest and disease control techniques, sustainable use of plant protection and animal health products, and climate change adaptation and mitigation, as well as the use of organised trading platforms and commodity exchanges on the spot and futures market, TRAINCO

Member State	National Intervention Code	Intervention Name - English	Sector	Total EU expenditure (2023-2029)	Total Public Expenditure (2023-2029)
Austria	47-21	Advice, training and exchange of best practices	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
Belgium-Flanders	2.f11	Fruit and Vegetables Operational Programmes – Training on Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
Belgium-Flanders	2.e07	Fruit and Vegetables Operational Programmes – Training on sustainable pest and disease control techniques and sustainable use of plant protection products and other training	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
Belgium-Flanders	2.b04	Fruit and Vegetables Operational Programmes – Training on the use of organised trading venues and commodity trading on spot and forward markets	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
Belgium-Wallonia	2103	Sectoral intervention F/L – Training	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
Bulgaria	I.Г.1.5	Training and exchange of best practices, in particular on sustainable pest and disease control techniques, sustainable use of plant protection products, climate change adaptation and mitigation	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-

Bulgaria	I.Г.2.4	Training, including coaching and exchange of best practices, in particular on sustainable animal disease control techniques, sustainable use of plant protection products, climate change adaptation and mixture	Milk and milk products	-	-
Denmark	11C	Training, etc.	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
Spain	1IS501803V1	Operational programmes in the fruit and vegetables sector. Training, including guidance and exchange of best practices	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
France	67.02c	Training, including coaching and exchange of best practices	Live trees and other plants, bulbs, roots and the like, cut flowers and ornamental foliage	-	-
France	50.01c	Training, including coaching and exchange of good practices	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
France	64.01c	Training, including coaching and exchange of good practices	Olive oil and tables olive	-	-
Croatia	47.1.c.01.	Training and/or exchange of best practices	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
Hungary	SC12_A04_FVT_47	training, including coaching and exchange of best practices – fruit and vegetables	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
Italy	ISO IS ortofrutta03	Operational programmes in the fruit and vegetables sector – Training including guidance	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
Italy	IS Olivicolo - 47.1c	Operational programmes of olive oil and olive producer organisations (POs) and their associations (APOs)	Olive oil and tables olive	-	-
Italy	ISP IS patate 03	Potato Operational Programmes – Advisory services and technical assistance	Other sectors covering products listed in Annex VI	-	-
Portugal	B.1.9	Training	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-

Romania	IS-LF-03	Training, including guidance and exchange of best practices, sustainable pest and disease control techniques, sustainable use of plant protection products and climate change mitigation	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
----------------	----------	--	----------------------	---	---

Table 17 Sectoral: organic or integrated production ORGAN

Member State	National Intervention Code	Intervention Name - English	Sector	Total EU expenditure (2023-2029)	Total Public Expenditure (2023-2029)
Austria	47-09	Organic production	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
Belgium-Flanders	2.f13	Operational programmes Fruit and Vegetables – Climate and organic and integrated production	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
Belgium-Flanders	2.a03	Operational programmes Fruit and Vegetables – Training and study trips related to production planning, organisation and management	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
Belgium-Wallonia	2105	Sectoral intervention F – L – Bio or integrated	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
Germany	SP-0106	Organic or integrated production	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
Denmark	11D	Organic or integrated production	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
Spain	1IS501804V1	Operational programmes in the fruit and vegetables sector. Organic or integrated production	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
France	50.01d	Organic or integrated production	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
Hungary	SC13_G01_FVO_47	organic or integrated production – Vegetable fruit	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-

Italy	ISO Is Ortofrutta04	Operational programmes in the fruit and vegetables sector – Organic or integrated production	Fruit and Vegetables	-	-
Italy	ISP IS patate 04	Operational programmes in the potato sector – Organic or integrated production	Other sectors covering products listed in Annex VI	-	-
Italy	IS Olivicolo - 47.1d	Operational programmes of Olive Oil and Olive Producer Organisations (POs) and their Associations (APOs)	Olive oil and tables olive	-	-

Table 18 Sectoral interventions: advisory services, technical assistance, training, information and exchange of best practices, including through networking, for beekeepers and beekeepers' organisations ADVIBEEES

Member State	National Intervention Code	Intervention Name - English	Total EU expenditure (2023-2029)	Total Public Expenditure (2023-2029)
Austria	55-03	Biene Austria Network Centre	939 064	1 878 128
Austria	55-01	Education and Training, Advice Service	1 049 688	2 099 376
Belgium-Flanders	2,25	Technical assistance for beekeeping organisations	154 338	308 676
Belgium-Wallonia	221	IPA sector intervention – Technical assistance	511 929	1 023 859
Bulgaria	I.E.1	– Consultancy, technical assistance, training, information and exchange of good practices, including through networking, for beekeepers and beekeeping organisations	25 565	63 912
Germany	SP-0202	Building, improving and disseminating impervious knowledge	2 894 673	5 789 347
Denmark	12A	Advisory services, technical assistance, training, etc.	572 477	1 144 954
Estonia	2.1.1	Intervention in the beekeeping sector 1 – Improving the knowledge and skills of beekeepers and technical assistance	372 000	744 000

Spain	1IS551801V1	Intervention n° 1 for advice, technical assistance, training, information and exchange of best practices in the apiculture sector.	6 525 330	13 050 660
France	55,01	Technical assistance, advice, training, information and exchange of best practices for beekeepers and beekeepers' organisations	14 218 128	28 436 256
Croatia	55.1.a.01.	Advisory services, technical assistance, training, information and exchange of best practices, including networking, for beekeepers and apiculture organisations	507 225	1 014 450
Hungary	SC02_A01_BEA_55	Apiculture knowledge transfer and technical assistance	2 766 984	5 533 968
Italy	Hy 01	Technical assistance, advisory, training, information and exchange of best practices services, including through networking, for beekeepers and beekeepers' organisations	6 032 205	20 107 350
Portugal	B.2.1	Technical assistance to beekeepers and beekeepers' organisations	3 806 000	7 612 000
Romania	IS-A-01	Advisory services, technical assistance, training, information and exchange of good practices, including through networking, for beekeepers and beekeepers' organisations	274 250	548 500



Partners



Suggestion to cite this report: Szepekuthy K. & Jobbágy, P., 2025. *Financial support for advice in organic: the CAP and other measures*. OrganicAdviceNetwork. Budapest: ÖMKI

OrganicAdviceNetwork is funded by the European Union (Grant no. 101134850) and by the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research, and Innovation (Grant no. 23.0639, 101134850). Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union, European Research Executive Agency or Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research, and Innovation. Neither the European Union nor any other the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

