



Progress Report: Hungary

Work Package: WP01 - Regulation & policy framework regarding production, use, and transparency of organic seed

Dissemination level: Public

Publication Date: 23/12/2020

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1. About the report

This report is part of the Work Package 01 of the [LIVESEED project](#), which explores EU Member States in terms of their implementation and best practices connected to the EU Organic Regulations, in the contexts of national regulatory and policy frameworks.

After the [Country Report on the National Visit](#) and the Report of the [Regional/National Workshop](#), this Progress Report shall, on one hand, reflect on actions taken by stakeholders (**blue tables**). Those actions have been formulated and committed to during the National workshop by the Declaration of Organic Seed (see Annex I in Report of the Regional/National Workshop), but such actions might also have been carried out by the stakeholders without having made a respective commitment before. On the other hand, this report shall elaborate developments in regulation compared to the previous reports, ergo the previous years, of the LIVESEED project (**green tables**).

To promote an easy assesment, actions and developments are sub-categorized into different topics, similar to those used in the workshop report.

This report has been produced in the framework of the Horizon 2020-funded project LIVESEED. The main aim of LIVESEED is to boost the production and use of organic seeds and plant breeding for organic agriculture across Europe. It is co-ordinated by IFOAM EU, and its scientific coordinator is FIBL-CH.

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2. Evaluation of Progress

1.1. Database

1.1.1. Non-committed, concrete actions by stakeholders (may be left empty)

Hungarian Organic Seed Expert Group input on database improvement	
Action: The Hungarian Organic Seed Expert Group (HOSEG) (newly established expert group, see reflection under “Other” with members such as the Hungarian Seed Association, seed producers, certification bodies, breeders, researchers, farmers, National Food Chain Safety Office (NÉBIH) Ministry of Agriculture)) recommended development suggestions to the competent authority, NÉBIH in order to transform the database into an easier accessible real-time updating database, containing relevant information for farmers.	Ongoing / Date
Freya Schäfer gives a presentation on OrganicXseeds and European router database	
Action: On 29.01.2020 in the frame of a HOSEG meeting Freya Schäfer has given a presentation on OrganicXseeds and European router databases to inform NÉBIH about a good example and the plans related to organic seed databases in the EU and to influence the national database development.	January 2020
The Organic Seed Database available on ÖMKi’s website	
Action: In July 2020 ÖMKi published the link of the Hungarian organic seed database on its website, with information about the advantages of organic seed use and the function of the database. Additionally, ÖMKi is promoting its use when communicating with seed producers.	Ongoing

1.1.2. Regulatory and general developments concerning the database

Regulatory and general developments compared to previous years of the LIVESEED project	
<p>Development: Unfortunately, to date none of the recommendations were implemented by NÉBIH. Moreover, after several meetings and the presentation of Freya, seed producers and NÉBIH were concluding to not to invest into the database at the moment, because there is not enough organic seed offer and demand for such an expensive development. However due to this intensive communication, the Hungarian organic seed database is now regularly updated, but despite all the effort there are only a few more lots published than before.</p> <p>Expected progress: We still hope that with the combined activities supported and performed by the HOSEG (see further actions) the database will improve for the benefit of farmers and seed producers as well. NÉBIH undertook to reconsider joining OrganicXseeds when organic seed use and production grows in the country.</p>	Ongoing

1.2. Derogations

1.2.1. Non-committed, concrete actions by stakeholders (may be left empty)

Analysis of the current regulation by Hungária Öko Garancia Ltd. certification body and ÖMKi for introducing the possibility of general derogation for certain crop species (mainly vegetables and herbs)	
<p>Action: In order to move from the solely option of individual derogation to no derogation (see further action) and general derogation for crops, where sufficient organic seed and variety choice is not foreseen for several years, the Hungária Öko Garancia Ltd. examined the current regulation and ÖMKi contacted NÉBIH, as logical responsible authority, to find a solution and overcome this bottleneck.</p> <p>Development: after consulting the legal text, it turned out the responsible authority for general derogation is not defined in the regulation. NÉBIH declared they do not have sufficient human and financial resources to work on this issue, as they are not officially designated as responsible authority. In the coming weeks the</p>	February 2020/ ongoing



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<p>certification bodies together with ÖMKi are going to contact the Ministry of Agriculture in order to solve this deficiency. Expected outcome: After designating the responsible authority who can enable the list of species for general derogation, the administrative work of farmers and certification bodies will significantly decrease. The responsible authority is expected to collaborate in the development of this list with the HOSEG.</p>	
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1.2.2. Regulatory and general developments concerning derogations

Regulatory and general developments compared to previous years of the LIVESEED project	
<p>Due to regular dissemination on LIVESEED project outcomes, stakeholders awareness and knowledge increased significantly. With the coordination of ÖMKi, stakeholders started for the first time a progressive action plan on different derogation categories.</p>	Ongoing

1.3. Expert Group Developing the foundations of introducing species

1.3.1. Non-committed, concrete actions by stakeholders (may be left empty)

Developing the foundations of Category I.	
<p>Action: The newly established organic seed expert group was setting up a roadmap, first for winter wheat, as the most important and most widely grown organic crop in Hungary, to achieve the necessary seed offer variety and quantity wise as well in the database in order put the species in Category I. This roadmap includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of a small plot post-registration variety testing network and widely disseminate its results, coordinated by ÖMKi - Analysing the derogation lists provided by the certification bodies for variety use - Analysing EUSTAT data for the crop species grown on more than 1000 ha - Involvement of seed produces and suppliers to nominate their varieties in this trial - Involvement of seed produces and suppliers to keep part of their organic seeds for the domestic market and publish their offer on the national organic seed database 	Ongoing

1.3.2. Regulatory and general developments concerning the expert group

Regulatory and general developments compared to previous years of the LIVESEED project	
<p>Development: The first steps have been made to work on Annex X. Expected progress: Within 2 to 3 years, winter wheat might go into Category I.</p>	Ongoing

1.4. Research

1.4.1. Committed Actions of the Declaration of Organic Seeds

ÖMKi and ATK continue their on-farm tests	
<p>Action: In 2019/2020 ÖMKi performed on-farm tests on 8 locations with 15 varieties. Small plot test were performed by ATK (2 locations) and the Cereal Research Non-Profit Ltd. (1 location) with 45 varieties. Development: trial data is always available in the yearly report of ÖMKi Expected progress: the data will feed into the variety offer list which could trigger organic seed production and motivate farmers to use certified seed.</p>	2019-2020, but ongoing as well
Öko Garancia and Biokontroll Hungária processes the data collected on variety use and/or certification results. Anna Divéky looks for students for this task	



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Hungaria Öko Garancia Ltd. collected data from EUSTAT in order to filter the species (and their varieties used) cultivated on 1000 hectares or more. Hungaria Öko Garancia Ltd. and Biokontroll Hungária Ltd. provided data on derogation/variety use which still need to be processed.	September 2020/ongoing
Freya Schäfer sends the methodology of the German data analysis	
Methodology sent by Freya Schäfer.	February 2020

1.4.2. Non-committed, concrete actions by stakeholders (may be left empty)

Organic small plot post-registration winter wheat trial network	
Action: ÖMKi with support from ATK established an organic small plot post-registration trial network. The Hungarian Seed Association supported the initiative, by sending out several calls to their seed producer members to nominate varieties for the experiment. Development: The trials will start in October 2020 on 7 locations with 21 winter wheat varieties. Expected progress: on a long term better variety choice, higher volume of certified seed use, support from the Ministry of Agriculture and NÉBIH to develop the network and include more species. Furthermore the network is planned to be used in the future for organic VCU testing as well.	Ongoing

1.4.3. Regulatory and general developments concerning research

Regulatory and general developments compared to previous years of the LIVESEED project	
On-farm tests are going to be complemented with small plot post-registration trials to support farmers in variety choice and promote organic seed use. For the first time NÉBIH is transforming one of its stations into organic.	Ongoing

1.5. Training/Information/Communication

1.5.1. Committed Actions of the Declaration of Organic Seeds

ÖMKi and ATK organises a field day for stakeholders of the arable crop value chain	
Action: ÖMKi organised an on-line field day in June covering on farm variety trials, threshing, milling with stone mills and artisanal bread baking using landrace emmer and einkorn cereals. During this event ATK was giving a presentation on the advantages of hulled cereals in organic agriculture and related breeding projects.	June 2020 / ongoing
Szent István University, Horticulture Faculty, Anna Divéky launch a farmer training from January 2020	
Action: Anna Divéky-Ertsey organised a training for farmers on organic seed use in case of field crops, highlighting the importance of variety choice, the advantages of certified seed and the rationale of the organic seed database. Expected progress: after regular training farmers will be aware where to find information about the most suitable varieties for their farm and purpose, they will use more certified seed and they will be updated on the latest results of research in the sector.	6 March 2020
Anett Fekete shares information available on EIP Agri portal	
Anett Fekete is no longer working at the Ministry of Agriculture, but the connection with EIP Agri is good, recently an article on ÖMKi's on farm trials was published in EIP Agri magazine.	ongoing
Tibor Kruppi (Tradisco Seeds and Hungarian Seed Association) shares summary of the national workshop to the seed producers	



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Tibor Kruppi and the Hungarian Seed Association have shared the summary of the National Workshop with seed producers.	May 2020/ ongoing
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1.5.2. Non-committed, concrete actions by stakeholders (may be left empty)

Article on the newly established organic seed expert group and its first activities	
ATK, with contribution from ÖMKi, wrote an article to introduce the Hungarian organic seed expert group, its activities and future plans to the stakeholders. The article was published in the Biokultúra magazine and it is available on the website of ÖMKi.	July 2020

1.5.3. Regulatory and general developments concerning training/information/communication

Regulatory and general developments compared to previous years of the LIVESEED project	
It is a significant development, that regular communication has been started among the different actors and stakeholders of the organic seed sector, while their understanding on current lock-ins and the possibilities provided by new organic regulation have largely developed.	Ongoing

1.6. Production and Use of Organic Seeds

1.6.1. Committed Actions of the Declaration of Organic Seeds

ÖMKi coordinates the consultation between seed producers	
Action: Initially coordinated by ÖMKi, but now it is done in the frame of the HOSEG. Development: Seed producers are informed about the variety choice of farmers, data collected and shared by the certification bodies. Seed producers also made their offers of keeping organic seed on the Hungarian market. They were informed about the small plot post-registration trials in which some of them nominated varieties.	Ongoing

1.6.2. Non-committed, concrete actions by stakeholders (may be left empty)

ÖMKi in the Commission working group of temporary experiment on organic varieties suitable for organic agriculture	
Involving the Ministry of Agriculture in the HOSEG and regular communication on LIVESEED outcomes, the Ministry delegated a LIVESEED project partner (employee of ÖMKi) to represent Hungary in the Commission working group. Recently an expert from ÖMKi was designated to the ‘cereal alternative DUS protocol’ working group.	Ongoing
ÖMKi plans a campaign on organic breeding and seed use in 2021	
ÖMKi is working on a campaign involving multiple actors of the farm and food sector, including processors and retailers.	Ongoing

1.6.3. Regulatory and general developments concerning production and use of organic seeds

Regulatory and general developments compared to previous years of the LIVESEED project	
In order to improve organic seed supply, ÖMKi succeeded to bring together the main seed producers interested in organic and facilitates discussion among them. As a result of regular communication, seed producers are going to keep more organic seed on the Hungarian market	Ongoing



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from autumn 2020 and are willing to produce organic seed of those varieties which will turn out successful in the variety tests.

1.7. Other

1.7.1. Non-committed, concrete actions by stakeholders (may be left empty)

Establishment of the organic seed expert group	(Progress)
<p>Action: During the National Workshop it became clear that an organic seed expert group is necessary to involve stakeholders, coordinate the sectors’ needs and share information. In October 2019 ÖMKi with the help of ATK initiated the first expert group meeting, which was followed by 4 consecutive meetings since then, 2 of them organised by ÖMKi, with the participation of the Hungarian Seed Association, the National Food Chain Safety Office, the organic certification bodies, the Ministry of Agriculture, breeders, researchers, seed producers and farmers.</p> <p>Development: In March 2020 the organic seed expert group became official, when the Hungarian Seed Association founded a working group on organic seeds, but ÖMKi is still playing a major role in the coordination of the group. The latest meeting was organised online in September 2020 with dissemination on the status quo of the small plot post-registration trial network, collection of offers from seed producers to the organic seed database and quick update on the organic regulation.</p> <p>Expected progress: With the help of regular meetings and good coordination the collaboration between the different stakeholders will strengthen in order to support farmers in variety choice, promote organic breeding and improve organic seed use. In the coming period farmers and retailers will be invited and better involved in the work of the expert group.</p>	<p>October 2019/Ongoing</p>

1.7.2.

Regulatory and general developments compared to previous years of the LIVESEED project	
<p>Development: The establishment of HOSEG is an important milestone, the stakeholders, who previously had no information about each other’s activities and difficulties, now have regular contact and gained a good overview on the sectors’ opportunities and barriers, and the implementation of the current legislation. In the frame of HOSEG, ÖMKi regularly disseminates the results of the LIVESEED project and started a communication on the new organic regulation and its concomitant developments. One of the major outcomes of these meetings was that in 2020 Hungary participated in the OHM temporary experiment, with ÖMKi and ATK conducting trials on EPO durum populations. The establishment of the organic small-plot trial network is a huge development and opportunity for the sector, which besides post-registration trials, can host VCU trials for organic varieties as well in the future.</p>	<p>ongoing</p>

3. Summary of Progress

- The seed database remains a problem issue in Hungary. To date, none of the recommendations were implemented by NÉBIH. Investment is not considered at the moment, because there is not enough organic seed offer and demand for such an expensive development. At least, the Hungarian organic seed database is now regularly updated, but despite all the effort there are only a few more lots published than before. Stepping over to OrganicXSeed could be an option for the future.



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WP1 T1.4 National Progress Report – Hungary

- With the coordination of ÖMKi, stakeholders started for the first time a progressive action plan on different derogation categories. This is a key element in tackling derogation reduction in Hungary.
- A newly established organic seed expert group set up a roadmap, first for winter wheat, as the most important and most widely grown organic crop in Hungary. This roadmap will be a valuable tool and guiding map to turn winter wheat into a category I crop.
- On-farm tests and small plot test trials were performed in several locations with a large amount of varieties. The data will feed into the variety offer list which could trigger organic seed production and motivate farmers to use certified seed. Furthermore, NÉBIH is transforming one of its stations into organic, which is a first for Hungary and an essential step to start testing more under organic conditions.
- It is a significant development that regular communication has been started among the different actors and stakeholders of the organic seed sector, while their understanding of current lock-ins and the possibilities provided by new organic regulation have increased greatly.
- The organic seed expert group became official, when the Hungarian Seed Association founded a working group on organic seeds, with ÖMKi playing a major role in the coordination of the group. With the help of regular meetings and good coordination, the collaboration between the different stakeholders will strengthen in order to support farmers in variety choice, promote organic breeding and improve organic seed use.



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Annex I: Overview of Organic Regulation

The following tables show relevant articles in the organic regulation and give support to the evaluation on national developments/progresses in this report.

1.1. Database (T1)

EC No 889/2008	
Article 48: Database	<p>1. Each Member State shall ensure that a computerised database is established for the listing of the varieties for which seed or seed potatoes obtained by the organic production method are available on its territory.</p> <p>2. The database shall be managed either by the competent authority of the Member State or by an authority or body designated for this purpose by the Member State, hereinafter referred to as 'manager of the database'. Member States may also designate an authority or a private body in another country.</p>
Article 49: Registration	<p>3. Each Member State shall decide in which period of the year the database has to be regularly updated for each species or group of species cultivated on its territory. The database shall hold information with regard to that decision.</p>
Article 51: Registered information	<p>1. For each registered variety and for each supplier, the database referred to in Article 48 shall contain at least the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the scientific name of the species and the variety; (b) the name and contact details of the supplier or his representative; (c) the area where the supplier can deliver the seed or seed potatoes to the user in the usual time needed for the delivery; (d) the country or region in which the variety is tested and approved [...] (e) the date from which the seed or seed potatoes will be available; (f) the name and/or code number of the control authority or control body in charge of the control of the operator <p>2. The supplier shall immediately inform the manager of the database if any of the registered varieties are no longer available. The amendments shall be recorded in the database.</p> <p>3. Besides the information specified in paragraph 1, the database shall contain a list of the species listed in Annex X (Species for which organically produced seed or seed potatoes are available in sufficient quantities and for a significant number of varieties [...]).</p>
Article 52: Access to information	<p>1. The information in the database referred to in Article 48 shall be available through the internet, free of cost, to the users of seed or seed potatoes and to the public. [...]</p> <p>2. The Member States shall ensure that all users [of seed and seed potatoes] are informed, at least once a year, about the system and how to obtain the information in the database.</p>
Article 53: Registration -fee	<p>3. Each registration may be subject to the levying of a fee, which shall represent the cost of inserting and maintaining the information in the database [...]. The competent authority of the Member State shall approve the amount of the fee charged by the manager of the database.</p>



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1.2. Derogations (T2)

EC No 889/2008	
Article 49: Registration	2. Any variety which has not been registered in the database shall be considered as unavailable.
Article 6: Specific principles applicable to agricultural activities	(i) without prejudice to Article 14 of Regulation (EC) No 2100/94 and to the national plant variety rights granted under Member States' national law, the possibility for farmers to use plant reproductive material obtained from their own farms in order to foster genetic resources adapted to the special conditions of organic production;
Article 45: Use of seed or vegetative propagating material not obtained by the organic production method	<p>3. Species for which it is established that organically produced seed or seed potatoes are available in sufficient quantities and for a significant number of varieties in all parts of the Community are set out in Annex X. The species listed in Annex X may not be subject of authorisations pursuant to paragraph 1(b), unless these are justified by one of the purposes referred to in paragraph 5(d).</p> <p>4. Member States may delegate the responsibility for granting the authorisation referred to in paragraph 1(b) to another public administration under their supervision or to the control authorities or control bodies referred to in Article 27 of Regulation (EC) No 834/2007.</p> <p>5. Authorisation to use seed or seed potatoes not obtained by the organic production method may only be granted in the following cases: (a) where no variety of the species which the user wants to obtain is registered in the database referred to in Article 48 (b) where no supplier, meaning an operator who markets seed or seed potatoes to other operators, is able to deliver the seed or seed potatoes before sowing or planting in situations where the user has ordered the seed or seed potatoes in reasonable time; (c) where the variety which the user wants to obtain is not registered in the database referred to in Article 48 and the user is able to demonstrate that none of the registered alternatives of the same species are appropriate and that the authorisation therefore is significant for his production; (d) where it is justified for use in research, test in small-scale field trials or for variety conservation purposes agreed by the competent authority of the Member State.</p>
Article 45: Use of seed or vegetative propagating material not obtained by the organic production method	<p>6. The authorisation shall be granted before the sowing of the crop.</p> <p>7. The authorisation shall be granted only to individual users for one season at a time and the authority or body responsible for the authorisations shall register the quantities of seed or seed potatoes authorised.</p> <p>8. By way of derogation from paragraph 7, the competent authority of the Member State may grant to all users a general authorisation: (a) for a given species when and in so far as the condition laid down in paragraph 5(a) is fulfilled; b. for a given variety when and in so far as the conditions laid down in paragraph 5(c) are fulfilled</p> <p>9. Authorisation may only be granted during periods for which the database is updated in accordance with Article 49(3)</p>
Article 54: Annual report	1. The authorities or bodies designated to grant authorisations in accordance with Article 45 shall register all authorisations and shall make this information available in a report to the competent authority of the Member State and to the manager of the database.
Article 55: Summary report	The competent authority of the Member State shall, before 31 March each year, collect the reports and send a summary report covering all authorisations of the Member State from the previous calendar year to the Commission and to the other Member States.[...] The information shall be published in the database [...]. The competent authority may delegate the task of collecting the reports to the manager of the database.



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