

Organic sector development in the Central and Eastern European region

Ministerial overviews 2026

BIOFACH February 10, 2026, 11:45-13:00 – Kiew Room, BioFach Congress centre

In this high level policy session we show the latest organic sector developments, and applied policy practices of selected Central-Eastern European countries, which enable a dynamic organic growth and a shift towards sustainable food systems. Representatives of EU and non-EU member states including Czech Republic, Poland, Ukraine, Bulgaria, and Hungary share their approaches and lessons learned.

PROGRAM



11:45–11:50 Introduction

Dr. Dóra Drexler, Director of ÖMKi, Hungarian Research Institute of Organic Agriculture



11:50–12:00 The development of the organic sector in the Czech Republic

*Mr. Vlastimil Zedek, Director of the Department for Environmental and Organic Agriculture,
Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic*

This presentation will contain the latest statistical data and trends in organic agriculture in the Czech Republic, including data on financial support schemes and the overall turnover of the sector, and then will focus in more details on practical experience with the introduction of organic food into the public and school catering.

12:00–12:10 Organic farming in Poland: achievements and prospects

***Mr. Jan Golba, Deputy Director of the Organic Farming and Food Quality Department,
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Poland***

During the presentation, the most important activities carried out by the Polish authorities will be discussed.

One of the strongest pillars of organic farming development in Poland is the transfer of knowledge and skills provided through free agricultural advisory services, which include training for farmers and product manufacturers, as well as the opportunity to participate in training courses at a network of organic demonstration farms. As a result, every 4th Polish organic farmer has been trained in the principles of organic production on the example of a real farm or processing factory. Innovations in organic farming are also supported by scientific units financed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, which are then transferred to farmers through advisory services. Another element of the strategy that we focus on in Poland is consumer-oriented promotion and education, supporting demand for organic farming products, in particular promotional activities in the mass media.

12:10–12:20 Development of Organic Production in Bulgaria: Recent Trends and Policy Support

***Mr. Pavel Chanov, Chief Expert, “Supervision and audit of control” Department, “Organic production” Directorate,
Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Bulgaria***

The organic agricultural sector in Bulgaria recently has registered clear signs of expansion, marked by growth in certified operators, organic land and certified livestock. The number of organic operators has continued to rise, reflecting ongoing interest of farmers and commitment of government policy to organic production across farming, processing and trade segments. Organic farmland has also grown as well as number of livestock, supported by both national measures and EU rural development programs. The Bulgarian National Plan for the Development of Organic Production until 2030 aims to stimulate demand for organic products, support farmers in conversion, strengthen value chains and promote organic farming as a sustainable model aligned with EU objectives. The benefit (effect) of the implementation of the Plan as a whole is assessed by the values of the indicators and primarily by the increase in organic areas/animals, and production from the increase in organic food in public procurement, which the state's efforts are aimed at developing.



12:20–12:30 Recent developments of the Hungarian organic sector

Nándor Béki, Agrardiplomat, Embassy of Hungary, Berlin

The presentation provides a data-driven overview of the development and current trends of Hungarian organic agriculture. It highlights the organic area and producer numbers, changes in land-use structure, and Hungary's role within the European organic market. The presentation also introduces the policy framework supporting this development, particularly the CAP Strategic Plan and the National Action Plan for the Development of Organic Farming, along with key measures related to research and innovation.



12:30–12:40 Organic Sector in Ukraine



Ms. Valentyna Liashenko, Project Manager, State Institution “Entrepreneurship and Export Promotion Office” (EEPO) Ukraine

According to the operational monitoring data collected by the Ministry from the certification bodies that certified in Ukraine in accordance with the EU and/or US organic regulations as of 31.12.2024 the total area of agricultural land under organic production and in-conversion is 349,348 ha, including 320,065 ha with an organic status. The total number of operators is 436, including 364 agricultural producers. At the same time, 260 of these operators also comply with Ukrainian organic legislation and have been included in the State Register of Organic Operators in Ukraine (currently 290 operators are listed in the register).

Organic exports represent a significant share of the Ukrainian organic market. In 2024, Ukraine exported 243,000 tonnes of organic products worth USD 141 mln to 31 countries around the world which is almost 20% more in volume than in 2023 (198,000 tonnes). In financial terms, export turnover remained at the level of 2023. In 2024, Ukraine ranked the 3rd out of 123 countries by volume of organic products imported to the EU (203,897 tonnes). The TOP 3 exported organic products from Ukraine are soybeans, corn, and wheat.

Demand for organic products on the domestic market of Ukraine remains low, but there is a trend towards increased consumption of organic products by Ukrainian consumers in 2024. Organic products from Ukrainian producers on supermarket shelves are labelled with the state logo.

Ukrainian organic legislation is fully implemented. Over the next three years, Ukraine plans to implement all the EU Organic Regulations. In June 2025, Draft Law “On State Regulation of Organic Production, Circulation, and Labelling of Organic Products” that complies with Regulation (EU) No. 2018/848 was adopted in the first reading. The Law is expected to be adopted in February this year.

Despite the difficult situation, the Ukrainian organic sector and public authorities, with the support of international partners, continue to work hard to restore and further develop the Ukrainian organic market. We invite you to trade with Ukraine! You are welcome to visit the National Pavilion of Ukraine at Biofach 2026 in Hall 4A, Stand 625.



12:40–13:00 Discussion

moderated by Dr. Dóra Drexler, Director of ÖMKi, Hungarian Research Institute of Organic Agriculture