

Boosting organics through Alternative Food Networks (AFN)

Problem

Despite Common Agricultural Policy support, many farmers remain reluctant to convert to organic farming due to administrative, technical, and market reasons.

Solution

Associating organic practices, values, and products to Alternative Food Networks (AFN)

Benefits

Networks foster synergies across like-minded actors with complementary interests and capacities, which can promote organic conversion.

Applicability box

Theme

Environment and society, Sustainable communities

Keywords

Organic alliances

Context

Italy

Practical recommendations

- **Organic advisors should encourage farmer-to-farmer technical exchanges** with experienced organic farmers sharing knowledge.
- **Organic advisory services should provide farmers regular opportunities to meet with experts** to broaden their horizons, get information on organic certification, landraces protection and enhancement, and healthy diets.
- **Organic Alternative Food Networks should organise regular and occasional market initiatives**, such as farmers' markets, local fairs, to foster consumer-producer relations and farmer collaboration.
- **Organic Alternative Food Networks should promote local products through experiential tourism & cultural events** such as heritage & landscape walks, art festivals, tasting events, bike tours, fostering organics as an added value for citizens and tourists.
- **Members of Organic Alternative Food Networks should engage in partnerships** in multi-actor projects (EU, national, local).



Figure 1 CoP final event flyer



Figure 2: Ostuni medieval peri-urban gardens



Figure 3: Harvesting Violetta aubergine in the gardens

Further information

Further reading

- [Analysis of barriers of conversion and recommendations for strengthening organic advisory services and capacity building, OrganicTargets4EU Deliverable D5.2, 2025.](#) Padel, S., Kunya, Z., Lampkin, N., Jonasz, G., & Szépkuthy, S., ÖMKi.

Weblinks

- [Giardini della Grata: Discover Ostuni's ancient gardens](#)
- [Melanzana Violetta di Ostuni, SlowFood](#)
- [BiodiverSO Puglia](#)
- [Organic Farm Knowledge platform](#)

About this practice abstract and the OrganicTargets4EU project

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