

Challenges for organic agriculture development in region: civil society view

EaP Panel on Organic Agriculture
Tartu, Estonia, 25 – 26 April



Funded by the European Union



**National Endowment
for Democracy**
Supporting freedom around the world

Regional overview

	Armenia	Azerbaijan	Belarus	Georgia	Moldova	Ukraine
National legislation	2008	2008	2019 Bylaws under elaboration	2013	2006	2019 Bylaws under elaboration
Compliance with EU Regulations	No (Codex Alimentarius)	No (Codex Alimentarius)	No	Yes	Yes	No
Open registers	No	No	No	No	No	No
Certification bodies according EU standards (own)	10 (1)	12	11	11 (1)	12 (+3)	17 (1)
Governmental support	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes



Funded by the European Union



**National Endowment
 for Democracy**
Supporting freedom around the world

Regional overview

	Armenia	Azerbaijan	Belarus	Georgia	Moldova	Ukraine
Data about organic production	-	Outdated	No	Outdated	Collected by MADRE	No official statistics
Accountability of certification bodies	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Public awareness about organic	Low	Low	Low	Low+	Low+	Low+
Export / domestic market	-	-	50/50	-	90/10	90/10

- data not available



Funded by the European Union



**National Endowment
 for Democracy**
Supporting freedom around the world




FiBL **IFOAM**
ORGANICS
INTERNATIONAL

FiBL & IFOAM – ORGANICS INTERNATIONAL

THE WORLD OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

STATISTICS & EMERGING TRENDS 2019



Supported by



Swiss Confederation
 Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
 Education and Research EAR
 State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO

BIOFACH
 into organic

Element	Year	Organic exporters	Organic importers	Organic processors	Organic producers
Armenia	2015	-	-	13.00	20.00
	2016	-	-	14.00	16.00
	2017	-	-	22.00	36.00
Azerbaijan	2015	-	50.00	50.00	305.00
	2016	-	50.00	50.00	305.00
	2017	-	50.00	50.00	305.00
Belarus	2015	1.00	-	1.00	-
	2016	1.00	-	1.00	-
Georgia	2015	-	-	2.00	1'075.00
	2016	-	-	2.00	1'075.00
	2017	-	-	2.00	1'075.00
Moldova	2015	9.00	-	11.00	50.00
	2016	72.00	1.00	2.00	114.00
	2017	72.00	1.00	2.00	114.00
Ukraine	2015	30.00	50.00	110.00	210.00
	2016	-	-	-	294.00
	2017	-	-	-	304.00

Data from statistics.fibl.org



Funded by the European Union



**National Endowment
 for Democracy**

Supporting freedom around the world

Challenges

- **Traceability** as the main principle of the organic agriculture is not implemented in the region:
 - lack of official data from countries,
 - absent of open registers etc.,
 - lack of traceability knowledge about the operators,
 - lack of guidelines on traceability
 - lack of data and access to organic seeds (information about importers/exporters, availability on the market, productivity etc.)
- Absent or low level of **state support** (e.g. counselling support) in countries



Challenges

- **Control of pesticides and GMOs:**
 - Georgia declare they have no GMOs since 2015
 - Ukraine does not control GMOs
 - MD only recently has been accredited a lab
- Low level of consumers **awareness and trust** in countries
 - MD - organic awareness national campaign
 - UA - elaboration of the organic development concept
- Most countries are **export oriented**, but some good practices
 - MD - EcoLocal market on weekly bases
 - UA – organic fairs (3-4 times per years)



What can be done at national level

- Adaption of national legislations to EU
- Establishing national awareness campaign in countries and/or organic development programs
- Establishment of effective control system to prove traceability of organic products
- Improvement of the collection and public availability of statistic information in organic sector
- Preferences and support for organic farmers (subsidies, credits with low %, other economic mechanisms)



How can EU partners contribute

- Assist in development of organic markets
- Establishment or adaptation of national legislations
- Knowledge transfer on best practices for choosing technologies, seeds, processing tools, research outputs etc.
- Organising public awareness campaigns and consumers' education
- Recognition of conformity assessment procedures



What can be done by civil society

- CSOs play significant role in public awareness:
 - national and international events,
 - promoting organic at the local level,
 - presenting consolidated opinion to national governments and international institutions etc.
- CSOs assist in transferring knowledge to SMEs (via membership, providing services etc.)
 - Monitoring government policies and action plans
 - Assisting policy makers in debating key concern



Thank you!

Kateryna Shor (Kyiv, Ukraine) - kateryna.shor@gmail.com

Georgeta Mincu (Chisinau, Moldova) - gmincu@yahoo.com



Funded by the European Union



**National Endowment
for Democracy**

Supporting freedom around the world