

Practical Guide to the EU Organic Awards 2022

1. Is my project a good candidate for the EU Organic Awards competition?

1.1. What is the EU looking for in this competition?

The EU institutions, bodies and stakeholders organising these awards are looking for excellent, innovative, sustainable and replicable projects, which demonstrate new approaches contributing to the growth of the organic sector in line with the EU's Action Plan for the Development of Organic Production. The awards scheme encompasses seven different topics and eight awards.

1.2. Which are the seven award categories/eight awards?

The seven award categories/eight awards for 2022 are:

- Category 1, Best organic farmer (female) and Best organic farmer (male)
- Category 2, Best organic region
- Category 3, Best organic city
- Category 4, Best organic '*Bio district*'
- Category 5, Best organic SME
- Category 6, Best organic food retailer
- Category 7, Best organic restaurant

1.3. What is the added value of the awards?

The awards are meant to give publicity and visibility to a variety of projects in the organic food chain by recognizing their excellence.

1.4. Can I submit a project that is under preparation?

No. The jury will assess applications on the basis of accomplished achievements.

1.5. Is my project mature enough to be submitted?

The jury will assess applications on the basis of results already achieved.

They will not be able to reward your innovative ideas in case you cannot provide evidence they work.

2. How do I submit my project?

2.1. How does it work in a nutshell?

You fill in the on-line application by the deadline mentioned below. Participation is free of charge.

2.2. Where do I submit the application?

The starting point for an application for one of the awards will be the following website:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/farming/organic-farming/organic-action-plan/eu-organic-awards_en

This website will link to the online application forms for each of the awards. Only complete applications (all sections filled in) submitted via the online platform will be taken into account.

2.3. When is the deadline for submission?

8 June 2022, 23:59:59 CEST - Central European Summer Time.

2.4. What is the timeline of the award process?

Launching of the application period for the awards: 25 March 2022

Deadline for submission of applications: 8 June 2022, 23:59:59 CEST - Central European Summer Time.

Award decision: September 2022

Award ceremony: 23 September 2022

2.5. Who should submit the application?

Applications must be submitted by the project promoter (= EU-based organization/person who is/was responsible for the implementation of the project based in the EU). The eligibility criteria for each award are detailed in a dedicated section on this website.

2.6. In which language can I submit the application?

The application form is available in all official EU languages. Your application can be in any EU language. Submission of the application form in English is encouraged for the smooth and timely running of the assessment of the applications. Please be aware that, in case a translation from the original language to English is not provided by the applicant, the jury will work based on a simple machine translation.

2.7. Can I send the application also by email?

No. Please refer to the question “Where do I submit the application?”.

2.8. Does the application have to be submitted in one step?

No. You may prepare a draft submission and save it in a first instance and then finalise it and send it at a later stage. The application is finalised once you click on ‘submit’.

2.9. What is the information requested under the “impact of the project”?

A description of the activities and results that can be attributed to your submitted project should be indicated. We suggest writing this section while thinking of all of the positive effects that would not have happened in case the project would not have been implemented.

2.10. Which technical requirements do the images have to meet?

You are requested to submit high-resolution pictures that are going to be used on various communication channels, for instance in printed materials, online and for an exhibition, both during and after the competition itself. The pictures should ideally have a minimum resolution of 300 dpi and documents have a maximum size of 10 MB.

2.11. What happens once my application has been submitted?

After the jury meeting and decision, we will contact all finalists and winners. If you have not heard from us by the beginning of September 2022, your project did not make it into the final.

2.12. **Whom can I contact if I have questions?**

Please send your enquiries about the application process by e-mail to:

- Category 1 - Best organic farmer (male and female): EUorganicawards@organicseurope.bio ; EUorganicawards@copa-cogeca.eu
- Category 2 - Best organic region, Category 3 - Best organic city and Category 4 - Best organic 'Bio district': EUorganicawards@cor.europa.eu
- Category 5 - Best organic SME, Category 6 - Best organic food retailer and Category 7 - Best organic restaurant: EUorganicawardsEESC@eesc.europa.eu

3. How is my project assessed – and what happens after?

3.1. What does the jury evaluation process look like?

Applications will be examined by a jury considering the eligibility and award criteria. Only applications that satisfy the first phase of the evaluation (eligibility) will be admitted to the second phase (pre-selection of finalists/award by the jury).

3.2. Who sits in the jury?

The jury is composed of 7 members nominated by, respectively, the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, the European Economic and Social Committee, the Committee of the Regions, IFOAM Organics Europe and COPA-COGECA. Members work in teams (based on their expertise in a given award category) but take the final decision on the finalists and winners together as a group.

3.3. What happens if my project wins?

All winners will be contacted at the beginning of September 2022. If possible given the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, the European Commission will invite the winners to a dedicated award ceremony in Brussels on 23 September 2022, EU Organic Day. The costs for participation in this event will be borne by the Commission. No money prize is foreseen. Videotaped interviews will be held close to the event. Awardees will have an opportunity to present their winning project during a press event. Materials submitted as part of the application, the videotaped interviews, and any communication material produced in relation to the event may be used by the Commission for communication purposes.

3.4. How are my personal data protected?

Your personal data are processed in accordance with the dedicated information posted on the Commission and partner websites related to the awards.