



ACTION PLAN

for the development of organic production



THE TARGET

GREEN DEAL - FARM TO FORK STRATEGY AND BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY:

- “At least 25% of the EU’s agricultural land under organic farming by 2030 and a significant increase in organic aquaculture”

IMPORTANT:

- Organic farming has positive environmental, climate, biodiversity, animal welfare, etc. effects
- Multiplier effects: increases in organic farming have immediate positive impacts on other FtF/BDS targets (fertilisers, pesticides, antimicrobials)

AMBITIOUS:

- Up to 10% higher than what would be reached extrapolating current trends
- Very different starting points for Member States (organic farming accounting for 0.5%-over 25% of agricultural land)



THE ASSETS AND CHALLENGES

ASSETS:

- Legal stability, critical for farmers considering conversion (2018/848 entering into application 1/1/22)
- Substantial financial incentives (CAP, Horizon Europe, agricultural promotion policy)
- Public trust in organics
- Public recognition of the organic logo
- Commission analysis and proposed actions widely supported by stakeholders and the broader public (stakeholder consultation – 840 replies)

CHALLENGES:

- Different starting points Member States
- Always present risk of fraud (consumer trust is everything in organics)



THE APPROACH (1)

- **Comprehensive** (consumption, production, sustainability)
- **Demand-driven** (consumption first, no conversion without growing demand)
- **Covering the complete value chain** (from farmers to restaurants)
- **Involving a wide range of stakeholders** (EU, Member States, private sector)
- **Assigning prime importance to research and innovation** (30% of the budget for R&I on agriculture, forestry and rural areas for topics specific to/relevant for the organic sector)
- **Mobilising the CAP but also other programmes** (e.g. Horizon Europe, agricultural promotion policy) **and tools** (e.g. Green Public Procurement)



THE APPROACH (2)

CLEAR STRUCTURE

- 3 axes
- 23 actions

FOCUSED ON PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH NATIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- Organics in the CAP national strategic plans
- National organic action plans (covering measures beyond the CAP)

FOCUSED ON DELIVERY:

- Comprehensive monitoring system (progress reports, mid-term review)



Institutional reception

Supportive:

- EP Resolution - 3 May 2022
- Council Conclusions - 19 July 2021
- EESC Opinion - 22 September 2021
- CoR Opinion - 2 December 2021



Cross-cutting initiatives

Creation of EU Organic Day (23 September) via joint EP, Council, Commission inter-institutional declaration – Celebrated 2021 and 2022

Creation of EU network of national organic ambassadors – 4 meetings so far



AXIS 1:
ORGANIC FOOD AND PRODUCTS FOR ALL:
STIMULATE DEMAND AND ENSURE CONSUMER
TRUST



Promoting organic farming and the EU logo (1)

Action 1: Information and communication:

- **Give greater focus to organics in the information measures on the CAP**
 - IMCAP 2021 and IMCAP 2022 highlighting how the CAP contributes to reaching the goals of the Action Plan
- **Collect data on - and inform about - the environmental, economic and social benefits of organic farming**
 - Developing organics in the CAPRI supply model; organics dealt with explicitly in short-term/medium-term agricultural outlook workshops, conferences and reports; organics in JRC meta-analysis of impacts of farming practices on environment and climate; 5th mtg of the EU network of national organic ambassadors; etc.
- **Measure consumers' awareness of the EU organic logo through Eurobarometer surveys**
 - Eurobarometer CAP 2022 520 (21 June 2022) – Main findings



Promoting organic farming and the EU logo (2)

Action 2: Promotion:

- **Allocate a larger share of the budget of the agricultural promotion policy to raising the consumer awareness of - and stimulating the demand for - organic products**
 - 2021: EUR 49 million; 2022: EUR 50 million – Important to raise awareness stakeholders
- **Step up the promotion of EU organic products in targeted third country growth markets**
 - Focus on organics in fairs and promotion and information campaigns
- **Raise awareness of export opportunities for EU organic producers**
 - Negotiations of international agreements on trade in organics with 13 countries:
 - Argentina, Australia, Canada, Costa Rica, India, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Tunisia, US
 - Colombia, Mexico



Promoting organic farming and the EU logo (2)

- **Stimulate the sector's visibility through awards**
 - Co-organized with EESC, CoR, COPA-COGECA, IFOAM
 - 2022: Successful first edition: 8 awards: Best organic farmer (male/female), region, city, bio-district, SME, food retailer, restaurant
 - 2023: Working on second edition: 8 awards: Best organic farmer (male/female), region, city, bio-district, food processing SME, food retailer, restaurant/food service – Important to raise awareness stakeholders





Promoting organic canteens

and increasing the use of green public procurement

Action 3: Stimulate a greater uptake of organics in public canteens:

- **Boost awareness of the criteria for Green Public Procurement (GPP) issued in 2019**
 - Discussed with EU network of national organic ambassadors at 4 different meetings
 - DG ENV providing training courses in 10 MS
 - Exploring organization of dedicated event with EESC and CoR
- **Integrate organic products into the minimum mandatory criteria for sustainable food public procurement to be developed as part of the legislative framework for sustainable food systems**
 - One of the components of the upcoming Commission proposal on a Framework Law for Sustainable Food Systems



Promoting organic canteens

and increasing the use of green public procurement

Action 3: Stimulate a greater uptake of organics in public canteens:

- **Analyse and monitor the application of EU GPP, and invite Member States to fix ambitious national targets for organics in GPP**
 - Preparing EP pilot project on “Improving the place of organic products in collective catering”, conceived as observatory
- **Prepare events for public administrations in charge of public catering to raise awareness of EU GPP**
 - Exploring organization of dedicated event with EESC and CoR



Reinforcing organic school schemes

Action 4: Review the EU school scheme framework in accordance with the Farm to Fork strategy and the beating cancer plan:

- **Engage with Member States to identify ways to increase further the distribution of organic products in the school schemes**
 - Work progressing: inception impact assessment, evaluation roadmap, main and supplementary evaluation support study, public consultation, conference
- **Carry out a study on real price of food, including the role of taxation, with a view to developing recommendations**
 - FOODCoST [Costing and Internalisation of Externalities for System Transition] project:
 - Started June 2022
 - 23 partners, 13 EU countries
 - Internalisation of climate, environmental, social and health externalities



Preventing food fraud and strengthening consumer trust

Action 5: Strengthen the fight against fraudulent practices:

- **Robust supervision of control systems in Member States and third countries**
 - Audits and analyses annual reports MS/3C CBsCAsCompAuths; development of new MS audit system
- **Fraud prevention policies, and cooperation with the EU Food Fraud Network and Europol and with competent authorities and law enforcement bodies in third countries**
 - Systematic follow-up as needed (OLAF, EU Food Fraud Network, Europol)
- **Guidance on reinforced imports control at the border**
 - WG on non-compliances established; 4-monthly OFIS alerts for MS; annual additional controls; TAXUD information notice and RIF



Preventing food fraud and strengthening consumer trust

- **Stronger measures to tackle fraudulent practices through the sanctions catalogues**
 - COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) 2021/1698 of 13 July 2021 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council with procedural requirements for the recognition of control authorities and control bodies that are competent to carry out controls on operators and groups of operators certified organic and on organic products in third countries and with rules on their supervision and the controls and other actions to be performed by those control authorities and control bodies (Text with EEA relevance)





Improving traceability

Action 6: Improve traceability:

- **Develop a database of certificates of all EU operators, and later also relevant third country operators, building on earlier work**
 - Done (TRACES operator database)
- **Promote the enrolment of competent authorities and ensure that control bodies sign certificates of inspection in TRACES digitally**
 - Done (TRACES e-seal signature)
- **Coordinate regular traceability exercises on organic products in cooperation with Member States, their control bodies and third countries**
 - Several traceability exercises carried out



Improving traceability

Action 7: Improve traceability:


- **Assess to what extent the traceability of organic products could benefit from blockchain or other digital technologies and envisage pilot projects**
 - Horizon Europe WP 21-22:
 - **Topic “Research & innovation roadmap for blockchain technologies in the agri-food sector” (TRUSTyFOOD)**
 - **Topic “Innovative solutions to prevent adulteration of food bearing quality labels: focus on organic food and geographical indications” (ALLIANCE, THEROS)**



The contribution of the private sector

Action 8: Reinforce the role of retailers, wholesalers, catering services, restaurants and other businesses:

- **Aim at obtaining clear commitments from relevant stakeholders to support and increase the distribution and sale of organic products, in the context of the Farm to Fork strategy's code of conduct for responsible business and marketing practices, and disseminate best practices in relevant platforms like the Circular Economy Stakeholder Platform**
 - Code launched 5 July 2021
 - Two parts:
 - A document with a set of 7 aspirational objectives, with specific targets and a list of indicative actions
 - A framework for pledges with ambitious concrete commitments by individual companies
 - 132 signatories (e.g. Carrefour: 15% of fresh food sales from organic farming or agroecology by 2025); implementation support via sustainability advisers; publication best practices; etc

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AXIS 2: ON THE WAY TO 2030: STIMULATING CONVERSION AND REINFORCING THE ENTIRE VALUE CHAIN



Encouraging conversion, investment and exchange of best practices (1)

Action 9: In the framework of the new CAP and CFP:

- **Ensure Member States make the best use of the possibilities offered by the new CAP to support their national organic sector:**
 - **The full use of relevant CAP instruments such as eco-schemes and rural development environmental management commitments**
 - **The strengthening of farm advisory services, notably as part of Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation System (AKIS)**
 - Recommendations to MS on CAP NSPs, assessment of MS CAP NSPs, adoption of MS CAP NSPs – Clear break with the past
 - AKIS, EIP conversion workshop/brochure



Encouraging conversion, investment and exchange of best practices (1)

- Topics in Horizon Europe:
 - **Topic “Innovative tools and methods to evaluate the design and support, monitoring and implementation of effective CAP strategic plans” (WP 21-22 - Tools4CAP)**
 - **Topic “Reaching the Farm to Fork target: R&I scenarios for boosting organic farming and organic aquaculture in Europe” (WP 21-22 - OrganicTargets4EU)**
 - **Topic “Developing an EU advisory network on organic farming” (WP 23-24)**
 - **Topic “Agroecological approach for sustainable weed management” (WP 21-22 - GOOD, AGROSUS, CONSERWA)**
 - **Mission “A Soil Deal for Europe”**
 - **Partnership “Accelerating farming systems transition: Agroecology living labs and research infrastructures”**



Encouraging conversion, investment and exchange of best practices (1)

Action 9: In the framework of the new CAP and CFP:

- **Promote the exchange of best practices at EU and national level on education and training (curricula, courses, materials)**
- **Set up EU demonstration farm networks on specific topics to promote a participatory approach (dissemination)**
- **Promote best practices and synergies with the EIP-AGRI projects via the future CAP network**
 - EIP conversion workshop/brochure



Encouraging conversion, investment and exchange of best practices (2)

- **Encourage Member States to include the increase of organic aquaculture in their reviewed Multi-annual National Strategic plans for aquaculture, and to make the best use of possibilities offered by the European Maritime Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) 2021-2027**
 - Multi-annual National Strategic Plans for Aquaculture (NSPA)
 - Operational Programmes for the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund 2021-2027
 - Technical seminars with MS experts
 - EU Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism



Developing sector analysis to increase market transparency

Action 10: Provide a comprehensive overview of the sector:

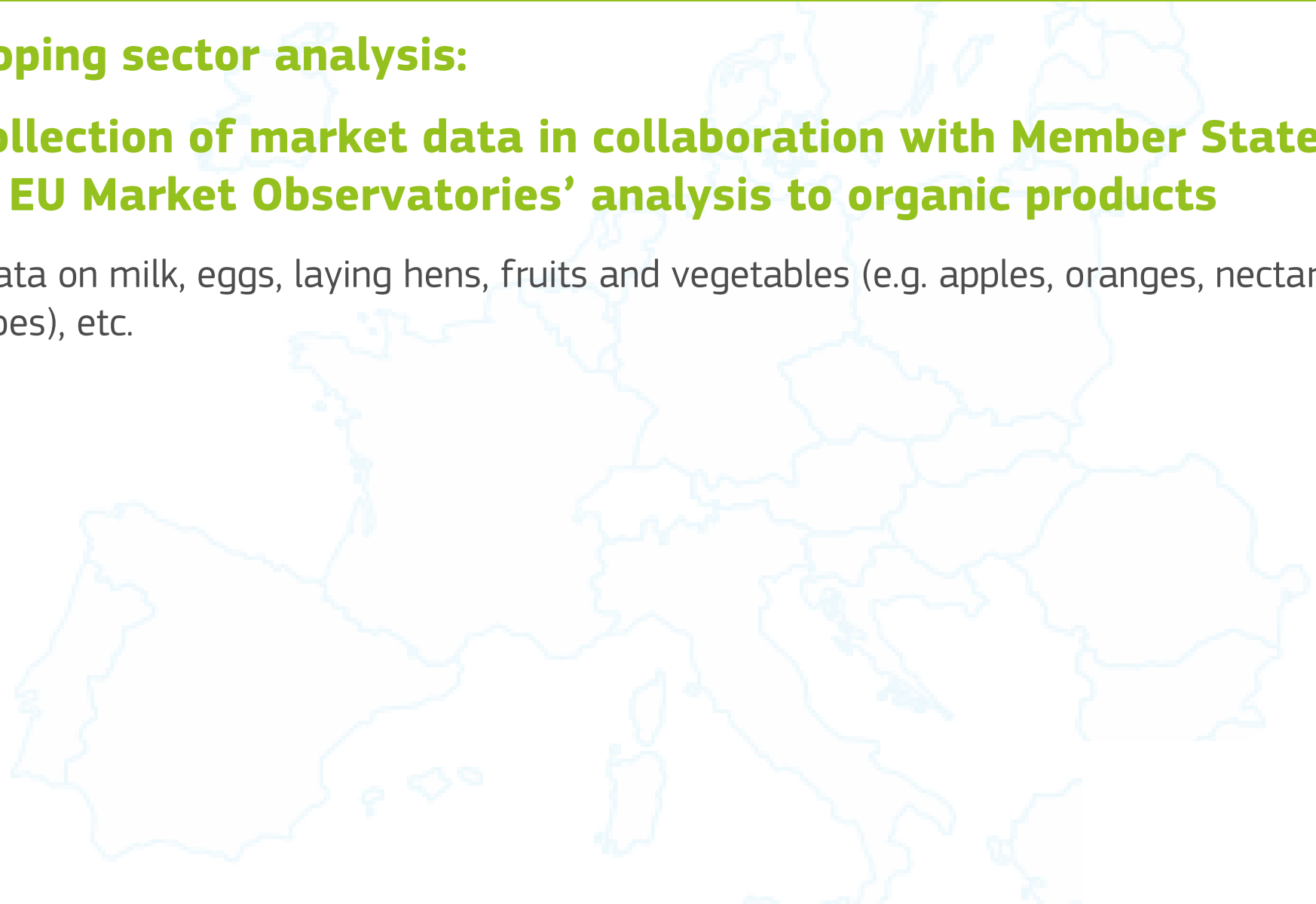
- **Publish regular reports on organic production in the EU**
 - Eurostat statistics - Annual Eurostat organic farming statistics
 - New SAIO (Statistics on Agricultural Input and Output) regulation
 - Market Brief 20 “Organic farming in the EU – a decade of growth” (18/1/23)
 - **Publish a yearly report on imports of organic products from third countries**
 - Market briefs 18 (9/6/21) and 19 (9/2022) “EU imports of organic agri-food products”
- https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/cap-my-country/performance-agricultural-policy/studies-and-reports/market-analyses-and-briefs_en



Developing sector analysis to increase market transparency

Action 11: Developing sector analysis:

- **Intensify the collection of market data in collaboration with Member States and extend the EU Market Observatories' analysis to organic products**
 - Publication of data on milk, eggs, laying hens, fruits and vegetables (e.g. apples, oranges, nectarines, peaches, tomatoes), etc.





Developing sector analysis to increase market transparency

- Milk
 - <https://agridata.ec.europa.eu/extensions/DashboardDairy/DairyProduction.html>
 - https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-03/eu-raw-milk-prices_en.pdf
 - <https://agridata.ec.europa.eu/extensions/DashboardRawMilk/RawMilkPrices.html>
- Eggs:
 - <https://circabc.europa.eu/sd/d/18f7766e-e9a9-46a4-bbec-94d4c181183f/0%20Circa%20%20egg%20no%20links.pdf>
 - <https://agridata.ec.europa.eu/extensions/DashboardEggs/EggsPrice.html>
- Fruits and vegetables
 - <https://agridata.ec.europa.eu/extensions/DashboardFruitAndVeg/FruitAndVegetablePricesSC.html>



Supporting the organization of the food chain (1)

Action 12: Supporting the organization of the food chain:

- **Carry out an analysis of the degree of organisation in organic sector supply chains**
- **Identify ways to improve it in consultation with producer organisation representatives and other concerned stakeholders**
 - Establishment of EU CAP Network Thematic Group on “Strengthening the position of farmers in the organic food supply chain” (2 meetings held)
 - 2nd “Forum for Best Practices in the Agri-Food Supply Chain” mtg held focusing on cooperation in the agri-food supply chain



Supporting the organization of the food chain (1)

- **Investigate the legal possibility of forming or joining specific organic producer organisations and, where possible, encourage Member States to allocate funds for this purpose**
- **If there is sufficient evidence that unfair trading practices penalising organic producers occur, the Commission shall address them by using all the tools at its disposal**
 - Inclusion of “organic” in relevant articles of CAP Strategic Plan Regulation – MS can choose in their CAP NSPs to intervene in organic production to pursue objectives in line with the Regulation
 - Follow-up and monitoring of implementation of UTP directive on-going
 - 3rd UTP survey launched



Supporting the organization of the food chain (2)

Action 13: Supporting the organization of the food chain:

- **Raise awareness and provide better information about 'group certification', allowing small holding farmers to share the cost and administrative burden of certification, in line with Regulation 2018/848 on organic production**
 - **Group certification means that a group of farmers joins forces to obtain one certificate for the entire group, instead of each farmstead applying for individual certification**
 - Discussed with the EU network of national organic ambassadors

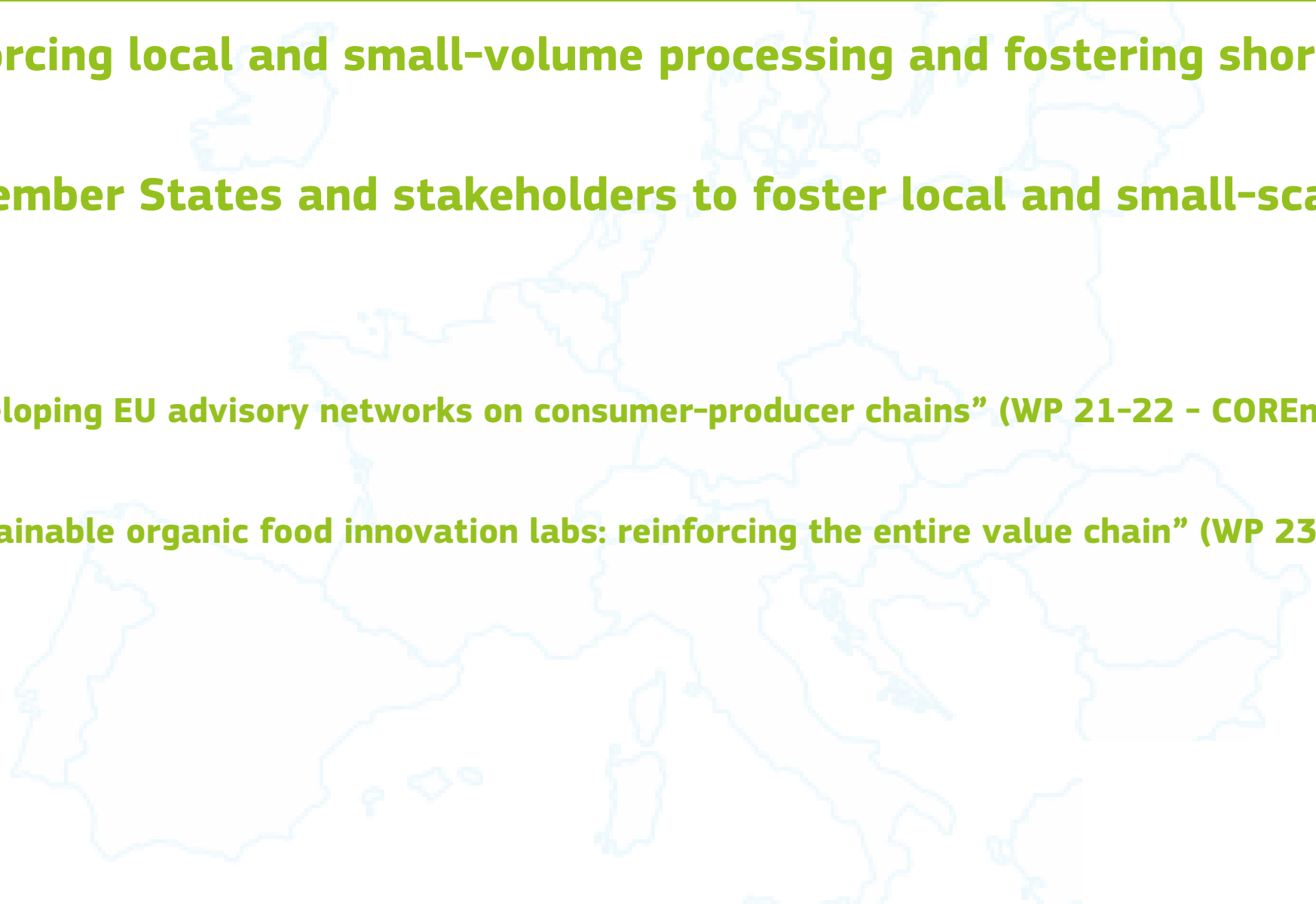




Reinforcing local and small-volume processing and fostering short trade circuits

Action 14: Reinforcing local and small-volume processing and fostering short trade circuits:

- **Engage with Member States and stakeholders to foster local and small-scale processing**
 - Horizon Europe:
 - **Topic “Developing EU advisory networks on consumer-producer chains” (WP 21-22 - COREnet, EU4Advice)**
 - **Topic “Sustainable organic food innovation labs: reinforcing the entire value chain” (WP 23-24)**





Reinforcing local and small-volume processing and fostering short trade circuits

- **Encourage Member States to support the development and the implementation of 'Bio districts'**

- Discussed with EU network of national organic ambassadors
- EIP conversion workshop/brochure
- Dedicated EU Organic Award

Action 15: As organic farming can enhance social inclusion in rural areas while promoting decent working and living conditions:

- **Assist Member States in designing measures for organic farming in rural areas that promote gender equality and youth farmers/employment**

- Taken on board in assessment MS CAP NSPs
- Horizon Europe:
 - **Topic "Improving rural future through better territorial governance and rural-urban synergies" (WP 23-24)**



Improving animal nutrition in accordance with organic rules

Action 16: Improving animal nutrition:

- **Support research and innovation under Horizon Europe on alternative sources of organic vitamins and other substances that might turn out to be necessary, and on alternative sources of protein keeping in mind their technical and economic feasibility**
 - Horizon Europe:
 - **Topic “Developing sustainable and competitive land-based protein crop systems and value chains” (WP 21-22 - VALPRO Path)**
 - **Topic “Resilient livestock farming systems under climate change” (WP 21-22 - Re-Livestock)**
 - **Topic “Animal nutritional requirements and nutritional value of feed under different production management conditions” (WP 23-24)**



Improving animal nutrition in accordance with organic rules


- **Explore means to support the application for feed additives produced without genetically modified micro-organisms (GMM), feed based on insects as well as marine feed stocks**
 - COM working with MS experts on working document for future delegated act detailing production rules for organic insects for food and feed
- **Adopt an algae initiative to support EU algae production and support the EU algae industry to ensure the supply of algae as alternative feed material for organic animal farming**
 - “Towards a strong and sustainable EU algae sector” (COM(2022)592 final - 15/11/22)



Reinforcing organic aquaculture

Action 17: Reinforcing organic aquaculture:

- **Support research and innovation on alternative sources of nutrients, breeding and animal welfare in aquaculture; the promotion of investments on adapted polyculture and multi-trophic aquaculture systems; and the promotion of hatcheries and nurseries activities for organic juveniles**
 - Publication of “Aquaculture portfolio analysis H2020” (11/22)
 - Topic “Reaching the Farm to Fork target: R&I scenarios for boosting organic farming and organic aquaculture in Europe” (HE WP 21-22 - OrganicTargets4EU)
 - Topic “Selective breeding programme for organic aquaculture” (HE WP 23-24)
- **Identify and address as appropriate any specific obstacles to the growth of EU organic aquaculture**
 - Report being prepared based on discussions with MS and Aquaculture Advisory Council, EU-funded R&I projects, information from other sources

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AXIS 3: ORGANICS LEADING BY EXAMPLE: IMPROVING THE CONTRIBUTION OF ORGANIC FARMING TO SUSTAINABILITY



Reducing climate and environmental footprint

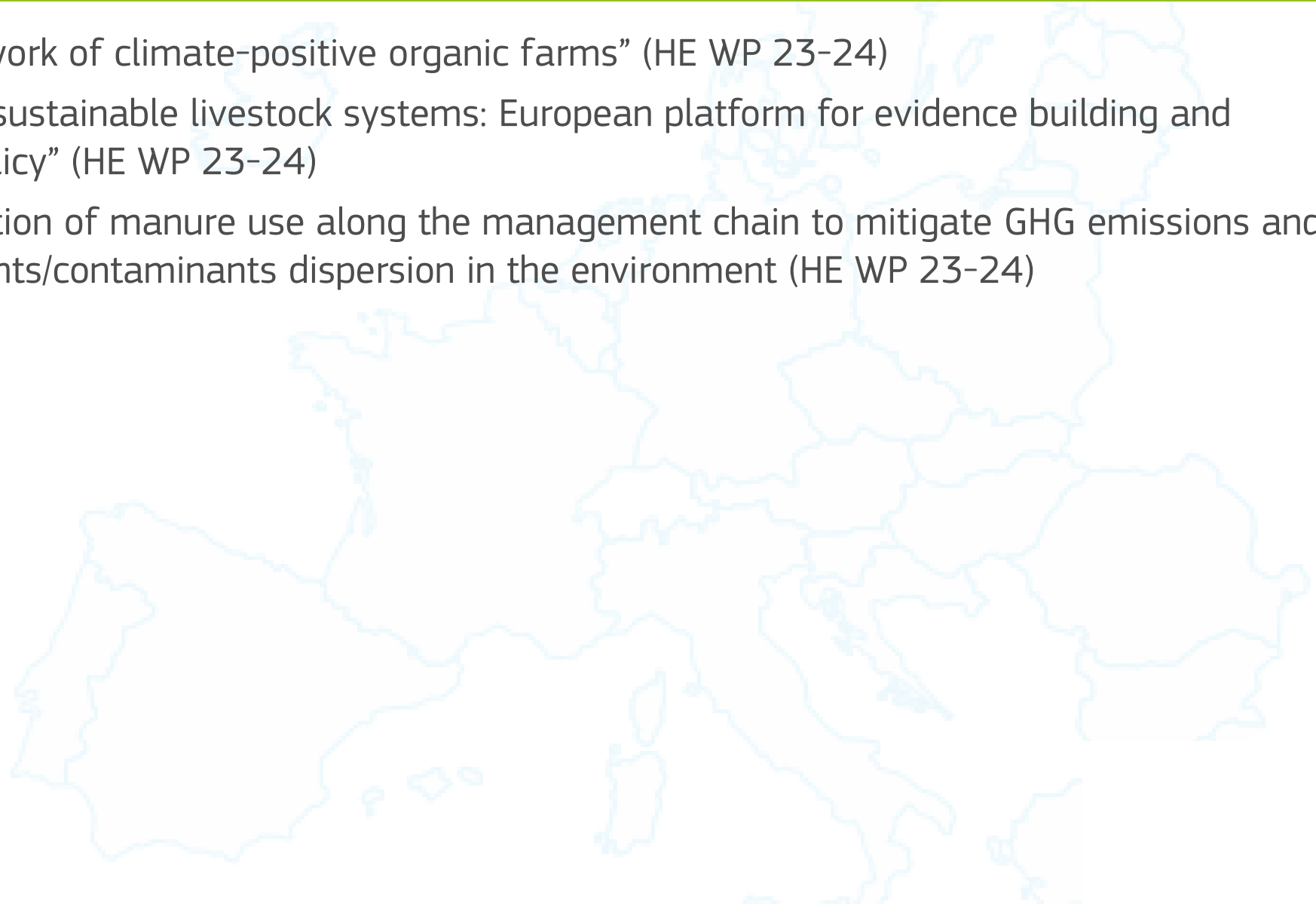
Action 18: Reducing climate and environmental footprint:

- **Take steps to set up a pilot network of climate positive organic holdings to share best practices**
 - **A proposed mission in the area of Soil Health and Food could contribute to the pilot network in particular through the deployment of living labs and lighthouses and other activities supporting carbon farming**
- Topic “Demonstration network on climate-smart farming – linking pilot farms” (HE WP 21-22 - Climate Farm Demo)
- Topic “Demonstration network on climate-smart farming – boosting the role of advisory services” (HE WP 21-22 - Climate Smart Advisors)



Reducing climate and environmental footprint

- Topic “Pilot network of climate-positive organic farms” (HE WP 23-24)
- Topic “Towards sustainable livestock systems: European platform for evidence building and transitioning policy” (HE WP 23-24)
- Topic “Optimisation of manure use along the management chain to mitigate GHG emissions and minimize nutrients/contaminants dispersion in the environment (HE WP 23-24)





Enhancing genetic biodiversity and increasing yields

Action 19: Enhance biodiversity and increase yields:

- **Earmark funding under Horizon Europe to support the preservation and use of genetic resources, pre-breeding and breeding activities, and the availability of organic seeds, and to contribute to the development of organic heterogeneous plant reproductive material and plant varieties suitable for organic production**
 - Topic “Fostering organic crop breeding” (HE WP 21-22 - LIVESEEDING, InnOBreed)
- **Set up EU demonstration farms networks**
 - EIP Conversion workshop/brochure



Enhancing genetic biodiversity and increasing yields

- **Strengthen farm advisory services**

- Topic “Broaden EIP Operational Group outcomes across borders by means of thematic networks, compiling and sharing knowledge ready for practice” (HE WP 21-22 - Oper8, CLIMED-FRUIT)
- Topic “Thematic networks to compile and share knowledge ready for practice” (HE WP 21-22 - Grazing4AgroEcology, BROILERNET, B-THENET)
- Topic “Developing an EU advisory network on organic agriculture” (HE WP 23-24)
- AKIS

- **Support research and innovation on improving organic yields**

- Topic “Improving yields in organic cropping systems” (HE WP 23-24)
- Topic “Boosting breeding for a sustainable, resilient and competitive European legume sector” (WP 21-22 - BRIGHTEN, BELIS)
- Topic “Intercropping – understanding and using the benefits of complexity in farming and value chains” (WP 21-22 - LEGUMINOSE, INTERCROPVALUES)



Alternatives to contentious inputs and other plant protection products

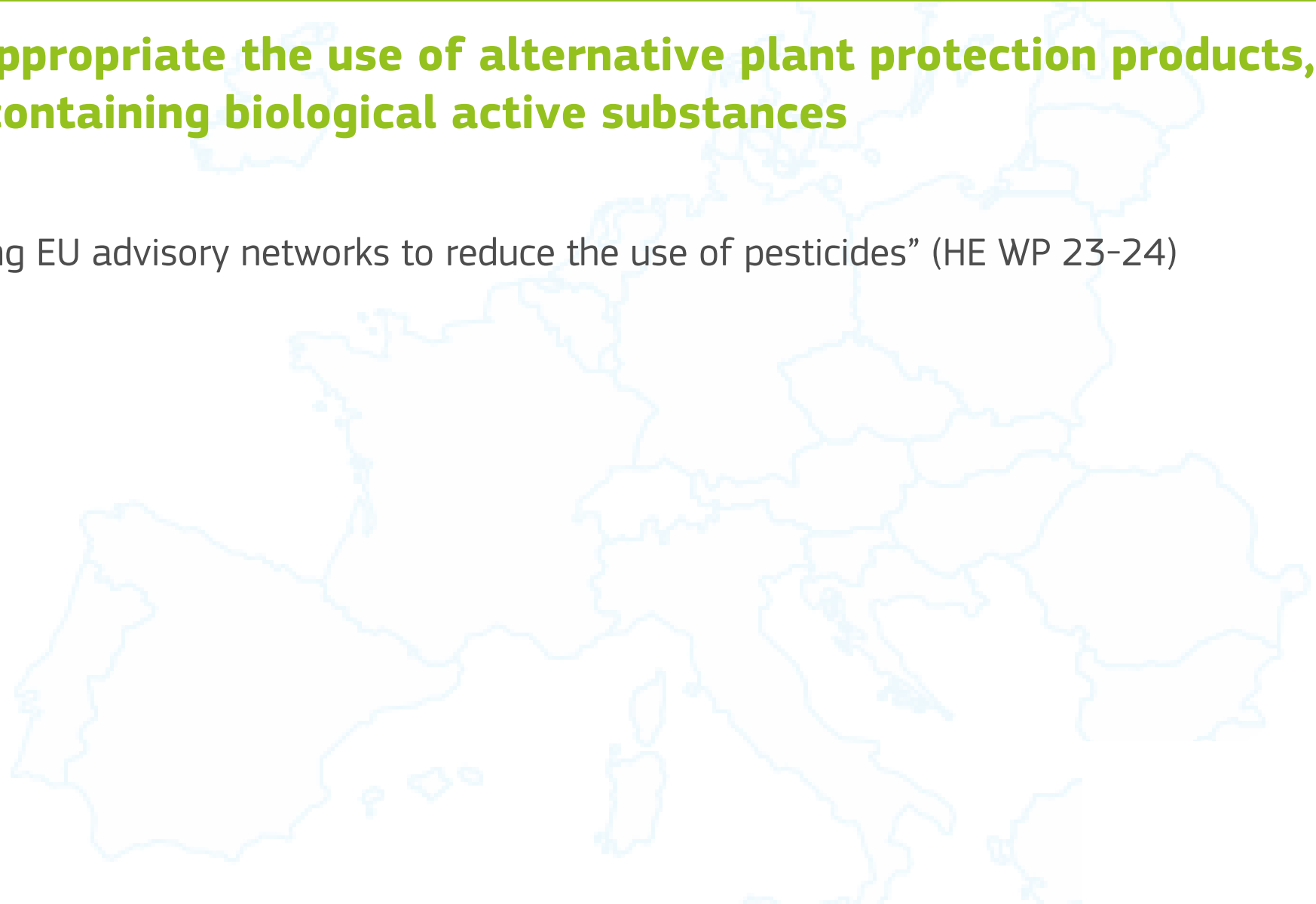
Action 20: Alternatives to contentious inputs and other plant protection products:

- **Earmark funding under Horizon Europe for research and innovation projects on alternative approaches to contentious inputs, paying particular attention to copper and other substances as assessed by the European Food Safety Authority**
 - Topic “Risk assessment of new low risk pesticides (HE WP 21-22 - RATION)
 - Topic “Tackling outbreaks of plant pests” (HE WP 21-22 - BeXyl)
 - Topic “Increasing the availability and use of non-contentious inputs in organic farming” (HE WP 23-24)



Alternatives to contentious inputs and other plant protection products

- **Foster where appropriate the use of alternative plant protection products, such as those containing biological active substances**
 - AKIS
 - Topic “Developing EU advisory networks to reduce the use of pesticides” (HE WP 23-24)





Enhancing animal welfare

Action 21: In the context of the Animal Welfare Platform:

- **Continue working with Member States and civil society to find concrete and operational ways to further improve animal welfare in organic production**
 - Topic “Animal Welfare 2.0” (HE WP 21-22 - aWISH)
 - European R&I partnership “Animal Health and Welfare”





Making more efficient use of resources

Action 22: Making more efficient use of resources:

- **Adopt a Framework on bio-based, compostable and biodegradable plastic , which will include principles and criteria under which the use of sustainable bio-based materials that are easily bio-degradable in natural conditions is beneficial to the environment**
 - “EU Policy framework on biobased, biodegradable and compostable plastics” (30/11/22)

Action 23: Making more efficient use of resources:

- **Promote the more efficient and sustainable use of water, the increased use of renewable energy and clean transport, and the reduction of nutrient release**
 - “Strategic Guidelines for a more sustainable and competitive aquaculture in the EU for the period 2021-2030 (COM(2021)236 final – 12/5/21)
 - EU Aquaculture Assistance Mechanism
 - Thematic network ‘NUTRI-KNOW’



Thank you



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