

Training Challenges in Organic Agricultural Education - Greek and Cypriot Case Studies Through:

Quality-Certified Training in OA *train the trainers*

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Develop & test a quality assurance (QA) procedure for OA Trainings

- based on the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework (EQARF)
- incorporate existing OA training e.material

Outcomes

CerOrganic will:

- determine required qualifications for teaching OA
- study EQARF requirements to incorporate them into CerOrganic Training of Trainers Program (CerOrganic ToT);
- design CerOrganic ToT as an exemplary program providing quality-certified training;
- pilot, evaluate, and revise CerOrganic ToT using a blended learning approach combining theory and farm practice with online training resources (Web portal);
- evaluate and valorise the CerOrganic quality certification procedure (through trials conducted by CerOrganic ToT trainers in their home countries);
- develop template CerOrganic Quality Assurance process;
- promote CerOrganic results and create policy recommendations.

Partners

	<p>Greece DIO - Certification & Inspection Organization of Organic Products</p>		<p>Greece Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania</p>
	<p>Czech Republic Institute of Agricultural Economics and Information</p>		<p>Hungary Corvinus University of Budapest</p>
	<p>Cyprus Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Environment. Department of Agriculture</p>		<p>Belgium European Foundation for Quality in E-Learning</p>
	<p>Hungary Association for Hungarian Organic Farming (AHOF)</p>		<p>Greece Agro-Know Technologies</p>
			<p>Austria Federal Ministry of Education, Arts and Culture</p>

Needs analysis (workshops & questionnaires) to determine:

- the target group itself
- the background and qualifications trainers of OA should possess
- the target group needs in terms of thematic areas
- the means and tools of (e.)teaching

Weaknesses of Attended trainings

- Lack of Practical Training / too scientific/academic info
- Too General Information
- Lack of Interactive and Modern Learning Tools
- Too short
- Lack of In-Depth Analysis
- Simply Inappropriate Trainers
- Insufficient Topic Selection
- Other
 - *Not very knowledgeable or interested trainers*
 - *Need for on-field trainings*



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Thematic Areas (in order of importance)

- Practical techniques of OA
(e.g. soil management & nutrition, plant protection, weed control, greenhouse OA production)
- Principles of OA/rural ecology & legislation
- Marketing & Farm Management
- Post harvest handling
- Livestock



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e-Learning plus:

- Practice in the field
- Field trips
- Lectures (class course)
- Laboratory work
- Home work



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Conclusions

- A number of OA trainings are **currently offered** (seminars) by the gover. or private sector. These, often lack depth, trainers motivation, practical information
- A need to include *practical information on case studies by OA experts* with relevant past knowledge
- A need to train for modern & complementary *non-technical areas* (e.g. marketing, farm management, product handling, pedagogical skills)
- A need for **technical thematic areas** (e.g. crop protection, greenhouse OA production, soil management & nutrition, livestock)
- A number of **e.training tools** should be included (e.g. case studies training package, webvideos, forums, blogs etc.)
- As well as a group of additional to e.training approaches (e.g. field trips, homework, lab exercises etc.)