



The future of Romania is organic!



The situation of organic farming at European level

There are over 270,000 organic farmers in the European Union. More than eleven million hectares of land used in agriculture have been used for organic farming. This is the result of an increase by 21.1% compared to 2010. During 2010-2016, the value increased in almost all EU countries. Croatia increased by 376.9% and

Bulgaria by 361.2%. This demand is growing so fast that retail and organic food producers cannot meet market requirements. Studies conducted in different countries prove that consumers agree to pay more for certified organic products. They have opted for sustainable soil treatment, for pesticide and herbicide-free production

methods, for outdoor hens' eggs. In 2016 Austria recorded the largest spread of organic farming. Austria is the clear leader with 20.3%, followed by Sweden with 17.1% and Estonia by 15.7%, according to statistics published by Eurostat at the end of 2016. Romania is among the last on this list, with only 1.8%. (Source: orf.at/Eurostat)

Organic farming is profitable!

An optimally organized organic farm is less dependant on external factors and can be driven as profitable as a conventional farm. In the main, we can claim that the prices for organic certified products are higher than those in conventional production. The higher price also

covers the eventual lower production quantity. This is also known by the authorities providing financial support in the fact that during the conversion period the small (production) quantities have to be covered by larger funds for organic farms.

The advantages of organic production

- ▶ Organic farming is supported by EU Member States. During the conversion period, the producer receives higher subsidies than conventional farming producers.
- ▶ Another important argument for organic certified products is the high sales prices the producer can achieve.
- ▶ Demand for organic products is growing steadily in Europe and especially in Romania – another important reason to stay Bio or to enter into business with organic products..

Who needs to be certified?



- ▶ Farmers
- ▶ Processors
- ▶ Distributors
- ▶ Traders
- ▶ Importers

who want to use the European Organic Farming logo.

Conversion Time Table

	Certificate	1 st Year												2 nd Year												3 rd Year											
		0	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
 Cereals	1/7/2017	Conventional																																			
	Crop	Conventional												Product in conversion to organic farming												Organic, if sown 24 months after the 30.06. in the reference year											
 Vegetables	1/3/2017	Conventional																																			
	Crop	Conventional												Product in conversion to organic farming												Organic, if it was sown after 1.3.2019											
 Perennial Crop	1/3/2017	Conventional																																			
	Crop	Conventional												Product in conversion to organic farming												Product in conversion to organic farming											
 Milk	1/5/2017	Conventional												Conventional												Organic milk after the 6 month conversion period											
	Earth	Conventional												Plots in the second year of conversion												Plots in the third year of conversion											
 Meat		Conventional												Organic												Organic meat											
	Pasture	Conventional												In conversion to organic												Organic											
 Broiler chicken		10 weeks conversion						Organic						Organic																							
	Eggs	6 weeks of conversion for laying hens						Organic						Organic																							
 Bees		Conventional												Organic																							
	Honey	Conventional												Organic																							
 Wax		Conventional												Organic																							
	Sheep, goats, pigs	Conventional						Organic						Organic																							
PROCESSORS		Organic																																			
DISTRIBUTORS		Organic																																			
IMPORTERS		Organic																																			

Some examples from oekolandbau.de

Steps of the inspection and certification process



The first visit and all subsequent annual inspections are normally organized following an announcement and a scheduling corresponding to the type of operation and the general procedures of the inspection body.

The following documents must be submitted for the first visit:

- ▶ Land location map along with the number of plots
- ▶ Outline of buildings belonging to the farm
- ▶ Copy of the current APIA application, or a list of land plots that should contain the

identification number and land areas.

Any unauthorized input (e.g.: fertilizers, plant protection products, seeds) must be removed at the time of signing the contract. The same provision applies to packaging or to any equipment of this kind. For feed there is a period of tolerance.

Fodder:

Owners of livestock buildings should take into account the fact that the remaining feed stocks that were purchased before the contract was signed and which do not comply with the environmental legislation can be used up to two months after signing the inspection contract. Any excess amount cannot be given to the animals and must be removed from the farm.

Access of animals:

Organically reared animals should be purchased at the beginning of signing the contract. Exact conditions and individual conversion periods for the restricted number of animals raised conventionally

can be found in the informative section of our website ro.abg-cert.com

Seeds:

In principle, only organic seeds can be used. The variety of organic seeds that can be used in Romania can be found on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture, in the Romanian Organic Seed Database. For conventional, untreated seeds there is the possibility of approving their use by the certification body, but under certain conditions. The certification body should be consulted for the reuse of seeds of its own variety already grown before signing the contract.

Registers:

The registers required by the certification body in written or electronic form must be kept starting with the signing date of the contract and must be available at all times. All the rules above must be observed throughout the period in which the certification is intended to be maintained.

Why is it good to be a customer of Austria Bio Garantie?

Beneficial for export:

Austria Bio Garantie (ABG) is the market leader when it comes to certification in Austria. Internationally, Austria Bio Garantie is well known and appreciated, and certifications are usually requested by customers who want to export. **ABG is in the top of organic certification companies in Austria and the European Union:**

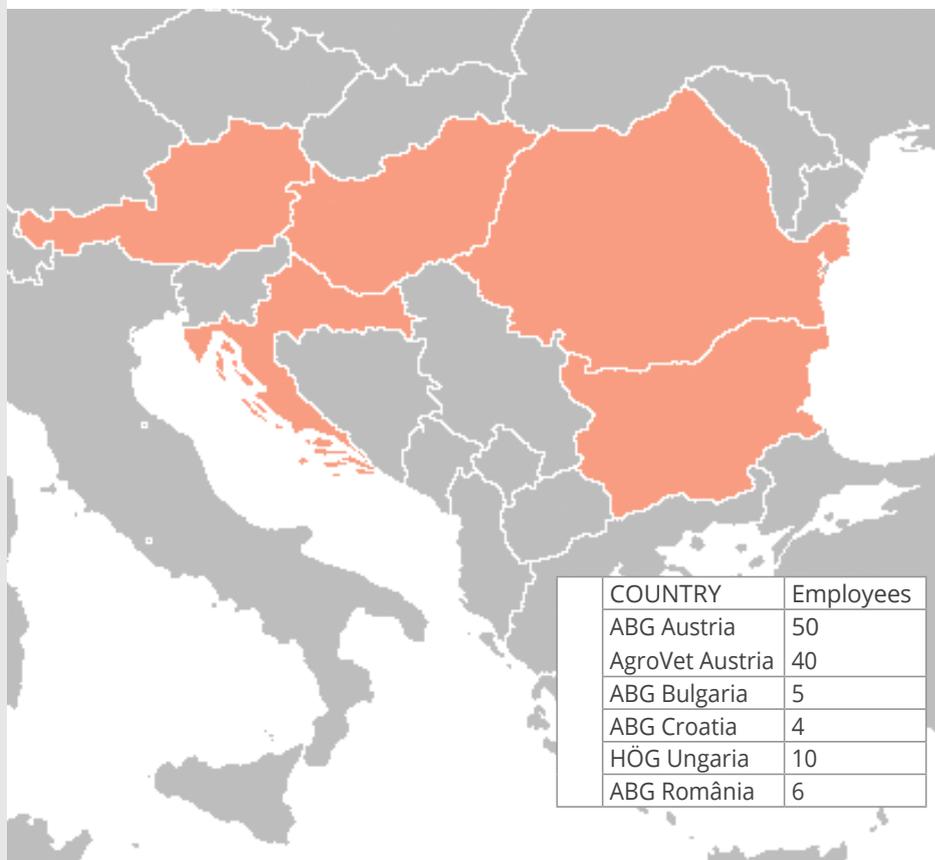
- ▶ Austria Bio Garantie was founded in 1993, its task is to certify and inspect organic products from the beginning to the end of the production process.
- ▶ In 1998, Austria Bio Garantie was accredited according to the ISO 17065 (EN-45011) standard and certified by the Austrian Accreditation Service as an inspection body for organic products.
- ▶ Since 1999, the company has been a member of IFOAM – International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements.
- ▶ With the beginning of 2009, Austria Bio Garantie received approval under the code number RO-ECO-018 from the Romanian Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (M.A.D.R.)
- ▶ Since 2017 Austria Bio Garantie GmbH has been conducting operations in Romania under the name of Austria Bio Garantie GmbH Enzersfeld Sucursala București, and has over 200 customers in the agricultural, processing and retail sector.

Austria Bio Garantie international

After becoming a market leader in Austria,

ABG opened subsidiaries in Hungary, Croatia, Romania and Bulgaria.

AUSTRIA BIO GARANTIE INTERNATIONAL



What are organic products?

EU (EC Regulations 834/2007 and 889/2008) and national legislation (Orders 1253/2013 and 895/2016 on organic farming regulate the production of organic raw materials and products in Europe.

Production must be:

- ▶ Without synthetic substances or chemical fertilizers.
- ▶ Without treatments, processes or substances that are harmful to the environment.
- ▶ Without the use of genetic engineering.
- ▶ In accordance with the legislation regarding food and animal feed.
- ▶ Organic products are the

most strictly controlled products.

At food processing level, certain rules must also be met, with the main purpose of not contaminating the organic raw material. Labels of organic products include the “bio-eco” mention and the code of the certification body and the European logo. The code of Austria Bio Garantie in Romania is RO-ECO-018.



[What do you need to know about organic production?](#)

- ▶ This method of production is a system of practices and procedures carried out in accordance with national and European legislation. The guarantee for obtaining the quickest and most efficient environmental certification is the knowledge of European and national legislation for organic farming.
- ▶ The start of the conversion period marking the shift from conventional to organic production starts from the date of registration to become an organic producer. In Romania, the legislation requires you to be registered with a certifi-

cation body and also with the County Agricultural Department. After that, you must prove the purchase of inputs, feeds and medicines allowed in organic farming.

- ▶ In each year of certification, the farm, processing location or commercial entity is subject to inspections and analysis by the certification body.
- ▶ You must keep the records for at least 10 years (both farms and commercial entities).
- ▶ After the conversion period, you may sell the products obtained as organic products.

Success with Austria Bio Garantie “Our inspection is your guarantee”



Austria Bio Garantie has been checking organic production for over 20 years. In Austria we are by far the largest organic inspection body and in the EU we are among the most renowned certification institutions.

I am being asked very often as Managing Director of ABG: Why is ABG active in Romania? What is the strategy?

The answer has two reasons: Firstly, ABG has taken the strategic deci-

sion to intensify the bio certification market in Austria, Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia and Hungary. Secondly, we want to provide a guarantee for organic products in these countries, according to our motto: „Our inspection is your guarantee” .

What we want to achieve:

1 Security for the export market:

Buyers of organic raw materials in European countries, food traders and processors put their trust in our certificates and in the quality of certifications. We have brought our experience and successful certification system to Romania, while ABG's inspection system is identical in Austria and Romania. We control and certify fairly, which provides security.

2 Credibility of organic production:

A consistent, accurate and sincere inspection protects organic producers in Romania – ABG certificates deliver added value, thus enhancing the producers' competitiveness.

3 Organic farming is sustainable:

Bioproduction is sustainable farming, it is a pleasure for us to see that bioproduction is gaining power in Romania and that the national market is also starting to grow.

Our inspection is your guarantee – thanks to the production, honesty, professionalism and good market performance for Romanian producers and processors. We are delighted to work for you!

Sincerely yours,

Hans Matzenberger
Managing Director

The earlier the registration, the sooner organic



The registration of an organic production is offering several advantages at this moment: Arable crops established 24 months after registration in organic farming can be marketed as acknowledged organic products. Registration before the start of the agricultural campaign in autumn 2017 means that the whole crop in 2020 can be marketed as an organic product. Animal production

branches are considered to be certified as organic after the end of the conversion period specific to each branch. The conversion starts with the signing of the contract and registration with the relevant authorities. Under certain conditions, the competent authority even shortens conversion times. Detailed information is provided by the Technical Department of Austria Bio Garantie.

How to become an organic producer, processor or trader ?

Send a request to Austria Bio Garantie at romania@abg.at

You will receive both information and documents on the steps to be taken to complete the organic inspection contract and the costs involved.

Fill in the forms.

Sign the inspection contract: from now on you must comply with the requirements of the current legislation.

Register your activity with the County Agricultural Department, in whose range your registered office is located. The conversion period begins on the registration date of this data sheet.

Inspection/Inspections

ABG will analyse and define the status of the activity. Everything in accordance with the rules and will propose possible improvements.

The farmer will remedy the possible non-compliances within the given deadline.

You will receive the organic certificate, which is the basis for marketing organic products.

CONTACT

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