



# CALF: Climate Action Local Food

## Workshop: How can we fix our food system?

Sonairte – the National Ecology Centre, Laytown, Co. Meath.  
Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2023 11am to 3pm



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*This project has received funding from the Community Climate Action Programme (Grant Agreement 383754T/CCAP/CCAP21/Contract/001). The Community Climate Action Programme: Climate Education, Capacity Building and Learning by Doing (Strand 2) is funded by the Government of Ireland through the Department of Environment Climate and Communications.*



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## Summary

**CALF: Climate Action Local Food** is an 18 month project funded by the Department of the Environment Climate and Communication under the Community Climate Action Programme: Climate Education, Capacity Building and Learning by Doing (Strand 2). The project is co-ordinated by Sonairte with 2 partners – Open Food Ireland and Cloughjordan Community Farm. The project’s overarching objective is to support a just transition by co-creating the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values needed to evolve a food system where healthy, sustainable, affordable climate and biodiversity friendly food is accessible to all.

In line with Sonairte’s guiding philosophy there is a strong focus on inclusion of marginalised and disadvantaged groups throughout the project co-creation. This is supported by the CALF Advisory Board which includes members of groups working with or advocating for Travellers, asylum seekers and refugees, homeless persons, those with disabilities and long-term unemployed. Organic farmers and producers, environmental groups in the Local Environmental Network (LEN), as well as international experts are also represented. The Advisory Board comprises 58% males and 42% females, with 50% representation from persons representing social inclusion target groups.

**CLIMATE ACTION LOCAL FOOD**

The Climate Action and Local Food (CALF) project which is lead by Sonairte ([www.sonairte.ie](http://www.sonairte.ie)), along with Open Food Network ([www.openfoodnetwork.ie](http://www.openfoodnetwork.ie)) and Cloughjordan Community Farm ([www.thecvillage.ie](http://www.thecvillage.ie)), will establish a peer-to-peer experiential “learning by doing” network of existing and new food hubs from across Ireland and we would like to invite you to join us in that journey.

383754T/CCAP/CCAP21/Contract/001

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



### Who are we?

We are a visitor Eco-Centre which aims to be a community hub enabling people to live more sustainably in the face of the interlinked climate and biodiversity crises. We are open to the public every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 10AM to 5PM.

### How can we fix our Food System?

We were delighted to have recently received funding from the DECC via Pobal for our project “Climate Action and Local Food (CALF, URN383754T)”. As part of this we open FREE all day Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October and will host a mini-conference “How can we fix our food system?” on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October. The event will be opened by Louth TD Gail Nash and will feature speakers from Ireland and Europe addressing this important topic. The event is aimed at everyone who produces or consumes food and has an interest in how we can all contribute to a just and fair transition to a more sustainable food system. We have reduced the need for private car journeys by providing free bus transport to and from the event with pick up points in Drogheda, Mosney and Laytown.

### Volunteer with us!

We are always looking for volunteers to help in our organic garden and have an open volunteering session every Saturday from 10am to 12. Please come along at 10 and ask in the Eco Shop!

### What else is coming up in October?

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### October Gardening Workshop 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 11:00-13:00

Learn how to grow your own produce with Robert Miller. Robert holds a degree in horticulture at the National Botanic Gardens and a Permaculture Design Certificate from Cultivate in Cloughjordan Ecovillage. This workshop is a reoccurring event on the first Sunday of every month. Ticket price: €20 per session.

### Be Wildlife Aware – Wildlife Rescue 101 14<sup>th</sup> Oct 10:00 – 11:00 - FREE.

Join us for a fun and informative talk for all the family with Aoife McPartlin of Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland.

### Yoga classes

Join our regular yoga classes with Ula. The classes will incorporate traditional yoga postures, meditation, relaxation, and breathing techniques. Suitable for beginners and more experienced students. Ticket price: €15 per session Booking and more information: [ula.musiol@gmail.com](mailto:ula.musiol@gmail.com)

### Woodland Workshop 21<sup>st</sup> Oct 10:30 – 12:30

Join Tadeusz who holds degrees in horticulture and forest management and has many years’ experience. He will lead a forestry workshop to teach us about the woodland environment using the beautiful Sonairte Nature Trail. Join this interesting forestry class to explore our forests, woodlands and their associated biodiversity. Ticket price: €10 per session

For more information about upcoming events including the CALF events please visit: <https://sonairte.ie/events> or simply scan the QR code.



Figure 1. Collage from the CALF conference and workshop.



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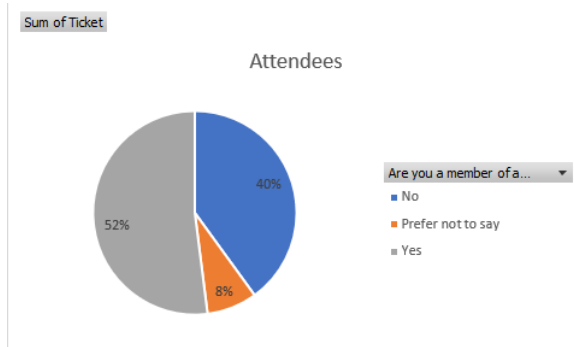
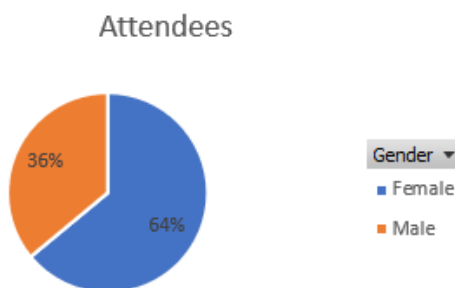
The event comprised two days of activities with entry to the Sonairte Eco Centre free on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October and free bus transport provided to and from the centre from Laytown bus and train terminus. On the afternoon of Friday 20<sup>th</sup> we hosted our 2<sup>nd</sup> project Advisory Board Meeting.

On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> we hosted our conference and workshop “How can we fix our food system?” with members of the Advisory Board invited as speakers to the event. The event was free to members the public with local ENGO and NGO groups and elected representatives also invited. We publicised widely by issuing a press release to local media<sup>1</sup> and our social media channels. We reduced the need for private car journeys by providing bus transport to and from the event, with pick up points at two local Direct Provision centres and local public transport nodes.

We had 9 speakers of which 44% represented social inclusion target groups and 50 attendees of whom 53% were members of social inclusion target groups.

	Target	Actual		Target	Actual		Target	Actual		Target	Actual
Number of invited speakers	8	9	% of speakers representing social inclusion target groups	40%	44%	Number of attendees	35	50	% attendees representing social inclusion target groups	20%	53%

Sum of Ticket



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.independent.ie/regionals/louth/drogheda-news/free-open-day-at-sonairte-aims-for-sustainable-food-system/a137703264.html>  
<https://droghedalife.com/news/climate-action-local-food-events-at-sonairte-20th-and-21st-october>  
<https://www.meathcoaster.com/LibraryMC/2023/October-2023-Meath-Coaster/index.html#page=38>



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## Agenda and speakers

9.15 – 10.15	<i>Free bus pick-up Drogheda, Mosney, Laytown (must be pre-booked see <a href="https://sonairte.ie/event/how-can-we-fix-our-food-system-free-event">https://sonairte.ie/event/how-can-we-fix-our-food-system-free-event</a>)</i>
10.30 - 11.00	<i>Arrival, Tea, Coffee and biscuits</i>
11.00 – 11.10	Ged Nash, TD
11.10 – 11.25	Christopher Doyle - Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants
11.25 - 11.40	Hannah Winkler – IFOAM Europe / TP Organics
11.40 - 11.55	Sylvie Rockel – LANDCARE Europe (recorded)
11.55 – 12.10	Grace Maher – Irish Organic Association
12.10 – 12.25	Evonne Boland – Open Food Ireland
12.25 – 12.40	Paddy Woodworth – Sanctuary in Nature and Heritage
12.40 – 12.55	Noel Breslin – St Margarets Travellers Association
12.55 – 13.10	Elaine McGinty – Drogheda Women’s Refuge
13.10 – 13.35	Audrey O’Dowd – AbleVision
13.35 – 14.15	<i>Free buffet lunch</i>
14.15– 15.00	<i>Tour of Sonairte organic garden with Christopher Doyle of Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants and Sonairte garden staff</i>
15.30	<i>Free bus departs to Laytown, Mosney and Drogheda (must be pre-booked see <a href="https://sonairte.ie/event/how-can-we-fix-our-food-system-free-event">https://sonairte.ie/event/how-can-we-fix-our-food-system-free-event</a>)</i>



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## Opening Address – Mr Ged Nash TD

I am really delighted to be here today. I want to sincerely thank Kim and the team for their very kind invitation. Sonairte has been a beacon in our community for many, many years now. This place, its people and what happens here every day has made an invaluable contribution to changing the conversation on ecology, climate and biodiversity well before the conversation, albeit all too late, went mainstream, and I want to thank you for that.

This is a really important event and discussion. There are two things that really stand out for me. One, today is inclusive. We will hear perspectives from a broad cross section of viewpoints, from experts in the field to community interests represented by my colleague Elaine, and also Audrey, Noel and Paddy. And the second point is this. Today is practical. It is about sharing information about what actually works, and how simple and obvious production and behaviour changes when it comes to our food system can make a real difference on climate, to our health, our local economy and yes, to our pocket, our standard of living and our future. I qualify everything I am about to say in the next few minutes by saying this; I am not a climate or food expert. But as policy-maker, as a legislator and as a citizen, I do want to share some thoughts on the change we need to see, and the change we can achieve to fix our broken food system. Principally, I am here to listen to the advice of those who are much more qualified than I am.

If there are two things we can come away with from today's event with, I hope that is optimism and hope. Two things that are admittedly in short supply at the moment. And yes, it is hard to have hope when we see what we have done to the planet. We are in a period of almost unprecedented instability. An era of poly-crises. A pandemic. A cost of living crisis that hits the less well off the hardest. Multiple wars. Deepening wealth inequality. The rise of populism. Half of the world's 8 billion people malnourished. Climate and biodiversity breakdown. All of this has exposed the innate vulnerabilities in our world. And nowhere is this vulnerability as immediate and pressing than in our food systems.

This week, my good friend President Higgins addressed the opening session of the World Food Forum at the UN's Food & Agriculture Organisation in Rome. It is unfortunate that his comments on Ursula Von Der Leyen, while they were important, and true, I may add, overshadowed the substance of what he had to say on food security.

He described the dysfunctionality of our current food systems.

- He compared the scandal of global hunger levels with the fact that rich countries contribute 1.6b tonnes of food waste as obesity levels and associated health conditions spiral.
- We use water volumes three times the value of Lake Geneva to produce that lost or wasted food.
- Food wastage is responsible for 3.3b of CO2 equivalent emissions into the atmosphere each year.
- A quarter of all the world's land under agriculture is used annually to produce food that is lost or wasted.

He said; "Our agri-food systems are broken, not fit for purpose, causing our planet harm, leading to food dependency, food insecurity and hunger."

Our food system is utterly dysfunctional. This is just not sustainable. I don't pretend to have all the answers but here are a few things to think about?

- Food is viewed as a commodity to be traded, not a public good. We have seen food being used as a weapon of war by Russia in the war on Ukraine. Speculators have made fortunes betting on wheat, and in a war. This



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is unconscionable and the rules of the game on trading need to be radically altered – for our climate and if we are serious about rescuing our climate and eradicating poverty.

- Effective food monopolies who are more concerned about extracting shareholder value than the impact their business has on climate, on biodiversity, on primary producers and citizens need to be taken in hand and the kid-glove regulation needs to end.
- Food transport, packaging and processing is responsible for up to 60% on average of emissions in rich countries. The pandemic saw big firms make their supply chains smaller. In food supply chains are getting longer, not shorter, and they're becoming more carbon-intensive. The big multinationals need to be made more accountable for their supply chains and be more transparent. Citizens are entitled to make more informed decisions before they buy and we should hold them to account on labour and environmental standards and compliance.
- I'm sorry, but it is true. The way we farm and produce food in Ireland just cannot continue. It is harmful and it is not sustainable. Farmers need to be supported to change their methods and what they produce, and how. It is incredible that we now have only 60 field vegetable growers of scale left in Ireland. Down 85% in 25 years. This is why we import €850m of veg and fruit. This an opportunity for Irish farmers. More focus is needed on horticulture and this should be developed as we start to eat less meat and consume less dairy. And we are and so we should, for our climate, our health and our pockets.
- This transition will not be cheap. But we cannot afford not to pay for it. It will come at a cost but it is a price worth paying. There needs to be some honesty about this. There are committed young farmers who want to do this but there are land and finance barriers in their way.
- If we are serious about climate and a future-facing and sustainable food sector, these producers need to be embraced. They are going organic. They are being financially supported by government to do so. We need 10,000 organic farmers by 2030 to help meet targets – we now have 4,000. A sea-change is required.
- They need to be paid and the idea of low cost food which has contributed so much to the problems we have needs to be turned on its head. A food sector that is sustainable in every sense of the word depends on producers getting a fair price for their produce.
- Elaine will elaborate on this in much more detail later, but I do want to touch on this too. The State is an enormous purchaser of goods and service. Public procurement can be used to leverage better outcomes in the public interest. Our record in Ireland is awful. We can use State power to promote and prioritise the purchase of local food sustainably produced and to be bought at a fair price.
- Finally, and this is an approach to business that is close to my heart. Food production, processing and sales can be done democratically and fairly. How? Through the principles of co—operation. Ireland in the 1800s and into the early years of the State was a pioneer in what became known as the Co-Operative movement. Small local and regional producers, pooling their resources, investing collectively in something bigger than them into an organisation that was mutually owned and democratically managed and controlled. To fix our food system, I really believe that models of social enterprise and the revival of true co-op style enterprises could hold the key to the flourishing of connected networks of small and medium-sized producers producing what we need, when we need and for a fair price and at the same time collapsing the supply chain into a more efficient system that pays producers a fair price, supports decent jobs, is less harmful to our environment, rejuvenated the land through safe and sustainable practices and allows us all to have much more agency than we do at present over our food and our choices.

Thankyou.



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Sonairte  
Visitor Eco-Centre and Gardens

CLOUGHJORDAN  
COMMUNITY  
FARM

OPEN FOOD  
NETWORK  
IRELAND

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## Christopher Doyle - Flynn Furney Environmental Consultants

– Apologies. Did not attend due to illness.



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## Hannah Winkler – IFOAM Europe / TP Organics



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**EU policy context: Does it foster organic and sustainable farming approaches?**

Hanna Winkler, 21. Oktober 2023

# One voice for organic stakeholders



## WHO WE REPRESENT

- IFOAM Organics Europe represents the entire organic food chain and beyond
- We count almost 200 members in 34 European countries
- Based on the IFOAM principles of organic agriculture:  
Health, Ecology, Fairness & Care

# Working on EU Policy areas

...with a big impact on organic operators

**Inclusion of organic farming as a solution in EU policies**

EU Biodiversity strategy mentions organic farming as solution to halt biodiversity loss

**Shaping EU technical rules to ensure workable implementation of new EU Organic Regulation**

Postponement implementation new EU Organic Regulation to 2022

**Input to new EU Organic Action Plan to boost both production & consumption of organic products**

Advocacy meetings with policy-makers ahead of publication in spring 2021

**R&I advocacy / TP Organics**

- 5 position papers between 2015-2020
- Strategic Research & Innovation Agendas in 2009, 2014 & 2019

**Knowledge for organic**

- Partner in more than 10 running projects
- Coordinated 3 projects from 2015-2020
- More than 50% success rate in project applications



What type of agriculture do we want?





# FURTHER AGRO-INDUSTRIAL INTENSIFICATION...



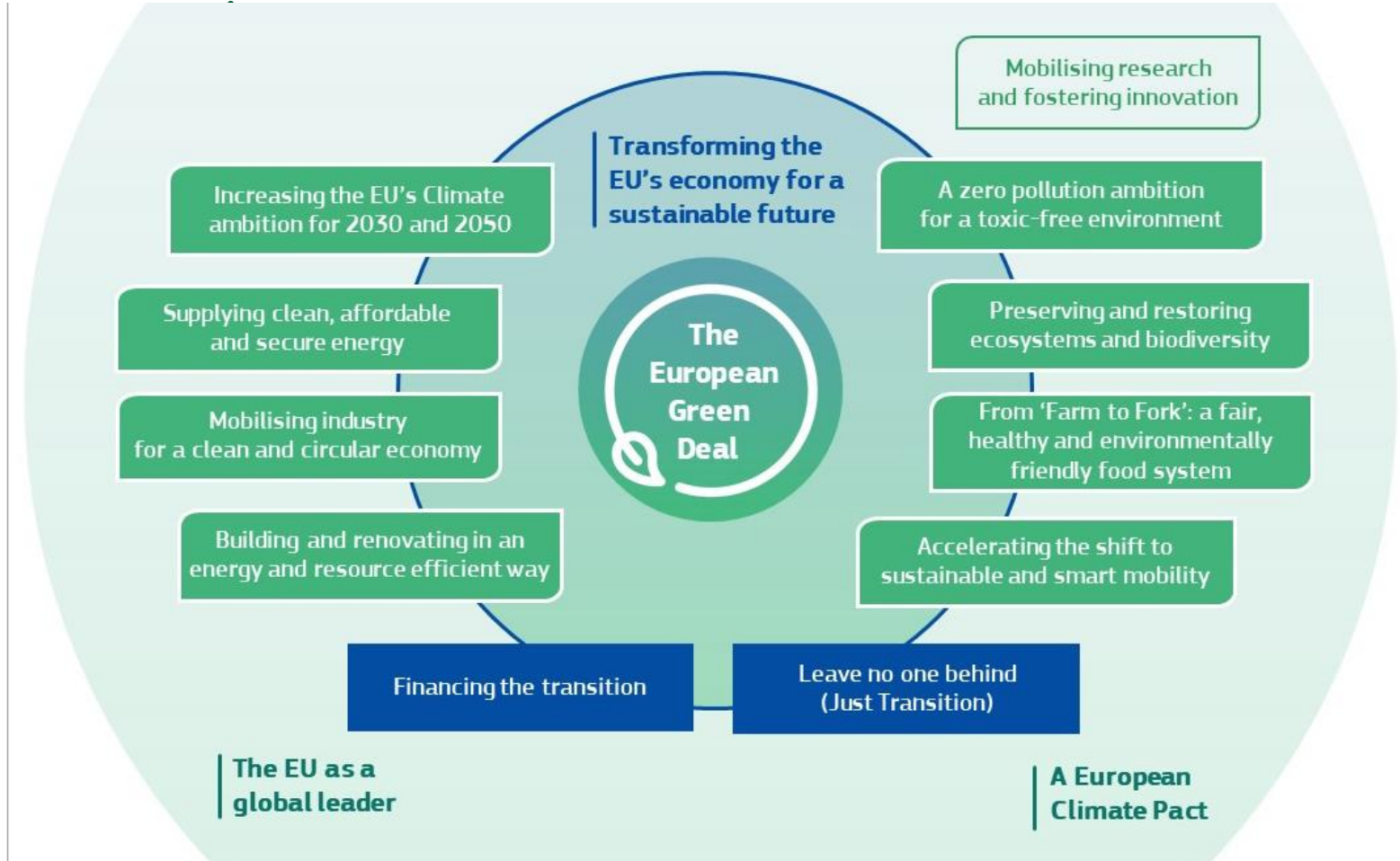


# ...OR TRANSITION TO AGROECOLOGICAL INTENSIFICATION.





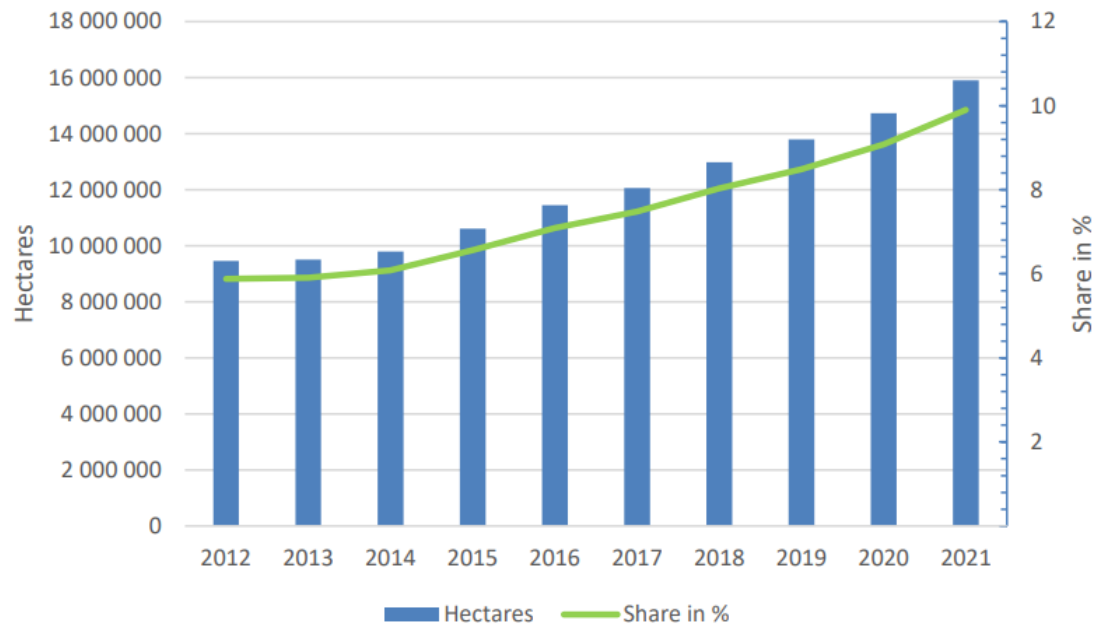
# EU policy context



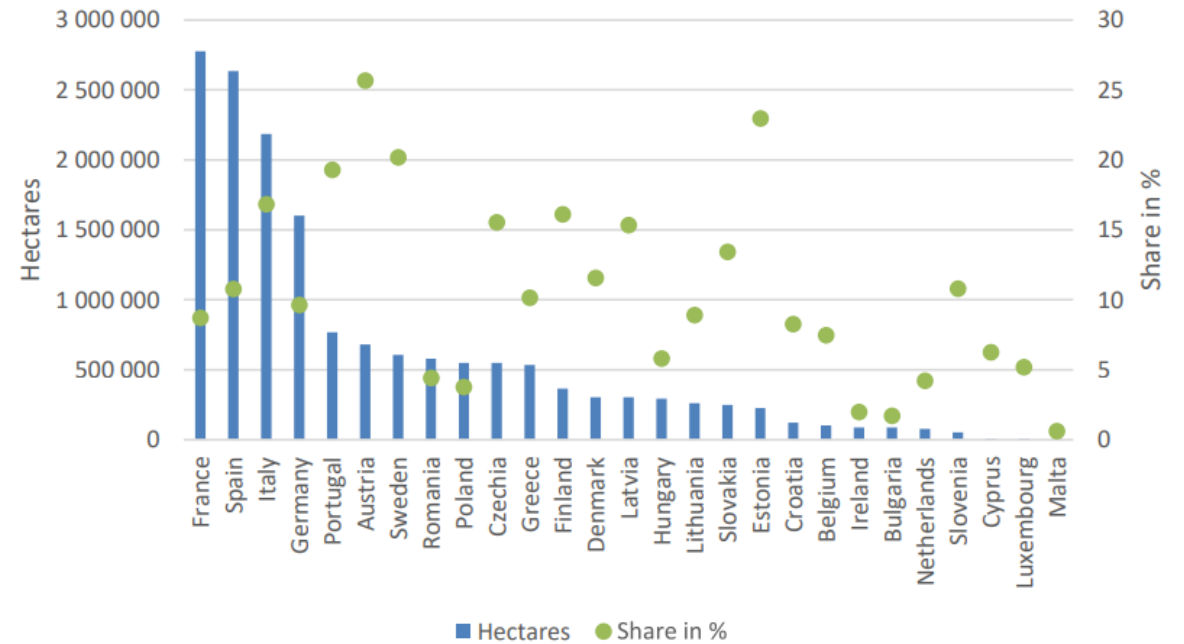


# 25% organic in the EU – where are we?

**GRAPH 1** - EU, Total Utilised Agricultural Area (TUA) under organic farming, hectares and share of TUA, 2012-2021 (Source: Eurostat)<sup>5</sup>



**GRAPH 2** – EU Member States, TUA under organic farming, hectares and share of TUA, 2021 (Source: Eurostat)



# Organic Action Plan in a nutshell

"Organic farming should be a model to follow"

## Objectives OAP:

- Contribute to increasing share of organic farming in the EU
- Expand accessibility of organic food.
- Help Member States stimulate both the supply of and demand for organic products.

3 axes, 23 actions in addition to...

...each Member State to develop a national strategy

...dedicate at least 30% of the budget for R&I actions in the field of agriculture, forestry and rural areas to topics specific to or relevant for the organic sector.

...yearly EU-wide 'Organic Day' 23 September







## Axis 1: demand

### stimulate demand and ensure consumer trust

- Raise awareness about organic
- Enhanced budget for promotion policies
- Sustainable public procurement



## Axis 2: production

### stimulate conversion, reinforce the value chain

- Support farmers converting to organic
- Strengthen position of the organic farmer in the supply chain
- Develop organic food supply chain



## Axis 3: sustainability

### Enhance sustainability

- Earmark funding under Horizon Europe
- Enhance animal welfare
- Pilot network of climate positive organic holdings

# Nature Restoration Law

## Article 9 Restoration of agricultural ecosystems

1. Defined habitats (terrestrial, coastal and freshwater ecosystems) should be restored to good conditions (target: measures on at least 30% of the area of each group of habitat types by 2030, 60% by 2040 and 90% by 2050)
2. Reverse the decline of **pollinator** populations by 2030 and achieve thereafter a continuously increasing trend of pollinator populations until satisfactory levels are achieved.
3. Increasing trend until satisfactory level is reached of the following indicators in **agricultural ecosystems**:
  - Grassland butterfly index
  - Stock of organic carbon in cropland mineral soils
  - Share of agricultural land with high-diversity landscape features
4. Restoration measures to reach set targets of the common **farmland bird index**.
5. **Restoration measures for organic soils in agricultural use constituting drained peatlands** on at least:

### ANNEX VII

#### LIST OF EXAMPLES OF RESTORATION MEASURES REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE 11(8)

(16) **Increase** the agricultural area subject to **agro-ecological management approaches** such as organic agriculture or agro-forestry, multicropping and crop rotation, integrated pest and nutrient management.

# Backwind

- Lack of dedicated budget (e.g. for the OAP)
- CAP that does not deliver sufficiently
- Current political context
  - Dominating food security narrative
  - Inflation
  - Farmers are played off against nature protection
- Focus on single issue solutions and not systemic ones

# ORGANIC AGRICULTURE AND ITS BENEFITS FOR CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY

## Organic farming's systemic approach:

- Helps mitigating climate change
- Supports farmers' adaptation to climate change
- Creates resilient farming systems

**All while it protects and improves biodiversity!**

**#OrganicsPartOfTheSolution**



**Climate benefits**

- Reduced emissions by non-use of synthetic fertilisers**
- ⊕ 20% of global agricultural GHG emissions could be reduced using no synthetic fertilisers
  - ⊖ 40% less NOx emissions/ha
  - ⊖ Less dependency from fossil fuel intensive external inputs

### Improved manure management

- ⊖ 70% lower methane emissions
- ⊖ 50% lower nitrous oxide emissions

### Reduced GHG emissions and increased carbon sequestration

- ⊕ Additional 3.5 tonnes C/ha soil organic carbon stocks
- ⊕ Additional 450 kg C/ha/yr carbon sequestration
- ⊖ 15% less energy consumed per kg of product
- ⊕ More resilient to changing weather conditions
- ⊕ 1082 kg CO2 eq/ha/yr avg climate protection performance



**Water benefits**

- ⊖ 28-39% less nitrate leaching
- ⊕ Water bodies are protected from contaminants

Aims for closed nutrient cycles without using synthetic pesticides and fertilisers

## ORGANIC FARMING

Includes beneficial management practices like crop rotations and organic fertiliser



**Soil and plant health benefits**

- ⊕ Improved soil quality and fertility
- ⊕ Better structure
- ⊕ Higher humus content
- ⊕ Better soil aggregate stability
- ⊖ 22% less soil erosion
- ⊖ 26% less soil loss
- ⊕ Increased water infiltration rate by 137%

Keeps animals with outside grazing areas and has clear rules on stocking densities

Offers a diversity of farmland through mindful land use and protection of natural habitats



**Biodiversity benefits**

- ⊕ 30% more species
- ⊕ 50% more individuals
- ⊕ 20-95% more plant species\*
- ⊕ 150% higher abundance of plant species\*
- ⊕ 23% more insect species
- ⊕ 30% more pollinators

\*in field and field margins

### Biodiversity and healthy soil = adaptation



- ⊕ Increased biodiversity supports natural pest control
- ⊕ Stabler yields during drought periods
- ⊕ Increased adaptability to future environmental conditions



## Drivers for change (OT4EU)

- A **harmonised EU support policy & regulation** is crucial to reach the targets more homogenously
- Public policies aimed at **preserving key public goods** (e.g. water, soil, biodiversity) will benefit the organic sector development
- ‘Greenwashing’, massaging and diluting the regulation is not the right way
- Focusing on achieving the organic targets should be the EU primary goal, instead of increasing the entropy through new labels and claims: **organic is the solution for a more sustainable and resilient future.**





## Sylvie Rockel – LANDCARE Europe (recorded)



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# THE LANDCARE APPROACH

## Cooperative nature conservation with farmers

***Dr. Sylvie Rockel***

*Landcare Europe Network Coordinator*

***Presented by Dr. Kim Reilly***

*Member of the Board Landcare Europe  
Network*

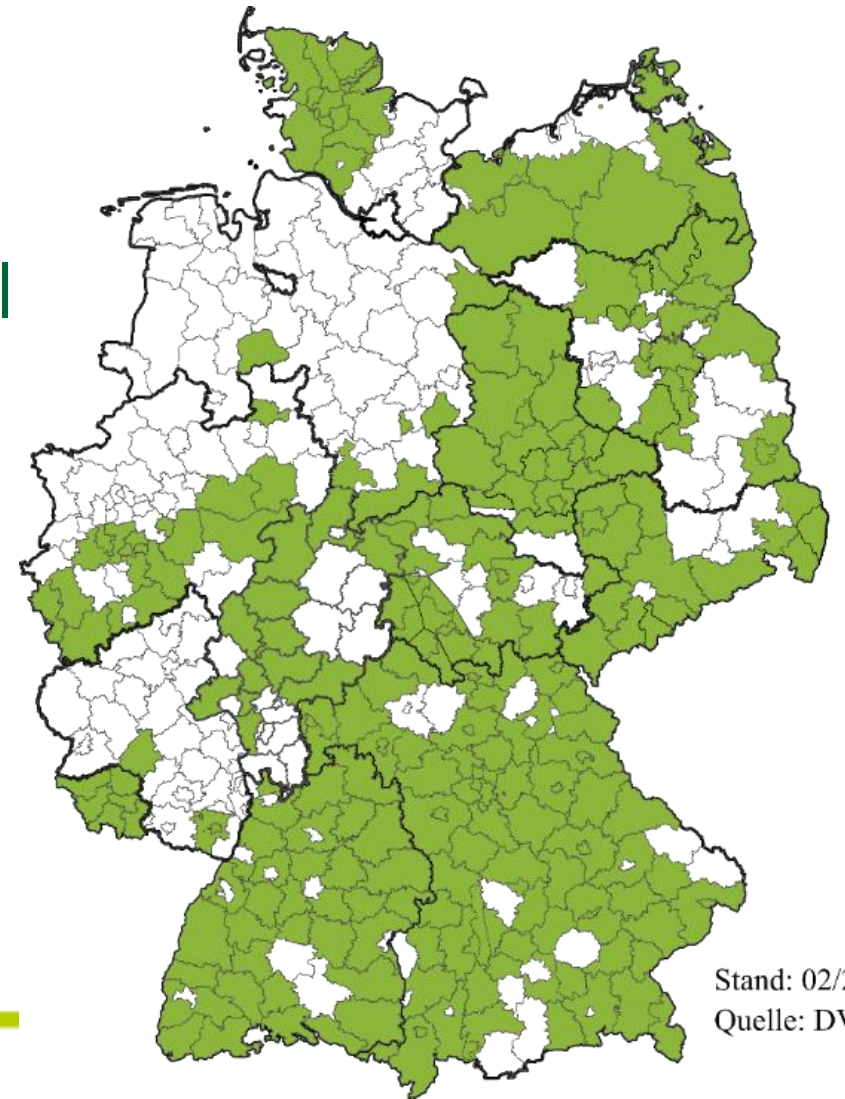


# Deutscher Verband für Landschaftspflege (DVL) e.V.

- Founded 1993
- Umbrella organisation of 190+ regional Landcare Associations (oldest founded in 1986)
- Collaboration with > 10.000 farmers
- Equality of agriculture, nature conservation and municipalities is written in the Articles of Association

30 Jahre

DVL Deutscher Verband für  
Landschaftspflege



Stand: 02/2022  
Quelle: DVL

# Engaging in environmental education and public outreach activities

- Utilising media
- Designing information boards
- Organising information and participation events
- Reaching students & children



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© SICONA

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Bis 31.08.2021  
online bewerben!  
ibm.dvl.org

**Ideenwettbewerb:  
Modellbetriebe Bioökonomie  
in Mittelgebirgen**

Innovative Ideen rund um nachhaltige land- und forstwirtschaftliche Produktion und Produkte gesucht!

DVL Deutscher Verband für Landschaftspflege

GFNR Partner der Fachverbände Bioökonomie

Landesamt für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft

in Kooperation mit dem Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft

**Perdirbame žolė iš rečiausio Europos giesmininko namų!**

We recycle grass from the home of Europe's rarest songbird!

Silvose ir žemumose perdirbami celiuliozės medžiagos likučiai ir pabrūzavę medžiagos. Šie likučiai yra medžiaga, iš kurios galima gaminti kompostą, kuris yra naudingas augalams. Perdirbami likučiai taip pat gali būti naudojami kaip energijos šaltinis. Šie likučiai yra medžiaga, iš kurios galima gaminti kompostą, kuris yra naudingas augalams. Perdirbami likučiai taip pat gali būti naudojami kaip energijos šaltinis.

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# Approach and implementation

- Creating a win-win between benefitting people and nature conservation
- Balancing nature conservation goals, feasibility and actual impact
- Choosing a holistic approach
- Pooling different experts



© Erich Herrmann



© Legambiente Lombardia





# LANDCARE EUROPE

*The network that brings together agriculture, nature conservation and politics for biodiversity, resilient ecosystems and quality of life in our European cultural heritage landscapes.*





# LANDCARE EUROPE

Founded June 2023

Monday, 12th June 2023

## Sonairte chosen to represent Ireland at new European Landcare Network

FRONT PAGE



The board of LANDCARE EUROPE (from left): Dr. Szilvácsku Miklós Zsolt (Hungary), Maria Noichl MdeP (Germany), Concha Salguero (Spain), Simona Colombo (Italy) Justas Gulbinas (Lithuania) and Dr. Kim Reilly (Ireland) [Missing: Harm Kossen, Netherlands]. ©Michele Maggi.



# Founding of LANDCARE EUROPE e.V.

## 9 founding members:

- Deutscher Verband für Landschaftspflege e.V. (DVL), Germany
- Agri-Cultura-Natura Transylvaniae Association (ACNT), Romania
- Baltic Environmental Forum (BEF), Lithuania
- BoerenNatuur, The Netherlands
- Fédération des Conservatoires d'espaces naturels, France
- Legambiente Lombardia, Italy
- Boerennatuur Vlaanderen, Belgium
- Brodsko ekološko društvo - BED, Croatia
- Sonairte, Ireland





# The path to LANDCARE EUROPE

First exchanges  
2007-2017  
Scotland, Poland,  
Spain, Italy,  
Romania, Ireland,  
...



Josef Göppel  
(Chairman DVL  
1993 - 2022)



**EU Support**  
2021



**EU Conference**



**7 June  
2023  
Brussels**



**EU Conference**  
2017

Presentation of  
network idea and  
Landcare at EU level

**4 Workshops & 2 Webinars**  
2022/2023

Exchange on key factors for successful  
cooperation nature conservation

4 in-person workshops:  
100 participants, 30 countries  
2 (online) webinars:  
>120 participants, 24 countries



Official foundation  
**Landcare Europe**  
e.V.

# Objectives

1. **Contributing to EU targets and strategies** like the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)
2. **Support the foundation** of new Landcare Associations and Umbrella Organisations in all 27 EU countries
3. **Fostering the exchange of knowledge** among LCAs by organising workshops, trainings and field visits as well as facilitating project collaboration.





**LANDCARE EUROPE e.V.**

Secretariat

**Dr. Sylvie Rockel**

Network Coordinator

+49 179 425 5590

[info@landcare-europe.org](mailto:info@landcare-europe.org)

Promenade 9 | D-91522 Ansbach



[www.landcare-europe.org](http://www.landcare-europe.org)



Supported by



European  
Commission





## Grace Maher – Irish Organic Association




Riailas  
na hÉireann  
Government  
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
2040



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# CAN ORGANIC FARMING HELP FIX OUR FOOD SYSTEM?

*Grace Maher*

---







# What is Organic Farming?



# Organic Farming

- Organic is a legally binding term in food production
- Organic regulation EC Regulation 838/2018
- Organic Food & Farming Standards in Ireland, Edition 2
- Approximately 4,100 certified organic farmers in Ireland = 4%
- Target of 10% by 2030

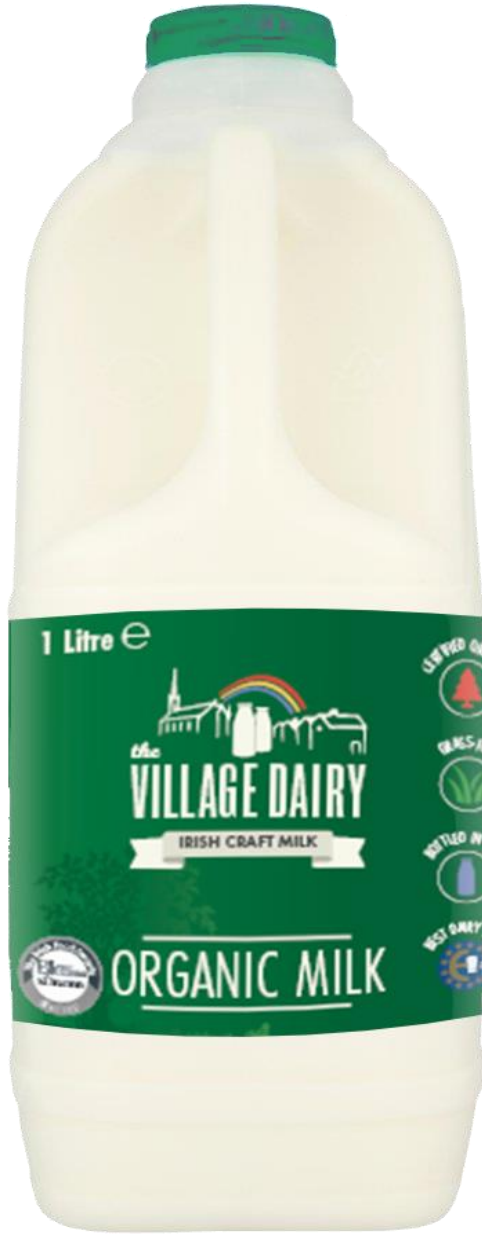


# ORGANIC & LOCAL - PART OF THE SOLUTION

- More organic farmers selling direct via farmers markets, online sales and box schemes & farm shops
- Reconnecting people with local quality food hugely important







# Irish Organic Association EIP Project



MAXIMIZING ORGANIC  
PRODUCTION SYSTEMS



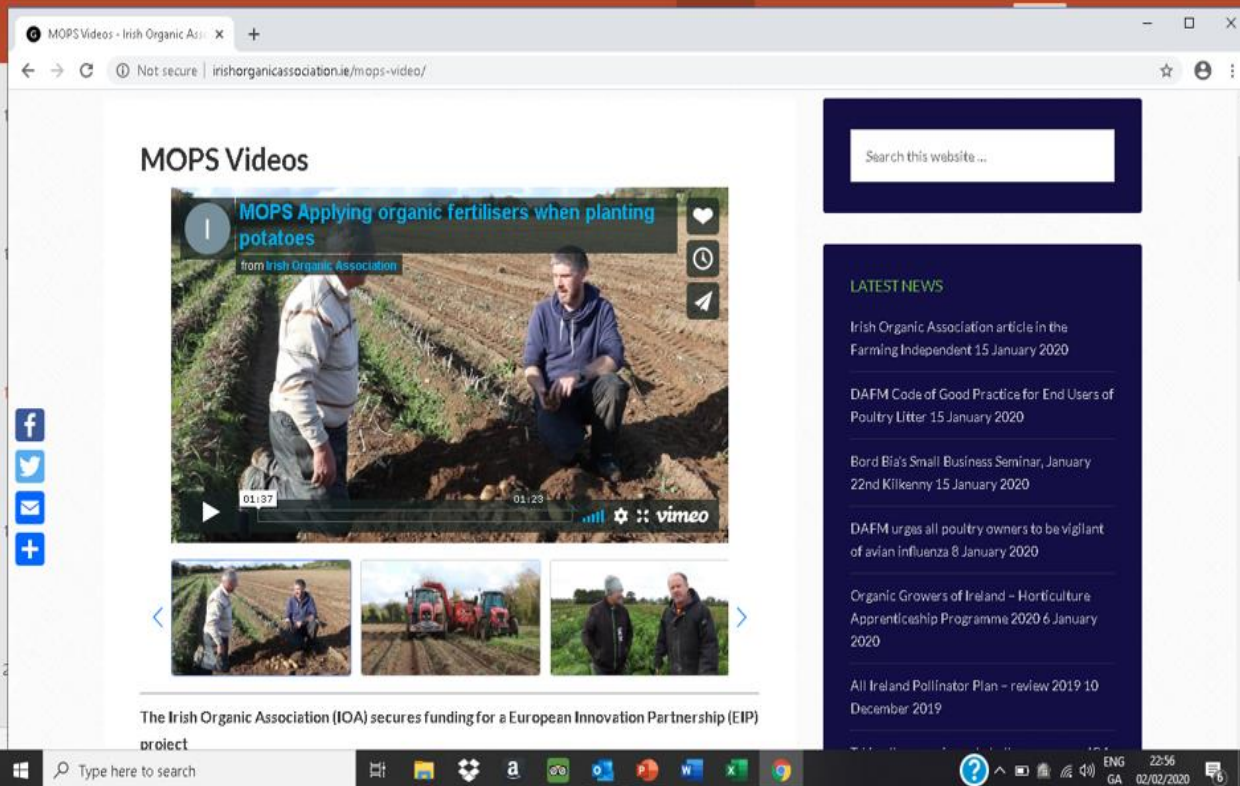
# MOPS Project

- Maximizing Organic Production Systems
- 11 organic horticulture farms around Ireland
- Collaboration on cropping plan systems and supply
- Shorten supply chains



# MOPS Project

- Soil analysis
- MOPS Agronomist – crop selection, cropping plans
- Market development
- Climate monitoring
- Import substitution



The screenshot displays a web browser window with the URL [irishorganicassociation.ie/mops-video/](http://irishorganicassociation.ie/mops-video/). The page features a video player with the title "MOPS Applying organic fertilisers when planting potatoes" and a search bar on the right. Below the video player, there are three thumbnail images and a list of news items under the heading "LATEST NEWS".

**MOPS Videos**

MOPS Applying organic fertilisers when planting potatoes  
from Irish Organic Association

Search this website ...

**LATEST NEWS**

- Irish Organic Association article in the Farming Independent 15 January 2020
- DAFM Code of Good Practice for End Users of Poultry Litter 15 January 2020
- Bord Bia's Small Business Seminar, January 22nd Kilkenny 15 January 2020
- DAFM urges all poultry owners to be vigilant of avian influenza 8 January 2020
- Organic Growers of Ireland – Horticulture Apprenticeship Programme 2020 6 January 2020
- All Ireland Pollinator Plan – review 2019 10 December 2019

The Irish Organic Association (IOA) secures funding for a European Innovation Partnership (EIP) project



# MOPS Project findings

- Huge increase in sales 2017-2020 (+112%) - €3.8m - €8.1m
- Increased trade between growers
- Dynamic growth and market demand for Irish grown organic horticultural products



Thank you for listening!





## Evonne Boland – Open Food Ireland



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Government  
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Project Ireland  
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# *“How can we fix our Food System?”*

## *Sonáirte – 21<sup>st</sup> October 2023*



**OPEN FOOD  
NETWORK  
IRELAND**

<https://openfoodnetwork.ie/>

**Evonne Boland**  
*Coordinator,  
Open Food Network Ireland*

***lovelocal@openfoodnetwork.ie***  
***www.openfoodnetwork.ie***



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# *“How can we fix our Food System?”*

## *Sonáirte – 21<sup>st</sup> October 2023*

- **Global movement**
- **Open source**
- **Community-owned**
- **Constantly evolving**
- **Flexible solutions**
- **Online virtual market**
- **Not for profit**
- **Low barrier to entry**



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NETWORK  
IRELAND**

<https://openfoodnetwork.ie/>



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CLOUGHJORDAN  
COMMUNITY  
FARM

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# “How can we fix our Food System?”

## Sonairte – 21<sup>st</sup> October 2023



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Sonairte  
Visitor Eco-Centre and Gardens



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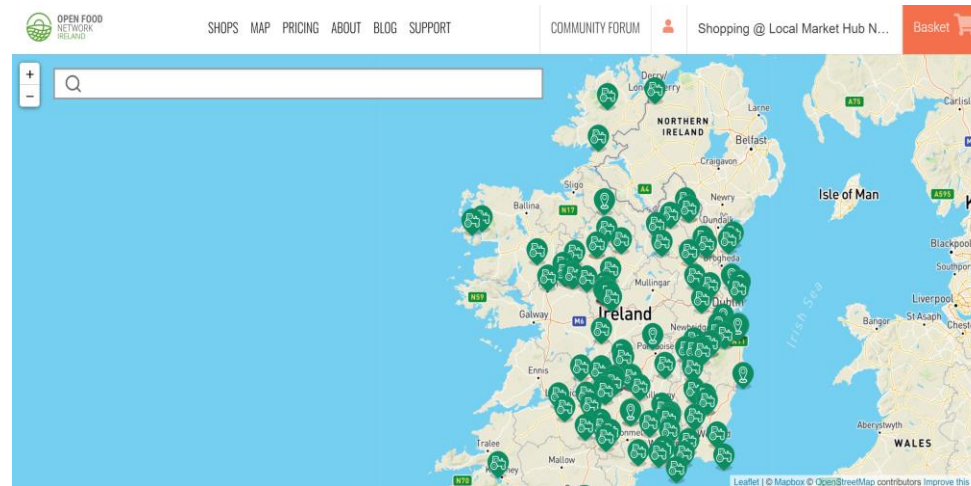
# “How can we fix our Food System?”

## Sonáirte – 21<sup>st</sup> October 2023

## Rebuilding our food system

Reconnecting with our food, our producers and our communities

Starts with a map!



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# *“How can we fix our Food System?”*

## *Sonáirte – 21<sup>st</sup> October 2023*

## **Connections mean Community Food Hubs**

**Online farmers markets - Centralised distribution points**

**Community owned and collaborative**

### **Supporting**

- **diverse food systems**
- **stronger local economies**
- **agroecological production**
- **healthy communities**
- **food solidarity**



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# “How can we fix our Food System?”

## Sonáirte – 21<sup>st</sup> October 2023



**OPEN FOOD**  
NETWORK  
**IRELAND**

<https://openfoodnetwork.ie/>

**Set up your free Producer profile**

**Tell your friends**

**Mobilise your community**

**Get in touch *lovelocal@openfoodnetwork.ie***



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## Paddy Woodworth & Muhammad Achour

### – Sanctuary in Nature and Heritage



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Lots of Activities for Children to enjoy!



Enjoy the best Family friendly day out



Meet new people from all over the World!

Here, at Sanctuary in Nature and Heritage, we have a lot to offer...



Discover the treasures of Irish Heritage



Venture into the wonders of Irish nature





# What have we been up to?

23 trips

30 volunteers

20 different locations

200 different participants across all trips

10+ different nationalities among participants and volunteers

4 county councils collaborated with us

3 NGOs involved





# Our aim is to provide a place of sanctuary through Irish nature and Irish heritage for people new to Ireland

We seek to improve the mental and physical well-being of our people.

We seek to bring people from all different backgrounds together

We want to reach out to more direct provision centres, refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers in Ireland

We want to create more stories between communities

We want to invite more volunteers

We want to visit more of Irish Nature and Heritage

We want to employ more people

We want to have our own office



# Food — eating together — is central to building bridges and creating relationships between communities

Lunches, and even snacks, are central to each event we do

We want to acknowledge the kind support of those who have supplied and served our food:

Helena Sisi and Paul Reilly and Sonairte Café

Ibrahim Phelim and the Silk Road Café

George Labbad and Umi Falafel

Guests who kindly bring sweets and snacks typical of their countries of origin

Volunteers who bring snacks

Sonairte its open classroom on orchards, gardens, and honey

We want to learn more about sustainable and local food!

Thank you!





## Noel Breslin – St Margarets Travellers Association



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# St Margarets Traveller Community Association Ballymun

68 families living together in Ballymun since 1985

Supported by Community Development Worker and Primary Healthcare  
Team

# Our Community

- Strong community connections in Ballymun with relevant organisations as follows:
- Dublin City Council
- Dublin Northwest Partnership
- Slainte Healthcare
- Rediscovery Centre
- Local schools and youth groups
- Muck and Magic Community Garden
- Ballymun Mens Sheds

# Where the connections matter

- Discussions about, circular economy, food scarcity, climate change
- Visit to Sonairte, information and discussion about locally sourced food, would purchase if it was available locally
- Availing of Rediscovery Centre- recycled paint, bicycle repair, recycled furniture.
- Visiting Muck and Magic Community Garden and trying their curly Kale.



# Daily life challenges

- From informal discussions with mens and womens groups
- Conflict between price and value
- Local availability is critical as transport not always available
- Association between food and shops
- Healthy food is important but daily struggles with money, health housing and employment comes first.

# A few thoughts

- Outreach to Traveller community projects to create awareness of locally produced food availability
- Invite Traveller Community Projects to cookery demonstration events in suitable venues.
- Develop a CE employment scheme for Traveller community around food production labouring etc



## Elaine McGinty – Drogheda Women’s Refuge



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# Climate Action Local Food Overcoming Barriers for Marginalised Groups

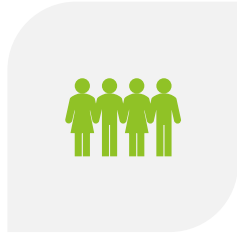


**“A truly ‘Just Transition’  
must be rooted in Human  
Rights and Equality”**

***Mary Robison***



Drogheda Women's & Children's  
Refuge Centre C.L.G.



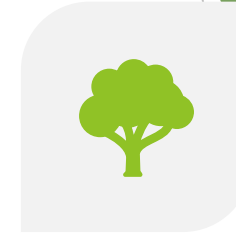
**REDUCED  
CARBON  
FOOTPRINT**



**BETTER  
COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT**



**HEALTHIER  
DIETS**



**GREATER FOOD  
SECURITY**

**Incorporating local food into climate action plans is an effective way to address both environmental and social challenges while contributing to the broader goal of mitigating climate change.**

# **Climate Action & Local Food Production**



**Drogheda Women's & Children's  
Refuge Centre C.L.G.**



Drogheda Women's & Children's  
Refuge Centre C.L.G.

*Founded in 1998 in Drogheda County Louth, it provides safe, emergency refuge accommodation for women & children who have experienced domestic abuse.*

2021- Sept 2023

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**954 - women**

---

**266 -children**

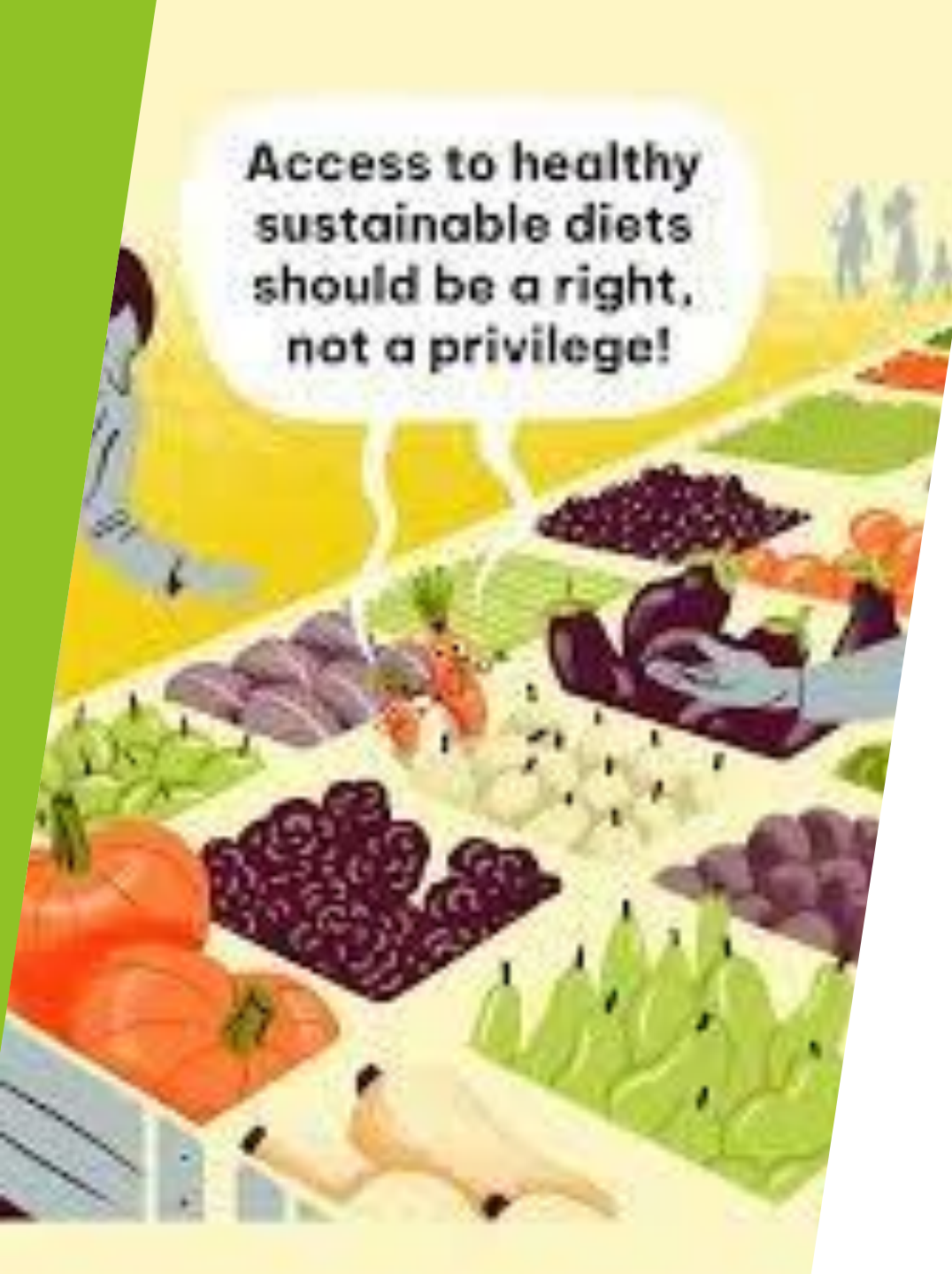
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**2545 -helpline calls**

- **Safe place to stay**
- **Counselling**
- **Advice**
- **Education**
- **Outreach services**





An illustration of a woman in a grocery store aisle. She is standing in front of several crates filled with fresh produce, including purple grapes, green leafy vegetables, and orange pumpkins. A speech bubble above her contains the text: "Access to healthy sustainable diets should be a right, not a privilege!".

Access to healthy sustainable diets should be a right, not a privilege!

## Food Barriers & Impact

- ▶ **Economic** - affordability
- ▶ **Geographic** - where you live and access to transport
- ▶ **Cultural** and **Social** - awareness of local fresh options
- ▶ **Language** and **Literacy** - food labels and low literacy
- ▶ **Food Insecurity** and **Hunger** - financial control and poor nutrition intergenerational
- ▶ Lack of **Cooking Facilities** and food storage - homelessness

# Mirco Level Solutions

**Community** groups & non-governmental organizations (**NGOs**) play a crucial role in improving access to fresh food for marginalized communities.

## How?

- ▶ **Collaboration:** Community & NGOs working with local food producers, ensure targeted access to affordable fresh food.
- ▶ **Education:** Cooking courses and nutrition education programs.

## Why?

- ▶ **Empowering** individuals with knowledge and skills.
- ▶ **Encouraging** healthier eating habits.
- ▶ **Strengthening** local communities through collaboration.



# Macro Level Solution

A radical **Public Procurement Strategy** for food can transform the food system by leveraging the State's **Purchasing Power**

## What does it mean?

- ▶ Set of **Guidelines /Regulations** issued by government to prioritise & support the purchase of food products from local sources.
- ▶ Implemented at various levels of **Government**, such as within schools, HSE and government departments.

## Can it work?

- ▶ HSE having a **Policy** to buy and support local producers where possible which is then built into all its procurement contracts for catering.
- ▶ **Motion** passed in **Meath County Council** & it doesn't break competition law.
- ▶ **Denmark**, a leader in this area has achieved remarkable results across its Municipal Districts.





# Macro Level Solution



## How?

Direct the immense **Buying Power** of the State towards ecological, farmer-friendly farming methods and local production.

## Why?

- ▶ Emphasis is on local **Sustainable** production & reducing **Carbon** footprint
- ▶ Positive, '**Carrot**'-style policy and far more effective than the threat of sanctions & fines.
- ▶ It creates a **Market Incentive** for farmers to switch to organic production.
- ▶ Greater **connection** between farmers and the public
- ▶ **Boost** local production, strengthening the regional economy.

**WHAT IS CLIMATE ACTION & LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION?**

*Preserving our planet for future generations*

**WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?**

*Access to healthy Sustainable diet should be a right not a privilege*

**WHAT DOES POLICY CHANGE LOOK LIKE ?**

*Both Micro (Local) & Macro (Wider Economy) Solutions*

*Together they can support economic growth while reducing pressures on the environment.*

*Brings Ireland closer to reaching the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030*



## Audrey O'Dowd – AbleVision



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***Ablevision Ireland*** *where Ability and vision meet*

---

- **Ablevision is a film and drama production and training company for people with Intellectual Disabilities. Our motto is “nothing about us without us.”**
- **Through training and encouragement, our crews learn that they can and will be role models for others with intellectual challenges.**
- **At Ablevision we believe in the talent and power of our production crews to produce inspirational work that informs and enriches society as a whole.**

**Hello**

**I am Conor O Dowd and I am a chef in  
The D Hotel in Drogheda.**

**I know about Climate change it is the news all  
the time. I am a little worried about it.  
The floods, the bad storms and hurricanes.  
We have to look after our environment.**





## The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006),

- The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006), which states: ‘parties recognize that persons with disabilities have the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health without discrimination on the basis of disability’.
- The UN Convention (2006) further states that parties shall ‘provide persons with disabilities with the same range, quality and standard of free or affordable health care and programmes as provided to other persons, including . . . population-based public health programmes’
- Good nutrition knowledge among carers is essential as they have a primary role in food provision. Limited carer nutrition knowledge compromises their ability to plan and adapt meals to support a healthy and appropriate diet for those with a disability. If carers are not educated in providing nutritious meals then a person can develop nutritional deficiencies.

# Sonairte Project

## From Farm to Table - 6 week workshop for young adults with a disability

- Horticulture for easy gardening and Independence: (HEGI)  
The project was for young adults with an Intellectual disability. It entailed learning how to grow vegetables, herbs and fruit.
- Each participant was supplied with a take home raised bed in which they could grow the plants etc that had been demonstrated in the workshops. The programme which took place in the 10 acre Sonairte Ecology Centre also included a module on appreciation of nature, foraging skills
- The concept was to impart knowledge on growing food which can be used in their home. It also increased confidence and communications through specific workshops. The project also looked at the environment and sustainability. Participants also learned the importance of hygiene in a Covid 19 Ireland.



Thank You for  
listening on behalf of  
Ablevision