

APPLICATION FOR THE 2024 EU ORGANIC AWARDS

Fields marked with * are mandatory.



APPLICATION FOR THE BEST ORGANIC Food Processing Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Food Retailer Restaurant / Food Service*

Applications must be submitted by 23:59:59 CEST on 12 May 2024 at the latest through this online application form only.

Only applications submitted via the online form will be taken into account.

Candidates who have not won an EU Organic Award previously are encouraged to reapply, this includes finalists.

Please select the language you wish to complete your application in the top right-hand corner of this page.

**Restaurant (standalone or part of a hotel) and/or food service (caterer or canteen).*

Instructions

Please complete your submission for the [EU Organic Awards 2024](#) by using this online form. All sections must be answered and all questions should be addressed (short sentences are encouraged). If an applicant cannot provide an answer to a question, reasons must be provided in the relevant section. We strongly advise you to read the [Practical Guide to the EU Organic Awards 2024](#) before completing this application form. The [EESC opinion on the Action Plan for the development of EU organic production](#), as well as the [IFOAM principles of organic production](#), may also be useful.

When completing this form, please **always refer to the information icon** for additional information on the question. The information icon is the small, round, blue icon that appears at the end of each question (where applicable). Simply click on it to display more information.

Personal data

Please note that any personal data contained in the application documents (such as name and address) will be processed pursuant to [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1725](#) on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the EU institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data*. Unless otherwise indicated, the replies to the questions, and any personal data requested to evaluate the application in accordance with the [rules on the awards](#), will be processed solely for that purpose by the EESC.

**Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC ([OJ L 295, 21.11.2018, p. 39](#)).*

More information on data protection rules

The European Commission, the European Committee of the Regions, the European Economic and Social Committee, IFOAM Organics Europe, Copa and Cogeca will jointly process your personal data for the organisation of the EU Organic Awards.

The Joint Controllers undertake to protect your personal data and respect your privacy. The Joint Controllers have concluded a Joint Controllership Arrangement. They, and their processors, collect and further process personal data pursuant to [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1725](#) and [Regulation \(EU\) 2016/679](#).

The [privacy statement](#) explains the reason for the processing of your personal data in the context of the awards.

A Consent form on data protection

Your consent is required for the following actions. If you opt in, you are giving us your explicit consent under Article 5(1)(d) of [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1725](#) or Article 6(1)(a) of [Regulation \(EU\) 2016/679](#) to process your personal data for the purposes detailed in the [privacy statement](#).

Your consent to the processing of your personal data can be withdrawn at any time by contacting EUorganicawardsEESC@eesc.europa.eu.

*** 1 Do you consent to the processing of your personal data submitted in the context of the EU Organic Awards as described in the privacy statement?**

Please note: your application can't be processed if you don't consent to the processing of your personal data.

- Yes
 No

Your application cannot be processed if you do not consent to the processing of your personal data.

*** 2 Do you specifically consent to the processing of the audio-visual data (including photos and videos) you submitted and the audio-visual data (including photos and videos) captured in the context of the EU Organic Awards, as described in the privacy statement?**

- Yes
 No

*** 3 In case you, or the entity on behalf of which you apply, win(s) one of the EU Organic Awards, do you specifically consent to the publication, on the websites of the joint controllers or on social media, of your name and surname, contact data, professional data and photos and videos containing your audio-visual data, as described in the privacy statement?**

- Yes
 No

*** 4 Do you specifically consent to the processing of any health data linked to access or dietary requirements you may submit in the context of your attendance of the award ceremony?**

- Yes
 No

* 5 Do you specifically consent to being contacted for the EU Organic Awards organised next year, as described in the privacy statement?

Yes

No

B Contact information

6 Contact details (1/2)

Name of the applying entity/organisation (if applicable):	
First name and last name of contact person for this application:	
Email:	
Phone number:	
VAT number:	

7 Contact details (2/2)

	Street and street number	City	Postcode
Address			

* 8 Country

- AT - Austria
- BE - Belgium
- BG - Bulgaria
- HR - Croatia
- CY - Cyprus
- CZ - Czechia
- DK - Denmark
- EE - Estonia
- FI - Finland
- FR - France
- DE - Germany
- EL - Greece
- HU - Hungary
- IE - Ireland
- IT - Italy
- LV - Latvia
- LT - Lithuania
- LU - Luxembourg
- MT - Malta
- NL - Netherlands
- PL - Poland
- PT - Portugal
- RO - Romania
- SK - Slovak Republic
- SI - Slovenia
- ES - Spain
- SE - Sweden

* 9 Organic award you are applying for:

You may only apply for one category. If the business engages in more than one of these activities, you must still choose only one to put forth in your application.

- Best organic Food Processing SME
- Best organic Food Retailer
- Best organic Restaurant* / Food Service**

Restaurant:** standalone or part of a hotel *Food service:** caterer or canteen

Processing is understood as defined by [Regulation \(EC\) No 852/2004](#): Article (2) (m), (n) and (o) " definitions" of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs stipulates :

(m) "processing" means any action that substantially alters the initial product, including heating, smoking, curing, maturing, drying, marinating, extraction, extrusion or a combination of those processes; (n) "unprocessed products" means foodstuffs that have not undergone processing, and includes products that have been divided, parted, severed, sliced, boned, minced, skinned, ground, cut, cleaned, trimmed, husked, milled, chilled, frozen, deep-frozen or thawed; (o) "processed products" means foodstuffs resulting

from the processing of unprocessed products. These products may contain ingredients that are necessary for their manufacture or to give them specific characteristics.

C Eligibility criteria for Food Processing SMEs

*** 10 Please confirm that:**

at least 2 choice(s)

Organic products: to be understood as certified organic products

- You are an SME: micro, small or medium-sized enterprise as defined in the [Commission recommendation 2003/361](#) (enterprises which employ fewer than 250 persons and which have an annual turnover not exceeding EUR 50 million, and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 43 million). Cooperatives can be understood as enterprises.

- You produce only organic products in your enterprise and that you are certified according to [Regulation 2018/848](#).

D Eligibility criteria for Food Retailers

*** 11 Please confirm that:**

at least 2 choice(s)

'Certified references' is the technical term that means 'certified products' or 'certified items'.

Organic products: to be understood as certified organic products.

Some products such as wild fish do not fall under the scope of [Regulation \(EU\) 2018/848](#) (see Article 2).

- You have only organic certified references on sale (excluding non-food products or food products for which there is no organic availability).

- You are an SME: micro, small or medium-sized enterprise as defined in the [Commission recommendation 2003/361](#) (enterprises which employ fewer than 250 persons and which have an annual turnover not exceeding EUR 50 million, and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 43 million). Cooperatives can be understood as enterprises.

E Eligibility criteria for Restaurants* / Food Service**

Restaurant:** standalone or part of a hotel | *Food service:** caterer or canteen

*** 12 Please confirm that:**

at least 2 choice(s)

"Certified references" is the technical term that means "certified products" or "certified items".

Organic products: to be understood as certified organic products.

"Where possible": in accordance with [Regulation \(EU\) No 2018/848](#).

- You offer only organic certified references on your menu where possible.

- You are an SME: micro, small or medium-sized enterprise as defined in the [Commission recommendation 2003/361](#) (enterprises which employ fewer than 250 persons and which have an annual turnover not exceeding EUR 50 million, and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 43 million). Cooperatives can be understood as enterprises.

F Questions

- * 13 Please provide a general presentation of your business (including the impact of its activities, results and positive effects in particular towards sustainability).

If you are applying for the food processing SME award, please provide a step-by-step description of how you process your product and where.

1000 character(s) maximum

A description of the activities and results that can be attributed to your business should be indicated. We suggest writing this section while thinking of all the positive effects that would not have happened had the business not been created.

- 14 How has your business developed an excellent initiative producing real added value for organic production and consumption?

The awardee must have developed an excellent initiative producing real added value for organic production. This means good results and impact of the business in relation to its initial objectives. Businesses shall demonstrate their impact on the area and territory concerned and show their results against the initially set targets and objectives. See the [award criteria](#) for further details.

	Yes	No
* Does the business contribute to the territorial development of its region (e.g. local products, local workforce, local marketing chains, etc.)?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Does the business strive to promote environment and climate protection, animal welfare, and healthy and sustainable diets through the composition of the products prepared or sold?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Does the business invest in education and promotion of organic values externally (buyers, suppliers, customers, community, institutions, etc.)?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Does the business invest internally (i.e. among its employees) in education and promotion of organic values, including striving to achieve a gender balance and to include people with disabilities where relevant?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Is the business successful in selling organic products?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Has the business contributed to greater affordability and availability of organic products for consumers?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

- * 15 In reference to the above closed questions, please provide evidence for the questions answered by 'yes' by explaining how your business produces real added value for organic production and consumption.

400 character(s) maximum

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16 How innovative is your business?

Businesses shall not be 'business-as-usual', but should demonstrate new approaches, new organisational methods, or the development of new (or significantly) improved results for organics. The criteria for measuring the innovative character for each category are better detailed in the dedicated section of the category. See the [award criteria](#) for further details.

	Yes	No
* Has the business implemented innovative mechanisms or projects relating to the production and promotion of organic products?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Has the business implemented innovative mechanisms or projects relating to the protection of health and well-being of people and the environment?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* 17 In reference to the above closed questions, please provide evidence for the questions answered by 'yes' by explaining your new approaches, new organisational methods or the development of new or significantly improved results for organics.

400 character(s) maximum

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18 How is your business meeting each of the three sustainability dimensions (environmental, social, economic) and how does it assess its sustainability in the long term?

Businesses shall demonstrate their sustainability and their future as a self-standing initiative or project. See the [award criteria](#) for further details.

	Yes	No
* Does the business have climate and environment-friendly processing in terms of circularity, e.g. reducing food waste and packaging?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Does the business have climate and environment-friendly processing in terms of energy sourcing and efficiency?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Does the business have climate and environment-friendly processing in terms of transport?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Does the business adhere to the social rules relating to workers' protection, collective bargaining and social dialogue?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* Has the business established significant socially and ecologically just partnerships and fair-trading practices with its suppliers?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Has the business implemented an effective mechanism to ensure and assess its economic sustainability in the long-term?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Has the business signed the EU Code of Conduct on Responsible Food Business and Marketing Practices ?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

In reference to the above closed questions, please provide evidence for the questions answered by 'yes' by explaining how your business meets each of the three sustainability criteria as follows:

* 19 Environmental sustainability criteria:

200 character(s) maximum

* 20 Social sustainability criteria:

200 character(s) maximum

* 21 Economic sustainability criteria:

200 character(s) maximum

22 How could your business be transferred and replicated elsewhere in the EU?

The business shall demonstrate that it represents good practice in a wider (EU) context and that it inspires or could inspire other places. The business should also show good ways of communicating its goals and results. See the [award criteria](#) for further details.

	Yes	No
* Has the business developed projects to influence and inspire other enterprises in your region, your country or elsewhere within the EU?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* Could the mechanisms and tools used in your business to improve sustainability be replicated and showcased as good practices in other parts of the EU?



* 23 In reference to the above closed questions, please provide evidence for the questions answered by 'yes' by explaining how your business could be transferred and replicated elsewhere in the EU.

400 character(s) maximum

G General information

Please provide the following information:

24 Number of employees in the business (full-time equivalent)

Only values between 1 and 249 are allowed

25 Date the business was created

26 Please provide evidence of your organic certificate/private standard with the name of the entity which certified it (for retailers: only if relevant).

27 Please provide any other useful information on your business (e.g. information on the existence of presentation brochures or visual materials, links to the business' website or to relevant documents if available, etc.)

400 character(s) maximum

28 Please also provide any relevant social media handles (X, Instagram, LinkedIn, Facebook).

400 character(s) maximum

H Declaration of honour

*** 29 By ticking the following boxes:**

at least 2 choice(s)

This declaration of honour is necessary in order to validate your application. Please tick the boxes.

- You declare that you comply with the applicable eligibility criteria as provided in point f) of the [rules on the awards](#), that all data provided in this form are true, accurate and complete, and that you are able to provide the necessary supporting documents in order for the jury to check their validity. Please note that these will be requested in the case of the pre-finalists.
- You declare that you will immediately inform the award organisers of any changes in the situation declared.