Fakulta zemědělská
a technologická
Faculty of Agriculture
and Technology

Jihočeská univerzita
v Českých Budějovicích
University of South Bohemia
in České Budějovice

InnOFoodLabs: Innovative, locally-driven, multi-actor Organic Food Labs



Horizon Europe, grant no. 101181923

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- **Project at a glance**

A four-year Horizon Europe project (09/2025–08/2029, Grant Agreement No. 101181923), coordinated by FiBL Europe.

- **International consortium**

Bringing together 23 partner organisations from 9 European countries, including research institutes, processors, farmers and associations.

- **Main objective**

Strengthening the role of organic food in local economies, supporting small and medium-sized processors and contributing to the EU Farm to Fork Strategy.

- **Connecting stakeholders**

Cooperation among farmers, local processors, public catering providers, researchers and consumers.

€5.69 million

Total project budget

€5,694,134 in total (EU contribution: €5.50 million + Swiss SERI co-funding)

12 Living Labs

Regional Living Labs

Testing solutions in real-life settings across 9 European countries, including Czechia

23 innovations

Practical solutions for the organic sector

New approaches to processing, packaging, logistics and business models

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Key themes and the University of South Bohemia's role

Four innovation pillars in organic food and the contribution of Czech partners

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1. Small-scale processing

Processing techniques adapted to seasonality and smaller batches while preserving high nutritional value.

2. Sustainable packaging

Developing and introducing reusable and environmentally friendly packaging that reduces single-use and fossil-based plastics.

3. Farmer–processor links

Shorter supply chains and closer cooperation with public catering providers, schools and restaurants.

4. New distribution models

Innovative logistics, communication and marketing channels that improve access to local organic food.

Czech representation and the role of FZT JU

- **University of South Bohemia (FZT JU)**

Represents Czech research within the consortium, provides expert support, assesses the impacts of innovations and transfers knowledge into practice.

- **Czech Living Lab (Sady sv. Prokopa)**

Practical testing of innovations in regional conditions, in cooperation with the social enterprise Zelený košík / Green Basket.

- **National coordination (Czech CoP)**

Connecting Czech organic farmers, processors, public authorities and advisors.

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Community of Practice: Opportunities for stakeholders

An open European network for sharing experience, learning and transferring proven solutions

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What is the Community of Practice? An international community bringing together farmers, small and medium-sized processors, researchers, public institutions and consumers. It helps overcome barriers in the organic sector and transfer successful innovations between European regions.

National meetings (Czechia)

Face-to-face and online working groups for Czech stakeholders.

- Sharing Czech experience and results
- Insights from the Czech Living Lab and USB research

International webinars

A free series of 9 expert webinars (3 per year).

- Practical examples of technologies and packaging
- Inspiration from Living Labs abroad
- Exchange with European experts

Study tours

Expert visits to Living Labs across Europe.

- Visits in 9 countries, including Czechia, Germany, Austria and Denmark
- First-hand practical know-how

Join the InnOFoodLabs network! Register for the Community of Practice and find information about webinars at www.innofoodlabs.eu

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- **How did the project come about?**

Long-term international cooperation
Activities outside of specific projects
Participation in smaller joint projects
Involvement in expert groups, panels, and organizations

- **Challenges**

Coordination by smaller organisation
Strong focus on living labs activities
Fluctuation of people involved

- **Opportunities and advantages**

Long-term cooperation with LL in research and education
Experiences from previous projects
Active role in consortium

ENOAT

Europena Network Of Organic Agriculture Teachers

Informal network of several dozen universities from the EU/Europe

SCAR - AE

Standing committee for agricultural research – working group Agroecology

Comitology body of the European Commission

Agroecology Europe

Roof organisation for agroecology in EU

European association to promote agroecology

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Thank you for attention

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