



Erasmus+



Labour market needs: EPOS survey results – report from Finland



Presentation of the EPOS survey results

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- The questionnaire was sent to 150 organizations, organic producers FB, organic farmers FB (303 members) and several e-mailing lists
- Replies: 53
- Primary production - organic farm 4
- Organic processing 3
- Retail sale of organic products 6
- Wholesale of organic products 2
- Import/export of organic products 0
- Supplier of production inputs (seeds, machinery, etc) 0
- Consultancy / advisory services for organic farming 6
- Certifying body 2
- Public sector 3
- Education & expertise (public & private) 13
- Others: 1 organic association, 4 lobbying
- Not mentioned: 22



Presentation of the EPOS survey results

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- Q: Would you like to employ a graduate educated in the topic of organic food and farming in your enterprise/institution?
 - Yes: 11 No: 9 I don't know: 4
 - Economic situation does not allow to employ; the education is too narrow and specialized for a small company
- Q: Are you planning to employ such graduates?
 - Yes, within next 3 years: 5 Yes, within next year: 1 No: 8 I don't know: 6
 - master's degree: most interesting; high school gr.: least interesting
- Q: What kind of theoretical knowledge do you expect?
 - Plant production, Animal production, Economy; least required Biotechnology
- Q: What kind of skills do you expect from your employees?
 - **Team work**, computer skills, Analytical/problem solving skills, Ability to adapt/act in new situations; least expected Ability to work in a lab



Presentation of the EPOS survey results

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- Are traditional teaching methods sufficient to prepare graduate to work in the organic sector?
 - Yes 5 No 14 I don't know 5
- What kind of innovations would you recommend?
 - Learning by cooperation with enterprises/other representatives of the organic sector
- Would you be interested in having/hosting master students for short term internships in your farm/enterprise/institution?
 - Yes 17 No 7



Presentation of EPOS survey results 4/4

- What are the most important problems to be solved in your unit?
 - More efficient use of on-farm research data; transfer to the next generation; innovative solutions; productization; profitability and producing added value; economic problems; science communication and popularization; "we are supermarket level retailer, organic is part of the total services of the solutions for food sales; decreasing number and profitability of farms
- Do you think that your unit could benefit from cooperation with scientific institutions?
 - They are too stiff; we are cooperating already.
- Do you think that researchers could help you to solve current problems of your unit?
 - Yes 12 No 10
 - The services are too expensive; we use research data; if a person is updated with organic field, we can make use of that; a beginner doesn't usually have the pedagogical skills required