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CERTIFICATION OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS

PROCESS AND RESULTS

Report

01.07.2023

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Requests for the certification of organic products were received from the producers, after which the process of application to the control system of organic agriculture and production began.

The producers were provided with the **certification scheme** and the relevant regulation of organic agriculture and production. A risk assessment was carried out and the producers were assigned E codes under which they are kept in the accredited documentation traceability system at the control and certification body.

After **administrative inspection** of land lots registered in the ARKOD system, the suitability of the lots for the implementation of control and certification was determined, and contracts on the implementation of control and certification of organic products were concluded, and also the dates for the field controls have been agreed upon.

An **evaluation group** was appointed, according to the qualifications of the available inspectors and the calendar of activities, for the implementation of field inspections and monitoring of producers until the certificate issue.

Field inspections of the reported land lots were carried out with the aim of determining compliance with the provisions of the regulation, as well as the certification scheme. During the field visit of the plots, the locations of production were determined and controlled, also the type and age of the plantations, the assortment, and the implemented agro-technical measures, as well as the appropriateness of the plantation treatments with fertilizers and plant protection products. Furthermore, the production plans were checked, as well as the planned prevention and precautionary measures, in accordance with the applicable regulations. A **report of the findings** has been compiled, which was signed by the control body and the representative of the controlled entity.

The **documentation was additionally completed** by the inspector responsible for the implementation of the control, and was sent in originals to the operator in written form.

Producers have been instructed to submit the report on the control activities in order to enter and enroll in the **Register of Entities in Organic Production** at the office of the Agency for Payments in Agriculture based on the report. Enrollment in the Register is a preliminary step for issuing a certificate, and enables producers to apply for the application of subsidies for organic agriculture and production.

The documentation was forwarded to the **Certification Committee** for a decision on issuing the certificate with all enclosed documents and notes of the inspectors who conducted the inspection. During the certification process, all the supporting documents which are a requirement for certification have been reviewed and decisions were made on issuing certificates. Certificates have been issued in accordance with the procedures of the accredited system. Producers with permanent plantations (olives, almonds, figs) must undergo a mandatory three-year period of conversion to organic farming. During that period, it is not allowed to use the eco label (EU or national) on products.

The competent authority, the **Ministry of Agriculture**, was notified of the activities carried out in a timely manner, and production data is recorded for the needs of the **State Bureau of Statistics** and the **Agency for Agricultural Payments**, as well as for the **State Inspectorate**. The documentation is stored in electronic form in the system, and it is sent to producers in written form, together with forms for reporting changes in production and business.

Producers have been informed of their obligations towards the control body. With the issuance of the certificate, the certification process is completed.

Family farm Mirko Erceg owns 3,06 ha of a olive orchard, together with various fruit trees: 630 olive trees, 15 rosehip trees, 10 almond trees, 5 carob trees, 15 fig trees, 3 quince trees, 2 apple trees and 3 cherry trees. The producer declares that in the last 5 years there was no need either for fertilization or the application of plant protection products to fight plant diseases or pests. Sheep owned by the producer are present on the land and keep the plot free of grass. The area is divided by a wire

fence into several places due to the presence of sheep. The risk to organic status is assessed as medium.

The crop of fruit species is very small and is used exclusively for personal needs. The average harvest of olives is 7,000 kg. Olives are transported to the nearby Elbo oil mill. Some of the oil is sold right after processing, while the rest is stored in stainless steel containers and used for personal needs.

The agro-technical measures implemented are minimal and include pruning in the period from February to March. The plantation is well-maintained and the producer has the necessary tools for plantation maintenance (scissors, saws, trimmer...). The operator is familiar with the obligation to keep a journal of field works, the application of fertilizers and the plant protection products, which are permitted in organic production, and the use of certified reproductive material.

The operator is informed of the valid certification scheme and its elements of significance for production, as well as the valid requirements for sanitary and hygienic conditions.

Certificate number HR-EKO-04.191-0002152.2023.001 was issued following the adoption of the Decision on Issuing Certificates by the Certification Board in the certification body through the TRACES system of the European Union on May 26, 2023, after the operator entered the Register of Organic Operators, which is kept by the Agency for payment in agriculture, fisheries and rural development.





Family farm Josip Goić is located in Pražnice on the island of Brač and includes an olive orchard. There are 190 olive trees on 4 plots with a total area of 2,65 ha. No plant protection products or mineral fertilizers are used, including herbicides, for years. Of the agro-technical measures, mowing and milling are carried out as needed, 1-2 times a year. At the time of control, mowing was in progress. Pruning is regular. One plot is used as grazing land for 30 sheep, belonging to neighbors in the period for 90 days from December to April. The operator owns all the necessary processing machinery such as a cultivator, electric shears, scissors and a trimmer. Olive picking/harvesting is done manually. Last year's yield was 2,000 kg of olives. The farm owns a vineyard and arable land where vegetables are grown for own needs. These cultures do not represent the possibility of parallel production and are

not in the certification system of organic agriculture. Considering the surrounding plantations, the risk for this farm is assessed as medium.

Certificate number 4537-22969-0722-E was issued following the adoption of the Decision on Issuing Certificates by the Certification Board in the certification body on July 4, 2022, after the operator entered the Register of Organic Operators, which is kept by the Agency for payment in agriculture, fisheries and rural development.





Family farm Dušan Glad is engaged in the cultivation of olives and various fruit species in the area of Ložišće on the island of Brač. The plantation is well-maintained, agro-technical measures are carried out regularly. Pruning was done through March 2023, while mowing is planned through May/June 2023. Fertiplus organic fertilizer in the amount of 600 kg was used for fertilization in March 2023.

The operator understands the obligation to use fertilizers and plant protection products permitted in organic production. Due to the surrounding conventional olive groves, the risk of contamination for this farm is assessed as medium. In the olive harvest that took place in November 2022, 2,200 kg of olives were harvested, from which 350 L of olive oil was obtained. The processing was carried out in the oil mill Ivo Brač d.o.o., with the valid certificate for organic processing. Estimated yield for 2023 is 2.000 kg of olives.

The producer is informed of the valid certification scheme and its details of significance for production and business, as well as the valid requirements for sanitary and hygienic conditions.

Certificate number HR-EKO-04.191-0002051.2023.001 was issued following the adoption of the Decision on Issuing Certificates by the Certification Board in the certification body through the TRACES system of the European Union on May 12, 2023, after the operator entered the Register of Organic Operators, which is kept by the Agency for payment in agriculture, fisheries and rural development.





On June 2, 2023 a ceremonial awarding of certificates was additionally held at all three certified farms in the presence of representatives of the Take it Slow project.





The certificates are enclosed, as well as the field control reports and information to the Competent Authority, Ministry of Agriculture.