

Ruminant Cross Visit

Organic dairy sheep, buffaloes and cow production: practices and challenges

BULGARIA, SOFIA

09-11.07.2025

The OrganicAdviceNetwork project aims at building a strong network of advisors with organic competences across Europe. As part of this mission, the project organizes cross visits for agricultural advisors to meet, exchange and share their innovative organic farming practices.



What you can expect from this cross visit

Processing and marketing of organic products from the farm- successful example of Rozino Organic farm and Rachenitsa organic farm.

Organic farm open days - important element of raising awareness of consumer

Adaptation to the climate changes:

- digitalized milking system
- automated feeding system
- own fodder production

Discussions between the advisors and farmers of hot topics in small ruminants: climate changes and related challenges (shorter grazing period, need for more forage, unusual dangerous diseases), lack of veterinarians in the rural areas ...

PROGRAMME

TIME	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
DAY 1 - 09.07.2025		
13:30 - 14:30	Introduction session	Introduce the cross-visit program and agricultural context Presentation of participants
14:30 - 15:30	Presentation of organic agriculture, advisory services and AKIS system in Bulgaria.	Experts from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and National Agricultural Advisory Service together with experts from Bioselena.
15:30 - 17:30	Visit of organic gelato atelier	Gelato and latte is initiative of Rozino Organic farm - they produce a large variety of Italian style gelato with organic cow and buffalo milk from their farm in two shops in Sofia.
18:00 - 20:00	Common diner with organic products from Rozino farm	Next to the gelateria there is a small restaurant, offering food prepared with meat, cheese and milk products from the farm.
DAY 2 - 10.07.2025		
10:00-12:00	Visit 1: Rozino Organic farm Location: Rozino village, 115 km. from Sofia. Organic buffaloes and cows, milk processing at the farm, guesthouse and shop.	A total of approx. 180 ha organic land, mainly pastures, meadows and forage crops cultivation. Small orchard with berries and fruit trees. 60 buffaloes and 70 Jersey cows, bees, laying hens. Milk processing unit at the farm, guesthouse and shop. Guided visit of the farm, discussion with the farmer. The owner of the farm - Albina Yasinskaya recently received the award "Best Farmer - Woman of 2025" by Forbes magazine and Agri.bg.
13:00-14:00	Lunch in the region	Lunch at a restaurant on the road to the second farm
15:00-16:30	Visit 2: Rachenitsa organic farm and dairy Location: Kostelevo village, Vratsa municipality (175 km. from Rozino)	Farmer cultivates 200 ha of pastures and 30 ha of fodder crops. 280 dairy sheep (Lacaune and Assaf), 180 dairy goats and 14 dairy cows. The farmer is young, ambitious and enterprising, participating in various projects. The farm has been developing for about 10 years and for the last 8 years has been processing its own milk into various dairy products (cheese, yoghurt, butter). The products are sold to various small shops and farmers' markets. Topics for discussion: fodder production, animal nutrition in a changing climate, administrative issues .
16:30-19:00	Travel back to Sofia (170 km.)	Walk in Sofia historical center, free time, dinner
DAY 3 - 11.07.2025		
9:00-12:00	Closing session	Discussion on lessons learnt from visits and feedback to the farms/places visited Discussion and exchange on advisors needs, required competences, organisation and financing advisors' work

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Requirements

Participation to the entire cross visit program. There is no possibility to arrive later or leave earlier, except for local participants.

Participants

Agricultural advisor supporting organic farmers or famers in conversion and advisors or young graduates willing to gain competences in organic advice are welcome to join this cross visit. Maximum 15 participants.

Registration

You will be asked to provide some personal information, a brief description of your interest in joining this visit and your capacity in covering your travel costs. Participation is not guaranteed because the number of advisors who may join the visit is limited. Participants will received a confirmation message.

 [Register here](#)

Travel costs

In case you do not have budget to cover your travel costs, the project advisory partner in your respective country can reimburse part of your travel costs.

Eligible countries for cost reimbursement are FR, BE, DE, IT, BG, EE, DK, AT, CH, HU, ES, PT, HR, RO, IE, NL, SE, FI, CZ, PL, GR, SI, RS.

Eligible costs for reimbursement are transport (train, flight), accommodation (2-3 nights), social lunch and dinners, up to a limit of 400-800EUR/participant.

Once your participation to the cross visit is confirmed, you will receive more detailed information by the advisory project partner in your country about the conditions for cost reimbursement.

Costs during the Cross Visit are estimated to 450EUR including for breakfasts, social lunch & dinner & activity as well as the accommodation for 3 nights. This estimation does not include the food and transport expenses to reach Sofia.

Contact information

For any additional information, please contact:

Stoilko Apostolov (coordinator): s.apostolov@bioselena.com

Petya Pencheva: headoffice@bioselena.com



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