

5th version, 30 June 2017

Amendments of the 2nd version: Four questions were added (Q15 – Q18)

Amendments of the 3rd version: Two question were added (Q19 - 20)

Amendments of the 4th version: One question was added (Q21 - 22)

Amendment of the 5<sup>th</sup> version: A21 was amended

## **FAQs regarding the CORE Organic Cofund call 2016/17**

**Q1:** Can I apply in a thematic research area which my national funding body does not support?

**A1:** Yes, but only by own-funding.

**Q2:** Is the 1.5 million euro an absolute maximum?

**A2:** The 1.5 million maximum refers to the money applied for from the CORE Organic Cofund partners (i.e. the participating funding bodies) and includes any EU top up granted via CORE Organic. It further includes the coordination budget (see Part C of Pre-proposal). The maximum does not include any funds not requested from the CORE Organic Cofund partners, e.g. in-kind contributions from research institutions or contributions from funding bodies that do not participate in the CORE Organic Cofund.

**Q3:** Is it possible to build a consortium dealing with two thematic research areas?

**A3:** No.

**Q4:** Is there a partnering tool for finding interested partners?

**A4:** Yes there is a partnering tool on the call submission website: <http://eracall.eu/>.

**Q5:** Do we have a higher chance of getting selected for funding, if we don't ask for the highest amount of funds possible?

**A5:** Please ask your National Contact Point. In any case, you must not exceed the total amount allocated per funding body and thematic research area.

**Q6:** Is the involvement of companies mandatory?

**A6:** No.

**Q7:** Is the involvement of industry/companies particularly advantageous for getting funded?

**A7:** We don't have industry involvement as a selection criteria. However, if the project would benefit from the involvement of industry/companies then it would be advantageous to include industry partners.

Q8: Who are the independent evaluators (sector and scientific experts)?

A8: The identity of the experts will be treated confidentially. They are selected by the funding bodies. Evaluators will only see your application after having signed a no-conflict of interest agreement based on the names and institutions of the partners in the proposals.

Q9: My funding body does not support thematic research area 2 which would be my preferred thematic research area, can I apply for thematic research area 1 focusing on a question within thematic research area 2?

A9: You better focus on the thematic research area you apply for. If not, the funding bodies and experts will evaluate the relevance of the project to the thematic research area as low.

Q10: Are countries from outside the countries participating in the call eligible? Do they count as one of the minimum 5 partners per Consortium? Can countries from outside Europe apply e.g. India? Do the projects, which involve partners from outside countries have advantages in the evaluation process compared to other projects?

A10: Partners from countries not taking part in the call are welcome to join the project proposal, but they do not count as one of the minimum five eligible countries/ proposal. Partners from outside Europe are welcome. To involve a partner from countries outside the call does not give any advantage to proposals not involving countries from outside the call. The coordinator should be aware that there will be no national funding body to assist the coordinator in case of non-compliance of a partner from countries not taking part in the call.

Q11: Do Wallonia and Flanders count as two countries?

A11: Yes.

Q12: Do the partners of a project have to register in the submission tool?

A12: Yes, they must register and add their partner information and budget plan.

Q13: Who pays the coordination costs?

A13: Coordination costs can be applied for at CORE Organic Cofund directly. (See Part C of Pre-proposal). This means that the coordination costs do not need to be covered by the coordinator's national funding body.

Q14: How do I create a pre-proposal?

A14:

1. Log in
2. Click Cofund call (green)
3. a) click Create new proposal (blue), fill in, then save  
b) thereafter, instead of step 3A, choose:

My proposals > under Workspace (black, right), click on Workspace (blue) 4. Under Application (green, black) continue on the left side with the blue menu Keep saving new input at the bottom of each page.

Q15: What are „Indirect costs“ and what is the difference between „Indirect costs“ and „Other costs“?

A15: Indirect costs typically are the so called overhead costs, whereas „Other costs“ is a category for all costs that do not fit under any of the categories provided in the budget template.

Q16: Coordination budget: What is the difference between „project meetings“ and „CORE Organic Cofund research seminars“

A16: „Project meetings“ are meetings of the partners / WP leaders of your transnational research consortium. In a 3-year project, you will typically have one meeting per year. Travel costs, also the coordinator’s travel costs for project meetings, are to be requested from the national funding bodies.

„CORE Organic Cofund research seminars“ are seminars to which CORE Organic will invite the project coordinators to present their research. The meeting costs will be covered by CORE Organic. Coordinators can request travel costs for these research seminars within the coordination budget.

Q17: Coordination budget: Which costs may be included under „Catering in connection to project meetings“ and where can they be written? (also see Q16)

A17: Travel costs, also the coordinator’s travel costs for project meetings, are to be requested from the national funding bodies. Usually, these travel budgets cover expenses for lunch and dinner. The catering costs should therefore mainly refer to coffee, water, cookies and fruit.

Catering costs should be written in the budget table under „Other costs“.

Q18: Coordination budget: How is the budget table for the coordination budget to be filled in?

A18: Please declare (pt.s from the list from p. 8 Call Announcement) pt. 1 (Travels) >> Travel & subsistence

pt. 2 (Person months) >> Person months / Person costs

pt. 3 (Overhead) >> Indirect costs pt. 4 (Catering) >>

Other costs

pt. 5 (Other costs) >> Other costs

Q19: Part B of full proposal (Description of Work):

Does the text in the tables (e.g. of deliverables and milestones) count for the maximum number of characters?

A19: Yes

Q20: For writing the full proposal, does a new proposal have to be created in the online tool (> „Create new proposal“)?

A20: No, the full proposal shall be based on the pre-proposal and submitted within the corresponding workspace in the online tool.

*Continued on page 4*

Q21: How to upload the DoW for full proposals?

A21: Cofund Call / My proposals (left) / Workspace (right) / Upload DoW (left).

Please remove the DoW from the pre-proposal before uploading the new DoW.

After having removed the old DoW, please click on “Save” on the same page, before uploading the new DoW.

Q22: Is it obligatory to write text in C2 "comments to the requested resources"?

A22: It is not obligatory. The space can for example be used to very briefly explain how the salary will be used, e.g. PhD student, half time x three years, and / or to explain any extraordinary high or low budget figures. The scientific experts will look at the budget as part of the evaluation and will not have the chance to ask the applicants. Unclarities should be avoided. However, CORE does not expect that most of the applicants will use even half of the characters allowed.