

**ERA-NET CORE Organic Cofund Final Research Seminar:
'Research Impact and Dissemination Workshop'**

**CORE Organic Cofund and
Research and Innovation in the European Organic Sector**

**17-18 May, 2022
University Foundation, Brussels (BE)**



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- 1. CORE Organic Cofund consortium**
- 2. CORE Organic programme objectives**
- 3. CORE Organic geographical coverage**
- 4. 17 Years of international cooperation under the EC umbrella**
- 5. Overview CORE Organic Cofund calls in 2016 – 2019 – 2021**
- 6. Project monitoring**
- 7. Project communication**
- 8. CORE Organic and R&I in the organic sector**
- 9. Research and Innovation in the organic sector**
- 10. CORE Organic Innovation vision**



The CORE Organic is an **network of 26 European ministries and research councils from 19 European countries/regions** funding research in organic food and farming on transnational level.

The network is coordinated by International Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems. ICROFS is located at Aarhus University (Foulum campus) in Denmark.



Under the **ERA-NET mechanism since 2002** national and regional authorities have established transnational cooperation networks to address specific research areas on the EU level and beyond. ERA-NETs are both funding and cooperation instruments that unify scientific resources among its partners. **The ERA-NET CORE Organic was established in 2004.**

The objective of ERA-NET CORE Organic is to improve knowledge basis and innovation capacity necessary for supporting further development of organic food and farming as a way to respond to significant societal challenges in Europe's agriculture and food systems.

The **organic agriculture** is considered to be one of the important development pathways towards a more sustainable agriculture and food production. This development is dependent on continuous research and innovation. European Green Deal, Farm to Fork strategy, stipulates to reach at least 25% of the EU's agricultural land under organic farming by 2030.

THE EXPECTED IMPACTS:

- More **sustainable organic food systems** including farming practices, processing and innovative value chains,
- Support to **Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)** and organic farming regulations and subsequently supporting **health, trade and job creation,**
- Improvement of the **competitiveness of the European agriculture**, and present new and innovative solutions to **environmentally friendly agriculture.**

CORE Organic Geographical coverage



CORE Organic I - 2007
(11 partner countries)



CORE Organic Cofund - 2016
(19 partner countries/regions
1 network member)



The CORE Organic Programme periods:

1. CORE Organic I - 2004 - 2010 under FP6
2. CORE Organic II - 2010 - 2014 under FP7
3. CO Plus - 2013 - 2018 under FP7
4. **CO Cofund - 2016 – 31 May 2022 programme period under the H2020**
5. **CO Pleiades - 2022 - next programme foreseen under the HEU projects and European Partnerships on 'Agroecology' and 'Sustainable Food Systems'**

**Since 2004:
CORE Organic has launched
8 transnational calls with
62 research projects selected
for 61.9M EUR**



CORE Organic Cofund Calls in 2016 - 2019 - 2021

2016-2021 CORE Organic First Call

26 partners, 19 countries/regions,
1 call (2016), around 14M EUR,
12 projects

Focusing on four research topics:

- 1. Ecological support in specialized and intensive plant production systems**
- 2. Eco-efficient production and use of animal feed at the local level**
- 3. Appropriate and robust livestock systems: cattle, pigs, poultry**
- 4. Organic food processing concepts and technologies for ensuring food quality, sustainability and consumer confidence**

2019 SUSFOOD2 and CORE Organic Cofunds Joint Call

21 partners, 18 countries/regions,
around 9.5M EUR, 12 projects

Call 'Towards sustainable and organic food systems' launched in 2019, focusing on four research topics:

- 1. Resource-efficient, circular and zero-waste food systems**
- 2. Diversity in food from field to plate**
- 3. Mild food processing**
- 4. Sustainable and smart packaging**

ONGOING

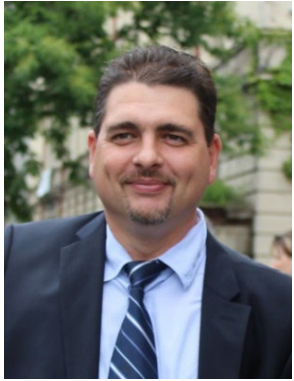
2021 CORE Organic Third Call

13 partners, 13 countries,
around 5M EUR, 5 projects

Call 'Organic farming systems for improved mixed plant and animal production, organised following three sub-topics:

- 1. Robust and resilient mixed animal farming systems**
- 2. Support for robust and resilient crop production systems**
- 3. Eco-efficient production and use of animal feed at local level**

ONGOING



Adrian Asanica
(UEFISCDI, RO)



Lieve de Cock
(ILVO, BE)



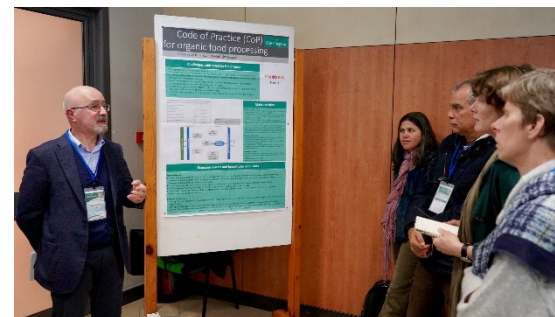
Sari Iivonen
(LUKE, FI)



Ivana Trkulja
(ICROFS, DK)

CORE Organic Cofund monitoring team provided continuous support during the project implementation through:

- Participation in the meetings of research projects
- Support with the project reporting (mid-term and final)
- Facilitation of evaluation meetings between the funders and the researchers
- Participation in the CORE Organic Research Seminars



ICROFS and communication team provides continuous dissemination support to researchers through:

- Preparing individual project websites and leaflets
- Publishing articles and newsletters
- Producing thematic videos
- Producing social media content
- Collaborating with the **Open Access archive ‘Organic Eprints’**: www.orgprints.org

More about the CORE Organic :
<http://coreorganiccofund.org>



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Video: The Spade Test – Visual Soil Assessment in the Field

Soils are the most valuable resource for crop production, but they receive very little attention because we take them as granted. Within the project FertilCrop, visual soil assessment and other hands-on techniques are compared to analytical soil tests. A new video explains how to apply the spade test.

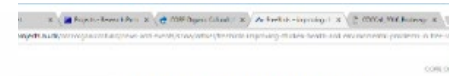
2016-10-05 | ANDREAS FLUESSBACH | FUEL



The spade test can tell you about the top 40 cm of soil, which contains the layer that is manipulated by machinery and the layer below. Many characteristics of a soil can be determined such as horizons or layers, texture, colour, odour, structure, roots, and soil dwelling animals and you can see the effect of soil tillage.

The video from FertilCrop contains the following chapters:

» Comparison with other methods



FreeBirds – improving chicken health and environmental problems in free-range production

The CORE Organic Cofund project FreeBirds will work with optimisation of the use of free range as a way to improve organic chicken production.

2016-10-11 | CORE ORGANIC CUFUND



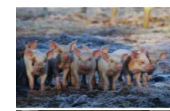
Introduction

The FreeBirds project aims to to promote together in the sector between chicken free-range rearing, health and welfare of the chickens, as well as better management for the welfare of the soil. Furthermore, the project aims to develop sector-wide and management strategies for the improvement of the free-range system in organic production.

Comparisons and practical solutions

The welfare of those with different rearing preferences will be compared to clarify the relationship between usage and specific welfare issues. The relation between free-range and possible reduction in organic losses will be further explored as well as the importance of good health in better welfare. Alternative strategies for meat and/or egg production will be compared and evaluated for their sustainability.

CORE organic Cofund



Stakeholder involvement and targeted dissemination



To assure relevance of the research projects and usefulness of the results, the stakeholders are involved as partners together with the researchers already from the start of the projects. Transparency and the willingness to share must be the overall guiding principle, and dissemination should be considered as a part of the research process. Every project has to present a dissemination plan to show how results will be disseminated and implemented on national and international level.

On the international level, the projects can be followed at:

- » CORE Organic News – an electronic newsletter 3–4 times/year;
- » Project websites and leaflets
- » Facebook and Twitter accounts CORE Organic/ICORE_Organic
- » All can be found on the CORE Organic website: <http://projects.europa.eu/coreorganiccofund/>

Photos

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BIO-INGROP (30)

COBRA (10)

HealthyGrowth (34)

HealthyHens (11)

ICOPP (43)

IMPROVE-P (2)

InterVeg (15)

ProPG (18)

SafeOrganic (9)

Softpest multitrap (10)

TILMAN-ORG (63)

Vineman.Org (6)



CORE organic Cofund

European transnational organic research

CORE Organic Cofund is a collaboration between 27 partners in 19 countries/regions on initiating transnational research projects in the area of organic food and farming. CORE Organic Cofund has initiated twelve research projects based on funds from participating countries and funding from the European Commission.



CORE Organic and R&I in the organic sector



- CORE Organic at International Trade Fair for Organic Products Biofach (DE) 2018 and 2019 - funders, industry, policymakers and stakeholder partners
- The new EU Organic Regulation applicable from 1 January 2022
- New trends, actors and products on the organic market





Research and Innovation in the organic sector

What is meant by the innovation:

- The major European organic companies are those involved in the distribution activities rather than in the production, meaning that their investments are not necessarily targeting product innovation;
- Products that are under protected designation of origin are not subjected to change;
- Research on use of additives or enzymes not applicable for the organic sector as they are not admissible in the organic production.

The examples of products originating from the organic food sector that had a relevance for the whole food sector:

- Wholesome beard;
- Cold pressed oil 40 years ago started as a niche product (e.g., olive oil);
- Organic food industry can produce all types of food with much less while guided by the notion of 'additive free recipes';
- Vegetarian and vegan products - based on yeast products, on soy or other beans, nuts and vegetables (e.g., 'oat milk', 'rice milk' or 'tofu' are successful at both organic and conventional market).

Thanks to Roberto Pinton (AssoBio, IT, ProOrg Project) and Alexander Back (AOL, DE, ProOrg project) for their contribution.

Questions that we will consider during today suggested by Karin Ullven (EPOK, SE, Panel moderator):

- How do we overcome the gap between research and practice/ implementation? What are the best conditions and forms for successful knowledge exchange?
- What could be reasons/ benefits for industry to take part in research? How to ensure an added value? How to better include industry, especially SMEs in research (projects)?
- What are main (future) challenges from industry perspective that research should address?





**Thank you for your interest
and kind contribution!**



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For more information on CORE Organic:
<http://coreorganiccofund.org>