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)

Ivana Trkulja, International Centre for Research in Organic Food Systems (ICROFS)
ERA-NET CORE Organic Coordinator
Aarhus University-Foulum, Denmark

ERA-NET CORE Organic Presentation Outline

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

ERA-NET CORE Organic Cofund consortium

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.

CORE Organic Programme objectives

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.

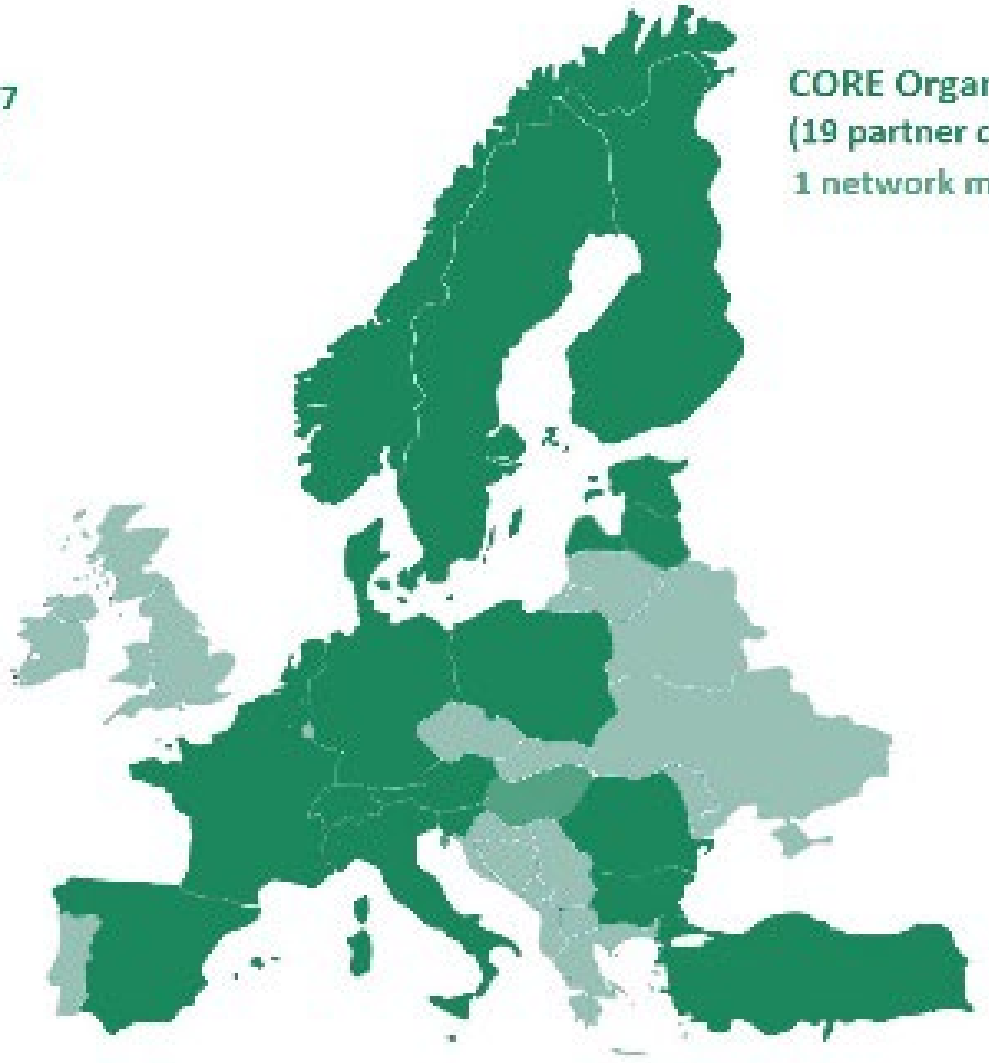
The **organic agriculture** is considered to be one of the important development pathways towards a more sustainable agriculture and food production. This development is dependent on continuous research and innovation. **European Green Deal, Farm to Fork strategy, stipulates to reach at least 25% of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

17 Years of international cooperation under the EC umbrella

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 forseen under the HEU projects and European Partnerships on 'Agroecology' and 'Sustainable Food Systsems'**

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

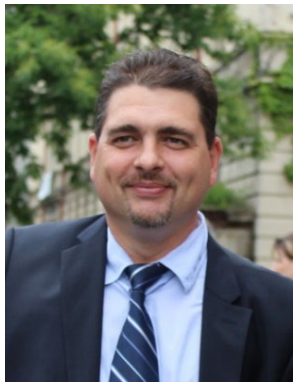
2021 CORE Organic Third Call
13 partners, 13 countries,
around 5M EUR, 5 projects

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

Project monitoring



Adrian Asanica
(UEFISCDI, RO)

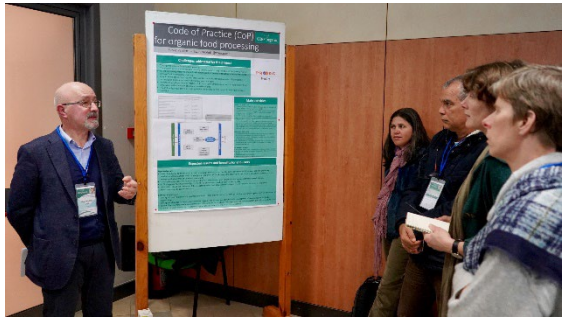
Lieve de Cock
(ILVO, BE)

Sari Iivonen
(LUKE, FI)

Ivana Trkulja
(ICROFS, DK)

CORE Organic Cofund monitoring team provided continous 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

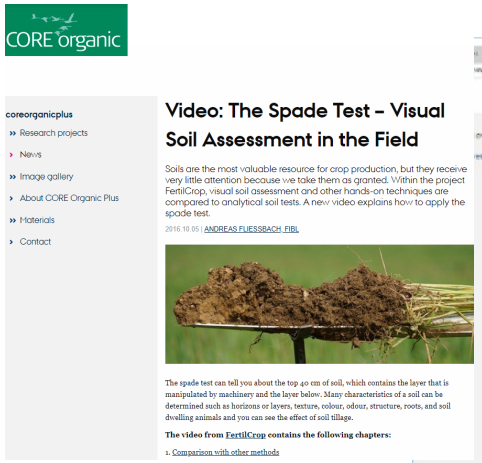


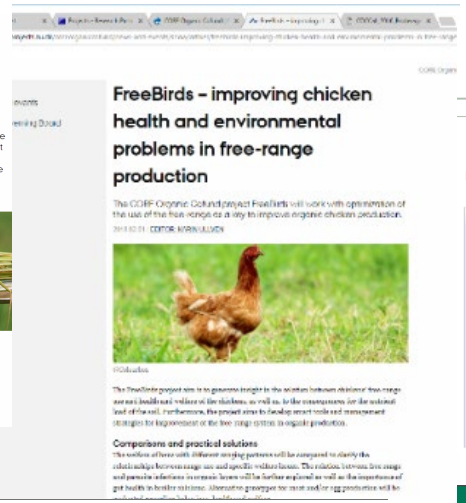
Project communication

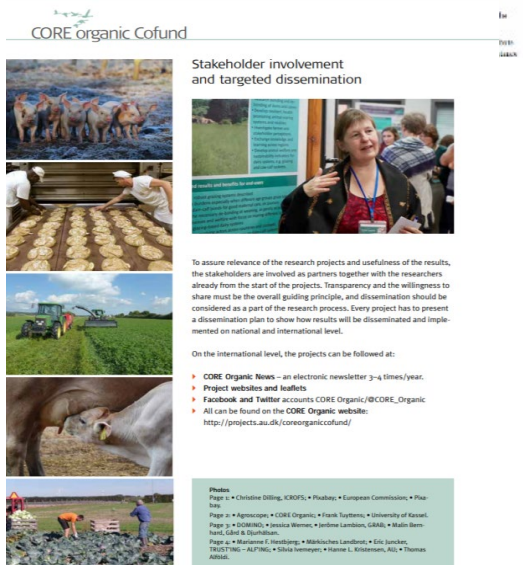
ICROFS and communication team provides continous dissemination support to researchers through:

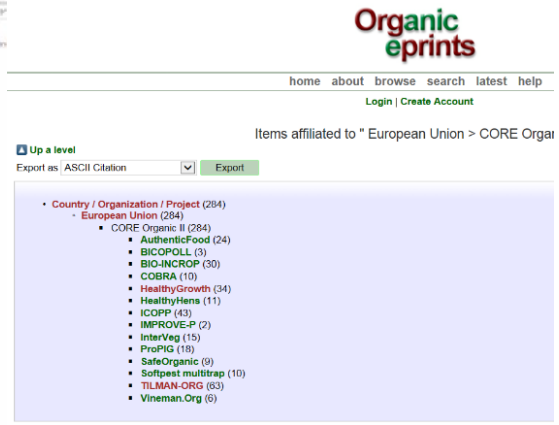
- Preparing individual project websites and leaflets
- Publishing articles and newsletters
- Producing thematic videos
- Producing social media content
- Collaborating with the **Open Access archive 'Organic Eprints':** www.orgprints.org

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









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 aplicable 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 then 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.

CORE Organic Innovation Vision

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!

ICROFS Programme Coordinator:
ivana.trkulja@icrofs.org

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