

**ERA-NET CORE Organic 15 Years Anniversary:
Joint forces for the European transnational research in
organic food and farming**



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CORE Organic Coordinator**

**ERA-NET CORE Organic 15 Years Anniversary Event,
Session: 'Looking back, looking forward',
10 December 2019, Federal Office for Agriculture and
Food (BLE), Bonn, Germany**



- 1. ERA and ERA-NET CORE Organic programme objective**
- 2. Research in organic food and farming**
- 3. ERA-NET CORE Organic Cofund consortium**
- 4. 15 Years of international cooperation under the EC umbrella**
- 5. CORE Organic geographical coverage 2004 -2019**
- 6. Call topics overview since 2007**
- 7. CORE Organic Cofund projects overview**
- 8. Project implementation and monitoring**
- 9. Project implementation and dissemination**
- 10. CORE Organic in Horizon Europe R&I Framework Programme**
- 11. Conclusions from 15 Years of ERA-NET CORE Organic work**



The European Research Area (ERA) is a system that unifies the scientific resources of the EU, where under the **ERA-NET mechanism** national and regional authorities establish transnational cooperation networks to **address specific thematic areas** on the EU level.

The organic agriculture is considered to be one of the important development pathways towards a **more sustainable agriculture and food production**. This development has been and will be dependent on **continuous research and innovation**.

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 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**.



Research in organic food and farming



Alternative focus on:

- Milk production
- Animal welfare
- Grazing systems
- Health
- Systems approach



The CORE Organic is an **network of 27 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)** based at the Aarhus University-Foulum (DK) and deputy coordinator **Federal Office for Agriculture (BLE)** based in Bonn (DE).

15 Years of international cooperation under the EC umbrella

Joint research funding for organic food and farming systems

CORE Organic celebrates 15th Anniversary 2004-2019



coreorganiccofund/news-and-events/show/artikel/core-organic-a-very-sustainable-network/

CORE Organic: a very sustainable network

In a duo interview, CORE Organics' daily coordinator Ivana Trkulja from ICROFS and the EC project officer Hans-Jörg Lutzeyer of the Bioeconomy and Food Systems unit of DG RTD reflected on the achievements and the future ambitions of the ERA-NET partnership on organic food and farming.

2019.10.01 | INTERVIEW BY CHRISTINE BUNTHOF, MANAGER JOINT PROGRAMMING, WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY



Photo: Thomas Altoldi, FiBL

CORE Organic foundations from 2004:

- ERA-NET founded based on a **sector request**
- **EC Organic Action Plan (2004, 2014)** – call for a support of organic research and recognition of CO research funding coordination role
- Continuous **growth of the organic sector**

Main programme periods:

1. CORE Organic I - 2004 - 2010 under EC FP6
2. CORE Organic II - 2010 - 2014 under EC FP7
3. CO Plus - 2013 - 2018 under EC FP7
4. CO Cofund - 2016 - present under EC H2020

Joint forces for organic research: ERA-NET CORE Organic celebrates its 15 Years Anniversary!

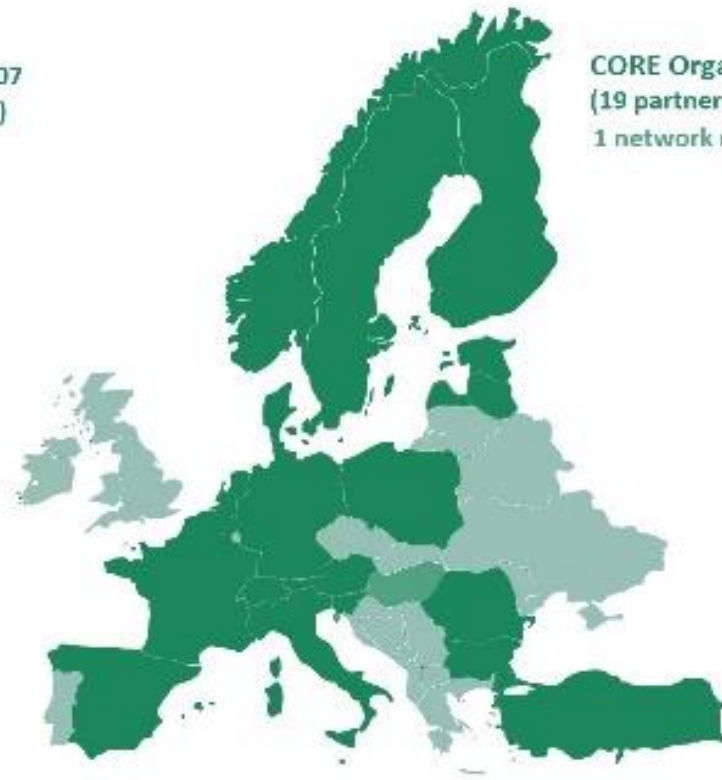
The CORE Organic - Coordination of European Transnational Research in Organic Food and Farming Systems - is an ERA-NET established in 2004. It presently includes 27 European ministries and research councils under the main aim to fund transnational organic research. By joining the forces, the network supports focused and coordinated research and innovation efforts, covering the most important challenges along the organic value chains.

2019.10.01 | IVANA TRKULJA, CORE ORGANIC

CORE organic



CORE Organic I - 2007
(11 partner countries)



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

Coordination of European Transnational Reserach in Organic Food and Farming Systems:

1-CO I - 13 partners, 11 countries, 1 call, 8 projects, 8.3M Euro

2-CO II - 26 partners, 21 countries, 3 calls, 14 projects, 14.9M Euro

3-CO Plus - 24 partners, 21 countries/regions, 1 call, 11 projects, 11M Euro,

4-CO Cofund - 26 partners, 19 countries/regions, 1 call, 12 projects, 14M Euro

- 21 partners, 18 countries/regions, CO-SUSFOOD2 Cofunds joint call,
9.5M Euro, evaluation in process



Call topics overview since 2007

2004-10 CORE Organic I

1 call (2007), 8.3 M EUR, 8 projects

The research topics:

1. Animal disease and parasite management
2. Organic food quality and safety
3. Innovative marketing strategies

FINALISED

2010-2014 CORE Organic II,

3 calls, 14.9 M EUR, 14 projects

The research topics:

1. Plant Breeding
2. Cropping systems
3. Phosphorus management
4. Monogastric animal production
5. Food quality
6. Organic market

2013-2018 CORE Organic Plus

1 call (2013), 11M EUR, 11 projects

FINALISED

The four research topics:

1. Crop: Plant/Soil interaction in organic crop production
2. Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests
3. Livestock health management system including breeding
4. Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain

2016-2021 CORE Organic Cofund

1 call (2016), around 14M EUR, 12 projects

ONGOING

The four research topics :

1. Ecological support in specialised 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 CORE Organic and SUSFOOD2 Cofunds Joint Call

NEW CALL

approximately 9.5M EUR

‘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

Total figures since 2004:

7 calls - 45 projects
- 48M EUR.



Adrian Asanica
(UEFISCDI, RO)



Lieve de Cock
(ILVO, BE)



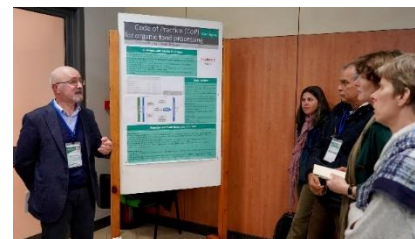
Sari Iivonen
(LUKE, FI)



Ivana Trkulja
(ICROFS, DK)

CORE Organic Cofund monitoring team provides 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



In order to ensure research dissemination communication teams (ICROFS, EPOK and FiBL) provide continuous support to researchers through :

- Preparation of individual project websites, leaflets and videos
- Publishing of articles and quarterly on-line newsletters
- Social media
- Conducting Impact Assessment (IA) on the project level
- Ensuring collaboration with the **Organic Eprints** - open access and 8th largest archive on agriculture in the world: www.orgprints.org

<http://coreorganiccofund.org>



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 for granted. Within the project FertCrops, visual soil assessment and other hands-on techniques are compared to analytical soil tests. A new video explains how to apply the spade test.

2016-10-10 | ANDREAS FLEISCHMANN, FiBL

The spade test can tell you about the top 30 cm of soil, which contains the layer that is investigated by machines and the layer below. Many characteristics of a soil can be determined such as horizon or layers, texture, colour, structure, roots, and soil dwelling animals and you can see the effect of it.

The video from FertCrops contains the following information:

- Comparison with other methods



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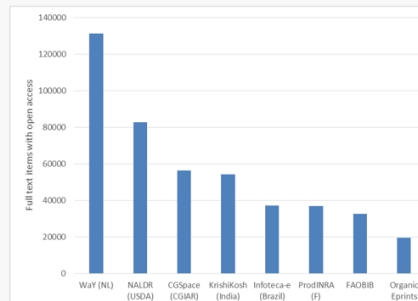
Up a level

Export as: ASCII Citation | Export

- Country / Organization / Project (294)
 - European Union (264)
 - CORE Organic II (264)
 - AuthenticFood (24)
 - BICOPOLL (3)
 - BIOINTEGR (3)
 - COBRA (10)
 - HealthyGrowth (24)
 - HealthyHens (11)
 - ICOPP (13)
 - IMPROVE-it (2)
 - InterVeg (15)
 - ProFPO (18)
 - SafeOrganic (0)
 - SafeOrganic multi-lab (10)
 - TILMAN-ORG (63)
 - VineMan-ORG (6)

Organic Eprints is the 8th largest archive on agriculture in the world.

Organic Eprints is the only archive on organic agriculture in the world (that we know of).



health and environmental problems in free-range production

The CORE Organic Cofund project has links with video with presentation of the use of the free-range as a way to improve organic production.

2016-10-10 | CORE ORGANIC

Health and environmental problems in free-range production

The free-range system is a growing concern in the sector between organic free-range and conventional production. The video presents the results of the project, which aims to develop a free-range system that is more sustainable and profitable for producers.

Comprehensive and practical solutions

The video offers a comprehensive overview of the project, which aims to develop a free-range system that is more sustainable and profitable for producers.

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 internet

- CORE Organic
- Project website
- Facebook and
- All can be found at: <http://coreorganiccofund.org>

CORE organic Cofund

European transnational organic research

CORE Organic Cofund is a collaboration between 27 partners in 19 countries, regions and institutions, working on 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.



- **The EC preparations for the implementation of Horizon Europe** on the basis of the partial agreements reached between Council and Parliament in **March/April 2019**.
- The objective is to elaborate a **Strategic Plan for the first 4 years of implementation** define the impacts to be targeted through **R&I actions under Horizon Europe from 2021 onwards (impact-based approach across disciplines)**.
- The Commission engaged **Member States already in May** in a co-design process **in June** followed by a major public event **the European Research and Innovation Days in September 2019**.
- **Co-Design process also to prepare the first Work Programme under Horizon Europe**. In **Cluster 6** we will build the first R&I common Work Programme on **Food, Bio-economy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment**.
- This new approach for Horizon Europe is particularly opportune at the time the new Commission has made the **‘European Green Deal’ its first priority**.
- In December, the **European Environment Agency launched the new State Of the Environment Report (SOER)**. The report depicts a **worrying situation** and shows the ineffectiveness of policies in place, **in particular in protecting biodiversity and ecosystems**. *It calls for innovation and public policies to enable systemic changes.*
- **One important tool are the Horizon Europe Partnerships.**

From Hans-Joeg Lutzeyer, DG R&I,
CORE Organic Cofund Policy Officer

Conclusions from CORE Organic 15 years of cooperation

Looking back

- **ERA-NET mechanism as a relevant model for transnational research cooperation** among European funders, stakeholders and researchers **in organic food and farming**
- Support for research and innovation in the organic sector through **continuity of the call research themes**
- Wide **geographical coverage of the network** for development of the ERA and beyond
- Focus on **multi-actor approach and dissemination of research results**
- **Joint capacity building** of all network partners through **monitoring, communication and impact assessment** as integral parts of the project implementation

Looking forwards

- Efforts towards further **alignment of the national research priorities**
- **Growing organic sector** and new **EU Organic Regulation** from 1 January 2021
- Addressing the **food systems approach** (EC FOOD2030, UNEP, CORE Organic and SUSFOOD2 - Joint Call 2019 'Towards sustainable and organic food systems')
- Relevance of **collaboration with other initiatives working towards the sustainable food and farming**
- Transition **from the EC Horizon 2020 to the EC Horizon Europe**





**Alone we go faster,
together we go further!**



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**On behalf of the CORE Organic
consortium thank you for your
participation!**