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

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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).
CORE Organic foundations from 2004:
- ERA-NET founded based on a sector request
- 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

15 Years of international cooperation under the EC umbrella
Coordination of European Transnational Research 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
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

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
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
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
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.
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://www.orgprints.org)

http://coreorganiccofund.org
• 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
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On behalf of the CORE Organic consortium thank you for your participation!

Alone we go faster, together we go further!