

CORE Organic Cofund Third Call 2021

**‘ORGANIC FARMING SYSTEMS FOR IMPROVED
MIXED PLANT AND ANIMAL PRODUCTION’**

Call Announcement and Guidelines

Closing date for proposal submission (one-step procedure):
8 March 2021 – 11.00 am CET

11 January 2021

Table of contents

1.	Background	3
1.1	CORE Organic Cofund Third Call 2021	3
1.2	About CORE Organic Cofund Programme	3
1.3	Rationale and scope of the Call.....	3
2.	Which thematic areas can be applied for?	4
3.	Funding modalities and who can apply.....	4
4.	Coordinator of the research consortium	6
5.	Time schedule, 1-step-procedure	6
6.	Partnering forum and submission of proposals	7
7.	CORE Organic eligibility check of proposals	8
8.	National eligibility check of proposals	9
9.	Expert evaluation of proposals.....	9
10.	Selection of proposals for funding	11
11.	Ethics assessment	11
12.	Confidentiality & Conflict of Interest	11
13.	Obligations for funded projects	12
	Annex A: Call topic description.....	15
	Annex B: Call budget	19
	Annex C: List of National Contact Points (NCP).....	21
	Annex D: National regulations	23
	Annex E: Guidelines for the CORE Organic Submission System (ESS).....	48



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1. Background

1.1 CORE Organic Cofund Third Call 2021

CORE Organic Cofund launches a third transnational Call for research project proposals based on national funds from participating countries. 13 CORE Organic partners from 13 countries have committed a Call budget of ca. 5 million €.

1.2 About CORE Organic Cofund Programme

CORE Organic (CO) is the acronym for ERA-NET "Coordination of European Transnational Research in Organic Food and Farming Systems". The ERA-NET Cofund instrument under Horizon 2020 is designed to support public-public partnerships between Member States and associated countries for the implementation and coordination of networking activities in different fields of research. The aim of CORE Organic is to improve the knowledge basis and innovation capacity necessary for supporting the further development of organic farming and food production as a way to respond to significant societal challenges in Europe's and global agriculture and food systems. The current CORE Organic Cofund ERA-Net is the continuation of the ERA-NETs CORE Organic I, II and Plus. More information is available on: <http://coreorganiccofund.org>.

1.3 Rationale and scope of the Call

The EU has adopted ambitious targets to increase organic production as part of the European Green Deal indicated in the Farm to Fork and Biodiversity Strategies under the objective of reaching 25% of the EU's agricultural land under organic farming by 2030. This high goal entails specific knowledge and research needs that can be sustained through new and innovative solutions related to the organic sector addressed under the research Call on 'Organic farming systems for improved mixed plant and animal production'.

The overall objective for the CO Cofund Third Call 2021 is that the proposed research projects support the further development of the organic sector in Europe and beyond. **The expected impacts focus on organic food systems adopting mixed farming practices, supporting animal health and welfare, innovative cropping and production systems as well as feed production and biodiversity, aiming at accomodating the growing demand for more organic products**, supporting the organic farming regulations, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the EU Farm-to-Fork and the Biodiversity Strategies. The funded projects should present new and innovative solutions to environmentally friendly agriculture and be in line with the organic principles¹. Moreover, they should contribute to supporting human health, trade and job creation and the improvement of the general competitiveness of the agricultural sector.

¹ For more information see: <https://www.ifoam.bio/why-organic/shaping-agriculture/four-principles-organic>

2. Which thematic areas can be applied for?

The CORE Organic Call 2021 will provide funds for research under the topic **Organic farming systems for improved mixed plant and animal production**, organized in three sub-topics:

Sub-topic 1: Robust and resilient mixed animal farming systems;

Sub-topic 2: Support for robust and resilient crop production systems; and

Sub-topic 3: Eco-efficient production and use of animal feed at local level.

Departing from the organic principles projects must encompass mixed farming systems and the different geographical and climatic conditions covered by the funding partners participating in the Call. Results should be able to reach end-users and be used transnationally - suitable and smart outputs and deliverables for dissemination are expected.

For a detailed description of the Call topic see Annex A.

3. Funding modalities and who can apply

The following partner countries will provide funds for the Call: **Algeria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Italy, Morocco, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Turkey**. A list with the partners including the available funds per funder and topics can be found in Annex B.

The funding for transnational projects will be based on a virtual common pot instrument. This means that project partners who have been selected for funding will receive the grant directly from their national funding bodies according to their terms and conditions.

CORE Organic is aiming at a high degree of stakeholder participation by a multi-actor approach throughout the whole project. **Cooperation between researchers, farmers, and companies is encouraged and attention will be paid to dissemination of research results into practice and among the end-users.** Multi-disciplinarity and system approach are therefore key to strengthen the impact on the sector concerned by the project idea.

Research consortia are encouraged to consider good geographical coverage with regard to their main research question.

Institutions (legal entities) that are involved in research/innovation and operate in accordance with the national rules of CORE Organic funding partners, including companies and stakeholder organizations, are invited to apply.

Research consortia must comprise of a **minimum of three independent legal entities from a minimum of three different CORE Organic partner countries** participating with funding in a specific topic (see Annex B).

During preparation of the project proposal, it is mandatory for each applicant to consider the national regulations (see Annex D) and it is strongly advised to contact the respective funding bodies' National

Contact Points (see Annex C) for all further clarifications about national rules, priorities, and eligibility of project costs which vary between the different funding bodies.

Applicants who are not eligible for funding by their national funding body or applicants from countries not participating in the Call are welcome in research consortia, but will have to provide in-kind contribution. They will not be included in the required minimum number of partners in the consortium and they cannot be the coordinator of the project.

Such partners should state in advance the source of funding for their part in the project. A letter of commitment must be included in the proposal confirming the source of funding.

Individuals can only participate in one project proposal and can apply to only one Call sub-topic.

Applicants should avoid redundancy with projects funded or submitted in Calls from H2020, CORE Organic, other ERA-Nets or national projects.

The **maximum budget** requested from CORE Organic funds is **1 million euro** per research proposal, but in-kind contributions may be added on top of this amount. Applicants cannot request more funds than allocated for each country by the respective funding body on a specific topic. National regulations and priorities might set further limits (see Annex D).

Further general CORE Organic eligibility criteria can be found in Chapter 7 “CORE Organic eligibility check of proposals”.

Projects are expected to start in Autumn 2021 and be of maximum 36 months.

For questions regarding the CORE Organic general eligibility criteria, please contact the CORE Organic Call Secretariat; for questions regarding national rules and priorities please contact the CORE Organic National Contact Points listed in Annex C.

Call Secretariat contacts:

Elena Capolino (Mipaaf, IT) Tel.: +39 055354457 (until 1 pm) E-mail: e.capolino@politicheagricole.it Skype: elena.capo63	Merete Studnitz (ICROFS, DK) Tel.: +45 9350 8750 E-mail: merete.studnitz@icrofs.org
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4. Coordinator of the research consortium

At the start each project consortium needs to appoint a project coordinator. The project coordinator has the following role and responsibilities:

1. Lead the consortium throughout the application procedure and be responsible for the correct submission of the full proposal. The coordinator should be the one who submits the core of the proposal in the provided submission system.
2. Ensure that all partners:
 - Fulfil the requirements stated in the Call Announcement and criteria as stated in the national annexes provided by the respective funding bodies (see Annex D).
 - Provide all necessary information and comply with all formalities as required, and
 - Participate actively in the proposal preparation, and ensure that the proposal meets a high standard of excellence, represents good value for money and meets all eligibility requirements.
3. Be fully responsible for the overall project coordination and be the central contact point for the CORE Organic consortium during the full life span of the research project, from application to successful completion in case of approval by the funding bodies.
4. Inform the CORE Organic Call Secretariat about any event that might affect the implementation of the project.
5. Ensure that all work is carried out to a high standard and meets contractually bound milestones and deliverables presented in the full proposal and approved by the funding bodies.
6. Be responsible for sharing all Call related information with consortium partners.
7. Be responsible for monitoring data and timely delivery of project reports.

The project coordinator will not be responsible for the project accounting aspects but should have a general overview of the financial management of CORE Organic project funding that will be provided in project reports to the CORE Organic Secretariat. The detailed financial reporting of consortium partners will be handled directly between the national research institutions and national funding bodies in each participating country.

5. Time schedule, 1-step-procedure

The call will follow a 1-step competitive selection procedure of submitted full proposals (no pre-proposals submission is envisaged) following the time schedule below:

Table 1: Time schedule

Action	Scheduled
Publication of Pre-Announcement	1 December 2020
Launch of the Call	11 January 2021
Webinar: Overview of the third Call 2021 (Zoom meeting)* https://aarhusuniversity.zoom.us/j/61509437603	19 January 2021, 10.00-11.30 am CET
Closing date for submission of full proposals	8 March 2021 -11.00 am CET
Full proposal peer-review/ Selection process	Until June 2021
Notification letters sent to applicants	July 2021
Contract negotiations	From July 2021 onwards
Start of projects (max.36 months)	Autumn 2021
End of projects at the latest	Autumn 2024

*Webinar: Overview of the Third Call 2021: At the Webinar, the Call content and the application procedure will be explained. The applicants will have the possibility to ask clarifying questions. For those not attending, all material will be available on-line on the CORE Organic home page: <http://coreorganiccofund.org> and the recorded webinar will be available from 20th January 2021.

6. Partnering forum and submission of proposals

CORE Organic provides a web-based Partnering forum for researchers who are willing to establish a project consortium and are looking for partners. The tool is available to registered users after login, at the following link: <https://www.submission-coreorganic.eu>.

The entire project proposals' application procedure will be carried out online, using the CORE Organic Electronic Submission System (ESS), templates and online forms (<https://www.submission-coreorganic.eu>). Only application submissions via this online tool will be accepted. Before submitting a proposal applicants have to first register in the CORE Organic Metadatabase and upload a CV of max 2 pages.

It is possible to update the proposal as many times as wanted until the Call closing date, i.e. revisions can be re-submitted until the deadline.

The proposal updates and its latest version will be shown in a pdf format.

It is highly recommended to submit the final version of the proposal well in advance of the deadline to avoid failure due to last-minute technical problems.

The closing date for submission of proposals is 8 March 2021 - 11.00 am CET.

Proposals which do not include all the compulsory information or do not meet the formal requirements will not be considered for funding.

After the closing date for submission, the information given in the proposal, including each partner's budget, is binding. Amendments after the closing date need to be justified and require the approval of the funding bodies involved in the call (contact via the Call Secretariat).

The proposal must be written in English and consists of three parts (see **Annex E** for detailed information). Part A is web-based and has to be filled in directly on the call submission website; Part B is an overall budgetary table which is automatically generated; Part C is a project description form and has to be uploaded to the call submission website. It is mandatory to submit Part C as an unprotected Adobe PDF file.

The maximum amount of text indicated in each part must not be exceeded and all fields must be completed.

Part A:

- **Project general information** (*filled in by the coordinator*)
- **Partner information** (*information about coordinator and every partner², to be filled in by each partner*)
- **Attachments:** Letter of commitment (*declaration of in-kind contribution: for applicants who are not eligible for funding by their national funding body or applicants from countries not participating in the Call*)

Part B:

- **Overall budgetary table (Total budgetary table and country summary tables)** (*will be automatically generated by the Submission System*)

Part C:

- **Project description** (*uploaded by the coordinator as an unprotected Adobe PDF file*)
- **Ethical issues**

Optional: images/pictures/charts: up to 5 images in any of the text boxes

7. CORE Organic eligibility check of proposals

After the closing date for submission, all proposals will be checked against the following mandatory Call eligibility criteria:

² A "partner" principally is an organization (e.g. institution, department or company).

- » The proposal must be written in English.
- » The complete proposal must be submitted before the deadline via the CORE Organic online submission system. No other application format is accepted and proposals must follow the guideline for content and format (see Annex E).
- » The data must be complete according to the proposal template.
- » Research consortia must comprise of a minimum of three independent legal entities from a minimum of three different CORE Organic partner countries participating with funding in the specific topic. A list with the CORE Organic partners including the available funds per country and topics can be found in Annex B.
- » The maximum budget requested from CORE Organic funds is 1.0 million euro per research proposal, but in-kind contributions may be added on top of this amount.
- » Applicants cannot request more funds than allocated for each country and topic (Annex B). National rules and priorities (Annex D) might set further limits.
- » A maximum project duration of 36 months, ending in Autumn 2024.
- » Total eligible budget per country must not exceed 70 % of the total eligible project budget in order to achieve balanced partnerships and ensure that responsibility and risks are shared.

Proposals not meeting the formal conditions will be rejected.

8. National eligibility check of proposals

The funding bodies will check the proposals against national eligibility criteria as described in the national regulations (see Annex D).

If a funding body has national priorities within a topic, this will be explained in English under the national rules and priorities.

If a proposal is not in line with national priorities it will affect the eligibility, and the partner from this country might not be funded, which might jeopardise the entire proposal. In case of uncertainties regarding the national research priorities, please contact your National Contact Point.

9. Expert evaluation of proposals

The evaluation of eligible proposals will be performed by a peer-review Expert Panel. This panel is composed of international experts with acknowledged scientific excellence and high expertise of the underlying sectors. The members of the panel are proposed and selected by the Call Board and the Call Secretariat considering the research areas covered by the submitted proposals. Appointed experts will need to strictly respect the Call Board standards and rules for impartiality and confidentiality.

Each proposal will be evaluated by at least three independent experts against the following criteria:

- 1) Excellence of the research proposal: scientific quality of objectives, ambition in relation to the call scope and topic addressed and innovative progress beyond the state-of-the-art
- 2) Quality and efficiency of the implementation: appropriateness and soundness of the research approach and methodology, feasibility, effectiveness of the work plan, complementarity/competences/ diversity of partners and disciplines, adequacy of the budget and balance between partners in terms of activities, risk management, capacity building activities, communication and dissemination
- 3) Potential impact: contribution towards organic food systems, potential to innovate/ implement, embracing of cross-cutting issues, transnational added value

The three criteria will be scored independently, using scores from 0-5 for each criterion, described hereafter.

0 for fails: The proposal fails to address the criterion under examination or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information;

1 for poor: The criterion is addressed in an inadequate manner, or there are serious inherent weaknesses;

2 for fair: While the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses;

3 for good: The proposal addresses the criterion well, although improvements would be necessary;

4 for very good: The proposal addresses the criterion very well, although certain improvements are still possible;

5 for excellent: The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor.

A threshold of 3/5 will be applied for each criterion, i.e. proposals with a mean (=average of the evaluations) score < 3 in any main criterion will not be recommended for funding.

The expert panel will provide a single ranking list based on the the sum of the mean scores of the 3 evaluation criteria. The ranking list will include all three thematic research areas and will comprise all proposals recommended for funding.

The experts will provide a written evaluation report on the strengths and weaknesses of each proposal. The evaluation reports will be communicated to the applicants after the funding bodies have selected the full proposals.

In addition to the above-mentioned criteria, also the Ethical issues (see under Chapter 11) will be checked by the experts using the information provided by the applicants. Additional ethical assessment on the national level can be performed by the funding bodies on optional basis.

10. Selection of proposals for funding

The ranking list of full proposals provided by the expert panel has to be followed by the funding bodies when selecting projects for funding. If there are not enough funds to select all proposals with the same rank, the consortium will apply the following additional selection criteria, listed in order of priority:

- 1) Geographical balance ensuring the participation of all partner countries in the call;
- 2) Coverage of call sub-topics otherwise not addressed;
- 3) Funding as many projects as possible.

These additional criteria will only be used for proposals with the same rank as described above.

The outcome of the selection procedure will be communicated by the Call Secretariat to the project coordinators, who are responsible to inform their project partners about the result.

11. Ethics assessment

An Ethics assessment is required for submission of a proposal. Work involving the use of animals or humans should be carried out under the appropriate authorization taking into account the European Union and national ethical requirements. Any proposal, which seems to contravene fundamental ethical principles may be excluded from the selection procedure. Judgement of the significance of ethical issues will be made by using the criteria published by the Commission in its guidelines for the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme.

The guidelines address, in more detail, the following ethical issues: human embryos & fetuses, human beings, human cells or tissues, personal data, animals, non-EU countries, environment, health & safety, dual-use, exclusive focus on civil applications. Potential misuse of research results, other ethics issues and if the proposal raises one of the issues listed, the applicant is required to complete the ethics self-assessment and provide a support documentation referred to in the ethics issues checklist. Please consult [Horizon 2020 Programme Guidance How to complete your ethics self-assessment](#).

In addition applicants can consult on the EC Website the [Guidance Note – Ethics and Food-Related Research](#) on core issues of ethical concern in the field of food-related research including an appendix that addresses broader concerns in the field of food ethics.

12. Confidentiality & Conflict of Interest

The proposals will be handled confidentially by the Call Secretariat, by the national funding bodies and the mandated experts responsible for the peer-review evaluation of the proposals.

Each expert will have to sign a Declaration of Conflict of Interest, Confidentiality Disclosure Agreement and Code of Conduct Agreement. The online submission system will include a feature which will prevent access to the respective proposal in case a Conflict of Interest is declared by the expert or by the Call Secretariat.

13. Obligations for funded projects

Terms of participation

The national funding of this Call is provided under the coordination of the ERA-NET CORE Organic. The partners of the research consortia are required to recognize the coordinating role of CORE Organic throughout the duration of the funded research projects until the publication of the final project report, after acceptance of the report by CORE Organic.

Each project consortium will be asked to give feedback on the administrative processes of this Call.

Intellectual property rights, use and access to results

Results and new Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) resulting from projects funded through the CORE Organic Call will be owned by the Project Partners according to the conditions stated in their Consortium Agreement and shall not be in conflict with the respective national regulation.

Researchers are encouraged to actively exploit the results of the research project and make them available for use, whether for commercial gain or not, for public benefit to be obtained from the knowledge created.

Consortium agreement

The consortia selected for funding are advised by the Call Board to enter into a Consortium Agreement, to manage the project activities, finances, intellectual property rights (IPR) and to avoid disputes which might be detrimental to the completion of the project. The Consortium Agreement must specify in particular (i) the sharing of the intellectual property rights of the project results; (ii) the conditions of publication/dissemination of the results; (iii) the technology transfer and the exploitation of the project results.

It will be the responsibility of the project coordinator to draw up a Consortium Agreement suitable to the respective consortium. The purpose of this document is to underpin the project partners' collaboration and provide the project partners with mutual assurance on project management structures and procedures, and their rights and obligations towards one another.

In some countries/ regions, such an agreement might be required for release of the funds. Applicants have to comply with Call Board indication and respective National Regulations regarding this issue.

Support for the preparation of a Consortium Agreement can be found on the [DESCA webpage](#).

The Consortium Agreement should be finalized and signed by all partners of the project consortium before the official start of the project.

Start date of projects

A project can start when all national contracts have been concluded, exceptions from this rule must be agreed by the respective funders and the Call Secretariat. Once the national contracts come into force, eligible national costs may be claimed according to the national procedures. Projects should start in Autumn 2021.

Publishable data - Data Protection

A list of the funded projects will be published at the end of the Call. With the submission of the proposal all project partners agree that the following information may be published:

- » project title and project acronym
- » duration of the project
- » total funding of the project
- » name of the project coordinator (including contact information as email and telephone number)
- » country and organisation name of each partner
- » the publishable summary of the project from the application.

All personal data offered for project applications, reviewers and expert assessments, mailing lists, tracking websites, registration for activities and events will be collected, stored and processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (Regulation (EU) 2016/679). A Data Protection Officer (DPO) is appointed to ensure compliance GDPR rules. For more information please consult the privacy policy on the submission website.

National contracts

This Call is a collaboration between national funding bodies with the aim of establishing transnational research collaboration. However, the contracts with project participants and funding procedures and regulations remain the full responsibility of the national funding bodies according to applicable national funding rules.

The project coordinator is responsible for informing project partners about the selection result, for the implementation of possible conditions and recommendations and for synchronising the project start among the partners. After the project has been selected, the project partners will be contacted by their national contact points in order to start the grant negotiation and accomplish the remaining steps until the research project can start. Each project partner will have to follow the national rules for technical and financial reporting at national level (at CORE Organic Cofund level, see the following paragraph “Project monitoring, meetings and reporting”).

Financial issues and changes to the work plan or consortium

For the whole duration of the contract, it is the responsibility of the project coordinator to inform the Call Board/Call Secretariat about any changes in his/her project, i.e. modifications within the work plan, project consortium or contract. The changes will need to be approved by the respective funding bodies.

Project monitoring, meetings and reporting

Partners from each funded project are expected to organise regular project meetings. The costs for these meetings should be included in the project budgets. To enhance the dissemination of the project results, additionally or in parallel to the own project meetings, all project coordinators should calculate costs for the attendance of three mandatory CORE Organic seminars (kick-off-, mid-term- and final meeting) in their project plan (see next section “Dissemination and communication”).

An internal CORE Organic monitoring group will follow up the work performed by the projects’ consortia and may attend the project meetings.

Project coordinators will be required to submit a mid-term and a final scientific report to the CO board of funders about the progress and results of their transnational project as a whole (in addition to reporting required by the national funding bodies), which will be assessed against the expected outputs and timeline as described in the project proposal description (milestones and deliverables).

Project reports must be written in English.

Action may be taken by funding bodies in case of shortcomings or non-compliance.

Detailed information on the reporting and monitoring procedures as well as templates will be provided to the coordinators of the proposals selected for funding in due course.

Dissemination and communication

Communication and dissemination of project outputs are obligatory and in the responsibility of the funded project partners. A plan for dissemination of the results has to be provided in the project proposal and is considered in the evaluation procedure. This can be organized in form of various communication paths such as scientific papers, posters, stakeholder involvement, courses or training material, web-based tools, workshops or direct intervention towards end-users.

Applicants have to allocate sufficient resources in their budget for dissemination. Projects are obliged to:

- » present their work at up to three seminars organized by CORE Organic (addressed to CO consortium members, stakeholders and other interested parties): at the start, around mid-term and at the end of the project. The travel expenses of the coordinator or a proxy for taking part in these seminars will have to be covered by the project budget. Participation of other project partners is optional at their own expenses.
- » prepare summaries (popular science) of the project goals, planning and results for CORE Organic activities and publications (e.g. for brochures, newsletters, website etc.), and a minimum of 3 stakeholder-oriented articles.
- » submit all publications, which originate from the CORE Organic projects, in the electronic archive Organic Eprints www.coreorganic.org

Articles must be written in English, whereas the projects are expected also to publish end-user directed publications in all their national languages.

Further, the Project Partners have to acknowledge the transnational funding of the CORE Organic ERA-NET and the individual national funding bodies in any document that is published (in written, oral or electronic form) within the research project.

We strongly support the European Commission's [recommendation](#) to make research results from public funds more accessible and thereby strengthening the knowledge base for science and the society alike. For more information please refer to the Commission's information on [Open Science \(Open Access\)](#) and [Guidelines on FAIR Data Management in Horizon 2020](#).

Annex A: Call topic description

The Call is open to all proposals which address the Call sub-topics and do not overlap with those previously funded by CORE Organic (<http://www.coreorganic.org/> and <http://orgprints.org/view/projects/eu.html>) or other initiatives. Interested project consortia should apply to one sub-topic.

Call topic:

ORGANIC FARMING SYSTEMS FOR IMPROVED MIXED PLANT AND ANIMAL PRODUCTION

Sub-topic 1: ROBUST AND RESILIENT MIXED ANIMAL FARMING SYSTEMS

Rationale

Many organic animal farming systems have become increasingly specialised. From the initial economic advantage of specialisation, they have developed a relatively narrow economic and ecological base. Resilience is a core concept in organic farming at all levels and animal farming relies on the system's ability to adapt to e.g. outbreak of disease, feed prices, climate and legislation. Animals contribute to our food system and are considered sentient beings that should be provided with opportunities in accordance with their physiology, natural behaviour and well-being. In the organic principles, animal health comprises the physical and mental well-being of individual animals. Thus, animal health is not just the absence of disease but comprises immunity and resilience, the latter being the animal's ability to respond and react to its environment. Potentially, this can conflict with trying to accommodate other objectives such as improving biodiversity, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and reducing nutrient losses. Animal farming systems should be developed towards finding solutions and synergies with multiple aims. Diversity is key and the underlying values are adaptation to and relevance within various contexts. In such systems, for example, the use of antihelmintics and antibiotics can be further reduced following societal expectations.

Scope

The focus is on the identification, exploration and assessment of different solutions and synergies to develop more robust and resilient mixed animal farming systems with multiple aims. We encourage the development of multi-species animal farming systems and/or animal systems integrated with crop production, agroforestry and/or pastoralism. Hereby, potential ecological synergies can be exploited in all aspects of the farming system. Key elements could be outdoor living, longevity, natural behaviour, species-specific behaviour, species-specific feeding, local breeds and multipurpose breeds. Also, we encourage the improvement of existing mixed animal farming systems and the development of innovative forms of producing animals integrated with crops or agroforestry and/or pastoralism for production. The mixed animal farming systems should be assessed in different geographical regions with a focus on adaptation to local conditions. The analysis of these systems can potentially address production (including economy), management strategies, animal health and welfare as well as feeding strategies. Regarding feeding, we encourage the development of strategies with a point of departure in the animals' physiology and behaviour in addition to strategies where the animals are an integrated

part of the cropping system. Also, we encourage the development of feeding strategies with potential synergies between animal species.

Possible output and potential impact

- Increased scientific knowledge of mixed animal farming systems, including mutual benefits for animal health and animal welfare.
- Improved guidelines for managing complex agricultural systems, including animal health and animal welfare management as well as feeding strategies;
- Assessment of alternatives to contentious inputs in mixed animal farming systems.

Sub-topic 2: SUPPORT FOR ROBUST AND RESILIENT CROP PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

Rationale

The management of specialised and sometimes monoculture cropping systems generally require intensive use of energy, water, fertilizers and external inputs for pest and disease control. Plant-based functional biodiversity, not always utilised, could help farming systems to reduce the dependency of external inputs, while still increasing economic sustainability. Simultaneously, the number of consumers dedicated to a healthier lifestyle with less consumption of meat, more plant-based protein food and looking for nutritious food, is increasing. The challenge is to find practical ways to develop more robust and resilient agro-ecosystems for perennial and annual crops' production, in line with the principles that enhanced functional biodiversity would benefit the agricultural environment and responding to consumers' expectations. Innovative cropping and production systems could support the wellbeing of the agro-ecosystem and improve nutrient cycling by using new crop combinations (i.e. intercropping, mixtures with various rooting depths, crops providing ecological services, crop diversification, inclusion of legume plants etc.) as well as efficient use of resources and byproducts. They should improve the quality and stability of production and lead to lower production costs. Relevant research should result in diversified, stress-tolerant, multi-functional, robust and resilient cropping systems leading towards farming practices with reduced environmental and climate impact.

Scope

Organic crop fields including e.g. protein crops, vegetables, fruit orchards, olive groves, vineyards and berries productions still depend on inputs for fertilization and pest and disease control, resulting in a limited production of the agro-environmental services. Consumers expect high quality in terms of taste and nutritional content as well as high environmental protection and production standards, which encompasses agro-environmental and wider ecosystem services. There is a knowledge need on how to design and manage resource-efficient, robust and resilient crop production systems in order to reduce dependency on external inputs, and improve synergies with nature. One of the challenges is to understand how growers can make the best use of genetic diversity within and between crops, and of the natural biodiversity at field, farm and landscape levels. Many crops are exposed to a variety of abiotic and biotic stressors where plant breeding can play a key role. Varieties should be robust in terms of resilience to climate stress as well as pest and diseases, quality properties, nutritional value and shelf life. Diversity can also be reached through the development of diversified organic farming including e.g. the production of grain legumes, pseudo-cereals, oil crops and others, in addition to classical crops.

Possible output and potential impact

- Providing cropping models/systems for more diversified, stress-tolerant, multi-functional, robust and resilient organic crops (including e.g. protein-rich crops, vegetables, olive, grape, fruits and berries) productions in the open field;
- Testing existing or new mixtures of crop varieties suitable for organic production, increased biodiversity and ecosystem health maintenance – addressing relevant research and networking among breeders, research facilities, farmers, processors and retailers (following living laboratory approaches);
- Testing functional biodiversity for pest and disease control strategies;
- Ensuring closed nutrient cycles and improved efficiency in the use of resources and inputs.

Sub-topic 3: ECO-EFFICIENT PRODUCTION AND USE OF ANIMAL FEED AT LOCAL LEVEL

Rationale

Recycling of nutrients on farms or at a regional level is challenged in large parts of Europe and beyond. This is mainly due to economic reasons but also due to the specialisation of farming systems. To a large extent, feed and animal production are concentrated in different regions, and animal feed, especially protein sources, are imported. We have a variety of surplus green biomass from crops or byproducts as well as blue biomass, which could be made available for feed, while at the same time, providing new options for nutrient recycling between farms and other parts of the food system. In addition, the EC policy on Circular Economy, points to the need for recycling of food waste in the form of animal feed. Organic animal farming systems, have an increasingly smaller economic and ecological base, thus threatening their capacity of resilience and putting consumer confidence at risk. Self-sufficiency and local production of feed is an integrated part of the organic principles. New forms of bio-refinery and other techniques are emerging which may provide high-quality animal feed. However, their commercial and practical success depends on further joint technical and market development including animal feed experiments. In order to achieve this, a value chain approach is needed, which involves upstream and downstream partners capable of interlinking skills, knowledge and disciplines.

Scope

According to the organic principles, there is a need to increase local production of animal feed crops and availability of proteins. The aim is to support the development of self-sufficient animal farming systems and the overall sustainability of organic value chains. Local feed crops and other protein-rich feed sources capable of replacing imported soybean products should be considered. For monogastric animals, attention should be paid to the availability of protein feeds of plant, marine or byproduct origin with an optimal amino acid composition. Using an agro-ecological and ethological approach, development of innovative cropping systems and methods for the production and processing of local feed should be considered. This entails growing new crops and more suitable varieties, re-designing crop rotations and intercropping. High-quality protein feeds from bio-refinery or other processes based on regional crops, crop residues and food byproducts as well as blue biomass (eg. mussels) may be included. On this basis, we encourage the concurrent development of innovative feeding strategies. The whole value chain should be taken into consideration including economic aspects that impact local

animal farming systems. In addition, the strengths and weaknesses of innovative systems of feed production must be analyzed, including bio-refinery processes. Furthermore, suggestions may be provided on how to develop these strategies for more sustainable feed and animal systems. Pertinent EU-legislation should be taken into account, especially EU-legislation relating to the use of food residues and other byproducts. Thus, project proposals must justify to what extent they will provide knowledge applicable under current regulation or knowledge relevant for policy development and science-based improvement of regulation.

Possible output and potential impact

- Improve the eco-efficiency of organic animal farming systems by developing pathways for growing local feed;
- Re-design and develop cropping and feeding strategies with innovative use of crops, grassland, forage, byproducts and other potential protein sources including methods and techniques for processing;
- Support for organic animal production by taking the whole value chain and related economic aspects into consideration that strongly condition local animal farming systems;
- Support for sustainable local farming systems and economies driven by organic animal production.

Annex B: Call budget

National budgets (in 1000 euros)

No.	Country	Partner	Contact person	Total funds	Mixed animal farming systems	Crop production systems	Production and use of animal feed at local level
1.	Algeria	MESRS	Hamza Merabet	100	X	X	X
2.	Bulgaria	BNSF	Milena Aleksandrova	307 ³	X	X	X
3.	Denmark	DAFA	Julia Gajo	400	X	X	X
4.	Estonia	MEM	Maarja Malm	100	X	X	X
5.	Finland	MMM	Suvi Ryyanen	340	NO	X	X
6.	Germany	BMEL	Katerina Kotzia	600 ⁴	NO	X	NO
7.	Italy	MIPAAF	Serenella Puliga, Alessandra Morganti	600	X	X	X
8.	Morocco	MENFPESRS	Abdelouahid Ezzarfi	200	X	X	X
9.	Norway	RCN	Nina Elisabeth Solheim	1000	X	X	X
10.	Poland	NCBR	Dominika Mickiewicz	600	X	X	X

³ Bulgarian funding body BNSF commits 600.000 BGN with an equivalent amount of 306.775 €.

⁴ German funding body BMEL will exclusively fund research projects related to resilient berry fruit production systems. For further information, please consider the German national regulations in Annex D and contact German national contact point.

11.	Romania	UEFISCDI	Adrian Asanica	500	X	X	X
12.	Slovenia	MKGP	Jana Erjavec	100	X	X	NO
13.	Turkey	GDAR	Aysen Alay Vural	200	X	X	X
	Total funds			5.046.775 €			

Annex C: List of National Contact Points (NCP)

Country	Funding body	Name	Telephone	E-mail
Algeria	Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MESRS)	Hamza Merabet	+213 (0)21 27 88 18	h.merabet@mesrs.dz
Bulgaria	Bulgarian National Science Fund (BNSF)	Milena Aleksandrova	+359 884 171 363	aleksandrova@mon.bg
Denmark	Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Danish AgriFish Agency (DAFA)	Julia Gajo	+45 51531541 +45 33 95 80 00	JULGAJ@lbst.dk
Estonia	Ministry of Rural Affairs (MEM)	Maarja Malm	+372 625 6250	maarja.malm@agri.ee
Finland	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MMM)	Suvi Rynnänen	+358 295 162126	suvi.ryynanen@mmm.fi
Germany	Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) represented by Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE)	Katerina Kotzia	+49 (0)228 6845-3486	katerina.kotzia@ble.de
Italy	Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies (MIPAAF)	Serenella Puliga	+39 0552492220 +39 0646655076	s.puliga@politichegricole.it
		Alessandra Morganti	+39 0646656182	a.morganti@politicheagricole.it

Country	Funding body	Name	Telephone	E-mail
Morocco	Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research (MENFPESRS)	Abdelouahid Ezzarfi	+21 2672210327	a.ezzarfi@yahoo.fr
		Anas Chokairi	+21 2672210357	chokairi.anas@gmail.com
		Saadi Hajar	+21 2767393901	saadihajar95enssup@gmail.com
Norway	The Research Council of Norway (RCN)	Nina Elisabeth Solheim	+47 452 25 496	nsf@rcn.no
Poland	The National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR)	Dominika Mickiewicz	+48 22 39 07 139	dominika.mickiewicz@ncbr.gov.pl
Romania	The Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI)	Adrian Asanica	+40 744 45 00 11	adrian.asanica@uefiscdi.ro
Slovenia	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food (MKGP)	Jana Erjavec	+386-1-478-9123	jana.erjavec@gov.si
Turkey	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (GDAR)	Ayşen Alay-Vural	+90 3123076110	aysen.alayvural@tarimorman.gov.tr

Annex D: National regulations

ALGERIA

Funding Institution: Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MESRS)

Contact person: Mr. Hamza **MERABET**

Deputy Director – DGRSDT

Email: h.merabet@mesrs.dz

Phone : +213 770 87 95 13

Tel/Fax: +213- 21 27 88 18

Total national budget available (€)	100.000 (50.000/project)		
Indicate which research topics you are funding:	Yes	No	Financial contribution per topic, if available (€)
1. Robust and resilient mixed animal farming systems	X		
2. Support for robust and resilient crop production systems	X		
3. Eco-efficient production and use of animal feed at local level	X		
Indicate if there are exceptions for the funding of the research topics based on your national priorities			
Indicate minimum or maximum total budget per project, if applicable.	50.000/project		
Indicate which partners are eligible for funding	Yes	No	Specific requirements
Do you fund research institutions?	X		
Do you fund industry partners?	X		If they have a regulatory research unit
Do you fund other stakeholders?			
Indicate which costs are eligible for funding	<u>List of eligible costs</u> <u>Reimbursement of expenses</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel costs of Algerian researchers in Algeria and abroad (7 days maximum). • Scientific events: organizational expenses, 		

	<p>accommodation, catering and transport.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigators fees. • Guide fees. • Experts and consultants fees. • Study, work and services costs done for the research entity. <p><u>Equipment and furniture:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Materials, scientific and audiovisual instruments. • Renewing computing materials, purchasing accessories, software and consumables. • Maintenance and repair. <p><u>Supplies:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemicals. • Consumables. • Electronic, mechanical and audiovisual components. • Stationery and office furniture. • Periodicals. • Documentation and research books. • Laboratory furniture (animals, plants, etc...). <p><u>Additional charges:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printing and publishing. • Postage charges. • Telephone, Fax and Internet. • Other costs (taxes, custom duty, financial costs, insurance, storage costs, etc). • Data bank (acquisition and subscribing). <p><u>Car park:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car rent for research in the field. <p><u>Costs of valorisation and technological development:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs of training and support of project holders. <p><u>Costs of intellectual property:</u></p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anteriority research. • Patent, brand and template deposit request. • Software deposit. • Protection of vegetable, animal abstentions and other. • Costs of representatives. • Costs of design and definition of the project to be developed. • Incubation costs. <p>Costs of valorisation services:</p> <p>-Costs of design and developing prototypes, mock-ups, test series, pilot facilities and demonstrations.</p>
Are there any additional national rules or documents required?	X
<p style="text-align: center;">Additional information</p> <p>Funding Institution: Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MESRS). Directorate-General for Scientific Research and Technological Development (DGRSDT). Contact Person : Hamza Merabet, E-mail : h.merabet@mesrs.dz</p> <p>Name of the Funding Party, address and country</p> <p>Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research (MESRS). Directorate-General for Scientific Research and Technological Development (DGRSDT). 128 Chemin Mohamed Gacem, El Madania – Alger, Algérie. http://www.dgrsdt.dz</p> <p>NB: It should be noted that according to the provisions of the regulations in force, other costs under the international projects are subject to a request for the DGRSDT.</p>	

BULGARIA

Funding Institution: Bulgarian National Science Fund (BNSF)

Contact person: Mrs. Milena **ALEKSANDROVA**

Name: Mrs. Milena **ALEKSANDROVA**

E-mail: aleksandrova@mon.bg

Phone: +359 884 171 363

Total national budget available (€)	306.775
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Indicate which research topics you are funding:	Yes	No	Financial contribution per topic, if available (€)
1. Robust and resilient mixed animal farming systems	X		N/A
2. Support for robust and resilient crop production systems	X		N/A
3. Eco-efficient production and use of animal feed at local level	X		N/A
Indicate if there are exceptions for the funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	Only basic research project will be funded		
Indicate minimum or maximum total budget per project, if applicable.	Up to € 102.258		
Indicate which partners are eligible for funding	Yes	No	Specific requirements
Do you fund research institutions?	X		N/A
Do you fund industry partners?		X	N/A
Do you fund other stakeholders?		X	N/A
Indicate which costs are eligible for funding	<p>Eligible costs are specified in "National requirements and eligibility conditions" of Bulgarian National Science Fund available at:</p> <p>https://www.fni.bg/sites/default/files/competition/12_2016/ERA/BNSF_International_Programs-2017_ENG.pdf</p>		
Are there any additional national rules or documents required?	<p>Applicants under this procedure shall be directly responsible for the implementation of the activities under the project proposal and shall not act as intermediaries, but they shall carry out activities under the project proposal on their behalf and at their expense. Applicants to this procedure must be entities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrying out fundamental research studies; and • Whose activities are entirely of a non- 		

	<p>profit nature; or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whose activities are of both for-profit and not-for-profit nature, but these activities are clearly distinguished and their organization allows tracking of revenue and expenditures connected with their implementation, including by keeping analytical accounting. In the event that an applicant is involved in both for-profit and not-for-profit activities, the funding, expenditures and revenues shall be taken into account separately for each type of activity and on the basis of consistently applied principles of accounting of expenditures being justifiable.
<p style="text-align: center;">Additional information</p> <p>Applicants have to submit an application form for national eligibility when submitting the proposals. The form, entitled "Administrative description of the project" should be filled in both Bulgarian and in English and signed. Application forms can be obtained at: https://www.fni.bg/?q=node/578</p> <p>They have to be sent back by post or in person to BNSF Registry Office before the deadline of firststage proposal submission.</p>	

DENMARK

Funding Institution: Green development and demonstration program GUDP

Contact persons:

Julia **GAJO**

Email: julgaj@lbst.dk,

Phone: +45 51 53 15 41;

Rasmus **GRØNFELDT**

Email: rasgro@lbst.dk

Phone: +45 51 67 73 86

Total national budget available (€)	400.000		
Indicate which research topics you are funding:	Yes	No	Financial contribution per topic, if available (€)

1. Robust and resilient mixed animal farming systems	X		
2. Support for robust and resilient crop production systems	X		
3. Eco-efficient production and use of animal feed at local level	X		
Indicate if there are exceptions for the funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	N/A		
Indicate minimum or maximum total budget per project, if applicable.	Maximum total budget of 200.000 euro (minimum Danish participation in two projects)		
Indicate which partners are eligible for funding	Yes	No	Specific requirements
Do you fund research institutions?	X		According to our national regulations, we can fund research institutions but we cannot fund projects that merely focus on basic research (TRL level 1-4). If this is the case another national partner has to work on more applied research or development.
Do you fund industry partners?	X		
Do you fund other stakeholders?	X		We do not fund legal entities of any kind, national or regional.
Indicate which costs are eligible for funding	Research, development and demonstration activities		
Are there any additional national rules or documents required?			
<p>Danish applicants are required to fill in a questionnaire concerning the relevance of the project for Denmark. Please, provide a one-page response to the three questions (one page A4 as maximum for answers to all three questions together):</p> <p>1) Relevance of Danish participation in the project</p>			

The answer may include description of:

- The subject's relevance for Denmark and applicability of the outcome in a Danish context.
- How the project will strengthen the Danish position in the specific field of research.
- The Danish research community's and other Danish stakeholders' benefit from participating in the project.

2) Output and novelty

The answer may include description of:

The actual output of the project? (e.g. model, product, knowledge).

The news value and level of innovation of the output.

How it differs from existing products, models or methods.

3) Business potential and relevance for Denmark:

The answer may include description of:

The project's relevance for the Danish agriculture and food sector and the target group.

The potential commercial output of the project.

The kind of innovation promoted by the knowledge produced by the project.

The questionnaire can also be found via the following link:

<https://lbst.dk/tilskudsguide/groent-udviklings-og-demonstrationsprogram-gudp/#c10113>

The project output should have a valuable impact on Danish industry and be valuable for the organic sector in DK. If this is not the case eg., the production is not possible in DK, overlap with national funded projects, no visible value for the organic sector, the project will not be eligible for Danish funding.

Additional information

Danish applicants are asked to follow GUDP regulations concerning the funding of project activities. This implies the eligible costs for funding as well as the % of funding per activity conducted in the project. Applicants are informed on GUDP's homepage.

More details about maximum subsidiary rates and eligible costs can be found in GUDP's general national guidelines:

<https://lbst.dk/tilskudsguide/groent-udviklings-og-demonstrationsprogram-gudp/#c10113>

Administrative Order on a Green Development and Demonstration Programme, Order No. 1069 of 13 September 2017:

<https://www.retsinformation.dk/Forms/R0710.aspx?id=192729>

GUDP general application guideline; Please use the latest version if there is no actual call -
In Danish:
<https://lbst.dk/tilskudsguide/groent-udviklings-og-demonstrationsprogram-gudp/#c10113>

ESTONIA

Funding Institution: Maaeluministeerium (MEM)

Contact person: Maarja **MALM**

Email: maaria.malm@agri.ee,

Phone: +372 625 6250

Total national budget available (€)	100.000		
Indicate which research topics you are funding:	Yes	No	Financial contribution per topic, if available (€)
1. Robust and resilient mixed animal farming systems	X		
2. Support for robust and resilient crop production systems	X		
3. Eco-efficient production and use of animal feed at local level	X		
Indicate if there are exceptions for the funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	N/A		
Indicate minimum or maximum total budget per project, if applicable.	The total requested funding for all Estonian partners within one consortium may not exceed 100.000 € (VAT is included).		
Indicate which partners are eligible for funding	Yes	No	Specific requirements
Do you fund research institutions?	X		
Do you fund industry partners?		X	
Do you fund other stakeholders?		X	
Indicate which costs are eligible for funding			
Are there any additional national rules or	There is a 5% of own contribution		

documents required?	required upon total budget of the project. The application must meet requirements of eligibility determined by the national programme “Applied Research and Development in Agriculture 2015-2021”. Scientific results of the projects must be made publicly available.
Additional information	
N/A	

FINLAND

Funding Institution: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Contact person: Suvi **RYYNÄNEN**

E-mail: suvi.ryynanen@mmm.fi,

tel. +358 29516 2126)

Total national budget available (€)	340.000		
Indicate which research topics you are funding:	Yes	No	Financial contribution per topic, if available (€)
1. Robust and resilient mixed animal farming systems		X	
2. Support for robust and resilient crop production systems	X		
3. Eco-efficient production and use of animal feed at local level	X		
Indicate if there are exceptions for the funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	none		
Indicate minimum or maximum total budget per project, if applicable.	170.000 €		
Indicate which partners are eligible for funding	Yes	No	Specific requirements
Do you fund research institutions?	X		
Do you fund industry partners?	X		Only public, pre-competitive

			research. Product development supporting individual companies is not supported.
Do you fund other stakeholders?	X		
Indicate which costs are eligible for funding	Costs that are necessary and reasonable in view of the project work and which can be allocated to the project in accounting (see Additional information: the general terms and instructions). For research organizations and universities, max. 70% of the project's gross eligible costs are covered.		
Are there any additional national rules or documents required?	N/A		
Additional information			
<p>Applicants are advised that this annex is for general guidance only. For more detailed rules and regulations please contact the National Contact Point. See:</p> <p>https://mmm.fi/tutkimus-ja-kehittaminen/lomakkeet-ja-ohjeet -> Maa- ja metsätalousministeriön rahoittaman T&K-toiminnan yleiset ehdot ja ohjeet (in Finnish)</p> <p>or:</p> <p>https://mmm.fi/en/research-and-development/funding-for-projects -> General terms and instructions for R&D activities funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (in English)</p>			

GERMANY

Funding Institution: Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, BMEL) and Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung, BLE)

Contact person: Katerina **KOTZIA**

Email: Katerina.Kotzia@ble.de

Phone: +49 (0)228 6845 3486)

Total national budget available (€)	600.000		
Indicate which research topics you are funding:	Yes	No	Financial contribution per topic, if available (€)

1. Robust and resilient mixed animal farming systems		X	
2. Support for robust and resilient crop production systems	X		
3. Eco-efficient production and use of animal feed at local level		X	
Indicate if there are exceptions for the funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	German funding body BMEL will exclusively fund research projects related to resilient berry fruit production systems.		
Indicate minimum or maximum total budget per project, if applicable.	Max. 200.000 € per project		
Indicate which partners are eligible for funding	Yes	No	Specific requirements
Do you fund research institutions?	X		
Do you fund industry partners?	X		German SMEs can be funded with a given percentage of the budget, depending on the size of the SME and the type of research (e.g. basic / applied). Further information below.
Do you fund other stakeholders?	X		
Indicate which costs are eligible for funding	See regulations specified in the "Additional information"		
Are there any additional national rules or documents required?	See the national Call announcement in the "Bundesanzeiger"		
<p style="text-align: center;">Additional information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed projects must be in line with the national Call announcement, which will be published in the Bundesanzeiger (https://www.bundesanzeiger.de). Funding of the BMEL is provided as delineated in the national directive „Richtlinie zur Förderung von Forschungs- und Entwicklungsvorhaben sowie von Maßnahmen zum Technologie- und Wissenstransfer im ökologischen Landbau“ from 4 April 2016. See: https://www.bundesprogramm.de/was-wir-tun/projekte-foerdern/forschungs-und-entwicklungsvorhaben/ <p>The main regulations are as follows:</p>			

- Funding is based on §§23 and 44 BHO (Bundeshaushaltsordnung) and associated administrative regulations according to Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz (VwVfG) §48 § 49, §49a.
- The funding regulations, follow up and reporting of publicly funded projects are regulated according to the so-called “Nebenbestimmungen für Zuwendungen auf Ausgabenbasis des Bundesministeriums für Bildung und Forschung zur Projektförderung (NABF, Stand: November 2019).
- Proposed projects must be in line with the above mentioned national directive.
- Funding will be awarded as non-repayable project grant.
- Eligible applicants are natural persons and corporate bodies, universities and research institutions domiciled in Germany. Research institutions, which already receive basic financing, can be funded subject to specific conditions.
- The following costs are eligible for funding: personnel, consumables, subcontracts, equipment, and travel. Overhead costs are not eligible.
- Double funding is not possible.
- The German project partners of positively evaluated full proposals will, at a later stage, be invited to submit national application forms (AZA or AZK) using the electronic proposal assistant “easy”. The guidelines for preparing AZA/AZK have to be considered for any cost calculations in the full proposal.

In case of involvement of SMEs:

The funding regulations, follow up and reporting of publicly funded projects are regulated according to the “Nebenbestimmungen für Zuwendungen auf Kostenbasis des Bundesministeriums für Bildung und Forschung an gewerbliche Unternehmen für Forschungs- und Entwicklungsvorhaben (NKBF 2017, Stand: November 2019)

ITALY

Funding Institution: Ministry of agricultural, food and forestry policies (MIPAAF)

General direction of agri-food quality promotion – PQAI 1 Office for organic agriculture and food quality systems

Contact persons :

Serenella **PULIGA**

Email : s.puliga@politicheagricole.it

Phone : +39 055 2492220; +39 06 46655076

Alessandra **MORGANTI**

Email : a.morganti@politicheagricole.it

Phone : + 39 06 4665 6182

Total national budget available (€)	600.000,00		
Indicate which research topics you are funding:	Yes	No	Financial contribution per topic, if available (€)
1. Robust and resilient mixed animal farming systems	X		200.000,00
2. Support for robust and resilient crop production systems	X		200.000,00
3. Eco-efficient production and use of animal feed at local level	X		200.000,00
Indicate if there are exceptions for the funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	Funding distribution (see above) is not binding; if needed, it can be modified in relation to the final list of the highest scored projects.		
Indicate minimum or maximum total budget per project, if applicable.	Max 200.000,00 €/project (including coordination costs) Max 120.000,00 €/research unit (unità operativa) (coordination costs excluded)		
Indicate which partners are eligible for funding	Yes	No	Specific requirements
Do you fund research institutions?	X		National public and private no profit research institutions and universities. See details in User's Manual at https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/10656
Do you fund industry partners? Do you fund other stakeholders?		X	SMEs and organisations with other statutory nature are welcome as participants if an added value to the project is proven and if their costs are covered by their own or other external resources. Costs can not be covered by Mipaaf.
Indicate which costs are eligible for funding	See details in User's manual (https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/10656)		

Are there any additional national rules or documents required?	See below
Additional information	
<p><u>Financing and cost eligibility</u></p> <p>In defining the eligibility for funding of project costs, national applicants must refer to the regulations indicated in the standing User's Manual https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/10656</p> <p>The selected national institutions will be financed up to 99% of the requested costs that have been approved by Mipaaf (eligible costs)</p> <p><i>Eligible costs</i></p> <p>A) Personnel</p> <p>1) <i>Salaries</i> – For public institutions/universities only non-permanent scientific staff; for private no-profit institutions also permanent scientific staff; administrative staff can be included only in the coordination activity, if the research unit is also coordinator. Cost of permanent personnel working in the project must be declared even if it will not be reimbursed.</p> <p>2) <i>Travel expenses</i> – for permanent and non permanent staff working in the project (maximum amount allowed 6% of the requested budget. In any case not over € 10.000,00).</p> <p>B) Consumables</p> <p>C) External activity costs – advisory/consultant services, specialistic services supply (scientific, logistics for meetings, open access, devices and machine rent, etc.) The costs at point C) must be indicated and detailed as “Other direct costs” in the financial plan of the call application form (online submission). These costs can not exceed 30% of the sum of the other eligible costs (A+B+D).</p> <p>D) Equipments – Only use cost (related to the project duration) for scientific equipment will be reimbursed.</p> <p>E) Overheads – no more than 12% of the total amount of the above mentioned costs (A+B+C+D)</p> <p>F) Coordination - if the Italian institution is also playing the role of coordinator the eligible costs are those indicated in the User's manual. Mipaaf will pay the coordination cost calculated on the total budget request of the whole project (including the amount not paid with national resources). No cost for project monitoring by an expert is foreseen, this budget cannot be requested. Costs related to the coordination activity need to be justified in the online submission system.</p> <p><u>National document to be presented</u></p> <p>By the application deadline (8th March 2021) no documents have to be submitted to Mipaaf, other than the application through the online call submission platform. Only no-profit private research bodies participating in a project proposal must send to Mipaaf, by the application deadline, copy of the documents stating their research mission (statute and/or articles of incorporation or memorandum of association, etc.) to the following PEC address: sag1@pec.politicheagricole.gov.it specifying in the object “CORE Organic Third Call 2021 documenti bando – ente privato”.</p>	

Only after the final funding decision, and the official communication by the Call Secretariat to the winning project coordinators, expected in July 2021, Mipaaf PQAI1 will request to each Italian research unit of the selected projects to fill in a *specific national template* sent along with the request necessary to apply for the national grant.
The national template must be written in Italian and follow the standing User's Manual rules.

MOROCCO

Funding Institution: Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research (MENFPESRS)

Contact persons:

Ahmed **HAMMOUCH**

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Anas **CHOKAIRI**

E-mail: chokairi.anas@gmail.com

Phone: +212 5 37 21 76 53 / 212 6 72 21 03 57

Hajar **SAADI**

E-mail: saadihajar95enssup@gmail.com

Phone: +212 7 67 39 39 01

Total national budget available (€)	200.000		
Indicate which research topics you are funding:	Yes	No	Financial contribution per topic, if available (€)
1. Robust and resilient mixed animal farming systems	X		
2. Support for robust and resilient crop production systems	X		
3. Eco-efficient production and use of animal feed at local level	X		
Indicate if there are exceptions for the funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	N/A		
Indicate minimum or maximum total budget per project, if applicable.	The maximum budget granted for each Moroccan partner is 65.000 € with a ceiling of 130.000 € per project.		

Indicate which partners are eligible for funding	Yes	No	Specific requirements
Do you fund research institutions?	X		
Do you fund industry partners?		X	
Do you fund other stakeholders?		X	
Indicate which costs are eligible for funding	See below the eligible expenses in French		
Are there any additional national rules or documents required?	See below the National criteria		
Additional information			
<p>National criteria:</p> <p>No levy by research institutions is allowed from the budget allocated to the research projects;</p> <p>Permanent staff cannot receive research allowances. The remuneration of the non-statutory staff (PhD students, post-docs and CDD) participating in the project can be financed (Comply with the joint decision of 14 January 2016 concerning the management of the own resources of public institutions of higher education and scientific research);</p> <p>Costs requested for Research allowances, travel and mission expenses cannot exceed 60% of the total budget allocated to the Moroccan team;</p> <p>The budget requested for the first payment cannot exceed 60% of the total budget allocated to the Moroccan team;</p> <p>The second payment will be made only after validation of the mid-term report.</p> <p>Eligible institutions/persons:</p> <p>Public universities;</p> <p>Universities from the Public-private partnership in collaboration with public universities;</p> <p>Non-university institutions in partnership with public universities;</p> <p>Public research institutions in partnership with public universities.</p> <p>Dépenses du personnel</p> <p>Indemnités liées aux travaux de recherche et de prestation de service (Bourses des doctorants, CDD, ...)</p> <p>Taxes postales et frais d'affranchissement</p> <p>Taxes et redevances pour l'utilisation des lignes de réseaux spécifiques</p> <p>Taxes et redevances de télécommunications</p> <p>Matériel, Mobilier de bureau et fournitures</p> <p>Achat de fournitures de bureau, de papeterie et d'imprimés</p> <p>Achat de fournitures informatiques</p> <p>Achat de matériels informatiques</p> <p>Achat de matériels scientifiques</p> <p>Achat de matériels et mobilier de bureau</p> <p>Achat de réactifs, kits et produits chimiques</p> <p>Entretien et réparation</p>			

Entretien et réparation de matériels scientifiques et informatiques

Transport et Déplacement

Indemnités de déplacement à l'intérieur du Royaume

Indemnités Kilométriques

Frais de transport au Maroc et à l'étranger

Frais de transport des missionnaires et chercheurs étrangers

Frais de mission à l'étranger

Frais de séjour des missionnaires étrangers au Maroc

Autres Dépenses

Frais de documentation, d'impression et de publication

Achat de matières premières et de petit outillage

Frais de réalisation de maquettes et de prototype

Frais de démonstration et de publicité

Frais d'étude, d'analyse et de sous-traitance

Frais de participation aux séminaires

Frais d'organisation de séminaires

Frais de dépôt et de gestion des brevets, de licence et/ou de droit auteur

NORWAY

Funding Institution: The Research Council of Norway (RCN)

Contact person: Nina E. **SOLHEIM**,

Email: nsf@rcn.no

Phone: +47 45225496

Total national budget available (€)	1.000.000		
Indicate which research topics you are funding:	Yes	No	Financial contribution per topic, if available (€)
1. Robust and resilient mixed animal farming systems	x		
2. Support for robust and resilient crop production systems	x		
3. Eco-efficient production and use of animal feed at local level	x		
Indicate if there are exceptions for the funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	The RCN does not prioritize among the three topics.		

Indicate minimum or maximum total budget per project, if applicable.	400.000		
Indicate which partners are eligible for funding	Yes	No	Specific requirements
Do you fund research institutions?	X		
Do you fund industry partners?		X	SMEs and industry partners (non-SMEs) not eligible for funding, but may participate in projects if they are able to secure their own funding.
Do you fund other stakeholders?		X	Other research groups and public institutions not eligible for funding, but may participate in projects if they are able to secure their own funding.
Indicate which costs are eligible for funding	Please see item 5 in General Terms and Conditions for R&D Projects (link below)		
Are there any additional national rules or documents required?	N/A		
<p style="text-align: center;">Additional information</p> <p>Norwegian participation must follow RCN's General terms and conditions for R&D projects.</p>			

POLAND

Funding Institution: The National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR)

Contact person: Dominika **MICKIEWICZ**

Email: dominika.mickiewicz@ncbr.gov.pl

Phone: +48 22 39 07 139

Total national budget available (€)	600.000
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Indicate which research topics you are funding:	Yes	No	Financial contribution per topic, if available (€)
1. Robust and resilient mixed animal farming systems	X		200.000
2. Support for robust and resilient crop production systems	X		200.000
3. Eco-efficient production and use of animal feed at local level	X		200.000
Indicate if there are exceptions for the funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	Basic research cannot be funded.		
Indicate minimum or maximum total budget per project, if applicable.	N/A		
Indicate which partners are eligible for funding	Yes	No	Specific requirements
Do you fund research institutions?	X		
Do you fund industry partners?	X		
Do you fund other stakeholders?		X	
Indicate which costs are eligible for funding	1. personnel costs 2. operating costs including costs of instruments, equipment, technical knowledge and patents, buildings and land, costs of materials and supplies 3. costs of subcontracting 4. overheads $4 = (1+2) \cdot \max 25\%$ in accordance with the national funding rules Other types of activities (e.g. coordination, dissemination, management) are not eligible for funding as separate tasks. They can be included in an appropriate cost category within research tasks.		
Are there any additional national rules or documents required?	Only applied research can be founded. Project partners of selected projects will have to submit national application forms to NCBR.		

Additional information

The funding level for Polish participants can be up to 100% for research organizations. In case of enterprises, funding quota will be decided on a case-by-case basis depending on the size of the company, type of research/development, the risk associated with the research activities and commercial perspective of exploitation, under the Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 19 August 2020 on criteria and rules on granting state aid and “de minimis” aid by the National Centre for Research and Development, published in Journal of Laws item 1456, 2020.

ROMANIA

Funding Institution:

The Executive Agency for Financing Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation (UEFISCDI)

Contact person: Adrian **ASANICA**

Email: adrian.asanica@uefiscdi.ro

Phone: +40 744 450 011

Luciana **BRATU**

Email: luciana.bratu@uefiscdi.ro

Phone: +40 723 588 779

Total national budget available (€)	500.000		
Indicate which research topics you are funding:	Yes	No	Financial contribution per topic, if available (€)
1. Robust and resilient mixed animal farming systems	x		
2. Support for robust and resilient crop production systems	x		
3. Eco-efficient production and use of animal feed at local level	x		
Indicate if there are exceptions for the funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	NA		

Indicate minimum or maximum total budget per project, if applicable.	<p>The maximum funding for one project from the public budget is 250.000 Euro if Romania is the coordinator of the transnational project.</p> <p>The maximum funding for one project from the public budget is 200.000 Euro if Romania is partner in the transnational project.</p>		
Indicate which partners are eligible for funding	Yes	No	Specific requirements
Do you fund research institutions?	x		<p>Legal entities established in Romania are eligible to get funding, i.e. public and private accredited universities, national R&D institutes, other research organizations, SMEs, large industrial enterprises with R&D activity within their domains. We can fund only Romanian research teams. For universities, public institutions, R&D national institutions funding is 100%, and for SMEs and Large companies, financing is under the permit NASR Decision no 9281/8.13.2015 approving the scheme of State aid for Program 3: European and international cooperation.</p>
Do you fund industry partners?	x		
Do you fund other stakeholders?	x		
Indicate which costs are eligible for funding	<p>A. Staff costs (researchers, technicians and support staff, including all corresponding state and social contributions; these contributions are subject to national regulations in force);</p> <p>B. Consumables (materials, supplies or similar);</p> <p>C. Equipment (in full compliance with state aid regulations), no more than 30% of the total funding from the public budget;</p> <p>D. Subcontracting (max. 25% of the total funding from the public budget); The subcontracted parts should not be core/substantial parts of the project work;</p> <p>E. Travel expenses (in Romania or abroad, only for project teams' members);</p>		

	<p>F. Overheads (calculated as a percentage of direct costs: staff costs, travel expenses and logistics costs - excluding capital costs). Indirect costs will not exceed 20% of direct costs, excluding subcontracting.</p> <p>Expenses are eligible if incurred after the signature of the contract.</p>
Are there any additional national rules or documents required?	
<p>The Principal Investigator of Romanian team must hold a PhD degree. This condition does not apply if the Romanian host institution is an enterprise according to the specific European and national laws. One research team leader will participate only one time in a proposal within the transnational call as responsible or coordinator. No simultaneous funding is possible for more than one application under the same call. The Principal Investigator of Romanian team is full time employed within the host institution with permanent position, with fixed-term contract covering at least the duration of the project or has an agreement with the host institution for his/her employment at least for the duration of the contract; It is forbidden to submit a proposal which seeks to fund activities already funded by other public sources; The host institution does not have a seizure on its accounts; it has not been declared bankrupt or wound up; it has not made false declarations concerning its economic and legal statute; it has not broken other contract previously signed with a public contracting authority; The host institution agrees to ensure the necessary administrative support, to provide access to all necessary resources/infrastructures, to support the project implementation in good conditions and to employ the members of the Romanian team, in respect of all legal provisions in force, if the project is selected for funding.</p>	
Additional information	
<p>Maximum project duration: proposed participation may last up to 36 months</p> <p>The guideline according to the National Plan for Research, Development and Innovation 2015-2020, for ERA-NET Cofund projects has to be consulted and respected by applicants.</p>	

SLOVENIA

Funding Institution: Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food / Ministrstvo za kmetijstvo, gozdarstvo in prehrano (MKGP)

Contact person: Ms Jana **ERJAVEC**

Email: jana.erjavec@gov.si

Phone: +386 1 478 91 23

Total national budget available (€)	100.000
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Indicate which research topics you are funding:	Yes	No	Financial contribution per topic, if available (€)
1. Robust and resilient mixed animal farming systems	X		
2. Support for robust and resilient crop production systems	X		
3. Eco-efficient production and use of animal feed at local level		X	
Indicate if there are exceptions for the funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	N/A		
Indicate minimum or maximum total budget per project, if applicable.	Maximum amount per project is 100.000 €		
Indicate which partners are eligible for funding	Yes	No	Specific requirements
Do you fund research institutions?	X		<p>Only applicants which are registered as research organisations at the Slovenian Research Agency (Javna agencija za raziskovalno dejavnost Republike Slovenije; hereinafter: the Agency) and meet the conditions prescribed by Research and Development Activities Act and by the Rules on the Criteria for Establishing Compliance with the Conditions for being the Head of a Research Project can participate in the call.</p> <p>Above mentioned legal acts are an integral part of the call documents and are published on the Agency's website http://www.arrs.si/sl/akti/</p>
Do you fund industry partners?	X		

Do you fund other stakeholders?		X	
Indicate which costs are eligible for funding	<p>Eligible costs are defined by the elements of the research hour price for research projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - salary, contributions, material costs and services, amortization. <p>The eligible costs are defined by Regulation on norms and standards for allocating resources for the implementation of research activities financed from the budget of the Republic of Slovenia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be eligible, the costs must be directly related to the project and must be incurred and paid during the approved project period. • All costs must be stated excluding VAT, unless the applicant itself has to pay VAT and therefore is applying to have this expense covered. • Cost of PhD inscription/scholarship/course fees is not eligible. The salary of PhD involvement in a project is an eligible cost. 		
Are there any additional national rules or documents required?			
<p style="text-align: center;">Additional information</p> <p>All relevant national legal acts and regulations are published on the Agency's website http://www.arrs.si/sl/akti/</p>			

TURKEY

Funding Institution: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policies, GDAR

Contact persons:

Ayşen Alay **VURAL**

Email: aysen.alayvural@tarimorman.gov.tr,

Phone: +903123076026

Merve **ALTAN**

Email : merve.altan@tarimorman.gov.tr,

Phone : +903123076102

Total national budget available (€)	200.000		
Indicate which research topics you are funding:	Yes	No	Financial contribution per topic, if available (€)
1. Robust and resilient mixed animal farming systems	X		50.000 €
2. Support for robust and resilient crop production systems	X		100.000 €
3. Eco-efficient production and use of animal feed at local level	X		50.000 €
Indicate if there are exceptions for the funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	N/A		
Indicate minimum or maximum total budget per project, if applicable.	N/A		
Indicate which partners are eligible for funding	Yes	No	Specific requirements
Do you fund research institutions?	X		
Do you fund industry partners?		X	
Do you fund other stakeholders?		X	
Indicate which costs are eligible for funding	N/A		
Are there any additional national rules or documents required?	N/A		

Annex E: Guidelines for the CORE Organic Submission System (ESS)

For any question/problems related to the Electronic Submission System (ESS), please contact techsupport@submission-coreorganic.eu.

Proposals should be written in English and must be submitted by the coordinator through the Electronic Submission System <https://www.submission-coreorganic.eu> by **8 March 2021 - 11.00 am CET**.

Proposals can be updated as many times as wanted until the closing date: Part A and Part C (see below) can be saved and revisions can be re-submitted until the deadline.

Please note that incomplete proposals, proposals using a different format or exceeding length limitations of any sections will be rejected without further review.

Before submission of the proposal, coordinators and all partners⁵ of the consortium should register at the ESS (<https://www.submission-coreorganic.eu>), and fill in their profile information on the provided **Metadatabase**.

Please make sure that you save inserted information in the Electronic Submission System (ESS) before you log-out, you will be able to update the proposal when you log-in again.

Step 1: The project coordinator registers at <https://www.submission-coreorganic.eu> and fills out his/her profile information in the Metadatabase

- 1) Click on *register here* in the Home page of <https://www.submission-coreorganic.eu> and add the info requested, you will then receive an email with the activation link. In case you do not receive it, please check in the spam folder and in case contact techsupport@submission-coreorganic.eu.
- 2) Select in the menu the option *My Profile* and edit your profile information. Please also upload your CV (max 2 pages).
- 3) Save the submitted info, you will be able to modify it later on, if needed, by clicking again on *My Profile*.

Step 2: All partners within the consortium register at <https://www.submission-coreorganic.eu> and fill out their profile information in the Metadatabase.

- 1) Click on *register here* in the Home page of <https://www.submission-coreorganic.eu> and add the info requested, you will then receive an email with the activation link. In case you do not receive it, please check in the spam folder and in case contact techsupport@submission-coreorganic.eu.

⁵ A “partner” principally is an organization (e.g. institution, department or company).

- 2) Select in the menu the option *My Profile* and edit your profile information. Please also upload your CV (max 2 pages).
- 3) Save the submitted info, you will be able to modify it later on, if needed, by clicking again on *My Profile*.

Step 3: The project coordinator logs-in on the **ESS** and can start the submission process. The project coordinator fills out all information requested.

Part A (general information about the project + coordinator information including budgetary table + consortium partners' information and budgetary table):

Project general information (to be filled in by the coordinator)

- Title of Project (meaningful and concise, *max. 200 characters*)
- Project Acronym (*max. 20 characters*)
- Duration of the proposed research project (*max 36 months*)
- Total requested funding (€) (*max 1.0 million euro*)
- Thematic research area: Sub-topic 1, 2, or 3
- Keywords (*max 5 words and altogether 100 characters*)
- Publishable project summary that can also be easily understood by non-experts (*max 2000 characters*)
- Background and state of the art (*max. 4.000 characters*): description of the background and state of the art in the field including a brief statement on how the project will contribute to scientific development and address gaps in existing knowledge (please, avoid duplication with the Description of Work/ Impact section)
- References of ten selected publications by the partners (i.e. per consortium) and relevant to the proposal including links to the articles or abstracts.

Consortium Coordinator (coordinator information including own budgetary table)

- Information about organisation (*Name, status, address, research group*)
- VAT number (*compulsory for applicants having a VAT number*)
- Privacy Policy (does your data privacy policy comply with the General Data Protection Regulation - GDPR? *Yes/no*)
- Coordinator/ team member personal information: title, first name, family name, email address, phone number, function (possibility to include more than one team member)
- References (*up to 5*) relevant to the proposal including links to the articles or abstracts.
- Short description (*max. 2000 characters*) about the current position of the partner and his/her collaborators in the project, fields of expertise and other relevant experience. Description of ongoing projects related to the present topic indicating project name, funding source and amount, and potential overlap or link with the current proposal (if any).
- Short description (*max. 3000 characters*) about the task(s) of the coordinator and role in the project.

Budgetary table

	Requested budget (€)	Own contribution – in cash/in kind (€) (if applicable)
Personnel		
Travel & subsistence ¹		
Consumables		
Equipment		
Other direct costs ²		
Total direct costs		
Indirect costs (Overhead) ³		
<u>Total requested budget (€)</u>		
<u>Total costs (€)</u>		

1: Besides own project meetings, all project consortia should calculate costs for the attendance of a project representative (coordinator or a substitute) to three mandatory CORE Organic joint-project seminars (kick-off-, midterm- and final meeting) in their project plan. The attendance of more than one representative per project is possible at own expenses.

2: e.g. subcontracting, provisions, licensing fees; may not be eligible costs in all countries (will be handled according national regulations)

3: Overhead costs: funding according to national regulations

Mandatory: details and justification about (including in-kind and in-cash contribution):

- Personnel (PMs, position of employment etc.)
- Travel & subsistence (please provide information on expected travel expenses)
- Consumables (e.g., questionnaires, materials)
- Equipment (e.g., laboratory devices, IT infrastructure)
- Other direct costs (e.g., subcontracting, licensing fees)
- Indirect costs (brief information on the calculation of overheads)

☐ I have contacted my national contact point/ checked the national regulations in the call text to ensure my eligibility for funding

Step 4: The project coordinator selects all partners within the consortium. The partners will appear in the list if they are registered on the website <https://www.submission-coreorganic.eu>.

Step 5: Each partner receives an alert via email and logs-on to <https://www.submission-coreorganic.eu> where he/she validates the partnership. Project partners fill out all information requested (partner information + budgetary table).

Consortium partner

- Information about organisation (*Name, status, address, research group, etc.*)
- VAT number (*compulsory for applicants having a VAT number*)
- Privacy Policy (does your data privacy policy comply with the General Data Protection Regulation - GDPR? *Yes/no*)
- Coordinator/ team member personal information: title, first name, family name, email address, phone number, function (*possibility to include more than one team member*)
- References (*up to 5*) relevant to the proposal including links to the articles or abstracts. Or, for stakeholders: Experience and relevance of the particular stakeholder involvement to the project
- Short description (*max. 2000 characters*) about the current position of the partner and his/her collaborators in the project, fields of expertise and other relevant experience. Description of ongoing projects related to the present topic indicating project name, funding source and amount, and potential overlap or link with the current proposal (if any). Or, for stakeholders, Professional background and relevant expertise or background of the stakeholder organisation (max. 200 words)
- Short description (*max. 3000 characters*) about the task(s) of the partner and role in the project

Attachment:

- Letter of commitment (declaration of in-kind contribution: for applicants who are not eligible for funding by their national funding body or applicants from countries not participating in the Call)

Budgetary table

	Requested budget (€)	Own contribution – in cash/in kind (€) (if applicable)
Personnel		
Travel & subsistence ¹		
Consumables		
Equipment		
Other direct costs ²		
Total direct costs		

Indirect costs (Overhead) ³		
<u>Total requested budget (€)</u>		
<u>Total costs (€)</u>		

1: Besides own project meetings, all project consortia should calculate costs for the attendance of a project representative (coordinator or a substitute) to three mandatory CORE Organic joint-project seminars (kick-off-, midterm- and final meeting) in their project plan. The attendance of more than one representative per project is possible at own expenses.

2: e.g. subcontracting, provisions, licensing fees; may not be eligible costs in all countries (will be handled according national regulations)

3: Overhead costs: funding according to national regulations

Mandatory: details and justification about (including in-kind and in-cash contribution):

- Personnel (PMs, position of employment etc.)
- Travel & subsistence (please provide information on expected travel expenses)
- Consumables (e.g., questionnaires, materials)
- Equipment (e.g., laboratory devices, IT infrastructure)
- Other direct costs (e.g., subcontracting, licensing fees)
- Indirect costs (brief information on the calculation of overheads)

☐ I have contacted my national contact point/ checked the national regulations in the call text to ensure my eligibility for funding

Step 6: The project coordinator checks if Part A is complete.

PART B: OVERALL BUDGETARY TABLE

Total budgetary table and country summary tables

[Automatically generated in the Electronic Submission System]

Step 7: The project coordinator uploads Part C as one unprotected PDF file in the ESS. The Word file "Full proposal template Part C "CORE Organic Third Call 2021" can be found on the website.

PART C: PROJECT DESCRIPTION

All fields must be completed using "Arial font, size 11" characters, margins of 1.27 cm

- Relevance of the research project (*max. 8000 characters*)
 - Project objectives and main hypotheses.
 - Relevance to the call scope and topic, including identification of the added value/complementarity of the proposed research to previous or ongoing projects.

- Research approach (*max 8000 characters + WP module + Plan for Communication and dissemination*)
 - Research approach and methodology: scientific description of the research activities, collaboration among partners.
 - If relevant: Justification of any planned research which is not allowed according to the current organic rules.
 - Description of the work plan (including project structure, work packages, risks and contingency plan⁶) (please refer to the WP module and add/ adjust text accordingly).
 - WP module: description of the work packages and tasks (including timing, involved partners, milestones and deliverables; a Gantt chart).
 - Plan for Communication and Dissemination and capacity building (*max. 2 pages/ 8000 characters*) (see the information given in the Call announcement)
- Impact (*max. 8000 characters*):
 - Expected impact (considering cross-cutting issues⁷: multi-actor, multi-disciplinary and system approach).
 - Innovation potential (description of novelty in methods or development opportunities for the organic sector)
 - Added-value of the transnational collaboration and geographical relevance of achieved research results

Ethical issues (*max. 8000 characters*)

- Indication that the research project is carried out in accordance with the European Union and the respective national requirements

Optional: images/pictures/charts: up to 5 images in any of the text boxes

Step 8: The project coordinator checks the system generated PDF of the whole project proposal and presses *submit*. In case of technical problems with the submission, please contact the technical support team (techsupport@submission-coreorganic.eu).

⁶ Description and definition of potential risks to the implementation and success of the project (e.g. in research methods, farm studies, stakeholders involvement, etc.). Please describe how the chances for success are maximized, and include a contingency plan.

⁷ **Multi-actor-approach:** Involve different actors and stakeholders in your research project from the outset (by means of participation as well as transparent communication) / **Multi-disciplinary approach:** Take account of different viewpoints and involve actors from the disciplines beyond your existing network / **System approach:** Consider interconnections, synergies or trade-offs between different aspects or actors that directly or indirectly affect your field of research on a system level (e.g. economic, environmental, social, legislative, geographical, behavioural, business environment, etc.).