



# CORE ORGANIC PLEIADES

ROADMAP 2030 AND ACTION PLAN 2024-2025

MAY 22, 2024

# CORE Organic Pleiades Network ROADMAP 2030

## ABOUT CORE ORGANIC

CORE Organic is a European network of ministries and research councils that has existed since 2004 and has launched 8 transnational calls for funding, totalling EUR 61.9 million. During the current network period, CORE Organic Pleiades is focused on increasing R&I funding to support the European Green Deal targets for organic food, farming, and aquaculture. The network is implemented under the [OrganicTargets4EU](#) project, and it serves as a platform for policy exchange and supports network partners in the preparation of new Horizon Europe funding instruments relevant to organics.

CORE Organic Pleiades has 44 partners across 28 countries/regions. The current objectives of the network are to:

- Expand and strengthen to include all EU MS in CORE Organic and thereby strengthen coordination of R&I investments in the international organic sector,
- Align national/ regional regulations and structures for more efficient R&I investments in the organic sector to ensure more efficient regulations in transnational call mechanisms,
- Support transnational calls funded by the CORE Organic Pleiades network partners that support transnational organic research - ideally as a part of the future European Partnerships, as for instance AGROECOCLOGY and FutureFoodS.

[Visit the CORE Organic Pleiades network Website.](#)

## Introduction

The CORE Organic ROADMAP 2030 coincides with the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the network. It is a visionary document that combines inputs from the 44 partners present during the CORE Organic Annual Workshop held in October 2023 in Brussels (BE). The document is supported by the first operational Action Plan covering the period 2024-2025.

## Approach

EU Member States (MS) have financially supported organic food and farming since the 1990s and have collaborated transnationally under the European Research Area Networks (ERA-Nets) scheme since its introduction in 2002. Most of the MS have published official national organic action plans (OAPs) that guide national efforts to further develop and expand the organic sector. During the CORE Organic Annual Workshop 2023, the partners collaborated on identifying thematic challenges based on their respective national/regional OAPs and ultimately creating a joint platform for their transnational research funding engagements.

The partners engaged in a workshop focused on identifying and clustering research priorities from national/regional OAPs to find overlaps, research gaps and short/long-term temporalities. The partners further engaged in a

workshop on research gaps and institutional implications, which aimed to identify legal and procedural barriers to organic R&I and mitigation efforts. The scope of these two workshop sessions was broad. It served as a tool to map the wider landscape and context in which the CORE Organic Pleiades network is operating.

The findings have been integrated into a visual tool, the so-called 'Interstellar Tracker' (figure 1, page 3), to ease the comparison of priorities across partners' national/regional contexts. The inspiration for the name of this visual tool derives from the name of the CORE Organic Pleiades network itself, which refers to the Pleiades star constellation, used both by farmers for seasonal organisation of agricultural work and by sailors to navigate at sea.

## Research priorities

The overall common priorities identified in the national OAPs were:

- Co-creating foundations for knowledge exchange and research capacity building;
- Thematic research challenges;
- Facing transition: temporality – intensity – territoriality nexus;
- Partnerships.

Despite the overall priorities receiving frequent mention in several OAPs, the OAPs revealed various interpretations and/or views on the identified

priorities. To add further clarification, sub-priorities have been added and allocated to countries, allowing for specific identification and comparison of national/regional priorities.

The sub-priorities related to “Co-creating foundations for knowledge exchange and research capacity building” were not allocated to specific countries as this priority is overarching and the sub-categories can be considered approaches that are used by all the highlighted countries/regions in the figure.

The Interstellar Tracker can be found on page 3.

### Implementation activities

The CORE Organic Pleiades network offers coordination and activities that align with and address the priorities identified in the OAPs. The CORE Organic Pleiades network will:

- Involve new participants in CORE Organic Pleiades (e.g., European funding bodies and policymakers on national and regional levels; public funders funding industries and thereby expand the reach of the network);
- Improve coordination and increase support of R&I related to organic food and farming of high relevance;
- Establish a partly self-sustained CORE Organic network to explore the continuation of the network.

### Challenges and perspectives

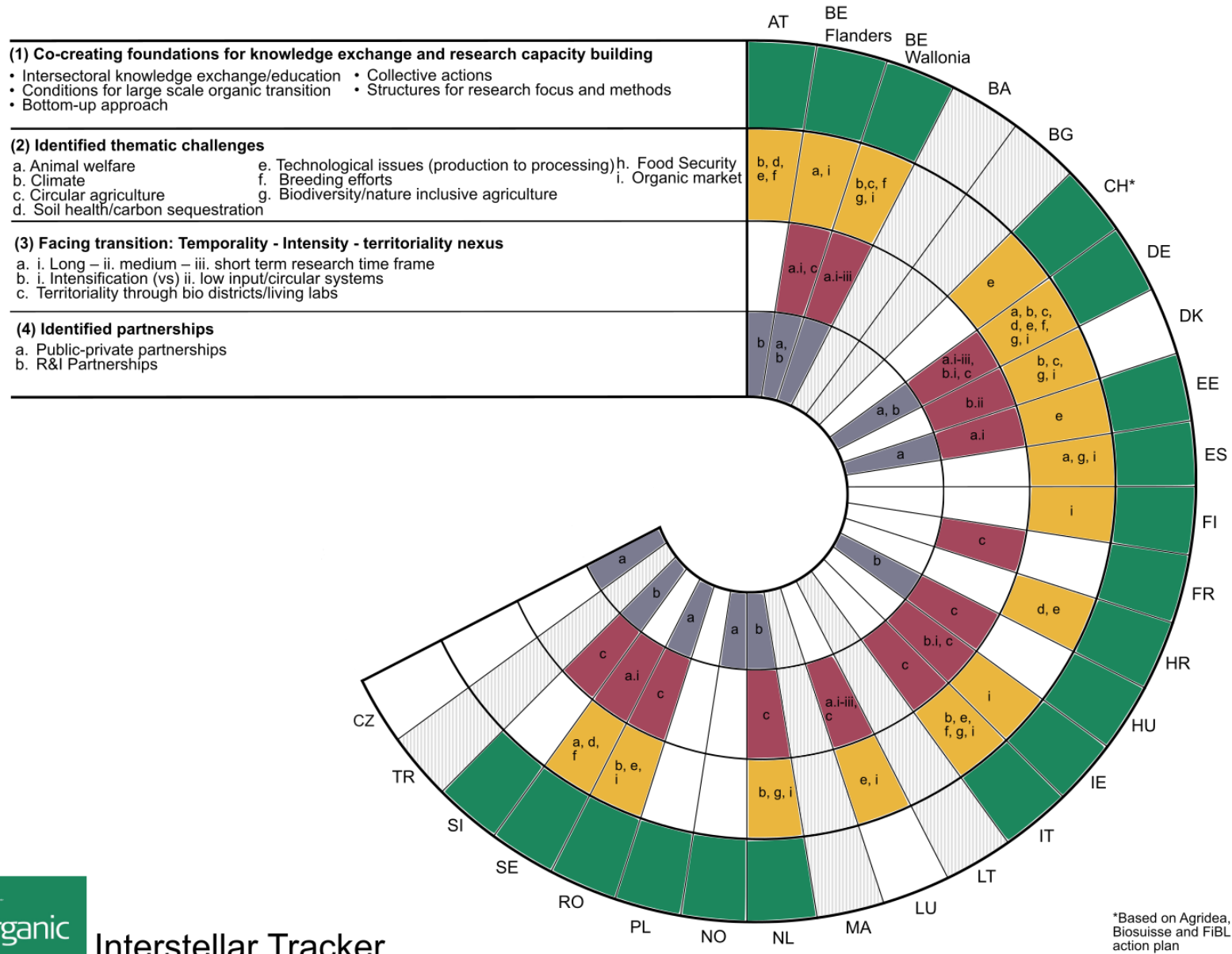
The CORE Organic Pleiades network operates in a broad landscape with various research gaps and institutional implications at multiple levels. To mitigate challenges, there is a need at the country/regional level for (i) cross-sectoral organic transition; (ii) support of transdisciplinary and systems approach research, and (iii) overall strengthening of the organic sector. At the call level, there is a need for (iv) a specific budget for organic research; (v) baseline studies; and (vi) priority and financial commitment to organic research projects. To mitigate the multi-level challenges, there is a need to: (vii) recruit new researchers, (viii) build a community of knowledge, (ix) implement new legislation and (x) improve long-term capacity building and mobilization of actors. By addressing these aspects, the priorities in the national/regional OAPs and the Farm to Fork Strategy can be more efficiently addressed.



### NETWORK PARTNERS

**Austria:** BML  
**Belgium – Flanders:** Dep. LV, ILVO  
**Belgium – Wallonia:** CRA-W  
**Bosnia and Herzegovina:** CERD  
**Bulgaria:** BNSF  
**Croatia:** MPS, Uni. Zagreb  
**Denmark:** ICROFS, IFD\*  
**Estonia:** REM  
**Finland:** MMM, LUKE  
**France:** INRAE  
**Germany:** BLE, BMEL  
**Greece:** Aristotle Uni. Thessaloniki  
**Hungary:** Min. Agriculture, ÖMKI  
**Ireland:** TEAGASC, DAFM  
**Italy:** MASAF, MUR\*  
**Lithuania:** MOALIT\*, LAMMC  
**Luxembourg:** IBLA  
**Morocco:** MENFPESRS  
**Netherlands:** MinLNV, WUR  
**Norway:** RCN  
**Poland:** NCBR\*  
**Romania:** UEFISCDI  
**Slovakia:** Min. Agriculture\*  
**Slovenia:** MKGP  
**Spain:** AEI\*  
**Sweden:** EPOK  
**Switzerland:** FOAG  
**Turkey:** GDAR  
**International:** BIO-EAST initiative\*, Organic Eprints\*, CIHEAM BARI, FiBL-EU, ERIAFF, TP Organics  
 \*Observer

# CORE Organic Pleiades Roadmap 2030 National Organic Action Plans



## Interstellar Tracker

Figure 1: Interstellar Tracker

The interstellar tracker is based on the contents of the national/regional organic action plans (OAP). Colours/ letters indicate that the specific theme was identified in the national OAP. A blank field indicates that the theme was not identified in the OAP. Light grey indicates that the country does not have an OAP.

## ACTION PLAN 2024-2025

No.	ACTIVITY (WORKING AREAS)	OBJECTIVES	OUTCOMES/ RESULTS (SHORT-/MEDIUM-TERM)	KPIs RELATED TO THE OBJECTIVES	MEANS OF VERIFICATION	IMPACTS (LONG TERM)
1	<i>Participation in European Joint Programming with a focus on increasing research funding for organic food and farming (OFF) on all scales - European, national, and regional</i>	Co-creation of foundations for knowledge exchange and research capacity building (e.g., conditions for large-scale organic transition, etc.)	Inclusion of organic research themes in HEU Partnership calls until 2030, and more immediately in calls 2024/2025: Partnerships AGROECOCLOGY, FutureFoodS and EUPAHW.  Inclusion of organic research in Green ERA Hub (GEH) calls 2024 and 2025	Number of CO Pleiades partners in the HEU Partnerships  Number of projects and amount of total funding in calls dedicated to OFF (e.g., Partnership calls and GEH calls)	Data from the transnational call selection meetings publicly available	Impact on HEU Partnerships as regards OFF research & innovation (R&I) call subjects and funding scale  Continuous widening and cooperation towards support for OFF and increased transnational R&I funding until 2030
		Identification of thematic challenges across Organic Action Plans (OAP)	Continuous policy exchange for funders, stakeholder partners, researchers and the European Commission (EC) representatives  Implementation of national/regional Organic Action Plans (OAP)	Number of policy recommendations (e.g., policy briefs, statement letters, etc.)  Number of OAPs related to CO Pleiades partners and their respective revisions	Records from the OrganicTargets4EU project  Records from the CO Annual Workshops (in conjunction with TP Organics 'Organic Innovation Day's 2024' and OrganicTargets4EU Final Conference 2025)	Impact on HEU Work Programme as regards OFF research & innovation (R&I), call subjects and funding scale
		Facing the transition - timeframe-intensity-territoriality nexus partnerships (e.g., public-private)	Contribution to new TP Organics Strategic Innovation and Research Agenda (SRIA) 2031 and identification of research gaps	Number of CO Pleiades partners participating in the TP Organics SRIA consultation process  Number of research gaps and priorities identified in the TP O SRIA in synergy	CO ROADMAP 2030 Interstellar Tracker section on thematic challenges  HEU Partnership SRIA documents	Contribution to the Green Deal strategic targets stipulated under the Farm to Fork (F2F) and Biodiversity strategies

				with CO ROADMAP and HEU Partnership SRIAs 2031		
2	<i>CORE Organic Pleiades network (CO) implementation and widening activities</i>	Widening and involvement of new participants in the CO network (e.g., European funding bodies on national and regional level; public funders funding private sector, etc.)	CO network to include all of the EU-27 Member States plus EFTA states covering various types of funding bodies and partners	Number of CO full and observer members from the EU-27 Member States plus EFTA states and possibly beyond	Letters of intent received by all CO Pleiades partners	Values, identity, and integrity impulse from the organic sector in synergy with other relevant sectors such as agroecology, biodynamics, etc.
		Launch survey and explore options for self-sustained CO network continuation 2026-2030	Agreement among CO partners about the continuation of the CORE Organic network	Number of CO Pleiades network partners participating in the survey process  Number of CO partners willing to participate in the network's continuation	Survey results  Revised Action Plan 2026-2030  CO internal administrative documentation	Integration of new OFF funding and stakeholder partners can be facilitated by being in touch with the organic movement as a whole and relevant debates (e.g., conventionalisation thesis)
3	<i>CORE Organic Pleiades network efforts towards improved institutional coordination and alignment of OFF R&amp;I actions</i>	Launch a survey and identify national/regional legal and procedural barriers to transnationally coordinated R&I investments via survey and 1:1 interviews	Recommendations on alignment and reducing the bureaucratic national/regional legal and procedural barriers in relation to organic R&I investments in the HEU calls (e.g., coordination with SCAR SWGs, Partnerships, etc.)	Number of policy recommendations (e.g., policy briefs, statement letters, etc.)	Survey results  Conclusions from in-depth interviews with CO partners  Records from the OrganicTargets4EU project	Impact on HEU Partnerships as regards OFF research & innovation (R&I) call implementation  Contribution to the Green Deal strategic targets stipulated under the Farm to Fork (F2F) and Biodiversity strategies

4	<b>Network's Communication and Dissemination Activities</b>	Efficient communication and dissemination activities on the network level	CO 20 Year Activity Annual Workshop 2024 in conjunction with TP Organics 'Organic Innovation Days'  Online HEU exchange workshops, newsletters, flyers, sectoral field visits, social media, homepage, CO research themes archive, Organic Eprints archive	Number of CO partners attending Annual Workshop and other events (e.g., Biofach, etc.)  Number of guests attending Annual Workshop  Number of visualisations and diversity of audience	Minutes from Annual Workshop events  Statistics regarding communication and dissemination activities (e.g., social media, Organic Eprints).	Continuous and improved uptake of results from OFF R&I projects (e.g., visibility of CO research themes archive; development and expanded coverage of Organic Eprints under the Partnership AGROECOLOGY, etc.)
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