



CORE ORGANIC PLEIADES

ROADMAP 2030 AND ACTION PLAN 2025-2026

7 FEBRUARY 2025

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 research and innovation (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 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 43 partners across 27 countries and regions. The current objectives of the network are to:

- Expand and strengthen to include all EU Member States in CORE Organic and thereby strengthen coordination of R&I investments in the international organic sector,
- Align national and 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 launch of CORE Organic ROADMAP to 2030 coincided with the 20th anniversary of the network. It is a visionary document that combines inputs from the 43 partners who were present during the CORE Organic Annual Workshop held in October 2023 in Brussels, Belgium and consequently revised in 2024 and 2025. The document is supported by the second revised operational Action Plan covering the period 2025-2026.

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-NET) scheme since its introduction in 2002. Most of the MSs have published official national organic action plans (OAPs) that include research related provisions guiding national efforts to further develop and support the organic sector. During the CORE Organic Annual Workshop 2023, the partners collaborated on identifying thematic challenges based on their respective national or regional OAPs and ultimately creating a joint platform for their policy exchange relevant for transnational research funding engagements.

The partners engaged in a workshop focused on identifying and clustering research

priorities from national or regional OAPs to find overlaps, research gaps and short and long-term synergies. 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 measures. The 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 Interstellar Tracker

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 or regional contexts. The interstellar was revised with a further inputs from research partners in OrganicTargets4EU in 2024 and by the CORE Organic Pleiades network partners in 2025. The inspiration for the name of this visual tool originates from the name of the CORE Organic Pleiades network itself, which refers to the Pleiades star constellation, used from ancient times by both by farmers for seasonal organisation of agricultural work and by sailors to navigate at sea.

The Interstellar Tracker can be found on page 3 and Action plan 2025-2026 on pages 4-6. The documents were revised and validated by the partners in early 2025.

Research priorities

The overall common priorities identified in the OAPs were:

- Co-creating foundations for knowledge exchange and research capacity building;
- Identify thematic research challenges;
- Facing the transition: temporality – intensity – territoriality nexus;
- Broadening partnerships.

Despite the overall priorities receiving frequent mention in several OAPs, the OAPs revealed various interpretations and views on the identified priorities. For further clarification, sub-priorities were allocated to countries, allowing for specific identification and comparison of national and 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 and regions in the figure.

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.

Recommendations

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 national and 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
Slovenia: MKGP
Spain: AEI*
Sweden: EPOK
Switzerland: FOAG
Turkey: GDAR
International: BIO-EAST*, CI-HEAM BARI, ERIAFF*, FIBL-EU, Organic Eprints*, TP Organics
*Observer



CORE Organic Pleiades Roadmap 2030 National Organic Action Plans



Interstellar Tracker

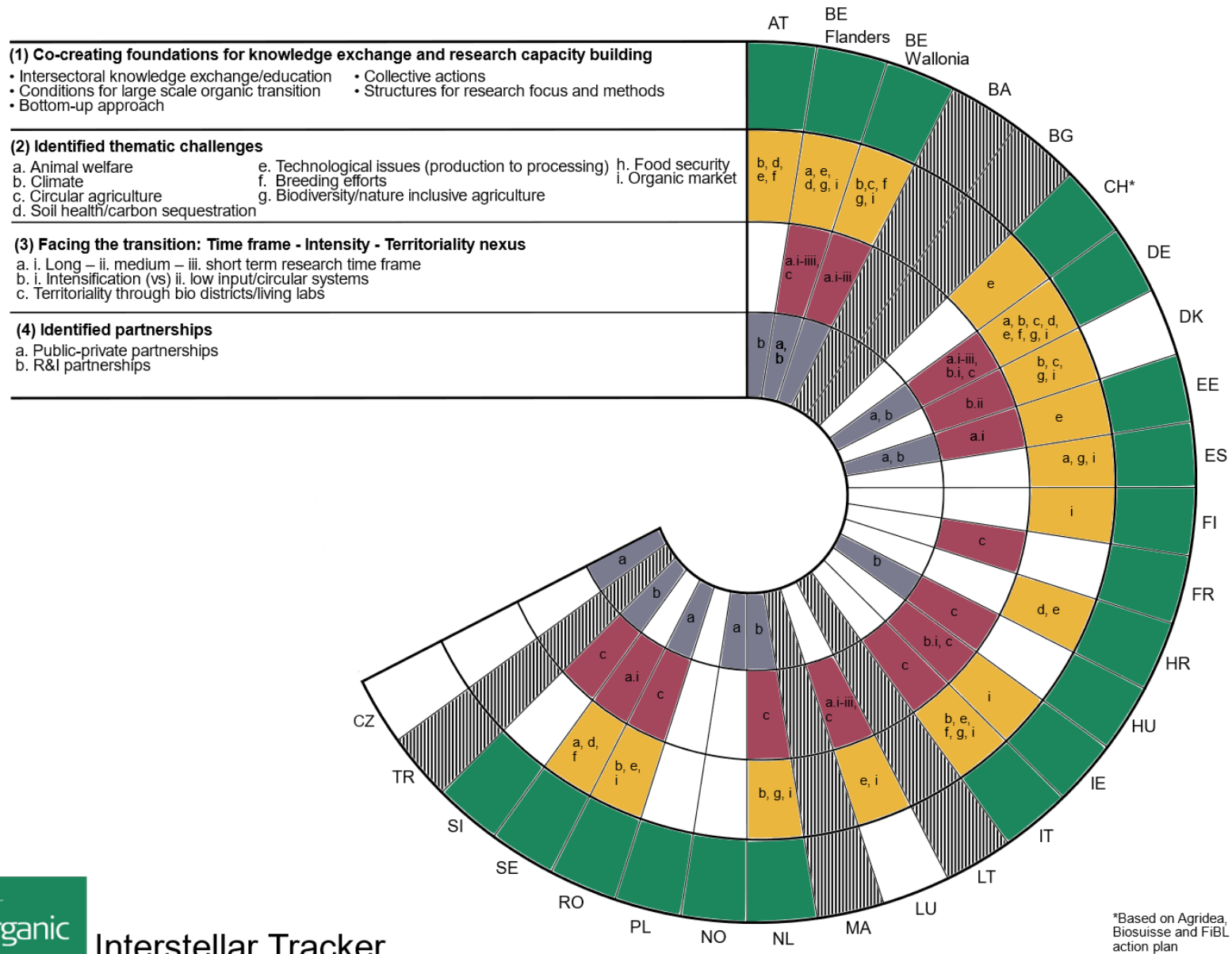


Figure 1: Interstellar Tracker

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

2nd ACTION PLAN 2025-2026

No.	ACTIVITY (WORKING AREAS)	OBJECTIVES	OUTCOMES/ RESULTS (SHORT-/MEDIUM-TERM)	KPIs RELATED TO THE OUTCOMES/ RESULTS	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 2025/2026: Partnerships AGROECOLOGY, FutureFoodS and EUPAHW Inclusion of organic research in Green ERA Hub (GEH) call 2025	Number of projects and amount of total funding in calls dedicated to OFF (e.g., Partnership calls and GEH calls) Number of CO Pleiades funding partners in the HEU Partnerships and GEH	Data about the selected projects from the transnational calls	Impact assessment of 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)	Implementation of national/regional Organic Action Plans (OAP) Continuous policy exchange for funders, stakeholder partners, researchers and the European Commission (EC) representatives	Number of OAPs related to CO Pleiades partners and their respective revisions Number of policy recommendations (e.g., policy briefs, statement letters, etc.)	Records from the CORE Organic website (dedicated OAPs section) Records from the CO Annual Workshops (with TP Organics' (TPO) 'Organic Innovation Days 2025' and OrganicTargets4EU Final Conference 2025)	Impact on HEU Work Programme as regards OFF R&I, call subjects, and funding scale
		Facing the transition: timeframe-intensity-territoriality nexus partnerships (e.g., public-private)	Identification of research gaps and priorities in CO ROADMAP 2030 Interstellar Tracker (dedicated section on thematic challenges) Contribution to new TP Organics Strategic Innovation and Research Agenda (SRIA) 2031 and identification of research gaps	Number of research gaps and priorities from CO ROADMAP in synergy with TPO SRIA and HEU Partnerships SRIA 2031 Number of CO Pleiades partners participating in the TP Organics SRIA consultation process	TPO SRIA and HEU Partnerships SRIA documents	Contribution to the Green Deal strategic targets stipulated under the Farm to Fork (F2F) and Biodiversity strategies

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 27 EU Member States plus EFTA states covering various types of funding bodies and partners	Number of CO full and observer members from the EU-27 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. 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)
		Continuation of the CORE Organic network 2026-2030	Revised Action Plan 2025-2026 Follow-up of the CO partner survey and integration of the results in the strategic network documents	Number of joint policy actions where the network can ensure impact Number of CO partners willing to participate in the network's continuation	CO strategic documents (e.g., ROADMAP 20230) and Minutes from CO Governing Board meetings	
3	<i>CORE Organic Pleiades network efforts towards improved institutional coordination and alignment of OFF R&I actions</i>	Continuation of joint efforts towards transnationally coordinated R&I investments	Aligning partners' efforts in organic research, policy, and funding towards reducing national and regional legal and procedural barriers in relation to organic R&I investments (e.g., internal and external events, capacity building visits, and one-on-one interviews)	Number of co-creation events and mechanisms supporting the preparation of recommendations on organic research policy and funding transformative change Number of policy recommendations and letters towards SCAR SWGs, HEU Partnerships, EC, etc. Number of partners attending capacity building events (e.g., Biofach, etc.)	Policy recommendations, letters Minutes from events and one-to-one interviews with CO partners Deliverables from the OrganicTargets4EU project	Contribution to the Green Deal strategic targets stipulated under the Farm to Fork (F2F) and Biodiversity strategies Impact on HEU Partnerships as regards OFF research & innovation (R&I) call implementation

4	Network's Communication and Dissemination Activities	Efficient communication and dissemination activities on the network level and towards external target groups Creation of long-term dissemination plan for CO network 2026-2030	HEU CO Exchange workshops CO Annual Workshop 2025 in conjunction with TP Organics / OrganicTargets4EU events CO newsletters, flyers, social media, homepage, CO research themes archive, Organic Eprints archive	Number of HEU CO Exchange workshops Number of CO partners and guests attending Annual Workshop Number of visualisations and diversity of audience	Presentations from HEU CO Exchange Workshops Minutes from Annual Workshop in junction with TP Organics / OrganicTargets4EU 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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