



Announcement
of the
2nd CORE Organic II Call

Call for applications (pre-proposals) for transnational
research in organic food and farming systems
launched by CORE Organic II

Closing date for pre-proposals: 16 January 2012, 13.00 CET



CORE Organic II is an ERA-NET funded by the European Commission's
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BACKGROUND TO THE CALL

CORE Organic is the acronym for "Coordination of European Transnational Research in Organic Food and Farming Systems". As an ERA-NET action, it intends to increase cooperation between national research activities.

CORE Organic II succeeded CORE Organic I with an extended partnership of 26 partners in 21 countries. The first CORE Organic II call for research proposals, which was launched on 1 September 2010 has successfully been conducted. Eleven projects were selected for funding, two of them already started in September 2011.

The overall objective of CORE Organic II is to enhance quality, relevance and utilization of resources in European research in organic food and farming and to establish a joint pool for financing transnational research in organic food and farming.

The specific objectives of the CORE Organic II network are

- to increase exchange of information and expertise
- to coordinate existing research.

The background for these objectives is that the public European research and development effort in organic food and farming is characterized by small research communities, often scattered and fragmented both geographically and institutionally. This generates a need for gathering the dispersed expertise into a critical mass, to maintain and increase the competitive quality and relevance of research.

CORE Organic II is launching a second transnational joint call for research project proposals based on funds from participating countries. Thanks to the agreement of the partners on common prioritized research areas, the CORE Organic II network will enable a better use of research funding whereas the human resources as well as research facilities will be complementary and more effectively utilized.

THEMATIC RESEARCH AREAS

Research project consortia should apply to one of the two thematic research areas (Plant breeding or Organic markets), which will be funded according to the funding table given in Annex B. The pre-proposals should be structured around (one or more) sub-topics listed under each of the thematic research areas:

(1) Plant-breeding - Improvement of production efficiency and agricultural biodiversity within cropping systems by using eco-compatible breeding techniques

Rationale: Plant-breeding and availability of adapted seeds and varieties are essential for efficient organic crop production, as well as to adapt to climate change. Breeding for organic agriculture can enhance within-crop biodiversity and create new market opportunities. Adapted varieties have to respond to specific conditions such as lower nutrient levels in soil, cultivation robustness, competitiveness against weeds and resistance to pathogens. Successful consortia should build on or link to existing national or international plant breeding networks and collaborate with private or public breeders. The focus should be on vegetables and/or arable crops. Projects should be targeted to improve, increase and facilitate varieties adapted to organic farming

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systems. Proposals should avoid duplication of existing FP7 or national projects, and prove their efficacy in implementing already existing research where applicable.

Proposals should include one or more of the following sub-topics:

- a) Methods and procedures in seed production to ensure more vital seeds with a high germination capacity and new and better methods to prevent and control seed borne diseases.
- b) Improvement of plant breeding efficiency to enhance production and agricultural biodiversity through transnational collaboration of existing private and public breeding programmes and/or exploring existing material such as core collections, e.g., by using participatory breeding approaches.
- c) Breeding schemes, breeding and selection techniques such as marker-assisted selection or use of polygenic resistance and/or breeding schemes aiming for high intra-varietal diversity and/or recurrent selection aimed at obtaining varieties that can cope with problems that are specific to organic farming such as seed borne disease, low nutrient levels or adaptation to mechanical weed control.
- d) Identification and development of targets and approaches to deliver effective disease management, through a combination of breeding, crop husbandry and seed production. Comprehensive evaluation and testing of disease management measures in organic farming combining breeding strategies and techniques, seed quality and treatment criteria as well as field management concepts.¹

(2) Supporting the development of organic markets

Rationale: The development of organic markets in CORE Organic partner countries is at different stages. In some countries the domestic market needs to be developed, whereas in other countries market demand cannot be fully satisfied. Furthermore organic market research has been carried out mainly for EU-15 countries. Future market development will benefit from transnational knowledge exchange. Proposals should avoid duplication of existing FP7 or national projects.

Proposals should include one or more of the following sub-topics:

- a) Identify important options and challenges in moving organic production from niche to volume, while securing traceability, integrity and consumers' trust vis-à-vis the organic values and consumers' trust in specific characteristics of organic farming.
- b) Develop strategies/identify factors, especially for smaller organic producers, which provide the opportunity to compete and act on the market, e.g., by new forms of farmer-consumer partnerships or cooperative farming systems.

¹ There is no funding from Denmark for this sub-topic.

- c) Analysis and comparison of organic clusters to facilitate better market coordination within and between value chains in partner countries, including import-export aspects.
- d) Transfer and adaptation of existing knowledge between partner countries especially regarding communication and marketing strategies for important target groups.²
- e) Development of models to forecast the evolution for national organic markets.³

WHO CAN APPLY?

Project consortia are eligible if they consist of at least three research institutions from at least three Core Organic II partner countries providing funding for the call. Applications with more than three participating countries will be given higher priority, if the projects hold equal scientific quality.

Research teams and institutions must be eligible for funding by their national funding bodies. In case of questions in relation to national aspects, please contact the National Contact Point (see table 3). Some countries have published their national eligibility criteria, these can be found on the website: www.coreorganic2.org under "Calls".

SUBMISSION OF PRE-PROPOSALS

The call announcement including this guidance is available at the CORE Organic II website: www.coreorganic2.org. The pre-proposal application has to be filled in and submitted via the call submission website <http://eracall.eu/coreorganic>. **Pre-proposals must be submitted by 16 January 2012, 13.00 CET.**

CALL SCHEDULE

The call involves a 2-stage procedure with submission and selection of pre-proposals and, subsequently, invitation of shortlisted consortia to submit full proposals. The respective time schedule and activities required are listed in the table below.

² There is no funding from Belgium/Flanders for this sub-topic.

³ There is no funding from Belgium/Flanders, Denmark and Germany for this sub-topic.

Table 1. Time schedule of the call – 2-Stage Call process

Action	Scheduled
STAGE 1	
Closing date for pre-proposals	16 January 2012; 13.00 CET
Eligibility meeting (review and evaluation of pre-proposals)	28 February 2012
Invitation letters for submission of full proposal	09 March 2012
STAGE 2	
Closing date for full proposals	10 May 2012
Evaluation by an Expert Panel	21 June 2012
Prioritisation and selection of projects	07 September 2012
Notification letters	October 2012
Contract negotiations	October ongoing
Start of projects	From January 2013

BUDGET

Table 2. Funder contribution table the second COII call per country and thematic area (in 1000)

Country	Plant breeding	Organic markets
Austria	200 €	100 €
Belgium (Flanders)	200 €	75 € ⁴
Denmark	~600 € ⁵	~300 € ⁶
Finland	100 €	100 €
France	75 €	75 €
Germany	350 €	150 €
Italy	300 €	0
Latvia	0	~21 € ⁶
Lithuania	0	~50 € ⁷
Luxembourg	200 €	0
Netherlands	100 €	0
Norway	~200 € ⁸	~300 € ⁸
Slovenia	100 €	100 €
Sweden	~300€ ⁹	~300 € ⁹
Turkey	150 €	50 €
United Kingdom	~230 € ¹⁰	0
Total	3,105 €	1,621 €

⁴ PhD scholarship

⁵ 4,500,000 DKK and 2,200,000 DKK, for Plant breeding and Organic markets respectively

⁶ 15,000 LVL

⁷ 173,000 Lt

⁸ 1,600,000 NOK and 2,300,000 NOK, for Plant breeding and Organic markets respectively

⁹ 6,000,000 SEK in total for both thematic areas

¹⁰ £200,000

CONTACT

The **CORE Organic II Call Secretariat** will provide administrative support to applicants regarding the call, call documents and procedures. It is the primary point of contact between the Research Project Consortium and the CORE Organic II Governing Board for all general matters in relation to the call.

Katerina Kotzia

Federal Office for Agriculture and Food

Deichmanns Aue 29, D-53179 Bonn, Germany

Tel: +49 (0)228 6845-2902

Fax: +49 (0)228 6845-3041

E-mail: Katerina.Kotzia@ble.de

The National Contact Points are supporting the Call Secretariat and should be contacted for all matters regarding national regulations and funding. Please see table 3 for contact information of National Contact Points.

Table 3. National Contact Points

Country	Name & Organisation	Telephone	E-mail
Austria	Gottfried Führer, BMLFUW (contract),	+43-71100-6776	Gottfried.fuehrer@lebensministerium.at
	Thomas Rech, BMLFUW (content)	+43-71100-6764	Thomas.rech@lebensministerium.at
Belgium (Flanders)	Malgorzata Verleyen Szulc, DLV (Plant breeding)	+32 2 552 79 71	Malgorzata.Szulc@lv.vlaanderen.be
	Lieve De Cock, ILVO (Organic market)	+32 9 272 23 52	Lieve.decock@ilvo.vlaanderen.be
Denmark	Ulla Bertelsen, ICROFS	+45 87157716	Ulla.bertelsen@icrofs.org
Finland	Suvi Ryyänen. MMM	+358 400869385	Suvi.ryynanen@mmm.fi

Country	Name & Organisation	Telephone	E-mail
France	Eric Dufour, MAAP	+33-1-49558553	Eric.dufour@agriculture.gouv.fr
	Stéphane Bellon, INRA	+33-4-32722583	Stephane.bellon@avignon.inra.fr
Germany	Katerina Kotzia, BLE	+49-228 6845-2902	Katerina.Kotzia@ble.de
	Dr. Till Schneider, BLE	+49-228 6845-3568	Till.Schneider@ble.de
Italy	Serenella Puliga, MIPAAF	+39 0 55 2491248/58	Puliga@issds.it
	Annamaria Marzetti, MIPAAF	+39 0 646655085	A.marzetti@mpaaf.gov.it
Latvia	Ligita Melece, LSIAE	+371-67553546; +371-67552909	Ligita@lvaei.lv
Lithuania	Neda Jakubauskienė, ZUM	+370 5 2391090	neda@zum.lt
Luxembourg	Carlo Duprel, FNR	+ 352 26192537	Carlo.duprel@fnr.lu
Norway	Siri Anzjøn, RCN	+47 2203 70 98	Sia@forskningsradet.no
Netherlands	Suzanne van der Meulen, MinEL&I	+31 (0)70 7573146	S.j.van.der.meulen@minlnv.nl
Slovenia	Jana Erjavec, MAFF	+386 1 478 9123	Jana.erjavec@gov.si
Sweden	Susanne Johansson, Formas	+46 8 775 40 20	Susanne.johansson@formas.se
Turkey	Sahin Anil, GDAR	+90 3123159787	Sanil@tagem.gov.tr
UK	Georgianne Griffiths, DEFRA	+44 (0)207 2384559	Georgianne.Griffiths@defra.gsi.gov.uk