

## Announcement of call

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

Closing date for pre-proposals: 15 October 2010, 13.00 CET



CORE Organic II is an ERA-NET funded by the European Commission's  
7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme

Contract no. 249667

## **BACKGROUND OF 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.

In FP6, CORE Organic I was established by 11 European partner countries, and the action realized eight transnational research projects between 2007 and 2010. CORE Organic II has now been extended to 22 partner countries. The first CORE Organic II call for research proposals is launched on 1 September 2010.

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 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 – CALL TEXT

Research project consortia should apply to one<sup>1</sup> of the three thematic research areas (Cropping, Monogastric or Quality) which will be funded according to the funding table given on page 6. The pre-proposals should be structured around the topics (one or more) listed under each of the thematic research areas.

### **(1) CROPPING: DESIGNING ROBUST AND PRODUCTIVE CROPPING SYSTEMS AT FIELD, FARM AND LANDSCAPE LEVEL**

*Rationale: Successful organic horticultural and arable crop production requires the development of innovative management options to enhance productivity and yield stability by using natural resources (e.g. water, soil, biodiversity) more efficiently through eco-functional intensification (based on biological processes and agrobiodiversity) at the appropriate scales. This needs to be achieved while protecting the environment and valuing ecosystem functions, so that organic agriculture may contribute to improving resource use, efficiency and diversity.*

The thematic research area includes the following topics:

- Improving pest, weed and disease control in horticultural production and other relevant cropping systems by optimizing ecological support functions at field, farm and/or landscape levels. Strategies could include the identification of novel pests and diseases, and consider a range of techniques and their interactions, e.g. management techniques or breeding research for disease resistance.
- Increasing the efficiency and availability of nutrient supply and maintenance in arable farming through functional soil biology, innovative plant nutrient sources, optimized crop rotations and recycling of high quality organic matter sources.
- Reducing the use of problematic off-farm inputs and minimizing emissions through efficient and innovative use of natural resources and processes at field, farm and landscape levels.
- Identifying innovative and viable forms of collaboration between farms to increase productivity and resilience within a range of socio-economic and production contexts, and at the appropriate scale at which they should occur for different functions (e.g. nutrient recycling, pest and disease management, weed control, ecosystem services).

### **(2) MONOGASTRIC: ROBUST AND COMPETITIVE PRODUCTION SYSTEMS FOR PIGS, POULTRY AND FISH**

*Rationale: Organic pig and poultry production and aquaculture have increased over the last decade but significant challenges hamper widespread conversion to organic management and the further development of these sectors. Research is needed to solve challenges regarding disease management, feeding, welfare and negative impacts on the environment, while complying with EU regulations on outdoor access and organic agriculture, and securing economic competitiveness.*

Innovative monogastric production systems require thematic research to improve:

- Disease management strategies based on prevention and alternative treatments.
- Animal welfare in relation to housing and the use and management of outdoor areas while considering environmental impacts.
- Organic feed (including 100% organic feed) that supplies sufficient levels of essential amino acids without excessive protein for poultry and pigs according to individual species physiology. Improved feed strategies

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<sup>1</sup> Please note a change compared with the pre-announcement published 5 July 2010: “one (or more)” is now changed to “one”.

that minimise environmental impacts may consider innovative crops, crop rotations, land use, degree of self-reliance, etc.

- Aquaculture based on robust species and breeds, with effective disease management and minimal environmental impacts, that meets EU regulations on organic aquaculture.
- Feed for farmed fish that partially replaces fish meal and oils with innovative plant protein sources while meeting fish requirements for protein and phosphorus. Research should consider levels of omega 3 fatty acids and complex carbohydrates in relation to physiological capacity.

### **(3) QUALITY: ENSURING QUALITY AND SAFETY OF ORGANIC FOOD ALONG THE WHOLE CHAIN**

*Rationale: High quality is one of the main objectives of organic production. Consumers also expect processed organic food to be of outstanding quality. However, the specific principles of processing (Article 6 of the Organic Farming Regulation) are not precisely defined and standards have not been elaborated. Tools need to be developed and made available to assess quality characteristics for organic food processing and to align the processing of organic food with the principles of Organic Farming Regulation Article 6 b/c/d (Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007), minimizing environmental impact and safeguarding food safety.*

The thematic research area includes the following topics:

- Development of careful processing methods and new technologies limiting the use of additives or non-organic ingredients and ensuring food quality and safety.
- Development of quality criteria, analysis methods and technologies ensuring the quality of organic products during processing and along the production chain.
- Development of analytical methods, markers, and other concepts for documentation of organic production and for the prevention of fraud.

## 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. Applicants are encouraged to contact their National Contact Points, if they have questions in relation to national aspects. Please see page 7 for contact details of your National Contact Point.

## SUBMISSION OF PRE-PROPOSALS

This call announcements and the Guideline for applicants are available at the CORE Organic II website: [www.coreorganic2.org](http://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 15 October 2010, 13.00 CET.**

## CALL SCHEDULE

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

ACTION	SCHEDULED
<b>STAGE 1</b>	
Closing date for pre-proposals	15 October 2010, 13.00 CET
Eligibility, quality and relevance check. Prioritisation and selection of pre-proposals.	October-November 2010
Invitation letters for submission of full-proposal	30 November 2010
<b>STAGE 2</b>	
Closing date for full-proposals	31 January 2011
Scientific peer-review	February-April 2011
Prioritisation and selection of projects	Late April; early May 2011
Notifications letters	15 May 2011
Amendment of project plans and budget (if applicable)	10 June 2011
Contract negotiation	June-July 2011
Start of projects	From September 2011

## BUDGET

CORE Organic II, first call. Indicative funding per country and thematic research area (in Million €)

Country	Cropping	Monogastric	Quality	Total per country
Austria	0.1	0.1	-	0.2
Belgium (Flanders)	0.1	0.1	-	0.2
Czech Republic	0.03	0.03	0.01*	0.06
Denmark	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.2
Estonia	0.09	-	-	0.09
Finland	0.075	0.05	0.075	0.2
France	0.15	0.075	0.075	0.3
Germany	0.5	0.3	0.2	1.0
Ireland	0.03	-	-	0.03
Italy	0.55	0.3	0.35	1.2
Latvia	0.02	-	-	0.02
Lithuania	-	-	0.1	0.1
Luxembourg	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.4
Netherlands	0.15	0.2	-	0.35
Norway	0.4	-	0.2	0.6
Slovenia	0.1	-	0.05	0.15
Spain	0.2	-	-	0.2
Sweden	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.75
Switzerland	0.15	0.125	0.125	0.4
Turkey	0.07	-	0.03	0.1
UK	0.239	0.119	-	0.358
Total million euros	3.704	1.780	1.815	7.918

\*Please note that the 0.01 Million € has been added by the Czech Republic after the pre-announcement

## 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.

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The **National Contact Points** are supporting the Call Secretariat and should be contacted for all matters regarding national regulations and funding.

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