

The calls of CORE Organic

In 2007 the **CORE Organic (CO)** launched a pilot call for joint transnational research projects within 3 common research topics. Out of 37 project proposals 8 were selected for transnational funding by means of a virtual common pot approach, and all partner countries participated in the transnational funding. The overall funding budget for the 8 3-year projects was about 8.3 million EUR.

COII launched its first call in September 2010 in a two-step procedure, 59 pre-proposals were received and the call board selected 25 project consortia, inviting them to submit a full proposal. The full proposals were evaluated by scientific expert panels who agreed to recommend 17 projects for funding. The CEBs (Call and Evaluation Board) selected 11 projects to be funded. The original budget for the call was 7.9 million Euros, however, there were many good project proposals and the partners were able to increase the funding to 9.1 million Euros. The distribution was: 6.7 million Euros for 6 cropping projects, 3.8 million Euros for 3 monogastric projects and 2.2 million Euros for 2 quality projects.

The second call was prepared and launched in 2011. The research priorities made for the first call were updated by the partners. 10 pre-proposals were submitted and the CEB invited 8 out of these to apply for a full proposal. The full proposals were evaluated by scientific expert panels, who recommended 7 projects for funding. The budget allocated for the 2nd call was about 4.9 million Euros, and the funding bodies agreed to fund two projects, one for each thematic area. Both projects are relatively large, spanning nearly all countries of the call, and requested 1.5 and 2.9M euro, respectively.

The funding model called “Real Common Pot” (RCP) is supposed to be a model for funding transnational research with lower administrative burden for the researchers. The existing legal, policy, administrative and project/programme barriers in the partner countries were explored in COII. Six countries (AT, DK, DE, NO, CH, UK) were interested and able to join a third call as an RCP call. After the decision on the thematic research area, a full set of signed agreements consisting of a memorandum of understanding with all operational annexes was agreed on before the call was launched. The call resulted in one application with partners from all six countries. The expert evaluation recommended the project for funding and it was evaluated as relevant for the sector by the funding bodies. Therefore it was selected for funding.

CO Plus (2013-2018) launched its EU cofunded call in 2013 in a two-step procedure, 48 pre-proposals were received and the call board invited 24 project consortia to submit a full proposal. The full proposals were evaluated by a scientific expert panel who agreed to recommend 18 projects

for funding. The consortia selected 11 projects to be funded. The original budget for the call was 11.3 million Euros (including 2.0 million Euros top-up from the EC. However, at the final selection meeting, the partners increased their budget by 0.5 million Euros to be able to fund all 11 projects (total: 11.3 million Euros). The distribution was: 3.3 million Euros for 3 soil/plant projects, 1.7 million Euros for 2 biodiversity projects, 3.4 million Euros for 3 livestock projects and 3.0 million Euros for 3 food processing projects.