

# CORE organic

Coordination of European Transnational Research in Organic Food and Farming  
Denmark-Switzerland-Germany-United Kingdom-Finland-Austria-Sweden-Norway-The Netherlands-Italy-France

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## **Pilot call for proposals**

### *Strategic objectives of CORE Organic*

CORE Organic is the acronym for "Coordination of European Transnational Research in Organic Food and Farming", an ERA-NET project, which intends to step up cooperation between national research activities. The overall objective of CORE organic is to enhance quality, relevance and utilisation 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 CORE Organic are to increase exchange of information and expertise and to coordinate existing research. A final aim is to identify and coordinate joint transnational research. Emphasis is on programme level cooperation.

The public European research and development effort in organic food and farming is characterised 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 will enable a better utilisation of research funding by the agreement of the partners on common prioritised research areas (see below). Research facilities connected with high costs, as well as human resources, can be complementary and more effectively utilised.

Hence the CORE Organic strategic objectives can be applied for different types of research and knowledge development e.g. in research areas where partner countries have ongoing research but need to define gaps, overlaps and possibilities for concerted actions, in research areas that are hardly explored and in research areas where one partner has generated special expertise and could support knowledge development in other partner countries.

### *Invitation*

The first transnational call in CORE Organic will be open from 5 September to 1 December 2006. CORE Organic projects aim to enhance European excellence through the support of transnational collaborations among European partners. There should be clear demonstration of added value in the proposed partnerships. The project proposals should deal with specifically targeted questions, which could be better answered if research takes place in more than one European country.

Eleven countries are participating in CORE Organic. The following partner organisations will contribute to finance research projects initiated in this pilot call:

**Table 1. Participating organisations**

Country	Organisation	Acronym	Funding per year, (€)
Austria – AT	Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management	BMLFUW	330 000
Denmark – DK	Danish Directorate for Food, Fisheries and Agri Business /Danish Research Centre for Organic Food and Farming	DFFAB/ DARCOF	600 000
Finland – FI	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	MMM	100 000
France – FR	Ministry of Agriculture/National Institute for Agronomic Research	MAP/INRA	300 000
Germany – DE	Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection / Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food	BMELV /BLE	330 000*
Italy – IT	Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies	MiPAAF	400 000
The Netherlands – NL	Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality	MinLNV	100 000**
Norway – NO	The Research Council of Norway	RCN	200 000
Sweden – SE	Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Science and Spatial Planning	Formas	200 000
Switzerland – CH	Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture	FOAG	100 000
United Kingdom – UK	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Defra	100 000

\*Confirmed funding for the years 2007-2009. (Please note that the amount can be increased, depending on the proposals). Continued funding for 2010 is decided at the end of 2006.

\*\*Confirmed funding for one year, decision for later years in 2007.

## Topics of the call

### *The thematic areas in this pilot call will be:*

Animal disease and parasite management, mainly focusing on preventive health and improving therapies to reduce reliance on antibiotics

- Set-up of long-term strategic research agendas. Screening of future research needs in disease and parasite prevention/management based on evaluations of the state of present knowledge.
- Management and prevention of diseases and parasites.
- Interaction between animal welfare, disease and parasite management.

### Quality of organic food – health and safety

- Organic quality – identification and definition of critical and essential parameters useful to optimise material and immaterial organic food quality. Methodological issues.
- Nutritional benefits and safety of organic food. Relation between healthy and ecologically sustainable diets.

- Impact of the food chain on product quality, risks and consumption. Interaction between organic standards and food safety, i.e. Salmonella, Campylobacter.
- Organic farming practices and their impacts on food quality, health and safety.

#### Innovative marketing strategies – identification of successful marketing methods, local markets

- Impact of large-scale conversion to organic production – consequences for market strategies (small/large scale, local/organic, price/quality), and the supply chain.
- Public procurement of food. Provision of organic food to public institutions – best practices and constraints.
- Reconnecting consumers and farmers – innovative practices.
- Marketing and consumer behaviour – benefits in terms of environment and health, knowledge based consumer choices and branding strategies.

#### **Application procedure**

Detailed information about the application procedure is given in “Guidelines for application”.

Project consortia consisting of at least three partners (one primary applicant and at least two co-applicants) from different participating countries are invited to apply for funding. Please note that applications with more than 3 participating countries will be given higher priority, if the projects hold equal scientific quality, relative to those with fewer participating countries (i.e. minimum 3). Research teams from the participating countries are eligible to submit proposals according to the requirements of the respective national funding body. Research teams and institutions shall follow national application requirements (see website of respective national funding body).

Note that only research teams and institutions from CORE Organic partner countries (see Table 1) are eligible and may participate in this call. The project duration is limited to a maximum of three years. The application procedure is a single-stage process.

The application shall be written in English and comprise:

- Application form
- Appendix A: Research programme
- Appendix B: CVs of applicants
- Appendix C: List of publications
- Appendix I: Detailed financial plan

#### Submission and signature

The application form is available in the system “Formas Direct” <http://direct.formas.se>, you may also follow the link from the CORE Organic website, [www.coreorganic.org](http://www.coreorganic.org). Further instructions for filling in the application can be found in the guidelines as well as in the application form.

The application forms as well as the appendices shall be registered electronically in the system “Formas Direct” by the user. This is done by saving the application and clicking on “Register”. Read and follow the instructions that appear in the new window. In order to register the application, click on “OK”, or on “Cancel” if you wish to cancel. A form in PDF format will be created for

signature at registration. **It should be printed by the user, completed, signed and sent to Formas.** This form shall have arrived to Formas **within five days** of the final date of application. Please note that once the application has been registered, no changes may be made, so be certain that everything is complete before registration. The final date for submission of the application is **1 December 2006**. Paper copies must **only** be submitted if required by the national funding body to the CORE Organic call secretariat at Formas. Please note that applications submitted only by mail, fax, diskette or E-mail will not be processed.

#### Deadlines

The call will be open between 1 September 2006 and 1 December 2006. Final selection is carried out in March 2007, and start of project will be 1 May 2007.

#### **Evaluation procedure**

Detailed information about the evaluation procedure is given in “Guidelines for application”.

Proposals are assessed in terms of:

##### **A. General criteria**

##### **B. Specific criteria**

1. *Scientific innovation*
2. *Methodology*
3. *Consortium expertise*
4. *Project management and resource utilisation*

##### **C. Relevance**

1. *Sector relevance and societal impact*
2. *Added value through transnational research*

The proposals are evaluated in a single-stage procedure. A basic requirement for work performed by experts and partners in the evaluation procedure is that it is characterised by impartiality. Experts are not to be engaged for evaluation if the proposal concerns the expert or someone close to the expert, or if the outcome of the matter can be expected to entail benefit or damage for the expert or anyone close to the expert. Discrimination of any kind may not take place.

#### **Further information and inquiries**

Inquiries will be answered by the respective national funding body, (see Table 2) or by the call coordinator Senior Research Officer Sara Österman, phone: +46-8-775 40 21

[Sara.Osterman@formas.se](mailto:Sara.Osterman@formas.se)

**Table 2. Contact persons at national funding bodies**

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