

WP 7: Coordination and implementation of future research topics with joint funding

Objective of WP 7

- ➔ initiate and coordinate the joint funding of transnational research projects from a pool of at least 9 million €

Main objective of Deliverable 7.3.

- ➔ evaluate the chosen funding procedures for the CORE Organic pilot call and models for joint funding collaboration.

Ulrika Geber Manuela Kienegger Anita Silmbrod

Content of Deliverable 7.3 Final report

- ➔ Process description
- ➔ Evaluation
 - output of call
 - Self evaluation
 - Target group questionnaire
 - Experiences from other ERA-NETs
- ➔ Discussion
- ➔ Recommendations

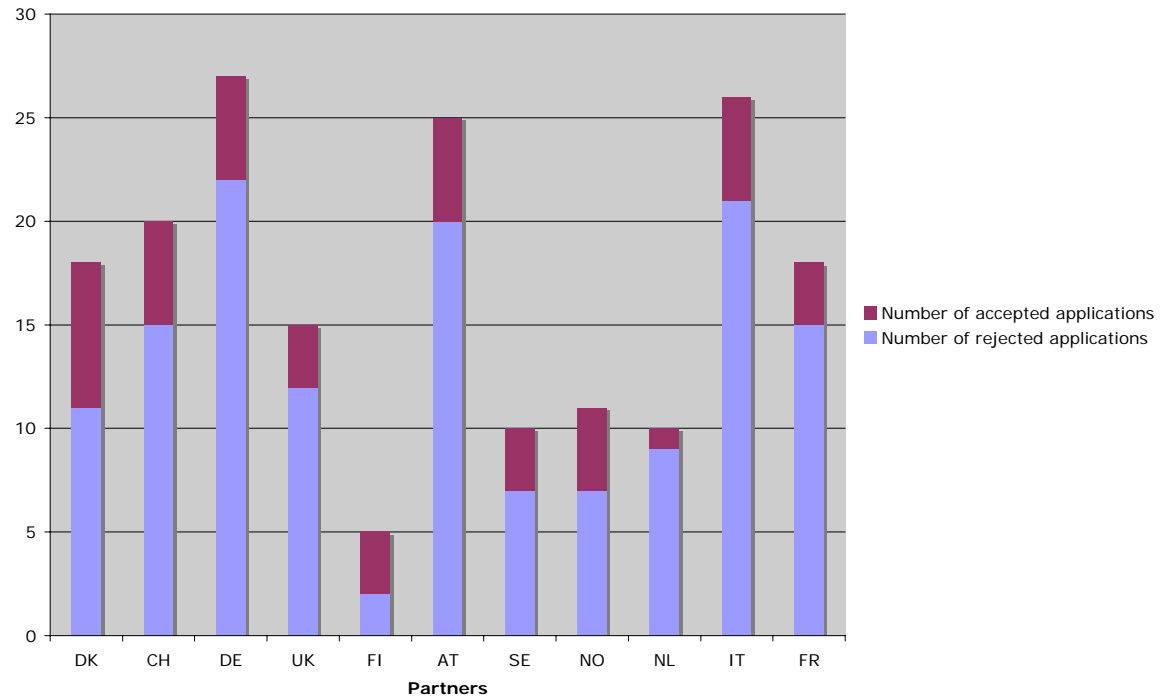
Basis for evaluation were

- ➔ Output description of the pilot call,
- ➔ Self-evaluation by management board members
- ➔ Results from a online questionnaire to four target groups
 - applicants,
 - members of the evaluation expert panel,
 - CORE Organic National Call Contact Persons (NCCP) and
 - members of the CORE Organic Governing Board
- ➔ Experiences from other ERA-NET calls

Output description of CORE Organic pilot call

- ➔ Research funding of 8.1 million € or 4.7% of the total national OFF budget in the participating countries. Differences among partners: 2.1 to 0.03 M€
- ➔ 36 eligible project applications were submitted to three research topics
 - Animal disease and parasite management – 9 applications
 - Quality of organic food, health and safety – 18 applications
 - Innovative marketing strategies – 9 applications
- ➔ Eight applications accepted. Success rate 22%. Large variation among partners
 - Animal disease and parasite management – 56% of funds
 - Quality of organic food, health and safety – 23% of funds
 - Innovative marketing strategies – 21% of funds

Accepted and rejected applications



Preparatory phase

- Virtual common pot chosen due to national restrictions on model
- Topics selected interesting – final selection not clearly formalised

Suggestions

- A formalised procedure to define call topics including common issues at European level and complex interdisciplinary problems, additional to the pooling of national programmes
- Full agreement on call topics among funding partners
- Assignment of funds to each individual call topic/or allow for restricted calls with a smaller number of funders
- Aim towards a more even funding between participating partners
- The use of a two-step application procedure
- More detailed information on national funding in call documents
- The use of Milestones and Deliverables in application documents
- Larger application document
- The early setup of a FAQ forum

Application phase

- Target groups were mainly satisfied with CORE Organic pilot call
- Sufficient quality of information provided to the applicants through the website, FAQ and NCCPs
- The functionality of the electronic application system was considered mainly poor

Suggestions

- The setup of a central contact point (e.g. call secretariat) or at least improved communication and information exchange between individual NCCP on FAQ
- The use of a fully adapted web-based application system

Evaluation phase

- Good quality of work, supplied information and timing of steps of remote assessment and panel meeting judged by expert panel
- Half of applicants considered feedback concerning the scientific evaluation and the final selection of projects was considered to be good
- Many of applicants lacked information on improvements and justification of project rejection

Suggestions

- A preparatory information meeting prior to the expert panel meeting in order to discuss the evaluation criteria
- If funding is assigned to each specific topic of the call, evaluation of experts should be restricted to the applications in the topic of their field of expertise

Selection / funding phase

- ➔ The most critical phase for future improvement
- ➔ Selection was considered poor by more than half of the GB members
- ➔ Discrepancy to the scientific evaluation
 - Funding model restrictions
 - Too short time for national selection discussions
 - Procedure unclear

Suggestions

- ➔ A formalised procedure including, discussion on selection of criteria and written selection feedback to applicants
- ➔ More room for negotiating

Strategic aims for the future

- ➔ CORE Organic very important for partners' internationalisation
- ➔ Strategic topic formulation – full agreement, European level
- ➔ Exchange of information and experiences on funding mechanisms
- ➔ Coordination of knowledge production (Organic Eprint)
- ➔ Increase of the research community in organic farming and national research involvement
- ➔ Complementary instruments are e.g.
 - increased of existing knowledge
 - synthesis of existing information
 - research user involvement

Goal conflicts

- ➔ Topic formulation: openly formulated versus restricted calls
- ➔ Number of participating organisations: all vs. few funding institutions participating in a call – less funds but easier agreement on funding model and even funding, or more funds but increased complexity
- ➔ Funding model: virtual pot vs. true common pot or mixed model

Lessons learnt

- Procedure for topic formulation
- Two-step procedure
- Timing of call phases – more time for application (2 step) evaluation, selection and contract and funding phase
- Communication and information to applicants
- Procedure for final selection