

CORE Organic Cofund Third Call 2021

**‘ORGANIC FARMING SYSTEMS FOR IMPROVED
MIXED PLANT AND ANIMAL PRODUCTION’**

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)



The project receives funding from the European Union’s Horizon2020 Research & Innovation Programme under grant agreement No. 727495, CORE Organic Cofund

1. Scope and thematic areas of the call

Q: Does animal production in the call include fish? Q: Does the Call support aquaponic production systems (fish and plants)? Q: Does the scope of the call also include contained farming solutions such as indoor farming or is it limited to outdoor organic production?

A: Please contact your funding body through the National Contact Point (NCP) and check if the research area is eligible for funding. We remind you that the research proposal should aim at “the further development of the organic sector in Europe and beyond” (see the text of the Call announcement).

Q: Can one proposal cover more than one subtopic?

A: You will need to declare in the online Submission System under which subtopic you submit your proposal, please choose the one more in line with your proposal content and objectives.

Q: Bulgaria would apparently fund only "basic research". I wonder whether you could clarify what "basic" may mean

A: We recommend that you contact your NCP for further clarifications.

Q: The German funder (BMEL) will exclusively fund research projects related to resilient berry fruit production system (see BLE national regulations). Is it possible that German applicants participate in a proposal, performing research on berries, whereas the other consortium members deal with research in another area?

A: Yes, but only under the premises that such a collaboration would make sense, would bring added value and create synergies within the proposal. In addition, this proposal needs to be submitted under topic 2.

Q: Must all experiments be conducted on soil with a history of organic management, or is it sufficient that there is organic management from the start of the project onwards?

A: when considering the place where your experiments are to be conducted, it is relevant to think about the scientific data that you will have afterwards. If these data can be credible in the organic food and farming scientific journal then probably it can be considered, but if your evidence would not be able to contribute to scientific objections of the call, then it could be better to have an alternative solution.

2. Funding modalities and who can apply

Q: What is the latest date for funded projects to start?

A: The funding bodies aim to start within 31 December 2021, but there could be some delays due to national contacting procedures.

Q: Individuals applying - does it mean researcher or institute? Are 'individual partners' persons or institutions?

A: One single person can participate in only one research proposal. “Individuals” are single persons.

Q: Are there any limitations in terms of number of proposals that can be submitted by different researchers, in different research teams, but within the same organisation? Q: Can the same institution/university/department submit more than one proposal? Q: If researchers from the same department are interested to submit a proposal, are they all allowed to apply?

A: The call announcement states that "Individuals can only participate in one project proposal and can apply to only one Call sub-topic", thus the limitation is for the individual, not for the institution/university/department.

Q: Can one researcher participate both as project coordinator and project partner?

A: A project coordinator also performs research activities. In the online submission system he/she will have to register only as coordinator, and will be able to describe the coordination tasks + own research contribution to the project.

A researcher cannot participate in one proposal as coordinator, and in another one as partner (see previous Q&As).

Q: How does an institution find partners? Do you have a database of interested partners?

A: CORE Organic provides a web-based Partnering forum for researchers who are willing to establish a project consortium and are looking for partners. The tool is available to registered users after login, at the following link: <https://www.submission-coreorganic.eu>.

Q: Can a researcher from a country not included in the partner countries apply for core organic research project?

A: Researchers from a country not funding this Call, can participate with own funds. Please read the Call announcement for further indications about the in-kind contribution.

Q: What is the minimum in-kind or in-cash contribution of a partner within the proposal?

A: In-kind contribution is not predefined, but there could be some national specific requirements. Please read the national regulations/contact your NCP.

Q: Can business-private partners apply?

A: Having business-private partners depends on each funding body regulations and it is to be checked in the national regulations/with the NCP.

Q: Is it possible for a private company with a track-record of research activities (H2020, EIP) to take part to the project as partner or linked third party?

A: It depends if they are eligible for funding by the funding institution. Otherwise they have to participate in-kind (they can declare themselves project partners with own contribution).

Q: Should partners co-finance the proposal with hours of permanent personnel? Q: If there is co-financing mentioned in the project, how it has to be proved? With cash flow or with working hours of regular employed persons in the institute?

A: It is not compulsory to co-finance the proposal. Co-financing can be of various nature (personnel, budget, equipment, etc.). Please also read the previous Qs and As, and check if there are specific national regulations.

Q: Does co-financing brings any benefits for the applicant during the evaluation process?

A: Evaluation will also include the assessment of the "adequacy of the budget" (see the evaluation criteria in the Call announcement).

Q: Is it possible for a non-profit organization to participate, if it is involved in research?

A: Please contact your NCP in order to check if you are eligible for funding.

Q: Could it be useful to have endorsement letters by actors of organic producers?

A: Endorsement letters are not requested but if considered relevant, you can add max 2 at the end of Part C (there is the option to add up to 5 images/pictures/charts).

Q: Shall non-funded partners provide budget reporting of their in-kind contribution?

A: At the level of proposal, the in-kind contribution can be indicated in the budgetary table. Partners participating in-kind should state in advance the source of funding for their part in the project. A letter of commitment must be included in the proposal confirming the source of funding. In-kind contribution usually also needs to be reported in the mid-term and final reports. The reporting can differ among the partner countries and please refer to your NCPs and national regulations of the respective funder.

Q: Before starting to contact potential partners, I would like to be sure there is no problem of incompatibility with my actual role of Coordinator of XY project.

A: If the topic of the project proposal is not overlapping with XY project, there are no rules preventing your participation to the Call. The Call announcement indicates: "Applicants should avoid redundancy with projects funded or submitted in Calls from H2020, CORE Organic, other ERA-Nets or national projects."

3. Selection criteria

Q: Is it more strategic to include some funder countries rather than others?

A: Research consortia are encouraged to consider good geographical coverage. All funder countries are equally weighted.

4. Electronic Submission System

Q: I cannot find the template for the Project description

A: Now part C template is available when you start the submission (all the information requested is anyway indicated in Annex E of the Call announcement).

Q: In the budgetary table, where do the coordination costs have to be indicated?

A: Please check in the national regulations if there are specific requirements about the allocation of costs in the different table costs categories.

Q: Does the character limit include spaces?

A: the character limit includes spaces: this is valid for all the parts and boxes to be filled in throughout the proposal.