



# CORE organic

## The ERA-Net CORE-Organic

CORE-Organic = Coordination of European  
Transnational Research in Organic Food and  
Farming



## ERA-NET-Initiative of the EU ↓ Background information

- ERA-Net: European Research Area Network
- Aim of the EU-Commission:  
Coordination of scientific resources in Europe to enhance the competitiveness of the EU
- The Way:  
to motivate funding bodies of the member states to join their forces permanently and to initiate common calls

## ERA-NET-Initiative of the EU ↓ Background information

The steps:

- Common analysis of national research programmes, aims and modes
- Identification of common research foci
- Development of a common mode for project support
- Build a common financial pot
- Publish common calls, common evaluation of proposals and common selection of projects
- Common financing and monitoring of research projects

## The ERA-Net CORE Organic

Frame of the project:

- Participants: 11 European countries
- Duration: Oct. 04 - Sept. 07
- Coordination: Denmark
- EU-support: 1,2 million Euro





## The ERA-Net CORE Organic

- Preconditions for participation
  - Member of the EU or Associated Country
  - Existing or planned research programme in the field of Organic Food and Farming
  - Programme owner or programme manager



## Specific Objectives of CORE Organic

- Increase exchange of information and establishment of a common open web based archive (Organic Eprints, [www.orgprints.org](http://www.orgprints.org))
- Coordination of existing research and integration of knowledge in organic food and farming
- Sharing and developing best practice for evaluating organic research
- Identification and coordination of future research, joint pool of at least 3 million € per year



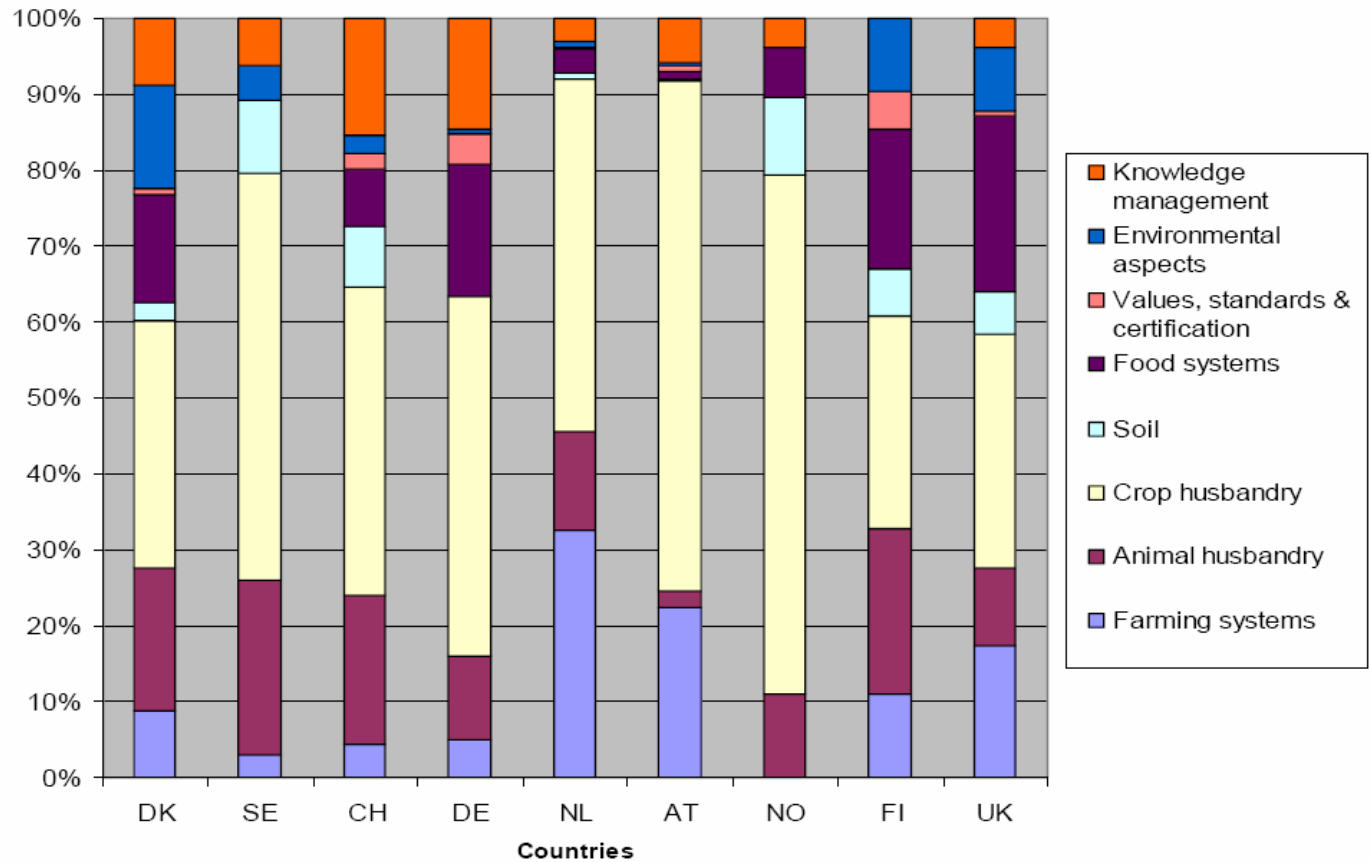
## Results

- Aim 1: Mapping of research and facilities
  - Database, analysis of national research programmes, projects and facilities
- Aim 2: Coordination and integration of knowledge
  - Identification of resources for research for common use
- Aim 3: Best practices for evaluating research
  - Analysis of national project evaluation processes, development of a common procedure

## Results

- Aim 4 Identifying and prioritising joint research topics
  - Definition of topics for a common transnational call
- Aim 5 Implementing transnational research - joint funding
  - Establish a virtual common pot, publish a transnational call (Sept. 2006), evaluation of incoming proposals, start of the research projects (June 2007)

## Distribution of financial input on 8 research subjects in 9 European Countries involved in CORE Organic, 2004

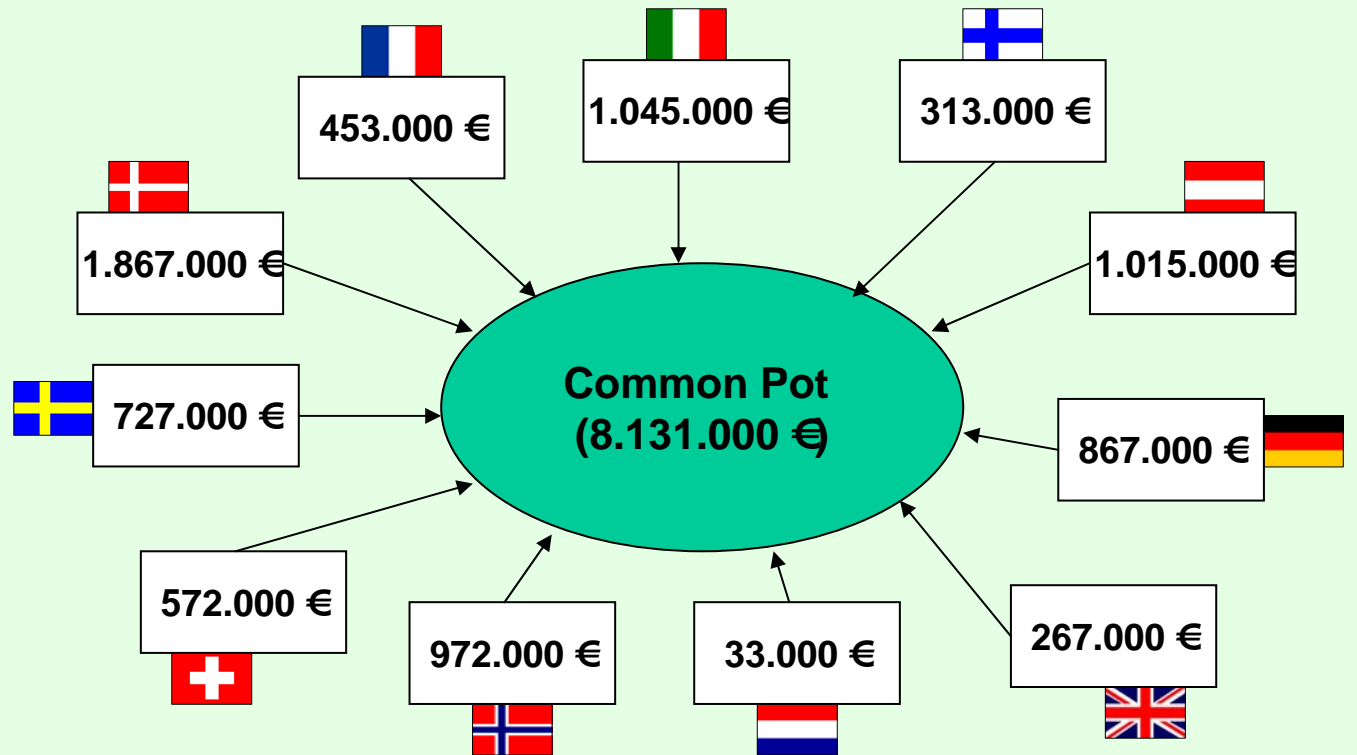




## Facts of the CORE Organic pilot call

- Announcement period: 01.09.2006 - 01.12.2006
- Precondition: min. 3 partners from 3 countries
- Process: one-step online procedure
  
- Published topics:
  - Animal disease and parasite management, mainly focusing on preventive health and improving therapies to reduce reliance and antibiotics
  - Quality of organic food - health and safety
  - Innovative marketing strategies - identification of successful marketing methods, local markets

## The common pot



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## How to continue the cooperation

Status at the end of 2007

- First funding period has ended
- Received positive signals from the COM
- All partners were interested to continue the cooperation
- Interest of new partners to participate:

**We will continue our work!**

## How to continue the cooperation

Discussion about the different options

- Continuing without EU-support
- Apply for a second ERA-Net
- Apply for an ERA-Net +

Decision:

Apply for a second funding period in form of an ERA-Net  
Broaden and deepen the cooperation



## How to continue the cooperation

Broaden the cooperation:

- inviting new partners to participate

Deepen the cooperation:

- Publish new common calls
- Develop regular procedures for calls and project evaluation
- Develop a strategy for future cooperation without EU-funding

= > Strategy Paper

## How to continue the cooperation

Current state:

- Writing a proposal for CORE Organic II
- Deadline for submission: April 21<sup>st</sup>
- Presently 20 countries are interested to participate

## Relevance of CORE Organic for research in Organic Food Systems

- Relevance on European level
  - Restrictions of national directives regarding international cooperations
  - National research should cover the whole area of OFF: double fundings
  - Little national resources for research in OFF - no possibilities of large cooperations on national level
  - Less administration compared to EU cooperation projects

## Relevance of CORE Organic for research in Organic Food Systems

- Influence on national research programmes
  - Topics depending on location / regional topics => national projects required
  - Topics independent from location could / should be handled internationally
  - National programmes / national calls can be adapted



## Relevance of CORE Organic for research in Organic Food Systems

- Barriers on national level
  - Research programmes are temporary: difficulties for long term planning
  - CORE pilot projects are still running: no evaluation of the results possible, but necessary as a basis to decide about cooperation
  - Research is not the core business of agricultural ministries



# Organic eprints

**An open access database for information  
about  
research in organic agriculture  
like papers, project and facility entries**

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The Organic Eprints archive  
<<http://orgprints.org>>

## About CORE Organic



CORE Organic is a transnational partnership where resources within research in organic food and farming are joined.

The aim is to enhance the quality, relevance and utilisation of resources in European research in organic food and farming through coordination and collaboration.

The project is initiated as a part of the European Commission's ERA-NET Scheme, which intends to step up cooperation between national research activities.

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## Current topics

### CORE Organic funded research projects

As a result of the cooperation in the CORE Organic ERA-net, a pilot call for joint transnational research projects in organic food and farming was launched in late 2006.

Following a comprehensive evaluation procedure eight research projects were selected for joint, transnational, funding by means of a virtual, common pot approach.

- [More about the funded research projects](#)

### Continuation of the CORE Organic cooperation

In September 2007, the first ERA-NET project period came to an end; at the same time eight transnational research projects initiated under the auspices of CORE Organic were launched. In order to continue the cooperation in CORE Organic and to start the new research projects, a two-day, kick-off meeting was held in Vienna on 13-14 September 2007.

At the meeting the new transnational research projects were presented and potential benefits and constraints for transnational research cooperation in organic food and farming through an ERANET were discussed. Likewise, the outputs, findings and the "lessons learned" during the 3-year period of the ERA-NET project CORE Organic were presented and discussed.

Finally the eleven partners in CORE Organic formed a network in order to continue their cooperation.

- [More about the meeting](#)

## CORE Organic resources

### CORE Organic news

Our newsletter **CORE Organic news** is bringing articles on a variety of topics related to research in organic food and farming.

- [CORE Organic news archive](#)
- [Subscribe to CORE Organic news](#)

### Organic eprints

Under the auspice of CORE Organic the open access archive, Organic Eprints has been extended to function as the organic research archive for all partner countries.

- [Go to Organic Eprints](#)

### Portal for European research in organic food and farming

In CORE Organic a "web portal" has been established with the objective to provide overviews of the structure and the content of research in the individual CORE Organic partner countries.

- [Visit www.coreportal.org](http://www.coreportal.org)



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