CORE Organic

Joint meeting of CORE Organic Pilot Research Projects and CORE Organic Funding Body Network (8 June 2009 - Rome, Italy)

BACKGROUND

The ERA-NET CORE Organic, conducted in 2004-2007, launched 8 transnational pilot projects, funded by the participants' funding bodies. These projects are running for the period 2007-2010 and reached their mid-term at the end of 2008. The meeting was an opportunity to present the projects and their preliminary results at mid-term, including new research needs and how research may benefit the organic sector, and to have a discussion between project coordinators, CORE Organic Funding Body Network and other participants on experiences with transnational research arising from such projects. For more information on the CORE Organic Pilot Projects: http://www.coreorganic.org/research.

The group of initial partners in CORE Organic has been expanded to 26 partners (in 22 countries), who have recently prepared a proposal for a new ERA-NET to build on the outcome of CORE Organic and prepare for a long-term collaboration. In this context, the meeting was also an opportunity to get inspiration and experience from the pilot projects, before getting into the next phase of CORE Organic transnational calls.

CONTENTS

Presentations from the projects can also be found separately in Organic Eprints: www.orgprints.org :

- FCP (Farmer consumer partnerships): http://orgprints.org/15943/01/CORE_FCP_8June.pdf
- iPOPY (innovative Public Organic food Procurement for Youth) http://orgprints.org/15942/01/CORE_iPOPY_8June.pdf
- ANIPLAN (Minimising medicine use in organic dairy herds through animal health and welfare) http://orgprints.org/15945/01/CORE_ANIPLAN_8June.pdf
- COREPIG (Prevention of selected diseases and parasites in organic pig herds by means of a HACCP based management and surveillance programme): http://orgprints.org/15944/01/CORE_COREPIG_8June.pdf
- PHYTOMILK (Potential improvement of the salutary effects of organic milk by forage species and by supplementation) http://orgprints.org/15940/01/CORE_Phytomilk_8June.pdf
- QACCP (Quality analysis of critical control points within the whole food chain and their impact on food quality, safety and health) http://orgprints.org/15939/01/CORE_QACCP_8June.pdf
- AGTEC-Org (Agronomical and technological methods to improve organic wheat quality) http://orgprints.org/15938/01/CORE_AGTEC_8June.pdf
- PathOrganic (Risks and recommendations regarding human pathogens in organic vegetable production chains) http://orgprints.org/15941/01/CORE_PathOrganic_8June.pdf

Agenda

1. Opening

2. Presentation of the projects with experience from the participants

Focus on:
a- original hypotheses for the projects and main results so far;
b- new research ideas and their potential importance for the sector;
c- experience with transnational research, added value, scientific inspiration and perspectives for the European sector (15 min. per person and 5 min. questions)

- FCP (Farmer consumer partnerships)
- iPOPY (innovative Public Organic food Procurement for Youth)
- ANIPLAN (Minimising medicine use in organic dairy herds through animal health and welfare)
- COREPIG (Prevention of selected diseases and parasites in organic pig herds by means of a HACCP based management and surveillance programme)
- PHYTOMILK (Potential improvement of the salutary effects of organic milk by forage species and by supplementation)
- QACCP (Quality analysis of critical control points within the whole food chain and their impact on food quality, safety and health)
- AGTEC-Org (Agronomical and technological methods to improve organic wheat quality)
- PathOrganic (Risks and recommendations regarding human pathogens in organic vegetable production chains)

3. Cross-cutting issues relating to experience with transnational research, scientific inspiration

4. Alternative models for call procedures, pros and cons, initial discussion

5. Presentations from other participants

- The organic farming research in the EU: an overall picture
- News from TP Organics: the strategic research agenda after the first period of stakeholder consultation
- ERA-NET Plant Genomics – looking back and looking forward

6. Research topics / new research ideas and perspectives for the European sector

7. Close

Summary report

1. Opening

The meeting was opened by Ms Serenella Puliga from the Italian Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies and by Mr Lautrup Larsen, chairperson of the CORE Organic Funding Body Network.

2. Presentation of the projects with experience from the participants

The presentations from the 8 pilot projects can be found on Organic Eprints.

- FCP (Farmer consumer partnerships): http://orgprints.org/15943/01/CORE_FCP_8June.pdf
- iPOPY (innovative Public Organic food Procurement for Youth) http://orgprints.org/15942/01/CORE_iPOPY_8June.pdf
- ANIPLAN (Minimising medicine use in organic dairy herds through animal health and welfare) http://orgprints.org/15945/01/CORE_ANIPLAN_8June.pdf
- COREPIG (Prevention of selected diseases and parasites in organic pig herds by means of a HACCP based management and surveillance programme): http://orgprints.org/15944/01/CORE_COREPIG_8June.pdf
- PHYTOMILK (Potential improvement of the salutary effects of organic milk by forage species and by supplementation) http://orgprints.org/15940/01/CORE_Phytomilk_8June.pdf
- QACCP (Quality analysis of critical control points within the whole food chain and their impact on food quality, safety and health) http://orgprints.org/15939/01/CORE_QACCP_8June.pdf
- AGTEC-Org (Agronomical and technological methods to improve organic wheat quality) http://orgprints.org/15938/01/CORE_AGTEC_8June.pdf
- PathOrganic (Risks and recommendations regarding human pathogens in organic vegetable production chains) http://orgprints.org/15941/01/CORE_PathOrganic_8June.pdf

3. Cross-cutting issues relating to experience with transnational research, scientific inspiration, impact of the projects

Input had been obtained from project coordinators in advance of the meeting regarding the value of transnational research, the impact of their projects, and recommendations for future calls. A document was distributed and is annexed to the present report (Annex 2). Transnational projects are generally seen as an effective and positive way to cooperate (see comments in annex).

The meeting identified some topics linked to the organization of transnational research, which should be addressed in future calls (some other items are also mentioned in Annex 2):

- Respective roles and competencies of management board, individual funding bodies, project coordinators and project partners should be clarified, especially with regards to funding and work plans
  - Coordinators should have the possibility to take decision on scientific topics within their projects, even if this may be complicated by the number of national structures involved.
  - Projects generally entail additional work compared to EU projects, due to the need to approach national authorities in various countries in case of issues to be solved.
  - The project coordinator needs flexibility for rearranging the budget and work plan if a partner does not perform as expected.
- Reporting obligations
  - Such projects should provide a simple and effective system for linking activities of national participants, and reporting should be minimized to what is necessary, at national and transnational levels
  - The national and transnational reporting systems should be consistent, and should avoid duplication
  - Some funding bodies have requirements for their partners to report on scientific issues; this may increase work volume for project coordinators and participants, as partners may need to fulfill different reporting requirements
  - There should be a common framework for reporting, possibly through some harmonization of national reporting systems, such as by: agreeing common dates for reporting (and not different dates for different partners); requiring national reports in English (which is already the case for funding bodies in some non-English speaking countries)

  - If a project partner has the obligation to provide national reports to his/her funding body, these reports should be made available to the project coordinator, in order to improve transparency and project management.
  - some funding bodies do not have national reporting requirements for partners in transnational projects; this might cause difficulties in projects due to the lack of follow-up and monitoring by the partner's funding body.
- Budget
  - It should be possible for project consortia to include coordination and administrative costs in the budget of their projects
  - Partners in a project might have very different budgets. All partners have to agree on changes of work plan, but not all have the possibility to implement them. The coordinator has to ensure balance between work plan and budgets available. Partners with small budgets wanting to contribute more work have to do it on a voluntary basis (including for producing publications). This should be discussed as the system can't always rely on enthusiastic people wanting to carry out the work.
- The harmonisation of national contracts should be considered, in order to facilitate coordination and project management. For example, the date of start and end of the project should be the same for all project partners (it is not always at the moment), etc.
- Coordinators generally support the type of project proposals required by the model call of CORE Organic, i.e. a few pages, but thoroughly thought and described. The good interaction and support from the ERA-NET to researchers during the call was also useful.
- At the beginning of a project, methodologies used by the different partners need to be harmonized and it is important to find common ways to produce additional value. It might be useful to provide for 6 months at the beginning of projects to consider the common methodology to be used, so that the outcome has a European and not national value.

The meeting discussed the impact on beneficiaries, how stakeholders are involved in the pilot projects, and whether dissemination plans were in place for the future in the countries of project participants, and in other countries. The following issues were raised (the name of the project is mentioned when the comment is specific to that project).

- Main targeted end users are farmers and farmer organizations (ANIPLAN). Dissemination outside partner countries is not planned in any other way than making available reports and conference papers. It will already be a good achievement to reach end users in all partner countries, and promote the start of animal health and welfare planning.
- The advisory board of QACCP includes members from countries or groups not partners in the project, e.g. Netherlands, UK, new EU members states, EU, IFOAM etc. They participate and give critical feedback. Their involvement is not funded by the project, but these members are willing to fund their participation.
- iPOPY has national user groups twice a year and organizes many seminars. There have been seminars at Biofach and at the international congress in Modena. Publications written by partners are also widely available.
- Comments and questions on FCP have been received through Organic Eprints, from different countries including from outside CORE Organic partner countries.
- For AGTEC-Org, dissemination of tools for farmers would be complicated to achieve outside partner countries, while publications will be more widely available.
- Focus of projects at mid-term is still mostly on the research community. There is a need to "translate" the research results into material that can be used for policy makers and communicated to other parts of the public. In this respect, the following ideas were expressed:
  - The CORE Organic Funding Body Network is the right forum for policy issues.
  - Language is sometimes an issue, and it is useful when papers originally produced in another language can be published in English.
  - The CORE management board/funding bodies should have the responsibility to ask coordinators for papers and to offer opportunity to translate them into languages.
  - Coordinators could produce summary papers that can be well understood by everyone, and not only research community.

- One aspect to be discussed further is how should ministries involved in projects deal with communicating results to the general public.
- The funding bodies have a collective responsibility to communicate on the 8 projects.
- The FBN should think about organizing a common event for pilot projects at the end of the projects, instead of the projects organizing each their own event.
- The leaflets produced for each project (see www.coreorganic.org/research/index.html) were useful and easy to communicate to stakeholders, and such leaflets should also be used for future projects.

4. Alternative models for call procedures, pros and cons, initial discussion

The CORE coordinator presented some elements on the future transnational calls as planned in the proposal. The presentation is attached in Annex 3 (page 15). There was a discussion on whether the future call procedure should be a one-step or two-step procedure. During the discussions, it was commented that:

- The approach followed in CORE Organic I had been very positive, with a one-step procedure with well thought proposals containing concrete ideas on the project (and not only research ideas).
- There are different types of models for two-step procedures. For example a first-step could call for proposals short but well-thought as in CORE Organic I, the second step being used to adjust the proposals based on evaluators' comments. A second type of two-step procedure would be to ask for brief concept notes in the first step, but the resulting project might end up to be quite different from what the evaluators thought.

5. Presentations from other participants

Annex 3 (starting page 17) gives the presentations from the DG Agri of the European Commission, the Technology Platforms on organic food and farming and the ERA-NET Plant genomics.

6. Research topics / new research ideas and perspectives for the European sector

Participants who were not part of the Funding Body Network were invited to comment on research ideas. The following topics were mentioned as being important for future research:

- Aquaculture, for many aspects, e.g. breeding, feeding, investigating the reasons why conversion is low, address the issue of common regulation.
- Aspects linked to human health
- All agricultural systems claim that they are producing healthy food with sustainable production. So, is organic necessary? What makes organic special?
- Translating scientific data in a simpler way in order to reach and involve stakeholders and citizens
- Accountability: how to describe systems (farm, processing etc.) through appropriate agro-economic indicators, with the view to use this as a tool to convince, in a simple but scientific way.

It was also suggested to consider the possibility for one open transnational call, without topic, in order to bring forward emerging topics which cannot be captured in the normal process.

General issues:

- The importance of integrating new partners in the priority setting exercise was stressed.
- Priority setting should combine the priorities from the EU, the Organics Technology Platform and CORE Organic.
- Some priorities should be maintained and not be changed every 3 years. Maintaining some topics in the long term also allows maintaining long-term networks of researchers.

7. Close

The chairperson thanked all participants for their active contribution and the organizers for their hospitality and organization of the meeting. The Funding Body Network would resume its work on the following day.

ANNEX 1 – List of participants

Thomas Alföldi
Research Institute of Organic Agriculture FiBL
Ackerstrasse, 5070 Frick, SWITZERLAND
+41 (0)62 865 72 31; thomas.alfoeldi@fibl.org

Sahin Anil
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, General Directorate of Agricultural research (GDAR)
P.O. Box 51, 06171 Yenimahalle, Ankara, TURKEY
+90 312 315 97 87; sanil@tagem.gov.tr

Siri Anzjøn
The Research Council of Norway
P.O. Box 2700 St. Hanshaugen, N – 0131 Oslo, NORWAY
+47 47400171; sia@forskningsradet.no

Lucy Barnard
Defra
Area 4E Millbank c/o Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, Westminter, London, SW1P 3JR, UK
+44 0207 238 1511; Lucy.barnard@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Bettina Beerbaum
BMELV (Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection)
Rochusstrasse 1, 53123 Bonn, GERMANY
+49 228995294126; bettina.beerbaum@bmelv.bund.de

Stéphane Bellon
Inra UR 767 Ecodéveloppement
Site Agroparc 84914 Avignon Cedex 9, FRANCE
+33 432722583; bellon@avignon.inra.fr

Muslum Beyazgul
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, General Directorate of Agricultural Research(GDAR)
P.O. Box 51, 06171 Yenimahalle, Ankara, TURKEY
+90 312: 315 88 80; mbeyazgul@tagem.gov.tr

Egill Boccanera
Denmark, DK embassy – Rome, ITALY
egiboc@um.dk

Stefano Bocchi
Università degli Studi di Milano, Dip.Produzione Vegetale-Sezione di Agronomia,
Via Celoria 2, 20133 Milano, ITALY
stefano.bocchi@unimi.it

Davide Bochicchio
CRA -Unità di ricerca per la suinicoltura
Via Beccastecca 345, 41018 San Cesario sul Panaro (Modena), ITALY
+39-059-926268; davide.bochicchio@entecra.it

Marianne Bonde
University of Aarhus, Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, Dept. of Animal Health, Welfare and Nutrition,
Blichers Allé 20, P.O. BOX 50, 8830 Tjele, DENMARK
+45 89991347; Marianne.bonde@agrsci.dk

Christine Bunthof
ERA-NET Plant Genomics
NWO, THE NETHERLANDS
+31 317 480996; bunthof@genomics.nl

Marina Carcea
INRAN (Istituto nazionale di ricerca su alimenti e nutrizione),
Via Ardeatina 546, 00178 Roma, ITALY
Tel.+39 0651494436
carcea@inran.it

Francesco Carimi
Istituto di Genetica Vegetale, Sez. PA (CNR)
Corso Calatafimi 414, 90129 Palermo; ITALY
+39 091 6574578, 3387236363;
francesco.carimi@igv.cnr.it

Stefano Cinti
EC, Agri H.3, Agriculture biologique
Loi 102 1/16, Bruxelles, BELGIUM
+32(0)22988576 ; stefano.cinti@ec.europa.eu

Eduardo Cuoco
IFOAM EU Group/TP Organics
Rue du Commerce 124, 1000 Bruxelles, BELGIUM ;
+3222806844; Eduardo.cuoco@ifoam-eu.org

John Dardis
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, IRELAND
353 1 607 2351; John.dardis@agriculture.gov.ie

Christophe David
ISARA Lyon
23 Rue Baldassini, 69364 Lyon cedex 07, FRANCE
+33(0)427858526 ; davidc@isara.fr

Lieve De Cock
ILVO, Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research, Social Sciences Unit
Burg. Van Gansberhgelaan 115 box2, 9820 Merelbeke, BELGIUM
+32 9 272 23 52, lieve.decock@ilvo.vlaanderen.be

Teresa De Matthaeis
MIPAAF - MIPAAF- Ministero delle politiche agricole, alimentari e forestali, SACO X - Ufficio agricoltura biologica
Via XX Settembre 20, 00187 Roma, ITALY
+39 0646654027; t.dematthaeis@politicheagricole.gov.it

Eric Dufour
Ministère de l'agriculture et de la pêche
DGER, 1ter avenue de Lowendal, 75700 Paris 07, FRANCE
33(0)149558553; eric.dufour@agriculture.gouv.fr

Elfriede Fuhrmann
Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management
Stubenring 1, 1010 Vienna, AUSTRIA
+43 1 711006817;Elfriede.fuhrmann@lebensministerium.at

Mauro Gamboni
Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche – Dipartimento Agroalimentare
Piazzale Aldo Moro, 7 - 00185 Roma, ITALY
+ 39 06 49932607; mauro.gamboni@cnr.it

Urs Gantner
FOAG (Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture)
Mattenhofstrasse 5, 3003 Bern, SWITZERLAND
+ 41 31 322 25 74; urs.gantner@blw.admin.ch

Francesco Giardina
SINAB-Sistema d'Informazione Nazionale sull'Agricoltura Biologica
Via XX Settembre 20, 00187 Roma, ITALY
+39 0646656182; f.giardina@politicheagricole.gov.it

Frank Glod
Fonds National De La Recherche Luxembourg
6, rue Antoine de St.Exupéry, B.P : 1777, L-1017
Luxembourg, LUXEMBOURG
+352 261925 33; Frank .glod@fnr.lu

Dariusz Goszczyński
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Deputy Direct - Dept of Agricultural Markets)
30, Wspólna Street, 00-930 Warsaw, POLAND
+ 48 22 623-16-32; dariusz.goszczynski@minrol.gov.pl

Fabienne Grousset
ICROFS
P.O. Box 50, Blichers Allé 20, 8830 Tjele, DENMARK
+45 89991804; fabienne.grousset@icrofs.org

Anne-Maj Gustavsson
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, NJV
SE-901 83, Umeå, SWEDEN
+46 90 786 87 17; Anne-Maj.Gustavsson@njv.slu.se

Niels Halberg
ICROFS
P.O. Box 50, Blichers Allé 20, 8830 Tjele, DENMARK
+45 89991206; niels.halberg@icrofs.org

Ulrich Hamm
University of Kassel
Steinstrasse 19, 37213 Witzenhausen, GERMANY
+49 5542 981285; hamm@uni-kassel.de

Machteld Huber
Louis Bolk Institute
Hoofdstraat 24, NL-3972 LA Driebergen, THE NETHERLANDS
+31 343 523 860; m.huber@louisbolk.nl

Ladislav Jerabek
Ministry of Agriculture
Tesnov 17, Praha 1, CZECH REP.
+42 221812252; ladislav.jerabek@mze.cz

Johannes Kahl
University of Kassel
Nordbahnhofstr. 1a, Witzenhausen 37213, GERMANY
+49 5542 981715; kahl@uni-kassel.de

Anna La Torre
CRA - -PAV Centro di Ricerca per la Patologia vegetale
Via C.G. Bertero n. 22, 00156 Roma, ITALY
+39 0682070307; anna.latorre@entecra.it

Morten Lautrup-Larsen
DFIA
Nyropsgade 30, DENMARK
+45 3395 8102; moll@ferv.dk

Gaute Lenvik
Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food
PO Box 8007 dep, 0030 Oslo, NORWAY
+47 91788686; gaute.lenvik@lmd.dep.no

Anne-Kristin Løes
Bioforsk Organic Food and Farming
Gunnars veg 6, N-6630 Tingvoll, NORWAY
+47 404 79 962; Anne-kristin.loes@bioforsk.no

Andrea Machmueller
Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food (BLE)
Deichmanns Aue 29, 53179 Bonn, GERMANY
+49 (0)228- 6845-3660; Andrea.Machmueller@ble.de

Valeria Mariano
Ministero del lavoro, della Salute e delle Politiche sociali
Via G. Ribotta, Roma, ITALY
valeria.mariano@izslt.it

Annamaria S. Marzetti
MIPAAF- Ministero delle politiche agricole, alimentari e forestali, SVIRIS IV - Ufficio Ricerca e sperimentazione
Via XX Settembre 20, 00187 Roma, ITALY
+39 0646655085; a.marzetti@politicheagricole.gov.it

Cristina Micheloni
AIAB
Via Piave 14
00187 Roma, ITAL**Y**
c.micheloni@aiab.it

Valentina Milazzo
IPI – Istituto per la Promozione Industriale
Viale Maresciallo Pilsudski, 124, 00197 Roma, ITALY
+39 06 80972517; milazzo@ipi.it

Marina Montedoro
MIPAAF- Ministero delle politiche agricole, alimentari e forestali, SVIRIS IV - Ufficio Ricerca e sperimentazione
Via XX Settembre 20, 00187 Roma, ITALY
+39 0646655077; m.montedoro@politicheagricole.gov.it

Hans-Örjan Nohrstedt
The Swedish Research Council Formas
P. O. Box 1206, SE-111 82 Stockholm, SWEDEN
+46 8 7754016; hans-orjan.nohrstedt@formas.se

Arja Nykänen
MTT Agrifood Research Finland
Lönnrotinkatu 3, FIN-50100 Mikkeli, FINLAND
+358 40 77 39 169; arja.nykanen@mtt.fi

Giuseppe Paesano
MIPAAF- Ministero delle politiche agricole, alimentari e forestali, SACO X - Ufficio agricoltura biologica
Via XX Settembre 20, 00187 Roma, ITALY
+39 0646655072; g.paesano@politicheagricole.gov.it

Giuseppe Panno
MIPAAF- Ministero delle politiche agricole, alimentari e forestali, SVIRIS IV - Ufficio Ricerca e sperimentazione
Via XX Settembre 20, 00187 Roma, ITALY
+39 0646655085; g.panno@politicheagricole.gov.it

Flavio Paoletti
INRAN - Istituto Nazionale di Ricerca per gli Alimenti e la Nutrizione, Via Ardeatina, 546 – 00178 Roma , ITALY
+39 06 51494520; paoletti@inran.it

Enzo Perri
CRA - Centro di Ricerca per l'Olivicoltura e l'Industria Olearia, C.da Li Rocchi, 87036 Rende (CS), ITALY
+39 09844020212; enzo.perri@entecra.it

Lara Pizzo
Univ. Padova, Dip. Territorio e Sistemi agroforestali
Viale dell'Università16, 35020 Legnaro (PD), ITALY
+39 0498272743; lara.pizzo@unipd.it

Serenella Puliga
MIPAAF- Ministero delle politiche agricole, alimentari e forestali, SVIRIS IV - Ufficio Ricerca e sperimentazione,
c/o CRA-Centro di ricerca Agrobiologia e Pedologia
P.zza D'Azeglio 30 - 50121 Firenz, ITALY
+39 0552491248; puliga@issds.it

Salvatore Antonino Raccuia
CNR – ISAFOM Catania
Strada V. Lancia, Blocco Palma I - Zona Industriale, 95121 Catania, ITALY
+39 095 292874; salvatore.raccuia@cnr.it

Per Christian Rålm
Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food
PO Box 8007 dep, 0030 Oslo, NORWAY
+47 22249213; Per-Christian.Ralm@lmd.dep.no

Luca Riccioni
CRA- Centro di Ricerca per la Patologia Vegetale
Via C.,G. Bertero 22, 00156, Roma, ITALY
+390682070329; luca.riccioni@entecra.it

Luca Rossetto
Univ. Padova, Dip. Territorio e Sistemi agroforestali
Viale dell'Università16, 35020 Legnaro (PD), ITALY
+39 0498272742; luca.rossetto@unipd.it

Michał Rzytki
MARD (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development)
30, Wspólna Street, 00-930 Warsaw, POLAND
+ 48 22 623-10-52; michal.rzytki@minrol.gov.pl

Elke Saggau
Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food (BLE)
Deichmanns Aue 29, 53179 Bonn, GERMANY
+49 (0)228- 6845-3930; Elke.Saggau@ble.de

Søren Skafte
FAO, deputy permanent representative DENMARK
sorska@um.dk

Angela Sessitsch
Austrian Research Centers GmbH - ARC
A-2444 Seibersdorf, AUSTRIA
+43 50550 3509; angela.sessitsch@arcs.ac.at

Roberto Spigarolo
Università degli Studi di Milano, Dip.Produzione Vegetale-Sezione di Agronomia,
Via Celoria 2, 20133 Milano, ITALY
+39 0250316578; roberto.spigarolo@unimi.it

Paolo Torrelli
MIPAAF- Ministero delle politiche agricole, alimentari e forestali, SACO X - Ufficio agricoltura biologica
Via XX Settembre 20, 00187 Roma, ITALY
+39 0646655171; p.torrelli@politicheagricole.gov.it

Mette Vaarst
University of Aarhus
P.O.Box 50, Dk-8830 Tjele, DENMARK
+4522901344; Mette.vaarst@agrsci.dk

Suzanne van der Meulen
MINLNV -Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality
Bennekomseweg 41, Ede, THE NETHERLANDS
+31 318 82293; s.j.van.der.meulen@minlnv.nl

Laura Viganò
INEA - Istituto di economia agrarian
Via Barberini 36, 00187 Roma, ITALY
+39 0647856422; viganò@inea.it

Jiri Vlcek
Ministry of Agriculture
Tesnov 17, Praha 1, 117 05, CZECH REP.
jiri.vlcek2@mze.cz

Aret Vooremäe
Ministry of Agriculture
Lai 39/41, 15056 Tallinn, ESTONIA
3726256245; Aret.vooremae@agri.ee

Annette Wijering
MINLNV (Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality)
PO BOX: Postbus 482, 6710 Ede, THE NETHERLANDS
j.g.m.wijering@minlnv.nl

ANNEX 2 - INPUT FROM CORE PILOT PROJECT COORDINATORS AT MID-TERM

When submitting mid-term reports, coordinators were asked to also provide input regarding:
- added value of the transnational cooperation in relation to the subject,
- impact of the project in relation to main beneficiaries of the project results,
- recommendations for future calls and projects.

The answers received are presented below for information.

A. ADDED VALUE OF THE TRANSNATIONAL COOPERATION IN RELATION TO THE SUBJECT

AGTEC-Org
- Enrichment of technological and agronomical expertises
- Valuation of several long term field trials which are expensive
- European diversity and agronomical and technological innovations present in each country could be taken into account.

ANIPLAN

Synergy effect related to joint data collection

In this project, we balance between the possibilities to collect comparable data for a joint analysis on one side, and adjust data collection to regional and national conditions (e.g. different housing systems, herd sizes, practices related to different times of the year). The process of actually working together in practice, being able to discuss details in data collection and editing and at a later stage to work jointly with the analysis gives a synergy effect where the common data base is not just a collection of data from 7 participating countries, but also the combination of data showing many different relations between outcome variables and risk factors. The involved researchers can all contribute to explain relations that may be new for their colleagues who come from different conditions or who are so used to certain ways of reasoning that they cannot see their own data from outside.

Outputs are expected to have greater external validity for European organic farming

As a follow-up of the above, it must be emphasised that the outputs of the entire project build on a joint effort of data collection, editing and analysis. The animal health and welfare planning process, which is the central part of the ANIPLAN project, is carried through under different circumstances, but still based on the same principles. This provides the whole team with a unique opportunity to together analyse the results and the context in which the results were generated. This gives a robustness to the results which are expected to give them greater impact and general external validity for European organic farming in general, both inside and outside the partner countries.

Research methodologies are developed, and interdisciplinary approaches are strengthened

The contact between research environments with a long tradition for (like in this case) on-farm, epidemiological and practice-related research in organic livestock farming is stimulating, because we have had the same focus but still very different approaches and methodologies involved. The development of methodologies is therefore potentially renewing and a source of inspiration for everybody.

Networks are created between national research environments and international research platforms

All partners are also partners and participants in national research and organic networks. Therefore, the contact between the ANIPLAN partners is more extended than the contact between the persons being in charge of concrete project activities. The ANIPLAN project also forms a platform for contact between research networks.

The understanding of ‘organic’ is constantly challenged

This project is focused on organic dairy herds. All partner countries follow the same EU regulation, but organic farming is nevertheless taking very different directions, for several reasons, in different regions in Europe and based on different history of e.g. the organic movement. The perceptions of animal welfare among farmers, advisors and organisation vary between countries, and being confronted with this in a common attempt to develop animal health and welfare planning is challenging and inspiring for scientists having worked with these matters through a number of years.

COREPIG

Transnational research cooperation in relation to animal health and welfare in organic pig herds is a major advantage. Organic pig production is a niche production in all countries, and transnational research is necessary to get an appropriate number of participating herds in epidemiological surveys as the one carried through in WP2 of this project. Several different system and management aspects of organic pig production are described and evaluated in terms of animal health, and this may serve as a source of inspiration for organic pig farmers in the future.

The bulk of knowledge regarding organic pig production has not been published internationally, and therefore a transnational research effort as in WP1 can serve to compile all European knowledge available, regarding animal health and welfare in organic pigs.

FCP
The main advantage of the transnational research consists in the identification and screening of successful organic farmers' initiatives in five European countries, regarding their CSR communication arguments by using a joint approach (WP1 and WP2). The identification of smaller, regionally based initiatives is much easier for domestic researchers and in order to understand different communication arguments, it is very helpful to have the same cultural background. This way a comparative analysis between countries became possible. Another important advantage is that the international perspective opened the opportunity to know each other's concepts and to learn from neighbours.

The task of WP3 consisted in the identification of the most promising communication arguments from the consumers' point of view by means of an Information Display Matrix. This tool was developed by UKS and translated into English and Italian in order to conduct exactly the same survey in the five study countries.

The trans-disciplinary cooperation between agricultural economists (CH, UK), marketing

researchers (DE, IT) and specialists for regional development (AT, IT) enhances the exchange of different scientific approaches and of experience of team members working on common tasks.

iPOPY
The iPOPY project is 100 % dependent on a transnational cooperation. The project could never have been realized in any single country. Hence this question is a bit hypothetical in our case.

PATHORGANIC
Through transnational cooperation within PathOrganic, a broader range of samples could be obtained for analysis as compared to analysis by the individual partners. As a much higher variety of different production systems was accessible for analysis as compared to those prevailing in the individual countries, a more diverse data set is available for statistical analysis and microbiological risk assessment. Including a large and diverse data set gives additional strength to the risk assessment model that will be developed within the project.

Joint expertise by the project partners was available for the development and specific adaptation of methods. During the method development phase, exchange of knowledge among the labs and training of young scientists within the consortium took place by organizing a lab workshop in succession to the 2nd consortium meeting. Furthermore, efficient and straight-forward analysis of a large number of samples was made possible by sharing specific analyses among labs according to the respective expertise.

In WP 3, individual experiments are designed and partly also set up in collaboration by multiple partners, which allows for complementarities in expertise and technical arrangements. Since experiments are coordinated regarding their specific objectives, added scientific value is provided.

PhytoMilk
The main advantages of transnational research cooperation for this subject are that we can increase "the critical mass" for conducting high quality research. We can also take advantage of the variation between sites and disciplines. In this project we have scientists from crop science, animal science and chemistry, which have given good opportunities for fruitful collaboration.

We explore the differences by having field experiments on three sites at different latitudes and soils to study the effect of latitude, vegetation period and other environmental conditions. We have feeding experiments in two countries to investigate the effects of different production systems.

There are big differences between Norwegian and Swedish organic milk production in intensity and the use of the leys.

For experiments where we have expected that the site is not an important factor we have chosen to only study the effects on one site. One of these experiments is where we use cannulated cows to study hydrogenation of fatty acids in the rumen, and the other is where we study the effects of different ensiling methods on fatty acid composition, vitamins and phyto-oestrogenes.

Common for all soils in these countries is that the selenium concentration is poor. It can affect production and quality of organic milk. Therefore we have done a farm survey in one country, but we expect that the results can be used in all countries.

We use common research facilities as much as possible. All analyses are done in one lab to ensure less bias according to different labs and lab methods.

We are also collecting milk samples from all experiments to study how natural occurring bioactive components vary in milk due to: (a) different animal breeds; (b) different lactation and pregnancy stages; (c) different proportions of concentrate; (d) different proportion of red clover, birdsfoot trefoil or non red clover herbs; (e) different environmental factors.

Another advantage with transnational cooperation is that the pHD students naturally get an international network of scientific groups to visit and collaborate with. We actively try to stimulate that the PhD students shall have a research visit on at least on more site in the network than where the student is working.

QACCP
The project contributes to the improvement of the quality and safety of organic vegetable products of the European market. The project contributes also to improvements of the food chain, focused on processing of organic vegetables, which will profit the SMEs and retailers in the global organic market. Within the European project team an exchange of national expectations and differences of quality is possible as well as a platform for discussion and at last implementation of the QACCP concept is implemented. The project creates a European network of research institutes from different disciplines and partners from practice which will be a contact point for future project in the organic sector and international questions.

B. IMPACT OF THE PROJECT IN RELATION TO MAIN BENEFICIARIES OF THE PROJECT RESULTS

AGTEC-Org
Most of the field experiments and technological studies will be conduced in 2009 and 2010. Modelling will also give us a working framework to analyse and generalise the observations made on experimental sites. Paper writing is on process. Presently, research is the main beneficiary of the results obtained in AGTEC. However, these results will give elements to optimize such practices (agronomical and technological) in organic wheat and bread productions and could be disseminate to farmers and industries.

ANIPLAN
This project aims at minimising medicine use in organic dairy herds through active and well planned animal health and welfare promotion and disease prevention. This indicates that the main beneficiaries are the farmers, farmer organisations and advisory service organisations. Looking at the list of dissemination activities, these groups have not been targeted so much in the first phase of the project. At least two remarks are relevant to make to this noting:

a) All research team work directly in the farming environment, all data collection is done among farmers, and in some cases together with local advisors. Furthermore, project meetings are held in many cases with farmers. These meetings are not classifies as dissemination but as project meetings.
b) Normally, farmers and advisors should not be approached doing major attempts to dissemination before some results or outputs are clear and ready to be debated. Farmers and advisors are busy people who will not be attracted to meetings if they have previous experience of the research team not giving them something useful at previous meetings.

The beneficiaries mentioned above will clearly be targeted by the end of the project.

Besides this, organic research environments as well as research environments with traditions of on-farm-research will be targeted to exchange and dissemination knowledge and experience, including methodological issues.

COREPIG
The main users of the research results provided will be the farm sector and advisors. So far the project has been occupied with collecting data, which are still being analysed. However, preliminary results have been disseminated to the target groups, as far as possible.

FCP
The first results have been published at various conferences and journals (see list of publications).

Publishing activities are ongoing.

The companies that participated in the case studies received a summary of the results of WP1 and WP2. They are able to reflect their own ‘ethical’ activities and their communication to consumers in the light of the first study results.

Generally the project consists of various work steps, one following the other, analysing a similar topic in more detail in each following step. Thus, the main results are expected when the whole project is finished.

iPOPY
The main users of iPOPY results are a very wide range of stakeholders and actors within the food sector, ranging from dedicated parents supporting organic school meal initiatives to researchers, government politicians and officials within

nutrition and education. Such a variety of groups is not easy to reach and that is why iPOPY has devoted much energy to arrange events to attract interest, in addition to presenting results at relevant conferences. We believe that our wide dissemination approach is a good strategy to comply with this. The approach ranges from the web site, newsletters, events proceedings, reports, university theses and conference papers to the peer-reviewed scientific papers that will be written in the second half of the project period.

PATHORGANIC
Measures for improving the awareness of the general public concerning the problems addressed within PathOrganic have been taken through press releases and the presentation of the project at national and international seminars and conferences. Farmers co-operating within the project by providing material for analysis and giving specific data on management practices were informed through a leaflet about the project's aims and scope, and on demand the respective research data will be supplied to the individual farmers.

Dissemination activities to the public aimed at providing recommendations for improving food safety in organic vegetable production are planned for the 2nd reporting period.

PhytoMilk
We expect that the main users of the research results provided in this project will be researchers, organic farmers, advisors, dairy industry, and consumers of organic milk.

These target groups have been addressed by presentations at the start of the project in local press, television and agricultural magazines.

Because of delayed start of the project we will present the main parts of the results during the second period of the project.

QACCP
The main users of the research results are:

- Firstly the involved SME's in the project and with them the consumers of the products of these companies. → optimization of the process according the QACCP analyses at 2 SMEs
- in general the babies, as a consumer, because the research work supports the production of a more suitable and high-value product for the babies.
- the vegetable processors because they get scientific information about the kind of raw material and its different influence on product quality → electronic info-letter
- the food industry in general; they are informed about the method and the principles of QACCP and could be sensitized that the optimization of the product quality should be also implemented in the process and not only on the basis of the recipe.
- the national competent authorities and the European Commission, because first instruments to evaluate careful processing techniques are worked out
- and last but not least organic research institutes: for the further development of criteria and instruments to determine careful processing techniques.

The target groups are addressed individually by the information of the project: the processors of processing events, a part of the consumers by the presentation at Biofach, the researchers by the presentation at the scientific congress like Wissenschaftstagung and the publication of the elaborated results in a scientific journal, and the EU Commission by the final report and all interested by the project home page.

C. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CORE ORGANIC FUNDING BODY NETWORK IN RELATION TO LAUNCHING AND MONITORING OF FUTURE TRANSNATIONALLY FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS

These recommendations will be discussed at the Funding Body Network meeting on 9 June (ordered by topic)

Before projects start (i.e. recommendations for future calls)	**From**
Guarantee as soon as possible administrative contact between coordinator and national Funding Body	AGTEC-Org
Communicate the national requirements for the participants to the project coordinator	AGTEC-Org
Actions related to the exclusion of one project applicant / change of the consortium before the project starts It is important to be aware that all partners in a project most likely play different roles in a project. The exclusion of one partner (by their own country) needs to be met by the funding bodies from the remaining partner countries by dialogue with the partners in this country in order to make a new plan which is realistic in the light of the changes in the consortium.	ANIPLAN
Adjusting our national agreements to the international team and project agreements Some confusion arose in the start in relation to our national funding bodies and the overall project agreements. This was mainly a result of lack of tradition for this type of collaboration. Clear guide lines for project leaders	ANIPLAN

and national partners are of great help. In the first phase we had some discussions with some of our national funding bodies that somehow illustrated that the funding bodies judged the benefits of the research from a narrow national angle, and did not see the benefit of the international collaboration as a benefit also to their own national partners. This was e.g. visible in discussions about paying for data collection outside your own country (e.g. through sub-contracts): more than one partner was asked whether they found that their work in another country would benefit 'here at home', which we thought was narrow minded. We need some clear statements and practical examples provided by the CORE organisation to support the idea that international collaboration benefits everybody. These examples (some of which can be collected from the 8 CORE pilot studies) may stimulate funding bodies to view things from a more international perspective.	
<u>Partner countries with very different budgets</u> It is a challenge to build a project under circumstances where each country has its own policy. E.g. some countries were willing to fund certain activities and not others (e.g. if one country only will fund workshop participation and travels but not research), or have certain specific call interests (e.g. not prioritising livestock research). In our case, we found it relevant to include the partners who formed the consortium. We had some discussions about how to weigh the different elements in the project. It was an advantage that all partners were very well aware of their country's national priorities, and we could this into consideration when applying for funds. We must, however, recommend the CORE organisation to try and make as much accordance between policies and priorities as possible before launching the call, in order to give the partners opportunity to work under close to similar conditions.	ANIPLAN
I believe that the organisational structure of the 8 first pilot projects (WPs, time schedules, management boards, deliverables etc.), as well as the planning and communication tools developed in these projects, will be very valuable material for later project coordinators to study. Consortium agreements are one useful tool, and should be made available for a larger public than just the project consortium. Such topics are now only indirectly available (e.g. at the web site of each project) and could well be collected (e.g. by the CORE coordinator) and made directly available (e.g. in a report, slide show or data base).	iPOPY
Within projects: management and improved collaboration	
Practical experiences of the last two project years showed some needs for improved project management practices i.e. controlling instruments, payment linked to fulfilled performance mandate etc. The main problem occurs, when one partner is not able to carry out/finish the planned research tasks (for various reasons). Then, the consortium/the coordinator should get the possibility to transfer the work tasks to another partner, which must not be part of the consortium before. In that case the consortium/the coordinator should have the right to transfer the planned money for these tasks to the new partner. Because the payment is linked to national requirements and through a direct dialogue between the national partners, the consortium/the coordinator should have the possibility to check money transfer with the finished work steps, as usual in EU-funded projects.	QACCP
<u>When currencies and exchange rates change over time</u> In our project, we are partners from 7 countries with 5 different currencies (Danish and Norwegian kroner, Swiss Franc, Euro, and GBP) and especially the GBP has changed dramatically during the project period. In the budgets for the partners at Aberystwyth University and Duchy College, were 34,644 € and 25,698 €, respectively. These amounts were negotiated with Defra in £, that is 23,578 £ and 17.454 £. Using the exchange rate from 2nd January 2009, these amounts are much smaller (24,534 € and 16,773 €). This difference is 'artificial' when working inside the country. But when working together in the same project and collecting data for common use, crossing borders, and e.g. subcontracting partners in other countries. We had many good reasons for making sub-contracts, and there is no doubt about the benefits of this. But there may be a need to clarify in the future which currency to use when reporting and comparing the original budget (in €) with the spent costs in national currencies, and what to do when e.g. paying agreed sub-contracts 2 years after the project start if the exchange rate has changed compared to the original budget.	ANIPLAN
<u>Factors which in our experience improve the collaboration within a project</u> - Many of the project partners in the application had previous experience of collaboration through network and/or project activities. It is recommendable that at least some of the main partners in a project have proven good collaboration earlier. - The project partners come from quite different farming conditions and research environments, but all with a research tradition of on-farm research in close collaboration with farmers. - It has been important for our project to have a workshop early in the project to align out expectations, and the establishment of the communication and contact early is very important. - There has generally been a high degree of flexibility and will to understand each others' different working	ANIPLAN

conditions; this is to a very high degree supported by a project description which allows room for adjustments. - Workshop of a certain length, at least 3-4 full days, improve the communication significantly and give us time for more in-depth discussion and work. This is a research and not a network project, and the budget should allow this as well as exchange visits for data discussions and analyses. Regular updates and newsletters are absolutely necessary.	
Skype conferences and web-based common team rooms are very valuable communication tools.	iPOPY
Issues linked to and interaction with the Funding Body Network	
Advice and communicate with coordinator to improve the coherence inside the 8 CORE Organic projects	AGTEC
Some material to be provided by the CORE Organic Funding Body Network was rather late or not available. At the first CORE meeting in Vienna it was decided to provide a common disclaimer to all project coordinators. We are still waiting for it	FCP
Another issue is the templates for our reporting duties. The templates for the popular annual abstracts arrived by June 2008, although the annual abstracts were due by the end of 2007. We were asked in August 2008 to send our annual abstract for 2007, but we had submitted it already by the end of 2007.	FCP
The CORE Organic Report series is a good tool, but my experience is that the approval step (that is required e.g. in the Bioforsk series, which iPOPY utilises in addition to the CORE series) is very useful to assure the quality of the publications. An approval step should have been added to the CORE Organic Report series, because this is a good help for the coordinators in case authors deliver a manuscript the coordinator thinks is not 100 % completed. Approval should be the task of the coordinator + the (research) director of the institute where the coordinator is engaged; not of the CORE coordinator.	iPOPY
It is a lot of work to write reports to funding bodies, and the feedback is usually very limited. It would be inspiring to get more feedback on this work, not only a short message that the report is approved. (One may get suspicious about whether somebody really reads it all…).	iPOPY
Organic Eprints is too little utilized in your report templates/systems. It should be the common interest of all funders to support that excellent archive, and as project coordinators we are obliged to upload all reports etc to that archive. However, there has not been a single question about that in the annual or mid-term reports, and we could have saved about one day of work to upload all papers etc in the report if that part of the report had been replaced by a copy of what comes up in Orgprints when a search for the acronym of the project is carried out.	iPOPY
Future topics	
The EC regulations on organic production are focusing on practical agronomy but are very limited on processing. In the growing organic market more and more products have become complex multi-step processed products, so called convenience products like deep-frozen pizza or breakfast cereals. It is supposed within the organic movement that the impact of this intensive processing might be a threat for the product quality. The gap between consumer expectations and how regulations may guarantee the different food claims underline the importance of this topic.	QACCP
If consumers are supposed to pay for a 'plus' in organic product quality, it is a challenge to first define and second proof this 'plus'. In the EC regulation No 834/2007, organic production is defined as "a production method in line with the preference of certain consumers for products produced using natural substances and processes" (EC 834/2007, (1)). The specific principles which are applied to processing of organic food exclude substances and processing methods "that might be misleading regarding the true nature of the product" (Article 6, c) and the processing should be done with care (Article 6, d). In addition to the exclusion of two processing methods (GMO, ionising radiation) and several food additives (Annex of the regulation), it seems to us, that all other processing technologies available and applied in the market are not regulated and also possibly allowed to be applied within EC 834/2007.	QACCP
Therefore we suggest the following arguments for transnationally funded research projects: The focus of future research activities in organic food quality should lay on the whole process from field (defined raw material) to fork with a focus on the processing of the food. Here technologies have a very high impact on the different quality aspects. Furthermore processing is less defined in EC 834/2007. Furthermore the process should be holistically evaluated in that product related aspects (authenticity, naturalness, health etc.) as well as the impact of the production process on the environment and society should be evaluated. Possible research tasks are reviews on the existing technologies towards their potential for fulfilling consumer expectations/guaranteeing an organic food claim. New technologies should be evaluated in this way. Research methods should be quality analysis of critical control points on industry level followed by pilot plant studies on the critical steps. Studies should be carried out comparing different production methods for 2-4 important organic food products and define and evaluate criteria for testing careful and natural organic production.	QACCP

Future CORE Organic transnational calls

Joint meeting of CORE pilot projects coordinators and Funding Body Network

8 June 2009, Rome

CORE organic

Why transnational calls

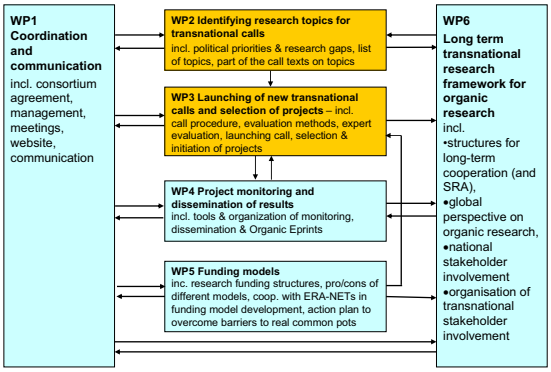
- To enhance quality, relevance and utilisation of resources in organic research in Europe

How

- Model call and pilot projects of CORE Organic I ERA-NET
- 2nd CORE Organic ERA-NET (26 partners in 22 countries)
- Transition towards a stable long-term collaboration

CORE organic

Overview of CORE Organic II



Some key elements of calls

- Based on experience in CORE Organic I and its pilot projects
- At least 2 calls each comprising several sub-calls on different thematic areas to secure flow of calls, with refined tools and best practice
- Approximately 19 months from start to initiation of projects
- Transparent method for evaluation and selection of projects
- Expert panel for projects proposals received under each sub-call (i.e. on each different thematic area)

CORE organic

Some key elements of calls in CORE Organic II

- Need for organized, flexible and cooperative approach due to large number of partners
- "Call Boards" = the partners deciding to commit funds to projects that will be selected under a thematic sub-call take decisions relating to individual sub-calls including text of the call, selection of projects
- All partners ("Governing Board") take decisions on topics for calls and procedures to be followed

CORE organic

Some points that will be decided upon later

- Type of call: 2-step or 1-step (possibly depending on topic of thematic sub-calls)
- Funding models that will be used
- Defining timing of when partners firmly commit funds to sub-calls

CORE organic

After each transnational call

- Monitoring process for the projects launched will be refined
- Calls and call procedure will be evaluated in order to further improve the process

CORE organic

“The organic production research in the EU: an overall picture”

Joint meeting of Core Organic Pilot Research Project and Core Organic Funding Body Network. 8 June 2009, Rome .

Stefano Cinti- DG AGRI Unit H3

Menu

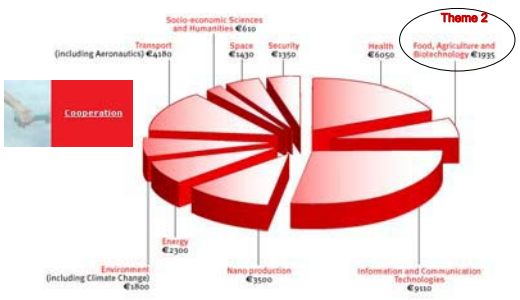
- Research financial support
- Research features and topics
- Parties involved
- DG AGRI - Unit H3

Research financial support

Framework programmes	Budget **Million EURO***
FP3 1990-1994	5
FP4 1994-1998	11
FP5 1998-2002	33
FP6 2002-2006	35
FP7 2007-1013	

** (from Gonzalves, V. et al 2007)*

FP 7 Cooperation programme – 10 thematic areas, 32.365 € million



National public funding for organic food and faming research (2003-2004) *

13 million €/year	1 MS
7-10 million €/year	4 MS
4-6 million €/year	2 MS
1-3 million €/year	4 MS
< 1 million €/year	Other MS

* = European Commission survey 2004

Research features and topics

7

- Whole system
- Problem/solution
- Comparative studies

8

FP7

- Cost analyses of certification
- Biodiversity
- Animal breeding
- Plant breeding

9

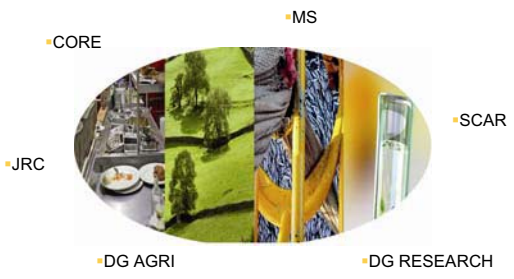
Some topics of potential interest

- Biodiversity
- Aquaculture
- Medication in livestock
- Plant protection agents
- Processing
- Socio-economic research
- Climate change, water scarcity and energy

10

Parties involved

11



12

DGA AGRI Unit H3 Agriculture biologique : research and expertise

13

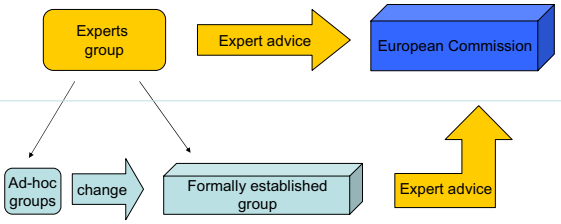
How do we do business

- Interacting
- Following
- Disseminating

14

- Elaboration/update of production standards
- Evaluation of substances/products/techniques

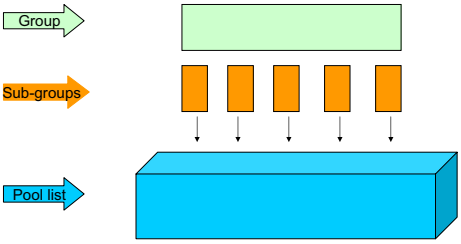
15



16

- http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:139:0029:0031:EN:PDF

17



18


http://www.organic-farming.eu
19

TPorganics Technology Platform

Technology Platform for organic food and farming

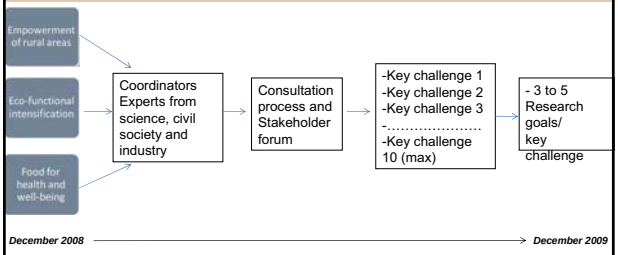
The strategic research agenda after the first period of stakeholder consultation

Eduardo Cuoco
TP Organics Coordinator

The research vision: an integrated approach

In December 2008 TP Organics and its vision has been launched in Brussels .
The Vision document is based on an integrated approch of three main areas :

Strategic research agenda: Process



The Strategic Research Agenda results will be communicated to DG Research in respect of the 7° Research Framework Programme

Strategic Research Agenda: Process
Previous steps

- December 2008: Set up of expert groups along the three research priorities
- February 2009: First workshop at Biofach (DE)
- February/April 2009: Expert groups consultation
- April 2009: First draft
- April/May 2009 : Online public consultation
- April 2009: Workshop at IFOAM EU Seminar – Romania
- May 2009: Nordic Organic Conference – Sweden
- May 2009: Organic Market Forum – Poland

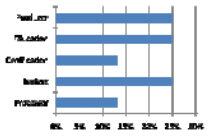
Strategic Research Agenda: Process
Next steps

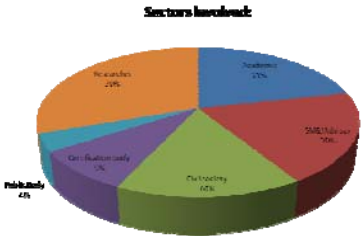
- June/July 2009: SME's workshops in native lenguages
- June/September 2009: SME's online consultation in several lenguages (EN, DE, FR, ES, IT, DK) – www.tporganics.eu
- June 2009: Workshop at BioAcademy (Cezc Republic)
- July 2009: Stakeholder Forum (July ,14th – Brussels)
- September/October 2009 : Online public consultation – SME's consultation | 2° round – www.tporganics.eu
- September 2009: Second draft
- September 2009: Workshop at Conference "Organic production in the Mediterranea Bacin" (Spain)
- November 2009 : Seminar involving DG Research (Brussels)
- End 2009: strategic research agenda finalised

Strategic Research Agenda: *Consultation Process*
Statistic data till May 2009

People involved in the consultations : 164
Countries involved in the consultations : 32
Organisations involved in the consultations : 124

SME's main field of activity:





Strategic Research Agenda: Theme 1
Coordinator: *(Susanne Padel)*

Empowerment of rural areas

Viable concepts for the empowerment of rural economies in a regional and global context; the socio-economic challenges

- Key challenge 1: Putting organic principles into practise
- Key challenge 2: Enhancing the contribution of organic farming to multifunctional rural development in Europe
- Key challenge 3: Develop adequate knowledge and communication systems
- Key challenge 4: New models of trade: economic and social inclusion and cooperation in trade on different levels
- Key challenge 5: Assess the sustainability impact of organic food and farming systems
- Key challenge 6: Development of an integrative policy framework for organic farming and sustainable rural development

Strategic Research Agenda: Theme 2
Coordinator: *Niels Halberg*

Eco-functional intensification

Securing food and ecosystems by eco-functional intensification: the ecological challenges

- Key challenge 1: Improved ecological support functions
- Key challenge 2: Modern mixed farming systems
- Key challenge 3: Resilient organic crop production systems
- Key challenge 4: Appropriate and robust livestock production
- Key challenge 5: Green improvement of genetic resources
- Key challenge 6: Development and adaptation of novel technology
- Key challenge 7: Technology assessment and cross disciplinary evaluation
- Other proposals for key challenges and research goals (cross cutting issues)

Strategic Research Agenda: Theme 3
Coordinator: *Machteld Huber*

Food for health and well-being

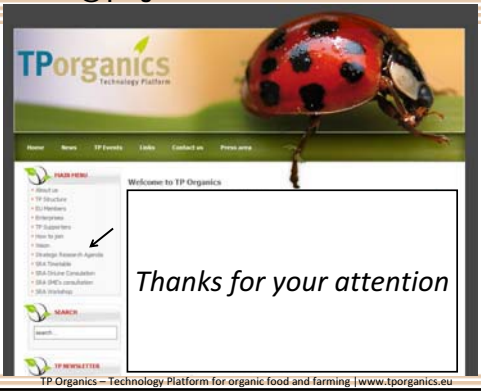
Food for health and well-being – a basis for healty diets and a key for improving the quality of life and health: the food challenges

- Key challenge 1: Development, evaluation and communication of organic concepts/principles related to food quality & health
- Key challenge 2: Assessment tools, standards and references concerning organic food quality and vitality
- Key challenge 3: Development of best practice farm management in relation to food quality aspects
- Key challenge 4: Technologies for safeguarding defined organic quality along critical points in the entire food chain
- Key challenge 5: Relation between processing technologies and food quality
- Key challenge 6: Effect studies on health and well-being in animals and humans consuming foods of different qualities

Strategic Research Agenda:
Stakeholder Forum

The stakeholder forum is open to non-governmental organizations operating throughout the EU, to representatives from governments, and to relevant companies and business partners.
Observers from EU institutions, in particular DG Research, Agri and Envi, are invited to meetings.

Webpage : www.tporganics.eu
Infomail : info@tporganics.eu



ERA-NET Plant Genomics

looking back and looking forward

Christine Bunthof
Co-ordinator ERA-PG
bunthof@genomics.nl

www.erapg.org

CORE Organic Meeting, 8 June 2009, Rome

introducing my affiliation & plant genomics in The Netherlands

Netherlands Genomics Initiative

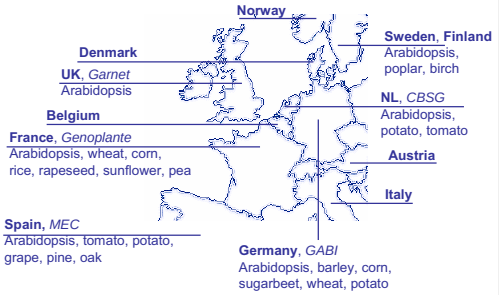
NWO
Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research

CBSG PARTNERSHIP

- Academia
  - Wageningen University
  - Utrecht University
  - University of Amsterdam
  - University of Nijmegen
- Research Institutes
  - Plant Research International
  - Agrotechnology & Food Innovation
- Industry
  - Agrico Research, Averis Seeds, HZPC Holland, C. Meijer, Van Rijn
  - Enza Zaden, De Ruiter Zaden, Rijk Zwaan, Nickerson Zwaan, Syngenta, SVS
  - AVEBE
  - Keygene
  - HPA, VAVI

BioSystems GENOMICS

National plant genomics initiatives



ERA-NET Plant Genomics (ERA-PG)

- Network of ministries, funding agencies and national research councils working together to stimulate excellent science, drive innovation and create a fruitful environment for commercial exploitation.
- Co-ordination and co-operation between national plant genomics research programmes
- Common programme to structure and strenghthen plant genomics in Europe
- Two joint calls, total budget over € 55 milion
- Basis for continued collaboration, extension of network and new joint initiatives
- Contribution to a strong knowledge-base, contributing to a competitive European bio-economy

ERA-PG Partners

2004: 12 partners/11 countries
2006: + 5 partners/4 countries

+ affiliate countries: Bulgaria, Canada

Currently links 23 organisations from 17 countries

ERA-PG Work Plan

Step I ▪ Exchange of information and best practice on existing programmes and activities

Step II ▪ Identification and analysis of common strategic issues

Step III ▪ Planning and development of joint activities between national and regional programmes

Step IV ▪ Implementation of joint trans-national activities

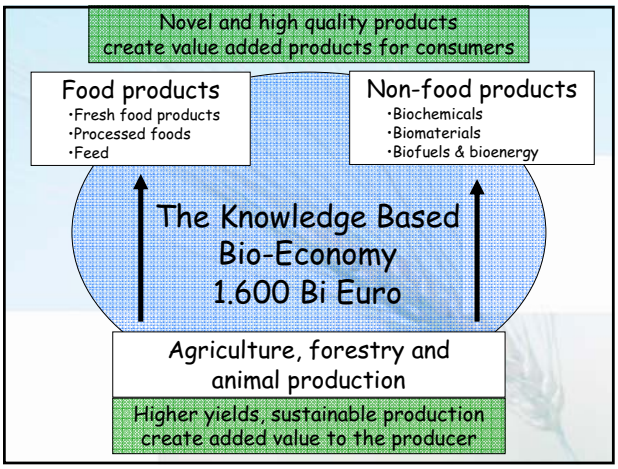
→ **ERA-PG Research Programme**

ERA-PG collaborates from start with the ETP Plants for the Future

European Technology Platform "Plants for the Future"

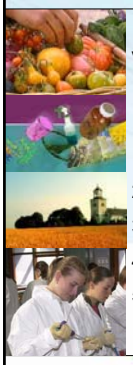
- **Created in 2003: initiative of 3 key stakeholders**
  - **Industry – EuropaBio** – European Biotech Industry association
  - **Academia – EPSO** - European Plant Science Organization
  - **Farmers – COPA COGECA** – European Farmers Associations
  - With the active participation of
    - Consumer and environmental organizations
- **Vision document "Plants for the Future"**
  - Launched by Commissioner Busquin in June 2004
- **Strategic Research Agenda**
  - Launched by Commissioner Janez Potočnik in July 2005

Courtesy of Karin METZLAFF



ETP "Plants for the Future"

Contribution to society



Vision and Strategic Research Agenda (SRA): 5 challenges for society to which this ETP can contribute:

1. Healthy, safe and sufficient food and feed
2. Plant based products: chemicals and bioenergy
3. Sustainable agriculture, forestry and landscape
4. Vibrant and competitive research
5. Competitiveness, consumer choice and governance

Courtesy of Karin METZLAFF

ERA-PG Joint Calls

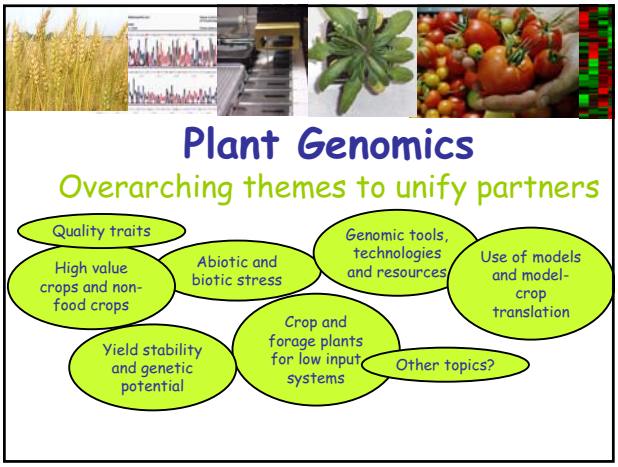
What do we want to achieve from the ERA-PG common programme?

- Delivery of excellent science in transnational collaboration – true transnational working
- Transparency of process with minimal bureaucracy
- Synergy by collaboration – maximisation of return on funding agency investments
- Joint programme design and operation
- Stimulation of industrial participation and cooperation
- Enhanced profile for EU science in global terms – elevated competitiveness

ERA-PG First Call (2006)

Structuring Plant Genomic Research in Europe

- 12 Participating funding organisations
  EWI Belgium, DFG Germany, MIUR Italy, NWO/NGI Netherlands
  DRA Denmark, AKA Finland, RCN Norway
  FCT Portugal, BBSRC UK,
  ANR France, BMBF Germany, MEC Spain
- Broad and inclusive research themes
- Sub Call A Broad call for publicly funded research in plant genomics
- Sub Call B Trilateral partnership and beyond; the future for European Public-Private Partnerships in Europe
- Two stage review process



ERA-PG First Call (2006)

Outcome of the call: network

Sub Call A
70 PP, 44 FP
15 granted projects
total granted budget 22 M€
77 partners (10 countries)
av: 4.8 organisations/project
3.9 countries/project
1.5 M€/project

Sub Call B
36 PP, 30 FP
14 granted projects; 13 PPP
total granted budget 16.6 M€
111 partners (8 countries)
of which 31 companies
av: 7.9 organisations/project
3.4 countries/project
1.2 M€/project

ERA-PG First Call (2006)

Structuring Plant Genomic Research in Europe

outcome

- 106 applications; 70 to Sub Call A, 36 to Sub Call B over 500 teams involved
- 29 projects rewarded; 15 within Sub Call A, 14 within Sub Call B
- € 38 mln from national funding organisations
- Consortia of 3 – 16 partners; project budgets € 0.5 – 2.5 mln
- Grants from national funding organisations (distributed pot)
- Projects started in 2007
- First Grantholder Meeting at PlantGEM 6 Tenerife, 2 October 2007

ERA-PG Second Call (2008)

Strengthening the European Research Area in Plant Genomics -integrating new technologies in plant science

→ Funders from UK, DE, NL, PT, BE, FI, AT, CA, IL;
→ Allocated budget (preliminary): ~ € 15 mln
→ Launch 2nd January 2008
→ 54 proposals submitted by due date 2nd April
→ Central evaluation & selection procedure
→ Final funding decisions by national funding organisations
→ Start of projects in 2009

ERA-PG Second Call (2008)

Funding bodies contributing to second call

Country	Organisation
Austria	Austrian Science Fund (FWF)* and Federal Ministry for Science and Research (BMWF) GEN-AU Programme operated by FFG
Belgium	Flemish Government, Department of Economym Science and Innovation (EWI)
Canada	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC)*, Genome Alberta*, Genome Prairie/Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives* and the National Research Council, Plant Biotechnology Institute (NRC-PBI)*
Finland	Academy of Finland (AKA)
Germany	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation, DFG)
Israel	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MOARD)
Portugal	Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT)
The Netherlands	Netherlands Genomics Initiative (NGI) and Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)
United Kingdom	Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)

* FWF from Austria and the funding organisations from Canada have joined with eight of the ERA-PG partners in this initiative. They are not contractual partners of the ERA-NET coordination action.

ERA-PG Second Call (2008)

Evaluation and Selection process

Awards from second joint funding call of the ERA-NET Plant Genomics collaboration for twelve research consortia. Total € 16 million.

- €2.1 million to study associative expression and systems analysis of complex traits in oilseed rape/canola;
- €1.3 million to study meristematic regulatory network controlling the floral transition;
- €1.3 million to study calcium regulation of plant productivity;
- €902,000 to study plant alternative splicing and abiotic stress;
- € 1.2 million to study signaling to plant immunity responses;
- €1.4 million to study the application of genomics to dissect polycomb-group protein mediated control of plant development;
- €1.1 million to study the role of short RNAs on wood formation, cambium development and adaptation of the poplar tree;
- €744,000 to fund studies of plant receptor-like kinases in ROS signaling;
- €1.5 million to study pattern recognition receptors, including discovery, function, and application in crops for durable disease control;
- €1.5 million to study integrating genetics and high-throughput genomics to identify genes underlying tomato quantitative trait loci for metabolites that influence fruit quality;
- €1.3 million to study integrative genomic and genetic analysis of non-host resistance across triticeae species;
- €1.7 million to study mathematical, engineering, and post-genomics comparative biology to model the systems biology of seed dormancy after ripening and germination.

Grand Challenges in Plant Sciences

BBSRC & DFG supported workshop, 2 – 3 June 2008, Bonn

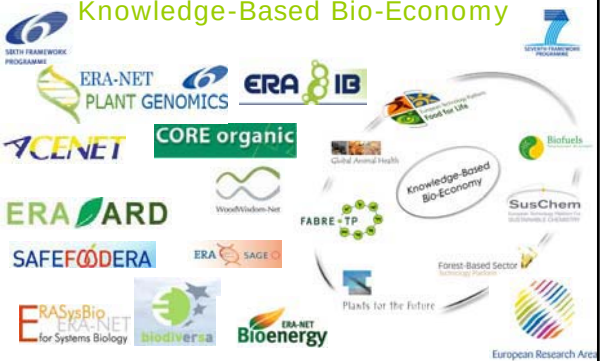
2020 EUROPEAN VISION FOR PLANT SCIENCE

- Predictive biology
- Understanding biology from the nano- to microscale
- The role of time and space in biology
- Evolution
- Growth responses from the single cell to whole organism and their regulation
- Principles of responses to the environment
- Sustainability

Towards Sustainable Collaboration

- Underpinned by strong basis from joint calls
- Focus & Strategy (topics, activities, countries)
- Delivery of excellent science in true transnational collaboration
- Encourage of industrial participation and cooperation
- Synergy by collaboration – maximisation of return on funding agency investments
- Joint programme design and operation, transparency of process with minimal bureaucracy
- With other ERA-NETs and with Technology Platforms

Strong basis for competitive European Knowledge-Based Bio-Economy



Acknowledgements

Thanks to all colleagues of the ERA-NET Plant Genomics

ERA-PG is supported by the EC Sixth Framework Programme Coordination Action Grant 510189

More information

www.erapg.org

office@erapg.org

bunthof@genomics.nl

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

www.erapg.org