

FAQ in connection to the CORE Organic Plus call

1. Q: How do I know whether the PDF-file that I have to upload (Part D), is unprotected?

A: Having the PDF file open, click at FILE > PROPERTIES > SECURITY

If it is indicated that it is possible to copy parts of the text, then is an unprotected PDF.

2. Q: Can I make changes in my application after I submitted it?

A: Yes, you can, also in Part D. The latest version of your application will be shown at your next log-in. On 25 Feb. at 13.00 CET the latest version is considered to be the final version of your pre-proposal. In order to submit you have to do two things: Click at the "Submitted" - checkbox and thereafter click the "Save" button underneath.

3. Q: Can I apply for funds in a thematic research area which my national funding body does not support?

A: No, you can only join if you fund the research yourself.

4. Q: Can a project last for four years?

A: No, three years is the maximum duration.

5. Q: Is the 1.5 million euro an absolute maximum?

A: Yes, it is an absolute maximum. If a pre-proposal is asking for more than 1.5 million euro the proposal will not be considered at all

6. Q: Is it possible to build a consortium dealing with two thematic research areas?

A: No

7. Q: Is there a partnering tool for finding interested partners?

A: Yes there is a partnering tool on the call submission website: <http://eracall.eu/>. The partner profiles collected in connection to the brokerage event are published here: http://www.coreorganic.org/Pages/partner_search.html

8. Q: Do we have a higher chance of getting selected for funding, if we don't ask for the highest amount of funds possible?

A: Please ask your National Contact Point.

You should definitely not exceed the total amount allocated per country and thematic research area and the total amount for a research project (1.5 million €).

9. Q: Is the involvement of companies mandatory?

A: No

10. Q: Is the involvement of industry/companies particularly advantageous for getting funded?

A: We don't have industry involvement as selection criteria. However, if the project would benefit from the involvement of industry/companies then you are expected to find industry partners.

11. Q: Who are the scientific experts?

A: The identity of the experts will be treated confidentially. They are identified by the funding bodies or via the European Commission's expert database. They will only see your application after signing a no-conflict of interest agreement based on the names and institutions of the partners in the proposals.

12. Q: My funding body does not support thematic research area 2 which would be my preferred thematic research area, can I apply for thematic research area 1 focusing on a question within thematic research area 2?

A: You better focus on the thematic research area you apply for. If not, the funding bodies and experts will evaluate the relevance of the project to the thematic research area as low.

13. Q: Are countries from outside the countries participating in the call eligible? Do they count as one of the minimum 5 partners per Consortium? Can countries from outside Europe apply e.g. India? Do the projects, which involve partners from outside countries have advantages in the evaluation process compared to other projects?

A: Partners from countries not taking part in the call are welcome to join the project proposal, but they do not count as one of the minimum five eligible countries/ proposal. Partners from countries outside Europe are welcome to apply, as long as you have minimum five eligible countries in the proposal. To involve a partner from countries outside the call does not give you an advantage to proposals not involving countries from outside the call.

The coordinator should be aware that there will be no national funding body to assist the coordinator in case of non-compliance of the partner from countries not taking part in the call.

14. Q: Does Wallonia and Flanders count as two countries

A: Yes

15. Q: How does the selection of pre-proposals take place?

A: The selection of pre-proposals and the evaluation criteria are mentioned in the guideline for applicants on page 9-10.

16. Q: If you want to focus on the last paragraph of the 2nd bullet point in Crop: Soil/plant interaction, do you then have to consider the first paragraph of this bullet point and to which extent?

A: You can focus on the last paragraph of the 2nd bullet point, but you should take into account the call text of the thematic research area and the bullet point.

17. Q: Do the partners of a project have to register to the submission tool?

A: Yes, they should register to add their partner information and budget plan.

18. Q: In a proposal for research area 4, can we focus on fresh products or does it have to include processing steps.

A: The processing is in the title of the call and mentioned in all paragraphs of the call text, therefore we highly recommend the proposals to focus on food processing. Please avoid taking one research question out of the context – the proposals will be evaluated in relation to the call text, not in relation to individual bullet points.

19. Q: Who pays the coordination costs?

A: The country of the coordinator has to fund the coordination costs. If the Consortium wants to use another model it has to be agreed by all partners as part of own funding, and should be described in the pre-proposal for information only. The funding bodies will only accept a budget for coordination costs from the coordinator.