CORE organic

ICROFS

AGRI-RESERACH CONFERENCE:
Innovating for the future of farming and rural communities

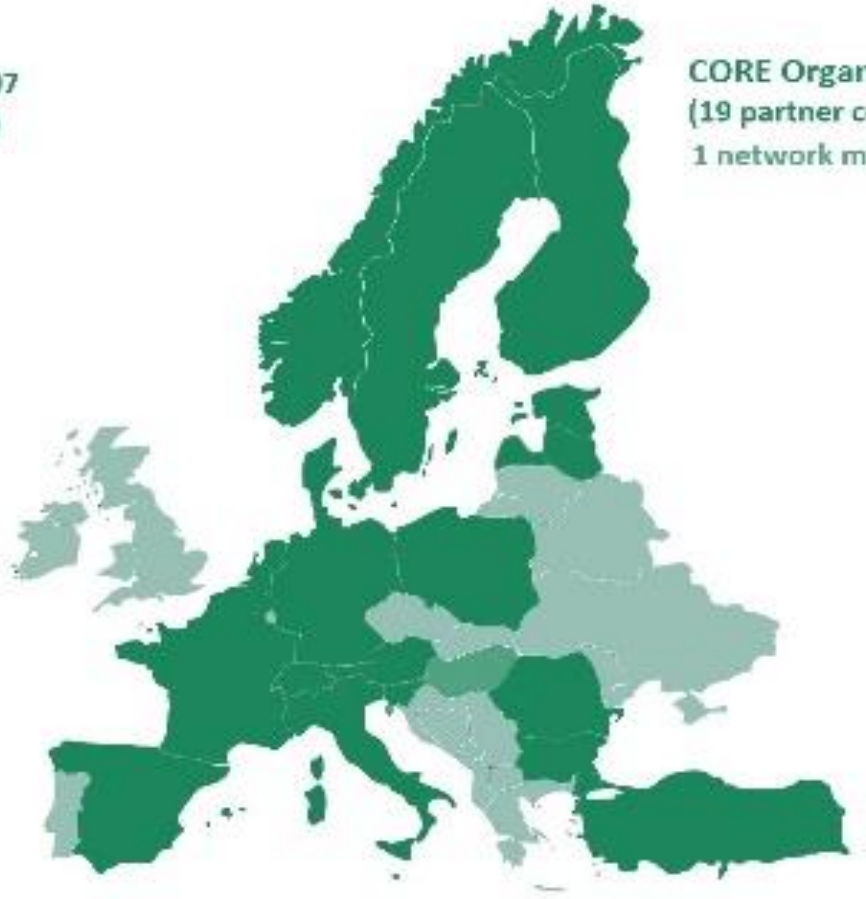
Parallel session 2: Healthy plants, animals and ecosystems for healthy people
How to maximise synergies between various instruments and approaches?

The example of the ERA-NET Cofund
'CORE Organic' in Organic Food and Farming Systems

Niels Halberg, ICROFS Director, CORE Organic Head of Programme

2-3 May, 2018, Brussels, Belgium

ERA-NET CORE Organic



Coordination of European Transnational Research in Organic Food and Farming Systems

CO I - 1 call, 8 projects, 8.3M Euro

CO II - 3 calls, 14 projects, RCP 1 project, 14,9M Euro

CO Plus - 1 call, 11 projects, 11M Euro,

CO Cofund - 1 call, 12 projects, 14M Euro

Why ERA-NET? Agreeing on ambitious resaerch agenda based on *Agro-ecological principles*

Thematic Calls: CORE Organic Plus and Cofund

2013-2018 CORE Organic Plus
21 countries/regions, 1 call (2013),
11M Euro, 11 projects

The four research topics of the projects are:

1. **Crop: Plant/Soil interaction in organic crop production**
2. **Functional biodiversity to improve management of diseases, weeds and pests**
3. **Livestock health management system including breeding**
4. **Ensuring quality and safety of organic food along the processing chain**

2016-2021 CORE Organic Cofund
26 partners, 19 countries/regions,
1 call (2016), appr.14M Euro, 12 projects

The four research topics of the projects are:

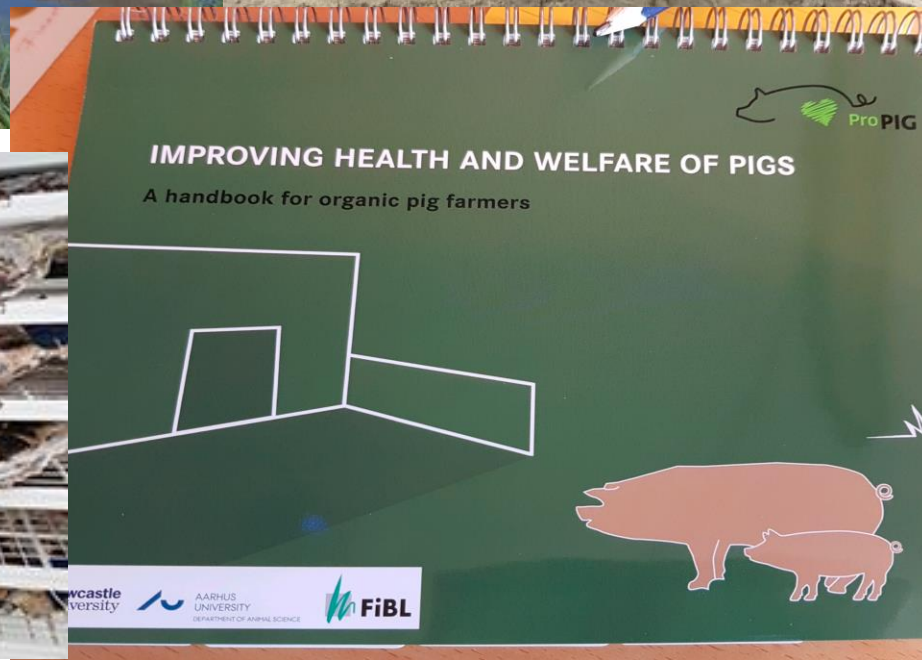
1. **Ecological support in specialized and intensive plant production systems**
2. **Eco-efficient production and use of animal feed at the local level**
3. **Appropriate and robust livestock systems: cattle, pigs, poultry**
4. **Organic food processing concepts and technologies for ensuring food quality, sustainability and consumer confidence**

Why ERA-NET? – examples of achievements from trans-European research

Plant/animal health related to human health and environment: securing sufficient farm volume and competences

CO II ProPig project achievements:

- Scientists and advisors evaluated health, wellbeing and husbandry conditions of pigs
- 74 organic farms in eight European countries with differing free range and housing systems,
- Improvement strategies developed with the pig farmers and advisors
- Farmer handbook w guidelines and tips developed



PathOrganic findings

- Quality of primary products in relation to human health
- Pork meat, salmonella,
- Antibiotic resistance
- Organic advantage at primary production partly eliminated at conventional slaughterhouses

Why ERA-NET? – examples of achievements from trans-European research

Quality standards related to human health and environment: promoting a trans-European approach to principles

CO Plus project achievements: SusOrganic, FaVorDeNonDe and EcoBerries , CO cofund : SusOrgPlus

- Development of quality standards and improved product quality
- Optimised processes for higher product quality, nutritional value and energy efficiency (pork, veggies, berries)
- Analyses of allergen content
- Adaptation of traditional processing methods to organic requirements
- Environmental impact (LCA) and economic (LCCA) analysis
- Processing guidelines and innovative packaging technologies
- Stakeholder (industry, organisations) engagement
- Dissemination and knowledge transfer to relevant stakeholders

CO Cofund ProOrg project - Code of Practice for organic food processing plans to achieve:

Providing the operators with strategies and tools for careful processing methods and formulations with a limited use of additives, while addressing the organic principles, high food quality, low environmental impact and high degree of consumer acceptance.

Dissemination and communication

Opportunities and challenges for creating impact for industry and society through the ERA-NET:

- Multiactor approach encouraged
- Continous communication

– Websites, social media & newsletters w articles, videos, management tools,

Field days, demonstrations, seminars for farmers/advisors

Organic Eprints open access archive,

English as the vehicle, - translating popular dissemination into national languages!

- **Strengths:**

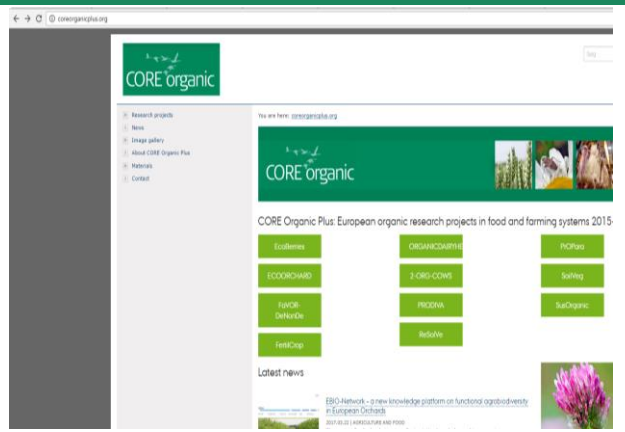
– Research communication expertise involved in ERA coordination and management,

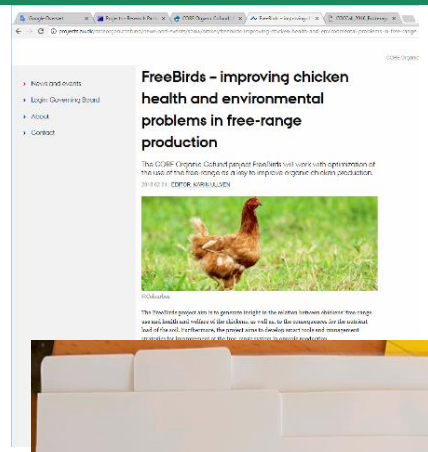
- Communication plans, capacity and resources part of every project contract

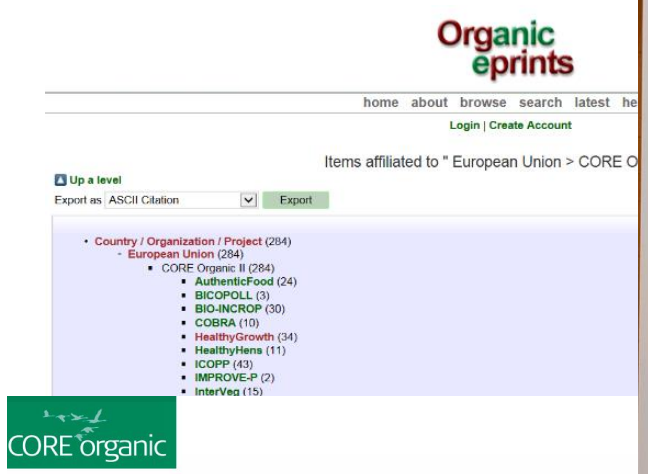
Cooperation with Technology Platform TP Organics,

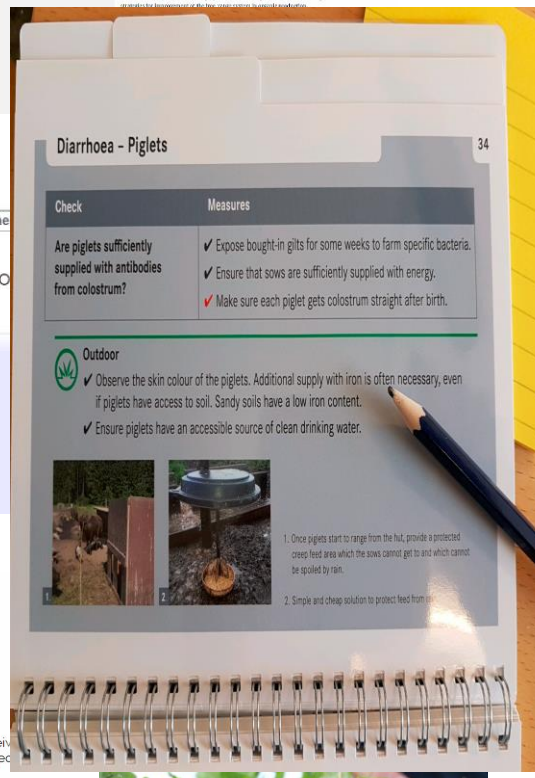
- **Challenges:**

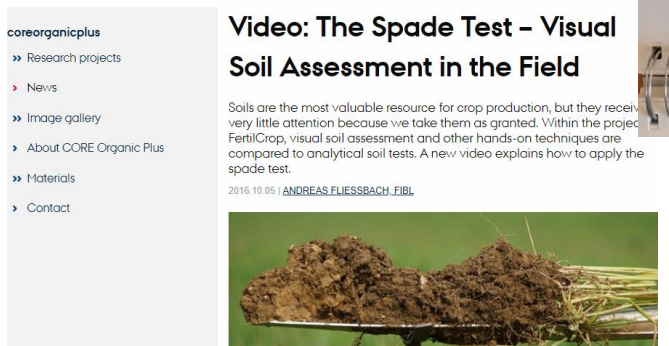
– Reaching stakeholders and end-users in all participating countries (differences in language, structure, organisation, culture, and more.











Future instruments and approaches for transEuropean science integration

Lessons and recommendations from an ERA net after 12 years and 5 calls

- ERA-NET good tool for alignment and securing funding for a small research and industry area
- Integrated focus demonstrated in line with industry goals:
- *Improving crop/livestock health with food processing and human health issues (organic version of "One Health" approach ☺)*

- but …

- There are limited funds in an ERA net
- ? Stronger (transEuropean) links w. national research ?
- Different types of funding bodies with different perspectives (i.e. research councils vs. agricultural ministries)
- Efficient tool for research capacity building across Europe – requires targeted selection of projects!
- Dilemma in selection criteria: relevance, integration, involvement vs. expert judgement
- Portfolio management vis-à-vis overall strategy and joint goals

Thank you!

For more information on CORE Organic Programme:
https://www.coreorganic.org

http://coreorganicplus/
http://coreorganiccofund

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