

rev 2, 19 February 2014

Guideline for applicants for the CORE Organic Plus call

Call for pre-proposals for transnational research in organic food and farming systems launched by CORE Organic Plus with co-funding from the European Union

Closing date for pre-proposals: 25 February 2014, at 13.00 CET





CORE Organic Plus is an ERA-NET Plus funded by the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme

Contract no. 618107

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Please note: The revisions compared with the document dated 6 December 2014 are: Improved guidance for applicants in 5.2. Revised or extra contact persons in the Call Secretariat and National Contact Point list for Germany, Poland, and Romania. In addition, it has been highlighted that the duration of the projects is maximum 3 years.



1. GENERAL INFORMATION

CORE Organic Plus is launching a transnational joint call for research project proposals. Please see the Call Announcement for details on call text, participating countries and funds allocated.

The call is based on funds from participating countries and on an additional funding by the EU. The additional funding of the EU aims at contributing to a more ample selection of projects irrespective of the financial contribution of individual countries by filling in financial short comings.

Research project consortia should apply to one of the four thematic call topics and the maximum duration of the project is 3 years with no possibility for prolongation.

2. FUNDING MODEL

The EU contributes to the ERA-Net with up to 3 million euro. This amount will be used to fund research projects and to fund the call and project administration. A part of the EU contribution has been pre-distributed proportionally to the national contributions. Another part will be used to fill up gaps arising during the selecting of proposals for funding. This will enable full funding of high quality projects according to the ranking list made by a panel of international independent experts, even if national budgets are insufficient. The possibility of closing financial gaps with the EU funds will be a positive advancement for the CORE Organic call.

Applicants in projects that have been selected for funding will receive the grant directly from their national funding body according to their national terms and conditions. The funding will be with contribution from the EU which will be paid via the national funding body. The contribution from the EU for each project partner will only be known after the final selection. The EU funding will always be with the present-day exchange rate from Euro to eventual national currency.

Applicants from countries which are not partners in the CORE Organic Plus or from countries which do not provide funding for a specific thematic area of the call are welcome to participate in the call. However, their costs need to be covered from their own resources or by other sources. They are not taken into account in the minimum requirement of eligible partners and countries in the CORE Organic Plus eligibility criteria.

3. CALL SCHEDULE

The call involves a 2-stage procedure with submission and selection of pre-proposals and, subsequently, invitation of shortlisted consortia to submit full proposals. The respective time schedule and activities required are listed in the table below.



Table 1. Time schedule of the 2-stage call process

Action	Scheduled
STAGE 1	
Launch of the call	6 December 2013
Closing date for pre-proposals	25 February 2014; 13.00 CET
Eligibility meeting (review and evaluation of pre-proposals)	~ 9 April 2014
Invitation letters for submission of full proposal	~ 29 April 2014
STAGE 2	
Closing date for full proposals	1 July 2014
Evaluation by the Expert Panel	~15 September 2014
Selection of projects	~ 01 October 2014
Notification letters	~15 October 2014
Contract negotiations	October on-going
Start of projects	Between 1 January and 1 April 2015

4. CALL SECRETARIAT

The Call Secretariat will provide administrative support to applicants regarding the call, call documents and procedures. It is the primary point of contact between the applicants and the CORE Organic Plus partners for all general matters in relation to the call.

Call manager

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Federal Office for Agriculture and Food, Bonn, Germany



The National Contact Points are supporting the Call Secretariat and should be contacted for all matters regarding national regulations and funding. Please see Annex A for contact information of National Contact Points.

Additionally to the National Contact Points, CORE Organic Plus has established a FAQ document to give quick answers to the most common questions. This document will be updated regularly during the application phase. You can find the FAQ document at the CORE Organic website: www.coreorganic.org under Calls.

5. SUBMISSION OF PRE-PROPOSALS

The call announcement including this guidance is available at the CORE Organic website: www.coreorganic.org. The pre-proposal application has to be filled in and submitted via the call submission website http://eracall.eu/. Pre-proposals must be submitted by 25 February 2014, at 13.00 CET.

For each application, two pre-proposal forms have to be filled in:

- 1) Part A is web-based and has to be filled in directly on the call submission website, 2) Part B, is web-based and has to be filled in directly on the call submission website,
- 3) Part C, is web-based and has to be filled in directly on the call submission website and
- 4) Part D is a project description form and has to be downloaded from- and uploaded to the call submission website.

One application should cover all the project partners of the consortium. It is mandatory to submit the Part D form as an **unprotected** Adobe PDF file. Pre-proposals must be written in English and they should be precise and concise.

Application submission will only be accepted via the CORE Organic Plus call submission website: http://eracall.eu/.

The application should be submitted by the project coordinator on behalf of the consortium (chapter 5.1).

For further information contact the Call Secretariat (chapter 4).

5.1 THE PROJECT COORDINATOR

Each Project Consortium needs to appoint a project coordinator, who, in any commissioned project, has the following role and responsibilities:

• Be the primary point of contact between the CORE Organic Plus Consortium and the researchers on behalf of the Project Consortium from the submission of the pre-proposal until the publication of the



final report.

- Submit the application on behalf of the Project Consortium.
- Compile and submit reports and other deliverables to the CORE Organic Plus Consortium on behalf of the Project Consortium.
- Secure that all project milestones and deliverables are met and take action according to the project management plan if one or more partners fail to deliver.
- Inform the CORE Organic Plus Consortium about any event that might affect the implementation of the project.

The project coordinator will NOT be responsible for the financial management of CORE Organic Plus project funding, which will be handled directly between the national research institutions and their national funding bodies in each participating country.

The coordination costs of a research project have to be specified as eligible costs in the proposal and have to be covered by the funding body of the coordinator. For further information please contact the National Contact Point (Annex A).

5.2 PRE-PROPOSAL APPLICATION

Part A, B and C can be saved at all steps and revisions of Part D can be submitted until the dead-line. The latest version will be shown at the next log-in. On 25 February 2014 at 13.00 CET the latest version is considered to be your final pre-proposal.

Part A: Project information (filled in by the Coordinator):

(http://eracall.eu/ > Partnering & Application > My Groups > Workspace >Edit application > Project-info > View\Edit > Edit >>...)

- 1. Title of Project (max. 200 characters incl. spaces and punctuation)
- 2. Project Acronym (max. 20 characters)
- 3. Duration of the proposed research project (max 36 months)
- 4. Topics (Thematic research area): 1) 2) 3) or 4)
- 5. Keywords (max 5 and 100 characters)
- 6. Project Summary (2000 characters incl. spaces and punctuation)
- 7. Publications (References of ten selected publications (per consortium) by the partners and relevant to the proposal including links to the articles or abstracts.)
- 8. Description of work, to be uploaded in PDF-format. Please refer to part D of this list.
- 9. "Submitted" checkbox. In order to submit the application, click at the box, then save.



Part B: Partner information (filled in by each partner)

Contact details for each project partner

(http://eracall.eu/ > Partnering & Application > My Groups > Workspace >Edit application > Partner-info > View\Edit > Edit >>...)

- 1. Partner (Organisation / Institute)
- 2. Acronym (e.g. for University of Milan: UNIMI)
- 3. Role (The role of each project partner in the project)
- 4. Partner description (A short description of the partner)
- 5. For coordinator and work package leaders: Brief CV and a short description of ongoing projects related to the present topic indicating project name, funding source and amounts, and potential overlap or link with the current proposal
- 6. Previous dissemination activities (Links to examples of previous dissemination activities relevant to the proposal, by the institution/organisation responsible for dissemination)

Part C: Partner budget (filled in by each partner)

(http://eracall.eu/ > Partnering & Application > My Groups > Workspace >Edit application > Partner-budget > Create >>...)

- > Chose funding agency
- > Confirm funding scheme
- > Fill in Total / Requested costs, following the CORE+ and national regulations

Part D: Description of Work (uploaded by the coordinator, also see Part A Nr. 8))

(http://eracall.eu/ > Partnering & Application > Part D template >>...) opens the file

Part_D_CORE-Organic_plus.pdf which contains instructions on how to write the requested Description of Work:

- 1. Proposal identification number (will be shown when you log-in)
- 2. Project title.
- 3. Project acronym.
- 4. Project objectives and main hypotheses.
- 5. Description of:
 - Relevance of the proposal compared with the call text.
 - Expected results for the sector and how they will overcome barriers and support development opportunities for the organic sector.
 - Relation of the consortium to the main target groups and how these will be involved and/or targeted in the project.
 - European added value of the project being carried out transnationally.
- 6. Description of the scientific methods and work plan (may be divided into work packages).



6. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR FUNDING

6.1 ETHICS

Work involving the use of animals or humans should be carried out under the appropriate authorisation taking into account local ethical requirements. Any proposal, which seems to contravene fundamental ethical principles, shall not be selected, and may be excluded from the evaluation and selection procedure at any time by the CORE Organic Plus partners. Judgement of the significance of ethical issues will be made by the partners using the criteria published by the Commission in its guidelines for the Seventh Framework Programme (http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ethics_en.html#ethics_sd).

6.2 CORE ORGANIC PLUS ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Each project pre-proposal must:

- ✓ Consist of a transnational consortium of at least five independent eligible legal entities from at least five CORE Organic Plus partner countries listed in Annex A.
- ✓ Be written in English.
- ✓ Use the application forms provided via the CORE Organic call submission website: http://eracall.eu/.
- ✓ Fulfil the formal requirements for pre-proposal submission.
- ✓ Be submitted correctly and completely via the call website before the call deadline (25 February 2014, 13.00 CET).
- ✓ The total requested funding for a project partner (or partners from the same country) cannot exceed the indicative amount allocated by their respective national funding body (See Call Announcement).
- ✓ The total requested funding for a project proposal cannot exceed 1.5 million euro

6.3 NATIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND PRIORITIES:

All project partners involved in an application have to assure that eligible costs, sub-contracting, etc. are in line with the respective national regulations. If a funding body has national priorities within a thematic research area, this will be explained in Annex B together with the national main rules and links to the national rules for participants. In case of uncertainties regarding the national regulations or priorities, please contact your National Contact Point (Annex A).

7. SELECTION OF PRE-PROPOSALS

All pre-proposals submitted will be treated strictly confidential by the CORE Organic Plus Consortium. In the selection process at the pre-proposal stage the transnational research proposals which are eligible in terms of



the "Eligibility (criteria) for Funding" mentioned in chapter 6 will be identified. Meeting these criteria is mandatory and pre-proposals that do not meet them will not be considered for funding.

Further, the pre-proposals will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- Relevance of the proposal compared to the call text and current state of knowledge (Innovative and problem solving potential of the project and complementarity with already existing results).
- Soundness of concept and work plan.
- The degree to which the project will overcome/support important barriers/development opportunities for the organic sector
- Quality of consortium in consideration to the European added value (Clear description of the transnational collaboration in the work plan and the European added value of the project being carried out transnationally. A preliminary assessment of the quality of the consortium and geographical coverage of the partnerships compared with the topic).
- Management and budget (Reasonability of the budget in regard to the work plan).

Project Consortia whose pre-proposals meet the eligibility criteria and are assessed to be of high quality on the above mentioned criteria will be invited to submit a full proposal.

In case that one funding body does not support the funding of a pre-proposal for reasons of ineligibility of applicants or national priorities, the whole research project consortium risks not to be invited to submit a full proposal. Therefore, it is highly advisable that the coordinator consult the national priorities and national main rules within the consortium build.

If a country does not wish to fund certain parts of the thematic research area, it will be stated in Annex B and in their national rules.

The CORE Organic Plus Consortium will invite pre-proposal consortia to submit full proposals of an amount of two to three times of the available funds, with due consideration to the geographical coverage and availability of national funding.

Successful and unsuccessful pre-proposal consortia will be informed thereof by the Call Secretariat.

The invitation to submit a full proposal does not implicitly result in the right of getting funded by the CO Plus funding bodies - even if the full proposal gets evaluated positively by the Expert panel.

The full proposals will be evaluated by a panel of international experts and a single ranking list will be prepared covering all four thematic research areas. This ranking list has to be followed by the CORE Organic Plus consortium during the selection of projects.



8. FURTHER INFORMATION

8.1 SUBMISSION OF FULL PROPOSALS

Additional information for the submission of full proposals will be available with the invitations for full proposals and published on the CORE Organic website www.coreorganic.org.

8.2 CONTRACT CONDITIONS

8.2.1 TERMS OF PARTICIPATION

The national funding of the CORE Organic Plus Call is offered under the coordination of the FP7 ERA-NET CORE Organic Plus. Partners of the research project consortia are required to recognize the coordinating role of CORE Organic Plus throughout the duration of the funded research projects until the publication of the final report. Each Research Project Consortium will be asked for a feedback on the processes in order to help to refine them for the future use.

8.2.2 CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIPS

CORE Organic Plus is a collaboration between national funding bodies with the aim of establishing transnational research collaboration. The contracts with researchers and funding procedures and regulations remain the full responsibility of the national funding bodies.

Because of the fragmented nature of the funding care will be taken to ensure that the individual contracts are synchronized both in time and content, so that each Project Consortium can deliver transnational outputs as described in the project proposal. The national funding bodies have to ensure that common CORE Organic Plus conditions are met (e.g. common start date of a given project, reporting requirements etc.).

8.2.3 Funding contracts

For the whole duration of the contract it is the responsibility of the Project Coordinator to inform the CORE Organic Plus Consortium (via the Call Secretariat) of any changes which may affect the implementation of the project (e.g. work plan, consortium modifications) and other changes such as changes in the contract details.

Any financial issue is under the responsibility of each national funding body involved in the approved project.

If a change to the Project Consortium occurs which poses a risk to the project, the issue has to be solved by the consortium (in line with the Consortium Agreement, see chapter 8.2.4)). The CORE Organic Plus Consortium must be kept informed of such events.

Any changes in the work plan should be only minor, but will need to be authorised by the CORE Organic Plus Consortium.



8.2.4 Consortium Agreement

The consortia selected for funding must enter into a Consortium Agreement, in order to manage the project activities, finances, intellectual property rights (IPR) and to avoid disputes which might be detrimental to the completion of the project.

It will be the responsibility of the project coordinators to draw up a Consortium Agreement suitable to their own group. The Consortium Agreement will normally be under the law and legal system of the country of the project coordinator. The purpose of this document is:

- To underpin the project partners' collaboration and provide the project partners with mutual assurance on project management structures and procedures, and their rights and obligations towards one another.
- To assure the funding bodies involved that the Project Consortium has a satisfactory decision making capacity and is able to work together in a synergistic and positive manner.

The Consortium Agreement must be finalized and signed by all partners of the Project Consortium before the official start of the project.

The CORE Organic Plus Call Secretariat will provide the applicants with an example of a Consortium Agreement after the selection process.

8.2.5 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS, USE AND ACCESS TO RESULTS

Results and new Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) resulting from projects funded through the CORE Organic Plus Call will be owned by the Project Partners according to the conditions stated in their Consortium Agreement and shall not be in conflict with the respective national regulation.

Researchers are encouraged to actively exploit the results of the research project and make them available for use, whether for commercial gain or not, in order for public benefit to be obtained from the knowledge created.

8.2.6 START DATE OF PROJECTS

A project can start when all national contracts have been concluded and all partners have signed the Consortium Agreement. Once the national contracts come into force, eligible national costs may be claimed as per national procedures. Projects should start between 1 January and 1 April 2015.

8.2.7 PROJECT REPORTING

A mid-term and a final scientific report including deliverables have to be sent to the CORE Organic Plus



Consortium by the project coordinator. Project reports and the progress will be assessed against the expected output and timeline as described in the final project description (milestones and deliverables). Action may be taken by funding bodies in case of shortcomings or non-compliance. In addition, brief project updates suitable for immediate publication have to be provided to the CORE Organic Plus consortium annually, and a minimum of 3 stakeholder-oriented articles.

Project reports and articles must be written in English, whereas supplementary versions may also be written in other languages at the Project Partners' discretion and own expenses.

If required by national obligations, each project partner has to report progress of their activity to the national funding bodies. This also applies to financial reports.

8.2.8 DISSEMINATION REQUIREMENTS

Dissemination of project results is requested in the form of various communication routes such as scientific papers, posters, stakeholder involvement, course or training material, web based tools, workshops or direct intervention towards end users. A dissemination plan should be included in the full proposal and specify the planned dissemination activities.

All publications, which originate from the CORE Organic Plus projects, have to be published via the electronic archive, Organic Eprints (www.orgprints.org).

Further, the Project Partners have to acknowledge the transnational funding of the CORE Organic Plus ERA-NET and the individual national funding bodies in any document that is published (in written, oral or electronic form) within the research project.



ANNEX A: CORE ORGANIC PLUS NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS

Country	Name & Organisation	Telephone	E-mail
Austria	Maria Keuschnigg, BMLFUW	+43 1 71100 6612	maria.keuschnigg@lebensministerium.at
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ANNEX B – NATIONAL MAIN RULES AND PRIORITIES, CO PLUS CALL

Country	Priorities within Thematic Research Areas	National details. National rules from all countries are at <u>www.coreorganic.org</u> under Call
Austria	The BMLFUW will fund research on bullet 2, 3 and 4 only in thematic research area 3 'Livestock health management system including breeding'	Is funding of private companies possible? Yes Are additional national documents required? After the final selection for funding the Austrian partner, if any, has to submit the project via www.dafne.at . Are there any extraordinary rules? For one eligible project there will be only one contract between BMLFUW and the respective Austrian partner, whereas additional Austrian partners shall be subcontracted.
Belgium Flanders	BE, Flanders will fund the thematic research areas 1, 2 and 3: For thematic research area 3 'Livestock health management system including breeding' only subtopic 4 is eligible for submitting projects with financing from the Flanders Region	Is funding of private companies possible? Yes, Flanders can provide funds for private companies that co-participate in the call: within the research projects the participation of partners from private companies is allowed to a certain extend in the cost "extern performances". Are additional national documents required? No Are there any extraordinary rules? There are some financial conditions/rules: see the national document Belgium Flanders. Further conditions will be submitted in the ministerial decisions for the selected proposals with funds from Flanders (will be in the beginning of 2015).
Belgium Wallonia	Belgium (Wallonia) funds the thematic research areas 1-3.	Is funding of private companies possible? Yes, to a certain extend Are additional national documents required? Yes, more details later Are there any extraordinary rules? Yes, see the national rules
Denmark	Denmark will fund all four thematic research areas.	Is funding of private companies possible? Yes, to a certain extend Are additional national documents required? Yes, more details on the budget during the contract negotiation Are there any extraordinary rules?

Country	Priorities within Thematic Research Areas	National details. National rules from all countries are at <u>www.coreorganic.org</u> under Call
		No
Estonia	Estonia funds the thematic research areas 1 and 4.	Is funding of private companies possible? Participants can be universities and research organisations. (if it is private University or research institute then yes) Are there additional national documents required? Yes, a more detailed budget regarding the national programme Are there any extraordinary rules? No
Finland	Finland will support the thematic research areas 2, 3 and 4,	Is funding of private companies possible? Yes, see national rules Are there additional national documents required? No Are there any extraordinary rules? No
France	All the thematic research areas and subtopics (bullet points) of the call can be supported either by the Ministry or by INRA.	Is funding of private companies possible? Yes Are additional national documents required? Every French applicant has to provide a detailed communication plan for the dissemination of the results to end-users Are there any extraordinary rules? No
Germany	Germany will fund the thematic research areas 2, 3 and 4.	Is funding of private companies possible? Yes, to a certain extend Are additional national documents required? In the pre-proposal stage private enterprises have to submit relevant documents to proof their reliability. After the final selection for funding, the German applicants will get an invitation letter to submit a



Country	Priorities within Thematic Research Areas	National details. National rules from all countries are at <u>www.coreorganic.org</u> under Call
		separate proposal regarding their tasks and financial needs (e.g. AZA Formulare).
		Are there any extraordinary rules? No
Italy	Italy will fund the thematic research areas 1, 2 and 4	Is funding of private companies possible? Only if they are no-profit organizations with among their institutional and statutory scopes "performing research and / or experimentation activities".
		Are additional national documents required? Documentation proving the no-profit and the research / experimentation activities scopes is needed in case of private organizations
		Are there any extraordinary rules? No
Latvia	Latvia will fund the thematic research areas 1 and 2.	Is funding of private companies possible? Only research institutions will be eligible to receive the funding, but Latvian enterprises, groups of enterprises and organisations are also welcomed to join the projects as partners without funding.
		Are additional national documents required? No
		Are there any extraordinary rules? The Latvian partner in the projects has to be only a Latvian research institution, which: 1) are included in the Latvian Register of Scientific Institutions; 2) are under supervision of Latvian Ministry of Agriculture.
Lithuania	Latvia will fund the thematic research areas 1 and 3.	Is funding of private companies possible? Yes, private companies should provide proof that they are making research, for example they could provide the company establishing documents.
		Are additional national documents required? No
		Are there any extraordinary rules? No



Country	Priorities within Thematic Research Areas	National details. National rules from all countries are at www.coreorganic.org under Call
Netherla nds	The Netherlands will fund the thematic research areas 1, 3 and 4.	Is funding of private companies possible? Funding private companies is allowed, but needs to undergo a check for state aid.
	For thematic research area 1. there are no national priorities.	Are additional national documents required? Extra documents have to be provided to the Dutch funding body.
	For thematic research area 3., NL will only fund proposals that concern the 1st and/or the 4th bullet point:	Are there any extraordinary rules? No
	For thematic research area 4. NL will only fund proposals that concern the 1st and/or the 4th bullet point. Concerning the 4 th bullet point, proposals should focus on new technologies rather than on functional ingredients	
Norway	Norway will fund the thematic research areas 1 and 4	Is funding of private companies possible? Norwegian enterprises or e.g.: Norwegian companies, groups of companies or trade and industry organizations are welcome apply as partners or subcontractors. However, the responsible Norwegian partner in the project has to be a Norwegian research institution
		Are additional national documents required? No additional national documents are required for the application process. Project partners of financed projects will have to submit national application forms to The Research Council of Norway after notification.
		Are there any extraordinary rules? No.
Poland	Poland will fund the thematic research areas 1, 2 and 3	Is funding of private companies possible? Yes, according to the state aid rules
		Are additional national documents required? Yes, more details on the budget during the contract negotiation
		Are there any extraordinary rules?



Country	Priorities within Thematic Research Areas	National details. National rules from all countries are at <u>www.coreorganic.org</u> under Call
		No
Romania	Romania will fund the thematic research areas 2 and 4.	Is funding of private companies possible? Yes
		Are additional national documents required? No
		Are there any extraordinary rules? No
Slovenia	Slovenia will fund the thematic research areas 1 and 3	Is funding of private companies possible? Yes, to a certain extend and under certain conditions.
	Slovenia will fund the thematic research areas 1 and 3, all subtopics (bullet points) can be funded, however, for area 1: the subtopic 2 is first national priority, and for area 3: subtopic 4 is first national priority and subtopic 1 is second national priority.	Are additional national documents required? Yes, more details on the budget during the contract negotiation Are there any extraordinary rules? Yes.
Spain	Spain will fund thematic research area 1.	Is funding of private companies possible? The call is addressed to public research institutions and public universities. Are there additional national documents required? An electronic copy of the pre-proposal and full proposal must be sent to the National Contact Point, at the deadline of both stages of the call.
		Are there any extraordinary rules? No.
Sweden	All the thematic research areas and subtopics (bullet points) of the call can be supported.	Is funding of private companies possible? Yes, to a certain extend.
		Are additional national documents required? Yes, more details on the budget during the contract negotiation should the project get funded.
		Are there any extraordinary rules?



Country	Priorities within Thematic Research Areas	National details. National rules from all countries are at <u>www.coreorganic.org</u> under Call
		No
Switzerla nd	Switzerland will fund the thematic research areas 1, 2and 3.	Is funding of private companies possible? Yes
		Are additional national documents required? No
		Are there any extraordinary rules? Switzerland will pay maximally 75% of the costs.
Turkey	Turkey will fund all four thematic research areas.	Is funding of private companies possible?
		No
		Are additional national documents required?
		No
		Are there any extraordinary rules? At least one of the GDAR institutes or stations have to be included among Turkish partners in a consortium
United Kingdom	Defra are supporting work under theme 3: Livestock health management system including breeding. All subtopics within this theme can be supported.	Is funding of private companies possible? Both public and Private organisations are eligible to apply for Defra research funding in accordance with Defra terms and conditions.
		Are additional national documents required? Successful applicants will be requires to supply an <u>application for research project</u> to Defra once their bid has been chosen through the ERAnet competitive process. The successful applicant will be required to sign a Defra research contract.
		Are there any extraordinary rules? No

