



CORE Organic Programme call:  
“Early career researchers  
mobility grant 2025/ 2026”



## CORE ORGANIC - ABOUT:

**CORE Organic Programme** - "Coordination of European Transnational Research in Organic Food and Farming Systems" is a network initiative launched in 2004 that focuses on research in organic food and farming across Europe and beyond. The objective of the CORE Organic (CO) network is to join forces and support transnational coordinated research and innovation effort covering the most important challenges along the organic value chains. Its present fifth extension [CORE Organic Pleiades](#) acts as a platform for policy exchange and it is focusing on increasing R&I funding to support the targets for organic food, farming and aquaculture set out in the European Green Deal. At the occasion of CORE Organic's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of activities marked this year the network launches the call "**Early career researchers mobility grant 2025/ 2026**".

## WHAT DOES THE GRANT OFFER?

- The present mobility grant can support internships or a short-term research visit.
- It provides early career researchers an opportunity to explore R&I in the European organic sector. The grant can support projects focusing on organics and/ or agroecology.
- It finances a visit to an institution where the applicant can gain experience in a new environment and exchange with researchers and/ or other professionals.
- It grants a financial support of maximum 10,000 Euro for a minimum of 3 months stay, or longer.
- Applicants from all disciplinary backgrounds are welcome to consider this mobility grant.
- This is a competitive call requesting high quality of application. The final decision on granting funds will be taken by the CORE Organic Grant Committee.

## KEY- REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATION – ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

The applicant should apply in accordance with the following requirements – non-compliance with these requirements can result in exclusion of the application:

- The applicants must have academic qualifications such as being full-time Master or PhD student at the time of application (the actual application submission date applies).
- The applicant must be maximum of 35 years old at the time of application (the actual application submission date applies).
- The applicant must either be a permanent resident or a citizen of countries included in the CORE Organic Programme: Austria (AT), Belgium (BE-WAL & BE-FL ), Bulgaria (BG), Denmark (DK), Estonia (EE), Finland (FI), France (FR), Germany (DE), Italy (IT), Latvia (LV), Netherlands (NL), Norway (NO), Poland (PL), Romania (RO), Switzerland (CH), Slovenia (SI), Spain (ES), Sweden (SE), and Turkey (TR).
- The mobility must be within a country of the applicant’s residence or citizenship, or in another country included in the CORE Organic programme, see point above (e.g., Austrian citizen or a permanent resident, can request mobility to another institution within Austria or can visit another country covered by the CO call).
- The host institutions must be in one of the included countries (see above). These can be higher education institutions (e.g. research institutes, research stations of a sectoral relevance and universities), public institutions involved in policymaking and research funding (e.g. ministries or state agencies) or research related competent organisations (e.g., NGOs) – for a list of possible institutions and organisations please refer to Annex A.
- Prior to the application, the applicant must obtain the agreement of the host institution that is willing to host the applicant – for a template of the letter from host institution please refer to Annex B.
- The CORE Organic financial support is a maximum of 10,000 EUR. This budget is meant to cover expenses for travel, accommodation and subsistence for the visit of the applicant during his/ her permanence at a host institution. Any costs exceeding the maximum amount of 10,000 EUR, must be covered by the applicant him/ herself. The duration of the visit is a minimum of 3 months (without interruptions).
- Visits must take place in the period from 1st April 2025 to 1st April 2026.

- It is expected that mobility visits falls into the remit of the CORE Organic research areas and topics. Please consult the [archive](#) of CORE Organic research themes.<sup>1</sup>

## REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR APPLICATION

All application documents must be written in English. All required documents are to be merged into a single PDF-file (maximum 3MB) and sent via e-mail to the CORE Organic Call team. The applicant must provide the following documents for the application process:

- A letter of support from the host institution: The letter should include information about the planned mobility, envisaged activities and a timeframe of the visit as described in Annex B (maximum 1 page).
- Curriculum Vitae (maximum 1 page).
- Motivation letter specifying reasons behind this application and the expected benefits for the applicant's career (maximum 1 page).
- Research project description should state relevant research questions consistent with the previous research and with the selected hosting institution (maximum 1 page).
- Reasonable calculation of expected expenses for accommodation, travel and subsistence - along with the envisaged timeline. Please provide a table overview (maximum 1 page).
- Copy of certificate of the highest academic degree BA, MA or PhD (Hons) that can be in national language with included translation of the academic title in the Curriculum Vitae.
- A letter of reference from a supervisor would be an asset.

## GUIDELINES FOR THE RESEARCH PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

- Relevance of the CORE Organic "Early career researchers mobility grant" goals: emphasize how your research aligns with your previous research, the core objectives of hosting institution and CORE Organic Programme research areas and topics addressing organic farming and agroecology.

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<sup>1</sup> CORE Organic research areas and topics: circular bioeconomy, organic consumer, mixed farming, food systems and landscapes, human health, crop production, nature and biodiversity, animal production, fruit, vegetables and viticulture. Read more about it [here](#).

- Personal motivation: include why you are passionate about the organic sector and agroecology, connecting your personal values or experiences to the goals of your research.
- Specific training benefits: be specific about how the mobility grant will enhance your skills or knowledge. For example, mention methodologies, technologies, or collaborations you hope to explore and how they directly relate to your research goals.
- Broader impact: articulate how your work can benefit the organic sector and agroecology more broadly, whether through research innovation, practical applications, or contributions to policy or education.

### TIMELINE OF THE CALL:

Action	Scheduled
Publication of Call	29 November 2024
Webinar: Overview of the requirements (Zoom meeting is announced on the <a href="#">CORE Organic web site</a> via <a href="#">link</a> ).	<b>17 December 2024, 10.00-11.00 CET</b>
<b>Closing date for submissions of applications</b>	<b>29 January 2025</b>
Selection process	February 2025
Notification letters sent to applicants	March 2025
Start of the time period for mobility visits	1 April 2025
End of the time period for mobility visits	1 April 2026
Dissemination activities during mobility visit	Monthly updates
Reporting	1 month after end of visit

### EVALUATION CRITERIA AND SELECTION PROCESS:

The appropriateness and quality of the application will be reviewed by the CORE Organic Grant Committee using all application documents (e.g., curriculum vitae, motivation letter, research project description, letters of support from the hosting institution and possibly a supervisor, and budgetary calculation). Each application will be evaluated using scores 0-5 against following criteria:

- Qualification/ motivation of the applicant.
- Value of the visit, networking and knowledge exchange, opportunities and benefits for the applicant, quality of the envisaged tasks and activities.
- Compatibility with CORE Organic research areas and topics. Kindly review the [archive](#) of CORE Organic research themes and indicate your intentions in the application documents.

- Reasonable budget calculation (in tabular form).
- Selection criteria include that expected mobility grants can be allocated 80% for research in the organic sector and 20% for research in agroecology, pending received applications.

### CALL TEAM CONTACTS:

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### SUBMISSION OF THE APPLICATION:

The application must be submitted per e-mail as one merged pdf file (max. 3 MB) to:

Frederik Drue ([frederik.drue@icrofs.org](mailto:frederik.drue@icrofs.org)) with copy (cc) to Janne Krabsen ([janne.krabsen@icrofs.org](mailto:janne.krabsen@icrofs.org))

**Please ensure to submit the application in time. Applications submitted after the deadline of 29<sup>th</sup> of January 2025 will be excluded from the application process.**

For any questions regarding the call you are welcome to participate in the Webinar that will take place in December 2024 and it will be announced on the [CORE Organic website](#), or you can write to:

Frederik Drue ([frederik.drue@icrofs.org](mailto:frederik.drue@icrofs.org)) with copy (cc) to Ivana Trkulja ([ivana.trkulja@icrofs.org](mailto:ivana.trkulja@icrofs.org))

### Related Opportunities

CORE Organic network may organise thematic webinars, workshops, and other activities for capacity building. These opportunities will provide professional experience and serve as networking and communications platforms for early career researchers to share research and experiences with each other. Applicants are not expected to use their funding for these opportunities.

## **Annex A: List of possible host institutions**

- Public Research Performing Organisations
- Public Universities
- Private Universities
- Research Institutes
- Research Stations of Sectoral Relevance
- Public Project Management Agencies/ Offices
- Federal Offices/ Agencies
- Ministries
- Inter-governmental Organisations (e.g., European Commission, EFSA, FAO etc.)
- NGO's of Sectoral Relevance

## **Annex B: Template for a Letter of Support from the host institution**

- Name of the institution and relevant unit where the applicant will be hosted (using an official institutional letterhead)
- Applicant's name, address and degree of graduation/ discipline
- Short description of the unit (e.g., research area, expertise and current activities)
- Expectations towards applicant (e.g., envisaged activities during the visit and a short description of the tasks which will be performed by the applicant)
- The timeframe when the applicant will be hosted (e.g., dates of mobility visit)