

Innovation for Europe – life science meets market application

Pre-announcement of the ERA CoBioTech co-funded call for transnational collaborative research projects:

“Biotechnology for a sustainable bioeconomy”

The ERA-Net Cofund on Biotechnologies is a new ERA-Net Cofund Action under Horizon 2020 that will build upon the achievements of ERA-IB2 (ERA-Net for Industrial Biotechnology 2), ERASysAPP (ERA-Net for Applied Systems Biology) and ERASynBio (ERA-Net for Synthetic Biology).

The key mission of ERA CoBioTech is to

- maximise synergies between current mechanisms of biotechnology research funding in Europe,
- foster the exchange of knowledge across borders,
- highlight the benefits of a bio-based economy for society,
- maintain and strengthen Europe’s position in biotechnology.

ERA CoBioTech pre-announces the upcoming co-funded call for transnational research projects in the field of biotechnologies. The co-funded call with an indicative budget of approximately **€36.3M** brings together 21 funding organisations from 18 countries. The call is expected to open on **01.12.2016** with a closing date for pre-proposals on **02.03.2017, 13:00 CET**.

Aim and scope of the call

The aim of the co-funded call is to contribute to **transforming the global economy from a dependence on fossil raw material to a sustainable bio-based economy**. The submitted pre-proposals must be multidisciplinary and they will include at least one of the following scientific approaches:

- **Synthetic biology** for the design and construction of new biological parts, devices, and systems or re-design of existing, natural biological systems for useful purposes by use of e.g. (but not limited to) orthogonal bio-systems, regulatory circuits, minimal genomes and protocells.
- **Systems biology** for the optimisation of biological processes, including investigation of the regulatory mechanisms in intra- and intercellular processes for bio-production, modelling, development of new computational methods and/or other new methodologies.
- **Use of bioinformatic tools** (e.g. data standardisation, modelling, open repositories) for the **identification and utilisation of metabolic pathways**. **Datasets can have different origins, e.g. appropriate datasets on genomics, phenomics, proteomics, metabolomics, transcriptomics, etc..** Also included are mapping and exploitation of cellular processes and metabolic capacities for bio-production and for strain/variety improvement.
- **Biotechnological approaches (possibly in combination with chemical ones)** to transform bio-based building blocks into high added value molecules in a sustainable way.

The co-funded call covers industrial biotechnology. Applications must address one of the topics described below:

- I. **Sustainable production and conversion of different types of feedstocks and bioresources** (including, but not limited, to waste and residues e.g. from households, agriculture, forestry, industrial by-products, alternative raw materials) **into value-added products** including new compounds e.g. for materials, chemicals, food/feed ingredients, flavours and fragrances, pharmaceuticals, biofuels, textiles or pulp/paper products.
- II. **New products, value-added products and supply services** (e.g. bio-based materials, platform chemicals, pharmaceuticals, biomedical products, functional food/feed ingredients etc.) originating from novel metabolic pathways or pathway improvements. This also includes bio-catalytic elements like enzymes, microorganisms and cell-free biosynthesis systems from natural or synthetic origins.
- III. **Sustainable industrial processes:** Upstream and downstream design, scale-up of biotechnological processes also including systems approaches to bioprocesses and process development; fermentation processes; usage of microbial consortia; intensification and/or integration in existing industrial processes; and development of innovative, environmentally sound industrial processes.

The projects should fall within Technology Readiness Levels¹ (TRL) 3-6, although projects are not necessarily required to cover the whole range. Industry engagement should be appropriate for the TRL range being investigated.

Intended timeline		
	Phase	Date
Pre-proposals	Call opening	01.12.2016
	Deadline for submission of pre-proposals	02.03.2017 (13:00 CET)
Full proposals	Invitation to submit a full proposal	Second half of May 2017
	Deadline for submission of full proposal	20.07.2017 (13:00 CEST)
Funding decisions and projects' start	Communication of the funding decisions	Mid of October 2017
	Projects' start	December 2017 – May 2018

Eligibility

In this co-funded call ERA CoBioTech expects proposals for collaborative research, development and innovation from transnational consortia composed of universities, higher education institutions, public research institutes, industries, large companies and small and medium-sized enterprises (SME). Transnational research consortia must comprise at the least three partners from three different countries participating in the co-funded call. The participation of one or more industrial partner(s) in the consortium is strongly recommended. National and regional eligibility rules, including the potential eligibility of the private sector, e.g. SMEs, must be followed and will be published together with the call text at <http://www.cobiotech.eu>.

¹ *Technology Readiness Levels scale is a tool for assessing the maturity of technology for commercialisation. Horizon 2020 work programme 2016 – 2017 makes use of the TRL scale to make decisions on which type of projects to be funded. The TRL scale definition used within H2020 and applied for this call can be found under:*
http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/wp/2016_2017/annexes/h2020-wp1617-annex-g-trl_en.pdf



Application procedures & Evaluation

In a two-phase submission process, the short pre-proposals will be peer reviewed after passing an eligibility check. Consortia having successfully passed the pre-proposal phase will be invited to submit a full proposal, which will be evaluated by a panel of independent experts, following the evaluation criteria published with the call text. The projects with a duration of up to three years are expected to start between December 2017 and May 2018 at the latest, depending on grant negotiations with the relevant regional or national funding organisations.

ERA CoBioTech Call office
Project Management Juelich
ptj-cobiotech@fz-juelich.de
D-52425 Jülich
Germany

The total available funding sum provided by the ERA CoBioTech funding organisations is up to ~€27.6M. Additionally up to ~€8.7M funding will be available as EU top-up.

Country	Funding Organisation	National Contact Person (NCP)	Available funding (up to €M)
AR 	MINCyT	Mónica Silenzi msilenzi@mincyt.gob.ar +541148995000 ext 4084 Agustina Velo avelo@mincyt.gob.ar +541148995000 ext 4150	0.5
BE 	SPW-DGO6	Mr. Nicolas Delsaux nicolas.delsaux@spw.wallonie.be +32 81 334 520, +32 473 556 174	1.0
CH 	CTI	Alain Dietrich alain.dietrich@kti.admin.ch +41 58 464 92 87	0.91-1.37*
DE 	BMBF/ JUELICH	Dr. Petra E. Schulte petra.schulte@fz-juelich.de +49 2461 61 9031 Dr. Christian Breuer c.breuer@fz-juelich.de +49 2461 61 96929	9.0
	FNR	Tina Hausmann t.hausmann@fnr.de +49 3843 6930 172	2.0
	SMWK	Gabriele Süptitz gabriele.sueptitz@smwk.sachsen.de +49 351 564 6422	1.0
EE 	ETAg	Margit Suuroja margit.suuroja@etagee.ee +372 731 7361 Dr. Aare Ignat aare.ignat@etagee.ee +372 731 7364	0.1
ES 	CDTI	Pilar de Miguel mariapilar.demiguel@cdti.es +34 915815502 Julian Díaz julian.diaz@cdti.es +34 915815505	0.53
	MINECO	Ana Barra era-ib@mineco.es +34 91 603 83 98 Auxiliadora Prieto era-ib@mineco.es	1.0
FR 	ANR	Elise Cahard elise.cahard@anr.fr +33 1 73 54 82 68 Liz Pons liz.pons@anr.fr +33 1 78 09 80 49	1.5

Country	Funding Organisation	National Contact Person (NCP)	Available funding (up to €M)
IL 	CSO-MOH	Dr. Ronit Meyuhas ronit.meyuhas@moh.gov.il +972 2 508 2159	0.2
IT 	MIUR	Aldo Covello aldo.covello@miur.it +39 0658496465 Giorgio Carpino giorgio.carpino@miur.it +39 0658497147	0.4
LV 	VIAA	Linda Kluga-Rajcevic linda.kluga-rajcevic@viaa.gov.lv +371 67559495	0.3
NL 	NWO	Ms. Susan Licumahua s.licumahua@nwo.nl +31 70 344 0615 Mr. Mark Schmets, m.schmets@nwo.nl +31 70 344 0537	1.0
NO 	RCN	Dr. Øystein Rønning oro@rcn.no +4791623960	1.5
PL 	NCBR	Malgorzata Zieminska malgorzata.zieminska@ncbr.gov.pl +48 22 39 07 493	0.7
RO 	UEFISCDI	Adrian Asanica adrian.asanica@uefiscdi.ro +40744 45 00 11	0.5
RU 	FASIE	Mrs Olga Levchenko levchenko@fasie.ru +74952313851	1.0
SI 	MIZS	Ms. Kim Turk kim.turk@gov.si +386(1)4784705	0.63
TR 	TUBITAK	Dilek Sahin dilek.sahin@tubitak.gov.tr +90 312 468 53 00	1.0
UK 	BBSRC	Dr Michael Booth cobitech@bbsrc.ac.uk +44 1793 418013 Dr Ceri Lyn-Adams cobitech@bbsrc.ac.uk +44 1793 413206	2.35**

* The CTI indicative budget for this call accounts to CHF1.0-1.5M, thus the amount in € depends on the current exchange rate.

** The BBSRC contribution is capped at £2M, this figure may differ according to the actual exchange rate.