

Call Announcement of ERA CoBioTech Call for Transnational Collaborative Research Projects : “Biotechnology for a sustainable bioeconomy”

The ERA-Net Cofund on Biotechnologies and the ERA-Net Cofund on Sustainable and Resilient Agriculture for Food and Non-food Systems are ERA Net Cofund Actions under Horizon 2020.

ERA CoBioTech opens the second call for transnational research projects in the field of biotechnologies. The call is open to funding organizations joined via the cooperation with FACCE Surplus from **16.10.2018** until the closing date on **14.12.2018, 13:00 CET**.

The Agency for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (VLAIO) participates in this call with the program for **company support** (research projects). The total funding amount for VLAIO is estimated at **1 MEUR**. Only **companies** (SME's or large companies) can participate directly. Research institutes can participate as a research partner or as a subcontractor of the applying company. The maximum funding per project indicatively should be lower than **500 KEUR**.

Aim of the joint call

The aim of the call is to contribute to **transforming the global economy from a dependence on fossil raw materials to a sustainable bio-based economy**.

Applications must be multidisciplinary and address one of the two topics as described below:

Topic A – Microbial communities (natural and synthetic), co-cultures and cascades of microorganisms for new products, value-added products and supply services and sustainable industrial processes.

Topic B – Pure cultures, cell free systems and enzymes for new products, value-added products and supply services and sustainable industrial processes

The submitted proposals must be multidisciplinary and include at least two 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 genome approaches and protocells.
- Systems biology for optimisation of biological processes, including investigation of regulatory mechanisms in intra- and intercellular processes for bio-production, modelling, development of new computational methods and other new methodologies.
- Use of bioinformatics 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.; mapping and exploitation of cellular processes and metabolic capacities for bio-production and for strain/variety improvement are also included.
- Biotechnological approaches (possibly in combination with chemical ones) to transform bio-based building blocks into molecules in a sustainable way.

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). 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.

Proposals should address the **sustainable production and conversion of different types of feedstocks and bioresources into value-added products** (e.g. bio-based materials, biofuels, biomedical products, flavours/fragrances, food/feed ingredients, pharmaceuticals, platform chemicals, pulp/paper products, textiles), or the **development or improvement of sustainable industrial processes and supply services** (e.g. upstream and downstream design, scale-up of biotechnological processes, systems approaches to bioprocesses and process development, gas fermentation).

Feedstocks and bioresources include, but are not limited to, syngas, waste and residues from households, agriculture, forestry, industrial by-products, and alternative raw materials.

Projects are expected to have a TRL ranging between 2 and 6 and should increase their initial TRL by 2 levels.

Projects will be expected to include aspects relating to “responsible Research & Innovation”, communication and public engagement and data management.

Intended timeline		
	Phase	Date
Full proposals (One stage)	Call opening	16.10.2018
	Deadline for submission of full proposals Instructions at VLAIO	14.12.2018 (13:00 CET) January 2019
	Rebuttal phase	
	Letter to the applicants	05.04.2019
	Opportunity for rebuttal (Deadline for submission comments to issues raised by IEP's reviews)	26.04.2019
Funding decisions and project start	Communication of the funding decisions	June-July 2019
	Projects start	From Sep. 2019

Eligibility

In this 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). The participation of one or more industrial partner(s) in the consortium **is recommended in both topics but not mandatory**. National and regional eligibility rules, including the potential eligibility of the private sector, e.g. SMEs, must be followed and are published together with the call text at <http://www.cobiotech.eu>.

Extended eligibility for VLAIO

The Flemish part of the proposal should meet the national regulations as issued by VLAIO :

Name of & link to the funding programmes:

- Research projects : <https://www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/onderzoeksproject>
- Development projects : <https://www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/ontwikkelingsproject>

Application for funding via Agentschap Innoveren en Ondernemen:

Additional templates to be completed : <https://www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/onderzoeksproject/aanvraagprocedure>

- „Annex internationaal onderzoeksproject“ or „Annex international research project“
- „Template projectbegroting o&o project“

Those completed templates are mandatory to check the national eligibility and must be sent to the Agentschap Innoveren en Ondernemen. We kindly ask the applicants to apply for a meeting with the Agentschap Innoveren en Ondernemen ultimately 2 weeks before the deadline for submission to check the eligibility aspects.

Application procedures & Evaluation

















In a one-phased submission process, the proposals will be evaluated by a panel of independent experts (IEP), following the evaluation criteria published with the Call Announcement. Projects are expected to start from September 2019, depending on grant negotiations with the relevant regional or national funding organisations.

More information on terms and conditions are provided under www.submission-cobiotech.eu, where you can also download the official call documents.

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Country/Region		Funding Organisation	Estimated budget (up to €M)	
			Topic A	Topic B
Belgium		Service Public de Wallonie (SPW-DGo6)	1	
		Agentschap Innoveren & ondernemen (Flanders Innovation and Entrepreneurship, VLAIO)	1	
Switzerland		Swiss Innovation Agency - Innosuisse	0.86*	
Germany	  	Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung	1.5	No funding for Topic B
		Sächsisches Staatsministerium für Wissenschaft und Kunst (SMWK)	1.5	
Estonia		Sihtasutus Eesti Teadusagentuur (ETAg)	0.3	
Spain		Agencia Estatal de Investigación (AEI)	0.7	
		Centro para el Desarrollo Tecnológico Industrial (CDTI)	0.5	
		Gobierno de Navarra (GN)	0.1	
France		Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR)	0.75	
Latvia		Valsts Izglitības Attīstības Agentūra (VIAA)	0.42	
Norway		Norges forskningsråd (RCN)	1.4	No funding for Topic B
Poland		Narodowe Centrum Badan i Rozwoju (NCBR)	0.6	
Romania		Unitatea Executiva pentru Finantarea Invatamantului Superior, a Cercetarii, Dezvoltarii si Inovarii (UEFISCDI)	0.3	
Russia		Фонд содействия развитию малых форм предприятий в научно-технической сфере (Foundation for Assistance to Small Innovative Enterprises) (FASIE)	0.4	
Slovenia		Ministrstvo za izobrazevanje, znanost in sport (MIZS)	0.63	
Turkey		Türkiye Bilimsel ve Teknolojik Araştırma Kurumu (TUBITAK)	1	
United Kingdom		UKRI-BBSRC	2.23*	
Total Call Volume			15.29 M€	
* The Euro figures are dependent on the actual exchange rate.				

Flemish applicants are strongly recommended to contact VLAIO before submitting an application. Please consult the website www.vlaio.be for additional documents.