



sharing cost, risk and skills of innovation

Guidelines for Applicants

Era-net EUROTRANS-BIO

First transnational Call for Applications in January 2006 :

Funding of Industrial Research Projects of Biotechnology SMEs

Sharing cost, risk and skills of innovation



1. INTRODUCTION

The EUROTRANS-BIO Era-net is an initiative of six European member states and regions [Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Spain (Basque Country) and the Netherlands], working together by coordinating their national or regional public funding programmes in order to support trans-national R&D cooperation between SMEs (Small and Medium sized Enterprises, for definition see paragraph 4.1). The goal of EUROTRANS-BIO is to foster biotech SMEs in sharing risks, costs and skills related to innovation. The Netherlands is, for budgetary reasons, not financially participating in the first call for proposals.

It is an objective of EUROTRANS-BIO to establish cross-border partnerships between SMEs in the biotech sector to improve and accelerate technology transfer, strengthen European efforts to achieve sustainable development, to develop an internal market for research & technology and to develop a joint European research policy.

2. BASIC REQUIREMENTS

The strategic objective of the first ETB call for applications is to foster the competitiveness of Europe's biotechnology industry by supporting the research intensive small and medium sized enterprises and their strategic partnerships. The first ETB call for applications is a generic call including all fields of modern biotechnology.

2.1 – Composition of Consortia

To facilitate a broad based funding support of the biotech SMEs from the member countries, ETB initiative allows a maximal flexibility with regard to the composition of the consortia.

Consortia eligible for ETB funding should display the following characteristics :

- The consortium consists of at least two SMEs from two different countries among Austria, Finland, France, Germany and Spain (Basque Country).
- The contribution of one partner to the collaborative project should not exceed 70 % of the total budget in order to ensure balanced partnerships within the project.
- Academic research groups or other public organisations as well as large companies can join the consortia if there is an SME in the consortium from the respective country.
- Parties from countries which do not take part in the ETB call may be part of a consortium at their own cost if their contribution is mandatory to reach the project goals.
- Subcontractors can be included and are managed under the national financing regulations.
- The consortium must be coordinated by an SME, independent from the characteristics of the proposed projects.

Funding is intended for challenging and innovative projects in the field of :

- Industrial research & development (for definition see paragraph 4.2).
- Applied research projects (for definition see paragraph 4.3).

Recommendations for the project budget and the project duration :

- The budget for the project proposals is not restricted ; it must convincingly allow achieving the project goals and should not exceed the typical regional/national financiers' funding limits for each partner (for further information see contact data below and paragraph 3.6).
- The project duration is not restricted, but approximately 2 year projects are recommended.

3. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The application process is two-phased. This procedure was chosen to minimize the paper work of the applicants. In the first, quick pre-proposal round the formal eligibility of the proposed projects is assessed. If the pre-proposal round is passed, the eligible consortia are invited to submit a project proposal for a subsequent second round in which an in depth scientifically/technologically and economically focused transnational evaluation is performed.

3.1 – First Phase : Pre-proposal

In the first phase a pre-proposal has to be submitted to the central ETB office by the co-ordinator of the consortium using the pre-proposal form which is available on the ETB website (www.eurotransbio.net).

The pre-proposal should briefly (within the pre-proposal form) provide a scientific/technological overview, describing the economic impact, the responsibilities of the project partners and the division of the collaborative project into subprojects. It should contain a preliminary workplan and a cost plan. The project duration and the project budget should be in line with the recommendations cited in paragraph 2.1.

Eligibility of the pre-proposal will be checked by the ETB office with regard to the following aspects :

- Is the project proposed in the field of applied or industrial research within biotechnology ?
- Is the consortium set up in line with the ETB criteria (see paragraph 2.1.) ?
- Although the project duration and project budget are not strictly limited, in accordance with the recommendations is preferred.

In order to exclude individual conflicts of interest the applicants have the possibility to propose the names of companies / research groups / individual evaluators (e.g. direct competitors) which could be excluded from the ETB Evaluation Board.

Delivery

The pre-proposals have to be submitted as one signed paper-version and as a word document/pdf-file on CD-Rom. If the pre-proposals arrive in time, a code number will be attributed to the pre-proposal and will be communicated to the coordinator.

The pre-proposal must be sent by recorded delivery to :

Madame Edith PETITET

OSEO anvar

Direction de la Technologie et des Projets Européens

ETB office

27-31 Rue du Général Leclerc – 94710 Maisons-Alfort Cedex

FRANCE



Timelines & Procedure

- 2nd January to 28th February 2006 Submission of pre-proposals to the ETB office by the co-ordinator using the pre-proposal forms.
- 28^h February 2006 (5.00pm Paris time) Deadline for Pre-proposal submission.

The pre-proposals are evaluated within 2 weeks from submission. The results of the eligibility check are communicated to the co-ordinator as soon as possible by e-mail. The eligible consortia are invited to submit a project proposal to the ETB office (same address as above).

In case a pre-proposal is found not eligible by ETB office, another pre-proposal may be sent by the applicant before the deadline.

3.2 – Second Phase : Project-proposal

If the pre-proposal fulfils the eligibility criteria, the co-ordinator of the consortium is invited to submit a project proposal to the ETB office for a detailed ETB evaluation.

The applicants have to use the project proposal forms for the application. The project proposal forms are available at the ETB website from January 2006 (www.eurotransbio.net).

The evaluation of the project proposals is conducted by a panel of internationally recognized experts from the field of biotechnology exhibiting an outstanding expertise in science, technology, economy, business strategy and/or international project management. The transnational evaluation is performed regarding the following aspects :

■ Technological/Scientific Innovation

- Technical challenge and feasibility of the project
- Innovation potential
- Practical value/benefit for the consortium
- State of intellectual property - patents

■ Social and Economic perspective

- Economic potential of the project - commercialisation of results
- Impact for the companies - competitiveness, growth, employment
- Business strategy of the project - strengths and weaknesses
- Trans-national added value
- Sustainability, including social and environmental impact

■ Consortium and Project Management

- Quality of consortium - complementarity, SMEs, Internationality
- Scientific and technological ability and experience of the consortium
- Business expertise of the consortium
- Project management capacity
- Consortium agreement plan

■ Resources

- Human Resources (qualification and overall man power)
- Financial capability of the consortium and financial commitment of the partners

A formal check of economic eligibility of consortium partners will also be performed on a national level. As this check will follow the national rules, the national agencies may require additional documents supporting the economic eligibility. Before sending the project proposal, each applicant has to check its respective national regulations (see the paragraph 3.6.) with the help from the national contact persons listed in the paragraph 3.3.

Delivery

The project proposals have to be submitted as one signed paper version and as word document/ pdf-file on CD-Rom. If the project proposals arrive in time, a code number will be attributed to the project proposal and will be communicated to the coordinator.

The project proposal must be sent by recorded delivery to :

Madame Edith PETITET

OSEO anvar

Direction de la Technologie et des Projets Européens

ETB office

27-31 Rue du Général Leclerc – 94710 Maisons-Alfort Cedex

FRANCE

Timelines & Procedure

- 15th March 2006
At the latest
Communication of the results of the pre-proposals to the applicants and an invitation of the successful consortia to submit a project-proposal to the ETB office.
- Until 28th April 2006
Preparation of the project proposal using the project proposal forms and submission to the ETB office.
- 28th April 2006
(5.00 pm Paris time)
Deadline for project proposal submission.
- 29th April to September 2006
ETB project evaluation process and international ETB selection.
- From September 2006
Communication of the funding decision.

3.3 – Information, communication & further assistance for applicants

- Consulting for preparation of pre-proposal and project proposal is provided by the national agencies (for further information see contact data below).
- The main communication line for the ETB call is the information exchange between the ETB office and the project co-ordinator. The applicants are advised to send all the documents to their project co-ordinator who is in contact with the ETB office. The project co-ordinators are addressed by the ETB office in all relevant questions during application evaluation.
- As the project start the national agencies coordinate the funding incentives and the reporting obligations with the consortium members of the respective countries.
- For further assistance and to download the application forms please see the electronic helpdesk and the FAQ section at the ETB website (www.eurotransbio.net) which is now available.
- For additional information and support the following national agency persons can be contacted.

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|--|---|
| <p>AUSTRIA</p>  <p><i>Birgit Mayer</i> (FFG) tel. +43 57755-1305 – birgit.mayer@ffg.at</p> <p><i>Karin Kornberger</i> (BMWA) tel. +43 1 71100-8382 karin.kornberger@bmwa.gv.at</p> | <p>GERMANY</p>  <p><i>Stefan Lampel</i> tel. +49 2461 614817 s.lampel@fz-juelich.de</p> |
| <p>FINLAND</p>  <p><i>Raimo Pakkanen</i> (Tekes) tel. +358-10-605 5829 – raimo.pakkanen@tekes.fi</p> <p><i>Mikko Pitkänen</i> (Tekes) tel. +358-10-605 5729 – mikko.pitkanen@tekes.fi</p> | <p>SPAIN (BASQUE COUNTRY)</p>  <p><i>Juan Tomás Hernani</i> (Basque Government) tel. +34 944913097 hernani@eurobulegoa.com</p> <p><i>María Aguirre</i> (SPRI) tel. + 34 946555155 – biobask@spri.es</p> |
| <p>FRANCE</p>  <p><i>Edith Petitet</i> (OSEO anvar) tel. +33 1 41 79 89 07 – edith.petitet@oseo.fr</p> <p><i>Sylvie Gosselin</i> (OSEO anvar) tel. +33 1 41 79 91 62 – sylvie.gosselin@oseo.fr</p> <p><i>Annabelle Dieval</i> (OSEO anvar) tel. +33 1 41 79 94 99 – annabelle.dieval@oseo.fr</p> | <p>THE NETHERLANDS</p>  <p><i>Christine d'Oliveira</i> (SenterNovem) tel. +31-70-373 5645 c.de.oliveira@senternovem.nl</p> <p><i>Elvis Biekman</i> (SenterNovem) tel. +31-70-373 5223 – e.biekman@senternovem.nl</p> |

3.4 – Budget & Funding Modalities

The overall budget of the first ETB call comprises up to 30 million €. The funding for the partners is provided by the national agencies according to the national regulations (see 3.6). A Consortium Agreement has to be in place before the first instalments can be transferred (for further assistance see www.eurotransbio.net, “ETB Cooperative Agreement Guidelines”).

3.5 – Follow-up of the projects

The co-ordinator of the consortium has to provide a mid-term and end-term project progress report to the national agencies concerned and to the ETB-Office. The coordinator has to use the project-follow-up form which will be available on the ETB-website (www.eurotransbio.net). Additionally, the follow up of the projects is conducted by each of the national agencies of the project partners according to the national regulations.

3.6 – Application of the national regulations

3.6.1 Austria :

Financial Modalities :

The Austrian partner(s) in a consortium will be funded by the Austrian funding agency FFG (General Programmes/Basisprogramme).

FFG-General Programmes promote all sizes of firms. Applicants might be enterprises, research institutes and inventors providing commercialisation expertise. Personnel costs, capital investment and other costs (such as patenting, materials, travelling, subcontractors) are eligible. A total of maximum 50% of R&D costs can be funded with a mixture of grants, loans and guarantees.

Reporting and Follow up :

The national regulations for the reporting and follow up of a project are regulated in the FFG-Basisprogramme Guidelines (Richtlinien/Bedingungen).

Detailed national requirements :

The project will be handled according to the established FFG funding rules, please see : www.ffg.at

3.6.2 Finland :

Financial Modalities :

Tekes funds a certain percentage of eligible costs of the submitted R&D project. Funding can be given in the form of (or a combination of) grants, loans and capital loans. The combination depends on the nature of the project and the size of the company.

Reporting and Follow up :

Tekes' R&D financing to companies is payable upon receipts after each reporting period. The reporting periods are mentioned in the funding decision of the project.

Detailed national requirements :

For dedicated national requirements and further information see : www.tekes.fi

3.6.3 France :

Funding Modalities :

Funding of the EUROTRANS-BIO call from France is provided through two national funding programmes :

- "Aide à l'innovation" from OSEO anvar : <http://www.oseo.fr>
- "Réseau Innovation Biotechnologies" from "Agence Nationale de la Recherche" : <http://www.gip-anr.fr>

For financial modalities, reporting & follow up and dedicated national requirements, please refer to these websites.

The Project will be handled according to OSEO anvar and ANR funding requirements :

http://www.oseo.fr/tous_nos_services/l_offre_oseo/aide_au_projet_innovant

and

<http://www.gip-anr.fr/document/reglementanr.htm>

and

<http://www.gip-anr.fr/document/lignesdirectrices.pdf>

3.6.4 Germany :

Funding Modalities :

BMBF funding of the EUROTRANS-BIO call is provided as delineated in the regulations of the BioChancePlus programme (for details see Förderrichtlinien zur Aktivität «BioChancePLUS», vom 30.05.2005, paragraph 1-6). The procedure («Verfahren», paragraph 8) is according to the above mentioned EUROTRANS-BIO protocol. The funding will be awarded as non-repayable project grants. The funding regulations, the follow up and reporting of publicly funded projects are regulated according to AnBest (Allgemeine Nebenbestimmungen) and NKBF 98 (Nebenbestimmungen für Zuwendungen auf Kostenbasis des Bundesministeriums für Bildung und Forschung an Unternehmen der gewerblichen Wirtschaft für Forschungs- und Entwicklungsvorhaben).

3.6.5 Spain (Basque Country) :

Financial Modalities :

The programme involved for this call can fund small, medium and large companies and company associations or foundations. Eligible costs are : personnel costs such as researchers, technicians and supporting personnel dedicated to the research. A top maximum of 40 % of these costs for SMEs are funded, with a limit of 250.000 € per year and per beneficiary.

Reporting and Follow up :

The project has to be revised annually.

Detailed national requirements :

http://www.industria.ejgv.euskadi.net/r44-886/es/contenidos/ayudas_subvenciones/gaitek_2005/es_8857/eu_gaitek.html

and

http://www.nasdap.ejgv.euskadi.net/r50-3812/es/contenidos/ayudas_subvenciones/innotek_2005/es_8853/innotek_2005.html

