



**ERASynBio 1st joint call for transnational research projects:
Building Synthetic Biology capacity through innovative
transnational projects**

CALL TEXT

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: 17:00 CET on 26th of August 2013

Online Access: <https://www.pt-it.de/ptoutline/application/ERASYNBIO1>

CONTENT

1 FUNDING PARTNER	2
2 PURPOSE OF FUNDING	3
3 FOCUS OF FUNDING	4
4 APPLICATION	6
5 SUBMISSION	7
6 ELIGIBILITY	8
7 EVALUATION	10
8 FUNDING	12
9 MONITORING	13
ANNEX I: INDICATIVE TIMETABLE	13
ANNEX II: INDICATIVE FUNDING	14
ANNEX III: CHECKLIST FOR APPLICANTS	15
ANNEX IV: NATIONAL CONTACT PERSONS	16
ANNEX V: NATIONAL REGULATIONS OVERVIEW	18
ANNEX VI: NATIONAL REGULATIONS DETAILS	25





1 FUNDING PARTNERS

ERASynBio is a three-year programme funded under the European Commission ERA-NET scheme (Contract number: 291728) in the 7th Framework Programme. The objective of the ERA-NET scheme is to step up the cooperation and coordination of research and development activities carried out in the Member States and Associated States.

ERASynBio brings together 16 funding and/or management organisations from 14 countries and two observer countries with important activities in the field of Synthetic Biology, aiming at coordinating national and regional funding programmes in the field of Synthetic Biology.

Under the umbrella of ERASynBio, the following ERASynBio partners and two observers (NSF, USA and FWF, Austria) have decided to launch together a first joint call addressing “Building Synthetic Biology capacity through innovative transnational projects”:

- ✿ AKA (Academy of Finland, Finland)
- ✿ ANR (The French National Research Agency, France)
- ✿ BBSRC (Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, United Kingdom)
- ✿ BMBF (Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany)
- ✿ DASTI (Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation, Denmark)
- ✿ FCT (Foundation for Science and Technology, Portugal)
- ✿ FWF (The Austrian Science Fund, Austria)
- ✿ KTI (Commission for Technology and Innovation, Switzerland)
- ✿ LAS (Latvian Academy of Sciences, Latvia)
- ✿ MIZS (Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Slovenia)
- ✿ NSF (National Science Foundation, United States of America)
- ✿ NWO (Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research, Netherlands)*
- ✿ RCN (The Research Council of Norway, Norway)

* Please note that at this date the marked organization cannot yet officially commit to the call and may withdraw their participation.





2 PURPOSE OF FUNDING

Synthetic Biology is an emerging and promising research area with the potential to have a strong impact on innovation and technological progress that is beneficial for the knowledge-based bioeconomy and for society as a whole. Despite its emerging status, Synthetic Biology has already demonstrated real potential to contribute to the grand challenges of the 21st century, as it will fundamentally change the approach, tools and techniques in modern biotechnology. Synthetic Biology methods will allow, for the first time, the development of highly complex, controllable and / or orthogonal biosystems as well as novel proteins and nucleotides with designed complexity beyond what could be achieved through existing genetic engineering techniques. These novel systems could be housed within engineered chassis using synthesised genomes, or even simple protocell systems.

Due to its truly interdisciplinary character it is expected that Synthetic Biology will have applications across several sectors including industrial biotechnology, bioenergy, biomedicine, biosensors, bioremediation, agriculture and new tools for scientific research. In the near future, Synthetic Biology opens doors to a more efficient processing and non-polluting manufacturing of fine chemicals and pharmaceuticals, and new routes for the generation of biofuels. However the long term potential of this emerging field can only be realised through strategic international cooperation.

In contrast to other well-established life science disciplines with long-lasting and well-cooperating national programmes in several countries, Synthetic Biology is at an early stage of development. Rather than being a barrier, this gives the ERASynBio consortium the unique opportunity to form a coherent and coordinated setup for Synthetic Biology research, avoiding fragmentation and leading to the sustainable development of this field.

The challenge for ERASynBio is to strengthen the research community in Synthetic Biology, and to organise the further development in a coordinated and socially responsible and sustainable way. The 1st joint call provides a powerful tool to encourage interdisciplinary collaborations and to establish and strengthen the scientific community in Synthetic Biology. The 1st joint call will allow researchers to identify new opportunities and directions in the field of Synthetic Biology. It will provide an evolving line of European transnational projects and facilitate the identification of barriers in Synthetic Biology and needs of the stakeholders.



3 FOCUS OF FUNDING

The call aims at funding research proposals in the field of Synthetic Biology, which can be described as a multidisciplinary approach at the intersection of life sciences, engineering and information technology. The 1st joint call will address broad research areas within Synthetic Biology, based on the following definition: **“Synthetic Biology is the engineering of biology: the deliberate (re)design and construction of novel biological and biologically based parts, devices and systems to perform new functions for useful purposes, that draws on principles elucidated from biology and engineering.”**

In particular a clear distinction should be made between Synthetic Biology and classical genetic engineering and other related fields like systems biology (the latter not being included in the focus of this call).

Synthetic biology typically applies the de novo synthesis of large fragments of DNA, multi-gene modifications or machineries, or the generation of so called protocells, which are bottom-up cell-like assemblies. It places emphasis on predicting and controlling systems behaviour. As Synthetic Biology is the attempt to engineer biology, projects should incorporate engineering principles like modularity, abstraction, standardization and orthogonality and use modelling approaches to optimize or improve a biological or bio-based unit. Unlike descriptive biological disciplines, projects are expected to use deliberate (re)design and construction of parts, devices or systems. Projects can derive from basic research or more applied research areas in chemical biology, biophysics, biotechnology or biomedicine. Potential advances for society should be outlined in the proposal.

The projects could originate from one or more of the following scientific (sub) fields:

- Metabolic engineering: Attaining new levels of complexity in modification of biosynthetic pathways for sustainable chemistry.
- Regulatory circuits: Inserting well-characterised, modular, artificial networks to provide new functions in cells and organisms.
- Orthogonal biosystems: Engineering cells to expand the genetic code to develop new information storage and processing capacity (xeno nucleic acids) and protein engineering.
- Bionanoscience: Developing molecular-scale motors and other components for cell-based machines or cell-free devices to perform complex new tasks.
- Minimal genomes: Identifying the smallest number of parts needed for life as a basis for engineering minimal cell factories for new functions.
- Protocells: Using programmable chemical design to produce (semi-)synthetic cells.





With special relevance to this emerging field, projects should additionally integrate the following criteria:

- In order to overcome fragmentation and to establish a true interdisciplinary research, proposals should clearly demonstrate a biology-chemistry/or -informatics/ or-mathematics/ or-physics/ or-engineering interface.
- All projects must adhere to the principles of EGE opinion No. 25 (http://ec.europa.eu/bepa/european-group-ethics/docs/opinion25_en.pdf) or the respective US guidelines for US partners (www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf13001/nsf13_1.pdf). Moreover, projects should carefully outline pertinent ethical, societal and regulatory implications.

In addition, ERASynBio will not fund projects where the downstream use of the technology would be for specific security purposes (does not include food, environment or energy security). Applicants unclear about whether their research fits within this definition of security should contact their National Contact Persons.





4 APPLICATION

The call for proposals will be managed as a one-step call with the ERASynBio Call Office as the central communication point for all applicants.

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All documents related to the call (call text, application forms, application guidelines, additional information etc.) are available on the ERASynBio website (www.erasynbio.eu).

The general regulations given in the call text and in the guidelines for applicants apply to all applicants. In addition, there are additional national regulations of the funding organisations in each partner country. Applicants must refer and adhere to the specific regulations of the national funding organisations (see Annex V: National regulations overview). It is strongly recommended to contact the national contact persons (see Annex IV: National contact persons) for further information. For technical questions related to the electronic submission of your proposal, please contact the Call Office.

Appropriate handling of ethically relevant issues will be assessed during the evaluation procedure. Applicants have to fill out a certification form (as a part of the application form), where relevant ethical questions are addressed.





5 SUBMISSION

The deadline for submitting full proposals is 17:00 CET on the 26th of August 2013. Proposals must be submitted electronically by the coordinator of each project via the online submission tool at <https://www.pt-it.de/ptoutline/application/ERASYNBIO1>. Applications must be submitted using the correct standard form (available on the ERASynBio website) and following the formal rules of the call text, further described in the “Guidelines for Applicants”. Shortly after the call, the Call Office will send an acknowledgement of receipt to the coordinator at the e-mail address given in the submitted proposal.

Applicants from certain countries might need to submit a proposal and/or other information directly to the national funding organisation. Therefore, applicants are strongly advised to check their national guidelines for applicants for more details.

Conflict of Interest: In exceptional justified cases, applicants may ask the Call Office not to refer their applications to a certain expert for evaluation in order to avoid individual conflicts of interest. The decision on potential substitution of evaluators shall be taken by the funding organizations. Such a request must reach the secretariat by the 26th of August 2013 at the latest. The request will be treated confidentially.

It is also possible to recommend certain evaluators with an outstanding expertise on the proposal’s research topic by the 26th of August 2013 at the latest.



6 ELIGIBILITY

All proposals must meet the following formal ERASynBio eligibility criteria:

- ✱ Proposals have to be submitted on time (26th of August 17:00 CET).
- ✱ Proposals must have the following format:
 - Font size: ARIAL 11 pt.
 - Minimum page margins of 2.5 cm
 - Line spacing at least 1.15 pt
 - Page limitations as indicated in the application form are mandatory.
 - All criteria will be strictly enforced.
- ✱ Proposals must be submitted in English.
- ✱ Projects will be funded for a **minimum period of two years** and a **maximum period of three years**.
- ✱ Only **transnational projects** will be funded. Each proposal must **involve a minimum of three partners from at least three different European funding countries** participating in the call. Consortia involving US-partners must therefore involve a minimum of four partners.
- ✱ **Public and private organisations** like universities, other higher education institutions, research organisations and commercial companies (large companies, small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs)) may participate in the call according to national regulations (See Annex V & VI: National regulations overviews and details).

Consortia must be coordinated by a project coordinator from an ERASynBio funding partner country (see overview in Section 1 “Funding partners”). The project coordinator will represent the consortium externally and towards the ERASynBio ERA-NET, and will be responsible for its internal scientific management (such as controlling, reporting, intellectual property rights issues and contact with the call office). Each project partner will be represented by one principal investigator. Within a joint proposal, only the principal investigator of each partner will be the contact person for the relevant national funding organisation.

- ✱ Researchers from countries not participating in the call, including countries from outside Europe, are welcome to participate provided their participation is covered by their own resources. They should provide proof of the availability of funds prior to the submission deadline.
- ✱ Industrial partners that cannot be funded by their national funding organisation may participate in a consortium on their own account. They should provide proof of the availability of funds prior to the submission deadline.



Whilst proposals will be submitted jointly by research groups from several countries, research groups will be funded by individual national funding organisations. Therefore the eligibility of institutions, researchers, and costs, as well as complementary administrative requirements is subject to the national regulations of each partner and may vary from one partner to another. These national regulations are published in the call text (see “Annex IV: National regulations overview”) and guidelines and need to be complied with. The project coordinator has to make sure that all consortium partners provide the necessary information as requested from the agencies/ ministries to ensure the eligibility of the project.

Only proposals meeting all eligibility criteria (joint ERASynBio and national criteria) will be considered for evaluation and there will be no opportunity to correct errors in the proposals after the application deadline.

Please note that the inclusion of a non-eligible partner in a proposal will result in the rejection of the entire proposal without further review (for a definition of eligible partners, see “Guidelines for applicants”, the national regulations, and contact your national contact person)

All applicants are strongly encouraged to contact their national contact persons!



7 EVALUATION

Procedure

Proposals will be evaluated according to the evaluation criteria given below. Evaluations will be carried out by an international expert evaluation panel with relevant expertise. In addition, written reviews will be collected from external peer reviewers.

Individual remote evaluation: Each proposal will be assessed independently by at least three (3) experts, who will produce single evaluation reports.

Rebuttal procedure: The evaluation process provides applicants with the opportunity to reply to issues raised by the evaluators in the remote phase. All remote reviews are forwarded by the call office to the corresponding project coordinator as a representative of the consortium, without revealing the identity of the peer evaluator. The project coordinator may send a response to the reviews to the call office within 10 working days (maximum one page rebuttal per remote review). The project coordinator may consult the other partners in the consortium, but only one response from the coordinator may be sent. This response is optional. A nil response does not exclude the proposal from the next stage of the review procedure.

International evaluation consensus meeting: All proposals will be discussed by the expert evaluation panel and ranked in a ranking list. The consensus discussion is moderated by the Call Office and the Chairman of the Expert Evaluation Panel. The role of the moderators is to ensure a confidential, fair and equitable evaluation of each proposal according to the required evaluation criteria.

Ethical issues: In case of the occurrence of relevant ethical issues, two ethical experts are asked to review the proposals during the remote phase of the evaluation phase. Their conclusions and recommendations will be discussed at the consensus meeting.

Evaluation Criteria

The assessment of proposals will be undertaken by the evaluation experts on the basis of the evaluation criteria as specified below:

- (1) Relevance of the application to the aims and scope defined in the call
 - a) Opportunity to embed and develop the principles and methodologies of Synthetic Biology
 - b) Opportunity to add value from collaborative transnational projects and build a European (and global) Synthetic Biology community
- (2) Scientific and technological quality
 - a) Scientific excellence
 - b) Technological novelty of the project, including degree of innovation
- (3) Impact

- a) Opportunities for economic impact and advancement of the Knowledge-Based Bio-Economy (KBBE)
- b) Opportunities for public good and to address global grand challenges
- c) Appropriate measures of exploitation and dissemination of results

(4) Implementation

- a) Balance of the partnership, transnational added value and quality of the consortium as a whole
- b) Justification and allocation of resources
- c) Quality of the project management

All criteria will be scored from “1” to “5”, whereas (1) means “poor”, (2): “fair”, (3): “good”, (4): “very good” and (5) means “excellent”. For successful proposals all criteria have to reach a minimum threshold rating of “3”.

Criterion	Minimum threshold / Maximum score
Relevance to the aims and scope of the call	3/5
Scientific and technological quality	3/5
Impact	3/5
Implementation	3/5





8 FUNDING

The total budget available for this call is approximately 15.5 Mio €. Funding is granted according to national regulations as given in the call annex of national regulations and/or national eligibility. The indicative funding is published in the Annex II of the call text.

Based on the ranking and the available funding, the funding partners will recommend which projects to fund. Based on this list each funding organisation will make the final decision at national level according to their respective national regulations and conditions.

Funding is carried out according to the “nationality principle”, meaning that each participating national or regional funding agency funds their respective national research partners in a particular project consortium.

Consortium agreement

The coordinator of a successful research project consortium is responsible for negotiating a consortium agreement among the participating partners (addressing the issues listed in the “Guidelines for Applicants”). Any intellectual property issues arising will be dealt with through this agreement thereby ensuring that these are not in conflict with the regulations of the programme owners. The consortium agreement has to be signed prior to the project start and sent to the call office. On request, the Consortium Agreement must be made available to the national funding organisations, together with any other information required by national regulations.



9 MONITORING

Each project consortium coordinator, on behalf of all participating partners, has to provide a scientific progress report at midterm of the project and a comprehensive final report upon its completion, which has to be sent to the call office. Standard form for the reports will be provided by the call office. Additional monitoring can be performed according to national requirements, e.g. necessary financial monitoring according to national rules. Project coordinators have to present the project progress at status seminars per request by the call office. An executive non-confidential summary that is part of the final reports will be published on the ERASynBio homepage. Any publications resulting from the funded projects must acknowledge the respective national funding organisations and the ERA-NET ERASynBio; one copy must be sent to the Call Office.

ANNEX I: INDICATIVE TIMETABLE

Deadline for submission	26th of August 2013
Remote Evaluation of proposals	September 2013 to December 2013
Rebuttal phase	December 2013
Consensus Meeting	January / February 2014
Communication of the results	January / February 2014
Earliest start of projects*	Early 2014

* This will be dependent on the implementation procedures of the national funding agencies.



ANNEX II: INDICATIVE FUNDING

Funding organization	preliminary budget(€)
AKA (Academy of Finland, Finland)	1.0 M
ANR (The French National Research Agency, France)	1.0 M
BBSRC (Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, UK)	3.0 M
BMBF (Federal Ministry of Education and Research, PTJ, Germany)	3.0 M
DASTI (Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation, Denmark)	0.5 M
FCT (Foundation for Science and Technology, Portugal)	0.2 M
FWF (The Austrian Science Fund, Austria)	0.5 M
KTI (Commission for Technology and Innovation, Switzerland)	1.5 M
LAS (Latvian Academy of Sciences, Latvia)	0.3 M
MESS (Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Slovenia)	0.6 M
NSF (National Science Foundation, USA)	2.0 M
NWO (Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research, Netherlands)	pending
RCN (The Research Council of Norway, Norway)	1.4 M
Total	Approx. 15.5 M



ANNEX III: CHECKLIST FOR APPLICANTS

Application scheme	Single step procedure, no pre-proposals
Access to submission	https://www.pt-it.de/ptoutline/application/ERASYNBIO1
Deadline for submission	26th of August 2013
Eligibility criteria fulfilled?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Layout: Font size ARIAL 11 pt; Line spacing at least 1.15 pt, page limitations according to application form, English submission • Consortium – who: Public and private organisations like universities, other higher education institutions, research organisations and commercial companies (depending on national regulations) • Consortium – how many: minimum of three partners from at least three different European funding countries • Duration: minimal two years, maximal three years • Specific national criteria
Evaluation criteria addressed?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevance to the aims and scope of the call • Scientific and technological quality • Impact • Implementation
Conflict of Interest?	For details, see section 5 “Submission”
Rebuttal phase?	Yes, see section 7 “Evaluation”
Consortium Agreement?	Yes, prior to project start
Compliance with fundamental ethical principles?	Check EGE No. 25 (http://ec.europa.eu/bepa/european-group-ethics/docs/opinion25_en.pdf) or for US partners (www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf13001/nsf13_1.pdf).



ANNEX IV: NATIONAL CONTACT PERSONS

Funding organization	Contact Person
AKA (Academy of Finland, Finland)	Dr Jukka Reivinen Hakaniemenranta 6 POB 131 FI-00531 Helsinki, Finland Tel: +358 29 533 5099 E-mail: jukka.reivinen@aka.fi
ANR (The French National Research Agency, France)	Dr. Martine Batoux Tel: +33 (0)1 73 54 81 40 E-mail: martine.batoux@agencerecherche.fr Dr. Mariana Lassalle Tel: +33 (0)1 73 54 81 93 E-mail: mariana.lassalle@agencerecherche.fr 7, rue Watt 75013 Paris, France
BBSRC (Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, UK)	Dr Andy Boyce Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon SN2 1UH, UK Tel: +44 (0)1793 442143 Email: andy.boyce@bbsrc.ac.uk
BMBF (Federal Ministry of Education and Research, PTJ, Germany)	Dr. Annette Kremser Forschungszentrum Juelich (FZJ), PtJ-BIO3 D-52425 Juelich, Germany Tel: +49 2461 61 3213 E-mail: a.kremser@fz-juelich.de
DASTI (Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation, Denmark)	Dr. Peder Fode Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation Bredgade 40 1260 Copenhagen K Tel: +45 72318386 E-mail: pff@fi.dk
FCT (Foundation for Science and Technology, Portugal)	Marta Norton Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT) Av. D. Carlos I, 126, 1249-074 Lisboa Tel.: + 351 21 391 1552 E-mail: marta.norton@fct.pt
FWF (The Austrian Science Fund, Austria)	Dr. Markus Kubicek Biological and Medical Sciences A-1090 Wien, Sensengasse 1 Tel: : +43-1-505 67 40-8202 E-mail: markus.kubicek@fwf.ac.at
KTI (Commission for Technology and Innovation, Switzerland)	Alain Dietrich Commission for Technology and Innovation CTI Effingerstrasse 27 CH – 3003 Bern Tel: +41 31 324 92 87 Email: alain.dietrich@kti.admin.ch





LAS (Latvian Academy of Sciences, Latvia)	Dr Uldis Berkis Akademijas lauk 1, LV-1050 Riga Tel: +371-67409242, C: +371-29472349 E-mail: uberkis@latnet.lv
MIZS (Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Slovenia)	Kim Turk Križanec Kotnikova 38, 1000 Ljubljana Tel: 01 478 47 05 E-mail: kim.turk-krizanec@gov.si
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ANNEX V: NATIONAL REGULATIONS OVERVIEW

Please note that this is only a summary. Please read also the following section “ANNEX VI: National regulations details“. Please keep in mind that some, but not all, funding organisations require an industry partner being involved in “their” national/regional share of a consortium (see table below).

Funding organization	National Regulations
AKA (Academy of Finland, Finland)	
Earliest funding start	January 2014
National Programme	FinSynBio
National phase / deadline	After ERASynBio approval national invitation-only applications required for formal funding decisions
Special thematic conditions (applied, basic...)	no
Eligibility of partner/institutions	Formal criteria for Academy Projects will apply
Requirement of industrial participation	Industrial partners will not be funded
Special evaluation procedures	no
Eligibility of costs, maximum funding per grant	Formal criteria for Academy Projects will apply
other limitations	See Annex VI: National regulations details
ANR (The French National Research Agency, France)	
Earliest funding start	February 2014
National Programme	No
National phase / deadline	N/A
Special thematic conditions (applied, basic...)	No
Eligibility of partner/institutions	Applicants from public research institutes such as EPST, EPIC and universities (maximum rate of support: 100% of additional costs) or from private bodies such as large enterprises or SMEs are all eligible to apply (maximum rate of support: 45% of total costs for SMEs and 30% for larger companies)
Requirement of industrial participation	No
Special evaluation procedures	No
Eligibility of costs, maximum funding per grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personnel, Consumables, Subcontracts (subcontracting costs of max 50% of requested budget per partner), Small Equipment, Travel No maximum funding per grant; the amount depends on the scientific need and justification for the budget. However, there is



	a minimum amount per partner: 15 000 €
other limitations	See Annex VI: National regulations details and the online specific annex document for research groups applying to this call for funding in France: http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/ERASynBio-2013
BBSRC (Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, UK)	
Earliest funding start	January 2014
National Programme	NA
National phase / deadline	NA
Special thematic conditions (applied, basic...)	Basic and applied research in biotechnology and non-medical life sciences
Eligibility of partner/institutions	Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Research Council Institutes (RCIs) that are normally eligible to apply for research grants from BBSRC (see national annex).
Requirement of industrial participation	UK industrial partners can participate, but cannot be funded
Special evaluation procedures	No
Eligibility of costs, maximum funding per grant	National regulations apply. Maximum of £2,000,000 for the UK component of any grant
other limitations	See Annex VI: National regulations details
BMBF (Federal Ministry of Education and Research, PTJ, Germany)	
Earliest funding start	Beginning 2014
National Programme	no
National phase / deadline	1. parallel national announcement 2. after decision: additional national application
Special thematic conditions (applied, basic...)	Application-oriented basic research, biomedical research
Eligibility of partner/institutions	public and private
Requirement of industrial participation	no
Special evaluation procedures	no
Eligibility of costs, maximum funding per grant	Personal costs, travel costs, consumables No maximum
other limitations	See Annex VI: National regulations details
DASTI (Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation, Denmark)	
Earliest funding start	Beginning 2014



National Programme	No
National phase / deadline	1. Parallel national announcement at our own website
Special thematic conditions (applied, basic...)	no
Eligibility of partner/institutions	Public and Private
Requirement of industrial participation	No
Special evaluation procedures	No
Eligibility of costs, maximum funding per grant	Please see "DSF – Guidelines for budgeting in relation to transnational calls" (http://fivu.dk/forskning-og-innovation/rad-og-udvalg/det-strategiske-forskningsrad/for-ansogere/skemaer-og-vejledninger/skemaer-og-vejledninger-til-ansogninger?searchterm=guidelines)
other limitations	(http://fivu.dk/forskning-og-innovation/rad-og-udvalg/det-strategiske-forskningsrad/for-ansogere/skemaer-og-vejledninger/skemaer-og-vejledninger-til-ansogninger?searchterm=guidelines)
FCT (Foundation for Science and Technology, Portugal)	
Earliest funding start	Beginning 2014
National Programme	No
National phase / deadline	1. parallel national announcement 2. after decision: additional national application
Special thematic conditions (applied, basic...)	No
Eligibility of partner/institutions	National regulations apply
Requirement of industrial participation	No
Special evaluation procedures	No
Eligibility of costs, maximum funding per grant	National regulations apply. Maximum of € 100.000 for the PT component per grant
other limitations	See Annex VI: National regulations details
FWF (The Austrian Science Fund, Austria)	
Earliest funding start	Mid March 2014
National Programme	Transnational Funding Activities: ERA Net
National phase / deadline	1. parallel national announcement, 2: parallel submission of FWF forms and national eligibility check, 3: final decision by the FWF board after recommendation of the ERA-net consensus meeting required
Special thematic conditions (applied, basic...)	non-profit oriented scientific research, no thematic restrictions.



Eligibility of partner/institutions	Applications may only be submitted by individual natural persons. Applications from institutes, institutions or companies are not permitted according to the FWF guidelines.
Requirement of industrial participation	no
Special evaluation procedures	no
Eligibility of costs, maximum funding per grant	<p>Only project-specific costs may be requested, i.e. personnel and non-personnel costs that are essential to carry out the project and that go beyond the resources made available from the research institution's infrastructure. The FWF does not finance infrastructure or basic equipment at research institutions. Overheads may not be requested.</p> <p>Subcontracts must be well justified, i.e. must represent the only or the most economical way to have the work performed, please contact the FWF directly for clarification of individual cases.</p> <p>No maximum funding limit; amount of typical (sub)projects ~0.25 Mio. €.</p>
other limitations	See Annex VI: National regulations details
KTI (Commission for Technology and Innovation, Switzerland)	
Earliest funding start	No restriction
National Programme	N.A.
National phase / deadline	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> In-line with EraNet-call procedures and dead-lines National application for evaluation by the CTI experts compulsory
Special thematic conditions (applied, basic...)	Projects must have an application oriented R&D approach.
Eligibility of partner/institutions	Only Swiss companies and "non-for-profit" research institutions according the national rules are accepted for the national part of the application
Requirement of industrial participation	Yes, at least one Swiss company (implementation partner)
Special evaluation procedures	A complete application (in parallel to the EraNet submission) for the national part has to be submitted to the CTI office for regular evaluation by the CTI experts according to the national rules.
Eligibility of costs, maximum funding per grant	Only personnel labour costs of the research institutions; no travel expenses; consumables on a case-by-case basis
other limitations	See Annex VI: National regulations details
LAS (Latvian Academy of Sciences, Latvia)	
Earliest funding start	Beginning of 2014
National Programme	Support to participation in international collaborative programmes in science and technology
National phase / deadline	no national call



	only national advertising of the EraSynBio call
Special thematic conditions (applied, basic...)	Basic research. Applied orientated fundamental research. Applied research according to national regulations. The work carried out should be research activity
Eligibility of partner/institutions	<p>Research institutions registered in the Latvian Registry of Scientific Institutions, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research Institutes - Universities and other higher education institutions - Public hospitals and other public bodies only if registered in the Latvian Registry of Scientific Institutions <p>Enterprises entered into the Latvian Commercial registry are eligible, assumed they are eligible to do the specific research and can prove it. Limitations of EU legislation apply (R800/2008) together with financial reporting requirements</p>
Requirement of industrial participation	No requirement
Special evaluation procedures	No additional national requirements for evaluation procedures
Eligibility of costs, maximum funding per grant	According to national guidelines, recommended size of grant 150 TEUR, can be increased by up to 50% in case of expensive materials/methods
other limitations	See Annex VI: National regulations details
MIZS (Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Slovenia)	
Earliest funding start	Beginning 2014
National Programme	Programs of International Scientific Cooperation
National phase / deadline	<p>1. Parallel submission of 2 written statements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreement with national eligibility criteria - State aid questionnaire <p>2. after formal decision on funding: additional national application (upon invitation only).</p>
Special thematic conditions (applied, basic...)	no
Eligibility of partner/institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research organizations defined as eligible in the National Research and Development Act (NRDA) • Participating institutions have to be registered in the Slovenian Research Agency evidence of researchers. • All participating researchers must have available research hours. • The primary investigator has to fulfil the requirements for project leaders defined in the NRDA and other regulations
Requirement of industrial participation	no
Special evaluation procedures	no
Eligibility of costs, maximum funding per grant	Eligible costs defined according to the Slovenian Research Agency's value of a research hour and include personnel costs, material costs (including travel, equipment and subcontracting),



	<p>amortization.</p> <p>- if Slovene partner is partner in project: 70.000/year – 210.000/grant - if Slovene partner is coordinator of the project: 150.000/year – 450.000/grant)</p> <p>Noneconomic activities will be funded up to 100%, economic activities 40-80% (depending on the size of the company and research conducted).</p>
other limitations	See Annex VI: National regulations details
NSF (National Science Foundation, USA)	
Earliest funding start	Beginning 2014
National Programme	No
National phase / deadline	No
Special thematic conditions (applied, basic...)	basic, theory-driven research with significant potential for downstream application and economic development
Eligibility of partner/institutions	NSF guidelines http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/papp/gpg_1.jsp
Requirement of industrial participation	No
Special evaluation procedures	No
Eligibility of costs, maximum funding per grant	see NSF guidelines http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/papp/gpg_2.jsp
other limitations	See Annex VI: National regulations details
NWO (Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research, Netherlands)	
Earliest funding start	
National Programme	
National phase / deadline	
Special thematic conditions (applied, basic...)	
Eligibility of partner/institutions	
Requirement of industrial participation	
Special evaluation procedures	
Eligibility of costs, maximum funding per grant	
other limitations	See Annex VI: National regulations details
RCN (The Research Council of	



Norway, Norway)	
Earliest funding start	Beginning 2014
National Programme	BIOTEK2021
National phase / deadline	1. parallel national announcement, 2: national eligibility check,
Special thematic conditions (applied, basic...)	no
Eligibility of partner/institutions	public and private
Requirement of industrial participation	no
Special evaluation procedures	no
Eligibility of costs, maximum funding per grant	Personal costs, travel costs, consumables, max 5,4 MNOK/grant (appr. 700 kEuro/grant)
other limitations	See Annex VI: National regulations details



ANNEX VI: NATIONAL REGULATIONS DETAILS

Specific national criteria are listed for each country and funding organisation. For further information regarding national regulations, please contact your national or regional contact person (see Annex II above).

AKA (Academy of Finland, Finland)

- Applicants are strongly advised to contact Academy before preparing application for ERASynBio
- Applicants are advised to check the formal criteria from Academy's web-pages for Academy Projects which will apply in ERASynBio call for Finnish applicants
- Budgets for applications have to be prepared using the full cost model. Check Academy's web-pages for details. Applicants are required to make sure that their budget's total sum includes all details for full cost model (including the minimum of 30% ensured own funding) before submitting the ERASynBio application.

ANR (The French National Research Agency, France)

- A French person coordinating a proposal is authorized to submit as coordinator only one proposal to all ANR calls of 2013 edition.
- The evaluation panel must not judge the project proposal to be similar to a project that is already funded, or to one that is currently being evaluated under a call for proposals in the ANR programme planning on the closing date of the present call for proposals.
- The evaluation panel must not judge that the project proposal infringes an intellectual property right characterising a counterfeit within the meaning of intellectual property.

For more details please see the online specific annexe document for research groups applying to this call for funding in France: <http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/ERASynBio-2013>

BBSRC (Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, United Kingdom)

BBSRC supports the First Call for Proposals of the ERA-Net for Synthetic Biology (ERASynBio) and encourages the Synthetic Biology community to apply for funding for collaborative research. Dependent on scientific excellence and all conditions of eligibility and peer review being met, BBSRC will fund up to £2.5 million for grants awarded through this call.





All UK components submitted to this call will be subject to standard BBSRC funding criteria. The following guidance should be read in conjunction with the BBSRC grants guide (<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Guidelines/grants-guide.pdf>). The official national call announcement for the UK will be published on the BBSRC website.

Applicants are strongly advised to contact the UK National Contact Persons (NCP) before starting to prepare proposals for application (contact details below).

Eligibility and national funding modalities:

Standard BBSRC eligibility criteria, as described in section 3 of the BBSRC grants guide (<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Guidelines/grants-guide.pdf>) will be applied to the UK component of applications submitted to this call. Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and Research Council Institutes (RCIs) that are normally eligible to apply for research grants are eligible to apply to this call. Enquiries on eligibility should be directed to erasynbio@bbsrc.ac.uk.

In addition, applications must fall within the remit of BBSRC, which supports research into plants, microbes, animals and tools and technology underpinning biological research. While we expect projects to be multidisciplinary, the primary focus and challenges of the UK component of the project must therefore be biological rather than medical, social, environmental or on physical or chemical engineering. For more information on the research areas that BBSRC funds see: <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/research/science-remit.aspx>. If you are unsure if your proposal is within the remit of BBSRC, please contact erasynbio@bbsrc.ac.uk.

Additional national regulations and guidelines:

Applicants who intend to collaborate with industrial or other non-academic partners should note that any costs incurred, direct or otherwise, by these partners cannot be met by BBSRC. Costs incurred by the UK academic partner as a direct result of working with the other consortium partners (such as visits to labs or exchange of materials) can be requested. Studentships will not be supported by BBSRC as part of this call and students should not be included on the UK component.

The UK component of applications should be costed on the basis of full economic costs (fEC). If the grant is awarded, BBSRC will provide funding on the basis of 80% of fEC. The submitting organisations must agree to find the balance of fEC for the project from other resources. The total amount requested on the ERASynBio application form must be equivalent to the 80% that will be requested from BBSRC. Final awards from BBSRC will be made in British Pounds (GBP), however costs listed in the ERASynBio application forms must be converted into Euros (EUR) using an exchange rate of 1.2 EUR to 1 GBP.

For the UK component of successful proposals submitted this call, applicants will be required to submit an additional form through the Je-S system. Additional guidance will be provided to





successful applicants. Grants will be subject to standard Research Council Grants Terms and Conditions.

National Contact Persons (NCP):

For eligibility or remit enquiries, please use the generic ERASynBio inbox (erasynbio@bbsrc.ac.uk).

This is monitored by several people and will ensure you get the quickest response to your query.

For other ERASynBio enquiries, please contact:

Dr Andy Boyce | Strategy and Policy Manager | Genomics, Data and Technologies

Biotechnology & Biological Sciences Research Council

Polaris House | North Star Avenue | Swindon | SN2 1UH | UK

andy.boyce@bbsrc.ac.uk |

☎: +44 (0)1793 442143

BMBF (Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany)

- BMBF funding of the ERASynBio call is provided as delineated in the “Förderrichtlinien zur Aktivität “ ERASynbio 1st joint call for proposals” of 29.04.2013.
- Together with the electronic submission of the proposal at the ERASynBio Call Office the applying companies (not the academic research institutions) have to contact Project Management Jülich and may have to submit the following documents at Project Management Jülich:
 - Kopie des Antrags
 - Jahresabschluss 2012 oder vorläufige Bilanz 2011.
 - Erklärung zur Aufbringung des Eigenanteils
 - Aktuelle BWA
 - Liquiditätsplanung für die Laufzeit des vorgeschlagenen Projektes.
- The documents have to be submitted to: Forschungszentrum Jülich, Projektträger Jülich, Dr. Annette Kremser, 52425 Jülich
- The funding regulations, the follow-up and reporting of publicly funded projects are regulated according to ANBest (Allgemeine Nebenbestimmungen), BNBest (Besondere Nebenbestimmungen) and NKBF 98 (Nebenbestimmungen für Zuwendungen auf Kostenbasis des Bundesministeriums für Bildung und Forschung an Unternehmen der gewerblichen Wirtschaft für Forschungs- und Entwicklungsvorhaben).
- A company proposing a project must be registered in Germany and must be well established in Germany with plants, laboratories, employees, etc. The proposed project must add benefit to the national economy.



- In the case of a positive funding recommendation all German applicants will be asked to submit a formal national application. It is strongly recommended to use the electronic application system “easy” (<https://foerderportal.bund.de/easy/>).

DASTI (Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation, Denmark)

- See “DSF – Guidelines for budgeting in relation to transnational calls

FCT (Foundation for Science and Technology, Portugal)

- All proposals must be aligned with national regulations
- Eligible institutions: Higher Education Institutions, their institutes and R&D facilities; Associate Laboratories; State Laboratories; Private non-profit institutions whose main objective is to carry out S&T activities; Companies, provided they participate in projects headed by public or private non-profit R&D institutions; Other public and private non-profit institutions which carry out or participate in scientific research activities.
- Eligible costs: Equipment, Personnel, Networks & Consortium Funding, Intellectual Property Rights (e.g. patents), overheads and mobility.
- Submission of the proposal at national level will only be required after selection for funding.

National Contact Person:

Marta Norton
Departamento de Relações Internacionais (DRI)
Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia
Av. D. Carlos I, 126, 1249-074 Lisboa, Portugal
Tel.: +351 21 391 1552
marta.norton@fct.pt

FWF (The Austrian Science Fund, Austria)

- In the case of Austrian participants, only single natural persons are eligible. Researcher or teams of researchers, working in any kind of non-profit organization: e.g. University, University hospital, Non-university research institute are eligible to apply. Eligibility criteria will strictly follow the general Funding Guidelines (http://www.fwf.ac.at/de/applications/p/p_application-guidelines.pdf)
- The following forms and project specific data must be sent both on paper and electronically shortly after the ERASynBio deadline (upon notification by the FWF secretariat):



- 1) FWF forms (completed, signed and stamped as appropriate) including Application Form, Programme Specific Data, Attachment Co-Author, Itemization of requested funding, and, if applicable, National Research Partner.
- 2) Additional form international cooperation: should be completed for each additional partner in the consortium.
- 3) If items of equipment are requested (costs above €1,500 incl. VAT), Itemization form Equipment must be completed for each item requested
- 4) One-page summary in English and in German (largely for PR work)

All forms are found under: http://www.fwf.ac.at/de/applications/internationale_kooperationsprojekte.html

- The FWF does not specify a limit or maximum amount of funding per project. Typical (sub)projects amount to approximately 0.25 Mio. €. For scientists funded by the FWF, the funding is limited to “project-specific costs according to the general FWF Funding Guidelines published at http://www.fwf.ac.at/de/downloads/pdf/fwf_funding_guidelines.pdf). Overhead costs may not be requested. Please contact the national contact person for further information.

National Contact Person:

Markus Kubicek, PhD
Scientific Project Officer - Biological and Medical Sciences
1090 Wien, Sensengasse 1, Austria
Tel: +43-1-505 67 40-8202
Fax: +43-1-505 67 39
markus.kubicek@fwf.ac.at
www.fwf.ac.at

KTI (Commission for Technology and Innovation, Switzerland)

For Swiss participants the transnational application to the central call office is not sufficient. It is necessary for Swiss partners to provide an additional application to the Commission for Technology and Innovation (CTI) for the proposals where the expected national project part of the work is clearly and detailed described. The usual CTI funding rules and application forms will apply (see www.kti.admin.ch/projektfoerderung/00025/index.html?lang=en for details). This means that:

- At least one Swiss company and one Swiss ‘not-for-profit’ research institution (university, Federal Institute of Technology, University of Applied Sciences) recognised by the CTI should be involved in a CTI funded R&D project. Projects involving several participants are particularly encouraged. In particular cases, when the industrial application is not yet obvious (proof of concept), a project only with one or more research partner(s) will be financed by the CTI.



- As a general rule, the industry partner covers at least 50% of the project costs, a further incentive to ensure the efficient transfer of research results to the market. The industry partner also makes a cash contribution to its academic partner. There is no federal funding allowed to companies.
- The project partners choose the topic. Preferably, the economic and implementation partner heads the project.
- The project focuses on innovation. In general, no funding will be given to projects which propose marginal improvements of existing products, nor for projects with a purely basic research content.
- The criteria for proposal assessment are: degree of innovation with its economic, technical and scientific importance, commercial potential, contribution to sustainable development, clear work programme and a transparent budget.
- The project must have quantified, measurable goals and a coherent and structured schedule with verifiable progress milestones. It must be based on a thorough appraisal of the current state of the relevant technology and on an evaluation of the corresponding data base and patent rights.
- A contract on intellectual property rights must be signed prior to the start of the project. A confidentiality clause should be included where necessary.
- The focus is on projects which aim for efficient and fast time-to-market. Exceptionally, funding will also be given to long-term “risk projects”, without economic partner, but with a clear and a high innovation and commercial potential.
- Regular reviews by CTI experts help the partners to adhere to the project contents and time schedule where necessary by asking for timely corrections.
- At the end of the project, a plan must be presented showing how the results will be implemented.

LAS (Latvian Academy of Sciences, Latvia)

Support is provided according to Provisions Nr 414, 19.06.2012 of the Latvian Cabinet of Ministers <http://www.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=249571> Limitations and requirements of these provisions apply.

Eligible costs

- Personnel incl. social tax
- Consumables
- Animals



- Subcontracts and external services (publication costs, patenting for share of non-commercial use of outcomes etc.): up to 25%; needs detailed justification, subject to approval. Core activities cannot be subcontracted.
- Equipment (only depreciation costs for project's duration)
- Replaceable and fully consumable during project time elements of equipment e.g. electrodes fully
- Travel (according to travel plan)
- Indirect costs (up to 20% with justification in project's accomplishment phase)

Researcher's team leader, principal investigators, leading researchers should be researchers according to Latvian legislation ("zinātnieks", possessing doctoral degree and experience in relevant research field), and the work carried out should be research.

MIZS (Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Slovenia)

- The official national call announcement will be published in the Official Gazette of Republic of Slovenia (Uradni list Reublike Slovenije) and on the MIZS website (http://www.mizks.gov.si/si/javne_objave_in_razpisi/javni_razpisi/).
- Research organizations (universities, research institutes, SMEs etc.), defined as eligible in the National Research and Development Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 22/06-UPB1, 61/06-ZDru-1, 112/07, 9/11 and 57/12) are eligible to apply. There are no restrictions regarding the thematic area.
- MIZS will fund eligible costs of Slovenian partners participating in successful transnational projects, recommended for funding in accordance with the Decree on criteria and standards for allocating resources for the implementation of the National Research and Development Programme (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 74/2004, 32/2005, 26/2006, 80/2007, 89/2008, 102/2009, 103/2011).
- The total requested funding for all Slovenian partners within one consortium should not exceed 70.000 € per year (210.000 EUR in total). If however the project coordinator is from Slovenia, up to 150.000 € per year (450.000 EUR in total) can be requested for eligible costs.
- Funding is subject to the availability of national funds and will be conducted in accordance with the Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2006:323:0001:0026:EN:PDF>).
- The funding quota of Slovenian participants will be decided on a case by case basis, depending on whether the participant qualifies as a recipient of state aid. If not, the funding can be up to 100%,





if yes the percentage of co-funding will depend on the type of research conducted and the size of the participant.

- There is no requirement on industry involvement, but industry participation is recommended.
- In parallel to the international application phase a **national pre-application** is needed. The applicants must send MIZS a **written statement** declaring they have read and agree with the national eligibility criteria and a **state-aid questionnaire**. The two documents will be available on the MIZS webpage.
- The **national application** by the Slovenian primary investigator will be mandatory only for those Slovenian participants participating in transnational projects proposed for funding. The rules and forms for transnational application, the national pre-application the national application will be available on the Ministry's web page (http://www.mizks.gov.si/si/javne_objave_in_razpisi/javni_razpisi/).
- Applicants are strongly advised to contact the Slovenian National Contact person before preparing proposals for application.

NSF (National Science Foundation, United States of America)

National Contact Person (NCP):

For inquiries related to this call contact:

Dr. Susanne von Bodman

Program Director

National Science Foundation

4201 Wilson Boulevard

Arlington VA 22230 (USA)

Email: svonbodm@nsf.gov; Tel. 703-292-7139

US participants shall follow the guidelines detailed in the ERASynBio call and work with the European Project coordinator to submit the proposal. If a given project is selected by the ERASynBio funding partners, the US PI(s) shall submit the grant to NSF through FASTLANE following the GPG guidelines (www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf13001/gpg_1.jsp#IA), and with a budget reflecting the US collaborative research activities. The pertinent Program Announcement for this submission is NSF 13-1 and MCB as the designated NSF Organization Unit.

NWO (Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research, Netherlands)





RCN (The Research Council of Norway, Norway)

See national announcement

