

First multilateral call for research projects within the Infect-ERA:

“Coordination of European funding for infectious diseases research”

This document announces the first transnational joint call on human infectious diseases within the framework of the ERA-NET Infect-ERA program that aims to **coordinate European funding for human infectious diseases research**. Infect-ERA builds on the experience and success of PathoGenoMics: *The Trans-European Cooperation and Coordination of Genome Sequencing and Functional Genomics of Human-pathogenic Micro-organisms*. Joint projects, with a maximum of **six** participants from a minimum of **three** countries participating in this call, should favorably include participants from both academia and clinics or industry. Funding will be granted for a maximum of three years. Submissions of proposals will be in two steps: The deadline for submitting pre-proposals is **April 19, 2013** and invited full proposals must be submitted by **August 02, 2013**. Projects will be expected to start at the **end of 2013 or beginning of 2014**.

With a total budget of about 8 M€, the following Infect-ERA partner organisations are participating in the call (hereinafter referred to as the partners):

- the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), Austria
- the Agency for Innovation by Science and Technology (IWT- Flanders), Belgium
- the Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation (DASTI), Denmark
- the French National Research Agency (ANR), France
- the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) represented by Project Management Jülich (PtJ), Germany
- the Hungarian Academy of Science (HAS) and the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund (OTKA), Hungary
- the Chief Scientist Office, Ministry of Health (CSO-MOH), Israel
- the National Science Centre (NCN), Poland
- the National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR), Poland
- the Science and Technology Foundation (FCT), Portugal
- the National Authority for Scientific Research (ANCS), Romania*
- the Swedish Research Council (SRC), Sweden

* participation of Romania is pending on final budget approval expected end of February 2013

The call is centrally coordinated by the Infect-ERA Joint Call Secretariat, which is led by Project Management Jülich (PtJ), Germany. The partners are opening the call simultaneously in their respective countries.

The Joint Call Secretariat will be the central contact point for all project coordinators.

Secretariat contact info:

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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.

1. Aim of the call

In this call, Infect-ERA aims to fund transnational and translational research, bringing together basic, applied and technology-driven research approaches of a broad variety of research topics regarding human infectious diseases. The call will enable multinational, collaborative research projects that address a specific topic of human infectious diseases research.

Scientists' consultation in participating countries provided a catalogue of research topics that indicated the current ID research challenges and the tools and methods to address them in the near future. Based on these topics, two main research themes were identified:

- The microbes' environment and infection including metabolism of microbes, molecular mechanisms and strategies of their pathogenicity
- The host-microbe interaction, co-infection, microorganisms transmissibility and host susceptibility factors.

Transnational research proposals must address at least one of the following areas, which are equal in relevance for this call:

- (i) application of novel approaches and technologies such as metagenomics, transcriptomics, and metabolomics to address infection biology as a whole regardless of the pathogen (bacteria, virus, uni-cellular protozoa etc.).
- (ii) integration of new approaches to understand the effect of the pathogen upon infection and to develop biomarkers, preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic tools.

Proposals with topics HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis are not in the scope of the call.

Potential topics of the proposals could include:

- research on microbial ecology, population genetics, novel and re-emerging pathogenic microorganisms.
- new tools for the prevention of human infectious diseases and secondary pathologies, development of new vaccines, use of pre-/probiotic potential of microorganisms.
- development of new tools or strategies for diagnosing and monitoring infections, development of new procedures for faster/more cost-efficient diagnostics.
- investigation on host-pathogen interactions, on activation of the host immune system, on development of antibiotic resistances and on development of novel strategies for breaking existing resistances.

- development of new therapies, validation and lead identification of potential new therapeutics, host impact, studies on mode of action/mode of side effects, investigations of the role of micro-organisms in secondary pathologies (e.g. in chronic diseases).
- development and application of new technologies like new sequencing and HTS methods, new animal models, quantitative functional genomics (including expression profiling, gene silencing, epigenetic mechanisms of gene expression modulation, SNP analysis), infection-relevant protein profiling, systems biology approaches, *in vivo* imaging/screening technologies.

The proposals should go beyond the genome-wide approach of the ERA-NET PathoGenoMics. Furthermore, the proposals must: 1) show a close cooperation between academic and clinical and/or industrial participants, 2) convincingly present the application (exploitation) of the project results, and 3) demonstrate a clear benefit to the public.

2. Application

2.1 Eligibility

Joint proposals should have a maximum of **six** participants from a minimum of **three** partner countries participating. They should favorably include participants from academia and clinics and/or industry. In addition to the Infect-ERA eligibility criteria additional national regulations of the funding organisation in each partner country may apply. Also non-funded project partners can be part of the consortia. However, the consortia should consist in majority of partners from countries participating in this call and the **maximum number of six participants may not be exceeded**.

Infect-ERA members who participate in the call document preparation and Network Steering Committee (NSC) are not allowed to apply for project funding. Please refer to the guidelines for applicants for further detail.

2.2 Submission of joint transnational proposals

Submissions of proposals will be in two steps. In both cases, one joint proposal document (in English) shall be prepared by the project partners of a joint transnational proposal, and

must be submitted to the Joint Call Secretariat by the coordinator. A submission tool will be implemented in the Infect-ERA website (www.submission-infect-era.eu).

The two-steps application process (pre-proposal, full proposal) will have the following timetable:

February 26, 2013	Publication of the first joint transnational call
April 19, 2013	Deadline for pre-proposal submission
May 24, 2013	Communication of the results of the pre-proposal assessment (invitation for full proposal)
August 02, 2013	Deadline for full proposal submission
September 2013	Communication of the funding recommendation Peer Review Panel Meeting and funding recommendation to national funding agencies
December 2013	Communication of the funding decisions to the applicants
End of 2013, January 2014	Expected projects start

2.3 Financial modalities and funding prerequisites

Funding is granted for a maximum of three years in accordance with national regulations. **Applicants must refer and adhere to their own specific national regulations and scientific remits as detailed in the National Announcements.** Clarification may be obtained from the individual funding agencies (see contact details below).

The funds provided by the Parties are listed in the table below. The “virtual common pot model” shall apply for this transnational call. As such, each country will fund its own approved project partners. The proposals will be funded, as far as possible, following the ranking list recommended by the Peer Review Panel.

Anticipated funding provided by each party

Name of Organisation	Country	Contribution
Agence Nationale de la Recherche	France	1.5 M€
Fonds zur Förderung der Wissenschaftlichen Forschung	Austria	1.0 M€
Agentschap voor Innovatie door Wetenschap en Technologie	Belgium	0.5 M€
Styrelsen for Forskning og Innovation	Denmark	0.5 M€
Chief Scientist Office, Ministry of Health	Israel	0,24 M€
Narodowe Centrum Nauki	Poland	0.5 M€
Narodowe Centrum Badan I Rozwoju	Poland	1 M€
Fundacao para a Ciencia e a Tecnologia	Portugal	0.4 M€
Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung represented by Forschungszentrum Juelich GmbH	Germany	1.0 M€
Autoritatea Nationala pentru Cercetare Stiintifica	Romania	0.4 M€ To be confirmed
Országos Tudományos Kutatási Alapprogramok Iroda / Magyar Tudományos Akadémia Titkársága	Hungary	0.13 M€
Vetenskapsrådet	Sweden	0.9 M€

All project participants are required to sign a Consortium Agreement (CA) before the start of the project, which must address the points given in the guidelines for applicants. The CA, together with any other information required by national regulations, must be made available on request to the national funding agencies.

Summary of funding options and restrictions

Funding Body/ Country	FWF/ Austria	IWT- Flanders/ Belgium	DASTI/ Denmark	ANR/ France	BMBF/ Germany	OTKA, HAS/ Hungary	CSO-MOH/ Israel	NCBR/ Poland	NCN/ Poland	FCT/ Portugal	ANCS/ Romania*	SRC/ Sweden
Funding of industrial project partners	no	up to 50 %	Yes up to 50% for large enterprises and 60% for SME	up to 45% (SME) or 30% (other)	up to 50 %	no	no	yes (contact your national contact point for details)	no	up to 50 %	up to 50 %	no
Participation of industry required?	no	yes	no	welcomed	preferred	no	no	no	no	No	no	no
Maximum funding per project partner	no	250 K€	no	no	no	75 K€	60 K€	no	250 K€	200 K€	no	no
Maximum funding per project	no	250 K€	No, but funding of more than one project is preferred	no	no	75 K€	60 K€	no	250 K€	over 0.2M€ only if Portuguese participant coordinate	no	no
Additional documents required	As defined in the “Chapter 9. National Regulations in the Guidelines for the applicants”	IWT eligibility supporting documents as described in ‘National restriction’ chapter	See national guidelines: http://fivu.dk/forskning-og-innovation/rad-og-udvalg/det-strategiske-forskningsra	National budget request forms after funding recommendation	National application forms after funding recommendation	OTKA application forms will be required to fill out for the potential contract decision after funding recommend	National application forms after funding recommendation?	no	If the proposal gets awarded NCN requires the polish partner’s budget in national	National application forms after funding recommendation?	National application forms after funding recommendation?	See general guidelines for Vetenskapsrådet calls

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Any other national restrictions **	follow the criteria for Stand-Alone Projects by the FWF	no	no	a French partner is authorized to submit only one proposal to all ANR calls of 2013, including this one, as a coordinator	no	No double funding (including national funding from OTKA or HAS) No salaries for applicants No heavy equipment	No double funding (including national funding from CSO-MOH) No salaries for applicants No heavy equipment	No scholarship, no long term training (contact your national contact points for details)	no	no	no	Only Swedish participants in consortia listed among the ten top-ranked proposals will be considered for funding. Funding levels (of individual Swedish participating groups) will be decided based on the number of top-ranked proposals and their scores.

* participation of Romania is pending on final budget approval expected end of February 2013

**Please note that this is only a summary. Refer to the National websites and contact the respective national contact person for details.

2.4 Partnering web tool

A Partnering tool will be implemented in the Infect-ERA website (<http://www.infect-era.eu/collaborations>) in order to facilitate the exchange of research ideas and the effective planning of collaborative projects, as well as to foster the assembly of eligible consortia and the integration of project partners who have not been involved in multilateral consortia so far. All potential project partners are invited to register in this electronic tool. Registration will allow them to submit short description of their research.

3. Contact persons

The only official communication line of the proposal is between the Infect-ERA Joint Call Secretariat and the project coordinator. The project coordinator will be the person contacted by the Infect-ERA Joint Call Secretariat during the application procedure, so he/she must forward this information to the other participants. Each country has national contact persons who can be contacted for information about the specific national requirements (see table below).

Country	Agency	Contact person	E-Mail
Austria	FWF	Dr. Milojka Gindl	milojka.gindl@fwf.ac.at
Belgium	IWT	Dr. Hendrik De Bondt	hdb@iwt.be
Denmark	DASTI	Dr. Peder Fode	pff@fi.dk
France Infect-ERA Secretariat	ANR	Dr. Serawit Bruck Dr. Heidi Ligeret	serawit.bruck@agencerecherche.fr Heidi.ligeret@agencerecherche.fr
Germany Joint Call Secretariat	PT Juelich	Dr. Bülent Genç Dr. Henrike Knizia	b.genc@fz-juelich.de h.knizia@fz-juelich.de
Hungary	HAS	Prof. Béla Nagy	bnagy@vmri.hu
	OTKA	Dr. Levente Emődy	levente.emody@aok.pte.hu
Israel	CSO-MOH	Dr. Benny Leshem	benny.leshem@moh.health.gov.il
Poland	NCN	Dr. Marcin Liana	marcin.liana@ncn.gov.pl
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