

CALL TEXT

for ERA-MarineBiotech (ERA-MBT) Second Joint Transnational Call

Read also the Guidelines for applicants

For further information contact the Joint Call secretariat:

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Second transnational call for research projects within ERA-MarineBiotech

"Biodiscovery - Bioactive molecules from the marine environment"

1. Motivation

ERA-MarineBiotech (ERA-MBT) recognises that Europe's marine ecosystems and organisms are largely unexplored, understudied and underutilized, in spite of Europe's access to an extensive and diverse set of marine ecosystems, supporting enormous marine biodiversity. This resource, through the coordinated application of biotechnology, has the potential to provide a **major contribution** towards addressing some of the most pressing **societal challenges** including environmental degradation, human health and delivering sustainable supplies of food, energy and other commodities amongst others, regarded as the Grand Challenges for our future.

The main objectives of ERA-MBT are to:

- stimulate trans-European development of marine biotechnology research, innovation and enterprise activity
- build communities and capacity considering the maritime regions' different perspectives and potential
- deliver a lasting network to fund and support marine biotechnology

ERA-MBT is a four-year programme funded under the European Commission ERA-NET scheme's 7th Framework Programme (Grant Agreement Number 604814, December 2013 - November 2017). The partnership consists of 19 funding organisations or representatives from 14 countries. The ERA-NET intends to launch at least three calls during the programme period. The first call was launched in 2014 under the topic "The development of biorefinery processes for marine biomaterials."

The present document announces the second ERA-MBT joint transnational call which aims to coordinate European funding for marine biotechnology research, development and innovation. The main purpose of the call is to stimulate joint European research and development activities in marine biotechnology. Transnational research consortia from academia, research institutes and industry are invited to submit proposals in a one-step procedure with the submission deadline by March 16, 2016. Funding will be granted for a maximum of three years according to national regulations. Projects are expected to start by the end 2016/beginning 2017.



2. Aim of the call

2.1. Background

The biodiscovery process exploits the diversity of organisms found in marine environments in ways which enable new materials and/or processes to be identified. Typically the process involves a series of steps spanning from the collection of materials to the refinement of materials with bioactive and other useful properties. There are many known uses for marine origin bioactive materials, including as components in pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, functional foods and ingredients, nutritional supplements, cosmeceuticals, cosmetics and personal care products, horticultural stimulants, animal feed, biomaterials, and as a source of enzymes with potential in bioremediation and bioprocessing.

By exploring the bioactivity in organisms from the oceans, including those from fishery and aquaculture activity, or materials which result from the processing of marine organisms, opportunity exists to further explore their potential, to provide compounds that offer chemical diversity and biological potency of value in meeting the needs of society.

2.2. General scope

In seeking to identify bioactive compounds with potential applications, applicants are required to focus their research on biological materials obtained from one or more of the following sources: culture collections, biobanks and repositories that are held within institutions/companies; from fishery or aquaculture activity; marine biomass processing by-products and waste fractions; and biological materials collected from the foreshore (coastal areas between the limits of low and high water).

2.3. Focus of the call

Applicants are required to restrict their research to the identification of bioactive compounds and other useful properties that offer commercial potential and which are derived from available materials as described above.

Applications may include any type of marine biomass as the source from which to extract and characterise bioactive materials for use as the basis for commercial products or processes.

Applications are required to demonstrate a significant biotechnology component in the planned research, using elements of the marine biotechnology "toolbox" or research which contributes to the development of new generic tools and/or methods relevant to marine biotechnology.

Applications are required to focus on activities that fit within one or more of the Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 1 to 5 (see definition below) and clearly show an applied aspect.

ERA-MBT Second Joint Transnational Call (Call text), page 3/14



Applications must demonstrate how the research supports the development and realisation of the "Low hanging fruits" such as food, feed, cosmetics, cosmeceuticals, food ingredients, nutraceuticals, agricultural/ horticultural products, bioremediation tools, among others. In doing so, the application should clearly describe the processes to enable commercialisation within approximately 5 years following the completion of the project.

Where relevant, applications need to demonstrate that the use of biological materials is in line with national and EU regulations related to the Nagoya protocol on access and benefit sharing, and address the legal aspects involved. Compliance with other, relevant national regulations must also be shown if any.

As well as describing the technical, economic and legal aspects of the project, proposals should describe their social and environmental impact.

Technology readiness levels (TRL) Annex G European Commission Decision C (2014)4995 of 22 July 2014 (https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/doc/call/h2020/common/1617621-part 19 general annexes v.2.0 en.pdf)

Where a topic description refers to a TRL, the following definitions apply, unless otherwise specified:

TRL 1 – basic principles observed

TRL 2 – technology concept formulated

TRL 3 – experimental proof of concept

TRL 4 – technology validated in lab

TRL 5 – technology validated in relevant environment (industrially relevant environment in the case of key bling technologies)

TRL 6 – technology demonstrated in relevant environment (industrially relevant environment in the case of key enabling technologies)

TRL 7 – system prototype demonstration in operational environment

TRL 8 – system complete and qualified

TRL 9 – actual system proven in operational environment (competitive manufacturing in the case of key enabling technologies; or in space)

ERA-MBT Second Joint Transnational Call (Call text), page 4/14



2.4. Exclusions

The call **excludes** the following activities:

- Clinical or human intervention trials.
- Bio-banking and related activities (biodiversity sampling, creation of databases, taxonomy, etc.), as the main focus.
- Large scale bio refining processes and processes that involve handling of large volumes of biomass for the production of goods.
- Projects which include synthetic- or systems biology approaches as their main focus.

The call **excludes** the costs associated with:

- The collection of materials from the high-seas, from the seabed or within seabed sediments or underlying geological features.
- The collection or the access to any other material that is generally freely available, with the exception of samples purchased from biobanks or culture collections.

The applications should fit:

1. To the specific <u>national/regional eligibility criteria</u>, meaning, to the funding organisations regulations (see ANNEX II). In order to find out whether a project is eligible in the respective country/region it is strongly recommended to contact the respective funding agency (see contacts in the ANNEX I) before submitting a proposal.

Note that some topics may not be fundable by some funding organizations.

Consult carefully the specific national regulations in ANNEX II.

2. Additionally, all applications should fit to the <u>ERA-MBT eligibility criteria</u>, as described in the **Guidelines for Applicants**, which includes the **fitting to the aims of the call.**

Proposals not meeting the national regulations and/or the ERA-MBT eligibility criteria will be rejected before the evaluation phase.



3. Funding organizations

The following funding organizations will participate in the call:

- Flanders Innovation & Entrepreneurship (VLAIO), Flanders-Belgium
- Research Foundation Flanders (FWO), Flanders-Belgium
- Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) represented by Project Management Jülich (PtJ), Germany
- Icelandic Centre for Research (RANNIS), Iceland
- Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Policies (MIPAAF), Italy
- Marine Institute (MI), Ireland
- Research Council of Norway (RCN), Norway
- Innovation Norway (IN), Norway
- Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), Portugal
- Ministry of Education, Science, and Sport (MIZS), Slovenia
- Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning (FORMAS), Sweden
- Västra Götaland Region (VGR), Sweden
- Genome British Columbia (Genome BC), Canada
- Executive Unit for Financing Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation (UEFISCDI), Romania

These funding organizations will open the call simultaneously in their respective countries.

4. Submission timeline

DEADLINE: Proposals must be submitted electronically via the ERA-MBT website **by 16th of March 2016** (15:00 CET). Each project coordinator should make sure to register the proposal on time, as a strict call deadline is applied. After this deadline, the submission tool is closed.

Calendar

16 March 2016, 15:00 CET	Deadline for submitting the proposals
6, 7 July 2016	Peer Review Panel Meeting - Recommendation of projects to be funded
September 2016	Communication of the funding recommendation
End of 2016 / early 2017	Start of projects



5. Joint Call Secretariat and contact persons

The call is centrally coordinated by the ERA-MBT Joint Call Secretariat, led by Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), Portugal, which will be the central contact point for all project coordinators.

Secretariat contact info:

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For any **technical support related to the electronic submission system** contact:

Dr. Jens Schiffers

Phone: +49 2461 61-3972 Email: j.schiffers@fz-juelich.de

The only official communication line is between the ERA-MBT Joint Call Secretariat and the project coordinator. The project coordinator will be the person contacted by the Joint Call Secretariat during the application procedure, so he/she must forward this information to the other participants in the consortium. Each funding organization has national contact persons who can be contacted for information about the specific national requirements (see annex I).



ANNEX I

Country	Funding organization	Contact person	Contact details		
Belgium (Flanders)	VLAIO	Kirezi Kanobana	Kirezi.kanobana@vlaio.be		
Belgium (Flanders)	FWO	Olivier Boehme	eranet@fwo.be		
Germany	BMBF /PtJ	Jens Schiffers	j.schiffers@fz-juelich.de		
Iceland	RANNIS	Lýður Skúli Erlendsson	lydur.skuli.erlendsson@rannis.is		
Italy	MIPAAF	Mauro Bertelletti Luca Bedin	m.bertelletti@politicheagricole.gov.it l.bedin@politicheagricole.gov.it		
Ireland	MI	Ciaran Kelly	funding@marine.ie		
Norway	IN	Ole Jørgen Marvik	Ole.Jorgen.Marvik@innovasjonnorge.no		
Norway	RCN	Steinar Bergseth	stb@forskningsradet.no		
Portugal	FCT	Marta Norton	marta.norton@fct.pt		
Slovenia	MIZS	Kim Turk	kim.turk @gov.si		
Sweden	FORMAS	Lisa Almesjö	lisa.almesjo@formas.se		
Sweden	VGR	Anders Carlberg	anders.carlberg@vgregion.se		
Canada	Genome BC	Rachael Ritchie	rritchie@genomebc.ca		
Romenia	UEFISCDI	Simona Stoian	simona.stoian@uefiscdi.ro		



ANNEX II

National Regulations. Summary of national funding, eligibility rules and restrictions

Funding Body (Country)	VLAIO (BE-Flanders)	FWO (BE-Flanders)	BMBF (Germany)	RANNIS (Iceland)	MI (Ireland)	MIPAAF* (Italy)	IN (Norway)
Funding of academic partners /industrial partners eligible?	Industrial partners are eligible, academic partners as subcontractor of industrial partner	Only academic partners	YES	YES	Both. Industry must partner with an Irish academic partner. Academic partners receive 100% funding, but Industry partners receive 75% funding maximum	National public research institutions and private bodies, included in the "Anagrafe Nazionale delle Ricerche" (a National official list of research bodies), can apply for funding	Industrial partners only. Funding schemes according to the guidelines for state aid
Total committed budget	1.000.000€	200.000€	1.000.000€	500.000€	300.000 €	200.000€	Funding is available primarily through Innovation Norway's grant program for Biorefining. Applications will be assessed according to our normal policy and routines, i.e. applications are submitted to the appropriate regional office
Maximum funding per partner/ per project	in order to be able to fund min. 2 à 3 projects, the total funding per industrial partner can be blocked at 330kEUR	200.000 €	1.000.000€	250.000 € per project	150.000 €	200.000€	



Eligible costs	Personnel costs, indirect costs, direct costs, subcontracting, exceptional large cost (http://www.iwt.be/sites/default/files/subsidies/documenten/IWT_kostenmodel_januari2014.pdf)	Staff, consumables (incl. travel) and infrastructure	https://foerderportal.bund .de/easy/easy_index.php?a uswahl=easy_formulare&f ormularschrank=bmbf&me nue=block	As in the guidelines for the <u>Technical</u> <u>Developmen</u> <u>t Fund</u>	As per Guidelines for Applicants. Please email funding@marine.ie to request a copy.	Personnel (Salaries, Travel expenses) Consumables Activity costs Overheads – no more than 10% of the total amount of the above mentioned No expenditure will be reimbursed in this call for Equipments. for details see https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/4201	http://www.innovasjonnorge.n o/no/finansiering/bioraffinerin gsprogrammet/#.VD4- wvmSyao
Elegible topics	All, except military applications	All	All	Applied	All	'New products (bioproducts) from fishery and aquaculture, including byproducts and the possible optimal valorization of unavoidable unwanted catches (landing obligation), in line with the CFP (Common Fishery Policy), UE Reg. n. 1380/2013, and the Blue Growth strategy, EC COM(2012) 494 final	http://www.innovasjonnorge.n o/no/finansiering/bioraffinerin gsprogrammet/#.VD4- wvmSyao
Other national restrictions	Check guidelines (http://www.iwt. be/subsidies/extr asteun/era-mbt)	See for the detailed regulation on eligibility: http://www.fwo.be/en/fellowships - funding/research-projects/research - project/regulation s-for-research-projects/, art. 9.	Higher education institutions, that are eligible for an "overall project overhead" (Ger. Projektpauschale) of 20%, should calculate their project budget without the "overall project overhead" at first!	As in the guidelines for the <u>Technical</u> <u>Developmen</u> <u>t Fund</u>	As per Guidelines for Applicants. Please email funding@marine.ie to request a copy.	The contribution for national participants of the selected projects will amount up to 95% of the approved eligible project costs *Please consult pg.14 for further information	



Funding Body (Country)	RCN (Norway)	FCT (Portugal)	MIZS* (Slovenia)	FORMAS (Sweden)	VGR (Sweden)	Genome BC (Canada)	UEFISCDI (Romenia)
Funding of academic partners /industrial partners eligible?	Academic partners 100% Industrial partners up to 50%	-Academic partners up to 100% -Industrial partners up to 50%	Academic partners (universities, public research institutes) and non-profit private institutes up to 100%	Academic partners receive 100% funding. Industrial partners can be involved but cannot be the main applicant (please consult Formas)	Only applicants based in Västra Götaland. Universities and university colleges, research institutes, hospitals and Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs under the EU definition)* http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise /policies/sme/facts-figures- analysis/sme-definition/	Only academic partners	Yes - according to the state aid scheme
Total committed budget	20.000.000 NOK (≈2,2 m€)	400.000 €	420.000€	1.000.000€	1.000.000 SEK	400,000€	500,000€
Maximum funding per partner/ per project	Maximum per project: Follows Norwegian guidelines for costs approximated to: -300.000 € as a project partner - 600.000 € with Norwegian coordination	Maximum per project: -Up to 150.000 € -Up to 250.000 € in the case of PT coordination	210.000 € per project (max. 70.000 € per year)	No	1.000.000 SEK	200.000€	Up to 200.000 €/project, up to 250.000 € in case of Ro coordination



Eligible costs	Forskerprosjekt: http://www.forskningsr adet.no/no/Forskerpros jekt/1186753746501 Innovasjonsprosjekt i næringslivet: http://www.forskningsr adet.no/no/Innovasjons prosjekt_i_neringslivet/ 1253963327687	As in national projects	Based on selected research hour value (B, C, D) with cost elements personnel costs, material costs amortization, indirect costs according to Decree on criteria and standards for allocating resources for the implementation of the National Research and Development Program	Please consult Formas handbook; all costs for "research and development projects" are eligible	Salaries, materials and consumables, travel (including visits to, and stays at, research facilities), publication costs, minor equipment and depreciations, etc. The grant may not be used for scholarships.	As per Genome BC Guidelines for Applicants. Please email ERA@genomebc.ca to request a copy.	According to the National Plan for Research, Development and Innovation III 2015- 2020
Elegible topics	All within the conditions as described in the call documents	See national regulations https://www.fct.pt/ap oios/projectos/regula mento.phtml.en	All	All	All	All applied projects	All
Other national restrictions/ requirements		Portuguese teams need to send a statement of commitment to the National Contact Point from FCT Portuguese applicants can only submit one application as Principal Investigator.	*Please consult pg.13 for further information		VGR can only fund costs which relate to the company's outsourcing of research to an RTD performer (research institute, universities or other organizations with research capacity). VGR can co-fund maximum 50% of the company's cost related to the work of the RTD performer. In kind contributions from the SME, such as salary costs, travel expenses, etc are accepted.	As per Genome BC Guidelines for Applicants. Please email ERA@genomebc.ca to request a copy.	



*MZIS: Further information for the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Slovenia

The funding of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Slovenia, will be overall submitted to the national legislation in the field of research and development according to the national Research and Development Act (Zakon o raziskovalni in razvojni dejavnosti - ZRRD, Uradni list RS, št. 22/06 – uradno prečiščeno besedilo, 61/06-ZDru-1, 112/07, 9/11 in 57/12-ZPOP-1A).

Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution: research organizations as defined in the national Research and Development Act (Zakon o raziskovalni in razvojni dejavnosti - ZRRD, Uradni list RS, št. 22/06 – uradno prečiščeno besedilo, 61/06-ZDru-1, 112/07, 9/11 in 57/12-ZPOP-1A) whose primary activity is not economic (universities, public and private research institutes), as defined in the Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation. All participating institutions have to be registered in the Slovenian Research Agency register of research institutions (Sicris).

Eligibility of principal investigator and other research team members: The primary investigator has to fulfill the requirements for project leader as defined in Art. 29 of the national Research and Development Act (Zakon o raziskovalni in razvojni dejavnosti - ZRRD, Uradni list RS, št. 22/06 – uradno prečiščeno besedilo, 61/06-ZDru-1, 112/07, 9/11 in 57/12-ZPOP-1A). The criteria are further determined in the Rules on Determining the Fulfillment of Conditions for a Research Project Leader (Pravilnik o kriterijih za ugotavljanje izpolnjevanja pogojev za vodjo raziskovalnega projekta, Uradni list RS št. 41/09 in 72/11). All participating researchers have to be registered in the Slovenian Research Agency register of researchers (Sicris) and must have available research hours according to the Decree on criteria and standards for allocating resources for the implementation of the National Research and Development Program (Uredba o normativih in standardih za določanje sredstev za izvajanje raziskovalne dejavnosti, financirane iz Proračuna Republike Slovenije, Uradni list RS, št. 103/11, 56/12 in 15/14).

Eligibility of costs: MIZS will fund all 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 Program (Uredba o normativih in standardih za določanje sredstev za izvajanje raziskovalne dejavnosti, financirane iz Proračuna Republike Slovenije, Uradni list RS, št. 103/11, 56/12 in 15/14). Eligible costs are defined based on the FTE value according to the Slovenian Research Agency's research project categorization (B, C or D depending on the research conducted) as defined in according the Decree on criteria and standards for allocating resources for the implementation of the National Research and Development Program (Uredba o normativih in standardih za določanje sredstev za izvajanje raziskovalne dejavnosti, financirane iz Proračuna Republike Slovenije, Uradni list RS, št. 103/11, 56/12 in 15/14). Eligible costs must be directly related to the research conducted and should include personnel (for research staff and technical support according to national rules), material (including travel, consumables and services) and equipment (amortization) costs as elements of the FTE cost. Indirect costs are eligible; the value is calculated based on the FTE value of category D research projects. Research activities cannot be subcontracted.

Rate of funding: 100 %

Total committed budget: 420.000 €

Period of eligibility of expenditures on projects: budget years 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

Total requested funding per project: for all Slovenian partners within one consortium maximum 70.000 € per year (210.000 € for the total project duration of 36 months).

National contracting negotiations will commence after the projects are selected for funding on the level of the transnational call. Further instructions on how to proceed will be communicated by MIZS to successful Slovenian applicants in due time. The consortium agreement between partners in the selected project stating the starting date of the project on the transnational level will be the basis for signing the contract on national level. Its signature by all partners will be a prerequisite for funding.

All Slovenian applicants are strongly advised to contact the Slovenian National Contact Person, Ms. Kim Turk before preparing proposals for application.

Further information on the call in Slovenian language is also available on the MIZŠ webpage.

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*MIPAAF: Further information for the Ministero delle politiche agricole alimentari e forestali, Italy

Eligibility of the projects: The proposals have to be submitted under the topic indicated above. If national research institutions will apply for projects under different topics these projects will not be supported by Mipaaf. The participants must not have requested/got any other funding for the same project.

Nature of the applicants: National public research institutions and private bodies, included in the "Anagrafe Nazionale delle Ricerche" (a National official list of research bodies), can apply for funding.

Financial contribution: The contribution for national participants of the selected projects will amount up to 95% of the approved eligible project costs. According to the usually adopted selection process, the contribution will be proportional to the score obtained in the selection process (% of maximum score, taking into account score-classes of 10 pts; e.g.: 90 -100% of the maximum score \lozenge 95% of eligible costs; 80 - 90% of maximum score \lozenge 90% of the total eligible costs; 70 - 80% \lozenge 85%; etc.).

According to the national regulations the transfer of funds will occur in three steps:

- 1) 20% of the contribution immediately at the issue of the Ministry decree;
- 2) 20 % 60% of the contribution after the approval of one or more mid-term reports (both scientific and administrative);
- 3) 20% of the contribution after the approval of the final report and the presentation of final cost statement.

For private bodies the first and intermediate tranches of the contribution (up to 50% as first step) will be obtained only after the presentation of a surety.

Eligible costs to be refunded.

- A) Personnel
- 1) Salaries Includes permanent and non-permanent scientific staff (including foreign visiting scientists, post docs, PhD students, fellowships and grants). Technical administrative staff can be included as coordination. For public institutions salaries of permanent staff actually participating in the project activity can be funded, proportionally to the time spent for the project activities.
- 2) Travel expenses for permanent and non-permanent staff involved in the project.
- B) Consumables
- C) External activity costs expenditures for external activities carried out by the research applicant (Consultancy services, agreements, maintenance, repairs, material transportation when needed for the project implementation).
- D) Equipments No expenditure will be reimbursed in this call.
- E) Overheads no more than 10% of the total amount of the above mentioned A, B and C costs.

Additional forms: Once the proposal has been approved for funding and during the negotiation Mipaaf PEMAC I, acting as funding body, will ask each research unit of the approved projects to fill in the form used in the last national call, decree 58/2014 of 22 sept 2014 -

https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagi...) and present it to the Mipaaf- PEMAC I to apply for contribution.

In case of a research unit acting as coordinator, the general project description, including the activity of all partners (model A-project form) and the financial sheet for coordination activity, shall be also presented to the funding body. These forms must be written in Italian.

ERA-MBT Second Joint Transnational Call (Call text), page 14/14