

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

“Coordination of European funding for human infectious diseases research”

This document announces the third transnational joint call on human infectious diseases within the framework of the ERA-NET Infect-ERA program. Infect-ERA aims to **coordinate European funding for human infectious diseases research** and builds on the experience and success of two previous calls within this ERA-NET framework.

Joint projects, with a maximum of **six** participants from a minimum of **three** countries participating in this third call, should favourably include participants from academia and clinics and/or industry. Funding will be granted for a maximum of three years with a portion of the total funding being reserved to support projects of young scientists' consortia and networking amongst these. Submissions of proposals will be performed in two steps: The deadline for submitting pre-proposals is **March 18th, 2015** and proposals invited for full proposal submission must be submitted by **July 17th, 2015**. Granted projects will be expected to start at the **end of 2015 / beginning of 2016**.

With a total budget of about 9.9 M€, the following funding organisations are participating in the call (hereinafter referred to as the partners):

- the National Fund for Scientific Research (FNRS-FWB), Belgium
- the Research Foundation Flanders (FWO), Belgium
- the Agency for Innovation by Science and Technology (IWT- Flanders), Belgium
- 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 Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology (DBT), India
- the Chief Scientist Office, Ministry of Health (CSO-MOH), Israel
- the Italian Ministry of Health (MoH), Italy
- the National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR), Poland
- the National Science Centre (NCN), Poland
- the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), Portugal
- the Ministry of National Education (MEN), Romania
- the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (MINECO), Spain

The call is centrally coordinated by the Infect-ERA Joint Call Secretariat, which is for this call 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.

Joint Call Secretariat contact:

<p>Dr. Henrike Knizia</p> <p>Project Management Jülich Division Life Sciences, Health, Universities of applied Sciences (LGF)</p> <p>Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH 52425 Jülich Germany</p> <p>phone: +49 2461 61-9758 fax: +49 2461 61-9080</p> <p>h.knizia@fz-juelich.de www.fz-juelich.de/ptj</p>

The general regulations given in this call text and in the guidelines for applicants apply to all applicants. In addition, there are national regulations of the funding organisations in each partner country. Applicants must refer and adhere to the specific regulations of the national funding organisations (partly given in the call text and the guidelines for applicants; please also contact national contact person).

1. Aim of the call

With this third 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 ID. This call will enable multinational, collaborative research projects that address a specific topic of human infectious diseases research.

Scientists' consultation provided a catalogue of research topics that indicated the current ID research challenges and the tools and methods to address these in the near future. Based on these topics two main research themes, which are equal in relevance for this call, were identified:

- The host-pathogen interaction in regards to clinically relevant strains and the assessment of factors influencing this interplay.
- Diagnostics based on components of host-pathogen interaction, including development of markers for a clinical and personalized setting and detection of high risk clones in various diseases.

To address these themes, the proposals should integrate one of the following approaches:

- (i) Application of novel approaches and technologies such as genomics, metagenomics, transcriptomics, metabolomics, and mass spectrometric analyses to address infection biology as a whole regardless of the type of pathogen (bacteria, virus, protozoa or fungi).
- (ii) Integration of new approaches to understand the effect of the pathogen upon its interaction with the host and to develop biomarkers, preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic tools.

Proposals with topics HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B/C, malaria and tuberculosis are not in the scope of the call.

Potential topics of the proposals could include:

- investigation on host-pathogen interactions, activation or prevention of host immune response,
- investigation of host (human or animal), microbiome, vector (for vector-borne diseases) and pathogen interactions and co-evolution
- development of new tools or strategies for diagnosing and monitoring infections, development of new procedures for faster/more cost-efficient diagnostics,
- new animal and animal-free models to investigate the alteration of the host-pathogen-interactions by antimicrobials/antivirals.

The proposals should favourably a) show a close cooperation between academic and clinical and/or industrial participants, b) convincingly present the application (exploitation) of the project results, and c) demonstrate a clear benefit to the public.

2. Application

2.1 Eligibility

Each consortium submitting a proposal must involve:

- a maximum of six partners,
- a maximum of two partners per country,
- a minimum of three partners, which must be eligible for funding by their applicable funding organisations of the three different countries that must all be participating in this call (see the list of funding organisations above).

Non-funded project partners may also be part of the consortia if they are able to clearly demonstrate an added value to the consortium and secure their own funding. However, the coordinator and the majority of partners in a consortium must be eligible for the funding organisations participating in this call, and the maximum number of six participants may not be exceeded in any case. If one of the partners is not eligible the proposal will be rejected without further review.

To ensure an impartial evaluation procedure Infect-ERA members participating in the call document preparation, the Network Steering Committee (NSC) and/or the evaluation procedures are not allowed to apply for project funding.

Please refer to the Guidelines for Applicants for further details, and to the specific funding options and restrictions of national funding organisations in the present document.

2.2 Consortia of Young Scientists

Part of the available funding is dedicated especially to consortia of young scientists. Each project leader of such consortia must be a “young scientist”, which is defined as having been awarded a PhD or equivalent at least two and a maximum of nine years before the deadline for submission of pre-proposals (periods of maternity/paternity leave or military service shall be taken into account).

2.3 Submission of joint transnational proposals

Submissions of proposals will be realized 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. For this a submission tool will be implemented (www.submission-infect-era.eu).

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

December 16th 2014	Pre-announcement of the third joint transnational call
January 19th, 2015 (17:00, CET)	Publication of the third joint transnational call
March 18th, 2015	Deadline for pre-proposal submission
End of May, 2015	Communication of the results of the pre-proposal assessment (invitation for full proposal)
July 17th, 2015 (17:00, CET)	Deadline for full proposal submission
September 2015	Peer Review Panel Meeting and funding recommendation to national funding agencies
December 2015	Communication of the funding decisions to the applicants
End of 2015, beginning 2016	Expected projects start (also subject to national procedures)

2.4 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 Guidelines for Applicants and if applicable in the National Announcements.** Applicants must contact their national funding agencies (see contact details below) to check their compliance with the national rules.

The funds provided by each funding organisation 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. The list of the funded projects titles and partners will be published on the webpage of Infect-ERA (www.infect-era.eu).

All project participants selected for funding 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.

Anticipated funding provided by each party

Name of Organisation	Country	Contribution
National fund for Scientific Research (FNRS-FWB)	Belgium	0.2 M€
Research Foundation Flanders (FWO)	Belgium	0.4 M€ (indicative)
Agency for Innovation by Science and Technology (IWT- Flanders)	Belgium	1.0 M€
French National Research Agency (ANR)	France	2.5 M€
Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) represented by Project Management Jülich (PtJ)	Germany	2.2 M€
Hungarian Academy of Science (HAS) and the Hungarian Scientific Research Fund (OTKA)	Hungary	0.13 M€
Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology (DBT)	India	0.39 – 0.64 M€ (30-50 MINR)
Chief Scientist Office, Ministry of Health (CSO-MOH)	Israel	Up to 0.2 M€
Italian Ministry of Health	Italy	0.6 M€
National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR)	Poland	0.5 M€
National Science Centre (NCN)	Poland	0.5 M€ (indicative)
Science and Technology Foundation (FCT)	Portugal	0.325 M€
Ministry of National Education (MEN)	Romania	0.3 M€
Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (MINECO)	Spain	0.6 M€

2.5 Partnering web tool

A Partnering tool is 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 all information to the other participants within his/her consortium. Each country has national contact persons, who have to be contacted for information about the specific national requirements (see table below).

Country	Agency	Contact person	E-Mail
Belgium	FNRS	Dr. Arnaud Goolaerts	arnaud.goolaerts@frs-fnrs.be +32 2 504 93 28
	FWO	Olivier Boehme	eranet@fwo.be +32 25501545
	IWT	Dr. Hendrik De Bondt	hdb@iwt.be +32 2 432 42 12
France Infect-ERA Coordination	ANR	Dr. Heidi Ligeret	heidi.ligeret@agencerecherche.fr +33 1 78 09 80 44
Germany Joint Call Secretariat	PT Jülich	Dr. Henrike Knizia	h.knizia@fz-juelich.de +49 2461 61 9758
Hungary	HAS/OTKA	Dr. Levente Emödy	levente.emody@aok.pte.hu +36 20 446 3501
Israel	CSO-MOH	Dr. Ahmi Ben-Yehudah Dr. Irit Allon	ahmi.by@moh.health.gov.il allonirit1@gmail.com
Italy	MoH	Dr. Gaetano Guglielmi	g.guglielmi@sanita.it
India	DBT	Dr. Shailja V. Gupta	shailja.dbt@nic.in
Poland	NCBR	Dr. Marcin Chmielewski	marcin.chmielewski@ncbr.gov.pl
	NCN	Dr. Magdalena Kowalczyk Ms. Sylwia Kostka	magdalena.kowalczyk@ncn.gov.pl +48 12 3419160 sylwia.kostka@ncn.gov.pl +48 12 3419018
Portugal	FCT	Dr. Anabela Isidro	anabela.isidro@fct.pt +35 121 3911552
		Dr. Ricardo Peirera	ricardo.pereira@fct.pt +35 121 3924479
Romania	MEN	Dr. Ioana Ispas	ioana.ispas@ancs.ro +4021 212 7791
Spain	MINECO	Dr. David González Martínez	infect-era@mineco.es

Summary of funding options and restrictions (I)

Funding Body/ Country	FNRS-FWB/ Belgium	FWO/ Belgium	IWT-Flanders/ Belgium	ANR/ France	BMBF/ Germany	OTKA, HAS/ Hungary	DBT/ India
Funding of industrial project partners;	No	No	Yes	Yes	up to 50%	Yes	See Guidelines for Applicants
participation of industry required?	No	No	Yes	No	preferred	No	See Guidelines for Applicants
Maximum funding per project partner	0.2M€	200 k €	250 k€	Minimum amount per partner: 15 k€. Maximum funding per partner: 250 k€.	Maximum funding per partner: 320 k€.	75 Keuro	the requested budget depends on the scientific need and justification for the budget.
Maximum funding per project	0.2M€	200 k €	250 k€	No; the requested budget depends on the scientific need and justification for the budget.	no	75 Keuro	The requested budget depends on the scientific need and justification for the budget.
Eligible costs	See national guidelines	staff, consumables, equipment (see national guidelines)	See national guidelines	Personnel, Consumables, Animals, Subcontracts (if costs < 50% eligible costs), Equipment, Travel See French Annex for details at http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/InfectEra2015-en	See national guidelines	Consumables, mobility and overheads	See Guidelines for Applicants

Additional documents required	No		IWT eligibility supporting documents as described in 'National restrictions' chapter	No	National application forms after funding recommendation	application forms of the national funding agency will be required to be filled out after funding recommendation	See Guidelines for Applicants
Other national restrictions *	See national guidelines		See separate document with the IWT eligibility criteria (project abstract, Flanders added value description, Several hardcopy signed declaration, ...)	For projects selected for funding: a copy of the signed consortium agreement established between the consortium partners must be provided to ANR before the first payment to the French researchers involved in the project.	no	No funded or pending projects are eligible on the same subject No salaries for applicants No equipment	See Guidelines for Applicants

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

Summary of funding options and restrictions (II)

Funding Body/ Country	CSO-MOH/ Israel	MoH/Italy	NCBR/ Poland	NCN/ Poland	FCT/ Portugal	MEN/ Romania	MINECO/ Spain
Funding of industrial project partners;	No	No	Yes	No	Up to 50%	No	No
participation of industry required?	No	No	No	No	No	No	Although enterprises won't be funded through this call by the MINECO, the Spanish private sector is very much welcome to participate as associate with Spanish research institutions, using their own funds or funding from other national or regional calls.
Maximum funding per project partner	Up to 100000 euros	200.000€	No	0.5 M €	200 K€ for a proposal with Portuguese coordination ; 125 K€ for a proposal with Portuguese participation ;	No	up to 100,000 € per project partner (up to 150,000 € per project) up to 150.000 € per project coordinator (up to 200.000 € per project)
Maximum funding per project	Up to 100000 euros	200.000€	No	0.5 M €	200 K€ for a proposal with Portuguese coordination ; 125 K€ for a proposal with Portuguese participation ;	No	up to 100,000 € per project partner (up to 150,000 € per project) up to 150.000 € per project coordinator (up to 200.000 € per project)

Eligible costs	See national guidelines	See national guidelines	See national guidelines	Applicants are obliged to adhere to the rules included in the following document: http://www.ncn.gov.pl/sites/default/files/pliki/katalog%20kosztow.pdf		Personnel, consumables, equipment, travel, subcontracts	Eligibility of Direct Costs depends on the 2015 Call for International Joint Programming Actions 2015 (to be published on 2015 in the B.O.E)
Additional documents required	1)-Prior to deadline, a short summary should be submitted to CSO-MOH by email, with Research authority cc'ed. Summary should include: Project name and acronym, project partners and affiliations, requested budget and Description of work with emphasis on Israeli partner. The total length should not exceed 1 page. Information not received at CSO-MOH before grant submission may result in declaring the proposal as not eligible for funding. 2)-National application forms will be filled only after funding recommendation	Pre-submission eligibility check form, see national guidelines	No	Applicants must provide basic administrative data via the OSF electronic submission system	Statement of commitment must be sent to the FCT National Contact Point duly signed, dated and stamped by the Head of the Portuguese applicant organisation and by the PI, at the pre-proposal stage. Available at: http://www.fct.pt/apoios/cooptrans/eranets/Infect-ERA/index.phtml.en	After a positive evaluation and funding recommendation a formal application needs to be submitted to UEFISCDI	None
Other national restrictions *	No concomitant funding is eligible	No concomitant other JTC 2015 is eligible See Guidelines for Applicants	See national guidelines	See national eligibility requirements	http://www.fct.pt/apoios/projectos/regulamento.phtml.en	http://www.research.edu.ro	Please check the 2015 Call for International Joint Programming Actions 2015 (to be published on 2015 in the B.O.E) Other relevant information at: Web link to SGPINT at MINECO

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