

Frequently asked questions – Third ERA-CAPS Call

1. Scope of the Call

Q 1: Which topics can be addressed in the framework of this Call?

A 1: Please refer to section 4 of the Call Notice. The main call is broad in scope, covering all areas of molecular plant science. There is also a Sub-Call on Data Challenges in Plant Sciences. You can apply either to the main call or to the sub-call or to both. Please also consult the National Annex of your participating national funding organisation, because there may be restrictions with some of the participating organisations as to what can be funded, due to the specific profile or portfolio of the respective organisation.

2. Eligibility

Q 2: Who can apply?

A 2: Eligibility varies as it depends on the rules of the relevant national funding programmes. The call is open for researchers from universities and research centres. Partners from industry are generally welcome, but most of the participating funding organisations will not fund project parts of private partners. Please refer to section 8 of the Call Notice, and the relevant National Annexes. Prospective partners are strongly recommended to discuss eligibility with their national/regional funding agency, if in doubt or if recommended in the respective National Annex, and in any case, if industry partners are to be involved in the consortium.

Q 3: What is the minimum size of the Consortium in the framework of the ERA-CAPS call? Are there any restrictions regarding the composition of the Consortium?

A 3: The Consortium must consist of a minimum of three partners located in three different countries. At least two of these must be ERA-CAPS call-participating countries (i.e. have funding organisations contributing funds to the call), as specified in the Call Notice. All participating funding organisations have equal status in the call. Consequently, consortia may be made up of any combination of partners (following the guidance in Q2). A US partner is not compulsory in a consortium (as the Call title might seem to imply to some applicants).

There is no maximum number of partners; however, the individual consortium must demonstrate that its size is manageable with respect to project coordination. It is, therefore, strongly recommended to not involve more than seven partners in a consortium.

Q 4: Can partners outside the ERA-CAPS partner countries/regions participate?

A 4: Additional project partners can join consortia if they can provide their own source of funding. A self-funded partner can join a consortium as a third partner (see Q3/A3).

Q 5: Can applicants be involved in more than one project?

A 5: PIs may in any case not be involved in more than two pre-proposals. However, some funding organisations will accept only one application per PI. Please consult table 3 in the Call Notice and contact your National Call Coordinator in case there are further questions.

Q 6: Will we be able to re-submit a revised proposal by the same/ a very similar consortium in case we were not successful in the previous ERA-CAPS calls?

A 6: Generally, resubmission will be acceptable. However, please note that there are some changes to this call compared to the previous call, e.g. the funding organisations involved are partially different, and there may be limitations to the number of PIs from the same country (per proposal) as specified in table 3 of the Call Notice. These changes would need to be accounted for in a revised application. Also, please take the feedback of the external reviewers and the panel into account and address any concerns or objections appropriately. It is recommended that you contact your National Call Coordinator before preparing a revised proposal.

Q 7: Is there a maximum level of project costs that should originate in any one country within a project?

A 7: Please consult the National Annex of your participating national funding organisation. There is a maximum funding level specified for some countries.

3. Application Process

Q 8: Do all prospective applicants have to contact their National Call Coordinator (NCC) prior to pre-proposal submission?

A 8: Please refer to the relevant National Annex to find out whether this is generally required from your national/ regional funding organisation. Even if it is not, all applicants planning to involve private partners should contact their NCC before going ahead with the proposal preparation.

Q 9: Where can I find all the necessary forms for submitting a proposal?

A 9: Please use the forms provided at the ERA-CAPS Third Call website exclusively, plus the online form (electronic form) in elan: The *Call Notice*, the application guidelines (*Guidelines for Application*), the *Application Form*, the templates for CVs and for CoIs, can be downloaded from the ERA-CAPS website <http://www.eracaps.org/era-caps-calls/era-caps-third-call>. The elan user manual for ERA-CAPS pre-proposals is also available at this website (for elan, please see below Q11/A11).

Q 10: In the *Guidelines for Application*, a limit of four pages for the *project description* is stipulated. However, the reference list that I may wish to include is not specifically mentioned. Would it be acceptable to list the references on a fifth page?

A 10: Half a page extra *only* for references would be acceptable. However, please make sure that the actual project description without the references does not exceed four pages.

Q 11: How does the online submission work?

A 11: For its third Call, ERA-CAPS uses DFG's online submission system elan. Access to the system is granted via the following weblink: https://elan.dfg.de/dana-na/auth/url_3/welcome.cgi. Each user must register on the website prior to gaining access to the submission system. **Please follow the instructions in the ERA-CAPS 3rd Call elan Manual for pre-proposals**, which can be downloaded from the ERA-CAPS website (<http://www.eracaps.org/era-caps-calls/era-caps-third-call>). **Make sure to select "Draft Proposal for a Research Grant"** (draft proposal = pre-proposal) when starting the online form. There should be no request appearing in the online form to enter any cost details at the pre-proposal stage, else you have been using the wrong form.

Currently, there is an error occurring with respect to the funding duration specified in the electronically generated factsheet called 'Formdata': the funding duration is indicated as '1 Months', which is obviously incorrect. Please ignore this error and continue your submission procedure. This error should be corrected by Thursday evening (22nd Sept.).

Q 12: Do all the involved PIs and Co-PIs have to register in Elan, or only those requesting a budget? Do all researchers involved at each institution have to submit their CVs/list their Conflicts of Interest (CoI)?

A 12: For the online form in elan, all the PIs requesting funding have to be entered, plus any "self-funded" partners, but excluding any private partners (institutional/ industry partners cannot be entered into elan at the pre-proposal stage). Co-PIs who do not request any funds themselves do not have to register in elan. However, CVs/CoIs of Co-PIs not requesting funding should be included in the respective PDF documents in order to facilitate the subsequent review process.

Q 13: Does every partner have to submit a pre-proposal, or is there just one joint pre-proposal for the consortium? Who should submit?

A 13: There is just **one joint pre-proposal** required per consortium. One consortium member from an ERA-CAPS country contributing funding to the call must submit the pre-proposal on behalf of the consortium, using the electronic submission tool elan (see Q9/A9). This does not have to be the Project Leader. However, **all PIs need to be registered in elan** (please see Q12/A12). The Call Secretariat will forward the proposal documents to the involved ERA-CAPS partner organisations.

Some funding agencies will require the submission of further documents and/or supporting information in parallel to the proposal submission, or at a later stage. Please refer to the relevant National Annexes, and/or contact your National Call Coordinator.

Q 14: Will I receive a confirmation of receipt?

A 14: The consortium member submitting the pre-proposal will receive an automatic email confirming receipt of the submitted proposal.

Q 15: Is it necessary to provide a Consortium Agreement with the proposal?

A 15: A Consortium Agreement is not required at the time of submission. A template for a Consortium Agreement will be provided by ERA-CAPS. This template is highly recommended to be used by ERA-CAPS consortia that are selected for funding. The Consortium Agreement should be

signed before the project starts. If one or more private partners are involved, the Consortium Agreement must be signed before the first national/regional funding installments can be transferred.

Q 16: Can I request an extension of the deadline to submit a pre-proposal to the third ERA-CAPS Call?

A 16: No. The Call deadline for Pre-proposals is fixed: 28 September, 2016, 12:00 CET