

## PRE-ANNOUNCEMENT of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ERA-CAPS CALL<sup>1</sup>

### Europe-USA Call strengthening transnational research in the Molecular Plant Sciences

The ERA-NET Coordinating Action in Plant Sciences (ERA-CAPS) will issue its third Transnational Call for Proposals for Collaborative Research Projects on **June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016**. The Call Notice will be published at [www.eraCaps.org](http://www.eraCaps.org) and respective sources of information. The purpose of this pre-announcement is to enable interested parties to build their consortia and start preparing their proposals. The call for pre-proposals will close on the **28<sup>th</sup> of September 2016, 12.00 CET**.

#### 1. Network-partners

The ERA-CAPS network comprises currently 9 partners from 8 European countries and the USA, and 11 observers (10 of them funding organisations). Building on the ERA-CAPS ERA-NET that was supported by the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme until mid 2015, ERA-CAPS has now become a self-sustained network. The network is coordinated by BBSRC, UK. The ERA-CAPS Call Secretariat will continue to be hosted by the DFG (Germany).

**Table 1** ERA-CAPS Network Partners that confirmed to contribute financially to the 3rd ERA-CAPS call

<b>FWF</b>	<b>Austrian Science Fund</b>	<b>AUSTRIA</b>
<b>F.R.S.-FNRS</b>	<b>Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique</b>	<b>BELGIUM</b>
<b>DFG</b>	<b>Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft</b>	<b>GERMANY</b>
<b>NCN</b>	<b>National Science Centre</b>	<b>POLAND</b>
<b>MPNTR</b>	<b>Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development</b>	<b>SERBIA</b>
<b>SNSF</b>	<b>Swiss National Science Foundation</b>	<b>SWITZERLAND</b>
<b>BBSRC</b>	<b>Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council</b>	<b>UNITED KINGDOM</b>
<b>NSF</b>	<b>National Science Foundation</b>	<b>USA</b>

#### 2. Purpose of the call

The objective of this call is to stimulate true collaboration between research teams of different countries in order to achieve the highest quality projects, to increase synergies between national programmes and to strengthen international research in molecular plant sciences. The funding partners agree that this unifying approach is a fundamental prerequisite to maximise the utility of the limited resources available and to meet the European and global demand for molecular plant science innovation with a long-term perspective.

#### 3. Research themes

By agreement of the funding organisations involved, the third joint call launched by ERA-CAPS will follow the same broad scope as described in the previous joint calls. It will cover all areas of molecular plant science, allowing maximum engagement of the plant scientists.

<sup>1</sup> The content of the call described in this pre-announcement may be subject to changes and is not legally binding to the funding agencies.

No specific topics have been defined; however, the themes below have been identified as being of common interest to several of the funding organisations and align, among others, with the overarching themes of the Joint Programming Initiative for Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change (FACCE-JPI). These are examples of areas of research where we would welcome high quality applications, but they do not exclude other areas of molecular plant science.

- **Food and Nutrition Security:** research that contributes to the sustainable and secure supply of safe and nutritious food for an increasing global population. This includes yield optimisation, quality traits and nutrient use efficiency, amongst other research areas.
- **Non-food crops:** this theme includes research into crops (or appropriate models) where the end-use includes bioenergy or industrial biotechnology.
- **Adaptation to a changing climate:** research that addresses how plants can adapt, or be adapted, to thrive in a changing environment.
- **Biotic/abiotic stresses:** this theme includes research into plant responses to either biotic or abiotic stress, or how plants contend with a combination of biotic and abiotic stresses.

Applications in **other areas** of molecular plant science are welcomed where the research answers fundamental biological questions of relevance to the development of the European and Global Research Area in molecular plant science.

In addition, the 2016 Call will have a **data-oriented sub-call** that may vary from the main call in terms of funding agency participation. Details about the sub-call will be provided at the time of the Call Notice on 23 June 2016. Questions may also be addressed to agency contacts identified in the contact list below.

#### 4. Call structure and eligibility

At the moment 8 organisations from 8 countries have confirmed participation in this third call. This number may increase before the call launch as decisions are pending (Table 1). The exact funds committed by each partner are not specified, though budget estimates for individual countries may be given in the National Annexes. National Annexes will be published with the Call Notice on 23 June 2016 and will describe country-specific requirements.

Each national funding organisation will fund only the project participants from its own country/ region. The Call is open to research groups from other countries under eligibility criteria to be published alongside the Call Notice provided they can demonstrate availability of resources to support their participation in the joint project.

The maximum duration of projects will be three years.

##### ***Minimal requirement for an applying consortium:***

*A consortium should minimally include 3 partners from 3 different countries, at least 2 of them being participating ERA-CAPS partners identified in Table 1. Projects may be supported by companies, but companies might not receive public funds, subject to national funding regulations.*

**A single applicant may participate in up to two consortia, however just once as a Project leader.**

In addition, some funding agencies (specifically BBSRC and SNF) allow for **only one national applicant per consortium**.

## 5. Application and evaluation

There will be a two-stage application procedure (pre-proposals and full proposals) and accordingly a two-stage review procedure. Pre-proposals and full proposals will be submitted via DFG's electronic submission system Elan.

The applications will be reviewed by a Review Panel composed of scientific experts. After evaluation of the pre-proposals, selected applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal. Full proposals will be peer reviewed by external reviewers before further consideration and ranking by the Review Panel.

Application Guidelines and forms will be published at [www.eracaps.org](http://www.eracaps.org) with the Call Notice on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2016.

## 6. Time schedule (as planned)

<b>Call Announcement:</b>	<b>23 June 2016</b>
<b>Due-date pre-proposals:</b>	<b>28 September 2016; 12.00 CET</b>
<b>Invitation full proposals:</b>	<b>07 January 2017</b>
<b>Due-date full proposals:</b>	<b>31 March 2017; 12.00 CET</b>
<b>Peer Review</b>	<b>April- June 2017</b>
<b>Rebuttal:</b>	<b>June 2017</b>
<b>Communications of evaluation results:</b>	<b>September 2017</b>
<b>Funding decisions:</b>	<b>Autumn 2017</b>
<b>Start of selected projects:</b>	<b>Spring 2018</b>

## 7. Contact

Further information can be obtained from the [ERA-CAPS Call secretariat](#) and from the respective National contact persons:

Country	Contact person & Organisation	Email / Phone
AUSTRIA	Dr. Bettina Reitner Austrian Science Fund	<a href="mailto:Bettina.reitner@fwf.ac.at">Bettina.reitner@fwf.ac.at</a> +43 1 5056740 8203
BELGIUM	Freia van Hee Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique - FNRS	<a href="mailto:Freia.vanHee@frs-fnrs.be">Freia.vanHee@frs-fnrs.be</a> +32 2 504 9309
GERMANY	Dr. Catherine Kistner Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft	<a href="mailto:Catherine.kistner@dfg.de">Catherine.kistner@dfg.de</a> +49 228 885 2803
POLAND	Dr. Magdalena Kowalczyk National Science Centre (NCN)	<a href="mailto:Magdalena.Kowalczyk@ncn.gov.pl">Magdalena.Kowalczyk@ncn.gov.pl</a> +48 12 3419160
	Dr. Malwina Gebalska National Science Centre (NCN)	<a href="mailto:Malwina.Gebalska@ncn.gov.pl">Malwina.Gebalska@ncn.gov.pl</a> +48 12 3419017
SERBIA	Zeljka Dukic Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development	<a href="mailto:zeljka.dukic@mpn.gov.rs">zeljka.dukic@mpn.gov.rs</a> +381 11 3616 529
SWITZERLAND	Dr. Véronique Planchamp Swiss National Science Foundation	<a href="mailto:veronique.planchamp@snf.ch">veronique.planchamp@snf.ch</a> +41 31 308 22 95
UNITED KINGDOM	Dr. Paul Wiley Biotechnology and Biological Science Research	<a href="mailto:Paul.wiley@bbsrc.ac.uk">Paul.wiley@bbsrc.ac.uk</a> +44 1793 413379

	Council	
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	Dr. Anne Sylvester National Science Foundation	<a href="mailto:asylvest@nsf.gov">asylvest@nsf.gov</a> +1 703 292-7168

This new funding call aims at developing new collaborations as well as strengthening and enlarging existing partnerships; therefore, applicants are encouraged to consider inviting partners throughout the whole network of countries. To foster this process, ERA-CAPS offers a web-based **[Search for collaborations](#)** tool. The information available from previous calls (currently running ERA-CAPS projects: <http://www.eracaps.org/joint-calls/era-caps-funded-projects>) and from the Plant Science Database (<http://www.eracaps.org/plant-science-database>) will be augmented with the profiles and partner-search-requests from any new candidates, who can post their data through an on-line survey. The link to this survey can be found at the above mentioned 'ERA-CAPS Search for collaborations' page (<http://www.eracaps.org/search-collaborations>).