

FLAG-ERA

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Research funding organisations in Europe launch Joint Transnational Call for Proof of Concept projects in the field of the Flagship Pilots

Nine research funding organisations gathered in Europe are launching a Joint Transnational Call (JTC) for proposals worth 14 M€ in support of transnational research in the field of the Flagship Pilots on 22 January 2016. The Call will cover four topics, each corresponding to the domain of a [Flagship Pilot](#) :

- [ICT for Social Sciences \(ICTSS\)](#)
- [High-Efficiency Sensor Networks \(HESN\)](#)
- [Digital Medicine for Cancer \(DMC\)](#)
- [Cooperative Robots \(CR\)](#)

The nine research funding organisations are from seven different countries/regions: Belgium, France, Italy, Latvia, Romania, Switzerland, and Turkey. Applications are encouraged to involve partners from all these countries or regions.

Since the objective is to foster large scale cooperation at the European level, contrarily to more traditional ERA-NET calls, the goal is to support one inclusive project per topic. While stemming from the Flagship preparatory actions, this new call is open to research teams independently of whether they were members of the Pilot consortia or not.

In the process of selecting the first two Flagships, namely the Graphene Flagship and the Human Brain Project (HBP), four other candidates were pre-selected out of 21 proposals and led to Flagship preparatory actions, also known as “Pilots”: FuturICT, Guardian Angels, IT Future of Medicine, and Robot Companions. Though these four Pilots were eventually not selected in the second phase, they have identified topics where the Flagship model could bring much added value and have generated considerable interest in many European countries. The new JTC 2016 call will support projects in the fields of these four Flagship Pilots, with the aim of building on the visions they have identified.

In total, FLAG-ERA gathers 39 research and innovation funding agencies, research councils and ministries (NRFOS) from 26 countries within the EU and beyond, all working together to create an environment that enables the coordination of national and regional funding to support the Flagships as well as to offer support to the four FET Flagship Pilots to progress towards their goals. FLAG-ERA stands for ‘the Flagship ERA-NET’. It is funded by the EC under the 7th Framework Programme for an initial three year period until September 2016.

The FLAG-ERA JTC 2016 aims at supporting projects showing, through the implementation of selected activities in the topics of the Pilots, how the possibilities offered by the Flagship model can bring added value. These Flagship-proof-of-concept projects should thus showcase federative activities with the potential to leverage other relevant initiatives and to develop a long-lasting coordination of a large cluster of European and international research centres sharing the proposed unifying vision. They should be complementary with existing initiatives and focus on transformative activities with a high potential impact, in particular through changes of organisation and practices (e.g., by bringing together different disciplines or by developing new methodologies, evaluation metrics, benchmarking protocols, data production and sharing protocols, test platforms, and other tools supporting coordination of efforts and



reproducibility of experiments). They should also organise networking activities with the research community interested in the topic and deliver plans and recommendations to further develop activities and collaborations along the previous lines in order to reach maximum impact.

For each topic, an independent international evaluation panel composed of eminent scientists will assess the proposals, with the help of external experts if needed. The deadline for submitting applications is 31 March 2016.

To learn more about the exact topics of the call, the expected participating funding organisations, the eligibility and evaluation criteria, please consult the official announcement of the call at <http://www.flagera.eu/?q=FLAG-ERA-call-2016>.

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Web links:

FLAG-ERA official website: <http://www.flagera.eu>

Information on the FET Flagship programme:

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/programme/fet/flagship>

Information on the 4 FET Flagship Pilots:

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/programme/fet/flagship/6pilots_en.html