FLAG-ERA II
Deliverable D10.2
Funding opportunities for the Flagships

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Author	Marie-Alexandra Neouze	Marie-alexandra.neouze@anr.fr	
WP/Task leader	Maryam Crabbe-Mann	maryam.crabbe-mann@epsrc.ukri.org	
EC project officer	Jean-Marie Auger		
Description of content	This deliverable reports on the funding opportunities for researchers working in the domain of Flagships and for the Flagships.		
Publishable abstract	This deliverable reports on the various funding opportunities identified or created by FLAG-ERA for the researchers or for the Flagships. It also reports on the communication mean mobilized by FLAG-ERA to ensure dissemination of this information.		
Keywords	Partnering projects; Graphene Flagship; HBP; transnational additional call; SCOPE grants; National Hubs; EIC Transfer		

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1   Introduction

The Workpackage 10 of FLAG-ERA II covers the transversal coordination for the additional activities of the FLAG-ERA consortium. One of the objectives is to contribute to the identification of funding opportunities for the researchers and for the Flagships. The identified information is then communicated to the concerned group, namely the funding organizations or the researchers or the Flagship.

The following funding opportunities are presented below: travel grants for the FLAG-ERA researchers, additional trans-national FLAG-ERA call, preferential access to the EBRAINS platform for the FLAG-ERA projects, information about the EBRAINS National Hubs, national or regional funding opportunities and the eligibility of the FLAG-ERA projects to the EIC Transfer grants.

2   Travel grants to enable FLAG-ERA researchers meetings with Flagship members

As described in previous deliverables, the CSA SCOPE was of great support for the Flagships, for FLAG-ERA and for the involved researchers. The FLAG-ERA funding requested by the researchers in their proposals include project consortium meetings but in general does not include traveling budget for meetings with the Flagship.

During the period from early 2017 until md-2020, the CSA Scope offered the possibility for the researchers funded in the frame of the FLAG-ERA projects to apply for travel grants. The travels granted did correspond to meetings between the FLAG-ERA researchers and the Flagship members, at annual workshops, such as the Graphene Week or the HBP Summit, or at additional meetings.

The communication towards the researchers about these travel grants was ensured by the Partnering divisions of the Flagships. Researchers were informed while proceeding to the partnering with the Flagship at the start of their project, and additionally the communication was renewed at each Partnering division meeting of the Flagships and at the occasion of the FLAG-ERA project meetings.

The number of grants incurred and any other information may be found in the SCOPE public reports: https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/730033/results

After ending of the CSA SCOPE, this travel grant activity was pursued by the Graphene Flagships Core 3.

3   Additional FLAG-ERA Call 2021

At the light of the successful call 2019, where 25 projects were funded corresponding to a budget of more than 16 million euros and a success rate of 30%, the funding organizations participating to FLAG-ERA did agree in 2020, despite pandemic, to the launch of an additional transnational call dedicated to the Graphene and HBP domains in order to proceed supporting researchers and Flagships in their activities.

The call 2021 was an important opportunity of indirect funding and support for the Flagships activities and direct for the researchers involved in these domains.

The additional call, designed in tight collaboration between the representatives of both Flagships and the FLAG-ERA representatives, was published end of 2020. The communication was made using the social networks as well as the websites of the Flagships and of FLAG-ERA.

For this additional call, the effective budget is of 9.7 M€. The results were published on the FLAG-ERA website: https://www.flagera.eu/flag-era-calls/flag-era-joint-transnational-call-jtc-2021/jtc-2021-funded-projects/

4   Access to the EBRAINS platform for the FLAG-ERA projects / Communication about EBRAINS National Hubs

Access to the EBRAINS platform for the FLAG-ERA projects

The HBP liaison groups gathering representatives of FLAG-ERA and the HBP allowed to set in place an interesting and efficient workflow, profitable for the Flagship as well as for the researchers. Indeed, the projects selected in the frame of the FLAG-ERA transnational calls are encouraged to use E-BRAINS services, which are for free, as described in the call text and reported below.

"Costs for using EBRAINS services.

The use of EBRAINS services will be free for the FLAG-ERA projects (with a few exceptions, see below). In particular, the Data and Knowledge service will give priority to requests for data curation at no cost from FLAG-ERA projects. Projects are encouraged 1) to follow one of the paths for combined journal publication and publication of data on EBRAINS (https://ebrains.eu/services/data-knowledge/share-data) and to describe in their proposal which path they are planning to follow, and 2) to use the "Curation request form" on EBRAINS Share Data to deliver information concerning the curation need.
For projects that will require development of significant new functionalities that go beyond present planning of EBRAINS services, applicants are advised to describe their needs and request information through the service email for the FLAG-ERA call: flag-era2021@ebrains.eu . For projects with high demands for high-performance computing or large data storage, conditions for access can be found at https://fenix-ri.eu/access. More information can be requested through the service email for the FLAG-ERA call: flag-era2021@ebrains.eu. "

The free use of EBRAINS services for the FLAG-ERA projects is real win-win situation. It allows the projects to play a proactive role and thus delivering highly valuable feedback to EBRAINS for their development. The use of EBRAINS by the FLAG-ERA projects also offers the possibility to the funding agencies to better evaluate the need of their research community of the infrastructure and eventually the advantage of future financial support to EBRAINS.

EBRAINS National Nodes

In the frame of the FLAG-ERA HBP liaison group meetings and of the FLAG-ERA general assemblies, the HBP did communicate to the national and regional funding agencies about the formation of EBRAINS National Nodes. This allows the funding organizations also to estimate the size of the research community interested in the development of EBRAINS.

This communication about the National Nodes represents a very effective way for EBRAINS to help the funding organizations and the European countries to weight the need of funding and estimate to the impact of such funding on their community.

5   Eligibility of the FLAG-ERA funded projects to the EIC Transfer grants

The ERA-NETs from the FET initiative of Horizon 2020 are eligible for submission to the EIC Transfer calls launched under Horizon Europe. Considering the other eligibility criterion on the starting and ending dates of the projects, almost all FLAG-ERA funded projects, from all sub-calls, are/were eligible to the new instrument.

The EIC Transfer grants are meant to support the transfer toward higher TRL, and toward marker, of remarkable scientific projects.

In the first EIC Transfer call in 2021, 3 FLAG-ERA project did submit a proposal. And 3 other calls will be open in 2022.

The communication toward the FLAG-ERA funded project partners was ensured by email to the project partners, and the communication was also made during the FLAG-ERA project workshops.

6   National funding opportunities

Some national initiatives in the corresponding domains were launched in parallel to the FLAG-ERA activities.

The information concerning these national funding opportunities were collected in the frame of the FLAG-ERA liaison groups (WP6 and 7 for Graphene and HBP activities respectively). The corresponding deliverables were planned to be confidential, but FLAG-ERA is organizing their dissemination on its website (flagera.eu). Meanwhile, the reported opportunities were communicated to the researchers involved in actual and former FLAG-ERA projects by the concerned national representatives.

7   Conclusion

During the project FLAG-ERA II various funding opportunities were offered to the Flagships directly but also to the researchers involved in the FLAG-ERA projects and thus indirectly to the Flagships.

These opportunities, coming in addition to the FLAG-ERA co-funded call 2017, enabled a very effective and dynamic support to the Flagship initiatives in their missions.