

The logo for Infect-ERA is contained within a white rectangular box with a thin blue border. The word "Infect" is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, while "-ERA" is written in a lighter blue, outlined, sans-serif font.

Infect-ERA

**FOURTH CALL FOR TRANSNATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECTS
WITHIN THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH INFECT-ERA**

**INFECT-ERA
CALL TEXT**

DEADLINES

March 17th, 2016 (17:00, CET) - SUBMISSION OF PRE-PROPOSALS

July 15th, 2016 (17:00, CEST) - SUBMISSION OF INVITED FULL-PROPOSALS

Fourth multilateral call for research projects within the Infect-ERA: “Coordination of European funding for human infectious diseases research”

Infect-ERA aims to **coordinate European funding for human infectious diseases research** and builds on the experience and success of three previous calls within this ERA-NET framework.

Joint projects, with a maximum of **six** participants¹ from a minimum of **three** countries participating in this fourth 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 17th, 2016 (17:00 CET)**, and proposals invited for full proposal submission must be submitted by **July 15th, 2016 (17:00 CEST)**. Granted projects will be expected to start at the **end of 2016 / beginning of 2017**.

With a total budget of about 11 M€, the following funding organisations are participating in the call (hereinafter referred to as the partners):

- the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), Austria
- the Agency for Innovation by Science and Technology (IWT- Flanders), Belgium
- the Fund for Scientific Research (FNRS), Belgium
- the Research Foundation (FWO- 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 National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NKFIH), Hungary
- the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology, India
- the Chief Scientist Office, Ministry of Health (CSO-MOH), Israel
- the Ministry of Health (MoH), Italy
- the National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR), Poland
- the National Science Centre (NCN), Poland
- the Science and Technology Foundation (FCT), Portugal
- the National Authority for Scientific Research and Innovation (ANCSI), Romania
- the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (MINECO), Spain
- the National Institute of Health Carlos III (ISCIII), Spain

¹ See more details in the Eligibility section (2.1).

The call is centrally coordinated by the Infect-ERA Joint Call Secretariat, which is for this call led by Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (MINECO), Spain. 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:

Victoria Sanz
 Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness
 Subdirección General de Proyectos Internacionales
 C/ Paseo de la Castellana 162
 28046 Madrid, Spain
 Telephone: +34 603 77 23
 Fax: +34 603 70 21
infect-era@mineco.es

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 your national contact person; see section 3).

1. Aim of the call

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

Consultation to the Scientific Advisory Board of Infect-ERA 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 consultation two main research topics, which are equal in relevance for this call, were identified:

- A. The host-pathogen interactions, with regard to clinically relevant microbial clones, focused on host susceptibility (e.g., innate immune response, populations at risk, etc.).**

- B. Development of innovative strategies for the diagnostic and treatment of high clinically relevant microbial infections; optimisation of antimicrobial therapy in an individual patient and development of biomarkers to allow individual response prediction.**

To address the above two topics the proposals could contemplate:

- I. Identification of host factors that define host susceptibility in regards to infection, disease progression and transmissibility.
- II. Differences in susceptibility to infections between individuals or inadequate response to infections and/or treatments.
- III. Host molecular mechanisms that define the competence of the pathogen.
- IV. Development of innovative strategies for the diagnostic and treatment of microbial infections for personalised treatments.
- V. Identification of biomarkers based on the host-pathogen interaction that allow individual response prediction to shorten antimicrobial treatment courses.
- VI. Identification of rare mutations associated with host susceptibility.
- VII. Individual differences in response to vaccination.
- VIII. Development of innovative antimicrobial strategies focused on exploiting the host immune response.
- IX. Development of new methods for rapid determination of drug levels and/or microbial burden, at different body sites and in different bodily fluids, to optimize antimicrobial therapy in an individual patient.

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

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, however, applicants are encouraged to include partners funded by the following funding organization: ANCSI (Romania), IWT-Flanders (Belgium) NCBR (Poland), NCN (Poland) and NKIH (Hungary). If such partners are included into the consortium, the maximum number of partners can be increased up to seven
- 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. 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, and/or the evaluation procedures, as well as members of the Network Steering Committee (NSC) 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”, who 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 done 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 15th, 2015	Pre-announcement of the fourth joint transnational call
January 18th, 2016 (17:00, CET)	Publication of the fourth joint transnational call
March 17th, 2016 (17:00, CET)	Deadline for pre-proposal submission
End of May, 2016	Communication of the results of the pre-proposal assessment (invitation for full proposal)
July 15th, 2016 (17:00, CEST)	Deadline for full proposal submission
September 2016	Peer Review Panel Meeting and funding recommendation to national funding agencies
November 2016	Communication of the funding decisions to the applicants
End of 2016, beginning of 2017	Expected project 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/regional regulations and scientific remits as detailed in the Guidelines for Applicants and if applicable in the National Announcements.** Applicants must contact their national/regional funding organisations (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 project 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
Austrian Science Fund (FWF)	Austria	0.5 M€
Agency for Innovation by Science and Technology (IWT- Flanders)	Belgium	1.0 M€
Fund for Scientific Research (FNRS)	Belgium	0.2 M€
Research Foundation (FWO- Flanders)	Belgium	0.2 M€
French National Research Agency (ANR)	France	2 M€
Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) represented by Project Management Jülich (PtJ)	Germany	Amount pending
National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NKFIH)	Hungary	0.13 M€
Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology	India	1.0 M€
Chief Scientist Office, Ministry of Health (CSO-MOH)	Israel	Up to 0.2 M€
Ministry of Health (MoH)	Italy	0.6 M€
National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR)	Poland	0.3 M€
National Science Centre (NCN)	Poland	0.5 M€
Science and Technology Foundation (FCT)	Portugal	0.4 M€
National Authority for Scientific Research and Innovation (ANCSI)	Romania	0.4 M€
Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (MINECO)	Spain	0.8 M€
National Institute of Health Carlos III (ISCIII)	Spain	0.25 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 / Tel.
Austria	FWF	Dr. Milojka Gindl	milojka.gindl@fwf.ac.at +43 1 505 67 40-8209
Belgium	IWT	Dr. Hendrik De Bondt	hdb@iwt.be +32 2 432 42 12
	FNRS	Dr Arnaud Goolaerts	Arnaud.goolaerts@frs-fnrs.be +32 2 504 93 28
	FWO	Dr. Olivier Boehme Toon Monbaliu	eranet@fwo.be +32 2 550 15 45 +32 2 550 15 70
France Infect-ERA Coordination	ANR	Dr. Martine Batoux Dr. Amélie Vergne	Infect-ERACalls@agencerecherche.fr

Country	Agency	Contact person	E-Mail / Tel.
Germany	PT Juelich	Dr. Henrike Knizia Dr. Oliver Zobell	h.knizia@fz-juelich.de +49 2461 61 9758 o.zobell@fz-juelich.de +49 2461 61 96593
Hungary	NKFIH	Dr. Levente Emödy	levente.emody@aok.pte.hu +36 20 446 3501
India	DBT	Dr. Shailja V. Gupta	shailja.dbt@nic.in +91 11 24363748
Israel	CSO-MOH	Dr. Irit Allon	Allonirit1@gmail.com
Italy	MoH	Dr. Gaetano Guglielmi	g.guglielmi@sanita.it +39 06 5994 2186
Poland	NCBR	Dr. Marcin Chmielewski	marcin.chmielewski@ncbr.gov.pl +48 22 39 07 109
	NCN	Dr Magdalena Kowalczyk Dr. Malwina Gębalska	magdalena.kowalczyk@ncn.gov.pl + 48 12 341 9160 malwina.gebalska@ncn.gov.pl +48 12 3419017
Portugal	FCT	Dr. Marta Abrantes Dr. Ricardo Peirera	marta.abrantes@fct.pt +35121 3911596 ricardo.pereira@fct.pt +35 121 3924479
Romania	ANCSI	Ioana Ispas	ioana.ispas@ancs.ro +4021 212 77 91
Spain	MINECO Joint Call Secretariat	Victoria Sanz	Infect-era@mineco.es +34 91 603 77 23
	ISCIII	Irene Sánchez	isanchezgarcia@isciii.es +34 91 822 24 88

Summary of funding options and restrictions (I)

Funding Body/ Country	FWF/ Austria	IWT-Flanders/ Belgium	FNRS/ Belgium	FWO- Flanders/ Belgium	ANR/ France	BMBF/ Germany	CSO-MOH/ Israel	MoH Italy
Funding of industrial project partners	No	Yes, up to 60%	No	No	Yes	Up to 50%	No	No. Only Scientific Institutes for Research, Hospitalization and Health Care (Istituti di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico pubblici e privati, IRCCS) are eligible for funding.
Participation of industry required?	No	Yes	No	No	No	Preferred	No	No
Maximum funding per project partner	300K€	250 k€	0.2 M€	0.2 M€	Minimum amount per partner: 15 k€. Maximum funding per partner: 250 k€.	Maximum funding per partner: 320 k€.	Up to 100000 €	Up to 0.2 M€

Maximum funding per project	300 K€ (all Austrian partners in one project)	250 k€	0.2 M€	0.2 M€	No; the requested budget depends on the scientific need and justification for the budget.	No	Up to 100000 €	0.2 M€ per project
Eligible costs	Only project-specific costs (see rules for FWF stand-alone projects/ only 5 % general costs are allowed (no overheads).	See national guidelines	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/InfectEra2016-en	See national guidelines	See national guidelines	Only costs generated during the lifetime of the project can be eligible. Personnel (only ad hoc contracts/consultants/fellowship, max 50% of the requested fund); travel costs and subsistence allowances (max 10% of the requested fund); equipment (rent/leasing only, no limit), consumables (no limit), dissemination of results (publications, meetings/workshops etc.- max 1% of the

								requested fund); data handling and analysis (no limit); overhead (maximum 10% of the requested fund). (All according to the national regulations). Travel expenses and subsistence allowances associated with training activities only linked to the project
Additional documents required	See national guidelines: https://www.fwf.ac.at/de/forschungsfoerderung/antragstellung/internationale-programme/joint-projects-era-net-calls/	IWT eligibility supporting documents as described in 'National restrictions' chapter	No	No	No	National application forms after funding recommendation	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	The simultaneous participation in proposals submitted to different transnational research calls, funded by the Ministero della Salute, is not allowed to Italian Principal Investigators or other research team members. In order to expedite the eligibility check process, the Ministry of Health will grant an eligibility clearance to

						<p>Israeli partner. The total length should not exceed 1 page.</p> <p>Information not received at CSO-MOH before grant submission may result in declaring the proposal as not eligible for funding.</p> <p>2)-National application forms will be filled only after funding recommendation</p>	<p>the applicants prior to the submission of the pre-proposals. To this end, it is mandatory that the applicants fill out and return a pre-eligibility (https://www.submission-infect-era.eu/lw_resource/datapool/items/item_396/italy_moh_mandatory_pre-eligibility_check_form.pdf) check form through IRCCS Scientific Directorate or Regional Office Health Research using WFR System 10 days before submitting their pre-proposals to the Joint Call Secretariat. It is strongly recommended that the form, completed and duly signed, is returned at least 10 working days before the pre-proposal submission deadline. Applicants will be sent a written</p>
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								notification of their eligibility status.
Other national restrictions*	<p>Follow the criteria for Stand-Alone Projects by the FWF: https://www.fwf.ac.at/de/forschungsfoerderung/antragstellung/einzelprojekt</p>	<p>See separate document with the IWT eligibility criteria (project abstract, Flanders added value description, Several hardcopy signed declaration; only (industrial) enterprises can apply.</p>	<p>See national eligibility requirements http://www.ncp.frs-fnrs.be/index.php/17-appels/165-fnrs-eligibility-criteria-infect-era-jtc4</p>	See national eligibility requirements		No	No concomitant funding is eligible	<p>After the Infect-ERA JTC 2016 peer review has been completed and the final (scientific) ranking list has been performed and endorsed by the Call Steering Committee, the Ministry of Health will invite the PIs of the projects approved for funding to enter the formal national negotiations (according to national regulations). The funding of this projects are under the Ricerca Corrente IRCCS rules.</p>

*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	NKFIH/ Hungary	DBT/ India	NCBR/ Poland	NCN/ Poland	FCT/ Portugal	ANCSI/ Romania	MINECO/ Spain	ISCIII Spain
Funding of industrial project partners	Yes	See national Guidelines for Applicants	Yes	Yes	Up to 50%	No	No	No
Participation of industry required?	No	See national Guidelines for Applicants	No	No	No	No	Although enterprises will not be funded, the Spanish private sector is very welcome to participate as associate with Spanish research institutions, using their own funds or funding from other national or regional calls. Nevertheless, MINECO may provide additional support in order to promote cooperation between the Spanish public and private sectors.	SMEs and other private companies are encouraged to participate at their own cost, as subcontractors or funded by other sources

<p>Maximum funding per project partner</p>	<p>75 K€</p>	<p>The requested budget depends on the scientific need and justification for the budget.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>0.5 M €</p>	<p>250 K€ for a proposal with Portuguese coordination; 150 K€ for a proposal with Portuguese participation;</p>	<p>200 K€</p>	<p>150 K€ per Spanish legal entity / 200 K€ per project coordinator 200 K€ per Spanish legal entities / 250 K€ if one Spanish legal entity coordinates the project (in case of the centres formed by more than one Spanish legal entity, the maximum funding should not exceed 150 K€ per project (<i>centros mixtos CSIC</i>))</p>	<p>100K€/partner 150K€/coordinator</p>
<p>Maximum funding per project</p>	<p>75 K€</p>	<p>The requested budget depends on the scientific need and justification for the budget.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>0.5 M €</p>	<p>250 K€ for a proposal with Portuguese coordination; 150 K€ for a proposal with Portuguese participation;</p>	<p>200 K€</p>	<p>150 K€ per Spanish legal entity / 200 K€ per project coordinator 200 K€ per Spanish legal entities / 250 K€ if one Spanish legal entity coordinates the project (in case of the centres formed by more than one Spanish legal entities, the maximum funding should not exceed 150 K€ per project (<i>centros mixtos CSIC</i>))</p>	<p>200K€</p>

<p>Eligible costs</p>	<p>Consumables, mobility and overheads</p>	<p>See national Guidelines for Applicants</p>	<p>See national guidelines</p>	<p>Please read information on eligible costs included in the Annex to NCN Council's Resolution on funding granted within calls for proposals for international research projects (p. 5-12): https://ncn.gov.pl/sites/default/files/pliki/uchwaly-rady/2015/uchwala84_2015-zal1.pdf</p>	<p>Equipment, consumables, human resources, networks & consortium funding, mobility and overheads.</p>	<p>Personnel, consumables, equipment, travel, subcontracts. Overhead will be established during contract negotiation</p>	<p>Please check the eligibility of costs at the APCIN 2016 call Web link to calls. - Personnel costs for temporary employment contracts (scholarships are not eligible). - Current costs, small scientific, disposable materials, travelling expenses and other costs that can be justified as necessary to carry out the proposed activities. - Indirect costs or clinical assays are not eligible for funding.</p>	<p>Personnel(only coordinators) Small Equipment Travel and Allowance Consumables Subcontracting and other services Overheads</p>
<p>Additional documents required</p>	<p>Application forms of the national funding agency will be required to be filled out after funding recommendation</p>	<p>See national Guidelines for Applicants</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>On the full proposal stage applicants will be requested to complete the following table: http://ncn.gov.pl/</p>	<p>Statement of commitment must be sent to the FCT National Contact Point duly signed, dated and stamped by the Head of the</p>	<p>After a positive evaluation and funding recommendation on a formal application needs to be</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>No</p>

				pliki/infect_era_budget_table_2_016.xlsx	Portuguese applicant organisation and by the PI, until 10 days after the deadline of the submission of the pre-proposal. Available at: http://www.fct.pt/apios/cooptrans/eraneets/Infect-ERA/index.phtml.en	submitted to Executive Agency		
Other national restrictions*	No funded or pending projects are eligible on the same subject No salaries for applicants.	See national Guidelines for Applicants	See national guidelines	See national eligibility requirements	For this specific Joint Transnational Call, Portuguese applicants can only submit one (1) application as Principal Investigator. http://www.fct.pt/apios/projectos/regulamento.phtml.en	www.ancs.ro	Please check the APCIN 2016 call Web link to calls . Spanish researchers applying for funding must consult the Spanish call document on the MINECO website and follow all participation and funding rules. In any case the National regulations in Spanish will prevail over the English version.	See national eligibility requirements

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