



Frequently Asked Questions

Scope of the call

Q: What kind of proposals are expected?

A: The aim is to fund transnational market-oriented RTD projects in all fields of Manufacturing.

Eligibility

Q: Who can apply?

A: This call focuses on market-oriented RTD projects. Therefore, SMEs and Large companies will be the direct beneficiaries. However, the eligibility of participants depends *on the involved national/regional funding programmes*; thus, in some cases academic institutions may need an industrial partner in order to have access to funding.

Q: What is the minimum size of a consortium?

A: MANUNET is not asking for large consortia. Small consortia of 4 or 5 partners are welcome. In addition, the minimum requirement of a consortium is the involvement of at least 2 independent SMEs belonging to 2 participating countries, or 2 regions in different countries.

Q: How many countries must be involved in a project?

A minimum of 2 countries participating in this call must be involved.



Q: Is it allowed to include partners from countries which are not participating in this call?

A: It is possible (but not encouraged) to include partners from countries which are not directly involved in this coordinated call via a national/regional funding programme. For such countries, no advice can be provided on potential national/regional funding sources. Participants from these countries cannot be coordinators of projects submitted to this call.

Q: Can applicants be involved in more than one proposal?

A: Yes, participation in more than one proposal is possible.

Proposal preparation and submission

Q: What is the difference between the pre-proposal and the proposal?

A: Pre-proposal forms focus on the eligibility check. Proposers have to argue the claimed added value of the transnational cooperation, and the claimed added value for each participating region of the partners in this pre-proposal stage. Proposals will ask for a very detailed work programme and a detailed split of the budget.

Q. Where can I find all necessary forms for submitting a proposal?

A: Both pre-proposal and full proposal templates together with Guidelines for Proposers will be downloadable from www.manunet.net regional/national Programme Managers will also provide relevant information.

Q: How can I submit a pre-proposal?

A: The coordinator of the project should submit the pre-proposal on-line on the MANUNET web site.

Q: Will I receive a confirmation of receipt?

All the partners will receive a confirmation of receipt.

Q: Why are there 2 deadlines for pre-proposals?

A: The deadline for pre-proposals is **24th March 2010, 17:00 (GMT+1:00)** and the deadline for full project proposals is **7th July 2010, 17:00 (GMT+1:00)**.

Q: What is the aim of a pre-proposal?

A: The pre-proposal should give an overview of the complete project. Based on the pre-proposal the MANUNET TCT will give advice concerning the submission of a full project proposal.

Q: Is it possible to submit a proposal in national/regional languages as well?

A: Pre-proposals and full project proposals should be submitted only in English. The language of national/regional funding applications depends on the respective national/regional funding programmes.

Q: Is it necessary to provide a consortium agreement?

A: Yes, a pre-condition before transferring the first instalments is the existence of a consortium agreement including IPR principles between the project partners.

Q: Can I request an extension of the deadline to submit a pre-proposal or full proposal?

A: No.



Q: Is it possible to receive a list of potential consortia and/or contact details of project leaders in order to explore the chances of joining a consortium?

A: No, all submissions are treated confidentially.

Q: How can I find potential partners?

A: A system to search and introduce Expressions of Interest will be implemented on the MANUNET homepage (www.manunet.net).

Evaluation

Q: How are proposals evaluated?

A: The pre-proposals are evaluated by the TCT which will then provide feedback to the coordinators. Full project proposals and individual funding applications will be subject to the usual national/regional evaluation procedures.

Q: What is the TCT?

A: The Transnational Coordination Team (TCT) consists of up to two representatives nominated by each of the national/regional agencies participating in the call. It meets to discuss all pre-proposals to provide advice and guidance on proposal submissions, to discuss all proposals in order to match the projects and bring them in accordance with the budgets available. It also prepares recommendations about funding projects to the regional/national funding bodies.

Q: What happens if the feedback on the pre-proposal is negative?

A: The decision taken by the Consortium is definitive. Applicants, whose pre-proposal has not been recommended for second stage, will not be able to submit a full proposal.

Funding

Q: Is there a central budget for this call?

A: No, a common source of funds cannot be provided in this call. Only national or regional funds are available.

Q: What exactly is funded?

A: All usual (regional/national) programme rules apply. This means that the regional/national agencies will need to provide detailed feedback.

Q: Is the funding the same as for purely national/regional projects or is there any bonus for this call?

A: While some national/regional programmes may provide a bonus for transnational cooperation others may not.

Q: Can additional public or private sponsors be involved?

A: Additional public or private contributors are acceptable as long as the co-financing arrangements are fully transparent and described in the submitted documents.

Q: Is every partner obliged to submit a funding application?

A: No, partners are also allowed to participate using their own financial resources, provided that at least 2 independent SMEs belonging to 2 participating countries or 2 regions in different countries submit a funding application (and are funded by their respective Regions/Countries).

Q: What happens if only some partners in the consortium are funded by their national/regional agencies whereas others do not receive funding?

A: Except for what described in the above question, usually this should not happen: after submission of the full project proposals the TCT meets in order to coordinate the funding decisions. Therefore, a proposal should normally achieve the same status in all involved countries, ie. all partners will be funded or –in the case of negative decisions- no partner will be funded.

Project implementation

Q: How long does it take before the projects can actually start?

A: Regional/national agencies should be contacted in order to know about the regional/national rules.

Q: Is it a problem if a project starts before the final decision by the national/regional agencies?

A: The project should normally start after the contract has been signed. The starting date of the project could however be a fixed date before the signing of the contract at own risk.

General information

Q: What is ERA-NET?

A: ERA-NET is a part of the Sixth Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP6) with the aim to better coordinate national/regional funding. Please check (<http://cordis.europa.eu/coordination/era-net.htm>; http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/coordination/eranet_en.html) for details.