

WOODWISDOM-NET+ - PACING INNOVATION IN THE FOREST-BASED SECTOR

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2013

The WoodWisdom-Net Research Programme announces the upcoming call for joint European research projects. The indicative total available budget amounts to 24.000.000,00 € (national public funding including EC top-up funding of 8 M€). The total call volume with industrial co-funding is estimated to be up to ca. 30 M€. The call for pre-proposals will be opened in February 2013 with a closing date for pre-proposals on 30 April.

BACKGROUND

1. In 2004 a consortium of funding organisations established the first WoodWisdom-Net project on wood material science and engineering with the aim of developing collaboration and integration between the forest sector, forest-based industry, wood material research, and funding organisations at the national and transnational levels.
2. Collectively, through the previous three calls for proposals the funders from 15 different European countries have committed ca. 40 MEUR to support strategic research in this area while the total volume of the calls totals up to 55 MEUR.
3. Now, as an ERA-NET Plus action under the ERA-NET scheme of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) of the European Commission the partner organisations have agreed on an initial commitment of 24 MEUR (including a top-up funding of 8 MEUR from the European Commission) for the years 2014-2017. For indicative national funding commitments, please see Annex I.

The participating funding organisations are: Tekes, the Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation, Academy of Finland (AKA), Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems (VINNOVA), Research Council of Norway (RCN), Agency for Renewable Resources (FNR) in Germany, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Resources (DGPAAT) in France, French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA), French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME), Ministry of Agriculture in Latvia (ZM), Latvian Academy of Sciences (LAS), Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment & Water Management (BMLFUW) in Austria, The Commission for Technology and Innovation (KTI; in the Federal Department of Economic Affairs FDEA) in Switzerland, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport (MESCS) in Slovenia, The Forestry Commissioners (FC) in the United Kingdom, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM - CoFoRD Programme) in Ireland, and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic (MPRV SR).

Other participating WW-Net+ organisations incl. programme managers/ agencies to support the funding organisations in the preparation of the call are: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MMM) in Finland, French Institute of Technology for Forest-Based and Furniture Sectors (FCBA), and Federal Office for the Environment FOEN/BAFU in Switzerland.

PURPOSE

4. The overarching aim of this 4th call under the trans-national WoodWisdom-Net Research Programme is to support the innovative transformation of the European forest-based sector and to enable it to increase its resource efficiency and to develop an innovative products scope, while adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change and securing biodiversity. Attention should also be given to currently underused potential in the forest-based sector to develop novel ideas and create new markets, e.g. the valorisation and utilisation of hardwoods in Europe.

The initiative is intended to facilitate collaboration between industry, SMEs, stakeholder associations, research organisations, leading-edge scientists from the wider range of disciplines covering wood material, construction, natural, biological, social, economic and other relevant sciences who will bring their broad expertise to support the transformation of the European forest-based sector and to secure its competitiveness.

Importantly, the call will also aim to encourage and make best use of interdisciplinary, systems approaches, and improve the impact and integration of social research and economics in this area.

SCOPE

5. The European forest-based sector is meeting the challenges for change and established its Forest-Based Sector Technology Platform (FTP) in 2005. According to its up-dated Vision 2030 “the EFBS comprises a competitive, knowledge-based industry that fosters the extended use of renewable forest resources”. The two key documents of the Forest-based Sector ETP (Vision 2030 and the Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) have been revised throughout 2012 and the official publication of the documents is planned for March 2013. Based on the European-level SRA already 13 National Research Agendas (NRAs) have been published and up-dated so far. The revised SRA of the FTP has been taken into consideration while prioritising the themes and focal areas of the WoodWisdom-Net+ call in 2013.

The main approach in WoodWisdom-Net+ is the substitution of non-renewable resources (e.g. materials or fossil fuels), by renewable forest-based solutions to reduce carbon emissions and waste. The joint trans-national call will address all forest-based value chains in four areas.

These are: 1) the sustainable management of forest resources through 2) their efficient utilisation in industrial processes to 3) value added products and 4) competitive customer solutions.

Following themes have been identified by the funding organisations with the help of independent experts. At least one of the themes shall be addressed but proposals covering more than one are also highly welcome:

Theme 1. Sustainable management of forest resources

Focal areas:

- Resource/products development with respect to climate change
- Innovative forest management methods to improve sustainable supply towards future uses/products
- Resource/wood quality assessment for different uses
- Innovative harvesting, planning and logistics systems

Theme 2. Industrial processes

Focal areas:

- New concepts (incl. logistics) for cascade use and recycling of wood based products, side streams and waste
- Improved processes within the production chain towards optimisation of:
 - Efficient use of raw materials and other resources
 - Energy efficient processes
 - Quality assessment
 - Health and safety issues
- Specific innovative processes for:
 - Hardwoods (e.g. in the building sector)
 - Utilisation of woody biomass for energy
 - Extraction, separation and fractionation of wood components
- Innovative management concepts for lean timber construction (planning, logistics, production, maintenance...)

Theme 3. Value added products

Focal areas:

- Innovative added value green chemicals and components from wood
- Wood-based hybrids & composites
- New functionalities derived from ligno-cellulosic based compounds and products thereof
- Smart & intelligent packaging solutions from ligno-cellulosic materials

Theme 4. Competitive customer solutions

Focal areas:

- Societal perceptions of the sector and its products (towards a sustainable society)
- New business models (incl. business ecosystems) and service concepts within the forest-based sector
- Optimised building solutions (new & retrofitted) towards fundamental requirements of the Construction Products Regulation (CPR)
- Multi-storey & industrial buildings

6. The funding organisations are particularly keen to encourage innovative trans-national proposals from multidisciplinary groups of researchers with optimal combinations of expertise and experience (e.g. including early stage researchers and staff exchange between partners) to address the call topic areas. **The participation of commercial and industrial and or other stakeholders – especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) – is strongly recommended** to ensure the relevance of the research to technological development and to the needs of society.

TIMETABLE FOR THE CALL

7. The call will have two steps. The timetable for these two steps is as follows:

STEP 1: Pre-proposal phase

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| • 6 February 2013 | Launch of call for pre-proposals via web |
| • 20-21 February 2013 | Official launch of call for pre-proposals at the WoodWisdom-Net seminar in Munich, Germany (in connection with a brokerage event and mid-term seminar of WoodWisdom-Net Research Programme) |
| • 30 April 2013 | Closing date for pre-proposals 1 PM CET |
| • May-June 2013 | Assessment of pre-proposals |
| • 17 June 2013 | Pre-proposal assessment results to applicants |

STEP 2: Full proposal phase

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| • 17 June 2013 | Invitations for full proposals |
| • 16 September 2013 | Closing date for full proposals 1 PM CET |
| • October-November 2013 | Assessment of full proposals |
| • December 2013 | Full proposal assessment results to applicants |
| • Early 2014 | Research grants awarded and projects start |

APPLICATION, ASSESSMENT, FUNDING AND REPORTING

8. In this call a two-stage submission process is used. The planned work is first presented as a short proposal which is checked for eligibility and suitability for national funding (see Annex II: Specific National Rules). Applicants who achieve satisfactory scores at that stage are then invited to submit a full proposal based on this initial concept by the 16th of September, 2013.

Step 1: Pre-proposals

9. Interested parties are invited to attend the WoodWisdom-Net seminar (incl. call launch, brokerage event and mid-term seminar of the on-going WoodWisdom-Net projects), which will be held in Munich, Germany on 20-21 February, 2013.

The purpose of this seminar will be to:

- Introduce the call and explain its aims and scope.
- Bring the industry, SMEs and different research communities and disciplines together to explore opportunities for collaborative working in this area and to start building consortia.

- Present the main outcomes of the on-going WoodWisdom-Net research projects.

For further information on the seminar, please see the seminar website:
http://www.woodwisdom.net/documents/mi_1314_do_914.htm

10. Projects funded through this initiative are expected to be of at least 18 months and up to maximum 36 months duration. Applicants can choose the duration according to the scope of their project.
11. Pre-proposal applications must be submitted using the WoodWisdom-Net pre-proposal form which will be provided on the WoodWisdom-Net website after the call publication seminar. Submission should be made via the electronic submission system which will be available on the WoodWisdom-Net website, too. All applications are subject to confidential evaluation.

DEADLINE for submission of pre-proposals: 30th April 2013, 1 PM CET.

12. The funding organisations will check the eligibility of the pre-proposals and their suitability for national funding (see Annex II: Specific National Rules).

Applicants who pass this first stage are then invited to submit a full proposal until **16 September 2013**.

STEP 2: Full proposals

13. In step two, the full proposals are submitted through the online submission system and evaluated centrally by a joint and independent international peer review. This step will result in a ranked list of proposals, which determines the proposals recommended for funding.

DEADLINE for submission of full proposals: 16th September 2013, 1 PM CET

14. The evaluation step two will select and rank proposals based on the evaluation criteria stated in Annex III to this call text.

Each proposal submitted to this second step will be evaluated by at least three independent experts appointed by the funding organisations.

Expert panel members must sign a “declaration on conflict of interest” to ensure confidentiality and avoid any conflict of interest during the evaluation and selection procedures of the joint call.

15. Research grants will be administered through the participating national funding organisations. In addition to the general rules and procedures laid out in the call document, applicants must comply with the terms and conditions of their responsible funding agencies and programmes (see Annex II: Specific National Rules). The total amount of funds available for full proposals is estimated to be up to 24 MEUR.

16. Projects funded through this initiative are expected to be of at least 18 months and up to maximum 36 months duration. Applicants can choose the duration according to the scope of their project.

ATTENTION: please note that, due to legal restrictions, projects under this call cannot be granted any extensions!

17. Brief annual reports and a final report will be required to meet the requirements of the WoodWisdom-Net Research Programme. The interim reports will be kept confidential, while the final report will be published on the WoodWisdom-Net website. Successful applicants will be advised by the WoodWisdom-Net Secretariat on the format of these reports and where to send them.

RULES FOR PARTICIPATION

18. The call invites proposals for collaborative research and development from transnational consortia of industry, SMEs, stakeholder associations and research organisations.
- Consortia must include at least three independent legal entities from three different countries from the list of participating countries (see Chapter 3) and should be of a manageable size. The total number of partners is not limited; however, efficient consortia of typically 5-12 partners for medium-sized projects are expected.
 - Consortia also need to be balanced between countries both in terms of number of partners and distribution of budget. Each partner's budget should be typical for the respective national project volumes.
 - Consortia may cover basic and/or applied research and/or industrial research and development.
 - Interdisciplinary collaboration and involvement of stakeholders are highly welcome.

Wherever possible and eligible, the participation of industrial partners – especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) – is strongly recommended to ensure the relevance of the research to technological development and to the needs of society. The participation of young scientists in the research teams is encouraged.

19. Partners from third countries not officially participating in the call can be included in the consortium if they finance their activity from other sources and if the consortium fulfils the set minimum requirements on the number of partners from officially participating countries. Projects involving third countries must ensure that exploitation of project results will focus on the officially participating countries.

20. National funding regulations are applied within this joint call. In addition to the general rules and procedures laid down in this document, there may be specific national rules to be followed by the applicants. It is strongly recommended that these are checked with the contact person at the respective funding agency before submitting a proposal. Relevant national regulations and contact persons for each funding agency are summarised in “Annex II: Specific National Rules”.

CONTACT INFORMATION

21. The WoodWisdom-Net+ consortium has established a Call Secretariat on behalf of all of the funding partners. General enquiries about this call should be addressed to:

WoodWisdom-Net+ Call Secretariat

Agency for Renewable Resources (FNR)/

Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW)

Contact: call@woodwisdom.net

ANNEX I. INDICATIVE FUNDING AVAILABLE PER PARTICIPATING FUNDING ORGANISATION

Country	Organisation	Indicative total funding available		
		< 1 M€	1 - 2 M€	> 2 M€
Austria	Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt und Wasserwirtschaft (BMLFUW)	X		
Finland	Tekes, the Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation			X
Finland	Academy of Finland (AKA)		X	
France	Ministere de l'Agriculture de l'Alimentation de la Pêche et de la Ruralité - Direction Générale des Politiques Agricole, Agroalimentaire et des Territoires (DGPAAT)	X		
France	Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique (INRA)	X		
France	Agence de l'Environnement et de la Maîtrise de l'Energie (ADEME)	X		
Germany	Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V. (FNR) on behalf of Bundesministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz (BMELV)			X
Ireland	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM - CoFoRD Programme)	X		
Latvia	Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia (ZM)	X		
Latvia	Latvian Academy of Sciences (LAS)	X		
Norway	RCN - The Research Council of Norway		X	
Slovakia	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic (MPRV SR)	X		
Slovenia	Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport (MESCS)		X	
Sweden	VINNOVA - Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems			X
Switzerland	Commission for Technology and Innovation CTI (KTI)		X	
United Kingdom	The Forestry Commissioners (FC)	X		

ANNEX II. SPECIFIC NATIONAL RULES

AUSTRIA

Austrian participants funded by BMLFUW

The Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW) provides funding for high-quality scientific research. There are no restrictions regarding the thematic area. All themes mentioned in the call text are eligible for Austrian proposers. Funding can be granted to research teams according to the standard research requirement procedures of the Ministry.

The applicant has to check national funding rules by contacting the BMLFUW before submitting a proposal (see contact details).

If Austrian research providers are involved in a successful proposal, then contracting and payments will be according to standard procedures and standard terms and conditions of the BMLFUW. Standard rules include:

- Proposed project costs shall not exceed the specified amount of financing.
- The project-related portion of the depreciation costs may be requested for purchases of equipment (equipment).
- Travel costs and costs for meetings will be reimbursed in accordance with the federal "Reisegebührenverordnung (RGV)".
- Overhead costs must be calculated and must not exceed 20% of the overall cost.
- Payments scheme comprise in principle of a deposit payment, a payment after approval of the interim report, as well as final payment after approval of the final report (at least 10%).

More information can be found on the website: <http://www.dafne.at>.

Contact person: Mr Martin Greimel
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ANNEX II. SPECIFIC NATIONAL RULES

FINLAND

Finnish participants funded by Tekes

Phases of R&D being funded (basic research, pre-competitive research, applied research, applications, product, service and business development and innovation)

Eligible are networks projects from industry, research institutes and universities.

Tekes offers companies grants and loans. Typically international projects are funded with 50 % or 35 % R&D grants for large companies and 35 %, 50 % or 65 % for SMEs.

For research institutes and universities a typical funding for international projects is 70 % requiring industrial co-funding of minimum 10 % from more than one Finnish company.

There is no need for additional national application forms in the first stage. The transnational application to the central call office is sufficient. The Finnish project partners of projects that have been successful at the second call stage will be invited to submit national application forms, and more detailed information on procedure for national application will then be given to each applicant.

Contact person: Mr Ilmari Absetz
Tel: +358 29 505 5837
Email: ilmari.absetz@tekes.fi

Finnish participants funded by AKA (Research Council for Natural Sciences and Engineering)

The Academy of Finland provides funding for high-quality scientific research. Funding can be granted to research teams for purposes of hiring scientific staff, for the acquisition of equipment and supplies, and for other expenses, such as researcher's mobility and networking. The applicant must have the qualifications of a professor or a docent or be a researcher with a doctorate.

The Research Council for Natural Sciences and Engineering will provide funding for topics within the research fields hosted by the Council (see <http://www.aka.fi/en-GB/A/Academy-of-Finland/Who-we-are/Research-Councils/Research-fields/>).

The applicant has to contact the Academy before submitting a proposal. Applicants are requested to check the national funding terms and conditions (e.g. national eligibility criteria) from the Academy.

The Academy applies the full cost model in its funding. The Academy's funding contribution for a project can come to no more the 70% of the total project costs. No industrial co-funding is required.

The Finnish project partners of projects that have been successful at the second call stage will be invited to submit national application forms. The conditions and restrictions on Academy Projects also apply to this funding.

The Finnish project partners have to agree in writing with the other project partners on the rights of ownership and use of the research results of the project as soon as possible after the funding decision has been made. Project partners have to clarify the rights and obligations of inventors with the other members of their research team as well as with their research partners and funding bodies.

More information on the Academy's funding criteria is available at www.aka.fi/eng.

Contact person: Ms Maaria Lehtinen
Tel: +358 29 533 5061
Email: maaria.lehtinen@aka.fi

ANNEX II. SPECIFIC NATIONAL RULES

FRANCE

French participants funded by DGPAAT

Funding quota of French participants can be up to 100 % for temporary personnel direct cost and other direct costs (like equipment, specific operating and travel expenses). Funding quota is 0% for permanent personnel cost.

There is no funding allowed in the case of companies.

The transnational application to the central call office is not sufficient, it is necessary for French partners to pass an agreement with Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, General Direction of Agricultural, Food Industry and Territorial Policies, Forest and Timber Division, hereinafter called MAAP/DGPAAT/SDFB. Based on the thematic scope and type of project, the relevance to the funding programmes, and available funding, the French partners within this call will be funded by MAAP/DGPAAT/SDFB.

Only the French project partners of positively evaluated projects will then, in a second stage, be invited by MAAP/DGPAAT/SDFB to submit national application forms within four months after notification.

While MAP/DGPAAT/SDFB will accept the joint work programme of the first application stage in English language with the national application, rules require a French language version for intermediate and final project reports.

Contact person: Ms Sophie Blainville Wellburn
Tel: 0033 149 55545
Email: sophie.blainville-wellburn@agriculture.gouv.fr

French participants funded by INRA

Only French research teams from INRA EFPA or associated with INRA EFPA (Research Units or Joint Research Units) will be eligible for INRA funds.

The teams of positively evaluated projects will, in a second stage, be invited by INRA to submit national application forms within four months after notification.

Contact person: Mr Jean-Michel Leban
Tel: 0033 383 394041
Email: leban@nancy.inra.fr

French participants funded by ADEME

- French partners of successful projects after eligibility and two-stage transnational selection processes will be funded by ADEME within the limits of available funding.
- French applicants should comply with the agency financial guidelines for research and innovation available at :
 - FR summary : <http://www2.ademe.fr/servlet/KBaseShow?sort=-1&cid=96&m=3&catid=24280>
 - Full document (FR):
<http://www2.ademe.fr/servlet/getBin?name=BBC903E50F7CD83E0511B3D789C37CAC1264523171031.pdf>
- Note that typically, funding rates of French participants can be up to 100% for universities or research organizations with eligible personnel costs following an additional cost model. For companies, funding rates shall not exceed 50% except for SMEs which can benefit of an additional bonus funding rate of 10 -20%
- There is no constraint regarding the number of companies to be involved from France, but company participation is recommended to ensure dissemination and knowledge transfer.
- All French applicants who pass the pre-proposal stage have to submit a national application immediately after they have submitted their full proposal to WoodWisdom-Net. The national application forms including further information will be directly sent by ADEME.
- At this early stage, French potential beneficiaries should be aware that ADEME procedures require French version for intermediary and final reports.
- It is highly recommended that the applicants contact their national contact points in order to check if their proposal is relevant with the national priorities.

Contact person: Ms Caroline Rantien
Tel: 0033 241 204316
Email: caroline.rantien@ademe.fr

ANNEX II. SPECIFIC NATIONAL RULES

GERMANY

German participants funded by FNR

Funding is provided by BMELV (Bundesministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz) by way of the funding programme “Nachwachsende Rohstoffe” (www.nachwachsenderohstoffe.de/projekte-foerderung/nachwachsende-rohstoffe/foerderziele/). German partners who apply for funding must follow the rules of this programme.

Projects must also be in line with prioritised themes released in addition to the funding program “Nachwachsende Rohstoffe”. There will be a focus on material utilisation and interaction with forestry operations. Building with wood must especially be in-line with the research call “Förderschwerpunkt Bauen und Wohnen”. Funding is restricted to RTD for products, processes and technologies prior to the demonstration stage.

German project partners are advised that total requested funding for all German partners within one consortium should not exceed 500.000 €.

Funding quota of German participants can be up to 100 % for universities or research organisations. In the case of companies, funding quota will be decided on a case-by-case basis depending on the size of the company, type of research/development, risk associated with the research activities, commercial perspective of exploitation, typically up to a range of max. 50 %. In the case of small and medium enterprises, an additional bonus of 10-20 % funding quota can be awarded. There is no obligation regarding the number of companies to be involved from Germany, but company participation is recommended for dissemination and exploitation of results.

Please be aware of special rules for calculation of cash requirements (e.g. no general project overheads can be funded).

There is no need for additional national application forms, the transnational application to the central call office is sufficient. The national assessment of pre-proposals will be corresponding to the rules in the call text.

After the evaluation of full proposals, the German project partners of positively evaluated full proposals will be invited by FNR to submit national application forms within one month after notification. Then, the usual BMELV funding rules and forms will apply: AZA or AZK using the electronic proposal assistant “easy” (see www.kp.dlr.de/profi/easy/formular.html for details. FNR rules require a German-language version to be sent with the AZA/AZK.

Contact persons: Mr Sönke Lulies
Tel: +49-3843/6930-130
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Ms Karen Görner
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Ms Carina Lemke
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ANNEX II. SPECIFIC NATIONAL RULES

IRELAND

Irish participants funded by DAFM

Applications

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM), via the Competitive Forestry Research for Development (CoFoRD) programme, will fund Irish based applicants under this call.

At the “Invitation for Pre-Proposals Stage” there is no need for additional national application forms. The transnational application to the central call office is sufficient. Based on the thematic scope and type of project, the relevance to the funding programmes, and available funding, the Irish partners within this call will be funded by DAFM.

Only the Irish project partners of positively evaluated projects will then, in a second stage, be invited by DAFM to submit national application forms within one month after notification.

Irish participants funded by DAFM

Funding will be available for researchers from public Research Performing Organisations only. They can receive up to 100% of eligible costs which include personnel, equipment, consumables, travel, external assistance and overheads at an agreed rate.

All suitable public RPOs in Ireland that can demonstrate the necessary research capabilities including Teagasc, Universities and Institutes of Technology are eligible to participate and submit proposals. Public RPOs based in Northern Ireland are not eligible.

Industry participation is welcome on a self-financing basis.

Funding Rules

Consortia must include at least two RPOs from Ireland.

Contact person: Mr Tom McDonald
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (Research and CODEX Division)
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Email: tom.mcdonald@agriculture.gov.ie

ANNEX II. SPECIFIC NATIONAL RULES

LATVIA

Latvian participants funded either by ZM or LAS

1. Project participants

- Research institutions - research institutes, universities, higher education establishments, their institutes and other research institutions which are registered in the Register of Research institutions, monitored by the Ministry of Education and Science of Republic of Latvia;
- Enterprises which are registered in the Register of Enterprises of Republic of Latvia and which carry out their activities mainly in Latvia.

2. Funding

- Projects will be funded considering the ranking list of the projects made by the Review Panel;
- Funding will be granted in accordance with the Regulations No.414 of the Cabinet of Ministers issued on 19th June 2012 that lay down The procedure of granting state aid for participation in international cooperation programmes in the fields of research and technology development;
- The maximum national funding of one project is up to 210 000 euro, including overheads.

3. Eligible costs

Direct costs include

- Staff costs
- Materials, consumables, reagents
- Amortization of used equipment
- Travel expenses.

Indirect costs

- Overheads do not exceed 20% from the direct costs.

Contact person at the Ministry of Agriculture:

Mr Janis Birgelis
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Contact person at the Latvian Academy of Sciences:

Ms Dace Tirzite
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ANNEX II. SPECIFIC NATIONAL RULES

NORWAY

Norwegian participants funded by RCN

Funding quota of Norwegian participants can be up to 80 % for universities or research organisations. In the case of companies, funding quota will be decided on a case-by-case basis depending on the size of the company, and commercial perspective of exploitation, typically up to a range of 50 % (in case of small and medium-sized enterprises). There is no obligation regarding the number of companies to be involved from Norway.

There is no need for additional national application forms in the first stage. The transnational application to the central call office is sufficient. Positively evaluated projects will be considered for funding by The Research Council of Norway and more detailed information on procedure for national application will then be given to each applicant.

The Norwegian funding will be prioritized towards strategic theme 4: Competitive consumer solutions.

Norwegian businesses and companies who want to participate in theme 2: Industrial processes and theme 3: Value added products may have the possibility to do so with financial support through the Norwegian BIA-program or ENERGIX-program, depending on theme. A separate application to one of these programs must be submitted as announced in their national call text. The Research Council of Norway will evaluate these applications within the ordinary open national funding calls. Please contact the Research Council of Norway for supplementary information about priorities within these programmes.

Theme 1: sustainable management of forest resources will not be prioritized for financial support from the Research Council of Norway.

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Email: pn@rcn.no

ANNEX II. SPECIFIC NATIONAL RULES

SLOVAKIA

Slovakian participants funded by MPRV SR

Eligibility for funding

Only research teams from Slovak public institutions conducting research in the fields of forestry, forest-based energy and wood processing, that are established by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic (MPRV SR), are eligible for funding.

Participation of other public and semi-public research institutions as well as private sector is welcome on a self-financing basis.

Principally, transnational consortia are eligible for funding provided that they include at least one Slovak partner institution.

Funding rules

Funding quota for eligible Slovak participants can be up to 100 %.

At a first stage, there is no need for additional national application forms. The transnational application to the central call office is sufficient. The national assessment of pre-proposals will be conducted pursuant to the rules in the call text.

After the evaluation of full proposals, only Slovak participants of positively evaluated projects will be invited by MPRV SR to submit national application forms within four months after notification. Consequently, the usual MPRV SR funding rules and forms will apply.

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ANNEX II. SPECIFIC NATIONAL RULES

SLOVENIA

Slovenian participants funded by MESCS

The official national call announcement will be published in the Official Gazette of Republic of Slovenia (Uradni list Reublike Slovenije) and on the MESCS website (http://www.mizks.gov.si/si/javne_objave_in_razpisi/javni_razpisi/).

Research organizations (universities, research institutes, SMEs etc.), defined as eligible in the national Research and Development Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 96/2002, 115/2005, 61/2006 (ZDru-1) in 112/2007) are eligible to apply. There are no restrictions regarding the thematic area.

MESCS will fund eligible costs of Slovenian partners participating in successful transnational projects, recommended for funding in accordance with the Decree on criteria and standards for allocating resources for the implementation of the National Research and Development Programme (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia No. 74/2004, 32/2005, 26/2006, 80/2007, 89/2008, 102/2009, 103/2011). The total requested funding for all Slovenian partners within one consortium should not exceed 70.000 €. If however the project coordinator is from Slovenia, up to 150.000 € can be requested for eligible costs.

Funding is subject to the availability of national funds and will be conducted in accordance with the Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation (<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2006:323:0001:0026:EN:PDF>).

The funding quota of Slovenian participants will be decided on a case by case basis, depending on the type of research/development, risk associated with the research activities, commercial perspective of exploitation, and the size of the participant if it qualifies as a recipient of state aid.

There is no requirement on industry involvement, but industry participation is recommended.

In the pre-proposal and in the full proposal phase no national application is needed, the electronic transnational application to the central call office is sufficient. The applicants must however send MESCS a written statement declaring they have read and agree with the national eligibility and funding criteria. The statement available on the MESCS webpage must be sent to the national contact person in parallel to sending the pre-proposal application.

The national application by the Slovenian primary investigator will be mandatory only for those Slovenian participants participating in transnational projects proposed for funding. Both the rules and forms for transnational application and the rules and forms for national application will be available on the Ministry's web page

(http://www.mizks.gov.si/si/javne_objave_in_razpisi/javni_razpisi/).

The national rules have to be observed throughout the application process. Applicants are strongly advised to contact the Slovenian National Contact person, Ms Kim Turk Križanec, before preparing their proposal for application.

Contact person: Ms Kim Turk Križanec
Tel: +386 1 4784705
Email: kim.turk-krizanec@gov.si

ANNEX II. SPECIFIC NATIONAL RULES

SWEDEN

Swedish participants funded by VINNOVA

There is no need for additional national application forms in the first stage. The transnational application to the central Call Office is sufficient. Based on the thematic scope, type of project, relevance to the funding programs at VINNOVA (National Research Program for Forest Industries and Wood Manufacture Program) and available funding, VINNOVA makes the final funding decision.

Only the Swedish project partners of positively evaluated projects in the second step will then be eligible for the second step, and will be invited by VINNOVA to submit national application forms within one month after notification.

The normal VINNOVA forms and funding rules will be applied. Applications can only be submitted through VINNOVA's web portal. The Joint Projects Description in English will be accepted as the project description together with the web portal application and a short project plan in Swedish. There will be a special entrance to the portal and the link for this will be sent to applicants together with other necessary information for the application to VINNOVA.

General funding rules for VINNOVA are according to VINNOVA's regulation (SFS 2008:762) about public funding for research and innovation. The level of funding differs depending on type of research, development or innovation input into individual projects and on the size of participating companies. <http://www.vinnova.se/sv/Ansoka-och-rapportera/Regler-och-villkor/Regler-for-statligt-stod/>

In this call, VINNOVA will prioritize support to Swedish partners in consortia that clearly support Swedish industrial competitiveness. Applications for Swedish funding are prioritized in following Themes:

- Theme 3. Value added products**
- Theme 4. Competitive customer solutions**

Furthermore, VINNOVA may, if funding is available, support Swedish partners in consortia in **Theme 2. Industrial processes** – with exception for applications in sub areas: Efficient use of raw materials and other resources, Energy efficient processes and Hardwoods (e.g in building sector).

Contact person: Ms Eva Esping
Tel: +46 8 473 30 00
Email: eva.esping@vinnova.se

ANNEX II. SPECIFIC NATIONAL RULES

SWITZERLAND

Swiss participants funded by CTI

For Swiss participants the transnational application to the central call office is not sufficient. It is necessary for Swiss partners to provide an additional application to the Commission for Technology and Innovation (CTI) for first step proposals where the expected national project work is clearly and detailed described. The usual CTI funding rules and application forms will apply (see www.kti.admin.ch/projektfoerderung/00025/index.html?lang=en for details). This will mean that:

- At least one company and one 'not-for-profit' research institution (university, Federal Institute of Technology, University of Applied Sciences) recognised by the CTI should be involved in a CTI funded R&D project. Projects involving several participants are particularly encouraged.
- As a general rule, the industry partner covers at least 50% of the project costs, a further incentive to ensure the efficient transfer of research results to the market ("reality check"). The industry partner also makes a cash contribution to its academic partner. There is no federal funding allowed to companies.
- The project partners choose the topic. Preferably, the economic and implementation partner heads the project.
- The project focuses on innovation. In general, no funding will be given to projects which propose marginal improvements of existing products.
- The criteria for proposal assessment are: degree of innovation with its economic, technical and scientific importance, commercial potential, contribution to sustainable development, clear work programme and a transparent budget.
- The project must have quantified, measurable goals and a coherent and structured schedule with verifiable progress milestones. It must be based on a thorough appraisal of the current state of the relevant technology and on an evaluation of the corresponding data base and patent rights.
- A contract on intellectual property rights must be signed prior to the start of the project. A confidentiality clause should be included where necessary.
- The focus is on projects which aim for efficient and fast time-to-market. Funding will also be given to new long-term "risk projects" with a high innovation and commercial potential.
- Regular reviews by CTI experts help the partners to adhere to the project contents and time schedule where necessary by asking for timely corrections.
- At the end of the project, a plan must be presented showing how the results will be implemented.

If there will be necessary changes for Swiss project partners after the second step evaluation relating to the specific additional application from the first step submission, the Swiss project partners need to resubmit an adapted national application to CTI within one month after notification.

Contact person at Commission for Technology and Innovation CTI:

Mr Alain Dietrich
Tel: +41 31 324 92 87
Email: alain.dietrich@kti.admin.ch

Contact person at Swiss Wood Innovation Network S-WIN:

Mr Thomas Näher
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ANNEX II. SPECIFIC NATIONAL RULES

UNITED KINGDOM

UK participants funded by FC

UK funding for this joint call is provided by Forestry Commission (GB), Forestry Commission (Scotland) and Scottish Enterprise, and will be administered by Forestry Commission GB (FCGB). The above funding organisations will jointly fund UK participants in prioritised consortia

Eligibility

Public research organisations, research institutes, and UK Higher Education Institutions may apply. Project partners from UK companies and other UK organisations who are not eligible for public funding must provide their own funding or in-kind contribution. Commercial companies (SMEs) are encouraged to participate, and this will be reflected in the UK project scoring evaluation.

Funding

UK project partners are advised that we will expect to fund between 2 to 4 commercially focussed projects over the life of the call, from the total UK contribution of £0.3m. Applicants should state UK costs in Pounds Sterling and Euros in the transnational application form.

Funding will be available for researchers from universities and public or private research institutions only. They can receive up to 100% of eligible costs which include personnel, equipment, consumables, travel, external assistance and up to 20% of overhead costs.

Companies can participate in a project as Partners by bringing their own funding, either as cash or benefit in kind. In this case they are eligible to share in any Intellectual Property produced by the project.

Additional Documentation

There is no need to supply additional national application forms in the first or second stages of the application process unless specifically requested by FCGB; the transnational application form to the central call office is sufficient.

After the joint evaluations and preliminary funding decisions, UK project partners to successful applications will be invited to submit a national application/documentation to FCGB. Industrial participation is strongly encouraged and some industrial collaboration is recommended.

Contact person: Mr Roger Coppock
Tel: +44 131 314 6392
Email: Roger.Coppock@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

ANNEX III. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The following evaluation criteria will apply to the full proposals under this joint call:

Criterion 1 – Contribution to the Call

1. Contribution to the goals of the call

How well does the proposal align with the call topic(s)?

Criterion 2 - Technical/scientific quality of the research plan

2.1 Novelty

Does the proposed project generate new knowledge, new methods, new technology, or new practices to end-users?

2.2 Quality of the proposed R&D

Is the proposed research significant and relevant within this field? Are the objectives and hypothesis realistic? Are worthwhile challenges identified in the proposal?

2.3 Methodology and feasibility of the research plan

Are the research methods and materials appropriate for the project? Is there enough technical detail in the methodology? How are alternative approaches being considered? Is the research plan clearly presented and realistic?

Criterion 3 - Qualification of Consortium

3.1 Competence and expertise of the applicants

Does the consortium have the necessary competence and experience to achieve the results proposed? Are the merits and scientific expertise of the applicants appropriate and sufficient? Does the consortium have the necessary competence and experience to achieve the results proposed?

3.2 Co-operation and complementarity of partners

Are the partners clearly complementary in their expertise and do they fit together? Is the balance between the partners appropriate? Is there added value in the co-operation? Why specifically the international co-operation improves the quality of the results? Is there a true co-operation of all partners (e.g. not simply separate work packages)? Will external stakeholders be engaged?

3.3 Availability of technical and human resources

Are appropriate technical and human resources available within the consortium or if not, have they been requested within the proposal?

Criterion 4 – Project Management

4. Quality of project management

Are the project management, resources and the division of labour and the proposed schedule appropriate and well-planned? Is there sufficient detail in the project plan (milestones, work packages...)? How is effective & efficient communication between the partners ensured?

Criterion 5 – Outputs, exploitation and dissemination

5.1 Potential outputs & expected results

Are any environmental/social/economic improvements likely to result from the proposed work (as applicable)? Are any cost reductions and efficiency improvements likely to result from the proposed work (if applicable)?

5.2 Plans for implementation, exploitation and dissemination

Are realistic and appropriate plans in place for effective implementation, subsequent exploitation and dissemination of the outputs? Have IPR issues been adequately considered (if applicable)?