

FP7 Grant Agreement – ANNEX III - Specific provisions related to ERA-NET Plus actions

III.1 - Definitions

In addition to the definitions in Article II.1, the following definitions apply to this *grant agreement*:

1. **Joint call** means a [single] call for trans-national research proposals launched by the *consortium*, including all necessary aspects for the implementation and management of the *joint call*.
2. **Trans-national projects** means the projects funded out of the *joint call* involving at least two independent legal entities from two different member states or associated countries.
3. **Joint selection list of trans-national projects** means the list of *trans-national projects* formally selected by the *consortium* on the basis of the criteria described in Article III.5, paragraph 3. The *joint selection list of trans-national projects* is the main deliverable of the *project*.

III.2 – Duration of the project

The total duration of the *project* shall not exceed 5 years from the *start date* of the *project*.

III.3 – Community financial contribution

1. The *Community financial contribution* shall be limited to 1/3 of the total budget allocated to the selected *trans-national projects* and shall take the form of reimbursement of eligible costs and a flat rate.
2. The *Community financial contribution* shall be determined by applying:
 - the reimbursement of eligible costs for activities relating to the implementation and management of the *joint call*. However, the *Community financial contribution* shall reach a maximum defined in Annex I.

Notwithstanding Article II.14, paragraph 1 point c, eligible costs may only be incurred until the acknowledged reception of the *joint selection list of trans-national projects* by the *Commission*.

- a flat rate for activities relating to the funding of selected *trans-national projects*. This flat rate is set to 1/3 of the total budget allocated to the selected *trans-national projects* excluding the eligible costs for activities relating to the implementation and management of the *joint call*
3. The *consortium* shall ensure that the total funding allocated to any *trans-national projects* complies with the provisions of the competition rules.

4. Should one or more *beneficiary(ies)* not respect its(their) commitment to contribute its(their) agreed share to the total budget allocated to finance the *trans-national projects*, the *Community financial contribution* shall be reduced accordingly, except if other *beneficiaries* increase their national funding accordingly to the *joint selection list of trans-national projects*.

III.4 - Change in the composition of the *consortium*

In addition to the terms of Article II.35, any request for the addition or removal of a *beneficiary* shall be submitted to the *Commission* not later than the publication of the *joint call*.

III.5 – Implementation and management of the *joint call*

1. The *consortium* shall publish the *joint call* in accordance with the terms of Article II.37, paragraph 2.

2. The *joint call* shall be implemented through the means of a two step procedure. Step 1 may be organised in a decentralised manner. Step 2 shall follow the principles of a single international peer review, as described in paragraph 3.

3. The *consortium* shall evaluate proposals received with the assistance of at least three independent experts appointed by the *consortium*, on the basis of at least the following set of criteria:

- Scientific and/or technological excellence - Quality of the *trans-national project* (Threshold 3/5)

- Sound concept, and quality of objectives
- Progress beyond the state-of-the-art
- Quality and effectiveness of the scientific and technological methodology and associated work plan

- Quality and efficiency of the implementation and the management (Threshold 3/5)

- Appropriateness of the management structure and procedures
- Quality and relevant experience of the individual participants
- Quality of the consortium as a whole (including complementarity, balance)
- Appropriate allocation and justification of the resources to be committed (budget, staff, equipment)

- Potential impact (Threshold 3/5)

- Contribution, at the European and/or international level, to the expected impacts listed in the FP7 work programme under relevant topic/activity
- Appropriateness of measures for the dissemination and/or exploitation of *trans-national projects* results, and management of intellectual property.

4. The *joint call* shall remain open for the submission of proposals by interested parties for a period of at least eight weeks for the whole 2 step procedure.

5. The *consortium* shall ensure that the principle of confidentiality is upheld during the evaluation and selection procedures of the *joint call*.

III.6 - Specific performance obligations of each *beneficiary*

In addition to the terms of Article II.3, each *beneficiary* shall deliver to the *Commission* together with the *joint selection list of trans-national projects* a formal commitment, signed by its respective authorised representative, to identify its specific amount to assure the total necessary national funding to the *trans-national projects*.

III.7 - Specific Schedule of Payments

Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 6 of the *grant agreement*, pre-financing shall be scheduled as follows:

a) A first pre-financing of [amount of XXXX Euro] of the estimated *Community financial contribution* corresponding to the first reporting period defined in Article 4 of the *grant agreement* and indicated in the table of estimated breakdown of costs for this period in Annex I shall be paid to the coordinator within 45 days following the entry into force of the *grant agreement*.

b) Within 45 days following approval by the *Commission* of the reports related to the first reporting period:

i) a payment which settles the amounts justified and accepted during the first reporting period.

ii) A second *pre-financing* of [amount of XXXX Euro] of the estimated *Community financial contribution* corresponding to the subsequent reporting period defined in article 4 of the *grant agreement* and indicated in the table of estimated breakdown of costs for this period in Annex I. This second pre-financing shall be agreed as the *Community* contribution to finance the topping up of the first 12 month funding to the trans-national projects.

Subsequent interim payments shall be paid in accordance with Article II.6 b) of the *grant agreement*.

A final payment of the *Community financial contribution* shall be paid in accordance with Article II.6 c) of the *grant agreement*.