

# E-Rare-2 Call for Proposals 2012 for "European Research Projects on Rare Diseases driven by Young Investigators"

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## Preliminary Announcement

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The ERA-Net "E-Rare-2" for research programmes on rare diseases (2010-2014) is aimed to coordinate the research efforts of European countries in the field of rare diseases.

The following parties\*

- The Austrian Science Fund (FWF), Austria
- The Research Foundation Flanders (FWO), Belgium, Flanders
- The French National Research Agency (ANR), France
- The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Germany
- The Chief Scientist Office of the Ministry of Health (CSO/MOH), Israel
- The National Centre for Research and Development (NCBiR), Poland
- The Institute of Health Carlos III (ISCIII), Spain
- The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (ZonMw), The Netherlands

intend to open the fourth E-Rare Joint Transnational Call (JTC 2012). This call will fund multilateral research projects on rare diseases driven by young investigators. The call is being opened simultaneously by the partners in their respective countries.

*\* Please note that decision about the participation of some funding agencies is still pending. This document will be updated as soon as their commitment to the call is approved*

### 1. AIM OF THE CALL

The aim of the call "**European Research Projects on Rare Diseases driven by Young Investigators**" is to provide to **young, independent investigators the opportunity of building transnational collaborations in the field of rare disease research**. The transnational project should be based on complementarities and sharing of expertise, demonstrating a clear added value of the cooperation and impact of the expected results on patients affected by rare diseases.

Projects shall involve a group of rare diseases or a single rare disease following the European definition i.e. a disease affecting not more than five in 10.000 persons in the European Community. **Rare infectious diseases, rare cancers and rare adverse drug events in treatments of common diseases are excluded from the scope of this call.**

## 2. TOPICS OF THE CALL

Transnational research proposals must cover at least one of the following areas, which are equal in relevance for this call:

a) Collaborative research using patient databases and corresponding collections of biological material that would generally not be possible at a national scale. This research must have clear potential for clinical/public health or socio-economic application and well-defined scientific objectives e.g.:

- Definition of new nosological entities, epidemiological studies, genotype/phenotype correlations, natural history of diseases;
- Characterization of the genetic/molecular basis of specific diseases

b) Research on rare diseases including genetic, epigenetic, and pathophysiological studies, using innovative and shared resources, technologies (OMICS, new generation sequencing, etc.) and expertise. The clinical relevance of this research must be clearly demonstrated.

c) Research on development of applications for diagnosis and therapies for rare diseases. This may include identification, characterization and/or validation of (bio)-markers for diagnosis and prognosis, development of innovative screening systems and diagnostic tools, the generation of relevant cellular and/or animal models, and preclinical studies using pharmacological, gene or cell therapies.

d) Patient oriented research in the area of social and human sciences - e.g. psychological, psychosocial and behavioral research - as well as health services research and health economy research in the field of rare disorders.

**Interventional clinical trials are excluded from the scope of the call.**

## 3. GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR APPLICATION

The young investigator must have been awarded his/her first PhD/MD or equivalent doctoral degree, at least 2 and up to 10 years prior pre-proposal submission deadline of the E-Rare-2 JTC 2012. Extensions to this period may be allowed in case of eligible career breaks, which **must be properly documented** (full details regarding what consists eligible breaks will be published in the call text). The cumulative eligibility period should not in any case surpass 14 years and 6 months following the award of the first PhD/MD. No allowance will be made for part-time working.

Joint research proposals may be submitted by higher education institutions, non-university public research establishments, hospitals as well as commercial companies, in particular small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs), according to relevant national funding agencies' regulations for research funding.

Only transnational projects will be funded. Each consortium must involve a **minimum of three** and a maximum of six research groups from **at least three different countries** participating to the call (see list above). Research groups from countries whose funding organisations are not partners in this E-Rare-2 call may participate in projects if they are able to secure their own funding, nevertheless the overall maximum number of research groups in a given consortium should be maintained at 6. There must not be more than **two research groups from one country in one project proposal**.

Whilst applications will be **submitted jointly** by groups from several countries, individual groups will be funded by the individual E-Rare-2 funding organisation respective of the country from which applicants have applied. The applications are therefore subjected to **eligibility criteria of individual funding organisations**.

**Applicants are strongly advised to contact their national representative and confirm eligibility with their respective funding organisations in advance of submitting an application**

#### 4. TIMETABLE

There will be a **two-stage submission procedure** for joint applications: pre-proposals and full proposals. The call is scheduled to open at the start of December, 2011. The deadline for submitting the pre-proposals is scheduled for **January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012**. An independent international Scientific Evaluation Committee will carry out a scientific evaluation according to specific evaluation criteria. Based on this central evaluation, selected consortia will be invited to submit a full proposal at the start of April 2012 (deadline full proposals: **May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012**).

For further information, please visit us on the website:

<http://www.e-rare.eu>

For questions regarding the joint call please contact the Joint Call Secretariat:

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For questions regarding national eligibility criteria and requirements please contact the national contact person listed below

*The content of the call described in this pre-announcement may be subject to changes and is not legally binding to the funding agencies.*

## National/regional contact details

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