

Call title: ERA Chairs Pilot Call

Call identifier: FP7-ERACHairs-Pilot Call-2013

Date of publication: 18 December 2012

Deadline: 30 May 2013 at 17.00.00, Brussels local time¹

Indicative budget: EUR 12 million²

The budget for this Call is indicative. The final budget of the call may vary by and up to 10% of the total value of the indicated budget for the call.

Topics called:

Activity/Area	Topic called	Funding Schemes and eligibility criteria
<i>FP7-ERACHairs-Pilot Call-2013</i> <i>Activity 4.1 <u>Unlocking and developing the Research Potential of research entities in the EU's Convergence regions and Outermost regions</u></i>	<i>Any research topic covered by the EU FP7</i>	CSA-SA <i>(Supporting Action)</i>

Eligibility criteria:

The general eligibility criteria are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme. Please note that the completeness criterion also requires that part B of the proposal shall be readable, accessible and printable.

Only information provided in part A of the proposal will be used to determine whether the proposal is eligible with respect to budget thresholds and minimum number of eligible participants.

Funding scheme	Minimum conditions
Coordination and Support Actions (supporting action)	1 independent legal entity.

¹ The Director-General responsible may delay this deadline by up to three months.

² Under the condition that the draft budget for 2013 is adopted without modification by the budgetary authority.

- Additional eligibility criteria:

- The requested EU contribution shall not exceed a maximum of EUR 2.4 million for a period of up to 60 months and 90% of the total estimated budget for each proposal.

- Only Universities and other research organisations³ can apply under this Call;

- Universities and other research organisations located in EU Convergence regions and Outermost regions⁴. Subject to international instruments associating third countries to the 7th EU Framework Programme, other regions may become eligible for participation; the modalities for the identification of eligible regions would be defined in these international instruments. All regions of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYROM, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and the Galilee region of Israel are eligible for participation.

Evaluation criteria

The evaluation criteria and scoring scheme are set out in Annex 2 to this work programme.

The following additional sub-criteria should be added under the S&T Quality and Implementation criteria envisaged in Annex 2:

1) under the S&T Quality criterion:

- ✓ Level of interaction with national and/or regional authorities in the planning and programming design of smart specialisation strategies.
- ✓ Level of interaction with additional stakeholders, e.g. through clusters and networks to innovative business partners, civil society organisations, etc., able to contribute to the definition and implementation of smart specialisation strategies.

2) under the Implementation criterion:

- ✓ Feasibility of the tasks allocated to the ERA Chair holder.

³ Article 2(7) of Regulation (EC) No 1906/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 December 2006 laying down the rules for participation in actions under FP7, OJ L391/1

⁴ Convergence regions are listed in the C(2006) 3475 and are defined as those regions having a per capita gross domestic product (GDP) of less than 75% of the average GDP of the EU-25. After adoption of the Commission Decision on the approval of Anguilla, Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Falkland Islands, French Polynesia, Mayotte, Montserrat, Saba, Saint Helena, Sint-Eustatius, Sint-Maarten, Wallis and Futuna as being equivalent to the common classification of territorial units for statistics (NUTS) level 2 to convergence regions in the EU for the purpose of participation in research cooperation actions funded under the 'Research Potential' part of the Seventh EU Framework Programme Capacities Specific Programme the mentioned regions will also be eligible under this call. Outermost regions are defined according to Article 349 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union: Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Martinique, Réunion, Saint-Barthélemy and Saint-Martin (France), the Canaries (Spain), and the Azores and Madeira (Portugal).

Evaluation procedure:

- In order to provide broader coverage and experience of different national systems, only one project per country will be funded, provided that it has passed thresholds of all evaluation criteria. Therefore, only the highest ranked proposal for a given country will be selected.
- Proposal page limits: Applicants must ensure that proposals conform to the page limits for Part B and layout given in the Guide for Applicants, and in the proposal part B template available through the electronic Submission Services of the Commission.

The Commission will instruct the experts to disregard any pages exceeding these limits.

The minimum font size is 11. All margins (top, bottom, left, right) should be at least 15 mm (not including any footers or headers).

- The procedure for prioritising proposals with equal scores is described in Annex 2 to the work programme.

Indicative timetable: Evaluation results should be available within 4 months after the closure date. Grant agreement signature: the first grant agreements related to a call should be signed within 9 months after the closure date.

Start date of the project:

The project shall start the first day of the month after the entry into force of the grant agreement.

Consortia agreements: No consortium agreement is required for this call.

The forms of grant and maximum reimbursement rates which will be offered are specified in Annex 3 to the Capacities work programme.

The budget will be dedicated to personal costs, implementation of the measures set in the proposal and implementation of the ERA priorities, including training. Any transfers between categories are subject to approval by the EU project officer.

Project review:

First reporting period: Following the selection of the Chair holder, the ECI shall provide a report on the selection process and procedure, including the composition of the panel, CVs of the applicants and the minutes of the panel meeting(s).

The execution of the selection of the ERA Chair holder in line with the principles of open recruitment is a project deliverable. In case of non-execution, the Commission reserves the right to terminate the grant agreement according to article II.38 of the General Conditions.

Mid-term review: A mid-term review of the project will be performed by the Commission in accordance with the provisions of special clause 5 to the Grant Agreement.

Ex-post evaluation of the institution's research potential: In addition to the above, the Commission might conduct an ex-post evaluation of the institution's research potential.

Flat rates to cover subsistence costs: In accordance with Annex 3 of this work programme, this call provides for the possibility to use flat rates to cover subsistence costs incurred by beneficiaries during travel carried out within grants for indirect actions. For further information, see the relevant Guides for Applicants for this call.

The applicable flat rates are available on the Participant Portal at: http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/fp7_documents under 'Guidance documents for FP7/Financial issues/Flat rates for daily allowances'.