

# Invitation to a JOINT CALL FOR PROPOSALS

**14<sup>th</sup> Joint Call for Research and Development Proposals  
of the ERA-NET Bioenergy**

## Topic:

**“Development and improvement of biomass  
conversion technologies for the provisioning of  
heat for industrial processes”**

***Deadline for submission of pre-proposals: 26.01.2021, 13:00 CET***

### Summary

In this joint call, ERA-NET Bioenergy aims to fund innovative, transnational research, development and innovation (R&D&I) projects in the field of bioenergy.

Funding will be offered to excellent proposals that provide clear added value through cooperation of partners in at least two (preferably more) participating countries. Novelty beyond the state of the art in the bioenergy value chain addressed must be significant, and evidence of exploitation potential must be provided (e.g. by way of tangible industry commitment).

Public funding is available for this joint call from funding bodies in **Austria, Germany, Poland and Switzerland**.

### 1 Key call dates

Call opens	20.10.2020
Partnering opportunity / Networking web meeting*	11.11.2020
<b>Deadline for submitting pre-proposals</b>	<b>26.01.2021</b> (13:00 CET)
<b>Deadline for submitting <u>full proposals</u></b>	<b>08.06.2021</b> (13:00 CEST)
Communication of funding recommendation/decision to the applicants	30.09.2021
Expected project start	First quarter of 2022

**This call is published on the webpage of ERA-NET Bioenergy [www.eranetbioenergy.net](http://www.eranetbioenergy.net)  
and on the web pages of the participating funding agencies.**

**\* PARTNERING OPPORTUNITY \* NETWORKING WEB MEETING \***

On 11.11.2020 a networking web meeting will be organised to give researchers the chance to interlink with each other and enlarge consortia. To sign up for this, applicants need to express their interest by sending an email to [b.vashev@fnr.de](mailto:b.vashev@fnr.de) at the Call Secretariat **until 06.11.2020**.

For presenting concrete ideas and need of partners, three PPT slides per project including project idea, existing partners/experience and missing experiences / partner profiles must be sent to the above address at the Call Secretariat **until 06.11.2020** as well.

A link to the web meeting will be sent to registered participants on 09.11.2020.

## 2 Background

The European Union (EU) is committed to combatting climate change and to increasing the security of its energy supply. Bioenergy has a key role to play in achieving both targets, and currently accounts for more than two thirds of total renewable energy in the EU.

**ERA-NET Bioenergy** is a network of national funding organisations which support bioenergy projects. The network started in October 2004 with founding members from Austria, Finland, Germany, The Netherlands, Sweden and United Kingdom and was funded by the European Commission (FP6). Since January 2011, ERA-NET Bioenergy is a self-sustained network with a clear focus on joint calls for R&D proposals. ERA-NET Bioenergy has so far implemented 13 joint calls and thus contributed to the funding of over 50 international R&D projects – the results can be found under [www.eranetbioenergy.net](http://www.eranetbioenergy.net). The calls of ERA-NET Bioenergy are focussed on medium-sized consortia (typically, two to eight partners) with excellent individual merits as well as complementarity.

The industry sector, like other sectors, is facing the decarbonisation challenge. Next to the fact to become more energy efficient, the industry has to get its processes less dependent on fossil energy. Biomass and (biogenic) waste fuels are well-placed to meet the temperature, pressure and quantity of heat and steam required by many industrial processes (e.g. cement industry already uses biomass waste as supplementary fuel). Bioenergy deployment is highest within industries that produce biomass wastes and residues as part of their operations, such as the pulp, paper and print industry.<sup>1</sup> Consumption is less evident in other industries, e.g. iron and steel, where biomass wastes and residues are not produced and fuel supply chains need to be mobilised. However, there is still potential for new implementation pathways supporting decarbonisation of industry and demonstration of best practice examples. Furthermore, the linkage to circular economy especially in industry sectors has to be stressed more, e.g. by using biomass based waste as fuel or feedstock.

In the joint call **“Development and improvement of biomass conversion technologies for the provisioning of heat for industrial processes”**, ERA-NET Bioenergy aims to jointly fund innovative, transnational research, development and innovation (R&D&I) projects in the field of bioenergy primarily focussing on **technology readiness levels in the range 2-7**.

## 3 Scope of the joint call

The call **“Development and improvement of biomass conversion technologies for the provisioning of heat for industrial processes”** aims to support innovative, collaborative pan-European, R&D&I projects contributing to a sustainable provision of bioenergy heat.

1. Development of technically and economically feasible new decarbonisation technologies for the provision of heat based on agricultural and/or forestry biomass. The solutions shall be mainly based on agricultural and/or forestry biomass including residues, but could also utilize other biogenic energy carriers.
2. Adaption and/or modification of existing technical solutions for the production of heat based on agricultural and/or forestry biomass for industrial processes. Such projects shall encompass significant R&D work.

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<sup>1</sup> IEA 2017 : Technology Roadmap Delivering Sustainable Bioenergy

An economical assessment of the envisioned solutions must be integrated into each project.

**Ideally, solutions should enable full or improved usage of biomass feedstock. They should focus on residues, by-products and other forms of feedstock that minimise competition with food production and contribute to a circular economy.**

Stand-alone projects regarding these topics without a major technical R&D&I part focussing on scope 1 or 2 are not eligible for funding.

For some countries added value in rural areas is of interest – please check the national annexes!

Further, all proposed projects should foresee to demonstrate that the greenhouse gas emissions of a modified production chain improve compared to the conventional route.

Projects can only be considered for funding if a substantial part of the added value is derived from thermal energy production.

**Please note that Germany has specific requirements concerning the bioenergy share on the added value. For detailed information please check the national annexes.**

**The public funding for this call comes from the participating national R&D funding programmes and differs from country to country – please see the National Annexes (Annex II).**

All proposals must be put in context of the political/legal framework, available biomass raw materials, and techno-economic as well as socio-economic market situation in the countries in which the project work will be carried out.

Funding is available only for innovative, application oriented research and development projects within the technology readiness levels range 2-7. A higher TRL than the initial must be achieved at the end of the funded project. This means that a **significant improvement beyond the state of the art** is an absolute pre-requisite. However please note that the maximal TRL increase should not exceed 2 TRL (e.g. at the beginning of the project TRL 4 up to TRL 6 at the end of the project). Further, please be aware that not all funding organisations cover the whole TRL above, please check table “SUMMARY OF FUNDING OPTIONS / RESTRICTIONS” on page 6 for more details.

## 4 Guidelines for applicants

### 4.1 Consortia

Proposals are invited from transnational consortia which include large companies, SMEs, research groups/organisations and/or stakeholder associations, **depending on national funding rules.**

Projects must have **at least 2 independent partners applying for funding from two different countries with funding agencies participating in the call**, with the project's outputs and benefits shared between all parties.

The number of partners per project is not limited, but the manageability of the consortium must be demonstrated.

As projects are expected to be market-oriented, it is **strongly recommended that one or more industrial partners** participate in the consortium. If industry participation is not feasible due to the scope/outlay of the envisaged work, the reasons for this decision should be explained in the proposal. Note that detailed exploitation and dissemination plans are an important feature of every proposal!

Proposals must demonstrate added value from the international cooperation, in comparison to national projects. This should be evident in the layout and execution of the work packages. The work plan must show real cooperation between the partners. Project outputs are expected to provide benefits to all partner countries. Consortia also need to be balanced between countries both in terms of number of partners and distribution of budget; such that all project partners contribute to and benefit from an equitable and balanced cooperation. **To address this, the contribution of one country to the collaborative project must not exceed 70% of the total costs for project implementation.**

Partners from countries which are not participating in the call are also encouraged to join a consortium (as additional partners; the minimum number of two partners from countries participating in this call

remains). These so-called “third country” partners must finance their activities from other sources, as the ERA-Net Bioenergy members will not provide such funds, and projects must ensure that the exploitation of results focuses on the ERA-NET Bioenergy partner countries.

#### **4.2 Funding arrangements**

The **maximum project duration** will be three (3) years. Projects are expected to start in early 2022, and the start and end date should be the same for all partners in a consortium.

Research will be **funded from national sources**, i.e. each participating national or regional funding agency funds their respective national research partners in a particular project consortium. The total funding as well as the funding available in each country is limited. For details please contact your national funding agency. Additional co-financing from stakeholders (own contributions) may be expected following national rules for R&D funding.

**Funding is always subject to national rules (see Annex II).**

If a proposal is selected for funding, the partners are required to sign a consortium agreement which specifies Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and other issues regarding responsibilities within the project and exploitation of results.

**The consortium agreement must be signed before the first payment can be made.**

#### **4.3 Submission of proposals**

Pre-proposal:

- The pre-proposal consists of one common document following the structure of the template available from 20 October 2020 on [www.ernetbioenergy.net](http://www.ernetbioenergy.net).
- Pre-proposals must be received via e-mail by the central Call Secretariat at the Agency for Renewable Resources, Germany (FNR) [ernetbioenergy@fnr.de](mailto:ernetbioenergy@fnr.de) by **26<sup>th</sup> January 2021, 13:00 CET at the latest**.

It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure their documents are submitted on time. In case of late submission (after 13:00 CET) the proposal will **not be taken into account** in order to ensure the fairness towards other applicants.

In case you do not get a confirmation that your proposal was received, you should immediately contact Boris Vashev ([b.vashev@fnr.de](mailto:b.vashev@fnr.de)) at the Call Secretariat!

Full proposal:

- only consortia whose pre-proposals pass the first evaluation stage will be invited to submit full proposals.
- These full proposals should follow the structure of the template which will be available on the ERA-NET Bioenergy website after pre-proposal evaluation.
- **The deadline for submitting full proposals is 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021, 13:00 CEST.**
- Some national funding bodies *may* also require specific national documents (application forms or similar) from “their” applicants at this stage. Such national documents are NOT submitted centrally, but directly to the relevant ministry or agency. Please consult the relevant National Annexes at the end of this document for further details.

#### **4.4 Evaluation of proposals**

Pre-proposals will be evaluated by the national funding agencies against the following criteria:

- Contribution to the goals of the call
- Fit to national funding programmes
- Technical and scientific quality; innovation
- Quality of the consortium
- Project Management

- Outputs and exploitation

***Please check the eligibility in each country and fit to national programs before handing in a proposal! Projects with ineligible coordinator will be considered as totally ineligible; projects with more than 50% ineligible partners will also be considered as totally ineligible.***

The full criteria for **full proposals** can be found under Annex I.

Evaluation of full proposals will be performed by an international expert panel, selected by the funding organisations involved in the call. The expert panel will provide recommendations for funding. The final decisions will be taken by the ERA-NET Bioenergy partners and will be communicated on 30.09.2021.

#### **4.5 Project monitoring and expected deliverables**

In addition to the standard requirements of your funding agency, the funders participating in this call require the following:

1. Participation in and presentation in the final ERA-NET status seminar (could be within the frame of an international conference)
2. The completion of one common interim survey asking in brief for proceedings, possible problems, extensions etc. at about half of the project duration.
3. A common Final Report (written in English), describing the main activities and outcomes of the work including an exploitation plan stating how the results of the project is requested and will be published in a "joint call brochure" and on the ERA-NET Bioenergy website after the end of the projects. Detailed requirements for this report will be distributed to successful applicants once the projects have started. National guidelines have to be followed as well.

## 5 SUMMARY OF FUNDING OPTIONS / RESTRICTIONS

Country	Austria / BMK	Germany / FNR	Poland / NCBR	Switzerland / SFOE
Total funding available	ca. 800.000 €	500.000 €	600.000 €	465.000 € (500.000 CHF)
TRL fundable <sup>2</sup>	TRL 2-7	TRL 4-7	TRL 2-7	TRL 2-7
Contact required	recommended	<b>YES</b>	recommended	<b>YES</b>
Additional documents	<b>YES</b>	<b>YES</b>	no	<b>YES</b>
Specific requirements	Submit proposals with Austrian partners via FFG-eCall <a href="https://eCall.ffg.at">https://eCall.ffg.at</a>	Please send German "Zusatzinfo" to <a href="mailto:c.weiser@fnr.de">c.weiser@fnr.de</a> and <a href="mailto:b.vashev@fnr.de">b.vashev@fnr.de</a> in parallel to pre-proposal	Polish enterprise must be included	Telephone or Email contact with SFOE at least one month prior to submission of pre-proposal for R&D projects. Additional document "Application for financial support" (see <a href="http://www.bfe.admin.ch/bfe/en/home/research-and-cleantech/research-programmes.html">www.bfe.admin.ch/bfe/en/home/research-and-cleantech/research-programmes.html</a> ) has to be handed in at SFOE: For P&D projects: together with the submission of the pre-proposal document; For R&D projects: at least one month prior to submission of full proposal

<sup>2</sup> Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) are a method for estimating the maturity of technologies during the acquisition phase of a program, developed at NASA during the 1970s. The TRLs in Europe are as follows:

TRL 1 – Basic principles observed

TRL 2 – Technology concept formulated

TRL 3 – Experimental proof of concept

TRL 4 – Technology validated in lab

TRL 5 – Technology validated in relevant environment (industrially relevant environment in case of key enabling technologies)

TRL 6 – Technology demonstrated in relevant environment (industrially relevant environment in the case of key enabling technologies)

TRL 7 – System prototype demonstration in operational environment

TRL 8 – System complete and qualified

TRL 9 – Actual system proven in operational environment (competitive manufacturing in the case of key enabling technologies; or in space)

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Technology\\_readiness\\_level#European\\_Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Technology_readiness_level#European_Union)

## Annex I Evaluation Criteria for full proposals

<b>Indicator 1 - Technical/scientific quality</b>	<b>Unsatisfactory</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Below average</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Very good</b>
<b>1.1 Novelty</b> Does the proposed project present a step forward in knowledge and technology?	0	4	8	16	20
<b>1.2 Quality of the proposed R&amp;D</b> Are the issues to be addressed significant and relevant within this field? Will the proposal as written be able to address these issues? Are worthwhile challenges identified in the proposal?	0	5	10	20	25
<b>1.3 Quality of the approach - methodology</b> Clarity, adequacy and consistency of the approach. Is there enough technical detail in the methodology? Is the approach clear, adequate to the problem and consistent? Is the project technically feasible?	0	5	10	20	25
<b>Indicator 2 - Qualification of Consortium / Project Management</b>	<b>Unsatisfactory</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Below average</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Very good</b>
<b>2.1 Competence concerning the topics addressed / Co-operation and complementarity of partners</b> Does the consortium have the necessary competence and experience to achieve the results proposed? Is there added value in the co-operation including industrial partners?	0	4	8	16	20
<b>2.2 Quality of project management</b> Are suitable plans and structures in place to ensure the project will operate effectively over its run time? Is there sufficient detail in the project plan (milestones, work packages...)? Are arrangements in place to ensure effective & efficient communication between the partners?	0	4	8	16	20
<b>Indicator 3 - Outputs and exploitation</b>	<b>Unsatisfactory</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>Below average</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Very good</b>
<b>3.1 Potential outputs and expected results</b> Are any cost reductions and efficiency improvements likely to result from the proposed work? What is the economic potential of the results? How will the energy greenhouse gas footprint of the value chain in question change?	0	5	10	20	25
<b>3.2 Plans for implementation and exploitation</b> Are realistic and appropriate plans in place for effective implementation and subsequent exploitation of the outputs?	0	5	10	20	25

## Annex II: National contacts / Specific National Rules

### Austria - BMK

Funding Organisation	Austrian Climate and Energy Fund in cooperation with the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK)
Agency	Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG), Thematic Programmes
Programme name	Energy Research - European and international cooperation and networking
Contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Maria Bürgermeister-Mähr</b> (for administrative questions) maria.buergermeister-maehr@ffg.at, +43 5 77 55 5040</li> <li>• <b>René Albert</b> (Contact person, BMK) rene.albert@bmk.gv.at, +43 1 71162 652921</li> </ul>
Type of research funded	The Agency potentially supports the following types of RTD, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industrial / applied research</li> <li>• Experimental development</li> </ul>
Separate national application required	Submit proposals with Austrian partners via FFG-eCall <a href="https://eCall.ffg.at">https://eCall.ffg.at</a> <b>Submission Deadline for pre-proposals: 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021 13:00 CET</b>
Funding conditions	see <a href="https://www.ffg.at/ausschreibungen/ERA-NET-Bioenergy/Call_14">https://www.ffg.at/ausschreibungen/ERA-NET-Bioenergy/Call_14</a> * - „Technical Guidelines for Cooperative R&D Projects transnational“ * available only in German
Funding commitment	<b>ca. € 800.000</b>
Further specifications	<p>The amount of funding requested from Austrian project partners per project is between € 100,000 and € 800,000. The minimum value shall be seen as a guiding value. The ceiling of € 800,000 is fixed and must not be exceeded.</p> <p><u>Austrian partners have to submit both pre- and full proposal via the FFG eCall (in addition to submission to the Call Secretariat).</u></p> <p><u>If more than one Austrian partner is involved in a project, they have to form an Austrian “sub-consortium” for the application process at FFG. One of the Austrian partners acts as consortium leader.</u></p> <p>FFG conducts a formal review of all nationally relevant project proposals including the examination of the application formalities, especially the fulfilment of prerequisites specific to the offered funding instruments; reporting on relevant projects previously funded by FFG programmes; examining the financial aspects of the proposal; financial audit of applicants. The Executive Board of the Climate and Energy Fund takes the funding decision.</p>

## Germany - FNR

**FUNDING ORGANISATION:** Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V. ([www.fnr.de](http://www.fnr.de))

**RELEVANT INFORMATION:**

The German national funding will be legally and financially based on parts of BMEL's R&D programme "Förderprogramm Nachwachsende Rohstoffe FPNR" with possible funding via this call in 2 core areas:

1. *Bestimmung und Entwicklung von Technologien und Systemen zur Bioenergiegewinnung und -nutzung mit dem Ziel der weiteren Reduzierung von Treibhausgas- und Schadstoffemissionen in den Haupteinsatzgebieten Strom, Wärme und Kraftstoffe* ([link](#))
2. *Flexible und effiziente Bioenergieanlagen zur Erzeugung von erneuerbaren Energieträgern (Strom, Wärme und Mobilität) in Verbindung mit Systemintegration und Sektorkopplung* ([link](#))

The following table describes basic eligibility criteria for funding provided by BMEL via FNR in this call:

<b>ELIGIBLE</b>	<b>NOT ELIGIBLE</b>
<p>Proposed projects shall contribute to the two core areas of the German funding programme and its general goals. The description of the proposed project shall cover the possible contribution of the planned project regarding the aim of the German funding scheme.</p> <p>The proposed projects shall be driven by the companies, which intend to change their current heat sources to fuel from forestry and agriculture. Future project consortia involving only or mostly (&gt; 50% of the expected funding) academia and other non-profit R&amp;D institutions are to be avoided.</p>	<p>Double funding is not possible. Please consult the homepage of FNR for past and ongoing projects in this scientific area.</p> <p>Non-technical project layouts and/or studies without a tangible relation to real transition opportunities shall not be considered eligible.</p>
<p>Ideally, proposed solutions should put focus on residues, by-products and other forms of biomass from forestry and agriculture that minimise competition with food production and ensure additional added value generation in rural areas.</p>	<p>Proposals embracing waste as defined in the German law on the circular economy („Gesetz zur Förderung der Kreislaufwirtschaft &amp; Sicherung d. umweltverträgl. Bewirtschaftung von Abfällen (KrWG)“ are not eligible.</p>
<p>German applicants must ensure that the majority (&gt; 50%) of the income generated by the technology/application in the scope of the transnational proposal is derived from bioenergy production of heat.</p>	<p>Proposals where majority (&gt;50%) of the income generated by the technology/application is linked to bio-based products (food, feed, chemicals, and materials) are not eligible.</p>
<p><u>Energy (or Biofuel) driven</u> Biorefineries are eligible, as their main goal is the production of one or more energy carrier/s with more than 50% of their income generated by production of fuels, power and/or heat.</p>	<p><u>Product-driven</u> Biorefineries are not eligible.</p>
<p>The FPNR is based on the COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty. Possible proposals shall only encompass industrial research and (mainly) experimental development (Technology Readiness levels 4-7) as stipulated in Article 25 (b) and (c) of before mentioned regulation.</p>	<p>Projects addressing fundamental research and/or feasibility studies as stipulated in Article 25 (a) and (d) are not eligible (<b>TRL &lt;4</b>).</p>
<p>Project partners have to prove that they are capable to commercialize the proposed project results in their own right and without further subsidies within the existing regulatory framework. Project results shall have the potential to be commercialized on the national German market under national German regulations. This holds especially true for proposals on transportation fuels.</p>	<p>Projects aiming at results, which could only be commercialized with an adaptation of the existing regulatory framework, are not eligible.</p>

**PROCEDURE FOR GERMAN APPLICANTS:**

**Until 11.01.2021:** Send an email to [c.weiser@fnr.de](mailto:c.weiser@fnr.de) and [b.vashev@fnr.de](mailto:b.vashev@fnr.de) with (A) ca. 100 words information on the focus of the total project and (B) ca. 200 words on the contributions of the German partners to the project. You will receive information if the idea is basically eligible or not and have a chance to adjust the project idea.

**Until 26.01.2020, 13:00 CET:** Applicants who are interested in funding via FNR are obliged to submit the German additional information “Zusatzformular” to [c.weiser@fnr.de](mailto:c.weiser@fnr.de) and [b.vashev@fnr.de](mailto:b.vashev@fnr.de) in parallel to submitting the pre-proposal. In case of late or failed submission, the respective project will be deemed ineligible in order to ensure the fairness towards other applicants.

In this call German applicants must ensure that the majority (> 50%) of the income generated by the technology/application in the scope of the proposal is derived from bioenergy production (to be defined in “Zusatzformular”).

**ADMINISTRATIVE BACKGROUND:**

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 max. 50%. In this case, overhead costs can be considered for companies. In 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 **in order to ensure** exploitation of results.

In late 2021, the German project partners of positively evaluated full proposals will, be required to submit national application forms (AZA or AZK using the electronic proposal assistant “easyonline” (see <https://foerderportal.bund.de/easyonline/> for details) – the usual FNR funding rules apply). The guidelines for preparing AZA/AZK have to be considered for any cost calculations in the full proposal!

At the first stage of ERA-NET Bioenergy calls, no “easyonline” forms have to be completed, but the additional information “Zusatzformular” be sent to [c.weiser@fnr.de](mailto:c.weiser@fnr.de) and [b.vashev@fnr.de](mailto:b.vashev@fnr.de) in parallel to submitting the pre-proposal.

The total requested funding of German partners in a consortium **shall not exceed 0,5 Mio. €**.

**FNR reserves the right to reject proposals for formal reasons, resulting in no funding for the German part of the project.** Therefore, it is **mandatory** to check the funding programme as well as the guidelines for applicants on the homepage of FNR and to contact FNR for further questions!

**RELEVANT LINKS:** Please consult the national guidelines for applicants:  
<https://www.fnr.de/projektfoerderung/foerderprogramm-nachwachsende-rohstoffe/antragsverfahren>

**FUNDING COMMITMENT:** 0,5 Mio. € (provisional)

**CONTACT PERSON (orga.):** Boris Vashev +49-3843-6930-162; [b.vashev@fnr.de](mailto:b.vashev@fnr.de)

**CONTACT PERSON (scient.):** Christian Weiser +49-3843-6930-252; [c.weiser@fnr.de](mailto:c.weiser@fnr.de)

## **Poland - NCBR**

FUNDING ORGANISATION: National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR);  
[www.ncbr.gov.pl](http://www.ncbr.gov.pl)

CONTACT PERSON: Dagmara Robakowska-Hyżorek, +48 509 214 741,  
[dagmara.robakowska-hyzorek@ncbr.gov.pl](mailto:dagmara.robakowska-hyzorek@ncbr.gov.pl)

### RELEVANT INFORMATION:

#### **Eligibility criteria:**

Following entities are eligible to apply: Research organizations; Micro, Small, Medium and Large Enterprise. The organisation must conduct its business, R&D or any other activity on the territory of the Republic of Poland, confirmed by an entry into the relevant register, and provide a sufficient guarantee of reliable disbursement of public funds. Max. project duration is 36 months. **The project consortium with Polish participation must contain at least one Polish enterprise to be eligible for funding.**

The eligible costs shall be the following:

1. Personnel costs (W) - researchers, technicians and other supporting staff to the extent employed on the research project;
2. Costs of subcontracting (E) - i.e. costs based on agreements with third parties to perform a portion of the project without a direct supervision of the project participant and without a relationship of subordination the subcontracting can be obtained from consortium partner only in justified case, this need will be verified by a national experts panel; Costs of subcontracting cannot exceed 70% of all eligible costs of the project.
3. Other costs (Op):
  - Costs of instruments, equipment and intangible assets (such as patents, certificates etc.) to the extent and for the period used for the research project; if they are not used for their full life for the research project, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the life of the research project, as calculated on the basis of good accounting practice, shall be considered eligible;
  - Purchase of land and real estate to the extent and for the period used for the research project; if such instruments and equipment are not used for their full life for the research project, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the life of the research project, as calculated on the basis of good accounting practice, shall be considered eligible;
  - Other costs including costs of support services, materials, supplies and similar products incurred directly as a result of the research activity, travel costs (costs of delegations, costs of participation in conferences), costs of maintaining a separate bank account, costs of promoting the project.
4. Overheads (O) - incurred indirectly as a result of the research project; Overheads must be calculated according to the formula:  $O = (W+Op) \times 25\%^*$

\*percentage 25% estimated by the Applicant himself (the same percentage for every task in the project)

#### National funding rates:

Funding quota of Polish participants can be up to 100% for research organizations. In the case of enterprises, 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 and commercial

perspective of exploitation, under the Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 25 February 2015 on criteria and rules on granting state aid and “de minimis” aid by the National Centre for Research and Development, published in Journal of Laws item 299, 2015.

	<b>Large Enterprises</b>	<b>Medium Enterprises</b>	<b>Micro/Small Enterprises</b>	<b>Universities and research organizations</b>
<b>Fundamental/Basic Research</b>	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
<b>Industrial/Applied Research</b>	Up to 50+15 (max 65 %)	Up to 50+10+15 (max 75 %)	Up to 50+20+15 (max 80 %)	Up to 100 %
<b>Experimental development</b>	Up to 25+15 (max 40 %)	Up to 25+10+15 (max 50 %)	Up to 25+20+15 (max 60 %)	Up to 100 %

In any case only Industrial/Applied Research and Experimental Development will be funded. Other type of activities (e.g. coordination, dissemination, management) cannot be included into separated task. All eligible entities, invited to submit Polish proposal are obliged to use the rate of exchange of The European Central Bank dated on the day of opening the call. Polish Participants will be informed and invited to submit Polish proposal once the international evaluation and the ranking list will be established.

Additional Information

In addition to the national regulations, within a transnational call specific rules of the consortium may be applicable. Please read carefully the Call Text and all related instructions.

RELEVANT LINKS: Application forms and further information are available: <https://www.ncbr.gov.pl/programy/programy-miedzynarodowe/wspolpraca-wielostronna/inicjatywy-typu-era-net/era-net/technology/era-net-bioenergy/aktualnosci/>

FUNDING COMMITMENT: The NCBR allocated a budget of EUR 600,000 to co-finance the participation of Polish entities in projects selected under the competition.

CONTACT PERSON: [Dagmara Robakowska-Hyżorek, +48 509 214 741, dagmara.robakowska-hyzorek@ncbr.gov.pl](mailto:dagmara.robakowska-hyzorek@ncbr.gov.pl)

## **Switzerland - SFOE**

**FUNDING ORGANISATION:** Swiss Federal Office of Energy; Energy research and Cleantech section (SFOE)

### **RELEVANT INFORMATION:**

The Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE) is able to offer funding for energy-related research, under the condition that the projects are aligned with the priorities of the Federal Energy Research Masterplan (please visit <https://www.bfe.admin.ch/bfe/en/home/research-and-cleantech/research-and-cleantech.html>). A specific goal for this call for proposals is to promote Swiss researchers' international collaboration within the ERA-NET Bioenergy framework.

The main focus is on applied research, development-related research and pilot applications of new or adapted biomass conversion technologies for the provisioning of heat for industrial processes and also the optimal integration of the technology in the overall system. Innovative approaches are key for handing in proposals. Strategy development, conceptual work and “stand-alone LCAs” for the application of new technologies will not be funded. Universities, research institutes and private companies are eligible for funding. Collaboration between research institutes and private companies (industry) is highly appreciated.

#### R&D projects

Proposals can be funded up to a maximum of 80%. Third party contributions are strongly encouraged to insure the implementation of the results. This contribution can be provided in cash or in the form of performed work. The commitment level of potential implementation partners will be an important criterion within the evaluation procedure.

#### P&D projects

Funding of Swiss participants is limited to 40% (in exceptional cases 60%) of the eligible project costs. Eligible projects costs cover only the additional project costs that cannot be amortized over the expected lifetime of the developed installation or solution. Additional projects costs are defined as the additional project costs when compared to the costs of implementing an equivalent, conventional technology or solution. See the program directive for the list of admission criteria as well as the expected deliverables of the pilot- and demonstration program projects.

The funded Swiss research partner may use and commercialize the project results. In parallel the project results will be made publicly available by SFOE. SFOE disclaims the IPRs. The mandatory can utilize the project results.

To coordinate national and ERANET Bioenergy, direct communication with the national funding body SFOE is **strictly required at least one month prior to the** submission of the pre-proposal. With regard to the specific national funding programme (R&D or P&D) different restrictions apply (see chapter 5).

**RELEVANT LINKS:** [www.bfe.admin.ch/research/bioenergy](http://www.bfe.admin.ch/research/bioenergy)

Application forms and further information for R&D as well as P&D projects are available:

<https://www.bfe.admin.ch/bfe/en/home/research-and-cleantech/research-programmes.html>

### **FUNDING COMMITMENT:**

**R&D projects: 500'000 CHF (approx. 465.000€)( over 36 months)**

**P&D projects: open**

Any contract shall be subject to the approval of annual credit facilities by the Swiss Parliament.

**CONTACT PERSON:** Sandra Hermle; +41 58 465 89 22; [sandra.hermle@bfe.admin.ch](mailto:sandra.hermle@bfe.admin.ch)