



European Research Area Network in Synthetic Biology Third Call of the Twinning Programme (SynBio TWIN)

Announcement

The ERASynBio consortium is pleased to announce the third call of the ERASynBio Twinning Programme (**SynBio TWIN**) to encourage new collaboration between researchers in Synthetic Biology. ERASynBio's goal is to establish cross-border partnerships, with a focus on interdisciplinarity, and to strengthen European efforts to achieve sustainable development of the Synthetic Biology community. US-EU partnerships are possible, see at the bottom of this announcement.

Submitted proposals will be processed continuously as they come. The call opens on 1st December 2013, the deadline for applications will be on 31st March 2014.

1. Aim of the call

ERASynBio invites applications for small focused meetings with a minimum of two partners destined to start up a research programme or to prepare a joint proposal in the field of Synthetic Biology. They are given to the research partners to perform preparatory meetings / actions. Please note that these meetings should include both the principal investigators and the relevant junior members of the involved teams. The participation of social scientists is welcome.

Additional information: ERASynBio itself will run a second transnational Calls for proposals in 2014.

2. Value of the SynBio TWIN grants

The grants have a maximum value of € 5,000 (VAT excluded). They are financed by the EC via the ERASynBio project budget. The scheme is designed to provide quick approval with minimal bureaucracy. The grant may be handled in a most flexible way, except that all work must be completed within six months of the agreed start date of the project.

3. Eligibility and Evaluation

Only travel costs (transportation, subsistence and accommodation) are eligible.

Partners can be universities and other public organizations, as well as industry including SMEs.

At least one team from one of the affiliated countries should be involved. Teams from non-affiliated EU-countries may also join such a meeting, but their cumulated costs cannot be defrayed beyond one third of their travel costs. Costs of teams from non EU-Countries cannot be compensated except for the US (see point 5). Because ERASynBio is ending in December 2014, all Twinning projects should be finished by mid-October 2014.



Participating countries in ERASynBio:

AT, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GR, LV, NL, NO, SI, PT, UK, and the US as observer.

The multinational evaluation panel will assess the proposals according to the following criteria:

- The preparatory action must lay in the scope of Synthetic Biology
- Quality of the work proposed
- Value to building new interdisciplinary partnerships in Synthetic Biology
- Benefit to the research
- Partner's track record
- Value for money

The applicants will be informed about the outcome within two weeks.

4. Application procedure and further information

- Applications must be made by use of the application form, available on the website www.erasynbio.eu.
- The completed application form for SynBio TWIN projects should be e-mailed to Francois.Kepes@Epigenomique.Genopole.fr
- In case of repeated copies of any application being received, the latest copy will be regarded as the valid copy.
- Applications will be processed as they come, and reviewed within two weeks.
- Letters will be sent to applicants to notify them on the outcome of their application within two weeks after application.
- Further information may be obtained by contacting François Kepes.

5. Administration

- A start date of the SynBio TWIN project must be agreed upon between ERASynBio and the successful applicants.
- SynBio TWIN projects must be completed within 6 months from the agreed start date.
- After the project is completed:
 - a short signed report on the work undertaken and
 - an invoice containing all expenditures clearly accountedmust be submitted to François Kepes.
- The SynBio TWIN grant is payable in arrears to the partner and will only be paid after all documents required and mentioned above have been received.
- US investigators interested in participating in a US/EU SynBio twinning activity should contact Dr. Susanne von Bodman (svonbod@nsf.gov). US scientists may apply for Supplemental Support to an existing NSF award through FastLane and request travel expenses related to twinning activities. A copy of the joint ERA-SynBio twinning application should be included in the supplement application.

