



## ERASynBio 1<sup>st</sup> joint call for transnational research projects: Building Synthetic Biology capacity through innovative transnational projects

The Synthetic Biology ERA-NET (ERASynBio) is pleased to announce its 1<sup>st</sup> joint call for transnational research projects in Synthetic Biology. The call will be open until 26 August 2013 and represents a unique opportunity for Europe and the USA to build Synthetic Biology capacity through innovative transnational projects.

Submissions of proposals will be in a single step procedure at: <https://www.pt-it.de/ptoutline/application/ERASYNBIO1>. The deadline for submitting proposals is **August, 26th, 2013, 17:00 CET**.

Together, the 13 funding agencies involved in this call expect to support around 15,500,000 € of Synthetic Biology research, which can be described as a multidisciplinary approach at the intersection of life sciences, engineering and information technology. The 1<sup>st</sup> joint call will address broad research areas within Synthetic Biology, based on the following definition: **“Synthetic Biology is the engineering of biology: the deliberate (re)design and construction of novel biological and biologically based parts, devices and systems to perform new functions for useful purposes, that draws on principles elucidated from biology and engineering.”**

The projects could originate from one or more of the following scientific (sub) fields:

- Metabolic engineering: Attaining new levels of complexity in modification of biosynthetic pathways for sustainable chemistry.
- Regulatory circuits: Inserting well-characterised, modular, artificial networks to provide new functions in cells and organisms.
- Orthogonal biosystems: Engineering cells to expand the genetic code to develop new information storage and processing capacity (xeno nucleic acids) and protein engineering.
- Bionanoscience: Developing molecular-scale motors and other components for cell-based machines or cell-free devices to perform complex new tasks.
- Minimal genomes: Identifying the smallest number of parts needed for life as a basis for engineering minimal cell factories for new functions.
- Protocells: Using programmable chemical design to produce (semi-)synthetic cells.





In order to overcome fragmentation and to establish a true interdisciplinary research, proposals will be expected to demonstrate a biology-chemistry/or -informatics/ or-mathematics/ or-physics/ or-engineering interface. Each proposal must involve a minimum of three partners from at least three different European funding countries participating in the call (consortia involving US-partners must involve partners from a minimum of four countries). Moreover, applicants must carefully outline their main ethical, societal and regulatory implications and ensure that projects adhere to the principles of EGE opinion No. 25 ([http://ec.europa.eu/bepa/european-group-ethics/docs/opinion25\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/bepa/european-group-ethics/docs/opinion25_en.pdf)) or the respective US guidelines for US partners ([http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf13001/nsf13\\_1.pdf](http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/policydocs/pappguide/nsf13001/nsf13_1.pdf)). Project duration will be between two and three years.

This call is centrally coordinated by the ERASynBio Joint Call Office, which is led by Project Management Jülich (PtJ), Germany. The funding partners are opening the call simultaneously in their respective countries, but the ERASynBio Joint Call Office will act as the central contact point for all project coordinators. Contact info:

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For full details, please refer to the call text as well as the guidelines for applicants available on the website: [www.erasynbio.eu](http://www.erasynbio.eu) and the national contact persons. In addition, there are supplementary national regulations of the funding organisations in each partner country, which applicants must refer to.





#### Funding Partners:

- ✿ AKA (Academy of Finland, Finland)
- ✿ ANR (The French National Research Agency, France)
- ✿ BBSRC (Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, United Kingdom)
- ✿ BMBF (Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany)
- ✿ DASTI (Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation, Denmark)
- ✿ FCT (Foundation for Science and Technology, Portugal)
- ✿ FWF (The Austrian Science Fund, Austria)
- ✿ KTI (Commission for Technology and Innovation, Switzerland)
- ✿ LAS (Latvian Academy of Sciences, Latvia)
- ✿ MESS (Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, Slovenia)
- ✿ NSF (National Science Foundation, United States of America)
- ✿ NWO (Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research, Netherlands)\*
- ✿ RCN (The Research Council of Norway, Norway)

\* Please note that at this date the marked organization cannot yet officially commit to the call and may withdraw their participation.

