



**ERA-Instruments WP 1**  
Coordination and knowledge exchange

**Task 1.1**  
National schemes for  
infrastructure funding in life sciences

**Deliverable 1.2**  
Comprehensive and critical overview  
on instrumentation funding in life sciences

**Task leader**  
CSIC

**April 2009**



## Deliverable 1.2

Comprehensive and critical overview  
on instrumentation funding in life sciences

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<b>1</b>	<b>Executive summary</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>About the deliverable and the work package 1/task 1.1: National schemes for infrastructure funding in life sciences</b> .....	<b>4</b>
3.1	<b>Objective</b> .....	<b>4</b>
3.2	<b>Approach</b> .....	<b>4</b>
3.3	<b>Results</b> .....	<b>5</b>
3.3.1	Analysis of the results of the questionnaire .....	<b>5</b>
3.3.2	Analysis of other EU Countries .....	<b>20</b>
3.3.3	Overview of research infrastructure calls in Europe.....	<b>22</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Conclusion</b> .....	<b>23</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Annex I</b> .....	<b>25</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Annex II</b> .....	<b>28</b>
6.1	Questionnaire AUSTRIA .....	<b>28</b>
6.2	Questionnaire CZECH REPUBLIC .....	<b>31</b>
6.3	Questionnaire ESTONIA .....	<b>36</b>
6.4	Questionnaire FRANCE .....	<b>39</b>
6.5	Questionnaire GERMANY .....	<b>45</b>
6.6	Questionnaire GREECE .....	<b>50</b>
6.7	Questionnaire ICELAND .....	<b>53</b>
6.8	Questionnaire ITALY .....	<b>56</b>
6.9	Questionnaire NETHERLANDS (Large Programme) .....	<b>60</b>
6.10	Questionnaire NETHERLANDS (Medium Programme) .....	<b>65</b>
6.11	Questionnaire SPAIN .....	<b>70</b>
6.12	Questionnaire UNITED KINGDOM .....	<b>74</b>

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## 1 Executive summary

The national research infrastructure (RI) funding schemes in life science have been collected for European countries. Information exchange has been promoted between the different national funding agencies, ministries, charities and research institutions active in this scientific area in the framework of the ERA-Instrument project. One of the strategies used has been the development and distribution of a questionnaire which includes the more relevant issues to be analyzed and compared with regard to national infrastructure funding procedures. Additional information has also been gathered from other sources in order to widen the knowledge and have a broad coverage of the European life science landscape.

The critical overview on instrumentation funding in life science in Europe has been divided in six major topics related with the aim and general characteristics of the calls, the financial issues and budgets, the submission of proposals, the selection procedures and evaluation criteria and granted applications aspects. The relation of this medium scale infrastructure funding with RI national and European (ESFRI) roadmaps has also been considered. The analysis reveals a broad variety of funding schemes in the European countries. From the comparison of the different national funding schemes, however, some general aspects can be defined.

There are infrastructure calls of high relevance for funding of equipment, managed by the national government or private foundations financed with public money in most of the European Union countries. However, the infrastructure calls are general and they are not directed towards a specific topic such as life science except for those countries which have two or multiple calls for large and medium infrastructures. The most frequent research infrastructure calls are ad-hoc with a bottom-up scheme, addressed to all public research institutions. The co-financing is a requisite in all countries but it is difficult to establish a common cost range of the infrastructure. One of the most relevant issues is the selection and evaluation procedures. National peer review based on the scientific relevance, availability of similar equipment and potential users are the evaluation criteria usually considered.

Finally, from the comparison of the national RI funding policies it has been possible to identify some common practices as well as potential steps that can be implemented in order to optimize and further develop the infrastructure funding schemes within the EU.

## 2 Introduction

It has become increasingly obvious that concepts and strategies for research infrastructure (RI) funding should be harmonised and coordinated within the EU. ESFRI has determined requirements for European RI funding and has presented a roadmap. Growing attention is paid to life sciences that rely on RIs of a less centralised, but more networked dimension. There is a clear need for action in the interdisciplinary area between physics, chemistry, biology and medical sciences as cutting edge instrumentation becomes increasingly expensive and, yet, indispensable for world-class research.

However, promotion of research policies, apart from the ESFRI projects, has been restricted so far to national efforts without managing these actions with a European view. Funding and research organisations can not afford to remain at the national stage with world-wide competition for the best scientists and the most promising projects. Frontier research is international since long and funding organisations have to follow scientists to the European level.

ERA-Instruments aims at initiating coordination and a sustainable network of 16 partners, including ministries, research councils, funding agencies and charities active in funding of life science RI. This European platform of relevant stake-holders, will set up comprehensive tools for adequate treatment of instrumentation related topics enabling conclusions for research policies on both a national and European level. The ERA-Net will focus on bio-analytical instrumentation (incl. post-genomic high-throughput techniques) such as NMR, mass spectrometry, microscopy, micro-array platforms etc. These midsize equipments have become a strategic essential strength for European countries.

Promotion of RI funding in FP7 and support for new member states will also strengthen the position of European research.

### **3 About the deliverable and the work package 1/task 1.1: National schemes for infrastructure funding in life sciences**

#### **3.1 Objective**

The objective of task 1.1 is to compile and compare the different national funding systems and sources in order to help to analyze and potentially improve the individual procedures. The results will also provide directions towards a basis for common calls.

#### **3.2 Approach**

The approach that has been used to carry out task 1.1 is to develop a questionnaire which will include relevant issues with regard to national funding schemes. The main objective of the questionnaire is to collect information on life science infrastructure funding in all EU. From the results it will be possible to find out similarities and differences between national RI funding schemes and after a systematic comparison to identify and define general aspects that will help to improve and harmonize the national procedures through EU.

The kick-off meeting of the ERA-NET held in Madrid was the starting point for the development of a questionnaire, regarding to research funding schemes, exploitation, evaluation and infrastructure research policy and the specific issues to be addressed in the questionnaire were discussed and agree among the partners. The questionnaire has been distributed to all partners. The partners of the consortium represent 12 out of the 27 Member States and 9 Associated Countries.

The following funding and research organizations of the ERA-NET project have filled in the questionnaire:

<b>Number</b>	<b>Participant organisation name</b>	<b>Partner</b>	<b>Country</b>
1	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft	DFG	Germany
2	Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique	CNRS	France
3	Biotechnology & Biological Sciences Research Council	BBSRC	United Kingdom
4	Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche	CNR	Italy
5	Ente per le Nuove tecnologie, l'Energia e l'Ambiente	ENEA	Italy
6	Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research	NWO	Netherlands
7	Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas	CSIC	Spain
8	Estonian Ministry of Education and Research	Estonian Ministry	Estonia
9	The Icelandic Centre for Research	RANNIS	Iceland
10	The National Hellenic Research Foundation	NHRF	Greece
11	Grantova agentura CR	GACR	Czech Republic
12	Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek	FWO	Belgium
14	Wellcome Trust	Wellcome Trust	United Kingdom
15	Ministry for Science and Research	BMWF	Austria
16	Medical Research Council	MRC	United Kingdom

On the other hand, besides the questionnaire filled by the partners, additional information has been gathered about the following countries, in order to have a representative number of European countries: Ireland, Switzerland, Denmark, Finland and Sweden.

The questionnaire designed for this task is divided into six different modules with a number of questions in each of them: General Issues, Financial Issues, Submission of Proposals, Selection of Procedures, Granted Applications and General Comments. The full questionnaire is detailed in Annex I.

### 3.3 Results

The results are presented in two different groups. First the information gathered from the questionnaires of 12 countries of ERA-Instruments is analysed with regard to the six modules identified as the most relevant to be addressed. Second, the analysis of the RI funding schemes of other European countries, non-partners of the project, is presented. Finally, a critical overview of the research infrastructure funding procedures in Europe is given.

#### 3.3.1 Analysis of the results of the questionnaire

The questionnaires filled by the partners are included in Annex 1. A summary of the most important concepts and strategies for infrastructure funding in each of the ERA-NET countries is presented below.

Regarding the **general issues** we have analyzed the following aspects:

#### 1. Is there a specific call for infrastructure funding in your country? Brief description

Austria	Yes
Belgium	Yes
Czech Republic	No
Estonia	Yes
France	Yes
Germany	Yes
Greece	Yes
Iceland	Yes
Italy	Yes
Netherlands	Yes
Spain	Yes
United Kingdom	No

- In most of the countries there are specific infrastructure calls. Below we have divided the countries in four groups taking into account the characteristics of the infrastructure call:

#### A. Countries with no infrastructure call

In the **United Kingdom** there is no specific national call for infrastructure on this scale after the introduction of full economic costing of grants (fEC), which requires that grant-funded projects claim for the real economic cost of their proposals, including the cost of running infrastructure and including depreciation. Research infrastructure can be purchased by research groups through normal research project grants. It is important to state that other organisations, separate from those funded by the national government, may have separate schemes.

In the **Check Republic** there is no special call for infrastructure funding, but the infrastructure can be funded only as a part of the research project. There are several institutions which fund R&D in the Czech Republic and according to the amount of money the order is as follows: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Ministry of Industry and Trade, and the Czech Science Foundation (GACR). These agencies provide 90% of money for R&D. As a reference, in 2006 the 18.5% of the total R&D budget was spent for investments from which it is possible to purchase Infrastructure. In the case of the GACR, it is established by law that it is allowed to have only bottom-up scheme for the call for proposals and these calls are general calls, including all scientific disciplines. The granting Institution is the National Government, the recipients of the call are the research institutions and the calls are open to all scientific disciplines. In order to see more details regarding this call you can refer to the specific questionnaire in Annex 1.

In **Italy** there was a specific call for Infrastructures opened for the first time last February 2008, but due to the change of government, the process has been halted, and there are not results to include in the analysis. It was a bottom-up general call, not only devoted to life science, and it was designed to be as a “scientific project based on a single specific relevant Infrastructure” with aim, objectives and final goals. In the call, the research infrastructures are conceived and developed in order to grant an open access to scientific and technical users, through competitive selection among scientific proposals. Therefore, this call has not had any relevance in the country so far; however, there are some possibilities for funding relatively large Instrumentation:

- Italian Ministry of Agriculture: National or International scientific projects (i.e.: Chromosome 5a of wheat)
- Ministries and regional/local governments.
- MIUR (Ministry of Education and Research) PON (National Operative Program): European funds that can only be located to areas of the so called “Objective 1” (Southern Italy), Ministry of Health.
- Charities: the most important for Life Sciences are AIRC (Italian Association for Cancer Research), which funds cancer related studies (i.e. Roman Oncogenomic Centre), and Telethon, which focuses on genetic disorders (mostly single gene diseases).
- Some foundations linked to banks, i.e. Intesa S. Paolo and Banca di Roma. These foundations preferentially fund projects based in the region in which the bank has its headquarters.
- Private donations.

In the case of Italy, we have taken into account the General Issues, Submission of Proposals, and Selection of Procedures.

#### B. Countries with one infrastructure call

In **Austria**, the Austrian federal ministry for Science and Research promoted four infrastructure programmes with a budget of 194 million euro (years 2001-2008). The last programme entitled “Research infrastructure IV and Temporary chairs 2007/08” promoted profile building and priority setting at Austrian universities, a sum of around 8 million euro was reserved for temporary chairs.

In **Greece**, there is a specific action (3.3.1: “Excellence among Research Centres supervised by the GSRT”) is addressed to Research Institutes supervised by the General Secretariat for Research and Technology (GSRT) of the Ministry of Development. It has been implemented by funding activities such as long-term research, purchase and development of infrastructure, training etc., which are considered necessary for maintaining or creating excellence in GSRT Research Institutes. The development of conditions for excellence in research institutes will allow enterprises that are not able to maintain significant infrastructure and personnel in research and technology, to obtain significant scientific support, know-how and services, necessary to improve their competitiveness.

In **Iceland**, the infrastructure call is managed by the Icelandic Instrument Fund (IF) to assist research institutions to finance the acquisition of expensive equipment.

In **Spain**, there is a specific call for funding of scientific-technological equipments. This call is managed by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation and it is framed under the National Research and Development Programme. It is co-financed with the European Regional Development Funds (ERDF).

The purpose and objectives of the call are to contribute to the regional development through the provision to the Spanish scientific community of technological equipment necessary for the development of their research activities. Also it aims to optimize the use of scientific and technological infrastructure and ensure the involvement of the institutions to guarantee the stability of their use in short and long term basis and to create the necessary synergies to optimize the transfer of results from research to industry.

This is the most relevant infrastructure funding scheme at national level. However, there is a specific life science infrastructure funding call from the Ministry of Health through the Health Institute Carlos III.

The objective of the call is to acquire equipment and infrastructure for scientific area of the SNS (public health system) in order to provide them with facilities and instrumental equipment for community use or shared by different research groups, targeting support units and support the research in Institutes of health research, to fill gaps in the technological research and avoid duplication.

The budget of the call is of 10 million euro per year. The eligible costs for the projects are scientific and technological equipment, the first basic equipment or furniture expansion or creation of new research laboratories and establishment and improvement of systems and technologies and it is a prerequisite the commitment of the institution for a contribution by the 25 per cent of the total cost.

There also is infrastructure funding at the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC).

#### C. Countries with two infrastructure calls

In **Netherlands**, the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) is the Dutch national research funding agency. NWO has two investment programmes that can be used to fund research equipment and facilities:

- The NWO Large Investments Programme, which involves contributions from 900.000 euro and up.
- The NWO Medium Investments Programme, involving contributions from 110.000 euro to a maximum of 900.000 euro.

In **Belgium**, the Hercules Foundation manages the funds for the infrastructure call and there are two programmes:

- Large scale infrastructure (more than 1.5 million euro).
- Medium sized infrastructure (total funding cost between 150.000 euro and 1.5 million euro)

In **Estonia**, the Estonian Foundation manages the funds for the infrastructure call and there are two programmes:

- Large scale infrastructure (between 300.000 euro and 1 million euro)
- Medium sized infrastructure (between 6.400 euro and 64.000 euro)

#### D. Countries with Multi infrastructure calls

In **France** the funding of the infrastructure in Life Sciences is multilateral. It comes from several National Institutions and local authorities which act both as operator and funding agencies and are listed below:

National institutions (research operator)

- CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique)
- INSERM (Institut National de la santé et de la Recherche Médicale)
- INRA (Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique)
- IRD (Institut de Recherche sur le Développement)
- CIRAD (Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement)
- CEA (Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique)

National institutions (funding agencies)

- ANR (Agence Nationale de la Recherche)

Local authorities:

- CHU (Centres Hospitalo-Universitaires)
- Private sources and foundations

Therefore the Investments come from several sources, including regional funds. Operation and human support are provided by research institutions either directly and/ or via some dedicated network, such as the national network Ibisa which operates distributed 109 instrumental platforms.

The questionnaire of the CNRS partner has been filled taking into account the national scheme, therefore it gives a broad and complete overview of RI funding scheme in France. More details of all funding agencies and calls related with life science RI can be found in Annex 1.

In **Germany** the research system is characterized by a substantial amount of non-university research institutions such as Max-Planck-Society, Helmholtz-Society, Leibniz-Society, and Fraunhofer, adding up to around a half of the R & D system. Most of these organisations have their own schemes for funding infrastructure, in some cases via their own internal application procedures. In the Max-Planck-Society large pieces of equipment are applied for on an individual basis by a director negotiating with the executive board. Further institutes (e.g. from Leibniz Gemeinschaft) can also obtain money, e.g. from the ministry, for expensive equipment.

There are some few ad hoc calls by the ministry for research in Germany, mostly related with programmatic funding schemes (i.e. National Genome Research Network) but regular funding schemes for the broad national research community are mainly implemented for the universities and run by DFG in two programmes:

- Continuously open call for infrastructures.
- Specific topical calls.

There is infrastructure funding in the Helmholtz Gemeinschaft and the Max- Plank Society.

The questionnaire of the German Partner has been filled regarding to the DFG funds, and not the non-university research institutions.

## 2 Is it a permanent call or ad hoc?

Austria	Ad-hoc
Belgium	Large Infrastructures: Permanent Medium Infrastructures: Permanent
Estonia	Ad-hoc
France	Permanent (Research Institutions calls) / Ad-hoc (Agencies calls)
Germany	infrastructure call: Permanent Specific call: Ad-hoc
Greece	Ad-hoc
Iceland	Permanent
Italy	Ad-hoc
Netherlands	Large Infrastructures: Permanent Medium Infrastructures: Permanent
Spain	Ad-hoc

- In 50% of the countries the calls are ad-hoc, 30% of the countries have permanent calls, and 20% of the countries have both permanent and ad-hoc calls. Countries with both options are France, a multi infrastructure call country and Germany that has two different programmes, one for infrastructures and a second one for specific topic calls.

## 3 Is the scheme bottom up or top down?

Austria	Bottom-up
Belgium	Bottom-up
Estonia	Bottom-up
France	Mainly Top-Down



Germany	Bottom up (infrastructure call) and topical bottom up (Specific Topic call), the topic is obtained by suggestions from the scientists. The decision on the topic is by the RI board and by the "Hauptausschuss" which is the highest DFG decision board for all issues.
Greece	Top-Down
Iceland	Bottom-up
Italy	Bottom-up
Netherlands	Bottom-up
Spain	Bottom-up

- In 80% of the countries the scheme is Bottom-up and Top-Down in 20% of them.

#### 4 What is the relevance of the scheme in the country? Are there other funding possibilities?

Austria	High relevance for Universities concerning infrastructure funding Other funding possibilities: <a href="http://www.fwf.ac.at/">www.fwf.ac.at/</a> , <a href="http://www.ffg.at/">www.ffg.at/</a> , <a href="http://www.bmwf.gv.at">www.bmwf.gv.at</a>
Belgium	It is the only permanent funding for research infrastructure at Flemish universities, 'hogescholen' (University institute of higher learning) and public research institutes. The Flemish Government can also fund on ad hoc basis research Infrastructure.
Estonia	The only schemes available for developing the Research Infrastructures
France	High. In addition to institutional funding, there are many public and private funding agencies and foundations.
Germany	Very important for research Infrastructures at Universities (including medical faculties), there is limited possibility to obtain equipment in DFG project grants. To some limited extent there are other sources from industry.
Greece	There are other funding possibilities such as Priority Axis 4: Technological Innovation and Research. Measure 4.5: Cooperatives for Research and Technological Development in Sectors of national Priority
Iceland	This is the main funding scheme for instruments in Iceland. Smaller instruments can be funded through the Icelandic Research Fund (IRF).
Italy	There are not dedicated public funds for infrastructure funding. However, there are some possibilities for funding relatively large Instrumentation
Netherlands	Next to the own budgets of the Universities, University Hospitals and Institutes the NWO schemes for investments are the only continuous funding opportunities. In general, with the exception of the University Hospitals these organisations do not have the funds for larger investments.
Spain	It is the only relevant funding scheme for Infrastructures at national level. Even if there are some calls at institution level (such as CSIC) and a specific life science infrastructure funding call from the Ministry of Health through the Health Institute Carlos III.

- In 90% of the countries the call is of high relevance and only in 10% of the countries is of no relevance and this information applies to the special case in Italy, in which the call has been halted. In most of the countries there are other funding possibilities though they are of smaller importance.

#### 5 Which status has the Granting Institution? (National Government, Regional Government, Research Institution, Private Foundation)

Austria	National Government
Belgium	Private Foundation established by the Flemish regional Parliament and mainly funded by the Flemish regional Government
Estonia	Estonian foundation who mediates the Structural funds.
France	All status (Multilateral)
Germany	DFG is nominally a private foundation, but financed almost exclusively by public money.
Greece	National Government
Iceland	National Government
Italy	MIUR (Ministry of Education and Research)

Netherlands	Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research is the Dutch national research funding agency
Spain	National Ministry of Science and Innovation

- The status of the institution according to the analysis is 60% of National Government, 30% Private Foundation, which are financed by Public funds, and 10% Multilateral funding, that is the case of France.

## 6 Which are the recipients of the call? (All research institutions, public research institutions, institutions linked to the funding agency)

Austria	Universities
Belgium	Flemish Universities, non-University Institute of higher learning ('Hogeschole') and public Research Institutes can apply for funding for large scale research Infrastructure.
Estonia	All Research Institutions
France	All Research Institutions
Germany	infrastructure call: Universities Specific Topic: Scientists at Universities
Greece	Public Research Institutions
Iceland	Public Research Institutions
Italy	Public Research Institution (CNR, ENEA), University Consortium and, Public/private association
Netherlands	Public Research Institutions, Universities, NWO Institutes
Spain	Public Universities, Public Research Centers and Technology Centers

- In 55% of the countries the recipients of the call are the Public Research Institutions, 20% only Universities (Austria and Germany), 10% All Research Institutions (France) and 5% Institutions linked to the funding agency.

## 7. Is a general call or is it divided by specific scientific topics, i.e. life sciences?

Austria	General call
Belgium	Large Infrastructure: General call Medium Infrastructure: General call
Estonia	General call
France	There are general calls as well as <u>specific scientific</u> and health topics for life sciences
Germany	Infrastructures call: General calls Specific call: <u>Life science calls</u>
Greece	Specific call
Iceland	General call
Italy	General call
Netherlands	Large Infrastructures: General call Medium Infrastructure: <u>Specific call</u> . Applications have to be submitted to the proper NWO Division; The NWO Division of Earth and Life Sciences and the NWO Division of Medical Sciences. Multidisciplinary applications which do not fit completely into any of the NWO's eight Division areas may be submitted to the NWO Governing Board
Spain	General call. Only a specific life science infrastructure call from the Ministry of Health

- According to the data in 60% of the countries there is a general call and in 40% a specific life science call, of which 30% are countries that have both calls, and only 10% of the countries have the specific call by itself. In the case of the specific life science calls, they are for medium scale infrastructure, and in the countries that the infrastructure funding is divided into two programs, one for large Infrastructures and other for medium Infrastructures as in the Netherlands, infrastructure call and specific calls (Germany), and multi-infrastructure call.

Regarding the **financial issues** we have analyzed the following aspects:

### 8 Is it financially supported by EU funding? If so, to what percentage?

Austria	No
Belgium	No
Estonia	Yes
France	No
Germany	No
Greece	Yes
Iceland	No
Netherlands	No
Spain	Yes

- In two third of the countries the infrastructures calls are not financially supported by European funding and one third is financially supported by the European Regional Development Funds (ERDF).

### 9 Which is the total budget of the call?

Austria	50 millions euro
Belgium	Large Infrastructures : 10 million euro Medium Infrastructures: 20 million euro
Estonia	115 million euro
France	No answer; considering the numerous sources of funding
Germany	infrastructure call: Up to 170 million euro Specific call: 3-8 million euro
Greece	10.3 million euro
Iceland	1 million euro
Netherlands	Large Infrastructures: 20 million euro Medium Infrastructures : 1-1.5 million euro per division (8 Divisions)
Spain	150 million euro

- There are big differences of the budgets of the calls depending on the country. For large infrastructures from 10 million euro up to 170 million euro and from medium infrastructures from 1 million euro to 150 million euro. In the case of Germany the budget consists of 50% of the institution's funds and 50% of the States' funds, and the co-financing of the states is the limiting factor. However, the data should be taken with care as the budgets refer to calls of different designs and will probably not allow an estimation of the national efforts in supporting research infrastructures in general.

### 10 Which is the cost range of the eligible items (lower and upper limits per item)?

Austria	-
Belgium	Large Infrastructure: More than 1.5 million euro Medium Infrastructure: From 150.000 euro to 1.5 million euro
Estonia	Large Infrastructure: From 300.000 to 1.6 million euro Medium Infrastructure: From 6.400 to 64.000 euro
France	No lower, nor upper limit
Germany	infrastructure call: Between 200.000 euro and 5 million euro Specific call: No formal limit for specific call; several instruments at lower costs or one or two for a few million euro.
Greece	-
Iceland	No range stipulated.
Netherlands	Large Infrastructures: Minimum of 900.000 euro Medium Infrastructures: From 110.000 euro to 900.000 euro. The lower limit may occasionally be relaxed in certain areas of research.
Spain	More than 60.000 euro

- The cost range of the eligible items varies depending on the country. The range of large infrastructures varies from 200.000 euro to 5 million euro, and the medium infrastructures from 6.400 euro to 1.5 million euro.

### 11 Which costs are eligible? (equipment, computer equipment and communication networks, installation, renewal or improvement, running costs and technical personnel)

Austria	Equipment, Computer equipment and communication networks, Installation other costs up to the universities
Belgium	Equipment (ICT-Infrastructure, databases and collections), renewal or improvement, installation, running costs and technical <u>personnel</u> . The cost of the last 3 categories is limited to <u>15% of the total funding</u> .
Estonia	Equipment, Computer equipment and communication networks, renewal or improvement.
France	Equipment, Computer equipment and communication networks, renewal or improvement, <u>Running costs and technical personnel</u>
Germany	<i>infrastructure call:</i> Equipment, installation, renewal or improvement <i>Specific call:</i> Equipment, installation
Greece	Equipment, Computer equipment and communication networks, Installation, Running costs and technical <u>personnel</u>
Iceland	Equipment, Computer equipment and communication networks, renewal or improvement
Netherlands	Costs of research investments and <u>personnel (eligible if convincingly demonstrated)</u> . New buildings and modifications are not eligible
Spain	Equipment, Computer equipment and communication networks, Installation, renewal or improvement

- In most of the countries the equipment, computer equipment and communication networks, installation, renewal or improvement and running costs are eligible costs. Personnel costs are eligible in 40% of the countries, but with some restrictions.

In the case of Netherlands, the application includes staff costs; the applicants must explain why it is necessary to incur them. The applicants should demonstrate convincingly that the proposed facility cannot be purchased and that the necessary expertise cannot be sourced from elsewhere at comparable expense. They should also ensure that the budget estimates contain a detailed specification of the individual tasks involved and the costs associated with each of them.

Personnel eligible costs are:

- Staff costs for the development of databases and the initial digitisation of bibliographical apparatus, if these products cannot be purchased.
- Staff costs relating to personnel who possess some form of specific technical expertise which is essential to the development or construction of the proposed equipment/facility and which cannot be sourced from elsewhere.

Personnel non eligible costs are:

- Staff cost for the exploitation or the execution of research with the facility and other staff costs.

### 12 Is co-financing with other funds a requisite?

Austria	No.
Belgium	Yes. To stimulate collaboration between the Flemish public research institutes but also with third parties (not necessary located in Flanders) a higher fraction of the total cost is funded: 70% of the total cost is funded for a selected proposal submitted by a single public actor, 90% in case of a collaborative initiative between two or more public actors and 100% for a proposal with a

	third party. The third party has to contribute in the project and obtains in return a limited access to the Infrastructure.
Estonia	Yes, national funding has to supplement 10% of the cost.
France	Yes. While not explicitly claimed, co-financing of investments and upgrading is often required.
Germany	50% co-financing from the states (no other sources) is mandatory for the infrastructure call. And for the specific call, co-financing is possible, but it is not usually the case.
Greece	No.
Iceland	Yes. 25%
Netherlands	Large infrastructures: the extent of co-funding is assessed on a case-by-case basis for large Infrastructures. The applicant institution must contribute at least 25% of the total investment. Staff costs directly relating to the development and construction of the equipment/facility can be presented as part of this contribution but a contribution must also be made to non-staff costs.
Spain	Yes. The budget for the call is co-financed with the ERDF 50%(Regions Obj.2)-30%(Regions Obj.1). From the recipients co-financing is a requisite

- In 77.8% of the countries the co-financing of the projects is a requisite and it is not in a 22.2% of the countries. The co-financing requisites vary from 10% to 50%.

Regarding the **submission of proposals**, we have analyzed the following aspects:

### 13 Is the call open around the year or are there deadlines for submission?

Austria	Deadline
Belgium	Annual or Biannual
Estonia	Deadline
France	Deadline
Germany	<i>infrastructure call</i> : Open all year <i>Specific call</i> : Individual deadline
Greece	Deadline
Iceland	Open with two deadlines
Italy	Deadline
Netherlands	<i>Large infrastructures</i> : biannual deadline. <i>Medium infrastructures</i> : annual deadline, but the deadline might be different for different NWO divisions. Some councils use a system of pre-proposals with other deadlines.
Spain	Annual Deadline

- In almost all of the countries there are deadlines for the calls (except for Germany).

### 14. Which are the deadlines for submission of proposals?

Austria	-
Belgium	- The timetable for the calls is decided by the Hercules Foundation's board
Estonia	- Different for the two instruments
France	- Pluriannual calls
Germany	-
Greece	-
Iceland	February and October
Italy	February
Netherlands	September
Spain	May

- The deadlines for submission varies depending on the country and do not provide any relevant information.

### 15. Which is the mode of submission of proposals?

Austria	Online
Belgium	Paper. In the near future an electronic procedure will be set up.
Estonia	Online and Papers
France	Paper + electronic version on CDROM, online submission is expected to be made to all submission soon
Germany	Paper
Greece	Paper
Iceland	Online
Italy	Online and Papers
Netherlands	Online
Spain	Online and Papers

- In 60% of the countries the submission of the proposals is online, in 30% of which the presentation is online and papers, and in 40% of the countries the presentation is only on paper. The tendency is to have an online submission system.

#### 16. In which language are proposals submitted?

Austria	English
Belgium	English
Estonia	National & English, depending on the instrument it can be national, national and English, or only English
France	National & English
Germany	infrastructure <i>call</i> : National or English <i>Specific call</i> : English
Greece	National & English
Iceland	National or English
Italy	National
Netherlands	English
Spain	National

- The language of the presentation of the proposals is in 30% of the countries national and English, in 20% of the countries only national, and in 30% of the countries is only in English. The tendency is to have the submission of the proposals in English.

#### 17 How long is the call for applications open?

Austria	5 months
Belgium	On average 6 months
Estonia	at least 1 month
France	Not defined; usually 2 or 3 months
Germany	2 months
Greece	1-2 months
Iceland	-
Italy	2 months
Netherlands	At least 2 months
Spain	1 month

- There are some differences between the countries; the range varies from 1 month to 6 months.

Regarding the **selection procedures**, we have analyzed the following aspects:

#### 18. Who can apply to the call?

Austria	Research institutions
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Belgium	Flemish universities, non-university institute of higher learning ('Hogescholen') and public research institutes can apply for funding for large scale research Infrastructure
Estonia	Research institutions
France	Individual Researchers and research groups, research consortium
Germany	<i>infrastructure call</i> : Universities <i>Scientific call</i> : Individual scientists or groups of scientists
Greece	Research institutions
Iceland	Individual Researchers and research groups, Research consortium, Research Institutions
Italy	Research institutions – Universities – Private Associations
Netherlands	<i>Large Infrastructure</i> : Universities, institutes linked to NWO and to KNAW (Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences), academic libraries and academic information providers <i>Medium Infrastructure</i> : Universities, NWO institutes, academic libraries and academic information providers
Spain	Research institutions – Universities – Technology Centres

- In most of the countries research institutions can apply to the call and in the case of Belgium (Hercules Foundation), Germany (DFG) and Netherlands (NWO) the call is open only to Universities. These three countries have two infrastructure programmes.

#### 19. Is there a procedure to select (filter) applications to be submitted?

Austria	No
Belgium	Yes
Estonia	Yes, the R&D institutions have to submit them in a priority list
France	Depends on the institution
Germany	Only formal checking of compliance with the call.
Greece	Yes
Iceland	No
Italy	No
Netherlands	Yes
Spain	No

- In 40% of the countries the application submitted goes through a procedure of selection and in the rest of the countries there is not any filter except the fulfilment of the criteria of the call.

#### 20. How is the evaluation of proposals performed?

Austria	International peer review
Belgium	<i>Large Infrastructure</i> : international peer review and in-house evaluation at the level of the associations and subsequently, an in house evaluation at the level of the Hercules Foundation by national experts <i>Medium Infrastructure</i> : two staged procedure, International peer review and In-house evaluation by national experts
Estonia	National and International peer review
France	National and international peer review
Germany	National and International peer review followed by selection and recommendation by a <u>permanent panel</u>
Greece	International and National peer review
Iceland	In-house evaluation
Italy	National peer review.
Netherlands	<i>Large Infrastructure</i> : International peer review and <u>site-visits</u> <i>Medium Infrastructure</i> : In-house evaluation with consultation to external referees
Spain	National peer review.

- In 20% of the countries (Italy and Spain), the evaluation of proposals is performed by national peer review, in 50% of the countries (Austria, Estonia, France, Germany and Greece), the evaluation is performed by national and international peer review, in 10% of the countries (Iceland), only in-house evaluation is performed and in 20% of the countries (Belgium and The Netherlands) there are different procedures for the Large infrastructure calls and the Medium infrastructure calls.
- In the case of the countries with national peer review, the evaluation process is explained below:

In the case of Italy, the National Government (MIUR) designates two national experts for the initial survey of the proposals; one of them is a member delegate in ESFRI and member of the Scientific Committee for infrastructure Evaluation. On the basis of this survey, the two experts indicate national reviewers in the different areas relevant for the evaluation of the proposals.

In the case of Spain, the project selection is done through a selection committee, the National Agency of Evaluation and Prospective (ANEP) who evaluates the proposals, based on scientific and technological quality of the proposals, according to the interest of the scientific, quality and robustness of the researchers and /or technical support and the type of activity taking place in each centre. The overall rating of the proposal will be a scale of 0 to 100, defining what elements of it and which are not considered eligible for funding. Each selection committee will consist of two representatives of the Autonomous Community, a representative of the Directorate General for Technology Policy and two representatives of the Directorate General for Research (one of them is the chair of the committee).

- In the case of countries with international peer review, the evaluation process of the Netherlands is explained below as an example:

For the call of large Infrastructures a multidisciplinary advisory committee selects the most promising applications on the basis of the applications, the referee reports, the applicants' responses to the reports, and a preliminary advice from the NWO Councils. A delegation from the committee will then conduct site visits in relation to the applications of this short-list. On the basis of all this information, the advisory committee will then decide which applications are to be recommended to the NWO Governing Board. The Governing Board will take a formal decision on the committee's recommendations and submit this to the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science for ministerial approval. Finally, the applicants will be notified of the results of the selection procedure.

For the call of Medium infrastructure the selection of applications is the responsibility of the relevant NWO divisions. Selection procedures vary but include consultation with external referees, applicant response to the referee reports, and prioritisation of applications by an assessment committee which then reports back to the NWO division. The final award decisions are taken by the NWO division themselves. In case of multidisciplinary applications NWO selects external referees who are able to judge the multidisciplinary character of the application. These applications are assessed by the most relevant NWO divisions.

## 21. Which are the evaluation criteria used?

Austria	Scientific relevance and the presence of internationally recognized researchers. The competitive nature and the connections to existing scientific activities of top quality should guarantee that the universities best plans may be realized.
Belgium	Scientific relevance, Availability of similar equipment, Potential Users, running expertise and the soundness of the equipments' investment and exploitation plan
Estonia	Scientific relevance
France	Scientific relevance, Availability of similar equipment, Potential Users and Running expertise



Germany	Scientific quality of the proposed projects, track record of applicants, including running expertise and potential Users. Available personnel and available money for follow-up costs are also considered.
Greece	Scientific relevance, Availability of similar equipment, Potential Users and Running expertise
Iceland	Scientific relevance, Availability of similar equipment and Potential Users
Italy	-
Netherlands	Academic quality, social relevance, National interest, Financial and technical criteria
Spain	Scientific relevance

- In 100% of the countries the scientific relevance is the most important criteria for evaluation, followed by Availability of similar equipment and Potential Users in 40% of the cases and the running expertise in 30% of them. Some specific countries such as The Netherlands present a higher variety of criteria for evaluation. For further details refer to the questionnaire in Annex 1.

## 22. Which is the duration of the evaluation period (from deadline to communication of final decision)?

Austria	2 months
Belgium	3-5 months
Estonia	3-5 months
France	Several months
Germany	5 months
Greece	18-24 months
Iceland	3-4 months
Italy	-
Netherlands	<i>Large Infrastructure:</i> 9 months <i>Medium Infrastructure:</i> 6 months
Spain	6 months

- The duration of the evaluation period varies depending on the country, from 2 months to 6 months in average except in Greece.

Regarding the **granted applications**:

## 23 Will the acquired equipment belong to the recipient institution?

Austria	Yes
Belgium	Yes. Recipient / host institute owns equipment
Estonia	Yes
France	Yes
Germany	infrastructure call: Yes Specific call: Initially the instruments are formally owned by DFG, later transferred to recipient institution
Greece	Yes
Iceland	Yes
Netherlands	Yes
Spain	Yes

- The acquired equipment belongs in 100% of the countries to the recipient institution.

**24 How is the acquisition of the granted equipment accomplished?**

Austria	Direct acquisition by the recipient researcher
Belgium	Public call for offer by the host institute to purchase 'of the self' equipment. For joint development of new equipment with third party : ad hoc procedure
Estonia	Public call for offers
France	Public call for offers
Germany	<i>infrastructure call</i> : Acquisition by university <i>Specific call</i> : Acquisition by DFG including public call for offers
Greece	Public call for offers
Iceland	Direct acquisition by the recipient researcher
Netherlands	Direct acquisition
Spain	Public call for offers

- In 66.7% of the countries the acquisition of the granted equipment is through public call for offers and in 33.3% by direct acquisition, in the case of Austria, Iceland and the Netherlands.

**25 Which is the eligible period for acquisition (natural year, months after decision communication, possibility of including equipment acquired before decision communication)?**

Austria	1-2 months
Belgium	Based on the equipment's characteristics this period is decided in the funding agreement
Estonia	- It is specified separately for each instrument
France	- After decision communication
Germany	12 months after decision communication
Greece	-
Iceland	12 months after signing of the contract. Negotiable in special circumstances
Netherlands	There is officially no limit
Spain	12 months after signing of the contract

- The eligible period of the acquisition is in normally 12 months after signing of the contract in most of the countries.

**26. Is the acquired equipment transferable?**

Austria	No
Belgium	Yes, but a Flemish public research institute or consortium of research institutes must have the ownership
Estonia	No
France	Depends on the institution
Germany	Large infrastructures: As the university wishes, transfer to other countries could be difficult Medium infrastructures: Depending on the receiving institution, transfer to other countries is difficult. For Specific call the transfer is difficult in technical terms, but basically possible, in exceptional cases transfer to other countries
Greece	Yes to other centres within the institution
Iceland	Yes to other centres within the institution and to other institutions within the country
Netherlands	Yes to other centres within the institution and to other institutions within the country
Spain	Yes to other centres within the institution

- The acquired equipment is transferable to other centres within the institution in most of the countries. Transfer to other institutions is only possible in some countries such as Iceland,

Belgium and the Netherlands but the transfer to other countries is difficult and only seems to be possible in the case of Germany.

## 27. Who are the expected users?

Austria	Individual Researchers - Research Centres
Belgium	All. the Hercules mechanism is designed to have as open an access to the funded equipment as managerially and logistically possible.
Estonia	Individual researchers or research groups, Research Centres and Institutes, National Scientific community
France	National and International Scientific community
Germany	For infrastructure call: depends on the policy of the university or the responsible scientist For Specific call: Individual researchers or research groups, Research Centres and Institutes, National Scientific community, Limited use by foreign scientists/groups is possible
Greece	Research Centres - National Scientific community
Iceland	Individual researchers or research groups, Research Centres and Institutes, National and International Scientific community
Netherlands	National and International (encouraging) Scientific Community
Spain	Individual researchers or research groups, Research Centres and Institutes

- The expected users of the calls are individual researchers and research centres in 100% of the countries, in 60% of the cases is open to National Scientific community and in 30% of the cases is open to International Scientific Community.

## 28. Have follow up procedures been established?

Austria	Annual reports
Belgium	During the deprecation period of the infrastructure two intermediate reports have to be submitted and a final report at the end of that period.
Estonia	Annual reports and onsite visits
France	Annual reports and onsite visits
Germany	<i>infrastructure call</i> : One report after three years of operation <i>Specific call</i> : One report after few years; can include site visit
Greece	Annual reports and onsite visits
Iceland	The applicants are required to submit papers verifying the purchase of the equipment requested. There is a survey on usage.
Netherlands	<i>Large Infrastructure</i> : Financial evaluation and Scientific evaluation <i>Medium Infrastructure</i> : Financial evaluation
Spain	There is no scientific evaluation of these smaller type of facilities Annual reports

- Annual Reports is the follow up procedure in all cases, in some countries combined with onsite visits. In the specific case of the Netherlands there are two types of evaluation:  
Financial evaluation: the granted applicants must submit an expenditure scheme for the whole period of the grant. The last 5% of the NWO funds is paid upon receipt of the financial report that has to be submitted at the end of the funding period.  
Scientific evaluation: NWO carries out also an evaluation of the funded equipment; usually some time after the equipment is operational. The evaluation is based on the selection criteria for the funding and to the terms related to the granting.

## 29. How is the funding scheme related with RI national and European (ESFRI) roadmaps?

Austria	Relation by Scientific Communities
Belgium	Preparing a regional Roadmap
Estonia	Preparing a national Roadmap for the period (2008-2013)
France	The first National French Roadmap has been published on December 2008, waiting one or two years for the evaluation of its effects on the infrastructure

	funding. Projects elected in the ESFRI roadmaps are preferentially supported by the research institutions
Germany	For the infrastructures call, there is no relation to ESFRI. The specific calls may touch ESFRI projects, e.g. INSTRUCT and new EuroBiolumaging, but there is no real link
Greece	In the framework of the sixth Research & Technology national plan, there is a combination of the Research infrastructure with the existing roadmap.
Iceland	It has not been done
Italy	-
Netherlands	Only recently some budget became available for the funding of the Dutch contribution to some ESFRI facilities. In the near future only a limited amount of budget will be available for facilities on the Dutch infrastructure roadmap. Within NWO there are ongoing discussions to balance between the several levels of infrastructure in the near future.
Spain	There is a specific call for funding the National Roadmap.

- In most of the countries there is a regional or national Roadmap, either on a preparatory phase or with the first running calls, but with no explicit relation to ESFRI.

### 3.3.2 Analysis of other EU Countries

#### Ireland

There was a coordinated Equipment call in 2007 from three Republic of Ireland Agencies that support science research: Enterprise Ireland (EI), the Higher Education Authority (HEA) and Science Foundation Ireland (SFI). The objective of the call is to allow researchers in Higher Education Institutions (HEI) access first class state-of-the-art equipment that will allow them carry out research that would otherwise not be as competitive. Each Agency will provide its own call that will address different groups within the HEI community. The Agencies will coordinate their awards to ensure that there is no redundant funding, and that the equipment provided best serves the total HEI community.

There are no financial limits within this call, other than a minimum limit of €50,000: This call is principally designed for requests of one piece of equipment only. SFI will fund competitive equipment requests for up to €500,000 (including VAT, transport, installation). For equipment requests above €500,000, there is a required 10% co-financing from the institution or other sources. All proposals will be subject to national peer review.

The submission of the proposals is online applications and exceeding the page limits on any of the sections will be deemed ineligible and returned to the applicant.

The deadline evaluation process last for 2 months and the equipment should be acquired within one year of the award, through public call for offers.

The evaluation criteria for selecting the successful proposals is the scientific impact of the equipment on the research, the benefit of the equipment to other researchers, demonstration of multiple users and the credibility and realism of the management plan for the operation, usage and prioritisation of large pieces of equipment.

The eligible costs are the cost of equipment, including academic discounts, VAT, transport and installation and maintenance costs on equipment. This can include minimum service contract for up to two years from date of purchase and for equipment above €500,000 the salary associated with a dedicated person to run and maintain the equipment for up to 2 years from date of purchase.

#### Switzerland

There are two programmes regarding the infrastructure funding that are managed by the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). The SNSF is the Switzerland's leading provider of scientific research funding. With its federal mandate, it supports basic research in all disciplines, from philosophy and biology to nanosciences and medicine. It also invests in applied research in various scientific fields. The focus of its activities is the scientific endorsement of projects submitted by researchers. The best applicants are funded by the SNSF with an annual total amount equalling approximately CHF 500 million.

The programmes are:

1. R'Equip – Research Equipment: Under its R'Equip programme (Research Equipment), the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) supports the purchase, development and modernization (upgrading) of research equipment, which is essential for the launch of new research facilities. In recent years, investment in research equipment has declined to a relatively low level in the country and the objective of this programme is to fund research equipment at Swiss higher education institutions. The SNSF accepts applications for R'Equip funding for all specialist areas and the conditions for applications and funding are to be found in the R'Equip regulations that can be downloaded in German and in French. It is an annual call with deadlines for submission and proposals can only be submitted on the electronic way. The announcement of the decision will take 6 months.
2. FORCE : The State Secretariat for Education and Research (SER) has entrusted the Swiss National Science Foundation's (SNSF) Mathematics, Natural and Engineering Sciences division (Division II) with the administration of the Fund for Research at CERN (FORCE). FORCE is designed to support the participation of Swiss researchers in the implementation and evaluation of detectors in the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), but is also available for other CERN installations. The submitted applications will be evaluated by the Division II of the Research Council. The scientific quality of the regular SNSF project will be taken into account in this evaluation.

## Denmark

The Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation, under the National Programme for Research infrastructure 2007-2009, has an infrastructure call which in 2007, had a budget of DKK 200 million available. The infrastructure programme supports investments that are of national strategic importance and that are, due to their large scale, generally utilised by several institutions jointly. The funding from the National Programme for Research infrastructure is available for:

- Establishment of major national research infrastructures.
- Danish membership or participation in major international research infrastructures.
- Preliminary projects/project maturation.

The evaluation criteria are the following ones:

- National interest forms the basis for research at the highest international level with significant topicality and relevance.
- Societal and commercial relevance, benefit and potential.
- Detailed plan for the project's organisation, management, consortia formation, handling of technical challenges, etc.
- Correlation with the research institutions' own strategic priorities. In this regard, the potential applicants' co-financing and other resource contributions will be taken into account.
- Accessible for relevant research teams (incl. utilisation of the infrastructure, collected data, etc.)

Expressions of interest and applications must be submitted in English using the research advisory system's standard Application Form (English version). However, the Popular-science description must be submitted in both English and Danish. The project description should contain: Quality, topicality and relevance of the research and Societal and commercial relevance, benefit and potential.

## Finland

Finland has lacked a national infrastructure policy and thereby the mechanisms that are suitable for the evaluation and funding of these kinds of infrastructures. New financing procedures and resources are expected to develop national infrastructures; research equipment and stations, collections, databases, etc.

## Sweden

The Swedish Research Council has the following calls:

- *Large-scale research infrastructures call:* The recipient of the calls are the university/institution, unless the Swedish Research Council and the host university/institution agree otherwise.

The applications to the Swedish Research Council must be made entirely electronically (Incomplete applications will not be processed), by means of an online form reached by the link "Ansök här/Apply here (VR-Direct)" on the Swedish Research Council's website.

The applicant must specify the primary scientific field and/or subject area of the proposed project. An applicant who considers that the project involves more than one field or area should state this in the beginning of the research programme. Within the Swedish Research Council, the decision is thereafter taken where primary responsibility for the review should lie and whether one or more other scientific councils or committees should make a supplementary assessment.

There is no information about the evaluation and decision.

- Research Equipment Grant for more than SEK 2 million

Research Equipment Grants (> SEK 2 millions) are investment contributions for research infrastructures. Research Equipment Grants cannot be used for premises, operation, maintenance, administration or consumer materials for the equipment, nor for other equipment that can be deemed to be standard laboratory or office issue (including personal computers).

Grants can be sought by representatives of infrastructures or researchers or groups participating or intending to participate or running existing national and/or international infrastructure projects.

The applications including annexes should be in English apart from the obligatory popular-science project description, which should be in Swedish. The decisions of the funding of grants will be taken on 6 months and the evaluation panels' decisions will be sent to all applicants.

The Swedish Research Council call is intended for high-quality research initiated by researchers. The scientific assessment of the applications is made by active researchers. Every application is assessed on a competitive basis using the Swedish Research Council's evaluation criteria.

Regarding the evaluation criteria the Swedish Research Council supports basic research in all scientific areas. Scientific quality is the fundamental criterion for the Swedish Research Council's allocation of research grants. The grant allocation shall also promote equality between women and men and mobility of researchers. Applications for Research Equipment Grants and project research awards will be assessed professionally by evaluation panels appointed by the relevant scientific councils. KFI's panels will then produce an assessment of the relevance of applications to existing and future research infrastructures.

### 3.3.3 Overview of research infrastructure calls in Europe

From the analysis of the results we can conclude that in the European Union countries there are infrastructure calls of high relevance for funding of equipment, managed by the national government or private foundations financed with public money. The infrastructure calls are general and they are not divided in specific topics such as life sciences in our study, but in those countries that there are different calls for large and medium infrastructures, the second one has generally a specific call for life sciences or related. The typical research infrastructure call is ad-hoc with a bottom-up scheme, addressed to public research institutions.

The call is not supported by European Funding, except in the cases that the European Regional Development Funds (ERDF) can be applied, and the co-financing is a requisite in all countries. The cost range of large Infrastructures varies from 200.000 euro to 5 million euro and from 6.400 euro to 1.5 million euro in the medium Infrastructures.

The calls are annual or biannual with specific deadlines; the submission of the proposals is mainly online although some are still on paper. The language of the presentation of the proposals is in English and in national language (additional) in some countries and the call is open an average from 1 month to 6 months.

Regarding the selection of procedures, research institutions and universities can apply to the call, and the application submitted goes through an evaluation procedure performed by national peer review (international only in some cases) within duration from 2 to 6 months and taking into account scientific relevance, availability of similar equipment and potential users as an evaluation criteria.

The acquired equipment belongs to the recipient institution, through public call for offers, within a period of 12 months after signing of the contract. Equipment is transferable to other centres within the institution, being the expected users of the equipment the individual researchers and research centres. The follow up procedures are reports, combined with onsite visits.

#### **4 Conclusion**

This study provides a general overview of the national tools for funding research infrastructure in life science in Europe. From the analysis and systematic comparison, some differences and similarities have been identified among the national funding schemes and pointed out.

In conclusion some recommendations are proposed which may help to improve the efficiency of national programmes and more important to harmonize and further develop the infrastructure funding within the EU. Some relevant aspects that can be considered as “best practices” for a medium scale infrastructure call are the following ones:

1. It is very important to have continuity in funding research infrastructures from national programmes in the framework of the national plans for Research & Technology, with continuous up-grading of the existing infrastructures and funding of new infrastructures.
2. The definition of the call should be based on the needs of the scientific community.
3. The infrastructure calls could be divided into two programmes:
  - a. General infrastructure calls for mid-size equipments
  - b. Specific calls for cutting edge equipments
4. calls should be targeted to different user groups in all research entities.
5. Grant applications should explicitly include the infrastructure in the international context.
6. The evaluation could be different depending on the cost range of the equipment. International peer review is encouraged in the upper limit of the cost range and otherwise national peer review by different panels.

7. Language of the proposal should be compulsory in English and optional in national language.
8. Personnel costs, maintenance and upgrades should be included as an eligible cost. This is not the case in a lot of the EU countries.
9. The possibility to assess multidisciplinary proposals should be considered.



## 5 Annex I - Questionnaire distributed to the partners

### **General Issues**

1 Is there a specific call for infrastructure funding in your country? Brief description

2 Is it a permanent call or ad hoc?

3 Is the scheme bottom up or top down?

4 What is the relevance of the scheme in the country? Are there other funding possibilities?

5 Which status has the Granting Institution?

- National Government
- Regional Government
- Research Institution
- Private Foundation

6 Which are the Recipients of the call?

- All research institutions
- Public research institutions
- Institutions linked to the funding agency

7 Is a general call or is it divided by specific scientific topics i.e. life sciences?

### **Financial Issues**

8 Is it financially supported by EU funding? If so, to what percentage?

9 Which is the total budget of the call?

10 Which is the cost range of the eligible items (lower and upper limits per item)?

11 Which costs are eligible?

- Equipment
- Computer equipment and communication networks
- Installation
- Renewal or improvement
- Running costs and technical personnel
- Others (specify)

12 Is co-financing with other funds a requisite?

### **Submission of Proposals**

13 Is the call open around the year or are there deadlines for submission?

14 If so, which are the deadlines for submission of proposals?

15 Which is the mode of submission of proposals?

- Online

- Paper forms

16 In which language are proposals submitted?

- National(s)
- English
- Others (specify)

17 How long is the call for applications open?

### ***Selection Procedures***

18 Who can apply to the call?

- Individual Researchers and research groups
- Research consortium
- Research Institutions
- Others (specify)

19 Is there a procedure to select (filter) applications to be submitted?

20 How is the evaluation of proposals performed?

- International peer review
- National peer review
- In-house
- Others (specify)

21 Which are the evaluation criteria used?

- Scientific relevance
- Availability of similar equipment
- Potential Users
- Running expertise
- Others (specify)

22 Which is the duration of the evaluation period (from deadline to communication of final decision)?

### ***Granted Applications***

23 Will the acquired equipment belong to the recipient institution?

24 How is the acquisition of the granted equipment accomplished?

- Direct acquisition by the recipient researcher
- Public call for offers

25 Which is the eligible period for acquisition (natural year, months after decision communication, possibility of including equipment acquired before decision communication)?

26 Is the acquired equipment transferable?

- No
- To other centres within the institution
- To other institutions within the country
- To other countries

27 Who are the expected users?

- Individual researchers or research groups

- Research Centres and Institutes
- National Scientific community
- International Scientific community

28 Have follow up procedures been established?

- Annual reports
- On site visits
- Others (specify)

**General comments**

29 How is the funding scheme related with RI national and European (ESFRI) roadmaps?

30 What do you think best practices for funding schemes will be?

## 6 Annex II – Questionnaire results – answers from partners

### 6.1 Questionnaire AUSTRIA

#### General Issues

1 Is there a specific call for infrastructure funding in your country? Brief description

From 2001-2008 the Austrian federal ministry for Science and Research promoted 4 infrastructure programmes with a budget k€ 194.466 (years 2001-2008)

The last programme entitled “Research infrastructure IV and Temporary chairs 2007/08 “should promote profile building and priority setting at Austrian universities, a sum of around K€ 8,000 was reserved for temporary chairs.

2 Is it a permanent call or ad hoc?

ad hoc calls

3 Is the scheme bottom up or top down?

Bottom up: universities were invited to send applications, important was scientific excellence, joint applications between universities were possible, peer review evaluation of applications by international panels (organized by Austrian Science Fond FWF)

4 What is the relevance of the scheme in the country? Are there other funding possibilities?

High relevance for universities concerning infrastructural measures, other funding possibilities –see links\_www.fwf.ac.at/, www.ffg.at, www.bmwf.gv.at

5 Which status has the Granting Institution?

- National Government
- Regional Government
- Research Institution
- Private Foundation

6 Which are the Recipients of the call?

#### Universities

- All research institutions
- Public research institutions
- Institutions linked to the funding agency

7 Is a general call or is it divided by specific scientific topics i.e. life sciences?

general call for all universities and scientific topics

#### Financial Issues

8 Is it financially supported by EU funding? If so, to what percentage?

not supported by EU funding

9 Which is the total budget of the call?

last call: around 50 Mio. Euro

10 Which is the cost range of the eligible items (lower and upper limits per item)?

11 Which costs are eligible?

- Equipment
- Computer equipment and communication networks
- Installation

**other costs were up to the universities**

- Equipment
- Computer equipment and communication networks
- Installation
- Renewal or improvement
- Running costs and technical personnel
- Others (specify)

12 Is co-financing with other funds a requisite?

No

**Submission of Proposals**

13 Is the call open around the year or are there deadlines for submission?

**deadline for submission ,the call was open 5 months**

14 If so, which are the deadlines for submission of proposals?

15 Which is the mode of submission of proposals?

**Only online**

- Online
- Paper forms

16 In which language are proposals submitted?

- **English**
- National(s)
- English
- Others (specify)

17 How long is the call for applications open?

**5 months**

**Selection Procedures**

18 Who can apply to the call?

- **Research Institutions**
- Individual Researchers and research groups
- Research consortium
- Research Institutions
- Others (specify)

19 Is there a procedure to select (filter) applications to be submitted?

**no**

20 How is the evaluation of proposals performed?

- **International peer review**
- International peer review
- National peer review
- In-house
- Others (specify)

21 Which are the evaluation criteria used?

- **Scientific relevance and the presence of internationally recognized researchers. The competitive nature and the connections to existing scientific activities of top quality should guarantee that the universities best plans may be realized.**
- Availability of similar equipment
- Potential Users

- Running expertise
- Others (specify)

22 Which is the duration of the evaluation period (from deadline to communication of final decision)?

2 months

### *Granted Applications*

23 Will the acquired equipment belong to the recipient institution?

yes

24 How is the acquisition of the granted equipment accomplished?

- **Direct acquisition by the recipient researcher**
- Direct acquisition by the recipient researcher
- Public call for offers

25 Which is the eligible period for acquisition (natural year, months after decision communication, possibility of including equipment acquired before decision communication)?

1-2 months after decision communication

26 Is the acquired equipment transferable?

- **No**
- No
- To other centres within the institution
- To other institutions within the country
- To other countries

27 Who are the expected users?

- **Individual researchers or research groups**
- **Research Centres and Institutes**
- Individual researchers or research groups
- Research Centres and Institutes
- National Scientific community
- International Scientific community

28 Have follow up procedures been established?

- **Annual reports**
- Annual reports
- On site visits
- Others (specify)

### *General comments*

29 How is the funding scheme related with RI national and European (ESFRI) roadmaps?

relation by scientific communities

30 What do you think best practices for funding schemes will be?

very important are: international peer review evaluation  
grant applications should explicitly include international context, human resources, management and innovative aspects, annual reports

### *To be submitted*

- Text of the call for proposals
- Application forms
- Web link to the call (if available)

web link to the call:

[www.bmwf.gv.at](http://www.bmwf.gv.at)

## 6.2 Questionnaire CZECH REPUBLIC

### General Issues

1 Is there a specific call for infrastructure funding in your country? Brief description

There is no special call for infrastructure funding.

In the Czech Republic the public support to R&D is provided through 21 different institutions. Funds for R&D are divided to targeted and institutional support.

Six largest providers provide 90% of money for R&D.

For example in 2006 from total expenditures for R&D 18.5% were spent for investments (from which it is possible to purchase infrastructure).

2 Is it a permanent call or ad hoc?

The Czech Science Foundation (GACR) does not have any specific call for infrastructure funding. The GACR has the general call for proposals and infrastructure can be funded only as a part of the research project.

3 Is the scheme bottom up or top down?

It is established by law that for the GACR it is allowed to have only bottom-up scheme for the call for proposals.

4 What is the relevance of the scheme in the country? Are there other funding possibilities?

There are several institutions which fund R&D in the Czech Republic. The GACR is one of the four largest providers of money for research. According to the amount of money the order is as follows: Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Ministry of Industry and Trade, the GACR.

5 Which status has the Granting Institution?

- National Government

6 Which are the Recipients of the call?

- All research institutions

7 Is a general call or is it divided by specific scientific topics i.e. life sciences?

The GACR has a general call, which includes all scientific disciplines.

### Financial Issues

8 Is it financially supported by EU funding? If so, to what percentage?

The GACR does not have any support from EU funds. In the Czech Republic EU funding is provided through ministries.

9 Which is the total budget of the call?

There is no special call for infrastructure. The GACR budget for fiscal year 2008 was 60 M Euro. It was the total budget for the GACR. It means that this money was divided to ongoing projects from previous years and to newly awarded grants, too.

10 Which is the cost range of the eligible items (lower and upper limits per item)?

According to the Czech law the infrastructure is defined as the equipment (long-term instruments, machines, software and other equipment) which costs more than 40 000 CZK (approx. 1600 EUR) and is necessary for the project and is used in direct connection with it.

Rules for providing money by the GACR:

- money can be provided only for equipment in direct relation to the project
- principle investigator's organization becomes the owner of the equipment

Allowable costs for acquisition of long-term tangible assets (>40 000 CZK)

operational and technical function of the equipment is >1 year

1) operational and technical function > time for the project completion

$$UN = (A/B) \times C \times D$$

UN – allowable costs

A – period in years the assets will be used for the project

B – period in years for which the assets may be used (lifetime)

C – acquisition price of the assets

D – the proportion of use of assets for the project completion

Example:

price of the equipment is 3 000 000 CZK, project lasts 3 years, the equipment lifetime is 10 years and 80% of its capacity is used for the project

$$\text{allowable costs} = (3/10) \times 3\,000\,000 \times 0,8 = 720\,000 \text{ CZK}$$

2) operational and technical function  $\leq$  time for the project completion

$$UN = C \times D$$

11 Which costs are eligible?

According to Guidelines for call for proposals announced by the GACR the following items are eligible:

- Material costs (consumables, services, travel costs)
- Personnel costs
- Investments for infrastructure (purchase of equipment).

IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO FUND INFRASTRUCTURE IN DOCTORAL AND POST-DOCTORAL PROJECTS.

Within the framework of services running costs can be funded.

12 Is co-financing with other funds a requisite?

Yes. Usually the big investment for infrastructure consists of money from different sources. There are two options of funding equipment. The equipment is fully funded by the GACR by funds allocated for this equipment in the project. The other possibility is that the GACR only co-fund the purchase of the equipment.

### *Submission of Proposals*

13 Is the call open around the year or are there deadlines for submission?

The call for proposals in the GACR has a deadline once a year.

14 If so, which are the deadlines for submission of proposals?

The deadline for submission of proposals is April 1.

15 Which is the mode of submission of proposals?

- Online

16 In which language are proposals submitted?

- National(s)



- English

Projects submitted to the GACR are of several types:

**Standard projects:** project proposal is submitted in Czech and in English.

**Doctoral and postdoctoral projects:** project proposal is submitted in Czech, parts which describe the aim of the project can be written in English and applicants often submit these parts in English. Projects are evaluated only at the national stage.

IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO FUND INFRASTRUCTURE IN DOCTORAL AND POST-DOCTORAL PROJECTS.

**Bilateral projects:** project proposal is submitted in English, detailed description of financial issues is given also in Czech.

**EUROCORES projects:** financial issues and contact details are given in Czech, parts which describe the aim of the project and CV of the participants are written in English. It is necessary to submit to the GACR also the copy of the proposal to the ESF, which is given in English.

17 How long is the call for applications open?

According to the Czech law, call for proposals is open for 6 weeks.

#### *Selection Procedures*

18 Who can apply to the call?

Any natural or legal person residing in the Czech Republic concerned with research and development is eligible for funding. Cooperation of several institutes is possible.

19 Is there a procedure to select (filter) applications to be submitted?

There is no pre-selection of applications submitted to the GACR.

20 How is the evaluation of proposals performed?

**Standard and bilateral projects:** international peer review, 3 reviews are required (at least one from abroad).

**Doctoral and postdoctoral projects:** national peer review.

**EUROCERES projects:** international peer review, in the ESF evaluation is done by panels.

21 Which are the evaluation criteria used?

- Novelty, originality of the project
- Scientific importance
- Expected benefits
- Preparation of the project and its targets
- Concept, methodology and timeline
- Qualification of the applicant and necessary facilities
- Appropriateness of financial cost

22 Which is the duration of the evaluation period (from deadline to communication of final decision)?

The duration of the evaluation period is 8 months. (It is expected to be shortened to 6 months in 2009).

#### *Granted Applications*

23 Will the acquired equipment belong to the recipient institution? **Yes.**

24 How is the acquisition of the granted equipment accomplished?

- Direct acquisition by the recipient researcher – the researcher is obliged to provide list of offers from several companies, then choose one and give reasons for the decision

25 Which is the eligible period for acquisition (natural year, months after decision communication, possibility of including equipment acquired before decision communication)?

Time for acquisition of equipment is planned in the call for proposal. Equipment is usually purchased in the first year of the project.

26 Is the acquired equipment transferable?

- No

27 Who are the expected users?

- Individual researchers or research groups

28 Have follow up procedures been established?

- Annual reports
- On site visits

Every Principle Investigator reports about the work done in Annual reports. At the end of the project Final report is prepared.

#### *General comments*

29 How is the funding scheme related with RI national and European (ESFRI) roadmaps?

The GACR does not have any targeted support especially for infrastructure. It has a general call, which includes all scientific disciplines and within this call small and midsize infrastructure can be funded.

The governmental assignee for European research is Professor Ivan Wilhelm, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, [ivan.wilhelm@msmt.cz](mailto:ivan.wilhelm@msmt.cz)

Information about ESFRI can be obtained from Contact persons for ESFRI for the Czech Republic:

Mrs. Nadezda Witzanyova, Dept of International Cooperation in R&D, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, [nadezda.witzanyova@msmt.cz](mailto:nadezda.witzanyova@msmt.cz)

Mr. Jan Hrusak, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, [hrusak@jh-inst.cas.cz](mailto:hrusak@jh-inst.cas.cz); [hrusak@kav.cas.cz](mailto:hrusak@kav.cas.cz)

The Czech Republic has also a member in Roadmap Working Group for Biological and Medical Sciences: Mr. Michal V. Marek, Institute of Systems Biology and Ecology, [emarek@brno.cas.cz](mailto:emarek@brno.cas.cz)

30 What do you think best practices for funding schemes will be?

The government resolution No.1192/2006 deals with support of research in the Czech Republic. Several priorities can be found in this document:

- European centres of excellence
- Regional centres of excellence
- infrastructure for research and development at universities

Within the framework of all these three priorities infrastructure and equipment of different type can be purchased.

The GACR recommends longer projects (for five years) with possibility to purchase cutting edge equipment.

*To be submitted*

Text of the call for proposals – text of the call for proposals is given in Czech only. We can provide [Guidelines for bilateral projects, which are written in English](#). It is a short summary of rules for application of bilateral projects.

Application forms – [are available only for on-line application of calls for proposals, draft copies cannot be provided](#)

Web link to the call (if available) - [web link to the call is given in Czech language only](#)  
<http://pelmo.gacr.ca/gp/login.php>

### 6.3 Questionnaire ESTONIA

#### General Issues

1 Is there a specific call for infrastructure funding in your country? Brief description

There were 2 calls from EU Structural funds in 2005-2006, first for general development of RIs at Estonian R&D institutions; and the second for developing of RIs of the Estonian centres of Excellence  
Currently, there are 3 calls under preparation for the general support to RIs at Estonian R&D institutions to be launched in 2009-2010

2 Is it a permanent call or ad hoc?

Ad hoc

3 Is the scheme bottom up or top down?

The 2005-2006 calls were bottom-up, out of the three calls in 2009-2010 2 calls will be bottom-up and 1 will be top-down

4 What is the relevance of the scheme in the country?

These have been and will be the only schemes available for developing the RIs

Are there other funding possibilities?

No

5 Which status has the Granting Institution?

- National Government
- Regional Government
- Research Institution
- Private Foundation

As these are EU structural funds monies supplemented by national funding the monies are channelled via an Estonian foundation who mediates them

6 Which are the Recipients of the call?

- All research institutions
- Public research institutions
- Institutions linked to the funding agency

7 Is a general call or is it divided by specific scientific topics i.e. life sciences?

A general call

#### Financial Issues

8 Is it financially supported by EU funding? If so, to what percentage?

The 2005-2006 calls were financed 100% from EU structural funds

The 2009-2010 calls will be also financed from the EU structural funds but the share of national/institutional funding will differ in case of each call, being between 5 to 15%

9 Which is the total budget of the call?

115 million euro

10 Which is the cost range of the eligible items (lower and upper limits per item)?

The monies will be allocated via 3 different instruments: one for low-cost equipment (from 6400 to 64 000 euro); another from 300 000 to 1.6 million, and the third will be an investment plan for nationally important RIs and participation in international RIs.

11 Which costs are eligible?

- Equipment - yes
- Computer equipment and communication networks - yes, only if part of national or international networks
- Installation - yes
- Renewal or improvement -yes
- Running costs and technical personnel - no
- Others (specify)

12 Is co-financing with other funds a requisite?

Yes, national funding has to supplement 10% of the cost

### *Submission of Proposals*

13 Is the call open around the year or are there deadlines for submission?

There were and will be deadlines

14 If so, which are the deadlines for submission of proposals?

Different for each 3 instruments

15 Which is the mode of submission of proposals?

- Online
- Paper forms

Both

16 In which language are proposals submitted?

- National(s)
- English
- Others (specify)

Depending on the instrument it can be either national, national and English, or only English

17 How long is the call for applications open?

At least 1 month

### *Selection Procedures*

18 Who can apply to the call?

- Individual Researchers and research groups
- Research consortium
- Research Institutions X
- Others (specify)

19 Is there a procedure to select (filter) applications to be submitted?

Yes, the R&D institutions have to submit them in a priority list

20 How is the evaluation of proposals performed?

- International peer review yes
- National peer review yes
- In-house
- Others (specify)

21 Which are the evaluation criteria used?

- Scientific relevance - yes
- Availability of similar equipment
- Potential Users
- Running expertise
- Others (specify)

22 Which is the duration of the evaluation period (from deadline to communication of final decision)?

It will depend on the financial instrument but in case of the past calls it was from 3 to 5 months

### *Granted Applications*

23 Will the acquired equipment belong to the recipient institution?

yes

24 How is the acquisition of the granted equipment accomplished?

- Direct acquisition by the recipient researcher
- Public call for offers - yes

25 Which is the eligible period for acquisition (natural year, months after decision communication, possibility of including equipment acquired before decision communication)?

It was and will be specified separately for each financing instrument

26 Is the acquired equipment transferable?

- No - +
- To other centres within the institution
- To other institutions within the country
- To other countries

27 Who are the expected users?

- Individual researchers or research groups - yes
- Research Centres and Institutes - yes
- National Scientific community - yes
- International Scientific community

28 Have follow up procedures been established?

- Annual reports - yes
- On site visits - yes
- Others (specify)

### *General comments*

29 How is the funding scheme related with RI national and European (ESFRI) roadmaps?

In case of the past calls, no way

For the period 2008-2013 a national RI roadmap will be compiled

30 What do you think best practices for funding schemes will be?

Varied and targeted at different user groups

## 6.4 Questionnaire FRANCE

### General Issues

1 Is there a specific call for infrastructure funding in your country? Brief description

The funding of the infrastructure in Life Sciences is multilateral. It comes from several National Institutions which act both as operator and funding agencies –CNRS (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique), INSERM (Institut National de la santé et de la Recherche Médicale), INRA (Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique), IRD (Institut de Recherche sur le Développement), CIRAD (Centre de Coopération Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement), CEA (Commissariat à l'Energie Atomique),. From funding agencies only with ANR (Agence Nationale de la Recherche). And finally from governmental and local authorities CHU (Centres Hospitalo-Universitaires) as well as from private sources and foundations. Investments come from several sources, including regional funds. Operation and human support are provided by research institutions either directly and/ or via national networks such as the national network Ibisa which operates distributed 109 instrumental platforms.

2 Is it a permanent call or ad hoc?

Research Institutions like CNRS, CEA and so on provide permanent support while many agencies- including the ANR (Agence Nationale de la Recherche)- launch annual or multi-annual calls.

3 Is the scheme bottom up or top down?

Mainly top down

4 What is the relevance of the scheme in the country? Are there other funding possibilities?

In addition to institutional funding, there many public and private funding agencies and foundations.

5 Which status has the Granting Institution?

- National Government yes
- Regional Government yes
- Research Institution yes
- Private Foundation yes

6 Which are the Recipients of the call?

- All research institutions X
- Public research institutions
- Institutions linked to the funding agency

7 Is a general call or is it divided by specific scientific topics i.e. life sciences?

There are general calls as well as specific scientific and health topics for life sciences

### Financial Issues

8 Is it financially supported by EU funding? If so, to what percentage?

It is mainly national funding, except for some I3 and other specific EU joint programmes

9 Which is the total budget of the call?

Difficult to answer this question, considering the numerous sources of funding.

10 Which is the cost range of the eligible items (lower and upper limits per item)?

No lower, nor upper limit.

11 Which costs are eligible?

- Equipment X
- Computer equipment and communication networks X
- Installation X
- Renewal or improvement X
- Running costs and technical personnel X
- Others (specify)

12 Is co-financing with other funds a requisite?

While not explicitly claimed, co-financing of investments and upgrading is often required.

### *Submission of Proposals*

13 Is the call open around the year or are there deadlines for submission?

Deadlines for submission is the main route

14 If so, which are the deadlines for submission of proposals?

Pluriannual calls

15 Which is the mode of submission of proposals?

- Online x
- Paper forms

16 In which language are proposals submitted?

- National(s) X
- English X ( English version is often required)
- Others (specify)

17 How long is the call for applications open?

Not defined; usually 2 or 3 months

### *Selection Procedures*

18 Who can apply to the call?

- Individual Researchers and research groups X
- Research consortium X
- Research Institutions
- Others (specify)

19 Is there a procedure to select (filter) applications to be submitted?

Depends on the Institution

20 How is the evaluation of proposals performed?

- International peer review X
- National peer review X
- In-house
- Others (specify)

21 Which are the evaluation criteria used?

- Scientific relevance X
- Availability of similar equipment X



- Potential Users
- Running expertise
- Others (specify)

22 Which is the duration of the evaluation period (from deadline to communication of final decision)?

Several months

### *Granted Applications*

23 Will the acquired equipment belong to the recipient institution?  yes

24 How is the acquisition of the granted equipment accomplished?

- Direct acquisition by the recipient researcher
- Public call for offers

25 Which is the eligible period for acquisition (natural year, months after decision communication, possibility of including equipment acquired before decision communication)?

After decision communication

26 Is the acquired equipment transferable? No answer; depending on the institution

- Not directly
- To other centres within the institution
- To other institutions within the country
- To other countries

27 Who are the expected users?

- Individual researchers or research groups
- Research Centres and Institutes
- National Scientific community
- International Scientific community

28 Have follow up procedures been established?

- Annual reports
- On site visits
- Others (specify)

### *General comments*

29 How is the funding scheme related with RI national and European (ESFRI) roadmaps?

The first National French Roadmap has been published on December 2008. We should wait one or two years to evaluate its effects on the infrastructure funding. Of course projects elected in the ESFRI roadmaps are preferentially supported by the research institutions

30 What do you think best practices for funding schemes will be?

### *To be submitted*

Text of the call for proposals

As an example, the present online launch of the *Agence Nationale de la Recherche in the field of Health and Biology*

Emergence and maturation of projects in Technologies for health: The French funding agency, Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR), launched a national call for "proof of concept" research projects in the fields of technologies for health. This call is open solely to public researchers.

This is the fourth edition of such a call. The first one was open in 2005.

This call for proposal is open to academic projects before any industrial partnership is set up.

ANR expects to receive innovative projects, with a high economical potential. The projects must be based on a validation phase already obtained.

Industrial application, perspectives for an economical development and innovation will be among the selection criteria together with scientific excellence.

Emergence and maturation of projects in Biotechnologies: ANR launched a national call for "proof of concept" research projects in the fields of biotechnology. This call is open solely to public researchers.

This is the fourth edition of such a call. The first one was open in 2005.

This call for proposal is open to academic projects before any industrial partnership is set up.

ANR expects to receive innovative projects, with a high economical potential. The projects must be based on a validation phase already obtained.

Industrial application, perspectives for an economical development and innovation will be among the selection criteria together with scientific excellence.

Public-private researches in Biotechnologies / ANR launched a national call for public-private partnership research projects in the field of biotechnology for health.

ANR expects to receive innovative projects corresponding to industrial research or experimental development in biotechnology for health. These projects have to bring together companies and research organisations and must be based on a validation phase already obtained.

Submitted projects should be highly innovative, at the industrial research or experimental development phase. They must bring together at least one company and one research organisation and their rationale should be based on a validation phase already obtained.

Industrial application, perspectives for an economical development and innovation will be among the selection criteria together with scientific excellence.

Public-private researches in technologies for health and autonomy: Together with the Caisse Nationale de la Solidarité pour l'Autonomie (CNSA), ANR launched a call for projects in the field of public-private partnership in technologies for health and autonomy.

This call is aimed to promote new technologies in the field of health and autonomy through research projects which will elaborate new concepts and important technological jumps. These projects will allow to strengthen expertise of laboratories and competitiveness of industry working in this field.

Projects could concern the following topics:

- New technologies in Instrumentation and bio captors, Medical and pre-clinical imaging, Computer assisted medical and surgical monitoring, I-medicine and I-health, Tissues and biomaterials engineering
- \*New innovative technologies and services for re-education, correcting or functional substitution of deficiencies.

Contaminants, Ecosystems, Health (CES): The French funding agency, Agence Nationale de la Recherche launched a national call for research projects in the field of "Contaminants, Ecosystems, Health". Its objective is to reinforce the scientific knowledge through fundamental researches on the relationship between environment and human or animal health. The projects should mainly focus on the dynamics of contaminants, on their modification and their impact on the ecosystems, and on their effects on human and animal health.

Three fields are to be considered:

- Production of knowledge to better assess the risks of contagion disrupting the ecosystems with risks on human and animal health
- Contribution to the prevention of the possible negative impacts of contaminants on human and animal health, and elaboration of measures for the reduction of the exposures
- Development of technological innovations in the fields of the prevention, the substitution, and the reduction of the exposures due to the effects on the ecosystems and on human and animal health.

From genes to physiopathology, from rare to common diseases (GENOPAT): Together with Association Française contre les Myopathies (AFM), ANR launched a national call for research projects in the field of the physiopathology of rare and common diseases.

This call has three main objectives:

1. To increase the research endeavour to better understand molecular, cellular and tissue-specific mechanisms in all human diseases (rare or common)
2. To trigger multi-disciplinary research in this field, and to increase partnership between basic and clinical research as well as academic and industrial research
3. To open up the research on human diseases by connecting skills, tools and knowledge that have been developed for rare diseases, on one hand, and for common diseases, on the other hand.

Infectious diseases and their environment (MIE)/ Together with the Agence Inter-établissements de Recherche pour le Développement (AIRD), ANR launched a call for research in the field of infectious disease and their environment. This call is aimed to increase the effort of research on infectious diseases taking into account the overall questions raised to these diseases, from basic studies to clinical research.

Three fields could be covered in the projects:

1. Pathogens microorganisms, environment and ecosystems
2. Microbes and infectious diseases
3. Knowledge of pathologies: understanding of the host - pathogen relationship.

Neurological and psychiatric diseases (MNP): Together with Association Française contre les Myopathies (AFM), ANR launched a national call for research in the field of neurological and psychiatric diseases.

The main objectives of this call are:

1. To sustain efforts in basic and clinical research to better take into account neurological and psychiatric diseases, with a special attention to ageing-related diseases such as Alzheimer and Alzheimer-related diseases
2. To connect the different types of research in this field by triggering partnerships between basic and clinical research, as well as academic and industrial research.

Multidisciplinary programme in physics, chemistry and health sciences (PCV): Together with the Institut National du Cancer (INCA), ANR launched a call for projects in the field of multidisciplinary research in physics, chemistry and health sciences.

This call is aimed to stimulate multidisciplinary approaches for a better understanding of the living mechanisms. Innovative tools for research, diagnosis, therapy and technologies based on basic knowledge in the field of biology and health are encouraged to apply to this call.

Complex systems and mathematical modelling (SYSCOMM): SYSCOMM is a multi-disciplinary national call for research projects that aims at simplifying models, at improving understanding the complex systems, and at reducing the use of heavy numerical simulations. To reach these objectives, SYSCOMM triggers the integration of applied mathematics, statistical physics and theoretical computer science together with experimental data.

By providing new approaches, this multi-disciplinary call for research projects involves systems with multi-scale perspective as well as systems interacting with different environment.

SYSCOMM is widely opened to all scientific fields among them, for example, ecosystem dynamics, systems biology, geophysical pattern formation, etc... In addition, all complex systems will be considered from manmade (engineering, avionics,...) to natural ones.

Transnational programme on the Ambient Assistance Living (AAL 169): ANR together with the Art-169 action AAL169 <http://www.aal169.org/>, launched a call for projects in the field of "prevention and management of chronic diseases" in April 2008.

Transnational programme on neurodegenerative diseases (NEURON): Together with the Era-NET NEURON <http://www.neuron-eranet.eu/>, ANR launched a call for projects in the field of neurodegenerative diseases.

The main purpose of the call is to generate joint European research and development activities. Joint projects, with a minimum of 3 ERA-NET PARTNER countries, and a maximum of five partners, will include participants from both academia and clinics or industry. PARTNER countries include Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Luxemburg, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden, UK, Hungary, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain.

The aim of the call is to enable transnational, collaborative research projects that will address important questions relating to human neurodegenerative diseases of the central nervous system. Cerebrovascular diseases (e.g. stroke) are not included in the present call. The call may receive proposals within the breadth of research from understanding basic mechanisms of disease through to proof-of-concept clinical studies in man. The ERA-Net NEURON funding organisations particularly wish to promote multi-disciplinary working and to encourage translational research proposals (from bench to patient bedside) that combine basic and clinical approaches.

Research proposals should cover at least one of the following areas:

1. Fundamental research on the pathogenesis and aetiology of neurodegenerative diseases. This may include the development of innovative or shared resources and technologies. The relevance of the research to disease must be clearly indicated.
2. Research to develop new strategies for (early) diagnosis, therapy, and rehabilitation procedures for neurodegenerative diseases.

Projects may include, for example, identification, characterisation and validation of biomarkers, biological targets, development of innovative screening systems, generation of novel model systems, gene or cell therapies. Clinical studies are eligible up to the point of proof of concept.

The individual components of joint applications should be complementary and contain novel, ambitious ideas. There should be clear added value in funding the collaboration over the individual subprojects.

Transnational programme on applied pathogenomics: Together with the Era-NET Pathogenomics <http://www.pathogenomics-era.net/index.php>, ANR launched a call for projects in the field of 'applied pathogenomics: prevention, diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of infectious diseases in humans'.

The main purpose of the call is to generate joint European research and development activities. Joint projects, with a maximum of 7 participants from a minimum of 3 ERA-NET PARTNER countries will include participants from both academia and clinics or industry. A proportion of the funding will be reserved to support projects headed by young scientists.

PARTNER countries include Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain.

Aims of the call are to develop collaborative projects based on a division of labour with a high degree of innovation and scientific and technical risk. Project proposals should focus on prevention, diagnosis, treatment or monitoring of diseases caused by bacterial and fungal pathogens of humans.

Potential topics of the proposals could include:

- new tools for the prevention of infectious diseases and secondary pathologies, development of new vaccines, use of pre-/probiotic potential of microorganisms,
- development of new tools or strategies for diagnosing infections, development of new procedures for faster/more cost-efficient diagnostics,
- development of new therapies, validation/lead identification of potential new therapeutics, studies on mode of action/mode of side effects, investigations of the role of micro-organisms in secondary pathologies (e.g. in chronic diseases),
- new tools or strategies for monitoring infectious diseases,
- development and application of new technologies (e.g. new sequencing methods, high-throughput methods, new animal models, bio-assays, in vivo imaging technologies, in vivo screening methods) to develop new diagnostics or therapeutics.

Transnational programme on Systems Biology: ANR together with the Era-NET EraSysBio (12 partners) <http://www.erasysbio.net/>, will launch a call for projects in the field of Systems Biology in Summer 2008.

Application forms

Web link to the call (if available)

<http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/DBSUK>

<http://www.pathogenomics-era.net/index.php>

<http://www.neuron-eranet.eu/>

<http://www.aal169.org/>

[http://www.ibisa.net/ao2008PF\\_acces.php](http://www.ibisa.net/ao2008PF_acces.php)

<http://www.ibisa.net/ao2008.php?ao=4>

## 6.5 Questionnaire GERMANY

### General Issues

*The German research system is characterized by a substantial amount of non-university research institutions (Max-Planck-Society, Helmholtz-Society, Leibniz-Society, Fraunhofer,...) adding up to roughly ½. Most of these organisations have their own schemes for funding infrastructure, in some cases via their own internal application procedures. In the Max-Planck-Society large pieces of equipment are applied for on an individual basis by a director negotiating with the executive board. Further institutes (e.g. from Leibniz Gemeinschaft) can also obtain money, e.g. from the ministry, for expensive equipment.*

*Regular funding schemes for the broad national research community are mainly implemented for the universities and run by DFG.*

*There are few ad hoc calls by the ministry for research in Germany, mostly related with programmatic funding schemes (i.e. National Genome Research Network), there is infrastructure funding in the Helmholtz Gemeinschaft (they are partner in ERA-Instruments) and Max-Planck-Society is financing infrastructure.*

*The following is describing the funding schemes owned by the DFG.*

1 Is there a specific call for infrastructure funding in DFG? Brief description

The is a continuously open call for RI (called in the following "A") plus specific topical calls, roughly once a year (in the following "B")

Additionally, instrumentation is eligible in most of the project oriented funding schemes.

2 Is it a permanent call or ad hoc?

A is permanent, B is ad hoc

3 Is the scheme bottom up or top down?

A is absolutely responsive bottom up. B is topical (e.g. highest field NMR), the topic is obtained bottom up by suggestions from the scientists, the decision on the topic is by the RI board (see below) and by the "Hauptausschuss" which is the highest DFG decision board for all issues.

4 What is the relevance of the scheme in the country? Are there other funding possibilities?

A is very important for RI at universities (including medical faculties), there is limited possibility to obtain equipment in DFG project grants. To some limited extent other sources exist (industry)

For very cutting-edge pieces B is also very important.

5 Which status has the Granting Institution?

- National Government
- Regional Government
- Research Institution
- Private Foundation DFG is nominally a private foundation, but financed almost exclusively by public money. So laws for distributing public money apply, but DFG is not directly controlled by the ministry or government.

6 Which are the Recipients of the call?

- All research institutions
- Public research institutions
- Institutions linked to the funding agency

For A: only universities can apply

For B: scientists at universities are addressed.

DFG mostly serves the universities – Max-Planck, Helmholtz etc have their own money and ways of funding

7 Is a general call or is it divided by specific scientific topics i.e. life sciences?

A: General calls

B: Topical, quite often addressing life science topics.

There is an additional scheme that is quite similar to A, but for this additional one not only research, but also higher education and medical health (at university hospitals) are equal in supporting the application. The evaluation in this scheme is managed by DFG, but the money comes from the 16 states. The budget is currently at roughly 150 Mio €, but this included medical instrumentation and IT-solutions even for university administration. cost range and procedure is as for A. This additional scheme is only to a smaller fraction aiming at cutting-edge research, but contributes to the general infrastructure of universities.

### *Financial Issues*

8 Is it financially supported by EU funding? If so, to what percentage?

No

9 Which is the total budget of the call?

A: up to 170 Mio € per year; 50% of that is money from DFG, 50% has to be provided by the various states of Germany. Currently the cofinancing of the states is the limiting factor and only about 150 Mio € are granted.

B: 3-8 Mio € per call typically, can vary substantially

10 Which is the cost range of the eligible items (lower and upper limits per item)?

A:

200.000 € up to 5 Mio €; Above 5 Mio € there is a programme for research buildings and RI > 5 Mio €. This possibility is only rarely used for life science RI so far.

B:

No formal limit. Can be several instruments at lower costs or one or two for a few million €.

11 Which costs are eligible?

- Equipment
- Computer equipment and communication networks
- Installation
- Renewal or improvement
- Running costs and technical personnel
- Others (specify)

A: Only equipment including installation. High performance computing facilities are included. Upgrading is possible when within cost range, i.e. > 200.000 €

B Only equipment including installation. No computing facilities, no upgrading (must be s.th. very new)

12 Is co-financing with other funds a requisite?

A: Yes, 50% co-financing from the states (no other sources) is mandatory as explained above.

B: No, co-financing is possible, but not usually the case.

### *Submission of Proposals*

13 Is the call open around the year or are there deadlines for submission?

A: open all year:

B: each ad-hoc call is singular with individual deadline,

14 If so, which are the deadlines for submission of proposals?

B:

S.th. like 2 month following the call. The scientific community is typically involved in defining the call, so that the call does not come as a surprise.

15 Which is the mode of submission of proposals?

- Online
- Paper forms

A and B: Paper + electronic version on CDROM, online submission is expected to be introduced soon (2010 earliest)

16 In which language are proposals submitted?

- National(s)
- English
- Others (specify)

A: National (German) or English;

B: Typically English

17 How long is the call for applications open?

see #13 and #14

### *Selection Procedures*

18 Who can apply to the call?

- Individual Researchers and research groups
- Research consortium
- Research Institutions
- Others (specify)

A: universities can apply. A scientist is the responsible contact (and de facto applicant), but formally the university applies.

B: Individual scientists or groups of scientists

19 Is there a procedure to select (filter) applications to be submitted?

A and B: Only formal checking of compliance with the call.

20 How is the evaluation of proposals performed?

- International peer review
- National peer review
- In-house
- Others (specify)

National and international peer review followed by selection/recommendation (on the basis of the reviews) by a permanent RI panel

21 Which are the evaluation criteria used?

- Scientific relevance
- Availability of similar equipment
- Potential Users

- Running expertise
- Others (specify)

A and B:

major: Scientific quality of the proposed projects, track record of applicants (including running expertise), sufficient number of users, so that the RI is continuously used

minor: adequate operation, available personnel, available money for follow-up costs.

In B expectations regarding scientific quality and track record are much higher than for A

22 Which is the duration of the evaluation period (from deadline to communication of final decision)?

Roughly 5 months

### *Granted Applications*

23 Will the acquired equipment belong to the recipient institution?

A. yes

B: Initially the instruments are formally owned by DFG, later transferred to recipient institution

24 How is the acquisition of the granted equipment accomplished?

- Direct acquisition by the recipient researcher
- Public call for offers

A: Acquisition by university (should include public call for offer)

B: Acquisition by DFG including public call for offers

25 Which is the eligible period for acquisition (natural year, months after decision communication, possibility of including equipment acquired before decision communication)?

12 months from decision, can be increased.

equipment may not be acquired before decision, only advance renting is possible

26 Is the acquired equipment transferable?

- No
- To other centres within the institution
- To other institutions within the country
- To other countries

A: As the university wishes. transfer to other countries could be difficult

B: Transfer is typically difficult in technical terms, but basically possible, in exceptional cases transfer to other countries

27 Who are the expected users?

for A it depends on the policy of the university or the responsible scientist

for B:

- Individual researchers or research groups yes
- Research Centres and Institutes yes
- National Scientific community yes, is intended
- Limited use by foreign scientists/groups is possible. integration in EU networks is possible.

28 Have follow up procedures been established?

- Annual reports



- On site visits
- Others (specify)

A: One report after three years of operation

B: At least one report after adequate time of a few years; can include site visit

### *General comments*

29 How is the funding scheme related with RI national and European (ESFRI) roadmaps?

A: no relation to ESFRI, no German RI roadmap in life sciences

B: past calls touch ESFRI projects, e.g. INSTRUCT and new EuroBioImaging, but currently no real link

30 What do you think best practices for funding schemes will be?

A separation into regular RI for high level research (which is most of our "A") and funding cutting-edge equipment by strategic calls (our B) seems a good idea.

The completely open and responsive nature of our "A" make it difficult to compare proposals. For expensive RI one might want to collect a number of proposals and compare them.

Given the fact, that it typically takes quite some time for applicants to assure the required cofinancing, regular deadline for collecting similar applications could be feasible.

We miss very much the possibility to include other cost items, such as personnel, maintenance. Upgrades should also somehow be possible

Our review process seems quite reasonable: first peer review than decision by a permanent board of peers based on the reviews. The board can also address general and/or strategic issues.

### *To be submitted*

Text of the call for proposals

Application forms

Web link to the call (if available)

## 6.6 Questionnaire GREECE

### General Issues

1 Is there a specific call for infrastructure funding in your country? YES Brief description:  
Action 3.3.1 : "EXCELLENCE AMONG RESEARCH CENTRES SUPERVISED BY THE GSRT"

This specific action (3.3.1) is addressed to Research Institutes supervised by the GSRT. It has been implemented by funding activities such as long-term research, purchase and development of INFRASTRUCTURE, training etc., which are considered necessary for maintaining or creating excellence in GSRT Research Institutes. The development of conditions for excellence in research institutes will allow enterprises that are not able to maintain significant infrastructure and personnel in research and technology, to obtain significant scientific support, know-how and services, necessary to improve their competitiveness.

2 Is it a permanent call or ad hoc?

3 Is the scheme bottom up or top down?

4 What is the relevance of the scheme in the country? Are there other funding possibilities? YES  
Priority Axis 4: Technological Innovation and Research  
Measure 4.5: Cooperatives for Research and Technological Development in Sectors of national Priority

The objective of the Measure is to promote collaborations between productive and research agencies in long-term projects of research and technological development aiming to produce innovative products or services, and to address social and cultural needs that influence the competitiveness of the economy.

This Measure continues the financing of major research and technological projects, up to the stage of the industrial prototype, in fields of high priority for the national and/or regional economy. The projects are undertaken by co-operatives of enterprises, research centres, educational foundations and other interested agencies, with the aim of increasing the competitiveness of businesses and of the economy in general.

5 Which status has the Granting Institution?

- National Government
- Regional Government
- Research Institution
- Private Foundation

6 Which are the Recipients of the call?

- All research institutions
- Public research institutions
- Institutions linked to the funding agency

7 Is a general call or is it divided by specific scientific topics i.e. life sciences?

### Financial Issues

8 Is it financially supported by EU funding? If so, to what percentage? 100%

9 Which is the total budget of the call? ≈ 10.300.000 euro

10 Which is the cost range of the eligible items (lower and upper limits per item)?

11 Which costs are eligible?

- Equipment

- Computer equipment and communication networks
- Installation
- Renewal or improvement
- Running costs and technical personnel
- Others (specify)

12 Is co-financing with other funds a requisite? NO

### *Submission of Proposals*

13 Is the call open around the year or are there deadlines for submission?

14 If so, which are the deadlines for submission of proposals?

15 Which is the mode of submission of proposals?

- Online
- Paper forms

16 In which language are proposals submitted?

- National(s)
- English
- Others (specify)

17 How long is the call for applications open? ≈ 1-2 MONTHS

### *Selection Procedures*

18 Who can apply to the call?

- Individual Researchers and research groups
- Research consortium
- Research Institutions
- Others (specify)

19 Is there a procedure to select (filter) applications to be submitted? YES

20 How is the evaluation of proposals performed?

- International peer review
- National peer review
- In-house
- Others (specify)

21 Which is the evaluation criteria used?

- Scientific relevance
- Availability of similar equipment
- Potential Users
- Running expertise
- Others (specify)

22 Which is the duration of the evaluation period (from deadline to communication of final decision)?  
MONTHS

≈ 18 – 24

### *Granted Applications*

23 Will the acquired equipment belong to the recipient institution? YES

24 How is the acquisition of the granted equipment accomplished?

- Direct acquisition by the recipient researcher
- Public call for offers

25 Which is the eligible period for acquisition (natural year, months after decision communication, possibility of including equipment acquired before decision communication)?

26 Is the acquired equipment transferable?

- No
- To other centres within the institution
- To other institutions within the country
- To other countries

27 Who are the expected users?

- Individual researchers or research groups
- Research Centres and Institutes
- National Scientific community
- International Scientific community

28 Have follow up procedures been established?

- Annual reports
- On site visits
- Others (specify)

### *General comments*

29 How is the funding scheme related with RI national and European (ESFRI) roadmaps?

In the framework of our 6 year national plan for Research & Technology an effort is made to combine RI funding with the existing roadmap.

30 What do you think best practices for funding schemes will be?

Continuity in Research infrastructure funding from national programmes in the framework of the national plan for Research & Technology (continuous maintenance, up grating of the existing infrastructures, funding of new infrastructures).

### *To be submitted*

- Text of the call for proposals
- Application forms
- Web link to the call (if available)

## 6.7 Questionnaire ICELAND

### General Issues

1 Is there a specific call for infrastructure funding in your country? Brief description

The role of the Icelandic Instrument Fund (IIF) is to assist research institutions to finance the acquisition of expensive equipment. The IIF will finance up to 75% of the actual cost.

The following criteria are of importance in the evaluation of the applications.

- The importance of the equipment for the advancement of research in Iceland and the research project of the applicants.
- The opportunity for new and innovative research that the equipment will make possible.
- That the equipment will be located at university or research institutions.
- That the use of the equipment will be shared between research groups and institutions.

2 Is it a permanent call or ad hoc?

Permanent. Deadlines in February and October

3 Is the scheme bottom up or top down?

Bottom up

4 What is the relevance of the scheme in the country? Are there other funding possibilities?

This is the main funding scheme for instruments in Iceland . Smaller instruments can be funded through the Icelandic Research Fund (IRF).

5 Which status has the Granting Institution?

- National Government

6 Which are the Recipients of the call?

- All research institutions

7 Is a general call or is it divided by specific scientific topics i.e. life sciences?

General call.

### Financial Issues

8 Is it financially supported by EU funding? If so, to what percentage?

No

9 Which is the total budget of the call?

1 million euros

10 Which is the cost range of the eligible items (lower and upper limits per item)? *No range stipulated, but smaller equipment is generally acquired through the IRF.*

11 Which costs are eligible?

- |   |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|
| - Equipment                                     |     | yes |
| - Computer equipment and communication networks | yes |     |
| - Installation                                  |     | no  |
| - Renewal or improvement                        | yes |     |
| - Running costs and technical personnel         |     | no  |

12 Is co-financing with other funds a requisite?

*Yes, 25%*

### *Submission of Proposals*

13 Is the call open around the year or are there deadlines for submission?

*Open with two deadlines.*

14 If so, which are the deadlines for submission of proposals?

*February and October*

15 Which is the mode of submission of proposals?

- *Online as of this year (2009)*

16 In which language are proposals submitted?

- *Icelandic or English*

17 How long is the call for applications open?

*The call is always open with the two above deadlines.*

### *Selection Procedures*

18 Who can apply to the call?

- |  |       |     |
|--|-------|-----|
| - Individual Researchers and research groups | - yes |     |
| - Research consortium                        |       | yes |
| - Research Institutions                      |       | yes |
| - Others (specify)                           |       |     |

19 Is there a procedure to select (filter) applications to be submitted? - *no*

20 How is the evaluation of proposals performed?

- |                             |     |  |
|-----------------------------|-----|--|
| - International peer review |     |  |
| - National peer review      |     |  |
| - In-house                  | yes |  |

- Others (specify)

21 Which are the evaluation criteria used?

- Scientific relevance yes
- Availability of similar equipment yes
- Potential Users yes

22 Which is the duration of the evaluation period (from deadline to communication of final decision)?

3-4 months.

### *Granted Applications*

23 Will the acquired equipment belong to the recipient institution? yes

24 How is the acquisition of the granted equipment accomplished?

- Direct acquisition by the recipient researcher yes

25 Which is the eligible period for acquisition (natural year, months after decision communication, possibility of including equipment acquired before decision communication)?

Within a year from the signing of contract with special circumstances negotiable. Equipment must be acquired after the signing of the contract.

26 Is the acquired equipment transferable?

- No yes
- To other centres within the institution yes
- To other institutions within the country yes
- To other countries no

27 Who are the expected users?

- Individual researchers or research groups yes
- Research Centres and Institutes yes
- National Scientific community yes
- International Scientific community yes

28 Have follow up procedures been established? No

After the contract has been signed the applicants are required to submit papers verifying the purchase of the equipment requested.

- Annual reports no
- On site visits no
- Others (specify) survey on usage

### *General comments*

29 How is the funding scheme related with RI national and European (ESFRI) roadmaps?

This has not been done.

30 What do you think best practices for funding schemes will be?

#### *To be submitted*

- Text of the call for proposals
- Application forms
- Web link to the call (if available)

This information is at the moment all in Icelandic and as we are updating our website and converting to to electronic submissions of proposals for all our funds we cannot provide this information at this point in time.

## 6.8 Questionnaire ITALY

### General Issues

#### 1 Is there a specific call for infrastructure funding in your country? Brief description

In Italy there was a specific call for the Infrastructures. The deadline was on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2008.

It was a general call, not only devoted to the Life Sciences, and it was designed to be as a "Scientific project based on a single specific relevant Infrastructure" with aim, objectives and final goals.

In the call, the research infrastructures should be conceived and developed in order to grant an open access to scientific and technical users, through competitive selection among scientific proposals.

The Roadmap will not only include new or undergoing initiatives at the national or European level (FP-Capacities), but also existing infrastructures needing to be strengthened in the perspective of an increased number of end users.

The call was open on for about two and a half months on the web site <https://roadmap.miur.cineca.it>. You may still find some info by connecting to the site.

The roadmap was expected to be defined by spring 2008, and to be periodically updated.

Due to the elections held in April 2008 and the change of government, the process has been halted, and still is.

Italian contact persons are Dr. Nicoletta Palazzo (tel +39 0106598713; [nicoletta.palazzo@miur.it](mailto:nicoletta.palazzo@miur.it)), who was in charge of the call, and her boss Dr. Maria Uccellatore (tel +39 0697727742; [maria.uccellatore@miur.it](mailto:maria.uccellatore@miur.it)).

#### 2 Is it a permanent call or ad hoc?

Neither one

#### 3 Is the scheme bottom up or top down?

Bottom up

#### 4 What is the relevance of the scheme in the country?

No relevance so far

#### Are there other funding possibilities?

There are not dedicated public funds for infrastructure funding. However, there are some possibilities for funding relatively large Instrumentation:

- National or International scientific projects (e.g. Italian Ministry of Agriculture National Coordinated Project on: Chromosome 5a of wheat)
- Ministries and regional/local governments.

MIUR (Ministry of Education and Research) PON (National Operative Program): European funds that can only be located to areas of the so called "Objective 1". In Italy this has meant the Southern Italy. A consequence is that laboratories located in the south of Italy have easy access to infrastructure funding, with large amount of money, while people working from Rome upwards are in a critical situation. Moreover, many south labs lack a critical mass, with the consequence that they buy state of the art and expensive Instrumentation, but nobody uses it. For instance, as far as we know, several deep sequencers were purchased, but never used.

Similar things happen with clinicians, in this case throughout Italy, who may have easier access to funds for expensive Instruments (Ministry of Health, donations, private foundations) but are often incapable of using them, or not really interested, and operate in an environment not open to communication and exchange.

- Charities: the most important for Life Sciences are AIRC (Italian Association for Cancer Research), which funds cancer related studies, and Telethon, which focuses on genetic disorders (mostly single gene diseases). For instance, here in Rome, AIRC has funded the ROC: Roman Oncogenomic Centre, based in the Cancer Hospital, which belongs to an Italian Networks of Oncological Institutes.
- Some foundations linked to banks, eg. Intesa S. Paolo and Banca di Roma. These foundations preferentially funds projects based in the region in which the bank has its headquarter(s).
- Private donations, of which we are not well informed.

#### 5 Which status has the Granting Institution?

If you refer to the Research infrastructure call, the granting Institution (who did not grant anything so far) is MIUR (Italian Ministry of University and Research). Otherwise, see point 4.

#### 6 Which are the Recipients of the call?

- Ente di Ricerca (*Public Research Institution, e.g. CNR, ENEA*), Consorzio Universitario (*University Consortium*), Associazione di scopo pubblico/privato (*Public/private association*).



*7 Is a general call or is it divided by specific scientific topics i.e. life sciences?*

It was a general call

### *Financial Issues*

*8 Is it financially supported by EU funding? If so, to what percentage?*

We imagine that the call is partially supported by EU funding, but we ignore the percentage

*9 Which is the total budget of the call?*

At the call time it was budget 0. After the evaluation of the proposals, it was supposed to be partially funded by PON, or other regional funding and to start-up this program in view to submit it to the EU/ESFRI and to recover money and to support it *in progress*.

*10 Which is the cost range of the eligible items (lower and upper limits per item)?*

We do not know

*11 Which costs are eligible?*

We do not know precisely, because the explanatory document of the call has disappeared from the MIUR site. We think it covered part of all costs specified below

- Equipment
- Computer equipment and communication networks
- Installation
- Renewal or improvement
- Running costs and technical personnel
- Others (specify)

*12 Is co-financing with other funds a requisite?*

Yes, it was supposed to be partially funded by EU.

### *Submission of Proposals*

*13 Is the call open around the year or are there deadlines for submission?*

The deadline was February 29, 2008.

*14 If so, which are the deadlines for submission of proposals?*

*15 Which is the mode of submission of proposals?*

Both: you apply on line, but then you must send the papers as well.

*16 In which language are proposals submitted?*

- National(s)

*17 How long is the call for applications open?*

From December 19, 2007, to February 29, 2008.

### *Selection Procedures*

*18 Who can apply to the call?*

- Ente di Ricerca (*Public Research Institution, e.g. CNR, ENEA*), Consorzio Universitario (*University Consortium*), Associazione di scopo pubblico/privato (*Public/private association*).
- A reference person (a scientist) must be indicated

*19 Is there a procedure to select (filter) applications to be submitted?*

See point 20

*20 How is the evaluation of proposals performed?*

MIUR had designated two experts, G. Tocchini Valentini (CNR, Rome) and G. Rossi (TACS, INFN, Trieste), for the initial survey of the proposals. On the basis of this survey, the two experts were supposed to indicate some national reviewers (we think Italians, as the language of the proposals was Italian), experts in the different areas relevant for proposal evaluation. The whole process is still in stand by and the two experts were not involved anymore by Ministry of Education and Research (MIUR).

Prof. G. Rossi is one of Italian Member delegate ESFRI and member of the Scientific Committee for infrastructure Evaluation at the EC, Bruxelles.

*21 Which are the evaluation criteria used?*

Evaluation has not been done, and we are unaware of the criteria that will be followed

*22 Which is the duration of the evaluation period (from deadline to communication of final decision)?*

The evaluation process did not start, so far.

*Granted Applications*

23 Will the acquired equipment belong to the recipient institution?

24 How is the acquisition of the granted equipment accomplished?

- Direct acquisition by the recipient researcher
- Public call for offers

25 Which is the eligible period for acquisition (natural year, months after decision communication, possibility of including equipment acquired before decision communication)?

26 Is the acquired equipment transferable?

- No
- To other centres within the institution
- To other institutions within the country
- To other countries

27 Who are the expected users?

- Individual researchers or research groups
- Research Centres and Institutes
- National Scientific community
- International Scientific community

28 Have follow up procedures been established?

- Annual reports
- On site visits
- Others (specify)

*General comments**29 How is the funding scheme related with RI national and European (ESFRI) roadmaps?*

No precise idea, but see at the point. 9.

*30 What do you think best practices for funding schemes will be?*

- Define areas for funding
- Ask for short LOIs (letter of intents)
- Quick evaluation of the LOIs (This should give an idea of the needs of the Scientific community)
- Define the call on the basis of the LOIs. Choose the evaluators (mixed national / international peer review)
- call for detailed proposals, in topics determined by the evaluation of LOIs, with three month deadline.

- Evaluation process, to be concluded within three months

- **Money!**

*To be submitted*

Text of the call for proposals

Application forms

Web link to the call (if available)

### 6.9 Questionnaire NETHERLANDS (Large Programme)

## NWO Large Investments Programme

### General Issues

1 Is there a specific call for infrastructure funding in your country? Brief description

NWO has two investment programmes that can be used to fund research equipment and facilities:

- the NWO Medium Investments Programme, involving contributions from € 110,000 to a maximum of € 900,000;
- the NWO Large Investments Programme, which involves contributions from € 900,000 and up.

In the following the NWO Large Investments Programme is described

2 Is it a permanent call or ad hoc?

Permanent, with a selection round each two years

3 Is the scheme bottom up or top down?

Bottom up.

4 What is the relevance of the scheme in the country? Are there other funding possibilities?

Next to the own budgets of the universities, university hospitals and institutes the NWO schemes for investments are the only continuous funding opportunities. In general, with the exception of the university hospitals these organisation do not have the funds for larger investments.

In the past there were incidentally funding opportunities but only for one year.

The situation in industry is different because they have own funding for facilities of high priority

5 Which status has the Granting Institution?

- National Government
- Regional Government
- Research Institution
- Private Foundation
- 

The Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research is the Dutch national research funding agency

6 Which are the Recipients of the call?

- All research institutions
- X Public research institutions
- X Institutions linked to the funding agency

Universities, institutes linked to NWO and to KNAW, the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, academic libraries and academic information providers.

7 Is a general call or is it divided by specific scientific topics i.e. life sciences?

General call

### Financial Issues

8 Is it financially supported by EU funding? If so, to what percentage?

No

9 Which is the total budget of the call?

€ 20,000,000,-

10 Which is the cost range of the eligible items (lower and upper limits per item)?

Minimum € 900,000,-

11 Which costs are eligible?

- Equipment
- Computer equipment and communication networks
- Installation
- Renewal or improvement
- Running costs and technical personnel
- Others (specify)

#### Eligible costs

- Costs of research investments
- Staff costs for the development of databases and the initial digitisation of bibliographical apparatus, if these products cannot be purchased
- Staff costs relating to personnel who possess specific expertise essential to the development or construction of the proposed equipment/facility and who cannot be sourced from elsewhere.

If the application includes staff costs, the applicants must explain why it is necessary to incur them. The applicants should **demonstrate convincingly** that the proposed equipment/facility cannot be purchased and that the necessary expertise cannot be sourced from elsewhere at comparable expense. They should also ensure that the budget estimates contain a detailed specification of the individual tasks involved and the costs associated with each of them.

#### Non eligible costs

- Costs of infrastructure, such as new buildings or building modifications, and costs of facilities which can be regarded as part of the normal infrastructure for the discipline concerned.
- Other staff costs.

12 Is co-financing with other funds a requisite?

Grants are conditional on co-funding by the institution concerned. The extent of co-funding will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

The institution submitting the application must contribute to the non-staff costs of the required investment. Investments subsidised under the NWO-Large programme frequently relate to equipment/facilities that are so sophisticated that they must be developed by the institution itself, with some cooperation from the private sector. In such cases, staff costs directly relating to the development and construction of the equipment/facility can be presented as part of the institution's own contribution.

If staff costs are presented as part of the institution's contribution, the applicants should explain why it is necessary to incur them. The applicants should demonstrate convincingly that the proposed equipment/facility cannot be purchased and that the necessary expertise cannot be sourced from elsewhere at comparable expense. They should also ensure that the budget estimates contain a detailed specification of the individual tasks involved and the costs associated with each of them.

### *Submission of Proposals*

13 Is the call open around the year or are there deadlines for submission?

Every second year there is a deadline for submission. In general in the first week of September.

14 If so, which are the deadlines for submission of proposals?

The next deadline will be Wednesday 2 September 2009.

15 Which is the mode of submission of proposals?

- Online
- Paper forms

16 In which language are proposals submitted?

- National(s)
- English
- Others (specify)

17 How long is the call for applications open?

At least two months before the deadline the call is open for applications

### *Selection Procedures*

18 Who can apply to the call?

- Individual Researchers and research groups
- Research consortium
- Research Institutions
- Others (specify)

Same answer as no.6: universities, institutes linked to NWO and to KNAW, the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, academic libraries and academic information providers.

19 Is there a procedure to select (filter) applications to be submitted?

Yes

20 How is the evaluation of proposals performed?

- International peer review
- National peer review
- In-house
- Others (specify)

A multidisciplinary advisory committee selects the most promising applications on the basis of the applications themselves, the referee reports, the applicants' responses to these, and a preliminary advice from the NWO Councils. A delegation from the committee will then conduct site visits in relation to the applications of this short-list. On the basis of all this information, the advisory committee will then decide which applications are to be recommended to the NWO Governing Board. The Governing Board will take a formal decision on the committee's recommendations and submit this to the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science for ministerial approval. Finally, the applicants will be notified of the results of the selection procedure.

21 Which are the evaluation criteria used?

- Scientific relevance
- Availability of similar equipment
- Potential Users
- Running expertise
- Others (specify)

#### *a Academic quality*

- The quality of the research programme for which the proposed equipment/facility is to be used;
- The originality and innovative nature of the research programme to which the investment

applies (for example, new research that would not be possible without the investment);

- The importance of the investment to research in the relevant field;
- The technical feasibility of the equipment/facility and the extent to which it is technologically innovative;
- The effectiveness of the approach;
- The quality and competence of the principal investigators or the research team;
- International position and, where relevant, cooperation.

*b Social relevance*

- The extent to which the investment will contribute to technological or other innovation in industry or society at large;
  - The extent to which the results achieved as a result of the investment will contribute to major technological or social change;
- Whether the proposal bears any demonstrable relationship to a designated priority area within government policy (flowing from reports by e.g. sector councils).

*c National interest*

- Whether the Netherlands occupies a leading position in the relevant field, what international developments are taking place in it, and whether the investment will help to strengthen the Netherlands' position.
- Consistency of the investment with a national research plan for the relevant field of research (for example, one drawn up by an NWO body);
- Consistency of the proposal with the (long-term) research strategy of the institution itself;
- What arrangements are proposed for country-wide access to the equipment/facility;
- Whether there are arrangements for national coordination.

*d Financial/technical criteria*

- The soundness of the budget;
- The extent of co-funding and whether this fulfils the relevant conditions;
- Adequacy of physical accommodation for the equipment/facility;
- Adequacy of the surrounding infrastructure;
- Presence of a sound management plan for the equipment/facility;
- Proposed arrangements for future replacement/upgrading;
- The likely effectiveness of the investment. Whether the expected number of users or intensity of use will justify the size of the investment and the expected degree of capacity utilisation of the proposed equipment/facility.
- The prospects for continuing investment after the end of the grant period.

22 Which is the duration of the evaluation period (from deadline to communication of final decision)?

About nine months

*Granted Applications*

23 Will the acquired equipment belong to the recipient institution?

Yes

24 How is the acquisition of the granted equipment accomplished?

- Direct acquisition by the recipient researcher
- Public call for offers

25 Which is the eligible period for acquisition (natural year, months after decision communication, possibility of including equipment acquired before decision communication)?

There is officially no limit. However, the acquisition is monitored and in case of problems we might intervene.

26 Is the acquired equipment transferable?

- No
- To other centres within the institution
- To other institutions within the country
- To other countries

The equipment is of the level of national facilities which need in general a specific infrastructure. On request of the hosting institution a transfer is possible. In general this would be a transfer within the Netherlands.

27 Who are the expected users?

- Individual researchers or research groups
- Research Centres and Institutes
- X National Scientific community
- X International Scientific community

Primarily the Dutch research community uses the facilities. NWO encourages the use of the facilities by users from outside the Netherlands.

28 Have follow up procedures been established?

- Annual reports
- On site visits
- Others (specify)

#### Financial evaluation

Upon acceptance of the funds, the granted applicants must submit a expenditure scheme for the whole period of the grant. Also, the last 5% of the NWO funds is paid upon receipt of the financial report that has to be submitted at the end of the funding period.

#### Scientific evaluation

NWO carries out also an evaluation of the funded equipment, usually some time after the equipment is operational. The evaluation is based on the selection criteria for the funding and to the terms related to the granting.

#### *General comments*

29 How is the funding scheme related with RI national and European (ESFRI) roadmaps?

The scale of ESFRI and also the facilities of the national roadmap is larger than the average NOW large equipment. Only recently some budget became available for the funding of the Dutch contribution to some ESFRI facilities. In the near future only a limited amount of budget will be available for facilities on the Dutch infrastructure roadmap. Within NWO we will discuss the balance between the several levels of infrastructure in the near future.

30 What do you think best practices for funding schemes will be?

We think that international peer review combined with site visits work very well for funding larger scale equipment.

#### *To be submitted*

Text of the call for proposals

See attached file [brochure%202007-2008%20NWO-Groot%20DEF%20engels.pdf](#), also downloadable from the website given below.

Application forms

There is no application form for the NWO-Large investment programme.

Besides a number of items which must be addressed in the proposal – see section 5 of the brochure for more details – the applicants are free to include in the proposal all the information they judge relevant for the assessment.

Web link to the call (if available)

[http://www.nwo.nl/nwohome.nsf/pages/NWOA\\_4YJD5U\\_Eng#docs](http://www.nwo.nl/nwohome.nsf/pages/NWOA_4YJD5U_Eng#docs)



### 6.10 Questionnaire NETHERLANDS (Medium Programme)

## NWO Medium Investments Programme

### General Issues

1 Is there a specific call for infrastructure funding in your country? Brief description

NWO has two investment programmes that can be used to fund research equipment and facilities:

- the NWO Medium Investments Programme, involving contributions from € 110,000 to a maximum of € 900,000;
- the NWO Large Investments Programme, which involves contributions from € 900,000 and up.

In the following the NWO Medium Investments Programme is described

2 Is it a permanent call or ad hoc?

Permanent

3 Is the scheme bottom up or top down?

Bottom up

4 What is the relevance of the scheme in the country? Are there other funding possibilities?

Next to the own budgets of the universities, university hospitals and institutes the NWO schemes for investments are the only continuous funding opportunities. In general, with the exception of the university hospitals these organisation do not have the funds for larger investments.

In the past there were incidentally funding opportunities but only for one year.

The situation in industry is different because they have own funding for facilities of high priority

5 Which status has the Granting Institution?

- National Government
- Regional Government
- Research Institution
- Private Foundation
- 

The Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research is the Dutch national research funding agency

6 Which are the Recipients of the call?

- All research institutions
- X Public research institutions
- X Institutions linked to the funding agency

Universities, NWO institutes, academic libraries and academic information providers. Under agreements between NWO and the Royal Netherlands Academy for Arts and Sciences (KNAW), KNAW institutes are excluded from participation in this programme.

7 Is a general call or is it divided by specific scientific topics i.e. life sciences?

Applications have to be submitted to the proper NWO Division – in this case the NWO Division of Earth and Life Sciences and the NWO Division of Medical Sciences.

Multidisciplinary applications which do not fit completely into any of the NWO's eight Division areas may be submitted to the NWO Governing Board, which will coordinate their consideration by the relevant Divisions. The contact point for multidisciplinary applications is the department Policy Development. Procedure

The individual NWO divisions operate different procedures and timetables.

Due to the fact that the number of multidisciplinary application is limited the is that the relevant councils will assess the application based on the same written information (application, referee comments and rebuttal of the applicants)

### Financial Issues

8 Is it financially supported by EU funding? If so, to what percentage?

No

9 Which is the total budget of the call?

It varies for different divisions; usually it is about € 1 - 1.5 million per annual subsidy round and per NWO Division.

10 Which is the cost range of the eligible items (lower and upper limits per item)?

From € 110,000 to € 900,000. The lower limit of € 110,000 may occasionally be relaxed in certain areas of research. The conditions and opportunities vary from one NWO division to another.

11 Which costs are eligible?

- Equipment
- Computer equipment and communication networks
- Installation
- Renewal or improvement
- Running costs and technical personnel
- Others (specify)

#### Eligible costs

- Costs of research investments;
- Staff costs for the development of databases and the initial digitisation of bibliographical apparatus, if these products cannot be purchased.
- Staff costs relating to personnel who possess some form of specific technical expertise which is essential to the development or construction of the proposed equipment/facility and which cannot be sourced from elsewhere.

If the application includes staff costs, the applicants must explain why it is necessary to incur them. The applicants should demonstrate convincingly that the proposed facility cannot be purchased and that the necessary expertise cannot be sourced from elsewhere at comparable expense. They should also ensure that the budget estimates contain a detailed specification of the individual tasks involved and the costs associated with each of them.

#### Non eligible cost

- Costs of infrastructure, such as new buildings or building modifications, and costs of facilities which can be regarded as part of the normal infrastructure for the discipline concerned.
- Staff cost for the exploitation or the execution of research with the facility and other staff costs.

12 Is co-financing with other funds a requisite?

The applicant institution must contribute at least 25% of the total investment. Staff costs directly relating to the development and construction of the equipment/facility can be presented as part of this contribution but a contribution must also be made to non-staff costs.

If staff costs are presented as part of the institution's contribution, the applicants should explain why it is necessary to incur them. The applicants should demonstrate convincingly that the proposed facility cannot be purchased and that the necessary expertise cannot be sourced from elsewhere at comparable expense. They should also ensure that the budget estimates contain a detailed specification of the individual tasks involved and the costs associated with each of them.

### *Submission of Proposals*

13 Is the call open around the year or are there deadlines for submission?

There is one call per year, with deadline usually in September, but the deadline might be different for different NWO divisions. Some councils receive very large numbers of applications and have a pre-proposals round in which the proposals obtain the NWO-advice whether or not to send in a full application. In general the deadline for pre-proposals is in spring. This pre-proposal round is compulsory.

14 If so, which are the deadlines for submission of proposals?

See 13

In general the full proposals are submitted in September. During November/December applicants will be asked to reply to the referees comments. The final award decision for the current round will be made approximately in March 2009. Some NWO divisions use a system of pre-proposals with other deadlines.

15 Which is the mode of submission of proposals?

- Online
- Paper forms

16 In which language are proposals submitted?

- National(s)
- English
- Others (specify)

17 How long is the call for applications open?

At least two months before the deadline the call is open for applications

### *Selection Procedures*

18 Who can apply to the call?

- Individual Researchers and research groups
- Research consortium
- Research Institutions
- Others (specify)

Same answer as no. 6: Universities, NWO institutes, academic libraries and academic information providers. Under agreements between NWO and the Royal Netherlands Academy for Arts and Sciences (KNAW), KNAW institutes are excluded from participation in this programme.

19 Is there a procedure to select (filter) applications to be submitted?

Yes

20 How is the evaluation of proposals performed?

- International peer review
- National peer review
- In-house
- Others (specify)

The selection of applications under the Investment Subsidy NWO Medium is in the hands of the relevant NWO divisions. Selection procedures vary but invariably include consultation with external referees, applicant response to the referee reports, and prioritisation of applications by an assessment committee which then reports back to the NWO division. The final award decisions are taken by the NWO division themselves.

In case of multidisciplinary applications NWO selects external referees who are able to judge the multidisciplinary character of the application. These applications are assessed by the most relevant NWO divisions.

21 Which are the evaluation criteria used?

- Scientific relevance
- Availability of similar equipment
- Potential Users
- Running expertise
- Others (specify)

Applications for grants under the Investment Subsidy NWO Medium will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:  
*a Academic quality*

- The quality of the research programme for which the proposed equipment/facility is to be used;
- The originality and innovative nature of the research programme to which the investment applies (for example, new research that would not be possible without the investment);

- The importance of the investment to research in the relevant field;
- The technical feasibility of the proposed equipment/facility and the extent to which it is technologically innovative;
- The effectiveness of the approach;
- The quality and competence of the principal investigators or the research team.

*b Social relevance*

- The extent to which the investment will contribute to technological or other innovation in industry or society at large;
- The extent to which the results achieved as a result of the investment will contribute to major technological or social change;
- Whether the proposal bears any demonstrable relationship to a designated priority area within government policy (flowing from reports by e.g. sector councils).

*c National interest*

- Whether the Netherlands occupies a leading position in the relevant field, what international developments are taking place in it, and whether the investment will help to strengthen the Netherlands' position.
- Consistency of the investment with a national research plan for the relevant field of research (for example, one drawn up by an NWO body);
- Consistency of the proposal with the (long-term) research strategy of the institution itself;
- Probability of coordination with other research teams in the relevant field (given that the investment is of more than purely local significance) and the extent to which the application provides for this;
- Whether researchers other than those directly involved in the application will have access to the proposed equipment/facility (in both the shorter and the longer term) and what arrangements are proposed for this.

*d Financial/technical criteria*

- The soundness of the budget;
- Is the requested and as part of the co-funding put down staff necessary;
- The extent of co-funding and whether this fulfils the relevant conditions (in the case of NWO Medium, a minimum contribution of 25% of the total investment);
- Adequacy of physical accommodation for the equipment/facility;
- Adequacy of surrounding infrastructure;
- Presence of a sound management plan for the equipment/facility;
- Proposed arrangements for future replacement/upgrading;
- The likely effectiveness of the investment. Whether the expected number of users or intensity of use will justify the size of the investment and the expected degree of capacity utilisation of the proposed equipment/facility.
- The prospects for continuing investment after the end of the grant period.

22 Which is the duration of the evaluation period (from deadline to communication of final decision)?  
Approximately six months.

*Granted Applications*

23 Will the acquired equipment belong to the recipient institution?

Yes

24 How is the acquisition of the granted equipment accomplished?

- Direct acquisition by the recipient researcher
- Public call for offers

25 Which is the eligible period for acquisition (natural year, months after decision communication, possibility of including equipment acquired before decision communication)?

There is officially no limit. However, the acquisition is monitored and in case of problems we might intervene.

26 Is the acquired equipment transferable?

- No
- To other centres within the institution
- To other institutions within the country
- To other countries

The equipment is of the level of (national) facilities which need in general a specific infrastructure. On request of the hosting institution a transfer is possible. In general this would be a transfer within the Netherlands.

27 Who are the expected users?

- Individual researchers or research groups
- Research Centres and Institutes
- X National Scientific community
- X International Scientific community

Primarily the Dutch research community uses the facilities. NOW encourages the use of the facilities by users from outside the Netherlands.

28 Have follow up procedures been established?

- Annual reports
- On site visits
- Others (specify)

#### Financial evaluation

Upon acceptance of the funds, the granted applicants must submit a expenditure scheme for the whole period of the grant. Also, the last 5% of the NWO funds is paid upon receipt of the financial report that has to be submitted at the end of the funding period.

#### Scientific evaluation

There is no scientific evaluation of these smaller type of facilities.

#### *General comments*

29 How is the funding scheme related with RI national and European (ESFRI) roadmaps?

The scale of ESFRI and also the facilities of the national roadmap is larger than the average NOW large equipment. Only recently some budget became available for the funding of the Dutch contribution to some ESFRI facilities. In the near future only a limited amount of budget will be available for facilities on the Dutch infrastructure roadmap. Within NWO we will discuss the balance between the several levels of infrastructure in the near future.

30 What do you think best practices for funding schemes will be?

No best practice but a question

We would like to learn about possibilities to assess multidisciplinary proposals?

#### *To be submitted*

Text of the call for proposals

General brochure (different NWO divisions may have an additional brochure) in attached file:

[NOW-M%20brochure%202008-2009%20ENG.pdf](#)

Can also be downloaded from website given below. For division-related brochure, see the division websites of NWO, for example [http://www.nwo.nl/nwohome.nsf/pages/NWOA\\_4XELYL\\_Eng](http://www.nwo.nl/nwohome.nsf/pages/NWOA_4XELYL_Eng)

Application forms

May vary per division

Web link to the call (if available)

General link to the calls for all Divisions

[http://www.nwo.nl/nwohome.nsf/pages/NWOP\\_5S3F4K\\_Eng](http://www.nwo.nl/nwohome.nsf/pages/NWOP_5S3F4K_Eng)

call for Earth and Life Sciences (for example)

[http://www.nwo.nl/nwohome.nsf/pages/NWOA\\_4XELYL\\_Eng](http://www.nwo.nl/nwohome.nsf/pages/NWOA_4XELYL_Eng)

## 6.11 Questionnaire SPAIN

### General Issues

1 Is there a specific call for infrastructure funding in your country? Brief description

There is a specific call for funding of scientific-technological equipment co-financing with the European (ERDF). This call is managed by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation and it is framed under the National Research and Development Programme.

The purpose and objectives of the call are to contribute to development regionally through the provision of the scientific community and Spanish technological equipment necessary for the development of their research activities. Also it aims to optimize the use of scientific and technological infrastructure and ensure the involvement of the institutions create the necessary synergies to optimize the transfer of results from research to industry.

Thus, it regulates the selection procedure under openness, objectivity and competition, project equipment scientific-technological co-financing by the European Regional Development to make possible:

The development of high quality research,

Create new research capabilities, and contribute, through research and technological development, to the creation of knowledge, social and economic development and improved quality of life of citizens.

This is the most relevant infrastructure funding scheme at national level. However, there is a specific life science infrastructure funding call from the Ministry of Health through the Health Institute Carlos III.

The objective of the call is to acquire equipment and infrastructure for scientific area of the SNS (public health system) in order to provide them with facilities and instrumental equipment for community use or shared by different research groups, targeting support units and support the research in Institutes of health research, to fill gaps in the technological research and avoid duplication.

The budget of the call is of 10 million euro per year. The eligible costs for the projects are scientific and technological equipment, the first basic equipment or furniture expansion or creation of new research laboratories and establishment and improvement of systems and technologies and it is a prerequisite the commitment of the institution for a contribution by the 25 per cent of the total cost.

There also is infrastructure funding at the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC).

2 Is it a permanent call or ad hoc?

Ad hoc

3 Is the scheme bottom up or top down?

Bottom Up

4 What is the relevance of the scheme in the country? Are there other funding possibilities?

It is the only relevant funding scheme for infrastructures at national level. However, there are some calls at institution level (such as CSIC), or some private foundation scheme.

5 Which status has the Granting Institution?

- National Government
- Regional Government
- Research Institution
- Private Foundation

The granting institution is the National Ministry of Science and Innovation.

6 Which are the Recipients of the call?

- All research institutions
- Public research institutions X
- Institutions linked to the funding agency

Public Universities, Public Research Centres and Technology Center

7 Is a general call or is it divided by specific scientific topics i.e. life sciences?

It is a general call.

#### *Financial Issues*

8 Is it financially supported by EU funding? If so, to what percentage?

It is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

9 Which is the total budget of the call?.

150M€

10 Which is the cost range of the eligible items (lower and upper limits per item)?

The cost range financed is more than 60,000 euros, although in exceptional circumstances and given the nature of the application, can be financed equipment that cost less.

11 Which costs are eligible?

- Equipment X
- Computer equipment and communication networks X
- Installation X
- Renewal or improvement X
- Running costs and technical personnel
- Others (specify)

Purchase and installation of scientific equipment and technology, including specialized software and intended only for research and enables the proper use of equipment purchased.

Furniture for administration, equipment for laboratories or teaching in general, maintenance or repairs, of equipment and insurance will not be financed.

Communication networks will be funded conduits, structured cabling systems, equipment, connectivity, network tools and user terminals for research personnel.

12 Is co-financing with other funds a requisite?

Yes. The call is co-financed with the European Regional Development Funds with a maximum of 30% of the Eligible cost, in the case of regions Objective 1 (Convergence, Phasing Out and in regions) and 50% in the case of regions of Objective 2 (Competitiveness and Regional employment). Co-financing from the Research Institutions or the Universities which are the recipients of the infrastructure is also a requisite.

#### *Submission of Proposals*

13 Is the call open around the year or are there deadlines for submission?

The call opens once every year, around May.

14 If so, which are the deadlines for submission of proposals?

One month of deadline for submission.

15 Which is the mode of submission of proposals?

- Online
- Paper forms

16 In which language are proposals submitted?

- National(s)  (Spanish)
- English
- Others (specify)

17 How long is the call for applications open?

1 months from the day of the publication

### *Selection Procedures*

18 Who can apply to the call?

- Individual Researchers and research groups
- Research consortium
- Research Institutions
- Others (specify)  Technology Centres

19 Is there a procedure to select (filter) applications to be submitted?

No

20 How is the evaluation of proposals performed?

- International peer review
- National peer review
- In-house
- Others (specify)

The project selection is done through a selection committee, which takes into account the following Criteria:

Scientific and technical evaluation of proposals by the National Agency of Evaluation and Prospective (ANEP), based on scientific and technological quality of the proposals, according to the interest of the scientific, quality and robustness of the researchers and / or technical support and the type of activity taking place in each centre. The overall rating of the proposal will be a scale of 0 to 100, defining what elements of it and which are not considered eligible for funding.

Each selection committee will consist of two representatives of the Autonomous Community, a representative of the Directorate General for Technology Policy and two representatives of the Directorate General for Research. The Director General for Research will chair the Commission.

21 Which are the evaluation criteria used?

- Scientific relevance
- Availability of similar equipment
- Potential Users
- Running expertise
- Others (specify)

22 Which is the duration of the evaluation period (from deadline to communication of final decision)?

6 months



### *Granted Applications*

23 Will the acquired equipment belong to the recipient institution?

yes

24 How is the acquisition of the granted equipment accomplished?

- Direct acquisition by the recipient researcher
- [Public call for offers](#)

25 Which is the eligible period for acquisition (natural year, months after decision communication, possibility of including equipment acquired before decision communication)?

[After decision communication.](#)

26 Is the acquired equipment transferable?

- [No](#)
- To other centres within the institution
- To other institutions within the country
- To other countries

27 Who are the expected users?

- Individual researchers or research groups [X](#)
- Research Centres and Institutes [X](#)
- National Scientific community
- International Scientific community

28 Have follow up procedures been established?

- [Annual reports](#)
- On site visits
- Others (specify)

### *General comments*

29 How is the funding scheme related with RI national and European (ESFRI) roadmaps?

[There is a specific call for funding national RI](#)

30 What do you think best practices for funding schemes will be?

[International peer review should be encouraged and the possibility to include personnel costs in the proposal.](#)

### *To be submitted*

- Text of the call for proposals
- Application forms
- Web link to the call (if available)

## 6.12 Questionnaire UNITED KINGDOM

### General Issues

1 Is there a specific call for infrastructure funding in your country? Brief description

There is no specific national call in the UK for infrastructure on this scale after the introduction of full economic costing of grants (fEC), which requires that grant-funded projects claim for the real economic cost of their proposals, including the cost of running infrastructure and including depreciation. Other organisations, separate from those funded by the national government may have separate schemes. Research infrastructure can be purchased by research groups through normal research project grants.

2 Is it a permanent call or ad hoc?

n/a

3 Is the scheme bottom up or top down?

n/a

4 What is the relevance of the scheme in the country? Are there other funding possibilities?

n/a

5 Which status has the Granting Institution?

- National Government
- Regional Government
- Research Institution
- Private Foundation

6 Which are the Recipients of the call?

- All research institutions
- Public research institutions
- Institutions linked to the funding agency

7 Is a general call or is it divided by specific scientific topics i.e. life sciences?

n/a

### Financial Issues

8 Is it financially supported by EU funding? If so, to what percentage?

n/a

9 Which is the total budget of the call?

n/a

10 Which is the cost range of the eligible items (lower and upper limits per item)?

11 Which costs are eligible?

- Equipment
- Computer equipment and communication networks
- Installation
- Renewal or improvement
- Running costs and technical personnel
- Others (specify)

12 Is co-financing with other funds a requisite?

### *Submission of Proposals*

13 Is the call open around the year or are there deadlines for submission?

14 If so, which are the deadlines for submission of proposals?

15 Which is the mode of submission of proposals?

- Online
- Paper forms

16 In which language are proposals submitted?

- National(s)
- English
- Others (specify)

17 How long is the call for applications open?

### *Selection Procedures*

18 Who can apply to the call?

- Individual Researchers and research groups
- Research consortium
- Research Institutions
- Others (specify)

19 Is there a procedure to select (filter) applications to be submitted?

20 How is the evaluation of proposals performed?

- International peer review
- National peer review
- In-house
- Others (specify)

21 Which are the evaluation criteria used?

- Scientific relevance
- Availability of similar equipment
- Potential Users
- Running expertise
- Others (specify)

22 Which is the duration of the evaluation period (from deadline to communication of final decision)?

### *Granted Applications*

23 Will the acquired equipment belong to the recipient institution?

24 How is the acquisition of the granted equipment accomplished?

- Direct acquisition by the recipient researcher
- Public call for offers

25 Which is the eligible period for acquisition (natural year, months after decision communication, possibility of including equipment acquired before decision communication)?

26 Is the acquired equipment transferable?

- No
- To other centres within the institution
- To other institutions within the country
- To other countries

27 Who are the expected users?

- Individual researchers or research groups
- Research Centres and Institutes
- National Scientific community
- International Scientific community

28 Have follow up procedures been established?

- Annual reports
- On site visits
- Others (specify)

#### *General comments*

29 How is the funding scheme related with RI national and European (ESFRI) roadmaps?

30 What do you think best practices for funding schemes will be?

#### *To be submitted*

- Text of the call for proposals
- Application forms
- Web link to the call (if available)