



NEURON Funding call „European research projects on neurodegenerative diseases of the central nervous system“

January 18th, 2008

Guidelines for applicants

Background

Under the umbrella of the ERA-Net NEURON ('Network of European Funding for Neuroscience Research'), 13 European funding organisations have agreed to fund the first transnational joint call for collaborative research projects on neurodegenerative diseases. 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.

Registration

Research consortia who intend to submit a proposal with regard to this call, are invited to register in the electronic proposal system as early as possible. For this purpose, please fill in the data sheet of the system. The same data sheet can be later used for final electronic proposal submission.

Electronic proposal submission

Electronic proposal submission is mandatory. For application please use the proposal template provided on the NEURON web page (<http://www.neuron-eranet.eu/>). Please fill in all fields and upload your proposal **online by April 7, 2008, at the latest**. Please take into account that the online data entry may be overloaded at the day of the deadline. It is, therefore, recommended to transfer all obligatory data in good time.

In addition, please submit a **paper version** of your proposal signed by the project coordinator (1 original + 4 copies) to the NEURON Joint Call Secretariat **by April 14, 2008**:

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Proposal documents

One joint proposal document (in English) shall be prepared by the partners of a joint transnational proposal, and must be submitted to the Joint Call Secretariat (JCS) by one spokesperson, the project coordinator.

The proposal document must not be longer than seven pages for the description of the collaborative project and seven pages for a subproject (**DIN-A4, Arial 11**). For subprojects comprising a 'proof of concept' clinical study, 10 pages are allowed. In this case, please use the specific form for clinical studies within the template.

Please document for each subproject, to which funding organisation you mean to apply for funding. For Spanish applicants, please state whether you plan to apply to the Ministry of Education and Science (MEC) or the Institute of Health Carlos III (ISCIII).

Proposal structure

A) Presentation of the collaboration (max. 7 pages)

Cover sheet

- a) Title / Topic of the transnational collaborative project
- b) Name and full affiliation of the Project Coordinator
- c) Names and full affiliations of the Principal Investigators (PI) of the subprojects (if the project coordinator operates also as a PI of a subproject, he/she should also be listed here)

Content

- 1) Scientific abstract (max. ½ page) and lay summary (max. ½ page)
- 2) Background and state of the art in the research field, including references (max. 2 pages)
- 3) Overall aims of the consortium, coordination and management (max. 1 page)
- 4) Added value of the proposed collaboration (max. 1 page)
- 5) Possible exploitation of expected project results including data management and data sharing (max. ½ page)
- 6) Handling of intellectual property rights (IPR) (e.g. any barriers to sharing materials or results), both within and outside the research consortium (max. ½ page)

B) Presentation of a subproject (max. 7 pages each)

Cover sheet

- a) Title of the subproject
- b) Name and full affiliation of the Principal Investigator (one person)
- c) Other personnel participating in the joint project, if applicable

Content

- 1) Abstract/Summary (max. ½ page)
- 2) Work plan including references (aims, methodology, involvement of participants, time plan, subproject coordination and management; max. 4 pages)
- 3) Description of patents and ongoing projects related to the present topic, indicating funding sources and possible overlaps with the proposal (max. ½ page)
- 4) Ethical and legal issues (e.g. informed patient consent, data protection, use of animals), if applicable, according to national regulations (max. ½ page)
- 5) Financial plan provided on the respective table (in €)
- 6) Justification of requested budget (also specifying co-funding from other sources necessary for the project, if applicable; max. 1 page)

ALTERNATIVELY

B) Presentation of a subproject comprising a 'proof of principle' clinical study (max. 10 pages each)

Please delete the instructions and fill in your text instead.

Cover sheet

- a) Title of the subproject
- b) Name and full affiliation of the Principal Investigator (one person)

Content

- 1) Study synopsis
- 2) Aim of the study
- 3) Justification of design aspects
- 4) Statistical analyses
- 5) Ethical considerations
- 6) Study management
- 7) Study milestones
- 8) Financial plan provided on the respective table
- 9) Justification of requested budget (also specifying co-funding from other sources necessary for the project, if applicable)

C) Appendix (max. 1 page for each subproject)

Brief CV for each participating Principal Investigator with a list of up to five relevant publications within the last five years demonstrating the competence to carry out the project

Warning

It is strongly recommended to meet the deadline and observe the format of the proposal structure.

The Joint Call Secretariat (JCS) will assess proposals to ensure that they meet the call's formal criteria (e.g. date of submission; number of participating countries; inclusion of all necessary information in English). The JCS will also check the scientific eligibility of the proposal (e.g. conformity with the disease spectrum of the call).

In parallel, the JCS will forward the proposals to the national funding organizations which will perform a formal check of compliance with their respective regulations. **Proposals not meeting the formal criteria will be rejected.** Proposals passing both checks will be forwarded to the joint Peer Review Panel for consideration for funding.

Eligibility criteria, further information

Whilst applications will be submitted jointly by research groups from several countries, the individual subprojects will be funded by the NEURON funding organisation(s) respective of the country from which applicants have applied. Subproject applications are therefore subject to eligibility criteria of individual funding organisations.

Therefore, applicants are strongly advised to discuss their intentions and confirm eligibility with their respective funding organisations in advance of submitting an application (see Country Specific Requirements, <http://www.neuron-eranet.eu/>).