

Guide on R&I Funding Programmes beyond H2020

BESTPRAC WG1 Meeting, Session 1.2, Belgrade, 2018

European Economic Area grants and Norway grants

The grants concentrate on contributing to healthier lives and societies of the subjects in the participating countries and to reduce economic and social disparities in Europe to build a stronger Europe.

It is clearly defined in the rules and regulations who can participate and what is needed to fulfil eligibility conditions. Natural persons are not eligible consortium members.

Three countries have the lion share of grants (see Bartoz's slides), other eligible countries have smaller contributions (Central Europe, Baltic, and South Europe).

There are 5 priority sectors for funding:

- Innovation, Research, Education and Competitiveness
- Social Inclusion, Youth Employment and Poverty Reduction
- Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Low Carbon Economy
- Culture, Civil Society, Good Governance and Fundamental Rights and Freedoms
- Justice and Home Affairs

Each program runs for a certain period of time. We are currently in the 2014-2021 programme <https://eeagrants.org/>

Procedure of the application:

When applying you first submit a concept note first, then a full proposal.

Only one concept note is allowed from each institute (except for donor state participants).

Budget of projects has to be at least 1 mill. and there is a co-funding need of 10%. There is generally a flat rate of 15% overhead of calculated staff cost.

Questions & Answers:

Q: How do you do the preselection at your institute? Wasn't it problematic?

A: Vice-rector + 9 other researchers from different disciplines did the evaluations and selection.

Q: Can expertise partners receive money?

A: Yes, some money. They do not have the same benefits as the others.

Q: Was it hard to convince the donor state partners?

A: No. Others in the room have had problems in convincing donor state partners to participate, but in the presented case it was not a problem.

Q: Did you have previous relations to the donor state partners?

A: Yes, so that may have help to convince the donor state partner

National Institutes of Health (NIH)

Mission

The NIH provides financial support in the form of grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts to support the advancement of the NIH mission to enhance health, extend healthy lives, and reduce the burdens of illness and disability.

Funding call types

There are two main types of call for proposals:

1. Request for proposals (ROF): deadline one-time per year
2. Program Announcements (PA): multiple submission per year

NIH uses different activity codes for projects and the most popular for non-US applicants are R01, which have a budget of up to \$500K direct costs per year and can last 3-5 years.

Timeline to grant is up to 9-10 months. At the end of the evaluation applicants will receive a Summary Statement with comments and scores.

Pros

- Funding is aimed at the research per se, no need to consider societal impact
- Reapplications are possible and, based on the comments included in the statement sent to the PI, it is really easy to improve the original application
- It's a good way to expand academic network & collaboration
- There are different ways to get involved - as main applicant; as non-US subaward and as consultant (subcontract in H2020)
- Communication with programme officers is encouraged as they are happy to receive queries about project ideas

Cons

- The scheme is not really designed to non-US applicants
- Low indirect rate (8%)
- High admin burden
- Numerous policies at federal level to comply with and be aware of

Tips

- The proposal should show how it will benefit the US population/community
- Collaboration with US academics is encouraged - i.e. work with them as a non-US partner first in order to get used to the system and then apply as coordinator
- Learn about the relevant institute/centre and their priorities
- Include a cover letter with your application

Erasmus+

- Erasmus+ is the EU's programme to support education, training, youth and sport.
- Set to last until 2020 intended for a wide scope of individuals and organisations.



- Aims to support the development, transfer and implementation of innovative practices and promotes cooperation, peer learning and experience exchange on a European level.
- Erasmus+ projects may be of two types:
 - Strategic partnerships supporting innovation
 - Strategic Partnerships supporting exchange of good practices

TRANSPEER is a Erasmus+ project with a consortium of Karlstad University (KAU, Sweden), Inland Norway University of Applied Science (INN, Norway), Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU, UK), the Nova University of Lisbon (ITQB NOVA, Portugal) and the Instituto Politécnico de Santarém (IPSantarém). Main aim of this project is to increase of awareness of researchers of their skills to improve employability.

TRANSPEER comprises 3 WPs:

- WP1: Design
 - o Development of course materials, design evaluation tools and post-project dissemination.
- WP2: Delivery
 - o Four 3-day training events hosted by each partner.
- WP3: Evaluation, dissemination, sustainability
 - o Evaluation and ongoing career monitoring
 - o Presentations at key conferences
 - o Submission of scientific articles

Questions & Answers:

Q: How did you sell the innovation part?

A: Soft skill may potentiate your career and help scientific employability

Q: Would be Erasmus+ suitable for a future form of BESTPRAC?

A: Application is not really intended due to limitations of the Erasmus+ programme to this kind of action, namely limited number of participating countries.

Visegrad Funds

The Visegrad Group (also known as the "Visegrad Four" or simply "V4") reflects the efforts of the countries of the Central European region to work together in a number of fields of common interest within the all-European integration. Czechia, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia.

The Fund is an international donor organization, established in 2000 by the governments of the Visegrad Group countries to promote regional cooperation in the Visegrad region (V4) as well as between the V4 region and other countries, especially in the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership regions.

The Fund does so by awarding €8 million through grants, scholarships and artist residencies provided annually by equal contributions of all the V4 countries. Other donor countries (Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States) have provided another €10 million through various grant schemes run by the Fund since 2012.

There are currently three programs

Visegrad Grants (at least 3 V4 countries, max. duration 18 months, up to 100% funding, must focus at least one objective in focus areas)

Visegrad+ Grants (at least 3 V4 countries and 1 Western Balkan country, other conditions are the same)

Strategic Grants (all V4 countries must be involved, 12-36 months, upto 100% funding, must address strategic annual priority of V4 group)

There are also a Cross-border grants between V4 countries with similar rules.

There are three *deadlines* per year for application. There is an electronic submission system, but a lot of documents have to be provided on paper.

EIT Grants

Mission and vision

EIT is trying to put research to the market

KICs (Knowledge innovation centres) are organized along different topics, such as EIT Climate-KIC, Digital, Food, Health, InnoEnergy, Raw materials, alumni

Starting in 2008, independent body EU, 305 new start-up, closed community

EIT Health:

closed community means you have to pay a fee, 75K per year; 25K, project partner: no fee (but max 50K per year)

distribution of all partners involved in EU

3 kinds of projects funded by EIT:

- Innovation projects: max. 3 million, max. 3 years;
- Campus projects: training, 1 year, 400k
- Accelerator projects: minimum 2 partners from 2 CLCs, no maximum, 5-7 partners. Private company is mandatory.

How the funding works:

KAVA (KIC Added Value Activities); KIC Complementary activities (KCA)

EIT contribution: 25%, co-funding & own resources (75%)

pros and cons:

- calls are specific on the focus area mentioned,
- to enter, you have to contact the CLC
- fee per institution and per institution
- need to be at the prototype stage. High TRL. The project will put it on the market.
- You have to show to EIT that you have 75% equivalent of expertise/past projects relevant to your EIT.
- Prove the relation between experience and the project.

Example: a partner from Italy can participate as a project partners (max 50 00 per partner) so if 2 projects, 25 000 each. Or it can pay the fee to enter.