



ERA-Chemistry is pleased to announce the **2010 'Open Initiative'** to fund transnational collaborative projects in the broad field of curiosity-driven chemical research.

After two successful thematic calls in 2005 and 2007, since 2008 the 'Open Initiative', aims now at stimulating further excellence in chemical research through competition and cooperation without any thematic restriction.

About ERA-Chemistry

ERA-Chemistry is a consortium of 14 research funding organisations from 12 European countries with the goal to develop and implement joint bottom-up European funding programmes. The network is focused on establishing European collaboration in chemistry research and neighbouring disciplines without national or formal boundaries, and moreover, it increases the competitiveness of chemical researchers in Europe by developing and implementing new European research conference schemes.

Further details are given on the ERA-Chemistry website: www.erachemistry.net

The ERA-Chemistry Partners (national research funding organisations) have announced their 2010 Open Initiative for proposals on 13 January 2010.

The following funding organisations are participating in this call:

- × Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung (FWF), Austria
- × Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique (FNRS), Belgium
- × Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft e. V. (DFG), Germany
- × Országos Tudományos Kutatási Alapprogramok (OTKA), Hungary
- × Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology (IRCSET), Ireland
- × Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación (MICINN), Spain

Actual contacts can be found in the 'Open Call for Proposals' section of the ERA-Chemistry website (www.erachemistry.net).

Who is eligible to apply?

Chemists from **Austria, Belgium, Germany, Hungary, Ireland and Spain**, eligible to apply for financial support from their national research funding organisations are cordially invited to apply within chemistry-related subject.

A joint application should be submitted by two researchers from different participating countries. Applicants may submit only one proposal within this Open Initiative. The researchers should carry out the project in the respective country financing their participation.

There must be one **Contact Person** for each application, named amongst the participants. The Contact Person is responsible for:

- ✗ submission of the joint proposal on behalf of both applicants (via the web portal)
- ✗ all communication with the Call Secretariat.

Only the Contact Person should register for access to the web portal.

Where required by national regulations, each applicant must receive approval to submit from a legally authorised officer of their institution; for example, the Head of Department or a representative from the institution's research coordination office. For more information on your national regulations please contact your responsible national research funding organisation.

What is the application procedure?

There will be a **two-stage procedure** involving pre-proposals and full proposals. All documents must be submitted via the electronic web portal (www.eranet.hu).

The projects will be funded for three years starting from early spring 2011.

Time schedule

Submission of pre-proposals	Submission of full proposals	Funding decision	Start of the Projects
22 January 2010 – 23 February 2010	18 June 2010 – 23 July 2010	15 November 2010 – 15 January 2011	Spring 2011 (as soon as possible)

Registration and Pre-proposal submission

To begin the pre-proposal submission process, the Contact Person should visit the electronic web portal at www.eranet.hu and fill in a **registration** form (containing personal and institutional details). After the responsible national funding organisation has confirmed the Contact Person's eligibility, the Call Secretariat will register them to the system, and via email, provide them with login details to access the web portal.

After login, the Contact Person will need to confirm and complete his/her personal data and educational details, and submit the **pre-proposal** (details provided below). All information and pre-proposal documents should be written in English.

The '2010 Pre-proposal form' must be used to prepare the pre-proposal document. This template is available for download from the ERA-Chemistry website: (www.erachemistry.net) and on the websites of the participating organizations. The word template should be completed in full jointly by both applicants and uploaded to the web portal by the Contact Person.

Pre-proposal Review Process

Eligible pre-proposals will be forwarded to at least two reviewers. Applicants are not permitted to nominate reviewers, but they are allowed to express (in an email to their National Administrator) which reviewer(s) should be excluded.

Reviewers will be requested to evaluate the pre-proposal project based on:

- × the added value of the proposed project as compared to two individual proposals by the same applicants,
- × the scientific quality compared to similar proposals at an international level.

The result and reviews will be sent to the Contact Person by his/her participating national funding organisation. There will be no opportunity for rebuttal.

Invitation to Submit a Full proposal

All successful applicants from the pre-proposal stage will be invited to submit their comprehensive **full proposals** not later than 23 July 2010.

Content of the full proposal:

The full proposal is expected to be detailed compared to the pre-proposal (a Word template will also be provided).

Each applicant may request funding according to the rules for individual grants of their participating national funding organisation.

Information about the financial rules of every participating national funding organisation will be provided on their website. In addition to the information required by ERA-Chemistry (detailed above), each national funding organisation may require their national applicants to submit additional internal documents (e.g. budget details, "hard-copy" signed forms etc.). Please contact your participating national funding organisation for information on any additional national requirements.

Full Proposal Review process

Eligible full proposals will be evaluated to at least three reviewers; the review process will be similar to that employed at the pre-proposal stage. Applicants are not permitted to nominate reviewers, but they are allowed to express (in an email to their National Administrator) which reviewer(s) should be excluded.

Reviewers will be requested to evaluate the full proposal based on:

- ✗ the scientific background of the applicants (CV, track record, quality of publications and capability for independent scientific work of both applicants in relation to their scientific age)
- ✗ the research proposal (added value of cooperation; originality and novelty of the idea; ground-breaking character and scientific impact of research subject;)
- ✗ the feasibility of the project (feasibility of the work plan; risk involved; choice of methods/tools/instrumentation; capability of the applicants' institutions to provide scientific infrastructure for their proposed research),
- ✗ the appropriateness of the project budget and financial plan,
- ✗ a section will also be provided for the reviewer to provide extra general or summary comments.

The applicants will be informed of the outcome of the call by their participating national funding organisations at the end of year 2010 or at the beginning of year 2011. There will be no opportunity for rebuttal.

What are the project requirements?

Joint projects must comprise novel and ambitious ideas in curiosity-driven chemistry. The **scientific level** of the projects should be high on international comparison. Beyond this, joint projects must clearly demonstrate the **added value of the applicants' cooperation** over and above what could be achieved individually. Genuine trans-national collaborations should comprise complementarities of expertise and methodology among both applicants, e.g. of synthetic and/or characterisation tools and/or theoretical approaches. Parallel national projects with little interaction are not acceptable.

A document describing how to access and use the web portal (Web Portal Instructions for 'Open Initiative' Applicants) can be downloaded from the ERAChemistry website and from the participating national funding organisations' websites. **Guidelines for reviewers** are also available for download.

Coordination of the call and contact details

If you require additional information please contact your participating national funding organisation (contacts can be found on the ERA-Chemistry website on www.erachemistry.net). For information concerning the use of the web portal you may also contact the ERA-Chemistry Call Secretariat (erachemistry@otka.hu or opencall-secr@erachemistry.net).