

## **FP 7 Grant Agreement ANNEX III – ERA-NET Plus actions**

### **III.1 - Definitions**

In addition to the definitions in Article II.1, the following definitions apply to this *grant agreement*:

1. **Joint call** means a [single] call for trans-national research proposals launched by the *consortium*, including all necessary aspects for the implementation and management of the *joint call*.
2. **Trans-national projects** means the projects funded out of the *joint call* involving at least two independent legal entities from two different member states or associated countries.
3. **Joint selection list of trans-national projects** means the list of *trans-national projects* formally selected by the *consortium* on the basis of the criteria described in Article III.7, paragraph 3. The *joint selection list of trans-national projects* is the main deliverable of the *project*.

### **III.2 – Duration of the project**

The total duration of the *project* shall not exceed 5 years from the *start date* of the *project*.

### **III.3 - Specific performance obligations of each beneficiary**

In addition to the terms of Article II.3, each *beneficiary* shall deliver to the *Commission* together with the *joint selection list of trans-national projects* a formal commitment, signed by its respective authorised representative, to identify its specific amount to assure the total necessary national funding to the *trans-national projects*.

### **III.4 – Community financial contribution**

1. The *Community* financial contribution shall be limited to [maximum 33 %] of the total budget allocated to the selected *trans-national projects*.
2. The *Community* financial contribution shall be determined by applying:

- the **reimbursement of eligible costs** for activities relating to the implementation and management of the *joint call*. However, the *Community financial contribution* shall not exceed the maximum defined in Annex I.

Notwithstanding Article II.14, paragraph 1 point c, eligible costs may only be incurred until the acknowledged reception of the *joint selection list of trans-national projects* by the Commission.

- the **reimbursement of eligible costs** as an agreed proportional contribution to the national pooling of funds for activities relating to the funding of selected *trans-national projects*. This agreed proportional contribution is set to [maximum 33 %] of the total budget allocated to the selected *trans-national projects* excluding the eligible costs for activities relating to the implementation and management of the *joint call*.

3. The *consortium* shall ensure that the total funding allocated to any *trans-national projects* complies with competition rules.

4. Should one *beneficiary* not respect its commitment to contribute its agreed share to the total budget allocated to finance the *trans-national projects*, the *Community financial contribution* shall be reduced accordingly, except if other *beneficiaries* increase their national funding accordingly to the *joint selection list of trans-national projects*.

### III. 5 - Specific Payments modalities

Notwithstanding the provisions of Article II.6 the *Commission* shall make the following payments:

a) A first pre-financing of EUR [*insert amount*] (*insert amount in words*) **EURO**, as foreseen in Article 6. This first pre-financing shall cover the eligible costs for activities relating to the implementation and management of the *joint call*, as indicate in Article III.7.

b) A **second pre-financing** of EUR [*insert amount*] (*insert amount in words*) **EURO** corresponding to the second reporting period defined in Article 4 and indicated in the table of estimated breakdown of costs for this period in Annex I. This second pre-financing shall be agreed as the *Community* contribution to finance the topping up of the first 12 months funding to the *trans-national projects*.

c) **Interim payments** following each reporting period equal to the *Community* contribution corresponding to the amount accepted, based on verified and paid funding for the *trans-national projects* by the consortium, for each reporting period.

d) A **final payment** of the *Community financial contribution* in accordance with Article II.6 c).

### **III.6 - Change in the composition of the *consortium***

In addition to the terms of Article II.36, any request for the addition or removal of a *beneficiary* shall be submitted to the *Commission* not later than the publication of the *joint call*.

### **III.7 – Implementation and management of the *joint call***

1. The *consortium* shall publish the *joint call* in accordance with the terms of Article II.35, paragraph 2.

2. The *joint call* shall be implemented through the means of a two step procedure. Step 1 may be organised in a decentralised manner. Step 2 shall follow the principles of a single international peer review, as described in paragraph 3.

3. The *consortium* shall evaluate proposals received with the assistance of at least three independent experts appointed by the *consortium*, on the basis of at least the following set of criteria:

- Scientific and/or technological excellence - Quality of the *trans-national project* (Threshold 3/5)
  - Sound concept, and quality of objectives
  - Progress beyond the state-of-the-art
  - Quality and effectiveness of the scientific and technological methodology and associated work plan
- Quality and efficiency of the implementation and the management (Threshold 3/5)
  - Appropriateness of the management structure and procedures
  - Quality and relevant experience of the individual participants
  - Quality of the consortium as a whole (including complementarity, balance)
  - Appropriate allocation and justification of the resources to be committed (budget, staff, equipment)
- Potential impact (Threshold 3/5)
  - Contribution, at the European and/or international level, to the expected impacts listed in the FP7 work programme under relevant topic/activity
  - Appropriateness of measures for the dissemination and/or exploitation of *trans-national projects* results, and management of intellectual property.

4. The *joint call* shall remain open for the submission of proposals by interested parties for a period of at least eight weeks for the whole 2 step procedure.

5. The *consortium* shall ensure that the principle of confidentiality is upheld during the evaluation and selection procedures of the *joint call*.