

Europe-USA Call strengthening transnational research in the Molecular Plant Sciences

3rd ERA-CAPS Call for Proposals (2016)

Call Notice



June 2016

1. Introduction

Plants are essential to human life, providing the majority of the food we consume, feed for our livestock, and valuable non-food products. Plant sciences therefore face important challenges at the European and global scale due to the increasing demands from a burgeoning world population. Competition for land, water and energy will increase and the need to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change is crucial.

To guarantee food security, the world requires new ways to produce adequate and stable food supplies in an environmentally sustainable manner. The challenge for plant sciences is to further improve current knowledge of plant biology and agronomy, to increase crop yields and enhance the access to a far greater diversity of safe and nutritious food on a global scale. In addressing this challenge, existing and emerging data-driven technologies have resulted in an exponential increase in the generation of large datasets. Exploiting and sharing these datasets to achieve their maximum potential brings its own set of challenges.

The ERA-CAPS (Coordinating Action in Plant Sciences) network was launched in 2012 in order to embed molecular plant sciences more firmly in national policies and processes whilst continuing to fund excellence-driven research in this area. ERA-CAPS strengthened and expanded the preceding ERA-PG (Plant Genomics) network within and beyond Europe. From 2012-2015, the ERA-CAPS network was funded by the European Commission through FP7. In 2015, ERA-CAPS became a self-sustained network comprising 11 partners and 9 observers from both EU and non-EU countries. The network is now launching its third call.

During its FP7 phase, the ERA-CAPS network launched two joint calls. In addition, interaction between researchers, funders, and relevant European initiatives has been promoted through external engagement. ERA-CAPS has assisted in the systematic exchange of information to facilitate the expansion of the network and to involve new members and affiliates. The joint ambition of the scientific Councils, Ministries and Agencies collaborating in the ERA-CAPS network is to enhance synergies between scientific and economic capabilities to increase the quality and impact of a coordinated and sustainable transnational plant science research programme in Europe and beyond.

The first ERA-CAPS call was launched in November 2012 with funding from 16 organisations in 15 countries. The broad and inclusive call received 110 high-quality applications. 14 projects have been granted adding up to about M€ 21.

The second ERA-CAPS call was launched in January 2014 with funding from 17 organisations in 16 countries. Again the call was broad and inclusive, and it was implemented via a two-stage procedure. A total of 142 pre-proposals were received, of which 62 high-quality applications were invited to submit full proposals. 12 projects have been granted adding up to about M€ 20.

The granted projects from both calls are listed at the [ERA-CAPS webpage](#).

2. Purpose of the Call

The 3rd ERA-CAPS call for proposals launched on 23 June 2016 is entitled: “Europe-USA Call strengthening transnational research in Molecular Plant Sciences”.

This third ERA-CAPS call will fund high-quality collaborative transnational research in fundamental molecular plant science (see section 4). The funding partners agree that this unifying approach is a fundamental prerequisite to maximise the utility of the limited resources available and to meet the European demand for molecular plant science innovation with a long-term perspective. Project proposals should indicate (i) the synergistic values of collaborative research between project partners and reduction of duplication. (ii) Each collaborative research project (CRP) should comprise scientists with different and complementary areas of expertise to create an inclusive body of research. (iii) Access to varied resources which will add value to the research effort should be identified. (iv) Given the increasing complexity of multi-disciplinary research, there is a necessity to develop/ use commonly agreed standards for storing and sharing the large amounts of generated scientific data. Each CRP should therefore develop a plan for data storage and data sharing. The ERA-CAPS Data Sharing Policy document is available at the ERA-CAPS website at <http://www.era-caps.org/era-caps-calls/era-caps-third-call> (Annex III). Since the call aims at developing new collaborations as well as strengthening and enlarging existing partnerships, the applicants are encouraged to consider inviting partners throughout the whole network of countries. To foster this process, ERA-CAPS offers a web-based [Search for collaborations](#) tool. The tool will include the profiles and partner-search-requests from any new candidates, who can post their data through an on-line survey. The link to this survey can be found at the above-mentioned ‘ERA-CAPS Search for collaborations’ page.

3. Call Structure

9 ERA-CAPS partner organisations from 9 countries will participate in this third call (Table 1). Where available, budget indications for each partner are given in Table 3 (Section 8.2), with further details provided in the National Annexes. It is expected that the call will jointly provide funds in the order of 16 million Euros pending availability of funds.

Each national funding organisation will fund only the project participants from its own country.

Table 1. Funding organisations financially contributing to the third ERA-CAPS call

Abbreviation	Funding organisation	Country
FWF	Austrian Science Fund	AUSTRIA
F.R.S.-FNRS	Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique	BELGIUM
ANR	Agence Nationale de la Recherche	FRANCE
DFG	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft	GERMANY
NCN	Narodowe Centrum Nauki (National Science Centre)	POLAND
MPNTR	Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development	SERBIA
SNSF	Swiss National Science Foundation	SWITZERLAND
BBSRC	Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council	UNITED KINGDOM
NSF	National Science Foundation	USA

4. Themes of Research

By agreement of the funding organisations involved, the third joint call launched by ERA-CAPS will follow the same broad scope as described in the first and second joint call. This will cover all areas of molecular plant science, allowing maximum engagement of the plant science community.

Applications in **all areas of molecular plant science** are welcomed where the research answers fundamental biological questions of relevance to the development of the European and Global Research Area in molecular plant science.

Below are **examples** of research areas that are of common interest to several of the funding organisations and align with the overarching themes of e.g. the Joint Programming Initiative for Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change (FACCE-JPI). These examples **do not exclude** project proposals in other areas of molecular plant science.

- **Food and Nutrition Security:** research that contributes to the sustainable and secure supply of safe and nutritious food for an increasing global population. This includes yield optimisation, quality traits and nutrient use efficiency, amongst other research areas.
- **Non-food crops:** this theme includes research into crops (or appropriate models) where the end-use includes bioenergy or industrial biotechnology.
- **Adaptation to a changing climate:** research that addresses how plants can adapt, or be adapted, to grow in a changing environment.
- **Biotic/abiotic stresses:** this theme includes research into plant responses to either biotic or abiotic stress, or how plants contend with a combination of biotic and abiotic stresses.

Applicants should note the following:

- Research must have a significant molecular aspect (including, but not limited to, genetics, 'omics technologies, molecular breeding, molecular evolution, developmental biology, molecular plant pathology, molecular plant physiology, epigenetics etc.).
- Plants under investigation can be model plants or reference species as well as crops, including horticultural crops, ornamentals, trees and forage plants. Research on algae can be proposed if in line with the above-mentioned aims and themes.
- The call is focussed on molecular plant sciences, however, research is becoming more interdisciplinary. Therefore, projects aiming to investigate the plant microbiome or phytobiome and in accordance with the general aims of the call as outlined above can also be submitted.
- Some funding organisations will only consider applications in specific research areas, or have identified research themes of importance to their country; these are identified in the National Annexes.

- Additionally, some funding agencies can only support basic underpinning research, or more applied research. Rules governing the involvement of industry in consortia vary for each partner. Applicants should check the National Annexes carefully when preparing their proposal.
- Research that is relevant to challenges in agriculture and food security of developing countries is welcome.
- **Proposals with aspects of plant phenotyping**

The development of a new pan-European infrastructure on plant phenotyping has begun following its inclusion onto the 2016 European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) Roadmap. EMPHASIS (European Multi-Environment Plant Phenotyping and Simulation Infrastructure) has submitted a proposal as part of the EC H2020 call for Preparatory Phase funding, and is actively seeking community engagement with the infrastructure even at this early stage. This will ensure that the infrastructure develops to meet the evolving needs of the plant phenotyping community.

With this in mind, ERA-CAPS applicants whose proposed research contains aspects of plant phenotyping are encouraged to make contact with EMPHASIS and to discuss if the proposed research would benefit from linking to the phenotyping services offered by the EMPHASIS project partners. Further information can be found at http://www.plant-phenotyping.org/about_emphasis.

- It is of central importance that proposals **demonstrate** the added value of collaborative research throughout the project.

The **maximum duration of projects will be three years**.

Sub-Call Addressing Data Challenges in Plant Sciences

Ever-improving technologies in plant science research have led to very high volumes of data being generated through publicly-funded research. To ensure maximum impact, these massive datasets need to be made available to other researchers in a suitably annotated, findable and inter-exchangeable format. Commonly agreed standards and ontologies are essential to make metadata accessible, but not all plant science disciplines are at the same stage of data discovery, production or acceptance of standards. For example, genomics research is further advanced in establishing data standards than more recent efforts, such as high-throughput phenotyping. To realise the ambitious goal that all plant science data are available to and usable by other researchers, community-driven flagship projects are required to help fill the gaps in an ever-changing data-intensive environment. Cooperative sharing of research effort and data standardisation is also important to avoid duplication and maximise investments, particularly in currently constrained funding climates. ERA-CAPS recognises that such projects are best funded at the transnational level and should be community-driven. Therefore, ERA-CAPS launches a sub-call that focuses attention on this specific area of solving data challenges in plant

science research. Proposals submitted to this sub-call will be reviewed alongside the proposals submitted to the main call (see below).

The **maximum duration of projects submitted to the Data Challenges Sub-Call will be three years.**

Table 2. Funding organisations financially contributing to the Data Challenges Sub-Call

Abbreviation	Funding organisation	Country
FWF	Austrian Science Fund	AUSTRIA
ANR	Agence Nationale de la Recherche	FRANCE
DFG	Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft	GERMANY
NCN	Narodowe Centrum Nauki (National Science Centre)	POLAND
MPNTR	Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development	SERBIA
BBSRC	Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council	UNITED KINGDOM
NSF	National Science Foundation	USA

Applicants planning to submit a proposal to the Data Challenges Sub-Call should refer to the National Annexes and contact their National Call Coordinators for further information.

5. Application

In formulating the applications the following should be noted:

- **All** proposals should take into account how data sharing, data management, and data access will be addressed for the data generated by the proposed research, irrespective of the call topic chosen. A Data Management Plan will be requested at the full proposal stage. Please refer to the ERA-CAPS Data Sharing Policy (see National Annexes for any specific national requirements).
- There should be due consideration of issues of protection of intellectual property and envisaged exploitations.
- If applicants plan to use genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources in their project, there should be due consideration of the regulations of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing under the Convention on Biological Diversity, if applicable. Exchange of personnel for short periods during the lifetime of the project will be encouraged, funding for this purpose can be requested.

Since the call aims at developing new European and international cooperation as well as strengthening and enlarging existing partnerships, each joint proposal should encourage movement of personnel to carry out research in partner laboratories in countries other than their own, when appropriate.

The call was introduced by a **pre-announcement**, issued on 4 April 2016, to offer interested parties more time to build their consortia and start preparing their proposals.

Before starting to prepare a proposal, applicants should carefully check the **eligibility rules** described in **chapter 8** and specified for each of the participating countries and funding organisations in the respective National Annexes.

5.1. Application Procedure

There is a **two stage** procedure for joint applications and accordingly a **two stage** review procedure (see Figure 1).

Proposals to the **main call** and proposals to the **Sub-Call** Addressing Data Challenges in Plant Sciences are to be submitted **via the same application procedure**. The same Application Form, accompanying templates and Guideline documents apply to both calls.

Pre-proposals must be submitted in electronic form to the central Call Secretariat before 28th of September, 2016, 12.00 CET. Pre-proposal application forms and guidelines for application are available at <http://www.era-caps.org/era-caps-calls/era-caps-third-call>. The application form should be used for both proposals submitted to the main call and proposals submitted to the Data Challenges Sub-Call.

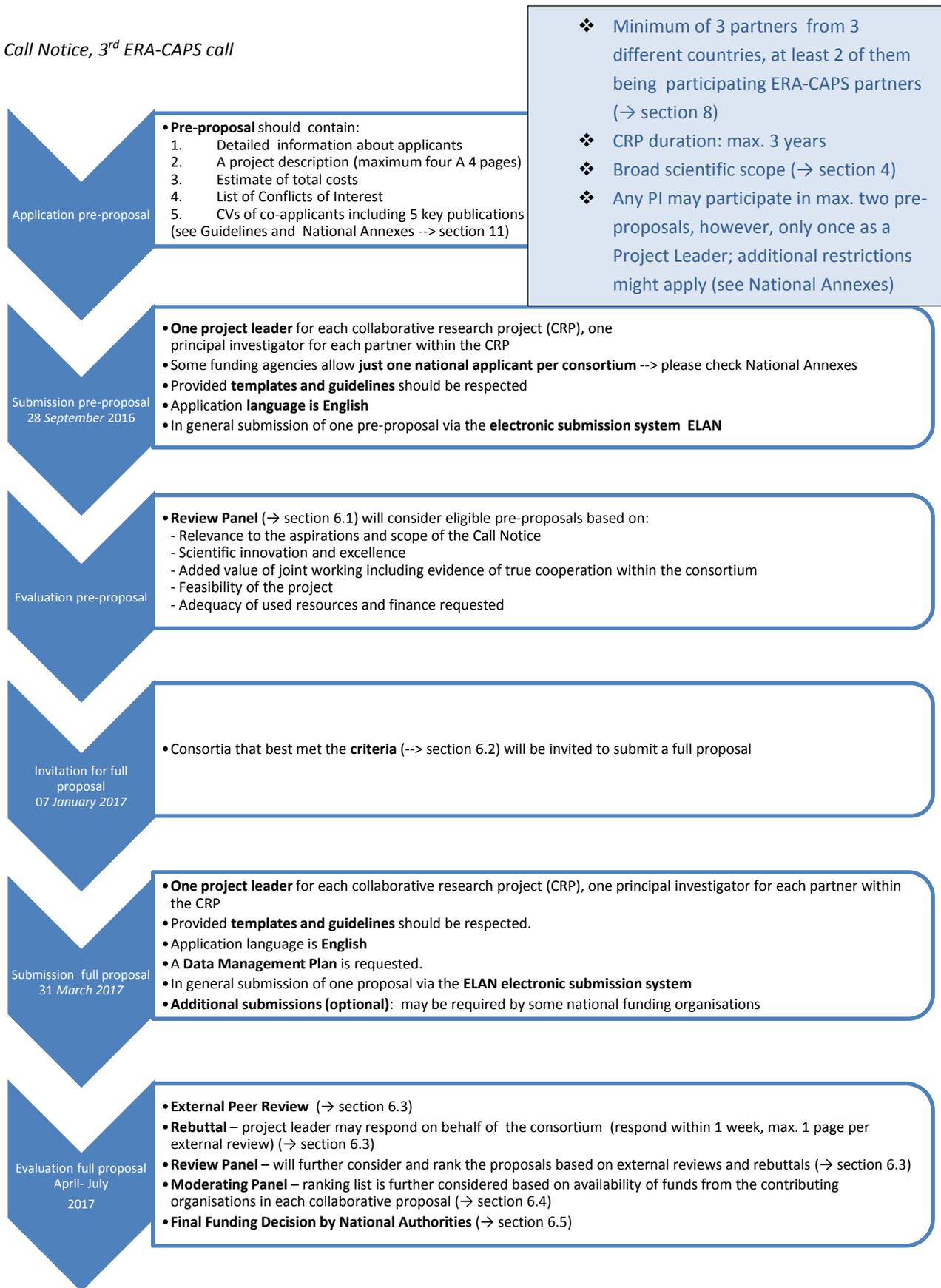
The decision on selection of applications for invitation to full proposal will be communicated by 7th January 2017.

In addition to the above conditions, applicants are requested to refer to National Annexes and follow the national regulations.

Applications not fulfilling national criteria will be rejected without further consideration.

Applicants should strictly follow the detailed instructions available in the '*Guidelines for Application of pre-proposals*' (Annex Ia, provided at the ERA-CAPS website).

A **project leader** (applicant 1) should be identified for each collaborative proposal (primary contact person for the consortium). In addition, a **principal investigator** should be designated **from each of the other collaborative institutions** (applicants 2, 3 etc.) . [Please note that some organisations allow only one applicant/one PI from their country per consortium – please refer to the National annexes for details.]



Grant award letters (early 2018)

Figure 1: General workflow application- and evaluation-procedure of third ERA-CAPS call for both the main call and the Data Challenges Sub-Call

A **pre-proposal** must contain:

1. A project description (maximum four A 4 pages)

This should be a short description of the scientific ideas and research hypothesis of the joint project including the duration of the project, an overview of the work programme, shared know-how and distribution of work during the course of the project. Please address the following issues:

- Objectives of the project
- Links to the research themes of the programme
- Main research methods employed
- Significance and applicability of the research results
- Added value of the collaboration

2. Estimate of total costs (1 page)

An estimate of total project costs and costs per partner including details of personnel costs and other costs.

3. CVs of the co-applicants (please use available template)
4. List of people with whom co-applicants have a Conflict of Interest according to the ERA-CAPS Code of Conduct on CoIs. (Please use available template)
5. Additional documents may be requested by some national funding agencies. Please refer to the national annexes for further details.

Submission of pre-proposals

For each collaborative research project one pre-proposal must be uploaded to DFG's **electronic submission system ELAN**, which is provided by the central Call Secretariat at: [pre-proposal submission](#)

If a pre-proposal has been declared eligible and has passed the threshold criteria according to the Review Panel, the consortium will be invited to submit one full proposal using the ELAN system for electronic submission.

Full Proposals must be submitted to the central Call Secretariat before **31st of March 2017, 12.00 CET**. Application form and guidelines for application will be available with the invitation to submit a full proposal at <http://www.eracaps.org/era-caps-calls/era-caps-third-call> .

In addition to the above conditions, applicants are requested to refer to National Annexes and follow the national regulations. Applications not fulfilling national criteria will be rejected without further consideration.

- Applicants should take note of regulations for individual partners mentioned in the *National Annexes*, and should contact their National Call Coordinator (see Section 10) for any queries related to these Annexes.
- Applicants should strictly follow the detailed instructions available in the '*Guidelines for Application of full proposals*' (Annex Ib, provided at the ERA-CAPS website by the time of the full proposal invitation).
- The application forms and the guidelines will be available at <http://www.eracaps.org/era-caps-calls/era-caps-third-call>
- All applications must be written in English. In addition, a project summary in the national language of some partners may be required (see National Annexes).
- A project leader (applicant 1) should be identified for each collaborative research project, who is the primary contact person for the consortium. In addition, a principal investigator should be designated from each of the other collaborative institutions (applicants 2, 3 etc.).
- A Data Management Plan has to be submitted (please refer to Annex III - ERA-CAPS Data Sharing Policy).

Submission of full proposals

Full proposals must be submitted to the ERA-CAPS Call Secretariat **using the ELAN Electronic Submission System**. When submitting the proposal, the responsible applicant should strictly follow the detailed instructions available in the 'ELAN Manual for electronic Submission of ERA-CAPS proposals', provided at the ERA-CAPS website (<http://www.eracaps.org/era-caps-calls/era-caps-third-call>). Please note that the 'responsible applicant' does not have to be the project leader. However, s/he needs the formal consent of all project partners to submit the proposal on their behalf.

Consortia who have not submitted a pre-proposal will not be eligible for submitting a full proposal.

In addition, some funding organisations require submission of **partial project information** to their national systems at the application stage. Details are outlined in the corresponding National Annexes and summarized in the section "National submission" of the *Guidelines for Applications*.

6. Evaluation Procedure

Proposals to both the ERA-CAPS main call and ERA-CAPS Sub-Call on Data Challenges in plant sciences will follow the same peer review procedure.

6.1 Review Panel (RP)

The evaluation of applications will be overseen by a Review Panel (RP). The members of the Review Panel are selected from the international scientific community by the funding organisations of the call. Expertise within this Panel will cover the topics in the proposals and may be complemented by independent experts

if appropriate. The Panel will be headed by an independent chairperson. Final agreement on the composition of the Review Panel will be reached by the Call Group of ERA-CAPS. Data specialists will be included in the Review Panel, and these will lead on the review of the Sub-Call proposals (see below).

6.2. Pre-proposal evaluation

The RP will make a short assessment of the pre-proposals, resulting in either *invitation to submit a full proposal* (with or without changes of working plan or partnership) or *rejection*. Selection of pre-proposals will be according to the following criteria;

- Relevance to the aspirations and scope of the Call
- Scientific innovation and excellence
- Added value of collaborations including evidence of true cooperation within the consortium
- Feasibility of the project
- Adequacy of used resources and finance requested

Full assessment of the scientific content of the pre-proposals will not be carried out at this stage.

According to the results of this first stage, full proposals will then be invited from selected applicants.

6.3. Full Proposal evaluation

External peer review

The proposals will be sent out for external peer review by three (or more) reviewers. The minimal requirement will be two independent external reviews.

Evaluation of the proposals will be according to the following criteria:

- Novel, innovative research within the scientific scope of the call
- Scientific quality of the project
- Feasibility of the project
- Transnational added value and complementarity of expertise
- Scientific track record and potential of applicants
- Adequacy of resources, cost effectiveness and project management.
- Economic, societal and environmental relevance (plan for use and dissemination of knowledge and data-management)

Rebuttal and Review Panel

Before the Review Panel starts the evaluation, the anonymous referee reports are forwarded to the project leader, who on behalf of the consortium may comment briefly (within one week, max. 1 page per external review) if the applicants wish to do so.

The proposals, external reviewers' reports, and rebuttals are then forwarded to the Review Panel who will further consider and rank the proposals. A list of high quality proposals considered worthy of funding will be identified by the Review Panel.

Evaluation of proposals to the Data Challenges Sub-Call

Proposals submitted to the ERA-CAPS Sub-Call on Data Challenges in plant sciences will follow the same peer review procedure as the main call. Data specialists will be included in the Review Panel, and these will lead on the review of the Sub-Call proposals. Full proposals to the Data Challenges Sub-Call will be assessed together in a dedicated session of the Review Panel meeting.

Additional review criteria for Data Challenges Sub-Call proposals to be used by the review panel where relevant:

- Links with or integration into relevant international networks of 'big data' producers and/or data infrastructure experts in the plant sciences
- Integration or interaction with existing databases or repositories (if applicable)

6.4 Moderating Panel

The list of selected and ranked proposals will then be further considered by a Moderating Panel based on availability of funds from the contributing organisations in each collaborative proposal. The Moderating Panel will consist of representatives from the funding organisations responsible for the selected projects. The Moderating Panel will also have crossover membership from the Review Panel.

6.5 Further Approvals and Final Funding Decision

Once all evaluation steps have been completed, the final funding decisions rest with the corresponding national authorities and at the end of this process, the decision will be communicated to the project leader by the Call Secretariat.

7. IPR, Consortium Agreement and State Aid Rules

Transnational co-operation at the level of Collaborative Research Projects needs special attention – in particular concerning rules related to Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) - which cannot be covered properly by the national funding regulations. In order to address this issue adequately, the funding

partners of the ERA-CAPS Call for Proposals agreed on “Intellectual Property Rights Conditions for Collaborative Research Projects” or “IPR Conditions” (Annex II).

These “IPR Conditions” are complementary to the national funding rules and their application is highly recommended to all funding organisations of ERA-CAPS. All funding decisions arising from this ERA-CAPS Call for Proposals will be in line with the regulations of the European State Aid Rules. Funding rates for participants of the Collaborative Research Projects cannot exceed the Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development.

Each consortium is requested to sign a Consortium Agreement before the start of the project. Such an agreement shall not affect the participants' obligations to the national funding organisations and to one another arising out of the “IPR Conditions” or the national funding rules. The funding partners of a particular Collaborative Research Project may withhold the funding until the Consortium Agreement has been signed by all participants of that Collaborative Research Project.

With respect to the effective execution of Collaborative Research Projects (including using and disseminating of research results as well as protection of intellectual property rights arising from the Collaborative Research Projects), the Consortium Agreement shall address topics such as the intellectual property rights arrangements, confidentiality, publication, internal organisation of the consortium, and settlement of internal disputes. A model of a Consortium Agreement which is in line with the “*IPR Conditions*” was prepared for the previous ERA-CAPS Calls (see <http://www.eracaps.org/test/era-caps-second-call>) and is currently being updated. The update will become available in time for the full proposal stage of the 3rd Call.

8. Eligibility and Terms and Conditions

8.1 Themes, funders, and target group

This third ERA-CAPS Call is a broad call and has the ambition to open access to the ERA-CAPS network to all interested researchers in the broad field of molecular plant sciences.

All researchers working in the remit of this ERA-CAPS call as defined at section 4 and eligible to apply for financial support from the participating national research funding organisations are cordially invited to apply for funding. National funding organisations will only support the costs of eligible applicants from their own countries. Researchers from countries other than the countries mentioned in Table 1 are welcomed as participants in consortia, but should be able to provide evidence of funding support. Consortia who wish to include participants from countries **not** mentioned in Table 1 should satisfy themselves that the potential partners will be able to provide funding for their participation in the project.

Applicants are **strongly recommended** to contact their National Call Coordinators for guidance and for checking eligibility issues when preparing their applications. Additional information can also be obtained from the Call Secretariat. Contacts may be found at the end of this document (see section 10) or on the ERA-CAPS website (<http://www.eracaps.org/era-caps-calls/era-caps-third-call>).

8.2. Eligibility

Consortia for funding should consist of a minimum of three partners from three different countries. At least two of these must be ERA-CAPS partner countries contributing funding to the call (in any combination; see Table 1). There is no upper limit on the number of partners; however, the individual consortium must demonstrate that its size is manageable with respect to project coordination (see also section 2).

In general, any PI may participate in **max. two pre-proposals**, however, only once as a Project Leader. Stricter rules (just one proposal per PI) may, however, apply to some countries.

In addition, **some funding agencies** allow for **only one national applicant per consortium**. Applicants should refer to the **National Annexes** of their national funding organisations for guidance on all details of eligibility and funding availability.

Applications should be in accordance with the Guidelines for Application.

Table 3. Summary of call budget and eligibility rules

Funding organisation	country	Indicative Call budget	Themes of the main call	Data Sub-Call	Max No. pre-proposals per PI	Max No. national PIs per proposal	Private companies*
FWF	AUSTRIA	≤ 800.000 €	all	X	2	n.d.	nP
F.R.S.-FNRS	BELGIUM	≤ 200.000 €	all	-	2	n.d.	nP
ANR	FRANCE	≤ 1 Mio €	all	X	2	n.d.	eligible
DFG	GERMANY	See National Annex	all	X	2	n.d.	nP
NCN	POLAND	≤ 500.000 €	all	X	2	n.d.	nP
MPNTR	SERBIA	≤ 150.000 €	all	x	2	n.d.	nP
SNSF	SWITZERLAND	≤ 1.2 Mio CHF	all	-	1	1	nP
BBSRC	UNITED KINGDOM	£2.5-4M	all	X	2	1	nP
NSF	USA	See National Annex	See Nat. Annex	X	1	n.d.	nP

n.d., not defined

* nP : participation as **non-funded partner** (i.e. companies can participate at their own costs ; a Consortium Agreement is mandatory prior to the project start ; for details see Table 4)

* eligible: private partner can be **eligible for funding**

8.3 Participation of Industry

Industrial participation is welcomed by most of the contributing funding organisations, and details of whether and how industry may participate in consortia is given in the individual National Annexes.

Because of the different regulations of the contributing funding organisations on this specific issue, the participation of companies will not influence the rating of a proposal and will not be among the evaluation criteria. For clarification, a brief summary for each partner is provided in Table 4.

Table 4: National requirements towards industry participation

Organisation	Country	National requirements regarding industrial participation
FWF	AUSTRIA	Only natural persons are allowed to submit an application. Industrial participation is welcome as national or international partner but the immediate publication right must be guaranteed. The industrial partner cannot receive money from FWF.
F.R.S.-FNRS	BELGIUM	A company or other private partner can be involved as a project partner but FNRS will not fund industrial partners.
ANR	FRANCE	Involvement of French companies is recommended. Private-public partnerships with foreign companies must follow the rules mentioned in the French annexes.
DFG	GERMANY	Researchers at institutions that are not non-profit or which do not allow immediate publication of research findings in a generally accessible form are not eligible to submit proposals. However, researchers from industry can be involved as partners in DFG-funded projects without receiving public funding themselves.
NCN	POLAND	Enterprises with the status of R&D centres and conducting R&D activity in other forms are eligible for funding in the framework of this ERA-CAPS Call.
MPNTR	SERBIA	A company and /or a public enterprise can be a participant in the project under the National Programme if it provides work material, equipment and/or financial contributions. Such participants are not eligible for funding from MPNTR.
SNSF	SWITZERLAND	The SNSF exclusively funds research conducted for purposes which are not directly commercial. Pursuant to the Research and Innovation Promotion Act RIPA and the legal framework of the SNSF, no research grants are awarded if the relevant research is conducted for directly commercial purposes or if the persons involved in the research work are not scientifically independent. For eligibility check please contact the national contact person.
BBSRC	UNITED KINGDOM	BBSRC will consider proposals for projects involving academic-industrial partnerships. BBSRC supports science carried out by academic researchers in partnership with UK industry or other user organisations. The Council does not provide funding to the industrial partner.
NSF	USA	See National Annex

9. Synopsis of the Time Schedule

Call Announcement:	23 June 2016
Due-date pre-proposals:	28 September 2016; 12.00 CET
Invitation full proposals:	07 January 2017
Due-date full proposals:	31 March 2017; 12.00 CET
Peer Review	April- mid-June 2017
Rebuttal:	24-30 June 2017
Communications of evaluation results:	August/September 2017
Funding decisions:	Autumn 2017
Start of selected projects:	Spring 2018

10. Contact and Help

10.1 Call Secretariat

The ERA-CAPS Call Secretariat is the main contact point for the delivery of the joint call and is located at the DFG (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, German Research Foundation) in Germany.

The Call Secretariat is supported by a team of national contacts (National Call Coordinators), where each participating organisation provides at least one contact person.

The Call Secretariat is the contact point for the National Call Coordinators and the reviewers. Together with the National Call Coordinators, it supports the scientists during the application procedure and is the main contact address for all questions regarding proposal submission. For issues concerning requirements stated in the National Annexes, please contact the National Call Coordinators in the first instance. All national contact persons and addresses are listed in section 10.2.

Dr. Catherine Kistner

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Kennedyallee 40, 53175 Bonn, Germany

e-mail: ERA-CAPS.CallSecretariat@dfg.de

phone: +49 228 885 2803

10.2 National Call Coordinators

Country	Contact person & Organisation	Email / Phone
AUSTRIA	Dr. Bettina Reitner Austrian Science Fund	Bettina.Reitner@fwf.ac.at +43 1 5056740 8203
BELGIUM	Dr. Arnaud Goolaerts Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique - FNRS	Arnaud.goolaerts@frs-fnrs.be +32 2 504 9328
	Joël Groeneveld Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique - FNRS	joel.groeneveld@frs-fnrs.be +32 2 504 92 70
FRANCE	Dr. Isabelle Hippolyte Agence Nationale de la Recherche – ANR	Isabelle.HIPPOLYTE@agencerecherche.fr
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SERBIA	Zeljka Dukic Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development	zeljka.dukic@mpn.gov.rs +381 11 3616 529
SWITZERLAND	Dr. Véronique Planchamp Swiss National Science Foundation	veronique.planchamp@snf.ch +41 31 308 22 22
UNITED KINGDOM	Elly Tyacke Biotechnology and Biological Science Research Council	Elly.Tyacke@bbsrc.ac.uk +44 1793 411511
	Dr. Paul Wiley Biotechnology and Biological Science Research Council	Paul.wiley@bbsrc.ac.uk +44 1793 413379
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	Dr. Anne Sylvester National Science Foundation	asylvest@nsf.gov +1 703 292-7168

11. Annexes

Annex Ia – Guidelines for Application of Pre-proposals

Annex Ib – Guidelines for Application of Full proposals

Annex II – IPR Conditions

Annex III – Data Sharing Policy