

## **ERA-NET on Translational Cancer Research (TRANSCAN)**

### **Preliminary Announcement**

**The first Joint Transnational Call for Proposals (JTC 2011) will be launched in December 2011.**

The ERA-NET on Translational Cancer Research (TRANSCAN) has been established with the ultimate goal of coordinating the research efforts and funding programmes of European countries in translational cancer research. In this line, TRANSCAN will launch the first Joint Transnational Call for research proposals (JTC) in December 2011. The topic of the call will be:

**"Validation of biomarkers for personalised cancer medicine"**

The following partner organisations have agreed to participate in JTC 2011<sup>1</sup>:

- Austrian Science Fund (FWF), Austria
- Research Foundation Flanders (FWO), Belgium
- National Cancer Institute (INCa), France
- Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Germany
- General Secretariat for Research and Technology, Ministry of Education, Life Long Learning and Religious Affairs (GSRT), Greece
- Chief Scientist Office of the Ministry of Health (CSO-MOH), Israel
- Ministry of Health (MOH), Italy
- Latvian Academy of Science (LAS), Latvia
- National Centre for Research and Development (NCBiR), Poland
- Institute of Oncology (IOB), Romania
- Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS), Slovakia
- Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology (MHEST), Slovenia
- Institute of Health Carlos III (ISCIII), Spain
- Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK), Turkey

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that decision about the participation of an additional Italian funding organisation is still pending. This document will be updated as soon as its commitment to the call is approved.

The call will be published simultaneously by the funding organisations in their respective countries and coordinated centrally by the Joint Call Secretariat (JCS).

Interested researchers and/or research teams are advised to prepare and make the necessary contacts and arrangements towards preparing applications according to the eligibility criteria which are summarised below under "Main criteria for eligibility" and will be detailed when the JTC will be published.

## 1. AIM OF THE CALL

JTC 2011 aims at developing transnational innovative projects in oncology, clearly oriented towards a rapid application of new and more selective and effective tools and strategies for the prevention, diagnosis and early detection, as well as optimising therapy of neoplastic diseases.

Transnational research proposals must address the topic of the call: "**Validation of biomarkers for personalised cancer medicine**" and must relate to at least one of the following, equally relevant, areas: prevention; early detection; diagnosis; prediction of response or resistance to treatment; prediction of treatment toxicity.

The research projects submitted within this call must be based on novel ideas stemming from fairly advanced results, so to allow a concrete progress in the validation of the candidate biomarker(s), as intended above. In general, the research projects should fall into one of the following categories: i) bench to bed studies, stemming from previous laboratory and/or early phase clinical investigations, and ii) bed to bench studies, stemming from fairly advanced clinical investigations. In all cases, the research projects should clearly aim at the validation of previously identified candidate biomarkers or of their novel and/or combined use.

The research proposals should be built on an effective, multidisciplinary and multi-professional collaboration between academic, clinical, epidemiological or public health research teams and industry. The research teams within a consortium should include investigators of all scientific disciplines, research areas and expertises necessary to achieve the proposed objectives. The sharing of relevant results, data sets and/or resources within international research consortia will be a prerequisite for funding.

TRANSCAN has defined in its objectives to support capacity building and training programmes for multidisciplinary teams, through the combination of training and mobility in an integrated process: i) training of individual researchers/professionals in order to bring new expertise to an existing multidisciplinary translational team, and/or ii) recruitment of individual researchers/professionals by a translational research team in order to cover disciplines

unavailable in the existing team. This type of activities, when present, will be supported within projects of scientific excellence which will be selected for funding in the JTC 2011. Thus, applicants may add to the full proposal, an additional part for training activities (with an associated separate budget, in compliance with the rules of the respective national/regional funding organisations concerning the funding of the training activities). The training activities should be coherent with the objectives of the research project, and aimed to strengthening the ability of participating team(s) to perform the work detailed in the project plan in addition to the long-term improvement of its (their) overall scientific capacity. The training component will be evaluated independently and will not have an impact in any way on the overall assessment of the proposal.

## **2. MAIN CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY**

Each proposal must involve a minimum of 3 (three) and a maximum of 7 (seven) research groups from at least 3 (three) different countries participating in the call. There must not be more than 2 (two) research groups from one country. The majority of research groups in a consortium as well as the coordinator of a consortium must be from JTC-2011 funding partners. Up to 1 (one) research group from a country not participating in this call may be included in a consortium, if this group is able to secure its own funding. Research consortia must involve both scientific research team(s) (basic or pre-clinical) and clinical team(s). In addition, a consortium may also involve team(s) with other expertise.

Since funding to successful applications is the responsibility of the national funding organisations which are partners in the JTC, the applicants must comply with the rules, regulations and eligibility criteria of their respective funding organisations. Therefore, the applicants should check these rules with the contact persons of their national/regional funding organisations, whose contact details will be available on the TRANSCAN website by 10 November 2011.

For further information, please visit the TRANSCAN website:

<http://www.transcanfp7.eu>

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