

Call title: ERA Chairs Pilot Call

Call identifier: FP7-ERACHairs-Pilot Call-2013

Date of publication: 18 December 2012

Deadline: 30 May 2013 at 17.00.00, Brussels local time¹

Indicative budget: EUR 12 million²

<i>Evaluation of proposals</i>	<i>17 June-12 July 2013</i>
<i>Evaluation Summary Reports sent to proposal coordinators ("initial information letter")</i>	<i>August 2013</i>
<i>Invitation letter to successful coordinators to launch grant agreement negotiations with Commission services</i>	<i>October 2013</i>
<i>Letter to unsuccessful applicants</i>	<i>November 2013</i>
<i>Signature of first grant agreements</i>	<i>December 2013</i>

Topics called:

Activity/Area	Topic called	Funding Schemes and eligibility criteria
<i>FP7-ERACHairs-Pilot Call-2013</i> <i>Activity 4.1 <u>Unlocking and developing the Research Potential of research entities in the EU's Convergence regions and Outermost regions</u></i>	<i>Any research topic covered by the EU FP7</i>	<i>CSA-SA (Supporting Action)</i>

Funding scheme	Minimum conditions
<i>Coordination and Support Actions (supporting action)</i>	<i>1 independent legal entity.</i>

- Additional eligibility criteria:

- The requested EU contribution shall not exceed a maximum of EUR 2.4 million for a period of up to 60 months and 90% of the total estimated budget for each proposal.

- Only Universities and other research organisations³ can apply under this Call;

- Universities and other research organisations located in EU Convergence regions and Outermost regions⁴. Subject to international instruments associating third countries to the 7th

EU Framework Programme, other regions may become eligible for participation; the modalities for the identification of eligible regions would be defined in these international instruments. **All regions of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYROM, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey and the Galilee region of Israel are eligible for participation.**

On the grounds of past experience, the Research Potential activity will focus on excellent research entities of significant scientific size with high potential to innovate. Their research strategy should ensure the highest possible impact of the EU intervention.

The enhancement of the research potential of the research entities will be realised through close cooperation with European outstanding research ‘partnering organisations’ in the same S&T domain or in a complementary field and by attracting outstanding researchers to a research institution as part of a strategy to upgrade its performance effectively widening participation in competitive European funded research (call FP7-ERACHairs-Pilot Call-2013).

Evaluation criteria

1) under the S&T Quality criterion:

- ✓ Level of interaction with national and/or regional authorities in the planning and programming design of smart specialisation strategies.
- ✓ Level of interaction with additional stakeholders, e.g. through clusters and networks to innovative business partners, civil society organisations, etc., able to contribute to the definition and implementation of smart specialisation strategies.

2) under the Implementation criterion:

- ✓ Feasibility of the tasks allocated to the ERA Chair holder.

In order to provide broader coverage and experience of different national systems, only one project per country will be funded, provided that it has passed thresholds of all evaluation criteria. Therefore, only the highest ranked proposal for a given country will

be selected.

Consortia agreements: No consortium agreement is required for this call.

The budget will be dedicated to personnel costs, implementation of the measures set in the proposal and implementation of the ERA priorities, including training.

The activity aims at strengthening the potential of research entities established in the eligible regions that need new knowledge and support to sustain their development. It will help to enhance their capacity to successfully participate in research and innovation activities at EU level. Therefore, it will tackle a variety of challenges such as 'brain gain' through networking with other European world class research players and industry, upgrading of relevant RTD equipment, recruitment of experienced researchers, institutional mobilisation and dynamic contribution to the European or regional sustainable socio-economic development. Research organisations interested in establishing an ERA Chair shall submit a proposal aimed at facilitating structural change in the institution and ensuring that the conditions are in place to foster excellent research.

This should include a description of the necessary investments in facilities and infrastructures and the interaction with national or regional authorities to mobilise support, including from Cohesion funding, so that synergies between cohesion and research funding are strengthened. The successful research organisations will publish the job vacancy and select the ERA Chair holder.

The grant will cover the appointment of the ERA Chair holder and a number of team members and will also provide a contribution towards measures aimed at facilitating structural changes in the institution. Any S&T field within the scope of FP7 is covered by this action.

The size of the ERA Chair research team to be recruited under the grant is expected to be at least of 300 months of full-time work equivalent (person/month). The ERA Chair holder will have flexibility in timely using the personnel according with the project needs.