

# Call Pre-Announcement

for the **first ERA-CAPS joint research call:**

## **“Expanding the European Research Area in Molecular Plant Sciences”**

The new ERA-NET in molecular plant sciences, **ERA-CAPS (Coordinating Action in Plant Sciences)**, has been established in order to embed molecular plant sciences more firmly in national policies whilst continuing to fund excellent research in this area by means of two joint calls.

In this first joint ERA-CAPS call, 14 funding organisations from 14 countries are participating<sup>1</sup>. The participating partners are: Austria (FWF), Belgium (F.R.S.-FNRS), Denmark (DASTI), France (INRA), Germany (DFG), Israel (MOARD), Italy (MIUR), Latvia (LZA), The Netherlands (NWO), Norway (RCN), Poland (NCBiR), Portugal (FCT), Serbia (MPNTR), and United Kingdom (BBSRC).

By agreement of the funding organisations involved, this first joint call is intended to allow maximum engagement of the plant science community and is therefore broad in scope, covering all areas of molecular plant science. No specific topics have been defined. However, the funding organisations would welcome high quality applications in the themes “Food security”, “Non-food crops”, “Adaptation to a changing climate” or “Biotic/abiotic stress”, but they do not exclude other areas of molecular plant science.

It is expected that the call will provide funds in the order of 18 million Euros across the participating funders. Each national funding organisation will fund only the project participants from its own country. There is a single stage procedure for joint applications and accordingly a single stage review procedure. The expected duration of projects is three years. The National Science Foundation of the USA, an ERA-CAPS observer, will accept proposals to a parallel call to be launched by the Plant Genomics Research Program (PGRP) in November, in areas that meet the goals of the Program<sup>2</sup>. Therefore, US researchers can apply in tandem to the NSF to participate in ERA-CAPS consortia.

### **Who can apply?**

Project consortia should consist of a minimum of three partners from three different countries, at least two of them being a participating ERA-CAPS partner or observer country. Research teams and institutions must be eligible for funding according to their national regulations. These will be outlined in National Annexes when the full call notice is published in November.

### **The next milestones are the following:**

- The call is foreseen to be opened in the **middle of November 2012**
- The call will close in the **middle of February 2013**

Detailed information about the procedure of this first ERA-CAPS joint call, and all necessary call forms and documents for proposal submission, will be provided on the ERA-CAPS website: [www.era-caps.org](http://www.era-caps.org)  
Questions related to this first ERA-CAPS call announcement, can be addressed to: [eracaps@bbsrc.ac.uk](mailto:eracaps@bbsrc.ac.uk)

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<sup>1</sup> This number reflects the status at Sept. 2012. Additional partners may join in advance of the November launch.

<sup>2</sup> See: [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=5338&org=IOS&from=home](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5338&org=IOS&from=home)