

MNT-ERA.NET Transnational Call 2011

Guide for Proposers

13 January 2011

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1 What is MNT-ERA.NET ?

MNT-ERA.NET is a network of regional and national funding programmes for Micro and Nano Technologies (MNT) with the aim to reduce fragmentation of R&D funding in Europe. MNT-ERA.NET makes these funding programmes accessible to transnational consortia and opens calls for proposals for transnational R&D projects in the MNT area.

2 Structure of the Coordinated Call

The objective of the coordinated MNT-ERA.NET call is to enable transnational applied R&D projects to be executed by partners receiving funding from the regional/national programmes which cooperate in the MNT-ERA.NET project.

Figure 1 shows the schematic workflow of the coordinated call. Benefits are combined in one approach: On the one hand the regional/national agencies apply their own well-established funding rules and procedures known to their applicants, and on the other hand the MNT-ERA.NET provides transnational coordination expertise:

- The **announcement and dissemination** activities of the call are performed collaboratively, but evaluation of funding applications will be done by national/regional programme owners solely according to their rules.
- The **coordination and the first assessment** of the transnational project proposals are performed by a Transnational Coordination Team. (TCT)
- The final funding decisions are made by regional/national agencies.

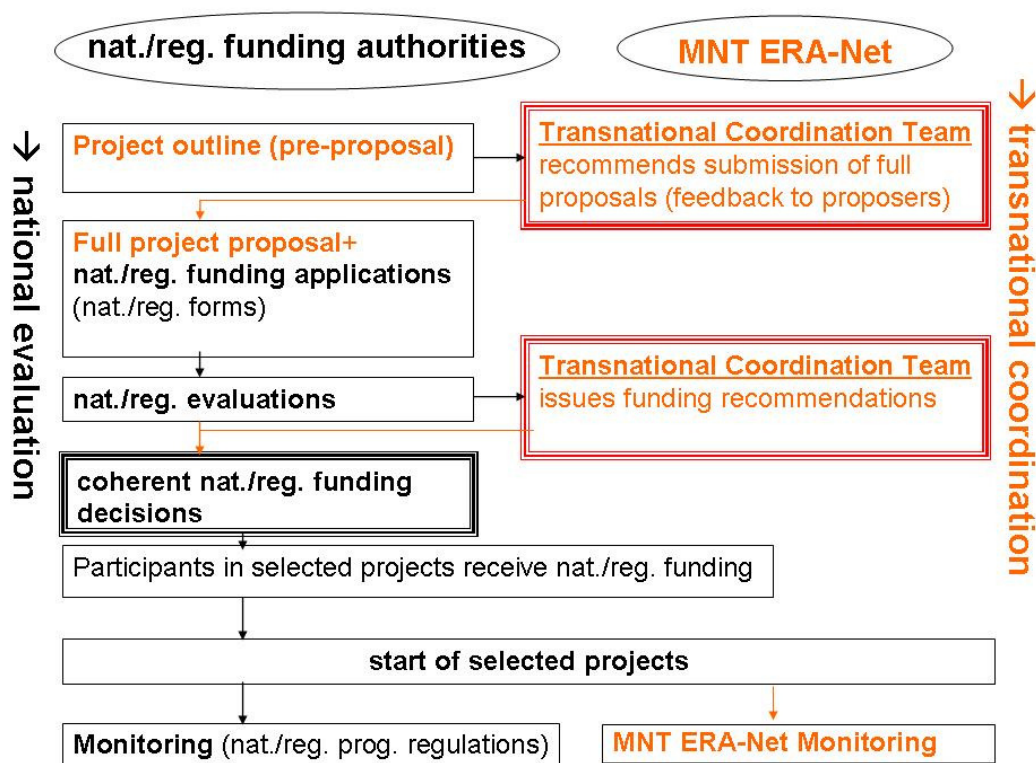


Figure 1: Schematic workflow of the MNT-ERA.NET procedure

3 Call Announcement

3.1 Objectives and Topics

The aim is to fund **transnational, application oriented, high risk R&D projects related to Micro and Nano Technologies including production processes and technologies**. Proposals will typically be smaller than proposals submitted to the EU Framework Programme. They will typically be **market-oriented** and will benefit from accelerated funding decisions.

This call emphasises the following topics:

- **Processing of (multi)material systems** (e.g. nanostructured materials, composites and micro/nano multimaterial systems, processes for low cost high volume manufacturing)
- **Materials functionalisation** (e.g. nano objects, structured surfaces & interfaces)
- **Smart Sensor Systems** (e.g. sensor networks, sensors for logistics, control of infrastructure, electronic identification systems, cognitive systems, optical systems)
- **Medical and health devices** (e.g. networked monitoring of health parameters, bio sensors and actuators, bio interfaces, lab on chip)
- **Life cycle (optimisation) processes for micro/nano systems, development methods, reliability assessment, integration technologies** (e.g. energy efficient production technologies, energy harvesting and storage systems, power conversion and management, recovery of rare materials)

The respective regional/national thematic programme focus and funding conditions must be taken into account. To obtain detailed programme priorities we **strongly recommend to contact your regional/national funding agency.**

3.2 Funding rules

In this call the funding rules of the respective regional/national agencies apply. **Each project partner has to apply individually for regional/national funding.**

Information about the specific funding rules will be provided by the **contact** persons from the respective regional/national agencies (see annex 1 for details).

3.3 Eligible project structure

- Project consortia consisting of **at least two parties from two different participating regions / countries** (see annex 1 for details) can apply for funding. The consortia may involve as many partners as necessary.
- The consortium must demonstrate **how to commercialise** the expected results.
- National/regional funding rules apply; therefore in some cases only certain topics or types of project partners are eligible (e.g. some programmes fund only industrial but no academic partners).

A consortium agreement between the project partners is required for funding (after final funding decision). The purpose of the consortium agreement is to clarify:

- the responsibilities of the partners
- decision processes inside the project
- management of any change of partners
- IPR issues

3.4 Project budget

No overall limits have been defined on MNT-ERA.NET level but national/regional limits regarding the level of funding will apply.

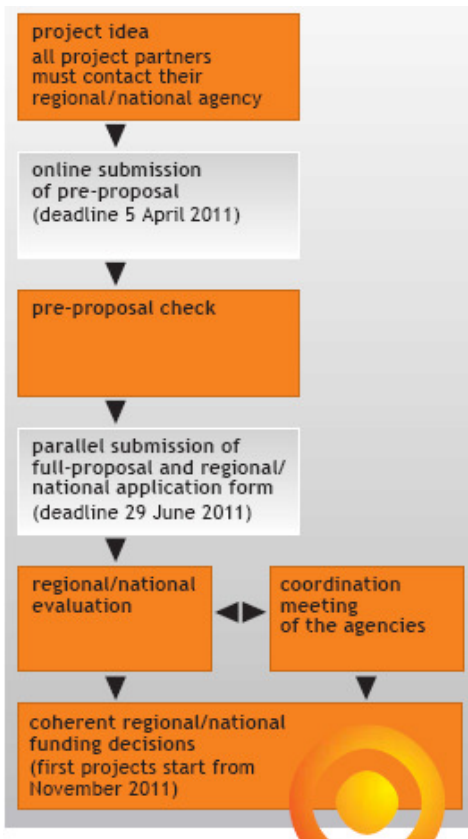
3.5 Project duration

The coordinated call focuses on application-oriented R&D projects. The project duration is limited to a maximum of 3 years.

3.6 Dates and deadlines

Action	Date	Place
Call Announcement	December 2010	
Call opening	13 January 2011	
Deadline for pre-proposals	05 April 2011, 12:00 noon Brussels time	online
Deadline for a) full proposals and b) funding application forms	29 June 2011, 12:00 noon Brussels time	a) online b) regional/national agencies
Regional/national funding decisions	July – October 2011	regional/national agencies
Start of first projects	November 2011	

4 Application process



1. Before submitting a proposal, all project partners **must** contact their respective regional/national programme agency in order to discuss the project line-up and the funding conditions.

2. A pre-proposal is mandatory. It has to be submitted by the coordinator through an online application form available at www.mnt-era.net

3. Applicants will be provided with feedback after the review of their pre-proposal.

4. The full proposal must be submitted by the project coordinator through an online application form available at www.mnt-era.net
At the same time regional/national funding applications must be submitted to each of the involved agencies according to their specific rules.

5. The regional/national agencies carry out their own evaluation based on the full project proposal and the respective regional/national funding application. A meeting of the MNT-ERA.NET TCT finally ranks the proposals balancing the evaluation results.

6. MNT-ERA.NET TCT recommends the funding of projects to the respective funding agencies. **The regional/national agencies make the final funding decision.**

4.1 Pre-proposal

The pre-proposal gives an overview on the whole project. It is mandatory and has to be submitted by the project coordinator through an online application form available at www.mnt-era.net.

The following items have to be addressed:

1. Summary
2. Consortium description
3. Project description
4. Management and transnational benefit
5. Project costs
6. Exploitation of results

After deadline for pre-proposals the MNT-ERA.NET Transnational Coordination Team (TCT) gives advice to the project coordinators and recommends/does not recommend the submission of full proposals.

4.2 Full proposal and regional/national funding applications

The full proposal gives an overview of the whole project and describes all national project parts. In addition to the full proposal (online submission) the corresponding regional/national funding application form has to be submitted to the respective funding agencies. To achieve funding, the national parts of the

project must fulfil their national/regional criteria. This will create different submission and financing situations for partners from different countries.

4.3 Confidentiality

Proposals and any information relating to them will be kept confidential. Proposals will not be used for any purpose other than the evaluation of the applications, making funding decisions and monitoring of the project. International experts are required to sign a confidentiality agreement prior to evaluating proposals.

5 Evaluation

MNT-ERA.NET aims at providing a transparent, fast and straight forward assessment of the submitted project proposals. Thus, the regional/national evaluation will be carried out in cooperation with the MNT-ERA.NET Transnational Coordination Team.

6 Decision

6.1 Decision process

The MNT-ERA.NET Transnational Coordination Team prepares the recommendations for funding. The final funding decisions are **exclusively** made by the regional/national agencies/funding bodies.

6.2 Funding

6.2.1 Contract

Funding contracts are concluded directly between the project partners and their national/regional funding agencies.

6.2.2 Start and Instalments

A pre-condition for transferring the first funding instalments is the existence of a consortium agreement including IPR related issues.

As the national funding contracts may not all become effective at the same time, a project

- need not start,
- will not receive the instalments,
- will not be reviewed

at exactly the same time. However, MNT-ERA.NET will help to minimise these gaps.

7 Monitoring

7.1 National/regional project review

The progress of each individual contract will be monitored by the respective regional/national agencies through specific project review processes.

7.2 MNT-ERA.NET Reporting

Apart from the regional/national project review, the transnational cooperation aspects will be monitored on MNT-ERA.NET level, e.g. by using online questionnaires.

7.3 Change in active projects

Any substantial change in an ongoing project must be reported immediately to the involved agencies. The project partners should be aware that changes might have effects on funding.

8 Dissemination


A reference to MNT-ERA.NET is requested in publications, exhibitions, lectures and press information concerning results of the projects.

9 Support

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) are listed in the website (www.mnt-era.net).

In addition, all Funding Agencies participating in the Call will provide assistance to project proposers in case of questions.

Annex 1: Participating funding organisations

	Country/Region	funding organisation	Contact	phone	mail	web	Thematic priorities
	Austria	FFG-BP	Birgit Mayer	+43- 5 77 55 1305	birgit.mayer@ffg.at	www.ffg.at	all MNT topics
	Austria	FFG-TP	Katharina Gugler	+43- 5 77 55 5081	katharina.gugler@ffg.at	www.nanoinitiative.at	all nano topics
	Belgium/ Wallonia	DGOEER	Julie Jasmès	+32 (0) 81/33.45.45	Julie.JASMES@spw.wallonie.be	www.recherche-technologie.wallonie.be	all MNT topics
	Finland	Tekes	Aila Maijanen	+358- 10 60 55 88 82	aila.maijanen@tekes.fi	www.tekes.fi www.tekes.fi/ohjelmat/materiaalit	all topics (only companies)
	France	OSEO	Nathalie Trannois	+33- 1 41 79 80 59	nathalie.trannois@oseo.fr	www.oseo.fr	all topics
	France/ Midi-Pyrénées	CRMP	Xavier Toussaint Hervé Dexpert	+ 33- 5 61 33 57 14 + 33- 5 62 25 78 01	xavier.toussaint@cr-mip.fr hdexpert@cemes.fr	www.midipyrenees.fr	all topics
	Germany	KIT-PTKA	Stefan Scherr	+49 721 60 82 5286	stefan.scherr@kit.edu	www.produktionsforschung.de	development methods
	Germany	VDI/VDE-IT	Peter Hahn Bernhard Wybranski	+49 30 310078 276 +49 30 310078 167	hahn@vdivde-it.de wybranski@vdivde-it.de	www.vdivde-it.de	microsystems
	Germany	VDI-TZ	Sebastian Krug	+49 211 6214 472	krug@vdi.de	www.vditz.de	photonics related topics
	Poland	NCBIR	Maciej Malski-Brodzicki	+48 515 061 543	m.brodzicki@ncbir.gov.pl	www.ncbir.gov.pl	all topics
	Romania	UEFISCDI	Corneli Trisca-Rusu	+4 0747580570	ctrisca2002@yahoo.com	www.uefiscsu.ro	all topics
	Slovakia	SAS	Jan Barancik Eva Majkova	+421- 2 57510137 +421- 2 57510221	barancik@up.upsav.sk majkova@up.upsav.sk	www.sav.sk	all topics
	Slovenia	MHEST	Doroteja Zlobec	+386 1 4784624	doroteja.zlobec@gov.si	www.rtd.si	all topics
	Spain/ Basque Country	Innobasque	Cristina Ugarte	+34 94 420 94 88	cugarte@innobasque.com	www.euskadi.net/industria www.innobasque.com	all topics
	Sweden	VINNOVA	Anders Marén	+46 8 473 31 88	anders.maren@vinnova.se	www.vinnova.se	Designed materials
	Switzerland	OPET	Roland Bühler	+41- 31 324 71 41	roland.buehler@bbt.admin.ch	www.bbt.admin.ch	all MNT topics
	Turkey	TUBITAK	Burcu Koc Haskilic Isik Asar	+903124685300-2625 +903124685300-1703	burcu.haskilic@tubitak.gov.tr isik.asar@tubitak.gov.tr	www.tubitak.gov.tr www.tubitak.gov.tr/mnt	all topics

Annex 2: MNT-ERA.NET Evaluation Criteria

The following checklist offers a selection of relevant issues to be addressed in the project proposal and will be used by the evaluators.

A. The following criteria are relevant for the PRE-PROPOSAL

Eligibility	Are the involved partners eligible ? Is the thematic focus within the national/regional scope of the call ?
Innovation	Is there a sufficient degree of innovation, in terms of technology and in terms of product ?
Project description	Is the project description adequate (objectives, work plan, resources, costs,...) ? Are the technical objectives realistic within the proposed time frame and resources
Management and Consortium	Are the partners well qualified ? Is the management structure adequate ? Does each partner benefit from the proposed transnational cooperation?
Resources	Is the cost calculation reasonable and well balanced ?
Exploitation	Is there a clear exploitation strategy? Is the expected project outcome sufficiently close to the market?

B. The following criteria are relevant for the FULL PROPOSAL

Eligibility	Are the involved partners eligible ? Is the thematic focus within the national/regional scope of the call ?
Innovation	Is there a sufficient degree of innovation, in terms of technology and in terms of product ?
Project description	Is the project description adequate (objectives, work plan, resources, costs,...) ? Are the technical objectives realistic within the proposed time frame and resources
Management and Consortium	Are the partners well qualified ? Is the management structure adequate ? Is the partnership well-balanced ? Does each partner benefit from the proposed transnational cooperation?
Resources	Is the cost calculation reasonable and well balanced ?
Exploitation	Is there a clear exploitation strategy? Is the expected project outcome sufficiently close to the market?