ERA-NET: Aligning national/regional translational cancer research programmes and activities TRANSCAN-2

Joint Transnational Call for Proposals 2014 (JTC 2014)
co-funded by the European Commission/DG Research and Innovation:

"Translational research on human tumour heterogeneity to overcome recurrence and resistance to therapy"

Call Text

Submission deadline for pre-proposals:

16 March 2015 at 16:00 (CET)

Link to: Electronic proposal submission system
(Online submission will be possible from 16 February 2015)

For further information, please visit www.transcanfp7.eu

or

Contact the **Joint Call Secretariat (JCS)** at:

Ministero della Salute-Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Italy

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1. MOTIVATION

Cancer diagnosis and treatment has improved significantly over the last decade, with a wide range of therapeutic strategies for oncologists to pick up. Despite this, some tumours remain incurable and response to treatment is often of limited duration. The tumour heterogeneity within a given patient, either within the primary tumour or between the primary tumour and the metastases, contributes to treatment failure:

- Prognosis evaluation may be confounded by tumour heterogeneity issues, leading to inadequate therapeutic strategies and ultimately to recurrence.
- Treatment may be ineffective to target some specific sub-clones present in the primary tumour or in the metastases.
- Resistant clones emerge during treatment leading to the inefficacy of treatment and progressive disease.

Thus, tumour heterogeneity is a major challenge to address for the next decade by developing sampling and analysis methods able to record these phenomena, by deciphering the mechanisms underlying intra-tumour heterogeneity and its dynamic process and by assessing its impact on the efficiency of therapeutic strategies. Approaches should allow identifying appropriate targets for tumour monitoring, drug targeting, and to develop robust predictive biomarkers in order to improve treatment outcome and to limit the development or overcome drug resistance.

Tumour complexity is a result of continuous crosstalk between the tumour cells and the environment. Evaluating tumours as complex bodies and not simply as a mass of tumour cells becomes crucial, highlighting the needs of developing integrated approaches. Multi-omics/system biology approaches provide unique opportunities for elucidating intra-tumour heterogeneity by strategies combining technologies (genomic, epigenomic, cellular, microbiotic, exposome, metabolomic, nanotechnology, imaging, etc.), resources and data. Research groups should nfind the best way to share, integrate and combine tools and data in order to optimize their use and to obtain robust results directly transferable to the clinic.

To this end TRANSCAN-2 partners have agreed to focus their first call for proposals on "Translational research on human tumour heterogeneity to overcome recurrence and resistance to therapy". TRANSCAN-2 aims at promoting highly innovative and ambitious collaborative projects in translational cancer research at a European level, and believes that it is timely relevant to foster the translation new knowledge on tumour heterogeneity into clinical practices.

The expected impact of the call is to improve the efficacy of personalized treatment of cancer patients through the development of new tools and targeted therapeutic strategies, based on a better understanding of intra-tumour heterogeneity mechanisms and of their impact on the disease course.

The national/regional funding organisations listed below have agreed to participate in the TRANSCAN-2 JTC 2014; in addition, the European Commission (EC) will contribute to JTC 2014 in accordance with the ERA-NET Co-fund scheme of the Research Framework Programme

"Horizon 2020".

- Austrian Science Fund (FWF), Austria
- Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO), Belgium, Flanders
- Fund for Scientific Research (FNRS), Belgium, French speaking community
- Estonian Research Council (ETAg), Estonia
- National Cancer Institute (INCa), France
- ARC French Foundation for Cancer Research (ARC Foundation), France
- Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), Germany
- General Secretariat for Research and Technology, Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs (GSRT), Greece
- The Chief Scientist Office of the Ministry of Health (CSO-MOH), Israel
- Ministry of Health (MoH), Italy
- Ministry of Education, Universities and Research (MIUR), Italy
- Alliance Against Cancer (ACC), Italy
- Latvian Academy of Sciences (LAS) , Latvia
- Dutch Cancer Society (DCS), The Netherlands
- The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (ZonMw), The Netherlands
- The Research Council of Norway (RCN), Norway
- Norwegian Cancer Society (NCS), Norway
- National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR), Poland
- Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), Portugal
- Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS) , Slovakia
- Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (MIZS), Slovenia
- National Institute of Health Carlos III (ISCIII), Spain
- The Foundation for the support of the Applied Scientific Research and Technology in Asturias (FICYT), Spain
- Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST), Taiwan
- The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBITAK), Turkey

2. AIM OF THE CALL

2.1 Scientific project

Based on the considerations mentioned in the previous section, the EC co-funded call of TRANSCAN-2 (JTC 2014) focuses on:

"Translational research on human tumour heterogeneity to overcome recurrence and resistance to therapy"

"Human tumour heterogeneity" is defined in this call as heterogeneity within the tumour or between the primary tumour and metastatic sites within a same patient. In the context of Translational Research, this topic will comprise three specific aims which concur to the possible clinical applications. Proposals will have to cover at least one of the specific areas listed under each aim below. Projects should be built from a solid and established hypothesis and should be relevant with regards to the possible improvements in clinical practices.

Aim 1: Development and validation of methods to investigate human tumour heterogeneity (including heterogeneity between the primary tumour and the metastatic sites)

- Sampling methods alternative to single biopsy (liquid biopsy, single cell analyses, imaging, etc.) for overcoming tumour sampling bias;
- Methods for assessing tumour heterogeneity, within either the primary tumour or the metastases;
- Methods for tracking tumour evolution along the disease course using minimally- or non-invasive techniques.

Aim 2: Studies on human tumour heterogeneity in order to guide therapeutic intervention and identify new therapeutic targets

- Evaluation of the impact of tumour heterogeneity on treatment efficacy and patient outcome (clinical utility of driver/passengers mutations detection, clinical utility of the minor sub-clones identification, clinical utility of the differences in molecular alterations between primary tumour and metastases);
- Development of assays measuring the level of tumour heterogeneity that predicts treatment inefficacy and tumour recurrence;
- Development of assays that define the contribution of tumour heterogeneity to resistance mechanisms and identify new therapeutic targets.

Aim 3: Development of new precision therapeutic strategies that may prevent human tumour recurrence or resistance to therapy by counteracting tumour heterogeneity

- Evaluation of treatments (combinations, new strategies, administration scheme) targeting multiple sub-clonal somatic events or preventing resistant sub-clones to emerge.

The following types of research projects are excluded from the call:

- Studies on inter-tumour heterogeneity meaning research exploring heterogeneity between tumours from different patients.
- Studies focusing on tumour micro-environment heterogeneity only.
- Analysis of preclinical models (cell lines and animal models) only.
- Phase III and IV clinical trials.
- Studies not compliant with the COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 800/2008 (http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:214:0003:0047:en:PDF), with specific reference to the articles 30, 31, 32, and 33. For full reference, please see also the COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS of 20.12.2011 (http://ec.europa.eu/services_general_interest/docs/comm_quality_framework_en.pdf). Studies non compliant with the Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L:2014:187:FULL&from=EN

2.2 Capacity building activities

Translational research has the ambition to remove barriers to multidisciplinary and multi-professional collaboration. It is envisioned that clinicians, researchers and the operational staff from various sectors (academia, industry, regulatory bodies) will effectively work together to expedite the translation of scientific discoveries to clinical application and to more rapidly fuel research directions with observational or clinical findings. In fact, the complexity of the process requires, at the individual and collective levels, the creation of translational medicine research interfaces/infrastructures. To reach that goal, TRANSCAN-2 supports capacity building activities for promoting the formation and upgrading of multidisciplinary teams in an integrated process: i) exchange/mobility 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 expertise and “know-how” unavailable in the existing team. This type of activities, when present, will be supported within the projects which will be selected for funding under TRANSCAN-2 JTC 2014.

Thus, applicants may add an additional part to cover these activities (with an associated separate budget, in compliance with the rules of the respective national/regional funding organisations). These capacity building activities have to be fully 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 as well as to improve, in the long term, the quality and potential of the translational research performed by the team(s). Depending on the project these activities could be (the following examples are indicative only, and neither exhaustive nor prescriptive): 1) exchanges/mobility of investigators (especially young investigators) between teams and countries participating in the project, 2) short term training of scientists, operational staff, etc., 3) training technical workshop dedicated to relevant aspects of the scientific work planned in the project, 4) short training (1 or few weeks) of several partner teams by one expert, etc. Activities related to the

dissemination of results such as hosting a symposium, conferences etc. are out of the scope of this capacity building activities component.

3. CALL IMPLEMENTATION BOARDS

The Call Steering Committee (CSC) and the Scientific Evaluation Committee (SEC) will manage the evaluation procedure of pre-proposals and full proposals and the final selection of research projects, with the support of the Joint Call Secretariat (JCS).

The CSC is composed of one single representative from each national/regional funding organisation participating in TRANSCAN-2 JTC 2014. The CSC will supervise the preparation and the implementation of the call and will take all decisions concerning the call. Based on the ranking list established by the SEC, the CSC will take the final decision on the proposals to be funded. Members of the CSC are not allowed to submit proposals to this call.

The SEC is a panel of internationally recognised scientific experts in charge of the evaluation of submitted pre- and full proposals. SEC members are not allowed to submit or participate in proposals within this call, and must sign declarations on conflicts of interest and confidentiality. In the second step of evaluation (full proposals stage), in addition to the SEC members, external experts chosen for their knowledge in specific fields covered by the proposals will also contribute to the evaluation.

An independent expert will be appointed by the CSC as observer, to assess the conformity of the implementation of TRANSCAN-2 JTC 2014 and, in particular, review the proper implementation of the independent international peer review conducted by the SEC and the establishment of the ranking list of projects.

The European Commission will not be involved during the evaluation process, but will review the outcomes of the evaluation process (the ranking list(s) of the projects, the observers' report on the evaluation, the joint selection list of the projects to be funded drawn by the CSC, the commitment on availability of funds by each CSC member for the selected projects), so as to activate the co-fund mechanism.

4. APPLICATION

4.1 Eligibility criteria

Joint transnational research proposals may be submitted by applicants belonging to one of the following categories depending on national/regional eligibility rules as specified in Annex 3:

- Academic research groups (from universities or other higher education or research institutions).
- Clinical/public health sector research groups (from hospitals/public health and/or other health care settings and health organisations).
- Enterprise's research groups (depending on national/regional eligibility rules), with particular emphasis on small and medium-sized enterprises.

Please note that the inclusion of a non-eligible partner in a proposal will lead to the rejection of the entire proposal without further review.

Only transnational projects will be funded. Each research consortium must involve a minimum of four (4) research groups and a maximum of seven (7) research groups. The groups must be from at least four (4) different countries participating in the call. In addition, a consortium must not involve more than two (2) research groups from one country (in such cases the minimum number of groups must be 5, coming from 4 different countries).

In order to strengthen the European translational cancer research area, a wide inclusion of research team from all the countries/regions participating in the call is encouraged, with a particular attention to research teams from Estonia, Latvia, Slovakia and Turkey.

Each consortium must nominate a coordinator. The coordinator will be responsible for the scientific management (such as controlling, reporting, intellectual property rights issues, etc.) and will act as the interface with the JCS and the CSC. Each research team will be represented by one principal investigator only, who will be the contact person for the respective national/regional funding organisation.

Consortium must involve at least one basic or pre-clinical research team and one clinical team. It is also recommended to include expert team in methodology, biostatistics or bioinformatics, depending on the type of work planned. Consortium may also involve other teams with specialised skills and know-how (biobanks, model systems, technological platforms, etc.) or expertise (epidemiology and molecular epidemiology, early phase clinical trials, public health, ELSI, etc.). Consortium should have sufficient critical mass to achieve ambitious scientific, technological and medical goals and, along with the particular contribution of each research team, should clearly demonstrate its transnational added value. The translational nature of the research results is the key goal of TRANSCAN-2 and, therefore, the consortium should also clearly demonstrate a knowledge transfer towards clinical, public health and/or industrial applications.

While applications will be submitted by the coordinator, the individual research groups will be funded by the funding organisation from their country/region that is participating in the TRANSCAN-2 JTC 2014. The applications are therefore subject to eligibility criteria of national/regional funding organisations. Applicants should refer to the annexes of the document “Guidelines for Applicants” containing all the specific national/regional eligibility criteria and should contact their respective national/regional funding organisation contact points for additional clarification (see Annex 1. Contact information of the national/regional funding organisations).

Please note that an eligibility check before the pre-proposal submission is mandatory for the Ministry of Health (MOH), Italy.

The duration of the projects shall not exceed three (3) years. According to the eligibility criteria of the funding organisations contributing to the TRANSCAN-2 JTC 2014, a research group may however receive funding for less than three years.

4.2. Submission of joint proposals

TRANSCAN-2 JTC 2014 will be implemented through a two-stage submission procedure: pre-proposals and full proposals. Both pre- and full proposals must be written in English and must be submitted to the JCS by the coordinator through the electronic submission system exclusively.

In preparing the proposals, applicants should strictly follow the rules described in this call text and in the document entitled "Guidelines for Applicants", and use the application forms available from the electronic submission system or from the TRANSCAN website (www.transcanfp7.eu). Applicants should take note of individual national/regional rules, and contact their national/regional contact points for specific questions.

The pre-proposals must be submitted to the electronic submission system no later than the **16th of March 2015, at 16:00 (Central European Time, CET)**. The information relating to the selected pre-proposal will be communicated to the coordinators by June 2015.

The information provided in the pre-proposal application is binding for the entire application process. Thus, any substantial changes between the pre-proposal and the full proposal (e.g. composition of the consortia, objectives of the project, etc.) must be communicated in advance to the JCS with detailed justification and will only be allowed by the CSC under exceptional circumstances.

The full proposals will have to be submitted to the electronic submission system not later than the **7th of July 2015 at 16:00 (Central European Summer Time, CEST)**. Please note that full proposals will only be accepted from applicants explicitly invited by the JCS to submit.

The decision on the results of the full proposals evaluation meeting will be communicated to all the (successful and unsuccessful) coordinators in October 2015. The coordinators of the full proposals will receive a summary of the evaluation conclusions in due time.

5. EVALUATION

5.1 Evaluation criteria

Pre-proposals and full proposals will be assessed according to following criteria.

1. Excellence

a. Scientific quality of the proposal: soundness of the rationale including transdisciplinary considerations, clarity of the objectives, expected progress beyond the state-of-the-art, international competitiveness.

b. Relevance of the project regarding the topic (translational research on human tumour heterogeneity to overcome recurrence and resistance to therapy) and the overall objective (translational cancer research) of the call; availability and quality of preliminary data.

2. Impact

a. Potential impact with reference to the development, dissemination and use of project results: potential impact of the expected results on cancer control, in terms of translation into public health or clinical practices (enhancing innovation capacity and integration of new knowledge)

and/or into pharmaceutical/industrial applications; appropriateness of measures for the dissemination and/or exploitation of project results including socio-economic aspects and anticipation of intellectual property issues (patenting, industrial exploitation, marketing, etc.).

b. Impact with reference to strengthening the translational capacity building activities:
This sub-criterion will be assessed at the level of the full proposal only and solely for the scientific proposals recommended for funding.

The assessment of the capacity building component and associated budget will be performed under this sub-criterion after the scientific assessment of the proposal: hence, a proposal could be recommended for funding without the part related to capacity building activities if this part is evaluated as “poor”.

The assessment under this sub-criterion will be performed independently using the following:

• Content: relevance and coherence of the capacity building activities with the proposal objectives.

• Candidate: background (scientific, medical, etc.), coherence with the CV, scientific production.

• Host team: expertise of the host team in the field, research qualification of the responsible person.

3. Quality and efficiency of the implementation

a. Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan: appropriateness and feasibility of the methodology (including the clinical trial if applicable) and associated technologies used, with particular regard to the study design, the study population(s), study endpoints.

b. Statistical/bio-statistical aspects and power calculation (including the clinical trial if applicable): study design; sampling calculations; appropriateness and robustness of statistical analyses: adequateness of endpoints.

c. Quality of the transnational research consortium: experience of the research partners in the field(s) of the proposal (for young teams: appropriateness of their current work and training of their members); quality of the collaboration between the research teams and added value of the research consortium as a whole.

d. Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk and innovation management.

d. Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources to be committed (personnel, equipment, etc.) and of the estimated budget.

e. Compliance with ethical rules and regulatory aspects

5.2 Scoring

5.2.1 Range and interpretation of the scores

A scoring system from 0 to 5 will be used to evaluate the proposals performance with respect to each evaluation criteria, as follows:
0: fails to address the criterion or missing information;
1: criterion poorly addressed/serious weaknesses;
2: fair/ some weaknesses;
3: good/ shortcomings are present;
4: very good/ criterion well addressed;
5: excellent.
Please note that half-marks may be given

5.2.2 Thresholds and weighting

The threshold for individual criteria is 3. The overall threshold, applying to the sum of the individual scores, is 10.
To determine the ranking:

- the score of the criterion “impact” will be given a weight of 1.5.
- in case of equal score, the “impact” score will be considered first, then the score of “excellence” and then of “quality and efficiency of the implementation".

5.3 Eligibility check of pre-proposals and first step of evaluation

5.3.1 Eligibility check

The JCS will examine all pre-proposals to ensure that they meet the call’s formal criteria (date of submission, number of participating countries/regions and groups, inclusion of all necessary information in English, adherence to the application forms, document length). The JCS will forward the pre-proposals to the national/regional funding organisations, which will perform a formal check of compliance with their respective regulations.

After completion of the eligibility check, the CSC will take the final decision; the pre-proposals not considered eligible will be rejected without further review. The coordinators of the non-eligible pre-proposals will be informed accordingly by the JCS.

5.3.2 Evaluation of pre-proposals

Pre-proposals passing the formal eligibility checks will be reviewed by the SEC panel.

All necessary steps will be taken by the JCS and the CSC to ensure that the SEC members have no conflict of interest for those proposals that they are asked to review. The SEC members will be required to formally declare that no conflict of interest exists at any time of their evaluation duty and will sign a confidentiality agreement concerning all documents and the entire process.

Each pre-proposal will be allocated to at least two (2) SEC members (one of whom will act as rapporteur). The SEC will meet, discuss the pre-proposals and establish a ranking list in accordance with the pre-proposals respective merit. Then, the CSC will decide, based on the SEC recommendations and budget consideration, how many pre-proposals will be invited to submit a

full proposal. The JCS will communicate to each project coordinator the final decision with respect to their own application. Successful applicants will be invited by the JCS to submit a full proposal, with possible recommendations on the project from the SEC and the JCS.

5.4 Eligibility check of full proposals and second step of evaluation

An eligibility check of the full proposals will be performed by the JCS so as to ensure that they meet the formal criteria of the call and have not changed substantially from the respective pre-proposals. A full proposal may be excluded from further review, if criteria are not met or if the proposal objectives or the composition of the consortium deviate substantially from the previously submitted pre-proposal. In any case, major changes must be communicated in advance to the JCS, which will contact the concerned national/regional funding organization to discuss the issue; a formal decision on whether such an exceptional change may be justified will be taken by the CSC.

Each full proposal will be allocated to two (2) SEC members, possibly those who had reviewed the corresponding pre-proposal, and to at least two (2) external reviewers. One of the SEC members will be appointed as rapporteur. The SEC members and the external reviewers will independently assess the full proposals according to the evaluation criteria mentioned above, and will deliver their evaluation reports to the JCS (via an electronic evaluation system). In preparation of the second SEC meeting, all SEC members will get access to the evaluation reports. During this second SEC meeting, each full proposal will be discussed by the SEC member on the basis of the individual evaluation reports so as to reach consensus scoring. As a result of these discussions and as an outcome of the SEC meeting a ranking list of the full proposals recommended for funding will be established.

5.5 Funding decision

After the end of the evaluation process, on the basis on the ranking list established by the SEC and on the commitment of available funds, the CSC will establish a final list of the projects to be funded. This joint selection list of the project to be funded, as well as the ranking list of the projects, the observers' report on the evaluation, and a formal signed commitment from each CSC member, on availability of funds for the selected projects, will be communicated to the European Commission for review, so as to activate the co-fund mechanism.

The JCS will communicate to all project coordinators the final decision along with a summary of the evaluation conclusions.

6. FINANCIAL AND LEGAL ISSUES

6.1. Funding model and funding details

The TRANSCAN-2 JTC 2014 uses the “virtual common pot” funding model. This means that funding will be made available by each national/regional funding organisation according to their specific regulations, for research groups in their country/region. In accordance to the ERA-NET Co-fund model, the European Commission can contribute additional funding (up to 33% of the cumulated national/regional funding actually spent on research project), which will be distributed to

the research teams through the national/regional funding agencies.

The funding rate will vary up according to national/regional rules to a maximum of 100% of the funds requested. Funding is granted for a maximum of three years according to national regulations.

Each research project partner (including the project coordinator) will get a separate funding contract/letter of grant according to national/regional regulations from his/her national/regional funding institutions.

As a general rule, no changes to the composition of research consortia or in budget may occur during the contract/letter of grant. Any minor changes will have to be well justified and the relevant funding organisations will decide upon the proper action to be taken. However, in case of major changes, an independent expert may be consulted to help with the final decision of the funding organisations. The research partners shall inform the JCS and the funding bodies of that project of any event that might affect the implementation of the project.

Depending on the time needed for the administration of granting funds to the respective national/regional research groups, individual projects of a research consortium are expected to start by April 2016. The official start date shall be communicated by the project coordinator to the JCS and shall appear in the consortium agreement established in accordance to section 6.2 below.

6.2 Research consortium agreement, ownership of intellectual property rights, ethical issues

It is mandatory for a funded research project consortium to sign a consortium agreement (CA), addressing the issues indicated in the document "Guidelines for Applicants", including Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issues. The research consortium is strongly encouraged to sign this CA before the official project start date. In any case the CA has to be signed no later than six months after the official project start date. Upon request, this consortium agreement must be made available to the concerned TRANSCAN-2 JTC 2014 funding organisations.

Results and new IPR resulting from projects funded through the TRANSCAN-2 JTC 2014 will be owned by the relevant organisations according to international/national/regional rules on IPR. If several participants have jointly carried out work generating new IPR, they shall agree amongst themselves (CA) as to the allocation of ownership of IPR, taking into account their contributions to the creation of those IPR as well as the European Commission´s guidelines on IPR issues.

The results of the research project and IPR created should be disseminated and made available for use, whether for commercial purposes or not, in order to maximize public benefit.

The TRANSCAN-2 JTC 2014 funding organisations shall have the right to use documents, information and results submitted by the research partners and/or to use the information and results for their own purposes, provided that the owners´ rights are kept.

Any ethical issues, arising for instance if a research project includes a study on patients, should be addressed at the proposal submission stage, and subsequent authorization presented at the latest, upon request by the national/regional funding organisations, before the process of grant negotiation.

6.3 Confidentiality of proposals

Proposals and any relating information shall be kept confidential by the SEC members, the external reviewers and the CSC members. Proposals shall not be used for any purpose other than the evaluation and subsequent monitoring of the funded projects.

Full proposals will be required to include a publishable summary, which will clearly identify the main goals of the project. If a proposal is funded, this information will be published on the TRANSCAN website. All other project details shall remain strictly confidential.

7. REPORTING AND DISSEMINATION

The coordinator of a funded transnational research consortium must submit annual scientific project reports (within 2 months after the end of a calendar year), and a final scientific project report (within 3 months after the end of the project) to the JCS. All reports must be written in English and comply with the reporting form templates (one for the annual reports and one for the final report) that will be provided to the coordinators of the funded projects in due time.

In addition to these centrally-administered TRANSCAN-2 reports, principal investigators may be asked to submit financial and/or scientific reports to their national/regional funding organisations. Each individual contract/letter of grant will be monitored by the respective national/regional funding organisations.

In case of serious difficulties in the conduct of the research project, the coordinator shall promptly inform the JCS and the relevant funding organisations. These funding organisations will decide upon the proper actions to be taken.

Funding recipients must ensure that all results (publications, etc.) arising from the project include a proper acknowledgement that the project is collectively supported by the national funding organisations and the EC under the framework of the ERA-NET TRANSCAN-2 initiative.

The coordinators and/or principal investigators may be invited to present the results of their projects at a TRANSCAN-2 symposium.

8. CONTACT AND FURTHER INFORMATION

The JCS is set up at the Ministero della Salute-Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Italy.
The JCS will assist the CSC during the implementation of JTC 2014 as well as during the monitoring phase (until 3 months after the funded research projects have ended). The JCS will be responsible for the central management of the call evaluation and monitoring. The JCS will be the primary contact referring to the TRANSCAN-2 JTC 2014 procedures between the research consortia, the funding organisations (CSC) and the peer reviewers (SEC members and external experts).

Further information on TRANSCAN-2, the TRANSCAN JTC 2014 and its planned time schedule is available at the TRANSCAN website: http://www.transcanfp7.eu. Before submitting a proposal, it is strongly advised to contact the national/regional funding organisations for any questions regarding JTC 2014 (see Annex 1).

ANNEX 1. CONTACT INFORMATION OF THE NATIONAL/REGIONAL FUNDING ORGANISATIONS PARTICIPATING IN TRANSCAN-2 JTC 2014

Country / region	Funding organisation	Website	National / regional contact
Austria	Austrian Science Fund (FWF)	http://www.fwf.ac.at/	**Dr. Stephanie RESCH** Austrian Science Fund Haus der Forschung, Sensengasse 1 1090 Vienna, Austria Tel: +43-1-505 67 40-8201 E-mail: stephanie.resch@fwf.ac.at
Belgium: Flemish region	Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO)	http://www.fwo.be/	**Dr. Olivier BOEHME** Senior Science Administrator Research Foundation - Flanders Egmonstraat 5 B-1000 Brussels Belgium Tel. +32 2 550 15 45 E-mail: eranet@fwo.be
Belgium: French speaking region	Fund for Scientific Research (FNRS)	http://www.fnrs.be/	**Dr. Arnaud GOOLAERTS** Scientific Officer FRS-FNRS Rue d'Egmont 5 B-1000 Brussels Belgium Tel. +32 2 504 93 28 E-mail: arnaud.goolaerts@frs-fnrs.be
Estonia	Estonian Research Council (ETAg)	http://www.etag.ee	**Mr. Argo SOON** Estonian Research Council Soola 8 51013 Tartu Estonia Tel: +372 7300 372 E-mail: argo.soon@etag.ee
France	National Cancer Institute (INCa)	http://www.e-cancer.fr/	**Estelle GERBAUD, PharmD** Research and Innovation Division 52 avenue André Morizet 92513 Boulogne Billancourt Cedex, France Tel: +33 (0)1 41 10 14 16 E-mail: egerbaud@institutcancer.fr

	ARC French Foundation for Cancer Research (ARC Foundation)	http://www.fondation-arc.org	**Nancy ABOU-ZEID, PhD** Translational Research & Innovation - Fondation ARC pour la recherche sur le cancer 9 Rue Guy Moquet – BP 90003 94803 Villejuif Cedex, France Tel: +33 (0)1 45 59 58 44 E-mail: nabou-zeid@fondation-arc.org
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ANNEX 2. INDICATIVE FUNDING COMMITMENT OF THE FUNDING ORGANISATIONS PARTICIPATING IN TRANSCAN-2 JTC 2014

Country/ Region	Participating funding organisation	Envisioned amount of funding (Mio € for 3 years)	Anticipated number of fundable research groups
Austria	Austrian Science Fund (FWF)	0.750	3
Belgium: Flemish region	Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO)	0.200	1
Belgium: French speaking region	Fund for Scientific Research (FNRS)	0.200	1
Estonia	Estonian Research Council (ETAg)	0.100	2
France	National Cancer Institute (INCa)	1.500	5-10
	ARC French Foundation for Cancer Research (ARC Foundation)	0.500	1-3
Germany	Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)	3.000	10-12
Greece	General Secretariat for Research and Technology, Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs (GSRT)	0.500	5
Israel	The Chief Scientist Office of the Ministry of Health (CSO-MOH)	0.200	2
Italy	Ministry of Health (MoH)	3.000	10-15
Italy	Ministry of Education, Universities and Research (MIUR)	0.500	
Italy	Alliance Against Cancer (ACC)	0.250	1-2

Latvia	Latvian Academy of Science (LAS)	0.300	1-2
The Netherlands	Dutch Cancer Society (DCS)	1.000	3-4
	The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (ZonMw)	0.300	1
Norway	The Research Council of Norway (RCN)	0.500	3-5
	Norwegian Cancer Society (NCS)	0.500	
Poland	National Centre for Research and Development (NCBiR)	0.500	1-2
Portugal	Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT)	0.325	1-2
Slovakia	Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS)	0.210	1-2
Slovenia	Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (MIZS)	0.450	2-3
Spain	National Institute of Health Carlos III (ISCIII)	0.500	3-5
Spain	The Foundation for the support of the Applied Scientific Research and Technology in Asturias (FICYT)	0.300	4-5
Taiwan	Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST)	1.000	4-5
Turkey	The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBITAK)	0.800	4-5

ANNEX 3. ELIGIBILITY OF BENEFICIARY INSTITUTIONS FOR THE FUNDING ORGANISATIONS PARTICIPATING IN TRANSCAN-2 JTC 2014

Country/ Region	Participating funding organisation	Eligible beneficiary institution [1]		
		Academia	Clinical/ public health	Enterprise
Austria	Austrian Science Fund (FWF)	Applications for projects from Austria may only be submitted by single natural persons. Affirmation of the research institution (academia, clinical/public health, enterprise) of the applicant is mandatory.	Applications for projects from Austria may only be submitted by single natural persons. Affirmation of the research institution (academia, clinical/public health, enterprise) of the applicant is mandatory.	Applications for projects from Austria may only be submitted by single natural persons. Affirmation of the research institution (academia, clinical/public health, enterprise) of the applicant is mandatory.
Belgium: Flemish region	Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO)	Yes (only clinics associated with universities are eligible)	Only official research institutions and university hospitals, and always in cooperation with a Flemish university (Cf. art. 9 of the Regulations on New Research Projects of FWO)	No
Belgium: French speaking region	Fund for Scientific Research (FNRS)	Yes	Wallonie-Bruxelles	No

Estonia	Estonian Research Council (ETAg)	Yes	Yes	Yes
France	National Cancer Institute (INCa)	Yes	Yes	No
	ARC French Foundation for Cancer Research (ARC Foundation)			
Germany	Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)	Yes	Yes	Yes
Greece	General Secretariat for Research and Technology, Ministry of	YES, according to the national rules	YES, according to the national rules	YES, according to the national rules
Israel	The Chief Scientist Office of the Ministry of Health (CSO-MOH)	Yes	Yes	Only on their own budget
Italy	Ministry of Health (MoH)	No	Yes	No
Italy	Ministry of Education, Universities and Research (MIUR)	Universities, Public Research Centres and Organizations	Research institutions or research organizations, associations or foundations which perform mainly research activities as stated in their statutory documents	Enterprises or private research centers or organisations
Italy	Alliance Against Cancer (ACC)	No	Yes	No
Latvia	Latvian Academy of Sciences (LAS)	Yes	Yes, should be conform with EC R 800/2008	Yes, should conform with EC R 800/2008

The Netherlands	Dutch Cancer Society (DCS)	Yes, according to grant conditions KWF Kankerbestrijding	Yes, research institutes and university hospitals according to grant conditions KWF Kankerbestrijding	No
	The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (ZONMW)	Yes, according to grant conditions of ZonMw and KWF Kankerbestrijding	As for KWF Kankerbestrijding	As for KWF Kankerbestrijding
Norway	The Research Council of Norway (RCN) Norwegian Cancer Society (NCS)	Yes	Yes	No
Poland	National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR)	Yes, according to the national regulations	Yes, according to the national regulations	Yes, according to the national regulations
Portugal	Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT)	Yes, according to the national rules	Yes, according to the national rules	Yes, according to the national rules (max. of 50% of the total budget)
Slovakia	Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS)	Yes	No	No
Slovenia	Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (MIZS)	Yes, according to the national rules	Yes, according to the national rules	Yes, according to the national rules
Spain	National Institute of Health Carlos III (ISCIII)	Yes, only those specified in national rules	Yes	No
Spain	The Foundation for the support of the Applied Scientific Research and Technology in Asturias (FICYT)	Yes. University and those other specified in regional rules.	Yes, according to regional regulations. Only private for profit entities	Yes. Companies and Private entities (for profit)

Taiwan	Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST)	Yes	Yes, but limit to those endorsed by the MoST	No
Turkey	The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBITAK)	Yes	Yes	Yes

Please note that the information on this table is only indicative. Applicants are encouraged to contact their national/regional contact points for further information.

(1) The eligibility of companies and institutions is subject to different regulations in the participating country/region. Further details regarding the eligible beneficiaries and other national eligibility criteria and requirements are available on the "Guidelines for Applicants" and the TRANSCAN website (http://www.transcanfp7.eu/).