CROSSTEXNET ERA-NET Project

Transnational Call 2012

GUIDELINES FOR PROPOSERS

This guide, together with all information related to this call for proposals, can be downloaded from the following web site: www.crosstexnet.eu

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1. WHAT IS CROSSTEXNET?

CROSSTEXNET is a network of European countries, governmental agencies and regional authorities cooperating to making more and smarter funding available to European textile research. The main objective of the CROSSTEXNET project is, in fact, to contribute to achieve a critical mass of investments in European R&D in order to realise the potential for fiber materials and textiles to be a material of choice for the future.

CROSSTEXNET is funding transnational R&D projects by coordinated calls promoted by national and regional governments and agencies.

CROSSTEXNET gives an opportunity to enterprises and research organisations (RTOs) to collaborate at European level and to jointly develop innovative and R&D projects.

CROSSTEXNET is a project supported by the European Commission in the frame of the VII Research Framework Programme (FP7).

2. CALL ANNOUNCEMENT

2.1 Objectives and Topics

The strategic objective of the CROSSTEXNET Call 2012 is to enhance the competitiveness of the European textile industry by supporting the funding of projects in the textile domain, performed by enterprises and their strategic partnerships.

The funding objectives of the call are **trans-national, application oriented, R&D projects[1]** related to **high added value textile materials**.

This CROSSTEXNET call for project proposals has a **wide scope**, including **all topics on high added value textiles and other fiber-based advanced materials** emerging at European and global level. Such a domain includes the following main areas:

1. new textile materials, including new functional products (bio-fibres, composite materials, bio-based chemicals and innovative active compounds for textile finishing, etc.);
2. new technologies for the production of high added value and multifunctional textiles (nanotechnology, biotechnology, nano-biotechnology, surface treatment technologies, electronics integrated in the textile structures, etc.); and
3. new textile processing, production technologies and new textile machinery (spinning, weaving, dyeing and finishing, laminating, coating, etc.).

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1   "R&D projects" here refers to the definitions contained in the Article 30 of the COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 800/2008 of 6 August 2008 (available at http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:214:0003:0047:EN:PDF) and COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK FOR STATE AID FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION (2006/C 323/01) - Par. 2.2. (available at http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2006:323:0001:0026:EN:PDF)

Projects are expected to promote new applications for textile materials and the substitution of currently used traditional textiles and non-textiles with advanced textile materials. Applications may include, but are not limited to, *personal protection, health care and sports, construction, transport systems, agriculture, energy, packaging and industrial equipment.*

In addition to the above, **the respective regional/national thematic focus and funding conditions must be taken into account**. To obtain detailed programme priorities it is strongly recommended to check Annex 1 and to contact your regional/national funding agency (see Annex 2).

2.2 Eligible project structure

All CROSSTEXNET projects submitted under this call should be designed on the following principles:

- Project consortia consisting of at least 2 independent SMEs from 2 countries or 2 regions in different countries from those participating in this call (see the list in ANNEX 2).

- Project consortia can include partners from CROSSTEXNET countries/regions not participating to this call, provided that they will be involved at their own expenses. They will not be considered for the eligibility criteria and they will not be funded by the participating Agencies (see the list of CROSSTEXNET partners not funding the call in ANNEX n. 3)

- Large companies, academic research groups, institutes, universities or other public organisations may participate according to regional/national financing regulations (see Annex 1).

- The consortium must demonstrate a sufficient research capacity as well as industrial relevance in order to achieve the project objectives.

- The composition of the consortium should be efficient in size in order to accomplish the objectives proposed.

2.3 Project budget

No overall budget limits have been defined at CROSSTEXNET level, **but national/regional limits regarding the level of funding will apply**.

2.4 Project duration

The CROSSTEXNET projects will last a maximum of 36 months. The approval communication will be sent within 60 days from the closing of the evaluation proceedings, as further described on page 7, paragraph 4.2. For the start date of the projects, the involved national/regional agencies should be contacted.

The project expenses will be eligible from the date of the presentation of the full proposal. Anyway, in case national/regional regulations foresee different conditions, national/regional regulations will always prevail.

Again, national and regional limits regarding the duration of projects will apply.

2.5 Dates and deadlines

Event	Date
Opening call	January 16th 2012
Closing date	March 12th 2012
Eligibility check	Mid-March 2012
Evaluation period	March – June 2012
Communication final decision	July2012

Furthermore, national and regional agencies can indicate further deadlines for the collection of specific documents and information.

2.6 Funding rules

In this call the funding rules of the respective national/regional agencies apply; each partner in a project proposal must be aware of the funding rules of the corresponding national/regional programme.

Information about the specific funding rules of each participating country and region is provided in Annex 1. For more detailed information, each applicant should contact the relevant national/regional contact person (see Annex 2).

3. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Proposals must be submitted electronically, using the on-line tool (EPPS) available on the CROSSTEXNET website at www.crosstexnet.eu. Proposals arriving to CROSSTEXNET partners by other means will not be evaluated.

Proposals have to be prepared using the specific "application forms" available on the CROSSTEXNET website.

Only the project coordinator - the partner who represents the consortium externally and is responsible for its internal management towards CROSSTEXNET - is allowed to submit the proposal.

The CROSSTEXNET proposals have to be submitted in English.

The deadline for proposal submission is **12th March 2012 - 16h 00** (Brussels time).

The following items have to be addressed in the proposal (see "proposal application form"):

1. Summary

2. Consortium description (description of each partner and qualification of the consortium as a whole)

3. Project contents (project objectives, progress from the state of the art and added value of transnational cooperation)

4. Description of the work (methodology and work programme)

5. Project costs

6. Exploitation of results and impact

At the same time, in addition to the CROSSTEXNET proposal, each partner in the project must fulfil the specific local application rules/requirements of each regional or national funding programme. In most cases, that implies the submission of the corresponding national/regional funding application form to the respective funding agency.

To achieve funding, the "national parts" of the project must fulfill their national/regional criteria. This will create different submission and financing situations for partners from different countries.

4. EVALUATION AND DECISION

4.1 Before the evaluation

After the deadline for submission of proposals, the CROSSTEXNET Team will assess the proposals to ensure that they meet the call's formal criteria. This preliminary selection is called "eligibility check". Proposals which do not fulfil the following eligibility criteria will not be included in the evaluation:

- It is received by CROSSTEXNET before the deadline given in the call
- It is complete (the application form is complete and all the requested documents are submitted)
- It involves at least the minimum number of participants given in the call
- The involved partners are eligible according to the call

Eligible proposals according to the CROSSTEXNET criteria above, will be forwarded to the relevant national or regional funding agencies for an additional eligibility check based on the eligibility criteria of the funding programme (eligibility check at local level).

4.2 Evaluation procedure

The CrossTexNet Transnational Call Team (TCT) will evaluate proposals in order to identify those whose quality is sufficiently high for possible funding. TCT will use the National and Regional Agencies involved in the project and in the Call to carry out the proposals evaluation.

In case the TCT does not reach a common position on some proposals, an Evaluation Panel (EP) will be set up to evaluate them. The EP consists of a pool of experts nominated by each involved region/nation plus an external expert nominated by CROSSTEXNET who will act as coordinator of the Evaluation Panel, assuring the strictly confidentiality of the information provided, and a fully absence of conflict of interest. The EP Coordinator will also promote the adequate consensus among the experts. If a consensus is not possible, the proposal will be rejected. In case a consensus can be reached, an Evaluation Summary Report will be sent to the involved Agencies for the final decision.

4.3 Decision process, funding and start of the projects

Approved projects will be funded by the respective national or regional funding organisation. Each country or region will fund its own project participants.

Each regional/national authority involved shall inform the project partners that the public aid to the recommended projects has been approved within 60 days from the closing of the evaluation proceedings (final CROSSTEXNET decision).

Funding contracts will be signed by successful project participants directly with the respective national or regional funding organisation. The maximum period in which the National/Regional Agencies involved must formalize the funding granted to each one of the projects is set accordingly to the corresponding national or regional rules.

A consortium agreement between the project partners is required for funding (after final funding decision). This consortium agreement is mainly required to clarify IPR issues and responsibilities of the partners.

The respective national or regional funding organisations will monitor the funded projects.

ANNEX 1. Funding Programmes (alphabetic order by country)

Here all participating countries or regions report the main information about the specific requirements of their funding programmes. For further information, please **contact your national or regional contact persons** (see Annex 2).

BELGIUM

- ➢ **Flanders**
  IWT SME Innovation project programme: only SMEs (as prime contractor) can submit regional proposals – SMEs financed directly (universities and research centers as subcontractors). No company in the overall CrossTexNet project (Flemish or not) can sustain more than 70% of total eligible costs. Maximum grant per regional project 250.000 euro. Regional project duration maximum 24 months. Minimum regional project budget of 50.000 euro.

  For further information: www.iwt.be

FRANCE

- ➢ **All country (OSEO)**
  The funding programme used by OSEO is "Aide au projet de R&D&I". OSEO supports enterprises (up to 2000 employees) and other types of organizations (i.e.: laboratories, technical centers.). The funding is provided as loans or grants, but mainly as zero interest loans (reimbursable in case of success). It is recommended to position academic partners as subcontractors, unless these are located in Alsace or Nord Pas de Calais regions. In this case, they will be funded according to the regional rules. Funding rates vary according various criteria (as the nature of the project, the size and age of the company, etc.). There is no upper limit of funding per proposal. Nevertheless, special attention will be paid to keep a balance between SME's resources and contribution asked for.

  For further information: www.oseo.fr

- ➢ **Alsace**
  Focus on SMEs (at least one from Alsace). Moreover, the association of a laboratory or a research organisation is strongly recommended. Large enterprises are also eligible in association with an Alsatian SME.
  Funding % of eligible costs for all type of applicants => 50%
  Maximum amount (in €): 250 K€ for SMEs and Large Enterprises (loan; except for start-ups: grant) /150 K€ for academia and research organisations (grant).
  From the moment that the funding is provided as loan, this one is levied from a mutual fund in favour of innovation created by Alsace Region and OSEO. In this case, Alsace Region delegates the evaluation process, payments and reimbursements to OSEO.

  For further information: R&D Call for proposals – Enterprises & Laboratories / GRAINE
  www.region-alsace.eu/dn_guide-aides-innovation-et-transfert-de-technologies/appel-projet-recherche-entreprises-laboratoires-publics.html

> **Nord Pas De Calais**
> The funding programmes used are:
>
> 1) The Cluster policy programme (Priority 4 of operational programme ERFD and contract of State and Region project): support only R&D projects, pre-competitive research and innovation projects which associates at least one company and one research centre in Nord-Pas de Calais and approved by a *pole de compétitivité*. One of the partner (RTO or company) has to be located in Nord pas de Calais; only the Nord-Pas de Calais partner will be funded.
>
> Funding is provided as grant / loan: not reimbursable grants, not reimbursable loans in case of success and industrialisation in Nord-Pas de Calais Region.
> The project will be funded in accordance with R&D&I European rules.
> The duration of project will be from 1 to 3 years.
>
> For further information: www.nordpasdecalais.fr/europe/projet/CPER_FEDER.asp
>
> 2) R&D ongoing programme – FRI (Regional common fund for Innovation). Program created in 2007 as part of a convention signed between OSEO and Nord-Pas-de-Calais for companies under 2000 employees.

ROMANIA

> **All country**
> Partnerships in S&T Priority Domains Funding Programme. Romanian legal entities which can apply: R&D organizations, Research Institutes, Universities, SMEs, Industry, NGOs, Public administration. Only applicants validated in the Register of Potential Contractors (RPC), please see www.ancs.ro are eligible for funding. The State Aid Scheme for R&D applies. The budget allocated to the call is 300.000 euros. Maximum grant per project is the equivalent in euros of 2 mil RON, for a project duration of 36 months.
>
> For further information: www.cnmp.ro/int

SPAIN

> **Valencia**
> R&D programme: only Valencia Region SMEs (as prime contractor) can submit regional proposals – SMEs financed directly (universities and research centers as subcontractors). No limit in grant amount per regional project. Grant up to 60% for Research projects and 35% for Development projects. No limit duration per Regional project.
>
> For further information: www.impiva.es

SWEDEN

> **Västra Götaland**
>
> Regionally based SMEs can apply for funding to outsource research to "RTD performers" (research institutes, universities, or other organizations with research capacity), i.e. each proposal needs to include at least one regionally based SME (that applies for the funding)

and one RTD performer (that is subcontracted by the SME). The RTD performer does not need to be regionally based. The preliminary budget allocated for this call is 150.000 €. The funding rate is 50 % of eligible project costs. In-kind contributions are accepted.

For further information: www.smarttextiles.se, www.vgregion.se/smartatextilier

TURKEY

➢ **All country**
1509 International Industrial R&D Projects Grant Programme; SMEs and large companies settled in Turkey can submit project proposals. Universities and research institutes are not eligible, but can benefit from the programme as subcontractors. Grant rate is 60% for large companies and 75% for SMEs. Personnel, travel, equipment/tool/software, subcontractor (consultancy and other services) and material costs are eligible. Application to TUBITAK's 1509 programme should be made until the deadline for CROSSTEXNET proposal submission. There is no project budget/duration limit for application. However, the duration of international joint project is taken into consideration.

For further information: www.teydeb.tubitak.gov.tr

ANNEX 2. Participating funding organisations
(alphabetic order by country)

COUNTRY/Region	CROSSTEXNET member	Contact details
BELGIUM/ Flanders	IWT Flanders	Rudi Stevens rs@iwt.be Elsie De Clercq edc@iwt.be +32 2 432 42 00
FRANCE/ all country	OSEO	Nathalie Trannois Nathalie.trannois@oseo.fr + 33 1 41 79 80 59
FRANCE/Alsace	Région Alsace	Coralie Bajas-Schaefer (Région Alsace) coralie.bajas-schaefer@region-alsace.eu Tel: +33 (0) 3 88 15 67 78 Emmanuel Brunacci (OSEO Alsace) emmanuel.brunacci@oseo.fr Tel: +33 (0) 3 88 56 88 56
FRANCE/ Nord Pas De Calais	Région Nord Pas de Calais	Veronique Jonet Veronique.jonet@nordpasdecalais.fr +33 3 28 82 76 58 Claire Bugner (research) Claire.bugner@nordpasdecalais.fr +33 3 28 82 76 53 Stephan Vérin Stephan.verin@up-tex.fr +33 3 20 99 46 36 For enterprises (up to 2000 employees) Nathalie.trannois@oseo.fr + 33 1 41 79 80 59 Aurélie Pétillon Aurelie.petillon@nordpasdecalais.fr
ROMANIA	National Centre for Programme Management	Luciana Bratu luciana.bratu@uefiscdi.ro +40 21 307 19 10 Emilia Visileanu (INCDTP) visilean@ns.certex.ro +40 21 340 12 70
SPAIN/ Valencia	IMPIVA	Francisco Ferrando francisco.ferrando@impiva.gva.es +34 963986200

SWEDEN/ Västra Götaland	Region Västra Götaland	Susanne Nejderås Smart Textiles susanne.nejderas@hb.se +46 33 435 45 65 Susanne Hammarström susanne.hammarstrom@vgregion.se +46 31 63 09 01
TURKEY	TUBITAK	Önder Zor onder.zor@tubitak.gov.tr +90 312 4685300 / ext: 4553

ANNEX 3. List of not funding partners

North Rhine-Westphalia (DE)

Sachsen (DE)

Lombardy Region (IT)

Veneto Region (IT)

Oost NV (NL)

Slovenia (SL)

Tuscany (IT)

Hradec Kralove Region (CZ)

Piedmont Region (IT)

ANNEX 4. Evaluation criteria

Eligible proposals will be evaluated against the following pre-determined evaluation criteria.

1	Scientific and technical content	- Relevance to the objectives of the call - Innovative character in relation to the state-of-art - Contribution to advancement of knowledge or technology
2	Trans-national added value	Added value generated by the international cooperation
3	Consortium	- Excellence of the involved partners - Quality of the consortium as a whole (complementarity and balance)
4	Work plan	- Effectiveness of the methodology - Adequacy and feasibility of the work plan
5	Budget	- Adequacy of the budget and other resources - Appropriate distribution of the resources
6	Impact	- Potential impact on the partners (including business and competitiveness) - Potential impact on the relevant industry - Potential impact on environment, safety and health
7	Exploitation of results	- Potential market for the project results - Appropriateness of exploitation plan

ANNEX 5. Glossary

A

Application forms or proposal forms
They are the pre-formatted documents provided by the call managers and that have to be filled by the applicants with information on their proposal. Application forms have to be submitted using the CROSSTEXNET Electronic Submission System.

Applicants (or proposers)
The term is used in this document, alternatively to "proposers", to mean a person or entity applying to the call for proposals.

C

Call for proposal or call
An announcement inviting proposals for projects in a certain theme. This "announcement" is accompanied by other documents providing full information on the call.

Consortium
The word consortium is used in this document to mean the group of organisations who have agreed to work in cooperation with each other to realise the project proposal submitted to the call.

Coordinator
The coordinator is one of the consortium's partners who represents the consortium externally and is responsible for its internal management towards the CROSSTEXNET project.

D

Deadline
With regards to the call, the deadline is the moment after which proposals cannot be submitted anymore.

E

Eligibility criteria
Eligibility criteria are the minimum conditions which a proposal must fulfill to be retained for evaluation. In this call, they relate to a set of formal conditions (respect of the deadline, completeness of the form, respect of the minimum participation) plus the check on the coherence to the topic of the call.

Evaluation criteria
The criteria against which eligible proposals are assessed. For evaluation criteria applying to this call, please see this guide on paragraph 4.2.

F

Funding programme
It refers to the mechanism for funding of project. In this call, funding programmes are those managed at regional or national level by the CROSSTEXNET members participating in the call (see Annex 2).

P

Participants or partners
The members of a consortium in a proposal or a project. These are legal entities. In this call, at least two participants have to be SMEs.

Proposal forms (see Application forms).

Proposers (see Applicants)

R

RTO
A Research and Technology Organisations (RTO) is a legal entity which carries out research or technological development as one of its main objectives.

RTD; R&D
Research and Technological Development; Research & Development.

S

SME
"SME" are micro, small and medium-sized enterprises. SMEs are defined in the European Commission's Recommendation 2003/361 of the 6 May 2003
(see at ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/facts-figures-analysis/sme-definition/index_en.htm)

T

TCT
It is the Transnational Coordination Team of CROSSTEXNET, that is a committee including the CROSSTEXNET partners that participate in the call and that is in charge of the management of the call.