

April 11, 2012

Call for Multi-Partner Projects (MPP)

Deadline: May 15th 2012

Applications must be submitted by mail, by sending a PDF file to
Joumana.Sweiss@univ-amu.fr

Objectives of the call

As a reminder, the aims of the N€uromed project are to promote research capacity building in Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPC) and to build a Mediterranean Neuroscience network. One key measure of its success is how much of the collaborative work initiated is sustained for the future. Thus, in its technical annex, the project had planned an external evaluation (by the External Advisory Board, EAB) and to take specific actions during the 3rd year in order to strengthen sustainability.

This is what this call is about. Indeed, following the recommendations of the EAB, the project will focus efforts during its last year on creating sustained multi-partner collaborative projects. So far, exchanges of researchers have been done within the framework of one-to-one collaborations. The MPP call will encourage collaborations that go beyond, in order to promote the elaboration of multi-partner projects that can receive funding from other sources in the near future. In other words, **the aim here is to allow N€uromed members to benefit from the last year funding to prepare proposals for other calls**, after the end of N€uromed.

To do so, this call will provide start-up budget to allow Partners and Associated Partners to work together on strengthening existing collaborations and develop coherent projects. For example, a project on **Parkinson's disease** has emerged during the "NeuroTech" meeting organized by UPVLC last November. We will take this project as an example to illustrate what is expected from the present call.

Eligibility

1. **The project should bring together partners from at least 3 labs, located in at least one MPC country (Algeria, Egypt, Morocco) and 2 other countries (France, Italy, Spain, Turkey).** *In the example of “Parkinson”, the project involves labs from Morocco, Algeria and Spain. Other labs might join this project from France, Turkey and/or Egypt, if they work on other aspects of Parkinson’s disease.*
2. **The project should have clear objectives and a time table of activities for a period of 10 months (July 2012 - May 2013).**
3. **The project should be within the scientific themes covered by N€uromed.**

Financial support

The Strategic Management Committee (SMC) has recently revised the budget distribution among Partners. This revision has made available a small budget (30.000€) which will be used by the Coordinating Partner (i.e. UnivMed, now AMU, Marseille) to fund 2-3 multi-partner collaborative projects. However, each Partner country is expected to use its budget (when available) to provide a financial contribution to these projects. For example, the Algerian Partner may cover mobility expenses for Algerian researchers if they are involved in a MPP. Likewise, the Spanish or Turkish Partners may host researchers from the South, or specific workshops that are within the framework of an MPP in which they are involved.

Selected projects will receive between 10.000 and 15.000€ to be used within 10 months after the letter of approval. Projects with contributions from other Partners will be strongly favored.

This funding will cover:

1. **Round tables for collaborative work** *(note that this is not the same events as workshops: here, a round table gathers only members of the MPP, on e.g. writing a grant together, or discussing collaborations and how to sustain them...).*
2. **Exchange of research visits, of PhD students, post-docs and/or permanent scientists** *(Note that exchanges in the framework of an MPP must have a clear objective towards developing / sustaining the*

collaborations. They must be planned specifically in the proposal. PhD students will be eligible only if their mobility is justified).

- 3. Purchase of small equipment (less than 3000€ per item and per lab) and/or reagents.** *(Only small equipment and reagents that help sustain the collaborations will be eligible. North Partners, including Turkey, are not eligible for this spending).*

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Evaluation criteria

The proposals will be evaluated by the members of the External Advisory Board, or external experts (if needed, e.g. if the EAB members are not available).

The evaluation criteria will be the following, and should be used as a guide in preparing the proposals:

Eligibility: Yes / No (see criteria above). Only eligible proposals will be evaluated further.

Scientific project (Score /10)

- Is the scientific project of good quality? /3
- Is the project coherent in terms of objectives? /3
- Is the contribution of each Partner clearly described? /2
- Is the contribution of partners balanced? /1
- Is the project feasible within 10 months? /1

How does the proposal fit with the call? (Score /3)

- Will this proposal lead to a sustained collaborative work among the Partners involved after May 2013 ?

Budget and work plan (Score /2)

- Is the requested budget justified
- Is the work plan clear and appropriate