

EU research funding for biotechnology projects



Research funding accounts for a large proportion of the EU budget: at around Euro 54 billion, the 7th Framework Programme (FP7, term: 2007-2013) is the world's largest funding instrument of its kind. The Bavarian Research Alliance (BayFOR) provides information about opportunities that are available for scientists and entrepreneurs in relation to this funding.

The EU has anchored biotechnology in its FP7 programme in two main areas, for which it is providing a total of Euro 8 billion: "Health" (red biotechnology) and



Plants that yield higher crops and are resistant to pests and disease are one of the goals of green biotechnology ■

KBBE (Knowledge-Based Bio Economy; green and white biotechnology). The focal areas of the "Health" programme lie in

translational research, i.e. in the translation of the results of fundamental research into clinical applications, as well as in the development and validation of new treatments, processes for health promotion and prevention, diagnostic tools and technologies. The KBBE programme focuses on the sustainable generation and management of biological resources and the development of modern technologies for industrial purposes. The FP7 is a "top-down" programme: the EU Commission announces the topics being funded and publishes them once a year. ■

Excellent opportunities for small and medium-sized companies

The research projects put forward by funding applicants should ideally lead to the solution of hitherto unresolved questions and thereby bring EU citizens recognisable benefits. The EU's aim is also to strengthen small and medium-sized companies (SMEs). Consequently, industrial involvement is desirable – and in some cases even mandatory – and increases the chances of winning funding considerably. This trend will continue to grow even further for the future research programme entitled "Horizon 2020" (2014-2020). Universities of Applied Sciences, which are generally in close contact with industry, could fare particularly well here.

Another of the FP7's areas of focus is the improved coordin-

ation of national and regional research activities through specific projects (ERA-NETs).

Of relevance to biotechnology here are NEURON (neuro-sciences), TRANSCAN (translational cancer research), ERA-Age (age research), ERASysBio+ (system biology) and EUPHRESCO II (plant health). Of particular interest to SMEs is EuroTransBio, in which suggested topics are submitted ("bottom-up" principle) and which supports transnational R&D projects between academics and SMEs. ■

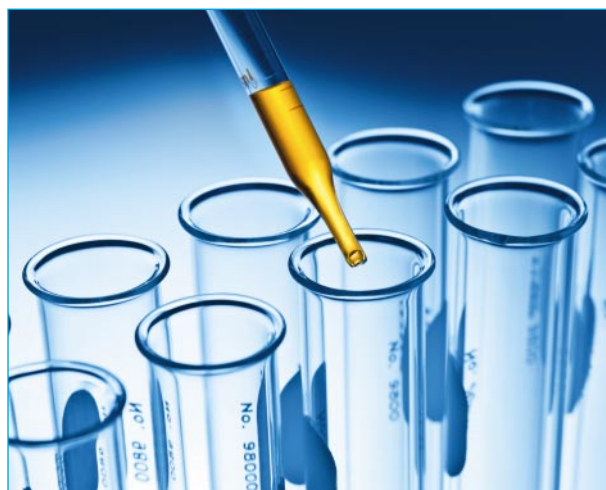
Overcoming barriers to innovation together

The Innovative Medicine Initiative (IMI, 2008-2017) is a special



Drug development is to be improved through close collaboration between science and industry ■

funding instrument financed by the EU and industry. Its aim is to overcome barriers to innovation in the development of drugs through greater cooperation between science and the pharmaceutical industry. EUREKA Eurostars supports SMEs in the development of innovative products and processes. The programme encourages transnational initia-



tives and operates on the “bottom-up” principle. ■

Finding a way through the maze of EU funding programmes

The diversity of funding opportunities can present potential applicants with a set of complex challenges: identifying a suitable funding programme and making a successful application requires comprehensive expertise. This is where the Bavarian Research Alliance (BayFOR), which is sponsored in part by the Bavarian State Ministry of Sciences, Research and the Arts, provides extensive assistance for Bavarian institutions. BayFOR offers information about funding opportunities, carries out training courses and in particular provides active support for initiating projects, setting up international consortia and sub-

mitting applications. If the evaluation is successful, it can also offer assistance with contract negotiations with the European Commission and can, if necessary, take care of project management and PR issues.

BayFOR has an excellent network at regional and international level. Its EU Liaison Office in Brussels represents the interests of Bavarian universities, raises their visibility and acts as their contact mediator to European institutions.

BayFOR also coordinates the joint activities of the Bavarian Research Cooperations and supports their networking efforts at European level. The Scientific Coordination Office Bavaria-Québec/Alberta/International facilitates bilateral research projects in these regions and develops these in part within the context of European research fund-

ing. As a partner in the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), BayFOR also provides targeted consulting services for SMEs who are interested in taking part in EU research projects or who wish to cooperate across national borders. As a partner in the Bavarian “Haus der Forschung” (“House of Research”), BayFOR also works closely with Bayern Innovativ, the Innovations- und Technologiezentrum Bayern (ITZB) and the Bavarian Research Foundation (BFS). The collaboration between the four partners provides a central advisory service for European, national and Bavarian research and technology funding opportunities. ■

Links:

www.bayfor.org/veranstaltungen
www.hausderforschung.bayern.de



Haus der Forschung
 A joint initiative by the Bavarian State Ministry of Economic Affairs, Infrastructure, Transport and Technology and the Bavarian State Ministry of Sciences, Research and the Arts



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 Innovation and Knowledge Transfer, Initiation and Support of Cooperations through Networks and Clusters



Bayerische Forschungsallianz
 EU Funding Advisory Service, Bavarian Research Cooperations, International Cooperation



Innovations- und Technologiezentrum Bayern
 Funding Advisory Service (regional and national), Project Management of Bavarian Technology Funding Programmes



Bayerische Forschungsförderung
 Funding of Scientific and Technological Research Projects for Cooperation Projects of Science and Industry

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