

OPEN CALL FOR EXPERTS

ERA-CoBioTech's Policy Brief

Deadline: December 6th, 2021 @ 13:00 CET

Call Announcement

Published on November 17th, 2021

Development of a policy brief in the field of biotechnology

Summary:

ERA CoBioTech announces an **open call for experts for the development of a joint policy brief** resulting from the overall outputs of ERA-CoBioTech funded projects. The scope of this Call has been developed according to ERA-CoBioTech's strategic agenda, based upon the Biotech ecosystem demands and taking into account the key stakeholders of the European biotechnology community. For further details, please refer to the [ERA-CoBioTech's Strategic Agenda](#) and the [European BioTech Hub platform](#).

ERA-CoBioTech aims to provide a **significant input to the whole bioeconomy community**, pointing not only to EC's policy makers, but also the education sector, academia, funding agencies, etc...by using the funded projects' output (research results, identified gaps & problems, research needs) and compiling this into a joint policy brief.

ERA-CoBioTech looks forward to **select 2 high-profile experts** with different but complementary scientific, social and policy-related expertise with the ability to tackle all aspects of the biotech ecosystem. The present call is looking for candidates with science, technology and innovation expertise in cutting-edge biotech areas. Applications shall be submitted through an online EU-survey form within the deadline shown below.

- The deadline for submission of expressions of interest is **December 6th, 2021 (13:00 CET)**.

The Policy Brief is expected to condense key findings, recommendations, demands and open challenges identified. A **joint workshop, involving experts and project representatives**, will be arranged to discuss the document's scope, structure and reach. The final Policy Brief will be validated by ERA-CoBioTech's Steering Committee and presented in the initiative's Final Conference.

Table 1: Call timeline

November 17 th , 2021	Official Call Announcement
December 6 th , 2021 (13:00 CET)	Deadline for submission of Expressions of Interest
December 15 th , 2021	Information letters to awarded experts
January-February 2022	Joint Workshop and drafting of policy brief document
From March 2021, depending on the progress and reviews of policy brief document	Delivery of policy brief

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Submission form: https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/ERACoBioTech_PolicyBrief_call_2021

ERA CoBioTech website: <http://www.cobiotech.eu/>

Background

Biotechnology has been recognized as a key enabling technology for the transformation from a fossil-based to a sustainable bio-based economy as envisaged by the European Union. Europe is a global leader in supporting and developing key enabling technologies across the European Research Area (ERA), but is lagging behind in the industrial translation of this knowledge.

ERA-CoBioTech (ERA-Net Cofund on Biotechnology) brings together owners and managers of national and regional RTDI programmes of EU Member States, associated states and non-EU countries to fund research and coordination activities.

The present **call aims to attract experts in biotechnology and social sciences able to develop a joint Policy Brief** condensing all the new knowledge generated, policy & technology-related challenges identified and lessons learned towards further research. The idea is to develop a comprehensive document including recommendations and key data to explore the disruptive potential of the remarkable key-enabling technologies involved in all ERA-CoBioTech's projects (such as SynBio, systems biology, *omics*...) and **identify most relevant challenges ahead**.

This call for experts is framed within ERA-CoBioTech's Additional Activities which, apart from joint calls for research proposals, has launched a variety of activities intended to support, train and help its beneficiaries to obtain the maximum impact from their research efforts.

We understand ERA-CoBiotech as more than a mere R&D funding programme. As a result, the initiative takes such a proactive approach to project and programme management in order to contribute turning frontier science and technological visions into real market opportunities.

Co-funded and transnational research calls

The **first EC co-funded joint call for research projects was launched in 2017**, focusing on biotechnology as a key enabling technology (KET) for the bio-based economy. In a two-phase submission process, **the Call Steering Committee selected 22 research consortia for funding**, providing a funding volume of 40M€.

Most of these first ERA-CoBioTech projects are about to finalise, and we are confident that their goals, ambitions and scope are pointing in the best possible direction. We believe that the results, knowledge and expertise generated through these projects will provide an important contribution towards the transition to the European circular bioeconomy.

Furthermore, the ERA-CoBiotech Consortium **launched two other additional joint calls** during 2019 & 2020, respectively, in which **10 transnational projects were funded, the latter expected to be running until 2024**. All the knowledge, experience and data contained in these 32 research projects does provide a unique source of information to extract conclusions, identify challenges and shape the policy & market landscapes accordingly.

Indeed, all projects involved under the ERA-CoBioTech umbrella will be considered towards the Policy Brief, since most of them may have already faced difficulties or identified barriers for exploitation related to unfavourable policies and/or open technological challenges. Further information about the calls facts & figures is available in [our website](#).

Profiles sought

ERA-CoBioTech looks forward to **select two high-level experts** with different -but complementary- scientific, social and policy-related expertise with the ability to tackle all aspects of the biotech ecosystem. The present call is looking for candidates with science, technology and innovation expertise in cutting-edge biotech areas.



- ➔ **Target experts** will include academic researchers, social scientists, practitioners, consultants and/or policy analysts in the fields of biotechnology, synthetic biology and systems biology.
- ➔ In order to organise and facilitate a workshop with multi-disciplinary participants, it is necessary that at least one of the two experts has proven and profound experience in planning and facilitating such groups/meetings.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Mandatory: Applicants must meet all of the following criteria to be eligible for consideration:

- Be a national of or having a residence and working at research organisation or company in a Member State of the European Union or non EU Member State partner in ERA CoBioTech (Argentina, Israel, Norway, Russia, Turkey, Switzerland and UK)
- Have a level of education, which corresponds to **completed university studies** of, at least, four years attested by a diploma in a field related to Life and/or Social Sciences.
- Candidates shall provide **at least 5 years' experience** in their related areas (post-doctoral fellowships shall be considered as relevant experience).
- **Proven leading scientific, technical and/or policy-related knowledge**, e.g. post-doctoral or industrial research or other related experience in the private sector (i.e: biotech companies) in those relevant areas mentioned throughout the present document .
- Experience in planning multi-disciplinary groups, proven competent facilitation skills.
- Very good **oral and written command of English**. Spoken and written skills equivalent to level C1 or higher for working purposes.

Desirable:

- Solid track-record in **interdisciplinary research** in academia or across academia and/or business / industry and experience in editorial jobs in journals, policy advisory boards or working or groups on national and international level.
- The social/policy scientist profile should have, at least, basic knowledge about the biotech ecosystem and technologies.
- Teamwork and co-creation capabilities (the policy brief shall be created by different experts together).

We value diversity and are committed to creating an inclusive working environment for successful candidates. For this call, **women candidates are particularly encouraged to apply**. Successful candidates will be decided on the basis of qualifications, merit and achievements.

All required information must be provided in the application form.

In case of equal merit, the candidate with higher relatable experience with ERA CoBioTech (i.e: having participated in a call as applicant, beneficiary or evaluator) will be prioritized.

Application procedure:

Applications must be submitted via the **ERA-CoBioTech Submission Form**:

https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/ERACoBioTech_PolicyBrief_call_2021

by the deadline **December 6th, 2021 at 13:00 (CET)**

The application must include a motivation letter and a CV in pdf format both written in English. Both documents uploaded shall provide all relevant data and experience related to the outcomes and expectations of the role (e.g. editorial jobs in journals, policy advisory boards or working or groups on national and international level).

Responsibilities and workload

- The successful candidates will be required to **review a maximum of 32 project** summaries and extract key information
- Selection & discussion of **high impact projects**, including open scientific, technological and policy-related challenges
- Planning and facilitation of **specific workshop(s)** with Project Coordinators/ key partners
- Co-creation and editorial work on final **document's structure, scope and contents**
- Contribute to ERA-CoBioTech's **outreach efforts** to policy makers, research community, industry & general public (i.e: participation in related ERA-CoBioTech's events, social media activity...)

Financial compensation

Each expert will be **compensated for its work with 2.500 €** once the report will have been delivered and accepted by the Call Selection Committee.

Selection Committee & evaluation criteria

A specific Selection Committee will be arranged to choose the experts responsible for coordinating discussions and drafting ERA-CoBioTech's Policy Brief. It will be composed by at least 3 ERA-CoBioTech selected partners and/or Executive Team members.

Candidates will be selected based on the following criteria, to be fulfilled by the deadline for applications:

1. Excellence and Scientific relevance of the candidate
 - Education and working excellence

- Demonstrated scientific excellence of the researcher (e.g. publications, conference participation, granted patents, book chapters, leadership in industrial innovation)
 - Scientific relevance of the candidates' research work with respect to the scope of the ERA-CoBioTech policy brief
 - Other relevant experience (e.g. teaching, reviewing, consultancy, supervision, event organisation, public outreach).
2. Experience related to the scope of the ERA-CoBioTech Policy Brief
- Contribution to working groups, advisory boards on institutional, national or international level
 - Relevant experience in preparation of strategic or position papers or other policy relevant documents
 - Engagement as independent evaluator of EU projects or journals, papers etc.
3. Motivation
- Coherence and quality of the Letter of Motivation
 - Alignment with and professional interest in the scope of the policy brief

Rating system

Each application will be assessed by three members of the Selection Committee. Evaluation scores will be awarded for the three main criteria, and not singularly for the different criteria listed above.

Candidates will be evaluated according to the following scoring system:

The scoring system uses a scale from 0 to 5 for all review criteria (decimal scoring can be applied).

Excellent. The candidate successfully addresses all aspects of the criterion in question	5
Very good. The candidate addresses the criterion very well, but small improvements are possible.	4
Good. The candidate addresses the criterion in question well, but certain improvements are necessary	3
Fair. The candidate generally addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses that need corrections.	2
Poor. The candidate shows serious weaknesses in relation to the criterion in question.	1
Failure. The candidate fails to address the criterion in question, or cannot be judged because of missing or incomplete information	0



Data Protection

The purpose of processing the data submitted by candidates is to evaluate applications in view of possible collaboration with ERA-CoBioTech. The personal information requested from candidates will be processed in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC. In this regard, please see the Data Protection Notice.

