

Competence Research Centre Programmes in Europe



ERA-NET funded by
the European Commission





Preface

This guide provides an introduction to COMPERA - an ERA-NET project focusing on national and regional programmes and initiatives dedicated to the creation and support of Competence Research Centres (CRCs) and offers an overview of the different CRC Programmes supported and/or managed by the project partners.

A short description is given for each of these national/regional Programmes. In addition, there is a collection of relevant characteristics (e.g. duration, overall budget, activities covered, funding principles, possibilities for international partners, contact person) collated during a Programme survey that was conducted between November 2005 and February 2006. The information is presented in a uniform format in order to facilitate comparison.

The reader should be conscious that this guide is a snapshot in time. Actualised information on the CRC Programmes is available on the COMPERA portal (www.comp-era.net).

We hope that this guide will prove to be a useful working document for innovation actors throughout Europe.

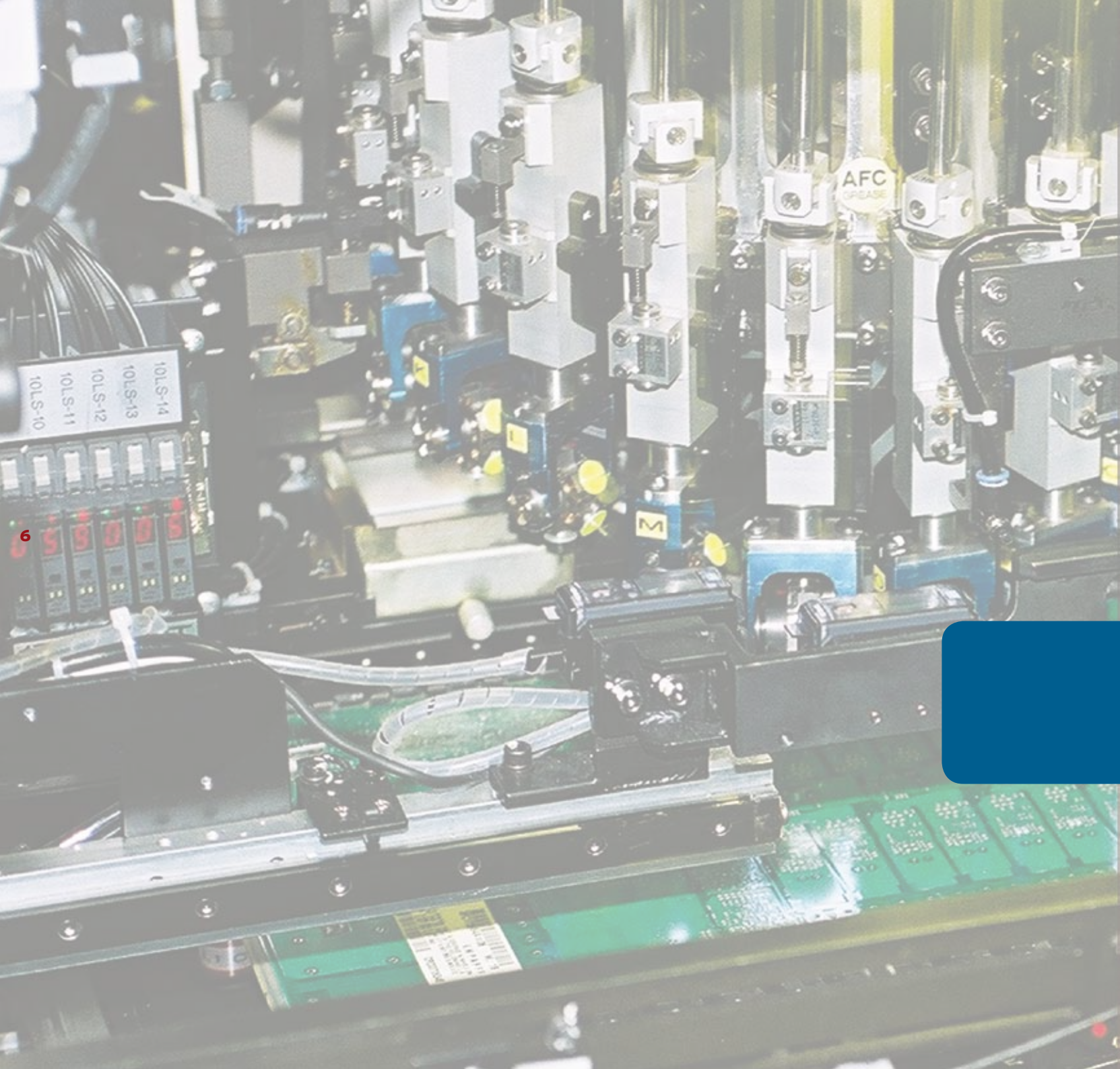






Content

| | |
|--|----|
| What are Competence Research Centres? | 7 |
| About COMPERA | 8 |
| Partners | 11 |
| Overview of national/regional programmes for Competence Research Centres in Europe | 13 |
| Austria | 14 |
| Belgium - Flanders | 18 |
| Belgium - Walloon Region | 20 |
| Estonia | 22 |
| Germany | 24 |
| Hungary | 26 |
| Netherlands | 28 |
| Norway | 32 |
| Romania | 34 |
| Spain - Basque Country | 38 |
| Spain - Valencia | 40 |
| Sweden | 42 |
| United Kingdom - Northern Ireland | 44 |
| If you want to learn more about Competence Research Centres in Europe | 46 |
| COMPERA contact persons | 49 |



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10LS-12
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What are Competence Research Centres?

Competence Research Centres (CRCs) are structured, long-term RTDI collaborations in strategic important areas between academia, industry and the public sector. They aim to bridge the gap between technological and economic innovation by combining academic excellence with industrial and/or public needs. The activities within CRCs can be multiple: pooling of knowledge, concentration of infrastructure, creation of new knowledge by performing different types of research (pre-competitive and competitive research), training and dissemination of knowledge towards target groups of involved actors in a tailor-made way. In general, they have a large degree of autonomy in determining their own strategies and activities which enable them to anticipate in topical developments within their desired working environment.

In the last years, the concept of CRCs receives increased attention, as these centres are seen as an important instrument to reduce the so-called European Paradox: the fact that Europe plays a leading role in the world in terms of scientific excellence and the provision of highly-skilled human capital, but largely fails to convert science-based finding and inventions into wealth-generation innovations. Since these centres provide a common environment for the scientific and industrial world, they improve the networking and knowledge transfer between different RTDI actors. CRCs are therefore expected to develop demand driven RTDI strategies resulting in an improved utilisation of research results (e.g. new products or services, added value in competition, transfer of human resources, new SMEs/jobs).

While the established CRCs in Europe have a shared objective, there is much variation between the different European countries and regions in the ways these centres are created, organised and supported. Whilst some programmes focus on networking of existing capabilities and resources resulting in virtual new centres (e.g. Germany, Sweden, Norway, The Netherlands), other build up competence centres as new physical infrastructures with their own legal entities (e.g. Valencia, Austria, Estonia, Hungary). But also the type of activities within the centres varies from a higher emphasis on innovation (e.g. Flanders, Northern Ireland, Valencia and Hungary) to more strategic basic research (e.g. Romania, Sweden, Walloon Region and Basque Country).



“By bringing together the national and regional programmes aimed at supporting Competence Research Centers (CRCs), the COMPERA project allows these programmes to network and exchange good practices. As such COMPERA makes an important contribution to the creation of the European Research Area (ERA).”

About COMPERA

COMPERA is targeted towards the creation of a **sustainable network** of programmes that are funding Competence Research Centres (CRCs). It should lead to a **strategic decision-making** of programme owners and managers **at pan-European level** with regard to Competence Research Centres. The COMPERA network currently consists of 15 organisations that manage and/or fund programmes for CRCs from 12 different European countries.

COMPERA is supported by the ERA-NET scheme of the European Commission. The COMPERA ERA-NET project started in June 2006 and will run for 42 months. The main strategic objectives of this project are:

Creating a networking structure to achieve a new sustainable co-operative culture

Joining agencies with different characteristics and from different EU member states and regions requires a process of mutual understanding, confidence and growth towards collective activities. A co-operation structure will be set up with all relevant actors concerned, which will allow an efficient coordination and streamlining of the envisaged co-operation.

Developing synergies between the participating programmes by broadening the co-operation structures, preparing and implementing joint transnational activities

Programme owners and managers will exchange information on different aspects of programme development and implementation, leading to the identification and absorption of best practices, or sometimes their development, thus improving the efficiency of national/regional programmes. In addition, they will coordinate the identification, definition and elaboration of new joint transnational initiatives at programme level that should lead to an improved networking and co-operation between Competence Research Centres throughout Europe. This will result in a more efficient mobilisation of resources and expertise, a reduction of the duplication of efforts through differentiation of activities, and an enhanced cost effectiveness, e.g., by sharing of infrastructure and knowledge, harmonisation of knowledge creation, etc.

Robert Jan Smits
Director DG
Research -
Directorate
European Research
Area: research
programmes and
capacity

Preparing an alliance scheme allowing for long-term co-operation

In order to assure that the initiated collaboration during the project will continue in a self-sustainable way, special attention will be paid to the development of an institutional framework allowing for a long-term collaboration beyond the duration of the project. Several options will be explored, such as: the introduction of common mechanisms towards the funding of foreign partners within the participating Programmes (opening up of programmes), the development and implementation of joint programmes (with or without the pooling of funds), ...

Demonstrating to the European innovation community the benefits of networking and coordination at the level of Competence Research Centre Programmes

An active communication strategy, supported by appropriate Public Relations tools, will be implemented in order to demonstrate the advantages of a structural approach at the level of Competence Research Centre Programmes to bridge the gap between knowledge providers and knowledge users, in particular between academics and industry. Other European agencies will be given the opportunity to join the consortium in order to broaden the area of operation both in terms of geographical extension as well as critical mass.

COMPERA fosters the creation of the European Research Area as it will:

1. result in a sustainable coordination and collaboration between participating Programmes, thus structuring the different research initiatives
2. contribute to the creation of a European research market by opening up of programmes and preparing transnational research activities
3. enable a more efficient mobilisation of financial means and human capital in a strategic important area
4. improve the performance of Competence Research Centres, resulting in better service-providing to industry, thus enhancing Europe's competitiveness.

More information on COMPERA is available on the website: www.comp-era.net.



Partners

- Institute for Promotion of Innovation by Science and Technology in Flanders, **IWT**
- Belgium/Flanders
- Austrian Research Promotion Agency, **FFG** - Austria
- Ministry of the Walloon Region, Directorate-General for Technologies, Research and Energy, **DGTRE** - Belgium/Walloon Region
- Enterprise Estonia, **EAS** - Estonia
- VDI Technology Centre, **VDI TZ** - Germany
- Agency for Research Fund Management and Research Exploitation, **KPI** - Hungary
- Research Council of Norway, **RCN** - Norway
- National University Research Council - Executive Agency for Higher Education and Research Funding, **NURC - UEFISCSU** - Romania
- Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, **MHEST** - Slovenia
- Basque Agency for the Promotion of International Research, Development and Innovation, **Eurobulegoa** - Spain/Basque Country
- Industry, Trade and Tourism department of the Basque Government, **ITT** - Spain/Basque Country
- Regional Ministry for Enterprise, Universities and Science, **CEUC** - Spain/Valencia
- Swedish Agency for Innovation Systems, **VINNOVA** - Sweden
- SenterNovem, Agency for innovation, energy, environment and sustainability, **SenterNovem** - The Netherlands
- Invest Northern Ireland, **Invest NI** - United Kingdom/Northern Ireland



Overview of national/regional programmes for Competence Research Centres in Europe

The basic facts of the national/regional programmes for Competence Research Centres in COMPERA are presented country by country, providing amongst others a brief description of the programme, the activities covered, budgets, programme procedures, etc.

Programme name**Kplus****Programme duration****1998 - 2009****Short description (nature, main objectives)**

The Kplus programme aims to enhance the cooperation between science and industry by building up Competence Research Centres

Activities covered with this programme

- basic research
- applied research
- innovation
- technology transfer
- training
- research infrastructure

Budget

Typical Annual Programme Budget (M€): **20**

Maximum amount of funding per project (%/k€): **60%** (35% FFG, 20% Regions, 5% Universities) / not defined

Specifics of programme procedures**Proposal selection procedure**

- invitation to tender (deadline)
- open call for proposals with fixed cut-off date
- open call for proposals with several cut-off dates
- open call for proposals with no cut-off dates
- single stage (full proposal)
- two-stage application process (first short proposal, after that full proposal)
- possibility to present/discuss the proposal

Organisations that can apply for funding

- large companies
- SMEs
- start ups
- research institutes/technological institutes
- universities

- governmental organisations
- industrial organisations
- non-profit organisations

Requirements consortium

Minimum number of partners: 1 scientific partner, 5 industry partners.

Maximum number of partners: not defined

Minimum/Maximum project duration

7 years

New calls

Kplus has no new calls. A follow up Programme COMET was launched in October 2006, with a planned budget of 130 million euros for 5 years (see page 16).

Possibilities for international partners

Yes

Funded international partners: total contribution must not be higher than 25 % of the total centres budget

Non-funded international partners: no restrictions

Contact

Programme website

Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)

Sensengass 17

A-1090 Vienna

Austria

Programme Manager:

Otto Starzer

otto.starzer@ffg.at

www.ffg.at

www.kplus.at

Brochures available in English





Dorothea Sturn
Head of Structural
Programmes FFG

“Creating a new culture of co-operation – between science and industry as well as between the Competence Centre Programmes in Europe is a clear mission of our effort. For COMET - Austria’s new CRC Programme that has been launched in October 2006 - COMPERA is the opportunity to take the next step in cooperating with other countries.”

Programme Name

COMET - Competence Centres for Excellent Technologies

Programme duration

2006 - on going

Short description (nature, main objectives)

COMET aims at the development of new expertise by launching and supporting long-term research cooperation between science and industry in top-level research and to the establishment and preservation of technological leadership of companies.

COMET has three lines of funding:

- K2 Centres - long-term bundling of existing expertise and cooperation aiming for international leadership
- K1 Centres - high-quality research centres with a medium-term to long-term perspective
- K Projects - high-quality research networks with a medium-term perspective

Activities covered with this Programme

- basic research
- applied research
- innovation
- technology transfer
- training
- research infrastructure

Budget

Typical Annual Programme Budget (M€): **130 for 5 years**

Maximum amount of funding per project (%/k€):

- K2 Centres: **45-60%** (public) / **8 180** per year per centre
- K1 Centres: **40-55%** (public) / **2 480** per year per centre
- K Projects: **40-50%** (public) / **750** per year per centre

Specifics of programme procedures

Proposal selection procedure

- invitation to tender (deadline)
- open call for proposals with fixed cut-off date
- open call for proposals with several cut-off dates
- open call for proposals with no cut-off dates
- single stage (full proposal) - *K-projects*
- two-stage application process (first short proposal, then full proposal) - *K1/K2 centres*
- possibility to present/discuss the proposal

Organisations that can apply for funding

- large companies
- SMEs
- start ups
- research institutes/technological institutes
- universities
- governmental organisations
- industrial organisations
- non-profit organisations

Requirements consortium

Minimum number of partners: K2/K1 Centres: 1 scientific, 5 industry

K Projects: 1 scientific, 3 industry

Maximum number of partners: no restrictions

Minimum/Maximum project duration

- K2 Centres: 10 years
- K1 Centres: 7 years
- K Projects: 3-5 years

New calls

K-Projects: planned 2007

K1/K2: planned 2008

Planned budget: not defined

Possibilities for international partners

Yes

Funded international partners: International partners can participate on equal basis as Austrian partners

Non-funded international partners: International partners can participate on equal basis as Austrian partners

Contact

Programme website

Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)

www.ffg.at

Sensengasse 17,
A-1090 Vienna
Austria

Programme Manager:

Otto Starzer
otto.starzer@ffg.at

Brochures available in English



“Co-opetition – an optimal mix of cooperation and competition – is the driver behind the framework for Competence Research Centres Programmes. Thus creating common “knowledge pillars” for a large group of companies. There are no good reasons why this would be limited by national borders. A real opportunity for the ERA.”

Programme name

Flemish Cooperative Innovation Networks (VIS)

Programme duration

end 2006 - not defined

Short description (nature, main objectives)

Up to 2005 Competence Research Centres (CRCs) in Flanders were established on an ad-hoc basis by governmental decision. To increase transparency, the Flemish Government approved in July 2005 the new policy framework for the support of CRCs. It was laid down that this support will be mainly integrated in the existing Flemish Cooperative Innovation Networks (VIS) Programme. The objective of this programme is to stimulate technological innovation in Flemish enterprises, in particular SMEs, by increasing the awareness, improving the access to technological knowledge and supporting the implementation of knowledge in enterprises. The actual implementation of the new policy framework for the support of CRCs is scheduled for end 2006.

Activities covered with this programme

- basic research
- applied research
- innovation
- technology transfer
- training
- research infrastructure

Budget

Typical Annual Programme Budget (M€): Not defined yet

Maximum amount of funding per project (%/k€): **80% / 2 000 - 5 000**

Specifics of programme procedures

Proposal selection procedure

- invitation to tender (deadline)
- open call for proposals with fixed cut-off date
- open call for proposals with several cut-off dates
- open call for proposals with no cut-off dates
- single stage (full proposal)
- two-stage application process (first short proposal, after that full proposal)
- possibility to present/discuss the proposal

Paul Zeeuwts
President, IWT

Organisations that can apply for funding

- large companies
- SMEs
- start ups
- research institutes/technological institutes
- universities
- governmental organisations
- industrial organisations
- non-profit organisations

Requirements consortium

Minimum number of partners: not defined

Maximum number of partners: not defined

The consortium should be a cluster of innovation actors representative for the sector, with sufficient critical mass, support of the relevant sector(s) and with an open character

Minimum/Maximum project duration

4 years / 4 years

New calls

The scheme is expected to open at the end of 2006

Possibilities for international partners

Yes

Funded international partners: subcontracting of foreign research organisations is possible; it is also possible that a foreign partner becomes an official partner.

Contact

Programme website

**Institute for the Promotion of Innovation
by Science and Technology in Flanders (IWT)**

www.iwt.be/vis

Bischoffsheimlaan 25
B-1000 Brussel

Programme Manager:

Tania De Roeck
tdr@iwt.be

Brochures available in English





Michel Charlier
Director General,
DGTRE

“The Walloon Region CRC programme has a major leverage effect in promoting shared RTD effort between universities and companies. Its international dimension has been envisaged ab initio. In this respect, COMPERA is clearly an excellent driver to supplement this strategy”

Programme name

Pôles d'excellence

Programme duration

2004 - on going

Short description (nature, main objectives)

This is not a programme per se. Projects are being funded from a bottom-up perspective.

Activities covered with this programme

- basic research
- applied research
- innovation
- technology transfer
- training
- research infrastructure

Budget

Typical Annual Programme Budget (M€): **12**

Maximum amount of funding per project (%/k€): **50% / 6 000**

Specifics of programme procedures

Proposal selection procedure

- invitation to tender (deadline)
- open call for proposals with fixed cut-off date
- open call for proposals with several cut-off dates
- open call for proposals with no cut-off dates
- single stage (full proposal)
- two-stage application process (first short proposal, after that full proposal)
- possibility to present/discuss the proposal

Organisations that can apply for funding

- large companies
- SMEs
- start ups
- research institutes/technological institutes
- universities
- governmental organisations
- industrial organisations
- non-profit organisations

Requirements consortium

Minimum number of partners: 2

Maximum number of partners: not defined

A mix of a university (coordinator), presumably from several laboratories (mandatory), and private sector company(ies) (recommended)

Minimum/Maximum project duration

5 years

New calls

If we were to adopt new projects, depending on results achieved by the current CRCs, the Walloon Government may grant them with a budget for an extra period of time, i.e. promising CRCs which have not achieved self-sufficiency might be granted with extra budget.

Possibilities for international partners

No

Contact

Programme website

**Ministère de la Région wallonne -
Direction générale des Technologies,
de la Recherche et de l'Énergie**

<http://recherche-technologie.wallonie.be/>

Avenue Prince de Liège 7
5100 Jambes
Belgium

Programme Manager:

Pierre Villers
p.villers@mrw.wallonie.be

Brochures available in English



“Estonian Competence Centre program is a pioneering form of cooperation in the Triple Helix area in the country. COMPERA is providing an international dimension for all three components of the Helix: public, private and academic.”

Programme name

Competence Centre Programme

Programme duration

2004 - 2007

Short description (nature, main objectives)

On November 2002, the Estonian Government approved the Competence Research Programme. The objective of this programme is to improve the competitiveness of enterprises through strategic R&D cooperation between the science and industry sectors in Estonia.

Activities covered with this programme

- basic research
- technology transfer
- applied research
- training
- innovation
- research infrastructure

Budget

Typical Annual Programme Budget (M€): **3.2**

Maximum amount of funding per project (%/k€): **100%** basic research, **75%** applied research / not defined

Specifics of programme procedures

Proposal selection procedure

- invitation to tender (deadline)
- open call for proposals with fixed cut-off date
- open call for proposals with several cut-off dates
- open call for proposals with no cut-off dates
- single stage (full proposal)
- two-stage application process (first short proposal, after that full proposal)
- possibility to present/discuss the proposal

Organisations that can apply for funding

- large companies
- SMEs
- start ups
- research institutes/technological institutes

Madis Võõras
Director of
Innovation and
Technology
Development,
Enterprise Estonia

ESTONIA

- universities
- governmental organisations
- industrial organisations
- non-profit organisations

Requirements consortium

Minimum number of partners: 4

Maximum number of partners: not defined

The consortium must include at least one science partner registered in Estonia and three industry partners registered in Estonia

Minimum/Maximum project duration

3 years / 3 years

New calls

2007, still under construction

Possibilities for international partners

Yes

Funded international partners: international partners join a centre on equal basis as national entities

Contact

Programme website

Enterprise Estonia

Liivalaia 13/15
10118 Tallinn
Estonia

<http://www.eas.ee/>

Programme Manager:

Harri Faiman
harri.faiman@eas.ee

Brochures available in English



Cluster Strategy for Germany

It is the aim of the German Federal Government to further develop the cooperation between research and industry. Accordingly, an encompassing cluster strategy has been developed, addressing different issues ranging from broad measures over modular, region- and technology-specific approaches to the support of highly competitive top clusters. The most competitive networks will be made visible within the framework of the initiative "Kompetenznetze Deutschland" of the Federal Ministry for Economics and Technology - both nationally and internationally.

The cluster strategy is based, among others, on measures to support the formation of clusters in selected fields of innovation: In future-oriented fields of innovation (e.g. white biotechnology or regenerative medicine) new funding instruments will be developed. An early involvement of enterprises in the cluster-building strategy will facilitate the efficient transfer of research results into products and services.

Other measures within the framework of the cluster strategy are:
making exchange processes between science and industry visible

- developing technology-comprehensive cooperation models for SME's
- optimising innovation processes and using their potentials in the new Länder
- starting a competitive process to fund excellent innovative alliance

Contact

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Website

<http://www.bmbf.de/de/6608.php>

<http://www.bmwi.de/BMWi/Navigation/technologie-und-innovation.html>

<http://www.kompetenznetze.de>

“It’s a fundamental objective of KPI to foster and intensify the collaboration between CRCs and industry. In my opinion the cooperation between agencies and ministries to manage CRC programmes under the COMPERA project is very important and useful both at European and national level. COMPERA helps KPI to create a well functioning system for the Hungarian CRCs (KKKs) and to support them to be known in Europe.”

Programme Name

Co-operative Research Centers Programme

Programme duration

1999 - 2008

Short description (nature, main objectives)

The main objectives of the programme are to fill the gap between academical and industrial research, to stimulate knowledge transfer, to promote knowledge and technology based cooperation among academical and industrial partners, and to enhance competitiveness and efficiency of the national R+D activities.

Activities covered with this programme

- basic research
- applied research
- innovation
- technology transfer
- training
- research infrastructure

Budget

Typical Annual Programme Budget (M€): **2.5**

Maximum amount of funding per project (%/k€): **50% / 2 200**

Specifics of programme procedures

Proposal selection procedure

- invitation to tender (deadline)
- open call for proposals with fixed cut-off date
- open call for proposals with several cut-off dates
- open call for proposals with no cut-off dates
- single stage (full proposal)
- two-stage application process (first short proposal, after that full proposal)
- possibility to present/discuss the proposal

Organisations that can apply for funding

- large companies
- SMEs
- start ups
- research institutes/technological institutes
- universities

K.Szabó Zoltán
Director General,
KPI

HUNGARY

- governmental organisations
- industrial organisations
- non-profit organisations

Requirements consortium

Minimum number of partners: 6

Maximum number of partners: not defined

- leadership of university
- appropriate share of tasks, recourses and IPR.

Minimum/Maximum project duration

not defined / 3 years

New calls

Possibilities for international partners

Yes

Non-funded international partners: participation with own resources is possible; financial support is not available for foreign partners.

Contact

Programme website

Agency for Research Fund Management and Research Exploitation

www.kpi.gov.hu

1117 Budapest
Neumann János 1/C
Hungary

Programme Manager:

Zsuzsanna Pohánka
zsuzsanna.pohanka@kpi.gov.hu

Brochures available in English





Louk Teunissen
Deputy Director
Innovation, Dutch
Ministry of Economic
Affairs

“Cooperation between universities and companies is essential for developing new products and services. Therefore, CRCs are indispensable for economic growth.”

Programme name

'Key Area' Approach

Programme duration

2006 - 2010 (max. 5 years)

Short description (nature, main objectives)

The Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, together with the private sector and knowledge institutes, are pursuing the 'Key Area' approach. It means cooperating to achieve innovation in high-potential fields of economic activity. Two steps in this approach can be distinguished:

- 1) the selection of programmes (by all stakeholders)
- 2) the subsidizing of projects within these selected programmes (within a specially developed legal framework called "Innovation-Omnibus").

The 'Key Area' approach is a framework currently consisting of a "challenging credit facility" (aiming at top technology SMEs with high commercial potential); and the programmes for Food & Flowers; Water; High Tech Systems and Materials. Other programmes are to be selected and further developed in the future. Such a programme is then considered to be a virtual Competence Research Centre. Within each programme there are several projects that may be funded, for example via tender procedures.

Activities covered with this programme

- basic research
- applied research
- innovation
- technology transfer
- training
- research infrastructure

Budget

Typical Annual Programme Budget (M€): **5 - 15 per CRC**

Maximum amount of funding per project (%/k€): Varying per sub-programme

Specifics of programme procedures

Proposal selection procedure

- invitation to tender (deadline)
- open call for proposals with fixed cut-off date
- open call for proposals with several cut-off dates
- open call for proposals with no cut-off dates

Varying per sub-programme

- single stage (full proposal)
- two-stage application process (first short proposal, after that full proposal)

○ possibility to present/discuss the proposal
Varying per sub-programme

Organisations that can apply for funding

- large companies
- SMEs
- start ups
- research institutes/technological institutes
- universities
- governmental organisations
- industrial organisations
- non-profit organisations

Varying per sub-programme

Requirements consortium

Minimum number of partners: 2

Maximum number of partners: not defined

Minimum/Maximum project duration

varying per sub-programme

New calls

Tenders to be decided per sub-programme

Possibilities for international partners

Yes

Funded international partners: In general, each CRC will strive for an international component. Though not immediately open for international applicants, most programmes will allow for international consortium members, who can be -partly- funded.
Non-funded international partners: yes

Contact

Programme website

**Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs
Strategic Innovations
Programmes Department [C/372]**

**www.innovatieindialoog.nl
www.minez.nl/content.jsp?objectid=140727**

P.O. Box 20101
2500 EC The Hague
The Netherlands

Programme Manager:

Hans de Groene / Willem Zwalve
+31 70 379 74 89

Brochures available in English

😊 (to be developed)

Programme name

Smart Mix

Programme duration

2006 - ongoing

Short description (nature, main objectives)

Objectives: excellence, valorisation

Characteristics: mass without losing focus, cooperation

Smart Mix is a subsidy programme which supports innovators who work together. Smart Mix encourages economic, civil-societal and cultural innovation that will enable The Netherlands to excel both nationally and internationally. Companies and/or civil-society organisations will work together with knowledge institutes like universities on a very broad range of subjects to realise this, on the basis of questions from the market and society.

Smart Mix therefore concentrates on wealth creation, and on developing focus and mass in excellent scientific and technological research. The entire knowledge chain will be used, from fundamental to applied research through to precompetitive development.

Activities covered with this programme

- basic research
- applied research
- innovation
- technology transfer
- training
- research infrastructure

Budget

Typical Annual Programme Budget (M€): Circa **100** per year

Maximum amount of funding per project (%/k€):

60% per project (75% fundamental research, 50% applied research, 25% development of research) / expected **3 to 10** million euros per year, over a period of 4 to 8 years

Specifics of programme procedures

Proposal selection procedure

- invitation to tender (deadline)
- open call for proposals with fixed cut-off date
- open call for proposals with several cut-off dates
- open call for proposals with no cut-off dates
- single stage (full proposal)
- two-stage application process (first short proposal, after that full proposal)

○ possibility to present/discuss the proposal

Organisations that can apply for funding

- large companies
- SMEs
- start ups
- research institutes/technological institutes
- universities
- governmental organisations
- industrial organisations
- non-profit organisations

Requirements consortium

Minimum number of partners: 1 recognized knowledge institute/university and 1 partner applying knowledge/technology

Maximum number of partners: not defined

Minimum/Maximum project duration

Project duration is on average between 4-8 years

New calls

2007

Possibilities for international partners

Yes

Funded international partners: international partners can participated, but not as applicant.

Non-funded international partners: international partners can participate, but not as applicant.

Contact

Secretariat Smart Mix

P.O. Box 93107
2509 AC The Hague
The Netherlands

Programme Manager:

Bert Geerken (NWO) / Wout Wijngaarden (SenterNovem)
info@smartmix.nl

Programme website

<http://www.smartmix.nl>

Brochures available in English





Øystein Djupedal
Norwegian
Minister for
Education and
Research

“I expect the Norwegian Centres for Research Based Innovation to contribute to increased research efforts in Norwegian enterprises, and to increased industry investments in long term research. Not least will the centres strengthen the contact between excellent research groups in academia and the industry.”

Programme name

Centres for Research-based Innovation (CRI)

Programme duration

October 2006 - December 2014

Short description (nature, main objectives)

The objectives of the programme are to:

- encourage enterprises to innovate by placing stronger emphasis on long-term research;
- facilitate active alliances between innovative enterprises and prominent research groups;
- promote the development of industrially-oriented research groups that are on the cutting edge of international research and are part of strong international networks;
- stimulate researcher training in fields of importance to the business community, and the transfer of research-based knowledge and technology;

Activities covered with this programme

- basic research
- applied research
- innovation
- technology transfer
- training
- research infrastructure

Budget

Typical Annual Programme Budget (M€): **17**

Maximum amount of funding per project (%/k€): **50% / 1 500**

Specifics of programme procedures

Proposal selection procedure

- invitation to tender (deadline)
- open call for proposals with fixed cut-off date
- open call for proposals with several cut-off dates
- open call for proposals with no cut-off dates
- single stage (full proposal)
- two-stage application process (first short proposal, after that full proposal)
- possibility to present/discuss the proposal

Organisations that can apply for funding

- large companies
- SMEs

- start ups
- research institutes/technological institutes
- universities
- governmental organisations
- industrial organisations
- non-profit organisations

Requirements consortium

Minimum number of partners: 3

Maximum number of partners: not defined

At least two enterprise partners and one university

Minimum/Maximum project duration

5 + 3 years, after mid-term evaluation

New calls

A new call is targeted to be opened within 2009

Possibilities for international partners

Yes

Funded international partners: Both research organisations and enterprises are invited to become partners of the CRI consortia. The only requirement is that the centre should stimulate to innovation in Norway.

Contact

Programme website

The Research Council of Norway (RCN)

www.forskningsradet.no

Stensberggata 26

P.O.Box 2700 St Hanshaugen

N-0131 Oslo

Norway

Programme Manager:

Dag Kavlie

dk@rcn.no

Brochures available in English





“One of the first, immediate and tangible result of COMPERA is the topic of Competence Center as one of those highlighted by the new political documents related the Romania’s RDI Strategy 2007-2013”

Prof. Adrian Curaj
General Director,
Ministry of
Education and
Research-Romania/
Executive Agency for
Higher Education
and Research
Funding -
UEFISCSU

Programme name **Programme duration**

Research Grants programme - type A_Consortium **2004 - not defined**

Short description (nature, main objectives)

- to set up and develop research networking by including university departments and laboratories, research centres and institutes, laboratories and institutes run by the Romanian Academy; such networks are meant to train highly qualified human resources and ensure a high level of scientific research;
- to support the integration of research units in international programmes;
- to develop scientific research as part of the human resources training process;
- to increase the scientific performance and encourage research team-building by ensuring a wider participation of students matriculated to advanced studies, academic and doctoral programmes.

Activities covered with this programme

- basic research
- applied research
- innovation
- technology transfer
- training
- research infrastructure

Budget

Typical Annual Programme Budget (M€): **1**
Maximum amount of funding per project (%/k€): **100% / 85**

Specifics of programme procedures

Proposal selection procedure

- invitation to tender (deadline)
- open call for proposals with fixed cut-off date
- open call for proposals with several cut-off dates
- open call for proposals with no cut-off dates
- single stage (full proposal)
- two-stage application process (first short proposal, after that full proposal)
- possibility to present/discuss the proposal

Organisations that can apply for funding

- large companies
- SMEs

- start ups
- research institutes/technological institutes
- universities
- governmental organisations
- industrial organisations
- non-profit organisations

Requirements consortium

Minimum number of partners: 2

Maximum number of partners: not defined to have public or private partners

Minimum/Maximum project duration

3 years

New calls

This programme is under construction. The call is expected to open in the first half of 2007.

Possibilities for international partners

Yes

Non-funded international partners: The Romanian financial laws does not permit to finance foreign partners from public budget. International partners can join the consortium using their own funds.

Contact

Programme website

**National University Research Council (CNCSIS)/
Executive Agency for Higher Education and Research
Funding (UEFISCSU)**

www.cncsis.ro

1 Schitu Magureanu Street, Sector 5,
Bucharest
Romania

Programme Manager:

Magda Cringasu
magda.crangasu@uefiscsu.ro

Brochures available in English



Programme name**Multiple User Research Centres (MURC)****Programme duration****1998 - 2002****Short description (nature, main objectives)**

- to create high performance, self-sustainable and cost-efficient research centres, open for multi-user shared access;
- to create needed research infrastructure in order to achieve excellence;
- to enhance research training environment by ensuring postgraduate students access to these facilities.

Activities covered with this programme

- basic research
- applied research
- innovation
- technology transfer
- training
- research infrastructure

Budget

Typical Annual Programme Budget (M€): Typical annually **12,7**
 Maximum amount of funding per project (%/k€): **100% / 800**

Specifics of programme procedures**Proposal selection procedure**

- invitation to tender (deadline)
- open call for proposals with fixed cut-off date
- open call for proposals with several cut-off dates
- open call for proposals with no cut-off dates
- single stage (full proposal)
- two-stage application process (first short proposal, after that full proposal)
- possibility to present/discuss the proposal

Organisations that can apply for funding

- large companies
- SMEs
- start ups
- research institutes/technological institutes
- universities
- governmental organisations

- industrial organisations
- non-profit organisations

Requirements consortium

Minimum number of partners: 2

Maximum number of partners: not defined

research units and teams affiliated with universities

New calls

This programme is closed.

Possibilities for international partners

No

Contact

Programme website

National University Research Council (CNCSIS)/ Executive Agency for Higher Education and Research Funding (UEFISCSU)

<http://www.cnscis.ro/English/murc.php>

1 Schitu Magureanu Street, Sector 5,
Bucharest
Romania

Programme Manager:

Magda Cringasu
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Brochures available in English





“We launched the Cooperative Research Centres schema, in our key strategic areas. We are enjoying the results today, and are pleased to see that the European Institute of Technology (EIT) is based in the same idea of Knowledge communities. For us, COMPERA is the consolidation of this shared strategy with other leading European regions & countries.”

Programme name

ETORTEK

Programme duration

2002 - on going

Short description (nature, main objectives)

The objective of ETORTEK is to establish different lines of funding facilities, with the aim of the economic promotion and of boosting the Science, Technology and Innovation, to support the Strategic Research in the Basque Country, done by the research, development and innovation entities, integrated in the Science, Technology and Innovation Basque Network in the Basque Country.

Activities covered with this programme

- basic research
- applied research
- innovation
- technology transfer
- training
- research infrastructure

Budget

Typical Annual Programme Budget (M€): **22.5** (in 2005)

Maximum amount of funding per project (%/k€): **70-100%** (depending on the activities)

Specifics of programme procedures

Proposal selection procedure

- invitation to tender (deadline)
- open call for proposals with fixed cut-off date
- open call for proposals with several cut-off dates
- open call for proposals with no cut-off dates
- single stage (full proposal)
- two-stage application process (first short proposal, after that full proposal)
- possibility to present/discuss the proposal

Organisations that can apply for funding

- large companies
- SMEs

Joseba Jauregizar
Director of
Technology of
the Basque
Government



- start ups
- research institutes/technological institutes
- universities
- governmental organisations
- industrial organisations
- non-profit organisations

Requirements consortium

Minimum number of partners: 1

Maximum number of partners: not defined

Partners must belong to the Science-Technology and Innovation Basque Network

Minimum/Maximum project duration

1 year / not defined

New calls

Each year, there is a publication, specifying the dates of the call. Once published, the timing to present the documents will not be less than a month. For 2006 the call was published in December.

Possibilities for international partners

No

Contact

EUROBULEGOA

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Spain

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Programme website

<http://www.euskadi.net/industria>
<http://www.spri.es/aSW/web/cas/ambitos/innotec/progapo/etortek.jsp>

Brochures available in English





Justo Nieto
Regional Minister
for Enterprise,
Universities and
Science of the
Regional
Government of
Valencia

“We have a successful CRC-programme for the last 20 years. The next step is, no doubt, the opening of our programmes to international cooperation. This is a difficult and complex process, but a crucial and necessary one for the success of our Region.”

Programme name

Advanced Services for Industry

Programme duration

1 January 2006 - 31 December 2006

Renewed annually

Short description (nature, main objectives)

This programme provides funds to the 14 Technology Institutes of the IMPIVA network to help these centres to provide advanced RTD services to the SMEs in key industrial sectors of the Valencian Region. IMPIVA is the Regional Innovation Agency for SMEs in the region. Technology Institutes were created to provide collective RTD capabilities as well as specific services to the SME industrial fabric of the regions in sectors like ceramics, energy, agro-food, biomechanics, optics, shoe-making, textile, toys, construction, etc. This programme funds RTD and Technology Transfer projects to be carried out in cooperation with the industries of the respective sectors.

Activities covered with this programme

- basic research
- applied research
- innovation
- technology transfer
- training
- research infrastructure

Budget

Typical Annual Programme Budget (M€): **19**

Maximum amount of funding per project (%/k€): **100%** / not defined, average per project is **106** k€

Specifics of programme procedures

Proposal selection procedure

- invitation to tender (deadline)
- open call for proposals with fixed cut-off date
- open call for proposals with several cut-off dates
- open call for proposals with no cut-off dates
- single stage (full proposal)
- two-stage application process (first short proposal, after that full proposal)
- possibility to present/discuss the proposal

Organisations that can apply for funding

- large companies

- SMEs
- start ups
- research institutes/technological institutes
- universities
- governmental organisations
- industrial organisations
- non-profit organisations

Requirements consortium

Minimum number of partners: 1

Maximum number of partners: 1

Competence Research Centres are Technological Institutes recognised as such by the Ministry of Education and Science and properly registered in the National Registry of Technological Institutes

Minimum/Maximum project duration

Project contracts can be renewed annually within the framework of the continuous programme.

New calls

Calls are expected to be launched early in 2007

Possibilities for international partners

No

Contact

Programme website

Regional Ministry for Enterprise, Universities and Science, <http://www.impiva.es/portal/webimpiva.nsf/>

Conselleria de Empresa, Universidad y Ciencia.

Calle Colón, 33.

46004-Valencia

Spain

Programme Manager:

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Brochures available in English



”The Swedish CRCs are absolutely of strategic long term importance for continuously improving our international competitiveness and the linkages between universities, research institutes, industries and public sector”

Programme name

VINN Excellence Center

Programme duration

2003 - 2018

Short description (nature, main objectives)

The objective of the VINN Excellence Center programme is to create new internationally competitive concentrations of highly qualified experts with the task of conducting research that is problem-oriented and as a rule multidisciplinary and generating knowledge and technology that will lead to new products, processes and services. The aim of the programme is to promote sustainable growth in Sweden. The research activities involve intense collaboration between the participating actors. A VINN Excellence Center, then, is a strong research environment positioned in strong innovative surroundings. The programme brings about powerful Centres of Excellence in Research and Innovation, which operate in environments that promote their activities. Ideas outside the core actions of the participating actors can also be utilised and further developed, e.g. by the set-up and development of new high-tech and research-based companies. Participating actors are universities, companies, public actors, research institutes, and other research-performing organisations.

Activities covered with this programme

- basic research
- applied research
- innovation
- technology transfer
- training
- research infrastructure

Budget

Typical Annual Programme Budget (M€): **20**

Maximum amount of funding per project (%/k€): **33% / 800**

Specifics of programme procedures

Proposal selection procedure

- invitation to tender (deadline)
- open call for proposals with fixed cut-off date
- open call for proposals with several cut-off dates
- open call for proposals with no cut-off dates
- single stage (full proposal)
- two-stage application process (first short proposal, after that full proposal)

Lena Gustafsson
Vice General
Director, VINNOVA

SWEDEN

- possibility to present/discuss the proposal

Organisations that can apply for funding

- large companies
- SMEs
- start ups
- research institutes/technological institutes
- universities
- governmental organisations
- industrial organisations
- non-profit organisations

Requirements consortium

Minimum number of partners: typically 5-10

Maximum number of partners: typically 5-10

The partners have to finance 33 % of the total budget

New calls

2007

Possibilities for international partners

Yes

Funded international partners: International partners can join a centre on equal basis as national entities

Contact

Programme website

**The Swedish
Agency for
Innovation Systems**

[http://www.vinnova.se/vinnova_templates/
Page___10461.aspx](http://www.vinnova.se/vinnova_templates/Page___10461.aspx)

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Brochures available in English





“Invest Northern Ireland’s RTD Centre of Excellence programme has been key in the development of R&D infrastructure across a variety of sectors in NI and in increasing the levels of industrial research. We are already seeing a range of benefits flowing from this investment which will be of benefit to the Northern Ireland economy.”

Programme name

RTD Centres of Excellence

Programme duration

2001 - on going

Short description (nature, main objectives)

Invest Northern Ireland’s RTD Centres of Excellence programme supports the establishment of R&D Centres to stimulate leading edge, industrially exploitable and commercially focused research which will demonstrably improve the competitiveness of Northern Ireland industry.

The programme is delivered by Invest Northern Ireland with the principal objective to support major proposals for the establishment of R&D Centres that will enhance the market driven technological capability within Northern Ireland industry and the universities to further stimulate the restructuring of the economy and, in particular, grasp the opportunities offered by new technologies. This in turn will develop the ability to carry out leading edge, industrially exploitable and above all commercially focused research.

Investments to date are expected to result in a total public/private sector investment of approximately £115 million (€175 million).

Activities covered with this programme

- basic research
- applied research
- innovation
- technology transfer
- training
- research infrastructure

Budget

Typical Annual Programme Budget (M€): Budget dependent on quality of proposals
 Maximum amount of funding per project (%/k€): Typical support up to **35%** for industry and up to **50%** for universities

Specifics of programme procedures

Proposal selection procedure

- invitation to tender (deadline)
- open call for proposals with fixed cut-off date
- open call for proposals with several cut-off dates
- open call for proposals with no cut-off dates
- single stage (full proposal)

Tracy Meharg
 Managing Director
 Innovation & Capability Development, Invest Northern Ireland



- two-stage application process (first short proposal, after that full proposal)
- possibility to present/discuss the proposal

Organisations that can apply for funding

- large companies
- SMEs
- start ups
- research institutes/technological institutes
- universities
- governmental organisations
- industrial organisations
- non-profit organisations

Requirements consortium

Minimum number of partners: not defined

Maximum number of partners: not defined

Centres can be industry-based, academic-based or a joint industry-academic collaboration

Minimum/Maximum project duration

2 years / 3 years (can be extended in exceptional cases)

New calls

The current call is still open

Possibilities for international partners

Yes

Non-funded international partners: Linkages and collaboration are encouraged, but funding is not available for international partners

Contact

Programme website

Invest Northern Ireland

Bedford Square
Bedford Street
Belfast
BT2 7EH
United Kingdom

Programme Manager:

Dr Nigel Carr
nigel.carr@investni.com

www.investni.com/index/develop/research_and_development-3/research_infrastructure/rtdcentresofexcellence.htm

Brochures available in English



If you want to learn more about Competence Research Centres in Europe

The programmes outlined in this brochure gave rise to the development of a competitive landscape of Competence Research Centres in Europe. These centres are active in all strategically important fields of innovation and contribute to the structuring of the European Research Area (ERA).

The website www.competence-research-centres.eu gives you an overview over the location and thematic orientation of over 300 Competence Research Centres in Europe. A user-friendly search technology allows you to figure out, to take some examples, which centres in Production Technologies are active in Sweden, whom to contact if you are looking for a cooperation partner for Life Sciences projects in Estonia or whether centres with similar thematic orientation are active on both sides of the border between Austria and Slovenia.

46



But searching for Competence Research Centres is only one of the services the website offers you. In addition, you will find:

- a news services bringing to you up to date news from the Competence Research Centres and the programmes behind them,
- information on upcoming events and conferences,
- research and innovation highlights of the Competence Research Centres.

A specific focus of the website is to inform the Competence Research Centres and their partners about funding possibilities for cross-border projects. Accordingly you will find well-structured information about EU programmes and a service providing you with the latest calls of the EC.

Are you interested also to become visible on this website? Competence Research Centres in countries that are not (yet) member of the ERA-Net COMPERA may be made visible as well. Please send us a short message with a description of your CRC and we will check whether your institution fits in our profile.



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