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**Deadline 15.09.2006**

## Joint Call for Proposals

**Rationale**

The “Food for Better Human Health” joint call for proposals is part of a European ERA-NET project called EraSME. A limited number of projects aimed at improving human health and well-being, and which demonstrate real market potential will be funded in this pilot action.

Projects must be trans-national, close-to-market, and innovative. They must aim at developing new products, processes or services. The funded projects must be driven by SMEs, which will have to demonstrate that they are the main beneficiaries of the project results.

Finland, Flanders/Belgium, France, Iceland, Norway and Spain are participating in this call. Participants from these countries/regions can be funded according to their national rules. Participants from other countries/regions are welcome to participate but without any guarantee of funding (for more information, see the “Guidelines for Applicants” published on [www.era-sme.net/public/](http://www.era-sme.net/public/)).

Proposals must be submitted by the SME project coordinator on the EraSME website ([www.era-sme.net/public/](http://www.era-sme.net/public/)) by 15<sup>th</sup> September 2006 (17:00, Brussels time), at the latest.

## Basic requirements for the projects

Projects must involve an active cooperation between:

- at least 2 SMEs (Small and Medium-sized Enterprises)<sup>1</sup> from 2 different countries/regions (Flanders/Belgium, Finland, France, Iceland, Norway or Spain)
- at least 1 RTO (Research and Technology Organisation)<sup>1</sup> belonging to one of the countries/regions of one of the SMEs involved.

The main objective of a project in this call must be to strengthen the competitive capacity of SMEs in the food sector through:

- increasing the collaboration between SMEs from different countries/regions
- increasing the cooperation between RTOs and SMEs

Projects must be based on the companies' needs, have a clearly defined commercial goal and must provide observable and measurable effects (technically based products, processes and/or services).

Projects must benefit principally the companies, in a "win-win" trans-national configuration. All projects related to the food sector (new products, processes or services related to agro-food – including fishing/aquaculture – with the final objective of producing good, safe, and healthy food products or diets) may apply. Topics related to human nutrition and well-being will be given priority. The following indicative list is intended to provide some guidance for potential project leaders and participants.

- Prevention of diseases and ageing through food. Validation of the biological activity and benefits of functional foods or nutri-functional ingredients on human metabolism.
- Diminution or replacement of traditional ingredients (like saturated fats, salt ...), modification of traditional processes and/or traditional packaging in food industry in order to develop healthier foods.

- Design and optimization of processes for food and food ingredients that maintain and improve their nutritional as well as organoleptic and functional properties.
- Emerging technologies (including biotechnologies) applied to the development of new and healthier food, ingredients and additives.
- Technologies for fast detection and/or traceability of contaminants.

Other subjects related to the reference topic (food for better human health) will also be considered in this call.

A project will be considered eligible if it meets all of the following criteria:

- At least 2 SMEs from 2 different countries/regions involved in the call
- At least 1 RTO from the country/region of one of the previous SMEs
- Topic in accordance with the call (food for better human health)
- Balance of the budget (no partner > 75% total budget)
- At least 50% of the work must be performed by the SMEs
- At least 20% of the work must be performed by the RTOs
- Maximum duration of the project is 24 months

## Funding Conditions

The agencies participating in the call will fund the project participants according to the corresponding national rules. For more information see the "Guidelines for Applicants" published on [www.era-sme.net/public](http://www.era-sme.net/public).

## Budget

The overall budget of this call will be 5 million EURO. Projects will normally have an average budget (total costs) of 0,3 to 1 million EURO.

## Procedure

The time schedule for this pilot call is as follows:

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> May 2006</b>	Joint call announcement
<b>Until 1<sup>st</sup> June 2006</b>	Pre-proposal submission by the coordinator, using the pre-proposal form (not mandatory)
<b>Until 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2006</b>	Feedback about the pre-proposal check
<b>15<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2006</b>	Proposal submission deadline (17:00, Brussels time)
<b>15<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2006</b>	Communication of the evaluation results, contract negotiation process starts

## The Proposal

The participants are encouraged to submit a pre-proposal, but this is not mandatory. Some generic information about the project will be requested in the pre-proposal form such as consortium description, short project description, technical development and fields, potential market, rough estimated budget and work plan.

The pre-proposal form can be downloaded from the EraSME website ([www.era-sme.net/public](http://www.era-sme.net/public)).

The project coordinator must submit, on behalf of the consortium, a common document in English, the project proposal form. This project proposal must be submitted on the EraSME website ([www.era-sme.net/public](http://www.era-sme.net/public)) by uploading the project proposal.

In addition, all of the project partners may need to submit individual documents in their national languages, according to their national rules, if necessary. Please contact your local contact point.

For more information see the "Guidelines for Applicants" published on [www.era-sme.net/public](http://www.era-sme.net/public).

## Available documents

The documents related to this joint call can be downloaded at [www.era-sme.net/public](http://www.era-sme.net/public)

<sup>1</sup> For definitions of SMEs and RTOs, please see the document "Guidelines for Applicants", on the website: [www.era-sme.net/public](http://www.era-sme.net/public)