



**MANUNET TRANSNATIONAL CALL 2016**

# **GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS**



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## 1. What is MANUNET?

MANUNET is a network of Governments under the European Framework Programme targeted towards achieving co-ordinated calls in order to finance R&D in Manufacturing.

MANUNET is funding transnational research projects in the field of Manufacturing by offering coordinated calls from the participating regional & national governments.

The main objective of MANUNET is to empower the European Manufacturing sector (preferably SMEs as defined in the Annex 1 of the Commission Regulation No 651/2014<sup>1</sup>) by establishing cross-border partnerships through the mentioned co-ordinated calls. Added regional/national value through this transnational co-operation is one of the critical success factors for transnational project support within the MANUNET ERA-NET frame.

## 2. CALL ANNOUNCEMENT

### 2.1. Objectives and Topics

The strategic objective of the MANUNET Call 2016 is to enhance the competitiveness of Europe's Manufacturing Industry by supporting the funding of Manufacturing research projects performed by enterprises and their strategic partnerships. Projects will typically be smaller than projects submitted to the EU Framework Programme and they will benefit from accelerated funding decisions.

The funding objectives of the call are trans-national application oriented and high risk R&D projects related to Manufacturing. The project proposals must clearly demonstrate:

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<sup>1</sup> Enterprises are qualify as micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) if they fulfill the criteria laid down in the Annex 1 of the Commission Regulation No 651/2014 which are summarized in the table below. In addition to the staff headcount ceiling, an enterprise qualifies as an SME if it meets either the turnover ceiling or the balance sheet ceiling, but not necessarily both.

Enterprise category	Headcount	Turnover	or	Balance sheet total
medium-sized	< 250	≤ € 50 million		≤ € 43 million
small	< 50	≤ € 10 million		≤ € 10 million
micro	< 10	≤ € 2 million		≤ € 2 million

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- Transnational, collaborative R&D with a significant degree of innovation and scientific and technical risk
  - Market orientation
  - Application and practical use of manufacturing technologies
  - Expertise of the project partners in their respective fields of competence
  - Added value through transnational cooperation
  - Scale of impact and market positioning of the applicant

The MANUNET Call 2016 for proposals includes all fields in Manufacturing, structured in the following topics:

- Knowledge-based engineering, information and communication technologies for manufacturing (industrial robotics, computer-aided engineering and design, automated manufacturing, product lifetime management, etc.).
- Manufacturing technologies for environmental and energy applications including resource efficiency and recycling
- Adaptive manufacturing technologies including processes for removing, joining, adding, forming, consolidating, assembling
- New materials for manufacturing (alloys, lubricants, coatings, textile fibres, construction, composites, insulation, etc.).
- New manufacturing methods, components and systems (development of demonstrators, devices and equipments, logistic systems, etc.).
- Other technologies/products related to the manufacturing field.

However, the respective regional/national thematic programme focus must be taken into account. To obtain detailed programme priorities it is strongly recommended to check Annex 1 or contact your regional/national funding agency (see Annex 2).

## **2.2. Eligible Project Structure**

All MANUNET projects should be designed on the following principle:

- Consortia consisting of **at least 2 independent SMEs belonging to 2 participating countries, or 2 regions in different countries.**
- Large companies, academic research groups, universities or other public organisations may also participate according to their regional/national financing

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regulations, as long as there are 2 independent SMEs belonging to 2 participating countries, or 2 regions in different countries.

- The composition of the consortium should be efficient in size in order to accomplish the objectives proposed. However, we expect small medium projects with no more than 4 or 5 partners.

### **2.3. Project Budget and Size**

No overall budget limits have been defined at MANUNET level, but regional/national limits regarding the level of funding will apply. Efficient and small to medium size consortia projects are expected (2-3 countries).

### **2.4. Project Duration**

The project duration is not restricted, but approximately 2/3 year projects are recommended. Regional/national limits regarding the duration of projects will apply.

### **2.5. Dates and Deadlines**

<b>ACTION</b>	<b>Date</b>
Call opening	11 <sup>th</sup> January 2016
Deadline for pre-proposals	17 <sup>th</sup> March 2016, 17:00 (CET)
Deadline for full proposals	28 <sup>th</sup> June 2016, 17:00 (CET)
Communication of the evaluation results	Mid October 2016
Start of projects	Contact national/regional agency

### **2.6. Funding Rules**

Each partner in a project must be aware of the funding rules of the corresponding regional/national funding programme.

Information about the specific funding rules of each region/country participating in MANUNET Call 2016 is provided in Annex 1. For more detailed information, please contact your regional/national contact person (see Annex 2).

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### **3. APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

The MANUNET application process will be in 2 stages:

#### **3.1. First stage: pre-proposals**

Submission: In the first stage (mandatory for all applicants), the Coordinator of the project has to submit on-line on the MANUNET website ([www.manunet.net](http://www.manunet.net)) a pre-proposal in English. The pre-proposal form is available on the MANUNET website.

Content of the pre-proposal form: the pre-proposal form briefly addresses summary, consortium description, project merits, cost calculation and results and exploitation.

Evaluation: The pre-proposals will be evaluated locally and internationally. The international evaluation will be performed by the Transnational Coordination Team (TCT). After deadline for pre-proposals, the MANUNET Transnational Coordination Team gives advice to the project coordinators and recommends/does not recommend the submission of full proposals.

In order to submit the pre-proposal on-line, coordinators will have to register a new account. MANUNET Team will give the coordinator access to the web site where coordinators will be able to enter the requested data and submit the pre-proposal form. Please, bear in mind that access will not be given automatically (except the last days before the deadline). Therefore it may take a few days (depending on the date of registration) to have access to the on-line submission web application.

#### **3.2. Second stage: full proposals**

Submission: The Coordinator of the project has to submit the full proposal on-line in English. The full proposal template can be downloaded from the MANUNET website.

Content of the full proposal form: The specific template for the full proposal contains the following sections: summary, consortium description, description of work, cost calculation and results and exploitation. More details are expected with explanations in depth. The full proposal gives an overview of the whole project and describes all national project parts.

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Evaluation: MANUNET aims at providing a transparent, fast and straight forward assessment of the submitted project proposals. Thus, the regional/national evaluation will be carried out in cooperation with the MANUNET Transnational Coordination Team.

Coordinators of the projects eligible for the second step of the MANUNET assessment procedure will be able to access the web application in order to submit the full proposal. The data entered in the first phase will be kept, although changes will be possible. The pre-proposal form will also be available but only for consultation.

## **4. DECISION**

### **4.1. Decision Process**

After the evaluation phase, the MANUNET Transnational Coordination Team prepares an agreed list of projects recommended for funding.

### **4.2. Funding**

#### **4.2.1. Contract**

Funding contracts are dealt directly between the project partners and their national/regional funding agencies (programme owners).

#### **4.2.2. Start and Installments**

A consortium agreement between the project partners is required for funding (after final funding decision). The purpose of the consortium agreement is to clarify:

- responsibilities of the partners;
- decision processes inside the project;
- management of any change of partners, in agreement with regional/national rules;
- IPR issues.

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## **5. MONITORING**

### **5.1. Regional/National Project Monitoring**

The progress of each individual contract will be monitored by the respective regional/national agencies. The respective coordinating agency will perform a leading role in the project monitoring.

### **5.2. Change in Active Projects**

Any substantial change in an ongoing project must be reported immediately to the involved agencies. The project partners should be aware that changes might have effects on funding.

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## Annex 1: Funding programmes

- **Asturias:** The IDEPA'S ERANET programme is focused on funding Asturian industrial research and experimental development projects involving effective international collaboration.

Only companies (whatever their size) are eligible; R&T and University are welcome as subcontractors. Its maximum aid intensities are up to 80-40% according to the size of the applicant (small, medium or big companies) and type of projects (industrial research or experimental development). The average grant is of the order of 100.000€ (maximum 200.000€).

The minimum budget required for the regional companies is 150.000€. The duration of the project must be from 18 to 24 months.

[Subvenciones MANUNET del IDEPA](#)

- **Basque Country:** The aim of the HAZITEK Programme is to make companies more competitive by means of promoting projects including R&D&I activities to develop new products. The beneficiaries of the programme are companies (universities and research centres may participate as subcontractors). The funds provided by HAZITEK in 2016 for ERA-NETs projects are grants: up to 30% of the accepted eligible costs. Maximum contribution: 250 000 € per partner per year. Eligible costs are: personnel costs (researchers, technicians and support staff employed only for the research activity), costs for external assessment and equivalent services (e.g. subcontracting highly specialised parts of the project), costs for subcontracting Basque Science, Technology and Innovation Network (RVCTI) Agents, operating costs (costs for materials, supplies, etc. derived from the research) and costs of instruments and equipment (paid off over the whole project duration). In order to receive funding the project has to present a minimum total annual cost of 100.000 euros. In case of projects in cooperation, it has to be a minimum total annual cost of 50.000 euros per participant.

<https://app3.spri.net/ayudaspri/>

- **Castile and León:** The aim of the R&D&I Programme for international cooperation in the framework of the MANUNET II's ERANET network is to make companies more competitive by means of promoting projects including R&D&I activities to develop new

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products. The aid, according to Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014, is defined as follows:

- The beneficiaries of the programme are companies.
- Universities and research centres may participate as subcontractors.
- The funds provided by ADE in 2016 are grants:
  - Maximum grant: 80%.
  - Minimum eligible costs per project: 150,000.00 €.
  - Eligible costs:
    - Personnel costs: researchers, technicians and support staff employed only for the research activity.
    - Costs for external assessment and equivalent services (e.g. subcontracting highly specialised parts of the project).
    - Operating costs: costs for materials, supplies, etc. derived from the research.
    - Costs of instruments and equipment (paid off over the whole project duration).
  - Maximum grant per project: 250.000,00 €.
  - Maximum number of projects per beneficiary and per year: 2.

*Weblink will be available in the near future.*

- **Catalonia:** small, medium and large companies can be funded. Private research centres, universities and other public research entities registered in Catalonia can participate as subcontractors. Technically and financially feasible R&D projects in the field of manufacturing with an impact increase in the R&D company activities are eligible. Personnel costs, external collaborations for R&D activities related to the project, equipment (where applicable), IPR activities (for SME only), other costs such as travelling and management costs are eligible. Funding is provided as a grant. Eligible expenses for the Catalan part of the MANUNET project from 150 000€ with a maximum aid of 200.000€ (2 years- long projects). Large companies: Maximum of 50% of the costs of research activities and 25% of the costs of development activities can be funded. Medium companies: Maximum of 60% of the costs of research activities and 35% of the costs of development activities can be funded. Small companies: Maximum of 70% of the costs of research activities and 45% of the costs of development activities can be funded

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- **Germany:** The focus is on the development of new processes and equipment technologies for additive manufacturing of innovative components and products using new materials. Companies, SME and research institutes can be funded according to the rules of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research [BMBF) in the national BMBF programme: “Innovationen für die Produktion, Dienstleistung und Arbeit von morgen” (Innovations for Tomorrow’s Production, Services and Work).  
[www.produktionsforschung.de](http://www.produktionsforschung.de)
  
  - **Iceland:** Information about the funding programme will be available at the end of January 2016. For more information, please contact the national contact point.
  
  - **Israel:** The Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) of the Ministry of Economy and Industry empowered by the Law for the Encouragement of Industrial Research & Development – [1984 \(R&D Law\)](#), oversees all Government sponsored support of R&D in the Israeli industry. This broad spectrum support stimulates the development of innovative state of the art technologies, enhances the competitive power of the industry in the high-tech global market, creates employment opportunities and assists in redressing Israel 's balance of payments. In addition to its domestic activities, the OCS is involved in a myriad of bi- and multinational industrial R&D agreements.  
The OCS annually supports hundreds of projects from incipient concepts within a pre-seed framework followed by support of incubator and start-up companies through autonomous industrial R&D enterprises. The support is directed toward the development of novel products based on new and innovative technologies throughout the entire industry, in well established as well as new companies and in both the high-tech and traditional sectors. This support also extends to a broad range of cooperative ventures with foreign commercial entities. Successful technological development and marketing is a leading growth engine for modern world economies and is the result of extensive high risk investment in R&D. The Government's willingness to share in that risk goes a long way to ensure its ultimate successful implementation.  
<http://www.economy.gov.il/English/RnD/Pages/RnD.aspx>
  
  - **Lower Austria:** Companies, research centres and universities financed. RD projects up to 50% funding. Industrial research up to 25%. Experimental development for SMEs possibilities for additional 10%. Grant or loan, depending on the type of organisation. <http://www.noe.gv.at/>

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- **Navarra:** The aim of the programme is to promote R&D activities in companies in order to make them more competitive, by increasing technological activities, cooperation with other companies and subcontracting of knowledge generating bodies (research centres and universities).

The beneficiaries of the programme are companies, including both large companies and SMEs. The funds provided are grants, up to 45% of the accepted eligible costs. The smaller the company, the larger the percentage of grant they are assigned. Maximum contribution: 250 000 € per company per year.

Eligible costs are: personnel costs (researchers, technicians and support staff employed only for the research activity), costs for external assessment and equivalent services (e.g. subcontracting highly specialised parts of the project), operating costs (costs for materials, supplies, etc. derived from the research) and costs of the use of instruments and equipment.

We have a co-financing agreement with CDTI (public body for financing innovation, dependent on the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness).

[http://www.navarra.es/home\\_es/Temas/Empleo+y+Economia/Innovacion/Ayudas+investigacion.htm](http://www.navarra.es/home_es/Temas/Empleo+y+Economia/Innovacion/Ayudas+investigacion.htm)

- **Piedmont:** SMEs are the addressee of this action and therefore at least one SMEs from Piedmont has to be included in the consortium. Large companies are not eligible as beneficiaries.

Universities/research organisations are also eligible as beneficiaries, or as subcontractors.

Eligible projects focus on industrial research or experimental development in the field manufacturing.

Piedmont beneficiaries must cover at least 20% of the total eligible project cost (if there is more than one Piedmont beneficiary in the project, the share of 20% must be held at least by one of them). No beneficiary in the project (from Piedmont or other region/country) can sustain more than 70% of total eligible project costs.

Piedmont participation in a project:

- minimum grant 80.000€;
- minimum private investment 200,000€.
- Maximum grant 40%.
- Maximum grant per project 300,000€.

Projects must be completed within 24 months from the date of grant.

*Weblink will be available in the near future.*

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- **Romania:** the aim of the International and European Cooperation Programme/ERANET instrument is to increase the participation of Romanian scientists in ERANET type projects in priority scientific fields identified at national level. The beneficiaries of the programme are public and private research institutions, SME's, non-profit organizations. The funds are provided as grants in accordance with State Aid regulations. Maximum available budget per project for Romanian partners is 250.000 € (if Romania coordinates the project) or 200.000 € (if Romania is partner in the project). Eligible costs are: personnel cost (researchers, technicians and support staff employed only for the research activity), logistics cost (equipment, materials, etc.), subcontracting, travel cost, overhead.

[www.uefiscdi.gov.ro](http://www.uefiscdi.gov.ro)

- **Russia:** Only small companies according to the Russian law can be funded (up to 100 personnel, up to 10 mln EUR turnover and less than 49% participation of public, foreign and large companies. Special exception is made for „Skolkovo” residents). Universities, research organizations and other public bodies can participate as subcontractors (with not more than 30% share received as a grant from FASIE being subcontracted). Ideally, applicant should be a small company not younger than 1 year with a proven track record, IP, and a good turnover. Technically and financially feasible R&D projects in the field of manufacturing with an impact increase in the R&D company activities are eligible. Personnel costs, equipment (where applicable), subcontracting, some „other” costs are eligible. Travelling\subsistence, IPR, marketing are not eligible. Those have to be covered from co-financing. For details please contact the NCP. 50% of the amount of the grant provided by FASIE should be co-financed. Funding is provided as a grant. Maximum amount per proposal is 15 million Rubles (the amount which can be provided by FASIE). Projects can last for 2 years.

<http://fasie.ru/programs/programma-internatsionalizatsiya/polozhenie-o-konkurse-mezhdunarodnye-programmy.php>

- **Slovakia:** VEGA is scientific agency —internal grant system— of the Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic and the Slovak Academy of Science. Only universities financed. Companies and research centres only in cooperation with universities. 15 000-20000 € grant per project per year.

<http://www.minedu.sk/index.php?lang=sk&rootId=416>

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- **Switzerland:** The SERI is representing CTI which is the federal innovation promotion programme responsible for encouraging science-based innovation in Switzerland by providing financing, professional advice and networks.

The CTI operates on the principle of subsidiarity, supporting innovation projects which, due to lack of funding, would not otherwise be possible, or whose market potential could not be realised. It is active in cases where initiatives in the private sector can be supported by state measures. By helping to transfer research results into concrete marketable products, the CTI helps to improve the competitiveness of Swiss businesses, particularly SMEs, thereby contributing to a strong, innovative economy in Switzerland

<https://www.kti.admin.ch/kti/en/home/unsere-foerderangebote/Unternehmen/f-e-projekte.html>

- **Turkey:** 1509 International Industrial R&D Projects Funding Programme; SMEs and large companies settled in Turkey can submit project proposals. Universities and research institutes are not eligible, but can benefit from the programme as subcontractors. Grant rate is 60% for large companies and 75% for SMEs. Personnel, travel, equipment, software, subcontractor (consultancy and other services), material costs are eligible. Application to TUBITAK should be made simultaneously with MANUNET II full proposal submission. There is no project budget/duration limit for application.

<http://www.teydeb.tubitak.gov.tr/>

- **Wallonia:** SME and Large companies, academia and research centers can be funded. Maximum funding: 60-80% grant for SMEs, 40% grant for large companies, 100% grant for academia and 75% grant for research centres. Industrial research: minimum 40% of the Walloon project's budget must be dedicated to the Walloon company(ies). Experimental development: minimum 40% of the Walloon project's budget must be dedicated to the Walloon company(ies) AND minimum 50% of the project's budget must be dedicated to the Walloon partners OR at least 2 Walloon companies are partners in the consortium. Maximum projects length: 36 months.

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

- **Western Greece:** The Regional Operational Programme of Western Greece includes a special action for the support of SME's for transnational RTDI projects, in order to achieve their extraversion. The beneficiaries of the programme are companies

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(universities and research centres may participate as subcontractors). The funds provided are grants up to 70% of the accepted eligible costs depending of the type of research activity.

Eligible costs are: personnel costs, equipment (only for the part that is involved to the project), travelling, costs for external assessment and equivalent services (e.g. subcontracting highly specialised parts of the project or academic or research partner), operating costs (costs for materials, supplies, etc. derived from the research)

## Annex 2: Participating Bodies and contact points

Region/Country	MANUNET member	Contact details
Asturias (Spain)	IDEPA Economic Development Agency of the Principality of Asturias	<b>Ana Elena Fernández Monzón</b> @ <a href="mailto:anae@idepa.es">anae@idepa.es</a> ☎ +34985980020
Basque Country (Spain)	Basque Government Innobasque	<b>Cristina Ugarte</b> @ <a href="mailto:cugarte@innobasque.com">cugarte@innobasque.com</a> ☎ +34944209488
Castile and León (Spain)	Agencia de Innovación y Financiación Empresarial de Castilla y León	<b>Carmen Verdejo Rebollo</b> @ <a href="mailto:verrebca@jcyl.es">verrebca@jcyl.es</a> ☎ +34983324189
Catalonia (Spain)	ACC1Ó Agència per a la Competitivitat de l'Empresa	<b>David Marco</b> @ <a href="mailto:dmarco@gencat.cat">dmarco@gencat.cat</a> ☎ +34 93 553 89 28
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