Third joint transnational call (2014) within the ERA-NET SIINN on

"Safe Implementation of Innovative Nanoscience and Nanotechnology"

Submission deadline for proposals:
16th January 2015 at 12:00 (noon) CET
(07:00 Washington D. C. Time)

Link to download the Guidelines for Applicants:
http://www.siinn.eu/bin/Annex_III_-_SIINN_3rd_Call_-_GfA_final_30.09.2014.pdf

Link to Electronic proposal submission:
https://www.siinn-submission.eu/

For further information contact the Call Office:
siinn2014@fct.pt
Carlos Almeida Pereira (351) 213924397 | **Dina Carrilho** (351) 213924381
Av. D. Carlos I, 126 - 7º - 1249-074 Lisboa

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1. MOTIVATION

The commercial application of manufactured nanomaterials (MNMs) products is increasing rapidly, but one important aspect, the safety of MNMs, still represents a barrier to their wide innovative use. Available data on the toxicological behaviour of MNMs is often scant, unreliable or contradictory. Therefore, the development of a consolidated framework to address nano-related risks and the management of these risks for humans and the environment, by investigating the toxicological behaviour of MNMs, is needed. R&D activities in the Member and Associated States of the EU in the area of nanoscience and nanotechnology (N&N) remain largely uncoordinated and fragmented, resulting in the sub-optimal use of available resources, such as human resources, research equipment and funding. Thus, international funding initiatives enabling researchers to pool know-how, data and resources are called for, and collaborative efforts with U.S. research partners will contribute to strengthening the international dimension of the European Research Area.
In this context, the ERA-NET "SIINN" for transnational research programmes on Safe Implementation of Innovative Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, launches the third transnational call for proposals.
The following Funding organisations:

1. Austrian Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (Bundesministerium für Verkehr, Innovation und Technologie), Austria, hereinafter referred as BMVIT, and
2. Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding **(**Unitatea Executiva pentru Finantarea Invatamantului Superior, a Cercetarii, Dezvoltarii si Inovarii)**,** Romania, hereinafter referred as UEFISCDI, and
3. Federal Ministry of Education and Research (Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung), Germany, hereinafter referred as BMBF, and
4. Foundation for Science and Technology (Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia), Portugal, hereinafter referred as FCT, and
5. Fund for Scientific Research (Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique), Belgium, hereinafter referred as FNRS, and
6. Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (Ministerio de Economía y Competividad), Spain, hereinafter referred as MINECO, and
7. National Science Foundation, U.S.A., hereinafter referred as NSF, and
8. Regional Council Nord-Pas de Calais (Conseil Régional Nord-Pas de Calais), France, hereinafter referred to as RCNPC,

have decided to open a **Joint Transnational Call (JTC)** for funding multilateral integrated research projects focusing on four different topics related to the safety of manufactured nanomaterials. For details on the areas covered by each topic, please see section 2 (call topics). For details on the topics covered by each country, please see Appendix B of Guidelines for Applicants.

	Topic 1	Topic 2	Topic 3	Topic 4
BMBF/Ptj (Germany)		X	X	X
BMVIT/FFG (Austria)	X	X	X	X
FCT (Portugal)	X	X	X	X
FNRS (Belgium)	X	X	X	X
MINECO (Spain)	X	X	X	X
NSF (USA)*	X	X	X	X*
RCNPC (France)	X	X	X	X
UEFISCDI (Romania)	X	X	X	X

**Topic 4 is not supported by CPSC and NIEHS.*

The call is opened simultaneously by the partners in their respective countries/regions.

2. CALL TOPICS

Introduction

The aim of the third SIINN Call is to address knowledge gaps with respect to EHS (Environmental, Health, and Safety) issues of manufactured nanomaterials (MNMs) by promoting the rapid transfer of research to the safe development and application of nanotechnology and nanoenabled products (NEP).

The Call is open to innovative transnational research proposals focusing on MNMs in four topics for which the scientific and technical objectives are summarized (but not limited and not mandatory to), as described below. The order of the topics do not represent any prioritization, rather all topics are considered equally important. A proposal may cover more than one of the topics.

Furthermore, projects that include development of innovative and improved characterization methods relevant for EHS issues are especially encouraged. Applicants are strongly encouraged to consider potential translational benefits of the suggested research for industrial applications. Where appropriate, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are encouraged as partners in the project consortia (please refer to individual funding agency guidelines for further guidance).

The projects should contribute to the formation and improvement of European and/or European/international networks in the field of nanosafety research.

The Call in context

Scientific and engineering studies are required to extend the understanding of MNMs features and develop predictive methods on the impacts of MNMs under environmentally relevant conditions. The goal is to advance fundamental scientific and engineering research in order to enable the understanding, evaluation, and lessen the impact of MNMs on human health, environmental and biological systems. Common to all proposals should be an ability to characterize and quantify the MNMs such that there is a clear understanding of the nature of the material investigated. Methods are required to characterize nanomaterials in simple and complex media; to evaluate release of nanomaterials from consumer products; and alternative testing approaches to evaluate the adverse outcome pathways of nanomaterials. Among the important scientific issues is the complexity of relating nanomaterial features directly to risks. An important avenue of investigation could focus on identifying critical intermediate properties of MNMs that are predictive of potential risks. Another important issue is associated with understanding interactions between MNMs and biological or other complex media. Predicting impacts of MNMs use in environmentally relevant conditions will depend on properties of both the MNMs and the matrix. Furthermore, it is important to evaluate nanomaterials across the entire life cycle of product use ranging from manufacture, use and end-of-life disposal, and to consider the fate, transport and transformation of nanomaterials from each stage and as these materials age. Successful completion of research supported under this call will enable more proactive and improved hazard identification, identification of potential adverse pathways of toxicity in aiding science-based risk assessment, and management of these materials.

The choice of the Call Topics reflects a comprehensive work effort by the SIINN Project Consortium, based on knowledge gained from the first two Calls. Additionally, both external and internal documents have been consulted. Of special relevance in this context is the SIINN internal work on roadmaps that address identified knowledge gaps in the safe handling, processing, and transportation of MNMs and NEPs.

Nanosafety research considerations

The following aspects are considered to be of general importance for nanosafety research and should be considered in the proposals, as appropriate:

- If work with one type of MNMs or different variations thereof is proposed, it is encouraged that the work should be performed across multiple cell/organ systems or routes of exposure at relevant MNMs doses to gain comprehensive understanding of toxicity mechanisms. Projects that aim to integrate both environmental and health related aspects are strongly encouraged.
- Development of common synergistic strategies (research and/or implementation) for the understanding of both human health and environmental effects of MNMs at relevant MNMs doses, building on existing knowledge from both fields.
- Development of methods for the understanding of intrinsic properties of MNMs, important for the grouping of materials with relevance for long-term risk assessment of MNMs (and possibly for regulatory or normative needs).
- The importance of surface modifications for surface reactivity and biophysical or other interactions including the role of dynamics of protein coronas (e.g. surrounding matrices); definition of relevant parameters, evaluation of their importance and how to measure them. Studies that can be useful for grouping of MNMs for risk assessment are especially encouraged.
- Release and subsequent fate of MNMs from different types of matrices in environmental or biological settings at relevant MNMs doses, with a focus on MNMs in real-life applications.

It is furthermore expected that the funded research will advance:

- Availability of methods for the understanding and prediction of the importance of intrinsic and extrinsic properties of MNMs for their interaction with surrounding matrices.
- Availability of results relevant for human health and environmental concerns, with a strong focus on real-life applications, including health issues.
- New approaches for the grouping of MNMs according to common properties and effects on human health and the environment.
- Highly interdisciplinary and broadly applicable research results otherwise not obtainable within national research funding. Results from the research should be able to inform and enable responsible development and sustainability.

It is of utmost importance that all experimental data created within the frame of funded SIINN projects are reliable, valid and reproducible. Therefore, OECD guidelines and high-level Standard

Operating Procedures (SOPs) have to be followed where appropriate. Improvements and further developments of such protocols are appreciated.

Topic 1: Exposure assessment

Technical content/scope:
The scientific and technical objectives included in this topic are summarized by (but not limited and not mandatory to) the following:

- Consumer exposure assessment (including food and food packaging, pharmaceuticals, toys, cosmetics), generating a corresponding list of the most widespread MNMs important for risk assessment.
- Environmental exposure assessment.
- Developing new tools for the characterization and quantification of the presence of nanomaterials in consumer products. Of special interest is the measurement and monitoring of nanomaterials as well as nano-objects and the release of nanomaterials from intermediate materials or finished products during consumer use or disposal scenarios. Different potential routes of exposure should be considered.
- Developing new tools for effective characterization (measurement and monitoring) of individual exposure to MNMs and NEPs. These tools should detect particle number, size, and surface area and quantify both in real-time and from archived samples. The tools should also provide spatial and temporal distribution and discriminate MNMs from ambient combustion generated nanoparticles.

Expected Impact:
Increased understanding and predictive capabilities on exposure mechanisms and kinetics for human and environmental exposures to nanoenabled products. Support and extension of existing knowledge for exposure assessments.

Topic 2: Toxicity mechanisms

Technical content/scope:
The scientific and technical objectives under this topic are summarized by (but not limited and not mandatory to) the following:

- Toxico-kinetic modeling including long-term modeling of the behavior in organisms of the most important MNMs present in consumer products taking into account the role of the dynamics of protein coronas, using *in silico* and *in vitro* approaches, and giving input for *in vivo* studies and the interpretation of *in vivo* data.
- Dose-response studies with an emphasis of long-term studies of toxicological properties including genotoxicity and development of appropriate dose concepts using “real life” particles from relevant applications, e.g. with functional coatings.

- Study of cellular signalling pathways activated by MNMs taking into account the role of the dynamics of protein coronas (e.g. transcription factor activation and translocation, kinase activation etc.).
- Developing and applying reliable test strategies by integrating various approaches in order to exclude cross-reactions and the interference of the MNMs with the test system.
- Developing and applying reliable test strategies at relevant MNMs doses over sufficiently long time periods by integrating physiologically relevant barrier mechanisms.
- Development of advanced surface chemistry characterization techniques, in particular techniques capable of detecting and specifying the interactions between biological molecules and the surface of NPs and MNMs.
- Expand our knowledge on understanding MNMs-molecular interactions at cellular, tissue, and organ system levels using diverse routes of exposure and model systems to predict biological response based on specific physical and chemical characteristics of MNMs.
- *In vitro* and *in vivo* studies addressing how interaction of MNMs with macromolecules, membranes, and organelles result in biological responses including MNMs-protein/lipid interactions and downstream protein-protein/lipid interactions and downstream signaling events; and how physicochemical properties of MNMs contribute to alterations in transport across plasma membrane, sub-cellular localization and sequestration or on homeostasis mechanisms.
- Enable developing computational and predictive modeling efforts for adverse outcome pathways for MNMs linking molecular perturbations and physicochemical properties.

Expected Impact:

Understanding of the impact of physico-chemical properties and dose effects on toxicology of selected MNMs (according to the importance of their presence in products), and establishing of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).

Topic 3: Effects of MNMs on human health

Technical content/scope:

The scientific and technical objectives under this topic are summarized by (but not limited and not mandatory to) the following:

- Uptake, role of the dynamics of protein corona, cell-particle interactions, distribution and effects of administered/ingested MNMs in normal and diseased cells/tissues.
- Establishing validated tests using relevant MNMs doses with high acceptance potential for assessing the long-term safety of MNMs based on biokinetic data and emphasizing dosimetry.
- How diverse physicochemical properties of MNMs influence physiological functions such as MNMs trans-placental transport or those across membranes of other organ systems like the brain, the gonads, and into the bone-marrow.
- Organ-specific inflammation and potential long-term exposure related pathological changes such as cell-specific hyperplastic lesions in target organs or pulmonary fibrosis.

Expected Impact:

Understanding of the overall long-term effects of MNMs and their uptake through available exposure pathways on human health. Application of achieved results to a broad variety of MNMs applications in real-life situations. Availability of appropriate testing strategies.

Topic 4: Environmental impacts of MNMs

Technical content/scope:

The scientific and technical objectives under this topic are summarized by (but not limited and not mandatory to) the following:

- Environmental long-term exposures assessment; predictions and analytical studies of diffusion, (bio)accumulation, and (bio)concentration of MNMs in both biotic and abiotic components of ecosystems (plants, animals, soil, sediments, water). A special emphasis should be placed on end-of-life aspects of MNMs in different environments (waste streams, recycling, etc.) and on identification of exposure hotspots.
- Development of methods to discriminate MNMs from ambient combustion generated nanoparticles, as well as for the determination of the natural background.
- Investigation of MNMs paths of uptake and subsequent tissue distribution and effects at relevant MNMs doses in appropriate environmental species.
- Detection of MNMs in relevant environmental media and determination of their altered or unaltered chemical / physical state as well as the effects on biological responses of such alterations.
- Prevention of adverse impacts during long-term exposure which includes both applying environmentally benign methods in engineering and manufacturing nanomaterials as well using nanotechnology in preventing adverse long-term impacts in current non-nano synthesis and manufacturing processes.

Expected Impact:

Availability of robust systems for the evaluation of impacts of MNMs on the environment during their life cycle including end of life considerations.

General remarks

One of the major tasks of the ERA-NET SIINN is the provision of validated data on risk and toxicity behavior of manufactured nanomaterials. The participants of research projects funded by the SIINN ERA-NET are requested to supply validated data to a common database. In this context, the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC) offers the use of the database NANOhub which is set up according to the OECD recommendations on nanotoxicity data structures. Within the JRC NANOhub installations, a database for the projects funded in the framework of SIINN has been implemented. The European partners of funded consortia have to submit all validated data to this database. The participation in an appropriate training (webinar) by the JRC is mandatory for the European partners of funded consortia.

The research teams within a consortium should include investigators of complementary scientific disciplines and research areas necessary to address the proposed research aims. Proposals should

contain novel, ambitious aims and ideas, combined with well-structured work plans. Projects have to provide a transnational added value compared to strictly national funding and this will be evaluated, under the criterion "Potential Impact".

Further considerations for proposals to include as appropriate:

- In order to guarantee that reliable and validated experimental data will be generated by the funded projects, standardized procedures must be applied for the testing of nanoparticle effects on human health and environment. Recommendations for such standardized procedures can be found in the following exemplary references:
  - References recommended by BMBF (Germany)
    1. Quality Handbook for "Standard Procedures for Nanoparticle Testing", created by the FP7 project NANOMMUNE; http://www.nanosafetycluster.eu/news/51/15/Quality-Handbook.html
    2. "Literature Criteria Checklist" and "Operating Instructions", available on the website of the German DaNa project http:/www.nanopartikel.info/en/nanoinfo/methods
  - References recommended by U.S. agencies:
    1. Nanoparticle measurements and standards available on the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Nanotech/Environment, Health & Safety Portal: http://www.nist.gov/nanotech-environment-health-and-safety-portal.cfm; and
    2. Standardized analytical cascade developed by the NCI Nanotechnology Characterization Laboratory: http://ncl.cancer.gov/assay_cascade.asp.
- Projects that strengthen methods standardization, including sample preparation, SOPs for safe handling and measurements are encouraged.
- A link between fundamental properties of MNMs and applications should be strived for.
- Justification of suggested doses for in vivo and/or in vitro studies should be provided.
- In combining research topics the application of research results by industry and regulators should be increased.
- The participation in the meetings and activities of the European NanoSafety Cluster and/or the EU-US Communities of Research is encouraged.

3. MANAGEMENT BOARDS

Two boards, the Call Committee and the Evaluation Panel, will manage the evaluation process of the call with the support of the Call Office (set up at Foundation for Science and Technology, FCT, Portugal). The process includes the eligibility and relevance check of the proposals, the evaluation of the proposals and the final selection and award of research projects.

- **The Evaluation Panel (EP)** is a panel of internationally recognised scientific experts responsible for the evaluation of submitted proposals. EP members will not submit or participate in proposals within this call, and must sign declarations of confidentiality and of conflict of interest.

- **The Call Committee** is composed of one representative from each participating country's/region's funding organisation. All decisions concerning the call procedures will be taken by the Call Committee. It will supervise the progress of the call and the evaluation of proposals. The Call Committee will make the final funding recommendation to the national/regional funding organisations regarding the proposals to be funded, based on the final ranking list provided by the EP. It accompanies the entire lifespan of the Call, evaluates the performance of the projects and resolves potential disagreements which may arise during the lifetime of the projects.

4. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PROPOSALS

Joint research proposals may be submitted by applicants belonging to one of the following categories (according to country/regional regulations):

- academia (research teams working in universities, other higher education institutions or research institutes)
- clinical/public health sector (research teams working in hospitals/public health and/or other health care settings and health organisations)
- enterprises (all sizes of private companies). Participation of small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) is encouraged when allowed by national/regional regulations (please check with your respective national/regional funding organisation).

Consortia proposing a collaborative project must fulfil the following **eligibility criteria**:

- The proposals must be submitted, only via electronic form through the SIINN Submission System (https://www.siinn-submission.eu/), by the coordinator of the transnational project no later than **16th January 2015, at 12.00 CET (07:00 Washington D. C. Time)**.
- Each consortium submitting a proposal must involve a **minimum of three independent organisations from at least two regions/countries participating in the call**.
- At least one partner of the consortium must be based in a European country participating in the ERA-NET SIINN and in the third SIINN call (Austria, Germany, Portugal, Romania, or Spain).
- Applicants from countries whose funding organisations do not participate in the call may be part of a consortium if they are able to secure their own funding by providing a signed statement of proof of own funding included in the proposal application. Such partners must state the source of funding for their part in the proposal. These participants must have the funds and resources available prior to application.
- The coordinator of the proposal must be based in a country/region participating in the call (Austria, Belgium, Germany, Portugal, Region Nord-Pas de Calais (France), Romania, Spain, USA).
- The majority (2/3) of partners and funding volume in a proposal must belong to countries participating in the call (Austria, Belgium, Germany, Portugal, Region Nord-Pas de Calais (France), Romania, Spain, USA).
- The consortia must be balanced in terms of transnational participation. Therefore, it is mandatory that no more than 2/3 of the total funding will be requested by partners from one country.
- The duration of the projects has to be 36 months.

- All fields of the proposal template must be completed in English and respect the length indicated for each field, following the instructions of the «Guidelines for Applicants».
- Each organisation coming from a country participating in the call must comply with the national funding criteria and regulations of their respective funding organisation to ensure the eligibility of the transnational proposal.

In addition, consortia are advised to follow these **recommendations**:

- Research should be focused on a clearly defined goal and, as such, the formation of consortia with between three and seven partners is recommended. For EHS framework projects, the number of partners may be higher.
- The proposal should clearly show the specific contribution of each research consortium partner and the European and/or international added value of working together.
- The expected size of a project in terms of total funding is typically in the range of 0.3 to 1 M€ (approximately 0.4 to 1.4 M$).
- The consortia have to be balanced in terms of transnational participation.

Each transnational consortium must nominate a project consortium coordinator among the project partners. The **project coordinator** will represent the consortium externally and towards the Call Office and Call Committee, and will be responsible for its internal operational management (such as controlling, reporting, intellectual property rights issues and contact with the Call Office). Each project will be represented by one (and only one) project coordinator.

Please note that the inclusion of a partner in a proposal that is not eligible and cannot be funded will lead to the rejection of the proposal without further review. The applications therefore need to comply with the **eligibility criteria of national/regional funding organisations**. The project coordinator has to verify that all applicants of the consortium have contacted their corresponding national/regional contact point (funding organisation) and confirmed eligibility with their respective funding organisations before submitting an application (see contact information of national/regional contact points in section 9 of this document).

5. SUBMISSION OF JOINT PROPOSALS

There will be a one-stage submission procedure for joint applications. One joint proposal document (in English) shall be prepared by the partners of a joint transnational proposal, and must be submitted by the project coordinator.

Joint proposals (in English) must be completed and submitted to the SIINN submission website (http://www.siinn.eu) – it will be open from **1st October 2014 – not later than 16th January 2015 at 12:00 (noon) CET (07:00 Washington D. C. Time)**. Only the proposals based on the proposal template provided on the SIINN web site (http://www.siinn.eu) will be accepted, and they must be completed following strictly the "Guidelines for Applicants". Further information on how to submit the proposals electronically is available in the "Guidelines for Applicants".

Furthermore, it has to be taken into account that applicants must submit additional national/regional proposals/documents to their national/regional funding organisation if required. Details of the

corresponding requirements and procedures are described on Appendix B of the Guidelines for Applicants. Please consult the respective national/regional funding organisation or the respective national/regional contact point for further details.

The national/regional applications will be requested directly by the participating national/regional funding organisations according to their deadlines which can be, or not, after the Call has closed.

6. EVALUATION

6.1. Eligibility check of proposals

The Call Office will assess the proposals to ensure that they meet the eligibility criteria of the SIINN Call. The Call Office will forward the proposals to the national/regional funding organisations, which will perform an eligibility check for **compliance with their respective national/regional regulations.**

Please note that proposals not meeting the SIINN eligibility criteria or the national/regional eligibility criteria and requirements of the call **will be declined without further review.**

6.2. Evaluation of proposals

a. Reviewers

Each proposal will be allocated to three evaluation panel (EP) members who fit the profile of the application. The reviewers are internationally recognized scientists chosen for their expertise and particular thematic orientations related to the topic addressed in the proposal.

b. Written evaluation

Reviewers will be asked to use a common evaluation form and give a score of 1 (Poor) to 9 (Exceptional) to each criterion for each proposal. If a proposal is considered to be not responsive to the call, then it will not be scored. However, in such a case, an explanation of why the proposal is out of scope will be required.

Criterion 1: Scientific and/or technological excellence

- Soundness of concept and quality of the objectives
- Progress beyond the current state of the art
- Quality and effectiveness of the S/T methodology and associated work plan

Criterion 2: Implementation and Management

- Appropriateness of the management structure and procedures
- Quality and relevant experience of the individual participants
- Quality of the consortium as a whole (including complementarity, balance)

- Appropriateness of the allocation and justification of the resources to be committed (staff, equipment)
- Inherent safety and EHS assessment form life-cycle perspective if applicable.

Criterion 3: Potential Impact

- Addressing relevant environmental, health and safety (EHS) aspects of nanoscale technologies
- Contribution to the development of a consolidated framework to address nano-related risks and the management of these risks for humans and the environment
- Appropriateness of measures for the dissemination and/or exploitation of results
- European and/or international dimension of the research and the proposed solutions, necessity for transnational approach
- Transnational added value of the collaboration

c. EP meeting

The EP members will meet to discuss each proposal and, after consideration of the evaluation criteria, the individual reviews and their own discussions, the EP will identify the top-quality proposals recommended for funding and establish a ranking list.

6.3. Funding decision

Based on the proposals' ranking established by the EP and on available funding, the Call Committee will suggest the projects to be funded to the national/regional funding organisations.

Only high quality proposals will be funded. If the number of proposals considered to have high quality, as judged by the Evaluation Panel, corresponds to a total requested funding which is smaller than the committed funds, only part of the funds will be used.
Projects not recommended for funding by the Evaluation Panel will not be funded in any case.

The Call Office will communicate the recommendations for funding from the Call Committee to all project coordinators, as well as the comments of the reviewers.

Final funding decisions will be made by the national/regional funding organisations according to their legal frameworks and regulations.

7. FINANCIAL AND LEGAL ISSUES

7.1. Funding model

The JTC 2014 Funding Partners have agreed to launch a joint call, where each country/region funds only its national/regional component of the transnational research project. This means that each national/regional partner organisation of a funded project is subject to the rules and regulations of their respective national/regional funding organisation. The funding rate within the call will be variable according to national/regional rules. Funding is granted for 36 months according to national regulations. Eligible costs may vary according to the corresponding national/regional regulations of the respective funding organisation.
Prior to submitting a proposal, applicants must verify their eligibility and the rate of financial support with their national/regional funding organisation. **It is mandatory for all applicants to contact their national/regional funding organisation** (see local contact points, section 9).

7.2. Funding contracts

Each project includes several consortium members called research partners and one project coordinator. Each research partner/research institution will have a separate funding contract/letter of grant according to national/regional regulations with the appropriate national/regional funding organisations.

Changes to the composition of research consortia or to the budget cannot occur during the contract/letter of grant, unless there is an appropriate justification. Any changes have to be well justified and the relevant funding organisations will decide upon the proper action to be taken. **The research partners shall inform the Call Office and the funding bodies of that project of any event that might affect the implementation of the project.**

7.3. Research consortium agreement and ownership of intellectual property rights

The project consortium partners must agree on a **consortium agreement** (CA) for cooperation (addressing the issues given in "Guidelines for Applicants" on consortium agreements) before the official project start date. This consortium agreement must be made available to the concerned funding organisations via the Call Office. This consortium agreement must be signed by all partners within three months of the official project start. Please note that national/regional rules may apply.

Results and new Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) resulting from projects funded through this JTC will be owned by the researchers' organisations according to national rules on IPR. If several participants have jointly carried out work generating new IPR, they shall agree amongst themselves (consortium agreement) as to the allocation of ownership of IPR, taking into account their contributions to the creation of those IPR as well as the national/regional guidelines on IPR issues.

The results of the research project and IPR created should be actively exploited and made available for use, whether for commercial gain or not, in order for public benefit to be obtained from the knowledge created.

The national/regional Funding Organisations shall have the right to use documents, information and results submitted by the research partners and/or to use the information and results according to their national/regional rules on IPR.

7.4. Database for SIINN funded projects

One of the major tasks of the ERA-NET SIINN is the provision of validated data on risk and toxicity behaviour of manufactured nanomaterials. The participants of research projects funded by the SIINN ERA-NET will be requested to supply all validated data to a common database.

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission offers the use of the database NANOhub which is set up according to the OECD recommendations on nanotoxicity data structures. The use of NANOhub is free of charge.

Within the JRC NANOhub installations (http://www.napira.eu/), a database for the projects funded in the framework of SIINN has been implemented. For all research projects to be funded within the framework of the third SIINN call, it will be mandatory for the European partners to submit all validated data created during the lifetime of the project to this database.

The participation in an appropriate training (webinar) by the JRC will be a mandatory prerequisite for the European partners of funded consortia in order to be allowed to access this database.

8. RESPONSIBILITIES, REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND DISSEMINATION

The coordinators of all the funded projects must submit **annual and a final** (within three months of the end of the project) **scientific progress project report** to the Call Office. All reports must be in English and use a common report form that will be provided. The research partners are jointly responsible for the delivery of the reports, and the Call Office will only accept reports delivered on behalf of the consortium, via the project coordinator.

The coordinators and/or national group leaders might be asked to present the results of their projects at an **intermediate and/or a final status symposium**.

Any publications resulting from the funded projects must acknowledge the SIINN ERA-NET and the respective participating funding organisations, and one copy must be sent electronically to the Call Office.

If required, participants submit financial and scientific reports to their national/regional funding organisations, according to national/regional regulations.

9. SIINN CALL OFFICE, LOCAL CONTACT POINTS (LCP) AND FURTHER INFORMATION

The Call Office of the third SIINN Call is set up at FCT (Foundation for Science and Technology), Portugal, to assist the Call Committee and the national/regional funding bodies during the

implementation of the call and the follow-up phase until the funded research projects and all reporting requirements have ended. The Call Office will be responsible for the administrative management of the call. It will be the primary point of contact referring to the call procedures between the research consortia, the funding organisations and the peer reviewers. The project coordinator will be the person contacted by the Call Office during the application procedure, so he/she must forward this information to the other participants.

It is mandatory for all applicants to contact the national/regional contact person for any questions regarding the SIINN call (please see local contact points below).

Local contact points (LCP)

Country/ Region	Institution	Website	LCP
Austria	FFG	www.ffg.at/nano-ehs	Alexandra Kuhn +43 57755 5082 Alexandra.Kuhn@ffg.at
Belgium	FNRS	http://www.ncp.frs-fnrs.be/index.php/appels/era-nets	Freia Van Hee +32 2 504 93 09 Freia.Vanhee@frs-fnrs.be Arnaud Goolaerts +32 2 504 93 09 Arnaud.Goolaerts@frs-fnrs.be
France	RCNPC	www.nordpasdecalais.fr/jcms/c_5235/recherche	Leila Mehnane +33 3 28 82 76 07 Leila.Mehnane@nordpasdecalais.fr
Germany	Jülich PtJ	https://www.ptj.de/en/start	Dr. Rainer Hagenbeck +49 2461 61 5741 R.Hagenbeck@fz-juelich.de
Portugal	FCT	www.fct.pt/apoios/cooptrans/eranets/siinn	Dr. Carlos Pereira +351 213924397 Carlos.Pereira@fct.pt Dr. Dina Carrilho +351 213924381 Dina.Carrilho@fct.pt
Romania	UEFISCDI	www.uefiscdi.gov.ro	Mihaela Manole +4021 302 38 63 Mihaela.Manole@uefiscdi.ro
Spain	MINECO	http://www.idi.mineco.gob.es	Dr. Carles Cané +34 935947700 Carles.Cane@imb-cnm.csic.es Dr. Federico Mompeán +34 916037990 era-nano@mineco.es
USA	NSF with CPSC and NIEHS	http://www.nsf.gov/crssprgm/nano/ www.cpsc.gov/ www.niehs.nih.gov	Dr. Nora F. Savage +1 703 292 7949 nosavage@nsf.gov Dr. Treye Thomas +1 301 987 2560 tthomas@cpsc.gov Dr. Srikanth Nadadur +1 919 541 5327 NadadurS@niehs.nih.gov

Eligibility of beneficiary institutions for the Funding organisations of the JTC 2014

Country/Region	Institution	Eligible beneficiary institution (1)		
		Academia	Clinical /public health	Company
Austria	BMVIT/FFG	Yes	Yes	Yes
Belgium	FNRS	Yes	Yes	No
France	RCNPC	Yes	Yes	Yes
Germany	BMBF/PtJ	Yes	Yes	Yes
Portugal	FCT	Yes	Yes	Yes
Romania	UEFISCDI	Yes	Yes	Yes
Spain	MINECO	Yes	Yes	No
USA	NSF	Yes	Yes	Yes

(1) The eligibility of academia, companies and institutions is subjected to different conditions in each country/region. Further details regarding the eligible beneficiaries and other national eligibility criteria and requirements are available on the "Guidelines for Applicants". Please contact the local contact point for specific information.

It is mandatory for applicants to contact their local contact points for further information.

Funding Commitment of the countries participating in the call

The total envisioned budget for this Call is around 6,116,000 € | 8,066,000 USD. Projects will be funded for a period of 36 months.

The expected financial commitments of the participating Funding Organisations for the entire funding period are set as follows:

Funding Organisation (Country)	Tentative Budget in €	Tentative Budget in USD
BMBF (Germany)	2,000,000 €	
BMVIT (Austria)	500,000 €	
FCT (Portugal)	400,000 €	
FNRS (Belgium)	200,000 €	
MINECO (Spain)	500,000 €	
NSF (USA)*		2,000,000 USD**

RCNPC (France)	500,000 €	
UEFISCDI (Romania)	500,000 €	
Total	**4,600,000 €**	**2,000,000 USD**

* The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC, USA) and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS, USA) are participating in the third joint call through an interagency agreement with NSF (USA).

** The funding amount presented in the table represents contributions from all three agencies (NSF - 1,000,000; and CPSC and NIEHS may each contribute up to 500,000 USD).

Call Timeline

Date	Step
23 September 2014	Call pre-announcement
1 October 2014	Publication of the joint call
16 January 2015	**Deadline for submission of transnational proposals**
July 2015	**Recommendation for funding by Call Committee**
After July 2015	Start of national/regional administrative procedures
Winter 2015	Start of funding/projects