

Invitation to a

JOINT CALL FOR PROPOSALS

**12th Joint Call for Research and Development Proposals
of the ERA-NET Bioenergy**

and

**2nd additional Joint Call for Research and Development Proposals
of the ERA-NET COFUND Bioenergy Sustaining the Future (BESTF3)**

Topic:
**“Biomass as an important pillar within
energy systems and the circular economy”**

Deadline for submission of pre-proposals: 16.01.2018, 13:00CET

Summary

In this joint call, ERA-NET Bioenergy and BESTF3 aim to fund innovative, transnational research, development and innovation (R&D&I) projects in the field of bioenergy.

Funding will be offered to excellent proposals that provide clear added value through cooperation of partners in at least two (preferably more) participating countries. Novelty beyond the state of the art in the bioenergy value chain addressed must be significant, and evidence of exploitation potential must be provided (e.g. by way of tangible industry commitment).

Public funding is available for this joint call from funding bodies in Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and Switzerland.

1 Key call dates

Call opens	10 October 2017
Partnering opportunity / Networking webinar*	29 November 2017
Deadline for submitting pre-proposals	16 January 2018, 13:00 CET
Deadline for submitting <u>full proposals</u>	05 June 2018, 13:00 CEST
Communication of the funding recommendation/decision to the applicants	Beginning of October 2018
Expected project start	First quarter of 2019
<p>This call is published on the webpages of ERA-NET Bioenergy and BESTF3 and on the web pages of the participating funding agencies.</p> <p>See: www.eranetbioenergy.net & www.eranetbestf.net</p>	

* PARTNERING OPPORTUNITY * NETWORKING WEBINAR *

On 29.11.2017 a networking webinar will be organised to give researchers the chance to interlink with each other and enlarge consortia. To sign up for this, applicants need to express their interest by sending an email to Carina Lemke c.lemke@fnr.de at the Call Secretariat **until 21.11.2017**.

For presenting concrete ideas and need of partners, three PPT slides per project including project idea, existing partners/experience and missing profiles must be sent to the Call Secretariat before the webinar as well. A link to the webinar will be sent to registered participants on 27.11.2017.

2 Background

The European Union (EU) is committed to combatting climate change and to increasing the security of its energy supply. Bioenergy has a key role to play in achieving both targets, and already accounts for more than two thirds of total renewable energy in the EU.

The promotion of **“Biomass as an important pillar within energy systems and the circular economy”** is vital to decrease Europe’s dependency on fossil-based raw materials; taking into account, that it is not only important to maintain and increase the amount of renewable resources that can be harvested on a sustainable basis, but also to use the available biomass as efficiently as possible. This call will thus support national as well as EU strategies.

In this joint call, ERA-NET Bioenergy and BESTF3 aim to jointly fund innovative, transnational research, development and innovation (R&D&I) projects in the field of bioenergy primarily focussing on **technology readiness levels 2-7** (achieved at the end of the funded project).

The **ERA-NET Bioenergy** is a network of national funding organisations which support bioenergy projects. It was funded by the European Commission under FP6 between October 2004 and December 2010, but is now self-sustained (membership model), with participating funding organisations from Austria, Germany, Ireland The Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden, Poland and The United Kingdom. Further ministries or R&D funding agencies from other countries are always welcome to join the network or individual calls. ERA-NET Bioenergy has so far implemented 11 joint

calls and thus contributed to the funding of 52 international R&D projects – the results can be found under www.eranetbioenergy.net.

BESTF3 is an ERA-NET Cofund mechanism that addresses the shortfall of innovative bioenergy pilot and demonstration plants, resulting from a lack of finance as well as a number of technical hurdles. So far, the BESTF network has launched 3 calls and supported 8 demonstration projects.

By combining the two ERA-NETs the networks grow together and provide added value compared to national funding. Supporting transnational research and knowledge exchange eventually increases the use of biomass in a Bioeconomy.

The approach of ERA-NET Bioenergy/BESTF3 differs from e.g. Horizon2020 Calls in that our focus is on medium-sized consortia (typically, two to eight partners) with excellent individual merits as well as complementarity.

3 Scope of the joint call

The call “**Biomass as an important pillar within energy systems and the circular economy**” aims to support innovative, collaborative pan-European, R&D&I projects which contribute to **a safe, environmentally friendly, reliable and economical energy supply**; e.g. by:

1. Optimising integration of bioenergy in regional or transregional energy-infrastructure-systems (heat, electricity, mobility) with increasing amounts of variable (renewable) energy production in order to improve system stability, flexibility and energy efficiency.
2. Identification and development of novel technologies and systems for bioenergy exploitation and use with the aim to further improve efficiency, total emissions and GHG)-balances in electricity, heat and transport fuel applications

Proposals may focus on different value chains in the Bioeconomy. Solutions that integrate the production of a range of different products/intermediates (chemicals, compound materials, bioenergy incl. transport biofuels) may also be addressed. Ideally, solutions enable full or improved usage of the biomass feedstock and/or put the focus on residues, by-products and other forms of raw material that minimise competition with food production and thus contribute to circular economy.

The public funding for this call comes from the participating national R&D funding programmes and differs from country to country – see the National Annexes (Annex I). All proposals must be put in context of the national political/legal framework, available biomass raw materials, and techno-economic as well as socio-economic market situation in the countries in which work will be carried out.

Please note that some specific topics may be out of scope of a certain national programme!

You should always check with all relevant funding organisations for your consortium before handing in a proposal.

Please note that the success rate is significantly higher for projects which are in early contact with the funding agencies.

Funding is available only for innovative, industrially relevant research and development projects at technology readiness levels 2-7 (at the end of the funded project). This means that a **significant step beyond the state of the art** is an absolute pre-requisite.

Further, consortia who seek funding under this call should have verified the compliance of their proposal with the following criteria:

- resource efficiency
- economic feasibility
- environmental compatibility
- economic, environmental and social sustainability of the solution/value chain

4 Guide for applicants

4.1 Consortia

Proposals are invited from transnational consortia which include large companies, SMEs, research groups/organisations and/or stakeholder associations, depending on national funding rules.

Projects must have at least 2 independent partners applying for funding from two different countries with funding agencies participating in the call, with the project's outputs and benefits shared between all parties.

The number of partners per consortium is not limited, but the manageability of the consortium must be demonstrated.

As projects are expected to be market-oriented, it is strongly recommended that one or more industrial partners participate in the consortium. If industry participation is not feasible due to the scope/outlay of the envisaged work, the reasons for this decision should be explained in the proposal. Note that detailed exploitation and dissemination plans are an important feature of every proposal!

Proposals must demonstrate added value from the international cooperation, in comparison to national projects. This should be evident in the layout and execution of the work packages. The work plan must show real cooperation between the partners. Project outputs are expected to provide benefits to all partner countries. Consortia also need to be balanced between countries both in terms of number of partners and distribution of budget; such that all project partners contribute to and benefit from an equitable and balanced cooperation. **To address this, the contribution of one country to the collaborative project must not exceed 70% of the total public funding requested.**

Partners from countries which are not participating in the call are also encouraged to join a consortium (as additional partners; the minimum number of two partners from countries participating in this call remains). These so-called "third country" partners must finance their activities from other sources, as the ERA-Net Bioenergy members will not provide such funds, and projects must ensure that the exploitation of results focuses on the ERA-NET Bioenergy partner countries.

4.2 Funding arrangements

The **maximum project duration** will be three (3) years. Projects are expected to start in early 2019, and the start and end date should be the same for all partners in a consortium.

Research will be **funded from national sources**, i.e. each participating national or regional funding agency funds their respective national research partners in a particular project consortium. The total funding as well as the funding available in each country is limited. For details please contact your national funding agency. Additional co-financing from stakeholders (own contributions) may be expected following national and European rules for R&D funding.

Funding is always subject to national rules (see Annex I).

If a proposal is selected for funding, the partners are required to sign a consortium agreement which specifies Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and other issues regarding responsibilities within the project and exploitation of results.

The consortium agreement must be signed before the first payment can be made.

4.3 Submission of proposals

Pre-proposal:

- The pre-proposal consists of one common document following the structure of the template available from 10 October 2017 on www.eranetbioenergy.net & www.eranetbestf.net.

- Pre-proposals must be received via e-mail by the central **Call Secretariat at the Netherlands Enterprise Agency** (RvO, Mr. René Wismeijer, rene.wismeijer@rvo.nl) by **January 16th 2018, 13:00 CET** at the latest.

It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure their documents are submitted on time. In case of late submission (after 13:00 CET) the proposal will **not be taken into account** in order to ensure the fairness towards other applicants.

In case you do not get a confirmation that your proposal was received, you should immediately contact Mr. Wismeijer!

Full proposal:

- In April 2018, only consortia whose pre-proposals pass the first evaluation stage will be invited to submit full proposals.
- These full proposals should follow the structure of the template which will be available on the ERA-NET Bioenergy website after pre-proposal evaluation.
- The deadline for submitting full proposals is 5th June 2018, 13:00 CEST.
- Some national funding bodies *may* also require specific national documents (application forms or similar) from “their” applicants at this stage. Such national documents are NOT submitted centrally, but directly to the relevant ministry or agency. Please consult the relevant National Annexes at the end of this document for further details.

4.4 Evaluation of proposals

Pre-proposals will be evaluated by the national funding agencies against the following criteria:

- Contribution to the goals of the call
- Fit to national funding programmes
- Technical and scientific quality; innovation
- Quality of the consortium
- Project Management
- Outputs and exploitation

Please check the eligibility in each country and fit to national programs before handing in a proposal! Projects with ineligible coordinator will be considered as totally ineligible; projects with more than 50% ineligible partners will be considered as totally ineligible.

The full criteria for **full proposals** can be found under Annex II.

Evaluation of full proposals will be performed by an international evaluation jury, selected by the funding organisations involved in the call. The international evaluation jury will provide recommendations for funding. The final decisions will be taken by the ERA-NET Bioenergy partners and will be communicated in the beginning of October 2018.

4.5 Project monitoring and expected deliverables

In addition to the standard requirements of your funding agency, the funders participating in this call require the following:

1. Participation in and presentation in the final ERA-NET status seminar (could be in the frame of an international conference)
2. The completion of one common interim survey asking in brief for proceedings, possible problems, extensions etc. at about half of the project duration.
3. A common publishable and public Final Report (written in English), describing the main activities and outcomes of the work including an exploitation plan stating how the results of the project will be implemented. An abstract of the main results of the project will be published in a “joint call brochure” after the end of the projects. Detailed requirements for this report will be distributed to successful applicants once the projects have started. National guidelines have to be followed as well.

SUMMARY OF FUNDING OPTIONS / RESTRICTIONS

Country	Austria / BMVIT	Germany / FNR	The Netherlands RVO	Poland / NCBR	Switzerland / SFOE
Total funding available	1 Mio €	1 Mio €	Open	500.000 €	450.000 € (500.000 CHF)
max funding per partners in proposal	1 Mio €	500.000 €	6.000.000 €	Not specified	Not specified
TRL fundable	TRL 2-7	TRL 4-7	TRL 4-7	TRL 2-7	TRL 3-7
Contact required	recommended	recommended	YES	recommended	YES
Additional documents required	YES	YES	YES	no	YES
Specific requirements	Submit proposals with Austrian partners via FFG-eCall https://eCall.ffg.at	Please send German "Zusatzinfo" to t.gottschau@fnr.de and c.lemke@fnr.de in parallel to pre-proposal	The Rekenmodel Besparing SDE+ uitgaven 2018 and Rekenmodel ECN SDE+ basisbedragen 2018 (RVO website) are a compulsory annex to both pre-proposal and full proposal https://www.rvo.nl/subsidies-regelingen/onderbouwing-hernieuwbare-energieprojecten-tse-regelingen if not available yet please use the 2017 rekenmodellen for the preproposal (see page 11below)	Polish enterprise must be included	Additional document "Tender for a research project" has be handed in at SFOE in parallel to full proposal

PLEASE check the national annexes below for detailed funding conditions!

5 Participating countries / National contact points

Austria

Austrian Ministry for Transport, Innovation and
Technology (BMVIT)
René Albert
+43 1 71162 652921
rene.albert@bmvit.gv.at
Funding Organisation: The Climate and Energy
Fund <https://www.klimafonds.gv.at/>

Germany

Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe (FNR)
Carina Lemke
+49-3843-6930-169
c.lemke@fnr.de
www.fnr.de

The Netherlands

NEA Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)
René Wismeijer
+ 31 88 042 2470
rene.wismeijer@rvo.nl
<http://english.rvo.nl/>

Poland

National Centre for Research and Development
(NCBR)
Karolina Janczykowska
+48 515 061 554
karolina.janczykowska@ncbr.gov.pl
<http://www.ncbr.gov.pl>

Switzerland

Swiss Federal Office of Energy; Energy re-
search section (SFOE)
Sandra Hermle
+41 58 465 89 22
sandra.hermle@bfe.admin.ch
<http://www.bfe.admin.ch/forschung/biomasse>

Annex I: Specific National Rules

Austria

Funding Organisation	Austrian Climate and Energy Fund in cooperation with the Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (bmvit)
Agency	Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG), Thematic Programmes
Programme name	Energy Research Programme 2017
Contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maria Bürgermeister-Mähr (for administrative questions) maria.buergermeister-maehr@ffg.at, +43 5 77 55 5040 • René Albert (Contact person, Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (bmvit)) rene.albert@bmvit.gv.at, +43 1 71162 652921
Type of research funded	The Agency potentially supports the following types of RTD, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industrial / applied research • Experimental development
Separate national application required	Submit proposals with Austrian partners via FFG-eCall https://eCall.ffg.at 16 th January 2018 13:00
Funding conditions	see https://www.ffg.at/ausschreibungen/ERA-NET-Bioenergy/Call_12 * - „Technical Guidelines for Cooperative R&D Projects transnational“ * available only in German
Funding commitment	€ 1 Mio.
Further specifications	<p>The amount of funding requested from Austrian project partners per project is between € 100,000 and € 1 Mio. The minimum value shall be seen as a guiding value. The ceiling of € 1 Mio. is fixed and must not be exceeded.</p> <p><u>Projects with the focus on raw materials, on material use of biomass and on biorefinery are excluded from funding.</u></p> <p>FFG conducts a formal review of all nationally relevant project proposals including the examination of the application formalities, especially the fulfilment of prerequisites specific to the offered funding instruments; reporting on relevant projects previously funded by FFG programmes; examining the financial aspects of the proposal; financial audit of applicants. The Executive Board of the Climate and Energy Fund takes the funding decision.</p>

Germany

The German national funding will be legally and financially based on parts of BMEL's R&D programme "Förderprogramm Nachwachsende Rohstoffe (FPNR)". Regarding this call the possible funding is restricted to the two core areas:

1. *Bestimmung und Entwicklung von Technologien und Systemen zur Bioenergiegewinnung und -nutzung mit dem Ziel der weiteren Reduzierung von Treibhausgas- und Schadstoffemissionen in den Haupteinsatzgebieten Strom, Wärme und Kraftstoffe*
2. *Optimierung der Integration der Bioenergie in regionale und überregionale Energie-(infrastruktur) systeme (Wärme, Strom, Mobilität) mit dem Ziel der Verbesserung der Systemstabilität und der Energieeffizienz*

Core area 1 relates to the identification, validation and development of technologies and systems for the production and use of bioenergy. It aims at a further reduction of GHG and pollutant emissions for electricity, heat and transport fuels.

Core area 2 aims to optimize the integration of bioenergy in regional and supra regional energy (infrastructure) systems (heat, electricity, mobility) with the objective to improve systems stability and energy efficiency.

The possible funding for R&D projects touching the two core areas mentioned above will be derived from the German Federal Special Fund "Energie- und Klimafonds (EKF)". Applicants are asked to check the R&D topics of the EKF under <https://www.fnr.de/projektfoerderung/fuer-antragsteller/energie-und-klimafonds/>. Actions funded from the EKF shall contribute to Germany's exit from nuclear and fossil-fuel energy. Therefore funding is strictly restricted to projects which can contribute to this aim via the utilization of bioenergy at short notice.

Proposals embracing waste as defined in the German law „Gesetz zur Förderung der Kreislaufwirtschaft und Sicherung der umweltverträglichen Bewirtschaftung von Abfällen (KrWG)“ (law on the circular economy) are not eligible. Agricultural and/or forestry residues are within the scope of the FPNR.

The FPNR is based on the COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty. Possible proposals shall **only encompass industrial research and (mainly) experimental development** (Technology Readiness levels 4-7) as stipulated in Article 25 (b) and (c) of before mentioned regulation. Projects addressing fundamental research and/or feasibility studies as stipulated in Article 25 (a) and (d) cannot be funded.

Project partners have to prove that they are capable to commercialize the proposed project results in their own right and without further subsidies within the existing regulatory framework. Project aiming at results which could only be commercialized with an adaption of the existing regulatory framework are not eligible for funding. Project results shall have the potential to be commercialized on the national German market under national German regulations. This holds especially true for proposals on transportation fuels.

Funding quota of German participants can be up to 100 % for universities or research organisations. In the case of companies, funding quota will be decided on a case-by-case basis depending on the size of the company, type of research/development, risk associated with the research activities, commercial perspective of exploitation, typically up to max. 50%. In this case, overhead costs can be considered for companies. In case of small and medium enterprises, an additional bonus of 10-20 % funding quota can be awarded.

There is no obligation regarding the number of companies to be involved from Germany, but company participation is recommended **in order to ensure** exploitation of results.

Double funding is not possible. Please consult the homepage of FNR for past and ongoing projects in this scientific area.

The total requested funding of German partners in a consortium shall not exceed 0,5M €.

For developing a proposal the applicants first need to consult the national guidelines for applicants: <http://www.fnr.de/projektfoerderung/fuer-antragsteller/antragsverfahren/>. The applicants then shall contact the FNR to make sure that the basic ideas of the proposal and the working plan might be eligible for funding.

Applicants who are interested in funding via FNR are obliged to submit the German additional information “Zusatzinfo” to t.gottschau@fnr.de and c.lemke@fnr.de in parallel to submitting the pre-proposal. In case of late submission (after 13:00 CET on January 16th 2018) the “Zusatzinfo” will not be taken into account in order to ensure the fairness towards other applicants.

The German project partners of positively evaluated full proposals will, at a later stage, be invited by FNR to submit national application forms (AZA or AZK using the electronic proposal assistant “easy” (see <https://foerderportal.bund.de/easyonline/> for details) – the usual FNR funding rules apply) within three weeks after notification. At the first stage of ERA-NET Bioenergy calls, no “easy” forms have to be completed, but the additional information “Zusatzinfo” be sent to t.gottschau@fnr.de and c.lemke@fnr.de in parallel to submitting the pre-proposal. The guidelines for preparing AZA/AZK have to be considered for any cost calculations in the full proposal!

FNR reserves the right to reject proposals for formal reasons, resulting in no funding for the German part of the project. Therefore, it is highly recommended to check the funding programme as well as the guidelines for applicants on the homepage of FNR and to contact FNR for further questions!

Funding commitment: 1 Mio € (provisional)

Contact: Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe (FNR)
www.fnr.de

Organisational contact: Carina Lemke; +49-3843-6930-169; c.lemke@fnr.de
Scientific contact : Thorsten Gottschau ; +49-3843-6930-110; t.gottschau@fnr.de

The Netherlands

Requirements for Participants

Partners: Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) and the Ministry of Economic Affairs

The funding conditions and amounts of subsidies will be as high as in the programme 'Hernieuwbare Energie'. The Ministry of Economic Affairs will decide on the 2018 budget and conditions for this programme in December 2017 the latest.

Dutch partners can only participate if their activities are related to production of electricity, heat and/or SNG ('green gas') and result in savings in future sde+ expenses which exceed the subsidy requested, due to a decrease in the base sum (basisbedrag). Please check the Model projectplan Hernieuwbare energie 2017 on the RVO website for the scope of the subsidy scheme.

<https://www.rvo.nl/subsidies-regelingen/subsidies-energie-innovatie/aanvragen>

For Dutch partners the filled out Rekenmodel Besparing SDE+ uitgaven 2018 and Rekenmodel ECN SDE+ basisbedragen 2018 (RVO website) are a compulsory annex to both the ERA-NET pre-proposal as the ERA-NET full proposal. If the Rekenmodellen 2018 aren't yet available online for the pre-proposal submission deadline you can use the Rekenmodellen 2017 and check with SDE+ basisbedragen 2018. <https://www.rvo.nl/subsidies-regelingen/onderbouwing-hernieuwbare-energieprojecten-tse-regelingen> and <https://www.rvo.nl/actueel/nieuws/sde-voorjaar-2018-gepubliceerd>

Consortia focussing on the production of electricity, heat and/or SNG ('green gas') will be requested to hand in an application for the programme 'Hernieuwbare Energie'. An application for support for Dutch partners should be sent to RVO after the ERANET-Bioenergy full proposal of the consortium is recommended for subsidy.

Funding commitment: to be decided in December 2018. The maximum funding commitment equals the maximum funding of the Dutch subsidy programmes mentioned.

Contact person: René Wismeijer
Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)
+ 31 88 042 2470
rene.wismeijer@rvo.nl
<http://english.rvo.nl/>

Poland

Funding Organisation	The National Centre for Research and Development (Narodowe Centrum Badań i Rozwoju) www.ncbr.gov.pl
National Contact Point	Karolina Janczykowska Section of Management of Sectorial Programmes e-mail: karolina.janczykowska@ncbr.gov.pl phone: +48 22 39 07 293 mobile: +48 515 061 554
Eligible institutions	Following entities are eligible to apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Organisations; • Micro, Small, Medium and Large Enterprises <p>Organization must be registered in Poland.</p>
Additional eligibility criteria	All proposals must be aligned with National regulations, inter alia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Act of 30 April 2010 on the Principles of Financing Science, published in Journal of Laws 2014, item 1620; • The Act of 30 April 2010 on the National Centre for Research and Development, published in Journal of Laws 2016, item 900; • The Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 25 February 2015 on criteria and rules on granting state aid and “de minimis” aid by the National Centre for Research and Development, published in Journal of Laws 2015, item 299. <p>The project consortium with Polish participation must contain at least one Polish enterprise to be eligible for funding.</p>
Eligible costs	The eligible costs shall be the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. personnel costs (researchers, technicians and other supporting staff to the extent employed on the research project); 2. costs of instruments and equipment, technical knowledge and patents to the extent and for the period used for the research project; if such instruments and equipment are not used for their full life for the research project, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the life of the research project, as calculated on the basis of good accounting practice, shall be considered eligible; 3. costs for buildings and land, to the extent and for the duration used for the research project; with regard to buildings, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the life of the research project, as calculated on the basis of good accounting practice shall be considered eligible; for land, costs of commercial transfer or actually incurred capital costs shall be eligible; 4. cost of contractual research, costs of consultancy and equivalent services used exclusively for the research activity; the subcontracting can be obtained from consortium partner only in justified case, this need will be verified by a national experts panel; 5. other operating costs including costs of materials, supplies and similar products incurred directly as a result of the research activity; 6. additional overheads incurred indirectly as a result of the research project; that costs cannot account for more than 25% of eligible project costs; That costs (6) are counted as a multiplication by percentage given above (called x%) and the rest of direct costs, excluding subcontracting (4); It means $6=(1+2+3+5)*x\%$.

a) National funding rates

Funding quota of Polish participants can be up to 100% for research organisations. In the case of enterprises, funding quota will be decided on a case-by-case basis depending on the size of the company, type of research/development, risk associated with the research activities and commercial perspective of exploitation. Organization must be registered in Poland.

	Large Enterprises	Medium Enterprises	Micro/Small Enterprises	Research organizations
Industrial/Applied Research	Up to 50+15 (max 65 %)	Up to 50+10+15 (max 75 %)	Up to 50+20+15 (max 80 %)	Up to 100 %
Experimental development	Up to 25+15 (max 40 %)	Up to 25+10+15 (max 50 %)	Up to 25+20+15 (max 60 %)	Up to 100 %

Other types of activities (e.g. coordination, dissemination, management) are not eligible for funding as separate tasks. They can be included in a appropriate cost category within research tasks.

Switzerland

The Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE) is able to offer funding for energy-related research as long as the projects correspond to the priorities of the Federal Energy Research Masterplan (please visit http://www.bfe.admin.ch/forschungbiomasse/02339/index.html?lang=en&dossier_id=01157). A specific goal for this call for proposals is to promote Swiss researchers' international collaboration within the ERA-NET Bioenergy framework.

The main focus is on applied research, development-related research and pilot applications of new technologies for the energetic use of biomass (not chemicals or compounds). All biomass for energy related value chains (biochemical, thermochemical) are eligible for funding. Strategy development, conceptual work and “stand-alone LCAs” for the application of new technologies will not be funded. Universities, research institutes and private companies are eligible for funding. Collaboration between research institutes and private companies (industry) is highly appreciated.

Proposals can be funded to a maximum of 60%. Third party contributions (a minimum of 30% of the total national project costs) are indispensable to insure the implementation of the results. This contribution can be provided in cash or in the form of performed work. The amount of third party contribution will be taken in consideration within the evaluation procedure.

The funded Swiss research partner may use and commercialize the project results. In parallel the project results will be made publicly available by SFOE. SFOE disclaims the IPRs. The mandatory can utilize the project results.

The total budget for Swiss projects is CHF 500'000 over a maximum of 36 months.

Application forms and further information are available at
<http://www.bfe.admin.ch/forschungbiomasse/05898/index.html?lang=en>

Direct communication with the national funding body SFOE is **strictly mandatory** directly after submission of the outline in order to develop a full proposal.

Funding commitment: 500'000 CHF (ca 450.000€)

Contact person:

Swiss Federal Office of Energy

Energy research section

Sandra Hermle

E-mail: sandra.hermle@bfe.admin.ch

Tel: +41 58 465 89 22

<http://www.bfe.admin.ch/forschung/biomasse>

Annex II Evaluation Criteria for full proposals

Indicator 1 - Technical/scientific quality	Unsatisfactory	Poor	Below average	Good	Very good
1.1 Novelty Does the proposed project present a step forward in knowledge and technology?	0	4	8	16	20
1.2 Quality of the proposed R&D Are the issues to be addressed significant and relevant within this field? Will the proposal as written be able to address these issues? Are worthwhile challenges identified in the proposal?	0	5	10	20	25
1.3 Quality of the approach - methodology Clarity, adequacy and consistency of the approach. Is there enough technical detail in the methodology? Is the approach clear, adequate to the problem and consistent? Is the project technically feasible?	0	5	10	20	25
Indicator 2 - Qualification of Consortium / Project Management	Unsatisfactory	Poor	Below average	Good	Very good
2.1 Competence concerning the topics addressed / Co-operation and complementarity of partners Does the consortium have the necessary competence and experience to achieve the results proposed? Is there added value in the co-operation including industrial partners?	0	4	8	16	20
2.2 Quality of project management Are suitable plans and structures in place to ensure the project will operate effectively over its run time? Is there sufficient detail in the project plan (milestones, work packages...)? Are arrangements in place to ensure effective & efficient communication between the partners?	0	4	8	16	20
Indicator 3 - Outputs and exploitation	Unsatisfactory	Poor	Below average	Good	Very good
3.1 Potential outputs and expected results Are any cost reductions and efficiency improvements likely to result from the proposed work? What is the economic perspective of the results?	0	5	10	20	25
3.2 Plans for implementation and exploitation Are realistic and appropriate plans in place for effective implementation and subsequent exploitation of the outputs?	0	5	10	20	25