



Joint Programming Initiative A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life (JPI HDHL)

Joint Action Intestinal Microbiomics

Preliminary announcement

The Joint Programming Initiative “A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life” (JPI HDHL) has been established to coordinate research in the areas of food, diet, physical activity and health in order to achieve tangible societal and health impact and to strengthen European leadership and competitiveness in this field (<http://www.healthydietforhealthylife.eu/>).

Under this umbrella the joint transnational call “Intestinal Microbiomics” will be launched.

1. Objectives of the call

The main objective of the Joint Action “Intestinal Microbiomics” is to support **multidisciplinary transnational research consortia** using innovative and scientific approaches to increase knowledge on:

1. The short-term and long-term functional effects of diet*, dietary patterns and dietary constituents** on human intestinal microbiota***.
2. The functional impact of diet-related variations in the intestinal microbiota on human health and/or the development of non-communicable chronic diseases***.

The overall vision is to develop dietary interventions or guidance for modulation of the intestinal microbiome to promote health and/or prevent the development of non-communicable chronic diseases. The program should generate new knowledge to support health maintenance and/or new treatments.

* Diet may include foods, nutrients and pre- and probiotics.

** Diet, dietary patterns and dietary constituents must be well-characterised and validated.

*** Well-established existing cohorts may be used where appropriate.

Multidisciplinary research consortia should submit research projects addressing:

- **Mechanistic research** investigating causal relationships between diet, intestinal microbiota and health.
- The **functionality of the intestinal ecosystem**, i.e., synergies between organisms and their metabolism and how the ecological metabolites affect host health.
- **A focus on health maintenance and/or optimisation is preferred**, but projects using clinical samples or disease cohorts to study methods of preventing non-communicable diseases, at various life stages are also acceptable.
- Methods that build on and have the potential to go beyond current best practice for **standardisation**.
- **Data sharing and data integration**.

Capacity building is encouraged (PhD/postdoc research and research mobility).

2. General conditions for application

Applicants may be research groups working in universities (or other higher education institutions), non-university public research institutes, hospitals and other health care settings. Participation of private partners is encouraged. However, the eligibility of these organisations and institutions are subject to the national regulations of the individual funding organisations and may therefore vary.

Only transnational projects will be funded: each consortium must involve research groups from at least three different countries that are participating in the call. Each consortium must involve a minimum of three partners and a maximum of eight partners. For reasons of transnational balance, no more than two partners from the same country are allowed to join the consortium.

The following JPI HDHL Member States participate this call: Austria, Belgium (Flanders), Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain and United Kingdom, participation of Switzerland and New Zealand is pending.

Research groups from countries that do not participate in the Joint Action “Intestinal Microbiomics” (i.e., collaborators) may participate in projects if they are able to secure their own funding. They must provide clear evidence in the proposal that these funds are already secured. However, the majority of research groups in a consortium and the coordinator must be from countries participating in the Joint Action and the total number of partners in the consortium must not exceed eight.

Each consortium should have the critical mass of different scientific disciplines to achieve ambitious scientific goals and the proposals should clearly demonstrate added value from working together.

Projects can be funded for a period of up to three years and according to individual funding organisations’ regulations. The eligibility of costs (e.g., personnel, material, consumables, equipment, travel expenses) are subject to the national regulations of the individual funding organisations and may therefore vary. Each partner is responsible for providing financial reports to its national funding organisation.

There will be a two-stage procedure for applications. Pre-proposals and full proposals must be written in English following a pre-defined format. They should be submitted by the project coordinator via the JPI HDHL Electronic Submission System.

3. Timetable

- The call is scheduled to be launched on the 19th of March 2015.
- The deadline for submission of the pre-proposal is scheduled for the 28th of April 2015.
- The deadline for submission of the full proposal is scheduled for the 1st of September 2015.

Pre-proposals and full proposals will be evaluated by peer reviewers. The funding decisions are expected to be communicated to the project coordinators by the end of November 2015, and funding is expected to start in December 2015 or early in 2016, depending on the funding bodies internal timelines.

More information will soon be available online:

<http://www.healthydietforhealthylife.eu/index.php/joint-actions/microbiomics>