



CALL TEXT and APPLICANTS' GUIDE for Expression of Interest

**for the EUPHRESCO II 2013 call
with “virtual common pot” funding
for transnational research**

**Topic: GRAFDEPI 2 - Grapevine flavescence dorée (FD)
follow up Vitisens, GRAFDEPI and Qdetect**

(first stage of the application process)

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1. Introduction

EUPHRESCO (European Phytosanitary Research Coordination) II is a Coordination Action funded from the European Union's ERA-Net Scheme under the 7th Framework programme (FP7).

EUPHRESCO II aims to increase cooperation and coordination of national phytosanitary research programmes at the EU level through networking of research activities and mutual opening of national programmes to achieve three main goals:

- Develop phytosanitary (statutory plant health) research policy at the EU-wide level,
- Optimise the research provision that underpins EU quarantine plant health policy development and implementation and
- Increase the capacity of European phytosanitary science and research, in order to prevent the disappearance of EU expertise and maintain Europe's competitiveness in the global market.

This 'virtual common pot' call for transnational research on this specific topic is a two-stage process:

- Stage 1 (Expressions of Interest): This document contains all the relevant information to submit an expression of interest for this topic in the first stage of the application process.
- Stage 2 (invited full Proposals): Call documents for the second stage of application will be provided at a later date.

The GRAFDEPI 2 call topic will in Stage 2 consist of a project consortium consisting of
a) *Virtual Pot* (VP) funded partners (open calls for collaborative project consortia, with open national competition) – in this case the invited Slovenian partners,
b) Non-Competitive (NC) funded partners (where budgets and national partners are decided on beforehand).

Letter of Interest must be prepared between Slovenian partners (VP-partners) only (Table 1). Contact and collaboration between VP and NC partners will only start after the selection of the Slovenian VP-partner based on *Expression of Interest*. After selection of VP-partners, VP and NC partners will jointly prepare the final invited full proposals for the second phase of application.

The call text is specified in ANNEX 1.

2. Call Information

All call documents are available at the website:

http://www.mko.gov.si/si/javne_objave/javni_razpisi/

2.1 Terms of participation

The national funding within this EUPHRESCO II 2013 call is offered under the coordination of the FP7 ERA-Net EUPHRESCO II, "Coordination of European Phytosanitary (quarantine/regulated plant health) Research". Research participants are required to recognise the coordinating role of EUPHRESCO II throughout the duration of funded research projects until approval of the final report. Research consortia may be asked for feedback on processes in order to help refine these for future use.

2.1.1 Eligible participants

Individual topics are only open to researchers in those VP-countries that are funding the topic (in this case Slovenia only); researchers from other countries may not directly participate as

joint partners in research consortia, unless national rules permit this (e.g. via subcontracting) and their involvement is essential to the success of the project.

Individual research providers are only eligible for funding according to the respective national or organisational rules (see national rules in Annex 3). Subcontracting will be allowed according to the rules of the national funding organisations involved. Research Partners can apply for funds up to the limits set aside by the respective national funding organisations as listed in Chapter 6.2: Budgets available.

2.1.2 Call and project timelines

The deadline for submission of electronic applications (*Expression of Interest*) will be 8 July (17.00h CET). See call and project schedule in Table 2.

2.2 Call topic, funders and funding mechanism

Slovenian research consortia are invited to submit *Expressions of Interest* to address the topic:

GRAFDEPI 2 - Grapevine flavescence dorée (FD) follow up Vitisens, GRAFDEPI and Qdetect

Table 1 provides a list of the individual EUPHRESKO II funders participating in the funding of this virtual common pot part of the call, indicating websites and contact details of the national call contact persons from each organisation.

Table 1. Contact details of EUPHRESKO II Funding organisations participating in the funding of this EUPHRESKO II "virtual common pot" part of the call.

Country	Funding Organisation	Website	National Call Contact Person
SI	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food	www.mko.gov.si	Jana Erjavec, jana.erjavec@gov.si , gp.mko@gov.si +386 1 4789123

3. Call schedule

Table 2 Overview of the expected Call schedule

Procedure	Scheduled
Stage 1	
Launch of the EUPHRESKO II call for <i>Expression of Interest</i>	13 May 2013
<i>Expression of Interest</i> (electronically via e-mail) received at Call Secretariat	Deadline: 8 July 2013 (17:00 CET)
Evaluation procedure - eligibility checks - national evaluation	By end of July

Procedure	Scheduled
Selected VP partners are invited for Stage 2 application	By end of July
Stage 2	
Selected VP-partners invited to join forces with NC-partners to submit full proposal	22 July – 17 September 2013
Full proposal submission deadline (application form received by Call Secretariat electronically via e-mail)	17 September 2013
Evaluation procedure - eligibility checks - national evaluation	17 September – 1 October 2013
Contracting	2 October – 9 October 2013
Research implementation possible from	October 2013
Expected latest start of projects	1 November 2013

The maximum project duration is two(2) years.

4. Eligibility for funding

Applicants must meet the following requirements in order to be eligible for funding:

- EUPHRESKO II eligibility criteria as outlined in chapter 4.1.
- National funding organisations' eligibility criteria (please consult national rules in Annex 3), see chapter 4.2.

4.1 EUPHRESKO II eligibility criteria

Each *Expression of Interest* application must

- Involve a consortium with partners from Slovenia. See also the specification (Annex 1) regarding involvement of third countries (non EU member states).
- Applications to be written in English, using the EUPHRESKO II *Expression of Interest* template which can be downloaded from the http://www.mko.gov.si/si/javne_objave/javni_razpisi/ and has to be filled in completely.
- Be submitted electronically and to be received before the deadline of the call (8 July 2013, CET 17:00)
- Comply with the *formal requirements* of the call (as outlined in this document)
- Meet the technical specifications outlined in the call specification (Annex 1)

4.2 National (organisational) eligibility criteria

Applicants must be eligible in terms of the funders' normal eligibility criteria. Eligible costs will be determined by the rules of each funding organisation. The national funding organisation's specific information can be found in the national rules, see Annex 3 and the total maximum funds available detailed in chapter 6. Call funding.

5. Submission and evaluation of proposals

5.1 Submission of application

Application is a two-stage process. In stage one (this stage) *Expressions of Interest* shall be submitted according to the terms of this 'Applicants' Guide' and in ANNEX 2.

Expression of Interest must be received electronically by the Call Secretariat by 8 July 2013 (17:00 CET), by e-mail gp.mko@gov.si with CC to jana.erjavec@gov.si No hard copies will be required.

The application form is the *Expression of Interest* template that can be downloaded from the http://www.mko.gov.si/si/javne_objave/javni_razpisi/. The contact person (Partner 1) is responsible for submitting a PDF-version of the completed *Expression of Interest* on behalf of all the partners. The consortium leader must also submit a short CV listing up to five key relevant publications.

After stage one, a successful consortium will be invited to submit a more detailed full proposals (stage 2) See call schedule (Table 2). Guidelines and forms for the second stage will be provided at the appropriate time.

Note that the funders are not obliged to invite any full proposals from the *Expressions of Interest* (stage 1) nor to fund any projects from invited full proposals (stage 2).

5.1.1. Call Secretariat

A Call Secretariat has been set up at MAE (EUPHRESKO II partner) to assist the national funding bodies during the implementation of the call and the follow-up phases until the funded research projects have ended. The Call Secretariat is responsible for the administrative management of the call Contact information for the call secretariat:

MKO - Ministrstvo za kmetijstvo in okolje

Contact persons:

- Jana Erjavec, e-mail: jana.erjavec@gov.si, tel: 00 386 1 478 9123
- Metka Kalinšek, e-mail: metka.kalinsek@gov.si, tel: 00 386 1 478 9009

5.2 Eligibility checks

5.2.1. EUPHRESKO II Call Secretariat eligibility check

The eligibility check, to be conducted by the Call Secretariat, will be an administrative procedure that will use the criteria outlined in chapter 4. *Expressions of Interest* that do not meet these criteria will not be considered for funding.

5.2.2. National (organisational) eligibility check

Applications meeting the eligibility criteria outlined in chapter 4 will be checked by the responsible

national funders for the eligibility criteria as listed in chapter 4.2. Expressions of Interest that do not meet these criteria will not be considered for funding.

5.3 Evaluation of Expressions of Interest

5.3.1. Process of evaluation

Those *Expressions of Interest* that pass the formal eligibility requirements will be subject to evaluation by the funders or their representatives.

The objective of the evaluation process is to invite full proposals from consortia's *Expressions of Interest* which have a good scientific merit and meet the specified requirements.

All *Expressions of Interest* submitted shall be treated confidentially by the EUPHRESKO II Partners and any of their appointed reviewers.

5.3.2. Evaluation criteria

Evaluators will use the following criteria for evaluation of the *Expressions of Interest*.

1. Quality of proposed research
2. Experience and expertise of the transnational consortium
3. Project management capability
4. Experience and expertise of consortium
5. Proposed outcomes (benefits and dissemination)

6. Call Funding

6.1 Funding mode

The funding mechanism for this topic is virtual common pot. This implies that each country funds only its national component of the transnational project. Subcontracting within the call is allowed if this is essential to delivering the projects objectives and optimal outcomes, provided that national funding rules allow for subcontracting.

6.2 Budgets available

This topic includes Slovenia (MoAFF) as funding partner with a virtual common pot (VP). Therefore, Slovenian applicants need to form consortia and submit a common *Expression of Interest*. See available budget frame, including overhead, in Table 3.

Table 3. Available budget frame (including overheads).

Funding Partner Topic Budget

	Funding Partner	Topic Budget
1.	MoAFF (Jana Erjavec, Jana.Erjavec@gov.si)	30 000 €
	<i>Total maximum budget for this topic:</i>	30 000 €

ANNEX 1: Call specification

GRAFDEPI 2 - Grapevine flavescence dorée (FD) follow up Vitisens, GRAFDEPI and Qdetect

Background

Several grapevine yellows diseases (GY), with a great economic impact on viticulture have been associated with phytoplasmas. Different grapevine-infecting phytoplasmas cause nearly identical symptoms, which are indistinguishable by visual inspection, but the epidemiology associated with each phytoplasma species is different. In Europe the main phytoplasmas associated with GY are Flavescence dorée (FDp) and Bois noir (BNp) phytoplasmas. While BN is widespread with moderate to high economic impact, FD is severe GY disease of high economic impact to vine growers, nurseries and provincial governments.

Currently available laboratory techniques for detecting the disease are expensive, time-consuming and require trained personnel as well as expensive equipment in centralized laboratories, and in many cases carry the risk of sample contamination. During the FP7 projects VITISENS and QDetect innovative approaches for the on-site detection of plant pathogens have been developed. Overcoming the expense of current methods new protocols relies on the amplification step, done under isothermal conditions by the loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP). The protocol of VITISENS is specifically designed for a detection of FDp. Developed protocols have not been compared and validated in accurate interlaboratory comparison test. Moreover, similar protocols for BNp detection have not been developed yet, but such an assay would help to discrimination between both GY. Detection of both pathogens could be done simultaneously within the same system. It is suggested that a LAMP protocol for BNp detection and validation of all LAMP protocols for GYp should be organized within the EUPHRESKO framework.

The success of phytoplasma detection is limited by the efficiency of phytoplasma DNA extraction. Phytoplasmas are normally present in high concentrations in leaf veins which are, especially in woody plants, lignified. Special kits and equipment are used for homogenisation of leaf veins and purification of the DNA. Within here proposed project the homogenization and extraction procedure will be improved and optimized to be also suitable for the on-site application.

During the GRAFDEPI project a research was focused on several alternative hosts and vectors of FDp. We suggest new studies based on these finding that raise questions about the origin of FDp, the transmission mechanisms, possible reservoir hosts and the role of the different strains in context of outbreak investigations to get more insight into the epidemiology of the disease and the genetic heterogeneity among FDp populations within the European countries.

The overall aims of the transnational project

The project should yield the following products:

1. Development of LAMP assay for detection of BNp

2. Conducting the ring-test among European laboratories based on chosen LAMP protocols for FDp detection developed during the VITISENS project and for new BNp protocol.
3. Specific workshops for on-site LAMP diagnostic.
4. Improved extraction procedure for the accurate detection of FDp and BNp and for the application linked to on-site detection.
5. Continuation of conduct studies on transmission mechanisms and dynamics of GFD in particular with respect to alternative hosts and potential vectors of GFD, which have been initiated in GRAFDEPI project.

Preliminary statements of the participating partners proposed content contribution

EUPHRESKO partners and proposed content contribution

	Partner and potential research provider	Proposed content contribution
1.	SI-MAE	See next section
2.	AT-AGES	LAMP protocol for BNp, extraction protocol, research on new hosts and vectors, participation in ring tests
3.	IT-CRA	participation in ring tests

The Slovenian VP call text

The Slovenian contribution to the transnational project must include topic 1 and 2 and some of the other topics mentioned below.

1. LAMP protocol for BNp

The validation of a LAMP assay for detection of BNp selected among assays developed during the project.

2. Extraction protocol

The validation of new less expensive extraction buffers applicable for the on-site detection of phytoplasmas on grapevine. Introduction of other grapevine tissues besides the usual leaf veins into phytoplasma diagnostics.

3. Research on new hosts and vectors

Continuation of studies on transmission mechanisms and dynamics of grapevine yellows diseases with respect to alternative hosts and potential vectors of grapevine yellows diseases.

4. Coordination and participation in ring tests

Conducting the ring-test among European laboratories based on selected LAMP protocols for detection of grapevine yellows diseases.

EUPHRESCO Call partners, funding mechanism and budget for the topic

	Partner ^a	Funding mechanisms ^b	Topic Budget ^c
2.	SI – MoAFF (Jana Erjavec, jana.erjavec@gov.si)	VP	30 000 €
3.	AT – AGES (Sylvia Blümel)/AT-BMLFUW	NC/VP	30 000 €
4.	IT-CRA	NC	
	<i>Decided funding mechanism for this topic:</i>	Mixed VP and NC	
	<i>Total of potential budget for this topic:</i>		60 000 €

^a Partner and (Contact person).

^b VP = Virtual Common Pot. NC = Non-competitive. Please refer to the Applicants guide for further explanation.

^c Available budget for this topic. Applicants can only be funded by the own country.

The maximum project duration is two (2) years.

ANNEX 2: Guidelines for completion of the *Expression of Interest*

Partner 1 in the *Expression of Interest* will be the primary point of contact between research project members and the Call Secretariat. Please add all project partners, by adding as many rows as needed in the *Partner table* in *Expression of Interest*.

Each transnational consortium will submit one common *Expression of Interest* specifying the tasks per partner. A submitted PDF-version of *Expression of Interest* will consist of

- List of all partners and details
 - Sections (max 1 page each – written in Font Arial 10 pt. or Times New Roman 12 pt.), covering;

- Research/Project Approaches
- Project Management and Quality Assurance
- Expertise and Experience of the consortium's organisations
- Dissemination and Benefits

- The project contact person must submit a short CV along with the *Expression of Interest*. (max 1 page including 5 most relevant publications)

ANNEX 3: National Annex: Slovenia - MoAFF

Annex for applicants in Slovenia

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food (MoAFF) is promoting with public funds research projects in the field of agriculture, which include topics in plant protection.

Co-funding of research in the context of this call is based on:

- Zakon o raziskovalni in razvojni dejavnosti (Ur.l. RS št. 22/2006-UPB-1, 61/2006- ZDru-1, 112/2007, 9/2011 in 57/2012 – ZPOP-1A),
- Resolucija o raziskovalni in inovacijski strategiji Slovenije 2011-2020 (Ur.l. RS št. 43/2011), Uredbe o normativih in standardih za določanje sredstev za izvajanje Nacionalnega raziskovalnega in razvojnega programa (Ur.l. RS št. 74/2004, 32/2005, 26/2006 in 80/2007, 89/2008 in 102/2009),
- Zakon o kmetijstvu (Ur.l. RS, št. 45/2008 in 57/2012),
- Pravilnik o kriterijih za ugotavljanje izpolnjevanja pogojev za vodjo raziskovalnega projekta (Ur.l. RS št. 41/2009 in 72/2011);
- Pogodba ERA-NET EUPHRESKO II št. 266505 z dne 6.5.2011

Eligibility and funding national provisions

Applications to this call will be joint research projects, as defined in public Call II for co-financing of transnational research projects under the initiative EUPHRESKO II.

MoAFF will co-finance the participation of its national partners in the project, in accordance with their national funding rules, under the conditions specified below.

Proposals for research projects in this call can be submitted by Slovenian partners in the international consortium with Danish partners, namely research organizations that qualify on research and development activities in accordance with the applicable rules.

In addition to the rules and procedures, defined in this call, Slovenian partners must comply with the following national terms and conditions:

- to this call can only take part applicants, who are in the databases of Research and development activities in the Agencija RS za raziskovalno dejavnost (hereinafter: the Agency) and meets the conditions prescribed by Zakon o raziskovalni in razvojni dejavnosti (Uradni list RS, št. 22/06-UPB1, 61/06-ZDru-1 in 112/07, 9/11 in 57/12 - ZPOP-1A).

Conditions that must be met by applicants to this call are defined in Zakon o raziskovalni in razvojni dejavnosti (Uradni list RS, št. 22/06-UPB1, 61/06-ZDru-1 in 112/07, 9/11 in 57/12 - ZPOP-1A), Pravilnik o kriterijih za ugotavljanje izpolnjevanja pogojev za vodjo raziskovalnega projekta (Uradni list RS 41/09 in 72/11) (hereinafter: Pravilnik o kriterijih),

These listed documents are an integral part of the call documents and are published on the Agency's website <http://www.arrs.gov.si/sl/akti/>.

(1) A research project is carried out by research group, which consists of the project manager, research and professional and technical staff.

If the research group consists of several project sub-research groups from various research organizations, the applicant can only be one research organization, where the project research manager is employed. The applicant must have a signed agreement on mutual rights and obligations with other participating research organizations.

The national project manager must be employed in an organization, which is the applicant to the project. Condition must be met before the contract is signed.

(2) The national project manager must satisfy the conditions for the project manager:

National project manager (for apply research project) may qualify for the research project manager, specified in the second indent of the first paragraph of Article 29 of Zakon o raziskovalni in razvojni dejavnosti and in Pravilnik o kriterijih if:

1. Achieves a minimum of 40 points from scientific publications, which are set out in the regulations governing the indicators and criteria of scientific and professional performance in the last five years.
2. Demonstrates citations as specified in the 2nd the first paragraph of 3 Article Pravilnika or has evidence of transfer of own research into practice (patents, technologies implemented, sold computer programs carried out important structures or products, etc.; COBISS type 2.02 2.03 2.04, 2.06 2.07, 2.12, 2.13, 2.14, 2.15, 2.16, 2.17, 2.20, 2.21, and 2.24) or proven work at national scientific corpus or collection.
3. Shows a minimum total score of scientific publications, citations and documented collaboration with other funders in the last five years.

In determining the minimum number of points ($A1 + A2 + A3 + A4$) from the 3 point from first paragraph of 3 Article of Pravilnik o kriterijih is to calculate the rating of A3 into account the data set for 2008 - 2012. Limit the sum $A1 + A2 + A3 + A4$ for this call is taken in the field of biotechnology in the Metodologija ARRS za ocenjevanje prijav za razpise, published in year 2013 (<http://www.rrs.gov.si/sl/akti/metod-common-12.asp>), namely:

- the Applied Project:
 $A1 + A2 + A3 + A4 = 2.5$ biotechnology and biology
 - Applied project, if from the project manager's attainment of the PhD thesis passed more than 10 years:
 $A1 + A2 + A3 + A4 = 2.0$ biotechnology and biology
4. Project managers can apply with a lower overall rating $A1 + A2 + A3 + A4$ if they show their exceptional achievements within the $A'(A' > 0)$.

(3) MoAFF, based on data from SICRIS at the closing date of the call for project managers, will verify compliance with the requirement of rating $A1 + A2 + A3 + A4$.

(4) Slovenian researchers participating in an international project under this call must be mentioned by name, their skills must be clearly apparent in application.

(5) Terms of Slovenian partners must be met and are subject to verification in the first stage of the tender. In the event that any of the above conditions is not met, the evaluation is not performed, the application is rejected. If the MaOFF notes that the applicant submits false information, the application shall be rejected. If the Ministry during its examination of the application did not find that the information put forward by the applicant is incorrect, and it finds out at any time during the call procedure or at any later time, the Ministry can cancel the contract with the recipient of funds and require repayment of funds in accordance with the terms of the contract.

(6) Funds under this call may be granted to the Slovenian researchers for activities that are not funded from any other public sources. Eligible for funding will be only the costs that will be incurred after the contract with the selected Slovenian partners.

Research theme, application and evaluation of applications will be done according to the procedure specified in the invitation to public Call EUPHRESKO II.