



CALL TEXT and APPLICANTS' GUIDE for Expression of Interest

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

**Topic: MELOPOP – Population dynamics of *Meloidogyne*
chitwoodi and *M. fallax***

(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 MELOPOP 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:

MELOPOP – Population dynamics of *Meloidogyne chitwoodi* and *M. fallax*

Table 1 provides a list of the individual EUPHRESCO 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 EUPHRESCO II Funding organisations participating in the funding of this EUPHRESCO 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 00 386 1 4789123

3. Call schedule

Table 2 Overview of the expected Call schedule

Procedure	Scheduled
Stage 1	
Launch of the EUPHRESCO 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:

- EUPHRESCO 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 EUPHRESCO 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 EUPHRESCO 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. 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).

VP Funding Partner Topic Budget

	Funding Partner	Topic Budget
1.	MoAFF (Jana Erjavec, Jana.Erjavec@gov.si)	70.000 €
	<i>Total maximum budget for this topic:</i>	70.000 €

ANNEX 1: Call specification

MELOPOP – Population dynamics of *Meloidogyne chitwoodi* and *M. fallax*

Background

To develop a good management or control programme against *M. chitwoodi* and *M. fallax* in the field, it is essential to know where these nematodes are and what the density is of the population in the field. There is some information available about population dynamics of *M. chitwoodi*, but very few data exist for *M. fallax*, and the impact of mixed species is totally unknown. In all those cases we need good sampling strategies (amount of soil, time and place) to determine the nematode density in the soil. We need information on the circumstances of the findings, such as type of soil, crop, cultivation method. Additionally we need to know under which circumstances control measures will be effective..

The main problems to solve:

- 1) How do we determine the spread (distribution) of these nematodes in Europe and what is the spread? (protocol and training for good sampling practices (for survey and population dynamics))
- 2) How do we measure this in a standardized way including identification for survey and/or population dynamic purposes. (protocol for sampling, identification and inventory of circumstances of finding of *M. chitwoodi* and *M. fallax* and the possible interaction with populations dynamics)
- 3) How do we interpret the findings in relation to the circumstances. (Review of management and controls options already available and according to the specific circumstances of these studies)

The overall aims of the transnational project

The project should yield the following products:

- A guideline for sampling for survey purposes will be delivered, as well as a protocol for sampling for the study of the population dynamics. Based on the information from literature, the information compiled in this study and the present population and the soil characteristics, possible management and control options will be given. A list of all possible options and their effects will be compiled.

Preliminary statements of the participating partners proposed content contribution

EUPHRESCO partners and proposed content contribution

	Partner and potential research provider	Proposed content contribution
1.	NL	Sampling procedure
2.	All joining countries	Performing survey, characterise the fields
3.	All joining countries	Input of control measures; facts and figures

The Slovenian VP call text

Slovenian research group's contribution to the transnational project must include at least two topics (topic 2 and 3) of the topics mentioned below.

1) Sampling procedure

2) Performing survey, characterise the fields

- Extensive national survey on RKN (*M. chitwoodi*, *M. fallax*, other *Meloidogyne* spp.);
- Molecular and biological characterization of RKN obtained populations;

For the first time the extensive national survey for the presence of quarantine species *M. chitwoodi* and *M. fallax* in potato production will be performed. The survey will be focused also on other RKN species which will result in an overview about the presence of these pests at the national level. RKN populations obtained will be genetically characterised and compared to the results of other EUPHRESKO participants. The results will define RKN genetic variability in Europe.

3) Input of control measures: facts and figures

- The assessment (bio-tests) of resistance sources to *M. incognita* at accessions of lettuce and wild lettuce relatives from AIS gene-bank;
- The research and development a model for predicting *M. incognita* reproduction extent during growing period;

Identification of resistant genes in lettuce and its natural relatives (various accessions of lettuce and wild (autochthonous) *Lactuca* species from Slovenian gene bank) against the species *M. incognita*; this will increase the range of defence mechanisms against these pests. Diversity of mechanisms is a basis for development of permanent resistance in commercial cultivars, which is more difficult for pests to break.

The model for predicting *M. incognita* reproduction extent which directly correlates with the crop damage caused by these pests will be developed. Such tool is essential in decision supporting systems and establishing appropriate management strategies. The results can be directly used by the end users (farmers and advisory service) to reduce the economical damage caused by this pest species.

	Partner^a	Funding mechanisms^b	Topic Budget^c
2.	TC: NL – NVWA (Jan Schans)	NC	40.000 €
3.	BE – ILVO (Martine Maes)	NC	15.000 €
4.	FR – DGAI (Geraldine Antoine)	NC	20.000 €
5.	SI – MAFF (J. Erjavec)	VP	70.000 €
	<i>Decided funding mechanism for this topic:</i>	Mixed VP/NC mechanism	
	<i>Total of potential budget for this topic:</i>		145.000 €

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 EUPHRESCO 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 EUPHRESCO 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 MoAFF 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.