

## Funding ERA-NET PathoGenoMics' projects to start February 2007

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ERA-NET PathoGenoMics' first joint call committee has chosen twelve projects for funding. As agreed in the last Vienna meeting, project funding is aimed to begin in February 2007

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ERA- NET PathoGenoMics, a Coordination Action project funded by the EC, is about to begin a three year funding program on genomics of disease causing (pathogenic) bacteria and fungi.

The common call, published a year ago, was jointly launched by the ERA-NET PathoGenoMics' member states: Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Israel, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain with the goal being to join resources and coordinate research in these countries. Each partner country will fund the research carried out by their scientists.

Twelve out of 44 applications will be funded by a total sum of approx. 16 million euros over a period of three years. A total number of 85 partners will collaborate within the 12 funded consortia, whose sizes range from 3 to 16 research groups. Among the funded consortia, a number of third party countries such as USA, Hungary and Sweden will also participate.

The projects were selected and proposed to the funding institutions by a Scientific Advisory Board that had previously selected suitable experts from the international scientific community to evaluate the proposals through a peer review process. The final ranking list was produced during a meeting of the SAB members last September.

A kick- off meeting with the participation of the project coordinators will be held in Cologne (Germany) next March. Also invited are EC officers, Network of Excellence (NoE) and press representatives.

ERA-NET PathoGenoMics' Steering Committee members expressed satisfaction with the call process and outcome and will discuss the possibility of rejoining forces again in a few months to open a second call.

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