



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

HDHL-INTIMIC “Interrelation of the Intestinal Microbiome, Diet and Health”

Preliminary Announcement

The Joint Programming Initiative “A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life” (JPI HDHL) (<http://www.healthydietforhealthylife.eu/>) 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. Under this umbrella, the joint transnational call “Interrelation of the Intestinal Microbiome, Diet and Health” (HDHL-INTIMIC) will be launched.

1. Aim of the call

The composition and activity of the human gut microbiome have been linked to health and well-being as well as etiology and progression of a number of chronic diseases, including obesity, diabetes, cancer and neuropsychological pathologies. However, the exact role for the intestinal microbiome in maintaining health as well as in onset and progression of chronic diseases is still largely unknown. Diet has been identified as one of the main factors modulating the composition and function of the gut microbiome, although the mode of action is not fully understood. More research is needed to better understand how diet-related variations in the gut microbiota composition impact on health. In addition, the so far limited coordination and collaboration between the relevant scientific disciplines and research activities has been a stumbling block hampering a deeper understanding of this complex interplay. Using the ERA-Net Cofund instrument (named HDHL-INTIMIC) the JPI HDHL aims to overcome this hurdle by creating an international network in the field of diet, intestinal microbiome and health. This cofunded call is the first implemented Joint Funding Action (JFA) in the frame of HDHL-INTIMIC.

The aim is to **support multinational, collaborative research projects that address important research questions regarding the cause-and-effect relationships between diet, the intestinal microbiome and human health.**

In particular, proposals should focus on at least one of the following areas:

- 1) the basic understanding of the gut microbiome and its causal role in human health and/or the onset of chronic diseases including the dissection of underlying molecular mechanisms
- 2) the functional links between diet and/or dietary components on the composition and functioning of the gut microbiome and consequent physiological effects on the host, including individually tailored responses
- 3) the identification of novel microbiome-targeted strategies and food products for preventive and therapeutic applications including personalised diets and specific food for specific target groups that operate by influencing the gut microbiome

Research proposals should be multi-disciplinary, combining different scientific approaches and methods. In addition, the following conditions apply:

- Proposals merely describing associations between the gut microbiome, diet and health without addressing the functional relationships **are not within the scope** of this call.
- Animal studies with clear relevance for human health **are within the scope** of this call.
- Proposals should make use of existing biobanks and/or cohorts, if applicable, or explain why existing biobanks or cohorts are not used.
- Proposals should avoid overlapping with the aims and objectives of the projects that are already funded through the previous JPI HDHL Joint Action 'Intestinal Microbiomics' (further information: <http://www.healthydietforhealthylife.eu/index.php/joint-actions/microbiomics>).

2. General conditions for application

In general, joint transnational research proposals may be submitted by research groups working in universities (or other higher education institutions), non-university public research institutes, hospitals and other health care settings. Participation of private parties is encouraged as well as commercial companies, in particular small and medium-size enterprises. The eligibility of these organisations and institutions is subject to the national/regional regulations of the individual funding organisations and may therefore vary.

Only transnational projects will be funded: **each consortium must involve a minimum of three partners and a maximum of six partners** eligible for funding by organisations listed below **from at least three different countries**. No more than two project partners can originate from the same country.

Projects can be funded for a period of up to three years and according to individual funding organisations' regulations. Eligible costs may vary according to the corresponding funding organisations' regulations. Each group will be subject to the rules and regulations of its respective national/regional funding agency.

There will be a two-stage submission procedure: pre-proposals and full proposals. Both pre- and full proposals must be written in English and must be submitted to the JCS by the coordinator through an electronic submission system available at the website. No other means of submission will be accepted.

3. Participating countries and funding organisations

The participating funding organisations that have agreed to fund this cofunded call for multinational research projects are listed below. The call will be conducted simultaneously by the funding organisations in their respective countries and coordinated centrally by the Joint Call Secretariat (JCS).

Country	Funding Organisation	Short name
Austria	Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy	BMWFw
Belgium	Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research	ILVO*
Belgium	Fund for Scientific Research	FNRS
France	French National Research Agency	ANR
Germany	Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture represented by the Federal Office for Agriculture and Food	BMEL represented by BLE
Germany	Federal Ministry of Education and Research, represented by the Project Management Agency in the German Aerospace Center	BMBF Represented by DLR
Israel	Ministry of Science, Technology and Space	MoST
Italy	Ministry of Education, University and Research	MIUR
The Netherlands	The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development	ZonMw
Spain	National Institute of Health Carlos III	ISCIII
Spain	Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness	MINECO
Sweden	The Swedish Research Council Formas	FORMAS

*Only for participation in the ILVO-PhD programme (see national regulations)

4. Timetable

When	What
26 th of January 2017	Launch of the call
5 th of April 2017	Submission deadline for pre-proposals
Beginning of June 2017	Communication selection of pre-proposals
20 th of July 2017	Submission deadline for full proposals
October 2017	Communication final funding decision

More information will soon be available online:

<http://www.healthydietforhealthylife.eu/index.php/2016-11-05-08-02-08/2016-11-05-08-14-35/era-hdhl-news/274-microbiome-diet-and-health-in-the-spotlight-of-new-era-net>

Please note: *The content of the call described in this pre-announcement is indicative and may be subject to changes and is not legally binding to the funding organisations.
Interested applicants are encouraged to initiate scientific contacts with potential project consortium partners for applications.*

