ERANET COFUND: few concepts at a glance to guide consortia in responding to joint calls

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The structure of transnational joint funding STEP 1: funders vs consortia

Usually, each research funding organization (RFO) allocates money for its national participants. Each national funder defines its own rules of participation, identifying the typology of beneficiary, funding rates and typology of activity to be eligible within the project.

The trans-national "secretariat" (responsible of the call) defines the objectives of the call, i.e. objectives and thematics, and the number of participants eligible in each consortium (usually 3 or more from different countries).



The structure of transnational joint funding STEP 2: the role of the EC in cofund

EC transfers funds to the funders, who define the rules for using the EC top-up. The partners of each consortium interact with the national funders for the eligibility and financial aspects. They interact with the trans-national "secretariat" for the application of the proposal and scientific reporting. They never interact with the EC directly. The evaluation of the proposals is usually managed at both national and trans-national levels. When funding the projects, even if the EC contribution is not used, the EC requires the respect of the ranking list as emerged from the evaluation process.



The tactics in preparing the proposals STEP 1: the analysis of distribution of national funding (1/2)

<u>At national level</u>: in theory, the minimum number of projects to be funded are equal to the ratio between the total national budget and the maximum eligible budget per project (this slide).

In practice: the number of funded projects depends on the ranking list, the national budgets and the use of the EC top-up by the funders to fill the gaps at national level (next slide).



The tactics in preparing the proposals STEP 1: the analysis of distribution of national funding (2/2)





Unusable national residuals



The tactics in preparing the proposals STEP 2: matching and de-risking

In principle, a proposal starts from an idea, then the objectives, then the identification of activities and partners to make the proposal feasible and impacting.

In trans-national calls, the proposals have to be designed taking into account also the availability of funds for the activities developed by partners from different countries.

This requires a sort of risk-assessment for accessing the national funds and therefore in selecting partners and activities, independently from their quality and necessity to be involved.