

## ERASysBio 2<sup>nd</sup> Transnational Call for Collaborative Research Proposals

### The consolidation of systems biology research- stimulating the widespread adoption of systems approaches in biotechnology, biomedicine and agri-food

#### National Annex: FINLAND – AKA

**Partner:** Academy of Finland – Finland

The Academy of Finland is the prime funding agency for basic research in Finland with the mission to advance scientific research and its application, support international scientific cooperation, act as an expert organ in science policy issues and allocate funding to research and other advancement of science. The Academy works to promote the progress of science by allocating funding to the highest-quality and the scientifically most innovative research.

The Academy of Finland (AKA) has a committed and significant interest in Systems Biology research. The research programme on Systems Biology and Bioinformatics SYSBIO was funded jointly by the Academy of Finland and the National Technology Agency Tekes. The total budget was 10.7 million euros for four years (2004-2007). SYSBIO was composed of 21 research projects that involved altogether 54 research groups. The main objective of the SYSBIO Research Programme was to promote an integrative and holistic approach in research on complex biological processes at the systems level in order to create new knowledge through high-quality, multidisciplinary collaborative research, promote efficient and synergistic use of existing resources and infrastructures, develop research environments, methodologies and co-operation of researchers, promote researcher training and mobility, and national and international networking. Special attention was paid to the application of technologies, to the commercialisation of research results and also to the ethical and social aspects of the project.

ERASysBio 2<sup>nd</sup> Call will be implemented to the Academy's Research Programme on Computational Sciences (under preparation) and will function as a part of the programme's international collaboration. The budget earmarked by the AKA for this call will be up to €0,5 million. The official national call announcement for Finland will be published on the Academy of Finland's website (<http://www.aka.fi/en>). Under this ERASysBio 2<sup>nd</sup> Call, the Academy of Finland will fund all areas of its remit seeking to apply systems approaches to biological research in plants and animals (including humans) from molecular systems to cells, organs up to whole organisms and agri/eco-systems. Research on microorganisms is excluded from this call unless it is complementary to research funded under the ERASysBio 1<sup>st</sup> Call SysMO ([www.sysmo.net](http://www.sysmo.net)). The Academy of Finland strongly encourages the Finnish research community in respective fields to apply for funding for collaborative research in the European Research Area.

#### Eligibility and national funding modalities

The main eligibility criterion is that each proposal must involve a maximum of seven research groups from at least two different participating ERASysBio partner countries. Research groups from non-partner countries may participate in projects if they are able to secure their own funding. It is expected that applications submitted to this call will be Collaborative Research Proposals as defined in and following the guidelines of the call main document ([www.erasysbio.net/AnnouncementCall](http://www.erasysbio.net/AnnouncementCall)).

More information on the national eligibility criteria for Academy's funding may be downloaded from [www.aka.fi/en](http://www.aka.fi/en). Both the ERASysBio and national eligibility criteria are to be fully met. Applicants are strongly advised to contact their National Call Secretariat for enquiries and before preparing proposals for application.

#### National Call Secretariat

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