

## BILATERAL COOPERATION NETWORKS EU-BR

### CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

#### OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL

The main objective of this call is to foster and strengthen the mutual cooperation of Brazilian and European R&I actors through the support of [bilateral](#) networks on the priority areas indicated in below by providing a Grant for the implementation of mutual bilateral visits and workshops.

The Call addresses a more focused and sustainable cooperation among BR and EU actors by selecting **5 bilateral R&I cooperation networks** (with members from both Brazil and Europe), either existing or newly formed, which will have the following features and aims:

- ⇒ Involvement of BR and EU R&I actors/institutions wishing to engage in mutual cooperation activities and willing to coordinate the implementation of their R&I agendas, objectives and priorities.
- ⇒ Assistance in defining common R&I agendas and priorities, as well as possibilities of pooling resources for the implementation of joint R&I activities.
- ⇒ Facilitation of the creation of new partnerships between R&I actors in the priority areas of mutual interests.
- ⇒ Promotion of BR R&I actors integration in the European programmes and of European R&I actors in Brazilian programmes;

#### WHO CAN APPLY?

Applications shall be submitted by **legal public and private R&I organisations (including research driven SMEs)** combined in groups, networks or consortiums.

The call is open to:

- Existing R&I networks formed of European and Brazilian organisations operating in the identified R&I priority areas (see below) that are already carrying out various bilateral activities or that are linked and would like to start a joint activity.
- Past consortiums (within the last 3 years) of BR-EU projects that would like to continue working together, thus also guaranteeing the sustainability of their project.
- European and Brazilian organisations aiming to work together and submitting project proposals for available funding.

These networks could encompass centres of excellences, competence centers, clusters, technology platforms, innovation partnerships, innovation communities, SMEs, universities, business incubators/accelerators, science and technology parks, or research centers, among other types of R&I networks.

#### Priority areas

This call will support the creation of bilateral networks working within the selected BR-EU R&I priority areas:

- ◆ **Bioeconomy, Food security and sustainable agriculture**
- ◆ **Energy**
- ◆ **Health and sustainable urbanisation**
- ◆ **ICT**
- ◆ **Marine Research**
- ◆ **Nanotechnology**

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### WHAT DOES THE FUNDING COVER?

Following the evaluation and selection process, INCOBRA will provide a **non-repayable Grant** together with **consultancy services** to grantees.

INCOBRA will provide a Grant for the selected networks with the total amount of **19,500€** per network.

Expenditures to be covered with the grant have to be current, economic and necessary. The Grant shall be used for the organisation of **working meetings and for travel expenses** of their representatives (as per specifications):

**Organisation of working meetings:** Each selected bilateral network will have to organise a number of working meetings (at least 2) during the period of activity enabling the face-to-face discussion and decision making among their members concerning their cooperation.

**Travel grants:** INCOBRA will cover the travel expenses to the above mentioned meetings for max. 4 representatives per selected bilateral network. Travel is eligible only from Europe to Brazil or vice-versa.

#### Payment:

50% of the total grant will be transferred as advance payment following the signing of the contract. The rest will be transferred within one month after the approval of an activity report and accompanying financial report (two reports to be completed per bilateral network).

#### Eligible expenses:

- Travel costs (only economy class flights)
- Accommodation costs in max. 4 star hotels
- Per diem allowance (including accommodation, according to the [EC regulation](#))
- Organisation of working meetings, logistics
- Consumables, printing costs

#### Non eligible expenses:

- Staff costs for the implementation of activities
- Physical resources, small equipment, etc.
- Any type of honorarium or consultancy fee
- The Grant will not cover any research activity
- Rental of venue

### CONSULTANCY SERVICES:

In addition to the economic support via the Grant, the selected cooperation networks will be guided and supported in their bilateral networking and collaboration activities in order to define common R&I agendas and priorities facilitating the implementation of joint R&I activities. The services that will be provided by INCOBRA will include:

- ⇒ Training on EU and Brazilian funding opportunities and on writing project proposals - H2020 and Brazilian programmes;
- ⇒ Linkages and matchmaking between BR-EU R&I actors;
- ⇒ Information about relevant events;
- ⇒ Assistance on the creation and coordination of agendas – matchmaking of common objectives between networks;
- ⇒ Helpdesk assistance;
- ⇒ Assistance for the creation of a communication plan with recommendations for Network activities – sharing news, events, research results;
- ⇒ Outline and structure for an activities report to highlight and give visibility to joint actions and initiatives.

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### SELECTION

Within the selection procedure for the 5 networks, priority will be given to:

- Networks or other initiatives working within one of the BR-EU R&I thematic areas mentioned previously;
- Networks including or supporting the involvement of industry and private R&I performers;
- Networks incorporating partners from regions/countries with distinct levels of R&I performance;
- Networks willing to present a proposal to [EU](#) / BR programmes.
- Networks incorporating researchers who benefitted from mobility schemes (as an example "Science without Borders, Marie Curie", or other European mobility schemes could also be considered)

Examples of such networks are:

CASE A) An existing R&I network with both Brazilian and European actors (consisting of at least 2 different European Members States and Associated Countries and 2 states in Brazil) that would like to develop further activities linking the two regions.

CASE B) A project consortium consisting of Brazilian-European actors at the end of their own project lifetime but who would like to continue their activities and collaboration

CASE C) Two R&I networks representing each geographic region (Brazil-Europe) and who have previously expressed interest in collaborating, and think that this call may give them the opportunity to carry out a series of bilateral actions or activities, present a joint proposal, etc.

### APPLICATION AND TIMELINE

The networks interested in participating in this call must complete the online application form, also providing any additional information if relevant. A tentative budget should also be submitted.

All applications must be submitted in English.

Participants will receive a notification informing them that their application has been correctly submitted.

The evaluation procedure will be fair and the results will be transparent. For that purpose, the list of applicants as well as the list of networks selected will be published on the INCOBRA website [www.incobra.eu](http://www.incobra.eu).

Important dates:

<b>Deadline for submission:</b>	December 15 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Eligibility check:</b>	December 30 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Publication of the evaluation results:</b>	March 15 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Launch of the selected networks' activities:</b>	March 2018
<b>Activities time frame:</b>	7 months

**APPLY HERE:** <https://tinyurl.com/y7ytgxag>

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### EVALUATION

Applications will be evaluated by a committee comprised of members of the INCOBRA Executive Board and at least one external evaluator. A fair BR-EU geographic representation will always be ensured in all evaluation groups. The evaluators will have one month to examine all the proposals after the technical check is completed and eligible list of applicants will be prepared within 15 days after the call closure date. The assessment decision will be submitted to the selected network coordinator in no later than 45 days after the call closure date.

#### Evaluation criteria:

Evaluators will analyse the application according to the following main criteria: Quality of the proposal, Capacity and competences of the applicant, Impact and sustainability

Table showing breakdown of evaluation criteria and corresponding weighting:

CRITERIA	WEIGHT
Capacity and Competence of the applicant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Geographical representativeness;</li> <li>Networks incorporating partners from regions/countries with distinct levels of R&amp;I performance;</li> <li>Networks working within one of the BR-EU R&amp;I thematic areas identified in this call;</li> <li>Past initiatives (no more than 3 years) related to such priority areas, including past EU funded projects;</li> <li>Networks incorporating researchers who benefitted from mobility schemes (like for example Science without Borders, Marie Curie, etc.);</li> <li>Networks including different stakeholders (industry, civil society, etc.) will be privileged.</li> </ul>	<b>3</b>
Excellence (Quality of the proposal) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relevance to the Call objectives;</li> <li>SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) objectives;</li> <li>Clear definition of roles and responsibilities;</li> <li>Clear and an effective work plan;</li> <li>Easy to evaluate;</li> <li>Precise, well written;</li> </ul>	<b>3</b>
Impact and sustainability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The promise of a relevant contribution to the achievement of the aims of the call, notably through a joint proposal to a funding scheme, like H2020;</li> <li>The feasibility of achieving the goals set in the proposed work;</li> <li>Crossing disciplines and stakeholder groups (engagement plans of relevant scientific disciplines, readiness to engage wider stakeholders beyond researchers);</li> <li>The way the workshops and the dissemination of its results could contribute to EU-BR policy dialogue;</li> <li>Added value of the grant and technical services to be provided.</li> </ul>	<b>4</b>

For any further information please contact: [incobra@incobra.eu](mailto:incobra@incobra.eu)

**Please note:** Due to conflict of interest, INCOBRA partners can not submit applications for this call. Likewise, the Evaluation Committee shall not have any interest in any of the proposals submitted.

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### EXPECTED RESULTS

The grant and the consultancy provided by INCOBRA aims to create and/or foster a sustainable STI partnerships between Brazilian and European networks.

The expected result will be achieved by **either**:

- The joint submission of a proposal to any European, Member State or Brazilian funded programme.  
**And/or**
- Consolidation of a long term cooperation framework: signature of a MOU, partnership agreement or other kind of formal agreement  
**Plus**
- Activity report with policy recommendations and description of needs and cooperation obstacles.
- Action Plan for coordination of R&I initiatives.

The **report must be submitted in English to INCOBRA within one month after the completion of activities** and subsequently the remaining 50% of the grant payment will be transferred.

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

#### What is a network?

Networks are powerful mechanisms for sharing information and knowledge; they promote communication and coordination and act as mutual learning and capacity-building mechanisms.

Networks are interrelated groups of individuals and/or organisations that are established according to a specific design or need. The members of the network share a common vision, objectives and rules, and they carry out a set of common activities. Networks are not only based on the needs of members, they also have the goal of achieving changes in their own context.

#### What do we mean by 'bilateral networks' in this context?

For the aims and purposes of this call, 'bilateral' refers to the joint involvement of the two selected geographical areas, namely Brazil (BR) and the European Union (EU), in R&I activities. These may be anything carried out in collaboration with actors from both areas such as events, technology transfer activities, space sharing, etc.

Bilateral networks may be formal or informal linkages between R&I actors that have a common interest in working together, who contribute resources or time in a two-way exchange or communication, and interact to achieve common benefits.

#### About INCOBRA

INCOBRA (<https://www.incobra.eu/>) is a three-year Horizon 2020-funded project seeking to increase Research and Innovation (R&I) cooperation activities between Brazil (BR) and the European Union (EU) while enhancing framework conditions and addressing BR-EU R&I priorities areas for bilateral cooperation. INCOBRA aims to facilitate R&I collaboration and to tackle challenges by implementing key activities that will support policy dialogue, promote coherence and coordination on funding schemes, raise awareness and support bilateral R&I cooperation networks. The INCOBRA project is run by a consortium of 13 European and Brazilian organisations coordinated by bilateral R&I cooperation network.

### INCOBRA PARTNERS

