

EuProNet – SMWK Guideline for European and international research networking

The world's largest research and innovation programme of the European Commission, [Horizon 2020](#) (approx. 75 billion euros, duration: 2014 to 2020), as well as EU coordination instruments such as [European Research Area Networks \(ERA-Nets\)](#), [European Knowledge and Innovation Communities \(KICs\)](#) and [Public-Private Partnerships \(PPP\)](#) are the most important instruments for shaping the [European Research Area \(ERA\)](#) from basic research to market launch.

The Saxon State Ministry for Science, Culture and Tourism (SMWK) supports the participation of Saxon universities and research institutions in competitive European research programmes through the [EuProNet guideline](#). On the basis of this guideline, for example, the preparation of applications for network activities (EuProNet "initial funding") and research projects can be funded.

Among other things, the EuProNet guideline serves to maintain and expand Saxony as a European region of research, development and innovation and is intended to strengthen its global competitiveness. Saxon universities and research institutions are supported in their active participation in international networks and transnational joint projects. An important aspect is the support of collaborative research with European and international partners in order to strengthen Saxony's visibility in research and innovation and to increase the chances of raising funds.

Discover the funding possibilities of the EuProNet guideline of the SMWK!

1) Thematic project funding with international partners

ERA-Nets

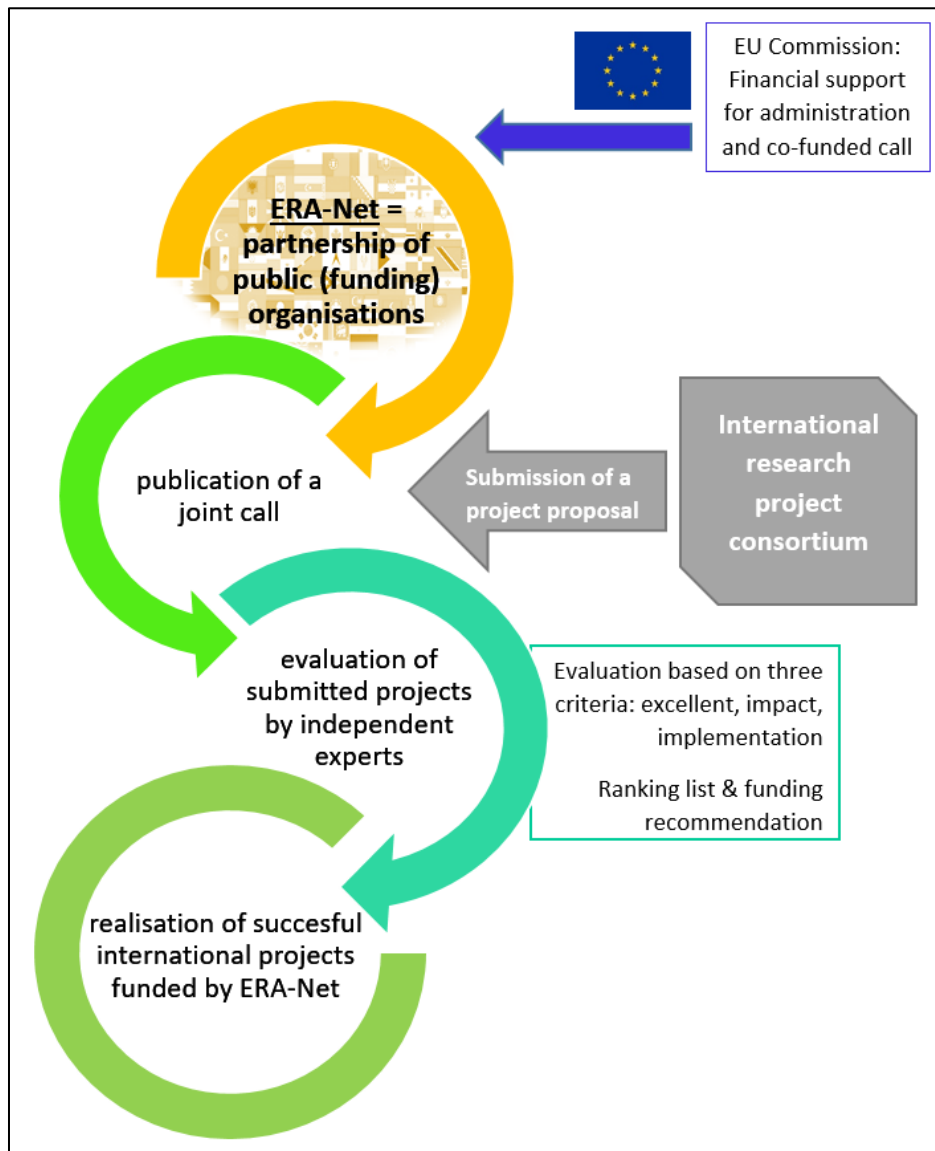
Saxon researchers who are interested in collaborations with international partners do not need to only focus on calls of the European Research Framework Horizon 2020 (Horizon Europe from 2021).

To the contrary, they can also submit proposals in ERA-Net-Calls.

The Public-Public Partnerships (P2Ps) in research and innovation are networks of public organisations (Ministries, funding agencies, programme managers) from interested EU countries and beyond, that join forces to support research activities under an agreed vision or research and innovation agenda. These network activities are supported by the European Commission.

In this way, the partnerships align national strategies, helping to overcome fragmentation of public research effort and strengthen the cooperation between national/ regional public organisations. For example, priority topics of top-level research in Saxony can be included by the SMWK in ERA-Net calls and the evaluation procedure can be co-determined.

The main and compulsory activity of the ERA-NET Cofund under Horizon 2020 is the implementation of one project call with top-up funding of 33% from the European Commission that leads to the funding of transnational research and/or innovation projects. In addition to the co-funded call the consortia may implement other joint activities including other joint calls without EU co-funding.



With its partnership in the ERA-Nets, the Free State of Saxony contributes to increasing the excellence and international competitiveness of Saxony's universities and research institutions. At the same time, their European networking and visibility is strengthened in a new quality.

Thematic Areas and procedure

The SMWK funds interdisciplinary research projects with international partners in the following areas

- Biotechnologies – [ERA CoBioTech](#)
- Personalised Medicine – [ERA PerMed](#)
- Material science and engineering – [M-ERA.Net](#)

Saxon research institutions, universities and companies can participate in regular thematic calls for proposals and submit projects together with partners. The projects are reviewed by external international experts in the evaluation process and subsequently recommended for funding. Positively evaluated Saxon project proposals can be funded via the EuProNet guideline (funding object 1).

For Saxon reviewers

Saxon experts have the opportunity to become acquainted with the evaluation processes in an ERA-Net as reviewers, to deepen networks and exchange and to gain experience for their own applications in competitive EU research funding programmes. The experts evaluate the submitted proposals according to specified criteria, prepare an anonymous evaluation report and draw up the ranking list. The ranking list determines the funding of the individual projects by the participating countries and regions.

Experts should not submit or evaluate their own projects in the respective call, as there may be conflicts of interest. If you are interested, please contact the relevant contact person at the SMWK.

2) EuProNet – “initial funding”

The application process in competitive European research funding programmes such as HORIZON 2020 or European Research Networks (ERA-Nets) is usually very time and resource intensive. Therefore, the SMWK supports scientists of Saxon universities and research institutions in the preparation of applications in these programmes with the EuProNet "initial funding" (funding object 2).

The application for EuProNet "initial funding" measures within the preparation process of the EU application can be submitted for the phase (shortly) before the deadline in the European funding programme. These measures may include personnel expenses/costs, e.g. for the coordination and preparation of the EU application, as well as travel expenses, e.g. for business trips or the organisation of networking meetings with several partners of the project consortium, as well as other material expenses or costs and external services, such as subcontracting the proofreading of the EU application.

The SMWK regularly publishes calls for proposals for EuProNet "initial funding" on its website and through the official information channels. The start of the EuProNet projects is flexible, the end of the EuProNet projects is the EU deadline.

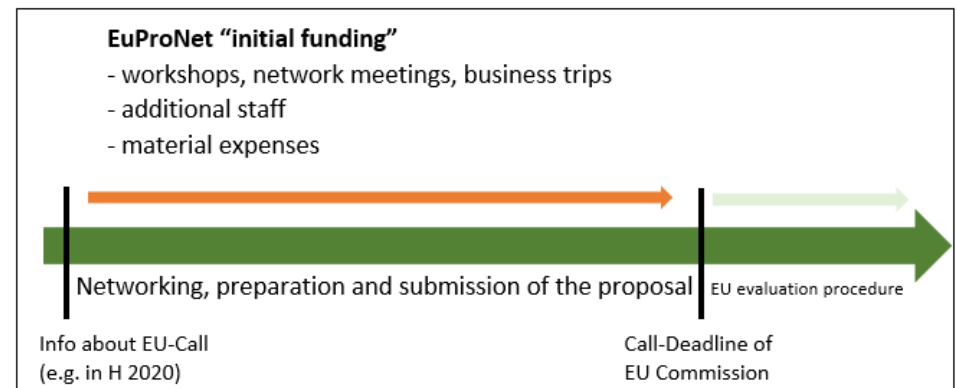
Saxon universities, research centres in Saxony, institutionally funded non-university research institutions based in Saxony as well as non-profit

research institutions with the status of an associated institute are eligible for application.

The following requirements should be met for applying for EuProNet "initial funding":

- ✓ Identified a suitable call in a competitive European research programme
- ✓ first project ideas
- ✓ assembled a core consortium with partners
- ✓ necessarily infrastructure for project implementation

The EuProNet application is to be submitted to the Sächsische Aufbaubank SAB as the approval authority and is then evaluated by SAB and SMWK. After approval by the SAB, the preparatory project for the application can be carried out and the completed application can be submitted to the European competitive funding programme on time.



3) Contact details and important links

Please do not hesitate to contact us and visit [our website!](#)

Saxon State Ministry for Science, Culture and Tourism
Wigardstraße 17
01097 Dresden
Germany

Contact persons:

Ms. Gabriele Süptitz

☎ +49 351 564-64210

✉ gabriele.sueptitz@smwk.sachsen.de

Ms. Huyen Vu

☎ +49 351 564-64217

✉ ngochuye.vu@smwk.sachsen.de

Sächsische Aufbaubank – Förderbank –
Pirnaische Straße 9
01069 Dresden
Germany

SAB Service Center

☎ +49 351 4910 4930

✉ servicecenter@sab.sachsen.de