



**Euro-Biolmaging**  
European Research Infrastructure for Imaging Technologies in Biological  
and Biomedical Sciences

**WP4 Finance Planning**

**Task 4.1**

Identify funding sources by approaching ministries and funding agencies in the EU Member States and Associated States

**Deliverable 4.2**

Tour de table meeting with funding bodies

**Task leader**

NWO

**May 2012**

## Introduction

The main objectives of Work package 4 (Finance Planning) are to identify sustainable funding opportunities for establishing Euro-Biolmaging as a pan-European research infrastructure, to develop a sustainable funding model, to determine the budget that will be required for the construction and operation and to provide a finance and risk management plan for the business plan. Thus the group of work package members comprises participants representing funding organizations from different European countries.

In order to involve funding organisations from most of the 26 countries participating in the Euro-Biolmaging Preparatory Phase, WP4 aims to build a comprehensive database and network of contact persons at ministries and funding agencies responsible for research infrastructure funding and invites them to participate in dedicated Euro-Biolmaging and WP4 meetings such as the Funders' Tour de Table.

## The Euro-Biolmaging Funders' Table

To obtain more insight how funding organisations perceive the funding of distributed pan-European research infrastructures on the ESFRI roadmap in general, and more specifically concerning the future implementation of Euro-Biolmaging (EUBI), 'Tour de Tables' with representatives of funding organizations will be organized twice during the Euro-Biolmaging Preparatory Phase in M18 and M30.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Tour de Table Meeting with Funders took place on the occasion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Euro-Biolmaging Stakeholder Meeting in January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012, in Heidelberg.

The participants were

Marc Luwel	Flemish Agency for research infrastructure	BE
Pierre Moortgat	Belgian Science Policy Office	BE
Stoyno Stoinov	Bulgarian Academy of Sciences	BG
Isabella Beretta	Scientific Advisor International Cooperation FDHA - Federal Department of Home Affairs	CH
Petr Ježek	Academy of Sciences, Prague	CZ
Christian Renner	German Research Foundation	DE
Paul Beckers	European Science Foundation	
Barbara Tóthné Vizkelety	National Innovation Office	HU
Sabato D'Auria	National Research Council	IT
Amanda Collis	Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council	UK
Wouter Spek	WP4 Chair	
Frans Martens	WP4 Chair	
Jan Ellenberg	Euro-Biolmaging Scientific Coordinator	
Stefan Schönberg	Euro-Biolmaging Scientific Coordinator	
Antje Keppler	Euro-Biolmaging Project Manager	

## **Agenda of the 1<sup>st</sup> Euro-Biolumaging Funders' Table on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

10:00-10:20: Opening & objective meeting  
10:20-10:30: Short introduction round  
10:30-10:45: Euro-Biolumaging vision & mission (Jan Ellenberg)  
10:45-11:45: Funders perspectives through short presentations  
11:45-12:15: Discussion  
12:15: Closure

### **Summary of meeting outcome**

Representatives from funding bodies of 9 countries were present, who gave a summary of the interest of their funding organization in Euro-Biolumaging and on the state of affairs in their respective countries. The following topics were discussed:

#### *Inventory of funding resources (see Deliverable D4.1) and the funding model of Euro-Biolumaging*

With respect to the inventory it was obvious, that the funding landscape of the European countries is differentiated and that a variety of funding instruments exists (in general and more specific for the financial support of research Infrastructures). During this meeting, it was discussed how policies in certain countries have evolved over time. In e.g. France, the Netherlands and Germany calls for proposals for the support of national imaging research infrastructures and/or the national roadmap prioritization had already been published and in the case of France, significant funding for biological and medical imaging has already been granted, while in Germany Euro-Biolumaging was invited to submit a proposal for the national roadmap that is currently under review, whereas in the Netherlands Biolumaging is on the roadmap but has yet to succeed to obtain funding. It was clear from the comments of the participants, that these calls for proposals were highly specific and customized towards the needs of specific national research communities and/or the developments in national policies.

The new industrial oriented 'Top-sector Policy' in the Netherlands was given as an example of a changing policy environment, shifting the area e.g. of Life Sciences & Health towards public-private-partnerships. Future investments (2012/2013) will be guided through their applicability and advancement of this new industry oriented policy in the Netherlands.

An overview of the different national funding mechanisms for imaging research infrastructure and the current status of Euro-Biolumaging on national roadmaps is given in Deliverables D4.1 and D6.2.

#### *General principles of a possible funding model*

The funding model presented at this meeting was designed according to the basic plan of Euro-Biolumaging to become a distributed pan-European research infrastructure, consisting of biological and medical imaging technology nodes in the different Member States, which provide open access to the users, and a central European infrastructure hub.

During the discussion, it became clear that more concrete suggestions from the funders on mechanisms for funding the Euro-Biolumaging nodes and hub need to await the Euro-Biolumaging business plan, which will include the infrastructure model – describing the tasks of the hub and the nodes – , the legal and governance model as well as the finance plan.

The participants discussed that the finance plan for Euro-Biolmaging needs to describe

- the funding sources and mechanism for the European coordination activities conducted by the central Euro-Biolmaging hub;
- the national funding sources and mechanisms for the nodes located in the different Euro-Biolmaging Member States.

In terms of sources the debate was focused on public sources, private sources (industry, charities, foundations, VC, Banks) were not taken into consideration at this stage. Next to the national funding streams, coming from funding organisations (research councils, etc.) for the nodes, it was proposed that a budget contribution would have to be paid by Euro-Biolmaging Member States (national ministries or equivalent) to finance the central Euro-Biolmaging hub. The concept of the central Euro-Biolmaging hub needs further elaboration in terms of mandate, responsibilities and tasks in order to define the final funding concept of the hub. In addition, European funding has been discussed as a source for European-level activities of the Euro-Biolmaging research infrastructure, as an example the BIOMEDBRIDGES project was mentioned. Continuous communication with all funders interested in Euro-Biolmaging in the upcoming months will be needed to develop together sustainable funding mechanisms for the implementation and operation of the infrastructure.

#### *General considerations*

The financial crisis has hit hard the financial capabilities of many public funding organisations in Europe and thus the financial resources available to finance research infrastructures have decreased. However, national investments in national research infrastructures are ongoing and in several cases can clearly be attributed to the European endeavour of Euro-Biolmaging, which triggers the national decision making process to allocate financial resources for the national research infrastructures in the area of Biolmaging. In some countries, however, these investments were based on earlier policy decisions and were thus unaffected by the impact of the financial crisis.

WP4 provided a quick scan of the possibilities provided by the numerous instruments provided by the EIB (RSFF).

#### *Consultation with national imaging communities*

Since early 2010 self-organization of biological and medical imaging communities at the national level started in 18 European Member States (FI, SE, NO, UK, IE, PL, DE, CH, NL, BE, FR, LU, ES, PT, IT, HR, GR, CZ) particularly with the goal of supporting Euro-Biolmaging and to achieve the pan-European integration of national imaging communities. In several cases, this has already led to significant national investments (e.g. FR, SE, IT, PL, ES, NO, CZ) or application for national investments (CH, DE, FR, NL, IE, UK, BE, IL – see Deliverable D4.1 *Report on funding sources for the construction and operation of Euro-Biolmaging*). The national imaging communities have appointed national coordinating persons who are responsible for communication between their respective community and Euro-Biolmaging. Besides facilitating contact to the national contact persons, Euro-Biolmaging actively communicates and exchanges with national imaging communities and their funders by continuously participating at national meetings and inviting their national coordinating persons and funders' representatives to Euro-Biolmaging Work Package meetings, thereby establishing continuous communication channels with the Euro-Biolmaging project management team.

**Forward look & Points for consideration: future discussion with funders' representatives**

- The next Euro-BioImaging funders' table will follow the Euro-BioImaging call for nodes (to be launched in spring 2013) in M30.
- In the meantime, the national imaging initiatives will seek the direct communication to their national and regional funders with support from the Euro-BioImaging WP4 and Project Management Team.
- Following the development of the overall infrastructure model as well as the decision on the legal framework, the Euro-BioImaging funding model will be further elaborated, including the allocation of sources for the nodes and the central Euro-BioImaging hub. The concept will be presented during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tour de Table Meeting (M30).
- Because of the continuous changes in national policies and derived implementation modalities it is vital that WP4 stays in close contact with the national (Euro-) BioImaging networks as well as with respective national policymakers and funders;
- This seeking of contact with potential funders will also take into account operational authorities responsible for allocation of European Structural Funds and the derived operational plans of the different regions in the European countries.