

# Task 3.7 - Evaluation of the ERA-CAPS calls

## Deliverable 3.6 - Report of evaluation of ERA-CAPS calls

2<sup>nd</sup> ERA-CAPS Grant Holders Workshop,  
Lisbon, 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> May 2015

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ERA-CAPS

ERA-NET for Coordinating  
Action in Plant Sciences

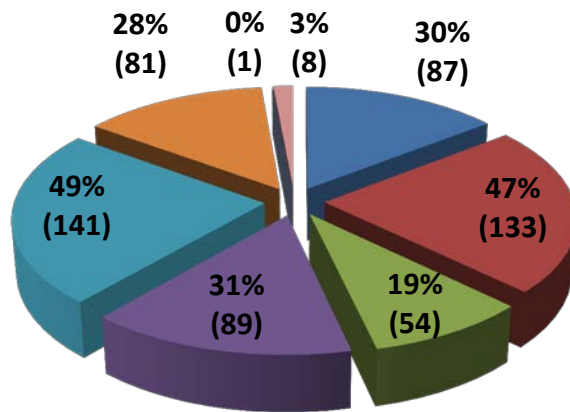


## QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE ERA-Net ERA-CAPS: APPLICANT'S VIEWS

- Quality assessment of the ERA-CAPS calls;
- Applicant's views on the procedures employed during both ERA-CAPS calls.

**43% participation in the questionnaire  
(286 applicants)**

### Q.2 Position in the ERA-CAPS community

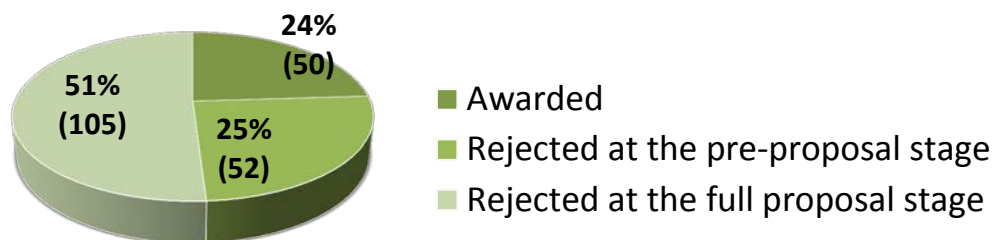


- Applicant of the 1st call
- Applicant of the 2nd call
- Applicant of both calls
- Consortium coordinator
- Principal Investigator
- Co-applicant
- Institutional Grants Officer
- Other (e.g. 2nd Call Panel Member; co worker; member of the applicant team at the 2nd Call; administrative coordinator; evaluator)

**Q3. If you applied to the 1st call, your application was:**



**Q4. If you applied to the 2nd call, your application was:**



### Q5. How did you find out about the ERA-CAPS Calls?

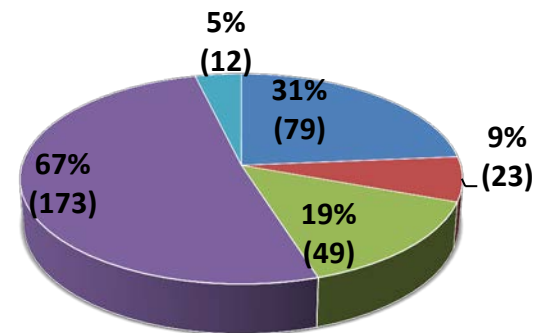
■ ERA-CAPS website

■ ERA-CAPS National Contact point

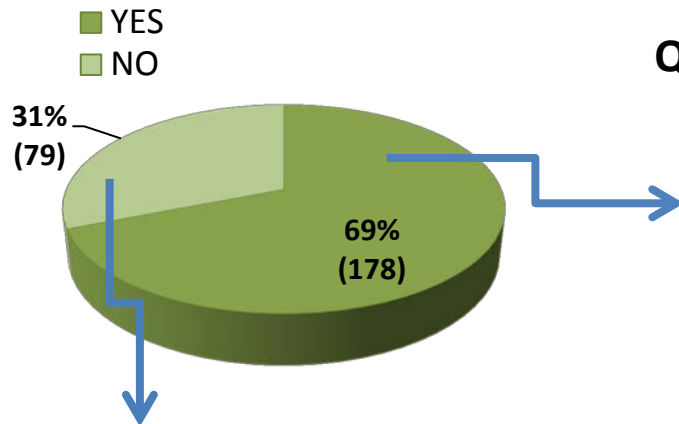
■ National funding organisation website

■ Personal communication (academic colleague or other)

■ Other (e.g. Scientific officer at FCT-UNL; University information platform; Massey research services; ERA-PG final meeting; AgResearch internal email; EPSO; An ERA-PG project; Research Fortnight; University grants officer; Invitation by the coordinator)



### Q6. Did you see the Call pre-announcements?



### Q7. Did you find it valuable as an advance warning?

YES 96% (170)  
NO 4% (7)


























### Q8. Were the call pre-announcements clear and easy to understand?

YES 95% (166)  
NO 5% (9)

### Q9. How it could be improved:

- Advertise by the funding agencies;
- Dissemination through mailing lists;
- Advertising in relevante journals and website.

### Q10. Classify from 1 (Poor) to 5 (Excellent) the following:

	1	2	3	4	5
The general idea of opening transnational calls.	2 - 1% 	5 - 2% 	9 - 4% 	42 - 16% 	199 - 77% 
The inclusiveness of the call notice to the applicant community.	3 - 1% 	11 - 4% 	53 - 21% 	111 - 43% 	79 - 31% 
The clarity and comprehensiveness of the call notice.	3 - 1% 	9 - 4% 	43 - 17% 	132 - 51% 	70 - 27% 
The clarity and efficiency of the Call Secretariat.	5 - 2% 	8 - 3% 	55 - 21% 	110 - 43% 	79 - 31% 
The response to your requests and requirements.	5 - 2% 	11 - 4% 	57 - 22% 	100 - 39% 	84 - 33% 

**Q11. If the ERA-CAPS call notice wasn't clear and easy to understand, then please comment briefly on how you think it could be improved.**

Doubts concerning:

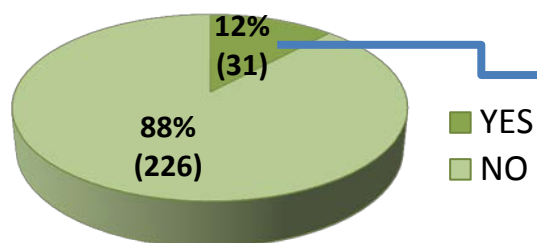
- \* Countries contributing to the call;
- \* Number of positions funded.

**Q12. If the ERA-CAPS call notice wasn't sufficiently inclusive for the applicant community, then please comment briefly on areas that were not represented.**

- Long term strategic basic research should be funded;
- Plant pathology, network biology, biocuration, database;
- Plant protection;
- Limitations due to rules of national funding agencies.



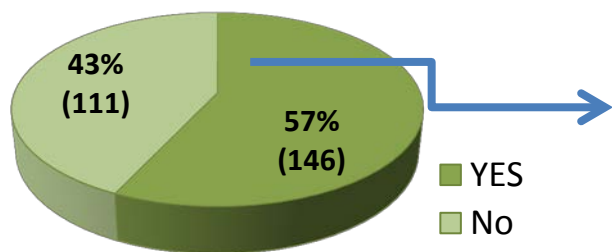
### Q13. Would you prefer to see a more focused activity?



### Q14. Suggestions on possible areas that should be covered:

- Nitrogen;
- Crops;
- Applied physics;
- Molecular physics;
- Plant-microbe interactions;
- Biotechnology
- Plant immunity;
- Technology development;
- Soil biology;
- Plant synthetic biology;
- Plant nutrition;
- Plant pathology and plant pathogen molecular interaction;
- Plant Immunity;
- New agrochemicals against plant disease































**Q15. Do you think the scientific community should be more involved in the selection of the call topics?**



**Q16. Some suggestions on how it should be done:**

- Gather inputs through contacts with national/international plant science organisations;
- Consultation with experts and other stakeholders (questionnaires, email, workshops, meeting groups, online surveys;
- Through National Contact Point;
- Creation of Transnational focus groups with representatives elected by the funding agencies.














































### Q17. Classify from 1 (Poor) to 5 (Excellent) the following:

	1	2	3	4	5
Clarity and utility of instructions to Guidelines for Application.	2 - 1% 	8 - 4% 	35 - 16% 	104 - 48% 	66 - 31% 
Clarity and utility of instructions to Application Form.	2 - 1% 	7 - 3% 	35 - 16% 	99 - 46% 	71 - 33% 
Pre-submission advice when required.	2 - 1% 	2 - 1% 	48 - 24% 	77 - 39% 	71 - 36% 
Notification on receipt of application.	4 - 2% 	2 - 1% 	26 - 12% 	81 - 38% 	101 - 47% 
Notification of Review Panel decision.	6 - 3% 	5 - 2% 	42 - 20% 	83 - 39% 	77 - 36% 
Feedback from Review Panel discussions.	15 - 7% 	22 - 10% 	59 - 28% 	63 - 30% 	53 - 25% 

### Q18. Further comments:

- Slow , not detailed and not clear;
- Slow feedback on the Review Panel Decision and Discussion;
- Not helpful on how to improve the next application.

### Q19. Classify from 1 (Poor) to 5 (Excellent) the following:

	1	2	3	4	5
Clarity and utility of instructions to Guidelines for Application.	6 - 3% 	3 - 1% 	40 - 19% 	95 - 44% 	70 - 33% 
Clarity and utility of instructions to Application Form.	6 - 3% 	4 - 2% 	40 - 19% 	95 - 45% 	68 - 32% 
Clarity and utility of instructions to FAQ.	6 - 3% 	3 - 1% 	58 - 27% 	86 - 41% 	59 - 28% 
Clarity and utility of instructions to National Annexes.	11 - 5% 	12 - 6% 	65 - 31% 	75 - 35% 	49 - 23% 
Clarity and utility of instructions to ELAN Manual for electronic proposal submission.	8 - 4% 	15 - 7% 	55 - 27% 	68 - 33% 	58 - 28% 
Response of Call Secretariat and/or National Call Coordinators to requests for assistance (If applicable).	11 - 6% 	9 - 5% 	45 - 23% 	71 - 36% 	60 - 31% 
Quality of referee comments.	19 - 9% 	26 - 12% 	56 - 26% 	66 - 31% 	48 - 22% 
Notification of Review Panel decision.	15 - 7% 	17 - 8% 	50 - 23% 	67 - 31% 	64 - 30% 
Feedback from Review Panel discussions.	25 - 12% 	30 - 14% 	58 - 27% 	52 - 25% 	47 - 22% 

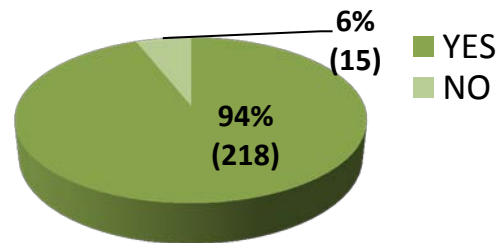
### Q20. Positive aspects of this procedure:

- Two stage application was a considerable improvement relatively to the first call;
- Highly appreciation of the possibility to respond to the reviewers before the final decision.

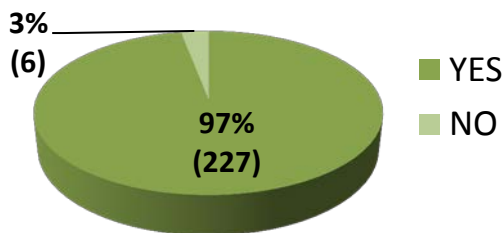
### Q20. Negative aspects of this procedure:

- Too many rules from different countries affect potential partners;
- Review Panel discussion extremely short;
- Low quality of the reviewers;
- Poor job of reviewers;
- Lengthy process;
- Extremely low funding rate.

### Q21. Did you find the opportunity to see and respond to reviewers comments useful?



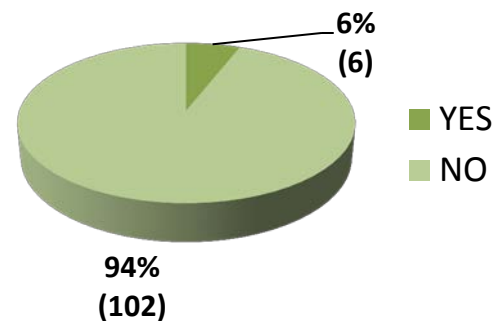
**Q22. Would you consider it (the possibility to respond to reviewers) as a feature to be included in future transnational calls?**



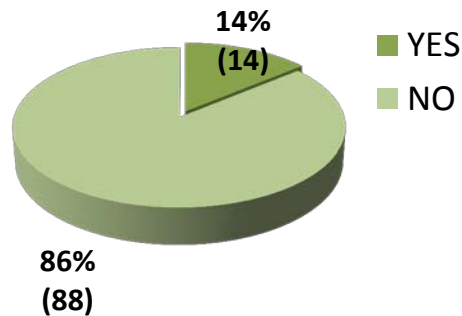
**Q23. Classify 1 (Poor) to 5 (Excellent) the following aspects of your national procedures:**

	1	2	3	4	5
Communication.	2 - 2%	8 - 6%	28 - 21%	58 - 44%	35 - 27%
The effectiveness and time of the National contract negotiations.	5 - 4%	10 - 8%	32 - 26%	47 - 38%	29 - 24%

**Q24. Did you experience unacceptable problems or delays in the start of your joint project?**



**Q25. Were there aspects of this stage of the process that you would appreciate further support?**



**Q26. If you answered "YES" to the previous question, please comment briefly:**

- Information/negotiations/discussions about budget cuts;
- National funding issues/Improvement of national contact negotiations;
- Delays in the process;
- Great amount of time between the initial and the final recommendation;
- Information of national agencies regarding funding were sporadic.

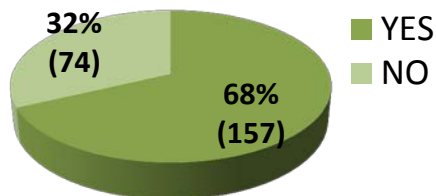
**Q27. How important is for you international collaboration? Classify 1 (not important) to 5 (very important).**

	1	2	3	4	5
Transnational collaboration significance.	4 - 2%	2 - 1%	5 - 2%	49 - 21%	171 - 74%

**Q28. Please add a short comment about the classification above:**

- Specialists in the field are not always available locally or nationally;
- Good science is not possible without collaboration;
- Excellence research at national level is no longer possible;
- Different research groups have different expertise;
- Allows avoiding duplication of efforts;
- Use of expensive infrastructures;
- Collaborations usefull to overcome methodological limitations.

**Q29. Was your application built on earlier collaborations?**



Mostly partially, with at least one partner from previous projects.



### Q31. Which were your expectations regarding your participation in the ERA-CAPS Call?

Research financing.	97%	<div><div></div></div>
Start a new line of research.	58%	<div><div></div></div>
Infrastructures sharing.	46%	<div><div></div></div>
Learn new methodologies.	58%	<div><div></div></div>
Researchers exchange.	71%	<div><div></div></div>
Access expertise not available in your country.	52%	<div><div></div></div>
Access to Biological material.	33%	<div><div></div></div>
Other, please specify	7%	<div><div></div></div>

**Q32. In case your application was granted, did your participation contribute also to international collaborative activities other than in the granted project?**

YES	30%	<div></div>
NO	8%	<div></div>
To early to say.	63%	<div></div>

**Q33. Please add a short comment to your answer above:**

- Participation with some partners in new project applications;
- Development of collaboration in new line of research;
- Researcher exchange and advanced training;
- Use of common data public repositories.

**Q34. In case your application was NOT granted, did your participation to an application contribute to international collaborative activities?**

YES	32%	<div></div>
NO	28%	<div></div>
To early to say.	41%	<div></div>

**Q35. Please add a short comment to your answer above.**

- Application with some partners to new projects;
- New research areas developed for possible collaboration;
- Most answers negative , no funding, no active collaboration.

### Q36. Which of the following items did you consider an added value of the consortium?

Research financing.	69%	<div></div>
Start a new line of research.	42%	<div></div>
Infrastructures sharing.	44%	<div></div>
Learn new methodologies.	48%	<div></div>
Researchers exchange.	54%	<div></div>
Access expertise not available in your country.	49%	<div></div>
Access to Biological material.	35%	<div></div>
Other, please specify	25%	<div></div>

### **Q37. Do you have any other remarks that could be of help to improve the process for future calls?**

- More rigorous pre-proposal reviewing;
- Whole process took a very long time;
- Improve coordination between national funding agencies (e.g. different limitations and the financing should be more clear and uniform).
- Improve the quality of the referres.
- Improve funding opportunities, many excellent proposals had no funding.



**Most Important and recurent issues along the questionnaire and that should be taken into account in future calls!**

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR  
YOUR ATTENTION!**



**ERA-CAPS**

ERA-NET for Coordinating  
Action in Plant Sciences

