

**FLAG-ERA: (the FLAGSHIP ERA-NET)
Coordinating National and Regional Funding for the FET Flagships¹**

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FLAG-ERA gathers most regional and national funding organisations (NRFOs) in Europe with the goal of supporting the Future and Emerging Technologies (FET) Flagship concept and more specifically, the FET Flagship initiatives Graphene and Human Brain Project (HBP).⁴ FLAG-ERA contributes to the construction of the two Flagship initiatives on graphene and human brain research, and also offers support to the four non-selected pilots to progress towards their goals with adapted means.⁵

The FLAG-ERA Consortium is holding a project workshop on 5 and 6 May as a side meeting of the Graphene2014 Conference. Representatives of the FET Flagship initiatives Graphene and Human Brain Project (HBP) and Flagship Pilots as well as representatives from the NRFOs and science policy makers participate in the workshop. The FLAG-ERA presence at Graphene 2014 is seen as a unique opportunity for outreach towards the scientific graphene community.

In order to enhance complementarities and synergies of regional, national and European research programmes and initiatives, the funding organisations share information on these programmes and initiatives, identify gaps and overlaps, and can thus adapt their thematic program and launch new initiatives according to the identified needs. For instance, the funding organisations in FLAG-ERA can launch transnational calls enabling researchers from different countries to propose joint contributions to the Flagships.

To facilitate and encourage the actual construction of the Flagships and take-up of their results, the funding organisations propose networking sessions for the research communities and other stakeholders, including industry

FLAG-ERA thus offers a platform to coordinate a wide range of sources of funding towards the realization of the very ambitious research goals of the FET Flagships.

FLAG-ERA goals and activities:

- Connect NRFOs with each Flagships through a liaison group
- Set up mechanisms to facilitate and encourage integration of nationally/regionally funded research into the Flagship work plans
- Maintain an inventory of funding and scientific landscapes in the domains of the Flagships
- Analyse overlaps & gaps to adapt national/regional research agendas in the domains of the Flagships

¹ See also: <http://www.flagera.eu>

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⁴ Information on the FET Flagship programme: <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/programme/fet/flagship>, Graphene Flagship: <http://www.graphene-flagship.eu>, Human Brain Project: <https://www.humanbrainproject.eu>

⁵ Information on the 4 FET Flagship pilots: FuturICT : <http://www.futurict.eu>, IT Future of Medicine: <http://www.itfom.eu>, Guardian Angels for a Smarter Life: <http://www.ga-project.eu>, Robot Companions for Citizens: <http://www.robotcompanions.eu>

- Launch dedicated transnational initiatives, for instance joint calls, allowing researchers from several countries to join forces
- Network with potential new participants
- Disseminate project information to relevant stakeholders

Figures

22 founding members from 17 countries:



Official project logo



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