



## **ERA-NET PLANT GENOMICS FUNDS 12 TRANSNATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECTS THROUGH SECOND JOINT CALL**

**The second joint call of the ERA-NET Plant Genomics, launched January 2008, provided researchers around and beyond Europe an opportunity to create and extend synergies between new and established research teams. Collaboration is essential in order to help plant genomics-based technologies answer biological questions of relevance to the development of a strong and competitive European bio-economy. The response and the overall quality of the proposals was very high. The second joint call matches the success of the first ERA-PG joint call with 12 projects out of 54 selected for funding and with a budget of approximately 16.5 Million €.**

The ERA-NET Plant Genomics is a fruitful collaboration between funding organisations in Europe and beyond. The objective of ERA-PG is to contribute to the development of the European Research Area and to build a strong knowledge-base in Europe to strengthen the competitiveness in plant genomics. Under its joint research programme, which started with the first ERA-PG Call in 2006 and continued with a second ERA-PG Call in 2008, transnational consortia are funded in which scientists from minimally three institutions from three different countries are working together in innovative and really collaborative projects.

The first call was launched in 2006 and was titled '*Structuring Plant Genomic Research in Europe*'. Through this call 29 projects are funded with a budget of over 35 Million €. As a result of this great success a new call was initiated to which partly different organisations are contributed. In January 2008 this second joint call was launched titled '*Strengthening the European Research Area in Plant Genomics – integrating new technologies in plant science*'. It was addressed to plant genomic researchers in Austria, Flanders (Belgium), Canada, Finland, Germany, Israel, Portugal, The Netherlands and United Kingdom.

As outcome of this second call 12 transnational projects will be funded with a total budget of approximately 16.5 Million €. It is a joint initiative of eight of the partners of ERA-PG in collaboration with one more funding organisation from Austria, and funding organisations from Canada. 54 Applications, all eligible, were submitted, so the success rate is 22 %. The overall quality of the proposals was very high and the call highly competitive.

The projects will last three years and will start in the course of 2009. Of the granted projects 8 have a Dutch participant. Please visit the ERA-PG website [www.erapg.org](http://www.erapg.org) to view the complete list of selected projects.