|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **C:\Users\utilisateur\Documents\RFI VEGETAL\Communication\logos OV\LOGO_VEGETAL_FINAL_horizontal.png** | **Call for projects « International postdoctoral fellows » – n°3 2018** | QUASAV4207 |

**OBJECTIVES**

**Objectif Végétal, Research, Education & Innovation in Pays de la Loire** is a regional programme (2014-2019) established by the Pays de la Loire Regional Council and that involves the teaching and research institutions (Université d’Angers, leader of the program, Agrocampus Ouest, ESA, Inra, Université de Nantes) as well as the international French cluster Végépolys.

Objectif Végétal programme mainly aims to reinforce the visibility and attractiveness of the regional centre for education and basic research, to boost collaborations with companies and reinforce the processes of economic valorization of research findings, and to develop international partnerships.

To read more about the programme: http://www.objectifvegetal.univ-angers.fr/en/index.html

The roadmap of Objectif Végétal includes the implementation of an international strategy that should contribute to the international outreach of the Objectif Végétal partners and to the ambition of becoming a European reference center on specialized plants by 2020.

The international strategy was validated by the steering committee of Objectif Végétal and by the Region Pays de la Loire in December 2016. Seven strategic partners were selected:

- Wageningen University & Research (WUR) in the Netherlands

- University of Hanover in Germany

- Plant & Food Research (PFR) and Massey University in New Zealand

- The State University of Sao Paulo (UNESP) in Brazil

- BIOINTROPIC and the CIB in Colombia

- The University of Turin in Italy

- The Center for Molecular Biosciences Innsbruck (CMBI) in Austria

The implementation of this international strategy must in particular contribute to the following objectives:

- to consolidate and promote excellence in key research topics;

- to accelerate the development of emerging research field;

- to increase the number of European and international projects;

- to develop joint education programmes and exchanges of students.

The Call for Projects "International Postdoctoral Fellows" is a major tool for the implementation of this international strategy.

It aims to:

- support fundamental research projects, with the primary objective of producing new scientific knowledge,

- consolidate or perpetuate collaborations with leading laboratories on priority research areas:

* Sustainable management of plant health;
* Seed biology, quality and health;
* Qualities and valorisation of horticultural products;

- initiate longterm collaborations to foster the development of

* High-throughput phenotyping / chemotyping,
* Epigenetics,
* New omics technologies, modelling & big data,
* Integration of plants in urban and peri-urban environment.

**ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE CALL FOR PROJECTS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF EXPECTED PROJECTS**

To be eligible, projects submitted:

- **must be coordinated by at least one unit of the Research Federation QUASAV** (Plant and Health Quality) – list of the research units in Annex. Partnerships with non QUASAV units are possible but can’t be funded if they are outside the Region Pays de la Loire ;

- **must be set up and carried out in collaboration with one or more laboratories of the 7 strategic partners listed above.** **The support of the partner laboratory must be formalized by a letter from the manager specifying how this project is likely to enhance collaboration between the two laboratories.**

- must meet the objectives defined above and fall within the scientific scope of the research areas mentioned therein;

- must be part of a **reciprocity strategy** through co-financing (for example: paying the post-doctoral salary for an additional period, covering operating costs and accommodation during stays in the partner laboratory) or mirror project (thesis, other post-doc)). **The importance of the co-financing provided by the foreign partner will be a decisive criterion in the selection of projects.**

- the postdoctoral fellowship must not exceed 2 years.

Candidates for the post-doctorate must be “**incoming**”, ie they must not have resided, studied or worked in France (main activity) more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately preceding the date set for recruitment.

The recruitment of the post-doctoral candidate will be carried out after the selection of the project.

Apart from the post-doctoral fellowship, the financial support is intended to cover exclusively the **running costs** related to the project: consumables, travel expenses, services, internships, small equipment (up to € 2,000). The adequacy of the amount requested with the objectives of the project must be justified. **The running costs may not exceed € 30k for 24 months.**

The search for additional funding (co-financing of the post-doctoral allocation, mobility aids to finance exchanges with the partner laboratory such as Agreenskill, Campus France, or other modalities specific to the country concerned) is welcome in order to optimize the number of projects that can be supported by the Objectif Végétal programme. The Objectif Végétal support team as well as the UBL Europe service can be mobilized for the search for additional funding.

**APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND CALENDAR**

The projects will be written **in English** according to the application form and sent by e-mail to Objectif Vegetal nadine.dueso@univ-angers.fr **by March 30, 2018 at 6 pm with the visa of the Director of the Unit and the letter of support of the foreign partner.**

Objectif Végétal will ensure the verification of the eligibility (completeness of the project).

**The projects will then be evaluated in 2 steps:**

**- evaluation by the Research and / or Operational Committee of Objectif Végétal of the relevance of the project for the international strategy, the expected benefits of the collaboration, the reciprocity in the partnership and co-financing provided;**

**- evaluation of the scientific quality by external scientific experts.**

The selection should be finalized at the beginning of June 2018.

The recruitment of candidates must be carried out between the beginning of June and the end of August 2018.

Funding for the project will only be acquired after agreement from the Operational Committee of Objectif Végétal.

Projects may start on or after October 1st, 2018.

**Annex**

**Research Federation QUASAV: list of the research units**

* **BVO** (ANSES) **Bacteriology, Virology and GMO Unit** of the Plant Health Laboratory (Agence nationale de sécurité sanitaire de l’alimentation, de l’environnement et du travail / French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety). The Bacteriology, Virology and GMO Unit participates in the development and revision of reference analytical methods and carries out analyses (mainly for confirmation), as well as expert appraisals in its field of expertise.
* **EPHOR** (Agrocampus Ouest): Environnement Physique de la Plante Horticole / **Physical Environment of Horticultural Plants**. The laboratory activities are centered on transfers of energy and matter between plants and their environment in the context of horticulture.
* **GRAPPE** (Ecole Supérieure d’Agricultures, unit under contract with INRA): Agro-alimentaire, Produits et Procédés / **Agro-food products and processes**. The unit develops methodological approaches to assess the quality of plant food products (fruits and vegetables) with a special focus on sensorial properties.
* **IRHS** (UMR INRA-Agrocampus Ouest- Université d’Angers / Joint research unit INRA-Agrocampus Ouest- University of Angers): Institut de Recherche en Horticulture et Semences / **Research Institute on Horticulture and Seeds** - the 5th largest group of INRA. The laboratory develops integrated approaches by coordinating the efforts and expertise in genetics, genomics, breeding, pathology, physiology, biochemistry, ecophysiology, modelling, bioinformatics and statistics. The scientific teams are organized around the three main objects of study: roses and other ornamentals, pome-fruits and vegetables and seeds.
* **LBPV** (University of Nantes): Laboratoire de Biologie et Pathologie Végétales / **Laboratory of Plant Biology and Pathology**. The laboratory develops research in the field of plant pathology with a special focus on plant-parasitic plants interactions. The laboratory has a long-term expertise in this field which is unique in France.
* **LEVA** (Ecole Supérieure d’Agricultures, unit under contract with INRA): Légumineuses, Ecophysiologie Végétale, Agroécologie / **Legumes, Crop Ecophysiology, Agroecology.** The project of this unit is based on the development of mix-cropping systems including legumes to restrict nitrogen inputs. The team has been pioneer in France on this research domain.
* **SIFCIR** (University of Angers, unit under contract with INRA): Signalisation Fonctionnelle des Canaux Ioniques et Récepteurs **/ Intracellular Signalling Regulation of Ion Channels and Receptors**. The research developed in this laboratory aims to optimize the efficacy of insecticides and repellents while reducing the doses used in treatments.
* **SONAS** (University of Angers): Substances d’Origine Naturelle et Analogues Structuraux / **Substances of natural origin and structural analogs**. The research domain of the laboratory concerns technological developments in the fields of analytical chemistry and bio-screening to optimize the discovery of naturally sourced active ingredients and valorization of plant biomass.