

ICGEB - research grants and training opportunities

The International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology provides a scientific and educational environment and conducts innovative research in life sciences for the benefit of developing countries. It strengthens the research capability of its Members through training and funding programmes and represents a comprehensive approach to promoting biotechnology internationally.

The Centre is dedicated to advanced research and training in molecular biology and biotechnology and holds out the prospect of advancing knowledge and applying the latest techniques in the field of:

- Biomedicine
- Crop improvement
- Environmental protection / remediation
- Biopharmaceuticals and biopesticide production

With Components in Trieste (Italy), New Delhi (India) and Cape Town (South Africa), the Centre forms an interactive network with Affiliated Centres in ICGEB Member States. ICGEB is part of the United Nations system.

Institutional Activities

There is increasing international recognition that science- and technology-intensive solutions can significantly improve **quality of life**. This is particularly true, where **biotechnology** is concerned, since this field is of paramount interest for health (including the development of new medicines, vaccines and diagnostic procedures), agriculture (through the generation of plants with improved nutritional value and biotic- and abiotic-stress resistant crops), and the environment (by reducing waste and pollution).

Research activity focuses on issues of utmost relevance for developing countries, including HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, plant biotechnology, as well as on basic research topics that can be effectively tackled through a science-based approach focusing on research and on the ensuing biomedical and agricultural applications.

ICGEB plays an active role in biosafety-related issues (including mechanisms on risk assessment for the release of genetically modified organisms) and in the environmentally sustainable use of biotechnology.

The Collaborative Research Programme (CRP) – **ICGEB Research Grants** is a dedicated source of funding aimed at financing projects addressing original scientific problems of particular relevance for the host country and of regional interest.

Established in 1988, the programme aims to stimulate collaborative research in Member States and with the ICGEB Component laboratories, to promote training of young scientists and to facilitate the creation of appropriate research facilities.

The programme provides support for research projects in basic science, human healthcare, industrial and agricultural biotechnology and bioenergy.

A call for applications is launched yearly.

Programme's priorities

Projects addressing original scientific issues of particular relevance for the host country of the applicant institution or those addressing a particular area of interest/relevance will be positively appreciated throughout the evaluation process. Particular attention will be given to projects addressing issues of interest for specific geographic regions and presented by groups collaborating across more than one country.

Financial support is available for research projects in different scientific fields (human healthcare, industrial and agricultural biotechnologies, bioenergy). Collaboration with other research groups (especially from ICGEB Member States) is welcome but is not mandatory in order to obtain financing. Particular attention will be paid to projects addressing issues of interest for specific geographic regions and presented by groups collaborating across more than one country.

Application from two or more research groups can be submitted on the condition that each group sends an individual application to obtain financial support for its own laboratory. Each application, approved by the Liaison Officer (Country representative) of the applicant's country, will be evaluated individually.

Eligibility

Applicants for research grant proposals (identified as "CRPs") should hold positions at Universities or Research Institutes in any of the ICGEB Member States. Any institute, university or research centre of the ICGEB Member States is eligible to apply for grant financed by ICGEB on the condition that the application is approved by the Liaison Officer.

The Liaison Officer's approval

Each application for accessing ICGEB grants must be approved by the Liaison Officer before being sent to ICGEB.

If there are more than three applications (the maximum number allowed for each Member State of ICGEB), the Liaison Officer will evaluate them according to evaluation criteria that can be found on INCDSB's web page, at the following address: <http://www.incdsb.ro/despre-incdsb/afilieri-incdsb/>

ICGEB Liaison Officer for Romania:

Dr. Anca Oancea

INCDSB Bucharest

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Modalities of submitting the applicants

The Principal Investigator should submit their complete application in electronic format (pdf) to the Liaison Officer who is in charge of endorsing the application at national level. A copy of the application should also be sent directly to the ICGEB (crp@icgeb.org), both in electronic format, but also in hard copy at the address mentioned on the organization's web page (CRP-ICGEB Research Grant Office, ICGEB, Padriciano 99, 34149 Trieste – Italy).

Principal Investigator

The Principal Investigator is the researcher who leads a well-defined research project, who has written the project and who is responsible for its development and for reporting it to the financing organization. He must be an employee of the institution that applies for financial support. There is no age limit for the Principal Investigator applying for standard research grants.

Application forms

Application forms and relevant guidelines can be found on the organization's webpage (<http://www.icgeb.org/research-grants.html>) both in word format and pdf files. These documents are available for the whole current year.

Submission & Deadlines

The deadlines for submission of the applications are as follows:

30 April 2016: Deadline for submission by e-mail of the completed application forms (as a pdf file) to the ICGEB Liaison Officer for endorsement and with a copy sent to ICGEB;

31 May 2016: Liaison Officer will communicate his/her endorsements to ICGEB and to the applicant.

Type of support

Grants are awarded to contribute to the implementation of outstanding scientific research projects. An important element of successful applications is the feasibility of the proposed project within the designated time-frame (maximum 36 months). The maximum annual contribution from ICGEB is Euro 25 000.

Eligible expenses for ICGEB grants

The funds received from ICGEB may be used in the following four budget categories: Equipment, Consumables & Training, Travel and Literature.

Costs not funded by ICGEB:

1. Cost of maintenance, repair, running or insurance of existing equipment and machinery belonging to the Institution;
2. Cost of construction of new buildings or alterations and modifications of existing buildings;
3. Depreciation, regardless of whether the equipment belongs to the Institute or was purchased with the ICGEB funds;
4. Normal administrative and overhead expenses of the Institution;
5. Bank charges;
6. Purchase of office furniture or fittings, computer hardware or software;
7. Secretarial expenses;
8. Salary support for the Principal Investigator.

A special category of **CRP-ICGEB Early Career Return Grants** is intended to fund young researchers with an outstanding track record, who have spent a minimum of 2 years abroad and have recently returned to an ICGEB Member State to establish their own independent laboratories.

ICGEB is also involved in organizing /co-organizing or funding numerous scientific meetings, workshops and theoretical and practical courses. Young researchers from ICGEB Member States are eligible to apply for grants to support registration fee and/or living costs during these meetings. The annual ICGEB Meetings and Courses Calendar is available on the ICGEB's webpage (<http://www.icgeb.org/meetings-2016.html>).

For more information regarding the programme, please contact:

CRP-ICGEB Research Grant Office, ICGEB, Padriciano 99, 34149 Trieste – Italy

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