Interreg Öresund-Kattegat-Skagerrak European Regional Development Fund

EUROPEAN UNION

Hanseatic League of Science
Interconnecting infrastructures
for life science research and innovation

HALOS

Call for research project grants within the

Cross Border Research program

of the Interreg ÖKS project:

Hanseatic League of Science interconnecting infrastructures for life science research and innovation (HALOS)

The EU-program Interreg Öresund-Kattegat-Skagerrak (ÖKS) (http://interreg-oks.eu) supports joint projects in the southwest of Scandinavia that promote development of societal innovation, green economy, transportation and employment.

Hanseatic League of Science interconnecting infrastructures for life science research and innovation (HALOS) (http://www.halos.lu.se) is a three-year project (ending on January 31, 2022) involving 16 organisations within the Hamburg-ÖKS region. The specific aim of HALOS is excellence in Life Science research and innovation in the ÖKS area. This will be achieved by developing a common and internationally recognised regional Life Science research and innovation hub, and matching Life Science research questions with expertise on how to apply electrons, neutrons, and synchrotron and free electron laser (FEL)-light. It will connect large research infrastructures with both academic and industrial ecosystems within the ÖKS, and with the unique and highly complementary infrastructure and strong research milieu in Hamburg through the work package: *Cross Border Research*. Our primary goal is to increase the regional potential to exploit the unique large scale research infrastructures DESY, European XFEL, ESS and MAX IV in the future.

The work package *Cross Border Research* involves 13 organizations, including seven universities (Lund University, University of Copenhagen, Universität Hamburg, Malmö University, Technical University of Denmark, Aarhus University, University of Oslo) together with the Medicon Valley Alliance, European Molecular Biology Laboratory-Hamburg, DESY, European XFEL, ESS and MAX IV. The work package aims to stimulate collaborative research across national borders using electrons, neutrons, and synchrotron and FEL-light. It builds on research strengths in the region and developing new research areas by regional synergies is an important goal. The program provides direct support for cross border research projects, in addition to an educational package of courses, workshops and summer/winter schools.

Main goals and criteria

The main goals of this work package are:

- Provide research opportunities for cross-border, transnational research projects with high innovation potential and of relevance to the Life Science industry.
- Increase the number of professionals in the Life Science sector active in cross border ÖKS-Hamburg projects, working on projects with high innovation potential and interest to industry, while using electrons, neutrons, synchrotron- or FEL-light, and working within the ÖKS impact areas.

- To establish an inter-regional network of industry, researchers from universities and facilities with improved knowledge and increased interest in synchrotron-, FEL-light, neutrons and/or electron applications that will facilitate future research and develop new research and innovation areas.
- To train a pool of young researchers with high competence in synchrotron-, FEL-light, neutrons and/or electron applications in Life Science. This includes carrying out experiments in regional constellations, courses and workshops.
- Increase the overall potential of life science sector by connecting and building on the complementary strengths of large scale facilities, academia and industry in the region.

Focusing on the main goals and objectives of the work package, researchers from the HALOS partner organizations are encouraged to apply for research project financing within the *Cross Border Research program.*

Proposed projects will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- Projects must be related to the use **of at least one of the following: electrons, neutrons, synchrotron and FEL-light** and generally be based on experiments, either directly or indirectly.
- Projects should aim at educating young researchers (typically PhD students and/or postdocs, or technical staff) in the use of electrons, neutrons, and synchrotron and FEL-light and involve both a supervisor and a co-supervisor. Projects are of six months duration and must generally be **cross-border**, meaning that supervisor and co-supervisor must be from different countries, other constellations require explicit arguments.
- Projects based on new collaborations between researchers in the Hamburg-ÖKS region will be prioritised.
- Applicants must present an industry outreach or impact plan in their application*.
- Prioritization of the project by the local steering committee member.
- A complete description of the co-financing for the project.
- Emphasis should be given to the three horizontal criteria:

- sustainable development,
- equal opportunities and non-discrimination,
- and gender equality.

All of these must be explicitly addressed in the proposal.

All successful project applicants will be encouraged and expected to engage fully in HALOS' efforts to promote cross-border networking as well as industry engagement, either by direct collaboration with industry as part of the project, or by dissemination of results and/or expertise.

*This could be e.g. that a company is already involved in the project, that a company has been contacted and agreed to welcome the researcher for an informal discussion of the planned experiments/the used methods/results/ or simply give inspiration regarding the choice of topic for the experiment, or that the researcher is engaged with their local technical transfer office.

Budget

For each approved six-month project, the young researcher/technician is expected to work full time for 6 months (100% in the project). During the project the supervisor should allocate 30% of his or her time during the project period of 6 months. The co-supervisor should allocate 20% of his/her time during the project period of six months. For universities: 40% of the costs for young researcher/technician, supervisor and co-supervisor during the project will be covered by external funding from ÖKS Interreg, with the other 60% contributed as matching funds by the project applicants. For research institutes: 50% of the costs for co-supervisor during the project will be covered by external funding (ÖKS interreg), with the other 50% contributed as matching funds by the project applicants.

HALOS will provide some support for travel associated with the project. A proposed travel budget must be provided in the application.

Only the salary costs described above and travel/accommodation/subsistence are eligible costs on the project. All funds for co-financing must be available at the time of proposal submission.

The project must be started within 3 months after the approval by the work package Steering Committee.

Assessment criteria

- Proposals will be evaluated by a Steering Committee composed of members from each of the 13 partners as well as industry representatives, according to the main goals of the Cross Border Research program**: scientific merit, horizontal criteria, outreach to industry plan, value for the Life Science sector in both academia and industry, and innovation potential**.
- It should be emphasised that the Steering Committee will take the three Interreg horizontal criteria into account: sustainable development, equal opportunities and non-discrimination and gender equality.

Reports

Not later than two months after the end of the project a brief report for the approved project must be sent to the project management to confirm completion of the project.

The report should include

- the scientific outcomes achieved,
- the impact of the project on the ongoing research programme of the participant,
- the impact of the project on cross-border networking as well as regional development
- industrial value and innovation potential including a description of the out-reach activities towards industry is mandatory,
- a short, lay summary highlighting the participants and key outcomes that can be disseminated across the region and beyond in HALOS newsletters, on the web and via other digital platforms.

A template for the report will be made available on www.halos.lu.se and must be used.

Application procedure

The HALOS Cross Border Research application form template available on www.halos.lu.se must be used.

Please note that every proposal will need a signature of the department head to ensure that co-financing is available.

Applications should be submitted by email in one **searchable pdf file** to kajsa_m.paulsson@med.lu.se (cc heather.sullivan@med.lu.se).

Applications are evaluated by the Steering Committee approximately four times per year. The last evaluation takes place in May 2021. For more details regarding application periods and the Steering Committee meeting schedule see https://www.halos.lu.se/wp-cross-border-research.

For more information on the HALOS Cross Border Research work package please contact
Kajsa M Paulsson, kajsa_m.paulsson@med.lu.se, HALOS project manager,
Arwen Pearson, Arwen.pearson@cfel.de, HALOS co-project manager
or your local member of the Steering Committee https://www.halos.lu.se/wp-cross-border-research.