Joint Programming Initiative — A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life (JPI HDHL)

**Nutrition and Cognitive Function (NutriCog)**

**Preliminary Announcement**

The Joint Programming Initiative “A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life” (JPI HDHL) (http://www.healthydietforhealthylife.eu/) has been established to coordinate research in the areas of food, diet, physical activity and health in order to achieve tangible societal and health impact and to strengthen European leadership and competitiveness in this field. Under this umbrella the joint transnational call “Nutrition and Cognitive Function” (NutriCog) will be launched.

1. **Aim of the call**

The joint action “Nutrition and Cognitive Function” (NutriCog) aims at promoting research activities that address the interrelation of diet and cognitive function. This knowledge will lay the basis for dietary preventive strategies and recommendations to guide individuals and populations towards health promoting dietary habits.

The objective of the NutriCog Call is to support ambitious, innovative and transnational collaborative research projects that will address important questions relating to the interplay between nutrition and cognitive function, such as perception, reasoning, thinking, memory and/or cognitive processes. Both the influence of dietary patterns (and/or dietary constituents, where appropriate) on cognitive functions and *vice versa* the effects of Central Nervous System nutrient signaling and cognitive processes on food intake, dietary patterns and eating behaviour are relevant for this call.

Prevention rather than progression of disease is the focus of this call. Research dealing primarily with clinically manifested neurological, neurodegenerative, or psychiatric diseases and their interrelation to nutrition/diet is not eligible for this call.

Proposals have to follow a multidisciplinary approach and should cover multiple areas, such as:
a) Mechanistic / experimental research (in vitro, animal and/or human studies) focusing on how dietary factors interrelate with cognitive functions and processes.

b) Translational research (animal and/or human studies) delivering the physiological basis for the development of effective strategies to influence dietary behavior and/or to improve cognitive function and performance.

c) Epidemiological research elucidating the relationship between diet and cognitive function across the life course, exclusively based on existing cohorts or other ongoing epidemiological studies.

d) Pilot and/or proof of principle studies for interventions in humans, to develop new strategies for the maintenance and promotion of cognitive function and/or healthy dietary habits during the lifespan.

Each consortium should have the critical mass to achieve ambitious and innovative scientific goals. Proposals should **clearly demonstrate added value** from working together.

To increase the impact at the European level, proposals are expected to link with other JPI HDHL activities, where appropriate.

### 2. General conditions for application

The objective of the NutriCog call is to support **joint transnational and interdisciplinary research consortia** with innovative approaches addressing the described scientific questions. It aims to increase and facilitate transnational cooperation between excellent researchers. Joint transnational research proposals may be submitted by research groups working in universities (or other higher education institutions), non-university public research institutes, hospitals and other health care settings, as well as commercial companies, in particular small and medium-size enterprises.

Only transnational projects will be funded. Each consortium must involve a minimum of three and a maximum of six research groups eligible for funding by organisations supporting this call, and three groups must be from different countries. Not more than two research groups can originate from the same country. Funding organisations supporting this call will be listed in the call text (to be published on the HDHL webpage, [http://www.healthydietforhealthylife.eu/index.php/joint-actions/nutricog](http://www.healthydietforhealthylife.eu/index.php/joint-actions/nutricog), by end of March).

In addition, research groups or international organisations not eligible to their national/regional funding organizations or from countries which are not partners in the JPI HDHL joint transnational call may participate in projects if they clearly demonstrate an added value to the consortium and are able to provide their own funding. They must provide clear evidence in the proposal that these funds are already secured. However, the majority of research groups in a consortium and the
coordinator must be eligible for funding by organisations listed in the call text (see above). In any case, the total number of research groups in one consortium must not exceed eight.

Projects may be funded for a period of up to three years and according to individual funding organisations’ regulations. Eligible costs may vary according to the corresponding funding organisation regulations. Each group will be subject to the rules and regulations of its respective national/regional funding agency.

There will be a one-stage procedure for joint applications, and a joint proposal document (in English) shall be prepared by the partners of a joint transnational proposal, which must be submitted to the Joint Action Secretariat by one spokesperson, the coordinator.

3. Timetable

The call is scheduled to be launched on March-30, 2015.

The deadline for proposal submission is scheduled for June-08, 2015.

An international Peer Review Panel will evaluate the proposals and will establish a ranking list of proposals. Based on this ranking list, the Call Steering Committee will suggest the projects to be funded. Based on these recommendations, final decisions will be made by the national funding agencies and will be subject to budgetary considerations.

The funding decisions are expected to be communicated to the project coordinators in November 2015, and funding is expected to start in December 2015 or early in 2016, depending on the funding bodies internal time-lines.

More information will soon be available online: