**CALL FOR ASSOCIATED PARTNERS**

**In relation to the preparation of a project proposal for the creation and development of a Centre of Excellence in the field of the personalization of transplantation of organs, tissues and cells under Component 3. Industry for Healthy Living and Biotechnology, Procedure BG05M2OP001-1.001 Creation and Development of Centres of Excellence of the Science and Education for Smart Growth Programme 2014 -2020**

The Medical Faculty of Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski and Lozenets University Hospital

announce

A CALL FOR ASSOCIATED PARTNERS

Associated Partners can be all research institutes, universities, hospitals, business organizations, professional organizations, innovation clusters, science and technology parks, institutions, patients’ organizations and other non-governmental organizations, science journals, legal entities with an interest in the field of *personalized medicine and the transplantation of organs, tissues and cells* and their practical and scientific application.

The Associated Partners are not allowed to spend budget funds and are not allowed to have preferential access to the science and research infrastructure and/ or the results of scientific research.

The personalized transplantation is a breakthrough field in the contemporary medicine. The project activities will include a coherent set of innovative fundamental and applied research.

**ADVANTAGES FOR ASSOCIATED PARTNERS**

With their inclusion into the project the Associated Partners can:

* Become part of a leading scientific community, which facilitates the creation of professional contacts, participation into events and trainings, launch of new projects and networking;
* Obtain regular and targeted information for scientific achievement, top-notch training events and new findings in the respective thematic fields;
* Strengthen their image by expressing support for leading scientific non-profit activity characterized with high public priority.

The selection criteria for Associated Partners have been divided into two main groups: criteria for assessing the scientific quality of research organizations and scientific research capacity analysis, and innovation criteria for the other types of organizations.

**SELECTION CRITERIA**

Selection Crieria for Reserch Organisations

1. Publications in scientific journals and books, referenced in SCOPUS and WoS (required a list of publications in the last 5 years - 2011-2015)
2. % of highly cited publications in last 5 years (required a list of the cited publications in the last 5 years - 2011-2015)
3. Number of European Research Council grants (the supporting documents should prove a successfully completed and/ or current project such as a copy of an award letter, grant contract, a report approval document, etc.)
4. Coordination positions in the EU Framework Programme (FP7) and Horizon 2020 projects (the supporting documents for project funding related to the EU’s FP7 and Horizon 2020 programmes should prove that the associated partner has implemented the function of project coordinator)

Selection Criteria for Business Organisations

1. Investments in relevant project area in the last 5 years (5 % of the revenue invested in research and development activities)
2. Existence of an innovations strategy, including existence of intellectual property policy and rules (should be applied if existent)
3. Participation in current and/or completed innovation projects (national and European) in the last five years (joint projects with public research organizations/ universities, where an official project document is needed, as in point 3 above).

The deadline for receiving expressions of interest and providing the required documents is **17 o’clock on 11 January 2017**. The documents should be sent by post on address: **Sofia-1407, Koziak str.1**, addressed to **Lozenets Hospital to Asia Stancheva phD**, or by e-mail at **hospital.lozenets@abv.bg**, scanned and signed with electronic signature by the person authorized to represent the organization.

The whole documentation related to participation into Procedure BG05M2OP001-1.001 may be found on the following address: <http://sf.mon.bg/?go=news&p=detail&newsId=412>

In order to take part in the selection procedure the applicants should submit:

1. An Application Form according to provided sample
2. Declaration Confirming the Absence of Conflict of Interest for Associated Partners (Annex IIa)
3. The supporting documents as required by the Selection Criteria according to the type of organization

The selected candidates will be made public by **20 January 2017.**

They will sign a 1. *A Partnership Declaration for a five-year term*, and 2. *A Declaration on the Activities Carried out Jointly with Associated Partners (Annex IIIa)*

For further information please contact: 02/9607-223 - **to Asia Stancheva phD**