

Call for research project grants within the
Cross border network and post graduate educational program.

of the Interreg ÖKS project:

ESS & MAX IV: Cross Border Science and Society (CBSS)

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

ESS & MAX IV: Cross Border Science and Society (<http://www.scienceandsociety.eu>) is a three-year project (ending on August 31, 2018) involving 27 different partners within the ÖKS region. The aim of the project is for the region to be internationally leading in the use of neutrons and synchrotron light by focusing on education and training of young researchers. A primary goal is to increase the regional potential to exploit the unique large-scale research facilities ESS and MAX IV in the future.

The subproject *Cross border network and post graduate educational program (Gränsregionalt nätverk och forskarutbildningsprogram)* – ‘MAX4ESSFUN’ involves 10 partner organizations, 8 universities (University of Copenhagen, Lund University, Chalmers University of Technology, University of Gothenburg, Malmö University, University of Oslo, Technical University of Denmark, Aarhus University) together with ESS and MAX IV. The subproject aims to stimulate collaborative research across national borders using neutrons and synchrotron 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 PhD student and postdoc projects, in addition to an educational package of courses, workshops and summer schools.

Main goals and criteria

The main goals of this subproject are:

- To increase the number of researchers in the region with expertise in experiments with neutrons and/or synchrotron light.
- To establish an inter-regional network of researchers from universities and facilities that will facilitate future research and develop new research areas.
- Develop a framework for education of PhD students and postdocs. This includes carrying out experiments in regional constellations, courses and workshops.
- Increase the overall potential of scientific research at the facilities by building on the complementary strengths of different institutions in the region, and by educating young researchers.

Focusing on the main goals and objectives of the sub-project, researchers from partner organizations are encouraged to apply for research project financing within the *Cross border network and post graduate educational program*.

Proposed projects must comply with the following criteria:

- Projects must be related to the use of **synchrotron light and/or neutrons**, and generally be based on experiments either directly or indirectly. Projects can also be at an early stage, but are expected to result in an application for beam time at a synchrotron or a neutron source within the project period. Moreover, such early stage project applications should, when applicable, preferably include complementary experiments on relevant laboratory equipment, e.g. SAXS, X-ray tomography or spectroscopy. Such data is often useful to include in an application to a large scale facility for demonstration of feasibility.
- Projects should aim at educating young researchers (PhD students and/or postdocs) in the use of neutrons and synchrotron light and involve both a supervisor and a co-supervisor.
- Projects are of six months duration and must be **cross-border**, meaning that supervisor and co-supervisor must either be from different countries, or that either supervisor or co-supervisor is from MAX IV or ESS.
- Efforts should be made on creating projects based on new collaborations between researchers in the ÖKS region.
- Emphasis should be given to the three horizontal criteria: sustainable development, equal opportunities and non-discrimination, and gender equality.

Budget

For each approved six-month project the young researcher is expected to work full time for 6 months. During the project the supervisor is expected to allocate 1/3 of his or her time throughout the project equivalent to 2 months in total. The co-supervisor is expected to allocate 1/6 of his/her time throughout the project equivalent to 1 month in total.

At the universities 50% co-financing of the PhD or postdoc salary costs and 75% co-financing of the salary costs for the supervisor and the co-supervisor is required. At MAX IV and ESS 50% co-financing of all salary costs is required.

Travel costs are covered by the project. Apart from the salary costs described above and cost for travelling no other costs are accepted in the project.

The project must be started within 3 months after the approval by the subproject's Steering Committee.

Assessment criteria

- Proposals will be evaluated by a Steering Committee, composed of members from each of the ten partners, according to the main goals of the *Cross border network and post graduate educational program*.
- The evaluation also takes the three Interreg horizontal criteria into account: sustainable development, equal opportunities and non-discrimination and gender equality.

Final Project Report

Not later than 2 months after the end of the project a brief report must be sent to the Steering Committee to confirm completion of the project. A template for the report is available on max4essfun.ku.dk.

Application procedure

Applications should be submitted online using the specific form available at the website www.max4essfun.ku.dk. Applications are evaluated by the Steering Committee approximately four times per year. The last evaluation takes place December 2017. For more details regarding application periods and Steering Committee meeting schedule see www.max4essfun.ku.dk.

For more information on the Cross border network and post graduate educational program please contact the members of the Steering Committee <http://max4essfun.ku.dk/participants/steeringcommittee/>.