

**Letter of Mutual Support and Collaboration:
For the ChemBioNet represented by „Screening Unit (FMP) “and
The Department of Chemical Biology (HZI) & the „European ScreeningPort (ESP)“**

Situation

The ChemBioNet consortium offers chemical libraries, compound storage and logistics; small molecule screening platforms; medicinal chemistry and assay development support, RNAi Genome screening; and a broad range of Cheminformatic and Bioinformatic expertise to academia and SME industry. Currently, the Screening Unit and the Medicinal Chemistry Group of the Leibniz-Institut für Molekulare Pharmakologie (FMP) and the Department of Chemical Biology at the HZI provide centralised services to the European research community in the area of Chemical Biology and small molecule bioactivity discovery. Both institutions represent the core facilities and are termed as ChemBioNet here.

The European Screening Port (ESP) is a Public Private Partnership which receives infrastructure funding from SME and regional government organisations, and project-based funding from the national governments, VC's and academic institutions. In conjunction with partners, it offers Pharma scale small molecule hit-finding capability supported by Pharma derived experience in all aspects of Drug Discovery.

To achieve their strategic aims, the ChemBioNet and the ESP use distinct and complementary approaches:

- The primary focus of the ChemBioNet is to create enabling chemical and biological tools which support basic biological research in all life science disciplines
- The primary aim of the ESP is to identify quality drug-like starting points for mid-to-late-stage drug discovery programs for human health.

The ESP and ChemBioNet share common stakeholders, (ie BMBF, EU, Helmholtz Centres, Universities, Max Planck Institutions, Leibnitz Institutes, Fraunhofer Centres, Research Charities etc). ChemBioNet and ESP intend to establish a collaborative approach to best support stakeholders and deliver quality projects in a timely and cost-effective manner.

Target

Stakeholders are guaranteed co-ordinated scientific and technical solutions which combine the different strengths of the ChemBioNet and ESP.

The future capabilities of the ESP and ChemBioNet evolve in a complementary manner with minimal unnecessary duplication of resources and expertise.

Proposal

Members of the ChemBioNet and ESP shall meet regularly to share information and learnings on upcoming activities and initiate activities, including:

- performance and testing of assay platform technologies (e.g. High Content Screening assays, new primary screening formats, compound use and storage conditions etc)
- capacity and capability planning for planned small molecule screening programs at each site
- drive jointly technologies and the suppliers e.g. HCS-tools and data management tools
- invite each other if appropriate to join as beta tester new tools and technologies, e.g.

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- develop and build up a „Quality Assurance Small Molecule Library“ in the order of up to 10.000 compounds
- invite each other to conferences and seminars, if content is appropriate

In addition

- ChemBioNet and ESP shall jointly review published calls for funding and identify the most appropriate solutions for academic partners.
- ChemBioNet and ESP shall jointly engage in influencing funding organisations to deepen their support for compound tool and hit finding work programs.
- ChemBioNet and ESP shall agree in good faith on a cooperation agreement to cover these activities

Appendix B

A tool for identifying quality academic screening projects

I. Organisation

Details of the academic institution and department.

II. Identify therapeutic need and outline previous approaches

Specify the target and the disease area/indication to be addressed. Include any supporting information on:

- impact of disease on the patient population(s)
- previous hit finding projects addressing the same target/mechanism (include IP position, if known)
- molecules currently/previously in Discovery or Development in your own or other organisations

III. Goals and scope of the proposed project and overall vision

It is expected that the scope of a putative funding package from the BMBF would cover the stages up to Hit Validation. However, it is important to also put forward a vision for both mid and late stage Discovery – ie *what is the project aims post BMBF funding?*

- goals and scope of the project stages up to Hit Validation (Assays to be developed, primary screens etc)
- Goals of the Lead finding/ optimisation aspect (Functional in-vitro assays to be developed, animal models, med chem programs). These activities are not covered by BMBF funding, but are important in establishing the suitability of the project for screening
- ultimate goal (spin-out, licensing etc)

IV. Description of work required to identify Validated Hits including deliverables and timings

Describe expected work package including assay development; hit finding; validation and selectivity screening. Include information on expected outcomes (assay formats, numbers of compounds screened, hit series identified etc).

	Description of Work and Expected deliverable	Time
Assay Development	Description	
	Expected deliverable	
Hit Finding	Description	
	Expected deliverable	
Hit Validation and selectivity screening	Description	
	Expected deliverable	

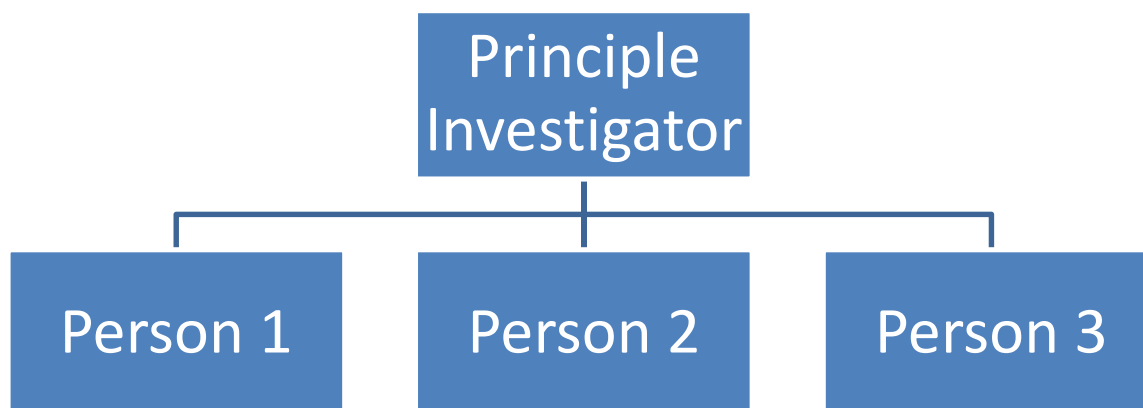
V. Budget

Estimate the costs and budget of the project.

	Description of item(s)	Anticipated Costs
Assay Development		
Hit Finding		
Hit validation and selectivity screening		
	Total	

VI. Key Personnel

List the key personnel who will be responsible for completion of the project, as well as other personnel involved in the project.



VII. Evaluation

Discuss how progress will be evaluated throughout and at the end of the project.

VIII. Endorsements

Provide the names and addresses of individuals who support and endorse the project.

IX. References