



# **EIG CONCERT-Japan**

## **A stepping stone for European-Japanese research collaboration**

Thursday, October 10, 2024

# EIG CONCERT-Japan

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- The **European Interest Group (EIG) CONCERT-Japan** partnership is a program for European-Japanese collaboration in science, technology and innovation through joint funding calls
- With a **flexible and open** membership structure, the program organizes **annual joint funding calls** in research topics **selected by its members**
- Serves as a **stepping stone** to wider collaboration and further research between European countries and Japan beyond the program
- Comprised of 14 **partner agencies** from 12 countries



# Today's presentation

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- What is EIG CONCERT-Japan?
- JST and EIG CONCERT-Japan
- Overview of current year's 11<sup>th</sup> call, with research starting next year:

Digital Transformations and Robotics in Sustainable Agriculture

- What's next for EIG CONCERT-Japan?



EIG  
**CONCERT**  **JAPAN**  
Connecting and Coordinating  
European Research and Technology Development with Japan



## **What is EIG CONCERT-Japan?** Members, aims and activities

# What is EIG CONCERT-Japan?

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- Stands for *Connecting and Coordinating European Research and Technology Development with Japan* (“CONCERT-Japan”), within the framework of the *European Interest Group* for Japan (“EIG”)
- Originated in 2011 as an ERA-NET project funded through the European Commission Framework Programme for Research and Technology Development (FP7)
- Continued after FP7 phase in 2014 independently, to build on successes of early calls



# What is EIG CONCERT-Japan?

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- The program has **continuously expanded** its membership of European funding agencies, and continues to **launch new calls for proposals annually**
- As of 2024, a total of 11 calls for proposals have been launched
- The Program currently has 14 members in 12 countries



## Member Organizations

**JST**  
(Japan)



**RCN**  
(Norway)

**DLR/BMBF**  
(Germany)

**NCBR**  
(Poland)

**CAS and MEYS**  
(Czech Republic)

**SAS**  
(Slovakia)

**ANR and CNRS**  
(France)

**NKFIH**  
(Hungary)

**BNSF**  
(Bulgaria)

**AEI**  
(Spain)

**CNR**  
(Italy)

**TUBITAK**  
(Türkiye)

# Member Organizations

Country	Acronym	Organization
Japan	<b>JST</b>	Japan Science and Technology Agency
Bulgaria	<b>BNSF</b>	Bulgarian National Science Fund
Czech Republic	<b>CAS</b>	Czech Academy of Sciences
Czech Republic	<b>MEYS</b>	Ministry for Education, Youth and Sports
France	<b>CNRS</b>	National Centre for Scientific Research (Program Secretary host)
France	<b>ANR</b>	French National Research Agency
Germany	<b>DLR / BMBF</b>	DLR Project Management Agency / German Federal Ministry of Education and Research
Hungary	<b>NKFIH</b>	National Research, Development and Innovation Office
Italy	<b>CNR</b>	National Research Council of Italy
Norway	<b>RCN</b>	The Research Council of Norway
Poland	<b>NCBR</b>	National Centre for Research and Development
Slovakia	<b>SAS</b>	The Slovak Academy of Sciences
Spain	<b>AEI</b>	State Research Agency of Spain
Türkiye	<b>TUBITAK</b>	The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye



# The Program Secretariat

- A Program Secretariat is hosted by the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) in Paris and is funded by JST
- Responsible for leading the planning, implementation and evaluation of joint calls and the overall program
- Acts based on decisions by the members in accordance with the Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC)
- A leadership and administrative component



# What are the aims of EIG CONCERT-Japan?

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The aims of the Program, as stated in the MOC:

*EIG CONCERT-Japan aims to, through collaborative activities in the science, technology, and innovation fields, cultivate scientific excellence for the benefit of society while fostering linkage and network formation between European countries and Japan.*



# What are the aims of EIG CONCERT-Japan?

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- A dual emphasis on **scientific excellence** and **linkages and network exchange** for the benefit of society
- Supporting **scientific research** in areas of mutual interest in Japan and Europe through regular calls
- Fostering **linkages** and **networks** between Japanese and European science communities and research funding bodies through calls for proposals, scientific workshops and meetings



# What are the activities of EIG CONCERT-Japan?

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- Joint calls for proposals, developed by the members, launched on an annual basis
- Other workshops, seminars and activities
- Regular meetings and information exchange between members



# EIG CONCERT-Japan calls for proposals

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- Launched on an annual basis
- Proposals are subjected to an independent review by a scientific committee
- Project consortia must be composed of a Japanese team and teams from at least two participating European countries
- Social science integration and stakeholder engagement are encouraged, where possible
- Virtual common pot funding arrangement, with members funding researchers in their respective countries
- Typically up to 6 projects are funded in each call



# Calls for proposals (2012-2024)

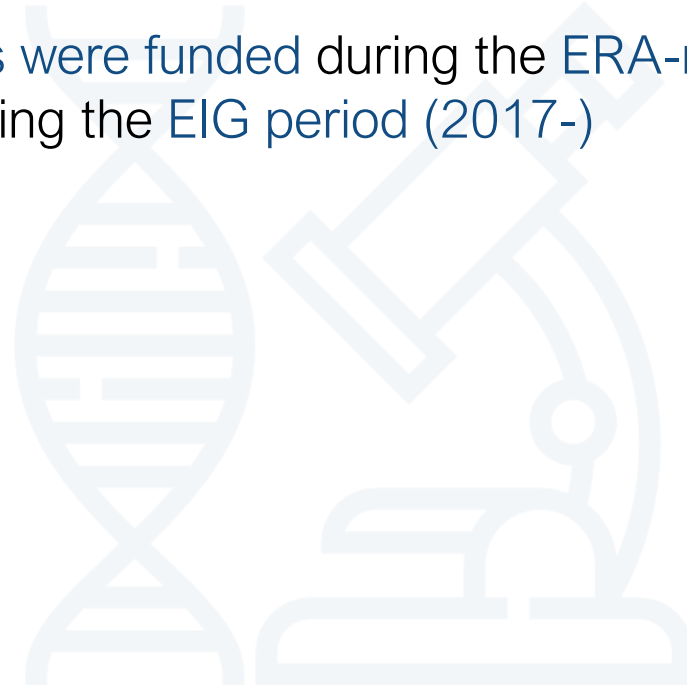
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FRAME- WORK	YEAR	JOINT CALL TITLE	BUDGET COMMITTED	PARTICIPATION
ERA-NET	2012	<i>Efficient Energy and Distribution</i>	€2.8 million	12 countries
-	-	<i>Resilience Against Disasters</i>	-	-
ERA-NET	2014	<i>Photonic Manufacturing</i>	€0.9 million	6 countries
EIG	2016	<i>Food Crops and Biomass Production Technologies</i>	€1.9 million	5 countries
EIG	2017	<i>Efficient Energy and Distribution</i>	€2.2 million	9 countries
EIG	2018	<i>Functional Porous Materials</i>	€4.65 million	9 countries
EIG	2019	<i>Smart Water Management for Sustainable Society</i>	€4.22 million	9 countries
EIG	2020	<i>ICT for Resilient, Safe and Secure Society</i>	€4.73 million	11 countries
EIG	2021	<i>Sustainable Hydrogen Technology as Affordable and Clean Energy</i>	€6.74 million	12 countries
EIG	2022	<i>Design of Materials with Atomic Precision</i>	€3.9 million	8 countries
EIG	2023	<i>Solutions for Carbon-Neutral Cities</i>	€3.6 million	8 countries
EIG	2024	<i>Digital Transformations and Robotics in Sustainable Agriculture</i>	€6.9 million	13 countries

# Research funded to date

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- Since 2013, a total of 52 research projects have been funded
- Out of which 13 projects were funded during the ERA-net period (2013-16), and 39 projects during the EIG period (2017-)



# 3rd Call: Food Crops and Biomass Production Technologies (2017-20)

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**INNISOY** Innovation Network to Improve Soybean Production under the Global Change



**IRUEC** Towards a multi-approach study focused on Improving Resource Use Efficiency in Cereals under Climate Change



**ICPS** Improving crop yield by enhanced plant performance under stress conditions



**POISE** Phytopathogens: a good Opportunity to Improve crop yields and quality under changing Environmental conditions



**COSMIC** Comparative potato and cassava OMICS for sustainable crop production





# How does one become a member?

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- Public funding organizations in Japan and the European region are eligible for membership
- Other organizations are eligible for observer status
- Establish contact with the Program Secretariat
- A simplified process of admission by member vote and signing the MOC
- No member fees or strict requirements





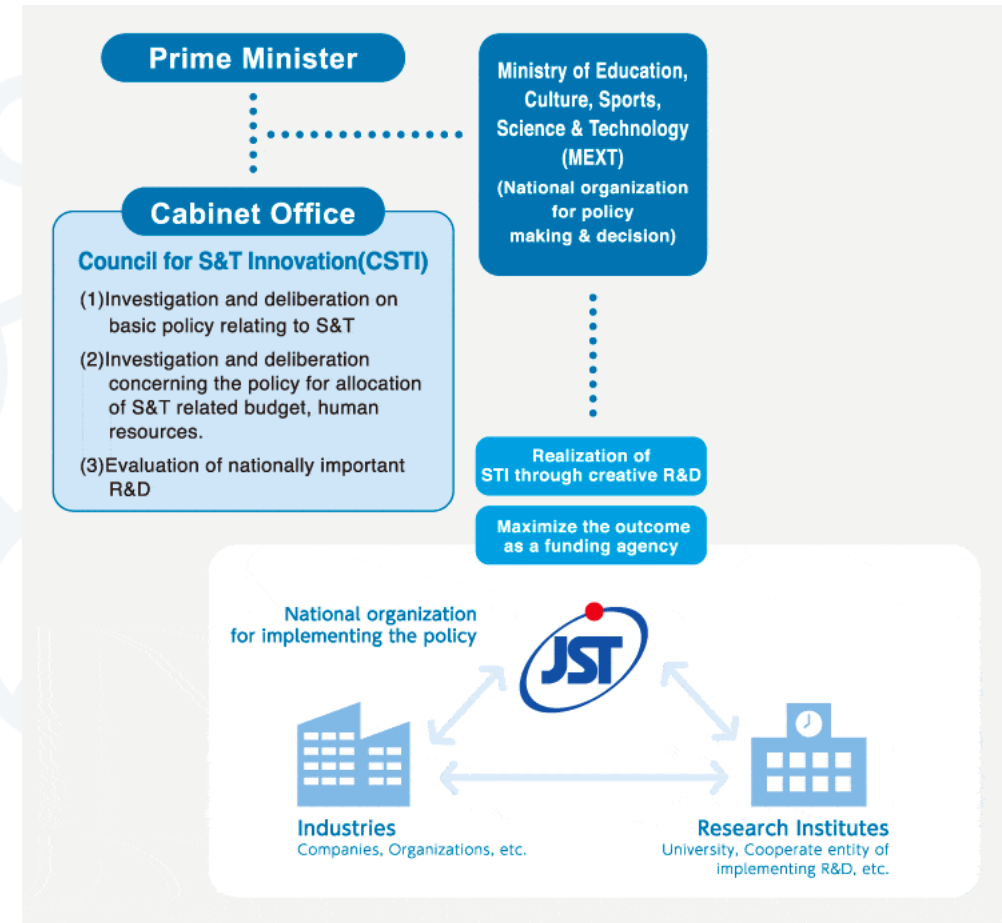
# **JST and EIG CONCERT-Japan**

## Flexible science funding cooperation with European partners

# About the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

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- JST as one of the Japanese funding agencies, funding non-medical research
- Plays key role in implementing Japan's Science and Technology Basic Plan
- Activities include research funding, commercialization of new technologies, science and technology information dissemination, and international science cooperation



# The Strategic International Collaborative Research Program (SICORP)

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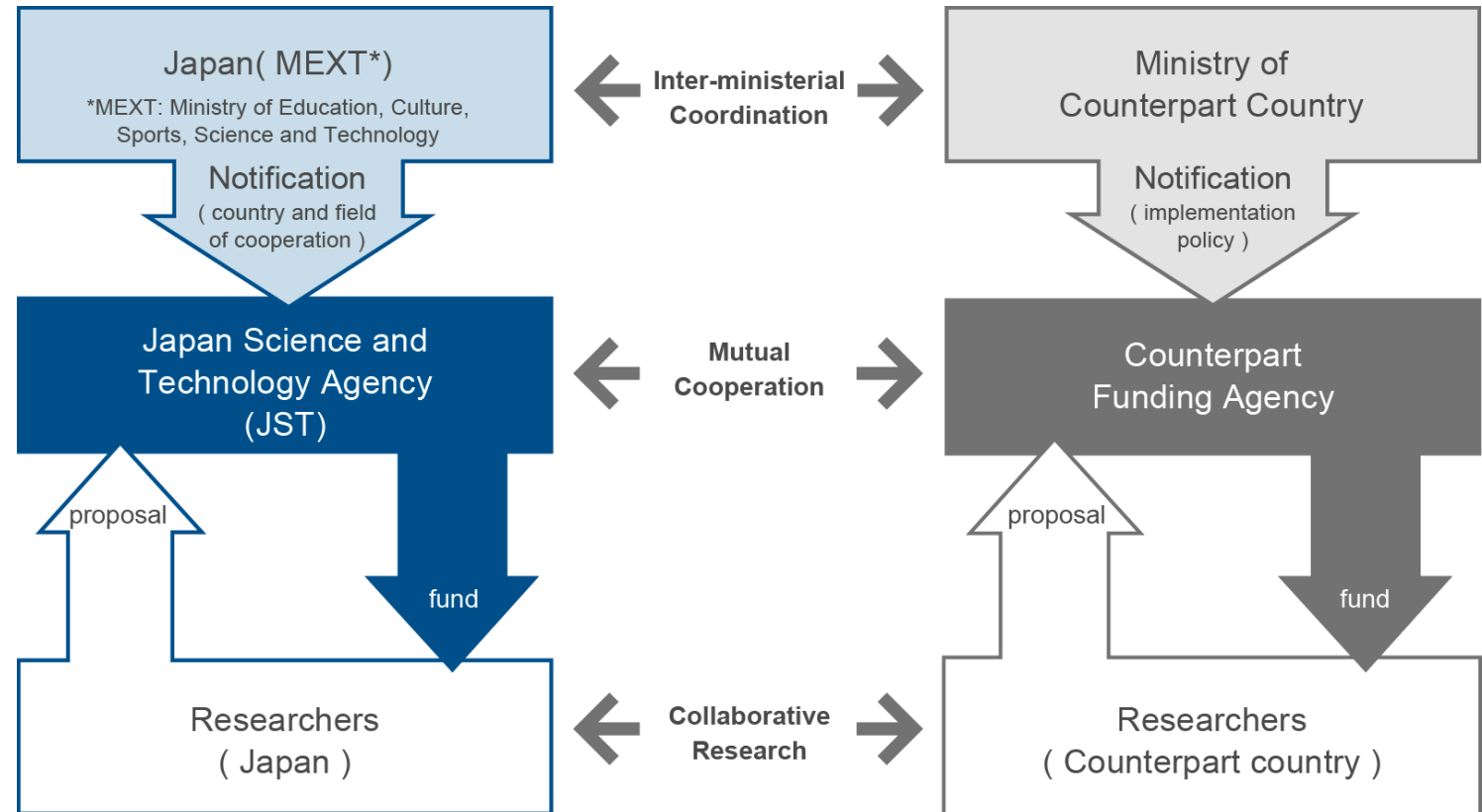
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- Implemented by the Department of International Affairs
- Strategic bilateral and multilateral research cooperation through joint calls
- Under the guidance of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT)
- Equal partnership cooperation

# SICORP

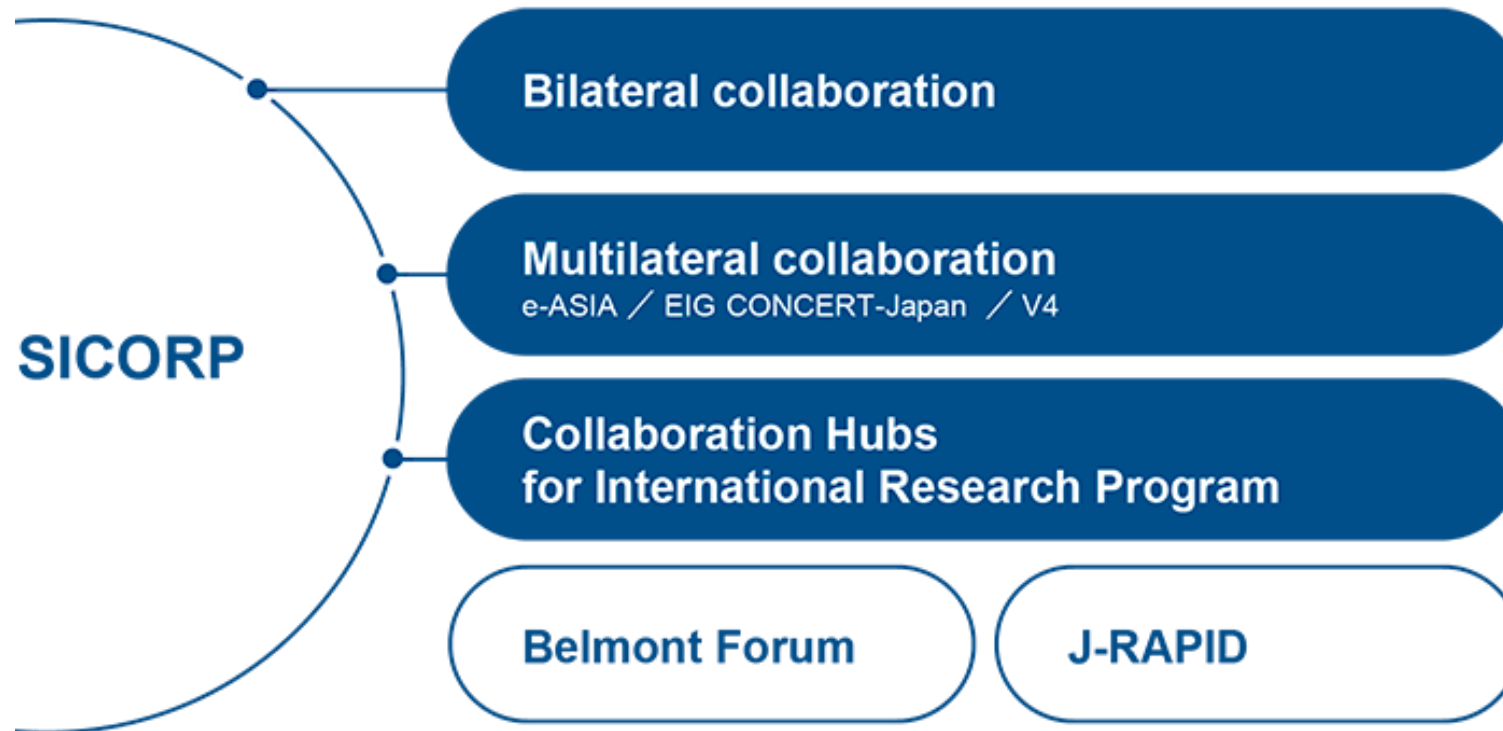
# The Strategic International Collaborative Research Program (SICORP)

# SICORP



# The Strategic International Collaborative Research Program (SICORP)

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# What is JST's role in EIG CONCERT-Japan?

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- One of the 14 members
- As the sole Japanese member organization, participates in each call and all selected project
- Funds and provides guidance to the Program Secretariat, hosted by CNRS
- Assists Program Secretariat in expanding membership

# What is value of EIG CONCERT-Japan?

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- A **flexible partnership** for research funding cooperation between Japan and European countries
- Opportunity to launch **relatively low-investment calls to support new areas for research cooperation and network building** between Japanese and European research communities
- **Complementarities** with larger funding programs (such as **Horizon Europe**)
- Research priorities, planning and implementation can **flexibly and swiftly be adjusted** according to changing needs
- Constitutes **a forum for informal dialogue** between JST and European partners on prioritized research areas and other issues, as well as for **exploring other forms of cooperation**





## **Digital Transformations and Robotics in Sustainable Agriculture**

Call currently undergoing evaluation with research starting in 2025

# 11th call: Outline

- The 8<sup>th</sup> call is titled **Digital Transformations and Robotics in Sustainable Agriculture**
- Supports research which explores how digital technologies and robotics can transform and improve agriculture while promoting its sustainability
- Developed in 2023, open May to July in 2024 with research starting in the first half of 2025
- 12 members participating, as well as the Estonian Research Council (ETAG) and the Cyprus Research and Innovation Foundation (RIF) as guests

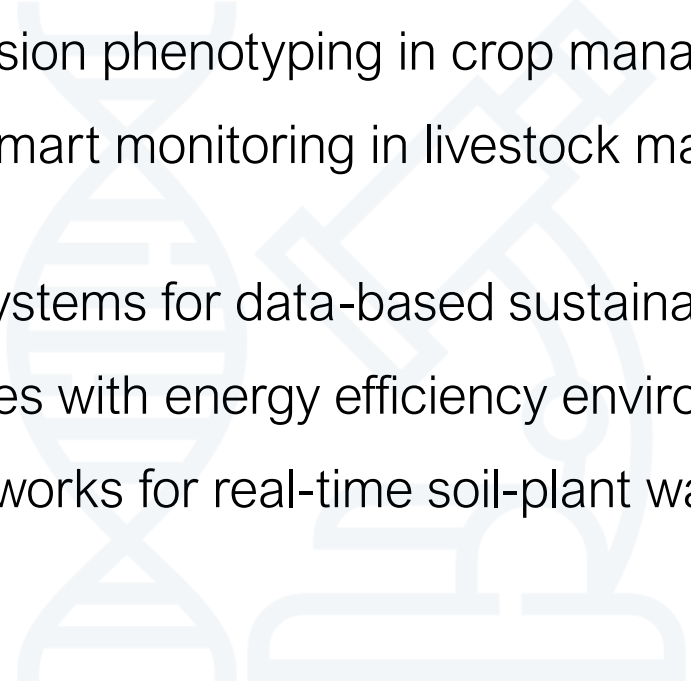


# 11th call: Scope of research

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- For this call, researchers were invited to explore areas such as:
  - Robotics for precision phenotyping in crop management
  - IoT solutions for smart monitoring in livestock management with reduced waste
  - UAV-supported systems for data-based sustainable land use
  - Smart greenhouses with energy efficiency environmental control
  - Sensor probe networks for real-time soil-plant water status monitoring

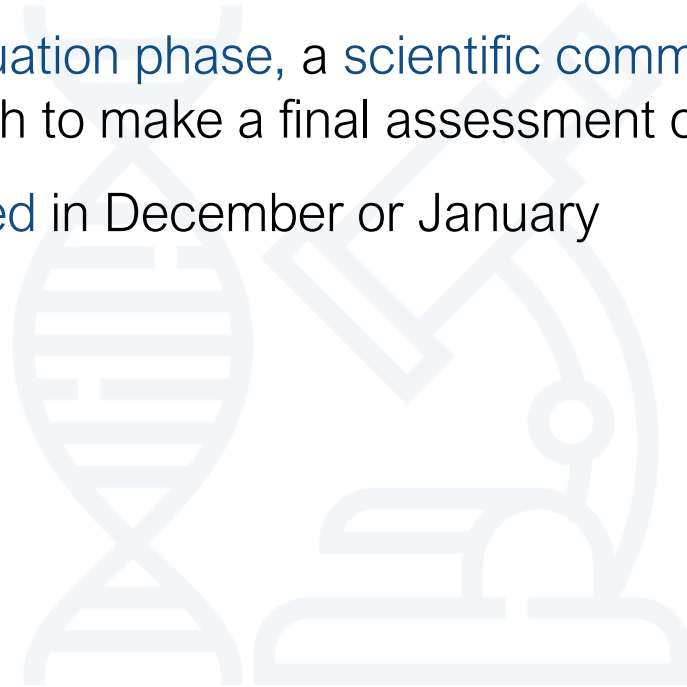


# 11th call: Current status

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- An independent evaluation is being conducted
- Following an online evaluation phase, a scientific committee will convene in Prague later this month to make a final assessment of the proposals
- Results will be announced in December or January





## What's next for EIG CONCERT-Japan?

Next call for proposals

# Around the corner: 12th call for proposals

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- New call planned for 2025, will be pre-announced in early April
- Currently working groups are tasked with developing new topic
- Call is planned to be open from May to July
- Announcement will be made on EIG CONCERT-Japan website:

<https://concert-japan.eu/>

EIG CONCERT-JAPAN

Home About Calls for proposals Funded projects Contact

Connecting and Coordinating European Research and Technology Development with Japan

The European Interest Group (EIG) CONCERT-Japan is an international joint initiative to support and enhance science, technology and innovation (STI) cooperation between the European region and Japan.

Learn more →

11 Joint calls since 2012

52+ Projects funded

32+ Partners in 20 countries

€36 M Budget Combined since 2012

Join EIG CONCERT-Japan →

Join our ongoing call  
Joint Call 2024: Digital Transformations and Robotics in Sustainable Agriculture  
Open from Tuesday, May 14 until Tuesday, July 23 (10:00 CEST) this year.

Learn more



# EIG CONCERT-Japan contact points

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For general questions and inquiries regarding EIG CONCERT-Japan:

**Ms. Lea Debraux, Program Secretary** (based at CNRS in Paris)

[contact-japan-jcs@cnrs.fr](mailto:contact-japan-jcs@cnrs.fr)

**EIG CONCERT-Japan Website**

<https://concert-japan.eu/>

For anything directly related to JST and EIG CONCERT-Japan:

**EIG CONCERT-Japan Coordinator Group** (at JST)

[concert@jst.go.jp](mailto:concert@jst.go.jp)



