



Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research

# PIANO+

## Purpose and Background

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**RESEARCH**

**Igniting ideas!**



## PIANO+ ...

- ...is the first implementation of a new FP7 instrument developed by the European Commission (EC) in the ICT domain:
  - ERA-Net+ = networking in an European Research Area
- Procedure:
  - at least five EU member states (or associated states, like Israel) decide to launch a single call for proposals
  - the EC tops the national funding budgets allocated for this call with 50 % additional money
- ERA-Net+ is an alternative to directly EC-funded FP7 research projects
- and also an alternative to direct funding of transnational projects by member states
- ...was an initiative of the **Mirror Group** (= representatives of national funding bodies) of the **European Technology Platform (ETP) Photonics21**



## Why an ERA-NET+ ? (Motivation for EC)

- Create greater co-operation and alignment between EU programmes and national programmes – not by just talking but by working together.
- Create critical mass of activity on a single strategic topic.
- Create a joined-up strategy –fill gaps between national and European research.



## Motivation for Germany / BMBF:

- Strengthening the contacts of German industries and scientific institutions with European partners
- Establishing transnational projects in the field of Photonics
  - here: Broadband Access Networks
- Giving this new EC instrument of additional project funding a try



## A look into the future...

Depending on the lessons learned during the preparation of this call and the number and quality of projects to be funded:

### Continuation of transnational funding

- either with another ERA-Net+ - project  
(the EC is ready to provide this possibility)
- or funding transnational projects without extra money by the EC

### Possible topics for another call for proposals

(German priorities, but also mentioned by other members of the Mirror Group):

- Organic Electronics (e.g. OLED, organic photovoltaics)
- Biophotonics (medicine, life sciences)



Thank you for your attention!

I wish you a fruitful meeting!