



**ENVI-MED**



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## ENVI-MED REGIONAL PROGRAMME

1<sup>st</sup> CALL FOR PROPOSALS

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### 1. THE ENVI-MED REGIONAL PROGRAMME

The ENVI-Med regional programme is a French cooperation initiative for countries in the Mediterranean Basin designed to encourage and strengthen high-level scientific and technological cooperation in the region as well as research networking on sustainable development and understanding the environmental operation of the Mediterranean Basin.

In partnership with France, the programme is focused on Mediterranean rim countries.

#### MANAGEMENT

As part of the process created by the internationalization of the interdisciplinary and inter-organizational MISTRALS metaprogramme, the French component of which was co-run by the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) and the Institute of Research for Development (IRD) in collaboration with 11 other research bodies, the programme is implemented by the Directorate-General of Global Affairs, Development and Partnerships (DGM) of the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (MAEE). Managed by the MISTRALS programme platform and the French Development Agency (AFD), this programme is run in cooperation with:

- the science and technology departments and cooperation and cultural action departments of French Embassies in Mediterranean rim countries;
- research organizations and higher-education institutions and their representation offices in the Mediterranean;
- Scientific and institutional partners or research operators in the Mediterranean.

#### AIM

The aim of the programme is to support the internationalization of research in the Mediterranean, to strengthen the high-level collaborations with Mediterranean countries on the basis of mutual benefit and to contribute to the regional integration of the least developed countries in all aspects of the field of study of Mediterranean Basin operation by promoting excellence in research and support for Euro-Mediterranean scientific communities.

#### IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The programme aims to encourage discussions and initiate multilateral cooperation by supporting the mobility of researchers as part of joint research projects and seminars, workshops and regional scientific conferences.

ENVI-Med must therefore allow the:

- Submission of the offer of French partnership in the field of studying the operation of the Mediterranean Basin, in particular with a view to shared sustainable development;
- Selection and funding of basic and applied research programmes and regionally-oriented scientific meetings between France and at least two Mediterranean countries, including at least one non-EU country;
- Encouragement of future participation in other regional and multilateral programmes in this sector and zone (programmes from the European Union, African Union, Union for the Mediterranean, *Agence universitaire de la Francophonie* (Association of Universities of the Francophonie etc.).

## 2. TIMETABLE FOR THE 1st CALL FOR PROPOSALS

- **Launch of the call for proposals: on the occasion of the MISTRALS General Assembly, in Malta\* on 12 March 2012**
- **Deadline for submitting applications: 12 June 2012**
- **Project assessment, selection and notification: October 2012**

\*The application form will be available in English and in French on the MISTRALS website: [www.mistrals-home.org](http://www.mistrals-home.org)

## 3. INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING AND SENDING THE CANDIDATE APPLICATION FORM

### PRIORITIES AND THEMES

The call is open to all subjects in the fields of research and development linked to understanding the environmental operation of the Mediterranean Basin.

**Priority will be given to projects which contribute to the networking of institutions, laboratories, facilities, stations, observatories and study sites.**

Similarly, the following themes are particularly encouraged:

- \* The Mediterranean Sea: its effect on climate in the regions to the north and south of the Basin.
- \* Environment and sustainable development:
  - interactions between man, the climate, the environment and the development of the Mediterranean environment;
  - desertification
  - the future of Mediterranean biodiversity;
  - Coastal zones: places for exchanges and for living;
  - Natural risks, within a context of global change and growing human pressure;
- \* Resource management: the assessment and reasoned management of Mediterranean basin resources – the specific issue of water sanitation;
- \* Towards sustainable governance in the Mediterranean:
  - Sustainable city: habitability, cities, societies, crises;
  - Political and social structures;
  - Public policies and territorial equity in the Mediterranean;
  - Links between urban and regional development in the Mediterranean;
- \* Archaeology and sustainable development in the Mediterranean (preservation of natural and formerly man-made landscapes, and cultural heritage in environments destabilized by economic and tourist flows, studies on adaptation to the natural environment).

## **NATURE AND DURATION OF THE PROJECT**

Each project must have a research component and can include innovation and/or training components.

Project duration is set at two years.

Financing is allocated on a yearly basis. A top-up payment at the beginning of the second year (the amount of which may be reassessed) shall be subject to the submission of an interim report by the project director and its approval by the programme bodies.

## **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

Projects from the ENVI-Med programme are aimed at public and private research units and laboratories, attached to higher-education institutions, research organizations or companies. Private sector involvement is encouraged, as is participation from socio-economic and civil society actors.

Each project must link at least one French research team, including teams attached to French research units based abroad, with at least two teams from two different Mediterranean countries, at least one of which must be a non-EU state.

All scientific fields, including human and social sciences, as well as interdisciplinary approaches, are eligible.

## **PROJECT FINANCING PLAN**

The amount allocated by the MAEE must not exceed a total of €40,000 over the project's two-year duration. Financing is granted on an annual basis.

The consolidated budgets submitted must set out the projected income (sources and amounts) and the planned expenditure for each year of the project.

The French project sponsors will contact the international relations directorate of their partner organization or of their laboratory's host university before submitting their project, and that of the selection committee in order to present their project. This approach consists of anticipating possible co-financing during the selection committee where it will be one of the favourable selection criteria.

Financial contributions from other project partners (French or otherwise) must be declared in the reply to the call for candidates. Such co-financing will be one of the favourable selection criteria.

Under the ENVI-Med regional programme, the financial contribution requested from the MAEE can only be for the additional costs relating to the international nature of the projects, i.e. the short-term mobility of researchers, doctoral students or post-doctoral students (travel and accommodation expenses), the organization of international workshops and seminars (mobility and logistics), the transportation of equipment and the relocation of experiments to a study site of common interest. The average estimated cost of the mission allowances and travel expenses must be indicated. All other financing necessary to implement the projects, in particular with respect to equipment (with the exception of small items) and long-term grants, must be provided by the laboratories themselves or obtained from other sources.

## **SELECTION DETAILS AND CRITERIA**

Once the proposals' eligibility have been checked, each application shall be subject to an international scientific assessment from experts in the region brought together in committees supported by MISTRALS.

A selection committee shall then convene to decide upon the accepted projects, based on the conclusions of the scientific assessment, opportunity criteria and budget availability. This committee shall be made up of representatives from the MAEE and co-financing organizations and institutes. In addition to scientific excellence, the main assessment criteria are:

- The teams' skills;
- The quality of the infrastructure;
- The project's level of innovation;
- The novel nature of the cooperation;
- The benefits of creating a partnership network to conduct the project;
- The teams' complementarity;
- The mutual transfer of skills;
- The quality of integration among different countries in terms of furthering their R&D capacities;
- The likely scientific, technological, societal or industrial consequences;
- The effective involvement of doctoral and post-doctoral students and young researchers in mobility and the relative parity among the project participants; diversity within teams is encouraged;
- The quality and efficiency of French and foreign co-financing.

## **PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

Each project shall identify a French leading research unit that is going to receive and administrate the MAEE grant for the other project partners.

The MAEE decides upon the amount attributed to the accepted (1<sup>st</sup> year) or reconducted (2<sup>nd</sup> year) projects following the conclusions of the assessment made by the international selection committee supported by MISTRALS.

The MAEE funding is paid by MISTRALS, administratively supported by the CNRS (INSU) under the umbrella of the inter-organisms committee, and appointed by the MAEE for the financial implementation.

The projects grants are allocated yearly. Therefore, the payment of the MAEE financial contribution for the second year will follow the submission, by the project leader, of a progress and technical report after the first year as well as a provisional spending plan for the second year.

The project leader shall also submit a final report including financial assessment within 3 months of the project completion. The MAEE refers then the right to demand a pay back of any unemployed or badly used sum.

The implementation and the payment of the contribution calendar for additional sponsors are defined between them and the French leading unit of the project.

## **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

Project participants shall commit to observe the best practices relating to intellectual property rules. All parties which submit projects must automatically adhere to these rules.

It is the responsibility of the selected project sponsors to finalize a partnership agreement which includes clauses on intellectual property.

## **SUBMITTING THE CANDIDATE APPLICATION FORM**

Application forms in French and in English are available for download at the ENVI-Med section of the MISTRALS website: [www.mistrals-home.org](http://www.mistrals-home.org).

- The candidate application forms must be filled out and sent via e-mail to the special assistant for the Mediterranean at the Directorate-General of Global Affairs, Development and Partnerships (ATT/RECH), to the MISTRALS scientific delegate, as well as to the international relations directorate of the project sponsor's or co-sponsor's partner establishment.