

CIRCLE-2 ERA-NET JOINT CALL ANNOUNCEMENT

CIRCLE-MED2-2013

**Adaptation to Climate Change from a natural
and social science perspective:
Water in coastal Mediterranean areas**

Date: 4th March 2013

I. Preamble

CIRCLE-2 ERA-Net (Climate Impact Research & Response Coordination for a Larger Europe) is a European Network¹ of public and private sector research funders, including research institutes, ministries and regulatory authorities committed to DESIGN, FUND and SHARE transnational knowledge on scientific areas related with climate change adaptation. CIRCLE-2 aims to advance joint programming and to fund transnational joint calls on policy-relevant adaptation research using common management mechanisms across a larger European area.

Previously, CIRCLE-2 and its predecessor CIRCLE CA, have funded three joint calls on adaptation research themes focusing on Mediterranean, Nordic and Mountain areas². The Mediterranean call in particular was dedicated to water management issues in coastal areas³, and funded eight international research projects involving north and south Mediterranean countries. This call provided an important amount of new knowledge on specific coastal issues and contributed to build a Mediterranean network of scientists from different disciplines. Most of these projects included participation and collaboration with decision-makers, stakeholders and more generally with people who live and work in these coastal areas.

The aim of this call to **encourage scientific cooperation between social and natural scientists in order to find novel solutions for transnational water-related climate change adaptation challenges in support to public policies**. This is a Mediterranean call under the ERA-NET CIRCLE-2, further on called CIRCLE-MED2.

The funding countries of this call are France, Greece, and Portugal represented by the following research funding organisations from the CIRCLE-2-MED Group: Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy (MEDDE), France; Mariolopoulos-Kanaginis Foundation for the Environmental Sciences (MKF), Greece; and Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), Portugal, further on called FUNDERS.

¹ <http://www.circle-era.eu>

² http://www.circle-era.eu/np4/Joint_Initiatives

³ <http://www.circle-med.net/>

II. Thematic framework

CIRCLE-2 common agenda has pointed out to the fact that substantial knowledge gaps still remain in adaptation themes directly related with the support of public policies in water-dependent sectors and regions across Europe. Climate adaptation is a relatively novel research area that has been gaining interest over the past decades partly due to the recognition that climate change is already in action and that mitigation responses alone will no longer prevent a relatively large interference with the climatic system and consequent impacts. Although traditionally associated with natural sciences, climate change research and adaptation in particular look into societal challenges, barriers and transformations that are no longer compatible with a single-view perspective of science and thus are recognizably the ground for novel trans-disciplinary approaches.

One of the main drivers of climate change impacts in coastal areas is **sea level rise** which will have expected effects on:

- Hydrodynamics and hydrological regimes;
- Flooding events;
- Erosion and sedimentation (e.g. coastal geomorphology changes);
- Water quality (e.g. fresh waters salinization, acidification of coastal water systems).

These effects can be strengthened or combined with social pressures such as urban development or economic practices (e.g. agriculture, tourism) and are, to different degrees, taken into account by policies and population.

These impacts will be assessed **on the basis of existing knowledge**, as according to the frame of this call, research shall concentrate on adaptation options.

Research will cover one at least one of the following **priority vulnerable sectors** and their relation with necessary adaptation responses:

- **Freshwater resources, availability and use (including water supply and sanitation);**
- **Urban infrastructure / agglomerations;**
- **Ecosystem services.**

These responses will not come without a cost and because adaptation will most likely lead to further societal changes, novel approaches are required.

Furthermore, funded projects will clearly demonstrate their added value by presenting:

- Integrated research approaches focusing on the above mentioned theme (natural and social sciences perspective);
- Approaches to effectively support national strategies⁴ in the appraisal of climate change adaptation costs and in the inclusion of equity issues;
- Stakeholder involvement in all phases of the project development;
- Concrete strategy for the project results dissemination and uptake (i.e. by relevant stakeholders);
- Synergies with other on-going relevant research projects (e.g. local, regional, national, European or international).

⁴ [http://www.circle-era.eu/np4/%7B\\$clientServletPath%7D/?newsId=308&fileName=CIRCLE2_NAS_Summary.pdf](http://www.circle-era.eu/np4/%7B$clientServletPath%7D/?newsId=308&fileName=CIRCLE2_NAS_Summary.pdf)

III. Call administration/rules

(For detailed information please check the CIRCLE-MED2 call framework)

Timetable for this call:

- Publication of the call: **4th of March 2013**.
- Deadline for proposal submission: **6th of May 2013 (18:00 CET)** *(Applications received after this time will not be considered and will be excluded from the evaluation process).*
- Evaluation of proposals: May to June 2013
- Funding decision: end June 2013.
- Communication of funding decision, including evaluation summary, to all proposal Coordinators: July 2013.
- Contract negotiation with successful consortiums, including set-up of a Consortium Agreement: from July 2013 on.
- Starting date of funded proposals: 1st of December 2013

Budget:

The **total available budget for the present call is 610.000 EUROS**.

Although there is no strict upper limit, in the view of the total available budget, it is recommended that each project proposal does not exceed a total budget of 300.000 EUROS (this value does not represent an eligibility criteria).

Formal requirements, funding rates and eligibility:

The duration of projects must be between 2 and 3 years (24-36 months). Applicants should ensure that the requested budget is consistent with the proposed duration of the project.

Each proposal has to be submitted by the Lead Applicant (Coordinator) of a transnational consortium that includes a minimum of three independent organisations from the three different FUNDER countries. The participation of partners from other countries, European or from outside Europe is encouraged, but they have to provide own funding. The Lead Applicant must be from one of the FUNDER countries of this call.

Applicants must meet all national eligibility criteria (i.e. national funding rules of their country FUNDER) usually applicable on their national calls for research project proposals.

Clarifications on national rules can be obtained from the National Contact Persons listed at the end of this announcement.

Decision making procedure:

The FUNDERS will appoint a Call Steering Committee (CSC), consisting of representatives from each of the FUNDER. The CSC will manage the call and give recommendations for funding to the FUNDERS.

Proposals will be evaluated by an Evaluation Committee (EC) composed of external international experts, taking into consideration the common evaluation criteria as defined by the FUNDERS.

The evaluation criteria are as follows:

A - Scientific quality

1. Scientific quality of the project (e.g. objectives, methodology);
2. Added value for the proposed research area;
3. Inter- and trans-disciplinarity;

B- Management

4. Quality of applicants and suitability of the consortium;
5. Quality of the consortium management;
6. Prospects for success with regard to the work and financial plan including time schedule;

C - Impact

7. Innovation (science/methodology, technology transfer and dissemination);
8. Trans-national linkage and benefit of cooperation;
9. Expected exploitability of results and potential for practical use;
10. Stakeholder involvement.

The following recommendations will also form part of the evaluation criteria:

- Thematic relevance with regard to the focus and criteria of this call, (eligibility criteria);
- Scientific cooperation between social and natural scientists (eligibility criteria);
- Involvement of research teams of other countries (with their own funding);
- Synergies with and links to relevant on-going adaptation research projects;
- Support to open access to scientific data and tools (see national rules);
- Feasibility of the budget;
- Promotion of researcher mobility;
- Strong knowledge user involvement including knowledge dissemination and knowledge transfer, in order to make research results available and supportive of public policies.

The objective of the centralized peer-review evaluation process is to select trans-national research proposals, which are relevant for the programmes of the FUNDERS. The final decision on funding will be made by the FUNDERS.

The call has a single stage application procedure.

One joint application (Common Application Form) must be submitted by the Lead Applicant on behalf of the whole Consortium.

Common Application Form and submission process:

The Common Application Form and call framework documents are available for download at:

<http://www.circle-era.eu/np4/Call2013.html>

The Common Application Form consists of two parts (+ annexes):

1. *Administrative details and project summary;*
2. *Project description (with a maximum of 30 pages)*

Annexes: Short CVs of key personnel. In case of non-FUNDER countries, a statement of own funding signed by the researcher and the head of institution, is required.

The Common Application Form should be sent in PDF format to the following e-mail address:

circle2call2013@fc.ul.pt

We recommend that submitted e-mails are identified with the following subject:

Submission CIRCLE-MED2-[Acronym of the project]

IMPORTANT NOTE:

A physical copy of the Common Application Form has to be sent by mail to the Call Secretariat by no later than Monday, 6th of May 2013, at 18.00 CET (proof by post stamp).

The Call Secretariat post address is the following:

Maurice IMBARD
Ministère de l'Écologie, du Développement Durable et de l'Énergie
CGDD/DRI/SR - Pièce 4-45
Tour Voltaire
92055 LA DEFENSE Cedex
FRANCE

IV. National contact persons:

Country	Funding organisation	Contact person
France	Ministry for Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy (MEDDE)	Maurice Imbard maurice.imbard@developpement-durable.gouv.fr Phone : (+33) (0)1 40 81 33 32
Greece	Mariolopoulos-Kanaginis Foundation for the Environmental Sciences (MKF)	Vasilis Tritakis vas@Academyofathens.gr Phone: (+30) 210 362 38 61
Portugal	Foundation for Science and Technology, Portugal (FCT)	Dina Carrilho Dina.Carrilho@fct.pt Phone : (+351) 21 392 43 81
