

**FRAMEWORK FOR THE FIRST PILOT CIRCLE-MED
COORDINATED CALL**

“Integrated Coastal Zones And Water Management”

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This announcement represents the first pilot call of the ERA-NET CIRCLE. It is launched by the Mediterranean community within CIRCLE: CIRCLE-MED. This call is meant to establish transnational collaborative research projects on the following specific area within climate change research: “Integrated Coastal Zones And Water Management”.

1. Background

CIRCLE is an Era-net funded by the European commission. Its main aim is to coordinate European **research on the impact of, and adaptation to climate change**. It should help decision-makers design effective strategies, since adaptation is needed regardless of developments on greenhouse gases. **This clear focus excludes research on mitigation, which is being developed elsewhere.**

The Mediterranean community within CIRCLE (CIRCLE-MED) agreed to launch an international common call as a pilot operation within CIRCLE. Experience acquired will allow refining how such common calls could be launched in the future and managed to be as efficient as possible. Scientific results will facilitate a better definition of more ambitious future calls within the same area.

The research projects initiated by this call will be financed by the following partner institutions from the ERA-NET Circle Consortium: the Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and land use (MEDAD), France; The Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), Portugal; Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS), Italy; the Ministry of the Environment (IME, Israel); The Regional Ministry of Innovation and Industry of the Galician Government through the Directorate General for Research, Development and Innovation (XUNTA), Spain; hereafter called PARTNERS

CIRCLE partners have made funding pledges of **up to 2.15 million euros**, consisting of the following national contributions.

Partner	Funding pledge (up to...) in euros
France	1 000 000
Italy	500 000
Israel	50 000
Portugal	200 000
Spain (Galicia)	400 000

2. Purpose of this Paper

This Framework intends to describe the practical aspects of the collaborative work, an applicant’s guide (topic area, funding, application procedure) and the common application form. The aim is to set up and implement a joint call, involving a common multinational evaluation system and common plans for the dissemination of results and experiences.

3. Management of the Pilot Co-ordinated Call

3.1. Call Steering Committee (CSC)

The Call Steering Committee (CSC) will act on behalf of the Contributing Countries (the CIRCLE participants taking part in the call) to manage the Coordinated Call, using the principles in this paper as its operating framework. The CSC is constituted by one representative of each national organisation participating in the ERA-NET CIRCLE-MED and involved in this funding initiative.

The key role of the CSC will be to manage the purpose, scope, and duration of the programme, and specifically:

- To manage the proposal evaluation process;
- To appoint an International Scientific Advisory Board;
- To create a ranking list of project proposals according to scientific quality and political relevance;
- To decide the funding of projects within the framework of the available budget and partners' possibilities to fund research projects.
- To send to all applicants information on the evaluation results within one month after its decision.

3.2 Contact Persons - National Secretariats

Each contributing country will appoint one contact person to act as a national secretariat for the call. The national secretariats will have relevant roles, principally:

- To provide a national point of contact to CIRCLE for applicants and researchers funded by the call;
- To undertake the administrative tasks associated with national operations of the call.

[Details for contact persons are given at the end of this announcement.](#)

3.3 Virtual Common Secretariat

All national contact persons will form the Virtual Common Secretariat (**secretariat-med@circle-era.net**), which is responsible for the first stage of the evaluation process ("eligibility check", see point 4.3). Projects positively evaluated will be sent, by e-mail, to the call steering committee (CSC). The Virtual Common Secretariat will provide, eventually, support to CSC meetings.

4. The principles of CIRCLE Coordinated Call

This call will operate through a 'Mixed-mode' model, which allows countries to pay for their own researchers and, on occasion, to pay for other countries' researchers, for instance by means of subcontracts of national laboratories. Restrictions apply for Italy for national funding of a trans-national project. Moreover, Israel cannot fund other countries at all.

4.1 Call Funding

4.1.1 Funding Rates and Eligibility

Each funding organisation will rely upon its usual rules to determine the funding rate, eligibility of different types of cost, and eligibility of different types of organisation.

The implication of this approach is that different researchers in a trans-national consortium will be funded under different rules, and there will be different requirements in terms of eligibility of costs, funding rates, and requirement to bring third party funding to the project.

However each researcher will be operating within a rule-set which is 'normal' for their country. Clarifications on national rules can be obtained from the National Contact Persons listed at the end of this Announcement

There is no strict upper limit for a project, but in the view of available budget, we recommend that projects should not exceed 200 000 €

4.1.2 Deadline

The call will be published on the same date (Wednesday 11 July, 2007) in all Contributing Countries in their national language. It will also be published in English on the CIRCLE website <http://www.circle-era.net/research-funding/>

The deadline for submission of proposals is Friday, October 12th, 2007.

4.1.3 Project Duration

Financial support will be awarded for a project duration of up to 2 years.

4.2 Project Proposal

4.2.1 Eligible Project Structure and Project Management

Within the framework of this call, funding will be provided for trans-national, interdisciplinary joint projects based on a division of labour. Each project will consist of several work packages.

Each project must include participants from a minimum of two and an unrestricted maximum number of partner countries, and must in addition include at least one participant from a Mediterranean country not part of the partner (contributing) group (the list of eligible Mediterranean countries not part of the contributing group is annexed to this document and can be downloaded at the following site <http://www.circle-era.net/research-funding/>).

However, applicants should take into account that the building and management of large consortia with more than five partners might be too time-consuming under the given framework conditions.

All participants accept the rules and agreements made within the framework of the ERA-NET CIRCLE funding initiative. The co-applicants designate a Project Leader among them. He/she must represent the project to the Call Steering Committee.

4.2.2 Requirements for Grants

The Project leader who manages the project must be from a Contributing Country. Contributing countries will fund their own institutions, and abide to national regulations in this respect. Participants from a Mediterranean Country not part of the partner (**contributing**) group will come as a subcontractor of an institution from a contributing country or through their own funding. Participants from other countries may participate but must bring their own funding.

4.2.3 How to Present Your Proposal?

A proposal has two parts:

SECTION 1 (Common Application Form) which must be the same for all partners;

SECTION 2 (National Application Form): where Contributing Countries introduce instructions related to their own regulations for funding research. Clarifications on national rules can be obtained from the National Contact Persons listed at the end of this Announcement

SECTION 1- Common Application Form

Form 1 – Common Application Form: for drafting proposals of joint collaborative projects, a form is to be downloaded at <http://www.circle-era.net/research-funding/>.

The form is to be completed in English and requires information on:

- administrative details;
- a summary of the proposal;
- a list of work packages;
- calculated costs per partner and requested funding;
- time schedule;
- detailed project description.

SECTION 2- National Application Form

Form 2 - National Application Form: Additionally, applicants have to submit their part of proposal activities within the proposed project, which are to be realized with national funding according to the national funding rules.

4.2.4 Submission of the proposals

Within the deadline indicated in the call text the coordinator of the project will send the common and the national forms by e-mail, at the following mail address submission-med@circle-era.net

We recommend that submission mails be identified with the following object:
submission circle-med-Name of your project

4.3 Evaluation Process

The evaluation of proposals is carried out at two different levels:

- 1) First Stage: “Eligibility Check”
- 2) Second Stage: “Scientific Evaluation”

4.3.1 Formal evaluation- Eligibility Check:

The first stage of the assessment procedure will be carried out by the Virtual Common Secretariat based on the following general criteria (exclusion criteria):

- Ø The submitted project outline includes research institutions or companies from at least two of the contributing countries and one other eligible Mediterranean country, fulfills formal requirements of this call and is written in English.
- Ø Research institutions from third countries which are involved in the submitted project proposal furnish proof of their own funding. Eligible third countries are EU countries, Norway, Switzerland, and accession countries.
- Ø The given deadline for application is met. The form of the project outline and further formal criteria are in line with the regulations in this announcement.

The project coordinators will be informed by Email of the results of this assessment within one month.

4.3.2 Scientific Evaluation -Scope and Priority Check

Only proposals which are fully compliant with the procedures outlined in the previous paragraph shall be eligible for consideration for this stage. The second stage of the assessment procedure is based on the following specific criteria

- Ø Relevance
- Ø Potential impacts
- Ø Scientific excellence
- Ø Quality of the consortium
- Ø Prospects for success with regard to the work and financial plan including time schedule
- Ø Quality of the management
- Ø Added value in scientific and regional bridging capacity

In this second step, the project proposals will be assessed according to the above mentioned criteria and rated by an international Scientific Advisory Board appointed by the Steering Committee. Each Contributing Country will delegate at least one expert chosen from purely scientific considerations who will be member of this Scientific Advisory Board.

4.3.3. Final Ranking

In a final step, the project proposals will be ranked by the Steering Committee according to their relevance for public policies. Only excellent or very good project proposals, as judged by the scientific evaluation will be examined at this stage.

The Steering Committee will then decide upon funding within the framework of the available budgets. All applicants and also the Contributing Countries involved will receive information on the results within one month after the Steering Committee’s decision.

4.4 Project Monitoring and Reporting

All funded projects will be monitored and assessed over the course of their duration. The monitoring of projects will comprise of a review of the reports and deliverables that the projects are to generate have promised to generate.

The institutions involved in the projects submit interim and final reports in accordance with the funding regulations to their corresponding funding organisations. The scientific part of the reports is to be written in English (but an extensive summary may be required by Contributing Countries in their national language). The formal part of the reports is to be written in the national language. (For details check section B national rules)

Reporting to the steering committee: It is the responsibility of the main applicant, i.e. the project leader, to submit two reports to the steering committee. A mid-term report will describe the progress made during the first half of the research project. A final report should be submitted at the end of the project to the steering committee for assessment of the report and control of the fulfilment of formal criteria.

Funding recipients are expected to establish a presentation on the CIRCLE website giving a description of their research project, at the latest 3 months after the start of the project.

Conferences: Conferences provide a great added value after activities have started. A kick off meeting and a mid-term seminar will be organized by Circle. The researchers should plan their budget accordingly. After the projects have been concluded, the research results will be presented by the project leaders on the occasion of one of the regular ERA-NET CIRCLE meetings.

**ANNEX 1 Circle med call
Eligible Countries**

ERA-NET Circle Med Consortium (contributing countries and regional entities): The Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and land use (MEDAD), France; The Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), Portugal; Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS), Italy; the Ministry of the Environment (IME) Israel; The Regional Ministry of Innovation and Industry of the Galician Government through the Directorate General for Research, Development and Innovation (XUNTA), Spain.

Non EU countries sharing Mediterranean coastline (access through subcontracting; restrictions may apply, depending on contributing countries national funding rules): institutions from: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Macedonia, Montenegro, Morocco, Serbia, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey...

All EU members sharing Mediterranean coastline (must bring own funding): Spain (own funding or on occasion subcontract from Galicia), Greece, Malta, Monaco, Slovenia, Cyprus ...

Monaco and other countries: must bring own funding

SECTION 1: COMMON APPLICATION FORM:

For drafting proposals of joint collaborative projects, a form is to be downloaded at.
<http://www.circle-era.net/research-funding/>

SECTION 2: NATIONAL APPLICATION FORM

For information on the Call and on the national rules regarding submission of a proposal, please contact:

<p>France</p>	<p>Laurence Colinet Ministère de l'écologie du développement et de l'aménagement durable Bureau de la prospective et de la recherche en sciences humaines D4E/SRP 20 avenue de Ségur 75302 PARIS SP 07 FRANCE Tel: (33) 1 42 19 17 51 laurence.colinet@ecologie.gouv.fr</p>
<p>Italy</p>	<p>Claudio Rapicetta - Ministero dell'Ambiente della tutela del Territorio e del Mare -Direzione RAS - via Cristoforo Colombo 44 00147 Roma ITALIA Tel: +3906 57228165 rapicetta.claudio@minambiente.it</p>
<p>Israel</p>	<p>Ms. Racheli Yehoshua, MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT 5 Kanfei Nesharim, P.o.Box 34033, Jerusalem 65464 ISRAEL Tel 972+2+6553754. Rachelye@sviva.gov.il</p>
<p>Portugal funding regulations are available for download at the FCT institutional website: www.fct.mctes.pt .</p>	<p>Luisa Henriques Senior Advisor FCT- Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia Av. D. Carlos I, 126 - 2 1249-074 Lisboa Portugal Tel: +351 21 392 44 54 Fax:+351 21 392 44 98 lh@fct.mctes.pt</p>
<p>Spain (Galicia)</p>	<p>Fernando Rodríguez Espasandín Oficina de Programa Internacionais de I+D+i Dirección Xeral de I+D+i Consellería de Innovación e Industria - Xunta de Galicia Rúa dos Feáns, 7 - Local C 15706 Santiago de Compostela (A Coruña) - ESPAÑA Telf.: 0034 981 957 873 Fax: 0034 981 541 039 fernando.rodriquez@sxid.org</p>