

ERA4CS

Call: Exchange action for Officers “Joint Capacity building for climate services policy alignment”

The ERA4CS consortium, in the frame of the Task 8.3 “Pilot Experiments for co-alignment of national activities” of its Grant Agreement (GA) n° 690462, has decided to conduct an alignment exercise using the Joint Capacity Building instrument¹. This exercise will be implemented through an exchange action aimed at executive-level staff of European Climate Services providers.

The action is implemented by AEI (the Spanish State Research Agency) and CNRS (The French National Centre for Scientific Research) as assigned task leaders, with the support of ANR (The French National Research Agency) as ERA4CS coordinator, and other interested ERA4CS partners; these three institutions in charge will be referred to as the Funding Body (FB).

Period and duration of the visits funded by the action: between 3 and 5 days, during September 2019 and no later than 29 February 2020.

Number of visits: Available funds will fund 8 to 15 visits, depending on duration of visit and modalities.

Deadline for application.

The call will have three deadlines:

- 30th of June 2019
- 30th of September 2019
- 31st of December 2019

Further deadlines could be published to keep the call open until funding is exhausted.

1. Background and rationale

In recent years, great progress has been achieved in alignment of national activities within Joint Programming Initiatives in Europe, emphasizing its importance to increase efficiency of research funding and maximize its societal impact. According to the report of the High Level Group for Joint Programming of European Council (GPC): “Alignment is the strategic approach taken by Member States to modify their national programmes, priorities or activities as a consequence of the adoption of joint research priorities in the context of joint programming with a view to implement changes to improve efficiency of investment in research at the level of Member States and ERA.” In other words, joint programming requires alignment beyond just transnational calls.

The deployment of pilot experiments for co-alignment has been encouraged, taking into account the particularities of each scientific area. In particular, it is important to identify if overlap activities and redundancies ensure the required diversity of approaches at EU level, or if a smarter approach of the collaboration/competitive ratio could be made by co-alignment (to optimize the overall effort of European tax payers).

¹ Joint Capacity Building: Building capacity of early career researchers with a focus on conducting multi-disciplinary, interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary research at the transnational level (e. g., co-supervision). Source: JPI Climate (2014). Procedural guidelines for implementing joint activities.

The ERA4CS consortium has conducted a series of workshops and questionnaires, including RFOs and RPOs, public and private sectors, civil society and ERA4CS co-funded projects teams. Based on this survey and the JPI Climate Implementation Plan (adopted in Copenhagen in 2013) on co-alignment and ERA-LEARN publications, ERA4CS has deployed the present call on Capacity Building.

2. Objectives of the action

The main objective of the present action is to conduct a pilot experiment for institutional alignment that could serve as a test for future and wider alignment actions in the area of Climate Services. The final aim is to contribute to aligning R&D programmes, tools/instruments and/or climate related agendas of the participating countries.

The pilot experiment has been conceived as an easy “demonstrator” based on a “Joint Capacity Building” concept, exemplified by the exchange of staff between two climate services provider institutions, at the level of decision makers. The aim is to:

- exchange information on the activities of both services
- identify opportunities of cooperation between them
- Identify potential alignment of their procedures,
- Propose standardization of their products.

Finally, beyond the deployment of the pilot experiment, the progress will also be assessed by a global synthesis of the exchange written by each participant. They will explain how they developed one of the aim quoted above during their visit and would allow measurable changes at member state level.

Action content

This exchange action consists on promoting and funding short visit(from 3 to 5 days) of executive level or other high level technical staff (e.g. at level of head of unit or department) in relevant institutions that are climate services providers including national meteorological agencies. This action encompasses:

- Engagement of two climate services providers, one hosting/one visiting with people identified within them. Two modalities are possible:
 - One-visit, with one partner visiting the other
 - Two-visits, with one partner visiting the other, switching roles at a 2nd visit

Two-visits modality will be prioritised but one-visit proposals will be also funded depending on the applications received.

- Agreement on a on a common objective defined before the visit and daily work plan for the visit.
- Joint elaboration of a short proposal for future intended alignment between visiting and hosting institutions and elaboration of the common objective
- Joint elaboration of a rapport about the exchange and each participant (both visiting and hosting) would fill in a short questionnaire

For further information about the specific requirements and templates for this call, please see section 4.4.

3. Eligibility and funding modalities

3.1. Eligible applicants and/or institutions

- The applicants must be affiliated to a climate services provider or a meteorological agency from a European Union Member State or Associated Country. The call is open for countries participating in ERA4CS or JPI Climate member countries. Participation of institutions from other European Union Member States or Associated Countries is welcome.
- This call is aimed at executive-level or other high-level technical staff (e.g. at level of head of unit or department) in climate services providers.

3.2. Selection of applicants

The ERA4CS FB will select applicants based on:

- Quality and feasibility of the proposal for work plan
- Matching not previously connected institutions or consolidating early stage collaborations
- Reciprocal visits will be prioritized (i.e setting up a lasting collaboration)
- Potential for future collaboration

3.3. Funding conditions

There will be no transfer of funds to the selected institutions. Once the most suited applicants are selected, the FB will be responsible for arranging and monitoring the trips, including the booking process and payment of the travel and accommodation expenses.

For further information about the funding conditions, please see Annex 1 on funding guidelines.

3.4. Application procedure

3.4.1. Submission of proposals:

Applicants must submit the following documents

- I. An individual letter of application from each participant (both visiting and hosting) to participate in this action specifying preferred modality (two-visits or one-visit) and the role (either as visiting or as hosting officers, or both modalities (see Letter of application template).
- II. A daily work plan for the visit agreed upon by both applicants: The work plan (see Proposal for work plan template) must include at least:
 - The schedule of meetings between visiting and hosting representatives
 - Other activities, including but not limited to presentations during the visit at the hosting institution by the visiting office, are encouraged
- III. Applicants must accredit their decision capacity level in their institution (see Accreditation letter template).

Applications must be submitted at era-clima@aei.gob.es and fanny.adam@cnrs.fr in copy. Applicants will be notified via e-mail after the assessment of their application.

3.4.2. After the visits:

After the visits, each participant should fill in the questionnaire and an assessment of the visit. They will deliver the following document in the next month after the last visit:

- I. An assessment of the results of the visits, and a short proposal for future alignment/cooperation between hosting and visiting institutions (to be drafted during the visit, see Assessment and questionnaire template)
- II. A short questionnaire aiming to evaluate the interest of the pilot experiment, and seeking ideas for future funding instruments supporting alignment (to be drafted after the visit, see Assessment and questionnaire template)

3.5. Further specific requirements and timeline

Period and duration of the visits: between 3 and 5 days, between September 2019 and February 2020.

Deadline for application: Proposals received before the 1st of each month will be evaluated in the following week, and decision of funding will be communicated to the applicants before the end of the month, until funding is exhausted. Publication of results: Communication of selection results will be addressed individually to each applicant.

To apply for this call applicants are required to fill in:

- Letter of application
- Proposal for work plan
- Accreditation letter

The assessment and questionnaire template will be filled in after the visit. It should not be included in the application.

Latest date for visits: 29 February 2020

Deadline for reporting after visit: One month after the last visit.

3.6. Visibility of funding

Any publication or dissemination activity resulting from the granted exchanges must acknowledge funding by ERA4CS. "This action has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 690462)".



3.7. Contact Points

Name	Institution	e-mail address
Patricia Vera Bravo	AEI (Spain)	era-clima@aei.gob.es
Margarita Ruiz-Ramos	AEI (Spain)	margarita.ruiz.ramos@upm.es
Pascale Braconnot	CNRS (France)	pascale.braconnot@lsce.ipsl.fr
Laura Sedaine	CNRS (France)	laura.sedaine@cnrs-dir.fr
Fanny Adam	CNRS (France)	fanny.adam@cnrs.fr