African-European call for proposals
"Climate Services for Risk Reduction in West Africa" (CS4RRA)

Submission deadline for pre-proposals: 11th September 2025, 10:00 UTC

Information and partnering event (virtual): 24 June 2025 (registration link: https://anr.webex.com/weblink/register/rfc6d78df095fea2bcd61d070def68f86)

Electronic proposals must be submitted on:

https://ptoutline.eu/app/users/login/AFR-EU_Call_CS4RRA

For further information, visit:

https://jpi-climate.eu/programme/climate-services-for-risk-reduction-in-west-africa-cs4rra

or contact the CS4RRA Joint Call Secretariat: Call-Secretariat@CS4RRA.de

operated by the French Agence nationale de la recherche (ANR) and the German DLR Projektträger (DLR-PT).

CONTENT

Introduction

Africa is responsible for less than 10% of global greenhouse gas emissions but is **suffering disproportionately from climate change**. Increasing impacts of climate change like heat waves, droughts, floods, rising sea water temperatures, and increasingly severe storms decrease farming outputs, fish stocks, and increase hunger in the continent and insecurity of people and goods. The ongoing climate change is influencing environmental processes and human well-being in a multitude of ways depending on the landscape, societal, economic, and political structures, institutional frameworks, environmental enabling policies, actors' knowledge, and ability to respond or adapt to changing and challenging new conditions. Due to insufficient expertise for climate knowledge, climate protection and climate adaptation measures within the region, African populations are among the most impacted by climate change. To **increase climate resilience** in the region is one of the most **pressing challenges**. West African countries face many shared challenges related to climate change which require sustainable and innovative solutions acknowledging local knowledge and considering local needs.

1. Implementation of the Joint Call

The Joint Call "Climate Services for Risk Reduction in West Africa" **will be open until 11th September 2025.** The final decision on the funding list is planned to be taken not later than May 2026.

With this Joint Call (JC), interested project consortia composed of partners from the African and European countries represented within the Group of Funding Parties (GFP) and partners from other West African countries will be invited to submit proposals. Partners from other African and European countries are eligible if they are self-funded.

The **overall objectives** of the CS4RRA JC are to:

- **Strengthen climate resilience** in West Africa based on a better understanding of the impacts of climate change;
- **Improve climate knowledge, capacities and services** for climate risk reduction and adaptation to climate change;
- **Strengthen African and European partnership.**

2. Background and Scope of the Joint Call

The overall strategic **aim of the CS4RRA-initiative** is to develop pathways to climate-resilience in Western Africa and contribute to long-term multinational cooperation including strengthening joint capacity development. In doing so, CS4RRA aims at encouraging co-design of activities between African and European partners on Knowledge of the regional climate system, Innovation of climate services, and Capacity development (Knowledge-Innovation-Capacity building or KIC) by identifying actionable and complementary short to midterm steps via multilateral joint actions (South-South or South-North). The CS4RRA initiative is built on the achievements and findings of previous EU and AU programmes in advancing climate services (H2020, JPI Climate/ ERA4CS and SINCERE, Copernicus CCS, EIT Climate-KIC, etc.). In addition, CS4RRA objectives are closely aligned with the GMES4Africa initiative and the World Meteorological Organization Global Framework for Climate Service.
The content of this call is grounded in the priorities for Knowledge-Innovation-Capacity development (KIC) identified during the four CS4RRA webinars summarised in the CS4RRA White Paper, and the CS4RRA Stocktaking Conference (reports). Experts from Africa and Europe, from science and practice identified gaps and priorities and provided recommendation on the following four topics: (1) Improvement of early warning system and adaptation measures for disaster risk reduction; (2) Climate and environmental services for excessive water management; (3) Climate impacts and resilience under present and future scenarios; (4)

Climate-smart agriculture[1] and sustainable landscapes. The thematic focus of the call comprise the themes and crosscutting priorities identified during the CS4RRA events and accompanied exchange with key stakeholders.

Thematic Focus
West African countries face many shared challenges related to climate change, which require sustainable and innovative solutions acknowledging local knowledge and considering local needs. Climate services are a helpful way to address these challenges. The CS4RRA webinar and stocktaking conference have shown a great need for innovative and user-orientated climate and environmental services to strengthen climate resilience in West Africa. By climate services the GFP, aligned with the definitions of WMO[2] and ERA4CS[3], means information, tools, training or advice supporting decision-making to increase climate resilience. The call recognises that achieving Climate Services for Risk Reduction in West Africa is a complex challenge crossing upon many sectors, disciplines and policy areas as well as being influenced by dynamics at local, national, regional and global levels. To successfully address these challenges a systemic change and transformation is needed. This requires holistic and integrated approaches.

Therefore, the proposals must:
- Address all three pillars of CS4RRA: Knowledge, Capacity Development, and Innovation in West Africa;
- Follow inter- and transdisciplinary approaches by encouraging a co-design of activities between academic and non-academic partners such as policy-makers, society and economy;
- Meet specific needs related to climate change addressed by West African stakeholders;
- Link research and innovation (incl. social innovation[4]) bridging scientific excellence to social impact.

Each proposal must address one or more of the following topics:

1. **Improving Early Warning Systems** (according to the WMO definition[5])
   There is a comprehensive need for effective multi-hazard early warning systems **from sub-seasonal to seasonal scale within West Africa** to reduce negative impacts of extreme weather and climate conditions. Successful early warning systems for droughts, heatwaves, floods or storms are cost-effective tools that save lives and reduce economic losses. Therefore, improvements **along the whole value chain** of early warning are needed, and should be considered from observation, forecasts, warning, and decisions. The focus should be on particularly vulnerable people, sectors or regions, including urban areas. The **use of combined or advanced technologies** (e.g. AI, Earth observation, etc.) are encouraged as particularly valuable to address regional challenges like limited data availability, sound forecasts or dissemination of warnings. Data and systems should be sustainable and thus, ideally open-access climate data. An **evaluation of existing early warning systems** is also often missing, but could be interesting to **stimulate learning processes** and **improve existing systems**.

2. **Improving operational assessment and prevention of Climate Security Risks**

[1] Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) are understood according to the definition by FAO which defines CSA as "an approach that helps guide actions to transform agri-food systems towards green and climate resilient practices."
[2] WMO 2024 defines Climate Services as "vital tools for building adaptive capacity, protecting vulnerable populations and ensuring."
[3] ERA4CS defines Climate Services as "driven by user demands to provide knowledge to face impacts of climate variability and change, as well as guidance both to researchers and decision-makers in policy and business." ERA4CS – JPI Climate
[4] Social innovation means putting the ideas from all segments of society into practice in order to find solutions to the grand challenges of our time (BMBFTR). This understanding of Social Innovations is in line with the EU-definition which defines Social Innovations as "new ideas that meet social needs, create social relationships and form new collaborations. These innovations can be products, services or models addressing unmet needs more effectively." (EU).
[5] WMO definition of Early Warning Systems comprises i) disaster risk knowledge; ii) detection, monitoring, analysis, and forecasting, iii) warning dissemination and communication, and iv) preparedness and response capabilities.

Security concerns linked to climate change comprise impacts on food, water, land, health, transport and energy systems. Consequences are loss of livelihoods, rising competition over natural resources, climate-related disasters as well as forced migration and displacement.

To improve the assessment and prevention of climate related security risks, a **better knowledge of the spatial, temporal and social-economic impacts** of climate change are needed. In addition, improvements **along the whole value chain of risk**[6] are needed and should be considered comprising assessing, anticipating to preventing, managing and communicating risks. It is important that **key actors are strongly engaged** in priority setting, conceptualization, risk analysis, and intervention design. The **use of combined or advanced technologies** (e.g. AI, earth observation, etc.) are encouraged as particularly valuable to address regional challenges like limited data accessibility, risk prediction, communication of risks or suitable prevention. In addition, the development of suitable **insurance mechanisms** or **nature-based solutions**[7] or **community empowerment** are additional relevant issues which could be addressed.

3. **Improving financing mechanism and institutional integration of climate services**
   WMO noted in 2024 a growing awareness and commitment of nations to incorporate climate services into National Adaptation Plans. Nonetheless, **suitable financing mechanisms** are still challenging and often missing. Thus, knowledge about **financial barriers and solutions** ensuring long-term uses of climate services are of high interest. This could comprise e.g. the development of **suitable business models** or **tax systems**. Innovative approaches **stimulating job growth** and providing economic perspectives could also be addressed. Therefore, close cooperation between scientists, private, and public sectors would be very valuable. In addition, a **better integration of climate services into decision-making processes** (e.g. by better alignment with national or regional development plans) are needed. This aspect could also be investigated.

In addition, proposals are encouraged to:

- Build upon or foster the impact of successful existing initiatives (incl. services);
- Could be easily scaled up or replicated;
- Comprise representatives of different types of partners in their consortia;
- Encourage the use of local knowledge and/or citizen science;
- Use combined or advanced technologies (e.g. AI, earth observation, etc.) to address the data gap in West Africa and to improve the uptake of climate services.

3. Eligible applicants and Project Consortia

Eligible for funding are **organizations from countries**, which are **represented in the Group of Funding Parties** (GFP) and organisations which are located in **one of the 16 West African countries**, as given in the United Nations definition (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo; excluding United Kingdom Overseas Territory: St. Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha).

A **Project Consortium** must comprise at least **three eligible project partners** representing **at least** two African institutions from **two different African countries and one European institution.** In addition, the Project Consortium has to be **led by a partner based in a West African country**. The consortium should reflect a balanced and equitable partnership relationship between African and European project partners.

[6] Including its multiple determinants: hazards, exposures and vulnerabilities (IPCC WG2).

[7] Nature-based solutions are solutions that are inspired and supported by nature, which are cost-effective, simultaneously provide environmental, social and economic benefits and help build resilience. Such solutions bring more, and more diverse, nature and natural features and processes into cities, landscapes and seascapes, through locally adapted, resource-efficient and systemic interventions.“ (EU)

Organisations can represent **research and higher education entities, companies, and other legal entities such as NGOs**, but the institutional restrictions of each funder apply: applicants must be eligible for funding **according to the regulations of their respective national Funding Parties** (see annex to the call, available in pt-outline).

The same person **cannot** act as Project **Coordinator for more than one** proposal. Some Funding Parties (FP) do not allow the same person to participate in more than one proposal per call (see national regulations annexed to the call, available in pt-outline).

Submission requirements

- A proposal may cover one or more subject areas.
- A consortium can only submit one proposal.
- Individual consortium members can be part of other consortia.
- A given researcher is allowed to be Project Coordinator for only one proposal.
- Consortia submitting proposals are obliged to report submission of the same or similar proposals to other funding schemes, as well as funds awarded as a result of such submission.

The CS4RRA GFP retains the right to reconsider the granting of funds should the concerned project consortium fail to report double submissions or the funds awarded as a result of such submissions.

4. Allowable Project Costs and Duration

The total cash funding for a project **may not exceed 2,000,000 EURO**. The funding period is a **maximum of 36 months**. The total amount of funding per project by each FP is illustrated in national regulations annexed to the call.
The funding of an individual proposal will depend on the nature and duration of the proposed activities and must be justified in terms of the resources needed to achieve the objectives of the project. The funding requested should therefore be realistically adjusted to the actual needs of the proposal, considering any other funds available.

In the national regulations annexed to the call the **FPs define the eligible costs according to their institutional regulations**. Eligible costs may include:

- **Personnel** costs (as defined by the relevant FP and according to its local rates and currency) of the research staff and other personnel, **including PhD and Postdoc positions** to build capacity;
- **Travel and accommodation** costs (including costs for attending the kick-off, mid-term and final meeting organised by the Call Secretariat (CS) for all funded projects);
- Costs related to organising or implementing **seminars and workshops** within the project;
- Acquisition of **material and small-scale research equipment** that is not part of the standard equipment of the researcher's institution is subject to the terms and conditions of the relevant funder;
- Activities for **knowledge sharing**, **research uptake**, and **dissemination**;
- **Sub-contracting** costs if appropriate and necessary.

5. Two-step Procedure

The call will follow a two step-procedure.

6.1. Step 1: Preliminary proposal stage

Interested consortia must submit a **preliminary proposal** by the **11th of September 2025 (10 CET)**. This preliminary proposal provides essential information about the aims and objectives of the proposed project in a condensed form. The Step 1-proposal will undergo an eligibility check and a scientific assessment. Based on this, the GFP will shortlist consortia who will be invited to submit a full proposal. On behalf of the GFP, the CS will inform applicants of the outcome and whether they are invited to submit a full proposal.

6.2. Step 2: Full proposal stage

The submission of a Step 2-proposal is possible **upon invitation only** for consortia which were successful in the preliminary proposal phase. The consortium submits a full proposal, providing more detailed information on the aims and objectives of the project. The **deadline** for submitting **full proposals** is expected to be **February 2026**. The exact date will be communicated with the successful consortia.

During the application process, the **technical, content-related focus of a project evaluated and selected in Step 1 and invited to Step 2 must be identical**, unless otherwise requested by the reviewers.
The following **changes between the pre- and full proposal stage might be possible in exceptional cases**, but always require prior information (incl. justification of the changes) of the Call Secretariat and endorsement by the GFP, as described below for each case:

- Change of **budget**.
- Changes in the **consortium composition**:
    - No change of Project Coordinator (person and organisation in charge) will be allowed, except in case of force majeure. In this case, the Coordinator must submit a respective request to the CS and to the FP from whom the partners in the consortium have requested funding. Approvals must be granted before the full proposal is submitted.
    - Changes to the consortium composition may be allowed in exceptional cases: requests must be submitted to the CS and to the FPs from whom the partners in the consortium have requested funding. Changes to the consortium include addition, removal and replacement of a partner. Regardless of the type of changes, the eligibility criteria must be respected. Approvals must be granted before the full proposal is submitted.

All new partners must comply with the applicable national Funding Party regulations (see annex to the call, available in pt-outline), if applicable.

6. The Electronic Submission and Evaluation Portal (ESEP) pt-outline

For both stages, only submissions received in due time **through** the Electronic Submission and Evaluation Portal (ESEP, **pt-outline**) **will be accepted.** Proposals sent by e.g. mail, e-mail, telex will be rejected without further notice.
The proposals must be submitted in English or French.

7.1. Registration and access

Submission just before the deadline should be avoided. High Internet traffic during the last days before the submission deadline of the Call may make access difficult. Differences in time zone should also be considered in this regard. In case of technical difficulties, applicants are encouraged to contact the helpline well ahead of the deadline (contact details are given in pt-outline).
A proposal must be submitted by the Project Coordinator (listed first in pt-outline) before the end of the deadline as specified in the call text. After the final submission of the proposal, the Project Coordinator will automatically receive an acknowledgement of receipt by email containing the proposal registration number. Once finally submitted, changes to the proposal will no longer be possible. **Delayed proposals will be considered non-eligible.** Access to pt-outline will be closed for applicants after the deadline.

7.2. Proposal Structure Step 1

In pt-outline, information about the planned project, the consortium and a short summary must be entered using input masks.
For the **description of the project in Step 1**, the **Step 1-template from pt-outline** must be used (download link will be provided). The total number of words in the project description for Step 1 must **not exceed 2,100**.

7.3. Proposal Structure Step 2

A full proposal can be submitted only upon invitation by the CS, after the preliminary proposal was positively evaluated.
In Step 2, applicants again submit the proposal via pt-outline. They have to fill out a form with the personal details of the coordinator and all partners, as well as basic information and a short summary of the proposal. For the **detailed description of the project in Step 2**, the **Step 2-template** from pt-outline must be used (download links will be provided). The total number of words in the **project description for numbers 1-5 must not exceed 4,800**. **In addition**, templates will be provided for the description of the **consortium partners** and the table for the **breakdown of costs**.

7. Evaluation Procedure and Criteria

8.1. Fundamental principles

The evaluation and selection of the proposals of **Step 1 and Step 2** is based on an international, independent **peer-review procedure** (see Chapter 8.3).

The fundamental principles governing the evaluation of project proposals are:

- **Transparency.** The process for reaching funding decisions will be clearly described and available to any interested party.
- **Equality of treatment.** All proposals shall be treated alike, irrespective of where they originate or the identity of the proposers.
- **Ethical considerations.** Any proposal that contravenes fundamental ethical principles of a FP may be excluded from being evaluated and selected at any time by decision of the GFP.

With respect to equality of treatment, the GFP commits to taking all reasonable steps to avoid conflict of interest and ensure confidentiality in the reviewing process.

8.2. Eligibility Procedure

The submitted proposals (Step 1 and Step 2) will be subject to eligibility checks performed by

1. The CS for the transnational eligibility,
2. The FPs at a national level to confirm compliance with national priorities, rules and regulations.

Projects that are deemed eligible by all FPs go into the evaluation and selection procedure.

a) Eligibility criteria

The **preliminary (Step 1) and full proposals (Step 2)** should contain all the necessary information to check the general eligibility of the proposal.
The CS will check the proposals submitted along the following **eligibility criteria**. A proposal must:

- Meet the **formal and content requirements**;
- Meet the **consortium composition requirements**;
- Comply with the **maximum allowed requested funding and duration**;
- Comply with the **terms of the submission procedure**;

- Be submitted **in English** or **French;**
- Meet the **submission deadline**.

Only proposals that meet all of the above eligibility criteria will be admitted to the peer review process. Ineligible applications will be informed of their status by the CS and will be withdrawn for the selection process.

8.3. Evaluation and Selection Procedures

The evaluation procedures are designed to identify the best proposals in terms of scientific excellence, impact, quality and efficiency on the implementation, as thoroughly and accurately as possible. The evaluation for all submitted proposals is carried out in a fair, transparent and consistent manner. The quality assessment of the submitted proposals will be performed by an **International Review Panel (IRP)** composed of international independent expert reviewers that sign Non-Disclosure Agreement and Conflict of Interest.

Each reviewer assesses each proposal independently without exchanging views with the other reviewers.

In Step 1 and Step 2, the pre- or full proposals are assessed against the three main evaluation criteria (I) Scientific Excellence, (II) Impact, (III) Quality of the consortium and project management, whereby the list of sub-criteria within the main criteria for Step 2 is more comprehensive than in Step 1 (see Chapter 8.4).
Each of the three main criteria must receive at least three points (on a scale of 0-5). Furthermore, the total points must be at least ten.

The selection will be based primarily on the total of the evaluation points (maximum 15) and secondarily on the availability of funds.

a) Evaluation Step 1: Pre-Proposals

Each eligible pre-proposal will be allocated to **at least two independent IRP experts,** of which at least one from Africa and one from Europe, designated according to their expertise relevant for the topic of the pre-proposal.
Based on the evaluation of the IRP, the GFP selects the projects to be admitted to Step 2. The CS will then invite the selected Step 1-proposals to submit a full proposal for Step 2. Consortia invited to submit a full proposal are encouraged to take possible recommendations and critical remarks by the CS into consideration for the preparation of the full proposal.

b) Evaluation Step 2: Full Proposals

For each proposal, **at least three independent IRP experts** of which at least one from Africa and one from Europe will be pre-selected by the CS from the IRP pool, with a view to achieving maximum competence for the evaluation.

The evaluation procedure of Step 2 consists of:

1. **Preliminary IRP member assessment**
   Three independent IRP members rate one proposal on a scale of 0 to 15 (15 being the highest and 0 being the lowest; each of the three main criteria must receive at least three points on a scale of 0-5; the total points must be at least 10). An average rating is generated from the three individual ratings.
2. **IRP Online Meeting**
   During the IRP meeting the preliminary IRP member assessment will form the basis of the discussion but all panel members are invited to participate, not only the pre-assessors. During the meeting, each proposal and its evaluation result will be presented. The reviewers have the opportunity to discuss proposals that have received the same rating in more detail, to compare them and to re-evaluate them. Based on the discussions, the IRP prepares a final ranking list of all proposals recommended for funding. For information on criteria applied and the scoring scheme see Chapters 8.4 and 8.5.

3. **Funding decision**
   For the purposes of **final selection, an online meeting of the GFP will be convened**. The members of the GFP will take the final decision on the selection of the Full Proposals by consensus and based on the recommendations and ranking of the IRP. The outcome of the meeting of the GFP is a list of projects to be funded. The final funding decision for each applicant will formally be made by the respective FP. Not all recommended projects may be funded due to lack of budget of individual funders.
4. **Informing of consortia**
   After the decision by each FP has been completed the final outcome of the evaluation will be made available to the coordinators of the proposals. This will include the overall score and key remarks (in anonymized form). Each FP contacts the partner it will fund.

8.4. Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria are to be applied by the IRP (for Step 1 and additional criteria for Step 2 as specified below):

(I) Scientific Excellence (0-5):

- Clarity and relevance to the overall call objectives and to the chosen theme(s) of the call.
- Scientific quality and innovativeness, contribution to knowledge, originality, progress beyond the state-of-the-art.
- Soundness of concept, and credibility of the proposed methodology (where relevant, application of advanced or combined technologies).

(II) Impact (0-5):

- Mobilization of different communities incl. science communities (social sciences, humanities, natural sciences, technology, and all sub-disciplines therein).
- Societal relevance and impacts (e.g., relevance for decision making, contributions to climate resilience, policy related or economic impact, capacity and community building, networking effects).
- Stakeholders' engagement and involvement (co-development, co-implementation).
- Development of new or improvement of existing climate services according to the needs (information, tools, training or advice to support decision-making for greater climate resilience).
- Development of new or improvement of existing technological or non-technical products, such as strategies for social innovation, increased capacities or frameworks for research, or improved tools for social analysis and interpretation.
- Where relevant, contribution to a gender equal societal development.
- **Additional criteria for Step 2:**
  - Contribution at the European and African level to the Roadmap for a jointly funded AU-EU research & innovation partnership on Climate Change and Sustainable Energy (CCSE).
  - Appropriate plans to communicate, disseminate and exploit the results of the project (including management of IPR), and to manage research data where relevant.
  - Where appropriate, explain the potential of the project to be scaled up or replicated.
  - Diversity in terms of seniority within the consortium and expected capacity development (including training of young researchers).
  - Conditions of accessibility of research results and tools ("open access", "open source").

(III) Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation (0-5):

- Qualification and (international) competitiveness of the Project Coordinator and the consortium partners.
- Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks ensuring that all partners have a valid role and adequate resources in the project to fulfil that role (especially fair and equitable distribution of roles and funds between partners based in Africa and partners based in Europe). Funding to partners in West African countries should be fair and commensurate to their expected roles, involvement and responsibilities

in the project.

- Integration of diversity and gender perspectives in the consortium.
- Feasibility of the proposed work plan and time schedule.
- Appropriateness of the funds requested regarding the work plan and the research objectives.
- **Additional criteria for Step 2:**
  - Integration of diversity and gender perspectives in the project plan and desired outcomes, where relevant.
  - Adequacy of information and communication tools (e.g. meetings, data exchange, and joint working periods).
  - Adequacy of technical resources (research, innovation, capacity building infrastructures) necessary to carry out the tasks.
  - Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk and innovation management.
  - Quality and complementarity of transnational activities by the participants and extent to which the consortium as whole brings together the necessary expertise.
  - The effective and equitable collaboration and IP co-ownership between the partners in the consortium beyond sharing different tasks or working packages.

8.5. Evaluation scores

Evaluation scores will be awarded to the three main evaluation criteria and not for the different sub-criteria. **Each of these main criteria can be scored from 0 to 5 (half-points are allowed in Step 2)**, resulting in an overall score ranging from 0 to 15.

5 | EXCELLENT The proposal addresses all aspects of the criterion in question in an outstanding manner.
4 | VERY GOOD The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor.
3 | GOOD The proposal addresses the criterion well, although certain improvements are possible.
2 | FAIR While the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses that would need correcting.
1 | POOR There are serious inherent weaknesses in relation to the criterion in question.
0 | The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information (unless the result of an 'obvious clerical error').

8. Project Contracts and Project Monitoring

The **evaluation and selection procedures** are described as follows. Formal funding decisions are made by each FP. The funding recommendation is irrevocable and therefore no central redress procedure is possible. This does not preclude the applicants from using their rights regarding their national funder, subject to relevant terms and conditions and applicable law.

Successful applicants will be **informed by their respective Funding Parties** regarding the next steps for concluding the individual project grant agreements at a national level.

Each FP will fund national applicant(s) within a research project. Funding will be provided by the participating FP according to applicable national funding rules (national regulations annexed to the call, available in pt-outline). As an exception from this rule, this may comprise the funding of applicants from other countries, particularly African partners.

The Project Coordinator is responsible for informing project partners about the selection result and for synchronising the project start with his/ her partners.

A successful consortium may agree to draw up a **Project's Consortium Agreement (PCA)**. Herein the consortia of selected projects could define the internal organisation and management of the consortium, the intellectual property arrangements, and the settlement of internal disputes.
Some FP require a signed PCA **before** the conclusion of the projects' grant agreements (see pt-outline, national regulations annexed to the call).

9. Obligations for Funded Projects

10.1. Published information

A list of the funded projects will be published at the end of the co-funded call. Therefore, applicants should be aware that the following information from the proposals may be published by CS4RRA for promotional purposes:

- project title and project acronym,
- duration of the project,
- total funding of the project,
- name of the Project Coordinator (incl. contact information as email and telephone number),
- country and organisation name of each partner,
- a short publishable summary of the project.

Information on each funded project, including data on each participant, abstracts of the project proposal and overview on the results will be updated and distributed amongst the CS4RRA GFP.

10.2. Open Access

Open access (OA) addresses the problem of limited access to (peer-reviewed) scholarly research. It is the practice of providing online access to scientific information (e.g. articles, conference proceedings, monographs, books, theses) that is free of charge to the reader, and licensed so that the information can be further used and exploited by researchers, by the industry and by citizens. The publication of research data, however, is not mandatory. Milestone definitions of Open Access include those of the Budapest Open Access Initiative (BOAI) and the Berlin Declaration (October 2003) on open access.
The **benefits of OA** are manifold:

- The visibility of research output of individual researchers and institutions increases; research impact increases.
- Funding agencies get a better return of investment due to increased impact of funded research.
- Researchers waste less time seeking articles they cannot access.
- Duplication of research can be more effectively avoided.
- Libraries have to spend less on traditional journal subscriptions. Moreover, OA offers them the possibility to become providers of OA services, by setting up repositories for OA publications.
- Publishers that adopt OA obtain more exposure for their publications.
- Companies (especially SMEs) can innovate faster by gaining immediate access to free research results.

To benefit from these advantages, all funded projects **must adhere to the following open access policy** (unless otherwise required by national regulations):

1. All publications of peer reviewed journal articles should be made openly available no later than six

months after the date of publication. Similar actions to other types of publications (e.g. conference proceedings, theses, books, monographs) are strongly encouraged. Grant holders are required to report all publications in their project reports.

2. In case the authors decide to publish in a gold open access journal, the article processing charge (APC) or similar fees for publishing are considered eligible expenses that can be reimbursed under the grant (if accepted before the end of the funding period). In the case that an APC is supported by the grant budget, the article must be openly available from the moment of publication. Authors are asked to consider APC cost when deciding in which journal to publish, since lower APC costs leave more funding available for research purposes. Authors are required to avoid "double-dipping" journals and "predatory publishers".
3. In all publications funding recipients must acknowledge CS4RRA and identify the funding in the following manner: "This research was made possible by funding from CS4RRA."
4. All research data and associated metadata resulting from funded projects should be deposited in a suitable open data repository.
5. Institutions/ grant holders agree that by receiving funding from CS4RRA they have accepted the terms and conditions of this OA policy. In case of non-compliance the partial refund of the funds may be considered.

10.3. Requirements for financed projects regarding follow up

Funded projects are required to report on research progress and financial aspects at transnational level as well as to their Funding Parties if required to do so per the respective Funding Party regulations. In addition, the Project Coordinator will be responsible to submit a mid-term and a final report at transnational level within two months of the mid-term and the end of the project respectively. The reports should cover the research progress of all consortium partners. They must include a public summary of the research progress to be published on the CS4RRA website. Applicants may, depending on their relevant Funding Parties, be asked to provide an impact assessment report two years after their project ends. Any additional reporting requirements from relevant Funding Parties apply as per national regulations.

Funded projects are required to participate in activities that allow networking between the projects and the dissemination of the projects' results. This includes a kick-off meeting, at the beginning of the funding period, a mid-term meeting and a final meeting at the end of the funding period, organised by ANR. Financial provisions to participate in such meetings may be included in the funding request of the various applicants, subject to the relevant Funding Party's regulations (this will be queried in pt-outline).
Besides the general reporting requirements standardised in the Consortium Agreements, the administrative rules of the relevant Funding Party apply, i.e. Funding Parties may request additional reporting from the respective Project Coordinator according to their specific regulations.

10. Expected Timeline

Webinar and partnering event	24 June 2025 (9:00 UTC)
Deadline Pre-proposal submission	11 September 2025 (10:00 a.m. UTC)
Eligibility and Evaluation Step 1	September-November 2025
Full-proposal submission	November-February 2026
Evaluation Step 2	February-May 2026
Start of projects	from June 2026

Annex: National Regulations

National Regulations
Information on funding and regulations of the Funding Parties (FP)

African-European Call for Proposals
“Climate Services for Risk Reduction in West Africa (CS4RRA)” 2025

July 2025

CONTENT

AGENCE NATIONALE DE LA RECHERCHE (ANR)

National Contact Points
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National Funding Requirements (will be published in pt-outline)

Contribution in cash to finance selected research projects	1 000 000 EURO
Contribution in-kind to finance selected research projects	NONE
Eligible entities (if different than specified in the call text)	ANR may fund **research organisations** and **undertakings**, as defined by the EC regulation on State aid for research, development and innovation. Only research organisations that have their **primary establishment in France** may be funded. As for undertakings, ANR may fund those that have their **real head office** in an EU member State and an establishment (primary or secondary) in France. To be eligible, at least one partner of the consortium must be from an establishment participating in the public research service, i.e. at least one partner under public law for research and the dissemination of knowledge (such as EPST, university, research EPIC, etc.) established in France or at least one partner under private law for research and the dissemination of knowledge having an establishment or branch in France and **not being an undertaking**. For the purposes of this call for proposals, Ecoles d'Enseignement Supérieurs Consulaires (EESC) are not considered to be commercial companies. Please note that companies with economic difficulties cannot receive ANR subventions. Countries subject to sanction(s) by the European Union authorities are excluded from this call. At the time of publication, these countries include the following: Belarus, Russia. Ukrainian territories out of control of the Ukrainian government are also concerned. If entities from these countries or territories are Partners in an application in which some Partners request ANR support, ANR will deem the latter ineligible. This list might evolve and application measures be taken accordingly. The above-mentioned terms and conditions are only summarized translations of those entailed in the ANR Funding regulations and in the "Modalités de participation pour les partenaires sollicitant une aide de l'ANR" annex. In case of inconsistencies, the terms of the ANR Funding regulations and the "Modalités de participation pour les partenaires sollicitant une aide de l'ANR" shall prevail.

	See ANR Funding Regulations and info page for further reference
Eligible costs (for project beneficiaries)	Specifications: - personnel costs [**yes**] - materials [**yes**] - travel and accommodation costs [**yes**] - workshops [**yes**] - sub-contracting [**yes**] - activities for knowledge sharing, research uptake, dissemination [**yes**] - overheads [**yes**] - other costs [**yes**] See ANR Funding Regulations and info page for more detail
Eligibility criteria (in addition to those specified in the call text)	A DMP (Data management plan) must be transmitted to ANR and updated during the course of the project. If applicable, Declarations of Due Diligence for the financed projects (Nagoya Protocol) must be transmitted to ANR in due time. Depending on the consortium composition, a Consortium Agreement may be mandatory for ANR at the funding stage for successful applications. Please refer to the ANR Funding Regulations and info page for more details
Submission of proposal, documentation at national level	ESEP PT-Outline See ANR Funding Regulations for detailed information ("Règlement relatif aux attributions des aides de l'ANR" https://anr.fr/fr/rf/) and the document entitled, "Modalités de participation pour les partenaires sollicitant une aide de l'ANR" available on the webpage of the call on the ANR website.
Maximum funding per selected partner	300 000 EURO per project maximum 15 000 EURO per project minimum

Maximum funding percentages	Large Enterprises	Medium Enterprises	Small Enterprises	Academia, associations without economic activities, public authorities
Fundamental & Basic research	30%	45%	45%	See ANR Funding Regulations
Industrial/ applied research	30%	45%	45%	See ANR Funding Regulations

BUNDESMINISTERIUM FÜR FORSCHUNG, TECHNOLOGIE UND RAUMFAHRT (BMFTR)

National Contact Point
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Please ensure that all requirements and regulations of the BMFTR published in the national funding announcement of the CS4RRA call are considered.

National Funding Requirements (will be published in pt-outline)

The information in the funding announcement published in the Federal Gazette is the basis and binding.

Contribution <u>in cash</u> to finance selected research projects	6,000,000.00 Euro
Contribution <u>in-kind</u> to finance selected research projects	-
Eligible entities (if different than specified in the call text)	Specifications: – German and West African partners in consortia with German partners (BMFTR decision on a case-by-case basis: in exceptional cases also in other consortia)
Eligible costs (for project beneficiaries)	Specifications: - personnel costs yes - materials yes - travel and accommodation costs yes - workshops yes - sub-contracting yes - activities for knowledge sharing, research uptake, dissemination yes - overheads yes - other costs no
Eligibility criteria (in addition to those specified in the call text)	Specifications: – No additional specifications
Submission of proposal, documentation at national level	ESEP PT-Outline German partners selected for funding have to submit the full proposal in the national easy-Online system.
Maximum funding per selected partner	Not specified

Maximum funding percentages	Large Enterprises	Medium Enterprises	Small Enterprises	Academia, associations without economic activities, public authorities
Fundamental & Basic research	100 %	100 %	100 %	100 %
Industrial/ applied research	50 %	60 %	70 %	100 %
Experimental research	25 %	35 %	45 %	100 %

FONDS POUR LA SCIENCE, LA TECHNOLOGIE ET L'INNOVATION (FONSTI)

National Contact Point
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National Funding Requirements (will be published in pt-outline)

Contribution in cash to finance selected research projects	125 008 Euro 82 000 000 FCFA			
Contribution in-kind to finance selected research projects	Amount Euro Amount local currency			
Eligible entities (if different than specified in the call text)	Specifications: – ...			
Eligible costs (for project beneficiaries)	Specifications: - purchase of consumables - materials - national travel and accommodation costs - workshops - sub-contracting - activities for knowledge sharing, research uptake, dissemination - other costs			
Eligibility criteria (in addition to those specified in the call text)	Specifications: – ...			
Submission of proposal, documentation at national level	ESEP PT-Outline			
Maximum funding per selected partner	38112,25 Euro / project 25 000 000 CFA / project			
Maximum funding percentages	Large Enterprises	Medium Enterprises	Small Enterprises/START-UP	Universities National Research Center
Fundamental & Basic research	NO	NO	NO	YES
Industrial/ applied research	NO	NO	YES	YES

MINISTRY OF UNIVERSITY AND RESEARCH (MUR)

National Contact Point
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National Funding Requirements (will be published in pt-outline)

Contribution in cash to finance selected research projects	Amount Euro 750.000,00 Amount local currency NOT APPLICABLE
Contribution in-kind to finance selected research projects	Amount Euro NOT APPLICABLE Amount local currency
Eligible entities (if different than specified in the call text)	Specifications: – **Higher education institutions** (State universities and legally recognized universities as defined in L. 29 July 1991, n. 243) and their consortia. – **Public research institutions** (as listed in D.Lgs. n. 218/2016 Art 1). – **Public and private research organisations ('organismo di ricerca')** including research foundations in accordance with EU Reg. n. 651/2014 of the European Commission - June 17, 2014. – **Enterprises** (legally registered in the Register of Companies): large companies, medium companies and SMEs, spin offs etc – **Other not-for-profit registered legal entities** (foundations and associations provided they are registered legal entities) are eligible if participating in cooperation with one (or more) Italian Higher Education Institution(s) or public or private Research Organisation(s)/Institution(s).
Eligible costs (for project beneficiaries)	Specifications: - personnel costs [yes] - materials [yes under Other goods and services cost category] - travel and accommodation costs [yes] - workshops [yes under Other goods and services cost category] - sub-contracting [yes] - activities for knowledge sharing, research uptake, dissemination [no] - overheads [yes, flat rate of 25% of direct eligible costs with the exclusion of subcontracting] - other costs [yes]
Eligibility criteria (in addition to those specified in the call text)	Specifications: Applicants shall: • not be defaulting with regard to other funding received by the Ministry of University and Research • not have requested/got any other funding for the same project

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• be compliant to the Italian law "D.Lgs. n 159 del 6/09/2011 e successive modificazioni ed integrazioni"
• not be subject to bankruptcy proceedings as of art. 5, comma 4, letter b) of DM 1314/2021 or must not be a company in difficulty according to the definition under number 18) of article 2 "Definitions" of Regulation (EU) no. 651/2014
• be in compliance with the obligations laid down in the contributory and social security regulations (DURC)

Applicants shall demonstrate their viability and financial soundness regarding their own contribution to the project.

For any private entity, if the following financial criteria listed under a) and b), calculated using the data reported in the last approved balance sheet, are not fulfilled, the applicant can be funded only if a bank guarantee is provided:

a) CN > (CP – I)/2
Where:
• CN = net assets (Capitale netto)
• CP = sum of the costs of all the projects for which public funding has been requested by the participant during the year
• I = sum of the contributions received, approved or requested for the same projects

b) OF/F < 8%
Where:
• OF = financial charges (Oneri finanziari)
• F = turnover (Fatturato)

IMPORTANT NOTICE:
Further details will be included in the “Avviso integrativo nazionale”, published on http://www.ricercainternazionale.mur.gov.it/ .
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<tr><td>Submission of proposal, documentation at national level</td><td colspan="4">ESEP PT-Outline
and in addition to the project proposal which shall be submitted at European level, Italian participants are requested to submit a national additional application to MUR, through the national web platform, at the following link:
https://banditransnazionali.mur.gov.it/</td></tr>
<tr><td>Maximum funding per selected partner</td><td colspan="4">Amount Euro / project 150.000,00 per project
Amount local currency Amount / project</td></tr>
<tr><td>Maximum funding percentages</td><td>Large Enterprises</td><td>Medium Enterprises</td><td>Small Enterprises</td><td>Academia, associations without economic activities, public authorities</td></tr>
<tr><td>Fundamental & Basic research</td><td colspan="4">70%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Industrial/ applied research</td><td colspan="4">50%</td></tr>
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RESEARCH AND GRANT INSTITUTE OF GHANA (ReGIG)

National Contact Point
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National Funding Requirements (will be published in pt-outline)

Contribution in cash to finance selected research projects	0 Euro			
Contribution in-kind to finance selected research projects	5,000 Euro GHS 59,000.00			
Eligible entities (if different than specified in the call text)	Specifications: – ...			
Eligible costs (for project beneficiaries)	Specifications: - personnel costs [no] - materials [no] - travel and accommodation costs no] - workshops [yes] - sub-contracting [yes] - activities for knowledge sharing, research uptake, dissemination [yes] - overheads [no] - other costs [no]			
Eligibility criteria (in addition to those specified in the call text)	Specifications: – ...			
Submission of proposal, documentation at national level	ESEP PT-Outline			
Maximum funding per selected partner	Amount Euro / project Amount local currency Amount / project			
Maximum funding percentages	Large Enterprises	Medium Enterprises	Small Enterprises	Academia, associations without economic activities, public authorities
Fundamental & Basic research	...	...	...	...
Industrial/ applied research	...	...	...	...

THE RESEARCH COUNCIL OF NORWAY

National Contact Point
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National Funding Requirements (will be published in pt-outline)

Contribution in cash to finance selected research projects	Up to NOK 40 million The total funding available for this call is up to NOK 40 million to Norwegian research organisations and their partners from organisations which are located in one of the 16 West African countries, as given in the UN definition (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo; excluding United Kingdom Overseas Territory: St. Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha). Funding to successful applicants will be disbursed in Norwegian kroner (NOK).
Contribution in-kind to finance selected research projects	No
Eligible entities (if different than specified in the call text)	Only approved Norwegian research organisations are eligible for funding from the RCN. See the list of approved research organisations. A Norwegian research organisation must be Project Owner when applying through the RCN portal (see section on documentation at national level in this annex). Norwegian enterprises registered in Brønnøysund Register Centre are also eligible for funding as partners in a project consortium. The RCN can only fund African partners in consortia where Norwegian institutions are included. We can extend funding to all West African countries and these types of institutions/entities based in those countries: - research institutes, - universities, - technical colleges (polytechnic) - public sector, - non-governmental organisations

	Foreign enterprises/businesses, i.e. enterprises outside of Norway are *not* eligible for funding from the Research Council of Norway. Social enterprises and similar entities are considered as enterprises. If such enterprises are located outside of Norway, they are not eligible for funding from the RCN. Funding from the RCN will be reserved for Norwegian and African partners. European and other non-African partners are not eligible for funding from the RCN.
Eligible costs (for project beneficiaries)	Information on eligible costs can be found on the RCNs Budget Website: https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/financing/how/budget/ The budget applied for shall be stated in Euro. Conversion from Euro to NOK is based on the official exchange rate per application date for preproposals. The official exchange rate can be found here: https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/procedures-guidelines-tenders/information-contractors-and-beneficiaries/exchange-rate-inforeuro_en Support from the Research Council constitutes state aid when it is awarded to an "undertaking", i.e. an actor that carries out an economic activity consisting of offering products or services in a given market. Applicants defined as an undertaking must be aware that their funding will be given within the limits set by the State Aid Rules: https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/state-aid/ State aid awarded by the Research Council is granted under the General Block Exemption Regulation for state aid, Article 25: Aid for research and development projects. To ensure that support is awarded in compliance with the state aid rules, the Research Council asks all applicants selected for conditional allocation of funding to provide supplementary information. The Project Owner must be able to document that its own institution and all its partners (all recipients of state aid) are eligible to receive state aid.
Eligibility criteria (in addition to those specified in the call text)	Specifications: See eligible entities.
Submission of proposal, documentation at national level	Norwegian applicants *are not* required to register proposals in stage 1 and stage 2 in the RCN portal (My RCN Web). All proposals that include Norwegian applicants must be delivered through ESEP PT-Outline (https://ptoutline.eu/app/users/login/AFR-EU_Call_CS4RRA). If funded, the Norwegian research organisations must register their part of the project consortium through the RCN portal. If there are several Norwegian partners in the same consortium, one of the participants may be the Project Owner for the other participants. The Project Owner will receive funding and report on behalf of the other Norwegian companies. The maximum funding disbursed to RCN eligible entities per consortium is NOK 8 million, this is regardless of how many eligible entities participate in one consortium.

	Further information will be provided to the relevant partners. Norwegian project partners will have to report to RCN on an annual basis following RCN guidelines and deadlines. The participation must follow RCN's General Terms and Conditions for Research projects or for R&D Projects (https://www.forskningsradet.no/siteassets/generelle-krav-og-vilkar-for-foi-prosjekter/generelle-vilkar-01012021-eng-ny.pdf).			
Maximum funding per selected partner	The total cash funding applied from the RCN cannot exceed NOK 8, 000, 000 per consortium where eligible entities as defined by the RCN participate (see section on eligible entities in this annex). The funding period is a maximum of 36 months.			
Maximum funding percentages	Large Enterprises	**Maximum funding percentages**	Large Enterprises	**Maximum funding percentages**
Fundamental & Basic research	N/A	**Fundamental & Basic research**	N/A	**Fundamental & Basic research**
Industrial/ applied research	50%	**Industrial/ applied research**	50%	**Industrial/ applied research**