



NEWSLETTER

of BS-ERA.NET Project

Networking on Science and Technology in the Black Sea Region



BS-ERA.NET

HIGHLIGHTS

- **BS-ERA.NET Pilot Joint Call 2010**
- **News from the Black Sea Region**

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BS-ERA.NET PILOT JOINT CALL 2010

FOREWORD

The BS-ERA.NET consortium sets up and runs a structure to sustain and strengthen the collaboration between R&D funding programmes and agencies for transnational coordinated funding of research and development in the extended Black Sea region¹.

In this framework, a **PILOT JOINT CALL** (PJC) of interested programme owners/programme managers in the Member States of the European Union (MS), the Associated Countries to the 7th Framework Programme (AC) and the extended Black Sea region will be launched on 4th October 2010 and closed on 14th January 2011 at 18:00 Brussels time.

The objective of the Pilot Joint Call is to promote collaborative research on **Climate & Environment** and **Energy** taking a proactive and innovative approach to developing solutions for a sustainable development. The implementation of this Pilot Joint Call is an early step towards meeting the overall aim of the BS-ERA.NET project, namely the development of a Black Sea Research Programme (BSRP).

Interested programme owners/programme managers from EU-MS/AC and the extended Black Sea region, within and also beyond the BS ERA.NET project consortium, have been invited to join a "Group of Funding Parties" (GFP).

The following Programme Owners have signed the Implementation Agreement and confirmed their participation in the Group of Funding Parties and their readiness to pledge financial contributions:

Important dates

Call launch:

4th October 2010

Deadline for submission of proposals:

14 January 2011

SCS-RA	(Armenia)	ENEA	(Italy)
SDF	(Azerbaijan)	ASM	(Moldova)
MEYSB	(Bulgaria)	CNMP	(Romania)
SNRSF	(Georgia)	TÜBITAK	(Turkey)
BMBF	(Germany)	SCSII	(Ukraine)
GSRT	(Greece)		

A Joint Call Secretariat (JCS) has been entrusted the operational management of the Pilot Joint Call by the Group of Funding Parties. The JCS will be run jointly by CNMP and DLR.

The Pilot Joint Call will be implemented through a coordinated funding scheme whereby each funding party will fund its own teams within a multilateral project ("Virtual Common Pot"), with a view to harmonize the funding contributions in order to guarantee the funding of as many as possible of the projects selected through a peer review process.

The financial contributions of each Funding Party will be topped-up by a contribution based on a transfer of INTAS financial assets to the funding parties from the Joint Call Secretariat. Exceptions will be negotiated between the Joint Call Secretariat and the respective funding parties. The principle will be a pro-rata basis depending on the total actual contribution of each Funding Party in relation to the total financial contribution of the Group of Funding Parties.

JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS

Scope of the Pilot Joint Call

In the framework of the Pilot Joint Call, the Group of Funding Parties agreed to support joint research projects.

A joint research project is implemented by several institutions ("consortium") in partnership.

The joint research projects will address mainly applied research. However, basic research of direct relevance for the thematic focus of the call may be addressed too. Projects may also include dedicated measures to enhance mobility, exchanges and access to medium/large scale infrastructures, with the aim to promote researchers mobility and to foster the development of long-term research collaboration.

Thematic Focus

Climate and Environment

- ⇒ Exploitation and transport of mineral resources: impact on environment
- ⇒ Water pollution prevention options for coastal zones and tourist areas

Energy

- ⇒ Hydrogen production from H₂S rich Black Sea Water
- ⇒ CO₂ capture and storage technologies for zero emission power generation in the Black Sea region.

Socio-economic aspects can be included in the research proposals where relevant.

Eligible institutions and Project Consortium

Institutions applying for funding must be eligible for funding by their respective national Funding Party. They can be higher education and research institutes, R&D companies and SMEs.

Other institutions not eligible for funding are invited to join the consortium as well on their own expenses. The project consortium must comprise at least 3 eligible institutions from 3 different participating countries to the BS-ERA.NET Joint Call, of which at least one from an EU country and one from a non-EU country from the extended Black Sea region². One of the institutions must be designated as Coordinating Institution.

Duration

The duration of a project must be between 18 and 36 months.

Funding

The maximum funding allocated per project is € 300,000.

The funding of a joint research project will depend on the nature and duration of the proposed research and must

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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 project, taking into account any other funds available.

In case an institution/partner cannot receive its funding from its national funding organisation in a selected project, this specific project will not be retained for funding.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA OF PROJECT PROPOSALS

Project proposals must:

- Be in the scope and in the thematic focus of the call
- Meet the consortium composition requirements
- Be submitted by partner institutions which are eligible to receive funding from their national members of the Group of Funding Parties
- Comply with the allowed duration
- Comply with the funding requirements
- Comply with the terms of the submission procedure
- Be complete according to the rules described in the Terms of Reference
- Be submitted in the English language
- Meet the submission deadline.

Once a proposal meets the PJC eligibility criteria, the Joint Call Secretariat will ask the Group of Funding Parties to check and confirm the eligibility at the level of partner institutions participating in a project consortium according to their national regulations. With this respect, national regulations of the Funding Parties are available at <http://www.bs-era.net> (see the Section "Black Sea ERA.NET 2010 Pilot Joint Call").

ALLOWABLE PROJECT COSTS

Allowable project costs are grouped in two categories: labour costs and operational costs including travel and subsistence, consumables, equipment and other costs respecting regulations as defined by the responsible national Funding Party. All costs have to be justified by the needs of the project.

SUBMISSION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS

Only submissions through the on-line submission system "PT-Outline" will be accepted. Proposals sent by post, e-mail, telex or facsimile will be rejected without notice.

<http://www.pt-it.de/ptoutline/application/bseranet/>

News from the Region

2020 BSEC Strategy on Energy Launched

In 2010, in accordance with the decision of the Working Group on Energy that met in Sofia on January 2010, the BSEC Permanent Secretariat finalized the outline of the BSEC Strategy on Energy till 2020.

The Strategy offers the BSEC Member States strategic options in the elaboration and adaptation of their energy policies and in strengthening the regional dimension of their cooperation in the energy field.

The strategy addresses common objectives for national energy policies; basic principles and objectives of cooperation among the Member states; concrete objectives such as the development of infrastructure for the integration of the energy markets of the BSEC Member States; the development of a Black Sea Electricity Ring and its integration into the Trans-European Energy Networks; starting a coordinated process of harmonization of legislation and regulation in the field of energy; as well as guidelines of action for BSEC.

Information from: www.bsec-organization.org

Marine science – “Ostend Declaration” calls for a Blue Future for Europe

Marine scientists from across Europe gathered in Ostend at the EurOCEAN 2010 Conference (12-13 October) where the Ostend Declaration was adopted. This declaration will act as a guideline to address the grand challenges and opportunities facing Europe's seas and oceans in the coming decade.

Presenting the Ostend Declaration to Máire Geoghegan-Quinn, the EU Commissioner for Research, Innovation and Science, Lars Horn (Marine Board-ESF chair) said: “The marine community has identified the key challenges facing us in the coming years. Across Europe, scientists are working together to ensure the potential health and wealth that could come from our seas and oceans. In return, there is a need to safeguard the future health of our seas too. We need to underpin this by observing and monitoring changes.”

Máire Geoghegan-Quinn welcomed the Ostend Declaration “as an impetus for new ideas to boost marine research to innovate and address the challenges represented by our seas and oceans”. She also pointed that “achieving the 3% target of EU GDP dedicated to research could create up to 3.7 million new jobs and €800 billion in additional GDP by 2025”. Marine and maritime research and technologies could undoubtedly contribute to such a virtuous process keeping in mind that “tomorrow's innovation starts with today's blue skies research.”

The Ostend EurOCEAN 2010 builds on the success of earlier conferences in Aberdeen (2007) and Galway (2004). EurOCEAN 2010 was organised as a Belgian EU Presidency event in close cooperation with the European Commission and the Marine Board-ESF.

Information from: www.eurocean2010.eu

'The ocean of tomorrow' call

On 20 July 2010 European Commission was launched 'The ocean of tomorrow' call under 7 Framework Programme (Call identifier: FP7-OCEAN-2011).

"The ocean of tomorrow" call - Joining research forces to meet challenges in ocean management.

The call is implemented through four different topics, out of which two of generic nature and two of particular relevance to the Mediterranean and the Black Sea: topic 1: "Multi-use offshore platforms"; topic 2: "Marine microbial diversity – new insights into marine ecosystems functioning and its biotechnological potential"; topic 3: "Assessing and predicting the combined effects of natural and human-made pressures in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea in view of their better governance" (SICA); topic 4: "Knowledge-base and tools for regional networks of MPAs, integrated management of activities together with assessment of wind energy potential in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea (SICA).

A multi-disciplinary approach and a multi-sectoral partnership are considered essential to achieving the expected impacts. All topics have been designed to secure a substantial involvement of industrial partners, SMEs and relevant end-users.

The deadline for submission of proposals is 18 January 2011.

BSCS Foundation

International Fund for Cooperation and Partnership of the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea is a non-governmental organization established by individuals from eight countries – Romania, Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Kazakhstan, Republic of Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Republic of Turkey, and Ukraine. This endeavour was inspired by a common idea of the President of Romania, H.E. Traian Basescu, and the President of Azerbaijan, H.E. Ilham Aliyev. The Fund was launched in Bucharest, on March 4th, 2009.

Common values, common interests and common problems requesting to be addressed pointed out the necessity for extending cooperation in these regions and created the premises for defining and implementing sustainable strategies in this wide area, which has a strategic role to play for strengthening the ties between Asia and Europe.

In order to help people belonging to this regions to enhance the cooperation between their countries and to facilitate the cooperation with international organizations, highly esteemed representatives of civil society, scientific researchers, academics, and diplomats decided to establish an organism that would be an alternative to the rigidity of the official high level relations and to pledge for people-to-people contacts and the dialogue between experts in various fields of activity.

This initiative is unique due to the complementary approach of Black Sea and Caspian Sea regions and the attempt to harmonize the interests of these neighboring countries and to identify common goals and common means for an integrated development.

Detailed information about this foundation and its activities can be accessed at: <http://www.bsccsf.ro>

International Conference

A New Region of Europe: Regional Development Paradigms in the Baltic-Black Sea Intermarum

The conference is organized to address the question of what represents “the new region of Europe” formed in the process of political and historical evolution on the territory between the Baltic and Black Seas.

“The new region” represents a group of states most frequently, and imprecisely, known as “post-Soviet”. These countries are taking part in diverging processes of integration which determine new boundaries of this region, at the same time confirming its existence vis-à-vis regional approaches to resolving socio-political problems which could be solved only within the boundaries of the whole region but not separate nation-states. In the framework of the concept of “the new region of Europe”, the research of economic, legal and political processes here become extremely important. At the same time this social space has a history of distinctive cultural and civil practices that create the most important foundations of political and social processes.

Information from: www.kas.de

Armenia

S&T International Cooperation Network for East European and Central Asian Countries Brokerage Event, 7-8 October 2010 Yerevan, Armenia

The Brokerage Event was organized in the framework of the FP7 IncoNet EECA project. The objective of the event is to bring together EU and EECA researchers and other stakeholders, and provide ground for discussion and networking within the scope of the Environment (including climate change) Theme. The event included a presentation of the areas addressed by the 2011 call, presentations of proposal ideas and a session of pre-arranged bilateral meetings to discuss potential partnerships in FP7 proposals in the following areas:

Climate change, pollution and risks

Sustainable management of resources

Earth observations and assessment tools for sustainable development.

The program of the Brokerage Event included presentation of BS-ERA.NET Project and Joint Call at the Plenary Session which was made by representative of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia Tigran Arzumanyan.

More information on: <http://be.sci.am/>

Greece

23rd Meeting of the Council of Ministers of foreign affairs of BSEC

The 23rd Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) was held on 26 November 2010 in Thessaloniki with the theme “Green Development and Entrepreneurship”. The Joint Declaration on Combating Climate Change in the wider Black Sea area was adopted.

Information from: www.bsec-organization.org

The 3rd International Scientific Conference titled “Energy and Climate Change” of the PROMITHEAS Net was took place at the premises of NKUA on October 7- 8, 2010 in Athens, Greece.

Details at: www.kepa.uoa.gr

The Black Sea Region in Flux, Aegina, Greece,

29 June- 4 July 2010

Building on two years of success, the International Black Sea Symposium (IBSS) project continues in 2010 with the 3rd International Black Sea Symposium on “The Black Sea Region in Flux”.

From 29 June to 4 July 2010 the International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) was took place in Aegina, Greece

Details at: www.icbss.org

Turkey

The Black Sea Energy and Economic Forum (BSEEF) is a unique annual initiative that brings business and policy leaders together to discuss Eurasia's leading economic and energy challenges. The Council's new Eurasia Center in cooperation with its partners in the Black Sea, Caspian and Central Asian Regions, has launched this important initiative in an effort to promote energy security, economic growth and political stability in one of the world's most crucial places. The Forum aims to develop best policy solutions to help the region be a center for economic cooperation, investment and trade.

The 2010 Forum was held in Istanbul, Turkey September 29 – October 1, 2010, building on the success of the inaugural Forum last year in Bucharest, Romania.

Information from: www.acus.org

Brokerage Event: Bringing together Marine Research Capacities

TUBITAK organized a networking event for FP7 Environment (including climate change), "Brokerage Event: Bringing together Marine Research Capacities in a global context" on 23-24 September 2010 in Istanbul within the scope of EC funded ENV-NCP-TOGETHER Project.

More than 100 participants representing 23 countries have attended to this fruitful Marine Research Brokerage Event. Apart from the information provided about the Environment and Ocean of Tomorrow Call in FP7, the event specially focused on identifying new research lines and knowledge gaps for Mediterranean and Black sea regions. In addition, there was a dedicated session to EU-Black Sea and EU-Mediterranean cooperation together with the networking event including bilateral meetings. Within the bilateral meetings, 70 Environment stakeholders who wish to prepare a project proposal under the aforementioned calls had an opportunity to present their project ideas on different topics. They had a chance to meet other European colleagues in order to initiate new consortia under Environment and Ocean of Tomorrow Calls.

More detailed information, including the presentations made during the event, can be found at

<http://www.fp7.org.tr/home.do?ot=5&rt=10&sid=0&pid=&cid=19788>.

The Second International Conference on Nuclear and Renewable Energy Resources

was held on the 4-7th July 2010 in Ankara, Turkey. Energy inputs of the industrial societies depend on the fossil fuels with a large percentage. It is widely-known that the consumption of such fuels causes increasing environmental problems, so the usage of fossil fuels should be decreased for both present and next generations. In this manner, nuclear and

renewable energy resources have some advantages over the fossil fuels, therefore these two distinct energy types are considered together in an international conference in Turkey in order to obtain a complete media for innovative energy solutions.

The abstract book is available at www.nurer.org

Ukraine

Conference on Promoting Energy Security and Investment

The Joint BSEC-Energy Charter Conference on "Promoting Energy Security and Investment in the Black Sea Area: The Role of Multilateral Cooperation" was a success, demonstrating the close cooperation that BSEC maintains with the Energy Charter. The event held in Odessa on 27 July 2010 addressed the current challenges for energy security in the wider Black Sea area, the financial and economic situation after the global crisis, as well as the role of international organizations in the region.

The Thirty-Fifth Meeting of the PABSEC Committee was held in Kyiv on 29-30 September 2010. The members discussed a Draft Report and Draft Recommendation on "Condition of the marine environment in the Black Sea region".

The Assembly is keenly aware of the responsibility to protect and preserve environment for the benefit of present and future generations, with the aim of sustainable development in the BSEC member states. The main streamlines of the process of improvement of national policies of the BSEC members states on protection of marine environment are the following: formulation of strategies, action plans and programmes in the concrete framework, reforms in the legislation, where the marine environment is the basic component, establishment of separate state structures dealing with the protection of marine environment and marine security, involvement of the civil society in the problems of marine environment. Environmental monitoring still needs major improvement that is essential for a regional assessment of the state of the marine environment, and also for the establishment of further actions and measures in order to rehabilitate the damaged marine environment and to evaluate the risks.

More information: www.pabsec.org

NIP-Ukraine organized the **Brokerage Event on Energy (FP7)** on 19-20 October, 2010 in Kyiv within the scope of IncoNET EECA Project. More than 60 participants from 15 countries have attended this event.

The presentations are available at www.fp6-nip.kiev.ua.

Upcoming Events

ERA.NET-RUS Pilot Joint Calls will be launched in February 2011!

The ERA.NET-RUS project, which aims at intensifying and strengthening S&T cooperation between Russia and Europe, will publish two separate Pilot Joint Calls in February 2011. One of the Calls will be launched on 'Collaborative S&T Projects', which aims to produce research collaborations that are designed to produce new knowledge through fundamental, experimental and/or theoretical scientific research. The other Call will be on 'Innovation Projects', which will address applied research and technology development implemented by small sized innovative enterprises in Russia in partnership with universities or non-university public or private institutions/companies from EU-MS/AC, with the final aim of having joint R&D projects designed to lead to innovative products, services or processes of significant economic and/or societal value.

Detailed information on the two calls can be found from January on at the project web site: <http://www.eranet-rus.eu>.

The 8th International Conference "Black Sea Grain - 2011" will be held on 13-14th April 2011 in Kyiv, Ukraine.

The Conference objectives include: Discuss the growing influence of climate change onto the agricultural sector, determine driving factors of agricultural and regulatory policy in the Black Sea region, reveal the interdependence of the capital markets and the development of the world agriculture, analyse the growth of Asian economics and their role in the global market, forecast the prospects of the agrarian sector in the 2011/2012 season.

More information: www.blackseagrains.net

The Spring Session of the **37th PABSEC General Assembly** will be held in Kyiv, Ukraine on 7-9 June 2011.

More information: www.pabsec.org

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