Health, Demographic Change and Wellbeing

Food security, Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry, Marine and Maritime and Inland Water Research and the Bio-economy

Climate Action, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials

PACE-Net Plus Seed-funding - Call for Projects

Background and rationale

The Pacific region represents an area of strategic importance for the European Union and for global sustainability. The Pacific Ocean, one third of the earth's surface, is a key driver of regional and global climate. The South Pacific alone hosts a large share of global biodiversity, innumerable cultures and languages spread across more than 33 million km^2, as well as huge quantities of Oceania's and South Asia's marine resources and livestock. Rising sea levels, pollution, as well as social and cultural changes are putting all of this at risk, with the potential impacts also being felt in Europe.

The Pacific-Europe Network for Science, Technology and Innovation project (PACE-Net Plus: http://pacenet.eu/) supports the EU-Pacific policy dialogue and cooperation, for addressing a number of major societal challenges: health, demographic change and wellbeing; food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research, and the bioeconomy; climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials. With the aim to promote the implementation of joint activities, support innovation, and strengthen Pacific-EU research cooperation and partnerships, PACE-Net Plus is offering seed funding to support initiatives intending to enhance collaboration and innovation.

Eligibility

- Proposals must address one of the **Societal Challenges** above and must identify how the proposed initiative will contribute to leveraging further funding, initiating further collaboration, and/or generating innovation.
- The call is open to applicants from EU countries (including OCTs), Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Island Countries and Territories. Participants from Australia and New Zealand are eligible but only if the proposal involves an EU and PICT partner. These participants must clearly outline the benefits of their participation for the EU-Pacific cooperation. Proposals have to be joint applications between the two regions, with at least one partner from Europe and one from the PICTs involved. Australian and New Zealand partners can also be associated with any application and receive funding.
- Proposals may involve joint calls, summer schools, twinning and networking of (private or public) labs or organisations (including regional ones) etc.
- Each individual applicant (*e.g.* researcher, innovator, policy-maker) may only contribute to one single application either as the main applicant or as a partner. Multiple applications are not permitted.
- Funds may cover consumables, travel funds and other project-related costs of up to 10,000€ per project
- Funds may not be used to cover personnel costs.

Selection/Evaluation process

Complete proposals will be evaluated by thematic experts with good knowledge of the Pacific, assigned by the PACE-Net Plus project consortium. Proposed projects must be new and not part of an ongoing established cooperation. Preference will be given to applications with greatest potential to support PACE-Net Plus goals and be further funded or those with greatest potential to generate significant innovation. Only proposals strictly fulfilling the eligibility criteria will be considered. Incomplete applications will be

rejected. The selection will only be based on the application documentation received, taking into account the alignment of the proposal with the call objectives and the predicted chances of initiative success and impact.

Obligation of the Recipients

Successful applicants will be expected to give a brief presentation during the final platform of PACE-Net Plus around June 2016 in Fiji, informing colleagues, stakeholders, policy-makers, funding organisations and other potential sponsors of the initiatives' outcome, impact, lessons-learned and experience gained.

Short final written reports must also be submitted to PACE-Net Plus by the 1st of May 2016 (EU Brussels time). Reports should describe the initiative's activities undertaken with the seed funding and their respective outcomes with respect to the call objectives. Photos and links to media reports should also be included to support promotion of the initiative.

Scope of support

Within this PACE-Net Plus seed funding scheme, the selected applicants will be eligible to economy-class flights and/or ground transport, accommodation, consumables, workshop and conference funding of **up to a maximal contribution of EUR 10,000 per initiative**.

The funds must be used within 10 months of the issuing of the letter of award from the PACE-Net Plus project consortium.

Guideline for applications

Applications shall not exceed four printed pages single-space using Times 12 font, and must address the following points (please, fill out the application form):

- Background/rationale of the proposition
- List of partners -including project leader-, names and institutional affiliation- with a letter or a mail of acceptance from each (1 page-CVs with expertise and significant publications and/or projects will be attached in appendix to the proposal)
- Work plan, including breakdown of costs (proposed work, distribution of tasks, schedule for implementation of activities, cost per categories [consumables, travel, workshops, other project-related costs approved by the seed funding coordinator])
- Expected outcomes
- Contribution to Pace-Net Plus project goals, potential to attract further funding, potential for further collaboration, and/or potential for generating innovation.

Proposals (**application form** in PDF format) must be submitted by e-mail to **fadhila.lemeur@ird.fr**. The deadline for submission is the **1st of April 2015.** Applications received after this deadline will not be accepted. All applicants will be notified of the outcomes no later than the 31st of May 2015.

For any inquiry about the seed-funding:

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