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1. /BMBF*/ Forschungsprojekte mit Kanada unter Beteiligung von Wissenschaft und Wirtschaft (2 + 3-Projekte), Frist: 11.09.2020, 1. Stufe

Das Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (BMBF) und seine Partner in Kanada teilen das gemeinsame Interesse, ihre bilaterale Zusammenarbeit in Forschung, Entwicklung und Innovation weiter zu stärken. Das BMBF fördert deshalb gemeinsam mit der kanadischen Forschungsorganisation National Research Council Canada (NRC) Vorhaben in ausgewählten Schlüsseltechnologien zur Steigerung der wirtschaftlichen Wettbewerbsfähigkeit in Deutschland und Kanada.

Inhaltliche Zielsetzung dieser Förderrichtlinie ist die Entwicklung und Umsetzung von innovativen Lösungen im Bereich Industrie 4.0 durch den Einsatz von Methoden der Künstlichen Intelligenz. Ein Mehrwert für die industrielle Produktion soll z. B. erreicht werden durch einen höheren Grad der Automatisierung, Erhöhung von Effizienz, gesteigerte Stabilität und Robustheit von Fertigungsverfahren sowie der Flexibilität von Verfahren und Anlagen im Vergleich zum aktuellen Stand von Wissenschaft und Technik. Dabei sollen auch Aspekte wie Erklärbarkeit, Transparenz, Mensch-Technik-Interaktion, ethische sowie sozioökonomische Fragestellungen der Anwendung von Künstlicher Intelligenz, Datenhoheit und -sicherheit, Potentiale für kurzfristige Anwendungen sowie die Sicherheit von Systemen eine Rolle spielen, um einen verantwortungsvollen Einsatz von KI-Technologien zu fördern.

Das methodisch/thematische Spektrum kann u. a. die Bereiche Deep Learning, künstliche neuronale Netze, Reinforcement Learning and Deep Networks, Internet of Things, smarte Infrastruktur und autonome Systeme umfassen.

Diese Fördermaßnahme hat darüber hinaus das Ziel, die Kooperation zwischen Unternehmen der gewerblichen Wirtschaft - insbesondere zwischen kleinen und mittleren Unternehmen (KMU) - und Universitäten sowie außer-universitären Forschungseinrichtungen in Deutschland und Kanada zu fördern. Die Vorhaben sollen eine hohe Praxisrelevanz aufweisen und Erkenntnisse und verwertbare Forschungsergebnisse erwarten lassen, die zu neuen Technologien, Produkten und/oder Dienstleistungen in konkreten Anwendungsbereichen führen.

Der wirtschaftliche Nutzen für Deutschland und Kanada sollte deutlich aufgezeigt werden und die Ergebnisse des Projekts sollen ein hohes Potential zur Implementierung aufweisen.

Gefördert werden im Rahmen dieser Fördermaßnahme gemeinsame Forschungsprojekte als Verbundvorhaben, die entsprechend des oben beschriebenen Zweckes in internationaler Zusammenarbeit mit kanadischen Universitäten, Forschungszentren des National Research Councils und kanadischen Firmen bearbeitet werden.

Antragsberechtigt sind Hochschulen, außeruniversitäre Forschungseinrichtungen und andere Institutionen, die Forschungsbeiträge liefern, sowie Unternehmen der gewerblichen Wirtschaft - insbesondere KMU - die den Zweck und Zuwendungsvoraussetzungen erfüllen.

Das Antragsverfahren ist zweistufig angelegt.

Mit der Abwicklung der Fördermaßnahme hat das BMBF derzeit folgenden Projektträger beauftragt:
DLR Projektträger



Europäische und internationale Zusammenarbeit
Heinrich-Konen-Straße 1
53227 Bonn

Fachliche Ansprechpartnerin ist Dr. Barbara Hellebrandt (Telefon: +49 2 28/38 21-14 33, E-Mail: Barbara.Hellebrandt@dlr.de)
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Weitere Informationen:

<https://www.bmbf.de/foerderungen/bekanntmachung-3026.html>

<http://www.internationales-buero.de>

2. /BMBF*/ Wasserforschung im Nahen und Mittleren Osten, Frist: 12.08.2020, 1. Stufe

Nahezu alle Staaten im Nahen und Mittleren Osten leiden unter stark zunehmendem Wassermangel. Sie stellen weltweit die Gruppe der am intensivsten von Wasserstress betroffenen Länder dar. Die Wasserversorgung der Region basiert wesentlich auf der Nutzung von Grundwasservorräten, viele davon nicht erneuerbar und bei den aktuellen Entnahmeraten in wenigen Jahrzehnten aufgebraucht. Bereits heute herrscht eine hohe Nutzungskonkurrenz, die zu einer Übernutzung der Wasserressourcen sowie der Verschlechterung der Lebensbedingungen und dem Verlust von Ökosystemen führt. Hinzu kommt eine in dieser Region besonders starke Ausprägung des globalen Klimawandels. Die durch Bevölkerungs- und Wirtschaftswachstum steigenden Abwassermengen treffen auf eine unzureichende Abwasserinfrastruktur, verbunden mit ungenutzten Potenzialen bei der Wasserwiederverwendung.

In den kommenden Jahren sind daher im Nahen und Mittleren Osten erhebliche Investitionen und Innovationen in den Wassersektor erforderlich. Diese müssen mit einer Erhöhung der Wassernutzungseffizienz, einer Verbesserung des Wasserressourcenmanagements und mit der Umsetzung der nachhaltigen Entwicklungsziele der Vereinten Nationen (SDGs) einhergehen. Die geplanten Fortschritte bei SDG 6 (Sauberes Wasser und Sanitäreinrichtungen) sind dabei maßgeblich für weitere Bereiche, insbesondere SDG 2 (Kein Hunger), SDG 3 (Gesundheit), SDG 11 (Nachhaltige Städte und Gemeinden), SDG 15 (Leben an Land) sowie SDG 16 (Frieden).

In einzelnen Ländern wie z. B. Israel existieren bereits leistungsfähige, an die Region angepasste Ansätze, die sich aber aufgrund der politischen Verhältnisse zwischen den Akteuren nur bedingt ausbreiten. Dringend benötigt werden daher grenzüberschreitende multilaterale Forschungsprojekte, die neue Lösungen entwickeln und einen wichtigen Beitrag zum Austausch in der Region leisten können.

Gefördert werden Forschungsvorhaben in den folgenden Themenfeldern:

- o Technologien zur Erhöhung der Wassernutzungseffizienz;
- o Integriertes Wasserressourcenmanagement.

Forschungsanträge müssen darstellen, wie sie die nachfolgenden Ziele adressieren:

- o Verbesserung der Wassersituation im Nahen und Mittleren Osten. Soweit möglich, ist dabei auch auf die Übertragbarkeit auf vergleichbare Regionen zu achten;
- o Unterstützung und Beförderung der Kooperation zwischen den beteiligten Ländern sowie zwischen Wissenschaft und Praxis;
- o Verbreitung von innovativen Umwelttechnologien der beteiligten Länder.

Antragsberechtigt sind Hochschulen, außeruniversitäre Forschungseinrichtungen, Unternehmen der gewerblichen Wirtschaft, Einrichtungen der Kommunen, der Länder und des Bundes sowie Verbände und weitere gesellschaftliche Organisationen.

Das Antragsverfahren ist zweistufig angelegt.

Mit der Abwicklung der Fördermaßnahme hat das BMBF derzeit folgenden Projektträger (PT) beauftragt:

Projektträgerschaft Ressourcen und Nachhaltigkeit
Projektträger Karlsruhe (PTKA)
Wassertechnologie
Karlsruher Institut für Technologie (KIT)
Hermann-von-Helmholtz-Platz 1
76344 Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen

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Weitere Informationen:

<https://www.bmbf.de/foerderungen/bekanntmachung-3038.html>

3. /AiF*/ 26th IraSME call for proposals for transnational R&D projects, Deadline: 30.09.2020

ZIM-Kooperationsprojekte im Rahmen von IraSME:

This call is targeted at small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and research and technology organisations (RTOs) which jointly conduct international research, technology, development and innovation (RTDI) projects.

Projects must be innovative and must aim at either developing new or to significantly improve existing products, processes or technical services that in their parameters exceed the existing state of the art. All projects must have significant technical risks. The outcome of the project must be concrete and demonstrate real market potential. Without public funding, eligible projects can a) not be carried out at all, b) only be carried out in a reduced form, or c) be carried out only with significant delay.

What we fund:

- Development of new products, processes or technical services.
- Technical development from the first idea to a possible prototype.
- R&D with significant technical risks for each funded partner.
- Minimum constellation: 2 companies from 2 participating countries/regions.

The participating countries / regions in this call are Alberta (Canada), Brazil, Czech Republic, Flanders (Belgium), Germany, Luxembourg, Russia, Turkey, Wallonia (Belgium)

Further Information:

<https://www.ira-sme.net/current-call/>

<https://www.aif-projekt-gmbh.de/aktuelles-details/irasme-oeffnet-die-26-internationale-ausschreibungsrunde.html>

<https://www.aif-projekt-gmbh.de/innovationsfoerderung/internationale-fue-kooperationen.html>

4. /EU Horizon2020*/ Mutual learning and common tools and resources for national/ regional schemes supporting innovation projects of start-ups and SMEs, ID: EIC-mutuallearning-2020, Deadline: 22.09.2020 17:00 Brussels time

Specific Challenge:

Start-ups and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) are the primary source of innovation in Europe and globally. However, the fragmentation of innovation ecosystems and the lack of connectedness among public national and regional agencies appear to be one of the main bottlenecks towards ensuring the support of the most promising start-up and scale-up companies in the EU.

The start-ups and the SMEs very often lack tools and resources (human and financial) that will enable them to promote the deployment and uptake of innovative solutions, and thus grow and compete at global level. Moreover, they are at a disadvantage to recruit external experts to help them in their innovation and business development, including at transnational level to exploit the potential of the Single Market and global trade opportunities. Both are essential for start-ups and SMEs to ensure product/market fit, successful launch and later scaling of their innovations.

A key stage of this process is to elaborate a feasibility study of their innovative products/services, which would clearly demonstrate the ways forward and concrete steps to follow. The feasibility study (proof-of-concept) explore the scientific or technical feasibility and commercial potential of a new idea in order to develop an innovation project. A number of national/regional innovation agencies have schemes that tackle this specific key stage and need or consider setting one. However, up to now national and regional innovation agencies operate rather in isolation across EU in relation to the implementation of their programmes.

The topic focuses on start-ups and highly innovative SMEs with international ambitions, determined to turn strong, innovative business ideas into winners on the market, from the stage of business idea conception and planning. In order to select and support effectively those most promising innovators with strong potential on European and world markets, national and/or regional agencies across Europe would strongly benefit from the actions under this topic for transnational mutual learning and common tools and resources.

Scope:

This aims to enhance cooperation among innovation agencies of the European innovation ecosystem by establishing a mutual learning process at national and regional level, as well as by developing joint tools and resources to assist start-ups and SMEs to innovate.

The pilot action will create an enhancing, supporting and cooperative environment across EU that will allow national and regional agencies to:

- cooperate, learn from each other and exchange knowledge by using joint tools in order to provide high-level services and support high-quality start-ups and SMEs for their innovation projects;
- create and operate national and/or regional support schemes regarding feasibility studies and external expertise, thus ensuring that the most promising high-potential innovation proposals of start-ups / SMEs

are supported at their critical stage of development.

In particular, the cooperation that will notably involve the participation of national or regional innovation agencies or similar organisations should focus on:

- Exchange of information and best practices, with focus on:
- Best ways to better identify the specific needs of the start-ups and SMEs in order to allow the customization of the provided services
- The design of programmes at national/regional levels with the view of filling possible gaps in relation to the services provided by the European Innovation Council (EIC), as well as the design of the project proposals and the weight of the criteria
- Internationalisation of evaluation panels. The cooperation shall also enable accesses to respective pools of evaluators in order to set international evaluation panels and facilitate the establishment of minimum set of common evaluation criteria.
- Coaching services and selection of coaches, including access to existing databases of coaches/experts (EU, national, regional) and possible creation of pools of experts. Optionally, design and development of other common tools and resources.
- Identifying ways to continue the exchanges, provided services, tools and resources after the end of the action.
- The established national and/or regional support schemes could include the following:
- Common tools and resources to support, with the respective budgets of the national innovation agencies, highly innovative start-ups and SMEs with a clear commercial ambition and a potential for high growth and internationalisation for their close-to-market activities. The national resources deployed by national innovation agencies, if relevant, will need to comply with State Aid competition rules
- Feasibility study as an outcome of the project (not necessarily the only one)
- International pool of evaluators of the projects
- Short market-oriented project proposal template/form
- Introduction of other supportive services, including coaching services to the beneficiaries
- Follow up of the beneficiaries and advice services concerning other possible instruments on national/regional/EU levels, as well as other ways of private funding for the continuation of a project, in case the feasibility studies demonstrate that it is worth proceeding to the next phase of development.

Expected Impact:

This will enhance the quality of support provided at national and regional levels to the most promising innovative start-ups and SMEs, by enabling:

- exchange of information and best practice and closer dialogue between the innovation agencies involved
- the national/regional agencies to establish or improve supporting schemes from their respective national/regional budgets that will cover the feasibility study stage of innovative products/services from start-ups and SMEs
- transnational cooperation in evaluation processes to select the most promising innovation projects with high growth and international potential
- cooperation between national/regional/EU levels in ensuring "world-class" coaching/mentoring services

Further Information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/eic-mutuallearning-2020;freeTextSearchKeyword=;typeCodes=1;statusCodes=31094501,31094502,31094503;programCode=H2020;programDivisionCode=null;focusAreaCode=null;crossCuttingPriorityCode=null;callCode=Default;sortQuery=submissionStatus;orderBy=asc;onlyTenders=false;topicListKey=topicSearchTablePageState>

5. /EU*/ EMFF: Cross-sectoral development of innovative port clusters in the Atlantic: Developing a blue accelerator scheme for Atlantic ports, ID: EMFF-APC-2020, Deadline: 10.09.2020 17:00 Brussels time

Specific Challenge:

The overarching objective of this call is to boost entrepreneurship and foster a sustainable blue economy in the Atlantic area by increasing the competitiveness and resilience of Atlantic ports.

Specifically, this action aims at supporting:

- The establishment of a network/partnership between at least two EU Atlantic ports in two different EU Member States; and
- The development of a blue accelerator scheme for Atlantic ports to stimulate innovative businesses in an innovation ecosystem to foster a sustainable blue economy in line with the European Green Deal.

Scope:

Proposals should cover all of the following core activities and include at least one complementary activity, such as those included in the non-exhaustive list of examples below reported.

Core activities

- Establishing a network between Atlantic ports
- Applicants should identify in the proposal a list of Atlantic ports in EU territories (minimum two from different countries) which will cooperate and participate in the network. Additional Atlantic ports from other EU Member States and eligible countries may be included in the network to facilitate cooperation and cross-learning. The proposal should describe the set-up of the network and how the ports will participate. The ports may be partners in the project proposal.
- Defining the common challenges
- The proposed network of Atlantic ports should identify the thematic challenges for blue economy business innovation that they will jointly target, as part of a joint strategy for a blue accelerator scheme.
- Bringing together different stakeholders, including start-ups and SMEs
- The action will foster an innovation ecosystem that will provide access for innovative blue economy companies to information, ideas, financing, etc. The ecosystem must include investors, ports, entrepreneurs and the public sector. The action should bring together all of these stakeholders to cooperate with the Atlantic ports network, in order to develop a common vision and identify solutions to the thematic challenges, which can be delivered through a blue accelerator scheme.
- Designing measures to stimulate innovative businesses in the blue economy
- The action will design and set in place a blue accelerator scheme to deliver services such as mentorship, bootcamps, investment and public support to help start-ups to grow and/or to scale up innovative businesses.
- Designing measures to support access to finance and funding sources
- The action will design tools/services to facilitate access to finance for innovative businesses. This should include supporting the identification of, and linking with, complementary sources of funding at national/regional and transnational/EU levels, and matching innovative start-ups with investors.
- Preparing a business plan
- The action will prepare a business plan for the blue accelerator scheme and for the continuity of the Atlantic Ports network. The business plan should include funding, including from the public sector and private investors, to ensure the sustainability of the scheme and the support services for innovative businesses.

Complementary activities

Proposals should include complementary activities (at least one) to support the core activities and the call

objectives. Examples of complementary activities are:

- Wider networking, awareness raising and dissemination activities.
- Activities that will increase complementarity and synergies with relevant projects funded under other EU programmes as well as with relevant initiatives and transnational programmes or policies. Existing port accelerator initiatives around Europe could be leveraged to transform Atlantic ports into blue economy hubs. Applicants may consider cooperating with existing initiatives.
- Fundraising activities
- This above list of complementary activities is non-exhaustive. Other activities may be proposed, provided they are justified and in line with the call objectives.

Expected Impact:

The expected results should cover each of the following points:

- creation of new businesses and jobs in the sustainable blue economy
- increased investment in start-ups and innovative businesses in the sustainable blue economy
- sustainable cooperation, via a network, between Atlantic ports
- mobilisation of ports and stakeholders around a common strategy with appropriate solutions to respond to thematic challenges and to support innovative blue economy businesses
- creation of an innovation ecosystem fostering continued cooperation between businesses, entrepreneurs, investors and the public sector
- mobilisation of stakeholders towards a blue accelerator scheme offering support to grow/scale-up start-ups and innovative businesses via different methods such as mentorship, bootcamps, support to secure funding and finance, etc.
- The list of expected results above is non-exhaustive and applicants may add other expected results if relevant.

Further Information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/emff-apc-2020;freeTextSearchKeyword=;typeCodes=1;statusCodes=31094501,31094502,31094503;programCode=EMFF;programDivisionCode=null;focusAreaCode=null;crossCuttingPriorityCode=null;callCode=Default;sortQuery=;sortQuery=submissionStatus;orderBy=asc;onlyTenders=false;topicListKey=topicSearchTablePageState>

6. /EU*/ EMFF: Maritime Spatial Planning (North Sea and Baltic Sea), ID: MSP-01-2020, Deadline: 10.09.2020 17:00 Brussels time

Specific Challenge:

Objectives

The objective of this call for proposals is to support the establishment and implementation of Maritime Spatial Plans in line with the objectives pursued in the framework of the MSP Directive. More specifically, this action intends to support Member States in setting up maritime spatial plans and ensuring that plans are coherent and coordinated across marine regions concerned.

Themes & priorities

Proposals are expected to develop innovative responses to tackle specific challenges that EU Members States might encounter when preparing, establishing or revising their maritime spatial plans.

These challenges should be common to the Member States participating in the project. The shared interest in developing innovative responses can apply within a sea basin and/or across sea basins. This means that a proposal could bring together participants from different Member States, located in different sea basins.

Hereunder is a non-exhaustive list of examples of such challenges/issues:

- Climate proofing of MSP: incorporating adaptation and mitigation actions and/or strategies into MSP, making MSP flexible and adaptive to respond to climate change.
- MSP as an enabler of the EU's "Green Deal": development of a clean, circular blue economy, preserving and protecting biodiversity in the marine environment (in particular with spatial measures), facilitating the supply of clean, affordable and secure, energy, enabling the provision of healthy and environmentally-friendly food from the sea.
- Development of an economic sector (e.g. tourism, offshore wind energy, aquaculture) in the maritime domain: ex-ante assessments (Strategic Environmental Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment), allocation of sufficient sea space, resolution of conflicts with other uses, enabling synergies with other sectors / activities, etc.
- Applying the Ecosystems Based Approach (EBA) in MSP: designing maritime spatial plans to integrate objectives and measures of other EU instruments (e.g. the Marine Strategy Framework Directive[1]) with the aim to reduce collective pressures and ensuring that marine ecosystems are in a healthy, productive and resilient condition.
- Addressing gaps and challenges in the collection and use of data in the MSP context: using best available data and instruments to prepare, monitor and revise maritime spatial plans. Developing data tools, models and infrastructures, allowing for interoperability and enabling Member States to share MSP data and information, especially in a cross-border and sea basin context.
- Promoting ocean governance through MSP: incorporating oceans' governance tools into the MSP process and in maritime spatial plans. For example by enabling stakeholder participation in governance schemes and instruments (e.g. management of marine resources, protection of the environment or of the underwater cultural heritage) or by promoting cooperation with third countries in issues of common interest in a sea basin or a shared ocean space.

The above list is purely illustrative and applicants might identify other challenges that are specific to them, or to the sea basin(s) where they are located.

Applicants should identify one (or maximum two), challenge(s) and build their proposal around the response(s) to such challenge(s).

At least one project per topic is expected to be funded.

Priority will be given to proposals that build on the outcome of prior MSP related projects, relevant to the objectives of the call. In this context, proposals should describe how they build on, complement and differ from finalised or ongoing research and innovation projects, including from EU programmes, where relevant. In case a proposal includes activities a particular sea basin in which a dedicated sea basin strategy or similar initiative exists[2], priority will be given to proposals that explain how they contribute to the objectives of the relevant sea basin strategy or initiative.

Networking with other EU projects

During the lifetime of the projects financed under this action, a number of events (no more than once per year) may be organised at EU level for the grant beneficiaries to facilitate the exchange of experience and good practices across sea basins, to foster mutual learning and to enhance the European dimension of Maritime Spatial Planning. Project beneficiaries are expected to participate in these events, which will be held in Brussels or other relevant locations.

Expected results

Applicants have to list the main results expected from the project. The expected results to be achieved by the end of the project must be concrete, realistic and time bound and quantifiable as far as possible.

In particular, proposals are expected to:

- Concretely contribute to the elaboration and adoption of the Maritime Spatial Plans by 2021;
- Ensure that maritime plans are coherent and coordinated across the marine region concerned;
- Create a repository of best practices and lessons learnt from the project and a list of achievements of the projects;
- Produce "policy briefs" that summarise the main results of the project and their relevance for the implementation of the MSP Directive, and include elements of "policy feedback", in particular suggestions for changes / improvements in the current EU policy instruments.

Further Information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/msp-01-2020;freeTextSearchKeyword=;typeCodes=1;statusCodes=31094501,31094502,31094503;programCode=EMFF;programDivisionCode=null;focusAreaCode=null;crossCuttingPriorityCode=null;callCode=Default;sortQuery=;sortQuery=submissionStatus;orderBy=asc;onlyTenders=false;topicListKey=topicSearchTablePageState>

7. /EU*/ EMFF: Maritime Spatial Planning (Outermost Regions), ID: MSP-02-2020, Deadline: 10.09.2020 17:00 Brussels time

Specific Challenge:

Objectives

The objective of this call for proposals is to support the establishment and implementation of Maritime Spatial Plans in line with the objectives pursued in the framework of the MSP Directive. More specifically, this action intends to support Member States in setting up maritime spatial plans and ensuring that plans are coherent and coordinated across marine regions concerned.

Themes & priorities

Proposals are expected to develop innovative responses to tackle specific challenges that EU Member States might encounter when preparing, establishing or revising their maritime spatial plans.

These challenges should be common to the Member States participating in the project. The shared interest in developing innovative responses can apply within a sea basin and/or across sea basins. This means that a proposal could bring together participants from different Member States, located in different sea basins.

Hereunder is a non-exhaustive list of examples of such challenges/issues:

- Climate proofing of MSP: incorporating adaptation and mitigation actions and/or strategies into MSP, making MSP flexible and adaptive to respond to climate change.
- MSP as an enabler of the EU's "Green Deal": development of a clean, circular blue economy, preserving and protecting biodiversity in the marine environment (in particular with spatial measures), facilitating the supply of clean, affordable and secure, energy, enabling the provision of healthy and environmentally-friendly food from the sea.

- Development of an economic sector (e.g. tourism, offshore wind energy, aquaculture) in the maritime domain: ex-ante assessments (Strategic Environmental Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment), allocation of sufficient sea space, resolution of conflicts with other uses, enabling synergies with other sectors / activities, etc.
- Applying the Ecosystems Based Approach (EBA) in MSP: designing maritime spatial plans to integrate objectives and measures of other EU instruments (e.g. the Marine Strategy Framework Directive[1]) with the aim to reduce collective pressures and ensuring that marine ecosystems are in a healthy, productive and resilient condition.
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- Promoting ocean governance through MSP: incorporating oceans' governance tools into the MSP process and in maritime spatial plans. For example by enabling stakeholder participation in governance schemes and instruments (e.g. management of marine resources, protection of the environment or of the underwater cultural heritage) or by promoting cooperation with third countries in issues of common interest in a sea basin or a shared ocean space.

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- Ensure that maritime plans are coherent and coordinated across the marine region concerned;
- Create a repository of best practices and lessons learnt from the project and a list of achievements of the projects;
- Produce "policy briefs" that summarise the main results of the project and their relevance for the implementation of the MSP Directive, and include elements of "policy feedback", in particular suggestions for changes / improvements in the current EU policy instruments.

Further Information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/msp-02-2020;freeTextSearchKeyword=;typeCodes=1;statusCodes=31094501,31094502,31094503;programCode=EMFF;programDivisionCode=null;focusAreaCode=null;crossCuttingPriorityCode=null;callCode=Default;sortQuery=;sortQuery=submissionStatus;orderBy=asc;onlyTenders=false;topicListKey=topicSearchTablePageState>

8. /EU*/ RFCS: Call of the research programme of the Research Fund for Coal and Steel 2020, Deadline: 15.09.2020 17:00 Brussels time

Specific Challenge:

On the 1st of December 2019, a new European Commission entered into service for the present quinquennium 2019-2024. The new College of Commissioners, under the presidency of Ms Ursula von der Leyen, reset the Commission's commitment to "tackling climate and environmental-related challenges that is this generation's defining task". The European Green Deal Communication, presented by the Commission in December 2019, is a new growth strategy that aims to transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, with a modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050 and where economic growth is decoupled from resource use.

Coal: RFCS-01-2020

- A power sector must be developed that is based largely on renewable sources, complemented by the rapid phasing out of coal
- The EU should also reinforce current initiatives [...] on cross-cutting climate and environment issues. This may include ending global fossil fuel subsidies in line with G20 commitments, [...] phasing out all new coal plant construction, and action to reduce methane emissions
- Focus on the regions and sectors that are most affected by the transition because they depend on fossil fuels or carbon-intensive processes
- Protect the citizens and workers most vulnerable to the transition, providing access to re-skilling programmes, jobs in new economic sectors

Steel: RFCS-02-2020

- Energy-intensive industries, such as steel [...] are indispensable to Europe's economy, as they supply several key value chains. The decarbonisation and modernisation of this sector is essential.
- The Commission will support clean steel breakthrough technologies leading to a zero-carbon steel making process by 2030.

The Research Objectives for the steel topic are:

1. New and improved steelmaking and finishing techniques

This objective aims to improve steel production processes with a view to enhancing product quality and increasing productivity. Reducing emissions, energy consumption and the environmental impact as well as enhancing the use of raw materials and the conservation of resources are an integral part of this improvements. Proposals shall address one or more of the following areas:

(a) new and improved iron-ore reduction processes; (b) ironmaking processes and operations; (c) electric arc furnace processes; (d) steelmaking processes; (e) secondary metallurgy techniques; (f) continuous casting and near net shape-casting techniques with and without direct rolling; (g) rolling, finishing and coating techniques; (h) hot- and cold-rolling techniques, pickling and finishing processes; (i) process

instrumentation, control and automation; (j) maintenance and reliability of production lines.

2. RTD and the utilisation of steel

RTD related to the utilisation of steel is undertaken to meet the future requirements of steel users and to create new market opportunities. Proposals shall address one or more of the following areas:

(a) new steel grades for demanding applications; (b) steel properties addressing mechanical properties at low and high temperatures such as strength and toughness, fatigue, wear, creep, corrosion and resistance against fracture; (c) prolonging service life, in particular by improving the resistance of steels and steel structures to heat and corrosion; (d) steel-containing composites and sandwich structures; (e) predictive simulation models on microstructures and mechanical properties; (f) structural safety and design methods, in particular with regard to resistance to fire and earthquakes; (g) technologies relating to the forming, welding and joining of steel and other materials; (h) standardisation of testing and evaluation methods.

3. Conservation of resources and improvement of working conditions

In both steel production and steel utilisation, the conservation of resources, the preservation of the ecosystem and safety issues forms an integral part of the RTD work. Proposals shall address one or more of the following areas:

(a) techniques for recycling obsolete steel from various sources and classification of steel scrap; (b) steel grades and design of assembled structures to facilitate the easy recovery of steel scrap and its reconversion into usable steels; (c) control and protection of the environment in and around the workplace; (d) restoration of steelworks sites; (e) improvement of working conditions and quality of life in the workplace; (f) ergonomic methods; (g) occupational health and safety; (h) reduction of exposure to occupational emissions.

Further Information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/rfcs-01-2020;freeTextSearchKeyword=;typeCodes=1;statusCodes=31094501,31094502,31094503;programCode=RFCS;programDivisionCode=null;focusAreaCode=null;crossCuttingPriorityCode=null;callCode=Default;sortQuery=;sortQuery=submissionStatus;orderBy=asc;onlyTenders=false;topicListKey=topicSearchTablePageState>

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/rfcs-02-2020;freeTextSearchKeyword=;typeCodes=1;statusCodes=31094501,31094502,31094503;programCode=RFCS;programDivisionCode=null;focusAreaCode=null;crossCuttingPriorityCode=null;callCode=Default;sortQuery=;sortQuery=submissionStatus;orderBy=asc;onlyTenders=false;topicListKey=topicSearchTablePageState>

9. /EU Horizon2020*/ ERA-NET ACT Third Call Accelerating CCS Technologies; Deadline: 10.11.2020, Stufe 1

Wer wird gefördert?

Universitäten, Unternehmen, Organisationen, lokale und regionale Behörden beziehungsweise Gebietskörperschaften, Forschungsorganisationen und Nichtregierungsorganisationen aus den beteiligten Ländern und Regionen können sich bei ihren nationalen Ansprechpartnern bewerben. Für Deutschland ist dies der Projektträger Jülich.

Was wird gefördert?

Sämtliche technologische, ökologische, soziale und wirtschaftliche Herausforderungen, die zur Beschleunigung des CCS-Verfahrens (carbon dioxide capture and storage) erforderlich sind, können innerhalb der geförderten Projekte bearbeitet werden. Besonders willkommen sind Projekte, die sich thematisch auf Inhalte fokussieren, die innerhalb des Mission Innovation CCUS Challenge Workshops (Houston 2017) identifiziert wurden. Auch innerhalb des SET-Plans dokumentierte CCS-Themen sollen adressiert werden, wie zuletzt festgelegt durch die Lenkungsgruppe im September 2017 (siehe weiterführende Links).

Wie wird gefördert?

Gefördert werden können Verbundprojekte, bei denen die Antragstellenden aus mindestens drei der beteiligten Staaten beziehungsweise Regionen stammen (siehe auch Bekanntmachung). Bevorzugt werden Projekte, bei denen ein Industrieunternehmen als Koordinator genannt wird.

Das Verfahren ist zweistufig: Projektvorschläge können bis zum 10. November 2020, 13:00 Uhr CET, eingereicht werden. Erfolgreiche Vorschläge werden anschließend zum Einreichen eines Antrags aufgefordert. Dies muss bis zum 15. März 2021, 13:00 Uhr CET, erfolgen.

Ansprechpartner/-in

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<https://www.ptj.de/projektfoerderung/angewandte-energieforschung/eranet-act-3>

<http://www.act-ccs.eu/calls>

10. /sonstige/ Science is Wonderful! - European Research and Innovation Days, Deadline: 06.07.2020

Science is Wonderful! brings the world of science, research and innovation to the public. This year, we are innovating and organising the exhibition fully online to reach out to more European citizens than ever. The event will take place from 22 to 24 September as part of the second edition of the European Research and Innovation Days, which will bring together policymakers, researchers, entrepreneurs and citizens online to debate and shape the future of research and innovation in Europe and beyond.

The exhibition will be organised through a dedicated online platform and will show, through an array of interactive digital activities, how EU-funded projects and researchers working in all disciplines are developing concrete solutions addressing the COVID-19 crisis and its consequences, as well as how they are addressing the political priorities that will be at the core of the recovery, notably the European Green Deal and the Horizon Europe missions.

- How can we use this crisis to improve the way we live?

- How can our societies be more united, resilient and better prepared for future crises?
- How can we ensure a green recovery and transition after this crisis?
- Which changes should citizens, governments and businesses make in this context?

If you are ready to answer these questions (and many more), we encourage you to take part in this exciting opportunity and fill in this form before 6 July 2020. For this edition, we are looking for EU-funded and MSCA projects and researchers whose research is broadly linked to the following topics in all disciplines:

- Topics relevant to the COVID-19 crisis and its aftermath where solutions are needed to ensure a sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery, in areas such as preparedness and response, social behaviour, economy, digitalisation, environment, human rights, ethics, education, law, sustainable development, social innovation, public policies, etc.
- The current COVID-19 emergency, in areas such as the development of diagnostics and treatments, public health, preparedness of health systems, modelling, etc.
- Relevant projects with a high communication potential that have a connection with the crisis and the current political priorities of the European Commission, notably the European Green Deal and the five mission areas identified for Horizon Europe: cancer; climate change; healthy oceans, seas coastal and inland waters; climate-neutral and smart cities; as well as soil health and food.

The exhibition will be a unique opportunity to put your outreach and communication skills into action, be impactful and explain children, students and citizens what their and researchers' role is in the post-crisis context. In addition, this year the exhibition will also address hundreds of stakeholders from all over Europe in the framework of the European Research and Innovation Days, so you will be able to interact with them and draw their attention on your research.

For this online edition, we ask you to propose up to three online activities adapted to these different audiences in a language that they understand. We are aware that it will be a challenge to translate your technical terms and research into everyday words and concrete activities, but we will support you in preparing your online activities and participation and provide you with tips and tricks to bring your research online. Please note however that your activities will have to be performed from your working place, home or the place you choose, as the European Commission will not be able to support any travel or transportation of equipment.

Further Information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/SIW2020#page1>
