



## RURAGRI call 2012

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### *Guidelines for applicants*

1st call for applications for transnational research linking agricultural, rural and sustainable development aspects launched by RURAGRI

**Closing date for proposals: 30 November 2012, 13.00 CET**

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Contract no. 235175

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## 1. Background of the call

RURAGRI was set up within the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme of the European Union (FP7-ERANET-2008-RTD, grant agreement number 235175) with the aim of improving coordination between on-going and future European, national and regional research programmes concerned with the interrelated issues of agricultural development, rural development and sustainable development. RURAGRI's full project title "Facing sustainability: new relationships between rural areas and agriculture in Europe" recognizes the three dimensions of the approach as an interlinked research field.

While the challenges and issues are mostly common, and despite of the historical coordination at the EU level for agricultural and rural development policies, research on agriculture and rural development is mostly carried out at a national level and remains fragmented. Research funding bodies from 20 European member states and associated countries agreed to establish RURAGRI in order to enhance co-ordination and co-operation between national research programmes and thereby contribute to the development of a lasting focused network that will identify and support new research fields. The activities of the network have focused on the development of a common Strategic Research Agenda and associated research funding supporting enhanced co-operation between researchers in the fields of agriculture and rural development.

The overall objective of RURAGRI is to achieve a better understanding of the implications of evolving or new interactions between agriculture and other land uses in order to support sustainable development. The Changes in spatial processes triggered by urban development point to an urgent need of analysis at the European scale which addresses a set of challenges influencing future development of rural areas in Europe. The current economic crisis puts our societies and rural areas under additional, severe strain and increases the urgency with which these issues need to be confronted.

Based on this understanding of rural potential the following three cross cutting issues are identified as core reference to any research in the field of RURAGRI:

- ❖ *Diversity.* Rural areas in Europe are highly socially, culturally, environmentally and economically diverse. Accepting that rural areas are highly diverse demands that long-established, simplistic approaches and viewpoints have to be overcome in order to understand the nature of rural development and to address place-specific challenges and potentials.
- ❖ *Rural-urban relationships.* Strengthening linkages between urban and rural areas is key to enhance territorial cohesion at EU, national and regional scales. The complex nature and role of linkages in supporting sustainable agricultural and rural development can only be fully understood by considering these within their wider spatial / regional perspective and integrated into networks or circuits of capital, knowledge, material flows and social development.
- ❖ *Governance.* Innovations in governance are considered to be crucial to enable current and future transition of rural areas in order to achieve balanced regional development.

Successfully combining the cross cutting themes with the perspective of spatial differentiation outlined above will require trans-disciplinary research proposals that clearly demonstrate a capacity tackling one or more of the research questions outlined in the next section. Project

proposals will have to describe their relevance with regard to these cross-cutting issues, as well as in relation to the spatial differentiation. In this regard the spatial typologies (see Annex D in the “Guidelines for Applicants”) might be used as reference, but any other meaningful spatial classification method will be welcome, if properly argued. Moreover information on the trans-disciplinary research methods proposed will be required.

## 2. Thematic research areas – Call text

Research project consortia should apply at least two of the following three thematic research areas, which are specified in the RURAGRI Call Announcement text, namely

- Ecosystem Services/Public Goods (ES/PG),
- Socio-Economic Development (SED), or
- Land Use and Land Management (LU/LM).

Proposals should be structured around (one or more) topics listed under each of the thematic research areas and should highlight interrelations between the core topic of their proposal and other topics of the call.

In addition to the thematic orientation of proposals Research Project Consortia should consider the relevance of the three cross cutting issues mentioned above and explain how to address at least one of them through their proposals.

## 3. Participating countries and funding organisations

The funding for the transnational projects will be based on a ‘virtual common pot’ instrument. This means that each national funding body funds its national researchers in the transnational project consortium.

Indicative levels of funds from participating countries are listed in Annex B. These amounts may be allocated to one or more projects.

## 4. Call schedule

The call consists in a single step procedure with submission and selection of full-proposals. The respective time schedule and activities required are listed in the table below.

Table 1. Time schedule of the call

<i>Action</i>	<i>Scheduled</i>
Closing date for proposals	30 November 2012
Eligibility check	December 2012
Evaluation by Peer Reviewers	December 2012 to February 2013
Project negotiations	February to April 2013
National contracts	May to June 2013
Start of projects	June to July 2013
Kick-off meeting	July 2013

## 5. Call Secretariat

The Call Secretariat will provide administrative support to applicants regarding the call, call documents and procedures. It is the primary point of contact between the Research Project Consortium and the Transnational Call Steering Committee (TCSC) for all general matters in relation to the call.

### RURAGRI Call Secretariat:

**Elfriede Fuhrmann**

**Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management /  
Bundesministerium für Land-, und Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt und Wasserwirtschaft (BMLFUW)**

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National Contact Points are supporting the Call Secretariat and should be contacted for all matters regarding national regulations and funding. Please see Annex A for contact information of National Contact Points.

## 6. Submission of proposals

The call announcement, including these guidelines, is available on the RURAGRI website: [www.ruragri-era.net](http://www.ruragri-era.net). The proposal application has to be filled in and submitted via the call submission website: [www.ruragri-era.net](http://www.ruragri-era.net). Proposals must be submitted by 30 November 2012, 13.00 CET.

Each proposal will comprise two documents; Part A and Part B. These documents have to be completed in full for the proposal to be considered for evaluation. Incomplete proposals will not be evaluated.

- 1) Part A is web-based and has to be filled in directly on the call submission website
- 2) Part B, the project description form, has to be downloaded from the call submission website, completed and uploaded to the call submission website

Only one application is required covering all the project partners of the consortium. It is mandatory to submit the Part B form as an unprotected Adobe PDF file. Proposals must be written in English and should be precise and concise.

### 6.1 The project coordinator

Each Research Project Consortium needs to appoint a project coordinator, who, in any commissioned project, has the following role and responsibilities:

- ❖ to submit the application on behalf of the Research Project Consortium;
- ❖ to be the primary point of contact between the RURAGRI Consortium and all researchers involved with the Project Consortium. This role will cover the period from the submission of the proposal until the publication of the final report;
- ❖ to compile and submit reports and other deliverables to the RURAGRI Consortium on behalf of the Project Consortium;
- ❖ to ensure that all project milestones and deliverables are met;
- ❖ to be responsible for taking action, in line with the project management plan, if one or more partners fail to deliver;
- ❖ to inform the RURAGRI Consortium about any event that might affect the implementation of the project;

The project coordinator will NOT be responsible for the financial management of RURAGRI project funding. This will be handled directly between the national research institutions and their national funding bodies in each participating country.

## 6.2 Proposal application

Applicants will be required to submit a proposal consisting of the following information:

### Part A, Online Form:

#### *General information*

Please provide this information by completing the online form available at this web address: [www.ruragri-era.net](http://www.ruragri-era.net)

#### **All boxes have to be filled.**

- Title of Project (max. 200 characters)
- Project Acronym (max. 20 characters)
- Thematic research area:
  - Ecosystem Services/Public Goods;
  - Socio-Economic Development;
  - Land Use and Land Management;
- Cross-cutting issues:
  - Diversity;
  - Rural-Urban relationships;
  - Governance.
- Project Summary (2,000 characters)
- Keywords (max 5 words and 100 characters)
- Duration of the proposed research project (max 36 months)

#### **Information about the coordinator and the project partners including financial and resource plan:**

- Contact details for the coordinator and each project partner
- A short description of each partner including full name, institutional affiliation, qualifications and research interests (max. 2,000 characters)

- The role of each project partner in the project (max. 2,000 characters)
- Financial plan with budget for each project partner (information on the financial plan for all project partners in the online submission tool will be edited by the coordinator; each partner can view the edited information on the indicative budget in the summary of the partner section). Each partner can contact the National Contact Point for specific questions on the eligibility costs

The coordination costs of each research project have to be specified in the proposal. These shall be covered by the respective national funding body to which the coordinator is affiliated. For further information please contact the National Contact Point (see Annex A).

In addition to the costs foreseen for the project realization, the project coordinator should include travel costs for her/himself covering their participation in three events organized by the RURAGRI Consortium.

### **Part B, project description form**

Word document (.doc file) from the call website to be submitted as PDF:

- B1 Project title
- B2 Project acronym
- B3 Background and state of the art (approx. 1 ½ pages)
- B4 Description of the project (max. 15 pages in total) including:
- ❖ aim, objectives and hypotheses;
  - ❖ scientific description of the methods and work plan, including work packages, description of deliverables, milestones and timetable (with responsibility for each work package and deliverables assigned to clearly identified partner(s). A Gantt chart may be provided);
  - ❖ expected results and their impact/application (dissemination plan and exploitation of results);
  - ❖ description and definition of potential risks to the implementation and successful completion of the project (e.g. research methods, data availability, spatial scale etc.);
  - ❖ main target groups and how these will be involved and/or targeted in the project.
- B5 Statement describing how the proposal fits the call topic. This should include identification of how the research will add value/complement previous or ongoing (International) research projects (max. 1 page)
- B6 Statement describing how/why the proposal has a clear added value of being carried out on a transnational basis ('European added value', transnational impact of the proposed project and cross border aspects). A description of the specific integration of participants within a transnational consortium structure should be provided (max. 1 page).
- B7 Degree to which the project will overcome barriers for scientific cooperation and support inter-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary approaches with regard to relationships between agriculture, rural areas and sustainable development. (max. 1 page)

- B8 References used for the project description (please use a format containing the following information: Surname, A., Surname, B., Surname, C. (Year): Title of paper, Journal, Volume, Pages). (max. 25 references)
- B9 Document containing information about all partners, including previous experiences on the research topic and a publication record (only relevant publications) of each member; max. 30 pages in total
- B10 Standard declaration that the project does not contravene European principles of ethics (see 7.1)

The maximum text indicated in each part should be respected and the following format should be used: Arial, 10 pt, single space, 2.5 cm left/right margins, 3.5 cm top margin, 2 cm bottom margin.

Part A can be saved at all steps. Part B can be uploaded multiple times; each uploaded Part B document overwrites the previously uploaded document. Please check your Part B document after you uploaded it to the server (use the "download" link).

**IMPORTANT:** please take care that you **SUBMIT** your proposal before the deadline (November 30, 2012). The submission can be conducted on the **SUBMISSION** page of the system (see Navigation at the left side). The proposal can be submitted if all required fields are filled in and the Part B document is uploaded.

**IMPORTANT:** if you or your partners change the contents of some fields (Part A) or update the Part B document, you will have to **SUBMIT** these changes again. **ONLY THE SUBMITTED VERSION OF THE PROPOSAL WILL BE CONSIDERED IN THE FURTHER PROCESS.**

On 30 November 2012 at 13.00 CET the most recently **SUBMITTED** version will be considered to be the final proposal.

The information given in the proposal is binding. Subsequent amendments require the authorisation of the TCSC members of the involved countries and the responsible national funding body.

Proposals which do not include all the compulsory information and formal requirements will not be considered for evaluation.

After closure of the call, the RURAGRI Call Secretariat will contact the project coordinator to acknowledge receipt of the proposal and, following the evaluation of all proposals, report on the outcome of the evaluation and funding decision.

## 7. Eligibility for Funding

### 7.1 Ethics and gender issues

Work involving the use of animals or humans should be carried out under the appropriate authorisation taking into account local ethical requirements. Any proposal, which seems to contravene fundamental ethical principles, shall not be selected, and may be excluded from the evaluation and selection procedure at any time by the TCSC. Judgement of the significance of ethical issues will be made by the TCSC using the criteria published by the Commission in its guideline for the Seventh Framework Programme ([http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ethics\\_en.html#ethics\\_sd](http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ethics_en.html#ethics_sd)).

The compliance with gender issues (equality in the project partnership as well as addressing gender relevant aspects of the research questions) should be taken into account in the proposal.

### 7.2 RURAGRI eligibility criteria

Each project proposal must:

- ❖ consist of a transnational consortium of at least three independent eligible legal entities from at least three of the Partner countries listed in Annex A and B;
- ❖ be written in English;
- ❖ use the application forms provided via the call website: [www.ruragri-era.net](http://www.ruragri-era.net);
- ❖ fulfil the formal requirements for proposal submission;
- ❖ be submitted correctly and completely via the call website before the call deadline (30 November 2012, 13.00 CET).

### 7.3 National eligibility criteria

All project partners involved in an application have to assure that eligible costs, sub-contracting, etc. are in line with the respective national regulations. Some countries have published their national eligibility criteria (Annex C). In case of uncertainties regarding the national regulations, please contact your National Contact Point (see Annex A).

## 8. Evaluation and selection of proposals

All proposals submitted will be treated in the strictest terms of confidence by the RURAGRI Consortium. All proposals must comply with the “Eligibility criteria for Funding” mentioned in this document. Meeting these criteria is mandatory and proposals that do not meet them will not be considered for funding.

Proposals will be evaluated to establish that they meet the aim of the call, are of high scientific quality and represent new or novelty approaches to the issues considered by the research proposal. Proposals have to be trans-disciplinary in approach and deliver European

added value. Proposals will also be evaluated as to the quality of their management plans, dissemination plans and feasibility.

Because of the fragmented nature of the funding, special consideration will be given to synchronise (in time and also in content) the individual contracts, so that the Project Consortium can deliver transnational outputs as described in the project proposal. The national funding bodies will make an effort to ensure that common RURAGRI conditions are met (e.g. common start date of a given project, reporting requirements etc.).

## 8.1 Evaluation of proposals

The proposals will be submitted to an international panel of peer reviewers, who will evaluate them for meeting the following evaluation criteria:

- ❖ The proposal addresses the aim(s) of the joint transnational call (consisting of the three themes) as described in the topics description above and referring to spatial development patterns, and particularly associating case study areas to spatial typologies;
- ❖ The scientific quality of the proposal, including methodology, competitiveness and expertise of participants in the field(s) proposed, and in comparison to existing knowledge and complementarity to ongoing national and international projects;
- ❖ The novelty of the research proposed and the degree to which the project will overcome/support important barriers/development opportunities linking agricultural, economic and ecological development of rural regions;
- ❖ The quality of the trans-disciplinary approach proposed;
- ❖ The quality of the European added value dimension;
- ❖ the quality and the efficiency of the project management (coordination of work packages and tasks management) and the consortium (well balanced and integrated partnership in work packages; broadness of the consortium compared with geographical relevance; previous experience in international collaboration) and financial viability;
- ❖ The dissemination activities, expected impact for users and the implementation plan;
- ❖ The feasibility of the project – Risks and assumptions that are likely to affect project implementation and achievement of the outputs and how they can be mitigated.

International experts will be nominated and appointed by the RURAGRI Consortium. The experts will score the proposals based on the evaluation criteria listed above, provide comments and make an overall assessment of scientific merit of the research. They will participate in the meeting of peer reviewers in order to establish a ranking list of research proposals for the TCSC.

## 8.2 Selection of proposals

The TCSC will make the final funding decision taking into consideration the recommendations from the evaluators, policy needs and available funding.

The RURAGRI Secretariat will send notification letters to all project consortia coordinators to inform them of the result of the final funding decision. Where consortia are successful, each National Contact Point will be responsible for agreeing the final contract with researchers of successful project consortia based in their country.

## **9. Contract conditions**

### **9.1 Terms of participation**

The national funding of the RURAGRI Call is offered under the coordination of the FP7 ERA-NET RURAGRI. Partners of the Research Project Consortium are required to recognize the coordinating role of RURAGRI throughout the duration of the funded research projects until the publication of the final report. Each Project Consortium will be asked for feedback on the processes in order to help to refine it for future use.

### **9.2 Contractual relationships**

RURAGRI is a network between national funding bodies with the aim of establishing transnational research collaboration. The contracts with researchers and funding procedures and regulations remain the full responsibility of the national funding bodies.

### **9.3 Funding contracts**

For the whole duration of the contract it is the responsibility of the project coordinator to inform the RURAGRI Consortium of any changes which may affect the implementation of the project (e.g. work plan, consortium modifications) and other changes such as changes in the contract details. Any changes in the work plan should be minor and will need to be authorised by the TCSC and the respective national funding body.

Any financial issue is under the responsibility of each national funding body involved in the approved project.

If a change to the Research Project Consortium occurs which poses a risk to the project, the issue has to be solved by the consortium (in line with the Consortium Agreement). The RURAGRI Consortium must be kept informed of such events.

### **9.4 Consortium Agreement**

The consortia selected for funding must enter into a Consortium Agreement, in order to manage the project activities, finances, intellectual property rights (IPR) and to avoid disputes which might be detrimental to the completion of the project.

It will be the responsibility of the project coordinators to draw up a Consortium Agreement suitable to their own group. The Consortium Agreement will normally be governed under the law and legal system of the country of the project coordinator. The purpose of this document is:

- ❖ to underpin the project partners' collaboration and provide the project partners with mutual assurance on project management structures and procedures, and their rights and obligations towards one another;
- ❖ to assure the funding bodies involved that the Research Project Consortium has a satisfactory decision making capacity and is able to work together in a synergistic and positive manner.

The project coordinator has to submit an electronic copy (e.g. pdf) of the signed Consortium Agreement to the RURAGRI Call Secretariat. Transfers of money will be held back until the Consortium Agreement is finalized and signed.

## **9.5 Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), use and access to results**

Results and new Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) resulting from projects funded through the RURAGRI Call will be owned by the project partners according to the conditions stated in their Consortium Agreement and shall not be in conflict with the respective national regulation.

Researchers are encouraged to actively exploit the results of the research project and make them available for use, whether for commercial gain or not, in order for public benefit to be obtained from the knowledge created.

## **9.6 Start date of projects**

A project can start when all national contracts have been concluded. The funding partners for a specific project shall agree a Commencement Date for the project, which will apply to all contractors in respect of that particular project, and shall be stated in the contract with the funders. Once the national contracts come into force, eligible national costs may be claimed as per national procedures.

## **9.7 Project reporting**

A mid-term and a final scientific report including deliverables have to be sent to the RURAGRI Consortium by the project coordinator. Project reports and overall progress will be assessed against the agreed milestones and expected deliverables as described in the project description (milestones and deliverables). Action may be taken by funding bodies in case of shortcomings or non-compliance.

In addition, brief project updates suitable for immediate publication have to be provided to the RURAGRI Consortium annually, and a minimum of 3 stakeholder-oriented articles.

Project reports and articles must be written in English, whereas supplementary versions may also be written in other languages at the project partners' discretion and own expenses.

If required by national obligations, each project partner has to report progress of their work package to the national funding bodies. This also applies to financial reports.

It is expected, that a project website (or a link to project information on the coordinator's institution website) will be set up by each Research Project Consortium. This website should offer information about the project content, project progress, project partners, duration,

funding bodies and the RURAGRI network. The internet address for project information has to be sent to the RURAGRI consortium. All web addresses of the Research Project Consortium will be shown on the RURAGRI website to facilitate access to research and information funded by RURAGRI.

## **9.8 Dissemination requirements**

Dissemination of project results is mandatory. Research Project Consortia are encouraged to disseminate the results of their research through as many channels as possible including scientific papers, posters, stakeholder involvement, seminars, workshops, other courses or training material, web based tools or direct intervention targeted at end users. A dissemination plan should be included in the full-proposal and specify the planned dissemination activities.

The project partners have to acknowledge the transnational funding of the RURAGRI ERA-NET and the individual national funding bodies in any document that is published (in written, oral or electronic form) within the research project.

A copy of all publications, which originate from the RURAGRI projects, has to be submitted to the RURAGRI Consortium in order to be published via an appropriate electronic archive.

## Annexes

### Annex A: RURAGRI National Contact Points

<i>Country</i>	<i>Name &amp; Organisation</i>	<i>Telephone</i>	<i>E-mail</i>
Austria (AT)	FUHRMANN Elfriede Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt und Wasserwirtschaft (BMLFUW)	+43 1 71100-6817	<a href="mailto:elfriede.fuhrmann@lebensministerium.at">elfriede.fuhrmann@lebensministerium.at</a>
Belgium (BE)	ERBOUT Nathalie Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research (ILVO)	+32 9 272 23 53	<a href="mailto:nathalie.erbout@ilvo.vlaanderen.be">nathalie.erbout@ilvo.vlaanderen.be</a>
Denmark (DK)	MADSEN Carina Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Danish AgriFish Agency	+45 4189 2522	<a href="mailto:cama@naturerhverv.dk">cama@naturerhverv.dk</a>
France (FR)	LEMAIRE Emmanuelle French National Research Agency (ANR)	+33 1 73 54 82 75	<a href="mailto:emmanuelle.lemaire@agencerecherche.fr">emmanuelle.lemaire@agencerecherche.fr</a>
Germany (DE)	DREGER Frank Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH, Projektträger Jülich PtJ,	+49 (0) 30 20199 3116	<a href="mailto:f.dreger@fz-juelich.de">f.dreger@fz-juelich.de</a>
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Ireland (IE)	DALY Ciara Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine	+353 1 6072367	<a href="mailto:Ciara.Daly@agriculture.gov.ie">Ciara.Daly@agriculture.gov.ie</a>

Ireland (IE)	MEREDITH, David, The Agriculture and Food Development Authority (Teagasc)	+353 1 8059952	<a href="mailto:david.meredith@teagasc.ie">david.meredith@teagasc.ie</a>
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Lithuania (LT)	DUCHOVSKIENĒ Zita Ministry of Agriculture of Lithuania	+370 5 2391023	<a href="mailto:zita.duchovskiene@zum.lt">zita.duchovskiene@zum.lt</a>
The Netherlands (NL)	VIS Jeroen Directie Natuur en Biodiversiteit, DG Natuur en Ruimte	+31 70 3784759	<a href="mailto:g.a.j.vis@mineleni.nl">g.a.j.vis@mineleni.nl</a>
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Sweden (SE)	JOHANSSON Susanne Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning	+46 (0) 8-775 4020	<a href="mailto:susanne.johansson@formas.se">susanne.johansson@formas.se</a>
Switzerland (CH)	LOETSCHER Markus Federal Department of Economic Affairs FDEA Swiss Federal Office for Agriculture FOAG Deputy	+41 31 325 60 85	<a href="mailto:markus.loetscher@blw.admin.ch">markus.loetscher@blw.admin.ch</a>
Turkey (TR)	AKKAYA Fatma Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock	+90 312 3157623/249	<a href="mailto:fakkaya@tagem.gov.tr">fakkaya@tagem.gov.tr</a>

## Annex B: RURAGRI funder contribution table

<i>Country</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>ES/PG</i>	<i>SED</i>	<i>LU/LM</i>
Austria	medium	X	X	X
Belgium	small	X	X	X
Denmark	medium	X	X	X
France	very large	X	X	X
Germany	very large		X	X
Ireland	medium	X	X	X
Israel	small	X*	X*	X
Italy	medium	X	X	X
Latvia	small	X	X	X
Lithuania	small	X	X	
The Netherlands**	medium	X		X
Poland	small	X	X	X
Spain	medium	X		X
Sweden	very large	X	X	X
Switzerland	medium	X	X	X
Turkey	small		X	X
<b>TOTAL budget:</b>	<b>app. 8,500,000 €</b>			

\* Encouraged only as additional thematic area to the LU/LM area.

\*\* Subject to final approval

### **Budget size rank (in 1,000 €)**

<i>Very large</i>	More than 1,200
<i>Large</i>	Between 700 and 1,200
<i>Medium</i>	Between 200 and 700
<i>Small</i>	Less than 200

## **Annex C: National (organisational) funding rules**

### **Austria: The Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management/Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt und Wasserwirtschaft (BMLFUW)**

Austrian partners in a consortium applying for funding from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW) have to submit the proposal of the project consortium after positive evaluation to BMLFUW through its research programme's website [www.dafne.at](http://www.dafne.at) .

Funding costs for Austrian partners must not exceed a level of 150,000 Euro of eligible costs.

Only the portion of equipment used on the project (calculated as depreciation charges related to the project duration) may be charged as eligible costs.

Travel costs and costs for meetings can be charged as eligible costs also financed (according to the federal state's Travel Costs Reimbursement Regulation / Reisegebührenverordnung des Bundes, RGV).

Overhead costs have to be verified on the basis of an accepted accounting system and can be charged as indirect costs up to an amount of 20% of the applicant's total eligible project costs.

In general, project payments by the BMLFUW consist of an advance payment, a second tranche of payment due after approval of an interim-report as well as a final transfer payment (of at least 10% of the total eligible project costs) after approval of the final report.

### **Belgium: Institute for Agricultural and Fisheries Research/Eigen Vermogen van heet Instituut voor Landbouw en Visserijonderzoek (ILVO)**

#### *Eligibility*

The program that can be used for participation in the 1st RURAGRI call is called: ILVO-PhD-program.

The program is open for every researcher (with full competition), as long as the following criteria are fulfilled:

- a. Have the necessary and relevant diploma's (at least graduated cum laude at a University)
- b. No more than 5 years since the graduation of the most recent Master diploma
- c. Attest of irreproachable behaviour
- d. The willingness and commitment to write a PhD

The proposed project must have a total duration of 2 times 2 years (duration of a PhD program). The candidate and the project will be evaluated by an evaluation committee at the beginning of the project and after 2 years. A positive evaluation after 2 years is mandatory for acceptance of the last 2 years of the project to be financed. Co-financing of the project by European Universities or other research institutions is required (for example, 2 years financing from the ILVO-PhD program and 2 years co-financing from a university).

A monitoring group internal to the ILOV-Social Sciences Unit will be appointed to monitor the scientific content and the progress of the project during the project time. The monitoring group meets 3 times per year. If the promoter is not a member of the staff of ILVO Social Sciences Unit, a co-promoter is assigned within the ILVO Social Sciences Unit. The researcher spent at least 1/3 of the research time at ILVO (in continuous stays of minimum 4 months).

## Denmark: Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Danish AgriFish Agency

### *Funding*

A maximum of 450.000 € is reserved for the call and in addition 200.000 € is provided 'in kind' through ministry funded programmes executed by Aarhus University to cover their participation in project consortia for this call.

Own and co-financing: Project activities can be co-financed with other national funds up to the maximum funding rate for national funding. The remaining funding must come from own financing and private sources. Trade funds in the context of state subsidy are considered so-called para-fiscal funds and thus considered as national public funds.

### *Eligibility*

Funding is available for all three thematic areas or a mixture of these:

1. Ecosystem Services/Public Goods
2. Socio-Economic Development
3. Land Use and Land Management

It is expected that 2-4 projects with the participation of Danish researchers can be funded in this call.

The work carried out must be research and/or development activities.

Applications for funding can be submitted by:

- a. Universities, research and other public knowledge institutes
- b. Technical Service Institutes (GTS)

Funding can only be granted to Danish registered entities as mentioned above. Though a foreign institution or a foreign/Danish enterprise can be part of the Danish participation in a project on a consultancy basis. This, however, will need to be motivated and justified in the application.

*Table1. Maximum Subsidy Rates*

	<i>Public research institutes</i>	<i>GTS - Small</i>	<i>GTS - Medium</i>	<i>GTS - Large</i>
<i>Applied Research</i>	100 pct.	80 pct.	75 pct.	65 pct.
<i>Development</i>	100 pct.	60 pct.	50 pct.	40 pct.

### *Admitted costs*

The following costs are eligible:

- a. Salary costs during the project period
- b. Consumables and other costs directly related to the project
- c. External consultancies
- d. Indirect costs such as overhead

To be eligible the costs must be directly related to the project and must be incurred and paid during the approved project period.

All costs must be stated excl. VAT, unless the applicant itself has to pay VAT and therefore is applying to have this expense covered.

Cost of PhD inscription/scholarship/course fees is not considered an essential expenditure to be included as it is not the focus of this call. The salary of PhD involvement in a project is an eligible cost.

### Direct costs:

#### Salaries (Staff costs):

Salary for scientific staff, technical administrative staff or other staff involved in the project. Staff costs can be paid at a maximum salary equivalent to comparable positions in the state. Sickness and maternity benefits, holiday pay and other social obligations should be incurred by the employing authority.

Universities and other governmental institutes, that are required to act in accordance to the rules concerning funded research activities in the budget guidelines of the Ministry of Finance, determine the salary costs as the actual salary expenses.

Private research institutes, e.g. Approved Technological Service Institutes (GTS institutes) budget actual salary costs per hour used (i.e. excluding overhead/general costs).

#### Operational costs:

Other operational expenses that is necessary for the implementation of the project, including analyses, meeting and travel expenses.

#### Durables and equipment:

Applicants must require or provide the necessary apparatus for the project themselves. If this is not possible, the acquisition of the requested equipment will be considered. Applications for a funding for durables and equipment must be accompanied by an explanation. A scrap value should be calculated for equipment funded by the Danish AgriFish Agency that has a value after the conclusion of the project (see table 2). This value (the scrap value) will be deducted in the budget.

#### Other costs:

E.g. subcontracting, including consultancy services from Danish or foreign external advisors, where the beneficiary acquires the full right to exploitation. Applications for funding of 'other costs' must be supplemented by an explanation detailing the content and necessity.

Table 2. Calculation of scrap value

	<i>Straight-line depreciation over 5 years</i>	<i>Depreciation rate of 25 pct.</i>	<i>Straight-line depreciation over 3 years (IT-equipment)</i>
	pct. of purchase value	pct. of purchase value	pct. of purchase value
<i>Purchase value</i>	100	100	100
<i>Value 1st year</i>	80	75	66
<i>Value 2nd year</i>	60	56,3	33
<i>Value 3rd year</i>	40	42,2	0
<i>Value 4th year</i>	20	31,6	0
<i>Value 5th year</i>	0	23,7	0

### Indirect costs:

#### Contribution to general costs:

Universities and other governmental institutions, which are required to act in accordance to the rules concerning funded research activities in the budget guidelines of the Ministry of Finance, charge in the budget a contribution to the common expenses (overhead) of 44% of the direct costs.

Other applicants shall document all costs including overhead/common expenses. Overhead/common expenses should be calculated as a percentage of the salary costs and can be of a maximum of 30%. The calculated percentage must be documented based on entries in the accounts of the beneficiary in connection with the payment of the grant.

### **France 1: Ministère de l'agriculture, de l'agroalimentaire et de la forêt. (MAAF)**

Project applicants should contact the national representatives regarding eligibility criteria for participation through the research programme "Développement agricole et rural – CASDAR" in this Call.

### **France 2: Agence nationale de la recherche (ANR) / The French National Research Agency**

#### *Funding:*

ANR is funding the three axes of the call.

#### *Eligibility:*

The general guidelines for the French partners can be found, in French, on ANR website (<http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/programmes-de-recherche/appels-a-projets/>). The same rules apply to the transnational as to the national calls opened by ANR.

Generally, the terms and conditions for the French participants follow the generic Terms and condition of funding available in French language on ANR web site <http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/documents/uploaded/2007/reglement-modalitesattribution-aide.pdf>).

#### Eligible Participants:

This RURAGRI Joint Call addresses all French researchers from research organisations, associations or companies. There must be at least one research organisation (university, public institute...) in the whole consortium.

#### Eligible costs:

Eligible costs are costs which are necessary for carrying out the approved project proposed, insofar as their amount is appropriate and justified.

For all further information please refer to the national contact point:

GRIFFON Michel – [Michel.griffon@agencerecherche.fr](mailto:Michel.griffon@agencerecherche.fr) - +33 1 78098030

LEMAIRE Emmanuelle– [emmanuelle.lemaire@agencerecherche.fr](mailto:emmanuelle.lemaire@agencerecherche.fr) - +33 1 73548275

The French National Research Agency (ANR)

Agence Nationale de la Recherche

212 rue de Bercy, Paris 75012

FRANCE

## Germany: Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (BMBF)

Funding quota of German participants can be up to 100 % for universities or research organisations. Universities that intend to apply for the “Projektpauschale” should consider these costs already in the preparation of the project proposal.

In the case of companies, funding quota will be decided on a case-by-case basis depending on the size of the company, type of research/development, risk associated with the research activities, commercial perspective of exploitation, typically up to a range of max. 50 %. In the case of small and medium enterprises, an additional bonus of 10-20 % funding quota can be awarded.

There is no obligation regarding the number of companies to be involved from Germany. Company and stakeholder participation is recommended.

In the RURAGRI call, German participants can only be funded in the research areas Socio-Economic Development (SED) and Land Use and Land Management (LU/LM). However, it will be accepted if a positively evaluated proposal of a research consortium also addresses topics in the research area Ecosystem Services / Public Goods (ES/PG) as long as this research is funded by RURAGRI partner countries.

German applicants shall respect the national announcement „Transnationale Forschung zur Verknüpfung von Aspekten landwirtschaftlicher, ländlicher und nachhaltiger Entwicklung“ which is expected to be published in September 2012.

There is no need for additional national application forms without request. The transnational application to the central call office is sufficient. Only the German project partners of positively evaluated projects will then, in a second stage, be invited to submit national application forms within one month after notification.

For the national application the BMBF funding rules and forms will apply: AZA or AZK ([https://foerderportal.bund.de/easy/easy\\_index.php?auswahl=easy\\_formulare&formularschranke=bmbf](https://foerderportal.bund.de/easy/easy_index.php?auswahl=easy_formulare&formularschranke=bmbf)) using the electronic proposal assistant “easy” (see [https://foerderportal.bund.de/easy/easy\\_index.php?auswahl=easy\\_software](https://foerderportal.bund.de/easy/easy_index.php?auswahl=easy_software)).

Consortium Agreements of projects with German participants need to respect the “Merkblatt für Antragsteller/Zuwendungsempfänger zur Zusammenarbeit der Partner von Verbundprojekten“ ([https://foerderportal.bund.de/easy/easy\\_index.php?auswahl=easy\\_formulare&formularschranke=bmbf#t6](https://foerderportal.bund.de/easy/easy_index.php?auswahl=easy_formulare&formularschranke=bmbf#t6)).

BMBF will accept the joint project description in English language with the national application. National Forms (AZA or AZK) as well as intermediate national reports will have to be in German.

## **Ireland:**

### **Agriculture and Food Development Authority (TEAGASC)**

Project applicants should contact the national representative regarding eligibility criteria for participation in this Call.

### **Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)**

DAFM invite applicants from HEI's, including Universities and Institutes of Technology and other Public Research Performing Organisations (excluding Teagasc) in Ireland to submit research pre-proposals under RURAGRI Call 1, either as partners or coordinators.

The total indicative funding provided by DAFM in respect of this Call shall not exceed €100,000.00.

Interested applicants must register and consult the RURAGRI Irish National Contact Point: Ciara Daly ([Ciara.daly@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Ciara.daly@agriculture.gov.ie)) for information regarding the Irish regulations for participating in this call.

## **Israel: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MOARD)**

MOARD intends to support the first Call for Proposals of the RURAGRI ERA-NET (European Research Area in Agriculture and Sustainable Development in a Rural Development Context) – and encourages the Israeli scientists to apply for funding of collaborative research on subject included in the Call which are significant and in-line with the objectives of MOARD as published in "MOARD 2012-13 Chief Scientist Call for Proposals". MOARD has the ambition to stimulate synergy and international collaboration, on the basis of excellence in research and in objectives of mutual agricultural importance to Israel and other RURAGRI Call participants.

### *Eligibility and national funding modalities:*

Applications to this call will be based/established/designed on Collaborative Research Projects as defined in RURAGRI Call Document. MOARD funding will be exclusively available for supporting the Israeli part of any successful transnational collaboration as research project grants, according to MOARD rules and criteria as published in "MOARD 2012-13 Chief Scientist Call for Proposals", a summary of which appears in the last chapter. Commercial companies / entities may participate under MOARD regulations and conditions but will not be eligible for grant reward from MOARD funds assigned for this call. MOARD financial support will be closely related to its funding activities and priorities within the "MOARD Chief Scientist National Fund".

### *Additional national regulations and guidelines:*

Research themes, application and evaluation of research proposals will follow the procedure as defined in the RURAGRI Call notice with annexes. Kindly note that **prior to submission** of the proposal for evaluation by RURAGRI, **approval of the Israeli part of the proposal should be made by the Chief Scientist of MOARD**, according to MOARD objectives and regulations. Therefore, applicants are strongly advised to contact their National Contact Person before starting to prepare proposals for application.

MOARD terms and conditions are specific for Israeli applicants within the RURAGRI Collaborative Research consortia and are specified in this National Annex and in the "MOARD Chief Scientist Call for Proposals for 2012-13" which may be downloaded from our website: [www.science.moag.gov.il](http://www.science.moag.gov.il) . Final approval of the funds will be made by MOARD Chief Scientist's board. MOARD grant holders shall follow the MOARD application, reporting, IPR and general rules of funding procedures. According to MOARD general policy, applicants must be aware that all information, resources and results obtained from the research projects will be publically published. In general, projects funded by MOARD are made publicly available within a reasonable period of time after their termination.

*MOARD regulations for financial contribution to research projects*

Funding contribution for national participants of the selected projects will be as follows:

- Governmental and other public Institutions and private non - profit bodies can be financed for the total amount of the approved eligible project costs.
- SMEs and organizations with other statutory nature are welcome as participants if an added value to the project is proven and if their costs are covered by their own resources or by other external sources.
- Final decision of the approved research budget is pending upon approval of the MOARD Chief Scientist International Annual Budget by the Israel Ministry of Finance, for the Fiscal year in which the project is due to begin.

*Distribution of annual payments:*

First year:

- 1) 50% of the approved costs immediately following the approval by all partners of a signed contract between MOARD and the beneficiary organization, and receiving a declaration of initiation of the project by the project leader.
- 2) 50% of the approved costs once the annual scientific and financial reports has been obtained and approved.

The following years:

- 1) 50% of the approved costs immediately following receiving a declaration of initiation of the project by the project leader.
- 2) 50% of the approved costs once the annual or final scientific and financial reports have been obtained and approved.

*Eligible costs to be refunded:*

A) Personnel

- 1) Salaries – Only for non-permanent scientific staff (including foreign visiting scientists, post docs, PhD students and fellowships). Technical administrative staff can be included in the coordination
- 2) Travel expenses- for permanent and non permanent staff.

B) Consumables

C) External activity costs – expenditures for activity carried out externally (Consultancy services, agreements, maintenance, repairs, material transportation when needed for the project implementation).

D) Equipment – Only essential scientific equipment purchased specifically for the project will be reimbursed.

E) Overhead – no more than 15% of the approved grant.

## Italy: Ministero delle Politiche Agricoli Alimentari e Forestali (MIPAAF)

### *Eligibility*

MIPAAF is funding projects under the three thematic areas of the call:

- Ecosystem Services/Public Goods (ES/PG),
- Socio-Economic Development (SED),
- Land Use and Land Management (LU/LM).

MIPAAF rules (DG COSVIR acting as funding body) for eligibility and allocations of the financial contribution are given in the User's Manual (*Manuale utente*) which applicants must refer to (D.M. 6387/2010) at:

<http://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/3959>.

A summary of these rules is hereafter reported.

### *Nature of the applicants*

National public research institutions and private bodies, with among their institutional and statutory scopes "performing research activities" and not only "promoting or supporting research activities", can apply for funding.

National public institutions include public bodies supervised by Ministries, regional and provincial centres, University departments and institutes, University consortia, interdepartmental centres.

It is mandatory, for all the private research bodies defined above, that they state in the official documents (statute and/or articles of incorporation, memorandum of association) that among their missions they also "perform research activities", and in case, their non-profit's purpose.

The private research body participating in the project consortium must send to the MIPAAF, acting as national contact point (see hereafter), scanned copy of these documents [cosvir4@politicheagricole.gov.it](mailto:cosvir4@politicheagricole.gov.it), specifying in the object "RURAGRI call documents – private body – deadline 30 November 2012" by the proposal submission deadline:

### *Financial contribution*

The contribution amount for national participants of the selected projects will be as follows:

- a. public Institutions and private no profit bodies can be financed up to 99% of the approved eligible project costs;
- b. private bodies and labs can receive 50% of the approved eligible costs, but this percentage can be increased to 65% if the participating research unit to the project foresees the collaboration with a public research institution or a no profit private body (see art. 31 EU Reg. 800/2008)
- c. SMEs and organisms with other statutory nature are welcome as participants if an added value to the project is proven and if their costs are covered by their own resources or by other external sources.

According to the national regulation the transfer of funds will occur in three steps:

- 1) 65% of the approved costs immediately at the issue of the Ministry decree (contract between the Ministry and the beneficiary);
- 2) 25% of the approved costs once the mid-term report (both scientific and administrative) has been approved;
- 3) 10% of the approved costs once the final report has been approved.

- 4) For private bodies the detailed documentation to receive the financial contribution is specified in the User's Manual.

#### *Eligible costs to be refunded*

##### A) Personnel

- 1) Salaries – Only for non-permanent scientific staff (including foreign visiting scientists, post docs, PhD students, fellowships and grants). Technical administrative staff can be included in the coordination. For private institutions salaries of permanent staff actually participating in the project activity can be funded.
- 2) Travel expenses – for permanent and non-permanent staff.

##### B) Consumables

C) External activity costs – expenditures for activity carried out externally to the research applicant (Consultancy services, agreements, maintenance, repairs, material transportation when needed for the project implementation).

D) Equipment – Only depreciation charges (related to the project duration) for scientific equipment will be reimbursed.

E) Overheads – no more than 10% of the total amount of the above mentioned costs (A+B+C+D)

F) Coordination - if the Italian institution is also playing the role of coordinator the eligible costs are those indicated in the User's manual.

#### *Additional forms*

Once the project has been approved for funding and during the negotiation each Italian research unit will have to fill in the research unit form (model C), included in the User's Manual, and present it to the funding Body (MIPAAF) to apply for contribution.

In case of a research unit acting as coordinator, also the general project description, including the activity of all partners (model A-project form) and the financial sheet, limited to the Italian research participants (model B), have to be presented to the funding body.

These forms must be written in Italian.

For all further information please refer to the Italian National Contact Point (see Annex A).

## **Latvia: Latvijas Zinatnu Akademija / Latvian Academy of Sciences**

#### *Eligibility*

Participants of projects:

- a. Research institutions - research institutes, universities, higher education establishments, their institutes and other research institutions which have been registered in the Register of Research institutions, monitored by the Ministry of Education and Science of Republic of Latvia;
- b. Enterprises, which are registered in the Register of Enterprises of Republic of Latvia and which carry out their activities mainly in Latvia.

#### *Funding*

- 1) Projects will be funded in accordance with the results of evaluation and taking into account the available national financial resources;
- 2) The maximal funding of one project is 150,000 euro, including overheads;

- 3) Funding will be granted in accordance with the provisions of Commission Regulation (EC) N° 800/2008 of August 6, 2008, which declares particular grant categories compatible with the common market on the application of articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty.

#### *Admitted costs*

##### Direct costs

- 1) Staff costs
- 2) Materials, consumables
- 3) Amortization of used equipment
- 4) Travel expenses
- 5) Subcontracts do not exceed 10% from the direct costs.

##### Indirect costs

Overheads do not exceed 20% from the direct costs.

### **Lithuania: Lietuvos Respublikos Zemes Ukio Ministerija / Ministry of Agriculture of Lithuania**

#### *Eligibility*

Applications to this call will be based on Collaborative Research Projects as defined in RURAGRI Call Document. Participants of projects: legal persons of the Republic of Lithuania, irrespective of their legal form, whose main activity is to carry out research and development activities.

#### *Funding*

1. Projects will be funded in accordance with the results of evaluation and taking into account the available national financial resources;
2. The maximal funding of one project is 100,000 euro, including overheads. Project activities can be co-financed with other national funds;
3. Funding will be granted in accordance with the national rules [http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc\\_l?p\\_id=407580&p\\_query=&p\\_tr2=2](http://www3.lrs.lt/pls/inter3/dokpaieska.showdoc_l?p_id=407580&p_query=&p_tr2=2)

#### *Admitted costs*

##### Direct costs:

1. Staff costs;
2. Travel expenses;
3. Materials, reagents, instruments;
4. Acquisition or amortization costs of equipment;
5. Subcontracts.

Indirect costs: do not exceed 20% from the total costs

To be eligible the costs must be directly related to the project and must be incurred and paid during the approved project period.

## **The Netherlands – Ministry of Economic Affairs, Agriculture and Innovation (EL&I)**

Project applicants should contact the national representatives regarding eligibility criteria for participation in this Call.

### **Poland: Institute of Horticulture (IO)**

Except for military R & D projects (which are financed through direct transfers from the Ministry of Finance to the Ministry of Defense), all government support for separately budgeted research is channeled entirely through the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. There are six ways of financing:

1. Core funding for statutory R & D activities, i.e. institutional finance provided selectively to designated research establishments, units and university departments for covering the costs of their own research activities. Schools at university level cannot use those funds to finance their educational or training activities.
2. Investments in R & D infrastructure, such as buildings and equipment.
3. Peer-reviewed research grants based on research proposals, presented by small research teams or individual researchers, no matter where they are employed or what scientific degrees they hold. Applications are evaluated by an appropriate group of the Committee twice a year. Research projects should deal with new scientific problems and must not be financed from the state budget in any other form.
4. Subsidies for R & D programs of national importance commissioned by enterprises, state administrative bodies or local authorities. The financial means are allocated for the implementation of projects and the utilization of research findings.
5. Subsidies for international scientific and technological cooperation resulting from intergovernmental agreements.
6. Subsidies for selected R & D support activities (e.g. information services).

For detailed legal information on financing science please refer to the relevant provisions on <http://www.nauka.gov.pl/financing/>

### **Spain: Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Tecnología Agraria y Agroalimentaria (INIA)**

#### *Eligibility*

The call is addressed to public research institutions and universities.

#### *Funding*

The Research Coordinator has to submit an electronic copy (e.g. pdf) of the duly signed Researchers' Consortium Agreement to the Call Secretariat as well as to the National Contact Point, within six months of the notification of funding. Exceptionally, a letter of intent could be admitted.

In case of budget limitations or reductions, an official agreement from the Research Coordinators to National Contact Point, certifying that all the Researchers' Consortium agrees with the new funding conditions shall be needed, in order to manage the contract with the beneficiary.

#### *Admitted costs*

The beneficiary should break down the costs per year, as following:

- a. Salaries: Only for non-permanent scientific staff and non-permanent technicians hired for the project.
- b. Fungible materials
- c. Travel and subsistence costs
- d. Indirect costs: Not exceeding 20 % of the direct costs (DC = a + b + c )

The funds will be transferred to the beneficiary in annual payments after justification of the scientific and financial data corresponding to each year.

### **Sweden: Forskningsrådet för Miljö, Areella Näringar och Samhällsbyggande**

The Swedish National Funding Rules are available in the following link:  
<http://www.formas.se/PageFiles/204/Formas%20Handbook%202012.pdf>

### **Switzerland: Eidgenössisches Volkswirtschaftsdepartement**

#### *Eligibility*

Public and private research institutes and SME can apply for funding. The work carried out must be actual research, cf. the definitions in the OECD Frascati Manual or product development. The application must be in accordance with the Swiss legal regulation for animal research and research with genetic modified organisms.

#### *Funding*

The requested contribution for Swiss partners in a project consortium shall not exceed 150.000 Euro (exchange rate: 1 Euro = 1.2 CHF). Funding will be awarded as a framework grant, and additional funding will not be provided. Funding does not cover expenditure for activities implemented before the project has been granted.

### **Turkey: Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Livestock, General Directorate of Agricultural Research and Policy (GDAR)**

#### *Funding*

It is not possible to fund directly projects proposed by the scientists outside the GDAR system, therefore, consortium must include at least one of the GDAR institutes and a component of the research must be carried out at our research unit; GDAR funding will not be available to institutions in DAC countries.

#### *Admitted costs*

Since GDAR could not pay for the salaries of permanent researchers and research technicians working outside of GDAR system, salaries should be excluded from the project budget; only temporary workers could be paid.

Budget allocations for the successful projects could be realised through a GDAR Research Institute participating in the winner consortium, from the beginning of the next fiscal year following the signing of the contract.

Sub-contracting with foreign researchers is not possible. GDAR can only provide fund to its research institutes. However, any research institution can fund domestic sub-contractors on its own.

## **Annex D: Reference to spatial typologies**

A critical barrier to mutual learning between areas at EU, national and local scales is the limited consideration of geographic context and, specifically, the identification and classification of similarities and dissimilarities between regions. Spatial typologies, of which there are many, offer the potential to enhance understanding amongst researchers - from across the social and environmental sciences, evaluators and practitioners by foregrounding the significance of place within a broader geographic context. A typology can be defined as a classification of individual units into a set of categories that are useful for a particular purpose (Blunden et al., 1998). In addition, typologies serve as a means of evaluating a number of different indicators in an integrated manner based on the identification of spatial interlinkages (Andersen et al., 2007). Their power to synthesize information makes them particularly useful in identifying areas that share a number of similarities in terms of their settlement patterns, land use, economic structure and challenges and opportunities as well as supporting design and evaluation of territorial targeted policies (Andersen, 2007; Copus et al., 2011). A well-constructed typology offers the potential to identify what is particular about a place and, more importantly in terms of research collaboration, highlighting similarities and differences in the spatial context, including the social, economic and environmental systems linking places, within which research is undertaken. For an extensive review of typologies and their potential application see Ballas et al. (2003), Copus et al. (2008) or ENRD (2010).

Though spatial typologies have traditionally been used to identify regions that face similar challenges, their use can be extended to support the pre-selection, that is at the research design phase, of study areas, i.e. these might include places confronting similar challenges in different countries and hence with different governance frameworks or they might be areas that share similar endowments of natural resources but have different levels of socio-economic development. Two typologies that could inform the development of research associated with the RURAGRI research priorities have been identified; a typology to assist research on Ecosystem goods and public services and land use management (EU-LUPA's Land Use Functions) and assisting research on Socio-economic development (The EDORA Structural typology). Those consortia responding to the call may conclude that these typologies are insufficient to their needs and choose to use an alternative spatial classification system; this is entirely acceptable. To facilitate those who wish to use either of the two typologies referred to above additional resources are available on the ESPON (European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion) website.

EU LUPA: [http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu\\_Projects/Menu\\_AppliedResearch/EU-Lupa.html](http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/Menu_AppliedResearch/EU-Lupa.html)

EDORA: [http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu\\_Projects/Menu\\_AppliedResearch/edora.html](http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/Menu_AppliedResearch/edora.html)