

OT-Med: call 2013 for joint projects, scientific events and mobility fellowships

In order to encourage collaboration between member labs of OT-Med and to boost excellence of the research of OT-Med, several calls for proposals are open:

- Call for joint projects from labs participating in OT-Med
- Call for organisation of summer schools, conferences, or workshops
- Call for incoming and outgoing mobility fellowships, including support for participation in international conferences

A total amount of 150 k€ is devoted to these calls in 2013.

Proposed projects must be in the scientific domain of OT-Med (see below).

Context

The project OT-Med is a «labex» funded by the French national programme « Investissement d'Avenir » for the period 2012-2019 (<http://www.otmed.fr>). OT-Med has as its objective to study the impacts of environmental change (climate, land use etc.) on ecosystem resources and services, as well as on human society in the Mediterranean Basin. OT-Med intends to create synergies between its participating scientists at all levels. This will be achieved by organising interdisciplinary exchanges in research and education, by promoting interdisciplinary research projects, through an ambitious policy for the reception of visiting researchers, post-docs and Ph.D. fellowships, and exchanges with southern countries, by organising international symposia, summer schools and workshops, by organising scientific, technical and socio-economic databases resulting from research, for both scientists and stakeholders etc.

Domains

The domains covered by OT-Med are the following (candidates interested in any of these domains should contact the respective coordinator for more information):

- Understanding and evaluating Mediterranean climatic change and natural hazards : This includes earthquakes, landslides, extreme climatic events, sea-circulation changes, perturbation of aquifers and hydrosystems. There is special interest in long term variations of these changes including paleo-scales (contacts: Olivier Bellier, bellier@cerege.fr, France van Wambeke, france.van-wambeke@univ-amu.fr)
- The impact of climate and socio-economic changes on ecosystems with a focus on the ecosystem services, in particular related to biodiversity, soils, agriculture, forestry, marine biogeochemistry and food-web interactions (contacts: Wolfgang Cramer, wolfgang.cramer@imbe.fr, Alexander Ereskovsky, alexander.ereskovsky@imbe.fr)
- Human-environment interactions, including the perception of hazards, adaptation and mitigation; modelling of decision-making in the context of risks; the functioning of international environmental regimes for climate and biodiversity; the study of ancient Mediterranean civilizations with respect to their adaptation to climate

change (contacts: Olivier Chanel, olivier.chanel@univ-amu.fr, Sylvie Thoron, sylvie.thoron@univ-amu.fr)

- Coordination of observation systems necessary to collect observations and the data syntheses (contacts: Thomas Curt, thomas.curt@irstea.fr, Patrick Raimbault, patrick.raimbault@univ-amu.fr)
- Development and validation of an integrated model extending from the climate system to socio-economic agents (contacts: Alberte Bondeau, alberte.bondeau@imbe.fr, François Carlotti, francois.carlotti@univ-amu.fr)

The knowledge gained from all these research areas will be applied for better management of ecosystems, for conservation and for the sustainable delivery of ecosystem services.

Application requirements

- Internal call for projects
 - The planned research must be carried out with in at least two member labs of OT-Med (see web site) or with in one member lab associated with one member labs of ECCOREV. Other labs are also welcome.
 - The project may be a 1-yr or 2-yr project
 - The funding amount that can be requested is not limited *a priori* but the demand must be reasonable given the amount of money available for this call (see above)
 - Co-funding (already obtained or requested) is welcomed and enhances the chance of selection. Thus, the call may be used as “seed money” to prepare a new project, to consolidate the financial plan of a starting project, or to complete a running project.
- Organisation of summer schools, conferences, workshops
 - The main organiser must be member of one of the OT-Med labs
 - This call is intended to support international events where local students and scientists are given the opportunity to interact with high level scientists from all countries and particularly Mediterranean countries
 - It is essential for these events that the organiser invites a number of renowned speakers in order to attract a sufficient number of participants; a few fellowships must be reserved to young scientists from developing Mediterranean countries.
 - Summer schools are intended to train young scientists in cutting edge research concepts or techniques related to the OT-Med scientific domain; workshops are intended to put around a table the best specialists of a given topic within the scientific areas of concern to OT-Med and to carry out collaborative work (data syntheses, reviews, model development ...); OT-Med funding can be used as a complement for a conference budget in preparation or for setting up a new conference. In any case, the event must be of an outstanding level at the centre of the OT-Med priorities.
 - The OT-Med committee may propose some key speakers, corresponding to the international collaborations that it is developing.

- Mobility fellowships (maximum three months)
 - This call is open to help OT-Med scientists to visit foreign labs or to invite high level scientists to visit OT-Med lab(s) in order to develop collaborative research in the scientific domains of OT-Med.
 - These visits are expected to be part of larger (already funded or not) projects developed in the framework of OT-Med.

A draft of the basic idea of the project must be submitted, **at an early stage, to the concerned WP coordinator**; it must explain how the planned research contributes to the objectives of OT-Med and to the research of the host scientist/lab.

Process

- The proposal must be submitted **by a scientist of OT-Med** (after discussion with the concerned WP leaders) by email to the administrative director of OT-Med: bonifay@cerege.fr before the 31th January 2013.
- The proposal (one pdf file) must include: (1) a detailed description of the planned research project proposal, explaining how it contributes to the priorities of OT-Med (5 pages + 2 pages of bibliography maximum) in English (for the organisation of a scientific event, the proposal must contain a provisional list of key speakers and the number of expected participants), (2) a draft budget with the annual breakdown between the costs and the financial support, including co-funding, (3) a short curriculum vitae of the main investigator(s) (say involved at more than 25%) in the project with a list of publications of the last 5 years related to the project (two pages + maximum 2 pages of publication list per investigator)
- After initial screening, the OT-Med executive board will assign two external referees for each project.
- In April 2013, the management board (25 members) will rank and select the projects; applicants will be notified before the end of April.
- The selection criteria are: (1) the scientific originality and innovative nature of the project, (2) the robustness (feasibility) of the work plan, (3) the consistency between the project and priorities of OT-Med, (4) the quality of the organization set up to support the project, including a realistic and coherent budget, (5) the academic excellence of the investigators.

Obligations of funding recipients

- The recipient must submit a short research report at the end of his project, indicating (1) the balance between funds received and the actual cost of the project, (2) how the objectives have been achieved, (3) the main products, in particular the papers published or submitted in relation with the project. For two-year projects, a progress report must be submitted before the end of the first year.
- The recipient must acknowledge OT-Med as the funding source in all communications related to the project, in particular in publications and oral presentations.