



ANNOUNCEMENT

The ERA-NET SNOWMAN call for research proposals. Sustainable management of soil and groundwater pollution

01st December 2006

The European Research Area Network (ERA-NET) scheme is the principal means for the Sixth Framework Programme of the European Union (EU) to support the cooperation and co-ordination of research programmes at the trans-national level.

SNOWMAN is a network of European research funders and administrations working together to coordinate their efforts in the field of soil contamination and its management.

The principal objective of the SNOWMAN research call is to support the development of sustainable management of soil and groundwater pollution. Other objectives are to underpin the research agenda of SNOWMAN for the future and to provide a first experience of international cooperation amongst national research funders. With their proposal for a 'Soil Thematic Strategy' published in September 2006 the European Commission suggested a strategy to ensure that Europe's soils remain healthy and capable of supporting human activities and ecosystems and lay down a framework for the further development of EU soil protection (COM[2006]231 final). This proposal identifies eight main threats to soils with 'contamination' as a leading issue, and hence the focus of this call. Other threats to soil such as 'erosion', 'sealing' or 'salinisation' are not part of this call.

Applicants may focus their efforts at the traditional contaminated land site scale (encouraging sustainable approaches to remediation), or at the wider geographical and temporal scale (improving knowledge of the behaviour of contaminants as required for the management of diffuse pollution).

The projects should focus on (at least) one of these 4 different topics 1. Principles of Sustainable Management of Soil and Groundwater Pollution, 2. Soil System Processes, 3. Tools for Sustainable Management of Soil and Groundwater Pollution, and 4. Application of Science & Technology.

SNOWMAN possesses a total budget of approx. € 700 k, with a maximum of € 100 k from each partner country. The research projects financed under this call must be limited to a total duration of 12 months. The Call Steering Committee will strive to arrange a balanced portfolio of funded projects covering all the topic areas.

The call is open to legal entities eligible to participate in the RTD programmes run by the SNOWMAN research funders. Participants should build a trans-national research consortium involving at least two independent legal entities from at least two of the SNOWMAN partner countries listed below. A consortium agreement should be established before the projects can start.

Submission to SNOWMAN will involve a single stage application, followed by an eligibility check, and a two stage evaluation process of fundability and scientific quality and relevance. The scientific quality and relevance will be evaluated by a peer review panel of international experts.

Funding for the co-ordinated call will be subdivided into national contributions, financed by national funding organisations and based on their own existing funding rules. Contracts for

successful applications will be placed between the research partners and their national funding organisation. Further information on funding conditions is available from the organisations mentioned in the table below.








Significant focus within each project should be given to dissemination and information exchange to share European experiences within the upcoming projects. Each project proposal should contain well thought out and detailed dissemination plans which will include the usage of the EUGRIS information system.

An Applicants Guide, presenting detailed information about the requirements for participants in this trans-national call has been prepared. The respective document, together with the Application Form necessary for proposers, can be downloaded from the SNOWMAN website: <http://www.snowman-era.net>.

This call will be opened in all SNOWMAN partner countries within a limited time period of three months: 01 December 2006 – 28 February 2007 at 17 hours. Applications should be addressed to the SNOWMAN Secretariat and being submitted in hard copy form, enclosing two signed copies of the documents and a parallel electronic copy on CD-ROM (pdf document).

Results of the selection process will be made known by the SNOWMAN Secretariat via the homepage.

The SNOWMAN partner countries are:

Country	Institution	Indicative national budget:	Contact / national information:
Austria	 lebensministerium.at	Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt und Wasserwirtschaft, BMLFUW	80.000€ Contact: Stefan.Vetter@lebensministerium.at http://www.dafne.at
Belgium, Flanders	 OPENBARE VLAAMSE AFVALSTOFFENMAATSCHAPPIJ	Openbare Vlaamse Afvalstoffenmaatschappij, Flanders, OVAM	100.000€ Contact: Sofie.Van.den.Bulck@ovam.be
France	 ADEME	Agence De l'Environnement et de la Maîtrise de l'Energie, ADEME	100.000€ Contact: nadine.dueso@ademe.fr http://www.ademe.fr
Germany	 Umwelt Bundes Amt Für Mensch und Umwelt	Umweltbundesamt in collaboration with Projekttraeger Juelich	100.000€ http://www.fzjuelich.de/ptj/index.php?index=369
Netherlands	 Stichting Kennisontwikkeling en Kennisoverdracht Bodem	Stichting Kennisontwikkeling en Kennisoverdracht Bodem, SKB	100.000€ http://www.skbodem.nl
Sweden	 NATUR VÅRDS VERKET	Naturvårdsverket	100.000€ http://www.naturvardsverket.se
United Kingdom	 Environment Agency	The Environment Agency of England and Wales	GBP 65.000 (approx. 95.000€) Contact: jon.greaves@environment-agency.gov.uk

A Helpdesk for the execution of the call is provided by the SNOWMAN Secretariat.

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