

# Geothermal ERANET Cofund Action CFA

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National Research Council of Italy (CNR)

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Offenburg, 4 March 2015

# Aim of the ERANT Geothermal CFA (proposal)



- We assume there will be an opportunity to apply for an ERANET Cofund Action during 2016 or 2017 (i.e. there will be a call)
- Have a compelling story that partners are willing to pool, share and leverage their research funds and individual capability
- Establish a durable cooperation among program owners and program managers
- Convince reviewers and Commission that we can efficiently and effectively pool national resources and launch joint calls (more than 1)
- Thus benefitting the deployment of geothermal energy applications

## Definition of ERA-NET in Horizon 2020 (Article 26)

Public-public partnerships may be supported either within, or across, the priorities set out in Article 5(2), in particular through:

(a) an **ERA-NET instrument using grants** to support public-public partnerships in their preparation, establishment of networking structures, design, implementation and coordination of joint activities as well as Union topping up of no more than one joint call a year and of actions of a transnational nature;

For the purposes of point (a), top-up funding shall be conditional on the **demonstration of added value of the action at Union level** and on prior indicative **financial commitments in cash or in kind of the participating entities to the joint calls and actions**. The ERA-NET instrument may include, where possible, an objective to harmonise rules and implementation modalities of the joint calls and actions. It may also be used in order to prepare for an initiative pursuant to Article 185 TFEU.

## Type of action used for ERA-NET: Programme Cofund

(Rules for participation, Article 2 – Definitions)

*(16) 'programme co-fund action' means an action funded through a grant **the main purpose of which is supplementing individual calls or programmes funded by entities, other than Union funding bodies, managing research and innovation programmes.***

*A programme co-fund action **may also include complementary activities** of networking and coordination between programmes in different countries;*

Commission

## Who can participate ?

- **Eligibility conditions ERA-NET Cofund similar to ERA-NET under FP7.**
- Participation is limited to entities that can fully participate in joint calls and other actions between national and regional programmes.
- Participants in ERA-NET Cofund actions must be research funders: legal entities owning or managing public research and innovation programmes.
- **Programme Owners** are typically national/regional ministries/authorities responsible for defining, financing or managing research programmes carried out at national or regional level.
- **Programme Managers** are typically research councils or funding agencies or other national or regional organisations that implement research programmes under the supervision of the programme owners. Their participation has to be mandated by the national/regional authorities in charge (normally the responsible Ministry).
- Only in addition to the minimum conditions, and if justified by the nature of the action, **programmes funded by other entities** (international programmes, foundations or other non-public programmes) may participate.

## ERA-NET Cofund – main features

- **ERA-NET Cofund: implementation of a co-funded joint call for proposals** (compulsory, one co-funded call per Grant Agreement)\*
- **EU contribution:** mainly a proportional contribution to total public funding of the joint call
- **Additional EU contribution to coordination costs on the basis of a unit costs** for additional activities including additional calls without top-up funding
- **Stable reimbursement rate:** ERA-NET Plus reimbursement rate from FP7 (33%) applies
- **Co-funded calls:** proposal evaluation and selection according to Horizon 2020 standards

\* ERA-NETs based on a Coordination and Support Action (CSA) are no longer possible. Only in exceptional cases it might be considered to support the preparation and structuring of specific emerging P2Ps that demonstrate clear European added value.

# Finding ERANET Geothermal CFA Partners



Cooperation with e.g. another multilateral treaty, the International Partnership for Geothermal Technology:

**USA, Iceland, Switzerland, Australia and New Zealand**

- Working Groups on reservoir modeling, stimulation and zonal isolation, induced seismicity, drilling, exploration, high temperature tools

	Geothermal ERANET	ERANET Geothermal CFA	WGC 2015 - country update	
France			yes	
Germany			yes	
Iceland			yes	
Italy			yes	
The Netherlands			yes	
Portugal			yes	
Slovakia			yes	
Slovenia			yes	
Switzerland			yes	
Turkey			yes	
Hungary			yes	
Poland			yes	Could be interested, but 2013 closure of R&D program
Russia			yes	in theory should have strong interest ...
Bulgaria			yes	might be interested
Spain			yes	most promising
Austria			yes	not sure, direct and elec has ops problems
Sweden			yes	should be interested (\$ to Lund University)
Ireland			yes	sound potentially interested
Romania			yes	sounds very interesting, could be interested
United Kingdom			yes	yes
Belgium			yes	yes, might be willing
Czech Republic			yes	yes, might be willing (Litomerice)
Denmark (incl. Greenland)			yes	yes, sound very interested (storage)
Greece				
Norway			yes	
Bosnia and Herzegovina		?	yes	direct of interest (link to Italy Ferrara and Slovenia)
Albania		?	yes	mostly GSHP
Belarus			yes	mostly GSHP
Lithuania		?	yes	mostly GSHP
Macedonia		?	yes	Potential but early stage, lacks govt interest
Georgia		?	yes	USAID "territory"; Europe less so
Serbia		?	yes	
Andorra				
Armenia				
Azerbaijan				
Croatia				
Cyprus				
Estonia				
Finland				
Kazakhstan				
Latvia				
Liechtenstein		?		
Luxembourg				
Malta				
Moldova				
Montenegro				
San Marino				
Ukraine				
Vatican City				



# Timing (.... counting backwards)

We assume the Commission will consider a Geothermal ERANET CFA:

- 1<sup>st</sup> call funds flow: 2nd half 2018 – Dec. 2021/2022
- 2<sup>nd</sup> call (no financial) Commission support: 2019 *and so on*
- Award of contracts in 1st call of ERANET CFA Geothermal 1 May 2018
- Preparation and execution of 1st call of ERANET CFA Geothermal: June 2017 – March 2018
- Selection and, if awarded, Contract Negotiations: Aug 2016-March 2017
- Call of the Commission to establish an ERANET CFA and proposal in : May 2016
- Letters of Commitments from participating countries: February 2016  
(for funding period covering 2018-2022)
- Allocation for financial resources to enable letter of commitments: 2015/2016
- Writing the proposal for the establishment of an ERANET Geothermal CFA: May 2015-May 2016

# After informal discussions with interested parties, there follows an official “Invitation to participate and request for a Letter of Commitment” - example



Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology  
The Deputy Director General for Innovation  
Radetzkystrasse 2, 1030 Vienna, Austria  
Tel.: +43 (1) 71162-66 3204, Fax-Ext.: 66 2013  
E-Mail: ingolf.schaedler@bmvit.gv.at



Bundesministerium  
für Verkehr,  
Innovation und Technologie



## EXAMPLE Invitation Letter BMVIT

Switzerland  
Mr Pascal [Previdoli](#)  
First Deputy Director  
DETEC - Swiss Federal Office of Energy (Bundesamt für Energie)  
P.O. Box, CH 3003, Bern

Vienna, March 11, 2014

Invitation to participate in ERA-Net Smart Grids Plus

Dear Mr Previdoli!

The Austrian Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology has set a focus on the contribution to the European initiatives on Smart Grids and Smart Cities over the last years. As a consequence my department has taken the initiative, together with the Swedish Energy Agency and the Swiss Federal Office of Energy, to coordinate a transnational programme cooperation "ERA-Net Smart Grids Plus". The goal of this initiative is to facilitate transnational joint programming, by creating a variety of excellent joint R&D projects with a strong focus on the implementation of Smart Grids in Europe. Through the realisation of joint calls together with the implementation of appropriate coordination and accompanying measures this initiative will help to efficiently join the forces on the basis of successful research and demonstration initiatives in the different countries and regions.

In the preparation process during the year 2013 participants from 16 European countries and regions have stated their strong interest and indicated the allocation of budgets of more than 30 million Euros for a joint call in 2014/2015. In a series of workshops these participants contributed to the development of a ground laying working-paper, which now serves as the basis for the further development of the cooperation. The findings have been discussed with the European Commission, which clearly welcomes the initiative, as well as to relevant stakeholder platforms on the European level like the EEGI and the European Technology Platform Smart Grids. The initiative is now preparing to submit a proposal for ERA-Net co-fund in the framework of

Horizon 2020 to the European Commission by deadline May 7, 2014 on the basis of the ERA-Net Smart Grids Plus working document.

Thus it is a pleasure for me, to formally invite DETEC - Swiss Federal Office of Energy (Bundesamt für Energie) as one of the programme owners of relevant R&D programmes that have shown interest in the initiative, to participate in this cooperation and in particular in the proposal to the European Commission. To take the essential organisational and formal steps, we have allocated sufficient resources with a team of experienced institutions from the core team countries to develop and submit the proposal in time. The responsible coordinator is Mr. Michael Hübner from my Department of Energy and Environmental Technologies (michael.huebner@bmvit.gv.at). As already communicated by the preparation team, a full consortium meeting for proposal preparation is scheduled for March 18, 2014 in Vienna, the first steering board meeting is planned for the May 19, 2014.

We kindly ask you to confirm your commitment by writing, until April 7, 2014 at the latest. Please indicate the budget you intend to allocate to the co-funded call, which is scheduled to start by end of this year, and appoint the programme managing institution that will participate as an eligible partner in the consortium.

I am looking forward to a fruitful cooperation.

best regards

Ingolf Schädlér m.p.

Deputy Director General for Innovation  
Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology



# Example: Response and Letter of Commitment



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra  
Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of the Environment,  
Transport, Energy and Communications DETEC  
Swiss Federal Office of Energy SFOE  
Energy Efficiency Division



CH-3003 Bern, SFOE, mm

Bundesministerium für Verkehr, Innovation  
und Technologie (bmvit)  
Herrn Mag. Ingolf Schädler  
Radetzkystrasse 2  
1030 Wien  
Österreich

Furthermore, the Swiss Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC), hereby represented by SFOE, intends to allocate an amount of € 4'000'000 to the Swiss participants of transnational projects (Swiss "MS call budget") selected in the first cofounded call of the planned "ERA-NET Smart Grids Plus" initiative.

Bern, March 31, 2014

Letter of commitment to the "ERA-NET Smart Grids Plus" initiative

Dear Mr. Schädler,

We thank you for your formal invitation of March 11, 2014, to join the "ERA-NET Smart Grids Plus" initiative in the frame of European Commission's "Horizon 2020" programme.

The Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE) has a long tradition in participating in transnational RDD&D co-operations in the area of Smart Grids, e.g., in the previous "Smart Grids ERA-NET", the IEA Implementing Agreements "Enard" and later "ISGAN", or the "Kooperation D-A-CH Smart Grids". In the frame of the former ERA-NET Switzerland was deeply involved in several tasks, provided additional in-kind contributions to the "Smart Grids Monitor", and took part in two calls for R&D projects leading to four transnational projects co-funded by SFOE. Switzerland particularly appreciates the creative value of a European network on Smart Grids RDD&D activities. SFOE together with the Austrian Federal Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology and the Swedish Energy Agency already expressed its interest through an active engagement during the past year in the transformation of the results of the former ERA-NET into the concept of the "ERA-NET Smart Grids Plus" initiative.

As part of the core team SFOE already allocated a certain amount of resources in order to actively support the preparation of the "ERA-NET Smart Grids Plus" proposal and to bridge the gap between the submission of the proposal and its possible approval in the fall of 2014. In addition, Switzerland is ready to take over a role associated to the quality management on the consortium level within the "ERA-NET coordination" work packages, whose costs are online to be shared among the participants of the "ERA-NET Smart Grids Plus" initiative.

Furthermore, the Swiss Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC), hereby represented by SFOE, intends to allocate an amount of € 4'000'000 to the Swiss participants of transnational projects (Swiss "MS call budget") selected in the first cofounded call of the planned "ERA-NET Smart Grids Plus" initiative.

Mühlstrasse 4, CH-3003 Hilggen  
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Phone +41 31 322 96 11, Fax +41 31 323 25 00  
contact@bfe.admin.ch  
www.bfe.admin.ch

It is the dedicated goal of the ERA-NET COFUND instrument to fund multinational innovative research initiatives to implement and validate smart grid solutions that have already reached TRL 5-6 and bringing them to TRL 6-7. Therefore, the amount of € 4'000'000 will be contributed by SFOE's "Pilot-, Demonstration- and Light-house-Programme" and is strictly assigned to pilot (TRL 4-7) and demonstration projects (TRL 7-9) fulfilling the respective funding rules (c.f. www.bfe.admin.ch/cleantech/).

European Commission negotiations ended. Switzerland is still confident its association with "Horizon 2020" at the level of the ERA-NET COFUND. However, Switzerland is not considered as a "third country" with respect to the ERA-NET COFUND. Switzerland to participate in the "ERA-NET Smart Grids Plus" initiative. Even if Switzerland would not be able to contribute directly to the ERA-NET Smart Grids Plus initiative, Switzerland would not be affected and

Switzerland would contribute to the arising coordination and support costs as every other single committed "ERA-Net Smart Grids Plus" participant will do. In the frame of the Grant and Consortium Agreement Switzerland would take appropriate measures to contribute to the common goal of maximizing the number of selected projects even if Switzerland would not be able to directly contribute to the proposed "mixed-mode financing" model.

The Swiss Federal Office of Energy holds the unified role of programme ownership and management. As the Swiss member to the steering board (distinguished to programme owners) and to the management board (distinguished to programme managers) it nominates:

Dr. Michael MOSER  
Scientific Advisor  
Swiss Federal Office of Energy (SFOE)  
CH-3003 Bern  
Phone +41 58 465 36 23  
Fax +41 58 463 25 00  
E-Mail michael.moser@bfe.admin.ch

We highly appreciate the efforts of bmvit with respect to the preparation of the "ERA-NET Smart Grids Plus" initiative and are pleased that bmvit is going to take over the role of the project coordinator. In that case, we are looking forward to extending successfully the fruitful cooperation on Smart Grids related RDD&D in Europe and to a positive assessment of the proposal by the European Commission.

Yours sincerely,

Swiss Federal Office of Energy SFOE

P. Previdoli  
Dr. Pascal Previdoli  
First Deputy Director



## On “commitments”

- In other energy related ERANET CFAs –
  - Partners contribute between €100k - €4'000k
  - Partners contribute between €190k - €3'700k
  - Partners contribute between €1'000k – 6'000k
- Key is participation and enabling joint calls  
(so: Gerdi, Adele and Gunter suggest that any figure is ok)
- Commitments are probably the «bottleneck» or «critical path» item

# To accomplish the aim we need to demonstrate:



## 1. Excellence

Your proposal must address a topic set out in the work programme, for this call for proposals.

1.1 Objectives

1.2 Relation to the work programme

1.3 Concept and approach

1.4 Ambition

## 2. Impact

2.1 Expected impacts

2.2 Measures to maximise impact

a) Dissemination and exploitation of results

b) Communication activities

## 3. Implementation

3.1 Project plan

3.2 Management structure and procedures

3.3 Consortium as a whole

3.4 Resources to be committed

## 4. Members of the consortium

## 5. Ethics and security

5.1 Ethics

5.2 Security



# Our plan of action

- We confirm that an ERANET Geothermal CFA is possible
- We will participate in a call leading to a ERANET Geothermal CFA (Action item: yes/no)
- Gerdi, Adele and Gunter lead the writing team
- We ask for all likely partners to nominate one point of contact to contribute to the writing of the proposal (Action item: nominate by 1 May 2015)
- Gerdi, Adele and Gunter will contact other possible European participants
- The writing team assembles during the second 2<sup>nd</sup> half August 2015 to discuss an early draft of the proposal
- Letters of Commitment (point of contacts seek to establish whether Letters of Commitments may be forthcoming and, if so, what the level of commitment might be).
- *Hypothesis: we aim for a call for proposals that closes in May 2016*