



Announcement of the COFASP Call

Call for applicants for transnational research in the thematic areas
Aquaculture, Fishery and Seafood Processing launched by COFASP

January 2015

BACKGROUND TO THE CALL

Cooperation in Fisheries, Aquaculture and Seafood Processing (COFASP) is an ERA-NET created to directly address actions envisaged within fisheries, aquaculture and seafood. It was created as under the KBBE theme in FP7, and is part of the Europe 2020 strategy, which recognises bioeconomy as an important part of the strategy. The main objectives of COFASP are:

- *To lay the basis for exploitation according to the precautionary principles and to enhance innovation in and competitiveness of the primary sectors fisheries and aquaculture as well as subsequent seafood processing and distribution to the consumer.*
- *To define the science, information and data necessary to underpin the revision of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and to ensure its successful implementation by designing complementary national research programmes and outlining monitoring and information/data sharing systems needed.*

COFASP is based on the earlier ERA-NET MariFish and the running ERA-NET SEAS-ERA, and will run 48 months from its initiation on 1 February 2013, ending in February 2017. COFASP has 26 partners from 15 countries in Europe.

COFASP intends to launch 3 calls during its runtime. This call is the second call to be launched by 8 member countries of COFASP (see Annex A) with a total budget of up to €6.4 million.

THEMATIC RESEARCH AREAS

Interested project consortia can apply to the topic **Resource optimization, mapping and reduction of ecological footprint, environmental sustainability of aquaculture, fisheries and seafood processing and interaction with other production** across three sectorial research areas and a trans-sectorial research area which will be funded according to the funding table given in Annex A. The proposals should be structured around (one or more) sub-topics listed under each of the sectorial research areas.

Topic: Resource optimization, mapping and reduction of ecological footprint, environmental sustainability of aquaculture, fisheries and seafood processing and interaction with other production

Keywords: mapping; model; fish meal production; life cycle assessment; energy; water consumption; water treatment technology; increase in water/feed efficiency in aquaculture

Challenges:

In the context of a global growing population and climate change, there is a huge challenge of feeding the planet while safeguarding its limited natural resources (fuel, energy, water and

biological resources) for future generations. At a global level, fisheries and aquaculture play a significant role in eliminating hunger, promoting health and reducing poverty (FAO, *The State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture*, 2014). Some increase in production could be expected from fish farming, but it will be very difficult to increase the catch of wild fish significantly beyond current levels.

Resource optimisation is not simply producing the same or more at a lower cost. It is also to reduce ecological footprint of fisheries, aquaculture and seafood production. This means that obtaining the most from the current and expected production needs to be seen having into account the three dimensions (environmental, economic and social) of sustainable development. For managers to find the appropriate balance, there is a need to better understand the trade-off between these effects at different phases of utilisation of the resource, from the catching operation to the ultimate utilisation by the final consumer. A complete mapping of the environmental, economic and social effects associated to the various steps of the production chain has never been made in a useful manner to guide decision-makers. Furthermore, product environmental footprint (PEF) is a major issue as EU Environment DG is currently organizing series of stakeholder consultation meetings on this topic to support the development of compliance systems for PEF declarations (http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eussd/smgp/pef_pilots.htm).

Scope:

Fisheries

- Mapping and modelling of the environmental, economic and social effects of the fishing sector under different schemes of maximisation of resource efficiency and minimization of carbon footprint, allowing to respond to questions such as: which combination produce the best balance between economic efficiency, environmental and social effects? These schemes should include energy consumption, vessel design, effects on targeted resources, environment and society.
- Developing techniques and strategies to assess the impact of coastal fisheries on sensitive habitats in a context of sustainable exploitation of fishery resources.

Aquaculture

- Developing water treatment technology and technologies to increase water/feed efficiency to lower the production cost and the environmental impact of aquaculture.
- Developing strategies to increase efficiency of aquaculture production (e.g. feed conversion ratio, reduction of the time to slaughter ...).
- Developing strategies to decrease waste effluents and bio-deposit impacts (for mariculture and inland aquaculture).

Seafood production

- Mapping the environmental, economic and social aspects of the fish processing industry and its contribution to: i) satisfy demand, ii) fully utilise all landed fish and iii) increase the value added of the fish landed.

- Developing new strategies to appropriately manage and use the entire harvest of fish products and the use of all co-products for high value products for feed, food, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics.
- Developing new technology/techniques in the processing sector to adjust to changes in raw materials (e.g. species, size).

Trans-sectorial

- Developing life cycle assessment of the whole chain from the fisheries to the consumers, from fish meals to aquaculture, up to the consumers including waste generation, re-use and valorisation.
- Developing methodology in which impacts of all activities linked to seafood can be determined at the appropriate ecosystem geographical and time scale (coastal fisheries and aquaculture) and compared to the effects of other activities such as terrestrial production, for the implementation of an ecosystem based management.
- Optimization of fish meals from limited fisheries resources in breeding for aquaculture requests and competitive use (e.g. poultry production)
- Developing methodology to quantify the ecological footprint and the impact on biodiversity such as aquaculture escapees and/or from the release of species for re-stocking on genetic contamination of wild stocks and developing strategies to solve this problem
- Developing methodologies and models to determine and manage the impacts of a multitude of activities at the appropriate ecosystem geographical and time scale (coastal fisheries and aquaculture)

Impact:

Optimized and sustainable exploitation, production and processing of aquatic resources in the EU.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Project consortia are eligible if they consist of partners from at least three COFASP partner countries providing cash funding for the call.

Research institutions, public or private, and private companies may be eligible for funding by their national funding bodies. Applicants should consult their national regulations and contact their National Contact Points (see Guideline for Applicants).

The indicative funds provided by each funding partner are listed in Annex A of this document.

It is the intention of COFASP to fund more than one project per topic. This should be taken into consideration when applying.

Applicants from countries which are not partners in the COFASP ERA-Net or from countries which do not provide funding for a specific thematic area of the call are welcome to participate. However, their costs need to be covered from their own resources or by other sources; they cannot coordinate a project and their contribution to the project should not be vital. They are not taken into account in the minimum number of eligible partners and countries in the COFASP eligibility criteria.

Note that some funding partners will have sector specific funding, whereas others will have a cross-sector funding pool.

PRE-REGISTRATION AND SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

The guideline for applicants, as well as the national regulations for each funding partner, is available at the COFASP website (www.COFASP.eu). Applications have to be filled in and submitted via the website's submission portal.

The pre-registration is mandatory and has to be concluded by 15 April 2015 at 13.00 CET.

The full proposal has to be submitted by 17 June 2015 at 13.00 CET.

Detailed information is provided within the guideline for applicants.

ANNEX A - INDICATIVE CALL BUDGET

FUNDER CONTRIBUTION TABLE OF THE COFASP CONSORTIUM PER COUNTRY AND SECTORIAL AREA

COUNTRY	FISHERIES	AQUACULTURE	SEAFOOD PROCESSING
DENMARK (DAFA)		500 k€	
DENMARK (INNOFOND)		500 k€	
FRANCE (ANR)		1000 k€	
GREECE (GSRT)		500 k€	
ITALY (MIPAAF)*	200 k€*		
NORWAY (RCN)	1000 k€	1200 k€	
PORTUGAL (FCT)	400 k€		
ROMANIA (UEFISCDI)	250 k€	250 k€	
TURKEY (GDAR)	600 k€		
TOTAL: 6150 k€			

* MIPAAF will fund only the following sub-topic (trans-sectorial) of the call:
Developing methodologies and models to determine and manage the impacts of a multitude of activities at the appropriate ecosystem geographical and time scale (coastal fisheries and aquaculture)

For contact & support, please refer to the Guideline for applicants.