

Expression for Interest: Project initiatives related to WP2
“Regional challenges and needs to be supported by EO/Copernicus”
Copernicus Stakeholder Identification and Engaging potential Copernicus stakeholders at local level

The CoRdiNet-consortium (more info: www.CoRdiNet.net) invites external partners to propose activities that focus on making the Copernicus-ecosystem at regional and local level, at both sides of the value chain, the demand and supply side, more transparent and enhance a systematic dialogue between user and solution providers. Project activities should aim at providing a better insight into needs and challenges of local and regional authorities already using or in the stage of taking advantage from Copernicus but also existing Earth Observation-based solutions by different stakeholder (Small and medium sized enterprises, research institutes, etc.).

In order to integrate external partners and outreach broadly across Europe, the CoRdiNet-consortium set aside a specific “fund” of 100 k EUR to **support joint activities** between the consortium and external partners involving concrete cooperation activities. Selected activities will be supported by the project’s funds with a **financial volume of max. 5.000 (five thousand) EUR** per activity. The supported activities will be selected by an independent evaluation board on the base of pre-defined criteria listed in the call.

Objectives

- Proposed activities should generate information on local and regional authorities already using successfully Copernicus based services or products, service provider already addressing regional challenges successfully, regional/local authorities interested in implementing Copernicus based services;
- Project activities should contribute to launch a systematic dialogue amongst Copernicus-stakeholders, namely public users, local and regional authorities, companies, research players, business associations with the objective to get a better insight into challenges, needs, interests and potential barriers to a more effective exploitation of Copernicus data.
- Proposed activities should contribute to get a better understanding of the challenges (technical, social, cultural, legal, economic, political, staff training, building skills and knowledge) to an optimal exploitation of the Copernicus program.
- Proposed activities that reach out to new user-communities, e.g. digitalization, artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, are welcome.
- Proposed activities should be complementary to the activities of the core consortium and contribute to generate additional findings, additional outreach etc. Applicants are invited to visit the CoRdiNet-website: www.CoRdiNet.net to familiarize themselves with the activities of the core-consortium.

Eligibility criteria

- Only proposals by legal entities, already identified and confirmed as Copernicus Relay from Copernicus-participating countries (EU-countries and Norway and Island) or third countries that signed a bilateral cooperation arrangement with the Commission, are eligible. Copernicus Relays as the applying entity may engage in a collaborative approach with the Copernicus Academy.
- The regional and local level (Nuts II/Nuts III) are the targeted levels of the activities subject of the call. In individual cases, depending on the Member State, proposals by Nuts I entities will be accepted.

- Applicants have to demonstrate proven experience with the proposed activity or proven evidence for the outputs of the proposed activity.
- Applicants have to demonstrate that they have a considerable outreach in their region and have access to a broad range of Copernicus-stakeholder and the relevant public user and interlocutors in regional/local administrations.

Selection criteria:

- Proposed activity is clearly described and soundly presented;
- Proven/demonstrated commitment for the proposed activity (e.g. own contribution to budget etc.)
- Capability/effectiveness/innovative approach to stimulate dialogue amongst the described target groups
- Capability/effectiveness/innovative approach to generate new findings on challenges, needs and barriers of Copernicus use at regional and local level
- Special attention will be paid to project proposals proposing new networking formats that in an innovative and more effective way encourage exchange amongst described target groups
- Capability to generate new findings in areas that are not covered by CoRdiNet-partners either in thematic or geographic terms or new user-communities (complementarity to CoRdiNet-consortium)

Each criterion will be ranked by independent experts on a scale starting from 1 (poor) up to 10 points (outstanding). The highest scored activities will be selected.

Time Schedule:

Publication Date: 03/05/2019
 Submission Date: 31/05/2019
 Project Evaluation: 01/06 – 30/06/2019
 Projects selected: 05/07/2019
 Project results and outputs: 15th September 2019

All the activities and the foreseen outputs (i.e., stakeholders identification and engagement, interviews and questionnaire feedback collection, report on the results) must be completed and delivered to the CoRdiNet consortium **by 15th September 2019**, to allow their ingestion within the D2.3 (Report on the analysis of stakeholder feedbacks and strategy to cope with needs and “barriers”).

In order to speed up the work of the applicants of the selected proposals as well as producing results ready to be integrated with the ones already achieved within the CoRdiNet consortium, some useful tools (i.e. stakeholders inventory template, questionnaire format for interviews) already produced within WP2 will be made available to selected applicants.

Financial conditions:

Up to 100% of eligible expenses of selected activities will be reimbursed if in line with the time constrain cited above. Contributions by applicants to the overall budget will be considered favorably.

The applicants have to present an overview of the expected expenses related to the selected activities. Following the successful implementation of the selected activity, presentation of original paid invoices form the base for reimbursement.

The special project funds aim at stimulating external partners to develop cooperative initiatives and connect with the CoRdiNet-project. Therefore, only expenses that arise directly for the implementation of the selected activity are eligible. Examples for eligible costs are: translation services, printing, expenses related to the organization of a workshop/event, e.g. catering, venue, technic;

Please note, staff, equipment and subcontract expenses are not eligible.

Civil/dual use scenarios/GDPR/Gender Equality in H2020:

Please note in case of proposed dual use scenarios only the part referring to civil use might be supported.

The CoRdiNet consortium is funded under the H2020-program and therefore committed to the sole support of civil purpose related activities.

With the application the applicant confirms that the applying organization complies with EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

The CoRdiNet partners are committed to promote and support equal opportunities and a balanced participation of women and men in their project work this call is part of.

More info on CoRdiNet-project:

CoRdiNet is an open network of five very diverse Copernicus Relays with a coordinating function on local, regional, cluster and national level, supporting, promoting and stimulating digitalization and new business solutions based on Earth Observation (EO) i.e. Copernicus data. This coordination & support action bundles the local expertise in the civil use of EO, close to the needs and offers of citizens, administrations and businesses, and will share them with other Copernicus Relays, Academies and new EO players. Joint outreach and dissemination activities ensure embedding of its work in national and EU/ESA activities. CoRdiNet enjoys support of EARSC, the FPA, the CSO, and six external regions.