



MOTEURS DE CROISSANCE ET D'EMPLOI

April 2011

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CLUSTER POLICY

▪ CALLS FOR PROJECTS

Overview of the R&D calls for projects

Finding the right call for projects, for a collaborative project for the competitiveness clusters.

Several calls for projects make it possible to finance the collaborative R&D projects of the competitiveness clusters. According to the investment amount, their positioning in the value chain and their individual or collaborative nature, the cluster's members can choose :

The type of projects	Conditions	Investment amount (M€)	Frequency of the calls for projects
Investments for the future Structuring R&D projects of the competitiveness clusters (PSPC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - collaborative projects (at least 2 companies and 1 laboratory), labelled by the clusters - with a clear economic ambition and contributing to the structuring or strengthening of a technological sector 	Between 8 and 50	Dynamically, until January 2012
Single interministerial fund (FUI) R&D projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - collaborative projects (at least 2 companies and 1 laboratory), labelled by the clusters - eventually targeting the emergence of new products or innovative services 	Between 0.75 and 8	Two per year
OSEO Strategic industrial innovation (ISI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - projects involving at least 2 companies and 1 laboratory - projects leading to significant technological breakthroughs, major innovations in terms of offers for consumers - companies with fewer than 5,000 employees (SME / ISC) that are receiving aid 	(*)	Dynamically
European Union RTDFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - collaborative projects around European consortia within the framework of various annual calls for projects 	Variable according to the calls for projects	
National research agency (ANR) Calls for partner projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - collaborative R&D projects that can be labelled by the clusters - a strong scientific dimension: increasing the scientific and technological potential of the members of clusters 	Variable according to the calls for projects	One per year for each call for projects

(*) Maximum €10 million of aid per project

OSEO also offers innovation aids in order to support innovation projects by SMEs. This involves individual projects, rather than collaborative projects along the lines of the calls for projects presented above. Other thematic calls for projects also make it possible to find support for R&D projects.



•INNOVATION PLATFORMS

2nd call for projects : the complete files must be submitted by 1 September 2011 at the latest

Clarifications for preparing projects.

The projects of the innovation platforms shortlisted as part of the second call for projects are currently in the engineering phase. The final projects are expected to be submitted by 1 September 2011. Project promoters are invited to submit their projects to the following address: plateformes.cdc-dgcis@finances.gouv.fr. Clarifications regarding the arrangement of projects and the aims of the public decision-makers in terms of selection are presented (in French) in the "*Complément d'informations et recommandations en vue de la sélection définitive des projets*".

Agreements for the selected projects will be signed before the end of 2011. To this end, the DGCIS must be provided with all documents relating to the signing of agreements before 15 October 2011.

•SURVEY RESULTS

In 2009, the competitiveness clusters carried out 2,318 R&D projects

Nearly half of these R&D projects led to the development of a product that was placed on the market, or a new process. By the end of 2009, 736 projects underway since 2006 had been carried out.

This is an example of the information drawn from the statistical dashboards of the clusters relative to 2009. These statistical elements are gathered by the General Department for Competitiveness, Industry and Services (DGCIS). They are released to the public in the form of tables and maps : 65 individual files (the 6 newly labelled clusters in the eco-technologies sector are not yet involved) as well as 4 summary files on all of the clusters, the worldwide clusters, the clusters with a worldwide vocation and the other competitiveness clusters. The 65 statistical scoreboards of the clusters can be accessed from their descriptive files.



▪ DOCUMENTATION

The development of eco-industries in France : what roles for the competitiveness clusters?

18 recommendations from the General Council for Industry, Energy and Technologies in favour of the development of eco-industries.

This is the outcome of the report prepared by the General Council for Industry, Energy and Technologies (CGIET) and submitted to Mr. Eric Brisson, Minister for Industry, Energy and the Digital Economy at the start of 2011.

The report includes recommendations on the new missions that could be taken on by the competitiveness clusters, with the help of their network of close partners, in order to encourage the development of the eco-industries sector. These recommendations involve five major domains :

- stimulating innovation in a rapidly expanding sector at the cutting edge;
- helping companies to define their strategies and market access;
- helping companies to search for equity capital and to mobilise financing;
- support for the creation of readily available sources of shareholders equity;
- support for the development of suitable competences.

Given their twofold territorial and thematic base, the clusters and inter-clusters have been identified as actors that are well-positioned in order to encourage the implementation of these recommendations. This will be done in collaboration with the Strategic Committee for the Eco-Industries Sector, the COSEI, to which the recommendations have been presented and with which prioritization efforts have been undertaken.

▪ CLOSE-UP ON INVESTMENTS FOR THE FUTURE

The call for structuring R&D projects : something new

The calendar for better visibility.

The call for structuring R&D projects will now be organised into waves in order to allow for a faster selection of projects in 2011.

As such, every candidate submitting a project **before 29 April 2011** can be assured of receiving a decision before the end of July of this year.

The next filing deadline will be **30 September 2011**, for a decision before the end of the year.



▪ CLOSE-UP ON INVESTMENTS FOR THE FUTURE

Strengthening the competitiveness of SMI and of the 11 strategic industrial sectors

Understanding the sector's call for projects.

Some of the structuring actions expected from this call for projects include the set-up of collaborative service tools, strategic accompaniment for companies and the creation of shared industrial units.

The criteria for the selection of projects include their strategic and collective aspects, the distribution of the financing, and the financial involvement of the project's promoters and partners.

Launched in September 2010, this call for projects has been provided with an envelope of €69 million by the State. The operator is Oséo. It breaks down into two phases :

- the first defines the eligible projects. It began in late 2010 and will be completed in late 2011.
- the second will serve to select the projects found to be eligible, that will then be able to receive a State subsidy. An initial wave of contract signings is expected in the summer of 2011.

Initially, the project must be labelled by a strategic committee from within the sector or a professional federation from the sector in question. The project can then be filed on the Oséo extranet platform.

▪ CLOSE-UP ON INVESTMENTS FOR THE FUTURE

The call for laboratories of excellence projects

A look at the results.

100 projects were selected from amongst the 241 projects received and assessed by an international jury, chaired by Professor Manuel Garcia Velarde. 26% of the projects involved human and social sciences, 22% the biology / health sector, 17% environmental sciences and the universe, 15% digital sciences, 10% the energy domain, 9% the nanotechnologies sector, etc.

The purpose of this call for projects is to provide laboratories having international visibility with significant resources over 10 years. The aim is to increase their excellence, and to attract internationally renowned researchers and teacher-researchers. Its ambition is to develop a high-level integrated research, training and exploitation policy. It has been allocated 1 billion euros, including €100 million of consumable allocations and €900 million of interest-bearing allocations.



▪ CLOSE-UP ON INVESTMENTS FOR THE FUTURE

University hospital institutes (UHI)

A look at the results.

6 university hospital institute projects were selected from amongst the 19 submitted applications. This included the infectiology cluster in Marseille, the project focusing on genetic illnesses at the Necker Sick Children's Hospital in Paris, cardiovascular surgery in Bordeaux, neuro-degenerative illnesses at the brain and spinal cord institute at the Pitié-Salpêtrière in Paris, surgery in Strasbourg and metabolic diseases at the Pitié-Salpêtrière.

These CHUs will receive additional financing in order to purchase equipment. They can also put together teams in order to carry out very high level research activities, as well as training and care actions.

This action is intended to assist with the emergence of centres of excellence that will strengthen France's attractiveness in the field of health research. With the status of foundations, the UHIs will receive interest from an overall allocation of €850 million (i.e. approximately €30 million to be shared between the beneficiaries each year) and €170 million for immediate consumption.

Finally, based on the jury's recommendations, a further 6 projects will receive isolated financial aid on the basis of promising projects. An overall envelope of €35 million will be allocated to them.

▪ CLOSE-UP ON INVESTMENTS FOR THE FUTURE

Excellence initiatives

A look at the intermediate results.

At the end of an initial shortlist phase, 7 applications were selected from the 17 projects received. This involves: Guilplus, Idex Bordeaux, Idex Lyon Saint Etienne, PSLetoile, Premium, Toulouse Idex and Unistra. This shortlisting is part of the first wave of the call for projects.

The jury assessed the projects on the basis of their current strengths, but also in terms of their level of ambition for the future and their ability to implement their strategy. The jury will provide its recommendations to the promoters of the shortlisted projects, so that they can improve their projects and finalize their submissions for the selection phase. The first excellence initiatives will be selected in the summer of 2011.

With 7.7 billion euros allocated, this call for projects is intended to ensure the emergence in France of 5 to 10 multi-disciplinary excellence clusters in higher education and research, of worldwide standing. They should be capable of rivalling with the world's greatest universities.






EU NEWS

▪ EUROPE

The green paper on European funding for research, development and innovation in order to contribute to enhancing the European debate

The European Commission has published a green paper for which a public consultation is in progress until 20 May 2011.

The European Union is planning to make research, development and innovation funding more attractive and accessible for both researchers and companies. A common framework now covering the entire innovation chain will be deliberately simplified. It will combine three aims :

-  providing the European Union with a scientific base on the highest worldwide level;
-  stimulating competitiveness in all domains;
-  targeting major societal challenges (climate change, rational use of resources, energy and food security, health and ageing of the population).

This document underscores the fact that the funding resources provided by the European Union (framework programme for technological research and development, framework programme for competitiveness and innovation, European Technology Institute) offer an enormous potential for growth, jobs and improving the quality of life in Europe.

The competitiveness clusters and their partners have an important role to play by participating in this public consultation.

▪ EUROPE

Call for European proposals for competitive clusters on a global scale

For the internationalization of the clusters and the excellence of their governance

On 1 March 2011, the European Commission published a new call for proposals, targeting the emergence and development of clusters on a global scale. It is intended for the countries participating in the framework programme for competitiveness and innovation (CIP), including France. It involves two actions, the first targeting the internationalization of the clusters, and the other intended to promote the excellence of their governance. Both actions will be carried out in close collaboration with the European Cluster Alliance and the initiative targeting the excellence of European clusters.

The internationalization of the clusters

This action is intended to encourage cooperation between European clusters. It builds on the support structures already successfully implemented in certain Member States.



The established consortium must consist of at least four partners coming from three different countries participating in the CIP, namely :

- an authority or a national or regional public institution that supports international activities or is committed to adding an international dimension to an existing cluster or network-based programme;
- at least one cluster or a network-based organisation within the coordinator's home country or region;
- at least two clusters or network-based organisations from other countries taking part in the CIP.

This process will take place in two steps :

- the presentation of the concept note is set for 10 May 2011
- the filing date for the complete proposal will be indicated at a later time.

The promotion of excellence in cluster governance

This section is intended to improve the governance of European clusters. It builds on the European Cluster Excellent initiative.

The call for proposals is open to a minimum of three national or regional authorities or public institutions from at least three countries participating in the CIP.

As the process involves only a single step, the complete proposal will have to be presented before 10 June 2011.

▪ PUBLICATION

The April 2011 edition of the monitoring bulletin for State aid available to competitiveness clusters is ready for consultation.

In the news this month :

- The Courts have clarified the notions of economic activity and undertakings for which the public financing falls into the category of State. This decision related to the construction and operation of an airport runway intended to provide the DHL company with tailor-made services. With a much broader scope than simply airport operations, this decision applies to all services of a general economic interest, especially ones that compete directly with other economic actors on the European market.
- The European Commission has authorised a Danish system providing aid to the buyers of electric vehicles in order to carry out tests intended to identify the main obstacles relative to the usage of electric vehicles as opposed to diesel or gasoline vehicles. The aid recipients will have to publish test results.



INTERNATIONAL



▪ THEMATIC WORKSHOP

The thematic workshop “international development of competitiveness clusters”

The slide presentations shown during the roundtables can now be consulted.

A new thematic workshop was organised on 28 March 2011 at Bercy. Its topic was the international development of competitiveness clusters.

Two roundtables led to exchanges regarding :

-  the international strategy of the clusters;
-  tools for accompanying the international efforts of clusters.

This workshop led to many presentations and exchanges on these topics. In response to questions put forward by the clusters, a functional box will be created in the near future.

LANDMARKS

50% This is the share of the personnel (full time equivalents) of the governance structures of the clusters devoted to the “strategies, R&D projects and structuring projects” activities of the competitiveness clusters.

CLUSTERS IN ACTION

FOCUS ON COMPLETED PROJECTS

▪ BIO-RESOURCES BIOTECHNOLOGIES HEALTH

Sealacian: a small shark for fighting against cancer



Copyright Kellia.

Labelled by the Mer Bretagne cluster in 2006, the Sealacian project received aid as part of the 1st call for projects through the Single Interministerial Fund (FUI).




Identifying and developing anti-cancer molecules in the dogfish

At a time when nearly 8 million people die of cancer each year around the world, new natural anti-cancer strategies are being developed. They will then supplement the current treatments that rely on surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy and hormone therapy. It had already been noted that selachian fish, including the dogfish and the shark, very seldom develop cancer. The Sealacian project then took shape; its aim is to identify and develop new anti-cancer molecules in the dogfish.

A project led by the C.RIS Pharma in Saint-Malo and the Marine biology laboratory in Caen

The project was led by the company C.RIS Pharma, a SME located in Saint-Malo, that specialises in pre-clinical development.

Other project participants included :

-  the SME Innova Proteomics in Rennes, that carried out the protein analyses for the identification and isolation of new molecules;
-  the marine molluscs physiology and ecophysiology laboratory (PE2M) at the Université de Caen, together with the UMR 100 in Ifremer, that carried out the tissue sampling and analysis;
-  the École Nationale Supérieure de Chimie de Rennes (ENSCR) provided access to a technical platform needed for the vectorization of the molecules.

Work undertaken to identify active anti-cancer molecules in dogfish

Fractions of dogfish proteins were extracted and tested on anti-cancerous lines. The ones showing an anti-cancer effect were identified, and the proteins were sequenced and then chemically synthesized.



After formulation, the most promising candidates then entered the pre-clinical stage in order to undergo in vivo regulatory toxicity and anti-cancerous activity tests.

Four molecules were identified and then vectorized in order to target tumour cells...

Amongst these proteins, four molecules were found to be non-toxic and extremely active in the fight against cancer. Moreover, the molecule's encapsulation in the vectors developed by the ENSCR made it possible to more specifically target the tumour cell and to protect the molecule. The molecules were sold to the Kelia company in St. Malo, that specialises in the characterization of new molecules with pharmaceutical activity.

...four jobs were created

In addition to these promising scientific discoveries, the Sealacian project led to the creation of four jobs.

Commercial prospects taking shape

In March 2011, the Kelia company is continuing the pre-clinical development of four anti-cancerous molecules. A patent is being filed, with the aim of being able to sell them to a pharmaceutical group for the performance of clinical trials and the marketing of medications.

Moreover, the Kelia company, that is now leading the project, the ENSCR, the PE2M laboratory and the "Development and evolution of vertebrates" laboratory in Roscoff are now beginning a new collaborative project called Peptisan, as a supplement to the Sealacian project. This project's objective is to identify other molecules that are bioactive against several pathologies, and to improve the vectors developed during the Sealacian project.

CLUSTER NEWS

▪ INTER-CLUSTER PARTNERSHIP

Five clusters are coordinating their efforts around green plant chemistry

They have created the Union des pôles de la chimie verte du végétal (UPC2V).

Five competitiveness clusters active in the field of green plant chemistry : Industries & Agro-Ressources (IAR), Axelera, Agrimip Innovation, Fibres and Xylofutur have come together to build a shared strategic vision in this field.



*Signing of the UPC2V agreement on 17 March by 5 competitiveness clusters
Copyright IAR*

On 17 March 2011, five competitiveness clusters in the field of green plant chemistry signed a partnership agreement, called the UPC2V. These clusters have included a strategic axis focusing on green chemistry as part of their strategic roadmap. The aim of the UPC2V is to unify the vision of these clusters, all key actors in this field, in order to bring together and pool a certain number of tools and resources that are needed for the emergence of new R&D projects. By

bringing together actors in green plant chemistry, this union will accompany the sector's development and ensure its greater international visibility.

The first efforts will focus on the preparation of a national mapping of the green plant chemistry projects being carried out by the competitiveness clusters, on the preparation of a directory of skills in order to access research and innovation deposits, and on efforts to promote French competences abroad.

In a worldwide context of the growing rarity of fossil resources, the reduction of greenhouse gases, etc., green plant chemistry will provide the agro-industry, wood industry and chemical industry with an opportunity to develop products with natural and renewable origins on the basis of procedures that are more respectful of the environment.

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▪ INTER-CLUSTER PARTNERSHIP

Five plant competitiveness clusters are joining forces on the international stage

They have created the Plant InterCluster (PIC)



Building on the desire of 5 competitiveness clusters, i.e. Céréales Vallée, the PEIFL (European fruit and vegetable innovation cluster), Qualimediterranée, Qualitropic and Végépolys, to promote French expertise in the plant sector, the “Plant Intercluster” consortium is targeting the development of economic, research and training partnerships with the planet’s other major clusters.

The objective of this network is to accelerate their international development, in order to facilitate the growth of the influence of their members on the international stage. The aim is to build strong international partnership relations, most particularly in the following sectors : cereals, fruits and vegetables, ornamental horticulture, medicinal and aromatic plants, seeds, tropical plants, viti/viniculture and biotechnology.

The first efforts of the Plant InterCluster include :

- The preparation of a **worldwide mapping of plant clusters**. It is intended to identify similar entities on the level of the participants (companies, research and training), that are complementary with regard to the research fields and that enjoy significant renown in the plant sector.
- The organisation of an initial **international meeting, on 25 and 26 May 2011 in Paris**, with these foreign clusters in order to create a worldwide network, to exchange best practices and, in time, to establish partnerships.
- A common mission project in the Chile-Brazil zone

Other actions such as common participation during trade fairs, conferences, and partnerships, etc. will add to the consortium’s international strategy.



▪ HUMAN RESOURCES

The Trimatec cluster is developing several initiatives in favour of human resources

A training directory, an “Allo RH” service and several HR clubs for the benefit of the cluster’s SMEs.



Direct access to the training directory on the Internet site of the Trimatec cluster

Active in the area of eco-technologies, the Trimatec competitiveness cluster has set up a broad range of services in order to meet the needs of the directors of the cluster’s member SMEs. Starting in 2007, the cluster notably initiated studies in the forward-looking management of jobs and skills (FMJS). It also gathered the expectations in terms of the accompaniment of companies.

The cluster has notably launched a range of actions in this field, including :

- **A directory of the training courses** available within the cluster’s territory has been placed online, on the Trimatec Internet site. It will allow SME managers to quickly identify institutions that can meet their needs, and that are located near their companies. Since its creation in mid-2009, the site has received 100 or so visits each month.
- An **“Allo RH” service**, a pre-consulting and pre-orientation action for the managers of SMEs. Most of the submitted questions relate to the drafting of an employment contract, dismissals or how to apply sanctions against an employee, as well as training, social relations...
- **The HR Clubs** allow the managers of SMEs to keep abreast of topics related to HR, as well as with current social and legal events. They meet approximately 8 times each year. Since 2010, certain meetings have been carried out in partnership with the ICC located in the Trimatec territory. Bringing together between 10 and 20 participants, these meetings are an opportunity to share concerns and to exchange best practices.



▪ INTERSECTION OF SECTOR-SPECIFIC DOMAINS

The SCS Cluster, sponsor of the “Télésanté 2011” day



The Secure communicating solutions (SCS) cluster is playing a major role in the networking of actors on the local, national and international levels, in order to bring best practices to lights in the area of e-health.

In this capacity, it sponsored the “Télésanté 2011” day that was organised by videoconferencing on 31 March of this year.

This event was initiated and organised by the Catel, a network of e-health skills, in collaboration with its many partners.

At this turning point in the development of e-health, encouraged by the recent publication of the decree on telemedicine, this year’s event was particularly important, both from the viewpoint of the official presentations, and of the programme.

Approximately 20 reports allowed for some perspective on similar e-health experiences in the partner regions, in such varying domains of application as psychiatry, cancerology, cardiology, the remote treating of wounds, tele-radiology, cerebrovascular disease, pathological anatomy, general medicine, diabetes, etc.



– Consult the archives [<http://www.competitivite.gouv.fr/spip.php?article116&lang=fr>]

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This newsletter is published by the DGCIS and DATAR

Address: 8, rue de Penthièvre, 75 008 PARIS

- Director of publication : M. Patrick Crézé
- Editor in chief and copy : Martine Maillard
- Editorial committee (in alphabetical order) : Delphine Abramowitz, Rémi Arquevaux, Véronique Barry, Nicolas Daubresse, Nicole Dechervois, Emma Delfau, Ana Dujmovic Blua, Aurélie Faitot, Arnaud Lafont, Fabienne Ragache, Laetitia Tailliez, Thierry Vautrin and all of the associated competitiveness clusters
- Design and production: **Stratis**
- Photos: **Stratis**, IAR, Vitagora and SCS Competitiveness clusters, Kelia, X.

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