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Coastal Waters Research Synergy Framework

Competitive Call Opening Announcement and Regulations

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Table of Signatures			
	Name	Function	Signature
Prepared by	Miguel Terra-Homem	WP1 Leader	
Reviewed by	Eirini Politi	WP5 Leader	
Approved by	Miguel Terra-Homem	Executive Board Chair	
Signatures and approvals appear on original			

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Acronyms and Abbreviations	
ACRI	ACRI-HE
ARGANS	ARGANS Limited
Co-ReSyF	Coastal Waters Research Synergy Framework
DME	Deimos Engenharia S.A.
EO	Earth Observation
IH	Instituto Hidrográfico
LNEC	Laboratório Nacional de Engenharia Civil
NOC	National Oceanography Centre, Natural Environment Research Council
ROI	Region of Interest
TDUE	TerraDue SRL
UCC	University College of Cork



1 Introduction

The Co-ReSyF project will deploy a dedicated data access and processing infrastructure and user portal, with automated tools, methods and standards to support research applications using Earth Observation (EO) data for monitoring of Coastal Waters, leveraging system components deployed as part of the SenSyF project (www.sensyf.eu). The main objective is to facilitate the access to Earth Observation data and processing tools for the Coastal research community, aiming at the provision of new Coastal Water services based on EO data.

Through Co-ReSyF's collaborative front end, even unexperienced researchers in EO will be able to upload their applications to the Cloud Platform, in order to compose and configure processing chains, for easy deployment and exploitation on a cloud computing infrastructure. Users will be able to accelerate their development of high-performing applications taking full advantage of the scalability of resources available from Terradue Cloud Platform's Application integration service. The system's facilities and tools, optimized for distributed processing, include EO data access catalogues, discovery and retrieval tools, as well as a number of pre-processing tools and toolboxes for manipulating EO data. Advanced users will also be able to go further and take full control of the processing chains and algorithms by having access to dedicated cloud back-end services, and to further optimize their applications for fast deployment for big data access and processing.

The Co-ReSyF capabilities will be supported and initially demonstrated by a series of early adopters who will develop new research applications for the coastal domain, guide the definition of requirements and serve as system beta testers. A competitive call will be issued within the project to further demonstrate and promote the usage of the Co-ReSyF release.

1.1 Purpose and Scope

A Competitive Call for Ideas will be issued within the project to further demonstrate and promote the usage of the Co-ReSyF release, and support a selection of additional research activities based on EO data using the Co-ReSyF framework. These pioneering researchers and other interested parties will be given access not only to the platform itself, but also to extensive training material on the system and Coastal Waters research themes, as well as to the project's events, including the Summer School and Final Workshop.

This document describes the media that will be used for the announcement of the competitive call, and the rules for the submission and selection of the proposals received from the competitive call.

1.2 Document Structure

The structure of the document is as follows:

- Chapter 2 describes how the call will be announced.
- Chapter 3 describes which data is to be submitted by the proposals.



- Chapter 4 contains the call terms and conditions to be acknowledge by the applicants.
- Chapter 5 describes how the proposals will be evaluated and selected.
- Chapter 6 identifies the jury responsible for the selection of the winning proposals.

2 Call Announcement

The competitive call for ideas will be publicly announced during the first Advisory Board Meeting in July 2016. From that time onwards proposals for research ideas will be received until the end of November 2016. The evaluation process will then follow and the announcement of the winners will be made at the First Reporting Period meeting in February 2017. The following timeline chart depicts the foreseen schedule.

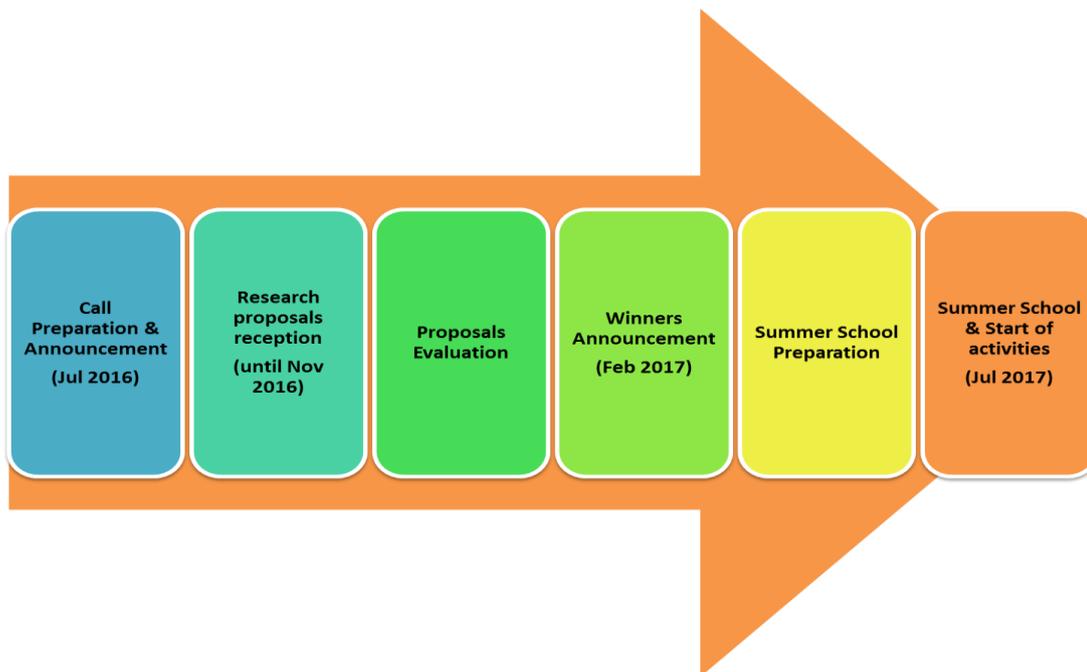


Figure 1 : Competitive Call Timeline

The activities concerned with the Call are only considered closed once the winners start using the Co-ReSyF platform for their research activities, which will happen after the Summer School is finished.

2.1 Announcement media

The opening of the call will be announced at the first Advisory Board and User Board meetings to be held at Cork, Ireland on the 12th and 13th of July 2016, respectively. The call announcement shall be distributed in a brochure to all participants of the meeting. It shall also be available at the project website (www.co-resyf.eu) and shall be broadcasted via the project social media (Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn).

Additionally invitation letters shall be sent via e-mail to key stakeholders, which have a relevant position in the Coastal Waters research community, and for which the project considers important their participation in the call. It is expected that the Advisory Board and User Board members play an important role in the visibility of the call within the research community.



3 Call Submission Regulations

The proposals for the call shall be submitted strictly via a portal in the Co-ReSyF website (www.co-resyf.eu/get-involved/competitive-call/register-here/). The submission shall be done via a two-step registration process. The first step is to provide an e-mail and confirm that it is a valid email (captcha should be used to avoid non-human entries). The second step is to fill in a submission form, sent to the registered e-mail, after its validation. The submission form will become available as soon as the call is announced and will have several fields to fill in, which will be mandatory and are the following:

1. Title of the proposed Research Activity
2. Name of the applicant
3. Address for correspondence
4. Associated Institution/Company
5. CV of the applicant
6. Name of referee of the applicant
7. CV of the referee
8. Description of the proposed research activity
9. Applicant nationality and place of residence (city, country)
10. Required data for the study(EO and auxiliary data sources)
11. Region of interest of the study (if global no regions are defined)
12. Decision on the status of the source code (open source or not)
13. Confirmation of previous knowledge in remote sensing
14. Agreement with the call terms and conditions (tick box)
15. Availability to pay for his/her own travel and accommodation (yes or no)

When submitting the application there will be an acceptance of the call terms that make the applicants obey a certain set of rules. The call terms and conditions (see Chapter 4) need to be downloadable when the applicants submit their proposals and should cover the following points:

- The applicant acknowledges that the personal information given will be used by the evaluation committee for assessing the proposal, but it will not be passed to any third party without first obtaining the applicant's consent.
- The applicant acknowledges to being notified that if any of the information provided is found to be false his/her application will be automatically disqualified and, in case he/she has been selected as a winner, he/she will lose the rights to the platform and Summer School access.
- The applicant acknowledges to being notified that if the referee is a member of the Co-ReSyF Advisory Board his/her application will be automatically disqualified.
- The applicant accepts that any publication (papers or conference proceedings) resulting from the research carried out in the Co-ReSyF platform will need to be publically available online using the OpenAIRE standard (<https://www.openaire.eu/intro-researchers>) and should reference the project grant number 687289.



- The applicant accepts that any publication (papers or conference proceedings) resulting from the research carried out in the Co-ReSyF platform will need to acknowledge the project funding with the following sentence “*This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 687289*”.

Within the same page for the submission of the proposals there will also be a FAQ page in order to help submitters with the most commonly asked questions. For questions not in the FAQ the submitter will be able to send an e-mail (e.g. info@co-resyf.eu) asking for clarification to his/her question.

4 Call Terms and Conditions

The Co-ReSyF Competitive Call for Ideas will provide the chance for a group of researchers in the field of Coastal Waters Monitoring to use first-hand the potential of the Co-ReSyF platform for carrying out their innovative studies.

The Co-ReSyF project will deploy a dedicated data access and processing infrastructure and user portal, with automated tools, methods and standards to support research activities using Earth Observation (EO) data for monitoring of Coastal Waters. The main objective is to facilitate the access to Earth Observation data and processing tools for the Coastal research community, aiming at the provision of new Coastal Water services based on EO data.

Pairs of applicants and referees shall propose novel applications of the Co-ReSyF platform for their research, which shall be reviewed and graded on their scientific merits. Acceptance of proposals is now open until the end of November 2016. A high-profile Evaluation Board will be setup for the evaluation and selection process. The winners of the call will be announced in February 2017. Check out the Co-ReSyF website (www.co-resyf.eu) for further information and to submit your application.

The Co-ReSyF project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 687289, and it is composed of a consortium of private companies, national institutes and universities.



Terms and Conditions of the Competition

Article 1: Theme of the competition

Applicants from all over the world are invited to take part in the Co-ReSyF competition to develop research applications in the field of Coastal Waters monitoring.





The research themes should focus on the usage of EO data, like Sentinels or precursor missions, for the derivation of information useful for the field of Coastal Waters monitoring. Proposals are particularly welcome covering estuaries and river mouth systems, disaster risk reduction (SENDAI) and aspects of the sustainable development goals. The research theme should identify a novel approach or method for improving the capability of actors/agencies who are active in implementing these topics.

Article 2: Award Paid

The winners will be invited to attend the Co-ReSyF Summer School to be held in Lisbon from the 12th to the 14th of July 2017. At the Summer School the winners will receive training on the usage of the Co-ReSyF platform, and also support on how to approach the platform functionality in order to carry out the research activities proposed.

After the Summer School access to the Co-ReSyF platform will be granted and a support to its usage, with access to the expertise of the consortium, will be maintained until the end of the Co-ReSyF project at the end of 2018.

The top ranking winners will be awarded a subsidy for travel and accommodation to the Summer School in Lisbon. The other winners will need to find their own financial support for the travel and accommodation for the Summer School.

Furthermore 2 of the best Summer School participants will be funded to participate in the Co-ReSyF Final Workshop to be held in Cork, Ireland at the end of 2018.

This competition does not have any monetary prize.

Article 3: Participation Requirements

Applicants will need to apply in conjunction with a referee, to be chosen by the applicant. To participate, the applicants must register online at www.co-resyf.eu/get-involved/competitive-call/register-here/, and fill in the submission form provided with a link after the registration.

Proposals submitted with referees which are part of the Co-ReSyF consortium, the Co-ReSyF Advisory Board and their families are ineligible to participate in the competition.

Article 4: Eligibility and pre-selection

Eligible projects will be pre-selected by the Co-ReSyF Executive Board.

The pre-selection will check the submitted proposals against the following criteria:

- 1. Checking that the participation requirements (article 3) are fulfilled.*
- 2. Checking for potential discrepancies in the proposal.*
- 3. Novelty of the research subject.*
- 4. Gain obtained from processing with big data.*



Only one proposal per applicant is allowed.

There is no limitation on the number of proposals with the same referee.

Article 5: Selection of the winning proposals

The winners will be selected among the eligible proposals by a jury composed of the Co-ReSyF project Coordinator and the Co-ReSyF Advisory Board members. Winning proposals will be selected based on the following criteria:

- 1. Applicant curriculum*
- 2. Scope of research to the coastal waters monitoring*
- 3. Gain in research by using EO data*
- 4. Innovation of the research proposed*
- 5. Potential impact in coastal community of the research*
- 6. Availability of code in open source (extra credit)*

The decision of the jury is final. The jury will reject any proposal that does not comply with the requirements of the competition (article 1, article 3, and article 4).

Article 7: Calendar

Deadline for submission of the proposals: November 30th, 2016

Announcement of the winners: February 23rd, 2017

Co-ReSyF Summer School: July 12th to 14th, 2017

Co-ReSyF project reserves the right to change the above calendar without indemnity or right of review of any kind. Any modification to the above calendar will be notified on the Co-ReSyF website.

Article 8: Ownership of research application code and results

The legal ownership of any code developed for the research activity shall remain with the applicant and its referee.

Access to the source code shall not be granted to any third parties, unless otherwise stated by the applicant in his/her submission form, and will not be used for the development of any other software.

If the applicant selects the open source option in his/her submission, he/she accepts that any code developed for his/her research application shall be governed by the LGPL 3.0 License (see <https://www.gnu.org/copyleft/lesser.html>).



By submitting the proposal the applicant agrees to provide a free, irrevocable, worldwide license for Co-ReSyF to use the developed research application and its results in order to promote the Co-ReSyF platform.

By submitting the proposal the applicant represents and warrants that any software developed for the research activity within the Co-ReSyF platform does not violate or infringes any patent, copyright, trade secret or any other intellectual property rights of any other person or entity.

Article 9: Project Acknowledgment and Outreach

By submitting the proposal the applicant accepts that any publication (papers or conference proceedings) resulting from the research carried out in the Co-ReSyF platform will need to be publically available online using the OpenAIRE standard (<https://www.openaire.eu/intro-researchers>) and should reference the project grant number 687289 in its metadata.

Any publication (papers or conference proceedings) resulting from the research carried out in the Co-ReSyF platform will need to acknowledge the project funding with the following sentence: "This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 687289".

Article 10: Responsibility

The Co-ReSyF executive board reserves the right to make, without incurring any responsibility, any possible cancellation, postponement or modification of the competition due to unforeseen circumstances. The Co-ReSyF executive board may modify the number of applicants in the competition at any time, with or without personal notice to the applicants.

Article 11: Publicity

Applicants may be requested to take part in promotional activity, the Co-ReSyF consortium reserves the right to use applicants and winners' names, images and affiliations in any publicity both in paper and online.

Article 12: Governing jurisdiction and governing law

The Applicants agree that the courts of Lisbon are the most appropriate and convenient courts to settle any dispute arising from or connected to this competition.

The Co-ReSyF competitive call is governed by the laws of Portugal.

Article 13: Acceptance of the Competition Terms and Conditions

By submitting a proposal the Applicant confirms he/she has read and accepted all articles of the terms and conditions of the competition.



5 Call Evaluation Regulations

The evaluation of the proposals received will be carried out in two phases. The first phase will consist of a pre-selection phase that will be carried out using elimination of applications based on selection criteria to reduce the number of applications, and a second phase that will be carried out by grading the proposals according to a set of criteria.

For the first phase the following criteria will be used for selection of the proposals going to the second phase:

- Novelty of the research subject.
- Availability to pay for his/her own travel and accommodation.
- Need of processing big data.
- ROI and the type of data needed.
- Checking for potential discrepancies in the proposal.

The applications will be split into two bins, one for the applications which can pay for their own travel and accommodation and another for the applications that need funding. The applications will then proceed to the second phase of the selection process.

For the second phase a grading point based system will be used, using a scale of 1 to 5, for each of the following attributes:

- Scope of research to the coastal waters monitoring
- Gain in research by using EO data
- Innovation of the research proposed
- Potential impact in coastal community of the research
- Availability of code in open source (this is either 0 or 1)

Each member of the rating committee (see Table 2), will assign a number to each attribute for each proposal. The proposals will then be ranked by order of the total sum of the points, independently for each of the bins (no need for funding/ need for funding). The top proposals from the bin needing funding will be selected for the award of the travel and accommodation financial support, restricted to the maximum available budget for the financial support. The top proposals from the bin not needing the funding will be selected, restricted only by the maximum allowed number of people in the Summer School facilities.

6 Evaluation Committee composition

The evaluation of the proposals received will be carried out in two phases. There will be a pre-selection phase of the applications that will be executed by the Co-ReSyF Executive board members, and a final grading phase that will be executed by the Advisory Board members and the Project Coordinator. The top ranking applications will be selected as winners. The following tables have the names of the people composing the two committees.



Table 1: Pre-selection Committee composition

Name	Company
Miguel Terra-Homem	DME
Stephen Emsley	ARGANS
Herve Caumont	TDUE
Nuno Grosso	DME
Antoine Mangin	ACRI
Eirini Politi	UCC
Ana Moura	IH
Francisco Sancho	LNEC
Paolo Cipollini	NOC

Table 2: Applications Rating and Selection Committee composition

Name	Position/Affiliation
Nuno Catarino	Project Coordinator
Ned Dwyer	Executive-Director of EurOcean
Boram Lee	World Meteorological Organisation
Andreas Schiller	Research Director, Ocean and Climate Dynamics Program at CSIRO
Martin Le Tissier	Future Earth Coasts (formerly LOICZ) Executive Officer
Paul DiGiacomo	Chief of Satellite Oceanography and Climatology Division, NOAA

NOTE: Additional juries may be added to Table 2, due to changes in the composition of the project Advisory Board until the start of the proposals evaluation process.

7 References

- Co-ReSyF. (2016). *GRANT AGREEMENT-687289*. European Commission, Research Executive Agency.



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