



COOPÉRATIONS ET MOBILITÉS INTERNATIONALES RHÔNE-ALPES
RHONE-ALPES INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND MOBILITIES

CALL FOR PROJECTS

2016

I - OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL FOR PROJECTS

The aim of the "Rhône-Alpes International Cooperation and Mobilities" (CMIRA) Call for Projects is to strengthen international cooperation in the area of higher education and research.

Alongside regional endeavours to promote student mobility, the Region wants to draw together international cooperation schemes, the mobility plans of researchers, doctoral and other students, and the initiatives of Rhône-Alpes business networks. CMIRA has set out to attract scientific excellence to our area, use our expertise and knowledge to boost development in cooperation with Rhône-Alpes' partner regions, bring world-class scientific clusters to the fore, and promote teaching and research around the world.

The call for projects concerns two types of funding:

- the general funding of cooperation projects (the "COOPERA" component);
- the individual funding of international mobility (the "mobilities" component).

1 / COOPERA: working together to build "knowledge economies"

- ▶ **COOPERA** seeks to foster strong collaboration in academic and scientific areas by funding cooperation projects. The projects will preferably be organised into a number of components, including training initiatives, research initiatives or combined training and research initiatives (the preferred type).
- ▶ **This scheme is open to** higher education and research establishments in the Rhône-Alpes region, including the Research and Higher Education Communities (COMUEs). A number of establishments can join forces to submit a project. If so, this must be indicated and described in detail when the project is submitted. Academic Research Communities (ARC) may propose projects, but they must be submitted by the higher education and research establishments involved in the project.

Funding will only be granted, however, if there is a formal, current agreement between the establishments.

No project likely to be eligible for the Region's other programmes can be selected under this call for projects. Projects sent in after the deadline will not be eligible, nor will projects sent to the Region directly by a project manager without the prior signed approval of the head of the establishment.

- ▶ Projects should be submitted for one or two university years, with a breakdown of resources for each year of the project. Projects submitted for two years are to be carried out between the date of deliberation and 31st December N+2. Establishments should provide proof that the project has been started within 9 months of the date of deliberation.
- ▶ **Eligibility**
 - Projects may cover **every scientific field** in their higher education, research and innovation applications; the humanities and social sciences must be included.
 - Only cooperation projects involving academic and research stakeholders from **Rhône-Alpes' partner regions** may be selected.
Nevertheless, projects involving organisations situated outside a partner region may be selected if there is no academic or research stakeholder in the partner region in question and if the cooperation project will, in time, have a lever effect and concrete implications on Rhône-Alpes' partner regions.
 - European-scale projects coordinated by a Rhône-Alpes stakeholder are also eligible, i.e. where the stakeholder leads a consortium formed by the various European partners.

In addition to these eligibility criteria, the Region will take the following aspects into consideration when selecting projects:

- **Whether the project is pooled** among several stakeholders, preferably led by a COMUE or a similar type of group;
- **Whether the project makes an innovative contribution** to the theme addressed;
- **Whether the establishment in the partner country will contribute financially** (i.e. the level of co-funding);
- **Whether Rhône-Alpes business stakeholders are involved**, if the scientific project is in the area of applied research.

2 / Funding of international mobility

Following on from the initiatives already supported, the Regional Strategy for Higher Education, Research and Innovation wishes to **encourage the circulation of knowledge and the mobility** of students, doctoral students and teacher/researchers. Funding will only be granted, however, if there is a formal, current agreement between the establishments.

"Accueil sup" higher education grant

The mobility projects selected should, as a matter of priority, be based on an agreement between an establishment in Rhône-Alpes and a non-French establishment situated **in one of Rhône-Alpes' partner regions**. Selection will be based on the project's ranking by the establishment and the applicant's excellence. The Region will also give precedence to applicants that are part of a cooperation project combining research, training, and economic and social development, such as the COOPERA projects.

To receive this grant, non-French students must come under cooperation between universities and take a masters 2 course (or the equivalent) in a university or major higher-education establishment ("Grande École") in Rhône-Alpes. For double degrees, the grant may be awarded for both years of the masters (1 and 2). Non-French students coming to do an internship in a company or a laboratory in Rhône-Alpes are also eligible, providing the internship is carried out in connection with the host university and that the net gratuity, if any, does not exceed the legal rate of the French social security hourly ceiling rate. The grant is to the value of **€615 per month** for a stay of **four to nine months**. The mobility projects can concern students from regions that do not have a partnership agreement with the Region (70% of the mobility projects selected must concern students from these areas).

"Accueil doc" doctoral grant

The mobility projects selected should be based on an agreement between an establishment in Rhône-Alpes and a non-French establishment situated **in one of Rhône-Alpes' partner regions**. The Region may, however, finance mobility projects involving non-partner regions if the applicant's excellence warrants it. Selection will be based on the project's ranking by the establishment and the applicant's excellence. The Region will also give precedence to applicants that are part of a cooperation project combining research, training, and economic and social development, such as the COOPERA projects.

To receive this funding, non-French doctoral students must come to the Region under a research initiative run by a higher education and research establishment or a Research and Higher Education Community (COMUE) in Rhône-Alpes. The grant is to the value of **€710 per month** for duration of **three to six months**. This grant can be awarded only once to any one recipient. For doctoral students under co-supervision arrangements, the grant may be renewed once only.

"Explo'RA doc" doctoral grant

The mobility projects selected should be based on an agreement between an establishment in Rhône-Alpes and a non-French establishment situated **in one of Rhône-Alpes' partner regions**. The Region may, however, finance mobility projects involving non-partner regions if the applicant's excellence warrants it. Selection will be based on the project's ranking by the establishment and the applicant's excellence. The Region will also give precedence to applicants that are part of a cooperation project combining research, training, and economic and social development, such as the COOPERA projects.

To receive this funding, doctoral students from Rhône-Alpes must go abroad as part of a research initiative run by a higher education and research establishment or a Research and Higher Education Community (COMUE) in Rhône-Alpes. Doctoral applicants must be enrolled in a thesis course in a Rhône-Alpes establishment. For non-French applicants, the establishment (host laboratory) must be situated in a country other than their home country. The non-French host establishment must be authorised to award a degree equivalent to the French doctorate. The grant is to the value of **€710 per month** for a stay of **three to six months**. This grant can be awarded only once to any one recipient. For doctoral students under co-supervision arrangements, the grant may be renewed once only.

"Accueil Pro"

The mobility projects selected should be based on an agreement between an establishment in Rhône-Alpes and a non-French establishment situated **in one of Rhône-Alpes' partner regions**. Selection will be based on the project's ranking by the establishment and the applicant's excellence.

To receive this funding, doctoral graduates, researchers or teacher-researchers must come to the Region under a combined research and training initiative (the preferred option) or a research initiative run by a higher education and research establishment or a Research and Higher Education Community (COMUE) in Rhône-Alpes. This grant is designed to contribute towards the costs of receiving non-French doctoral-graduate researchers in public research laboratories in Rhône-Alpes. The grant is to the value of **€2,500 per month** for duration of **three to ten months**. This grant can be awarded only once to any one recipient. These mobilities must be part of a COOPERA project.

"Explo'RA Pro"

The mobility projects selected should be based on an agreement between an establishment in Rhône-Alpes and a non-French establishment situated **in one of Rhône-Alpes' partner regions**. Selection will be based on the project's ranking by the establishment and the applicant's excellence.

To receive this funding, doctoral graduates, researchers or teacher-researchers from Rhône-Alpes must go abroad under a combined research and training initiative (the preferred option) or a research initiative run by a higher education and research establishment or a Research and Higher Education Community (COMUE) in Rhône-Alpes. For non-French applicants, the establishment (host laboratory) must be situated in a country other than their home country.

This grant is designed to finance the stay, in a laboratory outside France, of Rhône-Alpes researchers who are either doctoral graduates or who are to present their thesis during the current university year. The grant is to the value of **€2,500 per month** for duration of **three to ten months**. This grant can be awarded only once to any one recipient. These mobilities must be part of a COOPERA project.

- ▶ ACCUEIL PRO and EXPLORA PRO grants are awarded at the request of the establishment for the purposes of either:
 - paying a salary. The amount paid will be €2,500 per month, including employee and employer contributions;
 - paying a mobility subsidy. The establishment can use this subsidy to pay the costs of transport, accommodation, living expenses and expenses related to the project. It may also decide to pay *per diem*.
- ▶ **Applications for individual mobility grants can be submitted by** higher education and research establishments and Research and Higher Education Communities (COMUE). Academic Research Communities can sponsor applications, but the applications must be submitted by the higher education and research establishments involved in the project. Research establishments cannot submit "Accueil sup" projects.
- ▶ **Duration of mobility projects:** funding is awarded for a mobility carried out between the date of deliberation and 31st December N+1. However proof that the mobility has been started must be sent to the Region within nine months of the date of deliberation. Mobility projects can be realized in two periods in case of "force majeure" or if the scientific interest within the project is justified and explained in the online application form.

Some funding for PRO mobilities, which will be voted by the regional council's standing committee, will be integrated into the Fulbright program and into the Prestige / Marie Curie Cofund (EU) program. These mobilities will be processed outside of the Coopera projects.

1/ Fulbright program

The integration of this prestigious program within the CMIRA call for projects aims at awarding funding each year and for each COMUE, to welcome in Rhone-Alps American doctoral graduates willing to develop scientific projects in Rhone-Alps' laboratories.

The establishments interested in participating in this program should send us their proposals within the 2016 call, for projects starting from the beginning of the academic year 2017-2018.

Thus, a simple specific registration form will be downloadable through the CMIRA extranet. Proposals shall be transmitted by the Regional Council to Fulbright France.

2/ Prestige / Marie Curie Cofund action program, launched by the Research Executive Agency of the European Commission (REA), within the 7th Framework Programmes for Research and Technological Development, so as to finance mobilities for researchers inside and outside Europe. Scholarships for incoming and outgoing mobilities will be awarded in connection with the Rhone-Alps' **Regional Innovation Strategy – Smart Specialisation (RIS3)**, namely 7 specialisations:

- Personalized healthcare for infectious and chronic diseases
- Eco-efficient factory
- Smart grids and energy storage
- Smart building with high energy-efficiency
- Digital technologies and user-friendly systems
- Mobility systems of the future
- Sports, safety & infrastructures in the Alpine mountain

Applications must be sent within the CMIRA Call and also within the national call for projects launched by the Campus France agency.

3 / Priority to Rhône-Alpes' partner regions

COOPERA projects must involve one or more establishments from a Rhône-Alpes partner region. Individual mobility projects should, as a matter of priority, involve a partner region, except for the Pro mobilities, for which the link with a partner region from Rhône-Alpes is mandatory.

The Rhône-Alpes Region carries out inter-regional cooperation projects in around 25 countries in Europe, the Americas, Asia, Africa and the Mediterranean. Targeting CMIRA grants to these areas of cooperation is part of an overall, long-term strategy of preferred institutional and economic partnerships.

▶ Rhône-Alpes' partner regions

Germany Land of Baden-Württemberg	Municipality of Shanghai, Province of Sichuan	aka	Poland Voivodie of Malopolska
Argentina Province of Buenos Aires, Province of Cordoba and Mendoza	Spain Generalitat of Catalonia	Laos Province of Khammouane	Senegal Regions of Saint-Louis, Matam and the Ferlo zone
Armenia (Whole country)	United States State of Pennsylvania	Lebanon Region of North Lebanon	Switzerland Cantons of Geneva, Vaud, Valais
Brazil State of Parana	Palestine Governorate of Jericho	Madagascar Region of Atsinanana	Tunisia Monastir
Burkina Faso Hauts-Bassins region	Italy Regions of Lombardy, Piedmont, Valle d'Aosta and Liguria	Mali Region of Timbuktu	Uruguay Rivera
Canada Province of Quebec	India State of karnat	Morocco Region of Rabat Salé Zemmour Zaer	Vietnam Province of Hô Chi Minh City
China		Paraguay Alto Parana	

As part of the institutional cooperation between the Region and Shanghai, academic projects developed in this area will be jointly examined with the Municipality of Shanghai. Any COOPERA or mobility projects submitted should, as a matter of priority, address one of two topics:

- health (projects with a focus on infectiology and cancerology);
- the environment/urban planning (projects with a focus on architecture, eco-construction, green chemistry, water and sanitation). Applicants are to submit an abstract in English with their project submission.

The cooperation with the Chinese Province of Sichuan is under the topic Alpes/Sichuan partnership.

PROJECT SELECTION PROCEDURE

- ▶ The Region considers the head of the establishment to be the owner of the projects submitted by his/her establishment. The head of the establishment should approve the requests submitted by the project managers, check that they are in line with the establishment's international strategy, rank them, then send them to the Region, along with a briefing note on the establishment's international strategy.
- ▶ Because the submissions are sent in electronic form, the head of the establishment is to send, by post, a letter signed by him/herself listing the projects the establishment has decided to present for each scheme, ranked by order of priority for the establishment. This letter is used to check and validate the projects sent in via the extranet.
- ▶ The head of the establishment is also accountable for the financial resources allocated to the project.
- ▶ Once the projects have been validated by the establishment, the COMUE will be able to issue an opinion on the applications (cooperation and mobility projects) received via the extranet. To more effectively integrate facilities and raise their international profile, this opinion will be used to check stakeholder coordination and bring together their strategies. This opinion, like the ranking drawn up by each establishment, will not bind the Region when it processes the submissions, but will help check stakeholder coordination so that the various strategies can be drawn together.

Processing submissions

- ▶ Irrespective of the submission's ranking by the establishment, the project will be examined and processed by the Rhône-Alpes Region, so could possibly be subsidised. Some cooperation projects, and in particular those with a strong research component, may be assessed by qualified outside experts and by other internal departments of the Regional Council.

Selection panel

- ▶ The projects will then be presented to regional elected representatives at a SRESRI committee meeting, before being put to the Regional Councillors' vote at a standing committee meeting. The SRESRI technical committee, normally composed of regional elected representatives, will be extended to include a representative from each Research and Higher Education Communities (COMUE), a representative from the AGERA (an alliance of major higher education establishments in Rhône-Alpes), a representative of the academic research communities, a representative of the economic clusters and the competitiveness clusters.
- ▶ For mobility projects, except for PRO mobilities, a primary list and a secondary list will be drawn up for each establishment and presented to the standing committee's vote. If an applicant on the primary list withdraws, he/she will be replaced by an applicant from the secondary list, submitted by the same establishment.

III - HOW TO SUBMIT A PROJECT

Extranet

The Region has set up an extranet to facilitate project submissions and the exchange of information between the Region and eligible establishments. All projects are to be drafted and sent to the Region through this **extranet**: <http://sicorra.rhonealpes.fr>. The code and password required to log into the extranet have been sent to the heads of establishment.

Entering projects

You will find a downloadable "guide to entering projects" and other useful guides in the "Documentation" section of the extranet.

Cooperation project budget estimates

Budget estimates for cooperation projects should be calculated carefully and in detail. Applicants should show precise amounts that can be used to assess the type of expenditure planned. Do not over-inflate the amounts, strive for accuracy and transparency. Wherever possible, append quotations to the submission. Expenditure should be shown in tax-inclusive amounts if necessary.

Organise budgets by TYPE of expense. For example:

► Do not write:

"Discussion and planning days" or "Teacher support"

► Instead, break down the expenditure into detailed items:

- Send mailshots
- Print invitations
- Rent documentary films
- Presentation by outside consultant
- Travel expenses
- Print a brochure

Plane tickets will be reimbursed at the cost of an economy-class ticket.

The budget estimate should itemise running expenses and investment expenses. When the project is being carried out, it must comply with the type of expenditure planned in the budget estimate. The Region's subsidies are awarded for either running costs or investment costs, and appropriate receipts will have to be provided. The accountant or the auditor will have to attest to this.

If there is any doubt about the type of expense involved (software, IT development, small furnishings or equipment, expenses under €500), you should ask the establishment's accountant how to account for the expense. This statement is included in the summary statement of expenditures template, which is to be signed by the accountant (template available in the "Documentation" section of the extranet).

Up until the end of online application, the establishment can specify whether project expenses include tax (VAT) or not, if this information was not available when the project was submitted.

The following expenses are not eligible:

► **Expenses counted as internal costs** by the establishment, with the exception of "per diem" allowances and photocopies required for carrying out projects. The Region defines internal costs as expenses linked directly or exclusively to a specific subsidised operation or programme, but not invoiced specifically to the beneficiary.

Internal costs include:

- Administrative costs, handling charges, etc.
- Running costs, overheads: electricity, share of the cost of leasing or maintaining premises or equipment, etc.
- Remuneration of the establishment's permanent staff, including teachers' additional hours. The agreement will specify the costs that are not eligible.

► **Payroll costs:** the Region does not generally assume this type of expenditure. However, certain expenses that are clearly attributed to the project may be taken into account. This applies to the remuneration of contractual staff, paid out of the establishment's own funds. It does not apply to the remuneration of the establishment's permanent staff, which comes under the establishment's fixed costs.

Expense eligibility date:

• for one-year projects: project-related expenses must be invoiced and paid between the date of deliberation and 31 December of the following year. Expenses may be incurred from the date of closure of the extranet. Expenses incurred before the subsidy has been approved come under the responsibility of the establishment and do not bind the Region to award a subsidy.

• for two-year projects: usually 50% of the funding allocated to the project will be approved the first year; a second subsidy equal to the remaining 50% will be allocated the second year. Project-related expenditure is to be invoiced and paid as follows:

Approval of the 1st subsidy (50%)
Year N

Approval of the 2nd subsidy (50%)
Year N+1

31 December N+1

31 December N+2

Payment of the 1st subsidy

Payment of the 2nd subsidy

IV - ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL MONITORING OF PROJECTS

Notice

Following the standing committee's meeting, the Rhône-Alpes Region will send a letter of notice to the heads of establishment, showing the list of projects selected and specifying the amounts granted to each project. A letter setting out the reasons for which projects were not selected will also be sent to the heads of establishment.

Agreement

The Rhône-Alpes Region will draw up an agreement or an order, grouping all of the subsidised projects by type of subsidy and specifying the references of the operations and the amounts of the subsidy. The document will also set out the subsidy payment procedure and the start and finish dates. The Region will not issue any reminders.

This agreement or order will be sent to the establishments in two original copies, which must be signed by the head of the establishment and returned to the Region as soon as possible. The President of the Regional Council will then sign both original copies. Administrative management of the subsidy by the higher education and research establishments and the COMUE may begin once both parties have signed the agreement. From that date, the establishments may start preparing the supporting documents to send to the Region to request payment of the subsidy.

The various owners of subsidised projects should be informed by their establishment of the operating procedures adopted by the Region and set out in the agreement, and the obligation to publicise the regional subsidy. The beneficiary of the subsidy undertakes to use all appropriate means to acknowledge the Region's financial backing (the Region's logo on any display material, publications, websites, etc.).

Payments

► For mobility grants

The agreement will set out the procedure for paying the various mobility grants.

► For cooperation grants

For investment expenses, a deposit on the investment subsidy will be paid on receipt of the necessary papers. For running expenses, the advance will be paid on signature of the agreement, against a budget estimate.

USEFUL CONTACTS

► User assistance: cmira@rhonealpes.fr

► A hotline (French) is open Monday-Friday, 9-12am and 2-5pm: **+33 (0)4 26 73 50 02**

CMIRA Call for Projects

Service Actions internationales / DEF13S / Région Rhône-Alpes

1 esplanade François Mitterrand CS 20033

F-69269 LYON CEDEX 02

CALL FOR PROJECTS TIMELINE

<p>12 October 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official launch of the call for projects and opening of the extranet by the Region http://sicorra.rhonealpes.fr Heads of establishment select and rank cooperation projects and applications for mobility grants/ subsidies submitted to the Region. The establishments are free to set the deadline for submissions before the deadline fixed by the Region for internal reasons (e.g. need to organise project selection committees within the establishment).
<p>11 January 2016</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deadline for establishments to submit and validate mobility projects (SUP and DOC) online
<p>8 February 2016</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deadline for establishments to submit and validate Coopera and Pro projects online
<p>18 January 2016</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deadline for sending in hard-copy rankings for mobility projects, except Pro mobilities <p>Address: CMIRA Call for Projects Service Actions internationales - DEF13S - Région Rhône-Alpes 1 esplanade François Mitterrand CS 20033 F-69269 LYON CEDEX 02</p>
<p>15 February 2016</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deadline for sending in hard-copy rankings for Coopera and Pro / Prestige projects <p>Address: CMIRA Call for Projects Service Actions internationales - DEF13S - Région Rhône-Alpes 1 esplanade François Mitterrand CS 20033 F-69269 LYON CEDEX 02</p>
<p>January – April 2016</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Processing of submissions Meeting of the SRESRI Committee
<p>April 2016</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regional Council's Standing Committee meets to vote the subsidies, and the Region sends out notices <p><i>Subject to the standing committees' schedule</i></p>
<p>June 2016</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As soon as possible, and within 9 months of the deliberation, the establishment must provide proof that the project has been started.
<p>31 December 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End of the payment of the mobility grants
<p>31 December 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End of the cooperation projects (or 31 December 2018 for the 2nd year of subsidies for 2-year cooperation projects).
<p>May 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deadline for payment of the remaining subsidies for running and investment costs (or May 2019 for the 2nd year of subsidies for 2-year cooperation projects)

The initial supporting documents are sent in.

The Region pays the deposit.

The final supporting documents are sent in.

The remainder of the subsidy is paid when the operation is completed.