

European Space Agency – Future Earth Joint Activities

Call for proposals 2018

Overview

The European Space Agency (ESA) and Future Earth have partnered to bring the latest Earth observation data and understanding to Future Earth's research through Future Earth's Global Research Projects, Knowledge Action Networks and Media Lab. There is seed funding of up to €12,000 available for activities that help strengthen this partnership and promote the use of Earth observation data to find new uses, and attract new users of ESA EO data. This year there is an open call to the Future Earth community.

Topics for proposals

The proposals should aim to make use of ESA's Earth Observation data and/or tools, in order to progress the overall research objectives of Future Earth and meet the Sustainable Development Goals. The key topics of focus for this call are:

- **Engaging new research communities**
ESA have created a Newcomers Earth Observation Guide ([link below](#)) to help explain what kinds of information content are available, the accuracies and limitations of EO data. Recent uses of EO data have engaged [humanitarian](#) agencies, and the [OECD](#).
- **Novel uses of ESA Earth Observation data**
The resolution, frequency and availability of EO data are improving all the time, particularly with the Sentinel satellites, offering new possibilities for research. New applications of existing data and products and the testing out of ideas are encouraged in this call.
- **Exploitation of Essential Climate Variable datasets from ESA's Climate Change Initiative**
ESA has been developing a number of Essential Climate Variable (ECV) data products, in response to the UNFCCC's need for systematic observations of the climate system. These products merge data from multiple satellites and sensors to create long time-series of climate data, which are as stable and consistent as possible, over time. They have primarily been developed for climate modellers but ESA would like to explore other applications of the ECVs in the wider climate and environmental science community.

ECV projects that have developed datasets as part of ESA's [Climate Change Initiative](#) (CCI) programme include: *Aerosol, Greenhouse gases (CO₂, CH₄), Ozone, Clouds, Land Cover, Soil Moisture, Fire, Glaciers, Ice Sheets, Sea Ice, Sea Surface Temperature, Ocean Colour, Sea Level*. The data are available for free through the CCI [Open Data Portal](#), and can be manipulated and analysed using the [CCI Toolbox](#). Use of multiple ECV data sets is encouraged.

Eligibility

Anyone from the Future Earth community can apply for the joint activity funds. Applications must be made through one of the following:

- The International Project Office of a [Future Earth Global Research Project](#) (GRP).
- A [Knowledge Action Network](#) (KAN) development team.
- Future Earth [Regional](#) or [Global Hubs](#).

Conditions of Funding

1. Each proposal must be supported by a Future Earth GRP, KAN, or a Regional or Global Hub; proposals that bring together multiple entities are welcome.
2. Each proposal must make use of ESA data and/or tools and address at least one of the key topics listed above.
3. Use of ESA data is not exclusive; proposals that link with other data (EO, in situ, socio-economic, etc.) are encouraged.
4. Proposals should be a minimum of two and maximum of four A4 pages.
5. The proposal should include the following sections: Overview (including title of the activity, proposed dates and location), key topic it addresses, overall focus, goals and structure of the activity, the benefits of the work to ESA, the benefits of the work to Future Earth, the intended scientific outcomes, and contact information for the science leaders.
6. It is envisaged that this funding will primarily be for workshops or meetings; there is flexibility in its use but it should not be used to fund individual researchers.
7. Only direct costs are supported, this grant does not allow the use of funds for salaries or overheads incurred by the host institution. Funds must be transferred to an entity, not to an individual.
8. The activity should be completed within a year of receiving the funding.
9. The workshop should be badged with the ESA and Future Earth logos. It is expected that any products and publications resulting from this award give acknowledgements as a “European Space Agency – Future Earth Joint Activity”.
10. Any data created as part of the work done should follow the Belmont Forum [open data policy and principles](#).
11. Successful proposals are required to submit a workshop report and a financial report no more than 3 months after the end of the activity.

How to apply

Proposals must be submitted by email to climate.office@esa.int by **2nd November 2018**.

The proposals will be reviewed by a committee made up of the Future Earth Data Task Force, relevant members of the Future Earth secretariat and ESA's Science, Applications and Climate Department.

Four successful proposals will be selected, with a maximum funding of €12,000 each. We will aim to inform the winners by the end of November.

Useful links

- ESA's Climate Change Initiative [programme](#), [Data Access](#), and [CCI Toolbox](#)
- Future Earth [Research](#)
- [Satellite Earth Observations in Support of the Sustainable Development Goals](#) (CEOS EO Handbook Special 2018 edition)
- ESA's Newcomer's [Earth Observation Guide](#)
- The [Sustainable Development Goals](#)

Contact Information

If you have any questions on any aspects of the funding call please contact [Cat Downy](#).

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