

European Space Agency – Future Earth joint program Open call for GRNs: collaborative EO activities 2022-2023

Overview

The European Space Agency (ESA) and Future Earth have [partnered](#) through a joint program to facilitate the development and uptake of Earth observation (EO) data by Future Earth's global research networks (GRNs).

There is untapped potential to use space data to identify and better understand the rapid changes taking place across the planet's surface and atmosphere. Satellites provide globally consistent monitoring capability, whilst cloud-based platforms for data access and analysis are facilitating research combining EO with other sources of knowledge to address society's challenges in novel ways.

This is an open call to the Global Research Networks (GRNs) of the [Future Earth community](#) for proposals for collaborative EO activities taking place 2022-2023. There is seed funding to support GRN collaborative activities using ESA's satellite data, to attract and equip new users, engage with stakeholders, and convene the community to shape the research agenda.

Award Information

Funding amount: up to €18,000/award.

Estimated total number of awards: 4

Eligibility

Applications must be submitted by members of a Future Earth GRN, in a topic aligning with the research priorities of the network. If you are not part of a GRN you need to actively join it and seek support for the proposal formally with its Scientific Steering Committee via its International Project Office.

Scope of proposals

Proposals should justify and cost for the collaborative activity. Example activities:

- A workshop and coordinated synthesis report or journal special issue (support for coordination staff time for virtual or hybrid meetings, or for in-person meetings support of participants' travel and expenses);
- Training events or working group study/writing weeks (support for participant travel and expenses, hosting costs);
- Support for user outreach and engagement to deepen the impact of research using EO at planned events, for example at policy meetings or education conferences;
- Demonstration projects to deepen the impact of published EO-related research, through an in-depth consultation with stakeholders to co-develop digital tools based on stakeholder needs. The tools could be, for example a web-based monitoring platform to inform decision making for climate adaptation.

Due dates

All proposals must be submitted by Friday 30th September 2022. Proposals will be reviewed and selected by a committee made up of the Future Earth secretariat and ESA's Earth Observation Programme directorate. Awarded projects will be notified by 28th October 2022.

Completion of the activity is required no later than 29th December 2023.

Proposal Preparation and Submission information

- 1) Proposals should be a minimum of three and a maximum of four A4 pages (excluding CVs) in 11-point Times New Roman font.
- 2) The proposal should include the following sections: 250-word abstract, problem statement, activity plan, expected outcomes and success criteria, lead participant and supporting participant CVs, financial support required, lead participant contact information, letter of support by a Future Earth GRN.
- 3) Proposals can request support of up to €18,000.

- 4) All proposals must be submitted by 30th September 2022 via email to sophie.hebden@futureearth.org.

Review Criteria

- Proposals will be assessed by the extent of their contribution to the science plan of the GRN, and new contribution to projects and work streams in the GRN (growing the networks and their impact);
- Consideration will be given to the feasibility of the proposal, expected impact and societal relevance, and proportionality of the funding sought;
- Novel or cross-cutting research activities using remote sensing are encouraged (maximising use of ESA's EO data);
- Proposals centred on Early Career Researcher participation and capacity building, as well as proposals led by researchers in the Global South are encouraged (broadening participation);
- In the case of demonstration projects, consideration of the sustainability of the tool (an indication of the longer-term business case for it) is encouraged.

Administrative and legal information

Awards will be administered by the Future Earth Sweden hub for cost-reimbursement of the host organisation of the lead participant, and submission of an activity summary report. Participants in receipt of funding are responsible for the declaration of national taxes and social security and pension related to this funding. Publications and other types of outputs and products arising should acknowledge ESA and Future Earth supporting this activity. Any assets created should follow the [Belmont Forum open data policy and principles](#) and conform to GDPR and [ESA's data protection policies](#).

Climate Change Initiative: Essential Climate Variables

ESA has developed a suite of Essential Climate Variable (ECV) data products, now spanning decades, in response to the UNFCCC's need for systematic observations of the climate system. Data from the [Climate Change Initiative](#) (CCI) merge multiple satellites and sensors to create global records that are stable and consistent over time. They have primarily been developed for climate modellers but ESA would like to consult the science community for additional data products and novel applications of the ECVs – particularly the new, higher resolution land-based datasets such as high-resolution land cover, land surface temperature and biomass - in the wider climate and environmental science community. To support access and use of these datasets, they are freely available through the CCI [Open Data Portal](#), and can be viewed and explored on the [Climate from Space web-app](#).

Useful links

- Further [information](#) about the ESA-Future Earth Joint Program
- ESA CCI's [Climate from Space web-app](#), [Data Access](#), and [Cate Toolbox](#)
- Copernicus [Climate Data Store](#)
- Future Earth Global Research [Networks](#)
- Access Copernicus Sentinel data online via [Sentinel hub](#)
- [Satellite Earth Observations in Support of the Sustainable Development Goals](#) (CEOS EO Handbook Special 2018 edition)
- ESA's [EO Science for Society](#) projects, training and further ITTs
- ESA's [Earth observation for sustainable development initiative](#)
- NASA's [online datasets](#)
- [PREP](#), [WRI](#), [GEO](#) websites

Questions?

If you have any questions, please contact:

Sophie Hebden, ESA – Future Earth Liaison Officer, sophie.hebden@esa.int

For assistance to build consortia within Future Earth, please contact:

Fernando Avakian – Early Career Researcher coordinator fernando.avakian@futureearth.org

Giles Sioen & Judit Ungvari – Research & Innovation co-leads, researchinnovation@futureearth.org