



## OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS

for the award of a Framework Partnership Agreement concerning the

### European Topic Centre on

**Climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation 2011-2013**

**EEA/NSV/10/001<sup>1</sup>**

#### 1. Background information

##### 1.1 The European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network

The European Environment Agency (EEA) is the main source of information of the European Union and its Member States in developing European environment policies. The Agency aims to support sustainable development and to help achieve significant and measurable improvement in Europe's environment through the provision of timely, targeted, relevant and reliable information to policy-making agents and the public.

Established in 1990 and operational in Copenhagen since 1994, the EEA is the hub of the European Environment Information and Observation Network (Eionet), a network of around 350 organisations across Europe through which it collects and disseminates environment-related data and information. This information is made available through various report series, briefings and the EEA website<sup>2</sup>. The European Commission, the European Parliament, national and regional authorities in the member countries, and a wide range of non-governmental organisations are among the regular users of the databases and information products.

Institutionally, the EEA is one of the Agencies of the European Union. The functioning of the EEA and Eionet are described in the EEA regulation<sup>3</sup>. The Agency, which is open to all nations sharing its objectives, has currently 32 member countries. These are the 27 EU Member States; Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway; Switzerland and Turkey.

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<sup>1</sup> The successful *consortium* will be proposed a Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) covering the period from 2011 to 2013 (the remaining period of the current EEA Strategy 2009-2013) with a possible renewal for one year under the next EEA Strategy subject to management board approval.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.eea.europa.eu/>.

<sup>3</sup> (EC) Regulation No. 401/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the EEA and Eionet (codified version, OJ L126 of 21 May 2009, p13, see: <http://org.eea.europa.eu/documents>).

Part of Eionet are currently five European Topic Centres (ETCs) covering the following topics: 'Air and Climate Change', 'Biodiversity', 'Land Use and Spatial Information', 'sustainable consumption and production' and 'Water'.

Having regard to the expiry of the Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) concerning the ETC Air and climate change on 31 December 2010, the EEA launches this call with a view to identifying the *consortium* which will continue the work in the respective area from 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2013.<sup>4</sup>

The separation and extension of the work of ETC Air and climate change (ETC/ACC) into ETC Climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation (ETC/CCA) and ETC Air pollution and climate change mitigation (ETC/ACM) reflects the scale of policy and scientific developments in these areas.

In February 2008, the European Commission adopted a Communication proposing to improve, modernise and streamline current environmental information systems by establishing a European Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS). SEIS is a distributed, integrated, web-enabled information system based on a network of public information providers sharing environmental data and information. It is built on existing e-infrastructure, systems and services in the Member States and EU institutions, especially those of the EEA and Eionet.

The system aims to tie in better all existing data flows and information related to EU environmental policies and legislation including the implementation of the infrastructure for spatial information in Europe Inspire, and other data and real time observations related to emerging environmental priorities, and services coming from programmes such as Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES). It will provide easily accessible information to both policy-makers and citizens. A major challenge will be to develop SEIS as a platform that also can be used for two-way communication on the environment, namely enabling users to upload and share their information with others from local to global level.

The EEA will achieve its contributions therein by, inter alia: working together with Eionet, the European Commission (primarily through ten thematic European Environmental Data Centres) and the EEA's European Topic Centres on the implementation of this distributed system for sharing information from local to global level based on interoperability and, focusing on EEA European data management, including streamlining priority dataflows with Eionet, coordination of the in-situ component of GMES and the management of 5 of those thematic Environmental Data Centres (Climate change, Air, Water, Land use and Biodiversity) to offer a wealth of European environmental datasets in suitable formats for various users.

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<sup>4</sup> With a possible renewal for one year under the next EEA Strategy subject to management board approval. This call is subject to the EEA Financial Regulation and its Implementing Rules as determined by the EU's Financial Regulation (EC) No. 1605/2002 as last amended by (EC) No. 652/2008 and its Implementing Rules (EC) No. 2342/2002 as last amended by (EC) No. 478/2007, in particular their respective Titles VI on Grants (Articles 108-120 FR and 160-184a IR). ). It is also subject to the EEA regulation which stipulates in Article 4(5) that 'topic centres shall be designated by the Management Board ...for a period not exceeding the duration of each multiannual work programme...Each designation may, however, be renewed'.

The implementation of SEIS principles via appropriate technological development and networking activities with stakeholders plus an increased focus on the inclusion of near-real time measurements and improved use of modelling techniques means that EEA will move away from the traditional methodology of processing national data as applied over the last 10 -15 years while continuing to support countries in their efforts to produce relevant and high quality data.

EEA's website will evolve from one that stores documents into an interactive site and portal that supports two-way communications and can be effective in helping to improve the quality and spread of environmental information.

Subject to available funds from the General Budget of the EU, the estimated total annual budget for Specific Agreements (SAs) to be concluded on the basis of the Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) to be concluded following this call is estimated at:

**Climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation (total): 700,000 Euro.**

## **1.2 Role of European Topic Centres (ETCs)**

ETCs are, according to the EEA regulation<sup>5</sup> and in practice, an important instrument supporting the EEA through the execution of sizeable, continuous, well-defined tasks with the involvement of member countries. ETCs supports EEA data centres for the issues air, climate change, water, biodiversity and land use and may provide help to EEA in supporting other data centres coordinated by Eurostat and JRC. Tasks focus on the harmonisation of monitoring of the environment in the member countries, the compilation of the resulting data in international databases, the processing of the information including the use of models to describe and analyse the present and future state of the environment, and the production of indicators to communicate the findings to various users.

ETCs are a part of and support to Eionet. Their activities have an important networking-component involving experts in the member countries in the harmonisation, quality assessment and exchange of data and/or information, capacity-building in member countries through country visits and meetings with all Eionet country experts. ETCs are sparring partners for countries discussing options for improving national information systems. Networking with member countries also includes their involvement in indicator analysis and assessment. Under the overall leadership of EEA, leading, steering and supervising the work of the ETCs, ETCs are also expected to cooperate amongst themselves on crosscutting projects.

In order to assume this role, ETCs are expected to assemble the best expertise in Europe covering the full geographical area of EEA member countries, to handle data in their areas and analyse environmental data with regard to societal and economic developments relevant to environmental and sectoral policies.

## **1.3 Agreements**

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<sup>5</sup> The EEA regulation, see footnote 2, describes in Article 4(4)-(6) European Topic Centres and their tasks as part of Eionet.

All activities of ETCs are based on Framework Partnership Agreements (FPAs) and Specific Agreements (SAs) concluded to implement the former. Work programmes (mostly annual implementation plans), which form part of the SAs, are decided upon by the EEA and ETCs taking into account the requirements of all parts of Eionet and other stakeholders.

All grants are subject to co-financing by the *consortium* concerned (minimum 10% of the total eligible costs).

## **2. Future EEA work and demands in the area of Climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation 2011-2013**

### **2.1 Theme background and EEA general objective**

Even achieving the EU global greenhouse gas mitigation target of limiting temperature increase to not more than +2 °C still means there will be many impacts. Vulnerability of natural and human systems globally and in Europe is increasing due to a combination of intensified land use, industrial development, urban expansion and infrastructure construction, and increasing climate change (e.g. extreme weather events) and natural and technological disasters. Climate change is thus an additional pressure on natural and human systems, which are already under increasing pressure. Adaptation actions should be focused on the most vulnerable areas, sectors and people globally (e.g. least developed countries) and in Europe (e.g. mountains, coastal areas, river flood prone areas, cities, Mediterranean, Arctic).

The growing focus on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation in Europe is reflected by the 2009 Commission White paper on Adaptation to Climate change<sup>6</sup>. In parallel relevant policy developments have taken place in the areas water quality, floods, water scarcity and drought, marine environment, biodiversity and nature protection, spatial planning and disaster prevention and management. These different developments led to a higher focus on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation within the EEA strategy 2009-2013.

The main EEA objective in this work area is to support new EU and European Policy developments on vulnerability and adaptation and on disaster prevention and management by developing online access to relevant environmental information, observations for spatial mapping and decision-support tools, via SEIS and GMES<sup>7</sup> services to help Member States' meet their objectives for dealing with climate change impacts, adaptation, vulnerability mapping, disaster prevention and management.

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<sup>6</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/adaptation/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/climat/adaptation/index_en.htm)

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.gmes.info/>

## 2.2 EEA activities and ETC support

EEA will be increasingly involved in various work areas the coming years, ranging from monitoring, data, indicators and assessments, and the ETC is expected to contribute where appropriate.

Regarding data and monitoring the EEA will undertake analyses of data availability and gaps with the aim to help improve the availability of and access to these data at EU level. This activity includes e.g. further stimulating and facilitating initiatives for hindcasting Europe's climate, and supporting the GMES process in the development of user requirements for a potential climate change GMES service/contribution, in collaboration with JRC. In addition EEA started analysis of comparability issues and information gaps in data on natural and technological disasters. Initially the focus is on weather related hazards, but eventually also geological and technological hazards could be addressed in cooperation with DG ENV and JRC, once the scope of EEA work in this area is further clarified.

Another key EEA work area is maintaining, updating and developing new indicators. This task builds on work done jointly with JRC and WHO on about 40 indicators on climate change and its impacts in Europe<sup>8</sup>. There will be a need for updating and improving these indicators, by means of higher quality, spatially more detailed and consistent observed data (in cooperation with GMES) and also projected (modelled) future trends, in all the affected themes (atmosphere, oceans, cryosphere, marine biodiversity, water quantity/floods/droughts, freshwater quality and biodiversity, terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity and soil).

Furthermore EEA work will be done on developing and implementing methodologies for current and future climate change vulnerability and disaster risk maps. Vulnerability is a combination of current and potential future impacts and adaptive capacity of the natural or human system that is assessed. Therefore especially improved scenarios on physical and socioeconomic effects of climate change and disasters on sectors as well as socio-economic, sectoral and land use scenarios will be needed, to be developed in cooperation with the research community.

EEA activities in the area of assessment will also increase. Analysis of the effectiveness and costs of current and planned adaptation actions, including indicators to monitor adaptation actions, has started and will be enhanced. There will also be a need for development of guidance and decision support tools for identifying and implementing good practices in adaptation actions. In addition broad integrated or more focused thematic/sectoral assessments will be done by EEA. For these use of scenarios, models and tools will be needed. The key forthcoming assessment is the 2015 State-of-the-environment and Outlook report. Other assessments are a possible update of the Climate change impacts report (possibly in 2014), and various thematic assessments reports planned over the period 2011-2014 (e.g. on fresh water; marine; coastal zones; ecosystems).

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<sup>8</sup> [http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/eea\\_report\\_2008\\_4](http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/eea_report_2008_4) and <http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/climate/indicators>

As a crosscutting service, EEA is supporting the development of the EU Clearinghouse (CH) on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to improve sharing of existing data and methods, mentioned in the Commission's White Paper on Adaptation. The Clearinghouse is to be launched by end of 2011 and is expected to be maintained by EEA afterwards. It is meant to provide access to information from many different sources beyond EEA. It will be developed in close collaboration between member countries, DG ENV and JRC. Several countries have already developed and implemented their own national climate change impacts/adaptation information system (in addition to national adaptation plans<sup>9</sup>) and the EU Clearinghouse should facilitate synergies with these national systems. Furthermore EEA will aim for appropriate links with existing other EU information systems (e.g. the water information system for Europe WISE<sup>10</sup>, the EU Biodiversity Clearinghouse<sup>11</sup>, and various JRC information systems e.g. on floods, droughts and forest fires<sup>12</sup>), and consistent with the Shared Environmental Information System SEIS<sup>13</sup> and the INSPIRE Directive<sup>14</sup>.

Work on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation needs to be increasingly coordinated with work in other EEA work areas and by current and future ETCs, in particular those covering the areas air quality and air emissions, freshwater and the marine environment, biodiversity and ecosystems, soil erosion/desertification and land use. Close cooperation with e.g. JRC and WHO has to be reinforced as well.

The new ETC on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation will replace parts of the current ETC air and climate change from January 2011 and will need to include additional expertise to cover all work areas mentioned above.

### **2.3 EEA steering role**

Within EEA the natural systems and vulnerability programme is coordinating the work of the new ETC on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation. Since the same programme is also coordinating the work of the ETCs Biological Diversity, Spatial information and analysis and Water, synergies between work of these ETCs and the ETC CCA can be well managed. Furthermore a number of the tasks and activities for the ETC CCA mentioned below will be done in close collaboration with staff from EEA, thus ensuring that experiences and expertise in these areas are built and maintained not only within the ETC but also in EEA. EEA, with the support of ETC, will work very closely with European Commission services in implementing the activities described below.

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<sup>9</sup> <http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/climate/national-adaptation-strategies>

<sup>10</sup> <http://water.europa.eu/>

<sup>11</sup> <http://biodiversity-chm.eea.europa.eu/>

<sup>12</sup> <http://ies.jrc.ec.europa.eu/index.php?page=data-portals>

<sup>13</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/seis/>

<sup>14</sup> <http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

### **3. Specific tasks of the European Topic Centre on Climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation**

The tasks hereby described are conceived as a whole to be incrementally implemented over the period covered. Bearing in mind the specificities and evolving context for the related expertise, policies and information in this given area, the EEA will seek to focus on limited priority tasks in a first stage before gradually developing capacities and activities with the ETC support;.

#### ***Main policy-related objectives***

The Commission's White Paper on Adaptation (2009) forms the main policy context for the new ETC climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation. The White paper identified the need to integrate climate change in key EU policies. Furthermore an increasing number of EEA member countries have performed climate change vulnerability assessments and have developed national adaptation strategies.

The White Paper on adaptation also called for further research (e.g. under the EU framework programme) and for establishing an EU Clearinghouse on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to improve sharing of existing data and methods, for which first services are to be available by end of 2011.

The relevant international context is the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change UNFCCC<sup>15</sup> and a possible post-2012 global agreement on climate change (depending on the follow-up activities to be decided during 2010, based on the outcomes of COP15, Dec 2009, Copenhagen). Furthermore various other international agreements are relevant, including the UN Convention on Biological Diversity<sup>16</sup>, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification<sup>17</sup> and the UN International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (ISDR<sup>18</sup>) and the related Hyogo framework for action.

The ETC needs to support these policy processes to various extents and where appropriate, which is described in more detail below.

#### ***Main elements in the programme of work***

##### **Work area 1: Data and Monitoring**

Within the EU no formal reporting obligations exist for reporting data on climate change, disasters and their impacts to the European Commission (or EEA). Therefore currently EEA does not collect such data directly from its member countries. Within the international framework (UNFCCC, ISDR) some data are reported and made available, but these are presented within a global context and therefore often not complete and/or specific and/or detailed at European level.

For the existing EEA (joint with JRC and WHO) climate change impact indicators (including indicators on natural disasters) use was therefore mainly made of

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<sup>15</sup> <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.cbd.int/>

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.unccd.int/main.php>

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.unisdr.org/>

international databases and results from EU research projects<sup>19</sup>. A number of the Essential Climate Variables (ECVs) collected and reported through the Global Observing System for Climate (GCOS<sup>20</sup>) were specifically used including data from both space and in situ monitoring stations.

Current GMES initial services (atmosphere, marine, land, emergency) provide some of the ECVs (e.g. temperature, precipitation, greenhouse gases, ozone and aerosols, arctic sea ice extent, sea surface temperature, sea level), but these are mainly near-real time or short term (days) forecasts, while long term time series are needed to detect climate change trends. GMES could be improved especially for freshwater, marine and terrestrial biodiversity/ecosystems and land use/soil. A discussion on a GMES climate service has started in 2009, including e.g. on the need to extend reanalysis back into the past (e.g. 50 years) at a more spatially detailed scale in all relevant domains (atmosphere, marine, land).

ESA<sup>21</sup> is furthermore putting in place an extensive programme to cover globally a number of the ECVs by means of satellite monitoring which are expected to deliver results the coming years. However a number of ECVs (e.g. terrestrial) will still need to be covered by in situ monitoring.

The ETC needs to work with EEA member countries and key international organisations on the following:

- Contribute to maintaining and updating an overview/database of the availability of relevant data and information and their regular updates from key organisations (e.g. by preparing meta-data), for which access will be provided through the EU Clearinghouse (this includes e.g. the outcomes of main relevant EU FP6/7 research projects) and assessing and summarising the QA/QC procedures followed by the relevant organisation
- Support the activities on stimulating and facilitating initiatives for hindcasting Europe's climate (EURRA, European Reanalysis), in partnership with key organisations including ECMWF<sup>22</sup>, EUMETNET<sup>23</sup> and JRC
- Support the GMES process in the development of user requirements for a potential climate change GMES service/contribution
- Support the analysis of comparability issues and information gaps in data on past and current trends in natural and technological disasters, in cooperation with WHO-CRED<sup>24</sup>

## **Work area 2: Indicators and mapping**

The EEA is developing indicators within the DPSIR (driving forces, pressures, state, impact, responses<sup>25</sup>) assessment framework to support our regular assessments

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<sup>19</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/index\\_en.cfm?pg=climate](http://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/index_en.cfm?pg=climate)

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/gcos/index.php>

<sup>21</sup> <http://www.esa.int/>

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.ecmwf.int/>

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.eumetnet.eu/>

<sup>24</sup> <http://www.cred.be/>

<sup>25</sup> [http://glossary.eea.europa.eu/terminology/concept\\_html?term=dpsir](http://glossary.eea.europa.eu/terminology/concept_html?term=dpsir)



on state of and trends in the environment and to support policy processes in the area of climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation.

For better assessing climate change impacts and future vulnerability there is a need to use improved projections of future climate-change and its impacts that can present probabilities in the medium term (decades). This would be more relevant to adaptation than the scales often used currently (e.g. 2050/2100 by IPCC and also by many current EU climate change impact research projects). EEA does not develop such scenarios but makes use of models and scenarios from EU (and national) research projects and the ETC needs to help facilitate this.

Furthermore in 2009 the Global Framework for Climate Services was initiated by WMO as an outcome of the third world climate conference<sup>26</sup>. Some EU countries are starting to develop their own national climate services covering both past and projected climate change and to some extent also impacts of climate change. EEA will follow these developments and aim to make use of these services where relevant, and the ETC needs to help facilitate this.

Assessing vulnerability to climate change will be an important work area for the ETC. These assessments should focus on the human and natural systems that are most vulnerable and cover the regions most affected. Key issues for which vulnerability analyses will be needed include (without being exhaustive) e.g.: coastal flooding; river flooding; water availability, glacier retreat and reduced snow cover; droughts, agricultural crops and irrigation; human health effects (floods, heatwaves, vector borne diseases); biodiversity and nature protection effects (marine, terrestrial/soil, water). For assessing vulnerability spatial data and scenarios are essential and in that respect specifically cooperation with the new ETC covering spatial analysis will be important.

Furthermore the 2009 Commission Communication on disaster risk prevention<sup>27</sup> mentions the need for better sharing of disaster data and disaster risk mapping. EEA will also be involved in assessing risks of natural disaster as much as feasible in an integrated way with assessing vulnerability of climate change, since several issues are interlinked. The exact scope of the work of EEA in this area will still need to be clarified.

The ETC needs to work with EEA member countries and key international organisations on the following:

- Updating and improving the existing indicators on climate change impacts (including the related indicators in the EEA core set of indicators), by means of higher quality, spatially more detailed and consistent observed data (in cooperation with GMES) and also projected (modelled) future trends, in collaboration with other ETCs.
- Ensuring consistency between indicators developed in various thematic areas and the specific set of indicators on climate change impacts. E.g. within the area of biodiversity a number of indicators have been developed (including one on climate change) and agreed at EU level to assess progress towards the EU target

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<sup>26</sup> [http://www.wmo.int/wcc3/page\\_en.php](http://www.wmo.int/wcc3/page_en.php)

<sup>27</sup> <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/civil/index.htm>

of halting biodiversity loss by 2010 and EEA has produced a first assessment (SEBI2010<sup>28</sup>). Also within other themes related indicators have been developed (freshwater, marine<sup>29</sup>). For all these themes and the relevant indicators on climate change EEA aims for consistency in data, methods and key messages and the ETC needs to assist to achieve this.

- Developing and implementing methodologies for current and future climate change vulnerability and disaster risk maps. For this task also socio-economic, sectoral and land use scenarios are needed and the ETC needs to assist EEA in this work area and also making use of scenarios developed by other international organisations.

Cooperation with JRC will be essential in the area of vulnerability mapping (e.g. floods, forest fires, droughts) and with civil protection agencies regarding disaster risk mapping.

### **Work area 3: Support the development and implementation of EU policy**

The ETC needs to provide technical assistance to EEA in its support to the member countries in implementing key relevant policies and measures and to the Commission in developing possible changes in existing and/or new policies and measures. This includes follow-up policy activities as outlined in the Commission's White Paper on Adaptation (2009) and the foreseen related Council conclusions (due end of 2009). In addition since integration of climate change adaptation is needed in key EU-wide and related national policies also a need for technical assistance related to (some of) these may be expected:

- Water framework directive (e.g. 2<sup>nd</sup> river basin management plans due in 2015)
- Floods directive (flood risk maps due by 2013)
- Water Scarcity and Droughts strategy
- Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Integrated Maritime Policy Coastal management (e.g. follow-up to the Roadmap for Maritime Spatial Planning; Integrated Coastal Zone Management)
- Nature conservation policy including management of Natura 2000 and the EU biodiversity policies (taking into account a draft 2009 EU strategy biodiversity and climate change and discussions on post-2010 biodiversity targets)
- Health and climate change (including e.g. foreseen outcomes of the WHO ministerial conference 2010)
- Structural Policies 2007-13 (European Spatial Development Perspective – Territorial Cohesion)
- Agriculture (Common Agriculture Policy; Agri-environmental Regulation; New guidelines for Rural Development)
- European strategy on soil
- Disaster risk prevention (2009 communication)

The European Commission will establish an Impact and Adaptation Steering Group (IASG), of which EEA is expected to become a member. Furthermore two new technical working groups are planned to be set up, on the knowledge base and on

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<sup>28</sup> <http://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/publications/progress-towards-the-european-2010-biodiversity-target/>

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.eea.europa.eu/themes/water/indicators>

policy and funding instruments. EEA is also expected to be actively involved in these working groups.

Since climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation is a broad and crosscutting work area, there are a number of other relevant implementation or policy development working groups and networks which are summarised here. EEA is (or could be) participating in a number of these.

Within the Water Framework Directive and the Floods Directive a working group addresses floods and expert meetings/workshops deal specifically with climate change. Another DG ENV working group deals with biodiversity and climate change. Furthermore there are various EU Council expert groups developing EU policy under UNFCCC and also other relevant networks exist (e.g. EPA network, WHO). Furthermore the Commission and also ISDR organise regularly technical meetings with national civil protection agencies.

The ETC needs to give technical assistance to current and future activities of EEA within the relevant groups and networks (as mentioned above) e.g. by means of:

- Technical papers on issues related to e.g. data and methodologies
- Providing support to expert meetings (e.g. presentations, minutes)
- Assisting in sharing information (e.g. through CIRCA and/or ETC web site)
- Reviewing of working documents prepared by others

Such activities will be done primarily based on the activities as described in work areas 1, 2 and 4 and possible additional needs arising and will be performed under management and coordination by EEA and in collaboration with DG ENV. In particular regarding the IASG working groups close collaboration with DG ENV is important to ensure synergies of activities.

In various areas also other ETCs have an important role and therefore the ETC CCA will need to work closely with these other ETCs, under management and coordination by EEA.

#### **Work area 4: EEA assessment reports**

EEA will produce and publish the next State of the Environment and Outlook assessment report by 2015. In addition a number of other assessment reports are expected to be prepared including e.g. broad assessments covering European neighbourhood areas (e.g. Mediterranean, UNECE/Eastern Europe); EURECA (ecosystem assessment, 2012); freshwater (2012); coastal zones (2012); biodiversity (2010). An update of the 2008 CC impact report is not yet decided; this may be published in 2014.

In addition key other international assessments need to be taken into account. The IPCC is developing in 2010 the scope and content of its Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) which will be finalized in 2014. In particular the IPCC WGII (Working Group II: Impacts, adaptation and vulnerability) report will be relevant. IPCC, together with ISDR, will also produce a report on “Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation” to be published in mid/end 2011. The EEA may provide contributions to these reports, although this has not yet been decided. EEA will furthermore make use of the main messages from these reports.

For the assessments to be produced by the EEA, the ETC will provide the knowledge-base on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation (including DRR) in close collaboration with EEA staff. This work will build much on the work to be done in work area 2 (indicators and mapping), while work area 4 includes the main ETC activities on adaptation (e.g. analysis of effectiveness and costs of adaptation actions; overview of national adaptation plans; guidance and decision support tools for good practices).

The main assessment activities by the ETC will be:

- Contributions to integrated assessments, for which the use of scenarios, models and tools needed, will be coordinated by EEA (with support provided by the ETC).
- Specifically technical assistance to the next report on climate change impacts in Europe (to be decided, possibly 2014), to be prepared by EEA and in collaboration with other organizations (e.g. JRC, WHO)
- Contributions to the analysis of the effectiveness and costs of current and planned/future adaptation actions, including indicators to monitor and review adaptation actions (e.g. outcome or process based indicators) and maintenance of an overview of national and regional adaptation plans
- Contributions to the development of guidance and decision support tools for identifying and implementing good practices in adaptation actions.

#### **Work area 5: ETC management and capacity building in EEA member countries**

The organisational set-up and management procedures of the ETC consortium must meet the special and general conditions to the Framework Partnership Agreement. To ensure this, the management of the ETC requires, for example, clear decision and communication structures within the consortium, and well-established links to the EEA and its member countries, to the European Commission (e.g. DG ENV, JRC and Eurostat) and to other relevant organisations (e.g. UNFCCC, IPCC, ISDR, UNECE, WHO, EUMETNET, ECMWF). In response to the annual work programme, which is the basis for the grant, the consortium shall produce an annual implementation plan.

The ETC management must also include procedures for quality assurance – inclusive language-check - of all its deliverables.

The ETC shall maintain close links with Eionet and EEA member countries, through:

- strong communication efforts with the countries, including networking and regular country visits;
- in dialogue with the countries identifying barriers to optimally perform their tasks (e.g. monitoring capacities, staff resources, knowledge gaps) and developing proposals to solve any issues that may emerge;
- providing training and capacity building in the countries as appropriate;
- organising regular Eionet workshops and seminars to discuss the outcomes of the work and plan future activities with the member countries;

- joint work with other ETCs, including the priority areas:
  - o spatial reference data sets
  - o land use data and scenarios to be used within vulnerability mapping
  - o floods, droughts, water scarcity and other climate change impacts and/or natural hazards and their socioeconomic effects
  - o integration between the climate change impacts clearing house and other existing information systems (Water information system for Europe WISE, Biodiversity clearinghouse and/or data centre, JRC information systems).

#### **4. General guidance on the expertise and organisation of the European Topic Centre on Climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation**

The present and earlier ETCs are consortia of government organisations, private non-profit organisations and a few commercial firms. Based upon EEA experience some general guidance can be given for a successful consortium.

##### **A. The structure of the ETC consortium:**

The ETC consortium shall comprise one coordinating organisation and several partners. The following points have to be considered when establishing the consortium:

- As it can be difficult to manage many small partners (e.g. with contracts of less than EUR 50 000 per year) in a consortium, fewer partners can facilitate management. However, this has to be balanced against the need to cover the required field of expertise and to ensure good geographical coverage.
- The work programme may be best addressed by a 'core group' located at the coordinating organisation, supported by partners with specific competences. The expertise needed in the core group is both topical and technical, including:
  - coordinator (ETC manager), having appropriate management and networking capabilities;
  - technical/scientific coordinator with in-depth knowledge of climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation related issues;
  - administrative support, able to work in English and organise European meetings and consultations;
  - data management with experience in QA/QC;
  - expertise to design climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation information systems including the ability to handle relevant GIS components in cooperation with the European data infrastructure developed at EEA.

In order to ensure proper financial management, the core team shall have access to financial control services.

- The consortium as a whole need to cover the main work areas with the expertise listed under B, but also have excellent links to wider European expertise. This is particularly important where specific skills are needed, e.g. for certain methodologies, modelling or for wider sector integration etc.

- Therefore, the ETC needs to be structured in a way to ensure the necessary flexibility to be able to adapt to changing needs and to be able to subcontract experts for specific projects.

#### **B. Technical and scientific expertise:**

The consortium is expected to have excellent technical and scientific expertise to be able to fulfil all the tasks in the work areas mentioned in section 3.

Excellent technical and scientific expertise and experience in the following areas is specifically required:

- Climate change observations, models and scenarios
- Disaster data (natural and technological)
- Indicators on climate change and its impacts
- Climate change reanalysis methods and results
- Methods for mapping of vulnerability to climate change and disaster risks
- Spatial analysis (and INSPIRE)
- Integrated assessments and the use of socio-economic, sectoral and land use scenarios
- Effectiveness and costs of adaptation actions
- Guidance and decision support tools for good practices in adaptation
- EU and national policy developments (follow-up on White Paper on adaptation; other key EU policies for which climate change adaptation mainstreaming is a priority; national adaptation plans)
- Capability to network and communicate with countries and also with relevant Commission and/or other international policy and scientific working groups and conferences

#### **5. Mandatory requirements**

In order to deliver high quality products and services the future beneficiaries shall comply with the following mandatory requirements:

As the working language of the EEA is English, it will also be the working language of the FPA and SAs. More particularly, the ETC is expected to deliver documents requiring minimal further language checking prior to publication. Future beneficiaries are required to have a quality control procedure to this effect.

Without exception, the ETC shall report to the EEA, the main contact points being the ETC Manager and the competent EEA Project Manager.

Subject to guidance from the EEA, the ETC shall ensure coherence and integration of its work with the work carried out by the EEA. To this effect and as far as specific tasks are concerned, the EEA Project Manager/s will be in close contact with the future beneficiaries (ETC Manager and partners as needed).

The ETC also expected to provide input into the development of the EEA annual work programme. Furthermore it shall provide EEA with proposals for the continuous development of the working areas.

While cooperation amongst ETCs is subject to respective requests and coordination from the EEA, ETCs shall be structured in a way which ensures proper linkages with other ETCs as cross-sectoral and cross-thematic cooperation and integration needs further attention in the future. Such integrated cooperation needs highly transparent ETC management in order to avoid duplication or disintegration of tasks across partners.

Maintaining and improving the links to Eionet<sup>30</sup>, in particular the Primary Contact Points (PCP) and National Reference Centres (NRC) appointed by the member countries, is the basic foundation for the work of the ETCs. This means, e.g., *ad hoc* technical support to member countries, reflecting the specific needs of all countries, to enable them to contribute to the reporting of 'priority data'. The ETC shall also assist the EEA in organising annual meetings with the Eionet partners.

The EEA is committed to an internal Environmental Policy to ensure that the EEA operates in an environmentally sound manner. Since March 2005 the EEA is EMAS certified. It is thus required that the future beneficiaries take into consideration the reduction of environmental impact of ETC activities and develop Environmental Policies for the ETCs.

## 6. Criteria

### 6.1 Eligibility

*Consortia* consisting of at least two partners (natural/legal persons, private or public), these partners being established in different EEA member countries (the 27 EU Member States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey), are eligible, subject to 6.2 and 6.3, for submitting proposals.

Entities which do not have legal personality under the applicable national law of one of the EEA member countries are also eligible under the same conditions, provided that their representatives have and can prove their capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf and assume financial liability.

A *consortium* may also include partners from other countries than the above mentioned, provided that the other eligibility requirements are respected and the share of partners from non-EEA member countries does not exceed 10 % of the total eligible costs.

### 6.2 *Ne bis in idem*

While partners may participate in *consortia* aiming at FPAs concerning different ETCs (see the parallel Open Calls EEA/ACC/10/001, EEA/NSV/10/002 and EEA/NSV/10/003), **no partner may participate in more than one consortium aiming at the FPA concerning the ETC of this Open Call, the ETC on Climate**

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<sup>30</sup> <http://www.eionet.europa.eu/>.

change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation. Disregard of this rule leads to exclusion of all *consortia* concerned.

Similarly it is prohibited for proposed staff to sign letters of intent to participate in more than one *consortium* aiming at the FPA concerning this ETC. Disregard of this rule leads to exclusion of all *consortia* concerned.

### 6.3 Exclusion criteria

Apart from the situations under 6.2, *consortia* shall be excluded from participation in this procedure if any of its partners is in one of the situations referred to in Articles 93(1), 94 and 96(2)(a) of the FR, namely the following:

- (a) they are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- (b) they have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of *res judicata*;
- (c) they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify;
- (d) they have not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of the country of the contracting authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;
- (e) they have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of *res judicata* for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity detrimental to the Communities' financial interests;
- (f) they are currently subject to an administrative penalty referred to in Article 96(1) FR
- (g) they are faced with a conflict of interest
- (h) they are guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in the procedure or fail to supply this information
- (i) following another procurement or grant award procedure financed by the Community budget, they have been declared to be in serious breach of contract for failure to comply with their contractual obligations;
- (j) have been excluded (according to Article 96(2)(a) FR) as candidate, tenderer or contractor from the contracts and grants financed by the budget, for a maximum period of ten years.



The cases referred to in point (e) shall be the following:

- (a) cases of fraud as referred to in Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests drawn up by the Council Act of 26 July 1995;
- (b) cases of corruption as referred to in Article 3 of the Convention on the fight against corruption involving officials of the European Communities or officials of Member States of the European Union, drawn up by the Council Act of 26 May 1997;
- (c) cases of involvement in a criminal organisation, as defined in Article 2(1) of Joint Action 98/733/JHA of the Council;
- (d) cases of money laundering as defined in Article 1 of Council Directive 91/308/EEC

Every *consortium* partner must provide a declaration on their honour, duly signed and dated, stating that they are not in any of the situations listed above (see Annex 3).

The *consortium* with whom the Agency will enter into a Framework Partnership Agreement must provide evidence confirming the declaration referred to in the previous point.

The contracting authority shall accept as satisfactory the following evidence:

- i) For points (a), (b) and (e) a recent extract from the judicial record, or failing that, a recent equivalent document issued by a judicial or administrative authority in the country of origin or provenance showing that those requirements are satisfied.
- ii) For point (d) a recent certificate issued by the competent authority of the State concerned.

Where the document or certificate referred to above is not issued in the country concerned and for other cases of exclusion, it may be replaced by a sworn or, failing that, a solemn statement made by the interested party before a judicial or administrative authority, a notary or a qualified professional body in his country of origin or provenance.

#### **6.4 Selection criteria**

The selection criteria will be assessed as a first step by the evaluation committee. Failure to comply with these criteria will result in the proposal not being evaluated further by the evaluation committee. Applicants may be asked to provide additional proof, or to clarify the supporting documents, related to the selection criteria within a specific time limit.

##### **(a) Legal capacity**

*Consortia* are required to prove that all their partners are authorised to perform the action/framework partnership agreement under national law, as evidenced by inclusion in a trade or professional register, a sworn declaration or certificate, membership of a specific organisation, express authorisation, entry in the VAT

register or any other statutory document allowing verification of the partner's legal status.

All partners of a *consortium* shall provide an identification sheet (Annex 2 to the Call for proposals) duly filled out and signed, a copy of inscription in a trade register, where applicable, and a copy of inscription in VAT registers.

### **(b) Economic and financial capacity**

Evidence of the *consortium's* economic and financial capacity shall be furnished by the following documents:

- proof of stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain the *consortium's* activity throughout the period 2011-2013;
- for private partners: profit and loss accounts, balance sheet for the last financial year for which the accounts were closed (and audit reports by an approved external auditor certifying the accounts for the last available financial year<sup>31</sup>).

### **(c) Technical and professional capacity**

Evidence of the *consortium's* technical and professional capacity to carry out the envisaged work programme shall be furnished on the basis of the following documents:

1. Detailed CVs (indicating, *inter alia*, the level of English/other language skills) + signed letters of intent of:
  - the ETC Manager and core staff of the *consortium* coordinator; as well as
  - the key experts of all *consortium* partnersproving that the *consortium* as a whole has sufficient technical, scientific and management (including financial) experience to assume the role of an ETC;
2. A list and brief account of work considered relevant and carried out by the partners forming the *consortium* in the past five years, with the sums, dates and recipients, public or private;
3. Letters of intent of all *consortium* partners to participate and provide co-financing up to at least 10% of the total eligible cost of the annual work programme;<sup>32</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> Having regard to Article 173(4) IR and the fact that all *consortium* partners will assume joint and several liability in accordance with the FPA, such audit reports are not required if consortia include any public bodies.

<sup>32</sup> The 10%-rule of minimum co-financing is applied towards the *consortium* as a whole. To what extent partners contribute to this co-financing is an internal *consortium* matter. Before awarding any grant through Specific Agreements (SAs) based on the Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA), the *consortium* must furnish proof of the amount of co-financing to be provided (Article I.6.2 FPA).

4. For each partner established in an EEA member country, letters of confirmation from the respective Member of the EEA Management Board that the relevant partner is able to perform the function of an ETC partner within Eionet.
5. Proof and description of the *consortium's*/partners' Quality Assurance and Quality Control systems;
6. Proof and description of the *consortium's*/partners' environmental policy.

## 6.5 Award criteria

The Framework Partnership Agreement will be concluded with the *consortium* whose proposal guarantees best that the EEA demands as described above are met. Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the six award criteria and allocation of points as outlined below, producing a maximum total score of 100 points:

|  | Max. award points |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. <b>General approach to the work</b> – ability to provide information that addresses the needs of policy-makers. The proposal needs to demonstrate the consortium’s understanding of the objectives of the EEA strategy, and the policies to which ETC climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation will contribute. This needs to be reflected in the set up of the consortium, the approach taken to the work and the products proposed.   | 15                |
| 2. <b>Expertise and experience in data on climate change and its impacts and natural and technological disasters</b> – the expertise and experience of the consortium as evident from their previous projects and publications/reports/internet sites regarding in-depth knowledge of EU and international data on climate change impacts and natural and technological disasters (collection, validation processes, quality assurance and quality control and data base development and management)   | 25                |
| 3. <b>Expertise and experience of climate change adaptation relevant policy processes</b> – the expertise and experience of the consortium in analysis of effectiveness of EU and national strategies and policies, including climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures (often integrated within other key policies) as evident from their previous projects and publications/reports. Experience in participation in the development and implementation of strategies and policies by providing expert advice in EU and/or international steering and working groups | 15                |
| 4. <b>Expertise and experience in developing indicators and supporting assessment</b> – the expertise and experience of the consortium in developing indicators and their relationships and contributing to broad environmental pan-European assessments, sectoral assessments, and environmental thematic assessments, as evident from previous projects and publications/reports   | 15                |
| 5. <b>Use of existing capacities in Europe</b> – Sound approach to access of expert networks in the member countries and in institutes external to the consortium, links with relevant scientific and other organisations in Europe as evident from previous projects and reports.   | 15                |
| 6. <b>Project management and networking capacity</b> – Sound arrangements for the management of the ETC consortium, and tracked record in implementing effective management procedures, enhancing cooperation between partners, and with countries and other stakeholders, transparent financial administration environmental policy adopted and quality assurance. Adequate level of manpower, resources and output corresponding to the indicative annual budget. Ability to work with countries across Europe (EEA member countries and potentially others).                            | 15                |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | <b>100</b>        |

Proposals will be evaluated and awarded points according to the extent to which the above award criteria are fulfilled. Proposals scoring less than 65% of the maximum total score for the seven award criteria overall will be considered to be of insufficient quality and eliminated from the award procedure. Should proposals obtain the same total score of 65 points or more and tie for first place, the winning proposal will be decided on the basis of the highest score achieved in total across award criteria 2 to 4.

## **7. Environmental considerations**

The EEA runs a certified environmental management system (EMAS) and aims to minimise the environmental impact of all its activities, including those carried out under contract. The future beneficiaries will, therefore, be requested to consider the EEA environmental management guidelines in the implementation of the contract, in particular, those relating to business travel/electronic means of communication, paper and energy consumption. Further information on the EMAS system can be found on the EEA homepage: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/documents/emas>.

Moreover, it is strongly recommended that proposals are submitted in an environmentally friendly way, e.g., by choosing a simple and clear structure (list of contents and consecutive page numbering), double-sided printing, limiting attachments to what is required in the Terms of Reference (no additional material in paper) and avoiding plastic folders or binders.

## **8. Further information**

Submitting a proposal implies acceptance by the *consortium* of all terms and conditions of the standard Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) and its Annexes.

## **9. Timing**

**Information briefing: 3 February 2010 (Copenhagen)**

**Deadline for submitting proposals: 20 April 2010**

Following the decision of the EEA Management Board on the designation of the successful *consortium* (foreseen for 16 June 2010) and prior to signature of the Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) all *consortia* will be notified of the outcome of this call.

## ANNEXES

Annex 1 – Proposal (model structure)

Annex 2 – Identification sheet

Annex 3 – Declaration exclusion criteria

### **BRIEFING MEETING and further information**

A briefing meeting to provide more background information on the expectations for the ETC and the procedure for submitting a proposal will be organised on 3 February 2010 in Copenhagen. If you are interested, please register by sending an e-mail to [olivier.cornu@eea.europa.eu](mailto:olivier.cornu@eea.europa.eu). We will send you the meeting details in response.

Any immediate questions regarding this call for proposals should be sent by e-mail to the European Environment Agency: [ronan.uhel@eea.europa.eu](mailto:ronan.uhel@eea.europa.eu) (general questions) or [andre.jol@eea.europa.eu](mailto:andre.jol@eea.europa.eu) (technical questions).

All applicants are encouraged to consult the section 'contract opportunities' on the EEA website regularly before the deadline.