



# OPERAs Project Kick-off Meeting

Edinburgh, January 2013

**Sofie Vandewoestijne**

**Management of Natural Resources  
Directorate Environment  
Directorate General Research & Innovation  
EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

[Sofie.Vandewoestijne@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Sofie.Vandewoestijne@ec.europa.eu)



# Outline

- **European Research**
- **Environment 2012 Call**
- **Cooperation with OpenNESS**
- **Grant Agreement**

- 
- 1952: ECSC treaty; first projects started March 1955
  - 1957: Euratom treaty; Joint Research Centre set up
  - 1983: ESPRIT programme
  - 1984: **First** Framework Programme (1984-1987)
  - 1987: ‘Single European Act’ – science is Community responsibility;  
**Second** Framework Programme (1987-1991)
  - 1990: **Third** Framework Programme (1990-1994)
  - 1993: Treaty on European Union; role of RTD in the enlarged EU
  - 1994: **Fourth** Framework Programme (1994-1998)
  - 1998: **Fifth** Framework Programme (1998-2002)
  - 2000: European Research Area
  - 2002: **Sixth** Framework Programme (2002-2006)

**2007: Seventh Framework Programme (2007-2013)**



## 7. Framework Programme - 2007-2013

*Cooperation* – Collaborative research

*Ideas* – Frontier Research

*People* – Marie Curie Actions

*Capacities* – Research Capacity

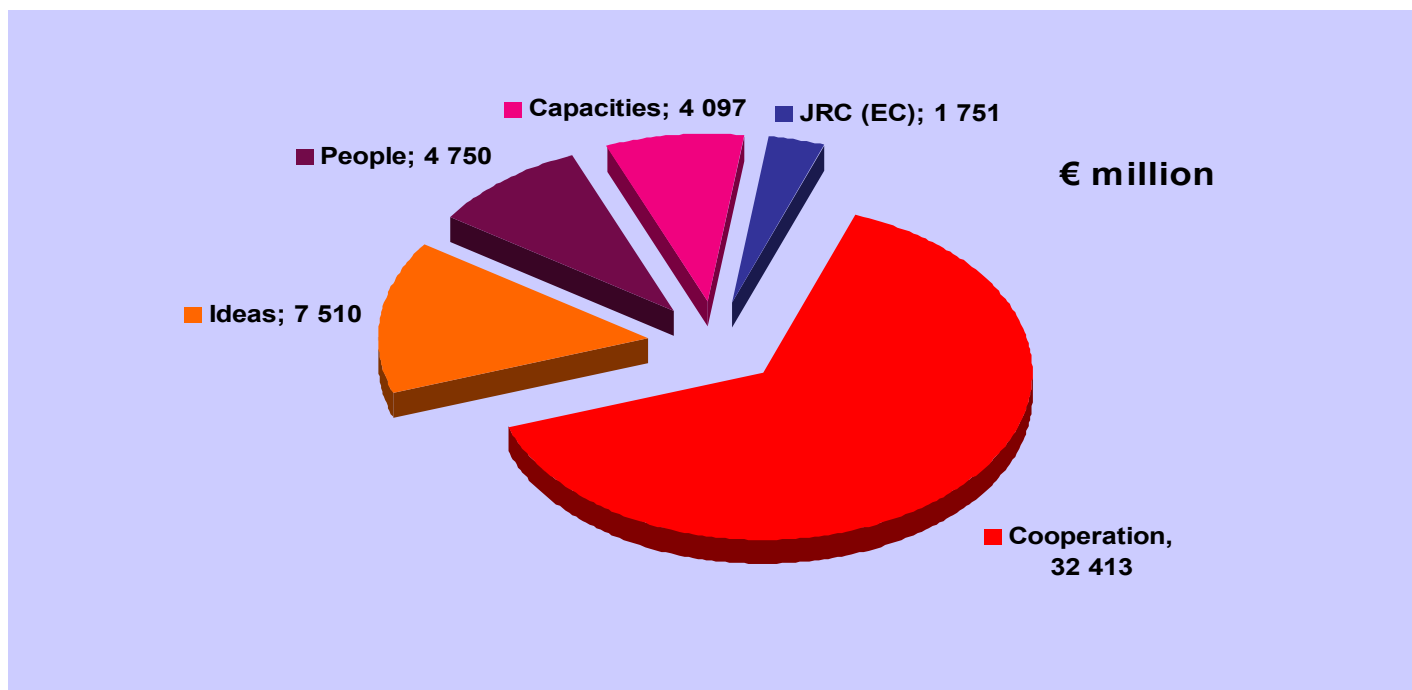


JRC non-nuclear research

*Euratom* direct actions – JRC nuclear research

*Euratom* indirect actions – nuclear fusion and fission research

## FP7 budget: € 50 521 million



# FP7 2007-2013 'Cooperation' budget

## Ten themes

	<b>Budget (€ million)</b>
<b>1. Health</b>	6 100
<b>2. Food, agriculture and fisheries, and biotechnology</b>	1 935
<b>3. Information and communication technologies</b>	9 050
<b>4. Nanotechnologies, materials and production</b>	3 475
<b>5. Energy</b>	2 350
<b>6. Environment</b>	<b>1 890</b>
<b>7. Transport</b>	4 160
<b>8. Socioeconomic research</b>	623
<b>9. Space</b>	1 430
<b>10. Security</b>	1 400
<b>Total</b>	<b>32 413</b>



# Work Programme 2012

## Environment Theme

### Specific Objectives

- **Provide knowledge-based options for addressing major societal challenges towards sustainable use and management of land and sea** *e.g., contributions to maintaining and restoring the ecosystem capacity to deliver products and services required by society*
- **Develop and strengthen European leadership in innovation, including key environmental technologies pursuing a broad concept of innovation,** *e.g. Innovative approaches to value biodiversity and ecosystem services and to develop public goods and sustainable economic activities from them*
- **Promote and facilitate knowledge transfer, assessment, uptake and exploitation of scientific data and results,** *e.g. development of conceptual frameworks, methods and protocols to provide consistent datasets and knowledge across time, scales and sectors*



**‘Transformative and Responsible Innovation’ addressing 5 societal challenges (265M€):**

- **Coping with climate change**
- **Sustainable use and management of land and seas**
- **Improving resource efficiency**
- **Protecting citizens from environmental hazards**
- **Mobilising environmental knowledge for policy, industry and society**

**Cross-cutting activities: PPPs and EU-India initiative**

**Cross-disciplinarity: the 5 challenges integrate various sub-activities of the Environment Theme**





## ENV.2012.6.2-1

### Exploration of the operational potential of the concepts of ecosystem services and natural capital to systematically inform sustainable land, water and urban management

#### Goal:

- A better understanding of the potential of the ecosystem services and natural capital approach
- Examination of the potential of existing policies
- Provision of alternatives for enhanced operationalisation of the concept of ecosystem services and natural capital to support formulation and implementation of regulatory frameworks

#### Proposals should address :

- a range of social-ecological systems including at least fresh water bodies, coastal zones, urban and rural areas and their interfaces
- links between and comparisons across locales, sectors, scales and time
- the bio-physical control of ecosystem services as well as the socio-economic implications of choices on the use of ecosystem services
- the development of methods and coherent and shared protocols to provide consistent and integrated datasets and knowledge



### ENV.2012.6.2-1

#### **Expected impact:**

- Improved understanding of how ecosystem services and natural capital contribute to human well-being across locales, sectors, scales and time.
- Contribution to maintaining and enhancing a sustainable flow of a broad range of services from ecosystems while preserving their ecological value and biological diversity.
- Contribution to more effective and inclusive management of ecosystem services balancing trade-offs in social and individual well-being.
- Increased EU competitiveness by innovative processes and services derived from operationalising the concept of ecosystem services and natural capital.

#### **Additional information:**

- Collaborative Project
- Two-stage evaluation, One or more proposals can be selected
- Projects linked through a coordination mechanism defined during the negotiation stage
- EU contribution to SMEs is 15% or more. SMEs are expected to play a role in developing services and products derived from ecosystem services or in assessing / monitoring them.

# Cooperation with OpenNESS

## Coordination between projects through:

- Organise joint project meetings to include: a) at least 2 policy meetings in Brussels (e.g.lunch debates), b) at least 1 project meeting elsewhere to plan collaboration (at an early stage of the work), c) ad hoc project meetings to implement collaboration
- Organise jointly at the end of the projects an Open Science Conference
- Produce joint Special Issue publications during the projects, linked also to the final conference
- Produce a joint stakeholder engagement and monitoring plan (to avoid overlap of individuals contacted)
- Communicate ideas/insights about protocols, methods and synthesis of exemplars/ case studies - partner participation in workshops on a) method development (early on), and b) synthesis and comparison of results (later on)
- Explore options for collaboration in the Lower Danube exemplar/case study, to avoid redundancy and replication and compare results and lessons-learned (at the synthesis workshop, above)



# Cooperation with OpenNESS

## Coordination between projects through:

- Coordinate communication and dissemination strategies and plans
- Compare the project policy briefs, and avoid confusion where differences in messages arise
- Ensure a high degree of inter-operability of the OPERAs Resource Hub and the OpenNESS Clearinghouse through a common platform
- Ensure the perennity of the Resource Hub/Clearinghouse common platform
- Develop a joint business plan with the aim of commercialising the Resource Hub/Clearinghouse common platform
- Coordinate Summer School(s) and other training elements
- Include common members within the project Advisory groups, especially the coordinators.



## Deliverables:

**The consortium is required to submit deliverables identified in Description of Work of the Grant Agreement, according to the timetable specified in the Deliverables list**

## Reports:

**The Consortium is required to submit periodic reports to the Commission within 60 days after the end of the period, as follows:**

### 1. Periodic reports :

- An overview of progress of the work, including a publishable summary report,
- An explanation of the use of the resources and
- A financial statement (Form C) per beneficiary and a summary financial report of all beneficiaries in an aggregate form.

### 2. Final report :

- A final publishable summary report, conclusions and socioeconomic impact,
- A report covering wider societal implications and a plan on use and dissemination of foreground.



## Direct costs

**Direct costs are all those eligible costs which can be attributed directly to the project and are identified by the beneficiary as such, in accordance with its accounting principles and its usual internal rules:**

- Personnel
- Travels
- Equipment, consumables
- Subcontracting
- Costs of the certificates...

**With regard to personnel costs, only the costs of the actual hours worked by the persons directly carrying out work under the project may be charged.**

**All partners must keep certified records of the actual hours worked by persons carrying out the work of the project!**

***FP7 Grant Agreement - Annex II General Conditions - Part B FINANCIAL PROVISIONS, SECTION 1 – GENERAL FINANCIAL PROVISIONS - II.15. Identification of direct and indirect costs***



## Approval of reports and payments

**The Commission has a time-limit of 105 days to evaluate and execute the corresponding payment.**

**EC will pay automatically interest on late payment**

**No tacit approval of reports!**

**After reception Commission may:**

- **Approve the reports and deliverables**
- **Suspend the time-limit if reports/deliverables have not been supplied, are incomplete, unclear or raise doubts concerning the eligibility of costs claimed**
- **Reject them giving justification, possible termination if appropriate.**
- **Suspend the payment at any time for the amount intended for the beneficiary(ies) concerned**

***FP7 Grant Agreement - Annex II General Conditions - Part A IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT, SECTION 2 – REPORTING AND PAYMENTS - II.5. Approval of reports and deliverables, time-limit for payment***



# Amendments

**The amendments may be requested by any of the parties: Coordinator requests amendments on behalf of the Consortium, the coordinator can accept an amendment proposed by the Commission.**

**The parties undertake to approve or reject any valid request of amendment within 45 days – no response means rejection.**

**However, tacit approval when addition/withdrawal of a beneficiary.**

**The amendments may not have the purpose or the effect of making changes to the agreement which might call into question the decision awarding the grant!!**

***FP7 Grant Agreement - Annex II General Conditions – FINAL PROVISIONS - II.36. Requests for amendments and termination at the initiative of the consortium***





## Financial audits

- The Commission may, at any time during the implementation of the project and up to five years after the end of the project, arrange for financial audits to be carried out, by external auditors, or by the Commission services themselves including European Anti-Fraud Office OLAF.
- The beneficiaries shall keep the originals or, in exceptional cases, duly authenticated copies – including electronic copies - of all documents relating to the grant agreement for up to five years from the end of the project



## Technical audits

- The Commission may initiate a technical audit or review at any time during the implementation of the project and up to five years after the end of the project.
- The reviewers assess, among others:
  - the degree of fulfilment of the project work plan and of the related deliverables;
  - the continued relevance of the objectives;
  - the resources planned and utilised in relation to the achieved progress;
  - the management procedures and methods of the project;
  - the beneficiaries' contributions and integration within the project etc.



## Publications and communication

**Take appropriate measures to engage with the public and the media about the project and to highlight the EC financial support**

**Any publicity must specify that the project has received EC research funding and display the European emblem, and specify that it reflects only the author's views and that the Community is not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein**

**All publications shall include:** *The research leading to these results has received funding from the European Community's Seventh Framework Programme ([FP7/2007-2013]) under grant agreement n° XXXXXX (see Article II.30. of the Grant Agreement).*

### **Open Access of publications:**

Special clause requiring:

1. to deposit articles resulting from FP7 projects into an institutional or subject-based repository;
2. to make their best efforts to ensure open access to these articles within six months

# What are we looking for?



- ❖ **Scientific excellence**
- ❖ **Impacts and innovation**
  - **Long-term availability of results**
  - **Communication/dissemination activities**
  - **Stakeholder involvement**
  - **Research-policy interface**



And a rewarding collaboration...

Thank you!

**Sofie Vandewoestijne**

**Management of Natural Resources  
Directorate Environment  
Directorate General Research & Innovation  
EUROPEAN COMMISSION**

[Sofie.Vandewoestijne@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Sofie.Vandewoestijne@ec.europa.eu)