



Eracobuild program VDP

Value Driven Processes for the construction and operation of buildings

Call for proposals – Eracobuild VDP Call 1

Published June 5th 2009

1. Introduction

This is the first call for proposals within the transnational research and innovation program *Value Driven Processes for the construction and operation of buildings* (VDP) of the ERA-net project Eracobuild (www.eracobuild.eu).

This call provides opportunities for research groups and construction sector actors to jointly take part in international, multilateral cooperation to improve user and client values through improvement of the processes, i.e. aiming at a transformation of the way of working within the construction sector.

The call is open for applications from Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Norway and Sweden through the funding of the call by national funding organisations being Eracobuild partners. Projects being proposed are welcome to include units from other countries. These partners have to fully finance their own participation.

2. Call time table

Publication date: June 5th 2009

Closing date: September 15th 2009 at 14:00 (CET)

Funding decision: End of 2009

3. Participating countries, corresponding programs, and budget

<u>Country/region</u>	<u>Program owner/program</u>	<u>Budget, k€</u>
Cyprus	RPF	340 k€(res. org. and industry)
Denmark	EBST*	600 k€(research)
Finland	Tekes / Built Environment	500 k€(res.org.) + funding for industry
France	MEEDDAT/ PUCA , Cqfd	350 k€(2009) (res.org. and industry) + cofunding from ind.
	MEEDDAT/ DRI, C2D2	200 k€(2009) (res.org and industry) + cofunding from ind.

Norway	RCN	500 k€
Sweden	Formas/Formas-BIC	500 k€+ equal amount cofunding from sector actors.

* Danish Enterprise and Construction Authority

For further information on funding and budget, see below: 13. National eligibility criteria

4. Background

No country can in the long run give users and clients in the built environment the best value purely through domestic research and innovation work. Free border crossing trade, international harmonised standards and regulations as well as free movement of capital are giving improved possibilities for the now evident increasing transnational activities among designers, engineering firms, contractors, facility managers and property owners. The notion of an “European Research Area”- ERA is an important effort to support progress based on international cooperation, and ERA-nets – like Eracobuild – as an important instrument.

Internationalisation, and indeed globalisation, will require research groups as well as sector actors to cooperate closely on the international arena to stay in the forefront and be able to meet increased competition. In addition, several society challenges have global implications which require increased cooperation to reach global solutions. Increasing transnational research and innovation is the logical answer.

5. Overall objective and specific goals

The objective for the Eracobuild program Value Driven Processes (VDP) is to increase value for users, clients and society through improvements in productivity, sustainability, meeting of functional requirements, attractiveness of the workforce etc. within the built environment. The program has a process focus through its effort in mapping, analysing and providing ways of change in connection to how the sector is working. For further information, see [VDP program document](#).

The goals can be described as a shift from a technical focus to a user and client focus, from local to global, from craftsmanship to industrialisation, from problem focus to innovation, as well as from a fragmented to a structured build up.

The long term goal in reduction of investment cost is 30%, while corresponding goals for life cycle cost and time of delivery is 50%. Significant improvements in sustainability, user satisfaction and working environment are also anticipated.

6. Call themes and project character

The thematic structure and focused themes, examples of relevant project areas etc. are given in the VDP program document.

In this first call all five themes, as given below, are open for proposed projects.

1. Definition of product/service
2. Production and operation of product/service
3. Business models
4. Information management
5. Overall process

The call is open for projects within a part of, parts of or all aspects covered in a research and innovation process excluding basic research (covering applied research, development and implementation). However, the character of the national programs through which a project applies for funding must be given consideration. Proposals are invited from universities, research institutes, and other public research organisations as well as from sector actors following the national eligibility criteria. In some countries cofounding requirements from sector actors (companies etc) are requested.

Projects have to include at least 3 of the countries participating in this call. The length of proposed projects must be 2-3 years.

7. Restrictions to participation

National conditions for participation apply for each partner, and each partner requiring funding will have to adapt to the "National eligibility criteria" (see 13 below).

8. Application procedure

Each consortium must appoint one "Project Coordinator" who will be responsible for the communication and joint reporting with the call secretariat (Tekes, Finland).

The project partners are required to sign a consortium agreement dealing with the responsibilities within the project and the exploitation of results. The consortium agreement should be delivered to the national funding bodies before the contract is signed.

A project proposal consists of two parts:

A. Joint project application

The overall project proposal shall be described using a joint application form covering the whole project. See [Project application template](#). The project coordinator is responsible for sending the joint application form (electronically) to the call secretariat no later than September 15th 2009 at 14:00 (CET).

Proposals must be written in English and the budget must be submitted using Euro as currency.

B. National applications

Relevant national applications have to be submitted for the respective national parts of the project. The application form should be accompanied by a copy of the joint project application. (see A above). Each partner is responsible for sending the national application to the national funding organisation no later than September 15th 2009 at 14:00 (CET).

9. Eligibility

The eligibility of the respective national parts of proposals will be evaluated by the national funding organisations following the national eligibility rules.

The overall project (whole project consortium) will be rejected if the deadlines and the requirements – national as well as joint - listed in the call text are not met.

10. Evaluation

An evaluation of all project proposals will be made jointly by an international panel consisting of one expert appointed by each participating funding organisation. For further information, see [Evaluation criteria document](#).

11. Funding

Funding will be awarded according to national rules. Additional co-financing from stakeholders is requested according to national practises. A project is not funded until it is accepted by all participating funding organisation in that project. When all national decisions have been made, the call secretariat will send a confirmation to the project coordinator. Subsequently, contracts will be sent out from the national funding organisations.

12. Monitoring and reporting

Projects granted funding will be monitored on the overall project level by the Eracobuild VDP Program group based on reports from the project coordinator. The national project funders will monitor the respective national parts following own practice.

13. National eligibility criteria

Cypriot Participants

The Cypriot participations in projects are funded by Research Promotion Foundation (RPF) according to the rules of the "ERACOBUILD-VDP/0609" Call for Proposals of the "Participation in Common European Programmes" Action of the "International Cooperation" Programme of the RPF's Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development

2009-2010. The Call for Proposals as well as the national application form is available at RPF's web-page (www.research.org.cy).

As a general rule, all legal entities registered in the Republic of Cyprus can be funded by RPF for their participation in projects of the present Call for Proposals.

Danish participants

Danish participation in projects is funded by the Danish Enterprise and Construction Authority. Funding is restricted to public owned or public supported universities and research institutes. The project leader of the Danish part of the project must hold a PhD degree.

Proposals with Danish participation must be accepted by The Danish Strategic Research Council. The evaluation panel must also be approved by The Danish Strategic Research Council.

Private companies have the opportunity to take part in a consortium, but cannot receive Danish funding. Further information as well as the national application form is available at www.ebst.dk/udbud

Finnish participants

Finnish participation in projects is funded by Tekes – Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation. Funding is intended for challenging and innovative research projects in universities, polytechnics, research institutes and private companies.

In university, polytechnic and research institute projects, Tekes funding requires collaboration between research organisations and companies. Usually projects are conducted in cooperation with companies.

Funding is given within the following parameters:

- Research institutes and universities:
 - o Research grants can range from 60 percent to 70 percent of eligible costs. Projects are co-financed by and conducted in cooperation with companies.
 - o In university, polytechnic and research institute projects, Tekes funding requires collaboration between research organisations and companies or a significant social impact.
- Private companies:
 - o R&D grants run from 25 to 65 percent of the eligible costs.
 - o R&D loans run from 25 to 70 percent of the eligible costs.
 - o Differing funding measures can be combined in a single project. One project may, for example, receive a grant of 25 percent of the eligible costs, and in addition, a loan of 25 percent.
- Application forms are available on the internet www.tekes.fi in Finnish and Swedish. Applications may be signed electronically.

French participants

French participation in projects is funding by MEEDDAT, from two funding directorates, depending on the kind of the project:

1 PUCA-MEEDDAT French funding agency for urbanism, building and architecture

Funding is intended for research projects evaluation, observing and comparing building processes in innovating situations : public-private partnership, performance driven negotiation (example : CQFD program in France intended for Cost Quality Sustainability Global performance in housing building in France).

Applicants must apply their research approach to actual building operations. The research proposal must discuss a theoretical approach of the question of value in building activities and follow one operation at less on site.

Applicants funded by PUCA come from universities, research institutes and private companies. The research team must be multidisciplinary. Applicants can belong to any Eracobuild country.

PUCA funding for building research is up to 100% of the expenses of additional costs for a public organisation and grants from 50% to 80% for private companies.

2 DRI-MEEDDAT

Funding by DRI is intended for challenging and innovative research projects in universities, research institutes and private companies. During project selection, DRI funding will be preferably focused on projects highlighting a collaboration between research organisations and companies.

Funding will be given to a national leader; the total grant is restricted to 50% of the eligible total cost for companies, and 100% of the marginal costs for the universities and research institutes. Application forms are available on the RGPU internet site. The project leader of the French part of the project must hold a PhD degree.

Proposals with French participation must be accepted by MEEDDAT/DRI. French evaluators must also be approved by the scientific committees of DRI research programs.

Norwegian participants

Norges forskningsråd (The Research Council Norway); gives R&D grants to Research Institutions and private companies. This call will be open for userdriven innovation projects (BIP), where private enterprises apply together with a R&D institution, the R&D institution being responsible for most of the research work.

R&D grant will by experience vary from 30 to 45 % of relevant project expenses covering payroll expenses, purchase of R&D work and one or more grants /fellowships. In addition can projects be co-funded by Skattefunn, which is a tax incentive scheme for R&D activities in companies giving 18-20% tax reduction on invested R&D (www.skattefunn.no) English.

To ensure consistent evaluation at national level, the project description must be completed according to requirements stated in the National call text. The grant proposal will be evaluated relative to the assessment criteria that apply to the specific type of application, and the requirements and principles set out in the call for proposals. Calls and applications are all made on electronic forms, available at www.forskningsradet.no, in Norwegian and English.

Swedish participants

The Swedish parts of projects are included in the Formas-BIC programme (Sustainable buildings). Funding is restricted to Swedish universities and research institutes recognized by Formas. The project leader of the Swedish part of the project must hold a PhD degree.

The projects require co-financing with at least 50 % (20 % of the co-financing in ready money/cash) and inclusion of an implementation plan for the result of the project.

Results from research parts of projects with Swedish public funding are in the public domain.

The Swedish partner shall send the application (electronically) to Formas following the national rules at Formas website www.formas.se.

14. Enquiries

Enquiries should be addressed to the national contact points in the participating countries:

CYPRUS:

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