

The following are extracts from the draft work programme for ENVIRONMENT. Topics that might be of interest to Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH) researchers were selected. Kindly note that some detail contained in the draft work programme may still change before the final call is launched, in July 2008. For more information, kindly contact the NCP for Environment.

ENV.2009.1.1.5.1 Climate change predictions in Sub-Saharan Africa (east to west), quantification of impacts and assessment of adequate adaptation Measures

The quality of seasonal forecasts and decadal climate change predictions should be improved over the Sub-Saharan African region (east to west) through better use and development of forecasting models on seasonal to decadal climatic scales. It will increase our confidence in the simulated sensitivity of rainfall perturbations due to changes of increased greenhouse gases, land-use, etc. Furthermore, a better understanding of climate impacts and improved forecasting capabilities are needed in key sectors such as water resources and agriculture. With these tools and taking into account the socio-economic aspects of African societies, the vulnerability to inter-annual variations and longer trends in climate can be evaluated. This in turn will lead to adaptation strategies for which their feasibility and associated costs will be assessed. This topic needs to have a strong involvement of the African research community.

(Specific International Cooperation Action - SICA) Funding scheme: Collaborative Project (small- or medium scale focused research project)

Expected impacts: Improved quality of the seasonal forecasts and decadal climate change predictions over the Sub-Saharan region (east to west). Improved forecasting capabilities and better understanding of climate impacts in key sectors, such as agriculture and water resources for development of early warning systems for food security, risk management and civil protection in Africa. Development of adaptation strategies and assessment of the feasibility and costs.

ENV.2009.1.1.6.1 Integrated methodology providing a common platform for an improved assessment of climate change impacts, vulnerability and related cost effective adaptation measures

The aim is to develop and apply a comprehensive and integrated methodology based on latest research results on impacts of and vulnerability to climate change and provide a common platform for the assessment of climate change impacts and vulnerability in key sectors at European level. This will be applied to assess the cost-effectiveness of adaptation measures to attenuate the expected impacts taking into account cross-sectoral benefits and at scales relevant for implementing adaptation measures. A significant step forward should be made here to reduce uncertainties in impact assessment and by developing a metrics which is used to ensure comparability in quantifying impacts and vulnerability.

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project (small- or medium scale focused research project)

Expected impacts: Establishment and use of methodologies for the assessment of climate change vulnerability, impacts, and related costs of adaptation measures as

European contribution to the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (UNFCCC) and the forthcoming Commission White Paper on Adaptation to Climate Change.

ENV.1.1.6.2 Options for adaptation strategies integrating sectoral and cross-sectoral measures in view of post-2012 climate initiatives

The project should develop options for strategies which will integrate sectoral and cross-sectoral instruments and measures for adaptation to Climate change and assess their ecological, social and economic costs, benefits and trade-offs. Portfolios or mixes of strategies should be investigated that embrace both mitigation and adaptation including an analysis of the role of the private sector. The project should take into account essential components of adaptation and mitigation identified in the context of the developments for a post-2012 Climate change agreement. The geographical focus should be Europe considering EU and Member States instruments and measures but embedded in the global context of adaptation to Climate change by including developments in the international arena (e.g. UNFCCC process) for the development of adaptation options.

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project (small or medium-scale focused research project)

Expected impacts: Better options for EU strategies and policy measures on adaptation to Climate change integrating sectoral and cross-sectoral approaches, also to follow up the forthcoming Commission White Paper on Adaptation to Climate Change.

ENV.2009.1.2.1.2 Methods to quantify the impacts of climate and weather on health in developing low income countries

The aim is to develop methods for the quantification of the impacts of climate and weather on various health outcomes in low-income regions. Direct as well as indirect impacts on health should be investigated. The developed methods should allow prioritisation of the health impacts from the viewpoint of their magnitude and graveness and should be tested on case studies in at least three different countries. Effective transfer and use of the research results will be ensured by involvement of users and stakeholders in the project

(Specific International Co-operation Action - SICA) Funding scheme: Collaborative Project (small- or medium scale focused research projects)

Expected impacts: More accurate and reliable quantifications of the impact of climate change on health outcomes in low-income developing countries. Enhanced capacity of relevant stakeholders to focus on and cope with priority health impacts of climate change. Support to EU policies (including the external dimension) on climate change and health.

ENV.1.3.1.1 Wild fires in the context of climate and social changes, and multi-hazards concept

Research will study, improve and integrate possible scenarios of climate change impacts, up-to-date drought and heat wave knowledge, human impacts, social and economic changes in order to better assess future fire regimes (e.g. size, frequency thresholds, intensity, spatial and temporal patterns, etc.) and landscapes responses in affected European and Mediterranean regions. Attention will also be given to the rural-urban interface and to potential new fire prone areas never affected up to now. International

cooperation with non-European countries is encouraged, such as Australia, Canada, USA and North African countries.

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project (large scale integrated project)

Expected impacts: Enhance the capacity to assess vulnerability and risks for wildfires; improved management and prevention strategies for wildfires.

ENV.2009.1.3.2.1 Costs of natural hazards

Compile, analyse and assess existing methods and approaches enabling to better estimate the costs of hazards and disasters (climate and hydro-meteorology related hazards) including direct damages, indirect losses and costs for emergency response and preparedness. Evaluate knowledge on direct and indirect economic benefit of prevention measures. Establish best practices and map case studies in Europe on the effect of risk prevention measures.

Funding scheme: Coordination and Support Action (coordinating type)

Expected impacts: Improved access to state-of-the-art knowledge for costs of natural hazards with regard to terminology, data collection methods and data gaps. More accurate estimates of economic benefits of disaster prevention/ mitigation measures.

ENV.2009.2.1.3.2 Desertification process and land degradation

Research should focus on response to desertification, land degradation processes, ecosystem services decline and the associated loss of biodiversity via the development of protection and restoration methods, strategies and measures, as well as best practices, operational analytical methods and modelling studies to combat desertification, associated loss of biodiversity and land degradation. Considerations should be given to support decision-making in integrated land and water management. An ecosystem approach has to be adopted. The project could include innovative research on desertification processes and land degradation, taking into account the links between physical and socioeconomic processes, evaluate the costs and benefits of any measures that could be proposed and facilitate knowledge transfer, addressing the stakeholders, including the institutional level. International cooperation should be envisaged to also address regions in the world facing similar situations as in Europe. (Specific International Cooperation Action – SICA)

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project (small- or medium scale focused research projects)

Expected impacts: The results of the project(s) will allow the EU stakeholders and the relevant organisations in partner countries to develop and/or improve their strategies, planning and implementation plans against desertification and land degradation, and thus contribute directly to the UNCCD Convention for desertification, to the EU Soil Thematic strategy and to the science programme of the "Committee for Science and Technology (CST)" the mandate of which is to support scientifically COP (Conference Of The Parties) with information and advice on scientific and technological matters relating to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

ENV.2009.3.1.3.1 Supporting sustainable nationwide and local wastes processing industry in ACP countries: legal framework, economical incentives, business/ organisational know-how

This networking action, addressing a group of ACP countries of homogeneous and coherent socio-economic contexts, should support the formulation and implementation of

policies and technological solutions tailored to the local conditions. In particular the project should analyze the current situation in the targeted countries, the lessons learnt from EU technological/ organisational best practices, and the needs for appropriate/ adapted solutions, identify a list of policy and technology options for the waste management sector in the considered countries and evaluate the socio-economical implications of proposed changes. A minimum of two participants from ACP countries is required. This requirement will be applied as an eligibility criterion.

Funding scheme: Coordination and Support Action (coordinating type)

Expected impacts: Contribution to strengthening ACP stakeholders' capacity to work out national and regional policy frameworks and action plans for a sustainable development of their waste sector.

ENV.2009.4.2.3.3 Enhancing connectivity between research and policymaking in sustainable development

There is a wide consensus that research is underutilised in policy-making due to a lack of links between disciplines and between research and policy. The aim of this activity is to experiment and develop new modalities of linking research results to policy-making through 'secondary exploitation' of existing research. The topic calls for applying "knowledge brokerage" between scientists and stakeholders on a specific policy issue, in the following domains: land use, urban development, marine policies, sustainable consumption, biodiversity and the economic, political and social conflicts related to climate change. The chosen issue should be one for which there is a significant body of research, which could be exploited in novel and innovative ways in cooperation between researchers and end users, in order to feed policy-making. Attention shall be paid to developing innovative strategies to support the effective take-up of the body of research upon which the project is based. The consortium shall necessarily include the end-users to ensure the uptake of project results, and avoid results remaining on a shelf. Due to the experimental nature of the project, and the importance of the learning process, the design should also include an in-built evaluation process that documents and critically analyses successes and difficulties with the chosen approach.

Funding scheme: Collaborative Project (small- or medium-scale focused research projects – the Community contribution shall not exceed EUR 1 500 000, and maximum four projects will be retained for this topic)

Expected impacts: Increased usability of research in SD policy-making. Medium to long-term impact.