



ALLEGATO D)

“MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR A COLLABORATIVE PROGRAMME
“SUSTAINABLE TOURISM”

Annex 1 – ERNEST JCP & GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

ERNEST JOINT CALL FOR PROPOSALS
&
GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

INTERREGIONAL RESEARCH ON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

www.ernestproject.eu

ERNEST JOINT CALL 2010

Launching: October 2010

Deadline for submission of full proposals: see time plan



ERNEST JOINT CALL FOR PROPOSALS
&
GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

INTERREGIONAL RESEARCH ON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

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Foreword

European tourism is or is becoming a fundamental economic sector but one which can put territory itself at risk. We are witnessing an evolution in the tourism market dominated by a considerable growth in standardised costal resorts and by the growth of destinations with a higher cultural or nature content. Policies for tourism development often do not take into consideration the principle of social and environmental sustainability and instead concentrate on short to medium term economic gain.

It is clear from the available literature on sustainable development and tourism¹, that research and innovation to promote sustainable tourism is an important, current theme. It is also clear that in Europe we have not yet managed to overcome the fragmentation of research activities which limits our potential for growth.

The new 'Europe 2020' strategy provides a blueprint for innovation-driven growth that is smart (fostering knowledge, innovation, education and the digital society), green (more resource-efficient and competitive production) and inclusive (creating more jobs, while fighting poverty and social exclusion).

Within the European Tourism destinations, a critical issue concerns the need to support efforts to bridge the gap between research and its commercial application, and especially the need to support SMEs reach a sufficient level of competitiveness and innovation, and a critical size in terms of their R&D projects portfolio, and their scientific and practical excellence².

¹ The renewed European tourism policies (COM(2006) 134 of 17.03.2006) have the objective to "contribute to improve competitiveness of the European tourism industry and create more jobs of a better quality thanks to sustainable tourism growth in Europe and world wide". The "*Agenda for a sustainable and competitive European tourism*" (COM(2007) 621 of 19.10.2007) drawing on the results of the work of the Tourism Sustainability Group (TSG – see COM(2003) 716 and COM(2006) 134 for further details on its composition and role), is a key document representing another step forward in the implementation of the Lisbon strategy for growth and jobs adopted by the European Council on 15/16 June 2006. In ensuring that new tourism development is of a scale that keeps to the needs of the local community and environment, adopting sustainable management can reinforce the economic performance and competitive positioning of a destination in the long-term. Local and regional levels' engagement will be supported through alliances between different types of destinations (e.g. rural, coastal, mountain, urban) committed to sustainable destination management set up by the forerunners and open to the participation of all other interested parties.

One of the objectives of the *Agenda* is to encourage enterprises to make use of the possibilities offered by the committing to sustainability as a driver of innovation, growth and increased cooperation.

In addition to that, the Commission underlines the importance to drive the attention of those actors who create knowledge (e.g. universities, research institutes, public and private observatories) towards the challenges for the sustainability of European tourism. The *Agenda* mentions the important role played by financial aid with a view to foster the implementation of the *Agenda*, including the opportunities offered by the 7th EC Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration activities (where the key priority on climate change includes impacts on tourism).

² The Declaration of Madrid within the scope of the informal ministerial meeting for tourism held in April 2010, underlines how maintenance of competitiveness in the European tourist industry requires a strategy based on tourist excellence, aided by the creation of networks of experts and destinations to allow the creation, sharing and dissemination of knowledge, innovation, and research and technological development. It also reports that, since the tourist industry in Europe is mainly composed by small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), it is essential to provide the tourist sector with better access to instruments that can help it to strengthen its competitiveness and increase its contribution to sustainable development, favouring the creation of jobs and wealth.

The Communication from the EU Commission "Europe, the world's No.1 tourist destination – a new political framework for tourism in Europe" COM (2010)352/3 underlines how the tourism industry is a key element in European growth, and chooses four priorities for a new action framework, the first two being to "stimulate competitiveness in the European tourist sector" and to "promote the development of sustainable, responsible and high quality tourism". Innovation, ICT and information society tools are therefore seen as a determining



For that purpose, ERNEST is an opportunity for the European tourism industry (especially SMEs operating in the tourist sector), for the local public administrations and for the academic communities to benefit from the flexible coordination of several existing regional / national funding programmes to enlarge their possibilities for fruitful cross-border partnerships.

A multidisciplinary and international approach similar to the one developed in the ERNEST JCP does not yet exist. This initiative will bring together academic and tourism industry research teams, to enable them to develop innovative, more sustainable tourist products, capable of enhancing the competitiveness of the European tourism sector.

Objectives of the ERNEST ERA-NET Network

The ERA-NET scheme is a component of the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme providing funding to improve cooperation and coordination of national & regional research activities to strengthen the European Research Area (ERA).

In this context, **European Research Network on Sustainable Tourism (ERNEST)** is an ERA-NET initiative established and funded under the ERA-Net scheme of the European Commission for the period September 2008 – August 2012, in the frame of the contract CSA³ No. 219438 between the Commission of the European Communities and the 15 regions of the ERNEST initiative (<http://www.ernestproject.eu>).⁴

ERNEST addresses the issue of sustainable development of the tourism sector through the coordination and collaboration among regional research programmes.

ERNEST is based on the principle that *sustainability is a competitiveness gain in the long term* and works towards promoting and rendering more efficient research programmes on this theme, bringing in elements of success from other areas, and coordinating joint actions which increase value and potential impact.

ERNEST members aim to:

- Ø exchange information and knowledge on regional structures and research programmes;
- Ø identify within the research programmes those elements related to social dialogue and measurement of tourism impact;
- Ø define and implement joint research activities on sustainable tourism according to common needs;
- Ø promote efficient regional and interregional cooperation, including public-private partnership;
- Ø define common long-term strategies in line with EU policy on the sustainable development of tourism

factor for competitiveness of the tourism industry, and to facilitate adaptation to market developments. Sustainability issues are described in paragraph 5.2, with a special focus on quality of services, development of indicators for the sustainable management of destinations. Coherently, the vision of the future tourist promotion of Europe concentrates on 'a collection of sustainable and high quality tourist destinations'.

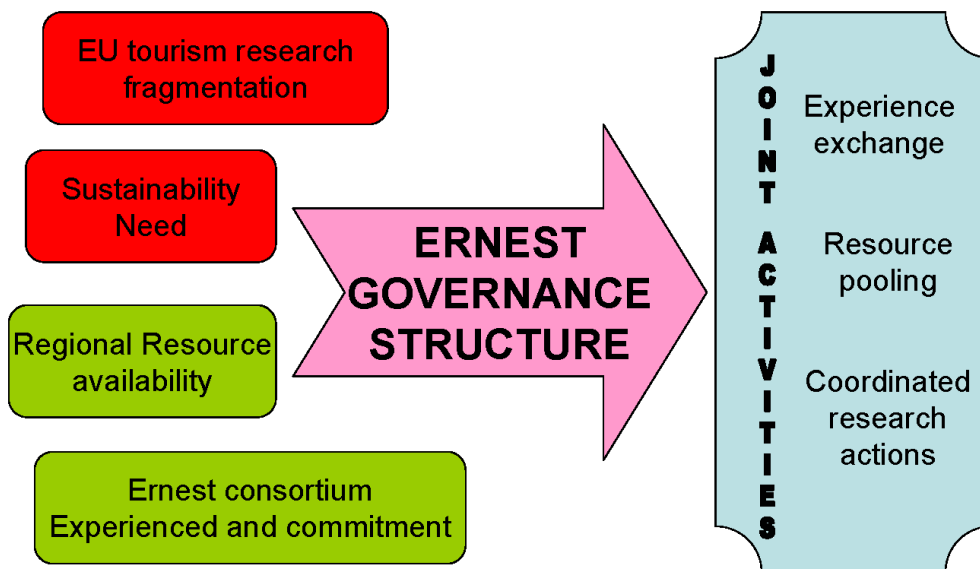
³ CSA = Coordination and Support Actions

⁴ Regione Toscana - I, Cité de la Culture et du Tourisme Durable - F, Basque Country- ES, Region of Western Greece - GR, South-East Regional Development Agency - ROM, Govern de les Illes Balears - ESP, Regional Development Agency of N. Hungary (NORDA), South West Tourism - UK, Danish Forest and Nature Agency, Nord Zealand - DK, Generalitat de Catalunya - ESP, Conseil Régional d'Aquitaine - F, Regione Emilia Romagna - I, Agency for the support of Regional Development Košice - SK, Regione del Veneto - I, WAG-Visit Wales - UK



and to:

- Ø fund joint interregional research on sustainable tourism through joint calls for funding.



Through advancing new and innovative collaborative research agendas ERNEST aims to enable research into tourism, especially into sustainable & competitive tourism, that will be useful for European-level governance and policy development and will play an appropriate and dynamic role in the European Research Area and within EU Framework Programmes.

Objectives of the ERNEST Joint Call for Proposals (JCP) and Participating Regions

The ERNEST Network launches a Joint Call for Proposals (JCP) to fund interregional Collaborative Research Projects (CRPs) in the field of sustainable tourism through the participating regions and their respective funding bodies. The organizations involved in the JCP, hereinafter called ‘ERNEST JCP funding bodies’⁵ and the corresponding geographical areas are the ones listed below:

Geographical area/Funding body

Tuscany (I)/Regione Toscana

Basque Country(ESP)/Basque Government - Department of Industry, Innovation, Trade and Tourism

Catalunya (ESP)/Generalitat de Catalunya

Emilia Romagna (I)/Regione Emilia Romagna

⁵ The funding bodies listed have committed themselves to participate in the JCP by signing the ‘Memorandum on Understanding on international cooperation in research funding within the framework of the ERA-NET ERNEST (ERNEST Joint Call for Proposals)’



The ERNEST JCP is open to entities belonging to the regions listed above according to the rules of the respective regional funding programme opened up for coordination (for more information, see Annex I. Funding Programmes).

The main objective of the ERNEST JCP is to promote sustainability and competitiveness of the European tourist offer, inviting beneficiaries to embrace the opportunities that the sustainability challenge offers as a potential driver for innovation and growth.

Strategic objectives of the JCP are:

- § to promote the sustainable competitiveness of the European tourist offer, inviting the beneficiaries to embrace the opportunities that the sustainability challenge offers as a potential driver for innovation and growth;
- § to promote new strategic innovation processes within SMEs and/or public local administrations of the tourist sector;
- § to bring a European dimension to the regional research programmes involved, providing added value to regional research efforts in the area of sustainability and competitiveness of the tourism sector;
- § to enable an effective multi-national collaboration on common interregional research projects based on complementarities and sharing of expertise that will address important questions related to sustainable tourism;
- § to promote the effective engagement and transfer of knowledge between enterprises and/or public local administrations on one side, and universities and Research & Technology Organizations (RTOs) on the other;
- § to strengthen the competitive capacity of tourism SMEs through interregional cooperation in international R&D networks and through investments aimed at the acquisition of new knowledge and skills for developing new products, processes or services, or at improvements in existing products, processes or services;
- § the production, by means of collaboration between enterprises and researchers from across Europe, of new expertise/knowledge potentially capable to strengthen the competitiveness of the European tourism sector.

Targeted projects of the JCP:

The Joint Call for Proposals (JCP) will fund interregional Collaborative Research Projects (CRPs) undertaken by tourism enterprises⁶ and/or by local public administrations and their strategic partnerships⁷. The research projects will be transnational, innovative, application-oriented R&D projects, related to the theme “sustainability and competitiveness of tourism”.

More details on eligible research topics and eligible CRP beneficiaries are provided below, in the Sections 3.1. ‘Research Topics’ and 3.3. ‘Eligibility Criteria’.

⁶ SMEs of the tourism sector and SMEs of other productive sectors whose R&D activities find application in the tourist sector.

⁷ Project partners must be eligible according to the criteria set forth under Section 5. ERNEST JCP Eligibility Criteria



General Call Information

Research Topics

The ERNEST JCP will accept proposals under ***the following pillars and fields related to sustainable and competitive tourism:***

Research Pillars⁸:

- Ø social dialogue
- Ø measurement

Research Topics

- Ø Impact of transport
- Ø Residents' quality of life
- Ø Quality of work
- Ø Widening the relations between demand/offer (geographical and seasonal concentration of tourism)
- Ø Active conservation of cultural heritage
- Ø Active conservation of environmental heritage
- Ø Active conservation of distinctive identities of destinations
- Ø Reduction and optimization of natural resources use with particular reference to water
- Ø Reduction and optimization of energy consumption
- Ø Reduction of waste and better waste management

Projects are encouraged to have one or more of the following approaches, which will also imply priority points in the evaluation process:

1. **Integration & Interdisciplinarity:** Projects are encouraged to be interdisciplinary (i.e. to address multiple research themes)
2. **Innovation in practice/Modelling:** Development of operative models for the implementation of sustainable tourism in the tourist SMEs in the destinations. Enterprises are invited to research into appropriate comparative, interdisciplinary and practical models of how tourism sustainability comes into being and how it operates, with a specifically practical and empirical focus. Particular emphasis might be placed on interregional comparisons with a view to offering models of successful practice. and consider the conditions which make them possible, or which make them difficult.
3. **Tourist product/clustering & Replicability:** development of projects aimed at specific tourist products or types of destinations (art & culture destinations, seaside resorts, mountain resorts, countryside, Spas, meeting & incentives destinations, cultural itineraries, etc.)
4. **Research beyond academia:** It is important that the applicant demonstrate the potential impact of the research, in environmental, economic, social or cultural terms.

⁸ The definition of 'pillars', of 'measurement' and 'social dialogue' and in general of the research topics identified by ERNEST project are contained in the Annex 2 to the Memorandum of Understanding for a collaborative programme on "Sustainable tourism", attached to this JCP.



Examples and further specifications of potential research themes are contained in Annex II. Extension of Research Topics. The sub-topics listed are only examples, for this reason the project proposals research scope can address other topics, provided the subject matter of the research falls under the research pillars and fields listed above and is supported by the respective regional funding programmes.⁹

Call Timeline

This transnational call for proposals will involve a one-step submission procedure.

Table 1. Call Timeline

Procedure	Time schedule
Launch of the Joint Call:	October 2010
Submission deadline for proposals ¹⁰ :	20 December 2010, 18:00 CET (Brussels, Belgium time)
Evaluation period:	From 20 December 2010 to 15 February 2011
Communication of the proposals evaluation results:	15 March 2011
Communication of the funding decision:	Depending on regional funding programmes
Start of selected projects ¹¹ :	01 January 2011

Eligibility Criteria

The Project Proposals (PPs) submitted, in order to be *eligible* for funding under the ERNEST joint call must meet the following criteria:

1. PP is submitted by an eligible partnership:
 - § consortia consisting of a minimum of two independent eligible beneficiaries belonging to two different ERNEST regions from different EU Member States (see list of regions–in the ‘participating regions’ section above).
 - § The eligible beneficiaries can be:
 - Tourism SMEs¹², large companies
 - tourist consortia (public and/or private consortia of tourist SMEs),
 - local public administrations,
 - RTO¹³s, universities or other organisations.
 - non-profit organizations

⁹ Considering that applicants must comply both with the requirements of the present call and the requirements of the respective regional funding programme, and that not all research topics listed are supported by all the funding programmes, the potential participants are requested to check this aspect with their funding agencies before submitting the proposal.

¹⁰ 20th December have to be considered as the timeline limit. Regional programmes might have different timelines, therefore applicants are requested to check these details with the respective funding agencies.

¹¹ The “start of selected projects” date shown above refers to the transnational part of the project activities. Regional programmes might have different timelines therefore applicants are requested to check these details with the respective funding agencies.

¹² Including SMEs belonging to other sectors whose products/services find application in the tourist sector

¹³ RTOs = Research and Technology Organizations.



2. thematic focus of PP is within the scope of the call (focus on one or more of the research topics listed under Section 4. Research Topics;
3. PP is submitted by the Project Coordinator, who submits the application on behalf of all partners of the Collaborative Research Project (CRP)
4. written in the English language;
5. the application form and the other requested documents are submitted in time, within or before the deadline;
6. the PP follows the prescribed format and be complete of all parts required. The PP must be filled correctly, and prepared following the structure of the application form, which will be available on the Programme website at: <http://www.ernestproject.eu>¹⁴ in the period between the publication of the call and the deadline for the presentation of Collaborative Research Projects.

Management and Evaluation of the Call

The responsibility for the overall vision, governance, management, monitoring and dissemination of the Joint Call for Proposals and of the progresses of trans-national Collaborative Research Projects financed lies with the “ERNEST Joint Call Steering Committee- JCSC“ whose membership is formed by one representative (plus one proxy) designated from each participating partner and funding agency.

The operative steps involved in the JCP administration are carried out by the “call secretariat”, set up within the CCU (Central Coordination Unit) located in the offices of the Region of Tuscany, Coordinator of the ERNEST project and lead of the “WP 4 - Trans-National/Regional Joint Call Implementation”, assisted by representatives from funding partners that are participating in the call.

All ERNEST JCP partners will be involved in the evaluation and decision making process. Each partner will be responsible for overseeing the activities carried out in their own region.

The call secretariat will be in charge of overseeing all activities, of ensuring the correct level of interregional activity is maintained, and it will be responsible for collecting final reports and for using them to prepare the report on Lessons Learned from Joint Projects (deliverable 4.2) which will describe and analyse each project and present some lessons learned, including possibilities for continued cooperation.

Evaluation of the call will be *carried out by the regional funding agencies involved in the Call* (see Section 9. Contact and Further Information), following the good practice model “Decentralized evaluation carried out by regional funding bodies”¹⁵, under the general coordination of the Joint Call Steering Committee, which will supervise the progress of the call and the evaluation of PPs. with the organizative support of the Joint Call Secretariat (JC Secretariat, set up at Regione Toscana, Italy). The Joint Call Steering Committee (JCSC) will make the final recommendation to the ERNEST JCP Partners and their respective regional funding agencies on the proposals to be funded.

¹⁴ The website will also contain other useful documents such as the Evaluation Guidelines

¹⁵ Details of the model are contained in netwatch web site:

http://netwatch.jrc.ec.europa.eu/nw/index.cfm/static/eralearn/evaluation/eval_3_scenario_b.html



Submission and Evaluation of Proposals

Submission Procedure

During the project proposals preparation stage¹⁶, the ERNEST web site will provide a tool that can be used to search for partners.

The submission procedure is 'one step'.

Interregional Project Proposals must be submitted via surface mail to the ERNEST JC Secretariat (see address below) **before 20th December 2010 18:00 hours CET** (Brussels, Belgium time), and must strictly follow the "JCP Call & Guidelines for Applicants". The application form is available at www.ernestproject.eu

Interregional project proposals have to be:

- a) send by e-mail to ERNEST JC Secretariat and to the relevant Funding Agency date of messages confirming receipt evidence of timely delivery;
- b) or delivered by hand, in person or by an authorised representative (date of acknowledgement of receipt by the JC Secretariat serving as evidence of timely delivery).

to the following address:

REGIONE TOSCANA
JC Secretariat c/o Direzione Generale Competitività del sistema regionale e sviluppo delle competenze
Area di Coordinamento Turismo, Commercio e Terziario
Via di Novoli, 26 - 50127 FIRENZE (FI) – ITALY
e-mail: jc.secretariat@ernestproject.eu
and in copy to:
Emilia Romagna Region: turismo@regione.emilia-romagna.it
Generalitat de Catalunya: dgturisme.iue@gencat.cat
Basque Government: glarrauri@innobasque.com

Note: The funding agencies involved in the call may require an additional, separate regional application. This means the applicants will have to prepare distinctive applications: the application for the present interregional call, plus the required regional level applications.

For this reason, prior to submitting the PPs, all applicants must contact their respective regional funding agencies in order to obtain information on the regional level application procedures required by the relevant funding programme. The regional contacts are listed in the Annex I – Funding Programmes.

¹⁶ Period between the publication of the call and deadline for the presentation of Collaborative Research Projects



Evaluation Methodology




The first step will be a formal eligibility check of each PP, carried out by the regional funding agencies (eligibility check on separate regional full proposals), and by the JC Secretariat described below (eligibility check on transnational full proposals).

Once a PP is eligible, an assessment and evaluation is carried out by the regional funding agencies involved in the Call, following the good practice model “Decentralized evaluation carried out by regional funding bodies”¹⁷, in cooperation with the JCSC and the JC Secretariat.

The ‘decentralized evaluation’ implies that the regional funding agencies involved have to integrate evaluation of ERA-NET level proposals and evaluation of regional funding applications.

Each regional/ funding body involved, after the assessment and evaluation are performed according to programme regulations, produces a *provisional ranking list*.

The JC Secretariat collects the outcome of the regional assessments and communicates the result to all call partners. A consensus meeting of the ERNEST JCSC is scheduled, in which the funding agencies agree if a proposal should be rejected or recommended for funding. The outcome is a *list of recommendations for funding*, where proposals are categorized by means of a colour code:

-  green – recommended for funding
-  yellow – recommended with prescriptions
-  red – not recommended for funding

The list of proposals which are recommended for funding is transmitted by the JC Secretariat to all *call partners* which, *taking into account both the results of the provisional regional ranking list and of the list of recommendations for funding produced by the JCSC take the ultimate regional funding decisions*. Separate contracts to proceed with a project are then concluded directly between the consortia and their relevant regional/national funding agencies.

The partners hereby agree that all their best efforts will be put in place in order for the regional level decisions to follow in strict consent with the results of the joint evaluation and the jointly made recommendation of projects. However, in case of diverging regional level decisions versus joint evaluation¹⁸, it is up to the funding agencies to decide whether or not to proceed with the separate funding of their regional part of the proposal.

Evaluation Criteria

The general criteria to evaluate transnational PPs includes:

¹⁷ Details of the model are contained in netwatch web site:

http://netwatch.jrc.ec.europa.eu/nw/index.cfm/static/eralearn/evaluation/eval_3_scenario_b.html

¹⁸ evaluation at ERA-NET level



- ✚ technical relevance;
- ✚ added value of interregional cooperation;
- ✚ quality of partnership;
- ✚ relevance to the theme of sustainable tourism;
- ✚ expected impact;
- ✚ addressing ethical issues;
- ✚ dissemination activities;
- ✚ management structure;
- ✚ potential sustainability.

In the evaluation process priority points will be assigned to PPs that put into practice one or more of the following approaches¹⁹:

- ✚ Integration & Interdisciplinarity
- ✚ Innovation in practice/Modelling
- ✚ Tourist product/clustering & Replicability
- ✚ Research beyond academia

The full list and description of evaluation criteria and the evaluation procedure is contained in Annex III. Evaluation Guidelines.

Decision

The list of proposals which are Recommended for Funding and Recommended for Funding with Prescriptions is transmitted by the JC Secretariat to the ERNEST JCP Partners which, taking into account both the results of the provisional regional ranking list and the list produced by the JCSC as an outcome to Step 2 of the evaluation process, take the ultimate national/regional funding decisions. Following this ultimate decision, separate contracts to proceed with a project are then concluded directly between the consortia and their relevant regional funding agencies (for more information, see Annex III. Evaluation Guidelines).

Financial and Legal Issues

Funding Mode

The ERNEST JCP funding agencies have agreed to fund the joint call using the “virtual common pot” funding mode. This means that regional funding will be made available through regional funding agencies according to regional funding regulations. Each country funds only its regional component of the transnational research project. The funding rate within the call will be variable up to a maximum of 100%²⁰ of the funds requested according to regional rules.

Prior to submitting a proposal, applicants should verify their eligibility, the rate of financial support and the

¹⁹ More specifications on the approaches is contained in the “research topics” paragraph.

²⁰ normally the percentage will be lower – more info can be obtained by the regional contact point



additional regional specifications with their regional funding agency, and are therefore recommended to contact their Regional Contact Person (listed in Annex I . Funding Programmes).

Payment Conditions

Payment for a project is subject to regional funding rules.

Contractual Relationships

The ERNEST Call makes use of 'virtual common pot' funding, and this involves aligning the provisions of funding from each country around a set of common priorities and research needs, specified in this call. Because of the nature of the funding it is necessary for each funding agency to ensure that the regional level projects are appropriate for coordination with the other regional components included in a common transnational proposal, so that the complete research group (made up of different regional components with common transnational objectives) can deliver transnational outputs. In short, the regional funders have to make sure that common ERNEST conditions are met (e.g. objectives of present call met, reporting and networking requirements etc).

Proposals and any information relating to them shall be kept confidential within the ERNEST consortium. Proposals shall not be used for any purpose other than the evaluation of the applications, making funding decisions and monitoring of the projects. As part of the funding decision process it may be necessary to provide third parties e.g. other government organisations with information relating to the research project proposals. These third parties will be required to treat all information provided in a confidential manner. The permission of the Project Coordinator will be obtained prior to the submission of any information to these third parties. If the project is offered funding, this information will be published on the ERNEST website. All other project details are kept strictly confidential.

Funding Contracts/Letter of Grants

Each CRP includes several consortium members called Research Partners and one Project Coordinator. Funding Contracts/Letter of Grants or other means of confirmation of the assignment of the grant will be issued between Research Partners and the relevant funding agency, as required by the regional programmes

Changes to the composition of research consortia or in budget cannot normally occur during the contract/letter of grant and in any case have to be agreed with regional funding agency.

Any changes in the work plan should be only minor but will need to be authorised by the JCSC before amendment to the contract/letter of grant or similar documents by the funding agencies can be issued.

The Research Partners shall inform the JC Secretariat and the funding agencies of that project of any event that might affect the implementation of the project.

An interregional project can commence as soon as the JC Secretariat has acknowledged receipt of the copies of the signed Regional Funding Contracts/letter of grants/written confirmation from funding agency that the regional component of the project has been approved of all Research Consortium partners within 2-3 months. Once the regional contract/letter of grant or other regional agreement comes into effect, eligible costs may be claimed as per regional procedures. In the interim period, researchers may commence work on



the project at their own risk and costs.

Research Consortium Agreement

It is mandatory for funded research groups to draw up a cooperation contract, usually in the form of a Consortium Agreement signed by all CRP partners in order to manage the delivery of the project activities, finances etc. and to avoid disputes which might be damaging to the completion of the project. The drafting and management of the Consortium Agreement, will be responsibility of the Project Coordinator.

The purpose of this document will be to regulate, inter alia, the following:

- § to underpin the researchers' collaboration and provide the researchers with mutual assurance on project management structures and procedures, and their rights and obligations towards one another and;
- § to assure the research funders that the consortium has a satisfactory decision making capability and is able to work together in a synergistic manner.

The following subjects (as a minimum) should be addressed by the Consortium Agreement:

- § purpose of and definitions used in the Consortium Agreement;
- § names of organisations involved;
- § organisation and management of the project;
- § role and responsibilities of the project coordinator and the research partners: person in charge, their obligations and key tasks, conditions for their change;
- § deliverables (transnational reports and if relevant requirements for regional reports where co-ordination is required);
- § resources and funding;
- § confidentiality and publishing;
- § Intellectual Property Rights (how this issue will be handled between partners);
- § decision making within the consortium;
- § handling of internal disputes;
- § the liabilities of the partners towards one another (including the handling of default of contract/letter of grant if applicable).

Ownership of Intellectual Property Rights and Data Management

Results and new Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) resulting from projects funded through the ERNEST Joint Call will be owned by the researchers' organisations according to regional rules on IPR. It is expected that the results obtained by the CRPs supported under this Programme will be placed in the public domain. ERNEST JCP conditions with respect to IPR are to be considered equal to those for all collaborative projects funded by the European Commission under FP7 (ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/fp7/docs/ipr_en.pdf). Successful applicants are advised to familiarize themselves thoroughly with the FP7 guidelines, and to include them, in a modified or specified form, into their consortium agreements with their partners. A model consortium agreement will be made available after selection of CRPs to be funded.

Collaborative Research Projects (CRPs) Networking activities

Networking activities are designed to strengthen the research objectives of ERNEST JC by promoting coherence in the activities of the research community involved. This will stimulate the European added value which is one of the central objectives of this Programme.



Networking and collaboration within ERNEST JC programme takes place:

- among the various Collaborative Research Projects (CRP) funded
- between the funded CRPs and the ERNEST Project

The networking activities must be paid from the ERNEST JC research grants and can be included in the budgets of the individual projects. In addition, all IP budgets should include travel and accommodation costs for participation in the ERNEST Final Conference, where the project leaders take part. A standard estimate of 800 EUR per person per trip may be used.

The intra-CRP collaboration is motivated by the by the scope and the complexity of the questions ERNEST JC deals with: it will increase the opportunity to gather the required critical mass to successfully address the objectives and challenges of their project and enhanced new and strategic partnership opportunities.

Project Reporting and Monitoring

ERNEST CRPs will be monitored according to the rules of the respective region; technical and financial reporting will be required. Arrangements will be made during the funding negotiation process.

The project coordinator will be required, in addition, to deliver an intermediate (mid-term) and a final report on the overall project to the Call Secretariat.

Contact and Further Information

The JC Secretariat is set up at the Regione Toscana Direzione Generale (Tuscany, Italy) to assist the JCSC and the regional funding agencies during the implementation of the Call and the follow-up phase until the funded research projects have ended.

The JC Secretariat will be responsible for the administrative management of the transnational Call (ERNEST JCP) I, and for general coordination,

The only official communication line of the interregional level proposal is between the JC Secretariat and the Project Coordinator, who will then forward this information to the other participants.

The legal, administrative and financial management of regional level calls will be responsibility of the regional funding agencies as explained above.

Further information on the ERNEST Project, the JCP and the follow-up is available at the ERNEST website (www.ernestproject.eu). It is highly recommended to contact the Regional Contact Person for any questions regarding the regional level calls coordinated by the ERNEST JCP.

**Table 1. Regional Contact Persons:**

Region (Country)	ERNEST Partner	Contact Details
Tuscany (Italy) <i>Joint Call Secretariat and Regional Contact Persons</i>	Regione Toscana Direzione Generale Della Competitività e Sviluppo delle Competenze, Area di Coordinamento Turismo, commercio e attività terziarie Via di Novoli 26 50127 Firenze – ITALY	JC Secretariat: e-mail: jcsecretariat@ernestproject.eu Mr. Paolo Bongini Mrs. Maria Luisa Mattivi eMail: marialuisa.mattivi@regione.toscana.it Tel: +055 4385135 Regional Contact persons: same as above plus agencies as specified in regional level call
Basque Country (Spain)	Agencia Vasca de Turismo Basquetour Alda.Urquijo, 36. 5ª 48011 Bilbao – SPAIN Agencia Vasca de Innovación, Innobasque Laida Bidea 203 48170 Zamudio – SPAIN Cooperative Research Center in Tourism, CICTourGUNE Miketelegi Pasealekua, 56, 201 Parque Tecnológico Miramon 20009 San Sebsatian – SPAIN	Ms. Idurre Ostolaza Tel: + 34 946 077 582 e-Mail: iostolaza@basquetour.net Ms. Garbiñe Larrauri Tel: +34 944 209 488 e-Mail: glarrauri@innobasque.com Ms. Michelle Scarpino Cooperative Research Center in Tourism, CICtourGUNE Tel: +34 943 010 885 e-Mail: shellyscarpino@tourgune.org
Catalunya (Spain)	Generalitat de Catalunya Direcció General de Turisme Pg. de Gràcia, 105 8a pl. 08008 Barcelona- Catalunya – SPAIN	Mr. Francesc Iglésies Tel: +0034 557 01 43 e-Mail: figlesies@act.cat
Emilia Romagna (Italy)	Regione Emilia Romagna Servizio Turismo e Qualità Aree Turistiche - Direzione Generale Attività Produttive, Commercio, Turismo Via Aldo Moro, 64 40127 Bologna – ITALY	Ms. Maura Mingozi e-Mail mumingozi@regione.emilia-romagna.it Tel. 0039 0515273989 Ms. Maria-Francesca Buroni e-Mail mburoni@regione.emilia-romagna.it Tel. 0039 0515273579



List of Terms & Glossary

CSA	Coordination and Support Actions
CRP	Collaborative Research Project
ERA	European Research Area
ERA-NET	The ERA-NET scheme is one of the tools the European Commission's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). The scheme constitutes an important activity in the drive towards the creation of the European Research Area (ERA) via the improved coordination of national and regional research programmes of EU Member States and Associated States. Each ERANET is composed by a group of beneficiaries belonging to different countries (typically, national and/or regional programme owners or programme managers), which commit themselves to working together on a common theme.
ERNEST	European Research Network on Sustainable Tourism (www.ernestproject.eu)
FA	Funding Agencies (also called ERNEST JCP Partners") are the regional organizations involved in the call as funders, which signed the "Memorandum of Understanding on international cooperation in research funding within the framework of the ERA-NET ERNEST (ERNEST joint call for proposal - interregional research on sustainable tourism)
FP7	7th EU Framework Programme for Research – detailed info to be found in http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm
JC/JCP	Joint Call (short term for Joint Call for Proposal). A joint call is a joint activity where several or all of the national (or regional) R&D programmes participating in an ERA-NET come together in pooling financial and administrative resources and publishing a call for proposals on a common theme. Researchers from the participating countries can submit project proposals which will then be put through an evaluation procedure that is jointly organised by the participating programmes.
JCSC	Joint Call Steering Committee
PP	Project Proposals
ST	Sustainable Tourism
TSG	Tourism Sustainability Group
INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH :	means the planned research or critical investigation aimed at the acquisition of new knowledge and skills for developing new products, processes or services or for bringing about a significant improvement in existing products, processes or services. It comprises the creation of components of complex systems, which is necessary for the industrial



research, notably for generic technology validation, to the exclusion of prototypes as covered by point (g);

EXPERIMENTAL DEVELOPMENT: means the acquiring, combining, shaping and using of existing scientific, technological, business and other relevant knowledge and skills for the purpose of producing plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services. These may also include, for example, other activities aiming at the conceptual definition, planning and documentation of new products, processes and services. The activities may comprise producing drafts, drawings, plans and other documentation, provided that they are not intended for commercial use. (definition taken from 'Community framework for state aid for research and development and innovation' (2006/C323/01))



ANNEX I. Funding Programmes

Please note that country specific requirements might apply to this call. For further information see links or speak with the regional contact person.

Funding body	TUSCANY REGION
Funding Programme	2007-2013 ERDF Regional Operational programme (ROP) Axis I Measure 1.5.c. research and innovation for cooperative projects.(industrial research and experimental development) ²¹ .
Contact person	Paolo Bongini, paolo.bongini@regione.toscana.it Maria Luisa Mattivi. marialuisa.mattivi@regione.toscana.it
Funding commitment	400.000,00 €
Maximum amount of funding for Italian research group(s) in a proposal	
Eligible institutions	SMEs - Associations of SMEs. Projects jointly developed with universities and research centres (as subcontractors) will receive a higher score.
Additional eligibility criteria	Environmental protection + economic growth by means of improvement of sustainability and competitiveness of transnational networks of tourist SMEs through R&D.
Eligible costs	
Funding rates	Max contribution of 80%

Funding body	EMILIA-ROMAGNA REGION
Funding Programme	REGIONAL LAW N.40/2002
Contact person	MAURA MINGOZZI mumingozzi@regione.emilia-romagna.it
Funding commitment	180.000,00 €



Maximum amount of funding for Italian research group(s) in a proposal	
Eligible institutions	PROVINCES (Local public entities) as coordinators of projects on behalf of tourism enterprises and/or local public entities
Additional eligibility criteria	YES
Eligible costs	
Funding rates	MAX 50%

Funding body	Direcció General de Turisme – Generalitat de Catalunya
Funding Programme	PLADETUR Tourist Development Plan
Contact person	Joan D. Abad i Esteve dgturisme.iue@gencat.cat
Funding commitment	200.000 €
Maximum amount of funding for Italian research group(s) in a proposal	Max. 80.000
Eligible institutions	SME – Local Public bodies – Associations of SME and Associations of local public bodies. Research Centers and Universities can only be subcontractors
Additional eligibility criteria	Priority on innovation, applied research projects, concerning sustainable and competitive tourism issues
Eligible costs	
Funding rates	Max. 75% of eligible expenses

Funding Body	Basque Government (Department of Industry, Innovation, Trade and Tourism)
Funding Programme	GAITEK Programme
Contact Person	Garbiñe Larrauri Tel: +34 944 209 488; email: glarrauri@innobasque.com
Funding commitment	About 200.000,00 €



Maximum amount of funding for eligible institutions in a Basque Country proposal	150.000 € per eligible institution per year
Eligible institutions	SMEs, large companies, and associations of enterprises. Research and technology centres (RTOs) and universities can only participate as subcontractors.
Additional eligibility criteria	Eligible projects are industrial research projects for new products in or related to tourism sector.
Eligible costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personnel (researchers, technicians and other type of personnel belonging to the staff of the applicant. - Cost of subcontracting: only entities belonging to the Basque Science, Technology and Innovation Network are eligible. - Exploitation costs (materials, travels, etc) - Costs of Equipments and instruments specifically acquired for the accomplishment of the project (amortization during the duration of the project)
Funding rates	Maximum ceilings for support (% of eligible costs) is 50% for small enterprises, 50% for medium enterprises, and 40% for large companies.
Additional Information	https://app1.spri.net/idi/idi/HOMEGAITEK.ASPX

Additional Information

Emilia-Romagna Region –One action is envisaged: Support to beach resorts in environmentally sustainable development and accessibility. Theme: support to investments for innovative activities in sustainable tourism, carried out by tourism SMEs.

Universities and research centres are not eligible. This funding source will be managed via an open call with rolling submission.

Catalunya – PLADETUR is an instrument designed to contribute to the goals defined in the Tourism Strategic Plan 2005-2010 through enhancing the tourism sector, improving the attractiveness of destinations, creating new products and services, boosting private initiative, overcoming tourism seasonality and diversifying the supply and tourism quality. PLADETUR includes a set of grant programs, in a individual or collective basis, aiming to improve enterprise performance and destinations competitiveness. A call is launched every year, and maximum duration of grants is 12 months. The key themes are: accessibility, competitiveness and TIC innovation, creation and renewal of accommodation establishments, complementary services, quality-and- eco- labels, destinations.



ANNEX II. Extension of Research Topics

Note:

The sub-topics listed in Annex II. are only examples, for this reason the project proposals research scope can address other topics, provided the subject matter of the research falls under the research pillars and fields listed under Section 3.1 Research Topics. of the ERNEST JCP & Guidelines for Applicants, and is supported by the respective regional funding programmes. Not all research topics listed below are supported by all the funding programmes, the potential participants are therefore requested to check this aspect with their funding agencies before submitting the proposal.

Figure 2 (below)²² illustrates the connection between the two pillars as coordinated by public government. The ERNEST project will analyse and follow this approach in the field of research on sustainable tourism in order to promote policy development in this area.

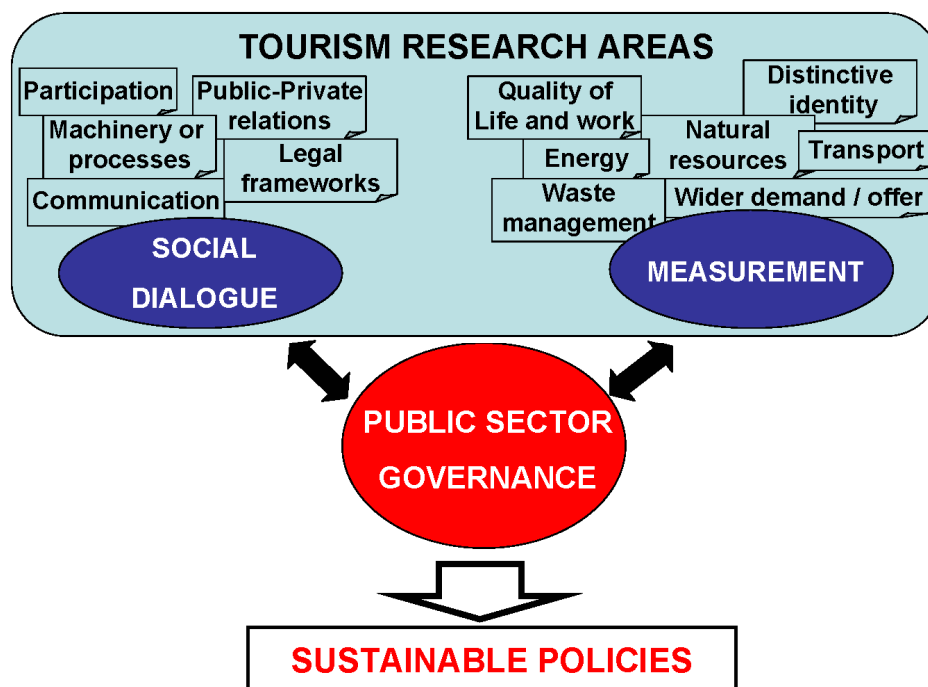


Figure 2: the two pillar approach

Impact of Transport

This means verifying the theme of mobility versus competitiveness and sustainability: the accessibility of the destinations with regard to air, railway and road transportation. It means local public transport means, low impact mobility such as cycling routes, horse riding tracks, light tourism infrastructures

²² ERNEST Project, annex I, Table 1: Summary of Research Areas



Quality of life of residents

In the tourist destinations the quality of life of residents is very important. Research into this field means monitoring and evaluating the possible conflicts between the two types of populations. Tourism must not worsen the quality of life of the inhabitants.

Quality of work

It is necessary to evaluate, with regard to the various tourist services, the quality and dynamics of employment, investigating the quality of employment, the respect of contracts, adequate staff training and professional update measures.

De-seasonalization

Tourist fluxes are often very concentrated in time and space. It is necessary to scientifically evaluate these dynamics in order to find ways to better distribute the tourists in time and space and promote new destinations in order to reduce the overcrowding of the well-known places.

Reduction and optimization of use of natural resources with particular reference to water Very often, in some periods of the year, the tourists can generate problems connected with the use of resources. Water usage in tourist facilities is a crucial theme. Every type of destination has its specificity with regard to water usage: spas, islands, rural areas etc.

Reduction and optimization of energy consumption

It is important to verify the impact of tourism on energy use. This means for instance finding relations between electricity & fuel needs respectively of residents and tourists, or measuring the quality of air or putting in place energy-saving policies.

Reduction of waste and better waste management

Waste management is a very important theme. The local administrations have to face a significant increase of waste amounts in the tourist high seasons. The tourist enterprises need help in the qualification of their services. We need to raise the level of awareness of citizens, businesses and tourists with respect to appropriate waste recycling.

Active conservation of distinctive identities of destinations

The identity of the destinations is often the main driving force for tourism. Diversity originates the motivation to travel and visit other destinations. On the other hand, tourism can compromise the character and identity of the places. Measuring and preventing the loss of identity in the destinations is a challenging research theme.

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Active conservation of the Cultural heritage,

Art & history destinations are potentially endangered by tourism and therefore need to be protected. Research into this theme could focus on how to measure and regulate tourist flows and tourist arrivals, and on the development of cultural heritage management models

Active conservation of the Environmental heritage,

This point is about parks, landscape, nature. It is necessary to monitor the compatibility between the wishes and lifestyles of visitors and the need to preserve these environmental resources for the use of future generations. These are very complex themes which require sophisticated research and analyses.

The research themes have been expanded after a consultation of all partners, and the following further research interest areas were brought to light:

ERNEST Strategic Research Priority	Regional research priorities
1. Impact of Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport, Port, Marine & Airport Logistics. Importance of international direct accessibility to the area. Development of local road network. Introduction of clean technology in buses, etc • Transport & Airport Logistics • Ground transport • Aeronautical and nautical transport. • Research on sustainable transportation • Research the area of interest related to reach peak oil and its impact in airfreight and in the tourism sector in general • Dependency study – Research into issues such as the proportion of tourism facilities that are car-dependent (limited/ no access by public transport and/or high % of arrivals by car) and the sensitivity (elasticity) of car-borne tourism to fuel prices. • Destinations for Non Car Visitors – Research into identifying existing destinations that are best suited for visitors coming without a car (e.g. access by alternatives, range of attractions/ facilities on ‘doorstep’ and public transport links to key attractions in area). Part 2 to look at strategies for developing this potential. (This could draw on some of the experience of http://www.alpine-pearls.com/home.php although not necessarily looking at formal packaging. • Train/car combinations – Research looking at the potential of different formats for visitors making journey to destination area by train (addressing largest GHG impact of holiday) and then having access to car within destination. Ideas include linkages with car hire companies based at stations, extending the ‘car club’ concept to one where it is based in accommodation, and learning from current/ previous motorail experience. • Smart cards – Pilot exercise in destination area looking at the potential of smart cards that combine public transport services and tourism facilities
2. Residents Quality of Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of mass tourism to the resident’s quality of life. Selective Tourism might increase the amount spending and consequently the quality of life. • integrated rural tourism • impact of crime research, • tourism planning typologies

3. Quality of Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More permanent works, more educated driven • Formation of Clusters for SMEs that will substitute existing inadequate and ineffective systems • Innovation & Entrepreneurship in Tourism SMEs • Seasonality of employment and its impact on the quality of the product/ experience offered
4. Widening the relations between demand/offer (geographical and seasonal concentration of tourism)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widening the seasonal demand by exploiting other types of tourism • Double Summer Time – potential/ challenges • School Holiday Timing – The potential of staggered school holidays – economic, social, environmental – and practicalities
5. Active conservation of cultural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural preservation, Architectural involvement in designing and constructing new infrastructures. Renovation of old ones • Exploitation of Athleticism, Historical and Cultural background of the area • Souvenir production locally and reformed. • Support for the formation of clusters directed towards innovative in the business fabric and tourism • preservation of cultural heritage. • management of attractions, heritage tourism and destination management
6. Active conservation of environmental heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bio-agricultural • Traditional Gastronomy • Traditional architecture • Natural forests • Sustainable environmental management • Study of the biosphere • Biodiversity • Energy, waste & water • Intelligent Transport • Atmosphere • Research on the coast • Marine resources • Oceanographic Research • Environmental management • Impact of climate change on tourism • Modeling tools for the sustainable management of tourism resources • Research on the development of new marine technologies • Eco-efficient natural resource management • Investigation of the value of the natural environment as a tourism asset – greater detail of the nature of how it valued by visitors, its use and economic value • Valuation of the environment and economic instruments for sustainable tourism

<p>7. Active conservation of distinctive identities of destinations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Olympia as unique destination. Conference centre. Athleticism Confederations Base. • Funds for valorising the environmental and cultural heritage • Funds for the integrated promotion of the environmental and cultural heritage • Funds for supporting the qualification of services aimed at enhancing the usability environmental and cultural heritage
<p>8. Reduction and optimization of use of natural resources with particular reference to water</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasonable Water treatment. Reuse in other tasks like irrigation • Environmental Performance for SMEs (Eco labelling) • Management of water resources in response to climate change. • Procedures for the decontamination of marine waters • Water recycling and reuse for leisure aims (golf, swimming pools, etc.) • Use of renewable materials. • Funds for improving the environmental performance of tourist SME (Ecolabel,) • Support the beach establishments in their environmental sustainable and accessible development • Visitor diary research – Indepth analysis of visitor behaviour in relation to decision-making and consumption/ travel patterns to better inform policy interventions. • Study on Water usage – are higher star rated highest users? If yes what to do? If not why not? What to do next? • Complimentary studies on energy usage
<p>9. Reduction and optimization of energy consumption</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of RES in large resorts, Energy Efficiency in buildings. Production of bio-fuels and exploitation of agricultural waste • Funds for improving the environmental performance of tourist SME (Ecolabel,) • Support the beach establishments in their environmental sustainable and accessible development • Energy conservation in ‘hard to treat’ tourism properties – Audit of the tourism stock to establish how many are in older and/ or protected buildings that have constraints in terms of applying conventional energy efficiency measures (and may have greater consumption as a result). Identification of practical solutions. • Renewable energy – in depth research of business attitudes towards the potential of RE (e.g. what are the most significant barriers, what support required) • Studying the Intention – Behaviour Gap: Holidaying recycling behaviour. Would like to broaden to all energy/ resource usage. Also to move to next stage – monitoring the “output gap”. Management of tourism for sustainability. What do people think are the issues? • Move from soft science to hard science. Contrast outputs to the stated aims. • Carbon paybacks – are big businesses passing costs on? How? What is effect on SMEs? Case studies. • Business level research, engage businesses with best practise outcomes – “here’s how to save money” – partnerships with energy companies. Important to show benefit of SWT to DMOs and business. • Research into business innovations

10. Reduction of waste and better waste management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water and Waste treatment. Introduction of new innovative technologies • Cost of waste. Cost of recycling. • Research into business innovations
11. Measurement/indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Penetration and usage of Computer Applications in providing adequate area information
12. Social dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop indicators batch for social impacts of Tourism • See Sustainable destinations below (14)
13. Other – any strategic area not covered above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism and microcredit for sustainable development in peripheral areas (es. small islands) • Tourism and energy efficiency management for sustainable development in peripheral areas (es. small islands) • Carbon modelling of visitors and tourism underway, investigating strategies for reducing impact. Interested in other studies and approaches. • Investigating potential impact of the 2009 UK climate projections for tourism • Tourism forecasting and capacity modelling – work proposed for 2010 (seeking funds) • Food supply chain for tourism sector – Identifying solutions in distribution of locally produced food and drink for the tourism sector • Souvenirs – Identifying means of encouraging the promotion/ sales of souvenirs that are produced and reflect the local area
13. All of the above areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research into business innovations / Innovative actions for sustainable tourism creating value for tourism SME • Support for the formation of clusters directed towards innovative in the business fabric and tourism • Sustainable destinations: Support for the formation of sustainable and competitive tourist destinations, including the definition of a model for the strategic management. The model is shared with all stakeholder and developed according to the needs of the specific destination in terms of desired tourist development. It comprises the selection of a significant set of indicators for measuring sustainability and competitiveness, useful for impact measurement and also in order to assess & eventually re-orient the project progresses, the development of a specific technology infrastructure, - the constitution of a permanent forum - Indicators/measurement through new database able to identify innovative actions for a sustainable tourism and financial elements for a sustainable business management in tourism sector to create value for micro/small/medium-sized enterprises - Governance of tourism actors and of the related stakeholders (empirical and theoretical approaches which covers the 12 strategic topics of Ernest - Policy and ideology of sustainable tourism



Specific importance is placed on the following approaches:

1. Integration & Interdisciplinarity: Projects are encouraged to have an interdisciplinary approach (i.e. to address multiple research themes)
2. Innovation in practice/Modelling. Enterprises are invited to research into appropriate comparative, interdisciplinary and practical models of how tourism sustainability comes into being and how it operates, with a specifically practical and empirical focus. Particular emphasis might be placed on national or regional comparisons with a view to offering models of successful practice.
3. Tourist product/clustering & Replicability: development of projects aimed at specific tourist products or types of destinations (art & culture destinations, seaside resorts, mountain resorts, countryside, Spas, meeting & incentives destinations, cultural itineraries, etc.)
4. Research beyond academia: It is important that the applicant demonstrate the potential impact of the research, in environmental, economic, social or cultural terms.



ANNEX III. Evaluation Guidelines

Evaluation of each Project Proposal (PP) is carried out by the respective regional/national programmes involved in the Joint Call for Proposals (JCP), following the good practice model “Decentralized evaluation carried out by national programmes”²³, in cooperation with the Joint Call Steering Committee (JCSC) and with the Joint Call Secretariat (JCS)²⁴.

The ‘decentralized evaluation’ implies that the regional funding agencies involved must integrate evaluation of ERA-Net level full proposals and evaluation of regional funding applications. This means the evaluators of the regional funding agencies are asked to evaluate the regional-level proposals (according to the regional programme rules) and also the transnational proposals (according to this Evaluation Guidelines)

Evaluators will use a Common Evaluation Form and give a global score of 1-5 or 1-3 for each PP, depending on criterion listed.

COMMON EVALUATION FORM

Project Name:

Project Acronym:

STEP 1 – Decentralized Evaluation – by the regional/national programme

²³ Details of the model are contained in netwatch web site:
http://netwatch.jrc.ec.europa.eu/nw/index.cfm/static/eralearn/evaluation/eval_3_scenario_b.html
²⁴ both described in the INSERT FULL TITLE -MoU



1.1 REGIONAL/NATIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Does the proposal meet the regional/national eligibility criteria?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>



1.2 ERNEST ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Does the proposal meet the ERNEST eligibility criteria?

Note: ALL the eligibility criteria must be met in order for the proposal to be accepted for subsequent evaluation.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	YES	NO
1. Consortium composed of eligible beneficiaries, with a minimum of two independent eligible beneficiaries belonging to two different ERNEST regions participating to the ERNEST JC ²⁵ from different EU member states	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Thematic focus of the proposal is within the scope of the JCP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Proposal submitted by project coordinator on behalf of the CRP's partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Proposal written in the English language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Proposal submitted in time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Proposal follows the prescribed format and is complete	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

²⁵ (see list of participating regions in call text Chapter 3)



1.3 GENERAL EVALUATION

GENERAL EVALUATION CRITERION	SCORE
1. TECHNICAL RELEVANCE (5 points, threshold 3/5)	
2. ADDED VALUE OF INTERREGIONAL COOPERATION (5 points, threshold 3/5)	
3. QUALITY OF PARTNERSHIP (5 points, threshold 3/5)	
4. RELEVANCE TO THE THEME OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM (5 points, threshold 3/5)	
5. EXPECTED IMPACT (5 points, threshold 3/5) (5 points, threshold 3/5)	
6. DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES (3 points, threshold 1/3)	
7. MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES (5 points, threshold 3/5)	
8. POTENTIAL SUSTAINABILITY (3 points, threshold 1/3)	
9. ETHICAL ISSUES RESPECTED? (3 points, threshold 1/3)	
TOTAL SCORE	



The total score of each PP is derived from the sum of the scores obtained for each criterion.

PPs whose total score at the end of Step 1.3 is below 21 points are rejected.

PPs whose total score at the end of Step 1.3 is equal to 21 points or superior are considered admissible and, if applicable²⁶, will proceed to Step 1.4 for the awarding of the additional priority points.

1.4 ADDITIONAL PRIORITY EVALUATION

In order to be admitted for evaluation of additional priority criteria the projects must include the appropriate 'additional priority declaration' in the PP, as outlines in the ????. The evaluation and awarding of additional priority scores is made following the criteria below:

ADDITIONAL PRIORITY EVALUATION CRITERION (each criterion can get a maximum of 5 points)	SCORE
INTEGRATION & INTERDISCIPLINARITY	
INNOVATION IN PRACTICE/MODELLING	
TOURIST PRODUCT/CLUSTERING & REPLICABILITY	
RESEARCH BEYOND ACADEMIA	
TOTAL SCORE	

²⁶ If applicable = if the applicants included in the projects the appropriate 'additional priority declaration'



1.5 FIRST DECISION TO END STEP 1

	SCORE
GENERAL EVALUATION	
ADDITIONAL PRIORITY EVALUATION	
TOTAL SCORE	

Following the evaluation in Step 1, each regional/national programme involved,²⁷ in the JCP will produce a *provisional ranking list* of all those PPs reputed to be admissible.

The results of all the decentralized evaluations will then be collected by the JSC and will advance to Step 2, an examination of all PPs in a consensus meeting of the ERNEST JCSC.

STEP 2 – Consensus Meeting

A consensus meeting of the ERNEST Joint Call Steering Committee is scheduled, at which time the funding bodies of each regional/national programme will meet and agree if a PP should be rejected or recommended for funding. The outcome is a list of recommendations for funding, where proposals are categorized by means of a colour code:

²⁷ performed according to regional criteria and to the ERNEST criteria specified above



SECOND DECISION TO END STEP 2

A	RECOMMENDED for funding	<input type="checkbox"/>
B	RECOMMENDED for funding WITH PRESCRIPTIONS - TO BE DISCUSSED	<input type="checkbox"/>
C	NOT RECOMMENDED for funding	<input type="checkbox"/>

If PP is “Recommended for funding with Prescriptions”, please elaborate on which are the issues to be addressed by the PP applicant:

Additional Comments:

STEP 3 – Final Decision of Regional/National Funding Bodies

THIRD (FINAL) DECISION TO END STEP 3

The list of PPs which are Recommended for Funding and Recommended for Funding with Prescriptions is transmitted by the JCS to the ERNEST JCP Partners which, taking into account both the results of the provisional national/regional ranking list and of the list produced by the JCSC as an outcome to Step 2 of evaluation, take the ultimate national/regional funding decisions. Following this ultimate decision, separate contracts to proceed with a project are then concluded directly between the consortia and their relevant regional/national funding bodies.

Ranking in Common Evaluation Form

The evaluation is performed assigning a score for each of the above listed 9 criterion²⁸. Thresholds will be applied to the scores. Half marks can be given.

The scores indicate the following with respect to the criterion under examination (respectively, for the ranges of scores 0-5 and 0-3):

²⁸ the subcriteria provided in Annex (#?) serve as a guide underwhich the evaluators should consider those aspects in the assessment of that criterion.



0	very poor	The proposal fails to address the criterion under examination or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information
1	Poor	The criterion is addressed in an inadequate manner, or there are serious inherent weaknesses
2	Fair	While the proposal broadly addressed the criterion, there are significant weaknesses
3	Good	The proposal addresses the criterion well, although improvements would be necessary
4	Very Good	The proposal addresses the criterion very well, although certain improvements are still possible
5	Excellent	The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor

0	Very Poor	The proposal fails to address the criterion under examination or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information
1	Poor	The criterion is addressed in an inadequate manner, or there are serious inherent weaknesses
2	Good	The proposal addresses the criterion well, although improvements would be necessary
3	Excellent	The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor

Concise but explicit justifications can be given for each score.

Recommendations for improvements will be given, if needed (e.g. Recommended for funding with Prescriptions)

The total score of each PP IS derived from the sum of the scores obtained for each criterion.

PPs whose total score at the end of Step 1.3 is below 21 points are rejected.

PPs whose total score at the end of Step 1.3 is equal to 21 points or superior are considered admissible and, if applicable²⁹, will proceed to Step 1.4 for the awarding of the additional priority points.

⁷If applicable = if the applicants included in the projects the appropriate 'additional priority declaration'



Defintions in Common Evaluation Form

COMMON EVALUATION: GENERAL

1. TECHNICAL RELEVANCE (5 points, threshold 3/5)
<p>The extent to which the proposal demonstrates:</p> <p>Technological and scientific quality of the proposal: a sound concept and quality of objectives;</p> <p>Are the project objectives realistic and clearly expressed?;</p> <p>Innovation potential, progress beyond the state of the art = product or service innovation vs. state of the art.</p> <p>To what extent will the result lead to a new product or service (rate of innovation)?</p> <p>A new product or service must be scored higher than an improvement of an existing product or service;</p> <p>Novelty and originality of the approach.</p> <p>To what extent is the approach new or special? For this criterion the methodology of the project is measured, compared to existing, competing and parallel developments. A new or a special approach will score high. It should be measured relating to the relevant sector.</p> <p>Production of new knowledge;</p> <p>Market needs addressed: Is the new product/service capable of developing a relevant market or the market niche?;</p> <p>Relevance to the EU and FP7 objectives.</p>
Comments: <input type="text"/>

2. ADDED VALUE OF INTERREGIONAL COOPERATION (5 points, threshold 3/5)
<p>The added value of the interregional cooperation is a central component of transnational projects. It refers to the enhanced level of collaborative interaction between the various organizations participating in the project, and to the added value generated by the roles and expertise composing a particular transnational consortium.</p> <p>The European dimension of the CRP proposed should provide <i>added value</i> to regional/national research efforts in the area of sustainability and competitiveness of the tourism sector. The collaboration of enterprises and or local administrations and researchers from across Europe should build new expertise and produce new knowledge, which will strengthen European competitiveness in this area.</p>



European added value is not only about “European” (vs. local or global) topics, but about the expectation of better research that emerges from European research collaboration.

Evaluate the *added value* of the CRP proposed on the extent to which it brings added value as an international cooperation.

Specifically, in terms of:

knowledge transfer, future market potential, etc.

is there a wider geographical potential of the expected results?

does the project success require the presence of international cooperation?

Comments:

3. QUALITY OF PARTNERSHIP (5 points, threshold 3/5)

Evaluate the *quality of partnerships* of the CRP proposed on how all involved partners can achieve together the goals of the foreseen project (concerning the scientific / technological aspects) and if the degree of involvement of the various partners in CRP activities is adequate and fair.

Specifically, the extent to which the CRP demonstrates:

quality, relevant experience and/or expertise of individual participants in the fields;

quality of consortium as a whole:

appropriate balance of partners (SMEs, RTOs, Large Corporations, etc.)

good division of work among partners;

good level of integration and collaboration;

appropriate complementarities of partners (countries/regions, areas of expertise, etc).

Comments:



4. RELEVANCE TO THE THEME OF SUSTAINABLE TOURISM (5 points, threshold 3/5)

Evaluate the *relevance* of the CRP proposed,

Specifically in relation to:

the topic of the call: 'sustainable and competitive tourism';

the objectives of the call – see call text;

the strategic value of the proposal. Does the project take into account and tackle adequately the following aspects:

competitiveness (will the project address market needs, is the new product/service capable of developing a relevant market or the market niche?)

environmental sustainability (will the project improve the environmental performance? Are there eco-innovation aspects?)

social dialogue (will the project put in place participative processes?)

Comments:

5. EXPECTED IMPACT (5 points, threshold 3/5)

Evaluate the *expected impact* of the CRP proposed to the extent to which it demonstrates:

an expected regional/national impact (well balanced) in terms of increased competitiveness and innovation;

potential economic impact and commercialization of results;

potential success of the project will impact the CRP partners in terms of increased competitiveness, revenues increase and number of employees;

tourism industry needs and potential market: Is the project success impacting significantly on partners, matching some specific needs? Is there a significant potential market for the new product/service? Is the new product/service competitive with respect to existing ones in the market?

has an exploitation plan and market accessibility been addressed?;

does the description of the exploitation plan illustrate adequately the steps that the project partners intend to follow in order to bring the product/service to the market?

Comments:



6. DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES (3 points, threshold 1/3)

Evaluate the *dissemination activities* of the CRP proposed to the extent to which they demonstrate:
appropriateness of measures for the dissemination and/or exploitation of transnational projects results;
proper management of intellectual property/IPR concept.

Comments:

7. MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES (3 points, threshold 1/3)

Evaluate the *management structures* of the CRP proposed to the extent to which they demonstrate appropriateness of the management structure and its procedures,
Specifically, in terms of,
project structure, division of work packages, and contributions of various partners to CRP activities;
clarity: Is the project plan comprehensible and feasible? Are there meaningful work packages and deliverables?;
feasibility: are adequate resources allocated to the project (budget, personnel, equipment)? Is the time schedule adequate?:
is the achievement of the project objectives verifiable within the progress of the project?

Comments:



8. POTENTIAL SUSTAINABILITY (3 points, threshold 1/3)

Evaluate the *potential sustainability* of the CRP proposed to the extent to which it demonstrates:

the CRP is expected to have a lasting impact in economic, environmental or social terms

the project takes into account the limits of relying on regional funding for short-term sustainability and possibly include economic feasibility analyses including all potential stakeholders as to how to ensure sustainability when the ERNEST JC financial contribution comes to an end;

the cooperation partnership developed provides reliable indications that it could continue beyond the funding provided by the regions within the ERNEST JC.

Comments:

COMMON EVALUATION: ADDITIONAL PRIORITY

1. INTEGRATION & INTERDISCIPLINARITY (5 points, threshold 3/5)

Does this CRP proposed demonstrate an *integration and interdisciplinarity approach* (i.e. to address multiple research themes)?

Comments:

2. INNOVATION IN PRACTICE/MODELLING (5 points, threshold 3/5)

Does this CRP proposed demonstrate *innovation in practice/modelling*?

Specifically, either through,

development of operative models for the implementation of sustainable tourism in tourism SMEs;

enterprises being invited to research into appropriate comparative, interdisciplinary and practical models of how tourism sustainability comes into being and how it operates, with a specifically practical and empirical focus;

particular emphasis being placed on interregional comparisons with a view to offering models of successful practice, and that consider the conditions which make them possible, or which make them difficult.



Comments:

3. TOURIST PRODUCT/CLUSTERING & REPLICABILITY (5 points, threshold 3/5)

A key issue in tourist development is the management of the tourist destinations and of the tourist products. Every tourist product has its own supply chain, its own stakeholders and its own markets. Similar tourist products face similar challenges and for therefore it is interesting to promote a common transnational approach

Typical tourist products are art & culture destinations, seaside resorts, mountain resorts, countryside, Spas, meeting & incentives destinations, cultural itineraries, etc

Does this CRP proposed demonstrate a tourist product approach, clustering and/or replicability?

Comments:

4. RESEARCH BEYOND ACADEMIA (5 points, threshold 3/5)

Does this CRP proposed demonstrate the application of *research beyond academia*?

Specifically

the potential impact of the research, in environmental, economic, social or cultural terms.

Comments: