

CIRCULAR ECONOMY FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

CALLS 2020. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

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1. INTRODUCTION

Circular economy for a sustainable future is a Call for proposal of the Scientific Research Area aimed at supporting research projects having strong and direct footprint in the socio-economic context.

2. BACKGROUND

In the new era of consumer economy and widespread prosperity, we assisted to the emergence of a new environmental, economic and social emergency, namely the waste management.

In large part, this can be associated to the implementation of a linear production model that starts with products manufacture, passes through products exploitation and ends up with products disposal. Unfortunately, this does not fit well with a society like ours that largely rely on scarce resources. In this scenario, there is an urgent need for a shift to a circular model of economy built on new concepts of production, design, distribution, and consumption. This change requires to rearrange products manufacturing in order to facilitate the extension of shelf life, recycling, reuse, as well as energy and material recovery.

The shift from a linear to a circular and regenerative model represents a turning point that is likely to mark a change in the production system, in contemporary business model, citizens consumption choices and we expect that this change would also facilitate various improvements for the future of our environment, climate and human health more in general.

3. AIMS

Considering the opportunities offered by circular and regenerative economy, the Foundation intends to support multidisciplinary research projects falling into the following areas:

- Design and development of new materials, products¹ and processes fostering a shift towards innovative and sustainable organization models;
- Design and develop more efficient resource regeneration systems – including waste water and sewage sludge – previously used for the production and transformation process or for service provision;
- Foster the use of organic and inorganic waste as well as their transformation in products characterized by high added value, including energy production.

Given the global relevance of circular economy², the Foundation strongly encourages the involvement of influential international partners. This indication is intended to offer local research groups the opportunity to better integrate into research networks, thus facilitating successful access to international calls. Furthermore, an international environment will represent a great exchange and discussion opportunity for young researchers, thus fostering their training and professional growth.

Finally, embracing the principles of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI)³, Cariplo Foundation

¹ For the management and development of new products, it is important to take into consideration the nature of: materials, production processes, disassemblability, recyclability, as well as the modularity, reparability, maintenance, substitution and management of dangerous materials, reuse, harvesting, regeneration and recycling quality.

² Please see <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment>

³ The European movement on the theme of RRI is constantly evolving, as emerges from the debate which has recently led to the so called "Rome declaration on RRI" (https://ec.europa.eu/research/swafs/pdf/rome_declaration_RRI_final_21_November.pdf). Considering the available literature, it is possible to describe RRI as a dynamic and iterative process which intends to match research and innovation to values, needs and expectations of the society. Moreover, RRI aims at actively involving all the stakeholders taking part to activities of research and innovation, making them mutually responsible with respect to both the research process and its results.

aims to promote initiatives fostering communication and interaction between researchers and the civil society. In particular, researchers must propose a communication plan inclusive and open to all stakeholders differently implicated in the research. Planned activities are meant to facilitate the activation of a dual exchange between science and society.

4. GUIDELINES

4.1 Eligible subjects

Public or private non-profit organizations that conduct scientific research.

By participating to this Call, organizations accept the portability of the grant. Any change in the host institution depends on Cariplo Foundation approval according to the guidelines for presentation (“Guida alla presentazione dei progetti su bandi”) and the general criteria for granting contributions (“Criteri generali per la concessione dei contributi”).

4.2 Eligible projects

To be eligible, projects must:

- fall in at least one of the key priority research areas of this Call;
- involve, train and value young researchers⁴;

Moreover, the PIs of all the involved units (leading and partner) are allowed to:

- submit one proposal only to this Call;
- participate as PI in more than one Call of the Scientific Research Area, as long as no overlap is displayed between proposals⁵;
- not be the PI of any other ongoing proposals previously funded by the Scientific Research Area

(except for Calls in partnership with other granting agencies)⁶.

It is mandatory for the operational headquarter of the leading organization to be located within the geographical area of intervention of Cariplo Foundation. This requirement does not pertain potential partners.

The total cost of the project should include the additional costs⁷ and the overhead only, according to the eligibility criteria and the thresholds listed below:

- A03 - “Equipment and software”

This entry cannot exceed 20% of the additional costs. It fully covers the costs for newly acquired equipments and softwares. It is mandatory to clearly motivate these costs in accordance to the specificity of the project. In this category can also be included ranting costs as well as building work expenses for the installation of the new equipments.

- A04 - “Other amortizable costs”

This entry can only include patent costs.

- A06 - “Temporary staff”

This entry can only include research personnel costs. The cost of administrative staff is not allowed.

- A07 - “Sub-contractors and consultants”

This entry should also include audit costs, where applicable⁸.

- A08 - “Materials and supplies”

This entry cannot include costs related to office supplies and photocopies.

- A09 - “Overheads”

⁶ A proposal is considered ongoing unless the final grant reports - both the scientific and the financial one - have been uploaded on our website before the deadline of this call.

⁷ Sum of: A03, A04, A06, A07, A08, A10.

⁸ Exclusively certificated auditors are considered eligible. For the sole purpose of ascertaining whether the obligation to perform a financial audit applies or not, the amount which has to be considered is obtained by multiplying the eligible costs detailed in the Budget (sum of entries A06, A07, A08, A09 and A10) by the coefficient 1,25.

It is also recommended to refer to the “Grant management and reporting guide” and to the guidelines for audit assignment “Linee guida per affidamento audit”; both documents are available on the Cariplo Foundation’s website.

⁴ The term “young researcher” in this Call for proposals indicates graduate fellows, PhD students and postdoc not older than 35 years of age at the Call’s deadline.

⁵ In case of overlapping proposals, only the first one received will be considered.

This entry cannot exceed 5% of the additional costs.

- A10 - "Travel, publication and dissemination costs".

This entry cannot exceed 20% of the additional costs and can only include travel expenses and conference participation fees for the research personnel involved in the project, scientific publications and activities of communication with the civil society.

The grant will cover 100% of project costs, therefore the total cost of the project should correspond to the requested amount.

Requested funding should range from 100,000 to 300,000 euros.

Proposals should provide the following mandatory documents:

- Host institution agreement⁹;
- Partnership agreement¹⁰;
- Project form¹¹, as PDF file;
- Project dissemination form¹², as PDF file;
- Detailed budget, as EXCEL file;
- Authorization for the Transfer of Personal Data to extra-European countries¹³.

By participating to this Call, organizations acknowledge, agree and accept that the award of the grant requires the irrevocable acceptance of all the following documents, available online for the download: Intellectual property rights policy, Open access policy and Acknowledgement guidelines for academic papers ("Linee guida per la citazione del contributo nelle comunicazioni scientifiche").

4.3 Criteria

The evaluation of the full projects will be carried out according to the methods and criteria represented below.

1. DESCRIPTION (weight 10%)

- clarity of the project aims and strategies;
- analysis of the state of the art;
- preliminary data significance.

2. APPROACH (weight 20%)

- integration of the project in a research area relevant in terms of current debate over regenerative and circular economy;
- adequacy and rationality of the research plan,
- multidisciplinary approach;
- presence of adequate back-up plans;
- adequacy of the monitoring plans.

3. INNOVATION (weight 10%)

- originality of the research question;
- ability to innovate existing organizational and business models.

4. OUTCOMES (weight 25%)

- expected impacts in terms of knowledge advancement;
- expected impacts in terms of long- and medium-term product and process innovation;
- impatto atteso in termini di creazione di valore sociale, nuova occupazione e sviluppo dei territori.

5. PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR, TEAM AND ORGANIZATION (weight 10%)

- PIs' scientific and managerial leadership;
- track record and adequacy of the PI and team competencies (leading organization and partner);
- presence and added value of the international partner/s;

⁹ The Host Institution agreement form can be downloaded from the website.

¹⁰ To be provided in case the project involves partners and the form can be downloaded from the website.

¹¹ The Project form can be downloaded from the website.

¹² The Dissemination form can be downloaded from the website.

¹³ The Authorization form can be downloaded from the website.

- level of consolidation of the collaborations with research centres and\or the ability to build new partnerships;
- adequacy of the equipment in relation to the project typology.

6. YOUNG RESEARCHERS (weight 10%)

- engagement of young researchers in responsibility roles;
- training programmes for young researchers.

7. DISSEMINATION (weight 5%)

- quality of the communication plan.

7. BUDGET and PROJECT DURATION (weight 10%)

- budget suitability, coherence and duration of the project.

The evaluation will be performed by three independent reviewers. The Foundation will make a judgement limited to the coherence of the Economic Plan and the adequacy of the Dissemination Plan.

4.4 Non-eligible projects

Proposals will be considered non-eligible in case they do not comply with the previous paragraph 4.2 "Eligible projects" and/or present the following features:

- purely descriptive;
- basic research projects without any tangible application;
- projects exclusively meant to technology transfer;
- aimed to set up new research centres and/or laboratories and/or animal facilities.

In addition, Cariplo Foundation will not consider eligible a proposal that has been submitted more than two times to previous editions of this Call.

4.5 Submission process

Applications must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on **May 19th, 2020**.

5. AVAILABLE BUDGET, ELIGIBLE/NON-ELIGIBLE COSTS

The budget available for this Call consists of 3,6 million Euros.

Eligible and non-eligible costs are detailed in the previous section 4.2 Eligible projects.

6. COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION

Cariplo Foundation, as a private entity, is not required to comply with public procedures and has the faculty not to allocate the entire budget in whole or in part. The text of the Call and all the mentioned documents can be found on Cariplo Foundation website www.fondazionecariplo.it.

7. SUMMARY *

Call	Circular Economy for a sustainable future
Type	Call with deadline
Deadline	19.05.2020
Available budget	€ 3.600.000
Obiettivi	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Design and development of new materials, products and processes fostering a shift towards innovative and sustainable organization models• Design and develop more efficient resource regeneration systems previously used for the production and transformation process or for service provision• Foster the use of organic and inorganic waste as well as their transformation in products characterized by high added value
Eligible subjects	Public or private non-profit organizations that conduct scientific research
Funding constraints	Maximum funding € 300.000
Contacts	Scientific Research Area Staff contacts at: www.fondazionecariplo.it

* The data shown in the "Summary" are intended as a brief overview of the terms and conditions of the Call only. For a full description, please read carefully the text of the Call.