
Framework text

“Mediterranean” Call for projects 2018

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“MEDITERRANEAN” call for projects - 2018

1. Principles and objectives of the “Mediterranean” call for projects

The A*Midex Foundation, Initiative of excellence for the Aix-Marseille site¹, launches its second “Mediterranean” call for projects with the objective of encouraging and supporting the development of Euro-Mediterranean collaborations with favoured research partners. The suggestions gathered during the discussion “the future of the Mediterranean”, on 5th April 2017, and returns on experience from scientific teams were used to make changes to the present call.

The present call for projects will support **Research-Action projects**, i.e., projects which require researchers to simultaneously focus on the action to be performed and the production of scientific knowledge. The R.A. must be considered as a process; it is a research approach aiming to solve concrete problems in situ; it will be implemented through a collaboration between researchers and company or institutional employees; its objective will be to produce scientific knowledge on the situations studied.

The Mediterranean area can be considered in two non-mutually-exclusive ways:

- as a research aim and comparative space.
- as a geopolitical area, promoting networks and cooperation between states bordering the Mediterranean sea.

The objectives of the current call for proposals are to:

- Support long-term and ambitious Euro-Mediterranean partnerships
- Encourage the emergence of new avenues of reflection to consider the complexity of the Mediterranean region, its relationship to territories and human beings, and its impact on ecosystems
- Reinforce the positioning of the Aix-Marseille site as a major stakeholder at European and Mediterranean levels

The project must propose a research-action approach including a significant experimental aspect at local level. Project leaders are also asked to associate several research units and different types of stakeholders (institutions, socio-economic and cultural partners, student associations, etc.).

¹ The 8 founding members of A*Midex are: Aix-Marseille University, CNRS (French National Centre for Scientific Research), Inserm (French National Institute for Health and Medical Research), CEA (French Atomic Energy Commission), IRD (French Institute for Developmental Research), APHM (Marseille Public Hospitals Group), Political Sciences faculty Aix and the Ecole Centrale Marseille (Marseille Engineering school).

The call for projects aims to contribute to supporting high-impact projects which will be assessed annually to identify the impact and outcomes for the Aix-Marseille site.

Projects must come under A*Midex's priority themed axes: Humanities, Life and health sciences, Advanced science and technology, Environment, or Energy, and be coordinated by scientific teams based at the Aix-Marseille site.

For this call for projects, emphasis will be placed on the two following specificities:

- **Interdisciplinarity and intersectoriality**, to encourage the emergence of new knowledge. In this context, actions which are internal to the Labex are not eligible, but inter-sector and transverse activities between Labex partners specialising in the Mediterranean area will be supported.
- **Reinforcement of incoming and outgoing mobility** within the Mediterranean basin to support partnerships. Hosting of Master's students from countries in the Mediterranean area will be strongly encouraged.

Note: in complement to the current call for projects, and in line with the site's policy of creating a Euro Mediterranean University, two structuring actions devoted to the Mediterranean area are supported by the A*Midex Foundation:

- The Transnational North Mediterranean Campus associating Aix-Marseille University, University of Barcelona, Universidad autonoma de Madrid and Sapienza University (Rome).
- Support for development of projects for the PRIMA programme (Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area) funded in equal parts by the EU and the ANR.

2. Eligible candidates

The call is open to research teams and academic teams from all institutions in the A*Midex consortium. French research institutes abroad (UMIFRE) - CRFJ and IRMC - located in the Mediterranean region, and supported by A*MIDEX, may also apply.

A project leader must be designated for each project to ensure project coordination and monitor its implementation. Project leaders must ensure that the project is not the subject of a request for double financing. Project leaders who were previously awarded funding under the International (2013) and Mediterranean (2014) calls for projects are not eligible for this call.

3. Selection criteria

Projects will be assessed according to the following three criteria, based on their scientific excellence and their impact.

<p>1) Quality of the project and relevance to the action requested and the objectives of the Idex (research, international, training, attractiveness, socio-economic impact)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excellence of the project - Project corresponding to an issue clearly identified at the level of the site - Added value compared to the existing situation and innovative nature at national and international levels <p>(...../60)</p>
<p>2) Quality of the project's implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coherence and perceived efficiency of the work plan - Quality of the planned partnership approach. <p>(.../20)</p>
<p>3) Impact and transforming nature of the project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Impact of the project and knock-on effects - Quality of the plan to exploit results <p>(.../20)</p>
<p>Total (.../100)</p>

4. Funding

The funding requested must be in line with the real needs of the projects.

A budget of €800,000 has been allocated for the 2018 call for projects.

The IDEX fund aims to provide financial support for the development of a project, but cannot ensure its continued functioning. Following this initial support, successful initiatives must find an alternative source of funding.

The maximum funding awarded will be €80,000 per project for two years.

5. Eligible costs

The eligible costs are defined in the A*Midex financial regulations available on the A*Midex Foundation's website ("documentation" section).

For the current call for projects, PhD stipends and costs related to equipment are not eligible.

6. Schedule

- Launch of the call for proposals 12:00pm 20/Mar/2018
- Opening of the platform for enrolment and submission of applications: 20/Mar/2018
- **Deadline for enrolment - Phase 1 (OBLIGATORY process): 12:00pm 14/June/2018 (Paris timezone)**
- **Deadline for submission of completed applications: 12:00pm 13/September/2018 (Paris timezone)**
- Review of applications: October to December 2018
- Expected date for announcement of awardees: February 2019
- Expected start date for successful projects: February to March 2019

7. Selection procedure

1st step: the project will be assessed by two international experts

2nd step: the A*Midex Foundation will assess the feasibility of operational implementation of the project.

3rd step: the A*Midex steering committee will select the successful "Mediterranean" projects

9. Eligibility criteria

How to apply

Phase 1: enrolment - "Sign up"

Candidates are invited to click on the "[sign up](#)" button available on this page. They sign in, using their ENT login and password, to the candidate area of the "Mediterranean" call for projects.

At the latest by 5:00pm 20/Apr/2018, they must have completed the required fields (name of project leader/ Learning and teaching department(s)/ Project title/ Project acronym/ Themed axis/ Disciplines/ Keywords (1 to 3 words) / Project summary (around 5 lines).

Enrolment is an OBLIGATORY step in the process. However, it is not used for selection.

Phase 2: submitting the application - “Complete my application”

Project leaders who enrolled to the call for proposals are then invited to submit their final application **at the latest by noon on 15/June/2018** (via the link indicated in the e-mail confirming their enrolment OR by clicking on “[Complete my application](#)”) by uploading the following:

- The contents of their application (model No.1_contents of the application);
- Their budget (model No.2_justification of costs);
- Appendices: the letter from the head of the research unit, CV with bibliographic references for the project leader, letters confirming financial support or collaboration from partners.

10. Communication of results

The results will be published online on the A*Midex site. Candidates will be informed by e-mail of the selection results.

11. Additional information - Contact

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The application must be drawn up in English due to the international assessment procedure. All the elements relating to the aims and modalities of the call for proposals can be found in the framework document for the current call.

Contact: Mathilde Vivot, International project manager: mathilde.vivot@univ-amu.fr or Executive director: amidex-direction@univ-amu.fr