CIRCLE U. INTERDISCIPLINARY THEMATIC RESEARCH NETWORKS

2023 CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
31.03.2023

Circle U.
European University Alliance

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CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation

programme under grant agreement No 101035814

The Circle U. Alliance has set up a dedicated funding scheme **supporting networking activities that involve stakeholders from at least three Circle U. universities** as well as stakeholders outside academia through Interdisciplinary Thematic Research Networks (ITRN).

ITRN are **international cooperation enablers** of the Circle U. Alliance dedicated to supporting the emergence of interdisciplinary partnerships on identified thematic areas.

These networks are envisioned to become stepping-stones to prepare ambitious transnational collaborative research projects. Researchers from Circle U. are welcome to apply to this first ITRN call.

Researchers from the Circle U. universities involved (Aarhus University (Denmark), Humboldt- Universität zu Berlin (Germany), King's College London (United Kingdom), Université Paris Cité (France), University of Belgrade (Serbia), University of Louvain (Belgium), University of Oslo (Norway)) are welcome to apply.

ABOUT THE CIRCLE U. INTERDISCPLINARY THEMATIC RESEARCH NETWORKS

Circle U. Interdisciplinary Thematic Research Networks are projects involving **researchers from at least 3 different Circle U. member institutions** whose purpose is to explore new fields of research and initiate interdisciplinary partnerships amongst researchers from Circle U. Universities involved.

Support will be provided for the running costs of the networking activities (e.g. workshop, short-term mobility, initiation of early-stage collaborative research projects, etc..) **amounting up to €5,500 per ITRN for up to three ITRNs**.

These ITRNs are expected to have a duration of approximately **6-12 months** and to take place between **July 2023** and **June 2024**.

Each network should be **interdisciplinary**. We strongly encourage ITRN to focus on specific thematic areas related to the Circle U. Knowledge Hubs (Democracy, Climate and/or Global Health).

While proposals should involve representatives from at least 3 Circle U. Universities, involvement of stakeholders outside academia is strongly encouraged. Among those stakeholders, Circle U. already includes associated partners (local authorities, hospitals, *etc*.), which could be involved in the ITRNs. A list of those Circle U. associated partners is available at this link.

ELIGIBILITY

This Call for Applications to set up an ITRN is open to Principal Investigators (PI) conducting research at one of the Circle U. universities involved.

Each proposal should involve **at least 3 PI from at least 3 different Circle U. Universities**. One PI should be identified as the Main Applicant of the proposal.

Within their home institutions, eligible PI should hold a position that enables them to conduct and initiate research grants independently and supervise funding and expenditures.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The evaluation panel will base its assessments on the **overall content quality** of the applications. Consideration will be given to:

- Scientific value, quality and interdisciplinarity of the project

- Complementarity of the teams, in regard to international collaboration and the involvement of stakeholders

- Leadership skills of team members for facilitating interdisciplinary collaboration

- Clearly defined milestones

- Perspectives for the sustainability of the project beyond the initial funding period

No pre-requisites in terms of previous exchanges or publications are required.

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE AND DEADLINES

To apply for ITRN, proposals should be **submitted in a single PDF file (in English)** and consist of the following:
- Principal Investigators and their CVs

- Project title and thematic areas addressed by the ITRN: Climate, Democracy, and/or Global Health

- Project description (max. 3 pages) :

  o Originality, objectives, activities and future perspectives

  o Interdisciplinary dimension of the proposal

  o Involvement of non-academic stakeholders

  o Added value of the initiative and expected leverage effect

- Sustainability of the project beyond the initial funding period

- Planned budget (and potential additional external funding sources)

Applications material should be submitted to the ITRN Coordinator (itrn-circleu@uclouvain.be) as a single PDF attachment by **May 31, 2023** (midnight CET).

The selection results will be communicated to the applicants by **June 30, 2023**.

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HOW ARE THE ITRNS FUNDED ?

ITRN will receive funds earmarked by the Circle U. Alliance for supporting international mobility between the Circle U. universities, for organising workshops and for implementing field assignments between partners, for a total amount of **max. 5,500 EUR** over the ITRN duration.

Please note that equipment and staff costs, as well as the costs already or subsequently covered by other funds, are not considered as eligible costs.

Funding will be allocated to the PI identified as the Main Applicant of the proposal.

Supported ITRN will be requested to provide short intermediary and final activity **reports** at months 6 and 12 of the funded period.

HOW TO REACH OUT TO YOUR CIRCLE U. PEERS AND IDENTIFY POTENTIAL PARTNERS?

ITRN **contact** persons at Circle U. universities may help you :

- Aarhus University - Knud Warming, warming@au.dk

- University of Belgrade - Ivan Mihajlovic, imihajlovic@tfbor.bg.ac.rs

- Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin – Caitlin Boulter, caitlin.boulter@hu-berlin.de

- King's College London – Circle U. coordinators, circle-u@kcl.ac.uk

- UCLouvain - Natalia Tikhonov Sigrist, natalia.tikhonov@uclouvain.be

- University of Oslo – Sjur Rynningen Bie-Lorentzen, s.r.bie-lorentzen@admin.uio.no

- Université Paris Cité - Jonathan Weitzman, jonathan.weitzman@u-paris.fr

MORE INFORMATION

Please refer questions to the Circle U. ITRN Coordinator: itrn-circleu@uclouvain.be

More about the Circle U. European University Alliance: https://www.circle-u.eu/

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Co-funded by the H2020 Programme of the European Union

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