



Creation of the CCIVA ERA via a Networks of research funders and managers and joint transnational activities

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As a precursor, CIRCLE ERA-Net (Climate Impact Research Coordination for a Larger Europe) was a European Commission (EC) Framework Programme 6 (FP6) funded project under the European Research Area (ERA) Networks scheme. Its success is now being followed by CIRCLE-2 (Climate Impact Research and Response Coordination for a Larger Europe) a European Commission (EC) Framework Programme 7 (FP7) funded project.

CIRCLE initiated in 2005 as a Coordination Action (CA) until 2009 and its second phase CIRCLE-2 (2010-2014) currently involves 20 partner and 15 associated partner institutions from 24 different European countries. Key national research funding and managing institutions across Europe are represented in the CIRCLE-2 consortium either directly or through their national/regional research programmes on Climate Change Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation (CCIVA).

The main objective of CIRCLE-2 is to step up coordination of research activities carried out at national/regional level in the EU Member and Associated States by supporting and enhancing collaboration efforts between national research programmes on CCIVA.

By the setting up of different sub-groups based on their geo-climatic or socio-economic circumstances (e.g. Mediterranean, Nordic, Central and Eastern European States, Mountainous areas) CIRCLE establish a strong and close network that enables the alignment of national CCIVA research agendas and their funding budgets.

Through a multi-level assessment of CCIVA research needs, CIRCLE provided the framework for the programme, design and launch of joint calls for research projects. Three of such transnational joint calls were issued for the Mediterranean (2007-2010), the Nordic (2007-2009) and Mountainous areas (2009 – 2010).

Alongside with its focus on the research management of transnational CCIVA science, CIRCLE has developed efforts to support the European adaptation and response processes by aggregating and making available national/regional information on CCIAV research programmes, projects and their results. CIRCLE-2 will move further and create a science policy interface for transnational collaboration and activities.

By matching its knowledge base with the EC and its Member and Associated States' research agendas, CIRCLE-2 will set in place an integrated structure to consider and support European CCIVA research needs and to contribute towards the development of a truly multidisciplinary ERA on Climate Change.