

COTE

Evolution, Adaptation and Governance
of Continental and Coastal Ecosystems



COTE LabEx Call for Research Projects

Year 2012



The overall objective of COTE is to understand the mechanisms governing the evolution of land and aquatic ecosystems in order to forecast their medium and long-term responses to environmental changes and to devise adaptive management methods that can provide for their sustainability and change. The scientific seminar organised by the LabEx in January 2012 clearly showed that these preoccupations were shared by our scientific communities.

In addition to the research already underway on these themes in our units and on our own subjects of study, the COTE LabEx would like to develop more integrative, innovative approaches. These expectations could also be felt in the 40 responses to the call for ideas put out last spring. This desire for integration is clear in the three priorities of the call for projects, which are considered of equal importance without any order of priority.

1. Content and priorities of the COTE 2012 call for projects

- **Coupling of approaches to understand the mechanisms of evolution and adaptation of socio-ecological systems to global changes.**

The proposals may refer to one or several of the COTE workpackages (impacts, responses and scenarios: see Annexe 1) in one or several ecosystems (forests, agrosystems, hydrosystems), and as a priority they must associate research skills in physical, chemical and biological sciences of the environment on the one hand, and in human and social sciences on the other. This focus on coupling approaches that might seem remote from each other at first sight and yet are complementary, responds to the desire of COTE to assert its commitment to integration from the first year.

- **Interactions between ecosystems as a factor in their evolution.**

Ecosystems are characterised by their spatial adjacency or even continuity, raising questions as to the original mechanisms resulting in particular dynamics within each of the ecosystems. The proposals will aim to address the interactions between ecosystems, without the coupling of several approaches being an eligibility requirement in this case. These interactions between ecosystems may refer to flows of matter, energy, particles, pollutants, etc. This list of interactions and interdependences is not restrictive. Any projects proposed on this priority must consider at least two of the ecosystems studied in COTE.

- **Modelling as a long-term forecasting tool.**

One objective of the COTE LabEx is to promote research into medium and long-term forecasting of ecosystem responses to environmental and anthropic impacts. The modelling proposals should fit in with workpackage 3 (trends and scenarios) of the COTE project. They may concern one or several ecosystems and one or several approaches (physics, chemistry, biology, human and social sciences) of the COTE LabEx.

These three priorities encompass the expectations expressed in many of the proposals in the call for ideas. The projects may be combinations of contributions to the call for ideas or may be newly-constructed projects matching the priorities of the Call for Projects. To this effect, COTE is placing a list of the contributions to the call for ideas on its website, along with the contact details of the project leaders (<http://cote.labex-univ-bordeaux.fr>, Call for Projects section).

The aim being to stimulate interaction between teams and disciplines, this Call for Projects will only consider projects constructed between researchers from at least two different units of the COTE LabEx.

2. Credit Allocations

Each selected project will be allocated a budget package comprising a maximum annual endowment of €30,000 exclusive of tax (operating, assignments, small equipment, etc.) over three years and a thesis allowance (€32,000 a year for three years) or a post-doctoral allowance (€46,445 a year for two years).

3. Eligibility Conditions

3.1. Criteria

The projects must correspond to one or several of the declared priorities (see Paragraph 1). They must involve at least 2 co-contracting COTE units, one of which must play the role of project leader.

Co-contractors may only be COTE LabEx partner units and, within those units, only those teams announced in the initial project (see Annexe 2). The projects may include external partners, although such partners must be financed by other sources.

3.2. Expenditure

- **Operating expenditure and wages (excluding doctoral or post-doctoral contracts) financed by the LabEx (there may be co-financing) must not exceed €30,000 excluding tax per year.**
- Eligible expenditure:
 - o Operating expenditure → laboratory expenses (fluids, documentation and digital resources, small equipment of a unit value equal to or less than €4,000 excluding tax, consumables...); teaching expenses (documentation, digital resources, small equipment of a unit value equal to or less than €4,000 excluding tax); expenses relating to maintenance of equipment for use on the project; travel expenses of permanent or temporary personnel allocated to the project; intellectual

property costs of patents or licences induced by the operation; service provisions¹...

- Personnel expenditure directly related to the project → temporary personnel.
- Non-eligible expenditure: equipment for an amount of more than €4,000; temporary personnel contracts of a duration exceeding 3 months.

4. Project Appraisal

The projects will be appraised by the International Scientific Committee of the COTE LabEx, backed up as required by outside experts and by the COTE LabEx management committee.

5. Language

The proposals may be written in French or in English.

6. Schedule and Practical Terms

- Launch of the call for projects: 6 July 2012.
- Date limit for application files: **7 October 2012** by e-mail to the COTE project manager (manager-labexcote@univ-bordeaux.fr); response form available for download on: <http://cote.labex-univ-bordeaux.fr>, Call for Projects section.
- Selection of files: early December 2012.
- Projects start in Q2 2013.

¹ See Article 3.4 of the [Regulations on laboratory of excellence call for projects subsidy allocation](#) of 7 June 2012