

Pre announcement : futur research and development and innovation joint call on Sargassum seaweed

[Insérer images sargasses sur les plages ou entrée de ports](#)

Regional council of Guadeloupe, jointly with French National Agency of Research and Ademe, and some partners, will launch a joint call dealing with sargassum seaweed. This joint call will aim at supporting operational solutions to manage sargassum ending up on shorelines and increasing knowledge on this phenomenon which hardly affect Caribbean islands. The joint call should be launched by October 2018.

Fostering the setting up of a Caribbean network of experts on Sargassum seaweed

The ongoing huge influxes of sargassum seaweed hitting the Caribbean area is even worse than those occurred on precedent years. Economic impacts are huge, around millions of euros. Further, health consequences on coastal residents and terrestrial and marine ecological impacts have yet to be evaluated. And, according to forecast, those flows of sargassum seaweed will go on. So, increasing knowledge to better understand the sargassum bloom, to improve the management of the sargassum flows as well as fostering operational and economically reliable solutions, will be at the heart of the joint call.

The aim of the joint call is to support research collaborative projects and development and innovation ones in order to improve knowledge, to foster the design of management strategies in short and long term perspective, and to implement innovative and functional solutions to mitigate the impact of sargassum ending up of on the shorelines.

The call will be focus on four main themes:

1. **Characterization** of Sargassum at genetic, biochemical, morphological, developmental and demographic levels;
2. **Forecast** of sargassums mats and their path, off the coast and close to it;
3. **Techniques** to collect in the sea, to pick up on beaches, as well as process to treat and valorize sargassums;
4. The **economic, health and environmental impacts** of Sargassum flows on both the terrestrial and marine environments, as well as the geopolitical analysis of this phenomenon at the international and local levels, and the design of territory planning strategies to mitigate those impacts.

Partners and expecting consortia

Following partners have expressed their interest:

- **Territorial collectivity of French Guyana, of Saint-Martin;**

Brazil (FAPESP), territorial collectivity of Martinique, DEAL (French government department dealing with environment, territory planning and housing) may also contribute to the joint call

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(involvement to be confirmed). An update list of partners will be regularly published on the website of the regional council of Guadeloupe.

Collaborative projects, involving local actors and stakeholders, will be particularly welcomed.

Each funding organisation will support its national/local actors. Then, candidate should pay attention to its specific funding rules. Selected collaborative projects may be funded under Interreg operational program and operational program belonging to the respective funding organisation.

Indicative calendar

Collaborative projects will be evaluated across criteria of **scientific excellence and policy/societal relevance/stakeholder engagement**.

The call is planned to be launched in early October 2018 (with the full call text).