

Call Announcement

Water JPI 2016 Joint Call

Joint Programming Initiatives

Water Challenges for a Changing World

Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change



Sustainable management of water resources in agriculture, forestry and freshwater aquaculture sectors

Deadline for the Submission of Pre-Proposals	19 April 2016 (17H CEST)
Deadline for the Submission of Full Proposals	15 September 2016 (17H CEST)
Call Secretariat	Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT, Portugal) email: ww2015@fct.pt
Submission Web Page	Link will be available in the 2016 Joint Call Official Webpage
Water JPI Website	http://www.waterjpi.eu/

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A. Call Announcement Bookmarks

The 2016 Joint Call support documentation is detailed in the following pages. **Please make sure that the bookmarks are visible in the left sidebar once you open this PDF**, for the sake of simplicity and for a facilitated access to the **main sections** of this document.

Note: A thorough reading of the Call documentation is essential for a successful application.

B. “How to Apply” Quick Tutorial



LINKEDIN DISCUSSION FORUM link:
<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8455262/profile>

I. INTRODUCTION

The *Joint Programming Initiatives* (JPIs) are intergovernmental initiatives aiming at strengthening European leadership and competitiveness in Research and Innovation (R&I). In particular, the Water JPI responds to the grand challenge of “*Achieving Sustainable Water Systems for a Sustainable Economy in Europe and Abroad*”, while the FACCE JPI is dedicated to meeting the challenge of “*Ensuring food security and sustainable agriculture under climate change while protecting ecosystems and natural resources*”. The Water and FACCE JPIs have been harmonising and mobilising National and Regional R&I Programmes to address these grand challenges. This joint effort has required a transnational and multi-disciplinary approach to the economic, ecological, technological and societal challenges facing world water resources.

The ERA-NET Cofund **WaterWorks2015** responds to the [Horizon 2020 \(H2020\) Societal Challenge 5 Call topic Water-3 \[2015\]](#) (page 30 of the hyperlink): Stepping up EU research and innovation cooperation in the water area. In particular, it aims at supporting “*research and innovation to support the implementation of EU water policy, in particular on sustainable water use in agriculture, to increase water use efficiency and reduce soil and water pollution.*” This ERA-NET Cofund builds on the joint efforts conducted up to now in the planning and implementation of Water JPI activities, and aims at i) a maximisation of the scarce human and financial resources, ii) a reduction of the fragmentation of research, iii) a better synergy and coordination between national and EU funding in the water-related research fields, iv) and supporting EU policies and initiatives in the field of water, and v) developing international cooperation in water research.

A total of 25 Funding Partner Organisations (FPOs) from 22 countries have agreed to launch a co-funded transnational and transdisciplinary call for research and innovation proposals on the topic “**Sustainable management of water resources in agriculture, forestry and freshwater aquaculture sectors**”, in February 2016.

The agricultural, forestry and freshwater aquaculture sectors account for the majority of global freshwater withdrawals. Agriculture alone represents on average 44% of total water abstraction in Europe (cf. [Agriculture and Rural Development Policy](#)). Only about one third of this water goes back into the environment, often with impaired quality. The pressure that these economic sectors exert on the availability of water resources is likely to escalate in the future due to the important role that the bio-economy is expected to achieve in the global economy. The intensification of agriculture, forestry and freshwater

aquaculture to fulfil population needs/demands will increase pressure on natural and artificial resources (water, land and agrochemicals). Extreme climatic events – droughts and floods – are also likely to reduce the volume of water of sufficient quality available for agriculture and forestry.

Moreover, agriculture, forestry and freshwater aquaculture are important sources of water and soil pollution. Along with sewage treatment plants and industrial discharges, farming activities represent the most important pollution source in Europe. Nutrients from fertilisers (mainly nitrogen and phosphorus), pesticides and their metabolites, pathogenic microorganisms excreted by livestock and organic pollution from manure are regularly detected in water bodies at levels sufficiently high to affect aquatic and riparian ecosystems, as well as human health and the use of water for both humans (e.g. recreational, drinking) and animals (cf. [Water JPI Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda, version 1.0, October 2014](#)). In order to address these challenges, the European Commission and Member States have implemented a number of policies and strategies. The European Strategy on Bioeconomy (“[Innovating for Sustainable Growth: a Bioeconomy for Europe](#)”, February 2012) seeks a more innovative and low-emissions economy. The strategy sets out to reconcile demands for sustainable agriculture and freshwater aquaculture, food security and the sustainable use of renewable biological resources for industrial and energy purposes, while at the same time ensuring biodiversity and environmental protection. Safeguarding European natural resources is one of the primary objectives of this strategy. In the same vein, the European Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) favours the take-up of measures aimed at protecting water resources. These may include crop diversification, efficient irrigation or the identification of areas excluded from cultivation (cf. [Blueprint to Safeguard Europe’s Water Resources](#), 2012). Similar challenges are currently faced by countries / regions beyond Europe.

In this context, future research and innovation actions as well as the implementation of Water policies in Europe should contribute to:

- Ensuring the provision of water resources for the agricultural, forestry and freshwater aquaculture sector in a context of global climate change and consumers’ demands for more ecologically-friendly products. The reuse of treated water from different sources (e.g. industries, cities) should be further exploited;
- Protecting humans against health risks if additional water sources, such as reuse, are made available;

- The more sustainable growth of the agriculture, forestry and freshwater aquaculture sectors whilst paving the way towards job creation in all these economic areas.

IMPORTANT

The information contained in this document does not replace or override any of the requirements set forth in the National/Regional Regulations. A thorough consultation of all information is crucial for a successful submission of your proposal. Each partner is advised to consult with the relevant Funding Partner Organisation (FPO), in order to ensure that his/her participation meets all of the National/Regional Eligibility Criteria.

II. CALL DESCRIPTION

II.1. Aim of the 2016 Joint Call

The aim of the 2016 Joint Call is to enable transnational, collaborative research, development and innovation projects addressing questions relating to the water challenges faced by society. The Funding Partner Organisations (FPOs) particularly wish to i) promote trans-disciplinary research, ii) encourage proposals combining basic and applied approaches, iii) stimulate mobility of researchers within the consortia, iv) enhance collaborative research and innovation during the project's lifespan and beyond, and v) promote international cooperation in the water area.

The ERA-NET Cofund **WaterWorks2015** will be implemented through a Joint Call for transnational collaborative projects on research and innovation to support the implementation of water policies, in particular on "**Sustainable management of water resources in agriculture, forestry and freshwater aquaculture sectors**", in order to increase water use efficiency and to reduce soil and water pollution.

The topics are organised around three scientific challenges.

Proposals are expected to:

- Address one or several challenges;
- Address at least one of the sub-topics listed below – **Applicants are encouraged to integrate more than one sub-topic in their proposals** (in sub-topic 1a and 1b is given a more detailed explanation to avoid broadening the scope of the Joint Call);
- Go beyond the *State of the Art* by providing high quality research and innovation, and when appropriate, to make use of innovative technologies and approaches to do so;

- Propose case studies (e.g. implementation at local or regional level) in European and non-European environments (various climatic, hydrological and soil conditions);
- Connect to stakeholders needs (in particular involving them in the proposals); and
- Develop international cooperation in water research.

Challenge-1) Increasing the efficiency and resilience of water uses

Sub-topic-1.a. Efficiency issues include the development of:

- i. Innovative water use systems and practices, including precision irrigation technologies (e.g. models, sensors, ICT);
- ii. Water-efficient and/or drought-tolerant and/or salinity-tolerant crops and forestry species/varieties, including an analysis of the effects of such crops and species on the environment;
- iii. Water reuse and water recycling technologies in the agriculture and freshwater aquaculture sectors; and
- iv. Optimisation of the Water – Energy nexus in these sectors (e.g. improving energy efficiency).

Sub-topic-1.b. Resilience to climatic variability includes:

- i. Development of water-conserving agriculture and forestry practices as a way to improve the management of water and to improve soil properties related to water;
- ii. Increasing the resilience of agriculture and forestry systems and landscape management in a context of highly variable water availability due to climate trends, climate variability and extreme events (floods and droughts); and
- iii. Implementation of innovative technologies for the monitoring of surface and groundwater bodies for effective integrated water management (including water abstraction) in agriculture, forestry and freshwater aquaculture sectors.

Challenge-2) Monitoring and reducing soil and water pollution

Sub-topic-2.a. Optimising fertiliser application to reduce over fertilisation to better accommodate crop requirements while avoiding nitrogen and phosphorus losses to surface water and groundwater.

Sub-topic-2.b. Assessment and development of monitoring schemes and indicators, for agricultural catchments to identify, quantify and minimise pollution sources and to reduce impacts on water quality, caused by agrochemicals, mineral fertilizers, crops residues, manure and digestates.

Sub-topic-2.c. Modelling and assessing the nitrate and phosphorus loads from agriculture, forestry and freshwater aquaculture sectors to avoid risks of eutrophication of rivers

and lakes, and propose management approaches for reducing impacts on ecosystem biodiversity and economic sectors.

Sub-topic-2.d. Understanding and decreasing the combined environmental risks from agriculture, forestry and freshwater aquaculture to human health (environmental exposure from water uses and food).

Challenge-3) Integrating social and economic dimensions into the sustainable management and governance of water resources

Sub-topic-3.a. In the context of increased risks (droughts and floods) and competition for water uses, development of new approaches and models for integrated management and governance of land, soil and water targeting the optimum use of resources (water quantity and quality issues at catchment or river basin scales).

Sub-topic-3.b. Set-up of water-valuing schemes based upon the establishment of new criteria for water valuation in agriculture, forestry or freshwater aquaculture and the estimation of associated costs with a sustainability perspective including social, economic and ecological pillars.

Sub-topic-3.c. Developing participatory approaches and assessing barriers (social, cultural, psychological and economic barriers) at catchment level for better implementation of policies and uptake of existing and breakthrough knowledge (e.g. ICT technologies).

II.2. Scope of the 2016 Joint Call

The 2016 Joint Call will pool Research and Innovation (R&I) efforts from countries participating in the FACCE-JPI and/or Water JPI. The scope of the Joint Call was defined in accordance to the physical domains considered in the Strategic Research and Innovation Agendas (SRIAs) of both initiatives, as follows:

- Proposals may focus on transitional water; those on marine systems will not be eligible;
- Water use in agriculture, forestry and freshwater aquaculture are within the scope of the call;
- The call will not be constrained to irrigate systems. Rain-fed systems will be considered as well.

II.3. Transdisciplinary approach & expected impacts of the Joint Call

Tackling societal challenges always requires a transdisciplinary approach. Therefore, **all** proposals should emphasise the effective participation of stakeholders and

end-users (including industry) in research, and innovation actions (participatory approaches).

In addition to contributing to the achievement of the respective **SRIAs**, proposals should demonstrate clear **European/International added value** and the potential for **scientific and/or technological excellence**.

Consequently, the following statements should be considered when drafting proposals:

- Cross-cutting issues, such as **socio-economic and/or capacity developing aspects** (contributions to standards and norms) constitute an added value to R&I in this field.
- Proposals should **build on on-going research activities the state-of-the-art at EU level and beyond** providing synergies. They should describe opportunities and initiatives for cooperation with these activities.
- **Participation of stakeholders** (i.e. small and medium enterprises (SMEs), industries, authorities, public administrations, associations, as well as civil society organisations) is encouraged.
- **International cooperation** is encouraged.
- **Communication to society** (e.g. risk management measures) and **dissemination to stakeholders** for future implementation (e.g. best practice models) should be explicitly addressed by applicants.

The implementation of new standard practices and appropriate measures will have an immediate consequence to the development of the water, agriculture, forestry and freshwater aquaculture R&I sectors. The emphasis on actions targeting farming, freshwater aquaculture and forest pollution, the reduction of soil and water contamination, and the enhancement of the efficient use of resources will result in (the):

- Better use and protection of European natural resources. This is substantiated in the protection of water levels in aquifers and lakes, and discharge in streams;
- Improvement of environmental water quality and protection of human health (such as prevention of diffusion of viruses and antibiotic resistant bacteria);
- Benefit to biodiversity, greenhouse gases (GHGs) emissions reduction and flood mitigation thereby enabling co-benefits;
- Implementation of existing and breakthrough scientific knowledge in agricultural practices and farming systems at the farm, landscape and catchment scale;

- New cost-effective technologies and management approaches to be adopted by end-users (farmers, water managers, etc.);
- Increase of agricultural, forestry and freshwater aquaculture productivity;
- Harnessing industrial side streams such as heat and residual biomasses for water purification, filtration, nutrient recycling and habitat restoration;
- New agricultural products and markets for low crop water consumption;
- The implementation of new and innovative practices will create job opportunities and economic growth for the EU and the associated international countries and their populations;
- Support to national policies and European initiatives targeting water quality, in the agricultural and forestry sectors.

In general, society will benefit from environmentally-friendly operations, and from a sustainable growth of fundamental sectors (agricultural, forestry, and freshwater aquaculture), which will ensure compatibility between current land-use activities and the envisaged deployment of a water-wise bio-based economy. Water abstractions and consumption will not limit other societal water uses. Protecting water quality and reducing water pollution will also prevent water-related diseases and therefore protect human health.

II.4. Open Access and Open Data

The optimisation of the impact of publicly-funded scientific research is of fundamental importance to improve conditions to i) minimise the time spent searching for information and accessing it, ii) be able to speed up scientific progress, and iii) make it easier to cooperate across and beyond the EU.

Open Access requirements for all scientific publications produced by the projects funded by the co-funded call will support both *Green Open Access* (immediate or delayed open access provided through self-archiving), and *Gold Open Access* (immediate open access provided by a publisher). In the case of *Green Open Access*, partners will (as soon as possible and at the latest on publication) deposit a machine-readable electronic copy of the published version or final peer-reviewed manuscript accepted for publication in a repository for scientific publications. In addition, partners will ensure open access to the deposited publication and bibliographic metadata.

In relation to Open Data, the funded projects will be requested to submit metadata on all the data resources directly generated by the project, as well as additional

information on how these data will be exploited, if and how data will be made accessible for verification and re-use, and how it will be curated and preserved. Metadata and additional information will be made publicly available via the Water JPI website. The Contact Point on Open Access and Open Data will be disseminated on Water JPI website, alongside specific information and procedures to follow.

III. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

This call is funded under the European Commission (EC) ERA-NET Cofund instrument rules. Therefore, **ALL partners within a consortium MUST comply with all the Eligibility Criteria**, as described in the two sections below:

1. General Eligibility Criteria;
2. National Eligibility Criteria.

III.1. General Eligibility Criteria

All proposals must conform to all of the general eligibility criteria listed below:

- Only proposals submitted by transnational consortia will be eligible;
- Each consortium must be composed of at least a minimum of three eligible partners that request funding from participating Funding Partner Organisations from three different countries (see Table IV.I);
- Proposals must be submitted by Universities and other higher education institutions, public research institutions, private non-profit organisations, and private companies, according to National Regulations (Section III.5 – National/Regional Regulations). The relevant National/Regional participation rules apply to each partner in relation to the corresponding Funding Partner Organisation (FPO).
- Proposals must be received before the deadlines;
- Proposals must meet all the formal criteria (submitted electronically, respect page limits and number/type of attachments allowed, written in English language);
- Topics of the proposals must be fully relevant to the scope of the call;
- The requested total budget cannot exceed 1.5 M€ (per proposal);
- Duration of projects must range between 24 to 36 months;
- A participant in a proposal is defined as i) a principal investigator that requests funds on behalf of his/her applicant organisation/institution/company or ii) a principal investigator that contributes with own funds to the proposal;

- A Consortium Coordinator can only participate in the proposal he/she is coordinating (i.e. if the principal investigator is the coordinator of a proposal, he/she cannot participate in any other proposal, neither as a coordinator nor as a partner);
- The Consortium Coordinator must be eligible to be funded by one of the Funding Partner Organisations;
- Researchers from the Funding Partner Organisations cannot apply to this call.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Researchers from i) Water JPI partner countries, ii) Water JPI observer countries, or iii) third countries, not funding this call, can participate in the consortia at their own expense.

III.2. National/Regional Eligibility Criteria

In addition, each partner is **ADVISED** to contact their National/Regional Contact Point (see Table III.5) and comply fully with the National/Regional Eligibility Criteria, as described in the National/Regional Regulations. They must ensure that his/her contribution to the overall project conforms to:

- Where applicable, relevance of the topic(s)/subtopic(s) of the proposals to national/regional programmes and strategies;
- Compliance with national/regional funding criteria and regulations;
- Compliance with limits to budget requests or others.

IMPORTANT

Please note that proposals which are not meeting all 2016 Joint Call eligibility criteria or national/regional eligibility criteria and requirements **will be declined without further review**. Non-eligibility of a partner in a proposal may lead to the rejection of the entire proposal without further review. The Consortium Coordinator before submitting an application should verify that all partners of the consortium have read their corresponding National/Regional Regulations (Section III.5) and/or contacted their National Contact Points (Table III.5) to confirm eligibility issues.

III.3. Eligibility of the EU Joint Research Centre

As the Joint Research Centre (JRC) is a European Commission in-house science service, funded by the European's Framework Programme for research and innovation, Horizon 2020, the JRC can apply to a call launched by the Water JPI following the rules below:

1. The JRC can participate in a proposal as a partner. Coordinating the proposal is not possible, since they do not "belong" to any Funding Partner Organisation (FPO) country;
2. They will have to participate at their own expenses (as in Framework Programmes and Horizon 2020) and will not receive any co-fund (they are not, as stated above, an eligible institution for any of the FPOs);
3. They will not count in the "three different organisations" rule from three different FPO countries for eligibility purposes.

III.4. Eligibility of the Water JPI Advisory Boards Members in the Call

The Water JPI Management Board is assisted in its work by two groups of advisors: a Scientific and Technological Board (STB) and a Stakeholders Advisory Group (SAG). The STB is composed of pre-eminent scientists from any part of the world who are international experts in some aspects of water quantity or quality and who contribute with scientific advice to the Water JPI activities. The SAG is made up of nominees from water industry, water users, non-governmental organisations and local or national authorities and they provide a user perspective of the work of the JPI. The list of the members of the Advisory Boards can be found in the [Water JPI website](#).

Members of the Advisory Boards can apply to a call launched by the Water JPI as participant in a project for funding, but not as project coordinator. The direct involvement of Advisory Board members in proposals in joint calls launched by the Water JPI will limit their potential role as advisors to the JPI activities related to the Joint calls.

Therefore, the participation of Advisory Board members and their institutions in Water JPI calls and activities will be properly tracked and monitored.

III.5. Synthesis Table of the key eligibility National / Regional Regulations

The table below describes important restrictions related to each National/Regional Regulations.

An empty cell means that no specific rules apply to this criterion. **ATTENTION!!:** means that you need to check the corresponding National/Regional Regulations available in the [2016 Joint Call Official webpage](#).

Country	Funding Partner Organisation (FPO)	National/Regional Contact Point (NCP)	Funding All Challenges and Sub-Topics	Limits on Requested Budget per proposal	All types of partners are eligible for funding	Different rules apply for different types of institutions	Partners need to submit documentation to their FPO
Belgium (French-speaking community)	F.R.S.-FNRS	joel.groeneveld@frs-fnrs.be					
Belgium (Flanders)	VLAIO	kathleen.goris@vlaio.be					
Canada (CA)	NSERC	waterworks@nserc-crnsng.gc.ca					
Cyprus (CY)	RPF	amchristoforou@research.org.cy rchrysafi@research.org.cy					
Denmark (DK)	IFD	anitha.sharma@innofond.dk					
Egypt (EG)	ASRT	innov@sti.sci.eg					
Finland (FI)	AKA	kata-riina.valosaari@aka.fi harri.hautala@aka.fi					
Finland (FI)	MoAF	ville.keskisarja@mmm.fi elina.nikkola@mmm.fi					
France (FR)	ANR	ww2015secretariat@anr.fr					
Germany (DE)	BMEL	waterworks@fnr.de ; vera.steinberg@ble.de					
Ireland (IE)	EPA	a.wemaere@epa.ie					
Italy (IT)	MIUR	International: aldo.covello@miur.it ; grazia.pavoncello@miur.it valeria.cardia@miur.it National: alberto.martuscelli@miur.it					
Moldova (Rep. of) (MD)	CIP	ion.marin@h2020.md					
Norway (NO)	RCN	pbh@rcn.no					
Poland (PL)	NCBR	kinga.szymanska@ncbr.gov.pl					
Portugal (PT)	FCT	ww2015@fct.pt					
Romania (RO)	UEFISCDI	simona.stoian@uefiscdi.ro					
South Africa (ZA)	WRC	ww2015@wrc.org.za					
Spain (ES)	CDTI	mariajose.tomas@cdti.es ; dptosbcn@cdti.es					
Spain (ES)	MINECO	waterjpi.ncp@mineco.es					
Sweden (SE)	FORMAS	kristina.laurell@formas.se					
The Netherlands (NL)	EZ	Willemien.vanAsselt@rvo.nl					
Taiwan (TW)	MOST	ymchen@most.gov.tw					
Tunisia (TN)	IRESA	ali.rhouma@iresa.agrinet.tn					
Turkey (TR)	TUBITAK	almila.bahar@tubitak.gov.tr ; esat.ariturk@tubitak.gov.tr					

III.6. Eligibility Check

The Call Secretariat (CS) will examine all proposals to ensure that they meet all the 2016 Joint Call general criteria. In parallel, the CS will forward the proposals to the FPOs, which will perform a formal check of compliance with their National/Regional Regulations. Proposals that fail to meet one or more eligibility criteria will be rejected and not proceed for evaluation. Proposals passing the eligibility check will be forwarded to the evaluators for assessment. The CS, on behalf of the Call Steering Committee (CSC), will communicate the results of the eligibility check and the decisions taken to the coordinator of each consortium.

IV. FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

A total of around €25,5 million (Table IV.1) has been provisionally allocated for this call by the FPOs and the EC (including 0,4M€ for the loans to private companies provided by MIUR). These funds will be used for R&I activities carried out by researchers and institutions according to the funding rules and legal frameworks of their respective FPOs.

A mixed-mode funding model (combination of a virtual and a real common pot) will be applied to the call. About one third of the EC cofund will be used as a real common pot to fill the gaps in the projects of the ranking list. These gaps are produced when a FPO has already applied all its available funding. About two thirds of the cofund will supplement the virtual common pot (proportionally to each partner funding of the call) and be directly applied to the funded projects.

Partners applying in a consortium cannot request more than their respective FPO commitment to the call, as listed in Table IV.1 (and comply with National/Regional Regulations listed in Table III.5).

REMINDER: Eligible proposals have to be composed of at least a minimum of three eligible partners that request funding from participating Funding Partner Organisations from three different countries (see Table IV.1). The requested budget per proposal (the sum of the individual requested budget from each of the partners involved in the proposal) cannot exceed 1.5 M€.

Table IV.1: WaterWorks2015 Funding Partner Organisations and EC commitments

Country/Region	Funding Partner Organisation	National Contributions (tentative budget, EURO)
Belgium (French-speaking community)	F.R.S.-FNRS	200,000
Belgium (Flanders)	VLAIO	1,000,000 (500,000 + 500,000)
Canada	NSERC	626,000
Cyprus	RPF	500,000
Denmark	IFD	1,000,000
Egypt	ASRT	500,000
Finland	AKA	700,000
Finland	MoAF	200,000
France	ANR	2,000,000
Germany	BMEL	700,000
Ireland	EPA	550,000
Italy	MIUR	500,000 (+400,000 of loans)
Moldova (Republic of)	CIP	100,000
Norway	RCN	1,500,000
Poland	NCBR	500,000
Portugal	FCT	500,000
Romania	UEFISCDI	500,000
South Africa	WRC	100,000
Spain	CDTI	1,300,000
Spain	MINECO	800,000
Sweden	FORMAS	1,500,000
The Netherlands	EZ	300,000
Taiwan	MOST	1,000,000
Tunisia	IRESA	300,000
Turkey	TUBITAK	700,000
European Commission top-up	EC	7,856,000

V. APPLICATION PROCEDURES

V.1. General Considerations

The success of a proposal is inextricably linked to the careful reading of all the support documentation provided. Thus, applicants will have to be aware of the critical information contained in the National/Regional Regulations and in all sections of this document. When writing a proposal, applicants should take into consideration the following general rules of the call:

- A two-step application procedure will be used in this Joint Call. Pre-proposals and Full Proposals must be submitted electronically via a specifically designed web platform;
- All FPOs participating in this Joint Call have been informed about the submission requirements and procedures and will provide assistance to their national/regional applicants in case of questions/doubts. For this purpose, each FPO will appoint a National/Regional Contact Point (NCP);
- The recipient entities and the Consortium Coordinator must agree to comply with the applicable national and European community norms, namely as regards competition, environment, equal opportunity and gender, and public contracting whenever applicable;
- Ethical issues will be taken into account in the scientific evaluation of proposals and when making the funding decisions. Applicants shall always describe any relevant ethical aspects in their research plans. If a research permit or a statement by an ethics committee is required for the implementation of the project, applicants shall provide information on the permits or permit proposals;
- The non-fulfilment of a single eligibility criterion will be cause for the disqualification of a partner and, possibly, the disqualification of the entire Consortium. A thorough consultation of all general and national/regional eligibility criteria detailed in this document and in the National Regulations is, therefore, mandatory and vital.

Applicants should also take into consideration the following advice:

- It is the responsibility of the Consortium Coordinator to submit the proposal. For that he/she should seek agreement for the inclusion of other partner organisations in the Consortium and obtain the necessary information for writing the proposal;
- The preparation of the application should bear in mind the competitive nature of this transnational call and the necessity to go beyond the current state-of-the-art;

- Consider the evaluation criteria described, and elaborate the proposal accordingly;
- Plan and complete the application process as soon as possible in order to avoid an eventual overload of the system by the deadline and ensure the opportune support by the CS in case of need;
- CVs are generally considered too long by reviewers, which make it difficult finding the most relevant information. It is mandatory that Consortia Coordinators and Partners are brief and succinct when preparing their CVs. Only one-page CVs will be considered;
- Choose the keywords of the proposal carefully (there is a dedicated space in the electronic submission platform), in view of their importance to the identification of areas/topics of interest and in the allocation of reviewers;
- The financial plan and allocation of resources (table available in the electronic submission system and filled in by the Consortium Coordinator following the instructions given by all Partners) should be coherent with the work plan proposed. Funding requests, which are not adequately justified, may penalise the score given to the proposal.

V.2. Ethical Issues

Ethical issues are taken into account in the scientific evaluation of proposals and when making the funding decisions. Applicants should always describe any relevant ethical aspects in their research plans. If a research permit or a statement by an ethics committee is required for the implementation of the project, applicants shall provide information on the permits or permit proposals.

V.3. Online Submission System

Pre-proposals and Full-proposals to the 2016 Joint Call have to be submitted via a specially designed web platform. The link will be made available soon in the official 2016 Joint Call webpage at the [2016 Joint Call Official webpage](#).

There are three parts to be completed:

- **Part A:** sections of the submission platform that are filled in online. Contains the factsheet of the consortium.
- **Part B:** pre-proposal template to be uploaded in the submission platform as a pdf file.
- **Part C:** full proposal template to be uploaded in the submission platform as a pdf file.

The proposal submission procedure comprises the following actions:

STEP 1 (Pre-Proposal stage)

1. Registration in the system. All applicants need to register (Consortia Coordinators (CC) and Principal Investigators (PI) of the Consortium Partners). The CC will have to fill in most of the information contained in Part A;
2. Download of the Pre-Proposal template (Part B), which includes the instructions to elaborate the document according to the Call requirements. Part B needs to be uploaded as a pdf file. The document has a specific format and must be used as it is (page layout and font must not be modified);
3. Until the deadline of the call, the pre-proposals will be able to be edited by the CC. Only the last version (at the deadline) will be considered.

STEP 2 (Full Proposal stage)

All rules mentioned in the pre-proposal stage apply for this stage as well. Below is described the important steps that need to be considered by the CC and the Consortium Partners.

4. Update of the information filled in online (Part A) by the Consortia Coordinators;
5. Download of the Full Proposal Instructions file. This document includes instructions on how to complete the full proposal template (Part C);
6. Completion of the full proposal template and upload of the document in pdf format in the submission system.

When applying, keep in mind that the submission system will close at 17H CEST of the deadline date established for both STEP 1 and STEP 2. However, the Call Secretariat (CS) can only ensure responses to email support requests up to 13H CEST. A help desk will be provided by the CS and NCPs, and the respective email contacts are listed in this document (Section III.5).

IMPORTANT

It may be required for some of the partners to submit also an application directly to their respective national/regional FPOs, justifying funding requests and describing the work they propose to develop within a Consortium. For further details about these procedures and schedule, please consult the National/Regional Regulations and/or your NCP. Failure to do so will result in disqualifying the partner in question and will invalidate the full proposal submission.

V.4. Evaluation of Proposals

Pre-Proposals will be evaluated based on **two criteria**: Scientific Excellence and Impact. **Full Proposals** will be evaluated based on **three criteria**: Scientific Excellence, Impact and Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation.

V.4.1. Evaluation Criteria

If the pre-proposal or full proposal is within the scope of the call, the following scoring system should be applied. The evaluation is based on the following award review criteria:

1. SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE

- Clarity and pertinence of the objectives;
- Credibility of the proposed approach;
- Soundness of the concept, including trans-disciplinary considerations, where relevant;
- Extent that proposed work is ambitious, has innovation potential, and is beyond the state of the art (e.g. ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches).
- Added-value of the consortium for achieving the call objectives.

2. IMPACT

- The expected impacts listed in the [H2020 Societal Challenge 5, Call topic Water-3 \[2015\]](#);
- Enhancing innovation capacity and integration of new knowledge;
- Strengthening the competitiveness and growth of companies by developing innovations meeting the needs of European and global markets, and where relevant, by delivering such innovations to the public and private markets, including public administrators (public executive bodies) and civil society organisations;
- Any other environmental and socially important impacts;
- Effectiveness of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of IPR), to communicate the project, and to manage research data where relevant;
- Support the development of technological solutions and services for the implementation of EU water policy.

3. QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION

- Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources, need for a balance between partners in terms of budget;

- Complementarity of the participants within the consortium (when relevant);
- Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk and innovation management.

V.4.2. Scoring System

The 2016 Joint Call scoring system uses a **1-6 point scale** (no half-marks allowed).

If the pre-proposal or full proposal is within the scope of the call, the following scoring system should be applied:

LIMITED (scoring value = 1). The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.

ADEQUATE (scoring value = 2). The criterion is insufficiently addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses.

SIGNIFICANT (scoring value = 3). The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are relevant weaknesses.

GOOD (scoring value = 4). The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.

VERY GOOD (scoring value = 5). The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.

EXCELLENT (scoring value = 6). The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. The expected results should give a competitive advantage to the targeted end-users.

The threshold will be defined by the CSC in view of the results of the evaluation.

Evaluators have to identify strengths and weaknesses (if any) for each criterion and should provide context for their comments based on the application, i.e., evaluators will be asked to score proposals as they were submitted, rather than on their potential if certain changes were to be made. When an evaluator identifies substantial shortcomings, he/she must reflect this by awarding a lower score for the criterion concerned. There should be consistency between the numerical scores and written comments.

The following approach will be applied for every group of proposals with the same scoring, and which require prioritisation:

- Precedence of criteria: The scores in the criterion “Excellence” take precedence over “Impact” and

this over “Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation”.

- If a distinction still cannot be made, the Call Steering Committee (CSC) may decide to approve additional factors. These factors will be documented in the Evaluation Report.

NOTE: No appeal can be brought to challenge the evaluation results or decisions of the CSC.

V.5. Evaluation Procedures

V.5.1. STEP 1: Pre-Proposals

All eligible pre-proposals will be subject to a scientific evaluation by external evaluators based on two criteria - ‘Excellence’ and ‘Impact’. A ranked list of pre-proposals will be produced based on the final scores.

The objective of this first step is to identify the best proposals to proceed to Step 2, and ensure the balance between the requested and available funds at the national level. For this purpose, the FPOs will consider setting a value ratio of about 3 as a standard between requested and available funding.

V.5.2. External Evaluators

The external evaluators involved in the pre-proposal step will be selected taking into consideration the number of applications for each topic/subtopic, a good gender balance, a fair geographic and institutional distribution, an open nationality policy (part of the evaluators may come from countries not participating in the call to allow for additional flexibility in case of conflicting interests), and a diversified professional experience/background in R&I (e.g. policy, academia, industry, etc.).

Role of the External Evaluators

- Submit written individual evaluation reports of the pre-proposal(s) assigned to them on the online evaluation portal before the CSC meeting;
- Inform in advance the CS of any potential or disqualifying conflicts of interest;

V.5.3. STEP 2: Full Proposals

All full proposals will be subject to an international peer review by an Evaluation Panel based on three criteria - ‘Excellence’, ‘Impact’ and ‘Quality and Efficiency of Implementation’. A ranked list of proposals will be produced based on the final scores given to the aforementioned criteria.

V.5.4. Evaluation Panel

The constitution of the Evaluation Panel will take into consideration the number of applications for each topic/subtopic, a good gender balance, a fair geographic and institutional distribution of evaluators, an open nationality policy (part of the Evaluation Panel members may come from countries not participating in the call to allow for additional flexibility in case of conflicting interests) and a diversified professional experience/background in R&I (e.g. policy, academia, industry, etc.).

The proposals will be distributed among the Evaluation Panel members according to their expertise. The Evaluation Panel will be headed by a Chair. The Panel Chair will be a regular member of the panel with the added duties of moderating the panel meeting and conveying the results of the discussions to the CSC.

Each proposal will be evaluated with the assistance of at least three Panel members: 1st Reader and Rapporteur, 2nd Reviewer, and 3rd Reviewer.

The composition of the Evaluation Panel (as a group and not per individual proposal) will be made public once the CSC has made their final funding decisions and published on the Water JPI webpage and on the 2016 Joint Call Funding Partner Organisations' webpages.

Role of the Evaluation Panel

- Submit written individual evaluation reports of the proposal(s) assigned to them on the online evaluation portal before the panel meeting;
- Inform in advance the CS of any potential or disqualifying conflicts of interest;
- Inform in advance the CS of the need to obtain additional external evaluations (to provide knowledge in a particular field);
- Prepare the evaluation meeting through a careful reading of all proposals and respective individual evaluations reports. The proposals and respective individual evaluation reports will be made available to all panel members about two weeks before the panel meeting;
- Commonly discuss all full-proposals during the panel meeting, taking into account the individual evaluation reports produced by the external experts and EP members, and decide its final ratings and the comments to be transmitted to the applicants;
- Submit in the online evaluation system a written Consensus Report (CR) for each application explaining the Panel final decision to the applicants and to the CSC;
- Produce the final ranked list of applications. This will be achieved using the final evaluation scores given (based on evaluation criteria scores and threshold levels);

- Produce a Panel Meeting Report with a summary of the meeting and comments regarding the evaluation process (namely, the working methodology adopted by the panel, the identification of potential conflict of interest (Col) issues and their resolution and recommendations that might help to improve procedures in future calls). This report should be signed by all evaluation panel members.

Panel Evaluation Meeting

All proposals will be commonly discussed by the EP, barring conflicts of interest, and their relative merit assessed. Discussions on each proposal will be led by the first reviewers or rapporteurs and should take into account all individual evaluation reports produced by the reviewers and EP members. Panel members will then reach an agreement on the proposal's final rates and the comments to be transmitted to the applicants.

Advice may also be requested about the relative importance of each partner's contribution to the collaborative proposal.

The CS will be the contact point for the reviewers throughout the evaluation period and will assist the panel during the panel evaluation meeting.

V.5.5. Confidentiality and Conflicts of Interest

Confidentiality

Research plans, abstracts, and evaluation statements are confidential documents. Proposal documents are therefore handled and stored with due care and confidentiality.

All Evaluators involved in the evaluation are asked not to disclose any information concerning the proposal documents or their evaluation to outsiders, during and after the evaluation process has been concluded. In addition, Evaluators should not copy, quote or otherwise use material contained in the applications for anybody's benefit or disadvantage.

In case of doubts/questions about the proposal documents or evaluations, Evaluators are advised to contact the CS.

Once the evaluation has been completed, External Evaluators or Evaluation Panel members are required to destroy all proposal documents and any copies made of them or return them to the CS.

Conflicts of Interest (Col)

Representatives of the 2016 Joint Call Funding Partner Organisations (CSC, CS, NCP's) and Evaluators are required to declare any actual or potential conflicts of interest towards the proposals submitted under the 2016 Joint Call.

Evaluators that have submitted any applications to the present Call, both as Consortium Coordinator, Principal

Investigator or Research Team Member, have to decline participating in the evaluation process.

Circumstances that could be interpreted as a disqualifying Col are laid down in the following criteria:

1. First-degree relationship, marriage, life partnership, domestic partnership;
 2. Personal interest in the application's success or financial interest by persons listed under no.1;
 3. Current or planned close scientific cooperation;
 4. Dependent employment relationship or supervisory relationship (e.g. teacher-student relationship up to and including the postdoctoral phase) extending five years beyond the conclusion of the relationship;
 5. The affiliation or pending transfer to the applying institutes/organisations;
 6. Researchers who are active in a council or similar supervisory board of the applying institution are excluded from participating in the review and decision-making process for applications originating from this institution;
- A potential Col may exist, even in cases not covered by the clear disqualifying conflicts indicated above, in the following circumstances:
7. Relationships that do not fall under no. 1, other personal ties or conflicts;
 8. Financial interests of persons listed under no.7
 9. Participation in university bodies other than those listed under no. 6, e.g. in scientific advisory committees in the research environment;
 10. Research cooperation within the last three years, e.g. joint publications;
 11. Preparation of an application or implementation of a project with a closely related research topic (competition);
 12. Participating in an on-going scientific or inter-personal conflict with the applicant(s).

The individual Evaluator will not be able to proceed in case of a disqualifying Col. In this case the individual Evaluator is required to inform the CS of the situation, for project re-allocation.

The potential Cols declared will be analysed by the CS in Step 1 and by the CS and the EP Chair in Step 2. Should a Col emerge for any panel member, the Chair should solve it supported by the CS and make an explicit mention of it on the Panel Meeting Report. The reviewer concerned must leave the meeting room during the proposal discussion.

V.5.6. Funding recommendation

Based on the ranking of the full proposals described above, projects will be recommended for national/organisational funding by the CSC. The outcome of this process will be communicated by the Call Secretariat to the proposal coordinators, who will then have to inform the Principal Investigators of the Consortium Partners.

Formal funding decisions are made by the participating funding organisations. The funding recommendation is irrevocable and therefore no redress procedure is possible.

After a positive funding recommendation, the project partners must directly contact their NCP in order to start the contract negotiation and accomplish the remaining steps until the research project can start. The Consortium Coordinator is responsible for synchronising the project start with his/her partners.

V.5.7. Independent Observer

An independent observer will attend step I CSC meeting, and step II Evaluation Panel and CSC meetings, where the funding recommendations for national funding partners are decided. She/He will gather independent information on the External Evaluation process of the first stage through relevant reports and data and through the individual interviews of evaluators realized by the observer during the central evaluations.

Role of the Independent Observer

- To attend all the discussions of the panels and to follow the entire procedure.
- To give independent advice to the CSC and European Commission on the conduct and fairness of all phases of the evaluation sessions.
- To verify the degree of transparency applied by the evaluators, the respect of the established evaluation criteria and identified best practices for improving the evaluation procedures.
- To verify the conformity of the evaluation processes witnessed with the published evaluation procedures.
- To enter into informal discussions with the CSC Members involved in the evaluation sessions and to suggest any possible improvements that could be put into practice immediately.
- To assess the efficiency and speed of the evaluation procedures as well as the quality of the Joint Call evaluation processes compared to national and/or other international research funding schemes
- To provide remarks and overall recommendations in order to improve the evaluation processes
- To provide a report to the European Commission on the evaluation process of proposals submitted in response to the 2016 Joint Call.

VI. PROJECT FUNDING & REPORTING

VI.1. General Considerations

Please note that the project will be submitted to a two-level funding contractualisation and reporting.

On behalf of the whole consortium, and according to the 2016 Joint Call procedures, the Consortium Coordinator will be required to submit a mid-term progress report and a final report on the 2016 Joint Call funded project to the CSC.

In addition, each project partner must comply with the reporting requirements of its respective national FPOs. The Consortium Coordinator or his/her representative should attend a minimum of 3 meetings organised by the Water JPI (e.g. kick-off, mid-term and final review meetings).

Funding recipients must ensure that all outcomes (publications, etc.) of transnational 2016 Joint Call projects include a proper acknowledgement of Water JPI, the European Commission, and the respective FPO.

The optimisation of the impact of publicly-funded scientific research is of fundamental importance to improve conditions to i) minimise the time spent searching for information and accessing it, ii) be able to speed up scientific progress, and iii) make it easier to cooperate across and beyond the EU. Please consult section II.4 on **Open Access and Open Data**.

The consortium partner organisations of the projects selected for funding must fix a common project start date, which will be the reference date for mid-term and final reports. All projects must be completed and reported back within the lifetime of the WaterWorks 2015 ERA-NET Cofund (i.e. December 2020).

VI.2. Consortium Agreement

The project consortium partners of the selected project should sign a Consortium Agreement (CA) for cooperation before the official project start date, which must address the points given in this document. Upon request, this consortium agreement must be made available to the concerned funding organisations.

The purpose of this document will be:

- To underpin the research partners' collaboration and provide the research partners with mutual assurance on project management structures and procedures, and their rights and obligations towards one another;

- To assure the FPOs that the research consortium has a satisfactory decision making capability and is able to work together in a synergistic manner.

Models for Consortium Agreements can be obtained from the EC IPR Helpdesk: <http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org>. In any case, applicants are free to define their Consortium Agreement as long as the following subjects (as a minimum) are addressed by the CA:

- Purpose of and definitions used in the CA;
- Names of organisations involved;
- Common start date of the research project;
- Project structure and project management;
- Role and responsibilities of the research consortium coordinator and the research partners: person in charge, their obligations and key tasks, conditions for their change;
- Deliverables (transnational reports and if relevant requirements for national reports where coordination is required);
- Resources and funding;
- Confidentiality and the rules for publishing;
- Intellectual Property Rights (how this issue will be handled between research partners);
- Dissemination and exploitation strategy;
- Decision making within the consortium
- Handling of internal disputes;
- The liabilities of the research partners towards one another (including the handling of default of contract).

VII. TIME SCHEDULE OF THE CALL

Table VII.1: WaterWorks2015 Call Schedule

Anticipated Time Schedule		
Stage	Description	Date
Step 1 Pre-Proposals	Pre-Announcement	15 January 2016
	Call Opening	16 February 2016
	Submission Deadline	19 April 2016
	Notification of Outcomes	July 2016
Step 2 Full Proposals	Submission Deadline	15 September 2016
	Notifications of Outcomes and Funding Decisions	November 2016
Kick-off	Expected start of funded projects	March-April 2017

VIII. GLOSSARY

WaterWorks2015 = ERA-NET Cofund with the European Commission.

ERA-NET = Instrument using grants to support public-public partnerships in their preparation, establishment of networking structures, design, implementation and coordination of joint activities as well as Union topping up of no more than one joint call a year and of actions of a transnational nature.

2016 Joint Call = Call for Research and Innovation (R&I) proposals with top-up funding from the EC.

Consortium/Consortia = Transnational collaborative R&I proposal(s), from at least 3 countries participating in the Call.

Consortium Coordinator = Coordinator of the transnational collaborative research, development and innovation proposal. Coordinates the submission of the proposal prepared by the partners to the 2016 Joint Call online submission system, represents the Consortium before the CSC and the CS and, if funded, is responsible for the project internal management.

Principal Investigator = Researcher/Leader of the research team of an applicant organisation/institution.

IX. COMPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTATION

- Pre-Proposal Instructions (including Pre-Proposal template).
- Full Proposal Instructions (including Full Proposal template). Document will be available in due time.
- National/Regional Regulations (including National Contact Points) (see next page).

All the documents are (or will be) available for download in the [2016 Joint Call Official webpage](#).

X. NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS

2016 Joint Call Contacts		
CALL SECRETARIAT	FCT	Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (Portugal) Germana Santos / Rui Munhá (ww2015@fct.pt)
Country	F.P.O.	NATIONAL/REGIONAL CONTACT POINTS
Belgium (French-speaking community)	F.R.S.-FNRS	Joël Groeneveld (joel.groeneveld@frs-fnrs.be)
Belgium (Flanders)	VLAIO	Kathleen Goris (kathleen.goris@vlaio.be) / Elsie De Clercq (elsie.declercq@vlaio.be)
Canada	NSERC	Daniel Thompson (waterworks@nserc-crsng.gc.ca)
Cyprus	RPF	Anna Maria Christoforou (amchristoforou@research.org.cy) / Rebecca Chrysafi (rchrysafi@research.org.cy)
Denmark	IFD	Anitha K. Sharma (anitha.sharma@innofond.dk)
Egypt	ASRT	Amr Radwan (innov@sti.sci.eg)
Finland	AKA	Kata-Riina Valosaari (kata-riina.valosaari@aka.fi) / Harri Hautala (harri.hautala@aka.fi)
Finland	MoAF	Ville Keskiarja (ville.keskiarja@mmm.fi) / Elina Nikkola (elina.nikkola@mmm.fi)
France	ANR	Nuria Ruiz/Solène Gasnier (ww2015secretariat@agencerecherche.fr)
Germany	BMEL	FNR: Carina Lemke, Dr. Boris Vashev, Birthe Dehmel (waterworks@fnr.de); BLE: Dr. Elke Saggau (elke.saggau@ble.de); Vera Steinberg (vera.steinberg@ble.de)
Ireland	EPA	Alice Wemaere (a.wemaere@epa.ie)
Italy	MIUR	For international aspects: Aldo Covello (aldo.covello@miur.it); Grazia Pavoncello (grazia.pavoncello@miur.it); Valeria Cardia (valeria.cardia@miur.it) For national aspects: Alberto Martuscelli (alberto.martuscelli@miur.it)
Moldova (Republic of)	CIP	Ion Marin (ion.marin@h2020.md)
Norway	RCN	Per Backe-Hansen (pbh@rcn.no)
Poland	NCBR	Kinga Szymańska-Rzeźnik (kinga.szymanska@ncbr.gov.pl)
Portugal	FCT	Germana Santos / Rui Munhá (ww2015@fct.pt)
Romania	UEFISCDI	Simona Stoian (simona.stoian@uefiscdi.ro)
South Africa	WRC	Eiman Karar (ww2015@wrc.org.za)
Spain	MINECO	Leyre Vergés (waterjpi.ncp@mineco.es)
Spain	CDTI	María José Tomás (mariajose.tomas@cdti.es ; dptosbcn@cdti.es)
Sweden	FORMAS	Kristina Laurell (kristina.laurell@formas.se)
The Netherlands	EZ	Willemien Van Asselt (willemien.vanasselt@rvo.nl)
Taiwan	MOST	Louis Chen (ymchen@most.gov.tw)
Tunisia	IRESA	Ali Rhouma (ali.rhouma@iresa.agrinet.tn) / Ahlem Laaroussi (ahlem.laaroussi@iresa.agrinet.tn)
Turkey	TUBITAK	Almila Arsunar (almila.bahar@tubitak.gov.tr) / Esat Aritürk (esat.ariturk@tubitak.gov.tr)