

Call Announcement



Water Joint Programming Initiative WaterWorks2014 Cofunded Call

Research and Innovation for Developing
Technological Solutions and Services for
Water Systems

Submission of Pre-Proposals Deadline	4 May 2015 (17H CET)
Submission of Full Proposals Deadline	14 September 2015 (17H CET)
Call Secretariat	Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT)
Submission Web Page	https://ww2014-submission.fct.pt
Water JPI Website	http://www.waterjpi.eu/

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Abbreviations

CS = Call Secretariat

CSC = Call Steering Committee

FCT = Science and Technology Foundation

FPOs = Funding Partner Organisations

NCP = National Contact Point

SER = Summary Evaluation Report

I. INTRODUCTION

The Joint Programming Initiative “Water Challenges for a Changing World” (**Water JPI**) is an intergovernmental initiative with the vision of achieving sustainable water systems for a sustainable economy in Europe and abroad. However, addressing this grand challenge requires a transnational and multi-disciplinary approach to the economic, ecological, technological and societal challenges facing European waters.

Since 2008, Water JPI has assembled a cohesive group of European Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Programmes from 19 partner countries plus the European Commission (EC) and from 5 observer countries. Water JPI has achieved a joint vision on water challenges, a Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) (version 1.0, October 2014) and is committed to play a pivotal role in the building of the European Research Area (ERA) in collaboration with H2020.

WaterWorks2014 responds to the Horizon 2020 (H2020) Societal Challenge 5 2014 Call topic Water-3 [2014]: Stepping up EU research and innovation cooperation in the water area. This ERA-NET Cofund constitutes a major step towards the planning and implementation of Water JPI activities, and aims at further reducing the fragmentation and dispersion of EU water-related Research and Innovation activities and supporting EU policies and initiatives in the field of water.

A total of 17 Funding Partner Organisations (FPOs) from 15 countries have agreed to launch a cofunded transnational and multidisciplinary call for research and innovation proposals on the topic “**Research and Innovation for Developing Technological Solutions and Services for Water Systems**”, in March 2015.

Important:

The information contained in this document does not replace or override any of the requirements set forth in the call documents and the national regulations contained in the national annexes. A thorough consultation of these documents is strongly recommended.

II. CALL DESCRIPTION

Aim of the Call

The aim of the WaterWorks2014 Cofunded Call is to enable transnational, collaborative research, development and innovation projects addressing questions relating to the water challenges faced by European society. The FPOs particularly wish to promote multi-disciplinary work, encourage proposals combining basic and applied approaches, stimulate mobility of researchers within the consortia and enhance collaborative research and innovation during the project’s lifespan and beyond.

The FPOs have arranged a call for transnational RDI projects on “**Research and Innovation for Developing Technological Solutions and Services for Water Systems**”. This call theme partially

covers the five priority themes described in the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) of Water JPI (<http://www.waterjpi.eu>).

The overarching aim of this call is to develop technological solutions for water and wastewater treatment, to assess risks, and for cost effectiveness and improved quality of life. All should contribute to tackling European water challenges and produce new scientific and technological knowledge and/or explore the implementation of novel management, treatment and mitigation measures and technologies.

The scope of the call covers **Research and Innovation for Developing Technological Solutions and Services:**

- 1. for Water Treatment, Reuse, Recycling and Desalination;**
- 2. for Water Resources Management; and**
- 3. to Mitigate Impacts of Extreme Events (Floods and Droughts) at Catchment Scale.**

Proposals have to cover at least one of the subtopics described below:

1. Research and Innovation for Developing Technological Solutions and Services for Water Treatment, Reuse, Recycling and Desalination:

- Developing low-energy, low cost, low chemical and high-efficiency technologies and processes for water treatment and desalination;
- Developing water recycling technologies and concepts leading to the production of safe resources for reuse;
- Developing innovative chemical/physical/biological tools to assess risks and to enhance the resilience of urban water systems; and
- Promoting innovative separation and extraction technologies in industrial areas to harvest resources from wastewater.

2. Research and Innovation for Developing Technological Solutions and Services for Water Resources Management:

- Developing smart water technologies based on sensor networks and real-time information systems;
- Promoting the interoperability of databases, sensors, and combined socio-economic and physical water models;
- Developing methodologies for adaptive water management, using relevant study cases, scenario development, and uncertainty assessment; and
- Setting up innovative decision-making tools.

3. Research and Innovation for Developing Technological Solutions and Services to Mitigate Impacts of Extreme Events (Floods and Droughts) at Catchment Scale.

- Innovative tools for protection from hydroclimatic extreme events, including nature-based solutions, sensor technology, systems for interpreting and communicating data, and monitoring networks;
- Mitigating the harmful impacts of extreme events, implementing the concept of ecosystem services where possible; and
- Developing technological, and/or managerial and/or integrated risk management solutions to urban floods and droughts.

Multidisciplinary Approach

Tackling societal challenges always requires a multidisciplinary approach. Therefore, **all** proposals should emphasise participation of stakeholders, and dissemination and exploitation of results. 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 RDI in this field.
- Proposals should **build on on-going research activities at EU level and beyond**. 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.
- **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.

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 cofunded 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.

General Eligibility Criteria

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

- Only proposals submitted by transnational consortia will be eligible;
- Each consortium must be comprised by a minimum of three partners that must be eligible to be funded by three different participating countries (see Table 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 (see National Annexes).

Other General Eligibility Criteria:

- Proposals must be received before the deadline;
- 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 compatible with the scope of the call;
- The maximum requested global budget per proposal must be 1.5 M€;
- Duration of projects must range between 24 to 36 months;
- A Consortium Coordinator can only participate in the proposal he/she is coordinating;
- The Consortium Coordinator must be eligible to be funded by one of the WaterWorks2014 funding partner organizations;
- Funding partners cannot apply to this call.

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

National/Regional Eligibility Criteria:

In addition, each partner should refer to the corresponding National Annex and 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 funding criteria and regulations;
- Compliance with limits to budget requests or others.

Important:

Please note that proposals which are not meeting all WaterWorks2014 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 Annexes and contacted their National Contact Points (NCPs) to confirm eligibility issues (see contact information of national/regional contact points in the *Guidelines for Applicants*).

III. FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

A total of about €16 million (Table I) has been provisionally allocated for this call by the FPOs and the EC (including IM€ for the loans to private companies provided by MIUR). These funds will be used for RDI activities carried out by researchers and institutions according to the funding rules and legal frameworks of their respective FPOs.

Table I: WaterWorks2014 Funding Partner Organisations and EC commitments

Country/Region	Funding Organisation	Tentative Budget (EURO)
Belgium (French-speaking community)	F.R.S.-FNRS	200,000
Cyprus	RPF	200,000
Denmark	IFD	1,000,000
Estonia	MoE-EE	100,000
Estonia	ETAg	50,000
Ireland	EPA	150,000
Israel	MoE-IL	100,000
Italy	MIUR	2,000,000 (+1,000,000)
Moldova (Republic of)	CIP	100,000
Norway	RCN	1,000,000
Portugal	FCT	500,000
Romania	UEFISCDI	500,000
South Africa	WRC	100,000
Spain	CDTI	1,000,000
Spain	MINECO	1,500,000
Sweden	FORMAS	1,000,000
The Netherlands	NWO	500,000
European Commission top-up	EC	4,925,000

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.

IV. GENERAL PROCEDURES

Application Procedure

A two-step application procedure will be used in this call. Pre-proposals and full proposals must be submitted electronically via a specifically designed web platform.

All FPOs participating in this call have been informed about the submission requirements and procedures and will provide assistance to their national applicants in case of questions/doubts. For this purpose, each FPO will appoint a National Contact Point (NCP).

Online Submission System

Pre-proposals and Full-proposals to the WaterWorks2014 cofunded call have to be submitted via a specially designed web platform: ww2014-submission.fct.pt.

The proposal submission procedure comprises the following actions:

STEP 1 (Pre-Proposal stage):

1. Registration in the system;
2. Download the file "Instructions for Pre-Proposal Submission". This document includes instructions on how to complete a Fact Sheet (Part A) and the pre-proposal template (Part B);
3. Completion of a Fact Sheet (Part A);
4. Download the Pre-Proposal Template (Part B), Completion of the Pre-Proposal (Part B) and upload of the document in pdf format in the submission system.

STEP 2 (Full Proposal stage):

5. Download the file "Instructions for Full Proposal Submission". This document includes instructions on how to complete the full proposal template (Part C);
6. Completion of the full proposal (Part C) 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 CET of the deadline date established. However, the Call Secretariat (CS) can only ensure responses to email support requests up to 13H CET.

Until the call is closed, a help desk will be provided by the Call Secretariat (CS) and National Contact Points (NCPs). The respective email contacts are listed in the Call Announcement and in the Annexes.

Note: 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 Annexes and /or your NCP.

More information regarding the submission procedures and eligibility criteria can be found in the *Guidelines for Applicants*.

Eligibility Check

The Call Secretariat (CS) will examine all pre-proposals to ensure that they meet all the WaterWorks2014 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 regulations. Proposals that fail to meet all eligibility criteria will be rejected and not proceed for evaluation. Proposals passing the eligibility check will be forwarded to the reviewers 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.

Evaluation of Proposals

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.

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.

The evaluation is based on the following award review criteria:

1. Excellence

The following aspects should be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the topic description:

- 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).

2. Impact

The following aspects should be taken into account, to the extent to which the outputs of the project should contribute at the European and/or International level:

- The expected impacts listed in the H2020 Societal Challenge 5, Call topic Water-3 [2014];
- 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

The following aspects should be taken into account:

- Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources;
- Complementarity of the participants within the consortium (when relevant);
- Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk and innovation management.

NOTE:

No appeal can be brought to challenge evaluation's results or decisions of the CSC.

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.

Project Funding and Reporting

The consortium coordinator will be required to submit a mid-term progress report and a final report on the project, on behalf of the research consortium, to the CS. In addition, each project partner must comply with the reporting requirements of its respective national funding agencies. The consortium coordinator will need to 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 WaterWorks2014 projects include a proper acknowledgement of Water JPI, the European Commission, and the respective FPO.

Consortium Agreement

All project participants selected for funding will be required to sign a Consortium Agreement (CA) before the start of the project, which must address the points given in the *Guidelines for Applicants*.

Time Schedule of the Call

Table 2: WaterWorks2014 Call Schedule

Anticipated Time Schedule		
Stage	Description	Date
Step 1 Pre-Proposals	Pre-Announcement	30 January 2015
	Call Opening	2 March 2015
	Submission Deadline	4 May 2015
	Notification of Outcomes	9 July 2015
Step 2 Full Proposals	Submission Deadline	14 September 2015
	Notifications of Outcomes and Funding Decisions	November 2015
Kick-off	Expected start of funded projects	March-April 2016

V. COMPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTATION

For access to detailed information regarding *WaterWorks2014*, please consult the following documentation:

- National Annexes
- Guideline for Applicants
- Guideline for Evaluators
- Pre-Proposal Instructions (including Pre-Proposal template)
- Full Proposal Instructions (including Full Proposal template)
- Horizon 2020 Societal Challenge 5 Water-3-2014 topic