

Water JPI Procedure Request for Extension of Project Duration

This procedure is intended for principal investigators involved with the RD projects funded in the Water JPI Joint Transnational Calls under the Water JPI funding instruments (WaterWorks2015, IC4Water, WaterWorks2017 and subsequent) who wish to request an extension of their project duration.

The procedure may differ depending on the reason for the extension and possible discrepancies between the date of the national grant contract and the common project start and end dates as stated in the transnational project Consortium Agreement.

If the extension request of an individual project partner does not have an impact on the overall objectives and duration of the transnational project, the said partner should request the extension of their tasks to their national funding partner organization (FPO). This may be the case when the national grant contract of an individual project partner finishes before the project end date as stated in the Consortium Agreement and there is a need for finalization of their individual tasks and justification of remaining funds (subject to the rules of each FPO). However, the answer should be reported back in the final review report of the transnational project which keeps track of all developments.

If the extension request has an impact on the overall objectives and duration of the transnational funded project:

1. The project coordinator, on behalf of project consortium, sends a justified request for an extension to the Follow-up Secretariat (for contact points, see table on page 2) as soon as possible and at least 4 months prior to the initial common project end date. This justified request must reflect prior discussions and position of the project consortium members in this regard and state that the overall impact of this request on the project was taken into account.
2. The Follow-up Secretariat informs the relevant FPOs, who evaluate the request and communicate their individual national opinion/position to the Follow-up Secretariat within 4 weeks upon receipt of request.
3. The Follow-up Secretariat notifies the project coordinator about the shared position at the international level. The coordinator informs the project partners.
4. Each project partner sends a justified request to their respective FPO in order to obtain a formal national grant extension, in line with the national FPO rules. This request should take into account the joint position at the international level.

IMPORTANT:

- The position on the extension on the international level (by the JPI) cannot override the decision of the individual funding partner organization (FPO) on a national level.
- In case of diverging positions by interested FPOs, the Follow-up Secretariat should propose a final decision to FPOs, and finally inform Call Steering Committee (CSC) of potential consequences.
- As a basic principle, the maximum extension of project duration should not exceed 6 months prior to the end of the Era-Net COFUND supporting the Joint Transnational Call and its funded projects, in order to allow technical and financial reporting to the European Commission.
- At the national level, formal requests for extension of a project duration can take time and may depend on internal rules and procedures specific to each FPO. In this regard, and to further support requests made at the national level, all requests for an extension to a project duration should be addressed as soon as the need for extension has been identified and agreed by the project consortium.
- Requests for an extension to the project duration can only concern the project timeline. **No budget extension** can be granted, both at national and international levels.
- For the 2017 Joint Call held under the CSA IC4Water, it is proposed to follow the same steps even if there is no formal request to end the projects by the end of the CSA, on the basis of equity and fairness between Water JPI funded projects and of final reporting to the European Commission for the CSA.
- The latest date accepted as an end date for the projects can be seen in the table below.

| Joint Call | EC Reporting Date | R&D Funded Projects Latest End Date | Follow-up Secretariat Contact |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Joint Call 2016 | 31 December 2021 | 31 December 2020 | waterworks2015@aei.gob.es |
| Joint Call 2017 | 31 December 2021 | N/A ¹ | IC4WATERfollowupsecretariat@rcn.no |
| Joint Call 2018 | 31 December 2022 | 30 June 2022 | waterjpi.ncp@aei.gob.es |

¹ Some R&I projects funded under the 2017 Joint Call will end after the end of the CSA IC4WATER. In this sense, requests for extension will have to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the concerned FPOs and the Follow-up Secretariat. Decisions taken will take into account the Final evaluation of funded projects meeting date.