



Call Announcement

**Risks posed to human health and the environment by
pollutants and pathogens present in water resources**

Joint Transnational Call 2020

Publication Date: 17 February 2020



Funded by the Horizon 2020
Framework Programme of the
European Union



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1. Introduction

1.1. Objectives of the ERA-NET Cofund

The overall goal of the proposed ERA-NET Cofund AquaticPollutants is to strengthen the European Research Area (ERA) in the field of clean and healthy aquatic ecosystems and to leverage untapped potential in the collaboration between the freshwater, marine and health research areas. The ERA-NET Cofund AquaticPollutants is a network of 32 ministries, authorities and funding organisations from 26 countries responsible for funding research and innovation projects in the field of clean and healthy aquatic ecosystems. . This joint call is being implemented by the funding organisations with co-funding from the European Union Horizon 2020 programme for research and innovation (ECGA No. 869178-AquaticPollutants).

Within the framework of AquaticPollutants the Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs) on Water, Oceans and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) are working closely together. A multidisciplinary approach has been set up, which brings together the research needs of the freshwater sector, the marine sector and the health sector to carry out a Joint Transnational Call (JTC) and complementary Additional Activities. This call will support the research communities of those three research fields to work together and create synergies for joint approaches.

1.2. Objectives of the Joint Transnational Call

The European Water Framework Directive (WFD), the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and the newly adopted European Green Deal, all require the European Union member states to reach good environmental status of their aquatic ecosystems (inland - freshwater and groundwater - and marine, including sediments). The European One Health Action Plan against AMR supports the EU and its Member States in delivering innovative, effective and sustainable responses to AMR, especially to reduce the emergence and spread of AMR and to increase the development and availability of new, effective antimicrobials inside and outside the EU. On a global scale, the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have set out a sustainable blueprint for the international community to improve human health, ensure provision of safe water for all and safeguard both marine and freshwater ecosystems by 2030. In addition, the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Action plan on antimicrobial resistance (2015) outlines the need to strengthen the knowledge and evidence base through surveillance and research and to reduce the incidence of infection through effective sanitation, hygiene and infection prevention measures. Despite these transnational ambitions, there are still major risks associated with the occurrence of emerging pollutants, pathogens and antimicrobial resistant bacteria, in our water bodies and oceans that may impact all of society. To tackle these challenges in a comprehensive way and to develop multidisciplinary and practical solutions for the provision of safe drinking water and healthy aquatic environments, the three JPIs on Water, Oceans and AMR are working together to strengthen collaboration in a joint research Call on Aquatic Pollutants.

Emerging pollutants or contaminants of emerging concern (CEC - please see Definition in Glossary) are detected in the aquatic environment at low concentrations. The spectrum of these pollutants is broad and they derive from anthropogenic sources, especially from consumer products, urban areas, agriculture, animal husbandry farms, industry and maritime activities, and consequently end up in our rivers, estuaries and coastal ecosystems. These CEC and their transformation products are persistent and widely distributed and have been qualified as a risk to human health and environmental ecosystems that urgently needs to be addressed.

The occurrence of pathogens and CECs in water resources is one of the most serious risks in our environment and is considered a major factor particularly in the degradation of water quality. Antimicrobial resistant organisms and genes are now widespread throughout the environment and pose a serious emerging risk for human health and well-being. Antimicrobial resistant bacteria enter the aquatic ecosystems through effluents from untreated domestic sewage, wastewater treatment plants, hospitals, pharmaceutical production and stock farming including aquaculture and the risk of resistant bacteria crossing the human-animal barrier. Pathogens, CECs and other pollutants do not recognize geographic borders making this a global challenge. However, the most unprotected and vulnerable populations to pollutants and pathogens present in water resources are found in low- and middle-income countries and regions. Therefore, the consideration of local contexts and inclusion of researchers from and research in these countries and regions is of particular importance.

Some of these pollutants and pathogens are known to harm aquatic ecosystems even at very low concentrations and in turn negatively influence the provision of safe and clean water for drinking water purposes. In aquatic organisms, serving as staple food, pollutants and antimicrobial resistant bacteria can accumulate and spread, and affect human or animal health or enter the food chain, causing further secondary effects.

The input of these harmful substances into the aquatic environment must be avoided. This can be done by identifying the sources and assessing the corresponding practical measures, such as sustainable production methods and responsible handling of emerging pollutants. Further understanding and analysis of the behaviour of such pollutants, pathogens and antimicrobial resistant bacteria needs to be undertaken. Appropriate strategies for their detection and monitoring and solutions for preventing their spread and/or their removal need to be further developed. This will underpin strong and much needed policy and enforcement and inform appropriate decision-making.

To undertake such actions, a holistic catchment approach for a better understanding of the ecological and human and animal health effects is necessary. The whole water cycle, from the sources through the river basins and eventually to the estuaries and oceans, has to be considered. This approach has to include soil and groundwater transport as well as potential atmospheric pathways that these pollutants may take. The effects to the human and animal health, the transport and transmission of harmful substances from the freshwater and marine environment to organisms via the food chain also need to be taken into account.

In addition to the research and activities funded under the One Health European Joint Programming (EJP), the three participating JPIs have already implemented several activities dealing with the topics on risk management, CECs and antimicrobial resistant bacteria, for example the Water JPI Pilot Call 2013 on emerging contaminants, the 2015 Water JPI Joint Call on research and innovation for developing technological solutions and services for water systems, the 2016 Water JPI Joint Call on the sustainable management of water resources in agriculture, forestry and freshwater aquaculture sectors; the JPI AMR transmission dynamic call 2016, JPI AMR intervention call 2017, the JPI AMR Call on Diagnostics & Surveillance 2019, the JPI Oceans micro-plastics calls 2015 and 2018 (considering their functions in pollutant migration), the MarTERA calls 2017 and 2019 and the EC research funding programmes (in particular FP7 and Horizon 2020). Furthermore, the actions carried out by the NORMAN Network and the COST action NEREUS should be considered. Results and expertise already developed from these previous and other relevant activities (e.g. WHO Global Observatory on Health R&D) should be built on and considered within this call.

The **main research and innovation objectives of the AquaticPollutants 2020 Joint Transnational Call** are:

- to **establish** integrated and cross-sectoral **approaches for risk management** combining the research areas of emerging pollutants, pathogens and antimicrobial resistance under the overall topic “from the source to the mouth”;
- to **analyse the spread** of CECs and pathogens related to antimicrobial resistance from the different sources (e.g. urban areas) that leads to impacts and risks on the aquatic ecosystem, environment and human health;
- to **describe the transformation** of such CECs and pathogens and their effects when entering the different aquatic systems and accumulating in the food chain;
- to **improve strategies and develop/ evaluate technologies** (incl. digital technologies) for reducing CECs and pathogens at the sources, on their pathways and end-of-pipe; and
- to **develop/ integrate innovative methodologies and tools** to allow policy-makers to develop more effective policies and efficient regulations.

2. Joint Transnational Call Description

2.1. Strategic aim of the Joint Transnational Call

The 2020 Joint Transnational Call *“Risks posed to human health and the environment by pollutants and pathogens present in water resources”* within the ERA-NET Cofund AquaticPollutants aims to address research and innovation to support the implementation of the global, EU and national water and health policies contributing to the strategic objectives of the JPIs on Water, Oceans and AMR. The following themes for the call are targeted in the thematic area from the Strategic Research and Innovation Agendas of the three JPIs:

- “Developing Safe Water Systems for Citizens” of the [Water JPI Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda](#)
- “Interdisciplinary Research for Good Environmental Status” of the [JPI Oceans Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda](#)
- Priority topics “Diagnostics”, “Surveillance”, “Environment” and “Interventions” of the [JPI AMR Strategic Research Agenda](#).

2.2. Theme of the Joint Transnational Call

Research & innovation proposals are invited to respond to at least one of the following themes:

Theme 1 – Measuring - Environmental behaviour of contaminants of emerging concern (CECs), pathogens and antimicrobial resistant bacteria in aquatic ecosystems

Subtheme 1.1 - Assessment of the significance of different potential sources, reservoirs and pathways of CECs and pathogens including antimicrobial resistant bacteria

Proposals may cover:

- Estimating the entry point of CECs and pathogens into the environment, with indication of the matrix to be analysed (water, sediment, biota) with a view to emission control at local and regional levels; and/or
- Establishment of indicators and tracers allowing for the identification of sources and pathways of contamination/pollution.

Subtheme 1.2 - Understanding and predicting the environmental and cumulative behaviours of contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) and pathogens including antimicrobial resistant bacteria, including the development of tools and digital solutions

Proposals may cover:

- Modelling of transport processes and fate of CECs and pathogens; and/or
- Understanding the processes involved in the increase and degradation of contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) and pathogens and degradation/transformation products; and/or
- Understanding of the extent to which CECs and pathogens are removed or modified, e. g. through water treatment plants or natural processes in soils, sediments and aquatic systems; and/or
- Assessing the transfer time of different pollutants, as well as understanding the processes during transfer within the various compartments and from inland water to oceans; and/or
- Assessing retention and degradation capacity of aquatic ecosystems; and/or
- Identification of cumulative effects and mixtures; and/or
- Assessing the biodegradation of antibiotics to estimate and anticipate antibiotic resistance transmission rates and assessing gene transfer; and/or
- Evaluation of the transmission and changes of AMR and pathogens in aquatic ecosystems.

Theme 2 – Evaluating - Risk Assessment and Management of contaminants of emerging concern (CECs), pathogens and antimicrobial resistant bacteria from aquatic ecosystems (inland, coastal and marine) to human health and environment

Subtheme 2.1 - Characterising the exposure routes and effects of CECs and pathogens including antimicrobial resistant bacteria, on aquatic ecosystems and on human health

Proposals may cover:

- Estimation of the transmission of pollutants and pathogens to and from the aquatic environment, biota and humans as well as through the food chain (trophic transfer) and via water exposures; and/or
- Understanding the factors that control the bioavailability and fate of emerging pollutants, pathogens and antimicrobial resistant bacteria in organisms such as uptake, mode of action, biological end-points; and/or
- Identification of human key-target groups with risk of higher exposure.

Subtheme 2.2 - Development of integrated risk assessment and risk management procedures

Proposals may cover:

- Identification and selection of the main pollutants of emergent concern most widely distributed in aquatic environments, in order to establish a priority list of pollutants to be included into the risk management and monitoring plans; and/or
- Including the effect of long-term exposure, the cumulative effects and the interplay between different pollutants acting with adverse impacts (on aquatic ecosystems as well as on human health) and antibiotics selecting for resistance in the environment; and/or
- Assessing the occurrence and the toxicity of CEC in aquatic ecosystems; Expanding our knowledge base on antibiotic resistance in aquatic ecosystems; to establish thresholds values in continental, marine ecosystems and biota; and/or
- Determination of the incremental health risk caused by environmental exposure to antibiotic resistant bacteria; Development and application of an integrated approach (chemical and biological) to reducing these risks; and/or
- Determination of the incremental health risk caused by environmental exposures to antibiotic resistant bacteria; and/or
- Assessing the occurrence of CECs in seafood, developing strategies to remove/reduce contaminants from seafood.

Subtheme 2.3 - Parameters and strategies for monitoring potential antimicrobial resistant bacteria

Proposals may cover:

- Definition and validation of parameters and strategies for monitoring potential antibiotic resistant bacteria in aquatic environments from different sources and in relation with potential uses, and for defining threshold values and local guidelines for emitting sources and their organisations on maximum permissible contamination levels in aquatic ecosystems.

Theme 3 – Taking Actions - Strategies to reduce contaminants of emerging concern (CECs), pathogens and antimicrobial resistant bacteria in aquatic ecosystems (inland, coastal and marine)

Subtheme 3.1 – Implementation of strategies to reduce CECs and pathogens, including antimicrobial resistant bacteria at the source

Proposals may cover:

- Reduction at the source and/or downstream mitigation actions; both technical options and management aspects contributing to reduction at the source - such as end products, effects and acceptance, reduction of consumption, improve prudent and rational use of antibiotics.

Subtheme 3.2 – Development of methods for preventing the spread of CECs and pathogens, including antimicrobial resistant bacteria

Proposals may cover:

- Improvement of combined treatments and sustainable treatment solutions leading to lower prevalence and spread of antimicrobial resistance, not only focussed in the removal of emerging pollutants.

Subtheme 3.3 – Assessment of management measures and technologies to reduce the impact of CECs and pathogens including antimicrobial resistant bacteria, on water quality

Proposals may cover:

- Assessment of implemented management measures and technologies to reduce the impact of CECs and pathogens including antimicrobial resistant bacteria; and/or
- Developing suitable indicator sets of established parameters for monitoring treatment processes; and/or

- Assessment of the contribution of management practices and treatment technologies in the formation of by-products or additional antimicrobial resistant bacteria during the processes, especially in wastewater treatment and reuse processes.

2.3. Scope of the Joint Transnational Call

- ✓ Emerging pollutants, pathogens and materials linked to antimicrobial resistance, their risks for human health and aquatic ecosystems, and the transfer between inland and marine environments will be the main topic of the call.
- ✓ It is not mandatory to address emerging pollutants, pathogens and antimicrobial resistant bacteria simultaneously in one proposal.
- ✓ **Micro-plastics will not be subject to the call.**

Annex B and C of this document provide a matrix of the themes funded by each participating country/region and the national regulations.

2.4. Transdisciplinary approach & expected impacts

Tackling societal challenges always requires a transdisciplinary approach. Therefore, proposals should emphasize the participation of stakeholders and end-users (including industry) in research, and innovation actions (participatory approaches).

Trans-disciplinary proposals including communication, mobility and education measures as well as data management approaches are recommended. Furthermore, it is expected, that proposals come up with contributions to new standards and norms. Proposals should showcase their research and innovation (R&I) in local or regional case studies and support the process of transferring and disseminating results to other regions also including low- and middle-income countries.

Furthermore, the research works should address related European and international policies and contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations (UN SDG).

The expected impact of the 2020 Joint Transnational Call is to:

- Produce knowledge and innovative solutions in the scientific area of the three JPIs.
- Enhance innovation capacity and integration and transfer of new knowledge.
- Strengthen the competitiveness and growth of companies by developing innovations meeting the needs of European and global markets, including low- and middle-income countries and regions, and where relevant, by delivering such innovations to the public and private markets, including public administrators (public executive bodies) and civil society organisations.
- Support the development of technological solutions and services for the implementation of international, EU and national policies in the water, marine, health and agricultural or environmental sector.
- Support the generation of standardisation, regulation and the valorisation of research results.
- Explicitly address the communication to society and knowledge transfer to stakeholders for future implementation (e.g. best practice models).
- Help improving the scientific quality and societal relevance of the knowledge produced, technology and/or innovation in different socio-economic settings.
- Support the implementation of the UN SDGs.
- Encourage international cooperation and participation of the water, health and maritime community including partners from low- and middle-income countries and regions.

3. Call Structure

3.1. Participating countries

A total of 32 Funding Partner Organisations (FPOs) from 26 countries and 3 JPIs have agreed to launch a Joint Transnational Call for R&I proposals on the topic **“Risks posed to human health and the environment by pollutants and pathogens present in water resources”** in February 2020.

The research projects initiated by this call can apply for funding or will get guidance (see national regulations) from the partner institutions of the AquaticPollutants consortium listed in Annex C. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) will support researchers from African countries as specified in the national regulations. The participation of applicants from other countries is allowed, if they have their own separate source of funding or funds by another source is guaranteed (i.e. by a national or international funding organisation). In this case, the commitment of this must be provided upon submitting the pre-proposal. For more information on eligibility of international research institutions please see chapter 4.3.

Applicants should note that, in some countries, several funding organisations participate in the call with different organisational rules and priorities. Applicants must pay attention to the national regulations and if questions arise, it is highly recommended to contact the NCPs before submitting a pre-proposal and full proposal.

3.2. Financial Commitment

A total of **approx. 24,3 million Euro** has been provisionally allocated for this Joint Transnational Call by the FPOs (Table 1). These funds will be used for R&I activities carried out by researchers, institutions and companies according to the funding rules and legal frameworks of their respective FPOs.

Partners applying in a consortium cannot request more than their relevant FPO stated in the national/regional regulations in chapter 4.2 and as listed in Annex C.

Table 1: AquaticPollutants FPOs

| Country/ Region | Funding Partner Organisation | | National Contributions (tentative budget, EURO) |
|---------------------|--|-------------|---|
| Germany (DE) | Forschungszentrum JÜLICH GmbH (Coordinator) | Jülich | 3.000.000 € |
| Belgium (BE) | Belgian Federal Science Policy Office | BELSPO | 500.000 € |
| Belgium (BE) | Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique | F.R.S.-FNRS | 200.000 € |
| Belgium (BE) | Research Foundation Flanders | FWO | 700.000 € |
| Brazil (BR) | Conselho Nacional das Fundações Estaduais de Amparo à Pesquisa | CONFAP | 1.883.000 € |
| Cyprus (CY) | Research and Innovation Foundation | RIF | 400.000 € |
| Czech Republic (CZ) | Technology Agency of the Czech Republic | TACR | 1.000.000 € |
| Denmark (DK) | Innovationsfonden Denmark | IFD | 1.000.000 € |
| Estonia (EE) | Eesti Teadusagentuur | ETAg | 100.000 € |
| Finland (FI) | Academy of Finland | AKA | 850.000 € |
| France (FR) | Agence Nationale de la Recherche | ANR | 2.000.000 € |
| Greece* (GR) | Ministry of Education, Research & Religious Affairs, General Secretariat for Research & Technology | GSRT | 1.000.000 € |
| Ireland (IE) | Environmental Protection Agency | EPA | 500.000 € |
| Israel (IL) | Ministry of Health | CSO-MOH | 300.000 € |

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|----------|--------------------|
| Italy (IT) | L'Agenzia Regionale per la Protezione dell'Ambiente | ARPA | 100.000 € |
| Italy (IT) | Ministry of Universities and Research | MUR | 500.000 € |
| Latvia* (LT) | Ministry of Education and Science | IZM | 300.000 € |
| Moldova (MD) | National Agency for Research and Development | NARD | 100.000 € |
| Norway (NO) | Research Council of Norway | RCN | 500.000 € |
| Poland (PL) | National Centre for Research and Development | NCBR | 600.000 € |
| Portugal (PT) | Foundation for Science and Technology | FCT | 300.000 € |
| Romania (RO) | Unitatea Executiva pentru Finantarea Invatamantului Superior, a Cercetarii, Dezvoltarii si Inovarii | UEFISCDI | 600.000 € |
| Scotland (UK) | Scottish Enterprise | SCOTENT | 752.000 € |
| South Africa (ZA) | Water Research Commission | WRC | 130.000 € |
| Spain (ES) | State Research Agency | AEI | 1.000.000 € |
| Spain (ES) | Instituto de Salud Carlos III | ISCIII | 250.000 € |
| Sweden (SE) | Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning | FORMAS | 1.500.000 € |
| Sweden (SE) | Swedish Research Council | SRC | 1.500.000 € |
| Sweden* (SE) | Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency | Sida | 1.420.000 € |
| Taiwan (TW) | Ministry of Science and Technology | MoST | 500.000 € |
| Tunisia (TN) | Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research | MHSER | 150.000 € |
| Turkey (TR) | The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey | TUBITAK | 750.000 € |
| TOTAL in € | | | 24.385.000€ |

| | |
|--|--|
| EU member states and Associated countries | Third countries and other countries |
|--|--|

***Greece (GSRT) and *Latvia (IZM) was counted as "other countries" with regard to this call since their FPO participates in this joint call using structural funds. The FPO Sida (*Sweden) was counted as "other countries" with regard to this call due to formal criteria. Please consider these information when setting up the consortium (pay attention with regard to the general eligibility criterion - consortium composition).**

Researchers from the following African countries will be funded by Sida (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency): Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo (Dem. Rep.), Eritrea, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

3.3. Call Process

The Joint Transnational Call will be advertised online from the following web pages:

Online Submission Platform <https://aquaticpollutants.ptj.de>;

Water JPI - www.waterjpi.eu; JPI Oceans - www.jpi-oceans.eu; JPI AMR - www.jpiamr.eu.

The application process consists of two consecutive steps:

Step 1:

The Consortium Coordinator must submit a pre-proposal on behalf of the consortium, providing key data on the proposed project. The deadline for the submission of the pre-proposal is **16.04.2020, 17:00 CEST** (Berlin time).



Figure 1: Step 1 process

Step 2:

The Consortium Coordinator must submit a full proposal on behalf of the consortium. The deadline for full proposal submission is **14.08.2020, 17:00 CEST** (Berlin time).

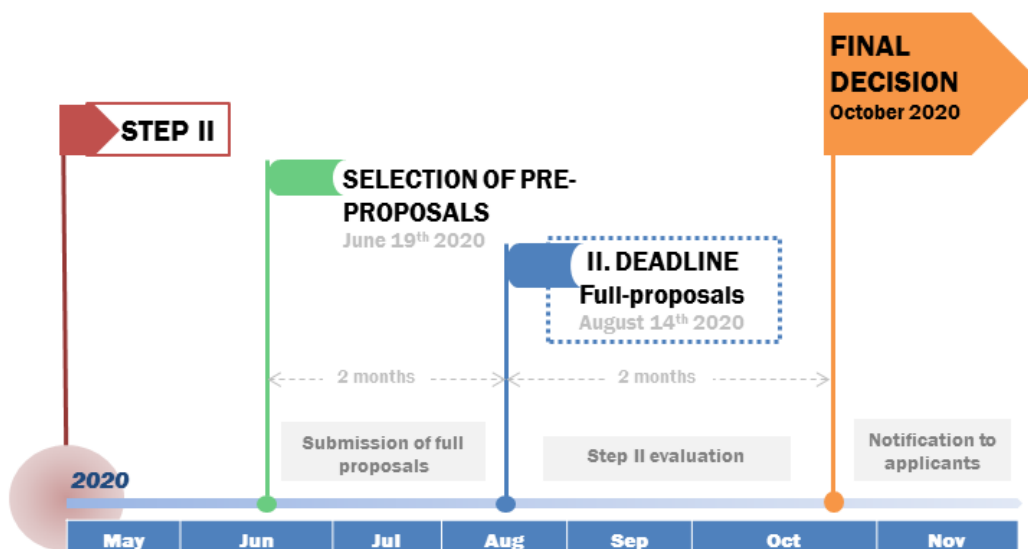


Figure 2: Step 2 process

The Annexes of this document provide the contact information of the NCPs in each participating country/region and the national regulations. It is required that each partner in a consortium checks their national/regional eligibility regulations and contacts his/her NCP(s) to be informed about the rules in his/her country/region prior to submission of a pre-proposal and a full proposal.

3.4. Dates and deadlines

| Time Schedule of the Joint Transnational Call | |
|--|--|
| First Step: Submission of pre-proposals | |
| 12 March 2020 | Webinar to clarify procedures with NCPs and Call Secretariat |
| 16 April 2020 (17:00 CEST) | Deadline submission of the pre-proposals |
| June 2020 | Communication of eligibility check and evaluation outcomes to the Consortium Coordinator |
| Second Step: Submission of the full proposals | |
| 14 August 2020 (17:00 CEST) | Deadline submission of the full proposals |
| October 2020 | Notification of evaluation outcomes and project selection to Consortium Coordinator |
| October 2020 | Start of the contract negotiations with FPOs |
| March 2021 | Start of the research & innovation projects |

3.5. Confidentiality & Conflict of interest

Research plans (pre-proposals and full-proposals), abstracts, and evaluation statements are confidential documents. Proposal documents are therefore handled and stored with due care and confidentiality.

AquaticPollutants consortium and its Call Secretariat ensures complete confidentiality to applicants during the evaluation process, i.e. the proposals will only be available to the national/regional funding organisations and the mandated experts responsible for the evaluation of the proposal. Experts appointed for the evaluation will sign a confidentiality agreement and will be asked to declare any conflict of interest. The proposals will be handled by the AquaticPollutants Call Secretariat. Each of the funding organizations will subsequently handle projects approved for funding. Accordingly, national law will govern. Projects approved for funding will be governed by the confidentiality rules in the national law of the funding organisations.

The publishable information of the projects selected for funding as listed in section 0 will be published at the end of the call process.

3.6. Publishable Information

A list of the funded projects will be published at the end of the call process (once the projects have been selected). Therefore applicants should be aware that the following information from the proposals may be published by AquaticPollutants and FPOs for promotional purposes: (1) Project Title and Project Acronym, (2) Publishable abstract, (3) Duration of the project, (4) Total costs and total funding of the research project, (5) Organisation name and country of each partner, (5) Name of the Project Coordinator.

Each of the funding organizations will subsequently handle projects approved for funding. Accordingly, national law will govern. Projects approved for funding will be governed by the confidentiality rules in the national law of the funding organisations.

3.7. Privacy Policy

The Online Submission Tool provides information about the Privacy Policy. By submitting the application, the Consortium Coordinator and partners agree to the use, the share (for specific purposes: e.g. evaluation, for future nomination of experts, AquaticPollutants' specific communication) and the storage of the information according to the Privacy Policy and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Further information on [Privacy Policy](#) is presented on the Online Submission Platform and the according JPI Websites.

4. Eligibility criteria

Partners should note that the general eligibility criteria (4.1) and the national regulations (4.2) are decisive for the evaluation step. Before submitting an application, the Consortium Coordinator should verify that all partners of the consortium have read their corresponding national/regional regulations. Coordinators and project partners must be aware that some national funding agencies require the submission of national documents in addition to the international pre-proposal.

Proposals, which do not meet all 2020 Joint Transnational Call general eligibility criteria (4.1), will be declined without further review. Non-eligibility of a partner applying for funding in a proposal may cause the rejection of the entire proposal without further review.

Proposals passing the eligibility check will be forwarded to the evaluators for assessment. The Call Secretariat (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.

4.1. General eligibility check

The general eligibility criteria are summarized in Table 2. In the case of not fulfilling these requirements, the proposal will not be considered for funding


Please be aware that partners from countries/regions participating in the call must also meet the national criteria as outlined in the national regulations.

4.2. National/regional eligibility criteria

In addition to the general eligibility criteria, each project partner must ensure that his/her contribution to the overall project conforms to:

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

The table in Annex C describes important restrictions related to each national/regional regulation.

An empty cell means that no specific rules apply to that criterion. ATTENTION!  means that you need to check the corresponding national/regional regulations available in the 2020 Joint Transnational Call website and/or on the FPOs' website.

4.3. Eligibility of international research institutions & Advisory Board members of the JPIs

The following eligibility rules count for international research institutions:

- **The Joint Research Centre (JRC)** can participate in a proposal as a partner. Coordinating the proposal is not possible, since they do not “belong” to any FPO country. They will have to participate at their own expenses (as in Framework Programmes and Horizon 2020) (they are not, as stated above, an eligible institution for any of the FPOs). They will not count in the "three different eligible entities" rule from three different FPO countries for eligibility purposes.
- **Partners from countries not participating in the Call** may join consortia (but not as coordinator), but participation will be at the institutions' own expense. Moreover, such partners will have to demonstrate in the proposal that they will achieve the related tasks. The formal signed letter of availability of funds should be included in the pre-proposal as an annex.
- **International institutions**, e.g. UN institutions, need to investigate their respective national eligibility guidelines for national and/or global funding.
- Members of the **Advisory Boards of the three JPIs** can apply to the Joint Transnational Call as participant in a project for funding, but not as a project coordinator. The direct involvement of Advisory Board members in proposals will limit their potential role as advisors to the JPI activities related to the Joint Calls.

Table 2: General Eligibility Criteria

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Scope | <p>Proposals must address one main theme but may also include several themes described in section 2.2</p> <p>Proposals must address at least one of the entire sub-themes – Applicants are encouraged to integrate more than one sub-theme in their proposals;</p> <p>Topics of the proposals must be in the scope of the Joint Transnational Call.</p> |
| Consortium composition | <p>Each consortium must be composed of eligible independent entities requesting funding to FPOs from a minimum of three different EU Member States or H2020 Associated countries (listed in Table 1 in grey). FPOs listed in the category of “third countries and other countries” are not included in the minimum requirements for consortia composition.</p> <p>In each proposal, one of the entities must act as the Consortium Coordinator who has the responsibility for submitting the proposal. The Consortium Coordinator must be eligible to be funded by one of the EU member States or H2020 Associated countries (listed in Table 1 in grey).</p> <p>A Consortium Coordinator can only participate in one proposal (i.e. if the principal investigator is the Consortium Coordinator of a proposal, he/she cannot participate in any other proposal, neither as a Consortium Coordinator nor as a partner).</p> <p>The workload distribution within a consortium must be balanced, and no partner should have more than 50% of person months.</p> <p>There is the upper limit of 8 eligible project partners per consortium (including self funded partners). The maximum number of partners from the same country within the consortium must comply with national/regional regulations.</p> <p>No more than one self-funded project partner per consortium is allowed.</p> <p>Project partners who are not eligible for funding may participate at their own expense or if they have their own separate source of funding. The applicants have to prove (letter of intent/commitment) the willingness to self-fund their own activities or the willingness of other partners to fund their own activities. They have to follow the rules given in this Call Announcement and have to be part of the consortium agreement. However, they cannot coordinate a project. They are not considered in the minimum requirement of eligible partners and countries in the AquaticPollutants eligibility criteria.</p> <p>Researchers from FPOs participating in the AquaticPollutants ERA-Net Cofund consortium or affiliated institutions (JÜLICH, TUBITAK, ISPRA) cannot apply to this Call.</p> |
| Duration | <p>Project duration must be a maximum of 36 months. Funded consortia will be asked to agree on a common starting date. The last possible end date for the projects is the 30th of June 2024.</p> |
| Submission | <p>Proposals must be received before the deadlines.</p> <p>The pre-proposal and the full proposal must be submitted correctly and completely before the respective deadlines via the Submission Tool (https://aquaticpollutants.ptj.de) according to the Application Procedure (Chapter 6) and the Guidelines for Proposal Submission (published on the Submission Tool website). Applicants should note that failure to comply with the submission rules will cause ineligibility of the project and therefore exclusion from the application process.</p> <p>Proposals must be written in the English.</p> |

5. Recommendations of project proposals

All partners within a consortium should take into consideration the recommendations for setting up their project proposals.

Scope

- Proposals should go beyond the state of the art by providing high quality R&I and, when appropriate, make use of innovative technologies, approaches and concepts to do so;
- Proposals should consider on-going research activities funded by other instruments, programmes or projects. Cooperation with these activities is of high importance;
- Proposals should consider and incorporate as appropriate cross-cutting issues, such as socio-economic and/or capacity development.
- Collaboration with the parallel running Transfer Project during execution is encouraged, but not compulsory.

Consortium composition

- All proposals should consider geographical balance and implementation in relevant geographic settings, including in low- and middle-income countries and regions.
- It is encouraged but not compulsory to involve stakeholders (i.e. small and medium enterprises (SMEs), industries, authorities, public administrations, associations, as well as civil society organisations) as partners or associated partners. The modalities of participation of stakeholders are defined in the national regulations.
- All proposals should integrate the [gender dimension](#) of R&I activities.

Budget

There is no limit of total budget for proposals - The requested budget of proposals is limited by the number of eligible partners and by the budget of each partner. **Please consider the national regulations of each FPO with regard to the specific budget limitations.**

6. Application procedures

A two-step application procedure will be used in this Joint Transnational Call. Pre-proposals and full proposals must be submitted electronically via a specifically designed web platform, the Submission Tool (<https://aquaticpollutants.ptj.de>), using the templates provided. The link to the Submission Tool is available on the official 2020 Joint Transnational Call website of the 3 JPIs.

Applicants should note that the online system may experience high traffic volumes in the last hours before the submission deadline and it is therefore highly recommended to submit the final version of the pre / full-proposal well in advance of the deadline to avoid any last-minute technical problems. The requests for extensions to the deadline due to last minute technical problems will not be considered.

6.1. Online Submission System

Step 1 (Pre-proposal stage)

1. In a first step, the Consortium Coordinator creates an account on the AquaticPollutants Submission Platform.
2. The coordinator can enter, edit and save the electronic forms, add partners to the consortium, upload the project description and submit the proposal. Partners can enter and edit their own data only.
3. It is possible to update and submit as many times as necessary the pre-proposal until the submission deadline (**16 April 2020, 17:00 CEST**).
4. Applicants should note that core data are fixed at this stage. In particular, the funding requested by each partner cannot be increased in the second stage.

The submission of a pre-proposal is mandatory. It is not possible to enter the application procedure at a later stage. The information given in the pre-proposal will be used to check for eligibility and to evaluate the pre-proposal.

For any technical questions regarding the submission, please contact the AquaticPollutants Call Secretariat.

Please note, that some of the partners will also need to submit an application directly to their respective national/regional FPOs. For further details about these procedures and schedule, please consult the national/regional regulations and/or your NCP.

Step 2 (Full proposal stage)

The second step of the application consists of the submission of a more extensive full proposal. Only research consortia which successfully passed the first step will be invited to submit a full proposal.

All rules mentioned in the pre-proposal stage apply for this stage as well. Below the steps are described that need to be considered by the Consortium Coordinator and the project partners.

1. The submission tool will be open for invited consortia.
2. The information provided in the pre-proposal will be automatically imported into the full proposal.
3. The coordinator can enter, edit and save all new information according to the guidelines of the full proposal in the submission tool.

Applicants should note that information on the core data (e.g. funding requested or institutions) cannot be changed in full proposals, unless explicitly requested by evaluators, a funding organisation or the CSC. When applying, keep in mind that the submission system will close at **17:00 CEST** of the deadline date established for both Step 1 and Step 2. However, the CS can only ensure responses to email support requests up to **13:00 CEST**. The respective email contacts by the CS and NCPs are listed in this document (Annexes C and D).

6.2. Further considerations

Applicants should also take into consideration the following advice:

- All Partners and the Consortium Coordinator must comply with the applicable national and EU rules and legal provisions, for instance about competition and EU State aid rules, environment, utilisation of genetic resources, equal opportunity and gender, and public contracting whenever applicable.
- Plan and complete the application process as soon as possible to avoid an overload of the system near the deadline and ensure the support by the CS or the NCPs in case of need.
- 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 affect the evaluation score given to the proposal.

6.3. 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 should provide information on the permits or permit proposals.

Any proposal which seems to contravene fundamental ethical principles will not be selected and may be excluded from the evaluation and selection procedure. Judgment of the significance of ethical issues will be made by using the criteria published by the Commission in its [guidelines for the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme](#)

7. Evaluation of Proposals

7.1. Evaluation Procedures

Step 1 (Pre-proposal stage)

Pre-proposals that are submitted correctly and within the deadline will be checked for eligibility against criteria defined in chapter 4 by the Call Secretariat and according to national/regional criteria (see national regulations) at a national/regional level.

All eligible pre-proposals will be subject to a scientific evaluation by at least three external evaluators based on two criteria - '**Excellence**' and '**Impact**' (see Table 3). 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.

Consortium Coordinators will be informed of the outcome by the AquaticPollutants Call Secretariat and, if appropriate, invited to submit a full proposal.

Step 2 (Full proposal stage)

After the submission deadline for full proposals, the submitted full proposals will be checked to ensure that they meet the formal call criteria and have not changed substantially from the respective pre-proposals. Full proposals not meeting the formal conditions will be rejected without further review.

All full proposals will be subject to an international peer review by an Evaluation Panel (EP) based **on three criteria - 'Excellence', 'Impact' and 'Quality and Efficiency of Implementation'**.

Each proposal will be reviewed by at least **three EP members** (with experience in the domain of the relevant proposal). Each expert is independent of any funding organisation involved in this call and the CSC will ensure that no **Conflict of Interest** exists concerning the proposals evaluated.

The EP 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. For each proposal a rapporteur will be nominated (one of the evaluators of a project appointed to this role). The rapporteur should ensure that, before the Panel meeting, the experts, who carried out the individual evaluation for a given proposal, have exchanged their views and agreed to a consensus assessment for each proposal and have prepared a common draft Evaluation Summary Report (ESR).

All proposals will be discussed by the full EP, barring Conflicts of Interest, and their relative merit assessed. During the **Panel Meeting** the evaluation results for each full proposal will be presented by the rapporteur and discussion can take place. Panel members will then reach an agreement on the proposals' final evaluation scores and the comments to be transmitted to the applicants. A ranked list of proposals will be produced based on the final scores.

The **final ranking list** will be forwarded to the CSC which will meet to decide on the projects to be recommended for funding by FPOs. For this decision, the CSC will take into account the order of the ranking list from the EP and the funding availability. The applicants will be informed about the final outcome of the call.

The Call Secretariat will be the contact point for the reviewers throughout the evaluation period and will assist the panel during the panel evaluation meeting. An independent expert will be invited as **external observer to the Panel meeting** to assess the conformity of the general procedure.

7.2. Evaluation Criteria

If the pre-proposal or full proposal are eligible regarding the general and national eligibility checks, the following scoring system will be applied. The evaluation is based on the following award review criteria:

Table 3: Evaluation criteria

| Excellence | Impact | Implementation |
|--|---|--|
| Threshold: 3/5 | Threshold: 3/5 | Threshold: 3/5 |
| <p>1.1 Relevance to the AquaticPollutants Thematic themes (Scope)</p> <p>1.2 Qualification, scientific expertise and transfer experience of the consortium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are the participants in the proposal well-suited and committed to the tasks assigned to them (necessary expertise)? - Do the participants adequately complement each other? <p>1.3 Sound concept and quality of objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is the methodology and research design adequate to the proposed objectives? <p>1.4 Innovation level (progress beyond the state of the art)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is the proposal contributing and/or increasing the advance of the S&T knowledge? - Does the proposal take scientific and/or technological risk? Does the proposal have a potential breakthrough despite this risk-taking? <p>1.5 Quality of the S/T approach and methodology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are the proposal objectives clear, feasible, suitable and focused especially with regard to methods and management of scientific risks? | <p>2.1 Extent to which the proposed project is suitably ambitious in terms of its strategic impact on reinforcing competitiveness or on solving societal or environmental problems at European and international level?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is there an impact on enhancing innovation capacity, creating new market opportunities, strengthening competitiveness and growth of companies, or bring other important benefits for society; <p>2.2 Extent to which the research and innovation-related activities and exploitation and/or dissemination plans are adequate to ensure optimal use of the project results.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are there feasible exploitation plan and dissemination of the scientific project results (including management and IPR) - Are the expected results or the knowledge acquired of importance for economic/ societal sectors and the economic development? <p>2.3 Added value of European transnational co-operation and networking</p> | <p>3.1 Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, the consortium, the management structures and procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is the proposed organization and management of the scientific project effective and efficient? - Are the management structures and procedures, including risk and innovation management, appropriate? - Are the resources assigned to the work packages in line with their objectives and deliverables? <p>3.2 Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are the tasks well balanced among partners? <p>3.3 Appropriateness of the partners and justification of the resources to be committed (budget, staff, equipment ...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are the estimated costs appropriate? - Is it ensured that all participants have a valid role and adequate resources in the project to fulfil that role? - Do the work and financial plan plus the time schedule show prospects for success? - Is there a balance of scientific and financial contributions from respective countries' partners? |
| Overall score Threshold: 10/15 | | |

7.3. Scoring System

Evaluation scores will be awarded globally for each of the three criteria, but not at the level of the sub-criteria. The sub-criteria are issues which the expert should consider in the assessment of that criterion. They also act as reminders of issues to rise later during the discussions of the proposal. Each criterion will be scored out of 5 (no half-marks allowed).

The scores indicate the following with respect to the criterion under examination.

- 0 – LIMITED** - The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
- 1 – POOR** - The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
- 2 - FAIR** - The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
- 3 – GOOD** - The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.
- 4 – VERY GOOD** - The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
- 5 – EXCELLENT** - The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

The threshold for inviting to Step 2 will be defined by the CSC in view of the results of the evaluation. The eligible pre-proposals will be divided in 3 groups, according to their scores: Group A (highest evaluation scores), Group B (medium evaluation scores) and Group C (low evaluation scores). All pre-proposals in Group A, if funds will be available, will be invited to Step 2. Among the pre-proposals in Group B, considering that they are all in the same quality category, proposals will be selected to Step 2, taking into account the representativeness of all FPOs and the requested and available funding per FPO. Pre-proposals in Group C are dismissed for their low classification and unviability of funding. The threshold for individual criteria will be 3. **The overall threshold**, applying to the sum of the three individual scores, will be **10**.

Evaluators will identify strengths and weaknesses (if any) for each criterion and 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” (only for Step 2);
- If a distinction still cannot be made, the Panel members 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.

7.4. Funding recommendation

Based on the ranking lists of the full proposals described above, projects will be recommended for national/organisational funding by the CSC. The final funding decision will be made by the FPOs and be subject to budgetary considerations with the goal to optimize usage of available budget.

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

8. Project funding and reporting

8.1. Negotiation of grant agreements

After a positive funding recommendation, the outcome of this process will be communicated by the CS to the Consortium Coordinators, who will then have to inform the PIs of the project partners. 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.

Each funding organisation will fund its own national/regional partner(s) within the project (funding of project partners is provided by the participating funding programmes according to applicable national/organisational funding rules).

Applicants are therefore strongly advised to consider the national regulations published in [Annex C](#) of this document.

8.2. Consortium Agreement

Successful consortia should negotiate a Consortium Agreement **before commencement of the project**. This should address matters such as the regulation of intellectual property rights, decision making and actions to be taken in the event of unsatisfactory performance by one or more partners. In some countries/regions, such an agreement might be required for release of the funds. Applicants have to obey national/organisational regulations (national regulations) regarding this issue. Support for the preparation of a Consortium Agreement can be found on the DESCA webpage <http://www.desca-2020.eu/>.

Upon request, this consortium agreement must be made available to the concerned funding organisations.

8.3. Project Reporting

In addition to the reporting required by the national/organisational rules, Consortium Coordinators will be required to submit a **Mid-term Progress Report and a Final Report** (and deliverables needed to monitor the progress) to the CSC according to common templates which will be provided to them. All partners will have to deliver input for these reports. The monitoring will be conducted during the life span of the project.

Funding recipients must ensure that all outcomes (publications, etc.) of transnational 2020 Joint Transnational Call projects include a proper acknowledgement of AquaticPollutants, Water JPI, JPI Oceans, JPI AMR, the EC, and the respective FPOs.

In addition, each project partner must comply with the reporting requirements of its respective national FPOs.

More information on the monitoring and reporting procedures will be provided to the coordinators of the projects recommended for funding.

8.4. Dissemination and communication

AquaticPollutants will organise a minimum of three events for the projects funded in the frame of the present call (see Table 4). Relevant stakeholders will be invited to these events. Funded projects should dedicate appropriate resources for dissemination activities including for participation in activities organised by AquaticPollutants.

Table 4: Meetings of AquaticPollutants

| Events | Participants | When | Where |
|---|---|-------------|-------|
| AquaticPollutants Kick-off meeting of the selected projects | Coordinators and partners of funded projects, stakeholders, CSC | Spring 2021 | tbc |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------|-----|
| AquaticPollutants Mid-term Meeting | Coordinators of funded projects, CSC, stakeholders | Autumn 2022 | tbc |
| AquaticPollutants Final Meeting | Coordinators and partners of funded projects, stakeholders, CSC | Spring 2024 | tbc |

Dissemination and exploitation

Dissemination of project results is essential and the dissemination plan should propose communication routes, such as scientific papers, posters, courses or training material, web based tools, workshops or direct intervention towards end users.

Dissemination to national end-users is necessary in all partner countries. A dissemination plan will be requested for the full proposal and should specify how the planned activities will contribute to the impact of the project.

In addition to their own dissemination activities, funded projects can be supported by the Aquatic Pollutants Transfer Project (funded in a separate [call for proposals for Scientific Networking and Transfer Projects](#)) for activities on scientific networking, knowledge transfer and public engagement in order to strengthen the dissemination of results and transfer results to policy, economy and society (please see **Annex E**).

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 Joint Transnational Call 2020 will support Green Open Access (immediate or delayed open access provided through self-archiving), or Gold Open Access (immediate open access provided by a publisher for the most important outputs). 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 case of any Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issue for some project data and products the consortium may decide to go for Opt Out Option and cover this within the project consortium agreement.

In case of any IPR issue, projects can go for Opt Out Option before or after the signature of the consortium agreement (thereby freeing themselves from the associated obligations) on the following grounds:

- Incompatibility with the need for confidentiality in connection with security issues;
- Incompatibility with rules on protecting personal data;
- If there are other legitimate reasons not to provide open access to research data.

Depending on the funding rules of the FPOs, the costs related to the implementation of these provisions are eligible for reimbursement during the duration of the grant. A proposal will not be evaluated more favourably if the consortium agrees to share its research data, or will it be penalised if it opts-out.

All funded projects will be requested to submit metadata to the **AquaticPollutants Open Data Contact Point** 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 JPI websites. All specific information and procedures on this issue will be provided on the JPIs website.

Regarding access and benefit, sharing of genetic resources is required for the implementation of the project, applicants shall provide information on the permits or permit proposals to the public.

A. GLOSSARY

2020 Joint Transnational Call

Call for Research and Innovation (R&I) proposals, published by the AquaticPollutants ERA-NET in year 2020.

AquaticPollutants

ERA-NET project supported by the European Commission in the frame of Horizon 2020

ERA-NET

Is an instrument under Horizon 2020 designed to support public-public partnerships in their preparation, establishment of networking structures, design, implementation and coordination of joint activities as well as topping up single Joint Transnational Calls and actions of a transnational nature.

AquaticPollutants Call Secretariat (CS)

The AquaticPollutants Call Secretariat, hosted by Projektträger Jülich, Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH, Germany, is the central contact point for applicants regarding all technical and general issues of the submission.

Associated Partner

All institutions who do not apply for or are not eligible for funding from FPOs, may join an application if they are interested in the research results or see an added value joining the project. They can participate in a project as associated partners, but have to pay for their own participation and receive no financial support from the funding organizations involved. Associated Partner don't belong formally to the project consortium.

Call Steering Committee (CSC)

The Call Steering Committee (CSC) will be composed of one representative per participating funding organisations and will be the decision-making body in the framework of this call.

Consortium/Consortia

Transnational group(s) of partners, submitting collaborative R&I proposals, from at least 3 countries with FPOs involved in the Call, including eligible entities from at least 3 EU Member States or Horizon 2020 Framework Programme Associated countries.

Consortium Coordinator (CC)

Coordinator of the transnational collaborative research, development and innovation proposal. Coordinates the submission of the proposal prepared by the partners to the 2020 Joint Transnational Call online submission system, represents the Consortium before the CSC and the CS and, if funded, is responsible for the internal project management.

Contaminants of emerging concern (CECs)

Contaminants of emerging concern (CECs) is a designation that can be attributed to compounds that may have been present in the aquatic environment in the past but which only recently have raised concern about their ecological or human health impacts. Although CECs refers most commonly to chemicals, the broad perception herein presented applies also to microorganisms, such as antibiotic resistant bacteria and their antibiotic resistance genes, or particles, such as nanoparticles or microplastics. (Definition by the Water JPI Knowledge Hub of CECs, **Microplastics are not included in the 2020 Joint Transnational Call**)

Funding Partner Organisation (FPO)

Ministries and authorities contributing financially to the call.

Funding rate

Reimbursement rate of the eligible project costs which will be used to calculate the funding per partner according to the national/regional programmes.

National Contact Point (NCP)

Each participating Funding Partner Organisation in this call has nominated NCP(s) to provide information on national/regional funding rules and procedures. It is required that each partner in a consortium contacts his/her NCP prior to the submission of pre-proposals.

Principal Investigator (PI)

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

Project costs

The total sum of all eligible costs that are necessary for the implementation of the foreseen project. Regarding the conditions for eligibility of costs please contact your NCP.

Project funding

The total sum of the funding, which will be granted by the Funding Partner Organisations to the project partners. The amount of funding that each project partner can receive depends on the national funding rules.

Self-funded project partner

Project partners who are not eligible for funding may participate at their own expense or if they have their own separate source of funding. The applicants have to prove (letter of intent/commitment) the willingness to self-fund their own activities or the willingness of other partners to fund their own activities. They have to follow the rules given in this Call Announcement and be part of the consortium agreement.

B. COMPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTATION




















- Guidelines for proposal submission
- National/regional regulations (including National Contact Points)

All the documents are available for download: Online Submission Platform <https://aquaticpollutants.ptj.de>

C. NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS (NCP) AND NATIONAL FUNDING REGULATIONS

| Country | Funding Partner Organisation (FPO) | National/Regional Contact Point (NCP) | | NOT Funding All Themes and Sub-Topics | Limits on Requested Budget per proposal | NOT all types of partners are eligible for funding | Different rules apply for different types of institutions | Partners need to submit documentation to their FPO |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| | | Name | Email address | | | | | |
| Germany (DE) | Jülich | Stefanie Pietsch Christian Stolle | ptj-aquapollut.call@fz-juelich.de | | ! | | ! | ! |
| Belgium (BE) | BELSP0 | Koen Lefever | koen.lefever@belspo.be | | ! | ! | | |
| Belgium (BE) | F.R.S.-FNRS | Joël Groeneveld | joel.groeneveld@frs-fnrs.be | | ! | ! | | ! |
| Belgium (BE) | FWO | Toon Monbaliu | eranet@fwo.be | | ! | ! | ! | |
| Brazil (BR) | CONFAP | Elisa Natola | elisa.confap@gmail.com | | ! | ! | | ! |
| Cyprus (CY) | RIF | Anna Maria Christoforou | amchristoforou@research.org.cy | | ! | | ! | ! |
| Czech Republic (CZ) | TACR | Michaela Křiklánová | michaela.kriklanova@tacr.cz | | | | ! | ! |
| Denmark (DK) | IFD | Martin Kyvsgaard | martin.kyvsgaard@innofond.dk | | ! | | ! | ! |
| Estonia (EE) | ETAg | Margit Suuroja | margit.suuroja@etag.ee | | ! | ! | ! | |
| Finland (FI) | AKA | Vesa Yli-Pelkonen | vesa.yli-pelkonen@aka.fi | | ! | ! | ! | |
| France (FR) | ANR | Simon Coulet Armelle Montrose | anrteam-aquaticpollutants@agencerecherche.fr | | ! | ! | ! | |
| Greece (GR) | GSRT | Sofia Dimitropoulou | s.dimitropoulou@gsrt.gr | | ! | | ! | ! |

| Country | Funding Partner Organisation (FPO) | National/Regional Contact Point (NCP) | | NOT Funding All Themes and Sub-Topics | Limits on Requested Budget per proposal | NOT all types of partners are eligible for funding | Different rules apply for different types of institutions | Partners need to submit documentation to their FPO |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| | | Name | Email address | | | | | |
| Ireland (IE) | EPA | Lisa Sheils | l.sheils@epa.ie | | ! | | | |
| Israel (IL) | CSO-MOH | Dr. Irit Allon Orly Spivak | irit.allon@moh.gov.il orlee.f@gmail.com | | ! | ! | | ! |
| Italy (IT) | ARPA | Vincenzo Infantino Broni Hornsby | vinfantino@arpa.sicilia.it aquaticpollutants@arpa.sicilia.it | | ! | | ! | ! |
| Italy (IT) | MUR | Aldo Covello Valeria Cardia | aldo.covello@miur.it valeria.cardia@miur.it | | ! | ! | ! | ! |
| Latvia (LT) | IZM | Kaspars Karolis | Kaspars.karolis@izm.gov.lv | | ! | ! | | |
| Moldova (MD) | NARD | Viorica Boaghi, Olga Davidenco | Viorica.boaghi@gmail.com , Olga.davidenco@ancd.gov.md | | ! | ! | | |
| Norway (NO) | RCN | Ivar Berthling | itb@rcn.no | | ! | ! | | ! |
| Poland (PL) | NCBR | Kinga Szymańska-Rzeźnik | kinga.szymanska@ncbr.gov.pl | | ! | | ! | ! |
| Portugal (PT) | FCT | Rui Munhá Germana Santos | ruimunha@fct.pt germana.santos@fct.pt | | ! | | ! | ! |
| Romania (RO) | UEFISCDI | Mihaela Manole Nicoleta Dumitrache | Mihaela.manole@uefiscdi.ro Nicoleta.dumitrache@uefiscdi.ro | | ! | | | |
| Scotland (UK) | SCOTENT | Karen Fraser | karen.fraser@scotent.co.uk | | | ! | ! | ! |
| South Africa (ZA) | WRC | Tiyani Chauke | Tiyanic@wrc.org.za | | ! | | | |
| Spain (ES) | AEI | Abraham Trujillo Quintela Esther Chacón | aquapollutants@aei.gob.es Esther.chacon@aei.gob.es | | ! | ! | ! | ! |
| Spain (ES) | ISCIII | Mauricio Garcia-Franco | mauriciog@isciii.es | | ! | ! | ! | ! |
| Sweden (SE) | FORMAS | Petra Wallberg | petra.wallberg@formas.se | | ! | ! | | ! |

| Country | Funding Partner Organisation (FPO) | National/Regional Contact Point (NCP) | | NOT Funding All Themes 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 |
|--------------|------------------------------------|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Name | Email address | | | | | |
| Sweden (SE) | SRC | Patriq Fagerstedt | Patriq.Fagerstedt@vr.se |  |  |  | |  |
| Sweden (SE) | Sida | Markus Moll | Markus.Moll@sida.se |  |  |  | |  |
| Taiwan (TW) | MoST | Ching-Mei Tang | cmtom@most.gov.tw | |  |  |  |  |
| Tunisia (TN) | MHSER | Awatef Soltane Marzouki Mrs Saida Rafrafi Farhat M. Zied Kbaier | awatef.soltane.dpps@gmail.com coopint2@gmail.com kbaier.zied@gmail.com | |  |  | |  |
| Turkey (TR) | TUBITAK | Almila Nur Arsunar Nihan Akdemirci | almila.bahar@tubitak.gov.tr nihan.morali@tubitak.gov.tr | |  |  |  |  |

D. 2020 JOINT TRANSNATIONAL CALL SECRETARIAT AND RELATED CONTACT DETAILS

| Contact details | |
|---|---|
| AquaticPollutants - Call Secretariat | |
| Stefanie Pietsch | Project Management Jülich s.pietsch@fz-juelich.de |
| Sabine Sorge | Project Management Jülich s.sorge@fz-juelich.de |
| AquaticPollutants - Online Submission Platform | |
| Uwe Selig | Project Management Jülich u.selig@fz-juelich.de |
| Christian Stolle | Project Management Jülich c.stolle@fz-juelich.de |
| Submission Platform | https://aquaticpollutants.ptj.de ptj-aquapollut.call@fz-juelich.de |
| AquaticPollutants - Open Data Contact Point | |
| Larissa Vargas | Agence Nationale de la Recherche waterpicommunication@agencerecherche.fr |
| JPI Websites | |
| Water JPI | http://www.waterjpi.eu/ |
| JPI Oceans | http://www.jpi-oceans.eu/ |
| JPI AMR | https://www.jpiamr.eu/ |

E. PILOT INITIATIVE - SCIENTIFIC NETWORKING AND TRANSFER PROJECTS (TP)

To strengthen the dissemination of results and to transfer results to policy, economy and society, a [call for proposals for Scientific Networking and Transfer Projects](#) will be published by AquaticPollutants. The TP will support the scientific projects of the 2020 Joint Transnational Call.

The transfer project will work on:

Theme1: Research and development of innovative strategies and methods for knowledge transfer, scientific networking, and increased public engagement

Theme 2: Implementation and valorisation of new methods for transfer, communication, and dissemination

The additionally funded TP will be designed to network the scientific projects of AquaticPollutants across topics and to connect them to other funded projects or activities by Water JPI, JPIAMR, JPI Oceans or national research programmes, if relevant. The TP project shall focus on development of scientific communication, the uptake of research results by potential end-users and policy makers, and to increase the impact of the results. Thereby the TP is envisaged to examine the transferability of research results into practice, instruments and solutions, to develop synergies between the projects and to support policy uptake. The TP should contribute to increase the dissemination and transfer activities of the AquaticPollutants projects as a whole. Applications to TP project is encouraged to foster the dissemination and impact of the scientific projects.

For all funded transnational projects of AquaticPollutants 2020 Joint Transnational Call it will be fruitful to collaborate with the TP project. Applicants should consider this when preparing proposals and budgets (e.g. travel costs for coordinators 1 meeting/year).