



FAQ

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

Joint Transnational Call 2020

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This is a collection of the frequently asked questions (FAQ) about this call. It includes questions that have been posed in connection to and during our webinar. Please note that the call text is available at the call page that is the guiding document for your proposal. This FAQ only includes short answers related to specific questions. If you cannot find the answers you need amongst these questions or from reading the call text, please contact the AquaticPollutants Call Secretariat or your National Contact Point.

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1. SCOPE OF THE CALL

Q: What exactly is meant by CEC. Is there a list of pollutants?

A: There is no official list of CECs. We would recommend to read the call documents, the documents published by the Water JPI on CECs, and from your expertise interpret which CECs are of particular relevance for the call.

Definition by the Water JPI Knowledge Hub of 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. **(Microplastics are not included in the 2020 Joint Transnational Call)**

Water JPI KHCEC stakeholder brief http://www.waterjpi.eu/implementation/thematic-activities/water-jpi-knowledge-hub-1/jpi-khcec_january_2020_stakeholderbrief.pdf

Water JPI KHCEC infographics - <http://www.waterjpi.eu/implementation/thematic-activities/water-jpi-knowledge-hub-1/water-jpi-knowledge-hub-on-contaminants-of-emerging-concern>

Q: Are phosphorus emissions part of the definition of "contaminants of emerging concern"?

A: Phosphorus; nitrogen and carbon (in the "classic" sense of COD / BOD / TOC / DOC / SAK), heavy metals, pesticides etc. are definitely not meant.

Q: Does the call allow for project proposals to include harmful algal blooms or cyanotoxins as well or is it more focused on microbial pathogens?

A: We don't see the "algal bloom" in the context of the AquaticPollutants call, also if it is a very actual matter. It is more a consequence of climate change and eutrophication, and not a reason of new pollutants and pathogens.

The AquaticPollutants call focuses on contaminants and microorganisms which sources are primarily of anthropogenic origin and which just recently have raised concern about their impacts. Thus, although cyanotoxins and other metabolites of harmful algal blooms undoubtedly impact ecosystem and human health, these are rather not classified as CECs as defined in the glossary of the call Announcement.

Pathogens of interest in this call are rather the "classical" pathogens, which would not include aquatic cyanobacteria or other picophytoplankton.

Q: Is it planned to work on all topics within a large consortium, e.g. both antimicrobial resistance and chemical micropollution together or is it possible to commission projects on one of these topics in e.g. smaller consortia?

A: It is not compulsory that proposals include all topics on CECs, Pathogens and AMR.

Q: Is it recommended to have wide objectives or to have a more focused approach?

A: There is no recommendation about that in the Call Announcement. The only requirement is, that “Proposals must address one main theme but may also include several themes described in section 2.2. Proposals must address at least one of the entire sub-themes, however applicants are encouraged to integrate more than one sub-theme in their proposals.

Q: Does the proposals be relevant to all three JPIs?

A: As this Call is a joint initiative of the three JPIs on Water, Oceans and AMR, proposals are encouraged to deliver outcomes relevant to the three JPIs on Water, Oceans and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).

2. CONSORTIUM COORDINATION

Q: Is it possible to have two partners as co-coordinators of the projects?

A: There just can be one coordinator/one coordinating institution in the consortium - “one of the entities must act as consortium coordinator who has the responsibility for submitting the proposal” (see General eligibility criteria).

Q: Which countries are excluded from being coordinators?

A: 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). This means Brasil, Greece, Latvia, African countries funded by Sida, South Africa and Taiwan are excluded from being coordinators.

Q: Our research unit already has a WATER JPI project which is coordinated by our professor. Is there any issue if we coordinate a second project?

A: There is no problem with several projects coordinated of different calls.

Q: Is it possible that two independent research groups of the University can participate in AquaticPollutants 2020 call, one proposal as a coordinator and the other as a partner.

A: The general eligibility criteria refers to the Consortium coordinator as a person. He/she cannot participate in any other proposal neither as a Consortium Coordinator nor as a partner. That means, it is possible, if the coordinator is a different principle investigator as the one in the partner proposal.

3. CONSORTIUM COMPOSITION

Q: How many partners is the maximum or preferred? Which is the maximum number of partners coming from the same country?

A: 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/FPO within the consortium must comply with national/regional regulations.

Q: Is a partner defined as an institution, person or country? I do not want to exceed the 8 partner rule.

A: There is the upper limit of **8 eligible project partners** per consortium (including self funded partners). A partner within one consortium is defined as an institution – that means 8 institutions can be involved in the project (included self-funded project partner).

Q: Is it mandatory for a partner to be in the industry? Or can partnerships be formed only with universities?

A: 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.

Q: I would like to involve stakeholders in our project but adding them as partners would increase the partners considerably and would put them above the national and project rules. If I add them as associated partners are they included in the final number of partners of the consortium?

A: Stakeholders can be added as partners or associated partners. If added as associated partner they don't belong formally to the project consortium. Therefore they won't be included in the total number of project partners. In contrast, a self-funded project partner has the same rights as a project partner and will be included in the total number of project partners (Please see glossary description).

Q: In case of collaboration with WWTPs, industries and water agencies, for example for data sharing and access to the structures for taking samples, I suppose these entities are not considered as self funded partners, is that right? As they are simple collaborators. We need a letter of intent from these entities to justify collaboration in this first submission phase?

A: Yes, if the partner is not taking over tasks in the consortium and you are just sharing data with this partner (WWTP or industries), this partner count as "associated partner". They are not funded by any funding agency and are not part of the consortium. You can upload a letter of intent (please see page 11 of the "guideline of pre-proposal submission")

4. PARTICIPATION OF COUNTRIES

Q: Can you confirm that institutions from the UK are not eligible to apply? If this is the case I'm surprised that Scotland is eligible since they are part of the UK.

A: As the funding agency Scottish Enterprise (SCOTENT) participates in the call, "only universities and companies in the Scottish Enterprise area are eligible (those in the Highlands and Islands area are not eligible)." Please see the national regulations for more information or contact Karen Fraser directly (NCP for SCOTENT).

Q: How do the JPIs define low- and middle income countries or can you send me a list of these countries?

A: In the Call are several countries involved (please see Table 1 in the Call Announcement), which count as "low and middle income countries". Especially the African countries funded by Sida (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) are meant by low and middle income countries.

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.*

Please see the national regulation of Sida for more information.

Q: Is it possible to involve partners from countries non-participating in the Call?

A: Yes, following one of these 2 options:

1) As 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.

2) As associated partner:

All institutions who do not apply for or are not eligible for funding from FPOs, may join an application if they 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.

5. ELIGIBILITY

Q: Is an earlier participation of partners /coordinators in JPI-activities a requirement for submitting proposals?

A: No, this is not part of the eligibility criteria.

Q: If one partner is not funded, will it cancel the whole consortium?

A: Partners not passing the national eligibility check may cause the rejection of the entire proposal without further review. It actually depends on the consortium: does the consortium fulfil the general eligibility criteria after declining of the partner, who will take over the work packages/tasks of the partner, is the aim of the project still achievable.

Q: Eligibility of UN agency like the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to receive funds and to be part of a consortium

A: It will depend of the eligibility of the institution versus its location and the Funding Partner Country national regulations. If it is eligible, it will count as a national partner towards the minimum number of eligible partners.

For instance, if the institution is seeded in Zimbabwe, Sida will be able to fund FAO and other institutions in Zimbabwe. - the national regulations should then apply.

If the institution is participating to the project on their own funds as a self-funded partner, it will not count in the minimum number of partners required.

6. SUBMISSION TOOL

Q: Is there any information or guidelines for the applicants about the length (max and required) and structure of the research plan?

A: The [Guidelines for pre-proposal submission](#) is available on the Submission Platform and explains the structure of the research plan and the max. characters of each section.

Q: a) Can you clarify what project partners (apart from the Coordinator) can do in the submission tool. Are they able to see the details of the proposal? b) Can they edit?

A: a) Partners do not see all the different submission steps available in the coordinator profile. This is because only the coordinator can enter all relevant parts of the pre-proposal – except the personal data from the partner, which can be filled in by both the partner and the coordinator. However, partners can always download the factsheet in the partner login. There are two versions: version 1 is the “Work version”. This file contains all the information which has been entered and saved by the coordinator so far. Once the coordinator submits a pre-proposal, there will be a second version of the factsheet (“Final version”). This final version is produced once the coordinator presses the “Submit” button, but he/she can edit the final version by pressing the submit button again any time until closing date. b) Partner can only edit their personal data. This data may also be filled in by the coordinator, but of course that’s rather the duty of the partner. It is nevertheless obligatory that also partners have to register for three reasons: a) to agree that they are part of the consortium, b) upload of their CV and c) agree with the privacy data policy and GDPR.

Q: Who inputs the financial data – each partner does their own?

A: The coordinator has to do this for all partners (but the partner can check via the factsheet).

Q: At point 21, there are declarations which have to be made – does each project partner have to do this or just the Coordinator?

A: That is only at the coordinators view, so only he/she has to do it. The partners only declare conformity with privacy data policy and GDPR.

Q: Is there a min- max limit of team-members in the coordinator and partner profile? In the submission platform there are six lines - 1 for coordinator and 5 for researchers - and all of the lines are compulsory?

A: The coordinator can add up to 5 team members (not including the coordinator). This is optionally, not compulsory.

Q: How to find international consortium partners?

A: Please use the partnering tool on the Submission Platform, you can enter your profile or search for partners. <https://aquaticpollutants.ptj.de/call1/partnering>

Q: Is there any template for the CV?

A: No, there is no template. However, within the submission tool, at the position where you upload your CV, you can find some information, on what should be included in the CV:

“Please upload your curriculum vitae (max. 1 page and max. 2 MB, PDF file format), including a brief description of your field of specialisation, the size and profile of your working group, and previous experiences.”

Q: Is it a group CV or and individual one?

A: If you refer to the consortium as a “group” it is your individual CV. You consortium partners (either coordinator or further partners) have to upload their CV in their respective profiles.

However, if you refer to “group” as your working group, we would ask you to include in your CV some short description of your working group. The CV can only be one page (max. 2MB), thus, any information of your working group goes into your CV. Please note that you can also add information about your Team members (i.e. your working group) in your profile data in the submission tool.

7. GENERAL

Q: How are the AquaticPollutants call and the Transfer Project call connected?

A: The Transfer Project should contribute to increase the dissemination and transfer activities of the AquaticPollutants projects as a whole and 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 Transfer Project 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. Collaboration with the parallel running Transfer Project during execution is encouraged, but not compulsory. Applicants should consider this when preparing proposals and budgets (e.g. travel costs for coordinators 1 meeting/year).

Q: Can one seek funds under both calls (Transfer Project and JTC2020)?

A: No, One cannot be funded under both calls.
