



## FAQ

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

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### Joint Transnational Call 2020

Update: 20 April 2020



Funded by the Horizon 2020  
Framework Programme of the  
European Union



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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 Announcement is available at the call page (<https://aquaticpollutants.ptj.de/call1>) and is the guiding document for your proposal. This FAQ presents short answers related to specific questions. If you cannot find the information you need amongst these questions or from reading the Call Announcement, please contact the AquaticPollutants Call Secretariat ([ptj-aquapollut.call@fz-juelich.de](mailto:ptj-aquapollut.call@fz-juelich.de)) or your National Contact Point (<https://aquaticpollutants.ptj.de/call1/national-funding-regulation>).

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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](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>

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**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.

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**Q: Do the proposals have to be relevant to all three JPIs?**

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

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**Q: What is meant by whole water cycle, river, estuary and oceans? Must the study touch each of these water bodies?**

A: Research is supposed to encompass a broader range of water bodies. It does not mean that the whole water cycle needs to be targeted in the research.

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**Q: Does the proposal have to address, obligatory, both fresh and marine environments?**

A: Proposals should be designed to deliver outcomes relevant to the three JPIs (you should include at least 2 sectors).

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**Q: How are sectors defined?**

**A:** Sectors means - freshwater (Water JPI) - marine (JPI Oceans) and health sector (JPI AMR).

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**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 (e.g. Theme 1: Measuring, Theme 2: Evaluating...). 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.

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**Q: Do you have to address all the bullet points of a sub-theme to be eligible?**

**A:** Proposals must address at least one of the entire sub-themes, but are encouraged to integrate more. With the term "entire subtheme" the different sub-themes e.g. 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 are meant. The bullet points under each sub-theme are no requirement, these are more like suggestions for you to get an idea what is generally expected as part of the sub-themes.

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**Q: Could you please confirm that wastewater is covered by the 3 themes of the Joint Transnational Call?**

**A:** Wastewaters are certainly an important part of the water cycle and within the scope of this call. However, please note that this call specifically aims to address proposals covering topics relevant to all 3 JPIs involved (i.e. oceans, waters, AMR). Thus, analyses of CECs in wastewater alone might be too shortcoming when not regarding coastal/oceanic waters or the health sector (pathogens, AMR) as well. You can find more information about the scope in the Call Announcement (<https://aquaticpollutants.ptj.de/call1/call-office?genericModule=callDocuments&action=download&id=247>).

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**Q: Why not microplastics as CECs? Are there too many applications regarding this subject?**

**A:** Microplastics are topics of various other funding measures and we do not intend to double funding.

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**Q: Is micropollutant biomonitoring in the scope of the project?**

**A:** Yes, appropriate strategies for their detection and monitoring and solutions for preventing their spread and/or their removal need to be further developed.

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**Q: Will pharmaceuticals be in the scope of the Project?**

**A:** Yes, Antimicrobial resistant bacteria enter the aquatic ecosystems through effluents from hospitals and pharmaceutical production and therefore pharmaceuticals will be included in the call.

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**Q: Are there thematic priorities for each participating member state?**

**A:** Please consult the AquaticPollutants Call Announcement – Annex C– There you can find an overview of funded themes by each FPO. For more details please have a look on the National Regulations.

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**Q: Would you suggest to check if the theme chosen is funded by each FPO?**

**A:** In the ANNEX of the call announcement you can find a table summarizing the most important points of all National Regulations including the themes which are funded. But generally only the Swedish partners SRC and Sida have some restrictions in funding themes. Please check the National Regulations for further information.

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**Q: Can a project be mixed with basic research and experimental research? What is the difference?**

**A:** Yes, it is possible to mix basic research and experimental research in the proposal. Some FPOs are funding basic research and others funding experimental research. Basic research is focused on fundamental research and experimental research refers to more applied science. Please check the National Regulations for further information.

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**Q: Can you precise, if relevant, which TRL is expected for the proposals?**

**A:** It depends on the theme that is chosen and if it belongs to basic research or applied research. The Technology Readiness Level can range from TLR 1 (Basic technology research, Theme 1) to TLR 6 (Technology Demonstration, Theme 3).

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**Q: What about societal impacts? Should they be included as part of a project?**

**A:** Societal changes are included in the scope of the call and refer to the objectives of the three JPIs (challenges of water / oceans / health). For more information see the first section of the AquaticPollutants Call Announcement. Societal impacts are part of the evaluation criteria –IMPACT – and should therefore be included in the proposal.

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## 2. CONSORTIUM COORDINATION

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

A: There can only 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).

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**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, Sweden (SIDA), South Africa and Taiwan are excluded from being coordinators.

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**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.

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**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. Yes, it is possible that two different research groups of your University participate in the Call, one proposal can be as a coordinator and the other as a partner.

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**Q: Do we receive a consortium agreement draft?**

A: We are not handing out a consortium agreement draft document. Support for the preparation of a Consortium Agreement can be found on the DESCAs webpage <http://www.desca-2020.eu/>.

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**Q: Can the coordinator be swapped prior to submission?**

A: Prior to submission – before the submission deadline – you can change your consortium and the consortium coordinator.

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**Q: Is there a preference that an EU organization leads a consortium (vs. e.g. one based in Thailand or Africa)?**

A: No. It depends on the envisaged consortium and research and the experience of all partners.

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### 3. CONSORTIUM COMPOSITION

**Q: How many partners are 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.

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

**A:** A partner is defined as an institution – that means 8 institutions can be involved in the project (included self-funded project partner).

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**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.

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**Q: Which are the stakeholder requirements?**

**A:** Stakeholders or end-users are e.g. companies, associations, administration etc. that are interested in the research results and their transfer into practice.

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**Q: The role of stakeholders / industry – is it enough as collaborators or must be as a partners (maybe self-funded)?**

**A:** Stakeholders: are involved as project partner (either self-funded or funded by one of the FPOs) or associated partner.

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**Q: Is it possible to collaborate with other researchers from the same country?**

**A:** It is always possible to collaborate with other researchers from the same country. But it depends on the National Regulations of that specific country whether e.g. 2 partners from the same country will be funded.

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**Q: Does sub-contractors have to be identified in the pre-proposal?**

A: As far as you can detail your financial plan, you should include that into the pre-proposals. There are no fundamental changes possible from step I to step II. Please include all subcontracts in your pre-proposal.

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**Q: Can a sole company partake?**

A: No, proposals should be built by a consortium.

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**Q: Can two organisations act jointly as one partner to stay within the maximum of 8 partners?**

A: No, each organisation acts as an independent eligible entity and counts as one partner and only one organisation will receive the fund. The only possibility is to have a subcontract or an associated partner. Please check the National Regulations for further information.

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**Q: Can partners commission services from other consortium partners?**

A: Generally yes, but it depends very much on the national funding agency, please check with the National Contact Points. Anyway, it is important that the work of the subcontractor (consortium partner X) is included in the work plan of the client (consortium partner Y).

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**Q: Many people are looking for a consortium to join. What do you think what is the best approach to get in one?**

A: Please use the Partnering Tool (<https://aquaticpollutants.ptj.de/call1/partnering>) to post an offer or get in touch with the according researchers/ companies/ institutions.

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**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>

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## 4. ASSOCIATED PARTNERS / SELF-FUNDED PARTNERS

**Q: Is the involvement of associated partners recommended?**

**A:** If associated partners are stakeholders and interested in the transfer of research into practice, it is surely recommended but not a necessity.

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**Q: Is an associate partner the same as a self-funding partner?**

**A:** No, there are fundamental differences. If a partner is interested to get involved in a project taking over major tasks and responsibilities with its own or other source of funding, it is counted as self-funded partners. Partners that are only interested in certain data or a transfer into practice (use of a tool) without being involved in project aspects, management or commitment etc. are associated partners.

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**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 counts 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”).

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**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).

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**Q: Can you subcontract associated partners?**

**A:** Generally, this is possible and not excluded, but you have to be in line with the EU State aid regulation and should regulate the share of results (intellectual property rights). Please define the role of the associated partner in your proposal.

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**Q: Can associated partners be responsible for Tasks or WP?**

**A:** Associated partners do not formally belong to the consortium. Therefore it is not recommended to transfer responsible tasks to them. If they take over tasks on their own costs they will be counted as self-funded partners.

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**Q: Is the commitment letter of stakeholders necessary at first stage submission?**

**A:** Stakeholders included as associated partners have to be indicated in the section “Associated partners” in the submission tool. Yes, a letter of commitment has to be uploaded during the submission process at pre-proposal stage.

The letter of commitment from the associated partner must contain the following sentence: "I have read the notes on privacy policy on the call webpage and accept them. Furthermore I declare conformity with requirements of the EU 'General Data Protection Regulation' (GDPR)."

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## 5. PARTICIPATION OF COUNTRIES

**Q: Regarding the latest JPI AMR call for pollutants /AMR etc. in aquatic environments 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: In the United Kingdom, the participating funding agency is Scottish Enterprise (SCOTENT) so only companies and universities in the Scottish Enterprise area are eligible. (This covers lowland and upland areas of Scotland, those in the Highlands and Islands area are not eligible). There is no funding available for applicants from other parts of the United Kingdom – England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Please see the National Regulations for more information or contact Karen Fraser directly (NCP for SCOTENT).

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**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.

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**Q: What is the importance of including middle/low-income countries? And is there a list for the two groups?**

A: The importance of inclusion has to be determined by the consortium and the targeted research. A country classification is given by the United Nations.

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**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.

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**Q: Does the country representation requirement refer to the headquarters of the consortium partner, or also satellite business offices?**

**A:** The participating partner could also be a satellite business office, if the business office is an independent legal entity. In that case the country representation refers to the location of the satellite business office.

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**Q: For applicants from Africa eligible for the Sida funding, is forming a consortium a necessary requirement? Can individual researchers/partners from one institution/country apply?**

**A:** Proposals should be built by a consortium. In the General eligibility criteria it is stated that "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".

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**Q: How are the 2 Italian organizations (ARPA e MUR) involved in the funding: can they be funded by both of them or only one?**

**A:** If there are several national funding organisations of one country involved (Italy, Sweden, Spain, and Belgium) please check the National Regulations who will be the right funding party for your purposes. If any question arise, please contact the respective funding organisations to clarify.

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**Q: Slovenia is not on the list for the project call. Can we, as a research organization from Slovenia, participate in a consortium as a partner?**

**A:** Yes, but only on own expense or with another source of funding, as self-funded or associated partner.

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## 6. 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.

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**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.

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**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, it will not count in the minimum number of partners required.

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**Q: Is there a recommended budget for a project proposal under this call?**

A: 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.

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**Q: What are the criteria and formula to submit a project?**

A: You can find the general eligibility criteria and the evaluation criteria in the AquaticPollutants Call Announcement. Please also consider the national eligibility criteria of the countries involved in your proposal. You find them in the National Regulations of each FPO.

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**Q: What are the main guidelines for submitting a good proposal?**

A: The general eligibility criteria and the National Regulations are decisive for submitting a good proposal. Please also have a look at the evaluation criteria, as the external evaluators will judge on these.

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**Q: Is the national eligibility check performed under Aquatic Pollutants?**

**A:** Each Funding Partner Organisation will check their national eligibility criteria.

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**Q: Are SMEs eligible for funding? Is their participation encouraged?**

**A:** Yes, SMEs are generally eligible for funding. But not every FPO and country is funding SMEs. Please look at the National Regulations of your funding agency. The participation of SMEs is encouraged, but not compulsory.

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**Q: Can a FPO change its criteria in the next month?**

**A:** We don't expect more changes to come, but we cannot exclude this 100% (especially in times of CORONA). Please check the National Regulations regularly.

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**Q: What is the eligibility criteria for self-funded partners?**

**A:** Self-funded partners 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 cannot coordinate a project.

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**Q: Can you explain the meaning of "no partners should have 50% person months"? It is not clear to me how to write "month person" per WP in the project?**

**A:** The general eligibility criteria says "The workload distribution within a consortium must be balanced, and no partner should have more than **50% of person months.**" With that criteria it is intended that not a single partner is taking over the main part of the project. In a consortium all partners should have their stake in an equal manner.

In the online submission tool under section "Workplan" you have to enter an overview of total person months per partner.

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**Q: FPOs may refuse funding after the project has been positively evaluated by the JPI Commission (and the FPO in the first step). Will the project be still approved by the Commission?**

**A:** During the Panel Meeting a ranked list of proposals will be produced based on the final scores of the proposals. The final ranking list will be forwarded to the Funding Partner Organisations which will meet to decide on the projects to be recommended for funding. For this decision, the FPOs will take into account the order of the ranking list from the Evaluation Panel and the funding availability. Because of restricted funding budgets, not all positively evaluated project proposals will be able to fund. The applicants will be informed about the final outcome of the call.

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## 7. 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 Tool and explains the structure of the research plan and the max. characters of each section.

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**Q: 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?**

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 (see below), 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.

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**Q: Can project partners edit in the submission tool?**

A: 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.

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**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).

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**Q: Is subcontracting allowed?**

A: Yes, in the financial table of your proposal you have to enter all values, including subcontracts.

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**Q: How do overheads (own funding) rules differ in each country? How will this be taken into account in the submission system?**

A: In the submission tool there are 2 finance tables where you can enter your requested funding. The overheads are taken into account in the submission system, as there is one column for overheads in the requested-funding-tables. To get further information and advises about the rules for overheads in different countries, please contact the National Contact Points.

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**Q: At point 21 (Guidelines), 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 in their respective profile.

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**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 (and each partner) can add up to 5 team members (not including the coordinator/partner). This is optionally, not compulsory.

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**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.”

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**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.

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**Q: Should the Factsheet be signed by rectors?**

A: No, the final step is to press the “Submit”-button. After that, a submitted pre-proposal exists.

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**Q: Can partners fill in their own data into the submission system? In case of problems, can the coordinator edit the entries?**

A: Within the tool, partners have to register, provide personal data and agree with data policy. However, only coordinators will work on the proposal itself. They are also responsible for collecting all input from the partners. The partners, nevertheless, can always check the current status and the entries saved from the coordinator by downloading the factsheet in the partner login.

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The coordinator may as well edit parts of the partner data. The partner can always check those entries in the factsheet (see Guidelines for Pre-proposal submission). Nevertheless, only the partner him/herself can agree with the privacy data policy.

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**Q: How should a partner develop a CV? Is it for a group or for one single researcher? What does it mean, that a research group is formed of a maximum of 5 persons?**

**A:** In the submission tool each consortium partner (whether coordinator or “normal” partner) has to upload a one page CV. In the CV you should very briefly describe your field of specialisation, the size and profile of your working group, and previous experiences..

The limitation of 5 persons refers to 5 team members, who take over a certain function / expertise and have to be mentioned in the coordinators and partners profile.

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**Q: Will there be a pdf of all submission forms? Like a template?**

**A:** There is no template available. You may see the structure and text limitations from the “Guidelines for pre-proposal submission”.

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**Q: How voluminous should a project proposal be?**

**A:** For each section of the pre-proposal there are character limitations. Additionally, the uploads are limited (size, page number). You’ll find these information either in the submission tool or in the “Guidelines for pre-proposal submission”

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## 8. 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).

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**Q: Can one seek funds under both calls?**

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

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**Q: Are only German and Swedish organisations eligible to get funding under the additional call?**

A: German, Swedish and French institutions are eligible for funding in the additional call.

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**Q: Any submission to national FPOs will only be necessary after the second evaluation step?**

A: No, that differs from country to country. Please consult the AquaticPollutants Call Announcement – Annex C– There you can find an overview of which country need to submit a documentation to their FPO. For more details please have a look at the National Regulations and check with your National Contact Point.

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**Q: Are fundings independent and splitted in the relative countries for each partner of the consortium?**

A: Funding is organized on national level. Each FPO is funding their national project partners.

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**Q: How many projects will be financed?**

A: Depending on the projects - we expect 15 to 20 projects.

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**Q: What is the maximum rate of co-financing under AquaticPollutants 2020 (% / own share)?**

A: The funding rate (Reimbursement rate of the eligible project costs which will be used to calculate the funding per partner) depends very much on the national/regional programmes. Please check with your National Contact Point the national funding rate.

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**Q: What is the best starting date and duration for a project?**

**A:** The start of projects is foreseen for March 2021 (may change due to CORONA). 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 (may change due to CORONA).

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**Q: Does the study site(s) also need to be in the countries represented in the consortium (or eligible), or can it be elsewhere?**

**A:** Normally, the study site is in the countries represented in the consortium, because of organisational matter, data and information available or even access to the sites. If you have a study site elsewhere you should clearly show in the proposal how to get the data and involve the local partners e.g. as associated partner to the project.

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**Q: Is it an H2020 ERA-NET call?**

**A:** Yes, it is an ERA-Net Cofund call under H2020, which means every project partner gets funded at national level. The European Commission will cofund the call by topping up the national contributions. The total amount of funding depends on the selected projects.

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