

Call Announcement

Water Joint Programming Initiative (JPI)

2018 JOINT CALL

Closing the Water Cycle Gap – Sustainable Management of Water Resources

Deadline for the Submission of Pre-Proposals	19 April 2018 (17H CET)
Deadline for the Submission of Full Proposals	18 September 2018 (17H CET)
Call Secretariat	Swedish Research Council Formas (Formas, Sweden) Email: WW17@formas.se
Submission Web Page	Link will be available in the call page Water JPI 2018 Joint Call
Water JPI Website	http://www.waterjpi.eu/



2018 JOINT CALL

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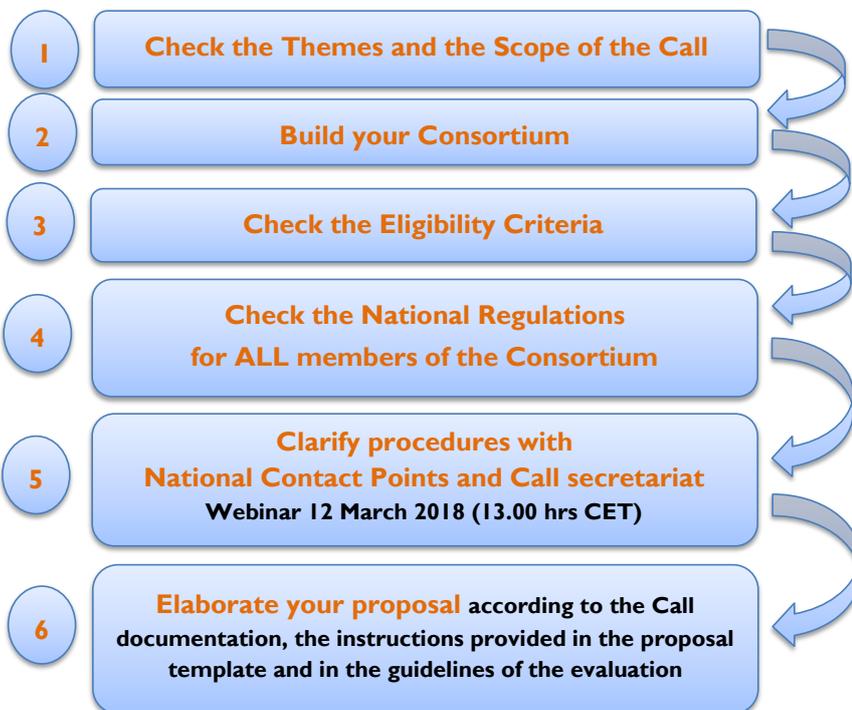
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A. Call Announcement Bookmarks

The Water JPI 2018 Joint Call support documentation is detailed in the following pages. **Please make sure that the bookmarks are visible in the left sidebar once you open this PDF**, for the sake of simplicity and for a facilitated access to the **main sections** of this document.

Note: A thorough reading of the Call documentation is essential for a successful application.

B. “How to Apply” Quick Tutorial



I. INTRODUCTION

The **Water JPI 2018 Joint Call** aims to address research and innovation (R&I) to support the implementation of European Union (EU) water policy, in particular on the thematic area “**Closing the Water Cycle Gap**” of the [Water JPI Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda \(SRIA\)](#).

- The *Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs)* are intergovernmental initiatives aiming at strengthening European leadership and competitiveness in R&I.
- In particular the Water JPI responds to the grand challenge of “*Achieving Sustainable Water Systems for a Sustainable Economy in Europe and Abroad*”.
- The *ERA-NET Cofund WaterWorks2017* will be implemented through the Water JPI 2018 Joint Call.

I.1. Themes of the Call

The following two themes for the call are targeted in the thematic area from the Water JPI Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda:

- **Enabling Sustainable Management of Water Resources**
- **Strengthening Socio-economic Approaches to Water Management**

Water resources observation, experimental work and modelling are required to better understand hydrological processes and their connection, and to analyse and forecast the effectiveness of management options. This will support improved decision-making to ensure the long-term availability of water resources and to enable the integrated management of water resources at the national, basin, and global scales. These approaches should also help mobilise investment in water management innovations and promote/encourage solutions in line with the objective of creating a circular economy. Therefore, the third theme for the call is:

- **Supporting tools for sustainable integrated management of water resources**

I.2. Scope of the Call

The Water JPI 2018 Joint Call will pool R&I efforts from countries participating in the Water JPI. The scope of the Call was defined in accordance with the principles of the Water JPI SRIA, as follows:

- All societal forms of water use are within the scope of the Call;
- All aquatic ecosystems subject to impacts as described in the [Water JPI SRIA](#) are within the scope of the Call.

The scope of the Water JPI 2018 Joint Call is expected to lead to

- i) improve use of scarce human and financial resources in the area of water R&I;
- ii) reduce fragmentation of water R&I efforts across Europe;
- iii) improve synergy, coordination and coherence between national and EU funding in the relevant research fields through transnational collaboration;
- iv) improve implementation of R&I programmes in these fields through exchange of good practices;
- v) strengthen international leadership of European R&I in this area making the Water JPI, in collaboration with the European Commission (EC), a privileged and attractive partner for global cooperation in R&I, in the context of the Belmont Forum and other international alliances;
- vi) contribute to the implementation of the objectives of Water JPI; and vii) contribute to the implementation of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular **SDG 6 “Ensure access to water and sanitation for all”** and **SDG 13 “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”**, (Appendix I, II) as well as the conclusions of the **COP21 Paris Agreement**.

IMPORTANT

Proposals should focus on fresh waters and may consider transitional waters; those on marine system will not be eligible.

1.3. Background

Since the early 2000's, concerns about water have been included in the UN Millennium Development Goals. Target 10 of Goal 7 was dedicated to "halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation". Given the scope of the challenge, the decade 2005-2015 was even proclaimed International Decade for Action 'Water for Life'. Within the new post-2015 development agenda, the place of water-related issues has been further strengthened. Indeed, water is an issue not only in separate goals but in almost all of the 17 SDGs, either directly or indirectly.

1.3.1 SDG 6

Under SDG 6 **“Ensure access to water and sanitation for all”**, the theme is included in at least four targets that read *“By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all”*, *“By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally”*, *“By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity, and “By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate”*.



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1.3.2 SDG 13

Several of the challenges facing the world such as clean water, food security, and sustainable use of natural resources, etc. greatly need to adapt to climate change. This is well reflected in one of five targets under **SDG 13 “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”** which is “improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning”.

1.3.3 World Economic Forum

In addition, water crises have been identified in 2015 by the [World Economic Forum](#) (nearly 900 experts took part in the Global Risk Perception Survey) as the Number One risk in terms of impacts on economy and society for the upcoming years. The **water crises**, associated with the **failure of climate-change adaptation**, are also perceived as more likely and impactful than an average risk. Global water requirements are projected to be pushed 40 % beyond sustainable water supplies by 2030. Decision-makers will be forced to make tough choices about allocations of water that will impact users across the economy. The situation will worsen further if more **man-made environmental catastrophes** happen (e.g. Fukushima power plant, Seveso chemical plant, Sidoarjo mud flow, Love Canal toxic waste deposit etc.).

1.3.4 The SDGs and EU

Since the adoption in September 2015 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the EC has defended the necessity for the EU to play a leading role at the global scale by fully integrating the SDGs in the framework of its internal and external policies. Considering that science, technology and innovation (STI) policies will particularly be decisive to achieve these goals, an Independent Expert Group was tasked by the EC to submit proposals. Several recommendations were made, among which the integration of the SDGs framework and language into the work programmes, the development of new integrated indicators to monitor progress towards SDGs and the development of “impact investments”, as an instrument of sustainable transformations in the EU, as well as in developing countries in order to, for example, facilitate access to water and sanitation.

1.3.5 FPO from 21 countries

A total of 21 Funding Partner Organisations (FPOs) from 19 countries have agreed to launch the Water JPI 2018 Joint Call, a transnational and transdisciplinary call for R&I proposals on the topic “**Closing the Water Cycle Gap – Sustainable Management of Water Resources**”, in February 2018. The FPOs are listed in section X.

IMPORTANT

The information contained in this document does not replace or override any of the requirements set forth in the National/Regional Regulations and imposed under the EU Law. A thorough consultation of all information is crucial for a successful submission of your proposal. Each partner is advised to consult with the relevant FPO, in order to ensure that his/her participation meets all of the National/Regional Eligibility Criteria.

II. CALL DESCRIPTION

II.1. Aim of the 2018 Joint Call

The **Water JPI 2018 Joint Call** aims to address R&I to support the implementation of EU water policy, in particular on the thematic area “**Closing the Water Cycle Gap – Sustainable Management of Water Resources**” of the [Water JPI SRIA](#).

The following themes are targeted in the call:

1. Enabling Sustainable Management of Water Resources; and
2. Strengthening Socio-economic Approaches to Water Management.
3. Supporting tools for sustainable integrated management of water resources

The FPOs particularly wish to:

- i) promote transdisciplinary research,
- ii) encourage proposals combining basic and applied approaches,
- iii) stimulate mobility of researchers within the consortia,
- iv) enhance collaborative R&I during the project’s lifespan and beyond, and
- v) promote international cooperation in the water area.

Proposals are expected to:

- Address one **or** up to three themes;
- Address **at least** one of the **entire sub-themes** listed below – **Applicants are encouraged to integrate more than one sub-theme in their proposals;**
- Address **at least** one of the UN SDG targets listed in the introduction chapter; i.e. how the project’s outcome will contribute to its/their achievement.
- Go beyond the *State of the Art* by providing high quality research and innovation, and when appropriate, to make use of innovative technologies and approaches to do so;
- Propose case studies (e.g. implementation at local or regional level) in **European and non-European** regions;
- Connect to stakeholders needs involving them in the proposals);
- Consider the gender dimension in all proposed activities; **and**
- **Encourage international participation** in water R&I in different environments (various climatic, hydrological and soil conditions).

Theme 1 - Enabling sustainable management of water resources

The overall aim for this theme is to develop new governance and knowledge management approaches.

Sub-theme 1.1 - Promoting adaptive water management for global change.

The aim of sub-theme 1.1 is to increase knowledge and develop evidence based methodologies and technologies for monitoring the cumulative impacts of human activities and climate change on the water cycle, but also to develop management options on the water cycle (considering all cycle compartments) and water / ecosystem services. This knowledge must be applicable for the adaptive management of water resources on a regional scale, while enabling downscaling to address local or catchment situations.

Sub-theme 1.2 - Integrative management by implementing Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRM) such as Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR).

The aim is to increase the knowledge and develop NWRMs such as MAR in a multidisciplinary way, to protect, prolong, sustain and augment fresh water supplies. Evidence of their effectiveness and on the multiple benefits they deliver should be demonstrated.

Sub-theme 1.3 - Mitigating water stress in coastal zones and urbanized deltas

The aim is to develop and demonstrate a comprehensive coastal zone management system based on monitoring and modelling to ensure the provision of freshwater security under a range of conditions including saline intrusion, sediment management, storms, floods and droughts, but also specific coastal water uses.

Please, refer to H2020 calls on nature-based solutions to propose complementary actions.

Theme 2 - Strengthening socio-economic approaches to water management

The overall theme is envisaging education and communication initiatives to raise social awareness of consumption habits and water scarcity and to increase the levels of social acceptance and use of recycled water.

Sub-theme 2.1 - Integrating economic and social analyses into decision-making processes

The aim is to increase the knowledge the effectiveness and efficiency of existent economic mechanisms and policy instruments related to water management, with a special emphasis on implementation of water policies (such as the EU Water Framework Directive) and development of a circular and green economy. The approach should aim to break boundaries between services valuation including more flexible pricing and charging mechanisms, management tools and institutions, and employ economic and social sciences to develop best practice management guidelines for efficient water uses, including under extreme events such as droughts and floods.

Sub-theme 2.2 - The reuse of water

The aim is to develop integrative methods and cost-effective technologies for the implementation of acceptable and sustainable solutions on a large scale for different reuse cycles, spanning from irrigation, via livestock drinking water, to human consumption. Furthermore, goals include assessments of social acceptance for the use of recycled water and development of integrated approaches combining technological solutions with social-psychological acceptability, economic viability and appropriate governance approaches. Research into the removal of emerging contaminants has to consider the cost of the technology vs yield and realistic options for reuse of the recovered water.

Please refer to projects funded under previous Water JPI Joint Calls (2013, 2015 and 2016) to avoid any duplication.

Sub-theme 2.3 - Connecting science to society

The aim is to increase understanding of the role of socio-economic approaches to water uses in hydrological cycles. Knowledge building should address stakeholders' and public awareness of water challenges and values, and how perception of policy measures and technological solutions are formed and how stakeholders can be steered towards desirable behaviour. Local and/or regional context (attitude, social norms, cultural context, etc.) should be taken into consideration. The value of improved water stewardship overall should be considered by developing sustainable business models.

Sub-theme 2.4 - Promoting new governance and knowledge management approaches

The aim is to develop innovative water management tools and approaches suitable for decision-making based on an analysis of the limitations of current practices. These approaches should involve the broad participation of stakeholders (including public monitoring, communication and education), multidisciplinary research, and short and long-term water cycle scenarios to support decision-making and the integration of water policy into other policy fields. In effect, governance capacities for implementation of water policies on the local and regional levels should be enhanced.

Theme 3 – Supporting tools for sustainable integrative management of water resources

This theme aims at complementing the actions developed under the European Strategy Forum for Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) and other European initiatives. Emphasis should be on establishing networks and information sharing among existing research facilities/field labs, analytical methods, monitoring tools and programmes, access to databases and platforms, exploring the use of big data solutions and establishing reliable hydrological standards. Across the globe, there is a large body of knowledge, methodology and data related to hydrology and the water cycle that has the potential of being beneficial for a wide range of the world's regions. The alignment of water-related research and sharing of data and results will serve to avoid duplication of research, support progress based on previous finding, and thus facilitate the establishment of water managing policies addressing rapid climatic changes.

II.2. Transdisciplinary approach & expected impacts of the Water JPI 2018 Joint Call

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

In addition to contributing to the achievement of the **SRIA**, proposals should demonstrate the potential for **scientific and/or technological excellence**, as well as **European / International added-value** and more specifically support for the UN SDGs.

Consequently, the following statements **should be** considered when drafting proposals:

- Cross-cutting issues, such as **socio-economic and/or capacity development aspects** (contributions to standards and norms) constitute an added value to R&I in this field.
- Proposals should **build on on-going research activities, i.e. the state-of-the-art at EU level and beyond** providing synergies. They should describe opportunities and initiatives for cooperation with these activities.
- **Participation of stakeholders** (i.e. small and medium enterprises (SMEs), industries, authorities, public administrations, associations, as well as civil society organisations) is encouraged.
- **International cooperation** is encouraged.
- **Communication to society** (e.g. risk management measures) and **dissemination to stakeholders** for future implementation (e.g. best practice models) should be explicitly addressed by applicants.

II.3. 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 and accessing information, 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 Water JPI 2018 Joint Call 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 covers 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 Water JPI obligation to protect results that are expected to be commercially or industrially exploited;
- Incompatibility with the need for confidentiality in connection with security issues;
- Incompatibility with rules on protecting personal data;
- Incompatibility with the project's main aim;
- If the project will not generate/ collect any research data; or
- If there are other legitimate reasons not to provide open access to research data.

Any 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.

The funded projects will be requested to submit metadata on all the data resources directly generated by the project, as well as additional information on how these data will be exploited, if and how data will be made accessible for verification and re-use, and how it will be curated and preserved. Metadata and additional information will be made publicly available via the Water JPI website. All specific information and procedures on this issue will be provided on the Water JPI 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.

III. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

ALL partners within a consortium MUST comply with all the Eligibility Criteria, as described in the two sections below:

1. General Eligibility Criteria;
2. National Eligibility Criteria.

III.1. General Eligibility Criteria

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

- Each consortium must be composed of eligible independent entities from a minimum of three countries with FPOs involved in the Call, including eligible entities from at least two EU Member States or H2020 framework programme Associated countries (see Table IV.I);
- Proposals must be submitted by Universities and other higher education institutions, public research institutions, private non-profit organisations, and private companies, according to National Regulations (Section III.5 – National/Regional Regulations). The relevant National/Regional participation rules apply to each partner in relation to the corresponding FPO.
- Proposals must be received before the deadlines;
- Proposals must meet all the formal criteria (submitted electronically, respect page limits and number/type of attachments allowed, written in English language);
- Topics of the proposals must be fully relevant to the scope of the call;
- The requested total budget cannot exceed 1.5 million Euro (per proposal);
- Duration of projects must range between 24 to 36 months;
- A participant in a proposal is defined as i) a principal investigator that requests funds on behalf of his/her applicant organisation/institution/company or ii) a principal investigator that contributes with own funds to the proposal;
- A Consortium Coordinator can only participate in one proposal (i.e. if the principal investigator is the coordinator of a proposal, he/she cannot participate in any other proposal, neither as a coordinator nor as a partner);
- The Consortium Coordinator must be eligible to be funded by one of the FPOs;
- Researchers from the FPOs cannot apply to this Call.

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

III.2. National/Regional Eligibility Criteria

In addition, each partner is **ADVISED** to contact their National/Regional Contact Point (see Table III.5) and comply fully with the National/Regional Eligibility Criteria, as described in the National/Regional Regulations. They must ensure that his/her contribution to the overall project conforms to:

- Where applicable, relevance of the topic(s)/subtopic(s) of the proposals to National/Regional programmes and strategies;
- Compliance with National/Regional funding criteria and regulations;
- Compliance with limits to budget requests or others.

IMPORTANT

Please note that proposals which are not meeting all Water JPI 2018 Joint Call eligibility criteria or National/Regional eligibility criteria and requirements **will be declined without further review**. Non-eligibility of a partner in a proposal may lead to the rejection of the entire proposal without further review after the decision of the CSC. The Consortium Coordinator before submitting an application should verify that all partners of the consortium have read their corresponding National/Regional Regulations (Section III.5) and/or contacted their National Contact Points (Table III.5) to confirm eligibility issues.

III.3. Eligibility of international research institutions

III.3.1 JRC

As the Joint Research Centre (JRC) is a EC in-house science service, funded by the European's Framework Programme for R&I, H2020, the JRC can apply to a Call launched by the Water JPI following the rules below:

- The 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 H2020) (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.

III.3.2 Partners from other countries

Partners from countries not participating in the Call may join consortia (as non-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.



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III.3.3 International institutions

International institutions, e.g. UN institutions, need to investigate their respective national eligibility guidelines for national and/or global funding.

III.4. Eligibility of the Water JPI Advisory Boards Members in the Call

The Water JPI Management Board (MB) is assisted in its work by two groups of advisors – Advisory Boards (ABs): a Scientific and Technological Board (STB) and a Stakeholders Advisory Group (SAG). The STB is composed of pre-eminent scientists from any part of the world who are international experts in some aspects of water quantity or quality and who contribute with scientific advice to the Water JPI activities. The SAG is made up of nominees from water industry, water users, non-governmental organisations and local or national authorities and they provide a user perspective of the work of the JPI.

The list of the members of the ABs can be found in the [Water JPI website](#).

Members of the ABs can apply to a Water JPI Call as participant in a project for funding, but not as a project coordinator. The direct involvement of AB members in proposals in Joint Calls launched by the Water JPI will limit their potential role as advisors to the JPI activities related to the Joint Calls.

Therefore, the participation of AB members and their institutions in Water JPI Joint Calls and activities will be properly tracked and monitored.

III.5. Eligibility Check

The Call Secretariat (CS) will examine all proposals to ensure that they meet all the Water JPI 2018 Joint Call general criteria. In parallel, the CS will forward the proposals to the FPOs, which will perform a formal check of compliance with their National/Regional Regulations. Proposals that fail to meet one or more eligibility criteria will be rejected and not proceed for evaluation. Proposals passing the eligibility check will be forwarded to the evaluators for assessment. The CS, on behalf of the Call Steering Committee (CSC), will communicate the results of the eligibility check and the decisions taken to the coordinator of each consortium.

III.6. Synthesis Table of the key eligibility National / Regional Regulations

Comentado [KL1]: Still to be complemented

The table below describes important restrictions related to each National/Regional Regulations. **An empty cell means that no specific rules apply to this criterion. ATTENTION!!: ⚠️ means that you need to check the corresponding National/Regional Regulations available in the 2018 Joint Call Official website**

Country	Funding Partner Organisation (FPO)	National/Regional Contact Point (NCP)	Funding All Challenges 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
Belgium (French-speaking community) (BE)	F.R.S.-FNRS	joel.groeneveld@frs-fnrs.be		⚠️			
Brazil (BR)	CONFAP	elisa.confap@gmail.com					
Cyprus (CY)	RPF	amchristoforou@research.org.cy					
Egypt (EG)	ASRT	amm@sti.sci.eg					
Estonia (EE)	ETAg	Aare.lgnat@etagee					
Finland (FI)	AKA	kata-riina.valosaari@aka.fi		⚠️	⚠️	⚠️	
France (FR)	ANR	ww2017secretariat@agencerecherche.fr		⚠️		⚠️	
Ireland (IE)	EPA	A.Wemaere@epa.ie					
Israel (IL)	MoE-IL	einatm@energy.gov.il					
Italy (IT)	MIUR	aldo.covello@miur.it ; valeria.cardia@miur.it		⚠️	⚠️	⚠️	⚠️
Moldova (Rep. of) (MD)	CIP	ion.marin@h2020.md					
Netherlands (NL)	NWO	r.winkler@nwo.nl	⚠️	⚠️	⚠️	⚠️	
Norway (NO)	RCN	joho@rcn.no		⚠️	⚠️		
Poland (PL)	NCBR	kinga.szymanska@ncbr.gov.pl					
Romania (RO)	UEFISCDI	Nicoleta.dumitrache@uefiscdi.ro Mihaela.manole@uefiscdi.ro		⚠️	⚠️	⚠️	
South Africa (ZA)	WRC	mamohlodigt@wrc.org.za					
Spain (ES)	CDTI	mariajose.tomas@cdti.es	⚠️	⚠️	⚠️	⚠️	⚠️
Spain (ES)	MINECO	waterjpi.ncp@aei.gob.es		⚠️	⚠️		⚠️
Sweden (SE)	FORMAS	Kristina.Laurell@formas.se		⚠️	⚠️		⚠️
Tunisia (TN)	IRESA						
Tunisia (TN)	MHSER	awatefoltane@gmail.com		⚠️	⚠️		⚠️

IV. FINANCIAL COMMITMENT

A total of 18.11 million Euro (Table IV.1) has been provisionally allocated for this Call by the FPOs (12.17 million Euro) and the EC (5.94 million Euro). These funds will be used for R&I activities carried out by researchers and institutions according to the funding rules and legal frameworks of their respective FPOs.

Partners applying in a consortium cannot request more than their relevant FPO commitment to the Call, as listed in Table IV.1 (and comply with National/Regional Regulations listed in Table III.5).

REMINDER: Eligible proposals have to be composed of independent entities from a minimum of three countries with FPOs involved in the Call, including entities from at least two EU Member States or H2020 framework programme Associated countries (see Table IV.1). The requested budget per proposal (the sum of the individual requested budget from each of the partners involved in the proposal) cannot exceed 1.5 million Euro.

Table IV.1: WaterWorks2017 FPOs and EC commitments

Country/ Region	Funding Partner Organisation	National Contributions (tentative budget, EURO)
Belgium	F.R.S.-FNRS	200,000
Brazil	CONFAP	100,000
Cyprus	RPF	400,000
Egypt	ASRT	750,000
Estonia	ETA _g	100,000
Finland	AKA	850,000
France	ANR	2,200,000
Ireland	EPA	500,000
Israel	MoE-IL	250,000
Italy	MIUR	500,000
Moldova (Republic of)	CIP	100,000
Netherlands	NWO	870,000
Norway	RCN	1,000,000
Poland	NCBR	500,000
Romania	UEFISCDI	500,000
South Africa	WRC	100,000
Spain	CDTI	700,000
Spain	MINECO	600,000
Sweden	FORMAS	1,500,000
Tunisia	IRESA	150,000
Tunisia	MHSER	300,000
EC total contribution	EC	5,944,925

V. APPLICATION PROCEDURES

V.1. General Considerations

The success of a proposal is inextricably linked to the careful reading of all the support documentation provided. Thus, applicants will have to be aware of the critical information contained in the National/Regional Regulations and in all sections of this document.

When writing a proposal, applicants should take into consideration the following general rules of the Call:

- A two-step application procedure will be used in this Joint Call. Pre-proposals and Full Proposals must be submitted electronically via a specifically designed web platform;
- All FPOs participating in this Joint Call have been informed about the submission requirements and procedures and will provide assistance to their National/Regional applicants in case of questions/doubts. For this purpose, each FPO will appoint a National/Regional Contact Point (NCP);
- The partner entities and the Consortium Coordinator have to comply with the applicable national and EU rules and legal provisions, for instance as regards competition and EU State aid rules, environment, utilisation of genetic resources, equal opportunity and gender, and public contracting whenever applicable;
- Ethical issues will be taken into account in the scientific evaluation of proposals and when making the funding decisions. Applicants shall always describe any relevant ethical aspects in their research plans. If a research permit or a statement by an ethics committee or another relevant document (i.e. 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;
- The non-fulfilment of a single eligibility criterion will be cause for the disqualification of a partner and, possibly, the disqualification of the entire Consortium. A thorough consultation of all general and National/Regional eligibility criteria detailed in this document and in the National Regulations is, therefore, mandatory and vital.

Applicants should also take into consideration the following advice:

- It is the responsibility of the Consortium Coordinator to submit the proposal. For that he/she should seek agreement for the inclusion of other partner organisations in the Consortium and obtain the necessary information for writing the proposal;
- The preparation of the application should bear in mind the competitive nature of this transnational call and the necessity to go beyond the current state-of-the-art;
- Consider the evaluation criteria described, and elaborate the proposal accordingly;
- Plan and complete the application process as soon as possible in order to avoid an eventual overload of the system by the deadline and ensure the opportune support by the CS in case of need;

- CVs are generally considered too long by reviewers, which make it difficult finding the most relevant information. It is mandatory that Consortia Coordinators and Partners are brief and succinct when preparing their CVs. Only one-page CVs will be considered;
- Choose the keywords of the proposal carefully (there is a dedicated space in the electronic submission platform), in view of their importance to the identification of areas/topics of interest and in the allocation of reviewers;
- 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 penalise the score given to the proposal.

V.2. Ethical Issues

Ethical issues are taken into account in the scientific evaluation of proposals and when making the funding decisions. Applicants should always describe any relevant ethical aspects in their research plans. If a research permit or a statement by an ethics committee is required for the implementation of the project, applicants shall provide information on the permits or permit proposals.

V.3. Online Submission System

Pre-proposals and Full-proposals to the Water JPI 2018 Joint Call have to be submitted via a specially designed web platform. The link will be made available on the official [Water JPI 2018 Joint Call](#) website.

There are three parts to be completed:

- **Part A:** sections of the submission platform that are filled in online. Contains the factsheet of the consortium.
- **Part B:** pre-proposal template to be uploaded in the submission platform as a pdf file.
- **Part C:** full proposal template to be uploaded in the submission platform as a pdf file.

The proposal submission procedure comprises the following actions:

STEP 1 (Pre-Proposal stage)

1. Registration in the system. All applicants need to register (Consortia Coordinators (CC) **and** Principal Investigators (PI) of the Consortium Partners). The CC will have to fill in most of the information contained in Part A;
2. Download of the Pre-Proposal template (Part B), which includes the instructions to elaborate the document according to the Call requirements. Part B needs to be uploaded as a pdf file. The document has a specific format and must be used as it is (page layout and font must not be modified);
3. Until the deadline of the Call, the pre-proposals will be able to be edited by the CC. Only the last version (at the deadline) will be considered.

STEP 2 (Full Proposal stage)

All rules mentioned in the pre-proposal stage apply for this stage as well. Below is described the important steps that need to be considered by the CC and the Consortium Partners.

4. Update of the information filled in online (Part A) by the Consortia Coordinators;
5. Download of the Full Proposal Instructions file. This document includes instructions on how to complete the full proposal template (Part C);
6. Completion of the full proposal template and upload of the document in pdf format in the submission system.
7. No main changes are allowed in the budget requested and in the institutions applying to the call.

When applying, keep in mind that the submission system will close at 17H CET 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 13H CET. A help desk will be provided by the CS and NCPs, and the respective email contacts are listed in this document (Section III.5).

IMPORTANT

It may be required for some of the partners to submit also an application directly to their respective national/regional FPOs, justifying funding requests and describing the work they propose to develop within a Consortium. For further details about these procedures and schedule, please consult the National/Regional Regulations and/or your NCP. Failure to do so will result in disqualifying the partner in question and will invalidate the full proposal submission.

V.4. Evaluation of Proposals

Pre-Proposals will be evaluated based on **two criteria**: Scientific Excellence and Impact. **Full Proposals** will be evaluated based on **three criteria**: Scientific Excellence, Impact and Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation.

V.4.1. Evaluation Criteria

If the pre-proposal or full proposal is within the scope of the call, the following scoring system will be applied. The evaluation is based on the following award review criteria:

1. SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE

- Clarity and pertinence of the objectives;
- Credibility of the proposed approach;
- Soundness of the concept, including trans-disciplinary considerations, where relevant;
- Extent that proposed work is ambitious, has innovation potential, and is beyond the state of the art (e.g. ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches).
- Added-value of the consortium for achieving the Call objectives.

2. IMPACT

- The expected impacts listed in the [H2020 Societal Challenge 5, Call topic SC5-11-2016](#);
- Producing knowledge and innovative solutions to support the achievement of the UN SDGs
- Enhancing innovation capacity and integration of new knowledge;
- Strengthening the competitiveness and growth of companies by developing innovations meeting the needs of European and global markets, and where relevant, by delivering such innovations to the public and private markets, including public administrators (public executive bodies) and civil society organisations;
- Any other environmental and socially important impacts;
- Effectiveness of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of IPR), to communicate the project in accordance to Open Data and Open Access JPI rules (cf. II.4), and to manage research data where relevant;
- Support the development of technological solutions and services for the implementation of EU water policy.

3. QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF THE IMPLEMENTATION

- Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources, need for a balance between partners in terms of budget;
- Complementarity of the participants within the consortium (when relevant);
- Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk and innovation management.
- The participants and their capability of performing the project based on the CC and PIs CV. Maximum one-page CV for each will be evaluated (Page layout and font must not be modified).

V.4.2. Scoring System

The Water JPI 2018 Joint Call scoring system uses a **1-6 point scale** (no half-marks allowed).

If the Pre-Proposal or Full-Proposal is within the scope of the call, the following scoring system should be applied:

LIMITED (scoring value = 1). The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.

ADEQUATE (scoring value = 2). The criterion is insufficiently addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses.

SIGNIFICANT (scoring value = 3). The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are relevant weaknesses.

GOOD (scoring value = 4). The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.

VERY GOOD (scoring value = 5). The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a minor number of shortcomings are present.

EXCELLENT (scoring value = 6). The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. The expected results should give a competitive advantage to the targeted end-users.

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 and funding priorities: Group A (high priority), Group B (medium priority) and Group C (low funding priority). 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 funding ratio limit of 3, as stated in the Call Announcement. Pre-proposals in Group C were dismissed for their low classification and unviability of funding.

The **threshold mark for funding** for individual criteria will be **4**. The overall **threshold mark**, applying to the sum of the three individual scores, will be **14**.

Evaluators have to identify strengths and weaknesses (if any) for each criterion and should 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 CSC 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.

V.5. Evaluation Procedures

V.5.1 STEP-1: Pre-Proposals

All eligible pre-proposals will be subject to a scientific evaluation by external evaluators based on two criteria - 'Excellence' and 'Impact'. A ranked list of pre-proposals will be produced based on the final scores.

The objective of this first step is to identify the best proposals to proceed to Step-2, and ensure the balance between the requested and available funds at the national level. For this purpose, the FPOs will consider setting a value ratio of about 3 as a standard between requested and available funding per country and will take any decision for reducing oversubscription.

V.5.2 External Evaluators

The external evaluators involved in the pre-proposal step will be selected taking into consideration the number of applications for each topic/subtopic, a good gender balance, a fair geographic and institutional distribution, an open nationality policy (part of the evaluators may come from countries not participating in the Call to allow for additional flexibility in case of conflicting interests), and a diversified professional experience/background in R&I (e.g. policy, academia, industry, etc.).

Role of the External Evaluators

- Submit written individual evaluation reports of the Pre-Proposal(s) assigned to them on the online evaluation portal before the CSC meeting;
- Inform in advance the CS of any potential or disqualifying conflicts of interest (Col);

V.5.3 STEP-2: Full Proposals

All Full-Proposals will be subject to an international peer review by an Evaluation Panel based on three criteria - 'Excellence', 'Impact' and 'Quality and Efficiency of Implementation'. A ranked list of proposals will be produced based on the final scores given to the aforementioned criteria.

V.5.4 Evaluation Panel (EP)

The constitution of the EP will take into consideration the number of applications for each topic/subtopic, a good gender balance, a fair geographic and institutional distribution of evaluators, an open nationality policy (part of the EP members may come from countries not participating in the call to allow for additional flexibility in case of conflicting interests) and a diversified professional experience/background in R&I (e.g. policy, academia, industry, etc.).

The proposals will be distributed among the EP members according to their expertise. 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.

Each proposal will be evaluated with the assistance of at least three Panel members: 1st Reader and Rapporteur, 2nd Reviewer, and 3rd Reviewer.

The composition of the EP (as a group and not per individual proposal) will be made public once the CSC has made their final funding decisions and published on the Water JPI webpage and on the Water JPI 2018 Joint Call FPO's webpages.

Role of the Evaluation Panel

- Submit written individual evaluation reports of the proposal(s) assigned to them on the online evaluation portal before the panel meeting;
- Inform in advance the CS of any potential or disqualifying Cols;
- Inform in advance the CS of the need to obtain additional external evaluations (to provide knowledge in a particular field);
- Prepare the evaluation meeting through a careful reading of all proposals and respective individual evaluations reports. The proposals and respective individual evaluation reports will be made available to all panel members about two weeks before the panel meeting;
- Commonly discuss all full-proposals during the panel meeting, taking into account the individual evaluation reports produced by the external experts and EP members, and decide its final ratings and the comments to be transmitted to the applicants; if there is a lack of consensus in the panel for one proposal, the Chair or an additional external expert will add their opinion to the discussion and to the comments.
- Submit in the online evaluation system a written Consensus Report (CR) for each application explaining the Panel final decision to the applicants and to the CSC; the final decision is thus based on individual reviews and the discussion during the panel meeting;
- Produce the final ranked list of applications. This will be achieved using the final evaluation scores given (based on evaluation criteria scores and threshold levels); the threshold levels will be influenced by the available funding in the Call, and
- Produce a Panel Meeting Report with a summary of the meeting and comments regarding the evaluation process (namely, the working methodology adopted by the panel, the identification of potential Col issues and their resolution and recommendations that might help to improve procedures in future Calls). This report should be signed by all EP members.

Panel Evaluation Meeting

All proposals will be commonly discussed by the EP, barring Cols, and their relative merit assessed. Discussions on each proposal will be led by the first reviewers or rapporteurs and should take into account all individual evaluation reports produced by the reviewers and EP members. Panel members will then reach an agreement on the proposal's final rates and the comments to be transmitted to the applicants.

Advice may also be requested about the relative importance of each partner's contribution to the collaborative proposal.

The CS will be the contact point for the reviewers throughout the evaluation period and will assist the panel during the panel evaluation meeting.

V.5.5 Confidentiality and Conflicts of Interest

Confidentiality

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.

All Evaluators involved in the evaluation are asked not to disclose any information concerning the proposal documents or their evaluation to outsiders, during and after the evaluation process has been concluded. In addition, Evaluators should not copy, quote or otherwise use material contained in the applications for anybody's benefit or disadvantage.

In case of doubts/questions about the proposal documents or evaluations, Evaluators are advised to contact the CS.

Once the evaluation has been completed, External Evaluators or Evaluation Panel members are required to destroy all proposal documents and any copies made of them or return them to the CS.

Conflicts of Interest (Col)

Representatives of the Water JPI 2018 Joint Call FPOs (CSC, CS, NCP's) and Evaluators are required to declare any actual or potential Cols towards the proposals submitted under the Water JPI 2018 Joint Call.

Evaluators that have submitted any applications to the present Call, both as CC, PI or Research Team Member, have to decline participating in the evaluation process.

Circumstances that could be interpreted as a disqualifying Cols are laid down in the following criteria:

1. First-degree relationship, marriage, life partnership, domestic partnership;
2. Personal interest in the application's success or financial interest by persons listed under no.
3. Current or planned close scientific cooperation;
4. Dependent employment relationship or supervisory relationship (e.g. teacher-student relationship up to and including the postdoctoral phase) extending five years beyond the conclusion of the relationship;
5. The affiliation or pending transfer to the applying institutes/organisations;
6. Researchers who are active in a council or similar supervisory board of the applying institution are excluded from participating in the review and decision-making process for applications originating from this institution;

A potential Col may exist, even in cases not covered by the clear disqualifying conflicts indicated above, in the following circumstances:

7. Relationships that do not fall under no. 1, other personal ties or conflicts;
8. Financial interests of persons listed under no.7
9. Participation in university bodies other than those listed under no. 6, e.g. in scientific advisory committees in the research environment;
10. Research cooperation within the last three years, e.g. joint publications;
11. Preparation of an application or implementation of a project with a closely related research topic (competition); and
12. Participating in an on-going scientific or inter-personal conflict with the applicant(s).

The individual Evaluator will not be able to proceed in case of a disqualifying Col. In this case the individual Evaluator is required to inform the CS of the situation, for project re-allocation.

The potential ColS declared will be analysed by the CS in Step-1 and by the CS and the EP Chair in Step-2. Should a Col emerge for any panel member, the Chair should solve it supported by the CS and make an explicit mention of it on the Panel Meeting Report. The reviewer concerned must leave the meeting room during the proposal discussion.

V.5.6 Funding recommendation

Based on the ranking of the full proposals described above, projects will be recommended for National/Organisational funding by the CSC. The outcome of this process will be communicated by the CS to the proposal coordinators, who will then have to inform the Pls of the Consortium Partners.

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

After a positive funding recommendation, 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 CC is responsible for synchronising the project start with his/her partners.

V.5.7 Evaluation process observer

A minimum of one appointed observer from one or more of the involved funding agencies will attend Step-1 CSC meeting, and Step-2 EP and CSC meetings, where the funding recommendations for National Funding Partners are decided. She/He will gather independent information on the External Evaluation process of the first stage through relevant reports and data and through the individual interviews of evaluators realized by the observer during the central evaluations.

Role of the Observer

- To attend all the discussions of the panels and to follow the entire procedure.
- To give independent advice to the CSC on the conduct and fairness of all phases of the evaluation sessions.
- To verify the degree of transparency applied by the evaluators, the respect of the established evaluation criteria and identified best practices for improving the evaluation procedures.
- To verify the conformity of the evaluation processes witnessed with the published evaluation procedures.
- To enter into informal discussions with the CSC Members involved in the evaluation sessions and to suggest any possible improvements that could be put into practice immediately.
- To assess the efficiency and speed of the evaluation procedures as well as the quality of the Call evaluation processes compared to national and/or other international research funding schemes.
- To provide remarks and overall recommendations in order to improve the evaluation processes.

VI. PROJECT FUNDING & REPORTING

VI.1. General Considerations

Please note that the project will be submitted to a two-level funding contractualisation and reporting.

On behalf of the whole consortium, and according to the Water JPI 2018 Joint Call procedures, the CC will be required to submit a Mid-term progress report and a Final report on the Water JPI 2018 Joint Call funded project to the CSC.

In addition, each project partner must comply with the reporting requirements of its respective national FPOs. The CC or his/her representative should attend a minimum of 3 meetings organised by the Water JPI (e.g. kick-off, mid-term and final review meetings).

Funding recipients must ensure that all outcomes (publications, etc.) of transnational Water JPI 2018 Joint Call projects include a proper acknowledgement of Water JPI, the EC, and the respective FPO.

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. Please consult section II.4 on **Open Access and Open Data**.

The consortium partner organisations of the projects selected for funding must fix a common project start date, which will be the reference date for mid-term and final reports.

VI.2. Funded Project Consortium Agreement

The project consortium partners of the selected project should sign a Consortium Agreement (CA) for cooperation before the official project start date, which must address the points given in this document. Upon request, this consortium agreement must be made available to the concerned funding organisations.

The purpose of this document will be:

- To underpin the research partners' collaboration and provide the research partners with mutual assurance on project management structures and procedures, and their rights and obligations towards one another;
- To assure the FPOs that the research consortium has a satisfactory decision-making capability and is able to work together in a synergistic manner.

Models for CAs can be obtained from the EC IPR Helpdesk: <http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org>. In any case, applicants are free to define their CA as long as the following subjects (as a minimum) are addressed by the CA:

- Purpose of and definitions used in the CA;
- Names of organisations involved;
- Common start date of the research project;
- Project structure and project management;
- Role and responsibilities of the research consortium coordinator and the research partners: person in charge, their obligations and key tasks, conditions for their change;
- Deliverables (transnational reports and if relevant requirements for national reports where coordination is required);
- Resources and funding;
- Confidentiality and the rules for publishing;
- Intellectual Property Rights (how this issue will be handled between research partners);
- Dissemination and exploitation strategy;
- Decision making within the consortium;
- Handling of internal disputes; and
- The liabilities of the research partners towards one another (including the handling of default of contract).

VII. TIME SCHEDULE OF THE CALL

Table VII.1: WaterWork2017 Call Schedule

Anticipated Time Schedule		
Stage	Description	Date
	Pre-Announcement	December 2017
Step 1 Pre-Proposals	Call Opening	15 February 2018
	Submission Deadline	19 April 2018 (17.00 hrs CET)
	Notification of Outcomes	9 July 2018
Step 2 Full Proposals	Submission Deadline	18 September 2018 (17.00 hrs CET)
	Notifications of Outcomes and Funding Decisions	30 November 2018
Kick-off	Expected start of funded projects	April 2019

VIII. GLOSSARY

WaterWorks2017 = ERA-NET with the European Commission.

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 calls and of actions of a transnational nature.

Water JPI 2018 Joint Call = Call for Research and Innovation (R&I) proposals.

Funding Partner Organisation (FPO) = partners contributing financially to the call

Call Steering Committee (CSC) = The decision body of the call composed by one representative from each Funding Partners Organisation

Consortium/Consortia = Transnational collaborative R&I proposal(s), from at least 3 countries with FPOs involved in the Call, including eligible entities from at least two EU Member States or H2020 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 2018 Joint Call online submission system, represents the Consortium before the CSC and the CS and, if funded, is responsible for the project internal management.

Principal Investigator (PI) = Researcher/Leader of the research team of an applicant organisation/institution.

IX. COMPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTATION

- Pre-Proposal Instructions (including Pre-Proposal template).
- Full Proposal Instructions (including Full Proposal template).
- National/Regional Regulations (including National Contact Points)

All the documents are (or will be) available for download [Water JPI 2018 Joint Call](#)

X. NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS

2018 Joint Call Contacts		
CALL SECRETARIAT	FORMAS	Swedish Research Council Formas
		Kristina Laurell (VW17@formas.se)
SUBMISSION PLATFORM	ANR	Agence Nationale de la Recherche
		Nuria Ruiz (IC4Watersecretariat@agencerecherche.fr)
Country	F.P.O.	NATIONAL/REGIONAL CONTACT POINTS
Belgium (French-speaking community) (BE)	F.R.S.-FNRS	Joël Groeneveld (joel.groeneveld@frs-fnrs.be)
Brazil (BR)	CONFAP	Elisa Natola (elisa.confap@gmail.com)
Cyprus (CY)	RPF	Anna Maria Christoforou (amchristoforou@research.org.cy)
Egypt (EG)	ASRT	Amr Radwan (amm@sti.sci.eg)
Estonia (EE)	ETAg	Aare Ignat (Aare.Ignat@etag.ee)
Finland (FI)	AKA	Kata-Riina Valosaari (kata-riina.valosaari@aka.fi)
France (FR)	ANR	Nuria Ruiz (ic4watersecretariat@agencerecherche.fr)
Ireland (IE)	EPA	Alice Wemaere (A.Wemaere@epa.ie)
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Netherlands (NL)	NWO	Ron Winkler (r.winkler@nwo.nl)
Norway (NO)	RCN	Johannes Holmen (IC4Watercall@rcn.no)
Poland (PL)	NCBR	Kinga Szymańska-Rzeźnik (kinga.szymanska@ncbr.gov.pl)
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Spain (ES)	MINECO	Maja Molar (waterjpi.ncp@aei.gob.es)
Sweden (SE)	FORMAS	Kristina Laurell (Kristina.Laurell@formas.se)
Tunisia (TN)	IRESA	Saida Rafrafi
Tunisia (TN)	MHSER	Awatef Soltane (awatefsoltane@gmail.com)