

ANNEX I – CALL ANNOUNCEMENT



Water JPI Pilot Call Announcement:

Emerging water contaminants – anthropogenic pollutants and pathogens

Call Deadline	19 December 2013 at 12:00 (CET) and 13:00 (FI time at the Online Services)
Call Secretariat	Academy of Finland
Submission Web Page Choose Water JPI Pilot Call from the list of open calls	Log in http://www.aka.fi/en-GB/A/Funding-and-guidance/Online-service/
Water JPI Website	http://www.waterjpi.eu/

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ADDITIONAL MATERIAL AVAILABLE AT THE WATER JPI WEBSITE:

- Proposal form
- “How to” guide for applicants (AKA’s instructions)
- Evaluation guidelines
- Evaluation form
- Good practices

Abbreviations

AKA = Academy of Finland
 CS = Call Secretariat
 CSC = Call Steering Committee
 EC = Evaluation Committee
 NCP = National Contact Point
 SER = Summary Evaluation Report

INTRODUCTION

Description of the Water JPI

The Joint Programming Initiative “Water Challenges for a Changing World” (the **Water JPI**) is an intergovernmental initiative with the vision of achieving sustainable water systems for a sustainable economy in Europe and abroad. The Water JPI aims at strengthening European leadership and competitiveness in the field of water research and innovation whilst safeguarding water resources. The Water JPI is harmonizing and mobilizing National and Regional Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Programmes. The initiative is composed by 19 partner countries plus the European Commission (non-voting partner). Five additional countries are observers.

A total of 11 Water JPI Partner Organizations (referred to as: Water JPI Funding Partner Organizations, in this document) from 10 partner countries have agreed to launch a Pilot Call in November 2013. This document describes the Pilot Call topic, funding arrangements, proposal procedure incl. eligibility criteria, evaluation and reporting. The Pilot Call procedures have been developed according to three key principles of Water JPI joint activities, i.e. variable geometry, flexibility and responsiveness. These principles are expected to contribute to develop a light management level for this Pilot Call.

Aim of the Pilot Call

The aim of this Pilot Call is to enable multi-national, collaborative research, development and innovation projects addressing questions relating to the water challenges faced by the European society. Water JPI Funding Partner Organizations particularly wish to promote multi-disciplinary work and to encourage proposals with fundamental and/or applied approaches, to stimulate mobility of researchers within the Consortium and to enhance collaborative research and innovation during the project life and beyond.

The Pilot Call theme

The Water JPI Funding Partner Organizations have arranged a Pilot Call for European RDI projects on “**Emerging water contaminants – anthropogenic pollutants and pathogens**”. The theme of this Pilot Call is framed within the priority theme “Developing Safe Water Systems for the Citizens”, as described in the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) of the Water JPI (<http://www.waterjpi.eu>).

Water quality is currently threatened by new emerging contaminants, such as polar compounds, pharmaceuticals, personal care products, perfluorinated and organosilicon compounds, endocrine disruptors, or emerging pathogens (including antibiotic resistant bacteria and viruses), cyanotoxins and nanomaterials, among others. Contaminants affect ecosystem services and societal wellbeing at large. At present, knowledge gaps remain about their environmental behaviour and risks in surface- and groundwater bodies. In recent years, concerns have been raised with respect to the presence of emerging contaminants in treated municipal drinking water. Since removal rates with conventional wastewater treatment processes are often low, discharge of wastewater effluents into receiving water bodies is a major environmental and health issue. Even though emerging contaminants have been mainly detected in surface waters and wastewater, concerns are growing

about their presence in groundwater bodies. Their effects on ecosystem services, ecological and physiological processes, and finally on human health, remain largely unknown.

Scope of the Pilot Call

The overarching aim of this Pilot Call is to identify new ways to efficiently assess, prevent, control and remove emerging freshwater contaminants, thereby preventing risks to human health and securing the ecological functions of water ecosystems now and in the future.

Projects funded in this Pilot Call should produce new scientific and technological knowledge and explore the implementation of novel management measures and technologies, to manage emerging freshwater contaminants and to assess their environmental behaviour. Moreover, projects funded under this Pilot Call will answer some of the RDI needs of controlling the impact of emerging contaminants on human health and citizens' quality of life in the context of reuse of urban effluents in agricultural irrigation, water supply and water storage.

Call Themes

Three themes have been identified as specific challenges within this Pilot Call:

- 1. Identification and prevention of emerging freshwater contaminants;**
- 2. Control, mitigation and methods for treatment and removal; and**
- 3. Impact on ecosystems services and human health.**

At least one of the themes shall be addressed by applicants. In the following sections these three call themes are further described by a series of examples. Applicants are requested to consider these examples only as illustrative of the activities to be developed in successful projects.

I. Identification and prevention of emerging freshwater contaminants

Proposals should aim to develop methods to identify emerging freshwater contaminants, to determine their sources, their behaviour and destination. Moreover, concepts should be investigated to prevent either the appearance or the impact of these contaminants in the future.

For example, proposals may address (but are not limited to) the following aspects:

- Identification of new contaminants as well as their sources;
- Prediction of environmental behaviour in surface water, sediments, soil, groundwater, aquatic food web, as well as in wastewater or drinking water systems;
- Assessing the transfer time of the different contaminants between various environmental compartments as well as understanding the processes suffered during transfer;
- Modelling transport and destination of emerging contaminants as well as the propagation of antimicrobial resistance;
- Development of reliable, sensitive, innovative, and rapid analysis and detection systems;
- Development of comparable and validated data sets on the prevalence and distribution of major contaminants in the freshwater environments; and
- Assessing the formation of transformation products (TP) and elucidating the processes leading to these TPs.

2. Control, mitigation and methods for treatment and removal

Proposals should focus on developing and implementing measures or technologies to control, monitor and mitigate emerging freshwater contaminants. Additionally proposals should evaluate existing mitigation concepts.

For example, proposals may address (but are not limited to) the following aspects:

- Development, implementation and evaluation of management measures and technologies, to control and reduce the dispersal and impact of emerging contaminants on water quality, especially in the context of water reuse;
- Development of technologies for a more efficient removal of these contaminants at source or in urban or rural water treatment systems;
- Evaluation of treatment efficiency and implementation of existing and novel techniques, including monitoring/sensor technologies; and
- Development, implementation and evaluation of mitigation options.

3. Impacts on ecosystem services and human health

Emerging freshwater contaminants have an impact on both ecosystem services and on human health. Proposals should further our understanding of the effects of emerging contaminants on ecosystem functioning and their associated risks. Proposals can also include methods to analyze and understand their influences, and develop appropriate assessment mechanisms.

For example, proposals may address (but are not limited to) the following aspects:

- Impact assessment of emerging contaminants on ecosystem services (ecotoxicology) and human health (toxicology) at different scales, considering short-term and long-term aspects;
- Development of integrated risk assessment methodologies for emerging contaminants; especially for those acting at sub-lethal level;
- Estimation of health risks resulting from new water management practices, such as water reuse in urban areas; and
- Understanding and predicting the environmental behaviour of emerging contaminants in surface water, sediments, soil, groundwater and in freshwater food webs.

Multidisciplinary Approach:

Tackling societal challenges always requires a multidisciplinary approach. Therefore, **all** proposals should emphasize participation of stakeholders, and dissemination and exploitation of results. Consequently, the following statements should be considered when drafting proposals:

- Cross-cutting issues such as socio-economic and/or capacity developing aspects (contributions to standards and norms) constitute an added value to RDI in this field.
- Proposals should build on on-going research activities at EU level and in the participating member states. 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 organizations) is encouraged.
- Communication to European society (e.g. risk management measures) and dissemination to stakeholders for future implementation (e.g. best practice models) should be explicitly addressed by applicants.
- The Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and derived policies should be the basis for the identification of emerging freshwater contaminants in the context of the Pilot Call. Relevance of the proposed RDI activities (identification, monitoring, assessment, etc.) to these policies should be clearly demonstrated.

Proposals can give emphasis to fundamental or applied approaches in relation to the Pilot Call themes. In **all** cases, applicants are required to consider the points above, taking into account the specificities of each proposal.

Projects duration:

Projects can be funded for a period of two to three years.

FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS

Financial framework

The funds provided by the Water JPI Funding Partner Organizations will be used for RDI activities carried out by researchers and institutions according to their respective Water JPI Funding Partner Organization funding rules and legal framework. A virtual common pot model shall be applied to this Pilot Call. Each partner of a successful Consortium will be funded by its national Water JPI Funding Partner Organization, applying national funding and reporting rules (see national annexes). As a consequence, a partner cannot request funding in excess of the amount allocated by the national Water JPI Funding Partner Organization, and, where relevant (i.e. in the case when this information has been provided in the national annex for the respective Water JPI Funding Partner Organization), should take into account the maximum funding to be applied by partner. Eligible costs may vary according to the corresponding Water JPI Funding Partner Organizations regulations.

Water JPI Funding Partner Organizations

A total of around €9 million has been provisionally allocated for this Pilot Call by the 11 Water JPI Funding Partner Organizations from 10 countries:

Country	Funding Organization	National Contact Point	Tentative Budget (EURO)	Web Site
CY	RPF	Dr. Anna – Maria Christoforou (amchristoforou@research.org.cy)	200 000	www.research.org.cy
DK	DSF	Lene Cividanes (lecd@fi.dk) Charlotte Demuth Pedersen (chdp@fi.dk)	500 000	www.fivu.dk
FI	AKA	Kata-Riina Valosaari (kata-riina.valosaari@aka.fi) Harri Hautala (harri.hautala@aka.fi)	500 000	www.aka.fi
FR	ONEMA	Frederique Martini (frederique.martini@onema.fr)	1 200 000 ¹	www.onema.fr
DE	BMBF	Stefanie Pietsch (s.pietsch@fz-juelich.de) Sabine Sorge (s.sorge@fz-juelich.de)	up to 3 000 000	www.bmbf.de www.fona.de/de/9847
IE	EPA	Alice Wemaere (a.wemaere@epa.ie)	150 000	www.epa.ie
IT	MIUR	Aldo Covello (aldo.covello@miur.it) Alberto Martuscelli	300 000 (grant) 400.000	http://www.ricercainternazionale.miur.it/era/programmazione-congiunta/jpi-water.aspx

¹ This amount is subject to endorsement of ONEMA's board at its meeting in November 2013. Would this endorsement fail, the MoU would remain valid with regard to other partners' commitment.

		(alberto.matruscelli@miur.it)	(loan)	
NO	RCN	Per Backe-Hansen (pbh@rcn.no)	500 000	www.forskningradet.no/en
PT	FCT	Sónia Mendes da Silva (sonia.silva@fct.pt)	500 000	www.fct.pt/ www.fct.pt/index.phtml.en
ES	MINECO	Cynthia Monescillo (waterjpi.secretariat@mineco.es) Lourdes Armesto (lourdes.armesto@mineco.es) Rosa Rodríguez Bernabé (rosar.bernabe@mineco.es)	1 000 000	www.mineco.es/research
	CDTI	M ^a José Tomás Sánchez (dptosbcn@cdti.es) Paloma Velasco (paloma.velasco@cdti.es) (dptosbcn@cdti.es)	1 000 000	www.cdti.es

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Submission process

A one-stage application procedure will be used in this call. Proposals (in English language) must be submitted electronically via the [Academy of Finland online services](#).

Who can apply:

Joint transnational RDI proposals may be submitted by groups working in academia, research institutes and industry (including SMEs). An applicant can participate as partner in several proposals. However, if coordinating a proposal, an applicant can **ONLY** participate in the one proposal he/she is coordinating.

Proposals **MUST** involve a minimum of three Consortium Partners from at least three different Water JPI Funding Partner Organizations countries. More than one partner from a same country is possible in each Consortium. However, Consortium should aim for balanced national contributions to the research project. Project Partners from countries, not represented by the Water JPI Funding Partner Organizations, can participate in the research project at their own expense.

Involvement of partners from civil society, stakeholders, administration or industry is explicitly invited. Each Consortium should have the critical mass to achieve ambitious scientific goals and should clearly demonstrate European added value from working together.

A Consortium Coordinator, representing the joint transnational project Consortium will be responsible for its internal scientific management.

Online Submission:

The Coordinator and all Consortium Partners must submit the proposal *via* the online electronic submission tool:

- Step-1. The Coordinator and all Consortium Partners must register online.
- Step-2. The Coordinator must create a draft joint consortium proposal.
- Step-3. The Consortium Partners must submit an online application (see “How to” guide for applicants). Partners **MUST** complete Sections 1, 3, 5, 6 and 7 of the Proposal Form (See “How to” guide for applicants).
- Step-4. The Coordinator must complete all sections and Appendices² of the Proposal Form (See “How to” guide for applicants).

More information on the online submission tool:

Instructions and guidance for registration and electronic submission are available at <http://www.aka.fi/en-GB/A/Funding-and-guidance/Online-service/>.

For technical questions regarding submission, please contact the Call Secretariat (CS):

² Including Appendix 1 and 2: ***CV's and publication lists of all Consortium Partners. The coordinator must submit these appendices on behalf of the other Consortium Partners.***

- Mr. Harri Hautala (harri.hautala@aka.fi)
- Ms. Kata-Riina Valosaari (kata-riina.valosaari@aka.fi)

National Support:

Applicants (Consortium Coordinators and Partners) are strongly encouraged to contact their National Contact Points (NCPs) for information about national regulations before preparing and submitting a proposal. All Water JPI Funding Partner Organizations participating in the Pilot Call have been informed about the joint Pilot Call procedures and will provide assistance to applicants in case of queries. NCPs are listed in the previous Table, on the Water JPI web page and on the Water JPI Funding Partner Organizations web pages.

Call Timeframe

The Pilot Call will go through the processes outlined below. Applicants must pay attention to the deadlines and other dates listed below:

Timeframe of the Pilot Call

20 September 2013 – Pre-announcement of the Pilot Call (registration to the online services will be open)

1 November 2013 – Launch of the Pilot Call for proposals

19 December 2013 at 12:00 (CET) (13:00 FI time at the online Services!) – Deadline for the proposals, proposals received after the deadline will not be considered

1 February 2014 – Eligibility check results, ineligible partners will be informed

February - May 2014 – Evaluation of the proposals

May 2014 – Call Steering Committee (CSC) meeting to make the funding recommendations

May - October 2014 – Final funding decisions by national organizations

Autumn 2014 – Earliest possible start of the funded proposals

EVALUATION AND DECISION PROCEDURE

Eligibility check

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Proposals submitted under this Pilot Call **MUST** meet all of the following criteria to be considered for evaluation:

1. Proposals **MUST** be received before the deadline.
2. Proposals **MUST** meet all the formal criteria (1. electronic submission, 2. page limits³, 3. English language).
3. The theme and topic of the research proposal **MUST** be consistent with the scope of this particular Pilot Call.
4. If coordinating a proposal, an applicant can **ONLY** participate in the one proposal he/she is coordinating.
5. Proposals **MUST** be joint transnational projects.
6. Proposals **MUST** involve a minimum of three Consortium Partners from at least three different Water JPI Funding Partner Organizations countries.
7. The Consortium Coordinator of a **MUST** be funded by one of the Water JPI Funding Partner Organizations.

The CS will assess proposals to ensure that they meet the Pilot Call eligibility criteria. In parallel, the CS will forward the proposals to the Water JPI Funding Partner Organizations, which will perform a formal check of compliance with their respective regulations. *Applicants are strongly advised* to follow the instructions contained in the country-specific national annexes which are published on the Water JPI webpage and to contact their national Water JPI Funding Partner Organization to confirm eligibility matters before submitting a proposal.

Proposals passing the eligibility checks will be forwarded to the Evaluation Committee (EC).

Proposals not meeting the eligibility criteria will be rejected. The CS will communicate to Consortium Coordinators and Partners the firm decisions signed by the Chair of the CSC on non-eligibility on behalf of the CSC. A proposal declared non-eligible will not be sent to the EC.

Evaluation and decision procedure

The EC will be composed by recognized international experts in field of the Pilot Call theme. The proposal evaluation will be performed according to the following specific three evaluation criteria:

I Quality of the proposal (average of sub-criteria rating 1-6; threshold level 5/6)

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1.1 Scientific/technological quality | (sub-rating 1-6) |
| 1.2 Novelty of the proposal | (sub-rating 1-6) |
| 1.3 Relevance of the project to the call | (sub-rating 1-6) |
| 1.4 Feasibility of the project (including budget), facilities available | (sub-rating 1-6) |

³ Please refer to Proposal Form

2 Competence of applicants (average of sub-criteria rating 1-6; threshold level 4/6)

- 2.1 Competence and expertise of the applicant/Consortium (sub-rating 1-6)
- 2.2 Project management (sub-rating 1-6)
- 2.3 Added value of transnational Consortium and complementarity expertise (sub-rating 1-6)

3 Impact (average of sub-criteria rating 1-6; threshold level 4/6)

- 3.1 Societal impact and stakeholder engagement (sub-rating 1-6)
- 3.2 Dissemination and exploitation of the results (sub-rating 1-6)
- 3.3 Potential outputs/results/policy relevance (sub-rating 1-6)

All evaluation criteria and sub-criteria are rated from 1 to 6 (6 = Outstanding, stands out for exceptional novelty, innovativeness and renewal of science at global level, 5 = Excellent, extremely good in international comparison – no significant elements to be improved, 4 = Very good, contains some elements that could be improved, 3 = Good, contains elements that could be improved, 2 = Unsatisfactory, in need of substantial modification or improvement, 1 = Weak, severe flaws that are intrinsic to the proposed project or the plan).

Each evaluation criteria will be calculated based on the average of the evaluation sub-criteria (all evaluation sub-criteria have the same weight within each evaluation criterion). Proposals will be given a score which is the sum of the three evaluation criteria. The threshold level for the project to be considered for funding is 13/18 points in total.

The EC will establish a ranking list of shortlisted proposals. This will be achieved using the Final Evaluation Scores based on evaluation criteria and threshold levels for each criterion.

Proposals which fail to meet at least one of the evaluation criteria thresholds will not be considered for funding. Proposals which have a Final Evaluation Score below the funding threshold of 13 will not be considered for funding.

The CSC will use the ranking list to select the projects to be funded, taking into account the available national budgets. The number of projects that will receive funding will be subject to the funds availability. Formal funding decisions will be ultimately made by the Water JPI Funding Partner Organizations based on the CSC recommendations.

The Consortium Coordinator and Partners will be notified by a letter from the CS of the outcome of the evaluation (Summary Evaluation Report) and the decision on funding.

An appeal may not be lodged against the CSC decisions.

Project funding and reporting

Partners of funded projects must communicate with their respective national funding agency for all aspects related to funding and reporting.

The Consortium Coordinator has the following obligations in respect to the CS:

- Ensure that a Consortium Agreement is in place between all partners in the Consortium and Inform the CS about the completion of the Consortium agreement
- Inform the CS about any major change in the course of the project affecting the Consortium as a whole (e.g. changes in work plan, scope or in the Consortium; substantial delays).
- Submit a brief mid-term report and a final report to the CS. These reports are to be submitted using the templates which will be provided by the CS. The reports are due three months before the project has reached the half time of its duration and three months before the completion date.
- Coordinate the participation of the Consortium in Water JPI project networking activities, follow-up sessions and dissemination of results. Specific provisions should be made for these activities in the project budget.
- Ensure that all project publications in any media include proper acknowledgement to the Water JPI, the Pilot Call and the respective funding partner organizations. A detailed list should be provided as part of the final reporting.

In addition, each partner in the Consortium must comply with the interim reporting requirements of their respective Water JPI Funding Partner Organization.

National annexes