

COMMON REGULATIONS

of the 2nd Joint IWRM-NET Call
for Research on

Integrated Water Resource Management

- for Applicants –

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1. CALL FUNDING

For the 2nd Joint Call, IWRM-NET will offer grant funding by applying the 'National Contributions Model' ('virtual common pot'), i.e. every country will fund applicants from its own country but may support project partners lacking own funding via subcontracting. National budgets will be announced on the IWRM-NET website. Where countries are not willing to make this information public, an asterisk (*) will indicate that the information is only available upon request.

Applicants are encouraged to bring in third party funding, but this will not preclude the funding of highly ranked proposals which lack such contributions. The grant rate within the Call will be variable depending upon individual funder's rules. These rates and additional conditions will be communicated by the respective national funders. In any case, every Partner of a Project Consortium must provide evidence of suitable financial support to cover their costs, which will not be covered by IWRM-NET.

Funding rates and categories will be subject to national regulation.

2. SUBMISSION AND EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

In order to ensure that all project proposals will meet the interest and needs of their respective national funding organization it will be mandatory for applicants to contact their national help desk in advance of official application. Only if the national help desk approve on the topic and budget requested, the consortium may submit the proposal to the PTKA-Call Secretariat according to the terms of the 'Applicants Guide' until October 15, 2009.

For reasons of comparability and to ease the evaluation process and project ranking, a single 'Common Application Form' (download: <http://www.iwrM-net.eu>) has to be filled in English. Additional national requirements are up to national rules.

The Project Coordinators have to send full proposals of the whole consortium

1. electronically to iwrM-net@ptka.fzk.de to arrive 15 October 2009 and
2. one signed paper hard copy to the PTKA-Call Secretariat to be posted by 15 October 2009 and arrive no later than 19 October 2009.

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The applications will be registered and their proposals go through the following evaluation stages.

First, the proposals will be formally checked whether they comply with the principles of the call and national regulations:

(I) Number of participants and their place of establishment

Any legal entity eligible to participate in the national RTD programmes of the IWRM-NET partner countries may apply for funding under the IWRM-NET coordinated call.

Only consortia that provide a minimum of three partners from different countries will be eligible. Research teams from other countries might participate as partners, given that at least 2 IWRM-NET partner countries are part of the consortium.

(II) Compliance with Procedures

Only proposals which are fully compliant with the procedures outlined in the 'Applicants' Guide' (incl. completeness of application documents and approval of the project by the national help desk) shall be eligible for consideration for funding.

(III) Ethics

Applicants will be asked to sign a declaration as part of the proposal process, that the project does not contravene the European principle of ethics as applied for FP7.

Any proposal which appears to offend against fundamental ethical principles shall not be selected, and may be excluded from the evaluation and selection procedure at any time.

(IV) Meeting the deadline

Electronic proposals arriving after the deadline of October 15, 2009 will not enter the evaluation procedure and will be sent back to the applicant.

Eligible applications will be sent to the responsible national partners for checking on the national formal requirements. Those proposals which pass the formal check will then be forwarded to and judged by an independent international scientific review board for assessing the quality of scientific content and respective ranking.

The outcome of all evaluations will be documented in an online call coordination scheme (restricted access; for IWRM-NET members and funders only).

Once the funding decision is taken, the PTKA-Call Secretariat will – on behalf of IWRM-NET - send notification letters to the project coordinators to inform them on the outcome of the final funding decision incl. the evaluation summary of the proposal.

3. CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIPS

Funding Contracts

Each project includes several consortium members called Project Partners and one Project Coordinator. Each Project Partner (including the Project Coordinator) will have a separate funding contract or likewise, (dependent on the national regulations) with one of the national funding bodies. The contracts will be let in coordinated way such that the projects will be delivered trans-nationally.

Each funding contract for an approved project shall have an identical finish date.

If a Project Partner leaves a Project Consortium, the problem has to be solved by the Project Consortium in line with its consortium agreement. The national funders must be kept informed of any such events.

Any changes in the work plan should only be minor and will need to be authorised by the funders, who in turn will inform the SCP of any event which might affect the implementation of the project.

Research Consortium Agreements

IWRM-NET requires all successful research consortia to enter into consortium agreements between themselves, in order to manage the delivery of the project activities, finances, Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) and to avoid disputes, which might be detrimental to the completion of the project. After the funding decision for a project, the consortium agreement needs to be signed by the Project Partners and confirmation of this has to be sent to all the respective funding organisations.

It will be the responsibility of the Project Coordinators to draw up a consortium agreement suitable to their own group. The consortium agreement will normally be under the law and legal system of the country of the Project Coordinator. The purpose of this document will be:

- To underpin the researchers collaboration, and provide the researchers with mutual assurance on project management structures and procedures, and their rights and obligations towards one another and;
- To assure the research funders that the Project Consortia have a satisfactory decision making capability and are able to work together in a synergistic manner.

The following subjects (as a minimum) should be addressed by the Consortium Agreement:

- purpose and definitions
- organisation and management of the project:
- coordinator: nomination of the Research Coordinator for the consortium and description of the role of the coordinator;
- research partners: persons in charge, role & key tasks, and conditions for their change; obligations and responsibilities of the research partners;
- deliverables (transnational reports and if relevant requirements for national reports where co-ordination is required);
- resources and funding;
- confidentiality and publishing;
- intellectual property rights (how this will be handled between the partners);
- decision making within the consortium;
- handling of internal disputes;
- the liabilities of the partners towards one another (including the handling of default of contract).

Project Commencement

A project can commence as soon as all partners involved have agreed on a consortium agreement, time schedule for the project and funding modalities.

Once the contracts come into effect, eligible costs may be claimed according to the national rules. In the interim period, researchers may commence work on the project at their own risk and costs.

4. PROGRESS MONITORING, REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND APPROVAL OF DELIVERABLES

Although Project Partners are jointly responsible for delivery of the work, the Project Coordinator of each research consortium will be responsible to coordinate and fulfil the reporting needs of IWRM-NET. These common reports are independent from national reporting of each partner and have to be written in English and structured according to the Report Template (Download: <http://www.iwrM-net.eu>).

Reports and scientific publications evolving from the research projects have to be submitted in printed and electronic form to the scientific coordination project (SCP contact will be provided). The submission dates will be specified in the funding contracts or notifications. There will be one interim report (connected to the mid-term seminar) and one final report both of which have to be sent to the SCP and national funders for evaluation.

In case of a critical result of the review, the Project Coordinator has to amend the report and send a revised version for approval. During the 2nd IWRM-NET funding initiative, three joint meetings will be summoned for participation of all joint project coordinators and sub-project

leaders: A kick-off (linked to the IWRM-NET final conference), a mid-term and a final meeting. Travel expenses have to be covered by the individual project partners, not the SCP.

5. OWNERSHIP OF KNOWLEDGE

Results and new IPRs resulting from projects funded through the IWRM-NET 2nd Call will be owned by the researchers and therefore allocation of ownership of IPRs has to be regulated in the Consortium Agreement.

The results of the research project and IPRs created should be actively exploited and made available for use, whether for commercial gain or not, in order for public benefit to be obtained from the knowledge created. Researchers will be expected to make available either free of charge or for fair and reasonable royalties the IPRs created in the projects.

All IWRM-NET consortium members shall have the right to use documents, information and results submitted by the Project Partners and/or to use the information and results for their own purposes, provided that the owner's rights are kept and taking care to specify their provenance.

6. DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE

A major objective of IWRM-NET is the trans-national delivery of a work programme and knowledge transfer of the common results amongst the participating countries and more widely. Thus, participants in projects funded under the 2nd IWRM-NET Call will be expected to proactively promote the knowledge and results arising from the work undertaken. Project proposals should thus contain detailed dissemination plans. The dissemination of project results should generate multiplier effects within Europe.

Further efforts should be made to develop innovative ways of transferring research results to target groups of end-users in order to help the uptake of the results by relevant policy makers and/or implementers. Proposals should include specific details of the activities and measures proposed, as well the ways in which their effectiveness will be measured.

In general, public access to deliverables should be given a high priority by proposers and dissemination activity should be described in project final reports. IWRM-NET and/or the SCP will take further steps to disseminate the knowledge resulting from projects of the Call. The active participation of the funded project consortia in the final IWRM-NET conference in 2010 (kick-off of the funding initiative as a side event) will be obligatory for successful proposers.

Project Consortia are urged to establish a presentation of their funded research project on their web site. This presentation has to be published at the latest three months after the start of the project.