



BlueBio Call Announcement

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Project no: 817992
Project title: ERA-NET Cofund on Blue Bioeconomy (BlueBio) – Unlocking the Potential of Aquatic Bioresources
Instrument: ERA-NET Cofund Actions
Project Start date: 1st December 2018

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1 Background of the Second Additional BlueBio Call

1.1 BlueBio ERA-NET Cofund

The ERA-NET Cofund on Blue Bioeconomy - Unlocking the Potential of Aquatic Bioresources (BlueBio) successfully continues the work of the ERA-NET Marine Biotechnology¹ (ERA-MBT, 2012 - 2017) and COFASP² (2012-2017) and was developed under the umbrella of JPI Oceans.

The ERA-NET Cofund instrument under Horizon 2020 is designed to support public-public partnerships between Member States (MS) and associated countries for the implementation and coordination of networking activities. The BlueBio ERA-NET Cofund launches calls for proposals and related activities.

BlueBio consists of a network of 32 partners from 17 European countries.

1.2 Objectives of BlueBio network

BlueBio aims to achieve a sustainable and competitive blue bioeconomy in Europe with the following objectives:

- knowledge generation for blue bioeconomy value chains,
- improvements to the transfer of bio-based products and services from research, innovation and demonstration to production scale through implementation of a multi-actor approach.

This Cofund contributes to the production of safe, nutritious and valuable bio-products and services, applying the food first principle. To do this, BlueBio launches calls to attract projects on the use and added value of aquatic biomass (freshwater and marine) in integrated value chains from primary production to processing, generating innovative products and services within the bioeconomy. The biomass may be caught, harvested or produced in water or on land. To promote the circular economy concept, the use of production waste as a resource should be strongly considered, as well as the consequences of any new method or product from the wider value chain perspective. Gaps along the blue bioeconomy value chain(s) (Figure 1) have been identified and are addressed in BlueBio funding calls.

Establishing a coordinated R&D funding scheme contributes to the development of research-based innovations and will strengthen Europe's position in the Blue Bioeconomy in the global market. This approach is building on the overlapping needs identified by the strategic work of the Marine Biotechnology Strategic Research and Innovation Roadmap developed by ERA-MBT, the Strategic Research Agenda of COFASP, and the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda of JPI Oceans.

Stimulation of new R&I, synergies and collaboration with industries (off-shore and land-based) will be sought, in particular with SMEs. This should include improvements in the integration of the biotechnology toolbox and knowledge within industrial sectors.

¹<https://www.marinebiotech.eu/>

²<http://www.cofasp.eu/>

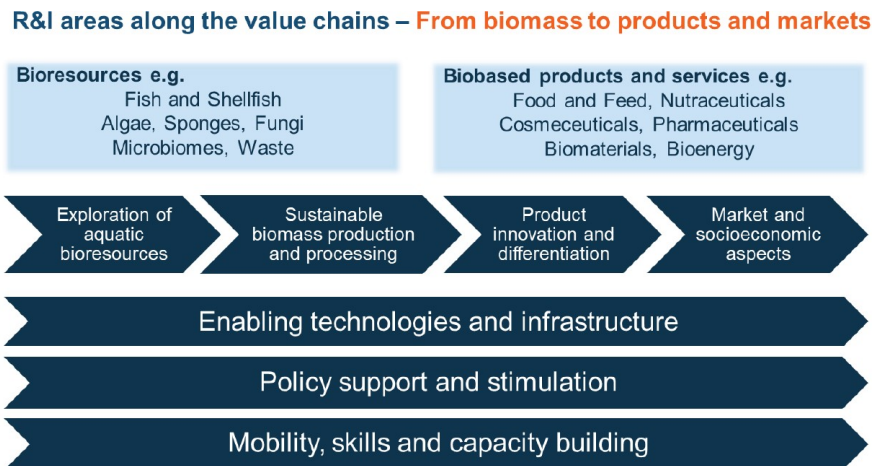


Figure 1. Blue Bioeconomy R&I areas along the value chains from biomass to products and markets, showing crosscutting R&I areas in lower part of the figure.

2 Participation in the Call and Funding Models

The following partners are providing funding for this second additional call: Belgium, Croatia Denmark, Estonia, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Malta, and Norway.

Funding for transnational projects is based on a virtual common pot instrument. This means that applicants granted funding will receive the grant directly from their national/regional funding institution in accordance with their terms and conditions.

Applicants should be aware that the national funding organisations participating in the call may have different administrative rules. Therefore, applicants are strongly advised to consider the National Regulations/National Factsheets published in Annex 2 of this document. Applicants (coordinators and partners) should contact their national or regional funding bodies prior to submission of the pre-proposal for further information.

Applicants will get guidance from the Call Secretariat and the National Contacts of the BlueBio consortium listed in Annex 1. The participation of applicants not requesting funding from partner countries of the consortium or other countries is allowed. **Applicants not requesting funding must bring their own funds and provide a letter of commitment stating this as part of the full proposal submission.** These partners are not considered in the required minimum number of eligible partners and countries and cannot apply as coordinators of the research proposal consortium. Their participation will not affect the selection process.

The non-eligibility of a partner in a consortium may result in the rejection of the entire proposal. The proposal evaluation and selection process will be a two-step procedure. All documents related to the Call (Call Announcement, National Contact Persons etc.) are available on www.submission-bluebio.eu.

Proposals may have a **research**; **research and innovation**; or **demonstration** purpose depending on the scope of the project and the funding agencies involved in funding the partners. **Industry active involvement is mandatory to ensure an applied perspective and industry relevance.** Using new methods and technologies may require multidisciplinary approaches where the development of toolboxes and enabling technologies may be an integrated part. Project proposals with Technology Readiness Level up to 7 (Figure 2) will be accepted provided the national funding agencies in question

can fund them (see National Factsheets Annex 2). **Projects should propose advancements in TRL levels during their lifetime.**

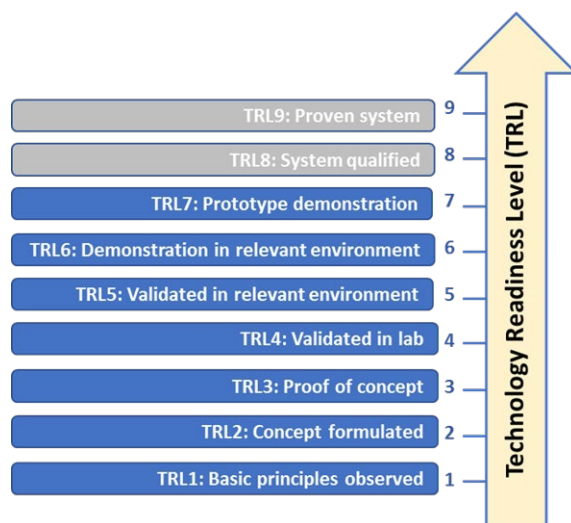


Figure 2. Technology Readiness Levels, with those accepted by this BlueBio second additional call indicated in blue.

3 Call Scope and Priority Area

3.1 Advancing Resource Management, Market and Socioeconomic aspects in the Blue Bioeconomy Value Chains

This call aims to facilitate research and innovation to underpin sustainable and circular management and use of natural resources (**Resource Management**, Figure 3). This will encompass an integrated food systems approach to ensure ecosystem integrity and resilience. Furthermore, acceptability, trust, transparency, and innovation uptake by citizens are key to developing the Blue Bioeconomy sector. To this end the production and consumption of safe and healthy food and bio-based products (food and nutrition security) is vital and this call will address market and socioeconomic aspects of the value chain to foster solutions to these issues (**Market**, Figure 3).

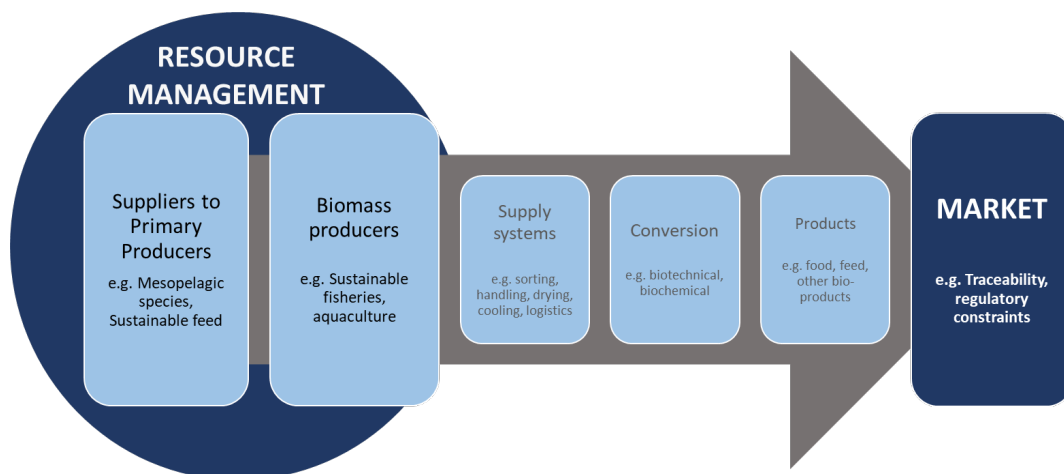


Figure 3. Blue Bioeconomy Value Chain with gaps in R&I identified for this call

3.2 Resource Management – Subtopics A & B

A growing demand for aquatic (freshwater and marine) living resources has resulted in significant pressures on ecosystems, with many resources exploited beyond sustainable levels and environmental impacts of destructive fishing and other activities evident. The challenge of producing safe, nutritious and valuable products and services from the blue bioeconomy should be met by sustainable and resilient food systems i.e. those that maintain ecosystem integrity and resilience. The fourth SCAR foresight report recommended the implementation of the bioeconomy through the following set of principles: food first, sustainable yields, cascading approach, circularity and diversity. This approach should comprise of integrated food value chains, taking a holistic approach to sustainable development of Blue Bioeconomy industries and ensuring resources are conserved (SDG14 – ‘Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources’). A balance between environmental, social and economic goals is crucial but presents many challenges and ensuring that food production needs, including functional ingredients for human health, are met for a growing global population requires innovative solutions. The transition to a bio-based, sustainable society has resulted in higher demand of bio-resources and multiple end-products from the same biomass with the Blue Bioeconomy Forum Roadmap highlighting the need for more research on the use of underutilised fish and other marine biomass.

3.3 Market – Subtopic C

The development of new blue bioeconomy products must coincide with complimentary research and innovation on market and socioeconomic aspects, particularly where the attributes of these products are still being debated. Thus, the Blue Bioeconomy Forum roadmap suggests undertaking a study on the values, functionalities, environmental footprint and health benefits of different types of blue products to increase consumer awareness and acceptance. Going forward, sustainable and resilient food production systems that guarantee transparency and traceability of aquatic food products will become the norm to ensure consumer buy-in for new products. Food supply chains are under pressure to provide information about quality, food safety, organic status, and environmental impact with increased consumer demand for easily accessible information. It is imperative that robust and effective tracing standards and regulations are implemented across the bio-based sector. This ties in with the industry vision for a circular bio-society in 2050 which fosters food security for a growing world population and meets its demand for sustainable products.

3.4 Themes and Cross-cutting Activities

Project proposals are expected to deliver impacts on at least one of the following topics:

Table 1. BlueBio second additional call thematic areas and topics

Thematic Area	Topics
A. Sustainable exploration of the aquatic environment and biological resources	A1: Identification, assessment and sustainable exploitation of new and underutilised species of aquatic organisms and biomass (e.g. mesopelagics)
B. Sustainable and resilient biomass production and processing	B1: Develop and test sustainable feed sources for the blue bioeconomy B2: Demonstration of sustainable and resilient 'circular' production systems e.g. IMTA, land-based aquaculture B3: Testing and demonstrating innovative processing systems for sustainable production of blue bioeconomy products
C. Traceability and regulatory constraints	C1: Development of standards, processes and consumer engagement to underpin smart, efficient traceable blue bioeconomy food systems C2: New approaches to the efficient and sustainable use of by-products, with an emphasis on regulatory constraints

Project proposals should give an indication of the technology readiness level (TRL) before and after the project, with advancements in level expected by the end of the project. Synergies with land-based production and cross-sector approaches to problems and solutions may be explored. Consideration should be given to cascading principles, circularity and the potential for multiple products from the same biomass. In addition, the use of **-omics** to facilitate, for example, identification of species or biomolecules (Topic A1) or for the assessment of food authenticity, quality and safety (in Topic C1) is encouraged.

Proposals should seek to be complementary and avoid duplication to ongoing or recently finished projects funded under Horizon 2020, ERA-Nets (e.g. <https://bluebioeconomy.eu/projects/>), BBI JU or other funding schemes (e.g. [ASTRAL](#), [MEESO](#), [SUMMER](#), [Mission Atlantic](#), [AtlantECO](#), [iAtlantic](#), [TRIATLAS](#), [AquaVitae](#), plus others). Further examples of projects funded in this area can be found at <http://projectdatabase.cofasp.net/> (database developed by BlueBio ERA-Net) and <https://www.submariner-network.eu/> (for Baltic Sea region). Applicants should demonstrate awareness of the current research and commercial landscape to avoid overlap in initiatives and projects, particularly previously funded BlueBio projects. Wherever possible, existing data should be leveraged. Any utilisation of aquatic resources must be carried out in accordance with **the Nagoya Protocol** and all actions must be in compliance with **ethical principles**, including the highest standards of **research integrity**, and applicable national, EU and international law. Where relevant, **gender balance** of proposals and research should be addressed.

For all themes and topics above, projects are encouraged to integrate **Life Cycle thinking** (e.g. full assessments or hotspot analysis) to assess potential environmental impacts of processes, products or

services, focusing on a holistic value chain approach. The European Platform of Life Cycle Assessment provides further information and tools as examples (<https://eplca.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>).

3.5 Responsible Research and Innovation

Research and Innovation must respond to societal needs in order to deliver greater societal and economic impact. In order to achieve this, the concept of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) developed. In 2013, the UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) committed to a framework for responsible innovation and The Research Council of Norway launched their RRI-framework in 2015. This approach to RRI is also endorsed by the European “RRI-Practice project” (www.rri-practice.eu). In the blue economy sector, the GRRIP project aims to deliver a RRI framework to aid in implementing institutional and cultural change in research organisations particularly focused on the marine and maritime (<https://grrip.eu>).

Such deliberations depend on activities utilizing the project’s scope to initiate learning processes and experiments giving insight and understanding among the project participants, stakeholders and the larger community. **Project proposals are required to respond to the need for building competence and skills as indicated in the framework and include a plan for how this is addressed in the project. This can be either as a separate work package or by utilizing the deliverables in the project. Inclusion of specific competence and budget may be necessary.**

RRI is implemented as a package that includes the uptake of ethics in the research and innovation content and process. Thus, for all activities supported by the European Union, ethics is an integral part of research from beginning to end of each project. Details of the species and rationale for animal use, nature of the experiments, procedures and techniques as well as the justification of animal use and a lack of alternatives to animal use should be specified in the RRI section at **full proposal stage**. Where applicable, permission from appropriate ethical bodies should be acquired.

In order to implement the RRI aspects we expect projects to address:

- involvement of stakeholders in dialogues to make informed decisions about safe, healthy and sustainable food
- societal matters and public attitudes towards bio-based products and services to develop acceptable products and services in the markets
- policymaking in bio-based research, innovation and technology development
- improving the professional skills and competences of those working and being trained to work within the blue bioeconomy
- training and mobility of personnel

Funded projects will be invited to workshops (a learning platform) to develop and implement good RRI practices.

3.6 Human Capacity Building (HCB)

One of the main goals of the call is to facilitate the exchange and sharing of knowledge and technology between ongoing projects and to disseminate projects’ results in such a way that they deliver the greatest societal and economic impacts. In particular, projects should aim to improve the knowledge

uptake to scientific educators, science-policy makers and industry actors, for their further use/implementation in future initiatives at local, national or EU level. To facilitate this, the role of **Human Capacity Building and, more specifically, of training and mobility (between countries and/or sectors) tools for the actors involved should be described in the project work plan.**

Addressing training and mobility activities, even when not explicitly contemplated as part of the pre-proposals, is expected to be duly evidenced and described in full proposals, along with the use of large-scale facilities, where applicable. In addition, in order to facilitate the evaluation of HCB activities embedded in projects, proposers should be prepared to respond to an *ad hoc* questionnaire.

For more details, please refer to the “Recommendations for HCB and training activities embedded in BlueBio funded projects” document, accessible in BlueBio website at the following link: https://www.submission-bluebio.eu/lw_resource/datapool/_items/item_220/Summary_recommendations.pdf

3.7 Communication/Dissemination

Communication of the results and developments from research and innovation activities to key decision-makers, the blue growth industry and the general public is of particular importance for well-informed dialogues. The **projects must include a communication plan** that describes concrete measures and activities (e.g. training, workshops etc.) directed towards various groups of stakeholders. This must also reflect the “inclusive dimension” from RRI to invite relevant stakeholders into the processes. To ensure effective dissemination of research findings, the project must attach considerable importance to both scientific publication and user-oriented communication activities. Information targeting end-users of the research must be given high priority.

Communication should comprise a separate work package in the project, and expenses related to this may be considered project cost if they are eligible according to the national rules applicable to the proposers.

Dissemination of project results is requested in the form of various communication routes such as, but not limited to, scientific papers, conference posters, courses or training material, web-based tools, informative videos, workshops or direct intervention towards end users. The communication methods used shall contribute to accelerating the development of a BlueBio Knowledge Community in Europe that fosters cooperation and support, strengthens collaborative research and provides products and services, jobs and sustainable Blue Growth.

4 Funding Details

The funding available for the BlueBio second additional call is outlined below in Table 2. This includes the budgets from respective funding bodies, specifics regarding funding for industry or research institutions, TRLs funded and any other priorities, limitations or additional comments specific to national funders.

Table 2. Overview of funding opportunities for second additional BlueBio call 2021

Country	Funding Organisation *	Budget (€)	Can fund		TRL	Priorities, Limitations, Other comments
			Industry	Research Institutions		
Belgium	VLAIO	1,500,000	X		Up to 7	
Croatia	HRZZ	100,000		X	Up to 7	
Denmark	MVFM & IFD	1,000,000	X	X	2 – 7	
Estonia	ETAG	100,000	X	X	2 - 7	
Estonia	MEM	100,000		X	>3	
Iceland	RANNIS	1,000,000	X	X	>3	Industry involvement preferable
Ireland	MI	200,000	X	X	Up to 7	
Italy	MIUR	1,000,000	X	X	Up to 7	See national criteria for details
Malta	MCST	300,000	X	X	Up to 7	
Norway	RCN	2,700,000	X	X	Up to 7	
TOTAL		8,000,000				

* VLAIO: Agency for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, MVFM: Ministry of the Environment and Food, IFD: Innovation Fund Denmark, ETAG: Estonian Research Council, MEM: Ministry of Rural Affairs, RANNIS: Icelandic Centre for Research, MI: Marine Institute, MIUR: Ministry of Education, University and Research, MCST: Council for Science and Technology, RCN: Research Council of Norway

5 Call Secretariat

The Call Secretariat will provide administrative and technical support to applicants for the call, call documents and procedures. It is the primary point of contact between the research project consortium represented by the coordinator and the BlueBio funding parties for all general matters in relation to the co-funded call. The Call Secretariat is hosted by JUELICH (Table 3).

All personal data offered for project applications as well as for subscription to newsletters, other mailing lists, tracking websites, registration for activities and events will be collected, stored and processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (Regulation (EU) 2016/679). A data protection officer (DPO) is appointed to ensure compliance GDPR rules.

Table 3. Point of contact for second additional BlueBio call.

Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH Wilhelm-Johnen-Str. D-52428 Jülich	For application and submission issues	
	Jella Kandziora	E-mail: j.kandziora@fz-juelich.de
		Phone: +49 2461 61 5663
	Dr Veronika Jablonowski	E-mail: v.jablonowski@fz-juelich.de
		Phone: +49 2461 61 5083
	Data Protection Officer	
Frank Rinkens	E-mail: DSB@fz-juelich.de	
	Phone: +49 2461 61 9005	

6 Dates and Deadlines

Important dates and deadlines relating to the second additional BlueBio call are shown in Table 4. In the pre-proposal and full proposal stage, the calls will be open for applicants for at least 60 days.

Table 4. Important dates and deadlines for second additional BlueBio call

DATE	EVENT
8 th Jun 2021	Call opened for pre-proposals
15 th Jun 2021	Brokerage Event
21 st Jun 2021	Matchmaking Sessions
20th Sep 2021 13:00 (CEST)	Deadline for pre-proposal submissions
11 th Oct – 15 th Nov 2021	Evaluation (peer review)/ Selection
14th Dec 2021	Invitation for submission of full proposals
21st Feb 2022	Closing date for full proposals
8 th Mar – 25 th Apr 2022	Evaluation (peer review)/ Selection
1 st June 2022	Start of negotiation with selected projects
December 2022	All projects should have started
TBC	Kick-off meeting

7 Application – General Eligibility Criteria

The application must meet and consider the following general eligibility criteria:

- The transnational consortium must consist **of at least three** independent eligible legal entities from **at least three** BlueBio partner countries listed in Annex 2.
- The maximum project size consists of **ten** eligible partners. Industry or research institutes from partner or non-partner countries with own funds **are not** included in this number. Within a project, a maximum number of **five** applicants from partner or non-partner countries who bring their own funds, will be accepted.
- All proposals must involve **both research organisations and industry**. Participation of SMEs is especially encouraged.
- The application must be written in English.
- Projects should have a **maximum** duration of **36 months**.
- The requested funding cannot exceed **1.5 M €** per proposal (average project funding requested in 2020 call was €1.1 million).
- Total requested budget of a country **cannot exceed 60 %** of the total eligible project budget in order to achieve balanced partnerships and ensure that responsibility and risks are shared.
- **Letters of Commitment (LoC)** must be submitted (online via the submission tool) by each partner in a project consortium during the **full proposal stage**. The LoC needs to be (electronically) signed by an appropriate official of the entity.
- Each project partner asking for funding must respect also its own national eligibility criteria, listed in Annex 2. Some national agencies may also require the submission of national documents.

8 Submission of Pre-proposal

The pre-proposal must be submitted electronically via the BlueBio submission website (www.submission-bluebio.eu) by **Monday, September 20th, 2021, 13.00 CET**. Detailed instructions for the use of the electronic submission are described on the BlueBio website (www.bluebio.eu).

It will be possible to update and resubmit the pre-proposal as many times as required up to the submission deadline, but not after the deadline has expired.

Applicants should note that the online system may experience high traffic volumes in the last hours before the submission deadline and it is therefore highly recommended that the final version of the pre-proposal is submitted well in advance of the deadline to avoid any last-minute technical problems. Requests for extensions to the deadline due to last minute technical problems will not be considered.

If national/regional forms are required for individual partners, these must be submitted directly to the national/regional agency by the deadlines stated (see Call Documents at www.submission-bluebio.eu).

The application should be submitted by the project coordinator on behalf of the project consortium.

8.1 Project Coordinator

Each project consortium must appoint a project coordinator, who, in any commissioned project, has the following role and responsibilities:

- Be the primary point of contact between the Call Secretariat and the researchers on behalf of the project consortium from submission of the pre-proposal until publication of the final report;
- Submit the application on behalf of the project consortium;
- Responsible for compilation and submission of mid-term and final monitoring reports and other deliverables to the BlueBio network on behalf of the project consortium;
- Ensure that all project milestones and deliverables are met and take action according to the project management plan if one or more partners fail to deliver;
- Inform the BlueBio consortium about any event that might affect the implementation of the project;
- Is fully responsible for the overall project coordination and will ensure that all work is carried out to a high standard;
- Is responsible for sharing all information with project consortium partners.

Consortia should be aware that failure of one partner within the consortium to meet the national/regional eligibility criteria may result in the rejection of the entire proposal. It is therefore strongly recommended that the project coordinator verifies that the project partners contact their National Contacts in order to check their eligibility.

8.2 Partner Description

The following information about the project partners must be submitted during **pre-proposal stage**, including information about the coordinator (and every partner, which partners can enter):

- Contact information, including first and last name, name of the organisation, status of the organisation, address and phone number, e-mail address, team members, expertise and personal role in the project (max. 1,000 characters);

- Short description (max. 1,000 characters) about current position of the coordinator, partners and collaborators in the project, fields of expertise and other relevant experience. Description of ongoing projects related to the present priority area indicating project name, funding source and amount, and potential overlap or link with the current proposal (if any);

Confirmation to act in compliance with EC Guidelines on ethical issues:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/ethics_en.htm

8.3 Project Description

- Project Title (max. 150 characters)
- Project Acronym (max. 25 characters)
- Priority Area (max. 1,000 characters)
- Project description (max. 5,000 characters), including
 - Relevance to the scope of the call
 - State-of-the-art of knowledge and innovative characteristics of the project
 - Research approach and methodology
 - Main results of the project that can be expected
 - European and regional added value of the proposed project, including societal and policy relevance
 - Information on project management and responsibilities of the project partners
 - Short overview of the division of the collaborative project into work packages
- Work Plan (GANTT chart with milestones and deliverables indicated, upload as PDF)
- Finances (requested and own contribution including overhead) and Financial comments (max. 1,000 characters)
- TRLs (minimum and maximum) that are covered in each project. Description of how TRL will be advanced during project lifetime (max. 1,000 characters)
- Upload figures and tables (max. 5; max. file size: 600px x 600px, 2Mbyte)

Applicants should note that information on the partner description (core data) cannot be substantially changed between pre- and full proposals, in particular, neither the composition of the consortia nor the funding requested by each partner in the second step unless explicitly requested by the national contacts and approved by the Call Steering Committee.

The submission of a pre-proposal is mandatory, and it will not be possible to enter the application procedure at a later stage (possible until deadline of submission).

The information given in the pre-proposal will be used to check for eligibility, to find appropriate evaluation experts and to evaluate the pre-proposal.

9 Eligibility Check for Funding

Pre-proposals that are submitted correctly and within the deadline will be checked against different eligibility criteria.

- **General eligibility criteria:** The pre-proposal must comply with the call eligibility criteria mentioned in Section 7.
- **Specific eligibility criteria:** The proposed projects must demonstrate industry involvement.
- **National/regional eligibility criteria:** All project partners involved in an application must assure that requested costs and thematic areas are in line with the respective national/regional eligibility criteria published in the national factsheets (see Annex 2). In case of uncertainties regarding the national/regional criteria and regulations, please contact your National Contacts, see Annex 1.

In case one partner of the project consortium appears not to be eligible, the Call Steering Committee, which consists of all BlueBio funding partners, may reject the pre-proposal. Please be aware that some funding agencies in addition to the international application, require a parallel formal application from applicants requesting funding from their funding agency. Applicants that haven't submitted such additional application to their funding agency will be considered ineligible. Such additional application requirements will be described in the national factsheets (Annex 2).

Pre-proposals which are eligible in terms of the formal and national/regional eligibility criteria will be identified. Only pre-proposals which meet these criteria will be forwarded to the expert evaluation.

Ineligible pre-proposals may result in immediate rejection of the entire project.

10 Evaluation of Pre-proposals

Eligible pre-proposal evaluations will be executed by an independent International Review Panel (IRP), installed by the Call Steering Committee. The IRP will be from inside and outside the Consortium countries, and balanced in terms of nationality, age, gender and expertise background, while avoiding conflict of interest with applicants or applications. The independent IRP chair and members will be researchers, practitioners and other stakeholders with high standing and expertise in the relevant research areas and the overall objectives of the call.

For the pre-proposal stage, the evaluation procedure will involve 2 individual experts per project, one of them acting as rapporteur.

Eligible pre-proposals will undergo peer review evaluation and will be ranked according to the evaluation results based on the following criteria:

- Scientific quality, innovation potential (including covered TRL, transdisciplinarity and cross-sectorial aspects)
- Appropriateness of the research methodology, feasibility, adequacy of the budget
- Quality of the consortium, complementarity among partners, added value of the transnational cooperation
- Relevance of the proposal compared to the call text
- Composition of consortium compared to the topic's needs and international relevance

The proposed projects must be in line with the scope and priority areas of this call.

RRI will be assessed by experts as part of the scientific quality of the proposals.

The scoring system uses a 5-point scale (see explanation of scale in Section 13) for all review criteria. The IRP will agree on a final consensus report and score for each pre-proposal and will produce a ranking list of recommended pre-proposals above threshold (3/5 per criterion).

11 Selection of Pre-proposals

Based on the ranking list provided by the IRP, the BlueBio Call Steering Committee (composed of representatives from all BlueBio funding organisations) will select projects for the second application according to the ranking list. The number of selected projects will depend on the available budget of the funding organisations involved. The first stage evaluation will be used to balance the ratio between requested funding and available funding.

The coordinators of the research consortia will be simultaneously informed about the evaluation results, and whether they are invited for full proposal submission. Furthermore, coordinators will be informed about proposals rejected for eligibility reasons. Coordinators who are invited for full proposal submission will receive written feedback of the pre-proposal evaluation and the consensus report in an anonymous way. The coordinators of the research consortia are responsible for forwarding all information to their research consortium partners. Unsuccessful applicants can request feedback from Domnica Coteț (e-mail: domnica.cotet@uefiscdi.ro).

An invitation to submit a full proposal does not implicitly result in the right to getting funded by the BlueBio funding organisations - even if the full proposal gets evaluated positively by the expert panel (the final selection will be based on the ranking list of the full proposal provided by the IRP and the available funding resources).

In order to balance the level of requests for funding with the level of available funds from the funding organisations, consortia may be asked to reduce or increase the contribution of partners from countries with over- or undersubscription, and to invite partners from countries with undersubscription. It will be up to the consortia to follow up on the requests or not, as a partnership amendment should not compromise the quality of the proposals.

12 Submission of Full Proposals

Only research consortia which have successfully passed the first step will be invited to submit a full proposal with a deadline of **Monday, February 21st, 2022, 13.00 CEST**.

Full proposals must be submitted online www.submission-bluebio.eu by the research consortium coordinator.

Guidelines and template for the submission of full proposals will be available with the invitations for full proposals and published on the BlueBio website.

Applicants should note that information on the core data cannot be changed in full proposals, unless explicitly requested by the funding organisation(s) and approved by the Call Steering Committee.

The information provided in the pre-proposal will automatically be imported into the full proposal. It is the duty of the coordinator to enter additional data online and ensure that all required information is included. In total, the following data needs to be submitted during full proposal stage:

12.1 Partner Description

This includes information about the coordinator (and about every partner, which they can enter themselves):

- Contact information, including first and last name, name of the organisation, status of the organisation, address and phone number, e-mail address, team members, CV, references;
- Short description (max. 2,000 characters) about current position of the partner and collaborators in the project, fields of expertise and other relevant experience. Description of ongoing projects related to the present priority area indicating project name, funding source and amount, and potential overlap or link with the current proposal (if any);

12.2 Project Description

- Project Title (max. 150 characters)
- Project Acronym (max. 25 characters)
- Priority Area (max. 1,000 characters)
- Keywords (max. 5 keywords)
- Project Summary as publishable project abstract (max. 2,000 characters)
- Project Description (max. 5 pages / 20,000 characters):
 - Relevance to the scope of the call
 - State-of-the-art of knowledge and innovative characteristics of the project
 - Research approach and methodology
 - Main results of the project that can be expected
 - European and regional added value of the proposed project, including societal, ethical and policy relevance
 - Activities regarding Human Capacity Building
 - Information on project management and responsibilities of the project partners
 - Overview of the division of the collaborative project into work packages
- Industry Involvement (max. 1,000 characters; **mandatory**)
- TRLs (maximum and minimum) that are covered in each project. Description of how TRL will be advanced during project lifetime (max. 1,000 characters)
- Work Plan including titles and description of work packages, tasks, deliverables and milestones. A GANTT chart will automatically be created from the data you enter.
- Finances (requested and own contribution including overhead) and Financial comments
- Responsible Research and Innovation, including **ethics** (4,000 characters)
- Human Capacity Building (2,000 characters)
- Communication and Dissemination of results (2,000 characters)
- Data Management (max. 2,000 characters): how the data will be managed during the life of the project and after the project ends to ensure their long-term availability. Data management should comply with the provisions laid down in the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

(Regulation (EU) 2016/679). Data of long-term value should meet the FAIR principles; i.e. they should be findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable

- Letter of Commitment of each coordinator and (associated) partner
- Upload figures and tables (max. 5; max. file size: 600px x 600px, 2Mbyte)

Applicants that have been invited to submit a full proposal are obliged to submit the application no later than the defined deadline of submission. Please be aware that some funding agencies, in addition to the international application process, require a formal application for applicants requesting funding from their funding agency.

The information given in the full proposal will be used to check for eligibility, to find appropriate evaluation experts and to evaluate the full proposal.

13 Eligibility Check and Evaluation of Full Proposals

General eligibility criteria and national/regional eligibility assessed at the pre-proposal stage will be checked again at the full proposal stage. In addition, a more comprehensive ethical self-assessment is requested for the full proposal.

Ethical issues: Work involving the use of animals or humans should be carried out under the appropriate authorisation taking into account local ethical requirements. Applicants shall consider the criteria published by the Commission in its guidelines for the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/ethics/h2020_hi_ethics-self-assess_en.pdf

If there are major differences or changes in the full Proposal compared to the recommended pre-proposal (unless specifically requested by funder(s) and approved by Call Steering Committee) and/or the eligibility criteria are not fulfilled, the full proposal may be rejected without evaluation.

Eligible full proposals will be subjected to a peer review evaluation by the IRP appointed for evaluation. Each proposal will be evaluated by at least three independent experts, one of them acting as rapporteur.

Proposals will be evaluated according to the following three standard Horizon 2020 criteria:

Excellence of the research proposal (Threshold 3/5)

- Clarity and pertinence of the objectives
- Soundness of the concept
- Credibility of the proposed methodology
- Degree of novelty and innovation of the proposed approach

Impact of the project results (Threshold 3/5)

Extent to which the outputs of the project will be relevant for, or contribute to, impacts on:

- Economic aspects
- Environmental aspects
- Societal aspects such as Ethical, Legal and Social Aspects (ELSA)
- Transnational added value
- Knowledge generation and transfer

Quality and efficiency of the implementation of the project (Threshold 3/5)

- Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, including extent to which the resources assigned to work packages are in line with their objectives and deliverables
- Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk and innovation management
- Complementarity of the participants and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise
- Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks, ensuring that all participants have a valid role and adequate resources in the project to fulfil that role
- The project budget is appropriate to the planned work and allows the achievement of the project goals

For full proposal evaluation, scores will be awarded for each of the three main criteria. Sub-criteria are aspects that the expert will consider in the assessment of that criterion. Each criterion will be scored out of 5 (only full scores allowed) and equally weighted.

The 0-5 scoring system for each criterion indicates the following assessment:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information. |
| 1 | Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses. |
| 2 | Fair. The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses. |
| 3 | Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present. |
| 4 | Very Good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present. |
| 5 | Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor. |

The scores of the three evaluators will be agreed on by the three experts involved for the full proposal. The final score for each full proposal will be set at the full panel of rapporteurs for all proposals. Any proposal receiving a mean score below 3 for one of the main criteria and/or a final score below 10 will not be selected for funding (thresholds 3/5 and 10/15). Evaluation by the IRP will result in a ranking list according to the final scores and an evaluation report for each eligible full proposal.

14 Selection of Projects to Be Funded

On the basis of the ranking and available funding, the Call Steering Committee will prepare a list of projects recommended for funding. The funding organisations will take the final decision for national/regional funding following the order of the ranking list provided by the IRP and taking into account the available budget of each funding organisation³. The number of selected projects will depend on the available budget of the involved funding organisations.

³ <https://ec.europa.eu/research/evaluations/index.cfm?pg=h2020evaluation>

The outcome of the selection will be communicated to the project coordinators, who will be required to inform their partners respectively. Unsuccessful applicants can request feedback from Domnica Cotet (e-mail: domnica.cotet@uefiscdi.ro).

15 Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest

The proposals will be handled confidentially by the BlueBio Call Secretariat, by the national/regional Funding organisations and the mandated experts responsible for the evaluation of the proposal.

The BlueBio Call Secretariat will take all lawful steps to ensure confidentiality, avoidance of conflict of interest and anonymity of evaluators during the evaluation and selection procedures.

Each expert will have to sign a declaration of confidentiality and absence of conflict of interest. The online evaluation tool will include a feature which will prevent access to the proposal in case a conflict of interest is declared by the expert.

16 Contract Conditions (for funded projects)

16.1 Terms of Participation

The national funding of the second additional BlueBio Call is offered under the coordination of the Horizon 2020 ERA-NET BlueBio. Partners of the Research and Innovation Project consortium are required to recognise the coordinating role of BlueBio throughout the duration of the funded research projects until the publication of the final report. Each Project consortium will be asked for feedback on the processes in order to help refine them for the future use.

16.2 Contractual Relationships

BlueBio is a collaboration between national funding parties with the aim of establishing transnational research collaboration. The contracts with researchers and industries are the responsibility of the national/regional funding organisations.

Because of the fragmented nature of the funding, care will be taken to ensure that the individual contracts are synchronised, both in time and content, so that the project consortium can deliver transnational outputs as described in the project proposal. The national/regional funding partners must ensure that common BlueBio conditions are met (e.g. common start date of a given project, reporting requirements etc.).

16.3 Funding Contracts

For the duration of the contract, it is the responsibility of the project coordinator to inform the BlueBio consortium about any changes in the project, i.e. modifications of the work plan, the project consortium or the contract. All communications should be through the BlueBio Monitoring Group and approved by the Joint Call Secretariat.

Financial issues are the responsibility of each national/regional funding partner involved in the approved project.

16.4 Consortium Agreement

All project partners are required to sign a Consortium Agreement (CA) before the official project start or no later than three months after the project start. The CA should address management of project activities, finances, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and how to avoid and solve disputes which might be detrimental to the completion of the project. The CA must specify in particular (i) the sharing of the intellectual property rights of the project results; (ii) the conditions of publication/dissemination of the results; (iii) the technology transfer and the exploitation of the project results.

It will be the responsibility of the project coordinators to draw up a CA suitable to their own group. On request, the CA must be made available to the national or regional funding organisation(s), together with any other information required by national or regional regulations.

Support for the preparation of a CA can be found on the [DESCA webpage](#).

16.5 Intellectual Property Rights, Use and Access to Results and Data

Results and new Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) resulting from projects funded through the BlueBio Call will be owned by the project partners according to the conditions stated in their Consortium Agreement. At the project level, IPR will be considered according to national rules. Applicants should consult the individual funding agency should any queries arise.

Data collected during the project must be collected, stored and processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (Regulation (EU) 2016/679). Researchers are encouraged to actively exploit the results of the research project and make them available for use, whether for commercial gain or not, for public benefit to be obtained from the knowledge created. It is expected that publication of results should be carried out in accordance with the Horizon 2020 policy on Open Access⁴.

16.6 Start Dates

A project can start when all national/regional contracts have been signed and agreed, unless national contracts allow for an early start of the research activities. Once the national contracts come into force, eligible national costs may be claimed according to the national procedures. Projects should start between July and December 2022.

16.7 Project Monitoring and Reporting

Projects must be completed within a maximum of **three** years.

Project coordinators are required to provide both a mid-term and final report as well as a non-confidential summary of the outcomes of their project for publication via the website (www.bluebio.eu) and the BlueBio newsletter. The newsletter will be built on the news section on the same webpage. Hereby, BlueBio wants to reach out to the wider research community and interested public. BlueBio will provide a template for the mid-term and final report. All partners must provide input to these reports.

⁴ http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/oa_pilot/h2020-hi-oa-pilot-guide_en.pdf

The coordinators of the funded projects are obliged to present their projects at two meetings to the ERA-NET BlueBio partners, other interested parties and relevant stakeholders:

- a kick-off meeting, explaining objectives and expected results.
- a mid-term meeting, at the end of the BlueBio Cofund presenting the mid-term reports including status, preliminary results and future work.

The meetings will be organised by BlueBio, at the start and around mid-term of the projects. **The costs for attending the status seminars should be covered by the allocated project budget.** The objectives of the status seminars are the monitoring of the projects funded through BlueBio and the provision of networking and future collaboration opportunities.

16.8 Dissemination Requirements

Dissemination of project outputs is obligatory and is the responsibility of the funded project partners. Detailed plans for dissemination of the results must be described in the proposals and are considered in the evaluation procedure. This can be organised in the form of various communication routes such as scientific papers, posters, course or training material, web-based tools, stakeholder involvement, workshops or direct intervention towards end users. Where relevant, the projects should consider how to engage with consumers to provide them with knowledge needed to make informed decisions about safe, healthy and sustainable food and policy makers with robust scientific advice.

Further, the project partners must acknowledge the transnational funding of the BlueBio ERA-NET Cofund under Horizon 2020 and the individual national/regional funding partners in any document that is published (in written, oral or electronic form) within the research project.

16.9 Publishable Data

A list of the funded projects will be published at the end of the evaluation process (after the funding decision). Therefore, applicants should be aware that the following data from the full proposal will be published:

- Project Title and Project Acronym
- Priority area of the project
- Organisation name and country of each partner
- A short publishable summary of the project

17 Annexes

17.1 ANNEX 1: NATIONAL/ REGIONAL CONTACTS

Country	Organisation	Name	Contact details (E-Mail/Telephone)
Belgium	Vlaams Agentschap voor innoveren en ondernemen (VLAIO)	Dirk Veelaert	dirk.veelaert@vlaio.be +32 2 432 42 19
Croatia	Croatian Science Foundation (HRZZ)	Jasminka Bolijević	jasminka@hrzz.hr +385 1 2356 600
Denmark	Innovation Fund Denmark (IFD)	Kathrine Hauge Madsen (Investment Officer) Martin Kyvsgaard (Investment Officer) International Administration	kathrine.hauge.madsen@innofond.dk +45 61 90 50 47 martin.kyvsgaard@innofond.dk +45 6190 5081 internationale@innofond.dk
Estonia	Eesti Teadusagentuur (ETAG)	Katrin Saar	katrin.saar@etag.ee , +372 7317386
Estonia	Ministry of Rural Affairs (MEM)	Maarja Malm	maarja.malm@agri.ee , + 372 6256250
Iceland	Rannsóknamiðstöð Íslands (RANNIS)	Sigurður Björnsson Lýður S. Erlendsson	sigurdur.bjornsson@Rannis.is lydur.Skuli.erlendsson@Rannis.is
Ireland	Marine Institute (MI)	Veronica Cunningham	veronica.cunningham@marine.ie
Italy	Ministry of Universities and Research (MUR)	Chiara Gliozzi Aldo Covello	chiara.gliozzi@miur.it aldo.covello@miur.it
Malta	Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST)	Maria Azzopardi	maria.azzopardi.2@gov.mt
Norway	Norges forskningsråd (RCN)	Kristin E. Thorud Inderjit Singh Marjara Christian Wexels Riser Kjell E. Naas	ket@rcn.no , +47 930 24 722 ism@rcn.no , +47 988 23 814 cwr@rcn.no , +47 945 35 385 ken@rcn.no , +47 0901 65 701

17.2 ANNEX 2: NATIONAL REGULATIONS/NATIONAL FACTSHEETS



BELGIUM

Participating organisation: Vlaams Agentschap voor innoveren en ondernemen (VLAIO)

Indicative Budget: 1.5 M€

National Contact Person(s):

Dirk Veelaert

Phone: +32 2 432 42 19

E-Mail: Dirk.veelaert@vlaio.be

Name of & link to the funding programme(s) and other relevant information:

- Research projects : <https://www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/onderzoeksproject>
- Development projects : <https://www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/ontwikkelingsproject>

Max. project duration: proposed projects may last up to 36 months

Max. funding per project: 500 k€ per funded partner

Institutional eligibility criteria:

Additional templates to be completed : <https://www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/onderzoeksproject/aanvraagprocedure>

- „Annex internationaal onderzoeksproject“ or „Annex international research project“
- „Template projectbegroting o&o project“

Those completed templates are mandatory to check the national eligibility and must be sent to the Agentschap Innoveren en Ondernemen.

We kindly ask the applicants to apply for a meeting with the Agentschap Innoveren en Ondernemen ultimately 2 weeks before the deadline for submission to check the eligibility aspects.

Institutional thematic priorities:

n/a

Proposals with the following focus cannot be funded:

n/a

Additional information:

www.vlaio.be



CROATIA

Participating organisation: Croatian Science Foundation (HRZZ)

Indicative Budget: 0.1 M€

National Contact Person(s):

Jasminka Boljević

Phone: +385 1 2356 600

E-Mail: jasminka@hrzz.hr

Name of & link to the funding programme(s) and other relevant information:

n/a

Max. project duration: proposed projects may last up to 36 months

Max. funding per project: 100,000 EUR

Principal Investigators are not allowed to apply for funding in more than one proposal within this call.

1 project

Funding criteria and regulations

Croatian applicants (Principal Investigators) are recommended to contact HRZZ prior to the submission of the proposal for the purpose of checking the national funding terms and conditions.

The Croatian applicant may have the status of a Principal Investigator (PI) and/or team member or co-PI on a maximum two HRZZ projects : as a PI of one project and team member or co-PI on another project or as a team member or co-PI on two projects. This does not include the role of PI and team members in HRZZ projects ending on 31 May 2022, and PIs on IP-Corona-2020-04 and IP-Corona-2020-12 and TTP projects. Co-PIs on projects are PIs of Croatian research groups in Cooperability programme (PZS), SwissCroatian research projects (CSRП) and projects in bilateral programme (IPS, IPCH) and on ERA-NET programmes.

Applicant can participate in only one project consortium in one ERA-NET Cofund Call.

Institutional eligibility criteria:

Eligible applicants are active researchers permanently employed at a public university, public research institute in the Republic of Croatia or other legal entities that perform scientific activity and are registered in the Register of Scientific Organisations of the Ministry of Science and Education and meet the minimum conditions prescribed by the Regulation on the Conditions for Issuing a Permit for Performing Scientific Activity, Conditions for Re-accreditation of Scientific Organisations and the Content of the Permit (OG 83/10). The Applicant can submit a project proposal only in the area for which the scientific organisation in which he/she is employed and where the project will be implemented has been accredited. Regular members of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts may submit project proposals.

The document “Upute za transnacionalne natječaje za 2021. godinu- HRZZ” presenting the modalities of participation of the Croatian applicants, eligibility of the organizations and eligible costs will be available at www.hrzz.hr.

Following the conclusion of the consortium agreement between the consortium partners, the Croatian applicant in the project consortium will be required to sign a grant agreement with HRZZ for the portion of the budget provided by HRZZ.

Eligibility confirmation

For pre-proposal

The HRZZ requests the Croatian applicants to send the following documentation, not later than 2 days after the submission of the pre-proposal:

1. Financial Plan for the Croatian applicant (the part to be financed by the HRZZ), extracted from the BlueBio Call 2020-Financial Form submitted by the project consortium;
2. BlueBio Pre-proposal (in PDF format, sealed on the date of Call deadline);

BlueBio Cofund - Call text documents

3. Letter of Support in Croatian, i.e. a written commitment of the Croatian applicant's organization, accepting the proposed research and committing to its administration (signed and certified by the authorized person of the Croatian applicant's organization);
4. Signed letter of commitment for the participation in the projects for all associates and consultants not employed at the applicant's organisation.

For full proposal

The HRZZ requests the Croatian applicants to send the following documentation, not later than 2 days after the submission of the full proposal:

1. Financial Plan for the Croatian applicant (the part to be financed by the HRZZ), extracted from the BlueBio Call 2020-Financial Form submitted by the project consortium;
2. BlueBio Full proposal (in PDF format, sealed on the date of Call deadline);
3. Ethics approval (if applicable), PDF document.

The electronic version of the requested documentation shall be sent via e-mail to the following address: jasminka@hrzz.hr.

Submission of financial reports at the national level The funded Croatian applicants will have to submit annual Financial reports and justifying documentation (e.g. invoices, contracts, pay slips and similar) to HRZZ, together with a Declaration on VAT status and Declaration on the prevention of double financing for the year in question.

Eligible costs are:

- Research costs
- Personnel costs (only postdoctoral students, for up to two years)
- Equipment;
- Dissemination and travel expenses;
- Overhead (indirect costs) is calculated as a percentage of contracted direct costs: staff costs, logistics costs (excluding capital costs and cost for subcontracting) and travel expenses. Indirect costs will not exceed 5 % of direct costs. It can be claimed only if there is an explanation and specification for its use.

For more details please consult: Upute za transnacionalne natječaje za 2021. godinu- HRZZ

Institutional thematic priorities:

n/a

Proposals with the following focus cannot be funded:

n/a

Additional information:

n/a



DENMARK

Participating organisation: Innovation Fund Denmark (IFD)

Indicative Budget: 1.0 M€

National Contact Person(s):

Investment Officer, Kathrine Hauge Madsen

Phone: +45 6190 5047

Mail: kathrine.hauge.madsen@innofond.dk

Investment Officer, Martin Kyvsgaard

Phone: +45 6190 5081

Mail: martin.kyvsgaard@innofond.dk

International Administration

Mail: internationale@innofond.dk

Name of & link to the funding programme(s) and other relevant information:

Innovation Fund Denmark: <https://innovationsfonden.dk/en/programmes/international-collaborations>

Innovation Fund Denmark's (IFD) purpose is to advance research, development, testing and validation of innovative solutions for the benefit of growth and employment in Denmark, as well as to solve societal challenges. The projects IFD invest in must create a clear societal value and/or economic value in Danish public and private companies and/or for beneficiaries in society e.g. citizens, the state, regions and municipalities. IFD can invest in international projects if such the projects can strengthen Danish research and innovation. IFD encourage all types of partners to participate in international projects.

Max. project duration: proposed projects may last up to 36 months

Max. funding per project:

IFD can invest a maximum of €300.000 including overhead per Danish partner in an application and maximum €500.000 including overhead per project (if more than one Danish partner is participating).

Institutional eligibility criteria:

IFD investment is given in accordance with "The General Terms and Conditions for International Projects" focus on issues where IFD's terms and administration vary from the Terms and Conditions for the Danish Grand Solutions programme. The Terms and Conditions and Guidelines for Grand Solutions apply for all issues not mentioned in the present document.

General Terms and Conditions for International Projects:

<https://innovationsfonden.dk/sites/default/files/2018-10/general-terms-and-conditions-for-international-projects-approved-after-1-feb-2018.pdf>

Investment rates:

The maximum investment rates by IFD including possible public co-funding follows the rates that apply to IFD's Grand Solutions programme. The general maximum investment rates incl. possible EU' co-funding is indicated in the table below.

The global maximum for IFD investment to cooperation projects is 75% of the total project costs. In international projects, the total costs are calculated on basis of the total project costs including the foreign partner's contribution. IFDs funding rate is calculated excl. possible EU co-funding.

Applicant typology		Investment rates for Innovation Fund Denmark					
		Actual costs Salary max 1.000 DKK per hour		Actual costs X institute rate	Public organisations		
		SME's	Large Enterprises	GTS	Universities & University Colleges	Public Hospitals	Other public organisations
Industrial Research	Grant	75%	65%	60%	90% + 44% overhead	90% + 3,1% overhead	90% - no overhead
Experimental Development	Grant	33%	25%	60%	90% + 44% overhead	90% + 3,1% overhead	90% - no overhead

Registration of applications for Danish partners in International Projects

All Danish partners in International Project applications under IFD must register in our online administration platform [E-grant](#). The deadline for the registration is two weeks after the deadline for submitting the project application. Register under the same call option as you have applied. Name your project [Application ID – Acronym – Institution/Company].



ESTONIA

Participating organisation: Eesti Teadusagentuur (ETAG)

Indicative Budget: 0.1 M€

National Contact Person(s):

Katrin Saar

Phone: +372 7317386

E-Mail: katrin.saar@etag.ee

Name of & link to the funding programme(s) and other relevant information:

National Eligibility Criteria for grant applications in calls for transnational research projects:

<https://www.etag.ee/rahastamine/partnerlus-ja-koostootoetused/era-net-projektid/>

The Estonian Research Council (hereinafter ETAG) funds basic and applied research.

1. Participants of the project

1.1 The Host Institution is the institution to which the grant will be allocated. The Host Institution must be a legal entity that is registered and located in Estonia. The Host Institution must declare that the project can be carried out within their premises and that it will employ the Principal Investigator during the proposed project, should the project receive funding.

1.2 The Principal Investigator is the researcher who submits the project proposal and who will be responsible for the use of the grant and for the implementation of the project. The Principal Investigator: 1.2.1 must have an updated public profile in the Estonian Research Information System (ETIS); 1.2.2 must hold a doctoral degree or an equivalent qualification. The degree must be awarded by the submission deadline of the grant application, at the latest; 1.2.3 must have published at least three articles which comply with the requirements of clause 1.1 of the ETIS classification of publications, or at least five articles which comply with the requirements of clauses 1.1, 1.2, 2.1 or 3.1, within the last five years prior to the proposal submission deadline. International patents are equalled with publications of clause 1.1. A monograph (ETIS clause 2.1) is equalled with three publications mentioned in clause 1.1 if the number of authors is three or less. If the applicant has been on pregnancy and maternity or parental leave or in the compulsory military service, or has other serious grounds, the publication period requirement will be extended by the respective time.

1.3 Senior research staff of the project participates in the substantial performance of the project. They must hold at least master's degree or an equivalent qualification.

2. Budget

2.1 Research expenses consist of direct costs (personnel costs incl. scholarships, travel costs and other direct costs) and subcontracting costs. The research expenses must be used to carry out the project and be respectively identifiable.

2.2 Direct Costs Direct costs

2.2.1 Personnel costs are monthly salaries with social security charges and all other statutory costs of the participants of the project calculated according to their commitment and proportionately to their total salary cost at their Host Institution.

2.1.2 Scholarships equal to the state doctoral allowance may be paid out of the grant to doctoral students not receiving any salary from the Host Institution. Should a doctoral student participate in several projects financed by the Estonian Research Council, the total amount of the scholarship from these projects may not exceed the nationally determined amount of doctoral allowance

2.1.3 Travel costs may cover expenses for transport, accommodation and daily allowances.

2.1.4 Other direct costs are:

- consumables related to the project;
- costs for publication and dissemination of project results;
- costs for organising meetings, seminars or conferences;
- fees for participation in scientific forums and conferences;
- all other costs that are identifiable as clearly required for the implementation of the project. **2.3**

Subcontracting costs should not be included in the overhead calculation and should cover only additional or complementary research related tasks (e.g. costs for translation, analyses, etc.) performed by third parties. Core project tasks should not be subcontracted. Subcontracting costs may not exceed 10% of the total costs

2.4 Overhead may not exceed 20% of eligible direct research costs and should cover general expenses of the Host Institution. Costs for equipment and services intended for public use (copying machine or printer publicly used, phone bills, copying service, etc.) should be covered from the overhead.

2.5 Double funding of activities is not acceptable.

3. Enterprises

EU Regulations on State Aid for Research and Development must be taken into account when requesting funding from the Estonian Research Council. The state aid form must be filled in. No tax arrears are allowed on the proposal submission date.

4. Grant Agreement

In case of a positive funding decision, the Estonian Research Council shall enter into a grant agreement with the Host Institution and the Principal Investigator. As a precondition for the grant agreement, a consortium agreement between the parties of the transnational project consortium must be signed. The transnational project must be entered into the ETIS.

5. Research involving human subjects or animal tests

If human research or animal tests are intended in the project, a positive resolution by the Human Research Ethics Committee or the Authorization Committee for Animal Experiments must be submitted to the Estonian Research Council by the start of the relevant activities.

6. Nagoya protocol

By applying for funding by the Estonian Research Council the applicants agree to consider the relevance of Nagoya protocol for their research, and to submit the Due Diligence Declaration if applicable.

7. Contact and obligations

Researchers are obliged to inform Estonian Research Council about their participation.



ESTONIA

Participating organisation: Ministry of Rural Affairs (MEM)

Indicative Budget: 0.1 M€

National Contact Person(s):

Maarja Malm

Phone: +372 625 6250

E-Mail: maarja.malm@agri.ee

Name of & link to the funding programme(s) and other relevant information:

Programme “Applied Research and Development in Agriculture 2015-2021”

<https://www.agri.ee/sites/default/files/content/arengukavad/arengukava-arendustegevus-2015-2021-v2.pdf>

Min. project duration: as identified in the call documents

Max. project duration: as identified in the call documents

Maximum funding per project: 100.000 €

Funding is provided up to 100 000 €. Minimum 5% of total eligible project costs must be covered by the applicant institution.

Institutional eligibility criteria:

The call is addressed to research institutions. Project manager must have a doctoral level degree and research publications and/or patents registered in their name during the last 5 years.

All eligibility rules and criteria can be found:

<https://www.agri.ee/sites/default/files/content/arengukavad/arengukava-arendustegevus-2015-2021-v2.pdf>

Institutional thematic priorities: N/A

Proposals with the following focus cannot be funded: N/A

Additional information:

Applicants are strongly recommended to contact National Contact Persons before submitting a proposal.



ICELAND

Participating organisation: Rannsóknamiðstöð Íslands (RANNIS)

Indicative Budget: 1.0 M€

National Contact Person(s):

Lýður Skúli Erlendsson / Sigurður Björnsson

Phone: +354 5155800

E-Mail: lydur@rannis.is / sigurdur@rannis.is

Name of & link to the funding programme(s) and other relevant information:

Technology Development Fund

Max. project duration: proposed projects may last up to 36 months

Max. funding per project: Maximum funding is 300 k€ per project for Icelandic entities and the maximum funding in Icelandic krona is IKR 45.000.000 per project over a project period of 3 years.

Eligible cost for research institutes and companies is in accordance with the Technology Development Fund rules for the grant type "[Applied research](#)".

Own contribution for research institutes and companies is in accordance with the Technology Development Fund rules for the grant type "[Growth](#)".

Institutional eligibility criteria:

All legal entities (public and private sector)

Institutional thematic priorities:

Rannis can support projects that comply with the 2nd additional call priorities description.

Proposals with the following focus cannot be funded:

n/a

Additional information:

n/a



IRELAND

Participating organisation: Marine Institute (MI)

Indicative Budget: 0.2 M€

National Contact Person(s):

Veronica Cunningham, Research Funding Office,
Marine Institute, Rinville, Oranmore, Co. Galway H91 R673, Ireland
Phone: +353 91 387532
Email: veronica.cunningham@marine.ie

Name of & link to the funding programme(s) and other relevant information:

The call is supported by the Marine Institute and the Irish Government, funded under the Marine Research Programme. The National Rules for this call will be published on the Marine Institute website at the following link: <https://www.marine.ie/Home/site-area/research-funding/research-funding/current-funding-opportunities>

Research to be undertaken by Irish partners should be consistent with the aims of the National Marine Research and Innovation Strategy 2017-2021 and other national strategies, such as Food Wise 2025.

Applicants are strongly advised to contact their National Contact Point prior to submission of any application under this call.

Max. project duration: proposed projects may last up to 36 months

Max. funding per project: 200,000 Euro

Max. of two Irish partners requesting funding.

Maximum overheads allowed is 30% of all costs excluding Equipment and Subcontracting.

Subcontracting to a third party for specialist resources/skills is allowable, subject to normal procurement guidelines. Subcontracting costs are limited to 20% maximum 40,000 Euro.

Refer to the National Rules for full details of all eligible costs allowed under this call.

Institutional eligibility criteria:

- Legal entities in the Republic of Ireland with the appropriate scientific and technical qualifications and expertise can be funded as partners in a joint proposal.
- The eligible partners are Higher Education Institutions, Other Public Research Bodies, Industry and Private Organisations in the Republic of Ireland.
- Any proposal involving an **industry partner** from Ireland **must** also have an Irish partner from a Higher Education or Other Public Research Body.
- The maximum Grant-Aid reimbursement for Industry is 50% for Large Scale Enterprises and 75% for Small-Medium Sized Enterprises of eligible costs. Grant-Aid reimbursement for Higher Education Institutions and Other Public Research Bodies is up to 100% of eligible costs.

Institutional thematic priorities:

Applications may apply under any of the priority areas.

Proposals with the following focus cannot be funded:

Not applicable.

Additional information:

Any clarifications or queries with respect to the National Rules should be sent to the national contact point specified above or to funding@marine.ie



ITALY

Participating organisation: Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca (MUR)

Indicative Budget: 1.0 M€

National Contact Person(s):

Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca (MUR)

via Michele Carcani 61 – 00153 Rome

<https://www.mur.gov.it/it>

[http://www.ricercainternazionale.miur.it/era/eranet-cofund-\(h2020\)/bluebio.aspx](http://www.ricercainternazionale.miur.it/era/eranet-cofund-(h2020)/bluebio.aspx)

Name of & link to the funding programme(s) and other relevant information:

FIRST (Fondo per gli Investimenti nella Ricerca Scientifica e Tecnologica).

Applicable laws and rules:

- Decreto legge n. 83/2012
- Decreto Ministeriale n. 593 del 26 luglio 2016
- Linee guida al D.M. del 26 luglio 2016 n. 593
- Procedure operative per il finanziamento dei progetti internazionali ex art. 18 D.M. del 26 luglio 2016 n. 593.

The criteria and provisions provided herewith are intended only for informative purposes. The complete list of criteria and provisions legally valid, which must be respected by all the Italian participants, is included in the “Avviso integrativo nazionale”, published on the [dedicated web](#) page on MUR website.

Max. project duration:

Min. project duration: 24 months

Max. project duration: 36 months

Max. funding per project:

Overall funding commitment for the call: 1.000.000 €. A maximum grant of 250.000 Euro can be awarded to each project proposal, even if it includes more than one Italian participant.

Institutional eligibility criteria:

The following entities are eligible, providing that they have stable organization in Italy:

Enterprises, Universities, Research institutions, Research organizations in accordance with EU Reg. n. 651/2014 of the European Commission - June 17, 2014.

Any participant, in order to be eligible, must comply with the eligibility criteria listed in the art. 2.4 of the “Linee guida al DM 593/2016”.

A Principal Investigator can participate (either as coordinator or as partner) in only one project proposal, requesting funding to MIUR.

All costs incurred during the lifetime of the project under the following categories are eligible: Personnel, Equipment, Subcontracting, Consumables, and Overheads. Overheads (“Spese generali”) shall be calculated as a percentage of the personnel costs and cannot be higher than 50% of them. Travel expenses, dissemination and coordination costs are to be included in the overheads.

The amount of funding which can be granted to each beneficiary is calculated multiplying the eligible costs for the funding rate listed in the following table:

Activity typology \ Applicant typology		Funding Rates			
		Enterprises and private research bodies (which meet the requirements of research organization under EU Reg. no. 651/2014 of the Commission-June 17, 2014)			Universities, public research institutions, research organizations (public and private) in accordance with Reg. EU n. 651/2014 of the Commission - June 17, 2014)
		Small Enterprises	Medium Enterprises	Large Enterprises	
Basic Research	grant	40%	30%	20%	70%
Industrial Research	grant	40%	30%	20%	50%
Experimental Research	grant	30%	20%	10%	25%

On request of applicants a pre-payment may be done, equal to:

- 80% of the total contribution for public entities;
- 50% of the total contribution for private entities.

The remaining part of contribute will be paid in instalments after each financial and progress reporting period.

Institutional thematic priorities:

All activities classifiable as Basic research, Industrial research and Experimental development are eligible for funding.

Furthermore, Basic research and Industrial research activities must be predominant with respect to Experimental development activities.

National application

In addition to the project proposal, which shall be submitted at European level, **the Italian participants are requested to submit further documentation to MIUR, through the national web platform**, available at the following link: <https://banditransnazionali-miur.cineca.it>

These national additional documents must be submitted by the same deadline established for the pre-proposal phase submission as defined in the international joint call.

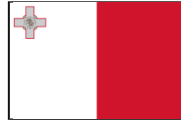
Any participant who does not submit its national documents by the deadline of the pre-proposal phase, will be considered not eligible for funding.

MUR will require to all Italian participants admitted to the second step some additional documents describing more in detail the participant and its research activities within the project and to accept the Grant Agreement format.

It is strongly recommended to contact the National Contact Persons already in early stage of project preparation.

The admission for funding is subject to the adoption of the necessary accounting and administrative measures for the allocation of the resources.

Funded participants will be requested to submit financial and scientific reports to MUR.



MALTA

Participating organisation: Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST)

Indicative Budget: 0.3 M€

National Contact Person(s):

Maria Azzopardi

Phone: +00356 23602175

E-Mail: maria.azzopardi.2@gov.mt

Name of & link to the funding programme(s) and other relevant information:

<https://mcst.gov.mt/funding-opportunities/>

Max. project duration: proposed projects may last up to 36 months

Max. funding per project: €300,000

Institutional eligibility criteria:

Any Eligible Undertaking with an operating base in Malta which plans to carry out Fundamental, Industrial Research or Experimental Development projects and is a) a partnership constituted under the Companies Act, being a partnership en nom collectif, en commandite or a limited liability company; or b) be duly registered as a co-operative society under the Co-Operative Societies Act, c) professional body; d) self-employed; e) NGO; f) Non-profit making entity (including Foundation), will be eligible for funding subject to the terms and conditions laid out in the full version of the National Rules for Participation

Any Public Entity or Public Research or Knowledge-Dissemination Organisation registered in Malta, that do not carry out an economic activity within the meaning of Article 107 TFEU, will be eligible for funding subject to the terms and conditions laid out in the full version of the National Rules for Participation.

Institutional thematic priorities:

Supporting all priority areas

Proposals with the following focus cannot be funded:

N/A

Additional information

The detailed National Rules for Participation for Malta can be accessed from the MCST website -

<https://mcst.gov.mt/funding-opportunities/>



NORWAY

Participating organization: Norges forskningsråd/The Research Council of Norway (RCN)

Indicative Budget: 2.7 M€

National Contact Person(s):

Name: Kristin E Thorud / Inderjit Singh Marjara / Christian Wexels Riser / Kjell E. Naas

Phone: +47 930 24 722 / +4798823814 / +4794535385 / +47 901 65 701

E-Mail: ket@rcn.no / ism@rcn.no / cwr@rcn.no / ken@rcn.no

Name of & link to the funding programme(s) and other relevant information

[The portfolio on Oceans](#)

[The portfolio on Enabling technologies](#)

Max. project duration

Proposed projects may last up to 36 months.

Max. funding per project

Budget for Norwegian participation in this call is 2 700 000 €.

The requested total funding from Norwegian partners cannot exceed 750 000€ per proposal

Up to 600 000 € to a partner if a coordinating role, maximum 400 000 € to other partners.

The actual payout will be in Norwegian kroner. The total sum is based on the actual currency on the date for deadline for the full proposal.

Institutional eligibility criteria

RCN may fund both research institutions and industry partners in projects. Norwegian applicants for funding from RCN will need to comply with RCN requirements regarding applications and eligible institutions:

[General application requirements](#) and [Research institutions](#) or [Industry](#)

The aided part of the project is set by the State Aid Rules:

<https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/apply-for-funding/funding-from-the-research-council/Conditions-for-awarding-state-aid/>

State aid awarded by the Research Council is granted under the General Block Exemption Regulation for state aid, Article 25: Aid for research and development projects.

Institutional thematic priorities

RCN is financing all priority areas in the call.

Proposals with the following focus cannot be funded

Not relevant.

Additional information

Project proposals with Technology Readiness Level (TRL) ranging up to 7 will be considered. Projects should propose advancements in TRL levels during their lifetime.

The Norwegian participation must follow RCN's General Terms and Conditions for R&D Projects. General RCN conditions for funding: <https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/apply-for-funding/Budget/what-to-enter-in-the-project-budget/>

Norwegian project partners receiving funding from RCN will need to sign a separate contract with RCN.

Norwegian partners that are coordinators of the projects will be asked to also coordinate the Norwegian

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partners of the projects. The budget for the Norwegian partners shall follow RCN cost model and RCN regulations.

Support from the RCN awarded to research institutions is normally awarded for non-economic activity. When an entity also pursues economic activities, the financing, the costs and the revenues of those economic activities must be entered in separate accounts.

To ensure that support is awarded in compliance with the state aid rules, RCN asks all applicants selected for conditional allocation of funding to provide supplementary information. The Project Owner must be able to document that its own institution and all its partners (all recipients of state aid) are eligible to receive state aid. Support from the RCN constitutes state aid when it is awarded to an "undertaking", i.e. an actor that carries out an economic activity consisting of offering products or services on a given market.

Open access

The Research Council has stipulated requirements for full and immediate open access to scientific articles produced in connection with R&D projects funded by the Council. Read more about The Research Council's requirements for Open Access to Scientific Publications:

<https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/Adviser-research-policy/open-science/plan-s/>

17.3 ANNEX 3: A FRAMEWORK FOR RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Introduction

Societal responsibility and Grand Challenges

Research and technology have become significant restructuring forces in our societies and play a role in determining what kind of futures that are generated. Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) represents aspirations to ensure that research and technology development are conducted in a societally responsible way, and that importance is attached to how research and technology might contribute to solving the Grand societal Challenges.

Co-production and governance challenges

Research, technology and innovation entail more than uncovering truth or charting out new and improved maps. These are activities that can potentially, and often directly, change the landscape in which we live. We are not only “reading” nature, more and more we are “writing” it as well. It is this trend – exemplified by e.g. synthetic biology or geoengineering¹ – that provides the background and motivation for an engagement in and for Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI). Research interacts and is interwoven with other social, cultural and historical relations. The intermingling, complexity and dynamics of this co-production means that governance schemes based on distance and clear task distribution between research, technology, innovation and policy are unproductive. It is in recognition of this systemic complexity and dynamics that the vision of Responsible Research and Innovation has emerged. RRI represents a new attempt to mitigate the asymmetry that Jerry Ravetz articulated as follows in 1975: *“Science takes credit for penicillin, while Society takes the blame for the Bomb”*.

Ambitions

Ambitions relating to RRI are formidable. As an expert group appointed by the European Commission states: “RRI seeks to connect research and innovation with the futures in which they play a part”. RRI has become an important concept in political narratives in recent years, particularly in Europe. RRI is a cross-cutting issue under Horizon 2020, and in November 2014 the Italian Presidency of the Council of the European Union presented The Rome Declaration on Responsible Research and Innovation. It is important to stress that RRI is a figuration; it is open, not “owned” by anyone and therefore invites and inspires experimentation, development activities and learning across established boundaries, sectors and disciplines. In this respect RRI is a means unto itself: “RRI is a transparent, interactive process by which societal actors and innovators become mutually responsive to each other...”. In October 2013, the UK’s Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) became the first European research council to present an RRI policy, creating a Framework for Responsible Innovation focusing on aspects that it expects will characterise RRI processes ([Framework for Responsible Innovation](#)).

¹ See, for example, Jack Stilgoe’s discussion of geoengineering as an “archetype of technology as social experiment” in Routledge: *Experiment Earth*, 2015. Link to Stilgoe’s Experiment Earth blog: [_](#)

System changes with RRI

RRI represents a paradigm shift in the fundamental understanding of the relationship between research and society; from linear models to interactive models that focus on interaction and networks across disciplines and societal sectors. Experimental activities indicate that development of RRI will require building new knowledge, expertise, skills and capacity in the research and innovation system. At the same time, the RRI dimensions identified by EPSRC have generic value. Parallels may also be drawn to needs for learning and development identified through long-term efforts in Constructive Technology Assessment (CTA) in the Netherlands and Real-time Technology Assessment (RTTA) in the US.

Dimensions of RRI

RRI presents stretch goals for development and learning in research and innovation systems broadly enough understood to encompass research funding organisations. Introducing RRI is seeking to advance learning and development activities in dialogue with the research environments. The expectation is that the *processes* in the research and innovation systems can be increasingly characterised as:

Anticipatory: Institutions and individuals in our research and innovation systems are repeatedly challenged when it comes to diagnostic and prospective competence and capacity. It has proven difficult to develop substantive diagnoses and correspondingly good prospects or figurations. Technologies may potentially have terrain-changing effects that are realised in complex, dynamic interplay with other societal forces. There is a lack of knowledge and understanding of how to realise this potential in relation to desired societal development (cf. directionality).

Reflexive: This involves employing expertise and capacity to better identify and discuss prerequisites for research and innovation activities, in the form of fundamental, often implicit, assumptions and frameworks of understanding, irreducible uncertainty and areas of ignorance. A greater degree of reflexivity is vital in order to provide directionality in research and innovation processes.

Inclusive: Societal dialogue has long been high up on the agenda of the research and innovation systems. The informative, explanatory monologue on the part of research was to be replaced by (societal) dialogue. After a period of seeking to develop various types of dialogue mechanisms, such as people's juries, lay public conferences, consensus conferences and focus groups, to "enable society to speak back to science," attention is now increasingly being directed towards the research environments themselves. What is being targeted are the skills needed to open up research and innovation processes, recognise the limits of one's own knowledge and competence, and the ability to ask for help in dealing with the potentially landscape-changing effects of these processes.

Responsive: Activities involving the first three dimensions are intended to provide continual input and substance to new governance practices. This entails the development of horizontal or distributed governance schemes that encourage collaboration with partners that may be affected by a research and innovation process. There is a need to open up different perspectives relating to dilemmas and irreducible uncertainty. This must take place via broad-based involvement, not only on the part of researchers from different disciplines, but also bringing on board policy actors, including research councils, trade and industry, interest organisations and society at large. The RRI approach is a learning process with no fixed answers ("beyond rules and regulations").

The RRI Poster

Look forward!

Think through!

Invite along!

Work together!

