JPI OCEANS

Joint Call for proposals

Ocean Oxygen Loss



Joint Transnational Call for Proposals

Ocean Oxygen Loss

CALL THEMES

Assessing the influence of climate change stressors and eutrophication on accelerating oxygen decline and projecting future change of oxygen levels under different scenarios.

Understanding how declining oxygen limits life in the ocean, changes ecosystems, alters productivity across food webs and influences ecosystem services.

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES AND AGENCIES

Funding: Norway, Romania, Italy, Ireland and Canada
In-kind contributions: The United Kingdom and Greece

OVERALL BUDGET

€3.05 million

CO-BRANDING

UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

LAUNCH DATE

18 November 2026

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

1 March 2027 – 17:00 CET

MAXIMUM PROJECT DURATION

36 months

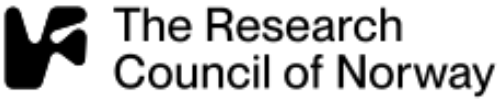
JOINT CALL SECRETARIAT

JPI Oceans

ONLINE SUBMISSION

Proposals must be submitted through the following link:
https://jpi-oceans.eu/en/form/ool-call-application-form
The link will remain active until the deadline of the Joint Call. Please check the JPI Oceans homepage for updates.




The Research
Council of Norway


ue fiscdi


MUR
Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca


Foras na Mara
Marine Institute


MEOPAR


hcmr
ΕΛΚΕΘΕ




Cefas


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INSTITUTE

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Definitions

JOINT CALL
A collaborative mechanism through which multiple countries pool their resources to address shared challenges. A Joint Call invites research institutions and other stakeholders across participating countries to submit project proposals on specific topics.

PROJECT PROPOSAL
A detailed and structured document that outlines the objectives, methodology, timeline, budget, and expected outcomes of a planned project or initiative.

PROJECT
A collaborative research endeavour that has been selected through the joint call evaluation process and will receive financial support.

FUNDING PARTNER
One of the Ministries or Funding agencies listed below who have committed themselves to fund the project/s selected through this call for proposals.

JOINT CALL SECRETARIAT
The primary organisation tasked with overseeing and coordinating the entirety of the joint call process.

PROJECT COORDINATOR
S/he is the Principal Investigator of the partner who is leading the project.

PROJECT PARTNER
An organisation that is part of the project consortium and eligible to receive funding from one of the FUNDING PARTNERS under this Call. PROJECT PARTNERS contribute actively to the implementation of the project and are counted toward the minimum consortium requirements.

ASSOCIATED PARTNER
An organisation participating in the project without receiving funding from one of the FUNDING PARTNERS. ASSOCIATED PARTNERS must secure their own resources (cash or in-kind), cannot act as PROJECT COORDINATOR, and their contribution should not be critical to the project's success. ASSOCIATED PARTNERS do not count towards the minimum consortium requirements.

1. Introduction

With financial contributions from Norway, Romania, Italy, Ireland and Canada and in-kind contributions from the United Kingdom and Greece, this Joint Transnational Call on Ocean Oxygen Loss aims to fund research that generates actionable knowledge on ocean deoxygenation. The Joint Call seeks to strengthen our understanding of the drivers, trends, and impacts of ocean oxygen loss, including its effects on marine ecosystems, habitats, and biodiversity.

1.1. Rationale

Oxygen in seawater is vital for marine life, from microorganisms to the largest animals on Earth. It also controls important processes that affect nutrient and carbon cycles, impacting the Earth's climate. Throughout Earth's history, oxygen levels in the ocean and atmosphere have varied a lot, and major mass extinctions have been associated with low ocean oxygen levels. Today, over 99% of Earth's free molecular oxygen is in the atmosphere, and less than 1% in the ocean. Since the 1960s, around 2% of this limited ocean oxygen pool has been lost, while the volume of anoxic waters (completely devoid of oxygen) has more than quadrupled[1]. Coastal areas are particularly affected, losing oxygen even faster than the open ocean[2].

Oxygen loss poses severe risks for marine life, including suffocation, migration or die-offs. Even reduced oxygen levels still well above lethal thresholds can impair essential biological processes such as respiration, reproduction, movement and vision[3]. Declining oxygen levels can disrupt habitats and change entire ecosystems, favouring hypoxia-tolerant species (that tolerate low oxygen levels)[4]. In some regions, extremely low oxygen levels cause mass occurrence of microbes that produce potent greenhouse gases such as methane and nitrous oxide, further accelerating climate change[5].

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[1] Schmidtko, S., Stramma, L., and Visbeck, M. (2017). Decline in global oceanic oxygen content during the past five decades. Nature 542, 335 339. doi: 10.1038/nature21399.

[2] Breitburg, D., Levin, L. A., Oschlies, A., Grégoire, M., Chavez, F. P., Conley, D. J., et al. (2018). Declining oxygen in the global ocean and coastal waters. Science 359, eaam7240. doi:10.1126/science.aam7240.

[3] Rabalais, N. N., Díaz, R. J., Levin, L. A., Turner, R. E., Gilbert, D., and Zhang, J. (2010). Dynamics and distribution of natural and human-caused hypoxia. Biogeosciences 7, 585 619. doi:10.5194/bg-7-585-2010.

[4] Breitburg et al., 2018.

[5] Buitenhuis, E. T., Suntharalingam, P., and Le Quéré, C. (2018). Constraints on global oceanic emissions of N2O from observations and models. Biogeosciences 15, 2161 2175. doi:10.5194/bg-15-2161-2018.

Recent projections are alarming: even under best-case scenarios of ocean warming and deoxygenation, one-third of fish stocks shared between multiple Exclusive Economic Zones could shift towards the high seas[6]. Aquaculture farms face rising hypoxia-induced mass mortality and heightened vulnerability to diseases and harmful algal blooms[7]. Significant knowledge gaps remain on how deoxygenation will affect ocean productivity, from primary production to fisheries and aquaculture yields[8].

These threats underscore the urgent need for coordinated mitigation and adaptation efforts to address the environmental and economic impacts of ocean deoxygenation, which threaten the sustainability of marine ecosystems and global food security. At the same time, significant knowledge gaps remain regarding the **drivers, impacts, future trajectories, and potential responses to ocean deoxygenation**. Improved understanding of the relative influence of climate change stressors is needed, including ocean warming, stratification, altered circulation patterns, and changes in biological processes, as well as the contribution of eutrophication to accelerating oxygen decline across different marine environments. Further research is required to understand how declining oxygen levels affect marine species, biodiversity, food webs, ecosystem functioning, and ecosystem services, while enhancing the capacity to detect, monitor, and predict oxygen loss across coastal, regional sea, and open-ocean environments. Such knowledge is essential to assess risks and timescales of change, including long-term perspectives beyond the time scale of biological and oceanographic observation, inform effective mitigation and adaptation strategies, support sustainable management of marine resources, and strengthen the resilience of ecosystems and ocean-dependent sectors, including fisheries and aquaculture.

These research priorities were identified as part of the **JPI Oceans Scoping Action on Ocean Oxygen Loss**, led by Poland with support from Germany, Norway, and the IOC-UNESCO. Experts appointed by the participating countries, as well as Belgium, Italy, Ireland, Sweden, France and Canada, drafted a concept paper entitled **"Innovative approaches to understanding and addressing the causes, trends and consequences of ocean oxygen loss"** in October 2025.

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[6] Palacios-Abrantes, J. et al. (2025) Climate change drives shifts in straddling fish stocks in the world's ocean. Sci. Adv.11,eadq5976. DOI:10.1126/sciadv.adq5976.

[7] Sajid, Z., Gamperl, A.K., Parrish, C.C., et al. (2024) An aquaculture risk model to understand the causes and consequences of Atlantic Salmon mass mortality events: A review. Rev Aquac. 16(4):1674-1695.

[8] Free et al. (2019) Impacts of historical warming on marine fisheries production. Science 363, 979-983. DOI:10.1126/science.aau1758.

To address the research priorities outlined above, this Joint Call aims to **reduce uncertainty on drivers of oxygen loss, quantify trends and impacts, and improve predictions, and inform mitigation and adaptation strategies**. The Call's higher-level key objectives are to assess the consequences of ocean deoxygenation for marine ecosystems and ocean-dependent sectors, strengthen capacity for monitoring and observing oxygen dynamics, and generate knowledge that supports coordinated mitigation, adaptation, and sustainable ocean management at national, regional, and international levels.

1.2. About JPI Oceans

The **Joint Programming Initiative Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans (JPI Oceans)** was established in 2011 as a pan-European platform, open to all EU Member States and Associated Countries that invest in marine and maritime research. Our members are ministries and funding agencies that develop, fund, and implement national research agendas.

The distinctive role of JPI Oceans is to strategically prioritise and fund transnational research and innovation to increase the efficiency and impact for sustainably healthy and productive seas and oceans.

1.3. UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)

Ocean Decade co-branding

This Joint Call is **co-branded under the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021–2030), otherwise known as the Ocean Decade**, with the aim of facilitating the endorsement of selected funded research and innovation projects as **Ocean Decade Actions**.

The Ocean Decade is coordinated by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO) on behalf of the UN system and calls for a transformation in the generation and use of ocean research. To reverse the cycle of decline in ocean health, the Ocean Decade strives for an increased understanding and sustainable management of the ocean, seas and coasts. To that effect, it provides a convening framework for scientists and stakeholders from diverse sectors to co-design and co-deliver the scientific knowledge and partnerships needed to accelerate advances in ocean science. The Ocean Decade has a focus on inclusive and transformative science and aims to ensure that no one is left behind.

The objectives of the Ocean Decade are to:

- identify critical ocean knowledge;
- build capacity and generate knowledge; and
- increase the use of ocean knowledge.

The co-branding of the Joint Call will ensure that funded projects endorsed as Ocean Decade Actions form part of a highly visible, shared global effort, opening opportunities to create new collaborations across disciplines, geographies and generations and to establish access to new sources of support.

The **Decade Coordination Unit (DCU)**, housed within IOC-UNESCO, will participate as an observer in the evaluation of applications to this Call. The involvement of the DCU will allow an assessment of whether projects proposed for funding align with the endorsement criteria for Ocean Decade Actions. The DCU will be responsible for assessing and attributing endorsement as Ocean Decade Actions.

Proponents of endorsed Ocean Decade Actions will be able to use the Ocean Decade branding in their communication and awareness-raising activities, in accordance with the **Ocean Decade Brand Guidelines**, while respecting requirements concerning the use of the logos of the national funding agencies supporting the project. Proponents of successful proposals will furthermore be invited to become members of the wider Ocean Decade ecosystem.

Projects proposed for funding should demonstrate alignment with the following **Ocean Decade endorsement criteria**:

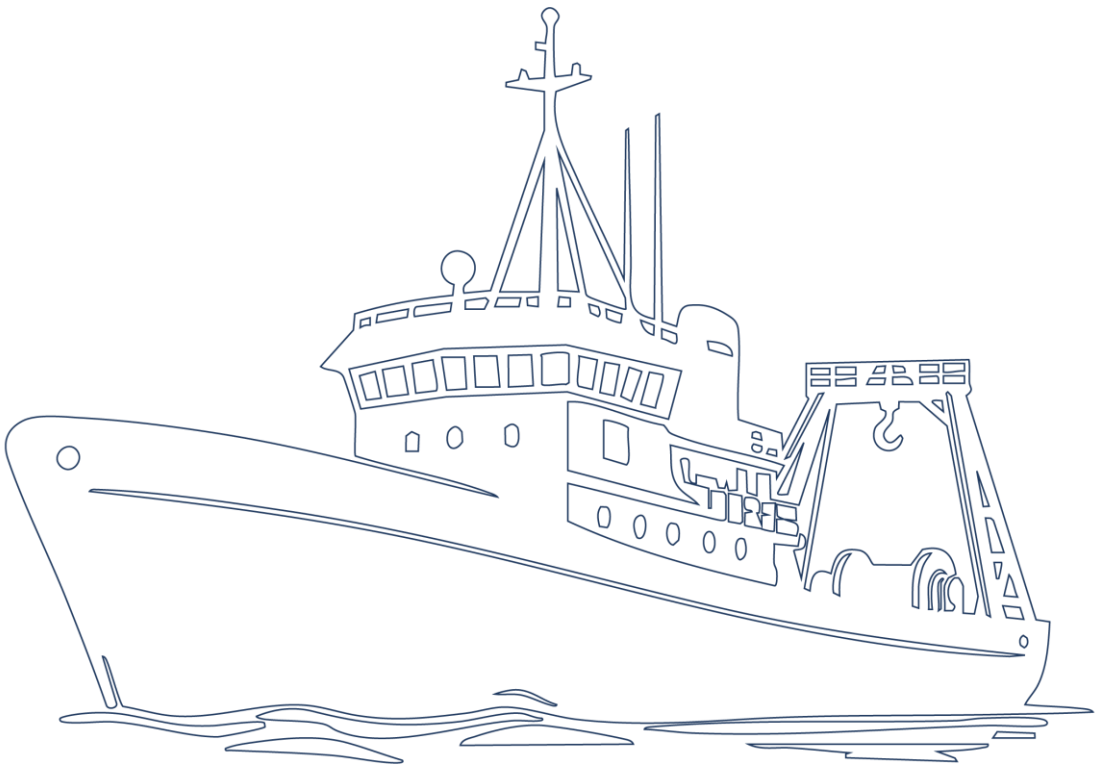
- Contributes to achieving one or more of the three objectives.
- Accelerates the generation or use of knowledge and understanding of the ocean, with a specific focus on knowledge that will contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and complementary policy frameworks and initiatives.
- Is co-designed and/or co-delivered by knowledge generators and users, thus facilitating the uptake of science and ocean knowledge for policy, decision-making, management, and/or innovation.
- Ensures that all data and resulting knowledge are provided in an open access, shared, discoverable manner.

- Strengthens existing or creates new partnerships across nations and/or between diverse ocean actors, including users of ocean science.
- Contributes toward capacity development, including, but not limited to, beneficiaries in small island developing states (SIDS), least developed countries (LDCs), and landlocked developed countries (LLDCs).
- Overcomes barriers to diversity and equity, including gender, generational, and geographic diversity.
- Collaborates with and engages local and Indigenous knowledge holders.

Alignment with GOOD and GO_2NE

This Joint Call has strong connections to the **Global Ocean Oxygen Decade (GOOD) Programme**, an endorsed programme of the Ocean Decade. The GOOD programme raises global awareness of ocean deoxygenation, provides knowledge for action, and facilitates the development of climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies and solutions.

GOOD is led by the **Global Ocean Oxygen Network (GO_2NE)**, an **IOC-UNESCO** expert working group and network of ocean oxygen professionals established in 2016 to provide a global and multidisciplinary outlook on ocean deoxygenation. GO_2NE experts were instrumental in shaping the JPI Oceans Scoping Action on Ocean Oxygen Loss and have contributed substantially to the concept paper which informed the research priorities of this Joint Call. The Joint Call is expected to contribute to the objectives of GOOD and GO_2NE.



2. Scientific and Strategic Framework

2.1. Coordinated and collaborative action

Although ocean oxygen levels are often included as a secondary parameter in scientific research, and despite international efforts, the accelerating loss of ocean oxygen demands urgent and dedicated action. Addressing remaining knowledge gaps requires coordinated action that integrates multiplatform observations, advanced modelling at local, regional and global scales, and accounting for the combined effects of deoxygenation and other ocean stressors.

Actions to mitigate the loss of ocean oxygen and its impacts will require:

(i) **Observations and monitoring**, in under-studied regions (including the deep ocean below 2000 meters), particularly in areas critical for food production, by leveraging contributions from publicly funded monitoring programmes, the private sector, and community-driven initiatives. These observations will underpin early warning, mitigation and adaptation strategies.

(ii) **Science and analysis**, using these observations to better understand the drivers of deoxygenation, disentangle natural variability from climate-driven oxygen trends, and quantify the impacts on ecosystems and socio-economic systems.

(iii) **Implementation**, to translate scientific results into actionable strategies for international organisations such as JPI Oceans, IOC-UNESCO and relevant Ocean Decade programmes.

Close collaboration across international efforts, academia, the private sector and local communities will ensure co-designed research and observations that are fit for purpose. The knowledge will enhance projections of ocean oxygen change, inform activities to improve ocean oxygen conditions, and reduce the environmental and economic impacts of low-oxygen conditions.

2.2. Alignment with European and Global Agendas

The Joint Call closely aligns with European and international policy priorities and will contribute to the implementation of several ocean governance frameworks. Ocean oxygen loss is increasingly recognised as a cross-cutting challenge for marine governance at European, regional and global scales. Significant knowledge gaps limit the ability of policymakers and managers to assess risks, develop effective conservation measures, and implement ecosystem-based management. Addressing these gaps is therefore essential for the successful implementation of marine policy and governance frameworks across coastal seas, regional ocean basins and areas beyond national jurisdiction. The Joint Call will therefore help address a growing pressure on marine ecosystems and strengthen the scientific basis for evidence-based policymaking.

At the European level, the Call supports the objectives of the **European Ocean Pact** to protect and restore ocean health, strengthen ocean observation and knowledge, and advance marine research, innovation and skills development.

Under the **EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)**, ocean oxygen loss remains a challenge for achieving Good Environmental Status and influences MSFD assessments. While dissolved oxygen is primarily assessed under Descriptor 5 (Eutrophication), deoxygenation also affects several other descriptors, through its impacts on biodiversity, food webs, commercially important species, and seabed ecosystems.

This Joint Call is aligned with the **European Commission's OceanEye initiative**, which aims to strengthen ocean observation, improve ocean knowledge, and position Europe as a global leader in ocean intelligence. By advancing scientific understanding of ocean processes and supporting the generation, integration and use of marine observations and knowledge, the projects funded under this Call will contribute to the broader objectives of OceanEye.

At the regional level, the outcomes of the call are expected to be relevant to the work of **Regional Sea Conventions** and other regional cooperation

frameworks, which play an important role in the assessment and protection of the marine environment. Improved understanding of ocean oxygen dynamics can contribute to regional monitoring and assessment of eutrophication and related pressures, and support coordinated approaches to achieving and maintaining healthy marine ecosystems.

Globally, oxygen loss is also encompassed by the broad scope of the **Agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement)** on cumulative and climate-related impacts. For example, it requires conservation planning, area-based management tools and environmental impact assessments to consider cumulative climate-related impacts, including stressors that influence marine biodiversity and ecosystem functioning. This requires sufficient data and process-based understanding to robustly assess and integrate ocean deoxygenation as a climate-related stressor in environmental impact assessments and conservation measures.

The **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** has also identified declining ocean oxygen levels as an important consequence of climate-driven changes in the ocean. Its assessments place ocean deoxygenation within the broader assessment of climate-related risks to marine ecosystems.

3. Call Outline

This Joint Call aims to respond to critical knowledge gaps surrounding the causes, trends, and impacts of ocean oxygen loss, as well as to identify and support effective mitigation and adaptation strategies.

3.1 Priority research themes

Joint Call proposals should support research that addresses the following overarching research priorities:

- Assessing the influence of climate change stressors (e.g. ocean warming, stratification, altered circulation, increased microbial

respiration) and eutrophication on accelerating oxygen decline and projecting future change of oxygen levels under different scenarios.

- Understanding how declining oxygen limits life in the ocean, changes ecosystems, alters productivity across food webs and influences ecosystem services.

Projects should address these themes to quantify risks, assess timescales of change, potentially including paleoecological information, and explore implications for biodiversity, fisheries, aquaculture, and ecosystem functioning across coastal and open-ocean environments, from shallow to deep waters and across pelagic and benthic systems.

As pathways to addressing the priority themes, proposals are expected to contribute to one or more of the following complementary thematic areas:

A. Reduce uncertainty on drivers of oxygen loss
   a. Across coastal environments, regional settings, and the open ocean
   b. Separating climate trends from natural variability

B. Quantify trends, impacts, and improve predictions on oxygen loss
   a. Impacts on life (species, communities and microbial mechanisms)
   b. Interconnections and cumulative effects with other ocean stressors

C. Inform mitigation and adaptation strategies, with emphasis on:
   a. Marine biodiversity conservation (including species and ecosystems) at national and transboundary scales (including areas beyond national jurisdictions)
   b. Impacts on productivity, food provisioning and security (including fisheries and aquaculture)
   c. Improved modelling and impact assessment of eutrophication-driven oxygen decline and alignment with MSFD indicators of Good Environmental Status (Descriptor 5 and other ocean health indicators)

3.2 Geographical scope

The geographic scope of the Joint Call is both global and regional and includes the open ocean, regional seas and local high-economic coastal systems such as fjords, bays and lagoons. Because processes causing deoxygenation vary significantly between areas, proposals may cover local areas, regional areas or the open ocean, as well as process comparisons across multiple settings.

3.3 Outcomes and impacts

Project proposals submitted to Joint Call are expected to deliver knowledge for action, through transdisciplinary research, innovative outreach, and education and literacy. Applicants should clearly describe the outcomes and impacts their project aims to achieve and explain how the proposed activities and outputs will contribute to these objectives.

Projects are expected to contribute to several of the outcomes listed below. The list is not exhaustive, and applicants may propose additional outcomes where these are relevant and appropriately justified. Applications are not expected to cover all listed outcomes but should adequately address relevant ones.

Scientific and technological outcomes

- Improved understanding of the biological, chemical and physical processes controlling oxygen levels, closing critical knowledge gaps in both open ocean and coastal settings, enhancing model accuracy and predictive capability.
- Reliable and open science-based knowledge on oxygen variability and dynamics, reducing risks of uncontrolled and uninformed artificial reoxygenation attempts.
- Advanced monitoring technologies, including the development and deployment of innovative, low-power and low-cost oxygen sensors.
- Development of harmonised datasets and products, including three-dimensional maps of oxygen-limited habitats.
- Development of better metrics and indicators of deoxygenation to assess ecosystem threats and resilience.

Policy outcomes

- Enhanced capacity to assess, monitor and manage ocean oxygen loss across marine ecosystems, supporting the achievement of Good Environmental Status under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, including stronger integration of dissolved oxygen as a key criterion for eutrophication assessment (D5C5), improved responsiveness of assessments to seasonal and climate-driven oxygen loss, and strengthened monitoring and prediction of bottom-water oxygen conditions.
- Contribution to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, particularly to Target 7 (pollution reduction) by addressing nutrient-driven oxygen loss and Target 8 (climate nexus) by addressing ocean deoxygenation as a key climate-driven stressor on biodiversity.
- Supporting implementation of the Agreement on Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction by providing the scientific knowledge, observations and predictive capabilities needed to assess ocean deoxygenation as a climate-related and cumulative stressor in conservation planning, area-based management tools and environmental impact assessments in areas beyond national jurisdiction.
- Supporting regional sea conventions and ecosystem-based marine management, through improved monitoring, harmonised methodologies, enhanced data comparability, and stronger scientific underpinning for assessments of eutrophication and climate-driven deoxygenation impacts.
- Provision of actionable knowledge, tools and best practices to inform marine policy and international reporting, conservation planning, and adaptative management to ocean oxygen loss across coastal and open ocean environments.

Awareness and citizen science

- Greater recognition of ocean deoxygenation as a critical ecosystem threat amongst marine policy and conservation communities, and promotion of its integration into monitoring frameworks and decision-making.

- Expanded participatory science through ongoing initiatives and community-led coastal partnerships.
- Strengthened private sector engagement, including commercial shipping and research-support vessels, to generate high-quality oxygen data from under-sampled regions.
- Establishment of frameworks and best practices to ensure quality and harmonisation of citizen and private efforts, feeding into global repositories (e.g. GO2DAT[9]).
- Stronger co-production approaches with Indigenous coastal communities, valuing traditional knowledge alongside scientific data through co-designed and co-produced research approaches.

Economic outcomes

- Support for mitigation and adaptation strategies to reduce the economic impacts of deoxygenation for fisheries, aquaculture and other relevant sectors.
- Greater resilience in aquaculture systems, addressing vulnerabilities such as hypoxia-induced mass mortality, diseases, and harmful algal blooms.
- Early detection of deoxygenation hotspots to guide targeted mitigation efforts, preventing irreversible damage to marine ecosystems and to coastal economies.
- Deliver fit-for-purpose scientific products, such as datasets and models, by using open-source and national biodiversity datasets[10] and linking oceanographic changes (temperature, oxygen, etc.) with productivity and marine food web dynamics.
- Contribution to the sustainable blue economy by supporting fisheries, aquaculture, and marine biodiversity under changing ocean conditions.

[9] See for example Grégoire, M. et al. 2021. A Global Ocean Oxygen Database and Atlas for Assessing and Predicting Deoxygenation and Ocean Health in the Open and Coastal Ocean. Frontiers in Marine Science 8. https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2021.724913.

[10] Such as the Ocean Biodiversity Information System (OBIS) and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF).

4. Criteria

Proposals submitted to the Joint Call should address the thematic and geographical areas outlined in Section 3 of the Call text.

Projects must respond to one or both of the Joint Call's overarching research priorities:

- **Assess the influence of climate change stressors and eutrophication on accelerating oxygen decline and projecting future change of oxygen levels under different scenarios**
- **Understand how declining oxygen limits life in the ocean, changes ecosystems and alters productivities across food webs**.

In addition to addressing the overarching goals, proposals should clearly demonstrate how they contribute to one or more of the following complementary thematic areas:

A. **Reduce uncertainty on drivers of oxygen loss**
B. **Quantify trends, impacts, and improve predictions on oxygen loss**
C. **Inform mitigation and adaptation strategies**

The geographical scope of the projects should be one or more of the following:

- **Local, high-economic coastal areas**
- **Regional Seas**
- **Open-ocean systems**
- **Comparative studies across multiple spatial settings**

Projects should **justify their chosen spatial focus** and explain how their work advances understanding or solutions relevant to the selected marine environment. Furthermore, applicants must **demonstrate how the proposed research contributes to the broader international understanding of oxygen loss**, ensuring that outcomes extend beyond local or national relevance and support knowledge needs, strategic ambitions, and collaborative efforts on marine and climate challenges.

Applicants are advised to consult their national funding rules and their National Contact Points for this Call prior to planning and submitting proposals (Annex 1).

4.1 Eligibility

The Call is open to proposals that meet the following criteria:

Number of applicants per proposal

- Each application must involve eligible PROJECT PARTNERS requesting funding from a minimum of three FUNDING PARTNERS (i.e., Norway, Romania, Italy, Ireland and Canada) of this Joint Call. Partners participating on an in-kind basis (the United Kingdom and Greece) do not count towards this minimum requirement, but may be included in addition.

Overall eligibility criteria

- Applications must be submitted by the set deadline, complete and in accordance with all the requirements defined by this document.
- Research and industry PROJECT PARTNERS who are eligible to apply for financial support from their national FUNDING PARTNERS (see Annex 1) are eligible to apply for funding within this Call for proposals.
- Research and industry PROJECT PARTNERS ineligible for funding, either because they are not eligible for funding by the FUNDING PARTNERS or they are from a country not represented in this Call, can participate in project proposals as ASSOCIATED (self-funded) PARTNERS, on the condition that they provide written proof that their part of the project will be covered independently of this Call (in-kind). However, they cannot coordinate a project and their contribution to the project should not be critical. ASSOCIATED (self-funded) PARTNERS are not counted for the minimum requirement of eligible PROJECT PARTNERS and countries, see below.
- The PROJECT COORDINATOR of a proposal must be eligible for funding by one of the FUNDING PARTNERS.
- Proposals must align with the aims, scope and relevance criteria defined in the Call text.
- Input of in-kind national scientific contributions of researchers to the joint project must be visible and marked in the proposal.

Consortia must be aware that failure of one partner within the consortium to meet the national eligibility criteria may result in the rejection of the entire

proposal. **It is therefore strongly recommended that the PROJECT COORDINATOR verifies that each PROJECT PARTNER contacts its National Contact Point to check its eligibility prior to planning and submitting the proposal.**

Duration and project start

- The project duration is a minimum of one year (12 months) and a maximum of three years (36 months).
- Projects should start within six months from the publications of the results of the selection process and no later than 01 December 2027.
- Within a consortium, project partners may have different start dates, provided that all partners commence their activities no later than 1 December 2027.
- Individual project partners are not required to participate for the full duration of the project. Partners may participate for a shorter period and conclude their activities before the end of the overall project, in accordance with the requirements of their respective funding organisation. Activities funded by Canada must be concluded by 31 December 2028.

National eligibility criteria

The eligibility criteria specified by the respective FUNDING PARTNERS must be met. For details, potential applicants must consult the national funding rules in the national guidelines of their respective FUNDING PARTNERS participating in the Joint Call (Annex 1). For questions or further advice on the national requirements, contact the relevant National Contact Point of the national FUNDING PARTNERS (Annex 1) before applying.

Eligible budget items

Eligible costs are ruled by national funding rules (Annex 1). Specific questions should be addressed to the National Contact Points of the FUNDING PARTNERS (Annex 1), if possible, in advance of applying.

- The costs for individual project proposals shall be proportionate and necessary for achieving the project goals and consider the national eligibility criteria about minimum and upper limits of costs.
- Budgetary issues, including potential restrictions for funding should be checked with the national funding rules and by contacting the National Contact Points (Annex 1).
- The total amount of funding requested from a FUNDING PARTNER in a proposal cannot exceed the budget limitations set by this FUNDING

PARTNER and in no case can it exceed the total available budget of this FUNDING PARTNER.
- Project consortium costs should be balanced.

Other

Applications must comply with the Do No Significant Harm Principle and ethics principles (Annex 2).

4.2 Evaluation criteria

Potential applicants are advised to take carefully notice of the aims, scope, and the relevance of the topics of the Call as described above. The following criteria will be applied to assess the quality of proposals:

1. Excellence

This criterion assesses the scientific quality, relevance and ambition of the proposed research and innovation, and whether the project is designed to deliver a meaningful advance.

Reviewers will consider:

Research objectives and ambition:
- the clarity, relevance and coherence of the research questions, hypotheses and project objectives;
- the extent to which the proposed work is ambitious, novel and advances beyond the current state of the art, with clear added value from the expected outputs;

Scientific approach and project design:
- the scientific quality and appropriateness of the concepts, theoretical framework, methodology, research design and overall project approach;
- the effective integration of interdisciplinary, transdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approaches, where relevant to the project objectives;
- the treatment of scientific uncertainty and risk, including whether higher-risk elements are matched by a credible approach for generating useful knowledge.

2. Implementation

This criterion assesses whether the work plan, consortium, governance and resources are appropriately configured to deliver the proposed project.

Reviewers will consider:

Work plan:

- the quality, coherence, feasibility and effectiveness of the work plan, including the allocation of responsibilities, milestones and deliverables;
- the identification and management of operational, scientific and delivery risks, including the ability to adapt where circumstances or intermediate findings change;

Consortium and governance:

- the extent to which the consortium collectively provides the expertise, capacities and capabilities required to achieve the project objectives, and whether partners have complementary expertise with clearly defined and appropriate roles and responsibilities;
- the quality and appropriateness of the governance, coordination and management arrangements, including appropriate consideration of gender and diversity in the composition, roles and participation of the consortium; [1]

Resources and supporting measures:

- the proportionality and coherence of the requested budget and resource allocation in relation to the proposed work, including value for money;
- access to the infrastructure, facilities, data and other relevant in-kind resources required to deliver the project;
- the adequacy of arrangements for data management, open science practices and the sharing of project outputs;
- arrangements for training and capacity-building, where relevant to the objectives of the project.

[1] *Evaluators should assess gender and diversity proportionately in relation to the size and nature of the consortium. Relevant considerations may include balance and meaningful participation across scientific and coordination roles, career stages, institutions and relevant backgrounds or perspectives. The purpose is not to apply fixed quotas, but to assess whether*

the organisation of the consortium supports inclusive and effective participation.

3. Impact

This criterion assesses whether the project has a credible pathway from its research outputs to meaningful scientific, policy, societal, environmental or economic outcomes.

Reviewers will consider:

Stakeholder engagement and pathways to uptake:

- the co-design with principal users, beneficiaries, decision-makers and intermediary organisations
- the credibility of the pathway linking project activities and outputs to expected outcomes, including policy uptake, implementation, replication, scaling, capacity-building or continued use;
- the quality and suitability of the proposed communication, outreach, dissemination, exploitation and knowledge-transfer measures;

Potential for impact and long-term value:

- the extent to which open science practices, accessibility and reusability of project outputs support their adoption and long-term value;
- the extent to which the potential environmental, societal, policy or economic impacts are clearly formulated and plausible, and how it benefits beyond the lifetime of the project.

5. Funding, in-kind and research infrastructure availability

A total amount of approximately EUR 3.05 million has been allocated by the FUNDING PARTNERS from Norway, Ireland, Romania, Italy and Canada (see Table 1 below). Each PROJECT PARTNER will be funded by its national FUNDING PARTNER. In addition, the United Kingdom and Greece are offering in-kind participation in the Call. Interested researchers may contact the relevant national contact points for more information (Annex 1).

Applicants from countries not funding this Call may participate as ASSOCIATED PARTNERS with their own resources (cash or in-kind).

It is specifically noted that the available funding from Canada is only available until the end of 2028, and project activities involving Canadian project partners must be concluded by then (see the National Annex for additional details).

The funding model for this Joint Call is the Virtual Common Pot, i.e., after a Joint Call and a common evaluation, the FUNDING PARTNERS will fund the partners from their own countries participating in the project selected for funding.

The FUNDING PARTNERS aim to fund the highest-ranked proposal according to the criteria and procedures stated in the description of the Call and the Annexes of this Call text.

The FUNDING PARTNERS retain the right to cut part of the proposed budgets if necessary, according to national funding rules. However, imposed budget cuts and inclusion of recommendations should not threaten the feasibility of the proposed project.

Table 1: Overview of country and respective funding partners with available budget for this Joint Call.

Country	FUNDING PARTNER	K Euro	Additional information
Norway	The Research Council of Norway	1100	Maximum requested funding per project: € 550.000 Please refer to the national annex for further details and conditions.
Ireland	Marine Institute	600	Maximum requested funding per project: € 150,000 for 12 to 18 months; € 300,000 for 24 to 36 months.
Romania	The Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding	500	Maximum requested funding per project: € 250.000 if the consortium is coordinated by a Romanian applicant. € 200.000 max. for Romanian partners in the consortium.
Italy	Ministry of Universities and Research	400	Maximum requested funding per project: € 200.000
Canada	The Marine Environmental Observation, Prediction and Response Network	$700 CAD (~445 EUR)	Funds are available until 31 December 2028. Maximum requested funding per project: $ 350.000 CAD Please refer to the national annex for further details and conditions.
United Kingdom	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute Northern Ireland	In-kind	Contributions include access to research vessel surveys, national monitoring data and scientific expertise. Please refer to the national annex for further details and conditions.
Greece	The Hellenic Centre for Marine Research	In-kind	Contribution will include national monitoring and observation data, access to research laboratories and scientific expertise. Please refer to the national annex for further details and conditions.

6. Procedures

6.1 Dates and deadlines

The deadline for submitting proposals is 1 March 2027 – 17:00 CET. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

A final decision on the evaluation of the proposals can be expected by the end of May 2027.

- Launch of the Call: 18 November 2026
- Deadline for submitting proposals: 1 March 2027 – 17:00 CET
- End of peer-review process: April 2027
- Inform positively ranked institutions: May 2027
- Start of projects: no later than 1 December 2027

6.2 Submission of proposals

Applications must be submitted by the PROJECT COORDINATOR electronically via the following link: https://jpi-oceans.eu/en/form/ool-call-application-form.

The link will remain active until the submission deadline. Please check the JPI Oceans webpage for updates.

The use of the official application form is mandatory.

The language of the application must be English.

The maximum length of the proposal is 20 pages, including annexes. Administrative details and the DNSH Declaration are excluded from this page limit. The proposal must include brief CVs for the PROJECT COORDINATOR and the LEAD RESEARCHER of each PROJECT PARTNER. These CVs shall be included in the administrative details and must not exceed 2 pages per person.

Instructions and guidelines for submitting applications can be found on the website. In case of technical questions, please contact the Call Secretariat at: Vegard.Dahlen@jpi-oceans.eu

6.3 Scoring system

The evaluation of each proposal will be based on the three criteria described in Section 4.2, which will each be scored individually on a scale of 0 (lowest) to 5 (highest). Any proposal receiving a final score of 3 or below for one of the main criteria will not be selected for funding.

A total score for each proposal will be calculated to one decimal place, based upon the final score agreed by the evaluators for each of the criteria. The proposals will be ranked according to total final score. For projects with the same total score, projects with the highest score for Scientific quality/Excellence will be ranked highest within that group of projects.

0 – LIMITED
The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.

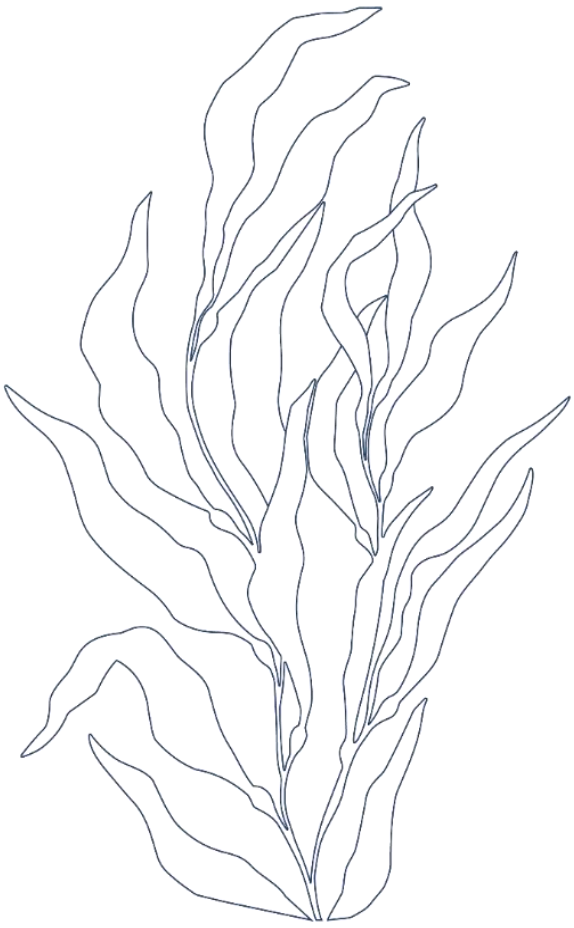
1 – POOR
The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.

2 – FAIR
The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.

3 – GOOD
The proposal addresses the criterion well, but several 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.



6.4 Evaluation of proposals

The following procedure will be applied:

1. A one-step transnational proposal submission and evaluation procedure will be applied to this Call.
2. Proposals must be submitted via the submission platform by the PROJECT COORDINATOR of the proposal.
3. After the submission deadline, all proposals are checked against the Call eligibility criteria by the CALL SECRETARIAT. FUNDING PARTNERS will check national eligibility criteria specified in the national funding rules. The national eligibility check will include an ethics screening to ensure that the proposals comply with applicable national rules and regulations.
4. Eligible proposals will be sent for scientific evaluation that will be carried out by at least three independent reviewers (jointly selected by the FUNDING PARTNERS), one of them acting as rapporteur. Independent reviewers will make sure that proposals generally adhere to the aims, scope and relevance of the Call.
5. The evaluation of each proposal will be based on the Evaluation criteria described in Section 4.2. These will be scored on a 5-point scale as described in Section 6.3.
6. The final ranking list will be agreed on by the reviewers through discussion and consensus in an Evaluation panel meeting. The Evaluation by the Evaluation panel will result in a ranking list according to the total score (calculated to one decimal place) and a review report for each eligible proposal. Any proposal receiving a final score below 3 for one of the Evaluation criteria will not be selected for funding.
7. The Evaluation Panel categorises the proposals based on the results of Step 6 in three categories:

    A. Very good proposals recommended for funding;
    B. Good proposals to be funded if sufficient funds are available;
    C. Poor proposals, not recommended for funding.

    Proposals in groups A and B shall be ranked by the Evaluation Panel. No ranking is requested for the proposals in group C. For each proposal, the Evaluation Panel will provide to the FUNDING PARTNERS a consensus report summarising the results of the evaluation.
8. Based on the Evaluation Panel recommendations described above and the available funding, the FUNDING PARTNERS jointly agree on a short-list of proposals selected for funding, assuring, to the extent possible, a

maximum use of available funds and a balanced coverage of the scientific themes of the Call.

9. The outcome of this process will be communicated by the JOINT CALL SECRETARIAT to the PROJECT COORDINATOR of the proposal, who will inform their respective partners accordingly. The evaluation summary report by the Evaluation Panel will be made available to the PROJECT COORDINATOR of the proposal upon request.
10. The funding decision is irrevocable and therefore no redress procedure is possible.
11. Formal funding decisions are made by the participating FUNDING PARTNERS, and where applicable, are followed up by national requests for application submissions.
12. Consent provided, the composition of the evaluation panel will be made available on the website of the JOINT CALL SECRETARIAT after the funding procedure has been completed. Strict confidentiality is maintained with respect to the identities of applicants and the contents of the proposals throughout the duration of the entire procedure. The list of funded projects will be published on the website of JPI Oceans.

6.5 Other requirements

Conflict of interest

Investigators must disclose any financial or beneficial relationships with a commercial interest (and those of the Investigator's spouse and dependent children) that could be viewed as presenting a potential conflict of interest and must declare any relationship that may lead to a potential commercial bias. All relevant sources of revenue paid, or promised to be paid, by a commercial entity either directly to the investigator, or to the investigator's institution on their behalf, over the preceding 12 months must be included in the disclosure form.

Public funding sources (government agencies, charitable associations, etc.) generally need not be disclosed. However, if a particular relationship with one of these public funding sources might be perceived as creating an actual or potential conflict of interest, the investigator must disclose the relationship and provide relevant information. Similarly, any royalties (defined as use-based payments made to the investigator or their institution as the holder of a patent, copyright, registered trademark, or other property) should be disclosed.

Consortium agreements

Following selection of the project for funding, the awarded beneficiaries will be signing a Grant Agreement with the respective FUNDING PARTNER. All PROJECT PARTNERS selected for funding shall sign a Consortium Agreement in accordance with national regulations.

Access to data and information

Projects should contribute to improved access to data and information, to an enhanced data basis, and/or promote the harmonisation of data to support knowledge-based decision-making. Therefore, the project should ensure that all data and resulting knowledge are provided in an open access, shared, discoverable manner, also in accordance with national rules.

Dissemination of results

Projects should include clear and precise procedures to disseminate results for further use by policy and practice, especially to decision-makers and non-scientific target audiences, creating a user-oriented knowledge product.

Awarded projects are required to follow Open Access and Research Data guidelines and to acknowledge the JPI Oceans Ocean Oxygen Loss Joint Call in all dissemination activities. Additionally, any requirements set by the Funding Partner must also be respected

Project management, reporting and meetings

The PROJECT COORDINATOR is required to submit a mid-term report, including a summary for publishing, within three months after the mid-term. Furthermore, the PROJECT COORDINATOR will be responsible for submitting a final report, including a summary for publishing, within three months after the end of the project. These reports should cover the work undertaken by all the PROJECT PARTNERS. Reports are to be submitted to the JOINT CALL SECRETARIAT and must be written in English. Templates for the reports will be provided by the JOINT CALL SECRETARIAT.

Independent of the international reporting mentioned above, all PROJECT PARTNERS need to report to their national FUNDING PARTNER in accordance with the national rules of each country.

At the beginning of the project, a joint kick-off meeting with the funded projects will be organised. A joint mid-term meeting will be organised halfway through the funding period. A joint final meeting will be organised at the end of the funding period. The FUNDING PARTNERS, together with JPI

Oceans Secretariat, will organise these three meetings in cooperation with the Principal Investigators of the funded project.

The Principal Investigators of each PROJECT PARTNER shall include capacity for their participation in the three meetings in their proposal. Participants of the funded project are expected to participate in the kick-off, mid-term meeting, and the final conference and should include the relevant travel costs in their proposal budgets.

Further information

Potential applicants are strongly advised to consult the general funding requirements of the FUNDING PARTNERS participating in the Call and to contact the National Contact Point whenever necessary, especially regarding eligible costs and other country- or region-specific aspects of the Call.

Joint Call Secretariat

The Call Secretariat will be run by the JPI Oceans Secretariat. The Call Secretariat is responsible for organising the evaluation procedure and for the general communications with PROJECT COORDINATORS regarding their applications. For questions related to national eligibility criteria, applicants should contact the relevant national contact point.

Visibility on Ocean Matcher

In line with the Memorandum of Understanding between JPI Oceans and the Ocean Matcher platform, PROJECT PROPOSALS may be offered the opportunity to be featured on Ocean Matcher. Ocean Matcher is a digital platform designed to connect high-quality ocean research proposals with potential philanthropic and other FUNDING PARTNERS. PROJECT PROPOSAL information will only be shared with Ocean Matcher subject to the explicit consent of the PROJECT COORDINATOR. Participation is entirely voluntary and has no bearing on the evaluation, selection, or implementation of the project.

Privacy policy

By submitting the application, the PROJECT COORDINATOR and PROJECT PARTNERS agree to the use, sharing (for specific purposes: e.g., evaluation, for the future nomination of experts, JPI Oceans-specific communication), and the storage of project-related information according to the Privacy Policy and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Further information on the Privacy Policy is presented on the JPI Oceans website.

Annex 1: National funding rules

Norway
The Research Council of Norway

The Research Council of Norway

NATIONAL CONTACT

Name: Hanna Lee Behrens
Affiliation: The Research Council of Norway
Address: Drammensveien 288, 1327 Lysaker
Tel: +47 481 81 290
Email: HLB@RCN.NO

Name: Torunn Hancke
Affiliation: The Research Council of Norway
Address: Drammensveien 288, 1327 Lysaker
Tel: +47 948 18 296
Email: TOHAN@RCN.NO

BUDGET

- **Anticipated amount of funding for this call:** up to about € 1,100,000
- **Maximum amount per project:** Norway aim to fund 2 projects. Within a single proposal, the maximum requested funding for all Norwegian partners collated should not exceed €550,000. Proposals involving Norwegian participation are encouraged to include more than one Norwegian partner. See *National regulations* below for details on official exchange rate from Norwegian kroner to Euro.
- **Name of & link to the funding programmes:** Portfolio Climate and environment.

ELIGIBILITY AND NATIONAL FUNDING MODALITIES

Eligible Institutions / Eligible applicants:

Research organisations, companies and entities in the public sector can apply for funding from the Research Council of Norway.

Support from the Research Council of Norway awarded to research institutions is normally awarded for non-economic activity. When an entity also pursues economic activities ("undertaking"), the financing, the costs and the revenues of those economic activities will be granted under the state aid guidelines and must be entered into separate accounts.

Sole proprietorships cannot apply for funding from the RCN. Private individuals cannot apply.

Legal/administrative/financial conditions:

Maximum project duration:
Maximum project duration is up to 36 months. Projects with Norwegian partners must start in 2027.

Eligible costs:

- Eligible Personnel costs (permanent/temporary)
- Operating costs (travel and consumables)
- Equipment
- Overheads
- Subcontracting

All applications for project support from the Research Council must contain a complete budget. The budget includes a cost plan detailing all the expected project costs and a funding plan showing how these costs will be covered under the project. The budget is to be specified by calendar year. For further details: What to enter in the project budget

Funding rates:

OTHER ISSUES

Subject, relevance criteria:
The Research Council of Norway aims to fund the highest-ranked proposals according to the criteria and procedures stated in the description of the call.

State aid guidelines:
The funding of a research and development project granted in this call 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 in this call is granted under the General Block Exemption Regulation for state aid, Article 25: Aid for research and development projects.

Support from the Research Council 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.

To ensure that support is awarded in compliance with the state aid rules, the Research Council will ask applicants selected for conditional allocation of funding to provide supplementary information. The Project (Principal) Investigator must be able to document that their own institution and all its partners (all recipients of state aid) are eligible to receive state aid.

Open access / Open science:
The Research Council seeks to lead the way in making research as open as possible and as closed as necessary. The Research Council of Norway has stipulated requirements relating to self-archiving and open access to publications and research data produced in connection with R&D projects funded by the Research Council. Read more about The Research Council's Principles for Open Science: https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/Adviser-research-policy/open-science/

Other issues:
The Research Council requires a high standard of research ethics in the projects we fund. The responsibility for ensuring that the research ethics standard is followed lies with the individual researcher and research institution (cf. the Act on the Organisation of Research Ethics Work, in Norwegian). The Research Council's decision on funding does not entail any research ethics approval.

National Regulations:
The participation must follow RCN's General Terms and Conditions for R&D Projects.

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

The budget applied for shall be stated in Euro. Conversion from Euro to Norwegian kroner is based on the official exchange rate per date for deadline for submitting the application. The official exchange rate can be found here:
https://www.ecb.int/stats/exchange/eurofxref/html/index.en.html.

The Research Council of Norway retains the right to cut the budgets of proposals if found necessary.

Norwegian project partners will sign a separate contract with the RCN. Norwegian partners who are coordinators of the projects will be asked to also coordinate the Norwegian partners of the projects.

Projects that receive funding from the Research Council of Norway are required to submit progress and final reports pursuant to their contracts with the Research Council of Norway.

National additional application (if relevant):
Project partners of projects granted funding will have to submit national application forms to the Research Council of Norway after notification by the Research Council.

Romania

The Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding

NATIONAL CONTACT

Name: Domnica Cotet
Affiliation: The Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding

Address: 21-25 Mendeleev Street, Sector 1, Cod 010362, Bucharest

Tel: +40-213023880
Email: domnica.cotet@uefiscdi.ro

BUDGET

- **Anticipated amount of funding for this call:** € 500,000
- **Maximum amount per project:** 250.000 max. if the consortium is coordinated by a Romanian applicant 200.000 max. for Romanian partners in the consortium.
- **Name of & link to the funding programmes:** The framework for this funding action is the National Plan for Research, Development and Innovation 2022-2027, Programme 5.8 European and international cooperation, 5.8.1 Horizon Europe Program.
- **More information:** https://uefiscdi.gov.ro/parteneriate-si-misiuni-europene

ELIGIBILITY AND NATIONAL FUNDING MODALITIES

Eligible Institutions / Eligible applicants:

The categories of institutions and units that can benefit from public funding for Horizon Europe projects are those established as components of the national research-development system, in accordance with the provisions of OG 57/2002, approved by Law 324/2003 with subsequent amendments and additions: educational institutions, accredited public and private institutions, national research and development institutes, other public or private research organisations, economic agents (SMEs and large enterprises), local or central public administration units, non-governmental organisations.

The head of the research team from each participating institution has a PhD degree. This condition does not apply if the institution is an enterprise within the meaning of the State Aid legislation.

A person in charge of the research team will participate in a single proposal from the trans-national call in this capacity.

Maximum project duration: 36 months

Eligible costs:
Staff costs;
Logistics expenses - Capital expenditure;
- Expenditure on stocks, supplies, and inventory items;
- Expenditure on services performed by third parties cannot exceed 25% of the funding from the public budget. The subcontracted parts should not be core/substantial parts of the project work;

Travel expenses;
Overhead (indirect costs) is calculated as a percentage of direct costs: staff costs, logistics costs (excluding capital costs and cost for subcontracting) and travel expenses. Indirect costs will not exceed 25% of direct costs.
The current guidelines for grants on an expenditure-cost basis and for allocations for administrative agreements apply.

UEFISCDI will avoid double funding (overlapping with other EU or National funding) and will not grant projects or parts of projects already funded.
UEFISCDI will fund strategic (basic) research, applied/industrial research, experimental development implemented by research organisations and/or SMEs, according to the national rules and to the State Aid legislation.

Additional eligibility criteria:
It is strongly advised to contact UEFISCDI before submission, in order to verify the eligibility of the researchers and avoid ineligible projects/research consortia.

Italy
Ministry of Universities and Research

NATIONAL CONTACT

Name: Ivana Matic
Affiliation: Ministry of Universities and Research (MUR) Directorate General for Internationalisation and Communication

Address: Largo Antonio Ruberti, n. 1 – 00153 Rome
Tel: -
Email: ivana.matic@mur.gov.it

BUDGET

- **Anticipated amount of funding for this call:** EUR 400,000.
- **Maximum amount per project:** The maximum funding requested from MUR within a single project proposal is EUR 200,000.
- **Name of & link to the funding programmes:** The call is funded by the Ministry of Universities and Research (MUR) under its international research cooperation activities. Information on the national additional application, the national notice and the related forms will be published at the following link: http://www.ricercainternazionale.mur.gov.it

ELIGIBILITY AND NATIONAL FUNDING MODALITIES

Eligible Institutions / Eligible applicants: Italian applicants must comply with the international eligibility criteria set out in this Call text and with the additional national eligibility criteria published in the national supplementary notice.

Legal/administrative/financial conditions:

- Italian partners are required to submit a national application, in addition to the joint proposal submitted through the international JPI Oceans online platform. A national application component to be submitted to the Italian Ministry of University and Research (MUR) on a date will be communicated at a later stage, through the online platform https://banditransnazionali.mur.gov.it/, in accordance with the operational procedures and application forms.

Failure to submit the national additional application by the deadline will result in the inadmissibility of the Italian partner for funding.

Maximum project duration: 36 months

Eligible costs: All R&D activities considered as basic research, Industrial/Applied research and Experimental development are eligible for funding. However, Basic Research and Industrial/ Applied research activities must be predominant with respect to Experimental development activities (in terms of budget share). All costs incurred during the lifetime of the project under the following categories are eligible:
A) Personnel,
B) Consulting and equivalent services (subcontracting)
C.1) Travel and subsistence
C.2) Equipment
C.3) Other goods and Services
E) Indirect Costs/Overheads ("Spese generali") calculated at 25% flat rate of all direct costs excluding cost category B) Consulting and equivalent services [E) = 25% of A) + C.1) + C.2) + C.3]. Value added tax (VAT) actually and definitively incurred by the beneficiaries is an eligible expense only if it is not recoverable.

Funding rates: Maximum funding percentages:
• Basic research: 70%
• Industrial/Applied Research: 70%
• Experimental development/innovation: 25%

OTHER ISSUES

Subject, relevance criteria: Italian partners must address the priority research themes of the Call (see Section 3.1).

State aid guidelines: -

Open access / Open science: Italian partners are required to comply with the open access and open science requirements set out in this Call text.

Other issues: -

National Regulations: The Italian national eligibility check, including any applicable ethics screening, will be carried out by MUR after the submission deadline, as described in Section 6.4 of this Call text.
The applicable national rules, in addition to the National supplementary notice ("Avviso integrativo nazionale") and National annex (attached to the international call) can be downloaded from the webpage:

http://www.ricercainternazionale.mur.gov.it/evidenza/normativa-prog-internazionali.aspx

National additional application (if relevant): Mandatory for all Italian partners. See "Legal/administrative/financial conditions" above and the national notice:
http://www.ricercainternazionale.mur.gov.it/era/programmazione-congiunta/jpi-oceans.aspx

Ireland

Marine Institute

NATIONAL CONTACT

Name: Veronica Cunningham
Affiliation: Marine Institute
Address: Rinville, Oranmore, Co. Galway, H91 R673, Ireland
Tel: +353 91 387200
Email: veronica.cunningham@marine.ie

BUDGET

- **Anticipated amount of funding for this call:** 600,000 Euro.
- **Maximum amount per project:** Within a single project proposal, the maximum contribution for up to two Irish partners is 150,000 Euro (for 12 to 18 months) and 300,000 Euro (for 24 to 36 months). The minimum contribution is 90,000 Euro.
- **Name of & link to the funding programmes:** Information on the 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

Applicants are advised to contact their National Contact Point (details above) prior to submission of any application under this call, and to request a budget template for Irish Partners.

ELIGIBILITY AND NATIONAL FUNDING MODALITIES

Eligible Institutions / Eligible applicants:

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.

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.

Legal/administrative/financial conditions:

Maximum project duration: 12 to 36 months

Eligible costs:

Personnel costs (permanent/temporary)

- Eligible staff costs include gross salary and employer's PRSI (pay-related social insurance) and employer's pension costs (max 20% of gross salary). Temporary or contract research staff are eligible for Higher Education Institutions and Other Public Research Bodies, but staff costs for permanent staff are not. Both temporary and permanent staff costs are eligible for Industry partners.
- Master's (MSc) and PhD student costs (stipend €25,000 per annum and college fees €6,000 per annum) are also eligible costs.
- MSc and PhD must be registered, on a full-time basis, for a higher degree at an eligible Higher Education Institute.

Operating costs (travel and consumables)

- Project-related travel and consumables are allowable costs e.g. travel and subsistence for project fieldwork and meetings, workshops, conferences, laboratory supplies, computer supplies, software, etc.

Equipment

- The purchase and installation of small-scale scientific equipment and instruments for the project is allowable. Depreciation cost reimbursement will be either 36 or 60 months.
- The purchase of a personal computer/laptop is eligible at a maximum cost of €2,000 per person and must be used solely for carrying out the project work.

Overheads

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

Subcontracting

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

OTHER ISSUES

Subject, relevance criteria:
Irish project partners will be required to sign a Grant Agreement with the Marine Institute, if their proposal is successful under this call.

Industry partners will be subject to the EU De Minimis which states that "State Aid given to an enterprise cannot exceed 300,000 Euro over any three fiscal years to any company irrespective of size or location." Industry project partners will also be required to sign a De Minimis Declaration, if successful under this call.

Projects that receive funding from the Marine Institute are required to submit progress and final reports pursuant to their Grant Agreement with the Marine Institute.

Successful grantees will receive payment in instalments, 20% on signature of the grant-aid agreement and the remaining 80% in annual instalments following submission of the required reports (financial and technical).

Projects that receive funding from the Marine Institute are required to follow Open Access guidelines.

State aid guidelines:

Open access / Open science:

- **Mandatory Deliverables (As per National Rules of Participation):**
- **Recommended Deliverables (Same as above):**

Other issues:
Projects with Irish partners should address requirements under national strategies and policies.

National Regulations:

National additional application (if relevant):

Canada
MEOPAR

NATIONAL CONTACT
Name: Isabelle Tremblay
Affiliation: MEOPAR
Address: Steele Ocean Sciences Building, 6375 Edzell Castle Circle, 2nd Floor, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 4J1
Email: isabelle.tremblay@meopar.ca

BUDGET
- **Anticipated amount of funding for this call:** $700,000 CAD
- **Maximum amount per project:** $350,000 CAD
- **Name of & link to the funding programmes:** Find Funding - MEOPAR

ELIGIBILITY AND NATIONAL FUNDING MODALITIES
Eligible Institutions / Eligible applicants:
Eligible Institutions: Eligible recipients of MEOPAR funds include post-secondary institutions, not-for-profit organisations, Indigenous organisations and governments, municipalities, research networks, public engagement networks, organisations and companies that deliver public engagement activities, or start-up companies (including those housed in Canadian post-secondary-linked incubators). Eligible recipients do not include federal departments, agencies, or Crown Corporations of the Government of Canada.
Eligible applicants: Eligible applicants must hold a research-related position at an Eligible Institution.

Legal/administrative/financial conditions:
Requirements of Funding: For projects with Canadian partner(s) receiving MEOPAR funding, each Canadian partner will enter into an agreement with MEOPAR called an Ultimate Recipient Agreement (URA) in which the Canadian project partner is the Ultimate Recipient (UR). The URA identifies the funding schedule, reporting timeline, project milestones and deliverables, and key performance indicators (KPIs). The URA must be reviewed at the time of submission to ensure timely execution upon a successful award. If an applicant fails to review the URA, or disagrees with the terms of the URA, MEOPAR reserves the right to reallocate the funding to other funding applicants.

Maximum project duration: The Canadian partner(s) can have a maximum funding duration of 12 to 16 months (depending on the starting date of the Canadian partner). More specifically, projects with Canadian partners:

- Funding for the Canadian partners must start in 2027 and can start before other partners, as long as the Canadian partner agreement with MEOPAR has been signed.
- The Canadian partner activities and deliverables supported by MEOPAR funds must be completed by December 31, 2028.
- All funds from the Canadian partner must be spent by December 31, 2028.
- A final report (from Canadian partner to MEOPAR) is due March 1st 2029, and the final project payment (from MEOPAR to Canadian partner) will be made before March 31, 2029. There are no carry-forward provisions for this grant.

Eligible costs:
Includes expenses related to:

- Incremental research costs, including salaries of researchers and research staff, related costs of students, highly qualified personnel (HQP), trainees;
- Operations of core research facilities;
- Equipment (except for Major Research Equipment, as described under ineligible costs); scientific collections; costs of computer hardware or software (except where the scale of costs fall within the mandate of the Digital Research Alliance of Canada); information databases;
- Direct cost of knowledge creation;
- Professional and technical services;
- Material and supplies; and
- Research-related travel and accommodation costs.

Travel and hospitality costs must comply with and be reported in accordance with MEOPAR's Travel and Hospitality Policy and may be subject to additional review and evaluation for compliance with the policy.

MEOPAR can provide support for overhead (indirect costs) at a rate appropriate for the context of the project, up to a maximum of 15%. The rate must be established considering the scale of the project (i.e., not simply using a general flat-rate percentage charge [such as 15%] that does not consider project context). Justification is required for use of this category in the form of a narrative description that explains how the funds will be used under this category, how each expense is calculated, and why it is required. If you require administrative support but do not charge it to the project, it

may also be described as an in-kind contribution to assist with the matched funding requirement.

See the Strategic Science Fund (SSF) Program Guideline for details on eligible and ineligible costs.

~~**Funding rates:** N.A.~~

OTHER ISSUES

Subject, relevance criteria: MEOPAR aims at funding the highest ranked proposals according to the criteria and procedures stated in the description of the call. Projects must also align with MEOPAR's long-term vision and core priorities. We encourage applicants to consult the MEOPAR Science Strategy 2025–2030.

Open access / Open science:
MEOPAR strongly encourages data management plans (DMPs) that result in data that are Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable (FAIR) and follow the CARE Principles of Indigenous Data Governance and First Nations Principles of OCAP, if applicable. Guides to develop DMPs are provided by CIOOS and the Alliance.

Projects occurring in Indigenous waters should contact the local Nation(s) to determine how the project may proceed in a responsible way, including following any research review processes that an applicant Indigenous entity may have in place.

Data obtained with MEOPAR funding should be made as open as possible, but as restricted as necessary in the relevant domain-specific repository. In addition, metadata and a link to the data should be made available in CIOOS. Metadata should be findable through a repository within 6 months of the end of expedition funding. These steps will improve findability and accessibility of the data for future reuse of publicly funded observations. If restrictions are necessary, justify the reasoning.

National Regulations:
For the Canadian partner(s), the budget shall be stated in Canadian dollars.

MEOPAR retains the right to adjust the budgets of proposals, if necessary, based on possible ineligible expense categories. The applicant still reserves the right to enter a funding agreement or not.

Canadian project partner(s) will sign a separate contract with MEOPAR (see Requirements of Funding above). Canadian partners that are coordinators of the projects will be asked to also coordinate the Canadian partners of the projects.

Projects with Canadian partner(s) that receive funding from MEOPAR – Canadian partner(s) are required to submit progress and final reports pursuant to their contracts with MEOPAR (see Requirements of Funding above).

National additional application (if relevant):
Canadian project partners of projects granted funding will have to submit budget forms (Appendix B – Budget; Appendix C – Partners Contribution) to MEOPAR after notification by the Research Council as part of the URA negotiation process.

- Detailed budgets (i.e., project and partner contribution), with accompanying justification, are required in addition to the work plan. The budget must be submitted in the format of the template Appendix B (available on MEOPAR website: Find Funding - MEOPAR).
- For non-MEOPAR contributions, indicate in the template Appendix C (available on MEOPAR website: Find Funding - MEOPAR) whether partner contributions are cash or in-kind, matched or leveraged, and if the contribution is expected or secured.
- **Matching funds must be equal to or above the ratio of 1:1 from non-federal government partners for every dollar of MEOPAR funding requested,** with additional points awarded for increasing matched funding.
- See the explanation of matched and leveraged partner contributions, the Strategic Science Fund Program Guideline for details on eligible and ineligible costs, and Appendix C – Guidelines for calculating the value of in-kind contributions.

United Kingdom

Centre of Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas)

NATIONAL CONTACT CEFAS

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Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute Northern Ireland (Afbi)

NATIONAL CONTACT Afbi

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BUDGET

- **Anticipated amount of funding for this call:** In-kind contribution including infrastructure sharing.
- **Maximum amount per project:** No limit to the in-kind.
- **Name of & link to the funding programmes:** The UK in-kind contribution to this call is provided by national monitoring programmes funded by Defra (administered by Cefas for England and Afbi for N. Ireland) and the Scottish Government (administered by the Marine Directorate).

ELIGIBILITY AND NATIONAL FUNDING MODALITIES

Eligible Institutions / Eligible applicants:

Access to the research infrastructure (administered by Cefas and Afbi) is open to individuals from all partners in a consortium, not limited to UK institutes. However, to participate in fieldwork using the UK vessels, the project consortium must include the relevant UK partner in the project. The appropriate UK organisation will depend on region of interest, regional agency remit, alignment to funding call and availability of RVs. Requests for access to the infrastructure should be submitted through the UK national contact point listed in this annex.

In-kind support offered
The monitoring authorities in the UK regularly collect observations of dissolved oxygen concentrations and other relevant physical and biogeochemical variables. These include in situ samples, as well as high-frequency observations of dissolved oxygen from moorings, from Ferrybox systems, and from CTD profiles. These are collected at a broad geographic range across the shelf seas around the UK. These data can be made available as an in-kind contribution to participating consortia. Participation by collaborators on existing surveys within the Cefas and Afbi research vessel schedules may also be possible, depending on availability of berths and science requirements. To access this infrastructure, Cefas/Afbi must be included as a partner on the project consortium.

The monitoring authorities in the UK collect these data to support the dissolved oxygen indicator assessment under national (UK Marine Strategy) and international (Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic; the OSPAR Convention) processes. Such assessments take place on a regular cycle (approx. every 6 years). The next OSPAR quality status assessment will be the Intermediate Assessment 2029 (IA2029), where the UK will lead the dissolved oxygen indicator assessment and coordinate the cross-cutting non-indicator assessment on climate change and ocean acidification. The latter assessment product will include considerations of the changes to dissolved oxygen concentration due to climate change and the subsequent impacts that this may cause on the marine environment.

Consortia are invited to work with UK partners and its international network under OSPAR to facilitate uptake of project outputs from this JPI call to strengthen the science basis and feed directly into improved policy outcomes. Early project outputs could contribute to the IA2029, and final project outputs may be incorporated in future quality status assessments by OSPAR.

Legal/administrative/financial conditions:
Participation in fieldwork on UK research vessels is subject to individuals having the required certification, including a sea going medical and STCW Personal Survival Techniques.

Maximum project duration:
36 months. Relevant project outcomes available during the funding period can be integrated into OSPAR assessments which are in preparation. Project

outcomes which become available after the funding period can be considered for future OSPAR assessments.

Eligible costs: In-kind.

Funding rates: In-kind.

OTHER ISSUES

Subject, relevance criteria: As stated by the call.

State aid guidelines: None.

Open access / Open science:

- **Mandatory Deliverables (As per National Rules of Participation):** Projects are strongly encouraged to publish all deliverables publicly to facilitate impact of research in policy development.
- **Recommended Deliverables (Same as above):** Not required.

Other issues:

National Regulations:

National additional application (if relevant): Not required.

Greece

Hellenic Centre for Marine Research

NATIONAL CONTACT

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BUDGET

- **Anticipated amount of funding for this call:** In-kind contribution including infrastructure sharing if required
- **Maximum amount per project:** No limit to the in-kind
- **Name of & link to the funding programmes:** The Greek in-kind contribution to this call is provided by the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research (HCMR) and other research organisations/universities.

ELIGIBILITY AND NATIONAL FUNDING MODALITIES

Eligible Institutions / Eligible applicants: Access to the research infrastructure is open to individuals from all partners in a consortium, not limited to Greek institutes. However, to design and implement experiments using the HCMR infrastructure, it is required to include HCMR as Associate Partner in the project proposals. Requests for access to the infrastructure should be submitted through the Greek national contact point listed in this annex.

Legal/administrative/financial conditions:

Maximum project duration: 36 months

Eligible costs: In-kind

Funding rates: In-kind

OTHER ISSUES

Subject, relevance criteria:

State aid guidelines:

Open access / Open science:

- **Mandatory Deliverables (As per National Rules of Participation):**
- **Recommended Deliverables (Same as above):**

Other issues:

National Regulations:

National additional application (if relevant):

Annex 2: Do No Significant Harm principle & ethic issues

Do No Significant Harm principle (DNSH)

The Do No Significant Harm principle was introduced in the European Green Deal to ensure that the research and innovation activities do not make a significant harm to any of the six following environmental objectives (EU Taxonomy Regulation): Climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, sustainable use & protection of water & marine resources, pollution prevention & control, transition to a circular economy, and protection and restoration of biodiversity & ecosystems. You can find more information on what is considered as doing significant harm to the above objectives in the following note:

EUR-Lex - 52021XC0218(01) - EN - EUR-Lex (europa.eu)

Each project consortium is required to declare if its proposal respects this principle and, if not, to explain why.

Ethics self-assessment

The applicant shall self-assess the respect of the ethics principles by answering the following questionnaire. Whenever an answer is positive the applicant shall describe how he/she is planning to deal the ethic issue.

1. HUMAN EMBRYONIC STEM CELLS AND HUMAN EMBRYOS

Does this activity involve Human Embryonic Stem Cells (hESCs)?

- If yes, will they be directly derived from embryos within this project?
- If yes, are they previously established cells lines?
- If yes, are the cell lines registered in the European registry for human embryonic stem cell lines?

2. HUMANS

Does your research involve human participants?

- If yes, are they volunteers for nonmedical studies (e.g., social or human sciences research)?
- If yes, are they healthy volunteers or medical studies?
- If yes, are they patients for medical studies?
- If yes, are they potentially vulnerable individuals or groups?

- If yes, are they children / minors?
- If yes, are they other persons unable to give informed consent?

Does your research involve physical interventions on the study participants?

- If yes, does it involve invasive techniques?

- If yes, does it involve collection of biological samples?

Does this activity involve conducting a clinical study as defined by the Clinical Trial Regulation (EU 536/2014)? (using pharmaceuticals, biologicals, radiopharmaceuticals, or advanced therapy medicinal products).

- If yes, is it a clinical trial?
- If yes, is it a low-intervention clinical trial?

3. HUMAN CELLS / TISSUES

Does this activity involve the use of human cells or tissues?

- If yes, are they human embryonic or foetal cells or tissues?
- If yes, are they available commercially?
- If yes, are they obtained within this project?
- If yes, are they obtained from another project, laboratory, or institution?
- If yes, are they obtained from biobank?

4. PERSONAL DATA

Does this activity involve processing of personal data?

- If yes, does it involve the processing of special categories of personal data (e.g.: sexual lifestyle, ethnicity, genetic, biometric and health data, political opinion, religious or philosophical
- If yes, does it involve profiling, systematic monitoring of individuals, or processing of large scale of special categories of data or intrusive methods of data processing (such as, surveillance, geolocation tracking etc.)?

Does this activity involve further processing of previously collected personal data (including use of pre-existing data sets or sources, merging existing data sets)?

- Is it planned to export personal data from the EU to non-EU countries? (If yes, specify the type of personal data and countries involved)
- Is it planned to import personal data from non-EU countries into the EU or from a non-EU country to another non-EU country? (If yes, specify the type of personal data and countries involved)

5. ANIMALS

Does your research involve animals?

- If yes, are they vertebrates?
- If yes, are they non-human primates (NHP)?
- If yes, are they genetically modified?
- If yes, are they cloned farm animals?
- If yes, are they endangered species?

6. NON-EU COUNTRIES

- Will some of the activities be carried out in non-EU countries? (If yes, specify the countries)
- In case non-EU countries are involved, do the activities undertaken in these countries raise potential ethics issues? (If yes, specify the countries)
- Is it planned to use local resources (e.g., animal and/or human tissue samples, genetic material, live animals, human remains, materials of historical value, endangered fauna, or flora samples, etc.)?
- Is it planned to import any material (other than data) from non-EU countries into the EU or from a non-EU country to another non-EU country? For data imports, see section 4. (If yes, specify material and countries involved)
- Is it planned to export any material (other than data) from the EU to non-EU countries? For data exports, see section 4. (If yes, specify material and countries involved)
- Does this activity involve low and/or lower-middle income countries? (If yes, detail the benefit- sharing actions planned in the self-assessment)
- Could the situation in the country put the individuals taking part in the activity at risk?

7. ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH and SAFETY

- Does this activity involve the use of substances or processes that may cause harm to the environment, to animals or plants (during the implementation of the activity or further to the use of the results, as a possible impact)?
- Does this activity deal with endangered fauna and/or flora / protected areas?
- Does this activity involve the use of substances or processes that may cause harm to humans, including those performing the activity (during the implementation of the activity or further to the use of the results, as a possible impact)?

8. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

- Does this activity involve the development, deployment and/or use of Artificial Intelligence? (if yes, detail in the self-assessment whether that could raise ethical concerns related to human rights and values and detail how this will be addressed).

11. OTHER ETHICS ISSUES

- Are there any other ethics issues that should be taken into consideration?