

JPI
OCEANS



Joint call for proposals

Underwater Noise in the Marine Environment

Call text

Participating countries:



Co-branded by:



**2021
2030** United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

 **BANOS**
Baltic and North Sea Coordination
and Support Action

blueMed

JPI
OCEANS

Suggested Reference:
JPI Oceans (2021) Joint call for proposals: Underwater Noise in the Marine Environment. Call Text. Joint Programming Initiative Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans, Brussels.

UNDERWATER NOISE IN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT



JOINT CALL FOR PROPOSALS: CALL TEXT

JOINT CALL FOR PROPOSALS:



UNDERWATER NOISE IN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

CALL THEMES:

Theme 1: Effects of anthropogenic noise pollution on marine ecosystems

Theme 2: Innovative seismic sources as an option for quieter and effective alternatives to conventional marine geophysical exploration

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES AND AGENCIES:

Belgium (Belspo), Germany (BMBF, PtJ), Ireland (MI), Italy (MUR), Norway (RCN), Poland (NCBR), Romania (UEFISCDI), Spain (AEI)

CO-BRANDING:

BANOS, BlueMed, NOAA, UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

28 February 2022, 15.00 CET

ONLINE SUBMISSION:

<https://noiseinthesea-submission.mur.gov.it>

SELECTION OF PROJECTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING:

May 2022

OVERALL BUDGET:

EUR 8.2 million

LATEST PROJECT START:

31 December 2022

MAXIMUM PROJECT DURATION:

36 months

HOME PAGE:

<https://www.jpi-oceans.eu>

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2021
2030
United Nations Decade
of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development



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1 INTRODUCTION

Mankind is noisy by nature, and the impact of noise on human societies seems well known. With growing awareness, our society – scientific research, non-governmental organizations, policy makers and citizens – recognizes anthropogenic noise as an emerging pollutant and threat for subaquatic environments. Underwater acoustic pollution impacts on the health of marine animal populations and biological productivity. The subject holds paramount scientific value, with large relevance for national regulatory frameworks, and potential significant impact through the public perception.

The characteristics of anthropogenic sound released into the marine environment relate to its nature and purpose. Five broad types of anthropogenic sources of underwater noise are considered: military sonars, offshore exploration (seismic surveys for exploration of oil and gas and scientific research), offshore activities (pile driving, construction and operational use of offshore wind farms and tidal turbines), shipping (maritime transport, yachting), and, more recently, the energy generation with offshore wind and tidal turbines (both construction and operational use), and explosions (Navy exercises, weapon removal/destruction). Deep sea mining

may possibly be added to this list in the near future.

Since noise produced by anthropogenic sources is superimposed on natural sound levels, it increasingly disturbs the natural soundscape of oceans, rivers, and lakes on Earth and that of the biota therein (Figs. 1 and 2).

The anthropogenic noise generation described above are by industrial, economic, and recreational activities that are important subjects in the developing blue economy (a noisy blue economy) and will sustain the blue growth (Commission Staff Working Document, 2017; European Commission, 2020).

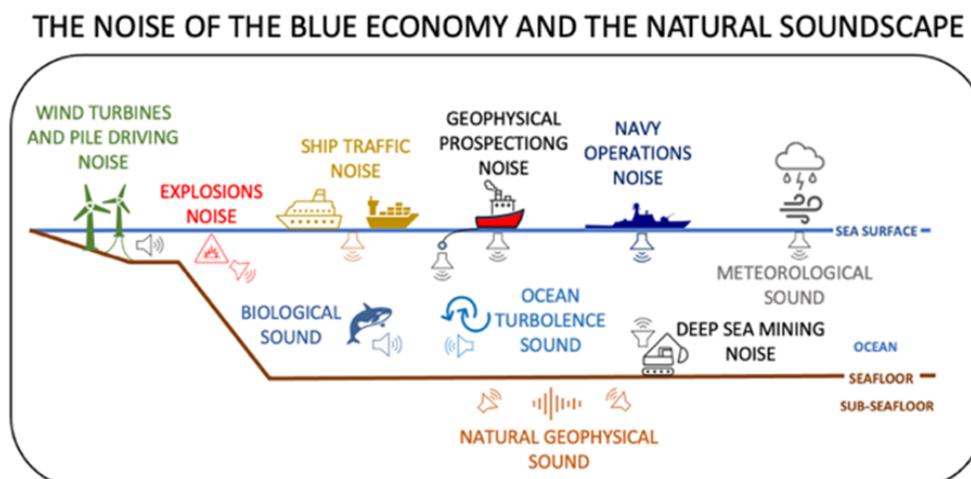


Figure 1: Anthropogenic noise vs. natural sounds in the marine environment.¹

1. Camerlenghi, A., 2021. The future challenge of decreasing underwater acoustic pollution. In: Pedicchio, M.C., Camerlenghi, A., and Solidoro, C. (Eds.), The Starfish Mission: an Italian perspective. Bulletin of Geophysics and Oceanography, 62, Supplement n.3, 91-96. http://www3.inogs.it/bgo/pdf/full/vol_62_supp3_complete.pdf

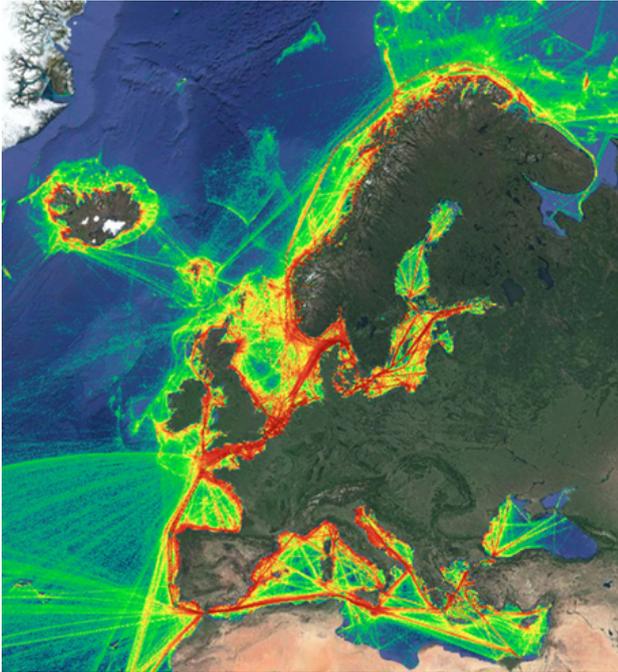


Figure 2: EU vessel density map in the year 2019.²

Established and emerging noise-generating industries will expand their activities with the implementation of the blue economy with value-added expected to double by 2030 (Fig. 3, Tab. I; OECD, 2020).

With the purpose of contributing to sustainable blue growth, JPI Oceans

implements a joint action addressing underwater noise in the marine environment. On account of the widely recognized urgency to consider underwater noise emissions as a form of pollution, research needs have been identified and included in key strategies such as the EU Mission Starfish 2030: Restore our Ocean and Water, the Horizon Europe candidate partnerships 'A climate neutral, sustainable and productive blue economy' and 'Zero-emission Waterborne Transport', the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) including the on-going tasks of the EU Technical Group on Underwater Noise (EU TG-Noise), and the European Marine Board, and are recognised as a priority knowledge gap in the Implementation Plan of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.⁴

The pioneering capacity of JPI Oceans in addressing noise in the marine environment will position the funding countries in the forefront of research on an emerging issue of pan-European relevance. By participating in the call, funding members have the opportunity to improve, in a concerted way, the scientific basis for implementation and fulfilment of the MSFD, in line with past and future guidance provided by the EU TG-Noise.

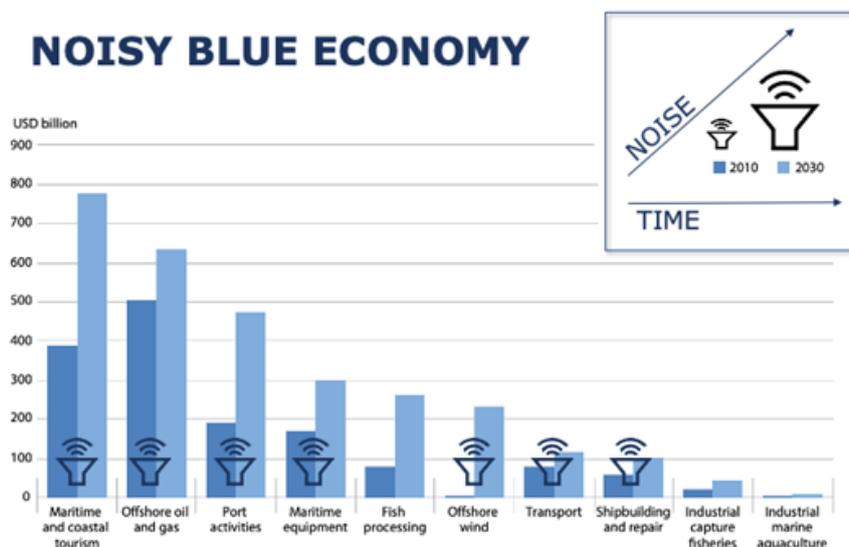


Figure 3: Development Finance and Effective Co-Operation for Sustainable Ocean Economies⁵

2. European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet) as one example for noisy human activities (<https://www.emodnet-humanactivities.eu/view-data.php>)

3. OECD, 2020; OECD work in support of a sustainable ocean. <https://www.oecd.org/ocean/OECD-work-in-support-of-a-sustainable-ocean.pdf>

4. Thomsen, F., Mendes, S., Bertucci, F., Breitzke, M., Ciappi, E., Cresci, A., Debusschere, E., Ducatel, C., Folegot, F., Juretzek, C., Lam, F-P, O'Brien, J., dos Santos, M. E. (2021) Addressing underwater noise in Europe: Current state of knowledge and future priorities. In Kellett, P., van den Brand, R., Alexander, B., Muniz Piniella, A., Rodriguez Perez, A., van Elslander, J., Heymans, J. J. (Eds.): Future Science Brief 7 of the European Marine Board, Ostend, Belgium. ISSN: 2593-5232. ISBN: 9789464206104. DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.5534224.

Established ocean-based industries

Emerging ocean-based industries

| Established ocean-based industries | | Emerging ocean-based industries | |
|---|--|---|---|
|  | Industrial capture fisheries | Industrial marine aquaculture |  |
| | Industrial seafood processing | Deep- and ultra-deep water oil and gas |  |
|  | Shipping | Offshore wind energy |  |
|  | Port activities | Ocean renewable energy |  |
|  | Shipbuilding | Marine and seabed mining |  |
|  | Offshore oil and gas (shallow water) | Maritime safety and surveillance | |
|  | Marine manufacturing and construction | Marine biotechnology | |
|  | Maritime and coastal tourism | High-tech marine products and services | |
| | Marine business services | | |
| | Marine R&D and education | | |
|  | Dredging | | |

Table 1: Established and emerging ocean-based industries⁵. In bold character the industries that contribute significantly to anthropogenic noise.

The framework in which this call is launched is two-fold:

1.1 RELEVANCE OF SYSTEMIC APPROACHES TO OCEAN CHALLENGES

The present JPI Oceans call for proposals addresses upon the JPI Oceans Strategy Framework 2021-2025 with reference to "Ocean Health".⁶ The call complements current JPI Oceans Joint Actions such as 'Science for Good Environmental Status (S4GES)', 'Integrated assessment of new pollutants', and the newly defined action 'Cumulative effects of anthropogenic disturbances'.⁷ Specific goals are to decrease the existing high levels of uncertainty and to promote specific lines of research that will contribute to the implementation of the MSFD at regional sub-basin scale, and, therewith, contributing to reach the Good Environmental Status (GES) of the European seas and oceans.

1.2 SUPPORT TO POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

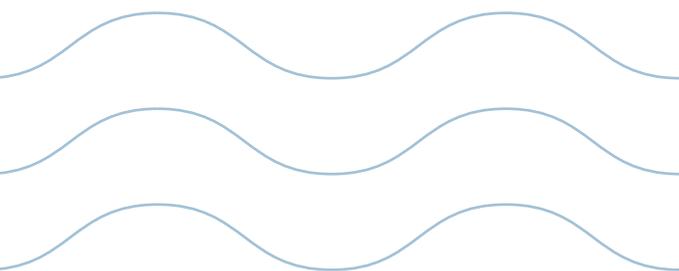
The development of monitoring guidelines and scientific research, stimulated by EU Birds and Habitats Directives, has been driven by the activity of international agreements (e.g., ACCOBAMS, ASCOBANS), Conventions (e.g., OSPAR) Committees (e.g., JNCC, HELCOM) for rules for the mitigation of the effects of anthropogenic sound and guidelines for operators and regulators. At the same time, the introduction by the EC of the MSFD (MSFD 2008/56/EC) with the objective of achieving (or maintaining) a GES of European seas and oceans, has promoted different degrees of activities for its implementation in member states with the support of the expert group (TG Noise) that was installed within the framework of the Common Implementation Strategy of the MSFD. Tasks of the TG Noise are, among others,

5. OECD, 2016. The Ocean Economy in 2030. OECD Publishing, Paris. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264251724-en>

6. <http://jpi-oceans.eu/file/2027>

7. see: <https://www.jpi-oceans.eu/joint-actions-0>

to assist member states and regional sea conventions (RSC) in the implementation of operational monitoring and to ensure regional coherence and complementarity. The implementation of the MSFD by the member states, "Descriptor 11" requires that the "Introduction of energy including underwater noise is at levels that do not adversely affect the marine environment" and recognized two distinct components, i.e., impulsive noise (descriptor 11.1) and continuous low frequency noise (descriptor 11.2). Such implementation is complementary to the "Ecosystem Approach" (EcAp), which arose from the Barcelona Convention (UNEP/MAP) in line with the objectives of the Marine Spatial Planning Directive (MSPD 2014/89/EU), and other initiatives such as OSPAR, International Whaling Commission (IWC), UN Sustainable development goals (especially 14.4), Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic Area (ACCOBAMS), Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS).



1.3 SUPPORT EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Industry and researchers should work closely together to address the challenge of developing alternative quieter acoustic sources of comparable efficiency, which, at the same time, reduce the impact on marine fauna. The risk for animal populations from acoustic disturbance is a function of acoustic signal characteristics (including particle motion), biological species, and environmental conditions. It is a complex system that needs a coordinated approach. Experimental research is needed to evaluate the efficiency and impact of sound source devices, such as industrial scale marine vibrators, as alternative to seismic air-guns, as well as more silent ships and navigation instrumentation. We still lack adequate prediction tools (numerical and experimental) to fully understand fundamental mechanisms of underwater noise generation and propagation and are still in dire need of data on physiological and behavioural responses that influence the biomass and abundance of biota at ecosystem scale. With this approach, all acoustical environment components (source – medium – receiver) need to be understood for measurements and modelling. The evaluation of impacts on marine ecosystems should develop an ecological framework in which the effects of noise on trophic networks that connect zooplankton to top predators and to fishery activities can be assessed and predicted.

Given a generalized lack of standardized methodologies and measurements there is an urgent need for a shared framework of metrics and methodologies, in line with the technical guidance on monitoring for the MSFD and with TG Noise, to establish an integrated measurement network scaled to the specific ecosystems, natural habitats, soundscapes and anthropogenic forcing in each European sub-basin and the Atlantic Ocean.

Based on solid metrics, all the above envisions a comprehensive regulatory approach for planning (in space and time) and therewith reduce and mitigate the impact of anthropogenic sound sources and noise pollution in the sea.

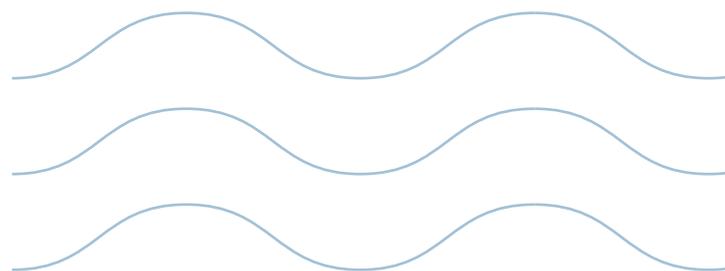
A timely action addressing underwater noise in the marine environment has the purpose of generating research and innovation opportunities to:

- better identify soundscapes and sensitive habitats,
- better understand the distribution and abundance of species of concern using continuous, remote and artificial-intelligence based technologies,
- implement the assessment of individual/populations effects and animal fitness, including population dynamics and biogeochemical flux,
- investigate central nervous system changes, stress, and immune impairment,
- develop quieter impulsive and continuous acoustic sources with less environmental impact,
- develop and improve measurement standards and methods,
- improve prediction tools,
- generate options and strategies for underwater noise mitigation.

This JPI Oceans action aims at promoting a pan-European cross-disciplinary partnership for the integration of different sectors of the scientific research community with a focus on the impact of anthropogenic noise on the marine environment. Specific goals are to decrease the existing high level of uncertainty, contribute to the implementation of the MSFD at regional sub-basin scale, i.e., including all basins, and therewith contribute to reach the GES of European seas and oceans. Therefore, the action is seen as an opportunity for bridging and increasing value and impact across regional sea basins:

- by connecting converging priorities,
- by facilitating knowledge exchange,
- by stimulating cross-basin comparative research,
- by helping regional agenda implementation.

Accounting for their strategic legacies, the BlueMed Initiative and The Baltic and North Sea Coordination and Support Action (BANOS CSA) are co-branding this call with the intention to stimulate scientific cooperation and harmonization of guidelines for mitigating the impact of underwater noise pollution across European sub-basins should/are encouraged to demonstrate the added value of scientific cooperation, including across sea-basins. The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development is co-branding this call in recognition of the need to stimulate co-designed and co-delivered knowledge and solutions for marine pollution, including anthropogenic noise, as part of the Ocean Decade Action Framework.



2 SCIENTIFIC FRAMEWORK

Marine animals intentionally produce sound waves ranging from infrasonic (<20 Hz) to ultrasonic (>20 kHz) frequencies. Audible to a wide range of taxa, sounds are produced for navigation and orientation, foraging, agonistic displays, territorial defence, mate attraction, and reproductive courtship. While the animals' sound generation which evolved in the presence of natural sounds (e.g., waves, rain) was sufficient for those functions, the presence of superimposed anthropogenic noise impacts on the aforementioned behavioural traits that are based on sound production.

Underwater noise is widespread, and cumulative effects with other pollutants and stressors are not understood. Increasing human activity, along most of the earth's coastlines and extending farther offshore in deep ocean environments, is rising the levels of anthropogenic underwater noise. Increasing noise levels are impacting the animals that inhabit these places and their ecosystems in complex ways, including through acute, chronic, and cumulative effects.

Research about underwater noise and its impact on marine ecosystems is a relatively young scientific field, and the influence of anthropogenic noise on marine fauna (marine mammals, turtles, and fishes primarily) has been investigated scientifically. However, despite an increasing number of studies and projects, many facets remain insufficiently understood. For example, whereas a larger number of studies focused on marine mammals, studies on other species, effects on population dynamics, on ecological and on cumulative and synergistic impacts, are still scarce.

The difficulties inherent to conducting observational and experimental research on living organisms lead to great uncertainty about the extent and type of impacts of noise pollution on marine fauna and the whole marine ecosystem that is strictly connected to the biosphere (O₂ production and C storage by marine life). Furthermore, the difficulties in scientifically assessing the impacts, the high sensitivity of the subject for public opinion, the increasing concern of governmental and non-governmental organizations, the

increasing anthropogenic pressure on the marine environment both in coastal and open waters, and the considerable heterogeneities in the regulatory frameworks in different countries, introduce a high level of uncertainty among operators and regulators. In the light of those uncertainties, each country implements different rules and regulations, some more stringent, some less stringent.

One important aspect of anthropogenic noise directly involving the sector of scientific research is that oceanographic vessels like any other vessel produce noise (with the exception of rare silent research vessels built for hydrographic purposes) and routinely use acoustic devices for data acquisition that affect marine ecosystems in various ways. Scientific research fleets should be the first to adapt to the requirement of silent vessels. A special case in scientific research is the use of impulsive pneumatic acoustic sources for the geophysical prospection of the sub-seabed, unfortunately and improperly called 'air-guns'. Air-guns are not only the tools that enable geophysical companies to provide the energy industry with data necessary to locate offshore oil and gas reservoirs. These tools are also employed routinely in scientific research to explore the Earth's interior with the objective of understanding the basic composition of the planet, Earth paleo-climatic evolution, and submarine geohazards. Since marine geophysical research, a pillar in the blue growth, uses noise to provide the scientific knowledge-based services and safety to our society, it will have to adapt to the concept of sustainability and contribute to decreasing the acoustic pollution in the oceans.

3 CALL OUTLINE

The overarching goals of the call are:

- Promote scientific research that will contribute to the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) at regional sub-basin scale
- Contribute to reach the Good Environmental Status (GES) of European seas and oceans

The call comprises two main scientific themes:

3.1 THEME 1:

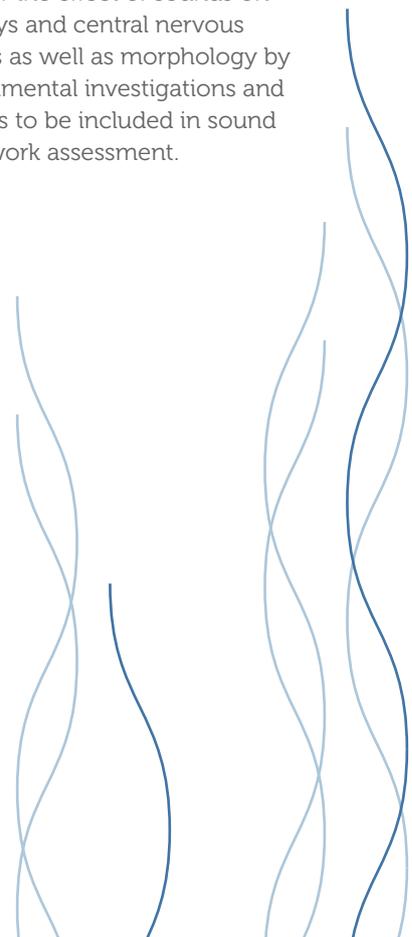
EFFECTS OF ANTHROPOGENIC NOISE POLLUTION ON MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

All acoustical environment components (source – medium – receiver) need to be understood for measurements and modelling. The most important anthropogenic noise sources are sonar, seismic exploration, offshore wind farms, detonations, and shipping. The risk for animal populations from acoustic disturbance is a function of acoustic signal characteristics (including particle motion), biological species identity, and the ambient environmental conditions. To account for the complexity, a coordinated system approach is desirable. The evaluation of impacts should be considered in an ecological framework considering the effects on the full trophic network that connects invertebrates such as zooplankton to top predators (fish and marine mammals) and establish links to fishery activities.

OBJECTIVES OF THEME 1:

- Understand the role of noise pollution in a multiple stressor context, assessing cumulative, aggregate, and synergistic impacts, as well as considering the spatial aspects of noise pollution with respect to Marine Reporting Units.
- Enhance the knowledge of behavioural and physiological effects of noise from genes to ecosystems and parameterisation in ecosystem model framework(s).

- Include effects on commercially harvested and non-commercial species, masking communication of animals, and effects for trophic fluxes through food webs and resilience.
- Assess long-term effects of sound exposure on important biological processes on marine vertebrates and/or invertebrate population with focus also on early life stages.
- Investigate the pathophysiological mechanism of Permanent Threshold Shift (PTS) and Temporary Threshold Shift (TTS) in marine vertebrates to identify and characterize ecophysiological biomarkers for the detection in ex-vivo/post-mortem studies.
- Define diagnostic fingerprinting (e.g., metabolomics) of the effect of sounds on auditory pathways and central nervous system functions as well as morphology by increasing experimental investigations and field observations to be included in sound exposure framework assessment.



3.2 THEME 2:

INNOVATIVE SEISMIC SOURCES AS AN OPTION FOR QUIETER AND EFFECTIVE ALTERNATIVES TO CONVENTIONAL MARINE GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION

Industry and researchers should work closely together to address the challenge of developing alternative more quiet acoustic sources for geophysical exploration of comparable efficiency, which, at the same time, cause a lower impact on marine fauna. Experimental scientific research is needed to evaluate the efficiency and impact of alternative acoustic sources, such as industrial scale marine vibrators and other methods for acoustic energy spread-out, in comparison to existing seismic airguns.

We still lack adequate prediction tools (numerical and experimental) to fully reproduce impulsive underwater noise generation and propagation for environmental assessment purposes.

Given a generalized lack of standardized methodologies and measurements, there is an urgent need for a shared framework of metrics and methodologies in line with technical guidance on monitoring for the MSFD in general and with TG Noise in particular to establish an integrated measurement network scaled to the specific ecosystems, natural habitats, soundscapes and anthropogenic forcing in each European sub-basin.

OBJECTIVES OF THEME 2:

Compare and develop alternative seismic sources with seismic "airguns" in the field, including:

- Measurement and modelling of source signatures as well as propagated signals in relevant distances to quantify sound emissions and device efficiency.
- Differences in impact of sound signals produced by innovative seismic sources on marine fauna with focus on low-frequency hearing organisms through field studies.

Develop simple and user-friendly sound generation and propagation modelling tools that can be used in impact assessment procedures of impulsive noise.

Compare the efficiency of mitigation measures: quantification of the effectiveness of commonly proposed mitigation methods including quantification of the expected risk reduction.

CROSS-CUTTING APPROACHES:

All proposed projects should:

- bridge gaps between research in acoustics, biology and policy makers.
- duly take account of ethical aspects, open access data, and reference levels of underwater natural ambient sound.
- prioritize approaches combining experimental activities with numerical modelling.
- promote synergies with the implementation of the MSFD to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) of marine waters and develop recommendations for actions.
- prioritize field activities sharing existing European instruments and infrastructures, i.e., fixed and mobile underwater observatories, considering all European sea basins at best and at least two contrasting basins.
- encourage engagement of industrial partners.
- demonstrate tangible synergies with other JPI Oceans Joint Actions such as "Munitions in the sea" and "Science for Good environmental status (S4GES)" which will be considered as an added value.

The action on Underwater Noise in the Marine Environment promotes synergies with the following initiatives:

- European Marine Board (EMB)
- EU Technical Group on Underwater Noise (EU TG-NOISE)
- Atlantic Ocean Research Alliance Initiative (AORA)
- All Atlantic Cooperation for Ocean Research and Innovation (AANCHOR CSA)
- BONUS/BANOS
- BLUEMED
- BLACK SEA BLUE GROWTH INITIATIVE
- UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

4 PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA

Proposals should address at least one of the two themes in the call text. Applicants are advised to consult their National funding rules (see Annex 2) and their national contact points for this call prior to planning and submitting proposals (contact person see further information).

DEFINITIONS

FUNDING PARTNER: one of the Ministries or Funding agencies listed in Annex 1.1 who have committed themselves to fund the projects selected through this call for proposal.

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: s/he is the leader of the research team of each project partner. The Principal investigator of the partner who is leading the project becomes the Coordinator.

COORDINATOR: s/he is the Principal Investigator of the partner who is leading the project

4.1 DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

The language of the application is English. Applications must be submitted electronically to MUR via the link <https://noiseinthesea-submission.mur.gov.it/>

The use of the official application form for this call is mandatory. Instructions and guidelines for submitting applications can be found on the website.

In case of technical questions, please contact the call secretariat: aldo.covello@mur.gov.it; yasmine.iollo@aest.mur.gov.it; giorgio.carpino@mur.gov.it.

The deadline for submitting proposals is 28 February 2022, 15:00 CET. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

4.2 ELIGIBILITY

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

- Applications must be submitted by the set deadline, complete and following all the requirements defined by this document.
- The proposal addresses at least one of the two themes in the call text
- Research partners and industry partners who are eligible to apply for financial support from their national FUNDING PARTNER (see Annex 1.1) are eligible to apply for funding within this call for proposals.
- Research partners and industry 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 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.
- The Coordinator of a proposal must be eligible for funding by one of the FUNDING PARTNERS.

4.3 NUMBER OF APPLICANTS PER PROPOSAL

- Each application must involve eligible research partners and/or industry partners from at least two participating countries (countries of the FUNDING PARTNERS); Involvement of more countries is, however, encouraged. No maximum number of partners is specified.

4.4 FUNDING PERIOD

- The project duration is max. three years (36 months).
- Projects should preferably start between 01.06.2022 and 31.12.2022, in accordance with the National funding rules.

4.5 MAXIMUM FUNDING ALLOWED PER PROPOSAL

The maximum allowed requested funding per proposal is € 2,000,000. The maximum budget per partner is specified in the National funding rules from each FUNDING PARTNER (see Annex 1.1).

4.6 NATIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The eligibility criteria specified by the respective FUNDING PARTNERS must be met. For details, please check the National funding rules in National Guidelines (Annex 2) and/or contact the National Contact point(s) representative(s) for further advice (Annex 3). Be aware that for some FUNDING PARTNERS it is mandatory to also submit a national application in addition to the international application.



4.7 GENERAL PROCEDURE FOR EVALUATION

The following procedure will be applied:

1. A one-step proposal submission and evaluation procedure will be applied to this Call

2. Proposals must be submitted via the submission platform to the LEAD AGENCY (Italian Ministry of Universities and Research, MUR) by the Coordinator of the proposal. A description of the proposal format is provided in the Guidelines for Proposal Submission.

3. After the submission deadline, all proposals are checked against the call eligibility criteria by the LEAD AGENCY. FUNDING PARTNERS will check any 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 are sent to independent, international peer referees for evaluation.

5. An Evaluation Panel, consisting of the independent, international peer referees, ranks the proposals based on the results of the international peer referees review (review reports). The Evaluation Panel groups the proposals 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.

Projects in groups A and B shall be ranked by the Evaluation Panel. No ranking is requested for the projects in group C. For each project, the Evaluation Panel will provide to the FUNDING PARTNERS a Consensus report summarizing the results of the evaluation.

6. Based on the Evaluation panel recommendations described above and the available funding, the FUNDING PARTNERS jointly agree on a short-list of projects selected for funding assuring, to extent possible a balanced coverage of the two scientific themes of the call.

7. The outcome of this process will be communicated by the Call Office to the Coordinator of the proposal, who will accordingly inform their respective partners. The evaluation by the Evaluation Panel will be made available to the Coordinator of the proposal upon request.

8. The funding decision is irrevocable and therefore no redress procedure is possible.

9. Formal funding decisions are made by the participating FUNDING PARTNERS, and where applicable are followed up by national requests for application submissions.

10. The composition of the EVALUATION PANEL will be made public 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 whole procedure. The list of funded projects will be published on the website of JPI Oceans.

4.8 FUNDING MODEL

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 projects selected for funding. All joint activities are funded on an ad hoc, voluntary basis.

The FUNDING PARTNERS aim at funding the highest-ranked proposals according to the criteria and procedures stated in the description of the call and the Annexes of this call text.

The FUNDING PARTNERS aim at funding a balanced package of proposals with respect to the scientific themes specified in the call, strategic considerations, and national participation.

The FUNDING PARTNERS retain the right to commend incorporation of recommendations by the review panel

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

4.9 CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION AND SELECTION

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

Scientific quality, including novelty, originality, and innovation of the proposed research

- Relevance to the topics of the call
- Sound concept and quality of objectives
- Innovation level (progress beyond the state of the art)
- Novelty, unique feature

Quality of applicants and suitability of the consortium, level of integration and collaboration

- Scientific quality of the consortium
- Interdisciplinarity of the consortium
- Cross-basin comparative research is a plus.
- Engagement of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) will be considered as an asset.
- International / European added value for the proposed research
- Management structure and procedure (incl. data management plan)

Networking and dissemination activities, training opportunities

- Level of integration and collaboration
- Outreach and dissemination plan, including science-policy interface

- Integration of stakeholders or activities for stakeholders
- Training activities for young scientists or students

Feasibility of the proposed research, suitability of budget request

- Work plan and methodology
- Feasibility of deliverables and milestones
- Suitability of total budget request

Do No Significant Harm Principle and ethic issues

- Compliance with the Do No Significant Harm Principle (Annex 4)
- Compliance with the ethics principles (Annex 4)

4.10 PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The Coordinator should submit a mid-term report including a publishable summary in English to the JPI Oceans Secretariat and LEAD AGENCY within three months after the mid-term. Furthermore, the Coordinator will be responsible to submit a final report to the JPI Oceans Secretariat and LEAD AGENCY, in English, within three months after the end of the project. This report should cover the work undertaken by all the project partners.

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

At the beginning of the projects a joint kick-off meeting with all funded projects will be organized. A joint mid-term meeting will be organized half-way through the funding period. A joint final conference will be organized at the end of the funding period. The FUNDING PARTNERS, together with JPI Oceans Secretariat, will organize these three meetings in cooperation with the Principal Investigators of the funded projects. The Principal Investigators must include capacity for their participation to the three meetings in their proposal. Participants of funded projects are expected to participate in the kick-off, mid-term meeting and in the final conference and should include the relevant travel costs

4.11 FUNDING

A total amount of up to € 8.2 million has been blocked by the FUNDING PARTNERS from Belgium, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Norway, Poland, Romania and Spain, see Annex 1.1 for a detailed list. Each research partner will be funded by its national FUNDING PARTNER.

In addition, applicants from countries not funding this call are encouraged to participate with their own resources (cash or in-kind).

Researchers from NOAA / the US may contact Terry Schaefer from the International Activities Office, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Terry Schaefer: terry.schaefer@noaa.gov) for details.

4.12 ELIGIBLE BUDGET ITEMS

Eligible costs are ruled by National funding rules (see Annex 2). Specific questions should be addressed to the Contact points of the national FUNDING PARTNERS (see Annex 3), if possible, in advance of applying.

- The project costs for individual project proposals must meet the project goals and taking into account 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 (Annex 2) and by contacting the National Contact points (Annex 3).
- The total amount of funding requested from a FUNDING PARTNER in a proposal cannot exceed the budget limitations set by this organisation and, in no case, it can exceed the total available budget of this organisation.
- Project consortium costs should be balanced.

4.13 FURTHER INFORMATION

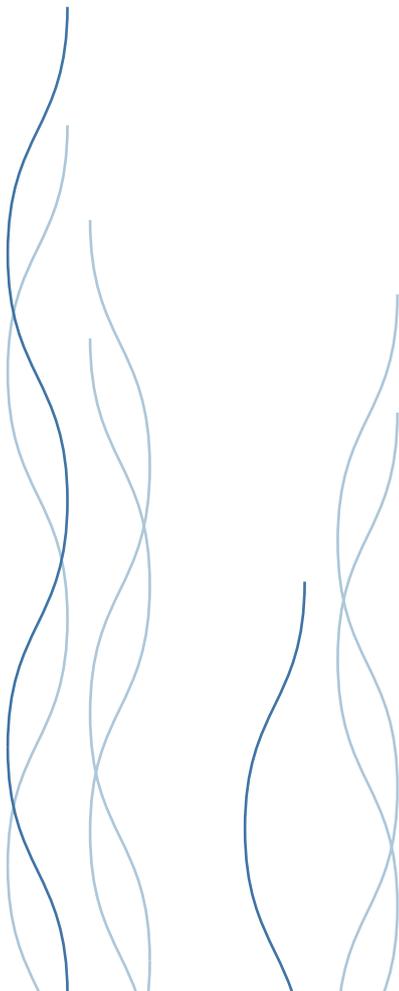
Potential applicants are strongly advised to consult the general funding requirements of the FUNDING PARTNERS participating in the call and to contact the National Contact Point whenever necessary, especially regarding eligible costs and other country-specific aspects of the call.

CALL SECRETARIAT

The call will be run by the Italian Ministry of Universities and Research (MUR), Directorate General for Internationalization and Communication. The Call Secretariat is responsible for organizing the evaluation procedure and for all communications with Coordinators regarding their applications.

CONSORTIUM AGREEMENTS

The participant in every project selected for funding shall prepare and sign a Consortium Agreement in accordance to national regulations.



5 CO-BRANDING

5.1 BALTIC AND NORTH SEA COORDINATION AND SUPPORT ACTION



The call named Underwater Noise in the Marine Environment is endorsed by the Baltic and North Sea Coordination and Support Action (BANOS CSA) funded from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 817574. BANOS CSA, which has developed the framework for a future Baltic and North Sea Research and Innovation Programme (BANOS) was completed in years 2018-2021. Its work was much based on the legacy of the predecessor programme, the joint Baltic Sea Research and Development Programme (BONUS, 2010-2020), while it contributed towards building European regional seas' cooperation. BANOS CSA was closely involved in the development of the proposal for future partnership candidate "Climate neutral sustainable and productive blue economy" (SBEP) as well as in drafting of the SBE partnership's draft Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) published in February 2021. Both, the BANOS SRIA launched in June 2021, and the BANOS CSA impact enabling strategies were used as important reference materials for the SBEP SRIA. These have provided content for R&I priorities in the region as well as in addressing topics such as to open science, open data and human capacity development.

5.2 THE BLUEMED INITIATIVE



Underwater noise is regarded in the BLUEMED Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda as a major form of pollution of the marine environment, for which it is essential to understand impacts, mitigation, and remediation measures. In situ measurements and development of modelling tools to understand the distribution, intensity, and sources of underwater noise, as well as its effect on marine species are the actions promoted by BLUEMED. In particular, the development of innovative design and management solutions for ecofriendly vessels, including noise reduction materials for vessel-water interface, is an action promoted to achieve the goal of greening vessels, facilities, and services.

The co-branding of this call by BLUEMED aims at stimulating the scientific community of the BLUEMED countries supporting the call to submit proposal for innovative research in partnership with and focusing also on other sea basins.

5.3 UNITED NATIONS DECADE OF OCEAN SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



2021 United Nations Decade
2030 of Ocean Science
for Sustainable Development

5.3.1 A CONTRIBUTION TO THE OCEAN DECADE

The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (the Ocean Decade) is calling 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 a sustainable development 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 the 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.

Anthropogenic underwater noise has been identified in the Decade Implementation Plan as a form of pollution that requires remediation to achieve a clean ocean. This JPI Oceans call on underwater noise has been recognized as an endorsed contribution to the Ocean Decade in recognition of the role it will play in achieving the Ocean Decade's vision. The co-branding of this call with the Ocean Decade will ensure that funded projects part of a highly visible, shared, global effort that opens up opportunities to create new collaborations across disciplines, geographies and generations, and to establish access to new sources of support.

Evaluation of applications to this call will involve the Decade Coordination Unit to

ensure that selected research projects are eligible for endorsement as Decade Actions. Proponents of endorsed Decade Actions will be able to use the Ocean Decade branding in their communications and awareness raising activities in accordance with Decade Brand Guidelines. Furthermore, proponents of the successful proposals will be invited to become members of the Ocean Decade Global Stakeholder Forum.

5.3.2 EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR ENDORSEMENT AS DECADE ACTIONS

The following criteria will be used in the evaluation process to attribute the endorsement as UN Ocean Decade Actions.

Projects proposed for funding through the JPI Oceans joint call on Underwater Noise should contribute to the following overarching objectives of the UN Ocean Decade and elaborate briefly how they intend to achieve this:

- a) Access to data and information: projects contribute to improved access to data and information, to an enhanced data basis and/or promote the harmonization of data to support knowledge-based decision-making.
- b) Dialogue and Transfer:
 - (i) Dissemination of results: Projects include clear and precise procedures to disseminate results for further use by policy and practice, especially to decision-makers and non-scientific target audiences (such as local populations and industries), creating user-oriented knowledge products.
 - (ii) Contribution to Ocean Decade Action Framework: Contribute to fulfilling one or more of the Ocean Decade Challenges and one or more of the Ocean Decade objectives and accelerate the generation or use of knowledge and understanding of the ocean including knowledge that will contribute to the achievement

of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals and complementary policy frameworks and initiatives.

(iii) Capacity Development: Projects build capacities on the institutional and individual level among their partners and non-scientific actors through specific measures, including, but not limited to, beneficiaries in SIDS, LDCs and LLDCs.

These criteria complement analogue criteria listed in section '4.8 Criteria for Evaluation and Selection'.

In addition to the above criteria, applicants are encouraged to consider the following remaining set of endorsement criteria for Decade Actions in the preparation of their submissions and demonstrate in their applications how they are contributing to fulfilling these:

- Co-design or co-delivery by knowledge generators and users, thus facilitating the uptake of science and ocean knowledge for

policy, decision-making, management and/or innovation.

- Ensure that all data and resulting knowledge are provided in an open access, shared, discoverable manner in accordance with the provisions of United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and are appropriately deposited in recognized data repositories consistent with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Oceanographic Data Exchange Policy⁸ or the relevant UN subordinate body data policy.

- Strengthen existing or create new partnerships across nations and/or between diverse ocean actors, including users of ocean science.

- Overcome barriers to diversity and equity, including gender, generational and geographic diversity.

- Collaborate with and engage local and indigenous knowledge holders.

8. https://www.iode.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=51:ioc-oceanographic-data-exchange-policy&catid=24&Itemid=100040

Annex 1: List of funding Partners

Annex 1.1: Funding Partners

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

| Country | FUNDING PARTNER | Abbreviation | K Euro |
|----------------|--|--------------|--------|
| BELGIUM | Belgian Science Policy Office | Belspo | 500 |
| GERMANY | German Federal Ministry of Education and Research | BMBF | 3 500 |
| IRELAND | Marine Institute | MI | 200 |
| ITALY | Ministry of Universities and Research | MUR | 1 000 |
| NORWAY | The Research Council of Norway | RCN | 1 600 |
| SPAIN | Agencia Estatal de Investigación | AEI | 600 |
| POLAND | The National Centre for Research and Development | NCBR | 300 |
| ROMANIA | Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding-UEFISCDI | UEFISCDI | 500 |

Annex 1.2: Co-branding entities

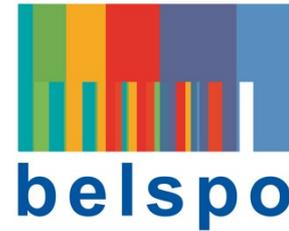
Table 2: External support / co-branding from entities

| |
|------------------------|
| Entity |
| BANOS |
| BlueMed |
| NOAA |
| UN Ocean Decade |

Annex 2: National Funding Rules

Annex 2.1: Belgium

Belgian Science Policy Office (Belspo), Belgium



GENERAL

Country: BELGIUM

Participating Organization:

Belgian Federal Science Policy Office (BELSPO)

WTC III - Boulevard Simon Bolivar 30 box 7

1000 Brussels

Belgium

BUDGET

Anticipated amount of funding for this call: Available budget from BELSPO is up to 0,5 Mio. €

Maximum amount per partner and/or proposal/project: Within a single project proposal, the maximum Belgian contribution can be up to 0,25 Mio. €

Name of & link to the funding programmes:

BELSPO - R&I department

ELIGIBILITY AND NATIONAL FUNDING MODALITIES

Eligible Institutions and/or partners: BELSPO funding is open to the whole Belgian scientific community: universities, colleges of higher education, public scientific institutions and non-profit research centres.

European and international organisations established in Belgium are not eligible.

Minimum and/or Maximum project duration: 1 - 3 years

**Eligible costs:**

- Eligible Personnel costs (permanent/temporary): yes. Cumulative wages are forbidden. Staff cost can only cover the work done for the project.
The staff costs are limited to a maximum amount of:
 - 4200 €/month FTE for a technician/bachelor (regardless of years of experience) (4050 €/month FTE for a tax-free doctoral scholarship)
 - 6075 €/month FTE for a scientist with a Master's degree (regardless of years of experience) (5 250 €/month FTE for a tax-free postdoctoral scholarship)
 - 7500 €/month FTE for a scientist with a PhD (regardless of years of experience)
- Operating costs (travel and consumables): yes
- Equipment: yes but to be purchased in the first half of the project
- Overheads: yes, flat rate of 5% of staff and operating cost
- Subcontracting: yes but limited to 25% of the budget of the partner

Eligible applicants: applicant is affiliated to an eligible institution.

OTHER ISSUES**Relevant national documents:**

Subject, relevance criteria: Belgium-BELSPO supports applications from all topics in the JPI Oceans Call on Underwater Noise in the Marine Environment

Belgian project partners will sign a separate contract with BELSPO.

Projects that receive funding from BELSPO are required to submit progress and final reports pursuant to their contracts with BELSPO.

Projects that receive funding from BELSPO are required to follow Open Access guidelines, data repository requirements. See annex II of the contracts for details.

Annex 2.2: Germany

German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)



BUDGET

Anticipated amount of funding for this call: 3.5 Mio. € (subject to final national approval)

Maximum amount per partner and/or proposal/project: The maximum budget per German partner per proposal is 400k €, including Overheads. If there are several German partners in the same consortium, the max. total commitment from BMBF is 700k € per consortium. All costs associated with proposals must be covered by the funding available for each project. No additional funding will be available to cover any additional costs associated with projects (e.g., services and facilities costs, ship-time costs).

Name of & link to the funding programmes:

Research for Sustainability (FONA):

<https://www.fona.de/en/>

<https://www.fona.de/en/topics/maren-coastal-marine-and-polar-research-for-sustainability.php>

Information BMBF: https://www.bmbf.de/bmbf/en/home/home_node.html

ELIGIBILITY AND NATIONAL FUNDING MODALITIES

Eligible Institutions

Applications may be submitted by German institutions of higher education and non-university research institutions as well as by commercial companies, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) which are headquartered and exploit their results primarily in Germany. Also, local authorities, non-profit organizations or associations are eligible for funding.

Eligible applicants: For information regarding the EU's standard definition of SMEs, please visit http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition_en.



Call text of the Underwater Noise in the Marine Environment Call for proposals

Research institutions, which receive joint basic funding from the Federal Government and the Länder, can only be granted project funding supplementary to their basic funding for additional expenditure under certain preconditions.

Maximum project duration: 36 months

Eligible costs:

Personnel cost, Travel cost, Sub-contracting, Equipment, Consumables, Overheads (not included: Building investments)

Richtlinien für Zuwendungsanträge auf Ausgaben/Kostenbasis (AZA/AZK):
https://foerderportal.bund.de/easy/easy_index.php?auswahl=easy_formulare

Projektpauschale: Universities should consider cost for the “Projektpauschale” already in the preparation of the proposal.

Only two German partners per consortium are eligible. The prerequisite for two German partners in Theme B in a consortium is that at least one partner can be classified as a stakeholder or end user (e.g., companies, SMEs).

Funding rates:

- Universities, Research organisations, Associations and local authorities: up to 100%
- Companies: up to max. 50%
- SMEs: Up to max. 80% (incl. bonus)

OTHER ISSUES

Subject, relevance criteria: Germany supports applications from all topics in the JPI Oceans Call on Underwater Noise in the Marine Environment.

National Regulations: Research for Sustainable Development, www.fona.de

The funding procedure will follow the national criteria of the funding of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research:

http://foerderportal.bund.de/easy/easy_index.php?auswahl=easy_formulare

National additional application:

In addition to the project proposal, which shall be submitted at European level, the German participants are requested to submit in addition a national application



Call text of the Underwater Noise in the Marine Environment Call for proposals

Upon eligibility check and selection of project proposals and, national applications will be invited in writing and must be submitted to the Funding Agency Project Management Juelich (PtJ) through the national web platform, available at the following link:

<https://foerderportal.bund.de/easyonline/nutzungsbedingungen.jsf?redirectFrom=/easyonline/easyOnline.jsf>

Specific questions should be addressed to the national partner organizations in advance of proposal submission. 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.

**Annex 2.3: Ireland**

Marine Institute, Ireland

*Foras na Mara
Marine Institute***GENERAL****National Contact:**

Veronica Cunningham, veronica.cunningham@marine.ie, +353 91 387200

(name, e-mail address, phone no.)

BUDGET**Anticipated amount of funding for this call:**

The Marine Institute's budget commitment for this call is 200,000 Euro.

Maximum amount per partner and/or proposal/project:

Within a single project proposal, the maximum contribution for up to two Irish partners is 200,000 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.

ELIGIBILITY AND NATIONAL FUNDING MODALITIES**Eligible Institutions and/or partners:**

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.



Call text of the Underwater Noise in the Marine Environment Call for proposals

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 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.

Minimum and/or Maximum project duration:

18 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 and PhD student costs (stipend €18,500 per annum and college fees €6,000 per annum) are also eligible costs.
- Masters 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. Depreciated cost reimbursed with 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



Call text of the Underwater Noise in the Marine Environment Call for proposals

- Maximum overheads allowed is 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

Relevant national documents:

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

Subject, relevance criteria:

Ireland supports applications from all topics in the JPI Oceans Call on Underwater Noise in the Marine Environment

Irish project partners will be required to sign a Grant Agreement with the Marine Institute, if their proposal is 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.

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

**Annex 2.4: Italy**

Ministry of Universities and Research (MUR)

**BUDGET****Anticipated amount of funding for this call:** 1,000 k€**Maximum amount per partner and/or proposal/project:** Within a single project proposal, the maximum contribution to the Italian partners can be up to 250 k€**Name of the funding programme:** FIRSTLink MUR: <http://www.mur.gov.it>

Link international collaboration:

<http://www.ricercainternazionale.miur.it/era/programmazione-congiunta/jpi-oceans.aspx>**ELIGIBILITY AND NATIONAL FUNDING MODALITIES****Eligible Institutions and/or partners:**

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”.

Eligible applicants: no restrictions**Minimum and/or Maximum project duration:** 36 months**Eligible costs:**

All costs incurred during the lifetime of the project under the following categories are eligible: Personnel, Equipment, Consulting and equivalent services, 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.



Call text of the Underwater Noise in the Marine Environment Call for proposals

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 (in terms of costs).

Funding rates:

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:

| | | Funding Rates | | | Universities, public research institutions, research organizations (public and private) in accordance with Reg. EU n. 651/2014 of the Commission - June 17, 2014) |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--|--------------------|-----------------|---|
| | | Enterprises and private research bodies (which does not meet the requirements of research organization under EU Reg. no. 651/2014 of the Commission - June 17, 2014) | | | |
| Activity typology | Applicant typology | Small Enterprises | Medium Enterprises | Big Enterprises | |
| Basic Research | | 40% | 30% | 20% | 70% |
| Industrial Research | | 40% | 30% | 20% | 50% |
| Experimental Development | | 30% | 20% | 10% | 25% |

OTHER ISSUES

Subject, relevance criteria: Italy supports applications from all topics in the JPI Oceans Call on Underwater Noise in the Marine Environment

National additional application:

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

This national additional application must be submitted by the same deadline established in the international joint call. Any participant who does not submit its national documents by the deadline will be considered not eligible for funding.

More information on the national documentation to be submitted to MUR is available at the web page dedicated to the Underwater noise in the marine environment call:



Call text of the Underwater Noise in the Marine Environment Call for proposals

<http://www.ricercainternazionale.miur.it/era/programmazione-congiunta/jpi-oceans.aspx>

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.

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”, which will be published on the MUR website, and in the applicable Italian laws.

Applicable laws and rules:

(<http://www.ricercainternazionale.miur.it/evidenza/normativa-prog-internazionali.aspx>):

- 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

Annex 2.5: Norway

The Research Council of Norway (RCN)



BUDGET

Anticipated amount of funding for this call: Available budget from RCN is up to 1,6 Mio. €.

Maximum amount per partner and/or proposal/project: Within a single project proposal, the maximum requested funding for all Norwegian partners collated should not exceed 0,4 Mio. €.

Name of the funding programmes: The Norwegian funding in this joint call comes from the programs of MARINFORSK and PETROMAKS2.

ELIGIBILITY AND NATIONAL FUNDING MODALITIES

Eligible Institutions and/or partners:

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 in separate accounts. For further details on the state aid guidelines, see below.

The RCN can support the following alternative project models:

- A project, with a Norwegian company as coordinator. A Norwegian research organization(s) can be partner or subcontracted.
- A project, with a Norwegian research organization as coordinator, that represents effective collaboration between research and business(s), ref state aid scheme.
- A project with a foreign company as coordinator and one or more Norwegian company(ies) and/or Norwegian research organization(s) as partner(s).
- A project, where a foreign research institute or industry is coordinator, that represents effective collaboration between research and business(s), ref state aid scheme.

Sole proprietorships cannot apply for funding from the RCN.

Minimum and/or Maximum project duration: Maximum project duration is up to 36 months



Eligible costs:

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

OTHER ISSUES

Subject, relevance criteria:

Norway supports applications from both themes in the JPI Oceans Call on Underwater Noise in the Marine Environment; Theme 1: *Effects of anthropogenic noise pollution on marine ecosystems* and Theme 2: *Innovative seismic sources as an option for quieter and effective alternatives to conventional marine geophysical exploration*.

The Research Council of Norway aims at funding the highest-ranked proposals according to the criteria and procedures stated in the description of the call. For the Research Council of Norway, it is an overall aim to have a balanced project portfolio with respect to the scientific themes, strategic considerations, and national participation.

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 Investigator must be able to document that its 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.forskingsradet.no/en/Adviser-research-policy/open-science/>

Other issues

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

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

Project partners of funded projects will have to submit national application forms to The Research Council of Norway after notification.

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.

Annex 2.6: Poland

Narodowe Centrum Badań i Rozwoju (NCBR)

**BUDGET****Anticipated amount of funding for this call:** 300 k €**Maximum amount per partner and/or proposal/project:** For one Polish partner in the proposal, the maximum contribution can be up to 100 k€, including Overheads. In the case of a group of entities, the amount of the grant is multiplied by the number of Polish partners within the limit on the number of participants from the same country in the proposal.

All costs associated with proposals must be covered by the funding available for each project. No additional funding will be available to cover any additional costs associated with projects (e.g., services and facilities costs, ship-time costs).

Name of & link to the funding programmes:

More details in the national call announcement

ELIGIBILITY AND NATIONAL FUNDING MODALITIES**Eligible Institutions and/or partners:**

- Research organizations (research and knowledge-dissemination organizations);
- Micro, Small, Medium and Large Enterprises;
- Group of entities (Research organizations and Research organizations; Micro, Small, Medium and Large Enterprises and Micro, Small, Medium and Large Enterprises; Research organizations and Micro, Small, Medium and Large Enterprises).

Eligible applicants:

Additional eligibility criteria

- Organization must be registered in Poland.
- For enterprises it is strongly advised to state in the application form in table for Project coordinator/Project partner: the KRS number of the enterprise and the size of the enterprise (micro/small, medium, large).



- A condition for the participation of a group of entities as the Applicant in the competition is its formal existence on the date of submission of the proposal, confirmed by its members concluding, at least conditionally, agreement on the creation of a group of entities.
- Please note that group of entities counts as two project partners from Poland (it meets the limit on the number of participants from the same country, please see call text for details).

Maximum project duration: 36 months

Eligible costs:

The eligible costs shall be the following:

1. personnel costs (researchers, technicians and other supporting staff to the extent employed on the research project).

2. subcontracting costs: costs of consultancy and equivalent services used exclusively for the research activity; this cost type cannot account for more than 70% of all eligible costs of a project; the subcontracting can be obtained from consortium partner only in justified case, this need will be verified by a national experts panel.

3. operating costs including:

- costs of instruments and equipment, technical knowledge, and patents to the extent and for the period used for the research project; if such instruments and equipment are not used for their full life for the research project, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the life of the research project, as calculated on the basis of good accounting practice, shall be considered eligible.
- costs for buildings and land, to the extent and for the duration used for the research project; with regard to buildings, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the life of the research project, as calculated on the basis of good accounting practice shall be considered eligible; for land, costs of commercial transfer or actually incurred capital costs shall be eligible.
- other operating costs including costs of materials, supplies and similar products incurred directly as a result of the research activity.

4. additional overheads incurred indirectly as a result of the research project; that costs should account 25% of all eligible project costs; That costs (4) are counted as a multiplication by



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percentage given above (called x%) and the rest of direct costs, excluding subcontracting (2); It means $4=(1+3)*25\%$.

Funding rates:

Funding quota of Polish participants can be up to 100% for research organizations. In the case of enterprises, funding quota will be decided on a case-by-case basis depending on the size of the company, type of research/development, risk associated with the research activities and commercial perspective of exploitation, under Section 2 of the Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 19 August 2020 on granting state aid by the National Centre for Research and Development, published in Journal of Laws item 1456, 2020.

| | Micro/Small Enterprises | Medium Enterprises | Large Enterprises | research organizations |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Fundamental/ Basic Research | n/a | n/a | n/a | Up to 100% |
| Industrial Research | Up to 50+20+15 (max 80 %) | Up to 50+10+15 (max 75 %) | Up to 50+15 (max 65 %) | Up to 100 % |
| Experimental development | Up to 25+20+15 (max 60 %) | Up to 25+10+15 (max 50 %) | Up to 25+15 (max 40 %) | Up to 100 % |

OTHER ISSUES

Subject, relevance criteria:

Poland supports applications from all topics in the JPI Oceans Call on Underwater Noise in the Marine Environment.

National additional application:

Polish Participants will be informed and invited to submit national application form once the international evaluation and the ranking list will be established. Only projects recommended for funding will be asked to submit a national application form.

Eligible research types: Industrial research, Experimental development, and Fundamental/Basic research. The costs of fundamental/basic research are eligible only if they are in direct relation to, and necessary for industrial or experimental research planned in the proposal. Other type of



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activities (e.g., coordination, dissemination, management) cannot be included into separated task.

All eligible entities, invited to submit Polish proposal are obliged to use the rate of exchange of The European Central Bank dated on the day of opening the call.

If more than one Polish entity participates in the project, the national application is submitted by a consortium of all Polish entities.

More details in the national call announcement.

National Regulations:

All proposals must be aligned with national regulations, inter alia:

- The Act of 20 July 2018 - Law on Higher Education and Science, published in Journal of Laws from 2021 item 478 as amended.
- The Act of 30 April 2010 on the National Centre for Research and Development, published in Journal of Laws from 2020 item 1861 as amended.
- The Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 19 August 2020 on granting state aid by the National Centre for Research and Development, published in Journal of Law from 2020, item 1456, which is in line with the Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (General Block Exemption Regulation).
- The Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 17 September 2010 on the detailed mode of performance of tasks of the National Centre for Research and Development, published in Journal of Laws No. 178, item 1200.

Annex 2.7: Romania

Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research,
Development, and Innovation Funding (UEFISCDI)



BUDGET

Anticipated amount of funding for this call: Available budget up to 500 k Euro

Maximum amount per partner and/or proposal/project:

The funds allocated from the state budget for the Romanian part of an ERA-NET / ERA-NET project Co-fund are:

- max. 250.000 EUR if Romania is the coordinator of the trans-national project.
- max. 200.000 EUR if Romania is partner in the trans-national project.

Principal Investigators are not allowed to apply for funding in more than one proposal of the Underwater Noise call.

Name of & link to the funding programmes:

Please check for more information:

<http://uefiscdi.gov.ro/articole/4536/Pachet-de-informatii-ERANETERANET-Cofund.html>

ELIGIBILITY AND NATIONAL FUNDING MODALITIES

Eligible Institutions and/or partners:

Eligible entities for funding are universities, public institutions, R&D national institutions, joint-stock companies, SME's and Large companies, NGOs (associations, foundations, etc.), others. Funding rates vary in accordance with state aid legislation.

Eligible costs:

- Staff costs
- Logistics expenses
 - Capital expenditure
 - Expenditure on stocks - supplies and inventory items



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- 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 20% of direct costs.

OTHER ISSUES

General regulations:

- The Romanian partners awarded in this call are invited to contract under the National Plan for RDI 2015-2020 rules/Subprogram 3.2 HORIZON 2020.
- The Romanian partners awarded in this call should submit an annual report (scientific and financial) to UEFISCDI in accordance with the regulations settled in the funding contract.

Open Access to Publications and Research Data:

UEFISCDI gives reimbursement (through funded projects) of taxes paid for open access. UEFISCDI is hub for the open-air project and is carrying out a national policy for open access policy for a national level.

Annex 2.8: Spain

Agencia Estatal de Investigación (AEI)



BUDGET

Anticipated amount of funding for this call: available budget up to € 600,000

Maximum amount per partner and/or proposal/project:

The following funding limits (including direct + indirect costs) are considered eligibility criteria. Proposals not respecting these limits could be declared ineligible.

If the consortium is NOT LED by a Spanish Coordinator and:

- there is only one Spanish Partner in the proposal: € 200,000
- there are two Spanish Partners in the proposal, the amount for both Partners is: € 250,000

If the consortium IS LED by a Spanish Coordinator and:

- there is only one Spanish Partner in the proposal acting as Coordinator: € 250,000
- there are two Spanish Partners in the proposal and one of them is acting as Coordinator, the amount for both Partners is: € 300,000

IMPORTANT: a maximum of two Spanish Partners in the same Proposal are allowed.

NEW!! Two centres or institutions belonging to the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC) will be treated as two separate partners one from another when one of them is acting as Coordinator of the proposal and their tasks and identity in the project are sufficiently separated and justified.

Other Funding criteria: La Agencia Estatal de Investigación will avoid double funding and will not finance projects or parts of projects already funded through other national or international calls:

- Compliance with the funding limits will be considered under the eligibility criteria. Proposals not respecting these limits could be declared ineligible.
- The level of funding will take into account the evaluation of the collaborative proposal, the scientific quality of the Spanish group, the added value of the international



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collaboration, the participation of the industrial sector and the financial resources available.

Name of & link to the funding programmes:

[Programa Estatal de Investigación, Desarrollo e Innovación Orientada a los Retos de la Sociedad](#),
[Plan Estatal de Investigación Científica y Técnica y de Innovación 2021-2023](#).

The instrument for funding Spanish groups will be the Spanish call on International Joint Programming Actions “Programación Conjunta Internacional” - PCI. The applicants are advised to consult the national regulation in the Programación Conjunta Internacional 2021 ([PCI2021](#)) for informative purposes.

The Spanish legal entities awarded grants are obliged by the regulations established in the PCI national call (or its equivalent) and by the funding limits specified below.

The call will be managed by the [Subdivisión de Programas Científico-Técnicos Transversales, Fortalecimiento y Excelencia of the Agencia Estatal de Investigación](#).

The projects granted by the Agencia Estatal de Investigación must be aligned with the main objectives described in the Programa Estatal.

ELIGIBILITY AND NATIONAL FUNDING MODALITIES

Eligible Institutions and/or partners:

The eligible institutions are non-profit research organizations as per national call (PCI), such as Universities, Public Research Institutions, Technological Centers, and other Private non-profit Institutions performing RDI activities in Spain.

Eligible applicants:

Mandatory: Spanish Principal Investigators must be eligible under the PCI call and must have experience as investigators in projects funded by the “Plan Nacional I+D+i 2008-2011”, the “Plan Estatal I+D+i 2013-2016”, ERC Grants, European Framework Programmes or other relevant national/international programmes.

Incompatibilities (these must be taken into account when participating in different ERA-Nets or other international initiatives):



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- PIs will not be eligible for funding if they apply to more than one proposal in this transnational joint call, to more than one proposal in the same PCI call and/or to PCI calls of consecutive years.
- If the same PI submits two or more proposals, all but one will be declared ineligible, without the possibility of changing the PI.
- A PI that has been granted a PCI the previous year will be declared ineligible, without the possibility of changing the PI.
- PIs must remain unchanged between the proposal of this transnational joint call and the national PCI call.

The AEI will avoid double funding and will not grant projects or parts of projects already funded through other national or EU calls.

It is recommended to read carefully the following Resolution by AEI on general requirements for participation:

http://www.aei.gob.es/stfls/MICINN/Ayudas/PE_2017_2020/PE_Orientada_Retos_Sociedad/FIGHEROS/Acciones_Programacion_Conjunta_Internacional/Resolucion-RequisitosPCI-STRAN_firmado.pdf

Failure to respect the requirements will lead to the ineligibility of the proposal.

Eligible costs:

Direct costs such as:

- Personnel costs for temporary employment contracts (scholarships are not eligible).
- Current costs, small scientific equipment, disposable materials, travelling expenses, coordination cost, and other costs that can be justified as necessary to carry out the proposed activities.
- Overheads (maximum 15% of direct costs, including outsourcing).

OTHER ISSUES

“Programación Conjunta Internacional” (PCI) (or its equivalent)

The applicants may consult the national regulation in the Programación Conjunta Internacional 2021 ([PCI2021](#)) for informative purposes.



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Any publication or dissemination activity resulting from the granted projects must acknowledge funding by the Agencia Estatal de Investigación: “Project (reference nº XX) funded by the State Research Agency through PCI.

[Agencia Estatal de Investigación – Calls and Grants](#)



Annex 3: List of contact persons of each Funding Partner

| | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Belgium | Belspo |
|----------------|---------------|

Name: **Koen Lefever**

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Email: david.cox@belspo.be

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Germany | Project Management Juelich |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|

Name: **Dr. Benjamin Kürten**

Affiliation: Project Management Juelich

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| | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| Ireland | Marine Institute |
|----------------|-------------------------|

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| Italy | MUR |
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Name: **Dr. Aldo Covello**

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Name: **Dr. Giorgio Carpino**

Affiliation: Ministry of University and Research

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Name: **Dr. Yasmine Iollo**



Call text of the Underwater Noise in the Marine Environment Call for proposals

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|---------------|------------|
| Norway | RCN |
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Name: Lars Erik Walle

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|---------------|-------------|
| Poland | NCBR |
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Name: Maciej Zdanowicz

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| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Romania | UEFISCDI |
|----------------|-----------------|

Name: Domnica Cotet

Affiliation: executive Agency for Higher Education, research, Development and Innovation Funding

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Name: Cristina Cotet

Affiliation: executive Agency for Higher Education, research, Development and Innovation Funding

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Tel: +40 021.302.38.84

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Spain | Agencia Estatal de Investigación (AEI) |
|--------------|---|

Name: **Abraham Trujillo Quintela**

Affiliation: Agencia Estatal de Investigación (AEI)

Address: Agencia Estatal de Investigación (AEI) | Subdivisión de Programas Científico-Técnicos Transversales, Fortalecimiento y Excelencia | C/ Torrelaguna, 58. Planta 6. 28027 Madrid, Spain

Email: oceans@aei.gob.es

Telephone: +34 916038359 (unavailable on Wednesday and Friday)



Annex 4: 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:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/c2021_1054_en.pdf

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 answering to 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



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- 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?



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