Water4All
Water security for the planet

European Partnership

2025 JOINT TRANSNATIONAL CALL
"Water & Health"

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

(Update of 12 September 2025)

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1. CALL TEXT (themes, scope, methodological approach)

The Call Secretariat and the Funding Partner Organisation (FPO) contact points cannot answer questions related to the research themes of individual proposals, i.e., whether these are in adequacy with the call text topics. This task will be performed by an independent Evaluation Committee at both steps.

1.1. Should the proposal address one of the topics or sub-topics specifically?

Research & innovation proposals submitted under the Water4All 2025 Joint Transnational Call (JTC) Regular or Early Career Researcher (ECR) modalities are required to address at least one of the following main topics and may integrate multiple topics where relevant:

- **Topic 1:** Waterborne contaminants and health risks: occurrence, behaviour, interactions and vulnerability
- **Topic 2:** Innovative Tools and Technologies for Water Quality and Exposure Monitoring
- **Topic 3:** Water Treatment and Exposure Mitigation
- **Topic 4:** Governance, Socio-Economic Innovation, and Policy Integration for Water and Health

The call topics are overlapping and non-exclusive. It is not compulsory to address all subtopics within a topic in the proposals. Additionally, proposals are encouraged to explore links to other Water4All SRIA themes, particularly Sub-theme 3.3 on Groundwater Management (e.g., interactions between contaminants, water quality monitoring, and groundwater protection), and Theme 5 on Infrastructures for water (e.g. health risks associated to infrastructures). Health is the mandatory framework for addressing topics and subtopics described, even in those cases where it is not explicitly included in the description text.

More information concerning the topics and sub-topics may be found in the Call Announcement.

The applicants are also strongly recommended to consult the Water4All Strategic and Innovation Research Agenda (SRIA), the Water4All main strategic document identifying the water challenges around which the joint calls are prepared. The context for the general call Topics is described in the SRIA T in Theme IV (IV.I; IV.III) of the Water4All **Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda**, **"Water and Health".**

1.2. Is it envisaged that proposals in the marine environment would be permitted?

As clearly stated in the SRIA, one of the main strategic call document: "The physical domains covering the Water4All Partnership are: - Inland surface waters: rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands and upland source areas (glaciers, snow). - Transitional and coastal waters (hyporheic zone, estuaries, coastal lagoons, coastal and harbour zones). - Underground water, including both saturated and unsaturated zones". Proposals in the m*arine environment are not permitted!*

1.3. Which types of results are preferred / expected in this call: scientific (published papers) or applied (stakeholder involvement, decision support tools, actions...)?

All of them are acceptable provided that they contribute to impact defined in the call text and the research proposed is in line with the national/regional regulations of the consortium partners.

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1.4. Where do technical solutions and innovations will best fit? Is there a TRL level required?

No, there is no restriction in the TRL of the proposals if the objectives of the call are clearly addressed on the general, call level. Nevertheless, some national/regional Funding Partner Organisations (FPOs) might have their specific rules about the TRL level of research they are funding.

1.5. Is the participation to the Water4All Knowledge Hub mandatory?

Yes, the researchers coming from the projects selected for funding will take part in the Water4All Knowledge Hub (KH), whose aim is to contribute to knowledge synthesis, dissemination, and networking activities. In this view, at least two person months should be allocated for the participation in the activities. For further details, please read carefully section 3.1.1 of the Call Text

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2. ELIGIBILITY (general call eligibility criteria and funding rules on a national/regional level)

2.1. Who is funding the projects?

In a funded project, each national/regional Funding Partner Organisation (FPO) participating in the call will fund "their" national applicant in accordance with their funding rules and funding limits. For example, in a consortium of France, Spain and Italy, ANR would fund the French research group, AEI and/or CDTI the Spanish one and MUR the Italian ones.

2.2. My funding organisation will not fund SMEs but can EU funds support financially the work of such an SME 100% as part of a consortium?

Each national/regional Funding Partner Organisation (FPO) participating in the call will fund "their" national applicant in accordance with their funding rules and funding limits.
The EU co-funding cannot be used if a Funding Partner Organisation (FPO) does not fund some organisation types.

2.3. Which countries/regions can participate in this joint call?

The call is open to partners from the countries/regions with a Funding Partner Organisation (FPO) participating to the call. Please, consult the Call Announcement for the updated list of participating Funding Partner Organisations (FPOs). Each Funding Partner Organisation (FPO) participating to the call will fund its national/regional research groups.

2.4. Who can apply?

The call is open to any organisation that complies with the national/regional eligibility criteria and rules of the Funding Partner Organisations (FPOs) from countries participating in the call. This may include public research organisations as well as private sector organisations (profit and non-profit).
The applicants that are not eligible for funding or coming from countries not participating in the call may still join the consortia using their own funds or may be subcontracted by another eligible partner.
The applicants are strongly advised to approach their respective Funding Partner Organisation (FPO) contact point to make sure they respect all the eligibility criteria and rules. Only eligible pre-proposals and full proposals will be evaluated.
Please refer to the contact list Annex A and the National/Regional Regulations document.

2.5. What is the difference between the general eligibility call rules and the funding organizations' rules?

For the projects to be considered eligible for funding, they need to comply with a set of general eligibility rules of the call (see Call Announcement). In addition, each project partner must be eligible according to the rules and criteria of their Funding Partner Organisation (FPO).
IMPORTANT: if one partner in the consortium is declared ineligible by its Funding Partner Organisation (FPO), this may lead to the ineligibility of the whole proposal, for example, if they consequently fail to comply with the general rules (such as a minimum of 3 eligible partners in the

consortium).

2.6. What is the minimum/maximum size of the consortium (the number of eligible partners)? Is there a favoured average size of the consortium?

The project must be a transnational project involving eligible research partners from **at least a minimum of three (3) eligible partners** that request funding from participating Funding Partner Organisations (FPOs) from three different countries. In addition to the abovementioned condition, the projects must involve **at least two independent legal entities from two different EU Member States** or Horizon Europe Associated Countries as recipients of the financial support. In this call, the only participating countries that are currently NOT EU Member States or HE Associated Countries are: India and Switzerland.

The **upper limit of eligible project partners per consortium is seven (7)** (including 1 self-funded partner) for the projects submitted as Regular modality as well as for those under the ECR modality**.** This upper limit can be increased to eight (8) partners per consortium if at least one partner from an undersubscirbed FPOs in included

IMPORTANT NOTICE: The national/regional regulations may limit the maximum number of partners from the same country within the consortium.

For proposals involving up to five (5) partners, maximum two (2) entities that are also involved in the Water4All partnership (listed in ANNEX B) may participate in the same proposal. Larger proposals may involve up to three (3) entities that are also involved in the Water4All partnership (listed in ANNEX B).

is therefore not possible to make a recommendation regarding the optimum size of a consortium. The number of partners depends largely on the requirements of the topic and the complexity of the work to be carried out. It should always be borne in mind that a consortium must be easy to manage so that the project objectives can be achieved.

2.7. Are private companies eligible to apply for the JTC? Can a private company be a coordinator of the proposal? What is the funding rate for private companies?

Yes, with regard to the general eligibility criteria private companies are eligible to apply for the JTC 2025 and they can be the coordinator of the proposal. However, on national level not all funding agencies are able to fund private companies. Also, the funding rates varies between each funding agency. Therefore, it is necessary to check the National Regulations and to contact the NCP.

2.8. Does a consortium need to include both academic partners (universities and / or research centers) and industrial partners? Is there a minimum level of involvement required from industrial partners?

No, a consortium does not need to include both. A consortium can be formed by universities only or by industrial partner only or by a consortium of both sectors. Therefore, it is necessary to check the National Regulations and to contact the NCP.

2.9. Is it possible for a proposal to be submitted by 3 eligible partners, 2 from same country requesting funding to different Funding Partner Organisation (FPO) and 1 from a second country?

No. A proposal submitted by 3 partners is eligible only if the 3 partners come from different countries participating in the call. However, each legal entity is an own partner in the consortium. It is possible to have more partners from one country as far as the eligible criteria are fulfilled and the national regulations allows more than one legal entity per country.

2.10. Can two different organisations from the same country participate as partners in the same consortium if other eligibility rules are met?

Yes, as long as this is in line with the funding rules of the Funding Partner Organisations (FPOs) of that particular country and the general criterion on 3 eligible partners from 3 countries is met.

2.11. Some countries like Belgium, Spain, or Slovakia have two national Funding Partner Organisations (FPOs). How do we select the Funding Partner Organisation (FPO)?

Applicants need to contact the Funding Partner Organisations (FPOs) to check their eligibility. Two partners from the same country may be funded by two different national Funding Partner Organisations (FPOs), depending on the type of research /organisations they fund.

2.12. If we have the minimum of eligible partners in a consortium, how many non-eligible (self-funded) partners can we invite to participate?

Maximum 1 self-funded partner may be included in a consortium.

2.13. Who is a self-funded partner?

Applicants coming from countries all over the world (e.g. Canada, Cyprus) not participating in the call or those that are not eligible for funding may join the consortium as self-funded partners if they can bring a secured budget from their own source of funding. This can be another grant (from the EU, international or national scheme) or a private source. Self-funded partners must provide evidence that their organisations will support their activities. They should send a duly signed official letter of commitment to their project coordinator who will upload the commitment letter and submit it as part of the full proposal by the proposal deadline (see Call Announcement).
The letters of commitment are only requested for self-funded partners in the Step2 (full proposal).
While some of the general eligibility criteria take into account the participation of self-funded partners (e.g. the maximum number of partners per consortia), these partners are not subject to any national eligibility check.

2.14. What are the rules for self-funding partners? How much do they have to fund?

Self-funded partners join consortia at the same conditions as other partners, therefore they have to carry out project activities according to the project description and an overall distribution of effort which shall be balanced among all the partners. Self-funded partners cannot assume the project coordinator role and cannot expose more than the 50% of the overall person months declared in the workplan (same condition applies to all the partners anyway). In this frame, self-funded partners shall ensure that all the costs needed for carrying out their own share of the project are secured, either from own resources or from external resources.

2.15. My country (e.g. USA, Canada, Pakistan) does not fund in the call, can I participate in a project?

Partners from any country not participating in the call can participate in the project as self-financed partners if they can bring a secured budget from their own source of funding. They will be requested to upload a signed official letter of when submitting their full proposals (Step2 of the call process). Non-eligible partners may also be sub-contracted by eligible partners if their Funding Partner Organisations (FPOs) rules permit it. Self-funded or subcontracted partners cannot coordinate a project.

2.16. Is the UK considered an eligible country under Horizon Europe?

UK is considered as an Associated Country (AC) of Horizon Europe. UK applicants are eligible and can participate in the call through UKRI funding. This is important when considering the general eligibility criterion of the consortium composition (3 eligible partners from 3 countries, of which 2 must be from EU members states or from AC of Horizon Europe).

2.17. Are international / intergovernmental organisations eligible to receive funds and to be part of a consortium?

International organisations have to refer to the national regulations and NCPs of the country they are based in for further details on their eligibility and funding.

2.18. We are an organisation that would need to be subcontracted by an eligible research organisation. Would this research organisation need to be in the same country or would another EU/funding member suffice?

Organisations can be subcontracted by partners in any country, as long as their Funding Partner Organisation (FPO) allows it.

2.19. Is it required to have stakeholders' organisations as a project partner?

No, it is not required. The only mandatory conditions for the consortia are described in the eligibility criteria in the call text.

2.20. Are Letters of Support from stakeholders/beneficiaries recommended (or even required) for the proposal submission?

Letters of support are NOT requested and won't be considered for the evaluation.

2.21. Is there a maximum or minimum in terms of a total project budget?

At the level of the call, there are no rules regarding a minimum or maximum budget per proposal. Please note, however, that some Funding Partner Organisations (FPOs) have defined a minimum and/or maximum amount per partners or per project in their Funding Partner Organisations (FPOs) regulations.

2.22. Does this call cover 100% of the expenses or is there any co-funding required?

Each Funding Partner Organisation (FPO) applies its own national/regional funding regulations. The document "List of National/Regional Regulations" is available on the call website and it summarises the funding schemes (eligibility, cost and funding rate) of all the Funding Partner Organisation (FPO) participating in this call.

2.23. Can a researcher or organisation participate in several proposals submitted?

The Principal Investigator of the entity acting as Consortium Coordinator can only participate in one proposal i.e., if the Principal Investigator is the Consortium Coordinator of a proposal, he/she cannot participate in any other proposal, neither as a Consortium Coordinator nor as Principal Investigator of a partner. No other limits apply to Principal Investigators of organisations acting as partners, meaning they can be involved with several proposals as long as the national/regional rules allow it.

2.24. Can a private company be the coordinator of the consortium?

Yes, if eligible for funding with the relevant Funding Organisation.

2.25. Can organisations from non-EU member states (e.g. South Africa or UK) but from countries participating in the call coordinate the project?

Yes.

2.26. Should the project coordinator or PIs be permanent staff or are temporary contracts allowed?

At the level of the call, there are no rules regarding the duration of contract for each project team members. Members of the scientific Evaluation Panel will evaluate the proposals following the criteria defined in the Call Announcement. Thus, projects will not be disqualified by the evaluation committee because of the work contract.
Nevertheless, the Funding Partner Organisations (FPOs) may have specific restrictions regarding the work contract/position of the researchers they fund and the proposal may be declared ineligible if the applicants do not follow their national rules.

2.27. Are co-coordinators allowed?

No.

2.28. Are Water agencies (water administrations) eligible for the call?

Yes, if eligible for funding with the relevant Funding Partner Organisation (FPO).

2.29. Does the project have to be the same for the involved countries in the consortium? Can each partner submit their own project?

The call aims to fund collaborative projects with a strong transnational added value. The proposals should not be a collage of individual national projects but demonstrate integration and collaboration between partners involved in the proposal.

2.30. In which language(s) should the pre-proposals and full proposals be written?

Proposals must be written in English only.

2.31. What is the project duration in this call?

The project duration is 36 months.

2.32. Does gender balance in the research teams have any role in evaluation of the project?

This is not an evaluation criterion per se; nevertheless, the applicants are encouraged to take gender balance into account when setting up the proposals.

2.33. Is there any requirement for uploading a document to prove date of PhD completion for the Early career modality?

When choosing the ECR modality the Consortium Coordinator must indicate the date of his/her PhD defence in the CV. No national document will be required to be uploaded. However, the funding agencies may require such document to confirm the eligibility of their candidate.

2.34. The PI of project proposal is an early career scientist, but their national funding organisation does not fund the Early Career Researcher (ECR) modality. Can he/she apply for normal call (JTC)?

Yes, if an early career researcher wants to coordinate a project but his/her Funding Partner Organisation (FPO) does not support the ECR modality, he/she can submit his/her project under the regular JTC.

2.35. What are the requirements for a Consortium Coordinator if he/she wishes to submit his/her proposal under the Early Career Researcher modality?

Consortium Coordinator who obtained their PhD since less than 10 years before the call launch has the possibility to apply under the Early Career Researcher modality if the Funding Partner Organisation (FPO) is supporting this modality (see national regulations). When creating the proposal, the Coordinator chooses whether to apply under the regular JTC or under the Early Career Researcher modality (ECR). Consortium Coordinator who complies with the ECR criteria may decide whether he/she wishes to participate in the JTC or in the ECR, however, participation in both modalities is incompatible.

2.36. Is there an advantage of participating under the Early Career Researchers modality?

While the evaluation and ranking of the proposals submitted in the JTC and ECR will be done under a single call process and subject to the same rules, the Funding Partner Organisations (FPOs) participating in the ECR modality with available budget will prioritize the funding of ECR proposals, in cases of equal ranking of several projects.

2.37. If the coordinator has more than 1 PhD, which is the one considered for the 10 years rule?

The date of defence of the older PhD counts (i.e., the first PhD obtained).

2.38. Is there any age limit for the Early Career Research modality?

There is no age limit. Only the date of the PhD obtention counts.

2.39. Does the condition for ECR of having obtained a PhD in less than 10 years consider medical leaves (e.g. maternity leaves)?

For the ECR modality, consideration of maternity leave, parental leave, etc. have to be checked with the funding organisation as per national / regional regulations.

2.40. What kind of costs (indirect costs, personnel costs, consumables, equipment) can be requested for funding? How can we handle inflation rates?

Each funding performing organisation has their own rules which costs are fundable. Please check the national regulations or contact your national contact point. Since the inflation rates varies between the country it is important to contact the Funding Performing Organization how to handle this question. There is no generic answer for this question.

2.41. Are projects fully funded, or is match required from the project partners?

The funding rate can differ between the partner. It depends on the national regulation of each FPO. We advise you to contact the NCP of your funding agency.

2.42. How should we calculate the costs?

The calculation of each partner is in accordance with the national rules. Each partner has to check the regulation of the corresponding funding performing organisation. There is no universal calculation at partnership level.

2.43. Is it possible for a consortium to have part of the project work carried out by a subcontractor?

Yes, in principle this is possible, but the national regulation NCP has to approve it.

3. BUILDING A CONSORTIUM

3.4. I am looking for a Partner for my project or a project to join. What should I do?

Water4All has developed a Partner Search Tool that allows you to look for a partner for a project you would like to submit; or look for a project to join.

3.5. Is cooperation between universities, other research institutes, and utilities encouraged?

Yes, it is encouraged, although there is no prescribed composition of the consortium in terms of the partners' profiles. The funding and eligibility will depend on national regulations for each participating country.

3.6. Are proposals involving developing countries/countries outside of the EU welcome?

Such proposals are welcome but not obligatory and will not be given extra points for that.

3.7. Is the self-funded partner mandatory for every consortium?

No.

3.8. Bearing in mind the max limit of 50% workload, is there a specific way of determining the workload for each partner in the consortium?

Total time to be dedicated to the project by this partner in person months (including the Principal Investigator and all other team members) and the costs associated to the working time spent on the project will be declared on the Electronic Platform Submission System (EPSS).

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4. CALL PROCESS (call calendar, evaluation procedure and criteria, changes between Steps 1 and 2)

4.1. When is the deadline for pre-proposal submission?

The deadline to submit pre-proposals is **13/11/2025 15.00 CET.**

4.2. When is the deadline for full proposal submission?

The deadline to submit full proposals will be **13/04/2026, 16.00 CEST.** Deadline to be confirmed after Step 1.

4.3. Do we have to submit separately (each country) first for the FPO and only if accepted, submit the pre-proposal regarding the whole consortium?

There is no pre-submission to your Funding Partner Organisation (FPO). There is a unique submission of the pre- proposal in the online platform.
However, some Funding Partner Organisation (FPO) might require to their applicants to submit additional documents on the applicants work plan to confirm their eligibility. Please refer to the national regulations and NCPs of your region/country.

4.4. What are PIC and NACE codes (requested in the application forms)?

A PIC (Participation Identification Code) is a 9-digit number serving as a unique identifier for organisations (legal entities) participating in EU funding programmes / procurements. A search tool for organisations and their PICs is available here.
The NACE code is a Statistical Classification of Economic Activities of the organisation. You can find further information about NACE here.

4.5. When is the eligibility check performed?

Eligibility checks will be performed AFTER pre-proposal submission. The Call Secretariat will perform an eligibility check of the proposal against the main administrative requirements of the Call Announcement (countries of applicants and composition of consortia, accomplishment of the submission procedure). Each Funding Partner Organisation (FPO) then will check the formal eligibility of their own applicants based on the requirements of national/regional funding schemes. After that, eligible pre- proposals will be sent to the Evaluation Panel members for scientific evaluation.
The applicants are strongly encouraged to check and confirm with their NCPs their eligibility BEFORE the Step 1 deadline. Once the pre-submission is closed and the official eligibility check done, the ineligible applicants may be removed from the proposal, which could lead to ineligibility of the whole proposal.

4.6. How will my project be evaluated and according to which criteria?

A two-step procedure will be organised:
1) Step 1 procedure will consist in an **administrative eligibility check** according to criteria reported in §4 of the Call Announcement.
All eligible pre-proposals will be subject to a **scientific evaluation by** an Evaluation Panel (EP) based on two criteria - **'Excellence' and 'Impact'**. The EP will be composed by an adequate number of independent experts. An EP meeting will complete the evaluation procedure, agreeing the final individual score for each criterion and the overall score for each proposal. A ranked list of pre-proposals will be produced based on the final scores.

The Call Steering Committee (CSC, i.e., all funding organisations) will decide on the number of projects to be invited to Step 2, following the ranking established by the EP and taking into account the financial pressure.

2) The Step 2 will also foresee an **administrative eligibility** check and an **evaluation of full proposals by the EP** which will evaluate full proposals against the following assessment criteria: **'Excellence', 'Impact' and 'Quality and Efficiency of Implementation'.**
An EP meeting will complete the evaluation procedure, agreeing the final individual score for each criterion and the overall score for each proposal. The threshold on the final score is 10/15: no project with a lower score will be funded. A ranked list of proposals will be produced based on the final scores.
The CSC will take the final decision on the funding of the projects, strictly adhering to the order of the ranking list established by the EP until the committed funds are exhausted.
For more detailed information about the evaluation procedure, please consult the Call Announcement.

4.7. What will be the scientific background of reviewers?

An Evaluation Panel will be set up to cover the required skills and the pre/full proposals will be carefully allocated among the experts with adequate profiles to evaluate individual project pre/full proposals.

4.8. Will the applicants receive feedback/assessment after the evaluation in Step 1?

Yes, the Coordinator of the proposal will receive a consensus report.

4.9. How is the funding of the best projects guaranteed if the national financing is limited? Does the EC come up with the missing funds? Can the national funding agencies decide if they will fund a certain project or not?

The ranking list of projects is established by the independent Evaluation Panel of experts. The Funding Partner Organisations (FPOs) are obliged to follow this ranking list, funding the projects following the top-down principle and with each country funding their own part in the ranked projects.
The participating countries aim at funding as many of the top-ranked proposals as possible. The EC contributes with a % of cash to the call, which is used to fill in the funding gaps in the top-rated proposals and maximize as much as possible the number of projects that can be funded.

4.10. Will all proposals above the threshold in Step 1 go to Step 2 or is there a further reduction to a certain number of proposals?

The decision on the list of pre-proposals that are invited to go to Step 2 will be taken by the Funding

Partner Organisations (FPOs) based on the eligibility checks and scientific evaluation ranking list. The eligible pre- proposals will be divided in 3 groups, according to their scores in the ranking list: Group A (highest evaluation scores), Group B (medium evaluation scores) and Group C (low evaluation scores). All pre- proposals in Group A will be invited to Step 2. Among the pre-proposals in Group B, proposals will be invited to Step 2, following the ranking list and taking into account the financial pressure (acceptable oversubscription ratio per countries) and representativeness of countries. Not all proposals in Group B may be invited. Proposals in Group C will not be invited to Step 2.

4.11. What kind of changes are allowed in the proposals between Steps 1 and 2?

The information given in the pre-proposals is binding. No major changes regarding the proposals' content will be allowed. However, a limited number of administrative changes may be allowed (minor budget modification, changes of Partners (legal entities), provided they are in line with the general rules of the call and the rules of the Funding Partner Organisations (FPOs). In some cases, it will be the Funding Partner Organisations (FPOs) which will suggest the modification following the eligibility check.
IMPORTANT: Participants shall contact the Call Secretariat via e-mail and their funding organisations to inquire about the possibility of modifying the project proposal. **Any kind of change should be checked against the eligibility rules PRIOR to submission of full proposal in Step 2. No change should change the substance of the proposal!**

4.12. What is considered a minor change to the budget?

Minor changes for the budget are changes less the 10 % of the requested budget in stage 1. However, it is recommended to contact the relevant NCP to discuss the changes of the budget regardless of the percentage.

4.13. Are partners allowed to change between pre-proposal and full proposal stage?

No changes of coordinator (i.e., Principal Investigator of the coordinating entity) will be allowed, except in case of force majeure. A request of change of coordinator must be submitted to the Call Secretariat, at least one week before the deadline for submitting full proposals and it will be discussed on a case-by-case basis by the CSC.
Changes in the consortium composition are allowed (maximum 2 changes of Project Partners in proposals with more than 5 partners; maximum 1 change of project partner in proposals with 5 or less partners), provided approval by the concerned funding organisations. Please note that the following actions are considered as changes: addition, removal or replacement of a partner (incl. subcontracted and self-financed partners). Please note that the maximum number of changes applies to "Partner", i.e., the independent legal entity participating in the transnational project.
Applicants should contact the Call Secretariat or their funding organisation in order to inquire about the possibility of modifying the project proposal.

4.14. Does adding a partner after Step 1 refer to adding a new institution with an extra budget or adding a person to a research team of an existing partner?

Adding a new institution to the consortium is possible but it should be approved and checked for eligibility by the Funding Partner Organisation (FPO) PRIOR to submission of full proposal. This does not imply an extra budget but is done rather as a replacement of another partner under exceptional

circumstances or adding a partner with redistribution of the existing budget.
Adding or changing a person in a research team is not considered a change of partner (except in the case of a coordinator), nevertheless, it should be consulted with and allowed by the relevant Funding Partner Organisation (FPO).What happens if a partner changes during the project life?

All changes occurring in the consortium once the project has been selected for funding will require the approval of the Funding Partner Organisation (FPO) of the partner in question. In addition, the coordinator of the affected project should duly inform the Follow-Up Secretariat of the funded projects regarding any change in the consortium (partners change, change of PIs, requests for extension, etc.).

4.15. Is the budget allowed to be changed between pre-proposal and full proposal stage?

Minor change of budget may be allowed by the relevant Funding Partner Organisation (FPO). Funding Partner Organisations (FPOs) may also request a budget modification following the eligibility check.

5. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION PLATFORM

5.1 How do I apply for the call?

Pre-proposals and full proposals must be submitted via Online Submission Tool before 13 November 2025, 15:00 CET.
The proposals must be submitted in English.
Pre-proposals have to provide information about the project consortia, and to include a 7-pages description of the project and the required budget for each partner.
Submission of pre-proposals is MANDATORY; it will not be possible to enter the procedure at a later stage. The online form is the only format that will be accepted. NO application can be sent by email.

5.2 Which documents should be submitted for pre-proposal and full proposal?

The application process consists of filling in the coordinator's, partners' data and project data through the Online Submission Tool. For the pre-proposal application, it is required to upload a brief project description (up to 7 pages). Document with higher number of pages will not be considered. The template for project description is available for download from the Call website.
The full proposal application will require the submission of a more extensive project description.
Please note: for both pre-proposals and full proposals, only one .PDF file can be uploaded. Other file's types than .PDF are not accepted.
Please note: some of the partners will also need to submit an application directly to their respective national/regional funding organisations. For further details about these procedures and schedule, please consult the national/regional regulations and/or your NCPs.
Letters of support are not requested and won't be considered for the evaluation (except for self-financed partner in the full-proposal step who have to submit letters of commitment to provide evidence that their organisations will support their activities).

5.3 Is it necessary to provide a Consortium Agreement with the full proposal?

No Consortium Agreement need to be submitted with the full proposal form. It will only be mandatory for the projects funded in this call.

5.4 Should the coordinator submit the proposal, or should each partner submit the application separately?

Only the coordinator can create the account in the EPSS PT Outline, enter, edit and save the electronic forms, add partners to the consortium, upload the project description and submit the proposal. The coordinator should be especially diligent when entering the partner data to avoid any potential errors. Each applicant must check the National Annexes and the related Funding Partner Organisations (FPOs) whether a parallel national application is required

5.5 Is it possible to make multiple submission of the same proposal until the deadline?

No, but you can edit and modify your proposal at a later stage until you press the "Submit now" button. Please consider that the tool will enable the "Submit" button only once the application is fully complete.

5.6 Is it possible to change the project title & acronym before the pre-proposal submission?

The project title and acronym can be changed until the step 1 submission; however, they cannot be changed between the pre-and full proposal.

6. CONTACTS AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

6.1. Who can I contact if I have further questions?

First and foremost, please read entirely the Call documents. Please also consult your Funding Partner Organisations' rules and, if needed, contact your Funding Partner Organisations (FPOs) Contact Points (NCPs).

- For specific questions related to the budget, criteria and rules of your funding organisation, please consult your National Contact Point.

- For general information on the call, please contact the Call Secretariat (Yasmine Iollo and Sara Cella): water4all2025_callsecretariat@mur.gov.it

Water4All 2025 Call Secretariat
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Water4All 2025 JTC – Joint Call Secretariat Italian
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