

ForestValue2

**JOINT CALL FOR
RESEARCH PROPOSALS
IN 2023**

CALL TEXT



**Funded by
the European Union**

Grant agreement ID: 101094340

<https://forestvalue.org/>

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DEFINITIONS

“Call Office”: Call Office means the body taking care of the coordination of the management activities of the Joint Call. The administration of the Joint Call is led by the Call Office (FNR, DAFM, MMM) on behalf of all the funding agencies. General enquiries about the Joint Call should be addressed to: call.office2023@forestvalue.org.

“Funding Agency”: Funding Agency is a national or regional agency responsible for providing the national share of funding for the Trans-national Projects.

“International Expert Panel”: International Expert Panel is the board of independent experts evaluating proposals of the Joint Call.

“Joint Call”: Joint Call means the co-funded call (co-funded by the participating national funding bodies, no EU contribution to the call) for collaborative proposals in forest-based bioeconomy, which is implemented jointly in 2023 by all Parties and represents the main objective of the ForestValue2 Project.



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1. TIMELINE OF THE CALL

Tue, 02.05.2023	Call launch
Tue, 23.05.2023	Online networking webinar
Fri, 01.09.2023 (13:00 CEST)	Deadline for submission of proposals
September – December 2023	Proposal assessment in 3 steps (1. Formal check by Call Office; 2. National eligibility check by funding organisations; 3. Evaluation by International Expert Panel)
End of December 2023	Assessment results to applicants (incl. evaluation summary report)
First half of 2024	National contract negotiations; research grants awarded, projects start

****NETWORKING WEBINAR**:** On 23.05.2023 ForestValue2 will organise a networking webinar providing stakeholders a chance to connect and network with each other enabling consortia growth. More information can be found on the ForestValue Website <https://forestvalue.org/joint-call-2023-jc-2023/>.

2. CONTACT INFORMATION

ForestValue2 official website of the Joint Call (incl. link to submission platform):

<https://forestvalue.org/joint-call-2023-jc-2023/>

The administration of the Joint Call is led by the **Call Office** (FNR, DAFM, MMM) on behalf of all the funding agencies. General enquiries about the Joint Call should be addressed to the Call Office: call.office2023@forestvalue.org.

3. BACKGROUND

ForestValue2 is launching a transnational call for proposals for research, development and innovation in the forest-based sector. This Joint Call is a self-sustained call i.e. the funding for the call will come from the participating funders only without a co-funding element from the European Commission.

The scope and topics of the Joint Call have been prepared by the participating funders.

The following funding organisations and programme owners are participating in the Joint Call:

<u>Finland:</u> Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry (MMM)	<u>Norway:</u> The Research Council of Norway (RCN)
<u>Estonia:</u> Ministry of the Environment (MoE EE)	<u>Poland:</u> National Science Centre (NCN)
<u>Germany:</u> Agency for Renewable Resources (FNR)	<u>Romania:</u> National Institute for Research and Development in Forestry (INCDS)
<u>Ireland:</u> Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	<u>Slovenia:</u> Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation (MVZI)
<u>Italy:</u> Ministry of agriculture, food sovereignty and forestry (MASAF)	<u>Spain:</u> Agencia Estatal de Investigación (AEI)
<u>Latvia:</u> Latvian Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences (LAAFS)	



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4. THEMATIC AREAS / EXPECTED IMPACTS OF THE CALL

Rationale: Forests play a vital role in delivering multiple benefits for climate, people and communities, supporting biodiversity, providing clean water, wood production, and the economy. In addition, these systems must be resilient and adaptable to the changing climate and are crucial to mitigating the effects of climate change. The forest-based sector can contribute to climate change mitigation through increasing forest sinks, maintaining carbon pools and the substitution of non-renewable resources through the sustainable and circular use of wood-based materials. The use of wood and wood products in building systems is a proven way to mitigate climate change, with long life end-use products, utilised through a cascading approach, providing optimal carbon storage.

Sustainable forest management is a well-established practice, safeguarding a continued supply of timber while contributing to carbon sequestration. Close to nature forestry has the potential to restore and protect ecosystems, promote resilience and biodiversity while maintaining the production of goods and services. However, there is a need for a more comprehensive understanding of the synergies and trade-offs between management and the provision of ecosystem services.

Therefore, the aim of the Joint Call is to support a transnational collaborative systems approach that will produce knowledge to support the best possible use of forests and forest resources balancing the multiple benefits for society, climate, environment and the economy.

The rationale above must be addressed through either of the two themes.

Theme 1 - Resilient sustainable forest systems and management

Applicants should describe how the expected project results will be relevant to improved sustainable forest management that lead to resilient forest ecosystems mitigating the effects of climate change, enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services. The proposal should describe how it will contribute to SDGs and carbon neutrality in the EU, particularly in the period up to 2050.

Theme 2 – Sustainable timber building systems

Applicants should focus on innovative structural timber building systems, displacement of high embedded energy material, consequential substitution effects and full life cycle assessment of environmental, social, and economic impacts of wood-based materials. Behavioural attitudes, organisational structures, policy and regulation, integrating cascading, circular and recycling wood principles, and sustainability must also be considered as appropriate.

Note certain aspects of the themes may be out of scope for some Funders.

You must check with all relevant funding organisations for your consortium before submitting a proposal.

Interdisciplinary collaboration is expected and involvement of companies and other stakeholders in society are encouraged. The initiative intends to facilitate transnational collaboration between a variety of stakeholders (e.g., industry, small and medium-sized enterprises, stakeholder associations, research organisations, governmental organisations, non-governmental organisation).

As the following issues pertain to all parts of the value chain, they may be addressed where appropriate:

- Digitalisation (integration of the above themes with state-of-the-art information and communication technology across company boundaries)
- Implications to and from EU and national policy frameworks for the forest-based sector
- Innovative business concepts (incl. business ecosystems) and value added esp. for rural areas
- Societal perceptions and dialogue about the forestry and wood production sector, its products and contributions towards a sustainable society
- Future development of global circular bio-economy markets and their implication on the European forest-based sector



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Consortia may cover basic and/or applied research and/or industrial research and development, close-to-market research and innovation actions.

Check the national annexes for specific national funding requirements.

5. RULES FOR PARTICIPATION

5.1 General eligibility criteria

- a. Proposals must be written in English and **submitted by 01.09.2023 (13:00 CEST)** via the **ForestValue2** Electronic Submission System (ESS) that will be provided on the Joint Call website at <https://forestvalue.org/joint-call-2023-jc-2023/>
- b. Proposals, which do not include all the compulsory information or do not meet the formal requirements listed or mentioned in this Call Announcement, will not be considered for funding.
- c. If national/regional forms are required, these **must** be submitted directly to the national/regional Funding Agency (see Annex IV).
- d. Consortia must include at least **three independent legal entities** applying for funding from three different countries with funding agencies participating in the Joint Call. The **number of partners per consortium is not limited**, but the manageability of the consortium must be demonstrated (efficient consortia of typically 5-8 partners for medium-sized projects). Failure of any one partner to meet any of the eligibility criteria, including the Funder's specific eligibility criteria will result in the rejection of the entire proposal.
- e. Proposals must demonstrate added value from the international cooperation, in comparison to national projects, which should be evident in the layout and execution of the work packages. The work plan must show real cooperation and project outputs are expected to provide benefits to all partner countries.
- f. Consortia also need to be balanced between countries both in terms of number of partners and distribution of budget; such that all project partners contribute to and benefit from an equitable and balanced cooperation. To address this, the public funding requested by partners of a collaborative project of one country must **not exceed 50%** of the total public funding requested. Please note that additionally some national Funding Agencies may have some funding limits per applicant (see Annex IV: Specific National Rules).

5.2 Composition of consortia

- a. The initiative intends to facilitate transnational collaboration between a variety of stakeholders (e.g. industry, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), stakeholder associations, research organisations, governmental organisations, NGOs).
- b. Innovative forms of cooperation are expected, i.e. interdisciplinary research and implementation across disciplinary boundaries of forest-related sciences, which deliver meaningful cooperation between biophysical/natural and social scientists. Additionally, involvement of a variety of stakeholders from different geographic areas will better enable exchange of experience and expertise from varied academic backgrounds.
- c. Proposals should strive to foster gender balance among the personnel named in the proposal primarily responsible for carrying out the research and/or innovation activities. In addition, gender equality should be promoted at all levels of personnel involved in projects as well as in terms of the expected benefit from the knowledge created.
- d. The participation of early-career scientists in the research teams is encouraged and may be considered as evaluation criteria.



- e. Partners from countries, which are not participating in the Joint Call, are also encouraged to join a consortium (as additional partners; the minimum number of three partners from countries participating in this call remains). These so-called “third country” partners must finance their activities from other sources and need to state in advance the source of funding for their part in the project. A “Letter of Commitment” must be included in the proposal confirming the source of funding. Projects must ensure that the exploitation of results focuses on the ForestValue2 partner countries.
- f. Among the eligible partners, one will assume the role of coordinator. The coordinator of any applying consortium must be from an organisation that is eligible for funding from one of the agencies participating in the Joint Call. Therefore, an organisation that plans to participate at their own expense, without public funding provided via the Joint Call, cannot act as coordinator. The project coordinator will represent the consortium externally and towards the Call Office and will be responsible for its internal scientific management (such as controlling, reporting, intellectual property rights (IPR) issues and contact with the Call Office). The project coordinator will not be responsible for the financial management of project funding, each project partner organisation will be represented by one principal investigator. Within a joint proposal, each project partner’s principal investigator will be the contact person for the relevant national/regional funding organisation. The same person cannot act as a coordinator for more than one proposal in this Call.
- g. Partners ineligible to receive funding from any of the Funders of the call are welcome to contribute to project consortia if they can finance their activities from other sources and hence have to submit a “letter of commitment” (template provided on the Joint Call Website at <https://forestvalue.org/joint-call-2023-jc-2023/>)
- h. National funding regulations are applied within this Joint Call. In addition to the general rules and procedures laid down in this document, there may be specific national rules to be followed by the applicants. **It is strongly recommended that these are checked with the contact person at the respective funding agency before submitting a proposal (see Annex IV).**

Please note that individual national funding organisations may be limited in the kind of project and the kind of organisation they could support. These restrictions, as well as other important national regulations, can be found in Annex IV “Specific National Rules” at the end of this document.

All participants in a consortium must be eligible; otherwise, the proposal will be rejected.



6. APPLICATION & ASSESSMENT

This Joint Call will follow a single-stage submission procedure.

DEADLINE for submission of proposals: 01.09.2023 (13:00 CEST)

Applications must be submitted on time via the Electronic Submission System on the ForestValue2 website in order to be eligible.

Late submissions (after 13:00 CEST) will not be taken into account in order to ensure the fairness towards other applicants.

- Applications must be submitted via the Electronic Submission System (ESS), which will be available on the Joint Call website. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure their proposals are submitted on time, as the electronic submission system will close at 13:00 CEST and late submissions (after 13:00 CEST) will not be considered in order to ensure fairness towards other applicants. Proposals exceeding the maximum number of pages (**20**) will not be considered.
- All applications are subject to confidential evaluation in three steps:
 1. The proposals will first be checked for formal eligibility by the Call Office with regard to mandatory eligibility criteria defined above (see Chapter 5.1: General eligibility criteria).
 2. Afterwards the funding organisations will check the eligibility of the proposals and **their possibility for national funding** in line with the restrictions laid down in the Specific National Rules in Annex IV. Some national funding bodies *may* also require specific national documents (application forms or similar) from “their” applicants at this stage. Such national documents are not submitted centrally, but directly to the relevant ministry or agency.
 3. Eligible proposals will be scientifically evaluated by the International Expert Panel with regard to the criteria laid down in Annex I to this Call Text. Each proposal is evaluated at least by three international experts. International Expert Panel members must sign a “Declaration of Conflict of Interest” to ensure confidentiality and avoid any conflict of interest during the evaluation and ranking procedures of the Joint Call. At the end of the evaluation process, the International Expert Panel will determine on one final ranking list of proposals.
- Based on the ranking list and the available national funding, the funding organisations will decide on the projects to be funded.
- The Call Office will inform the coordinators of all research consortia of the outcome of each assessment phase as follows:
 1. Outcome of the formal eligibility check
 2. Outcome of the national eligibility check
 3. Proposal assessment results (incl. evaluation summary)
- The consortia recommended for funding will additionally be informed of the next steps to be taken in order to start national contract negotiations. The coordinators of the research consortia are responsible for communicating the decisions to the consortium partners.



7. FUNDING & MONITORING

- Research will be **funded from national sources**, i.e. research grants will be administered through the participating national funding organisations. In addition to the general rules and procedures laid out in the Call Text, applicants must comply with the terms and conditions of their responsible funding agencies and programmes (see Annex IV: Specific National Rules).
- Projects funded through this initiative are expected to have a duration of 36 months. The start and end date should be the same for all partners in a consortium.
- If a proposal is selected for funding, the partners are required to sign a consortium agreement that specifies Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and other issues regarding responsibilities within the project and exploitation of results. **A consortium agreement may be required before the start of the project (see Annex 4: Specific National Rules).**
- A list of the funded projects will be published after the selection procedure. Therefore, applicants should be aware that ForestValue2 might publish the following information: project title, project acronym, project duration, total funding, name of the project coordinator (including contact information as email and telephone number), and country and organisation name of each partner as well as the publishable summary of the project from the application.
- In addition to the standard requirements of a funding agency, consortia will be asked for one midterm and one final summary report.
- Detailed information on the monitoring procedures as well as templates will be provided to the coordinators of the funded projects right after the projects have started. The coordinator of each project will be responsible for compiling and submitting reports to the ForestValue2 Research Programme on behalf of the project consortium.
- Representatives from funded consortia are requested to participate and represent their projects in a formal kick-off event in the first year of the project (possibly back-to-back with a larger ForestValue2 conference) as well as in two follow-up online seminars (midterm after 1,5 years project duration and final seminar after 3 years). The seminars will aim to bring together researchers and stakeholders from industry, academia and policy-making organisations in the forest-based bioeconomy sector in order to discuss the projects' objectives/results as well as to facilitate information exchange and networking.
- Representatives of all funded projects will participate in the ForestValue2 communication activities (e.g. Workshop on communication and exploitation activities for joint call funded projects (expected personal participation), and participation in a video making workshop (expected online participation) and Video Contest (expected planning of financial resources for the production of a 3-minute video)). Applicants should plan financial resources for these activities as part of project's communication activities.
- The funded projects are encouraged to arrange focused joint workshops with thematically related projects.
- Researchers are encouraged to actively exploit the results of the research project and make them available for use, whether for commercial gain or not, in order for public benefit to be obtained from the knowledge created.
- In case of significant changes in the work programme or consortium composition, the coordinator must inform the Call Office, who will contact the relevant funding organisations to agree on the proper action to be taken.
- The projects are expected to follow the practices of FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Re-usable data) and open data sharing as it improves the quality, efficiency and responsiveness of research.



ANNEX I - EVALUATION CRITERIA

The reviewers will evaluate the proposals in accordance with the scope and expected impact described in this call announcement (see section V.), and using the three equally weighted evaluation criteria described below.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA AND SCORING SYSTEM

1. **Scientific Excellence** (Score 0-5)
(Clarity and pertinence of the objectives; relevance of the addressed research questions; Soundness of the concept; Credibility of the proposed methodology including transdisciplinary considerations where relevant; Quality and expertise of the consortium as a whole; Ambition and innovation content; Progress beyond state-of-the-art)

2. **Relevance and potential Impact** (Score 0-5)
(Extent to which the outputs of the project would contribute to impacts on the scope of the call; considering dissemination and exploitation.)

3. **Quality and efficiency of the implementation** (Score 0-5)
(Quality concerning coherence and effectiveness of the work plan; including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources, as well as quantified targets and defined milestones; Complementarity of the participants within the consortium (when relevant); Extent and added value of transnational collaboration; Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk analysis and innovation management)

The threshold mark for individual criteria will be **3**. The overall threshold mark applying to the sum of the three individual scores will be **10**.

EVALUATION SCORES FOR THE EVALUATION

Evaluation scores will be awarded for each of the main criteria. Each criterion will be scored out of 5 (half scores are allowed) and equally weighted.

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

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



ANNEX II - SUMMARY OF FUNDING OPTIONS PER PARTICIPATING FUNDING ORGANISATION

11 Funding Organisations have agreed to allocate national/regional budgets for the Joint Call, see table below. The total indicative call budget is **6 830 000 €**.

Please check the national annexes for specific national funding requirements.

Cntry.	Funding partner organisation	Total call contribution	Max. national funding / proposal	TRL ¹ fundable	Further requirements
DE	Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) via Agency for Renewable Resources (FNR)	2 000 000 €	500 000 €	TRL 4-5	Contact obligatory Separate national application required!
EE	Ministry of the Environment (MoE EE)	150 000 €	150 000 €	-	-
ES	Agencia Estatal de Investigación (AEI)	600 000 €	Different, please check national annex	-	Separate national application required!
FI	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MMM)	750 000 €	Please check national annex.	TRL 3-7	Contact MMM before applying
IE	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	750 000 €	750 000€	TRL 2-7	Contact NCP required
IT	Ministry of agriculture, food sovereignty and forestry (MASAF)	300 000 €	150 000 €	TRL 4-7	
LV	Latvian Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences (LAAFS)	30 000 €	30 000 €	-	-
NO	Research Council of Norway (RCN)	750 000 €	250 000 €	TRL 3-7	-
PL	National Science Centre (NCN)	500 000 €	N/A	TRL 1-4	Separate national application required!
RO	National Institute for Research and Development in Forestry (INCDS)	100 000 €	100 000 €	-	-
SI	Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation (MVZI)	900 000 €	300 000 €	TRL 1-6	strongly advised contact NCP

¹ Technology readiness levels (TRL), see https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014_2015/annexes/h2020-wp1415-annex-g-trl_en.pdf



ANNEX III – NATIONAL CONTACTS

Ctry.	Org.	Name	Telephone	Email
FI	MMM	Mika KALLIO	+358 (0)2951 62212	mika.kallio@gov.fi
DE	FNR	Carina LEMKE	+49 3843 6930 169	c.lemke@fnr.de
EE	MoE EE	Raili ALLMÄE Meelis SEEDRE Rauno REINBERG	+372 6262 949 +372 6262 913 +372 6262 933	raili.allmae@envir.ee meelis.seedre@envir.ee rauno.reinberg@envir.ee
IE	DAFM	Tony QUINN Cian O'CONNOR	+353 1 6072684 +353 87 718 8808	tony.quinn@agriulture.gov.ie cian.oconnor@agriculture.gov.ie
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ES	AEI	Juan CLIMENT Manuel SANCHEZ	+34 916037242	era-agro@aei.gob.es



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ANNEX IV – SPECIFIC NATIONAL RULES

FINLAND (MMM)

Funding organisation: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Name and link to funding programme:

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry - Research and Development

<http://mmm.fi/en/research-and-development>

Separate national application required: after the ForestValue2 Call Steering Committee has selected the projects to be recommended for funding, MMM invites successful applicants to submit applications with cost details and the commitment by the site of research to the Ministry's online service before making the final funding decision.

Type of research funded: TRL 3-7 (preferred)

Other specifications:

- Applicants are strongly advised to contact MMM before preparing applications for ForestValue2 Joint Call 2023.
- MMM funds only applied research; MMM does not fund basic research.
- For detailed eligibility criteria, the applicants should check the "General terms and instructions for research and development activities funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry", see the link below.
- The share of funding granted by MMM for RDI projects is discretionary. As a general rule, the funding shares of the approved total costs are as follows:
 - Universities, universities of applied sciences and state-funded research institutes, max. 70 %
 - For research and guidance organisations that are outside of state finances and may receive state funding, max. 70–90 %
 - For companies, max. 50 % (please note the EU's state aid rules).
- Research promoting the National Forest Strategy 2035 (NFS) of Finland and/or the Finnish Bioeconomy Strategy is encouraged (for more information, please see below "Other relevant documents/links").
- Due to actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine, the European Union and/or the United Nations have imposed and may in the future impose sanctions in their legislation and/or by decisions of their institutions. The funding recipient must comply with the restrictive measures imposed on Russia and Belarus by the European Union or the United Nations concerning the economy and financing, which are in force in the European Union.

Other relevant documents/links:

- General terms and instructions for research and development activities funded by MMM, Guidelines for reporting on research and development activities, <https://mmm.fi/en/research-and-development/funding-for-projects>
- National Forest Strategy 2035, <https://mmm.fi/en/nfs2035>
- Finnish Bioeconomy Strategy, <https://mmm.fi/en/bioeconomy/strategies-and-programmes>

Funding commitment: 750 000 € (for three years)

Maximum amount per proposal: Funding is decided case by case; normally 50-70 % of the project's gross eligible costs are covered. **Note:** goal is to fund 3-4 projects.

Contact person: Mika Kallio
mika.kallio@mmm.fi
+358 (0)2951 62212



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GERMANY (FNR)

Funding organisation: Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V. (FNR)

Name and link to funding programme: The German national funding will be legally and financially based on BMEL's (Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft) R&D program "Förderprogramm Nachwachsende Rohstoffe" (FPNR): www.fnr.de/projektfoerderung/fuer-antragsteller/foerderprogramm-nachwachsende-rohstoffe/

The projects shall be in accordance with the Charta für Holz 2.0 www.charta-fuer-holz.de of BMEL. The intended coverage of the aims of the Charta für Holz 2.0 has to be outlined in the proposal.

Separate national application required: YES

Applicants interested in funding by BMEL via FNR are obliged to submit the German additional information "Zusatzformular" in parallel to submitting the proposal. Proposals without the "Zusatzformular" submitted in time will not be taken into account in order to ensure fairness towards other applicants. Please request for the "Zusatzformular" by sending an email incl. your very brief project and consortium idea until 18.08.2023 to c.lemke@fnr.de.

Type of research funded:

In the ForestValue2 Joint Call in 2023 BMEL via FNR will fund projects under both themes:

- **Theme 1 - Resilient sustainable forest systems and management**
- **Theme 2 – Sustainable timber building systems**

Possible national funding is restricted to research focussing at sustainable forest management and utilisation of biomass from forestry. Projects concerning short rotation coppice/agroforestry are not eligible. Projects addressing the impacts of climate change on forests or the improvement of carbon sequestration in forests cannot be funded.

Please consult the homepage of FNR www.fnr.de/projektfoerderung/projektdatenbank-der-fnr for past and ongoing projects in this scientific area. Double funding is not possible.

Other relevant documents/links:

For developing a proposal the applicants first need to consult the national guidelines for applicants: <https://mediathek.fnr.de/leitfaden-fur-skizzeneinreicher-und-antragsteller.html>

Until 18.08.2023 applicants HAVE TO contact the FNR by EMAIL to c.lemke@fnr.de to make sure that the basic ideas of the proposal and the working plan might be eligible for funding.

Other specifications:

The national assessment of proposals will be corresponding to the rules in the Call Text.

The German project partners of positively evaluated proposals will, at a later stage, be invited by FNR to submit national application forms (AZA or AZK using the electronic proposal assistant "easy" (see <https://foerderportal.bund.de/easyonline/> for details) – the usual FNR funding rules apply) within one month after notification. The guidelines for preparing AZA/AZK have to be considered for any cost calculations in the proposal!

FNR reserves the right to reject proposals for formal reasons, resulting in no funding for the German part of the project. **Therefore it is highly recommended to check funding programme as well as guidelines for applicants on FNR's homepage and to contact FNR before submission.**

Funding commitment: 2 000 000 €

Maximum Amount per Proposal: German project partners are advised that the total requested funding for all German partners within one consortium should not exceed 500 000 €.

Contact person: Carina Lemke Tel.: +49-3843/6930-169; Email: c.lemke@fnr.de



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ESTONIA (MoE EE)

Funding organisation: Ministry of the Environment

Name and link to funding programme: Research & Development budget of the Ministry of the Environment.

Separate national application required: No

Type of research funded: Basic and applied research proposals to support policy decisions regarding the forest sector and the bioeconomy.

Other specifications: National eligibility criteria for grant applications in calls for transnational research projects when requesting funding from the Estonian Ministry of the Environment Eligibility conditions are available here [DHS: 1-2/22/12](#)

Other relevant documents/links: <https://envir.ee/en/water-forest-resources/forestry>

Funding commitment: 150 000 EUR

Maximum Amount per Proposal: 150 000 EUR

Contact persons:

Scientific: Meelis Seedre +372 6262 913, meelis.seedre@envir.ee
Rauno Reinberg +372 6262 933, rauno.reinberg@envir.ee
Organisational: Raili Allmäe +372 6262 949, raili.allmae@envir.ee



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IRELAND (DAFM)

Funding organisation: The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)

Name and link to funding programme: www.gov.ie/en/collection/9bd2a-research-and-codex/

Separate national application required: DAFM will require a national application form to be completed for any successful Irish based partners emerging from the process.

Type of research funded: Basic and applied research proposals to support policy decisions regarding the forest sector and the bioeconomy.

Other specifications:

- See www.gov.ie/en/collection/9bd2a-research-and-codex/#research-news-and-events
- [gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) - [Food Vision 2030 - A World Leader in Sustainable Food Systems \(www.gov.ie\)](#)
- [The Draft Forest Strategy](#)
- [gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) - [Consultation on the draft Implementation Plan for the Forest Strategy and associated SEA Environmental Report and AA Natura Impact Report \(www.gov.ie\)](#)

- Proposals must meet the following criteria:
 1. Involve a minimum of two DAFM approved Irish RPO's each accounting for at least 10% of the funding sought.
 2. Address at least one of the ForestValue2 Call topic areas
 3. Avoid duplication of recent research work already undertaken or ongoing that incorporates the scope of the Research Areas in the ForestValue2 Call
 4. Closely align with relevant national policy and foresight documents including but not restricted to [Food Vision 2030](#), [Ireland's Draft Forest Strategy Implementation Plan](#), [Forest Research Ireland \(FORI\)](#), [All-Island Pollinator Plan](#) and [Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan](#).

- All DAFM approved RPOs in Ireland (including Teagasc, and the Higher Education Institutes) are eligible to participate and submit proposals. Public RPOs based in Northern Ireland are not eligible for national funding. The involvement of industry is also encouraged on a self-financing basis subject to the need to respect the 'public good' nature of DAFM Research Funding Programmes and compliance with the National IP Protocol.

Other relevant documents/links: <http://www.coford.ie/>

Funding commitment: 750 000 €

Maximum Amount per Proposal: 750 000 €

Contact person:

Tony Quinn: +353 16072684 tony.quinn@agriculture.gov.ie

Cian O'Connor: +353 87 718 8808 cian.oconnor@agriculture.gov.ie



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ITALY (MASAF)

Funding organisation: Ministry of agriculture, food sovereignty and forestry

Name/link to funding programme:

PSIR www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/9065

Separate national application required: no

Type of research funded: Only applied research can be funded

Other relevant documents/links:

- National Forestry Strategy
<https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/17813>
- MASAF - International call
www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/9079
- User's manual 2023
<https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/19644>

Funding commitment: 300.000

Maximum Amount per Proposal: The maximum requested funding by the Italian applicant (to Masaf) per proposal cannot exceed 150.000 €, coordination included if requested, whatever the number of Italian research units (Unità Operative, U.O.) in the same proposal.

Following partners are eligible for funding: National public and private no profit research institutions and universities. See details in User's Manual 2023 at

<https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/19644>

Any additional national rules or documents or information: Please note that the same person cannot be coordinator, participant or team member in more than one proposal.

Financing and cost eligibility

In defining the eligibility for funding of project costs, national applicants must strictly refer to the regulations indicated in the standing User's Manual 2023

<https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/19644>

The selected national institutions will be financed up to 99% of the eligible requested public funding (*costo approvato* - in the national template- eligible for Masaf). The total requested public funding (100%) must be indicated in the project financial section of the project proposal (see the submission tool) and must be consistent with all eligible costs which will be declared in the national financial forms (in case of selected project).

Eligible costs are defined as follows (for any item see details in User's Manual 2023):

A) Personnel

A 1) *Permanent personnel* – no contribution if already paid with public funds; for private no-profit institutions permanent scientific staff can be reimbursed if not already paid with public funds;

The cost of permanent personnel working in the project must be declared (as own contribution not higher than 30% of the total project cost) even if it will not be reimbursed.

A2) not-permanent scientific staff in public institutions/universities or private no-profit can be reimbursed; not-permanent administrative staff can be paid only if included in the coordination activity, if the research unit is also the coordinator.

Travel ARE INCLUDED IN E (lump-sum operating expenses) - for coordinator travels see point F

B) Consumables



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C) External activities – advisory/consultant services, specialistic services supply (scientific, logistics for meetings, open access publications, equipment rental, etc.).

C1) consultants/professional job (IVA)

C2) services

These costs (C1+C2) can not exceed 30% of the sum of the non-permanent personal (A2) + Consumable (B).

D) Equipment – Only use cost (related to the project duration) for scientific equipment will be reimbursed

E) Lump-sum operating expense – The requested amount must not exceed 20% of the total costs for Personnel (A1+A2). In this item travel must be included.

F) Coordination - If the Italian applicant is also playing the role of coordinator, the eligible costs are those indicated in the User's Manual 2023. Masaf will reimburse the coordination cost calculated on the total international project budget request (i.e. including the amount not paid to the national beneficiary/ies).

Please note: travels related to the coordination activity are included in the coordination cost.

No cost for project monitoring by an expert is foreseen, therefore this budget cannot be requested.

The Italian applicant must follow these rules in filling in the “contact and financial details” file (different from the national table of the User's manual 2023, see also the below correspondence table):

- B) Consumables must be included in column “other”
- C) External activities must be included as “subcontracting/outsourcing”
- E) Lump sum operating expense must be indicated (overall allowed amount) in the column “other” (not in the “personnel”) and it is calculated as explained above.

Conference fees are NOT eligible (Italian applicant can not request them, those costs can be incurred with lump-sum)

All details for each type of requested costs have to be given in the specific section/table “cost explanations”.

Correspondence between eligible costs (Masaf) and online submission

Masaf item	Forestvalue2 (table resources planning table)	Notes (for Masaf regulations)
A1 and A2 Personnel/Personale	Personnel	Personal not reimbursed must be indicate as “own contribution” Details and figures in cost explanations section/table
NO travel item	Travel	Details and figures in cost explanations section/table (travel costs are included in lump-sum – column “other” Table 2 Submission tool)
B Consumables/Materiali di consumo	Other	Details and figures in cost explanations section/table
C. External activities/Attività esterne	Subcontract/outsourcing	Details and figures in cost explanations section/table
D. Equipment/Attrezzature	Equipment	Details and figures in cost explanations section/table
E. Lump sum /Spese forfetarie di funzionamento	Other	Details and figures in cost explanations section/table
F. Coordination/Coordinamento (if any)	Other	Details and figures in cost explanations section/table

National document to be presented by Italian participants before the proposal submission deadline

Public entities/universities: No documents have to be submitted to Masaf.



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No-profit private research bodies: Documentation stating their research mission (statute and/or articles of incorporation or memorandum of association, etc.) must be sent to the following PEC address: aoo.cosvir@pec.politicheagricole.gov.it specifying in the object “Project *acronym* Bando Forestvalue2 2023 – ente privato no profit”.

National document to be presented by the Italian participant (beneficiary) after the final funding decision notified by Call Office (selected projects for funding): Only after the official communication sent by the Call Office to the coordinators of the selected for funding projects (expected in late December 2023), Masaf DISR IV will formally request to each Italian U.O. to fill the national template in, based on the User’s Manual 2023. The template will be sent along with the letter indicating the approved budget amount and requesting to apply for the national grant. The national template must be written in Italian and must follow the User’s Manual 2023 rules and specific indications, if any, provided to the UO.

Contact person:

Serenella PULIGA
+39 055 2492220
s.puliga@masaf.gov.it

Silvia BARALLA
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s.baralla@masaf.gov.it



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LATVIA (LAAFS)**Funding organisation:** Latvian Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences**Programme owner:** Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Latvia**Separate national application required:** NO**Type of research funded:** ANY, no TRL requirements**Other specifications:****Eligible institutions:**

- Universities, research institutes and RTD centres entered into the Registry of Scientific institutions of Latvia;
- Enterprises are eligible only if entered into the Latvian Commercial Registry, assumed they are eligible to do specific research and have proven resources for specific activities.

Limitations of EU legislation apply together with financial reporting requirements and support rate limits. Project leader and the principal investigators should be researchers according to Latvian legislation („zinātnieks”) possessing doctoral degree and experience in relevant research field, and the work carried out should be research.

Support is provided according to Provisions Nr.259, 26.05.2015 of the Latvian Cabinet of Ministers <http://m.likumi.lv/doc.php?id=274671>

Eligible costs:

- Personnel costs, including social tax,
- Consumables, materials,
- Subcontracts and external services – up to 25 % of direct costs, needs detailed justification. Includes all publishing and patenting costs, knowledge engineering and dissemination services,
- Equipment (only depreciation costs),
- Travels costs (according to travel plan),
- Indirect costs (up to 20 %, the indirect nature of cost position must be proven).

Core activities cannot be subcontracted.

Educational activities are not supported.

Funding of cost positions not related to the project is not allowed; time sheets and invoices should correspond to the actual national legislation. Funding release is subject to final audit, which can invoke a sworn auditor.

The grant will be awarded after the following steps are accomplished:

- the submitted project proposal with eligible Latvian beneficiary organization is in accordance with the criteria in the National Annex;
- the respective Project proposal is selected for the award by the transnational evaluation procedure,
- The Project Consortium Agreement is signed.

The available budget will be taken into account.

Funding commitment: 30 000 €**Maximum Amount per Proposal:** 30 000 €**Contact person:** Baiba Rivza; +37129254469; Baiba.Rivza@lbtu.lv**Funded by
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NORWAY (RCN)

Funding organisation: The Research Council of Norway

Name and link to funding programme:

Land-based food, the environment and bioresources

<https://www.forskningsradet.no/om-forskningsradet/portefoljer/landbasert-mat-miljo-og-bioressurser/portefoljeplanen-for-landbasert-mat-miljo-og-bioressurser/>

Separate national application required:

There is no need for additional national application forms in the pre-proposal or the proposal stage. The transnational application to the central Call Office is sufficient. Proposals that are recommended for funding will be required to be submitted to The Research Council of Norway after the call's evaluation process. Based on the recommendations The Research Council of Norway will take the formal funding decision.

Type of research funded:

Basic and applied research.

Other specifications:

The national requirements are explained in the general terms and instructions for research and development activities funded by the Research Council of Norway:

<https://www.forskningsradet.no/siteassets/generelle-krav-og-vilkar-for-foi-prosjekter/oppdateret-februar-2021/generelle-vilkar-fou-prosjekter-2021-engelsk.pdf>

Research organizations (universities, research institutes) are eligible to apply. Funding quota of Norwegian participants can be up to 100 % for universities or research organisations. Eligible costs will follow the national rules of Researcher projects by the Research Council of Norway.

Large companies, SMEs and stakeholder associations are encouraged to participate as part of a consortium. Funding quota for companies and industrial partners must be in compliance with the EU state aid rules. Funding quota will be decided on a case-by-case basis depending on the size of the company, typically up to a range of 50. Individual companies and industrial partners may have different funding quota, but the maximum funding quota is 70 % of the industrial partners' total eligible costs in the project.

The publications from the projects must be open for access as described here:

<https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/research-policy-strategy/open-science/publications/>

Other relevant documents/links:

The research topic should be within the frames of the portfolio plan for Land-based food, the environment and bioresources (see the link above).

Funding commitment: 750 000 €

Maximum Amount per Proposal: The maximum total funding for an individual project for all Norwegian partners is 250 000 €. The exchange rate to be used is the exchange rate at the of date of the call deadline.

Contact person: Rune Groven, tel. +47 911 40 488, email rgr@forskningsradet.no



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POLAND (NCN)

Funding organisation: National Science Centre, Poland

Name and link to funding programme: [Terms and regulations on awarding funding for research tasks funded or co-funded under international calls launched by the National Science Centre and carried out as multilateral collaboration UNISONO](#)

Separate national application required: YES - up to 7 days of the end of joint proposals' submission
Polish applicants are obliged to prepare a national proposal and submit it to the NCN electronically via the OSF submission system available at <https://osf.opi.org.pl>.

Type of research funded: basic research

Eligible applicants: Proposals in the call may be submitted by entities specified in the Act on the National Science Centre. If one international project includes partners from at least two different Polish institutions, these institutions must apply as a **group of entities**. Each institution comprising this group has a separate budget, but the limit on the remuneration applies to the group as a whole.

- **Eligible costs:** Polish applicants may apply for funding of costs relevant, necessary and directly connected to the proposed research project, including:
- **Salaries & scholarships:** salaries of the research team members, salary of post-doc positions & scholarships/salaries for students & PhD students;
- **Research equipment, devices and software:** Polish applicants may seek funding for research equipment up to PLN 500,000 per unit;
- **Other direct costs:** materials and consumables, outsourcing and subcontracting, business trips, visits and consultations, collective investigators, other costs;
- **Overheads:** overheads must not exceed a maximum of **20%** of eligible costs and must not be increased during the course of a research project. Additionally, overheads of up to **2%** of direct costs may be spent on open access to publications and research data.

We strongly recommend all applicants to acquaint with the information on eligible costs included in the [Annex to NCN Council's Resolution on funding granted within calls for proposals for international research projects \(UNISONO\)](#).

Please note:

- Research projects may be planned in the call for a period of **36 months**. Budget of the Polish part of the research project in the OSF system (national proposal) should be given in **PLN**.
The exchange rate: **1 EUR = 4,6478 PLN**
- Only proposals involving **basic research** may be submitted in response to the call for proposals. Basic research is defined as experimental or theoretical endeavours undertaken to gain new knowledge of the foundations of phenomena and observable facts, without direct commercial use.

Other relevant documents/links:

1. [NCN Council's Resolution on funding granted within calls for proposals for international research projects \(UNISONO\)](#)
2. [Open Access Policy at NCN](#)
3. [Data Management Plan requirements](#)
4. [Personal Data Processing at NCN](#)

Funding commitment: 500 000 €

Maximum Amount per Proposal: not applicable

Contact person: Alicja Dylağ, alicja.dylag@ncn.gov.pl, +48 532 086 494;
Lidia Trocha, lidia.trocha@ncn.gov.pl



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ROMANIA (INCDS)

Funding organisation: National Institute for Research and Development in Forestry (INCDS) Marin Drăcea

Name and link to funding programme: <https://icas.ro/Apeluri-proiecte-1>

Separate national application required: NO

Type of research funded: base research. Project team will have access to the research infrastructure (laboratories of soil, genetics, air quality, precipitation, field networks) and data bases, research dissemination (conference, open access publications, research data). Topics of research to be funded refers to: forest management, forest monitoring, forest genetics and tree breeding, tree growth and dendrochronology.

Other specifications: The applicants are strongly advised to contact INCDS (office@icas.ro) before sending the application. Only research organization with PhD programme in Forestry are eligible to apply. The costs are eligible only for PhD/postdoc supervisors, PhD students and young postdoctoral researches.

Other relevant documents/links: www.icas.ro

Eligible costs: Personnel costs, for PhD/postdoc supervisors, PhD students and/or postdoc researchers, including social tax, travel expenses, accommodation, daily allowance, conference fees and infrastructure and database access taxes, open access publications and research data fees. Overhead may not exceed 5% of eligible costs and may be spent for administrative costs of the project management.

It will be considered:

- the correct and efficient use of money, in compliance with national and European legislation, for research and only for the purpose of achieving the funded objective;
- the results obtained through the implementation of the activities of the project financed by the INCDS must be accessible to the Institute and can be used by it through integration with other results/databases;
- in the case of the establishment of research fields in the national forest fund, including the one administrated by INCDS, after the completion of the project, to remain under the administration of INCDS Marin Drăcea;
- PhD students and/or postdoc researchers from the Romanian winning institutions in the forestry field should be involved in the project proposals;
- When disseminating the results, any scientific work/advertising/informative material will mention: "Project carried out with the support of the *Marin Drăcea* Forestry Research and Development Institute within the ForestValue2 project".

Funding commitment: 100 000 Euros

Maximum Amount per Proposal: 100 000 Euros

Contact person: Ecaterina Apostol +40 721 818 827, Ecaterina.apostol@icas.ro



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SLOVENIA (MVZI)

Name of Funding agency: Ministrstvo za visoko solstvo, znanost in inovacije

Geographical coverage: National

Name of the programme/initiative: Programmes of International Scientific Cooperation

Programme owner: Ministrstvo za visoko solstvo, znanost in inovacije - MVZI

Program manager (executing funding organisation): Ministrstvo za visoko solstvo, znanost in inovacije

Contact person: Dr. Primož Medved; primoz.medved@gov.si; +386 (0) 14784651

Funding Commitment 900.000,00 EUR

Anticipated number of fundable research partners: 3 projects with SI participants

Maximum funding per grant awarded to a partner: 300.000,00 EUR (100.000,00 EUR/year)

Type of research eligible for funding:

- Fundamental or applied research. TRL 1-6 (activities of the Slovenian partner).
- The type of research conducted by Slovenian researchers must be defined and explained in the project proposal.

Funding rates (approx.)

- 100 % for research organization (such as universities, public and private research institutes) whose financed activity is **non-economic** in accordance with the provisions of Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation. Wide dissemination of all research results on a non-exclusive and non-discriminatory basis is required.
- For research organizations whose financed activity is **economic** in accordance with the provisions of Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation the provisions of the Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation (OJ EU C 414, 28.10.2022) and the national scheme for state aid in Research and Development (Program sodelovalnih raziskovalno-razvojnih in drugih projektov, ki so predmet državnih pomoči Ministrstva za izobraževanje, znanost in sport 2022-2030, št. priglasitve: BE01-2399300-2023, z dne 03.02.2023), applies.

Maximum funding percentages:

Type of research	Large Enterprises	Medium Enterprises	Small Enterprises
Fundamental Research	100 %	100 %	100 %
Applied Research	65 %	75 %	80 %

Major eligibility criteria (e.g. types of organisations, thematic restriction, cost types and caps)

- **Eligibility of a partner as a beneficiary institution:** Research organizations as defined in the national Scientific Research and Innovation Activities Act ([Zakon o znanstvenoraziskovalni in inovacijski dejavnosti](#) (Uradni list RS, št. 186/21)). All participating institutions have to be registered in the Slovenian Research Agency register of research institutions (Informacijski sistem o raziskovalni dejavnosti v Sloveniji - SICRIS).
- **Eligibility of principal investigator and other research team members:** The project activities of every Slovenian partner have to be under the supervision of the primary investigator/primary researcher who fulfills the requirements for project leader as defined in Art. 63 of the national Scientific Research and Innovation Activities Act ([Zakon o znanstvenoraziskovalni in inovacijski dejavnosti](#) (Uradni list RS, št. 186/21)). The criteria are further determined in the Rules on the Criteria for Establishing Compliance with the Conditions for being the Head of a Research Project



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([Kriteriji za ugotavljanje izpolnjevanja izkazovanja mednarodno primerljivih raziskovalnih rezultatov in obdobje zajema mednarodno primerljivih raziskovalnih rezultatov za vodjo raziskovalnega projekta in programa](#)). All participating researchers have to be registered in the Slovenian Research Agency register of researchers (SICRIS) and must have available research hours.

- **Total requested funding per project:** for all Slovenian partners within one consortium must not exceed 100.000,00 EUR per year (300.000,00 EUR for the total project duration of 36 months).
- **Eligibility of costs:** MVZI will fund all eligible costs of successful Slovenian transnational projects, recommended for funding, in accordance with the Decree on the scientific research funding from the budget of the Republic of Slovenia ([Uredba o financiranju znanstvenoraziskovalne dejavnosti iz Proračuna Republike Slovenije](#) (Uradni list RS, št. 35/22 in 144/22)).

Providing the stipulated conditions are met, the Public Procurement Act ([Zakon o javnem naročanju](#) (Uradni list RS, št. 91/15, 14/18, 121/21, 10/22, 74/22 – odl. US in 100/22 – ZNUZSZS)) applies.

This call is suitable for implementing Article 64 of the Scientific Research and Innovation Activities Act ([Zakon o znanstvenoraziskovalni in inovacijski dejavnosti \(ZZrID\)](#) (Uradni list RS, št. 186/21)).

- **Period of eligibility of public expenditures:** as of budgetary year 2025 until the end of the budgetary year 2027.
- **Period of eligibility of expenditures on the project:** From the starting date of the transnational project stipulated in the consortium agreement for a period of 36 months, with a prescribed additional 30 day period for the payment of invoices related to the project costs. The period of eligibility of expenditures on the project can only start from the date the national contract enters into effect. The exact duration of the project will be defined in the contract between MVZI and the selected Slovenian partner, after the consortium agreement between the selected consortium partners enters into force.

Submission of the proposal at national/regional level (schedule, cut-off dates, deadlines, etc.)

- According to the timeline of transnational joint call.
- No additional national proposal is needed in the pre- or full proposal phase.
- National contracting negotiations will commence after the projects are selected for funding on the level of the transnational call. National documentation, including evidence of the starting date of the transnational project (in form of a Consortia Agreement or statement on the starting date by the transnational project coordinator), will be a prerequisite for signing the contract on national level.

Submission of financial and scientific reports at the national/regional level: Every year

Further guidance:

- **All Slovenian applicants are strongly advised to contact the Slovenian National Contact Person.**
- All Slovenian applicants must refer to the guidelines for Slovenian applicants published on the webpage: <https://www.gov.si/drzavni-organi/ministrstva/ministrstvo-za-visoko-solstvo-znanost-in-inovacije/javne-objave/>
- **Legal basis – national regulation** State Administration Act ([Zakon o državni upravi](#) (Uradni list RS, št. 113/05 – uradno prečiščeno besedilo, 89/07 – odl. US, 126/07 – ZUP-E, 48/09, 8/10 – ZUP-G, 8/12 – ZVRS-F, 21/12, 47/13, 12/14, 90/14, 51/16, 36/21, 82/21, 189/21, 153/22 in 18/23)) - Article 16 and 38.č ; Public Finance Act ([Zakon o javnih financah](#) (Uradni list RS, št. 11/11 – uradno prečiščeno besedilo, 14/13 – popr., 101/13, 55/15 – ZFisP, 96/15 – ZIPRS1617, 13/18, 195/20 – odl. US in 18/23 – ZDU-1O))) - Article 106. j; Regulation on the procedure of standards and manners to allocate means for the promotion of the evolutionary programme and the preferential tasks ([Uredba o postopku, merilih in načinih dodeljevanja sredstev za spodbujanje razvojnih programov in prednostnih nalog](#) (Uradni list RS, št. 56/11)); Implementation of the Republic of Slovenia's Budget for 2023 and 2024 Act ([Zakon o izvrševanju proračunov Republike Slovenije za leti 2023 in 2024](#) (Uradni list RS, št. 150/22); Integrity and Prevention of Corruption Act ([Zakon o integriteti in preprečevanju korupcije](#) (Uradni list RS, št. 69/11 – UPB, 158/20, 3/22 – ZDeb in 16/23-



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ZZPri); Resolution on the Slovenian Scientific Research and Innovation Strategy 2030 ([Resolucija o znanstvenoraziskovalni in inovacijski strategiji Slovenije 2030](#) (Uradni list RS, št. 49/22)); Decree on the scientific research funding from the budget of the Republic of Slovenia ([Uredba o financiranju znanstvenoraziskovalne dejavnosti iz Proračuna Republike Slovenije](#) (Uradni list RS, št. 35/22 in 144/22)), Rules on criteria for establishing compliance with the conditions for being the head of a research project ([Pravilnik o kriterijih za ugotavljanje izpolnjevanja pogojev za vodjo raziskovalnega projekta, Uradni list RS št. 53/16 in 186/21 – ZZrID](#)); Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and 108 Innovation the provisions of the Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation (OJ EU C 414, 28.10.2022) ([Okvir za državno pomoč za raziskave in razvoj ter inovacije](#) (UL L 414 z dne 28.10.2022)); National scheme for state aid in Research and Development (Program sodelovalnih raziskovalno-razvojnih in drugih projektov, ki so predmet državnih pomoči Ministrstva za izobraževanje, znanost in sport 2022-2030, št.priglasitve: BE01-2399300-2023, z dne 03.02.2023); National strategy of open access to scientific publications and research data in Slovenia 2015-2020 ([Nacionalna strategije odprtega dostopa do znanstvenih objav in raziskovalnih podatkov v Sloveniji 2015-2020](#), št. 60300-5/2015/5 z dne 3. 9. 2015).



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SPAIN (AEI)

Funding organisation: Agencia Estatal de Investigación (AEI)

Name and link to funding programme: The framework for this funding action is the *Plan Estatal de Investigación Científica y Técnica y de Innovación 2021-2023*. On a national level, the Call will be managed by the [Subdivisión de Programas Científico-Técnicos Transversales, Fortalecimiento y Excelencia](#) of the AEI.

Separate national application required: Yes, at a later stage

If the proposal is approved, the Spanish groups will need to apply to the call on *Proyectos de Colaboración internacional* (PCI), which is AEI's funding instrument.

Applicants are encouraged to carefully read the call [PCI 2023-1](#) and the [general requirements](#).

No further documentation is required at the preproposal stage, but it is highly recommended to check Principal Investigator (PI) and beneficiary eligibility.

Type of research funded:

AEI funds are intended to support excellent research and innovation developments and those tasks necessary to accomplish them.

Management costs in case of project coordination can be also supported.

Applicants mainly participating in tasks not directly involving research and innovation, such as entire communication work packages for the consortium not involving actual research activities, can be considered non-eligible.

TRL: no constraints

The eligible entities for the AEI funding are:

Non-profit research organizations (such as universities, public research institutions, technological centres and other private non-profit institutions performing RDI activities in Spain), as the general requirements established for [PCI 2023-1](#) call. They must have been previously beneficiaries of any of the AEI calls. They have to ensure contractual relationship with the Principal Investigator during all the time of development of the project.

Other specifications: Please consult the requirements of [PCI2023-1](#) as they will be similar.

Mandatory: The Spanish Principal Investigator (PI) must hold a PhD degree. PI must be eligible according to the general requirements of [PCI 2023-1](#) call and must have experience as investigator (not necessarily as PI) in projects funded by the Plan Nacional I+D+i 2008-2011, the Plan Estatal I+D+i 2013-2016, the Plan Estatal I+D+i 2017-2020, ERC Grants, European Framework Programmes or other relevant national or international programmes. Spanish PIs must have a contractual relation with the beneficiary covering the expected total length of the project.

Incompatibilities:

- PIs must remain unchanged between the proposal of this transnational joint call, and the national PCI call.
- PIs will not be eligible for funding if they apply as PIs to more than one proposal in this transnational joint call, to more than one proposal in the same Spanish PCI call and/or to PCI calls of consecutive years.
- If the same PI submits two or more proposals to the present call, 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.

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



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Data Protection: By submitting a grant application to the AEI, the applicants consent to communication of the data contained in the application to other public administrations, with the aim of further processing of the data for historical, statistical or scientific purposes, within the framework of the Organic Law 3/2018, of December 5, on Personal Data Protection and Guarantee of Digital Rights.

Further comments: In addition to the national regulations, specific rules for the consortia may be applicable within the transnational call; please read carefully the Joint Call text and all the related instructions.

Important and mandatory acknowledgement: Any publication or dissemination activity resulting from the granted projects must acknowledge funding by the Agencia Estatal de Investigación according to AEI's web [guidelines](#)

Funding commitment: € 600.000

Maximum Amount per Proposal:

IMPORTANT: a maximum of two Spanish Partners requesting funding to the AEI in the same Proposal are allowed.

The following funding limits (including direct + indirect costs) are considered eligibility criteria. Proposals not respecting these limits could be declared ineligible. Total amount of direct costs requested must be multiple of 1000.

- If a Spanish partner requesting funding to the AEI IS the Coordinator of the transnational project and:
 - there is only one Spanish Partner in the proposal, acting as a coordinator, the maximum funding is € 250.000
 - there is one Spanish Partner in addition to the Spanish Coordinator in the proposal, both requesting funding to the AEI, the maximum funding amount per proposal is € 300.000
- If a Spanish partner requesting funding to the AEI IS NOT the Coordinator of the transnational project and:
 - there is only one Spanish partner requesting funding to the AEI in the proposal, the maximum funding is € 200.000
 - there are two Spanish partners in the proposal requesting funding to the AEI, the maximum funding amount per proposal is € 250.000

Centers formed by different Spanish legal entities will be considered as a unique entity, and thus the maximum funding should not exceed the limits per proposal established above (for example, mixed centers).

The final funding will take into account the transnational evaluation of the collaborative proposal, the scientific quality of the Spanish group, the added value of the international collaboration and the financial resources available.

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

Eligible costs:

- Only personnel costs for exclusive dedication to the project are eligible. The costs of permanent staff linked to the beneficiary entity or members of the research team will not be considered eligible costs.
- Direct costs such as current costs, small scientific equipment, disposable materials, travelling expenses, coordination costs, and other costs that can be justified as necessary to carry out the proposed activities.
- Indirect costs (overheads) are eligible costs (21% of total direct costs, including subcontracting).



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- Subcontracting should not exceed 25% of total final budget (excluding overheads).

Please consult “*Artículo 8. Conceptos financiables*” in [PCI 2023-1](#) resolution since eligible cost will be similar.

Eligible topics: No restrictions

Additional information: [General requirements](#)

Contact person:

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