



CALL ANNOUNCEMENT

2025 JOINT TRANSNATIONAL CALL “WATER AND HEALTH”

Including modalities of
EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS

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Table summarizing the different editions of this document, including the changes made within each version:

VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY / FUNDING ORGANISATION	CHANGES MADE
Version 0	sent to CSC on 21/05/2025	Italy - MUR	First draft
Version 1	sent to CSC on 20/06/2025	Italy - MUR	Second draft
Version 2	sent to CSC on 30/06/2025	Italy - MUR	Third version
Version 3	After the CSC on 03/07/2025	Italy - MUR	Fourth version
Version 4	After EC comments on 12/09/2025	Italy - MUR	Final
Version 5		Italy - MUR	UKRI's funding partner organization name and acronym modified in Table 1 And At page 33 "Changes between step 1 and step 2" removal or replacement of a partner (incl. subcontracted and self-financed partners).

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Glossary

- **AMR:** Antimicrobial Resistance.
- **Associated Countries:** Associated Countries are countries who signed an association agreement with the European Union and its Members. In Horizon Europe, legal entities from Associated Countries can participate under the same conditions as legal entities from the Member States. The list of Associated Countries is available [here](#)
- **Call Secretariat (CS):** The Call Secretariat, hosted by the Italian Ministry for Universities and Research (MUR), will be in charge to prepare, coordinate and follow-up the joint call processes. It will work in cooperation and consultation with the Call Steering Committee (CSC) and provide the CSC with all documents needed for decisions. It is the central contact point for applicants regarding all technical and general issues of the submission.
- **Call Steering Committee (CSC):** The Call Steering Committee (CSC) will be composed of one representative per FPO and will be the decision-making body in the framework of this call.
- **Consortium/Consortia:** Transnational group(s) of partners, submitting a collaborative Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) proposal.
- **Consortium Coordinator (CC):** Coordinator of the transnational collaborative RDI proposal. Coordinates the submission of the proposal prepared by the partners in the online submission system, represents the Consortium before the CSC and the CS and, if funded, is responsible for the internal project management.
- **CECs:** Contaminants of Emerging Concern.
- **Early Career Researchers (ECR):** Refers to the [Modality of Early Career Researcher](#) of the 2025 Joint Transnational Call aimed at project proposals coordinated by early career researchers, who have obtained their PhD less than 10 year before the call launch, unless the FPOs calculate any exemption (e.g. maternity leave) as specified in the national/regional regulation annex.
- **Electronic Proposal Submission System (EPSS):** Web platform to be used by the applicants to submit their project proposals for the call, available at <https://proposals.etag.ee/water4all/>
- **European Commission (EC):** European Commission is acting as a Funding Authority in the Water4All Partnership, co-funding the Transnational Projects selected for funding in the 2025 Joint Transnational Call
- **Evaluation Panel (EP):** Panel of internationally recognised scientific, industry and policy experts which will evaluate and rank the pre/full proposals submitted in the 2025 JTC in order of merit. EP members will not submit or participate in proposals within this 2025 JTC and will sign declarations on confidentiality, absence of conflict of interest and code of conduct. The members of the EP consist of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and a number of Evaluators.
 - **EP Chairperson:** Leads the EP meeting, by: ensuring active, all-inclusive and rich participation of all members; managing the collective decision-making by the EP; launching voting procedures if necessary; approving the EP meeting agenda and the minutes, proposed by the CS.
 - **EP Vice-Chairperson:** Takes the duties of the Chairperson if the Chairperson is absent, for example, due to a conflict of interest.
 - **Evaluators:** Internationally recognised scientific or industry experts appointed for their independent evaluation of the submitted pre and full proposals to the 2025 Joint Transnational Call. Evaluators will not submit or participate in proposals within these Calls and must sign declarations on confidentiality, conflict of interest and code of conduct

- **External expert:** Independent expert appointed for its independent evaluation of the submitted pre and/or full proposals to the 2025 JTC in case an expertise is missing within the EP. External experts are not members of the EP.
- **Funding Partner Organisation (FPO):** Party that has committed national/regional funds to participate in the 2025 Joint Transnational Call and/or in the modality of Early Career Researchers.
- **Independent Observer:** External expert invited as observer to the EP and CSC meetings to assess the conformity of the evaluation procedure.
- **Joint Transnational Call (JTC):** A call for the funding of excellent transnational research and innovation projects, co-funded by the FPOs supporting the call and the European Commission.
- **Knowledge Hub (KH):** A network of experts jointly working on the dissemination of their project outcomes in various formats with the aim of supporting evidence-based decision-making processes for targeted stakeholders.
- **National Contact Point (NCP):** Each participating FPO in the 2025 Joint Transnational Call and the modality of Early Career Researchers has nominated NCP(s) to provide information on national/regional funding rules and procedures.
- **Principal Investigator (PI):** Researcher/Leader of the research team of a Project Partner in a Transnational Project.
- **Project Coordinator:** The Principal Investigator of the Project Partner leading the consortium in a Transnational Project, which is in charge of submitting the proposal to the call on behalf of all partners and coordinating the project.
- **Project funding:** The total sum of the funding, which will be granted by the FPOs to the Project Partners. The amount of funding each project partner can receive depends on the national funding rules.
- **Project Partner:** Independent legal entity participating in the Transnational Project.
- **Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA):** A key document of the Water4All Partnership that defines the strategic orientations of the programme.
- **Transnational Project costs:** The total sum of the project costs necessary for the implementation of the foreseen activities.
- **Transnational Project:** for the purpose of this document, the term transnational project refers to a project funded in the frame of the Joint Transnational Call and its modalities.

1. Introduction

1.1. The Joint Transnational Calls in the context of Water4All partnership

The [Water4All partnership](#) started in 2022 under the auspices of the European Union Horizon Europe programme for research and innovation, to concentrate research and innovation on water in Europe and beyond. Water4All's Vision is to “boost the systemic transformations and changes across the entire research – water innovation pipeline, fostering the matchmaking between problem owners and solution providers for ensuring water security for all in the long term”.

Water security stands for the capacity of a population to safeguard sustainable access to adequate quantities of acceptable quality water for sustaining livelihoods, human well-being, and socio-economic development, for ensuring protection against water-borne pollution and water-related disasters, and for preserving ecosystems in a climate of peace and political stability. Water security and ‘Just’ access to clean water for all of society are an essential aspect for Sustainable Development. This is reflected specifically in the UN Sustainable Development Goals¹ (SDGs), in first instance SDG 6 “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all”, which is interconnected with SDGs addressing Poverty (1), Hunger (2), Health (3), Clean Energy (7), Cities (11), Responsible Consumption and Production (12), Climate (13), Life below Water (14) and on Land (15), Peace, justice and strong institutions (16) and Partnership for the Goals (17).

Reaching Water4All's objectives require an inclusive and systemic approach, with a logical chain from problem analysis and the identification of knowledge gaps to the uptake of solutions and their concrete applications by the relevant stakeholders. The direct connection between stakeholders and problem owners with solution providers from the RDI field is required to make decisive contributions towards the objectives of Water security: *improved access to water; availability of adequate water supplies for all economic uses; ecosystems health and delivery of ecosystem services; resilience to global changes and water-related hazards*. This approach will be implemented through a broad range of activities, aiming together at achieving the following outcomes:

- Deliver sound knowledge, tools, and evidence basis on water for policy- & decision-making.
- Improve consideration of water impacts in all relevant policies.
- Enhance the field/market use of innovative solutions to water challenges.
- Increase citizens' awareness and engagement for an inclusive water governance.

Among its activities to produce these outcomes, Water4All will launch a series of annual co-funded Joint Transnational Calls (JTCs) pooling national financial resources through the participation of ministries, authorities and funding organisations, together with the support of the European Commission (EC). These calls primarily aim at strengthening the water RDI collaboration and producing and sharing top class water-related knowledge and data. The topics for the calls are drawn from the water challenges identified in the [Water4All Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda](#) (SRIA) (Figure 1).

¹ <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

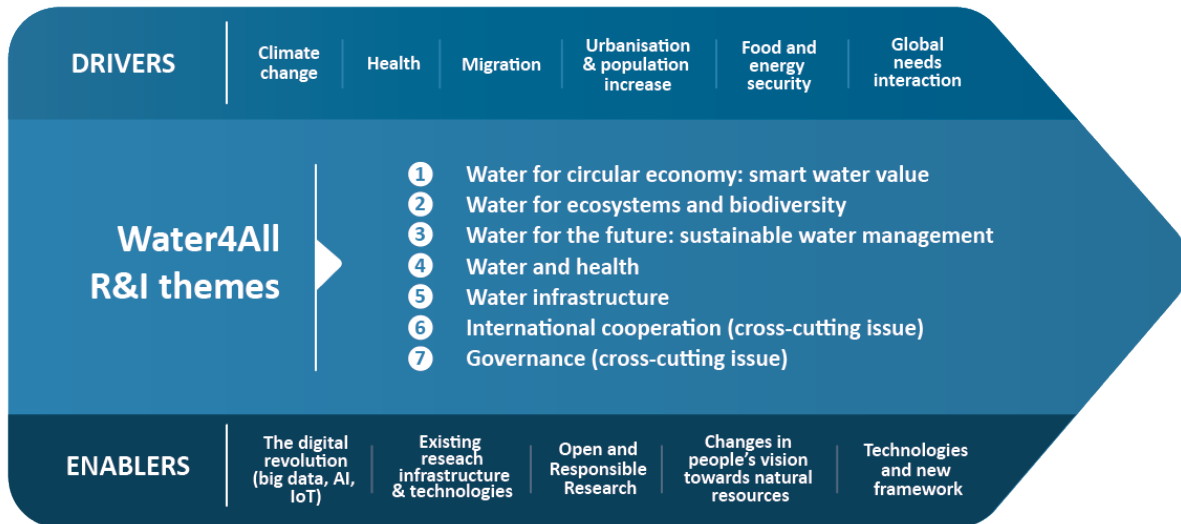


Figure 1 – Water4All RDI themes, drivers and enablers

The 2025 Joint Transnational Call (JTC) is the fourth in the series of the Water4All co-funded calls. It is jointly launched by 33 Funding Partner Organisations (FPOs) from 30 countries responsible for funding research and innovation actions in the field of water; Out of the participating FPOs, 31 are eligible to the financial support from the EC.

With the aim of developing the capacities of the talented young researchers and giving them the opportunity to act as leaders of the project consortia, Water4All also integrates an independent modality of the Early Career Researchers (ECR) in this JTC. The thematic focus of the ECR modality is aligned with the JTC topics. The applicants can choose whether to apply under the Regular modality or under the modality of ECR, provided they comply with the requirements.

This call also foresees the support to the Knowledge Hub (KH) for the researchers from Transnational Projects funded in the Regular and the ECR modality. The KH will function as a networking platform for the researchers with the aim to synthesize and disseminate the Regular and ECR projects' outcomes in various formats to support evidence-based decision-making processes for targeted stakeholders. The thematic scope of the KH is bounded by the JTC topics.

Within this Call, projects are then asked to include the activities of Water4All Knowledge Hub in their communication and dissemination related work package with dedicated personnel costs. At least one expert of each project needs to be nominated to act as project ambassador related to the activities of the Knowledge Hub. Given the list of tasks detailed in chapter 3.1.1, at least two person months should be allocated for the participation in the activities detailed in chapter 3.1.1.

1.2. Objectives of the 2025 Joint Transnational Call

The Water4All 2025 Joint Transnational Call invites research and innovation proposals addressing key challenges related to the link between water and human health, including water quality, contaminants, and water treatment technologies. Proposals should advance knowledge, develop innovative solutions, and support decision-making for sustainable water management in relation to health. The call also prioritizes the development of accurate, efficient, and cost-effective water quality monitoring methods to improve risk

assessment and management. Likewise, the advance in the implementation of sustainable water treatment technologies is recognized as crucial for ensuring safe drinking water and effective sanitation.

This call also considers the One Health (<https://www.who.int/health-topics/one-health>) approach, recognizing the interconnections between human, environmental, and animal health. Interdisciplinary and multi-sectoral approaches are encouraged, including collaboration between environmental scientists, engineers, health experts, and policymakers.

While the focus of this call is on the broader relationship between water and health, it is not intended to be an Antimicrobial Resistance focused call. Nevertheless, this call may include research on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) where it aligns closely with the One Health perspective - specifically in relation to environmental transmission pathways, water as a vector, monitoring and mitigation via (waste)water treatment technologies. Proposals that focus primarily on clinical or microbiological aspects of AMR mechanisms and development are not within the scope of this call.

To avoid duplication with previous calls, applicants should take into consideration that aquatic ecosystem services were the focus of JTC 2023. Similarly, biodiversity conservation and restoration have been addressed in recent funding initiatives (e.g. [Biodiversa+](#)). While JTC 2024 addressed water reuse within a circular economy context, JTC 2025 will emphasize the health dimensions of water management. Therefore, this call aims to complement ongoing efforts in the fields indicated above without duplicating previously funded approaches and proposals should show beyond former achievements.

2. Description of the aims and themes of the 2025 Joint Transnational Call and its modalities

IMPORTANT: The aim and the thematic framework are the same for the proposals submitted in the regular 2025 Joint Transnational Call and for the proposals submitted under the Early Career Researchers modality. **More information on the call structure is included in Chapter 3.**

2.1. Strategic aim of the Joint Transnational Call and its modalities

The 2025 Joint Transnational Call within the Water4All Partnership is aiming at research and innovation to contribute to water security in the long term. In line with the strategic objectives of Water4All, the results should contribute to the implementation of evidence-based, global, EU and national water management policies and strategies, within the frameworks of the European Green Deal, the zero-pollution action plan, the Water Framework Directive, the Just Transition Mechanism, the Water Resilience Strategy and the Sustainable Development Goals. Proposals should show cognisance of appropriate legislation and policy frameworks that are relevant for the call at national and international levels.

2.2. Theme of the Joint Transnational Call and its modalities

The **Water4All 2025 Joint Transnational Call** focuses on **Water and Health**, inviting research and innovation proposals that address critical challenges related to water quality, contaminants, and human health, including the links to environmental health (One Health). Proposals on water treatment technologies must integrate health aspects and include risk mitigation measures.

The call topics are overlapping and non-exclusive. Thus, proposals must address at least one of the following topics and may integrate multiple topics where relevant. **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.

Topic 1. Waterborne contaminants and health risks: occurrence, behaviour, interactions and vulnerability

This topic focuses on understanding and mitigating waterborne health risks stemming from organic contaminants (including Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs) and transformation products), human-induced and geogenic inorganic compounds (including nutrients, metals and metalloids, Natural Occurring Radioactive Materials (NORMs), human pathogens (including AR bacteria, opportunistic pathogens). Proposals may cover any of the following subtopics:

1.1 Environmental Occurrence and Behaviour of Waterborne Contaminants in Health Context

- Identification and prioritization of legacy and emerging contaminants
- Prediction of occurrence, concentration, and behaviour of CECs, transformation products, and pathogens across different water systems (surface water, groundwater, wastewater, and drinking water).
- Understanding interactions between chemical pollutants and microbial contaminants, such as how co-exposure affects microbial resistance, virulence, and persistence in aquatic environments.
- Investigation of contaminant response to treatment processes, including the fate, transformation and behaviour of persistent chemicals, pharmaceuticals, antimicrobial resistance (AMR) genes and virulence factors in wastewater and drinking water treatment systems.
- Understanding how local environmental conditions influence contaminant fate, bioavailability, and toxicity.

1.2 Pathogens and Disease Transmission

- Understanding and monitoring pathogens and their vectors in water systems, including distribution networks and engineered water systems, and how this might change/develop in a changing climate.
- Evaluating the role of both biological and non-biological vectors in the transmission of waterborne diseases and the transport of other contaminants.
- Examining environmental transmission pathways of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in water systems, with a focus on the interplay between biological, chemical, and environmental factors that influence AMR persistence and dissemination—particularly where this aligns with a One Health approach and water as a transmission vector.

Topic 2. Innovative Tools and Technologies for Water Quality and Exposure Monitoring

This topic focuses on advancing accurate, efficient, and cost-effective water quality and exposure monitoring and hazard assessment. It is essential to support improved risk assessment, risk management and policy decisions. This topic also emphasizes the need to better understand actual exposures to water contaminants

- not just their presence in the environment - and to strengthen the connection between water quality data and human and ecosystem health outcomes. Proposals may cover any of the following subtopics:

2.1 Advanced Water Monitoring Technologies for Health Protection and Risk Management

- Developing and standardising real-time, high-precision, and cost-effective methods or range of methods for detecting waterborne contaminants (including CECs and transformation products), human-induced and geogenic inorganic compounds (including nutrients, metals and metalloids, NORMs), human pathogens (including AR bacteria, opportunistic pathogens).
- Enhancing spatial and temporal water quality assessment capabilities by integrating Earth Observation technologies or other integrative approaches (such as non-target analysis, metagenomics, transcriptomics, proteomics, metabolomics) with other data sources.
- Improving pollution source identification and tracking through environmental forensics, including source discrimination techniques and microbial source tracking, to better understand the origin and pathways of contaminants.
- Development and harmonization of standard methods for detecting contaminants, particularly for persistent and mobile compounds such as Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and microplastics to address current gaps in sampling, detection and comparability of results across regions and studies.
- Development of methodologies and tools for effect-based monitoring as bioanalytical tools or bioassays to be used to determine the adverse effects of chemicals, chemical mixtures, or water samples on whole organisms, cells, cultured tissues, or isolated enzymes.
- Development of initiatives showing complementarity with HORIZON-CL6-2022-ZEROPOLLUTION-01-04 - Securing drinking water quality by protecting water sources against pollution, providing innovative monitoring and treatment solutions and ensuring safe distribution and HORIZON-CL6-2022-ZEROPOLLUTION-01-01 - Preventing groundwater contamination and protecting its quality against harmful impacts of global and climate change.

2.2 Novel Approaches for Health Risk and Exposure Assessment

- Developing innovative methods to assess health risks associated with water contaminants, including effects of chemical mixtures ("cocktail effects") or multiple exposure pathways.
- Advancing continuous biomonitoring tools and methodologies to assess actual human exposure to CECs via water, providing a critical link between environmental monitoring and public health protection.
- Applying bioassessment tools, biomarkers, and molecular bioassays to evaluate biological responses and early warning signals of exposure in human and ecological receptors.

Topic 3. Water Treatment and Exposure Mitigation

This topic focuses on advancing in the implementation of sustainable, efficient, and innovative technologies for water treatment (drinking-, irrigation-, and wastewater) to protect health. It supports the One Health approach by addressing contamination and health risks at their source, reducing exposures through improved treatment, and supporting safe water supply and sanitation systems for all. The goal is to mitigate the risks associated with waterborne contaminants across water, soil, and sediment systems. Proposals may cover the following subtopics:

3.1 Resilient and Equitable Water Treatment Technologies for Health Protection

- Ensuring health protection by developing cost-effective, energy-efficient water treatment technologies that reduce environmental burden.
- Enhancing small-scale, decentralized, and nature-based treatment systems, e.g. soil aquifer treatment (SAT) systems, tailored for remote, rural, or underserved communities to support equitable access to safe water.
- Designing resilient treatment technologies capable of adapting to emerging challenges such as climate impacts, population growth, and new contaminants.

3.2 Contaminant Mitigation and Exposure Prevention for Human and Environmental Health

- Advancing technologies for the effective removal and inactivation of CECs, pathogens, and antimicrobial resistance agents from water, soil, and sediments to reduce exposure and associated health risks.
- Improving wastewater treatment processes to enable the targeted removal and prevent the spread of pollutants, including microplastics, pharmaceuticals, PFAS, AMR-inducing agents, endocrine disruptors, and others.
- Investigating pollution prevention and source control strategies to minimise contaminant loads upstream, thereby reducing the need for intensive downstream treatment and supporting more sustainable water management.
- Integrating treatment solutions with exposure assessment and risk reduction frameworks to inform health-focused water quality standards and decision-making.

Topic 4: Governance, Socio-Economic Innovation, and Policy Integration for Water and Health

This topic focuses on strengthening the social, institutional, and policy foundations for safe and sustainable water and sanitation. It highlights the role of effective governance, public engagement, and policy coherence in supporting health outcomes. By advancing inclusive and adaptive approaches, the aim is to ensure that technical solutions are matched with resilient systems, trusted institutions, and empowered communities. Proposals may cover the following:

- Investigating governance frameworks, institutional dynamics, and policy coherence at local, national, and international levels for protecting water-related health.
- Exploring public perception, social acceptance, and trust in water-related interventions, especially in relation to emerging contaminants, water reuse, and new treatment technologies.
- Addressing barriers to implementation and long-term sustainability of water and sanitation systems, particularly for wastewater, with a focus on maintenance, resilience, and adaptation to rapidly changing environmental and socio-political conditions.
- Advancing social and policy innovations to improve equity, community engagement, and uptake of safe water practices and technologies, including for water reuse.
- Enhancing cross-border cooperation and knowledge-sharing to tackle shared water and health challenges, including through participatory and inclusive governance models.

Cross-cutting considerations:

Proposals should also consider the following cross-cutting aspects **where relevant**:

- **Governance and policy:** Addressing regulatory challenges, policy frameworks (such as the EU Drinking Water Directive, the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive and the Water Reuse Regulation) and public health guidelines for water safety.

- **Climate change impacts:** Evaluating how climate variability affects water contamination and treatment efficiency in relation to health risks.
- **Socio-economic and behavioural aspects:** Investigating public perceptions, behavioural changes, and stakeholder engagement in water quality management (aligned with **SRIA Theme 7.1 on citizen and stakeholder engagement**).
- **Digital and AI-driven tools:** Promoting the development and integration of methodologies and tools based on digital monitoring, big data, and artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance water quality assessment and treatment.
- **Innovation adoption and implementation:** Strategies to facilitate the **real-world deployment of new water treatment and monitoring solutions** (linked to **SRIA Theme 7.3**).

ANNEX A provides a list of national contact points (NCPs) and a matrix of the topics and modalities funded by each participating country/region.

2.3. Expected approach from the proposals

The proposals presented to the Water4All 2025 JTC are expected to take a comprehensive and problem-oriented approach. They should demonstrate how the proposed research addresses the overarching goals of the call, and contribute to improving water safety and health protection. Likewise, the proposals must avoid too specific and narrowly defined cases; thus, they are expected to address aspects that are cross-cutting and highlight cases where the transfer of solutions to other contexts and regions is feasible and can have a higher impact.

Delivered knowledge needs to cover relevant existing gaps and have the clear potential to be used in new or improved tools, processes, policy options and policy making. The proposals are also expected to contribute to the acceleration of the adoption of measures and to connect actors. In all cases, knowledge transfer and the impact of the outputs must be credible through involvement of stakeholders.

The complexity of water challenges and the related impact in different domains may require multi- or interdisciplinarity proposals, but multi- and interdisciplinarity must not be a per se approach, but an approach for better defining the problems, developing solutions, and delivering them.

Proposals must not duplicate, but can complement, past efforts and results delivered by projects and actions previously funded by other instruments, e.g. Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe, Water JPI, Biodiversa, PRIMA and JPI AMR calls. Approaches built on the results of previous projects must demonstrate that they include substantially new or improved ideas and approaches for additional progress and impact.

2.4. Impact of the proposals

Proposals are expected to identify challenges and provide solutions to beneficiaries. Furthermore, EC aims for Horizon Europe to create significant societal and environmental impact. Therefore, proposals are expected to clarify the impact of their research in the long term and how they contribute to the overall impacts defined for this call:

- Improved identification, monitoring, and risk mitigation of waterborne contaminants to protect human and environmental health across diverse water systems;

- Strengthened evidence base and innovative tools for health risk assessment and exposure monitoring, enabling more effective policy, regulation, and health protection aligned with the One Health approach;
- Development and deployment of sustainable and resilient water treatment technologies, including decentralised and nature-based solutions, to reduce health risk and exposure, and safeguard water for all uses;
- Enhanced governance, social innovation, and policy coherence for water and health, promoting inclusive, adaptive, and trusted systems to ensure long-term sustainability of water infrastructure and practices;
- Support for the implementation of the European Water Resilience Strategy, UN SDGs, the EU Green Deal, the Zero Pollution Action Plan, and the EU water acquis including the Water Framework Directive thereby contributing to a just and equitable transition;
- Increased resilience of communities and ecosystems to water-related health risks under climate change and environmental pressures, through integrated water quality management;
- Improved integration of scientific knowledge, technological innovation, and stakeholder input, ensuring practical relevance, societal uptake, and policy implementation of results across sectors and scales.

Credible societal impact will require input from stakeholders when formulating the gaps to be addressed in the proposal and maintain exchange with those stakeholders during the execution of the projects to foster transfer and adoption of outcomes. Diversity of stakeholders, spanning the entire research and innovation chain, is important to accurately describe the problem and develop solutions to better guarantee policy implementation of the results, e.g., representatives from water agencies, the business and financial sectors, water authorities, NGOs, ministries, academia, citizens etc.

3. Call Structure

3.1. 2025 Joint Transnational Call Structure, including its modalities

Applicants are invited to submit their proposals under the Regular modality or the Early Career Researchers (ECR) modality of the Joint Transnational Call, provided they comply with the general and national/regional eligibility requirements:

- **Regular modality** – the annual Water4All call for funding of excellent research and innovation proposals;
- **Early Career Researchers modality** – aimed at projects coordinated by early career researchers. The thematic framework described in Chapter 2, the scope, proposal structure and the evaluation process are the same as for the Regular modality.

IMPORTANT: Applicants mark in the submission tool under which modality they are applying (Regular or ECR modality). The thematic framework, the evaluation criteria and the (pre-)proposal template are the same for the Regular and for the ECR modalities, except for the eligibility criteria for the Consortium Coordinator. The applicants must comply with the General eligibility criteria as stated in Chapter 4, as well as with the [national/regional regulations](#) for each of the modalities. **Not all FPOs financially support the ECR modality** (see ANNEX A).

3.1.1. The Water4All Knowledge Hub in the context of the 2025 Joint Transnational Call

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. The KH will thus have the same timeline as the funded Transnational Projects. As a cluster the participants will be accompanied by a facilitator to produce specific activities and outputs, such as the following ones:

- Knowledge synthesis outputs, including policy briefs, state-of-the art reports, concept notes, fact sheets, position papers, etc. that appeal to different target groups, ranging from the general public to policy makers at various levels;
- Foresight exercises (events, workshops, etc e.g., in response to new policy priorities or societal challenges);
- Short summaries of any published articles;
- Joint peer-reviewed publications from Water4All funded projects;
- Online thematic events on Water4All JTC themes;
- Learning and training content to increase/ maximize use of Water4All outputs;
- Feedback and Input into the update of the Water4All SRIA;

The added value of the KH for the participating researchers is to:

- Enable the valorisation of research project results and foster knowledge transfer to relevant stakeholders;
- Allow researchers to contribute to Water4All SRIA updates and inform the contents of the Strategic Research & Innovation needs for future funding;
- Provide researchers with opportunities for networking, knowledge exchange and uptake of research outcomes;
- Facilitate cooperation resulting in high-impact publications;
- Contribute to a greater number of scientific outputs (publications, patents, licenses, etc.) through collaboration;
- Build researchers' capacity through integrated, transnational and multi-disciplinary approaches and exchange of good practices;
- Contribute to the EU legislation evolution.

3.1.2. Modality of Early Career Researchers

The ECR modality focuses on developing capacities for talented early career researchers by giving them an opportunity to act as project Coordinators in this call. The principle criterion for the early career researcher acting as Coordinator is to have obtained their PhD less than 10 years before the call launch². The aim of this modality is to support early career researchers to conduct basic or applicable research related to JTC topics and to provide them with a platform to present their research as well as forge valuable international connections with other researchers in a similar field.

The ECR modality is governed by the same thematic framework and evaluation criteria as the JTC, but under different general eligibility criteria for the Consortium Coordinator of the proposal. **The Consortium Coordinators complying with the ECR criteria may choose to apply under the Regular or ECR modalities, but not under both Regular and ECR modalities.**

² Unless the FPOs calculate any exemption (e.g. maternity leave) as specified in the national/regional regulation annex.

While the evaluation of the proposals submitted in the Regular and ECR modalities will be done under a single call process and subject to the same rules, the proposals can be ranked in one or several ranking lists depending on the number of ECR proposals received and budget availability.

In all cases, the funding organisations participating in the ECR modality will prioritize the funding of ECR proposals, in cases of equal ranking of several projects.

3.2. Participating countries

A total of 33 Funding Partner Organisations (FPOs) from 30 countries have agreed to launch a Joint Transnational Call for RDI proposals on the topic “Water and Health”. In addition, a total of 17 FPOs from 16 countries will support the Early Career Researcher modality.

The research teams applying for funding shall comply with **national/regional regulations of their respective FPO**. The participation of applicants from other countries is allowed, provided they have their own separate source of funding or if funds by another source are guaranteed (i.e., by a national or international funding organisation). In this case, the commitment of these partners must be provided upon submitting the full proposal.

For more information on eligibility of international research institutions please see section 4.3 Eligibility of international research institutions.

Applicants should note that in some countries, several funding organisations participate in the call with different organisational rules and priorities. Applicants must pay attention to the [national/regional regulations](#) and if questions arise, it is highly recommended to contact the NCPs before submitting a pre-proposal and full proposal (see list in ANNEX A).

3.3. Financial Commitment

A total of approx. 35.64 million Euros has been provisionally allocated for the 2025 JTC and its modalities by the participating FPOs with the support of the EU (Table 1). These funds will be used for RDI activities carried out by researchers, institutions and companies according to the funding rules and legal frameworks of their respective FPOs.

Partners applying in a consortium cannot request more funding per modality than their relevant FPO stated in the [national/regional regulations](#) to this Call Announcement. Each FPO should have indicated the maximum funding per project partner and/or per project (if several partners request funding to the same FPO) in their national regulations. When there is no maximum budget per project and/or per project partner indicated in the national regulations for one FPO, the maximum funding requested per project should be in proportion to the total national budget available and the expected number of projects to be funded by the FPO. Please contact your national/regional FPO for further information.

TABLE 1: WATER4ALL FPOs PARTICIPATION IN THE 2025 JTC AND ITS MODALITIES

Country	Funding Partner Organisation	Acronym	Regular modality (yes/no)	ECR modality (yes/no)	National budget	Expected number of projects to be

							funded by the FPO
1	Austria	Fonds zur Förderung der wissenschaftlichen Forschung	FWF	Yes	No	800.000,00	2
2	Belgium	Fonds Voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek-Vlaanderen	FWO	Yes	Yes	700.000,00	2
3	Belgium	Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique	F.R.S.-FNRS	Yes	Yes	300.000,00	1
4	Brazil	CONFAP - Brazilian National Council of State Funding Agencies	CONFAP	Yes	Yes	826.286,00	18
5	Czechia	Technology Agency of the Czech Republic	TA CR	Yes	No	500.000,00	3
6	Denmark	Innovation Fund Denmark	IFD	Yes	Yes	1.000.000,00	2
7	Estonia	Sihtasutus Eesti Teadusagentuur	ETAg	Yes	No	300.000,00	2
8	Finland	Suomen Akatemia	AKA	Yes	Yes	1.000.000,00	2-3
9	France	Agence Nationale de la Recherche	ANR	Yes	Yes	1.700.000,00	6
10	Germany	Bundesministerium für Forschung, Technologie und Raumfahrt	BMFTR	Yes	Yes	2.000.000,00	6-8
11	Greece	General Secretariat of Research & Innovation	GSRI	Yes	No	1.000.000,00	5-6
12	Hungary	Nemzeti Kutatási, Fejlesztési és Innovációs Hivatal	NKFIH	Yes	No	330.000,00	1-2
13	Ireland	Environmental Protection Agency of Ireland	EPA	Yes	Yes	700.000,00	3-4
14	Italy	Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca	MUR	Yes	Yes	2.000.000,00	4-5
15	Latvia	Latvijas Zinātnes padome	LZP	Yes	Yes	57 0.000,00	1-2
16	Lithuania	Lietuvos mokslo taryba	LMT	Yes	Yes	300.000,00	2
17	Luxembourg	Luxembourg National Research Fund	FNR	Yes	No	350.000,00	1-2
18	Malta	Ministry for Environment, Energy and Cleanliness	MEEC	Yes	No	300.000,00	2
19	Moldova	National Agency for Research and Development	NARD	Yes	Yes	190.741,00	3-4
20	Netherlands	Dutch Research Council	NWO	Yes	No	2.000.000,00	6-7
21	Norway	Research Council of Norway	RCN	Yes	Yes	1.250.000,00	5

22	Poland	Narodowe Centrum Badań i Rozwoju	NCBR	Yes	No	1.500.000,00	4
23	Portugal	Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, IP	FCT	Yes	Yes	500.000,00	2-5
24	Romania	The Executive Agency for Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation Funding	UEFISCDI	Yes	No	1.000.000,00	5
25	Slovak Republic	Slovak Academy of Sciences	SAS	Yes	No	240.000,00	2
26	Slovak Republic	Centrum vedecko-technických informácií	CVTI SR	Yes	Yes	800.000,00	2-4
27	South Africa	Department of Science, Technology and Innovation	DSTI	Yes	Yes	400.000,00	4
28	Spain	Agencia Estatal de Investigación	AEI	Yes	Yes	1.500.000,00	10
29	Spain	Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology	CDTI	Yes	No	400.000,00	2
30	Switzerland	Swiss National Science Foundation	SNSF	Yes	No	1.000.000,00 CHF (approx. 1.210.840,00 €)	3-4
31	Tunisia	The Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research	MHESR	Yes	No	500.000,00	5
32	Turkey	Turkiye Bilimsel Ve Teknolojik Arastirma Kurumu	TUBITAK	Yes	No	400.000,00	2-3
33	United Kingdom	UK Research and Innovation	UKRI	Yes	No	£1.250.000,00 (approx. 1.441.612,00 €)	tbc
Estimated EU contribution (in Euro)						7.755.105,90 €	
Total national commitments (in Euro)						27.887.479,00 €	
Total contribution (in Euro)						35.642.584,90 €	
EU Member States and Associated countries						28	

3.4. Call Process

The application process consists of two consecutive steps. **The submission of a pre-proposal in Step 1 is mandatory.** It is not possible to enter the application procedure at a later stage.

STEP 1

The Consortium Coordinator must submit a pre-proposal on behalf of the consortium, providing key data on the proposed project.

The Consortium Coordinators fulfilling the condition of eligibility of the modality of ECR (see section 3.1.2) are invited to mark it in the submission tool. Their pre-proposals are submitted as part of the ECR modality.

The deadline for the submission of the pre-proposal is 13/11/2025, 15h00 CET.

STEP 2

The Consortium Coordinator must submit a full proposal on behalf of the consortium. **The deadline for full proposal submission is 13/04/2026, 15h00 CEST.** Deadline to be confirmed after Step 1.

ANNEX A provides the contact information of the NCPs in each participating country/region for the 2025 JTC and its modalities. It is required that each partner in a consortium checks their [national/regional regulations](#) for each modality prior to submission of a pre-proposal and full proposal and confirms their eligibility with the NCPs.

3.5. Dates and deadlines

Tentative Time Schedule of the Water4All 2025 Joint Transnational Call and its modalities	
First Step: Submission of pre-proposals	
July 2025	Call Pre-announcement
12 Sept. 2025	Call Publication and 1 st Step opening
13 Nov. 2025, 15.00 CET	Deadline for submission of the pre-proposals
Beginning of Feb. 2026	Notification to the applicants of the 1 st Step outcomes
06 – 20 Feb. 2026	Period for request to redress
Second Step: Submission of full proposals	
06 Feb. 2026	2 nd Step opening
13 Apr. 2026, 15.00 CEST	Deadline for submission of the full proposals
September 2026	Notification to the applicants of the 2 nd Step outcomes
September/October 2026	Period for request to redress
September/October 2026	Communication of the decision after request to redress
Last quarter 2026 / 1 st quarter 2027	Start of the Transnational Projects
Last quarter 2029 / 1 st quarter 2030	End of the Transnational Projects

3.6. Confidentiality & Conflict of interest

Research plans (pre-proposals and full proposals), abstracts, and evaluation statements are confidential documents. Proposal documents are therefore handled and stored with due care and confidentiality. Water4All consortium and its Call Secretariat ensure complete confidentiality to applicants during the evaluation process, i.e., the proposals will only be available to the national/regional funding organisations and the mandated experts responsible for the evaluation of the proposal. Experts appointed for the evaluation will sign a confidentiality agreement and will be asked to declare any conflict of interest. The proposals will be handled by the Water4All Call Secretariat. Each of the funding organizations will subsequently handle projects

approved for funding. Accordingly, national law will govern. Projects approved for funding will be governed by the applicable law on confidentiality, including, where relevant, national law of the participating funding organisations.

The publishable information of the Transnational Projects selected for funding, as listed in below section 3.7, will be published at the end of the call process.

3.7. Publishable Information

A list of the pre-proposals invited to submit a full proposal in Step 2 will be published (at the end of Step 1) by Water4All and FPOs in the context of the “Widening” option procedure (cf. section 5.6) with the following information: Proposal Number, Project Title, Project Acronym, Main Topic and Keywords.

A list of the funded Transnational Projects will be published at the end of the call process (once the projects have been selected). Therefore, applicants should be aware that the following information from the proposals may be published by Water4All and FPOs for promotional purposes: (1) Project Title and Project Acronym, (2) Publishable abstract, (3) Duration of the project, (4) Total costs and total funding of the research project, (5) Organisation name and country of each partner, (5) Name of the Project Coordinator.

3.8. Privacy Policy

By submitting the application, the Consortium Coordinator and partners agree to the use, to the share (for specific purposes: e.g., evaluation, for future nomination of experts, Water4All specific communication) and to the storage of projects related information according to the Privacy Policy and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Further information on Privacy Policy³ is presented on the Online Submission Tool.

4. Eligibility criteria

Partners should note that the general eligibility criteria (section 4.1) and the [national/regional regulations](#) are decisive for the initial evaluation of proposals, at both first and second steps.

A proposal that does not fulfil all the general eligibility criteria will be declined without any further review. Ineligibility of a partner applying for funding may cause the rejection of the entire proposal without further review if the ineligible partner is the Coordinator or if, without the ineligible partner(s), the proposal does not fulfil all the general eligibility criteria anymore. Therefore, before submitting an application, the Consortium Coordinator should verify that all partners of the consortium have read their corresponding [national/regional regulations](#). Coordinators and project partners must be aware that some national funding agencies may add specific national/regional limitations or conditions which have to be respected by all partners requesting funding to them (for example, they may not fund all topics of the call or all types of research, they may limit the amount of funding which can be requested, the type of partners/consortia, etc.) Furthermore, some funding agencies require the submission of national documents in addition to the international pre-proposal.

Proposals passing the general and national eligibility checks will be assessed by the Evaluation Panel (EP). The Call Secretariat (CS), on behalf of the Call Steering Committee (CSC), will communicate the results of the eligibility check and the decisions taken to the Coordinator of each consortium.

³<https://www.water4all-partnership.eu/privacy-policy>

Eligibility of Water4All Partnership beneficiaries

Research teams from some beneficiaries of Water4All partnership may exceptionally participate to this co-funded call; the list of the beneficiaries of Water4All partnership and those allowed to participate in the projects' consortia are indicated in ANNEX B. **For those beneficiaries, measures have been foreseen to mitigate the risk of, perception of, or de facto conflict of interest or unequal treatment of applicants.** No other beneficiary of Water4All partnership may apply for funding under the 2025 JTC or its modalities.

4.1. General eligibility criteria

The general eligibility criteria for the regular modality and the ECR modality are summarized in Table 2. In case of not fulfilling these requirements, the proposal will not be considered for funding.

TABLE 2: GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE REGULAR AND THE ECR MODALITY

Scope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals must address at least one main topic, even though it is not compulsory to address all subtopics within a topic in the proposals. Each consortium is responsible for choosing the main topic that best fits with their proposal.
Consortium composition	<p>General consortium composition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each consortium must be composed of 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. 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 partners per consortium if at least one partner from an undersubscribed FPOs is included 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). <p>Consortium Coordinator in Regular modality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In each proposal, one of the entities must act as the Consortium Coordinator who has the responsibility for submitting the proposal. The Consortium Coordinator must be eligible for funding by a FPO of this call. The Principal Investigator (PI) of the entity acting as Consortium Coordinator can only participate in one proposal of either Regular or the ECR modality (i.e., if the PI is the Consortium Coordinator of a proposal, he/she cannot participate in any other proposal of the Regular or ECR modality, neither as a Consortium Coordinator nor as PI of a partner). <p>Consortium Coordinator in ECR modality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PI of the entity acting as Consortium Coordinator must have obtained their PhD less than 10 years prior to the call launch (i.e. after 12 September 2015), unless the

	<p>FPOs calculate any exemption (e.g. maternity leave) as specified in the national/regional regulation annex. The other PIs in the Consortium do not need to be early career researchers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Consortium Coordinator who complies with the ECR criteria may decide whether they wish to participate in the Regular or in the ECR modality, however, participation in both modalities is incompatible. • In each proposal, one of the entities must act as the Consortium Coordinator which has the responsibility for submitting the proposal. • The Consortium Coordinator must be eligible for funding by a FPO of this call. • The PI of the entity acting as Consortium Coordinator can only participate in one proposal of either Regular or the ECR modality (i.e., if the PI is the Consortium Coordinator of a proposal, he/she cannot participate in any other proposal of the Regular or ECR modality, neither as a Consortium Coordinator nor as PI of a partner).
	<p>Workload</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The workload distribution within a consortium must be balanced, and no partner (including a self-funded partner) shall have more than 50% of person months. • Partners from the same country shall not have, altogether, more than 50 % of person months
	<p>Partners not requiring funding (self-funded partners)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No more than one self-funded project partner per consortium is allowed. • The applicants have to prove their willingness to self-fund their own activities or the willingness of other partners to fund their activities by sending a letter of intent/commitment together with the full proposal. • They have to follow the rules given in this Call Announcement and have to be part of the project consortium agreement. • A self-funded partner cannot coordinate a project. • They are not considered in the minimum requirement of eligible partners and countries in the Water4All eligibility criteria. • They are counted for the requirement of the maximum number of partners in a project.
Duration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Transnational Projects duration must be 36 months. Extensions may be granted if well justified and compatible with national FPO's national regulations. • Start date and end date of the researcher groups within the consortium must be aligned as far as possible.
Submission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-proposals and full proposals must be submitted before the deadlines. • Pre-proposals and full proposals must be submitted correctly and completely via the Online Submission Tool as outlined in Chapter 6. • Pre-proposals and full proposals must be written in English.

4.2. National/regional eligibility criteria

In addition to the general eligibility criteria, each project partner must ensure that his/her contribution to the overall project conforms to the [national/regional regulations](#) of their respective FPO for the Regular /ECR and its modalities:

- Where applicable, relevance of the proposal to the topic(s)/subtopic(s) funded by national/regional FPOs;

- Compliance with national/regional funding criteria and regulations;
- Compliance with limits to budget requests;
- Where requested by the national/regional FPO, submission of additional national documents in accordance with national rules.

4.3. Eligibility of international research institutions

The following eligibility rules count for international research institutions:

- **The Joint Research Centre (JRC)** can participate in a proposal as a partner. Coordinating the proposal is not possible, since they do not “belong” to any FPO country. They will have to participate at their own expenses. They will not count in the "three different eligible entities" rule from three different FPO countries for eligibility purposes. The formal signed letter of availability of funds should be included in the full proposal as an Annex.
- **Partners from countries not participating in the call** may join consortia only as partners (not as coordinator). Participation will be at the institutions' own expense. Moreover, such partners will have to demonstrate that they will achieve the related tasks in the proposal. The formal signed letter of availability of funds should be included in the full proposal as an Annex.
- **International institutions**, e.g. UN institutions, need to investigate their respective national eligibility guidelines for national and/or global funding and make sure they would be able to fulfil the duties of funded projects (i.e. signature of consortium agreement).

4.4. Recommendations for the applicants

All partners within a consortium should take into consideration the following recommendations for setting up their project proposals:

Scope

- Proposals should go beyond the state of the art by providing high quality RDI and, when appropriate, make use of innovative technologies, approaches and concepts to do so;
- Proposals should consider on-going research activities funded by other instruments, programmes or projects. Identification and cooperation with these activities is of high importance;
- Proposals should consider and incorporate appropriate cross-cutting issues, such as socio-economic and/or capacity development.

Consortium composition

- All proposals are encouraged to consider geographical balance and implementation in appropriate geographic settings and according to the objectives of the proposal, including in low- and middle-income countries/regions.
- Project partners may participate in more than one proposal provided this is in line with the national/regional regulations.
- Participation of legal entities from countries (and/or regions) not participating in the call, at the entities' own expense, is welcome.
- Project partners that are not eligible for funding may participate at their own expense or if they have their own separate source of funding. They have to comply with requirements set out in Table 2 for partners not requiring funds.
- It is encouraged but not compulsory to involve stakeholders (i.e., small and medium enterprises (SMEs), industries, authorities, public administrations, associations, as well as civil society

organisations) as partners or self-funded partners. The participation of stakeholders is subject to [national/regional regulations](#) if eligible for funding.

- All proposals should integrate the gender dimension⁴ of RDI activities.
- Every partner in a proposal, including a self-funded partner and subcontracted partner, needs a Participant Identification Code (PIC) from the EC to be included in the submission. The applicants have to check their PIC or ask for the creation of a PIC well in advance of the submission⁵.

Budget

- There is no specific limit of total budget per proposal.
- The requested total budget of proposals is only limited by the number of eligible partners and by the budget of each partner. **Please consider the national regulations of each FPO with regard to the specific budget limitations.**

Duration

- Duration of the Transnational Projects must be **36 months**.
- Funded consortia will be asked to agree on a **starting date no later than 30 April 2027** and an end date no later than 30 April 2030.

4.5. Further considerations

Applicants should also take into consideration the following:

- All Partners and the Consortium Coordinator must comply with the applicable national and EU rules and legal provisions, for instance about competition and EU State aid rules, environment, utilisation of genetic resources, equal opportunity and gender, and public contracting whenever applicable.
- Plan and complete the application process as soon as possible to avoid an overload of the system near the deadline and ensure the support by the Call Secretariat (CS) or the NCPs in case of need.
- The financial plan and allocation of resources (table available in the electronic submission system and filled in by the Consortium Coordinator following the instructions given by all Partners) should be coherent with the work plan proposed. Funding requests which are not adequately justified may affect the evaluation score given to the proposal.

4.6. Ethical issues

For all proposed research activities funded by Water4All, **the ethical dimension is an integral part of research from the beginning to the end**, and ethical compliance is seen as pivotal to achieving real research excellence.

The Horizon Europe Framework Programme sets high expectations. The Grant Agreement states:

‘The action must be carried out in line with the highest ethical standards and the applicable EU, international and national law on ethical principles.’

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/gender/h2020-hi-guide-gender_en.pdf

⁵ 9-digit number serving as a unique identifier for organisations (legal entities) participating in EU funding programmes / procurements. If needed, one can apply for a temporary PIC on: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register>. A search tool for organisations and their PICs is available on <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register-search>. We suggest validating the PICs via the public available Partner Search – Organisation Profile service. This allows use to fill out some requested data inputs automatically, which is less error-prone and provides much better user experience. <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/apis>

'The beneficiaries must commit to and ensure the respect of basic EU values (such as respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and human rights, including the rights of minorities).'

The responsibility for 'ethics' lies with the individuals carrying out the research.

Applicants are required to describe any potential ethical aspects of the work to be carried out, and how the project will fulfil applicable requirements in institutional, national and EU legislation.

The applicants are responsible for completing the Ethics Self-assessment and Detailed Ethics Self-assessment section of the application, as required, to the best of their knowledge, at the time of the proposal submission. For more information on each of the ethics issues and how to address them, including detailed legal references, see the European Commission guidelines on 'How to Complete your Ethics Self-Assessment'.

If the proposal is selected for funding the applicant is reminded that, before starting an action task raising ethical issues, s/he must have obtained all approvals or other mandatory documents needed for implementing the task, notably from any (national or local) ethics committee or other bodies such as data protection authorities. For more information see Annex 5 of the Grant Agreement Model.

The Transnational Project must also comply with **the EU "Do no significant harm" principle (DNSH)**. The applicant must integrate environmental considerations into all stages of research projects, from design to implementation and evaluation. It ensures that research, even if beneficial in one area, does not cause significant harm to other environmental objectives

Useful links:

- Link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/how-to-complete-your-ethics-self-assessment_en.pdf
- Link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

5. Evaluation of Proposals

5.1. Evaluation Procedures

A two-step evaluation procedure will apply, for the pre-proposals (step 1) and the full proposal (step 2) respectively. The evaluation procedure will be common for all proposals submitted under the Regular and ECR modality and regardless the topics.

The Call Steering Committee (CSC) will set up an Evaluation Panel (EP), which will be comprised of international scientific experts from the relevant research areas covered in this call. Its composition will consider the gender and geographical balance. The EP members cannot be applicants in the joint call and cannot evaluate proposals with which they declared a conflict of interest, to ensure a fair evaluation process and equal treatment of applicants.

The Call Secretariat (CS) will check that no Conflict of Interest exists concerning the proposals evaluated.

The EP will be headed by a Chair and a Vice-Chair. The Chair and Vice-Chair will be in charge of moderating the EP meetings and conveying the results of the discussions to the CSC.

All proposals, either submitted under the Regular or the ECR modality will be evaluated by the same EP and in accordance with the same evaluation criteria (see section 5.2) and ranked in one or several ranking list(s) per modality and/or per topics.

An independent observer will be invited as external observer to the EP and CSC meetings to assess the conformity of the general procedure with the EU regulation.

Step 1 (Pre-proposal stage)

Pre-proposals submitted correctly and within the deadline will be checked for eligibility by the CS against criteria defined in Chapter 4 and by the FPOs according to their national/regional criteria.

All eligible pre-proposals should be subject to a scientific evaluation by three (3) EP members, as far as possible, based on two criteria - '**Excellence**' and '**Impact**' (see Table 3). One of the EP members will act as the rapporteur during the EP meeting.

During the EP meeting, the evaluation results of each pre-proposal will be presented by the rapporteur. The EP will discuss the pre-proposals and agree on the final scores for each criterion and afterwards, the scores of the two criteria will be summed up to produce the final overall score. All applicants will receive a consensus report from the EP.

A ranking list of pre-proposals will be produced, including only those pre-proposals that meet the minimum threshold, i.e., 3 out of 5 in each criterion.

The objective of this first step is to identify the best proposals to proceed to Step 2 and to ensure balance between requested and available funds at the national/regional level. The ranked eligible pre-proposals will be sent to the CSC and divided in 3 groups, according to their scores: 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 selected to Step 2, taking into account the ranking, the representativeness of all FPOs, the participation in the ECR modality and the funding ratio limits. Pre-proposals in Group C will be dismissed for their low classification.

Consortium Coordinators will be informed of the outcomes by the CS and, if appropriate, invited to submit a full proposal.

Step 2 (Full proposal stage)

After the submission deadline for full proposals, the submitted full proposals will be checked to ensure that they meet the formal call criteria and have not changed substantially from the respective pre-proposals. Full proposals not meeting the formal conditions will be rejected without further review.

As in Step 1, each full proposal will be reviewed by three (3) members of the EP based on three criteria - '**Excellence**', '**Impact**' and '**Quality and Efficiency of Implementation**'. The EP members will assess the full proposals in advance of the EP meeting and prepare individual evaluation reports. In case of a missing expertise in the EP for some full proposals, the CS will identify and mobilize external experts to obtain three (3) individual evaluation reports.

The evaluation results for each full proposal will then be presented by the rapporteur during an EP meeting and discussed by the Panel members. The EP meeting will complete the evaluation procedure by agreeing on the final individual score for each criterion, and the overall score for each proposal. Due to the large number of proposals evaluated, the EP could decide to focus on those proposals that report divergent scores from the evaluators. Any proposal where there is a consensus between the evaluators on any of the three criteria being below the threshold (i.e. 3 out of 5 in each criterion) may not be discussed and ranked by the EP (regardless if there is divergence or not in other scores). The overall threshold on the final score is 10/15: no project with a score lower than this threshold will be funded.

The decisions of the EP should be taken collectively, preferably by consensus or by simple majority of the panel members, in case consensus cannot be reached. The rapporteur will produce a common consensus report on behalf of the EP for each full proposal, which will be transmitted to the applicants.

Final ranking list(s) of proposals (per topic or per modality) will be produced based on the final scores. Depending on the number of proposals per modality, the topics coverage and the budget availability, the CSC can decide to organize this ranking list in several ranking lists either per modality (Regular or ECR) and/or per topic, strictly following the final score of each full proposal as agreed by the EP.

The final ranking list(s) will be forwarded to the CSC, which will meet to decide on the projects to be recommended for funding by FPOs. For this decision, the CSC will strictly follow the order of the ranking list(s) from the EP until the available funding is exhausted.

The projects with the same final scores will be prioritised by the CSC taking into consideration a number of principles. The CSC may decide how to use some of the following principles providing that they are used uniformly for all proposals:

- Maximizing the total number of projects funded and thus optimizing the amount of EC financial support to the Water4All call;
- Prioritizing the projects submitted under the ECR modality;
- Maximizing the number of countries/regions involved into the projects funded;
- Assuring a good balance between different topics of the call;
- Promoting the allocation of the EC financial support pro rata, based on the actual contributions of the Funding Organisations involved in the proposals.

Once the available EC funding is exhausted, in case funds remain available for some FPOs supporting the ECR modality, a second step of selection will apply to a short list of proposals submitted under the ECR modality, following strictly the order of the ranking list from the EP for proposals submitted under the ECR modality and provided that these projects are of sufficient quality (i.e., passing the thresholds in section 5.3).

The applicants will be informed about the final outcome of the call.

5.2. Evaluation Criteria

If a pre-proposal or a full proposal passes the general and national/regional eligibility checks, it will be evaluated following the procedures reported in the previous section 5.1. The following evaluation criteria will be applied by the EP members (as well as the external experts, if needed) in order to assess each proposal. For two-stage submission procedures, only the aspects in bold are considered for the evaluation of first-stage applications.

TABLE 3: EVALUATION CRITERIA

Excellence	Impact	Implementation
Threshold: 3/5	Threshold: 3/5	Threshold: 3/5
<p>1.1 Clarity and pertinence of the project’s objectives to the Water4All 2025 JTC topics and the extent to which the proposed work is ambitious, and goes beyond the state of the art.</p> <p>1.2 Soundness of the proposed [for the first stage: overall(*)] methodology, including the underlying concepts, models,</p>	<p>2.1 Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the work programme, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions from the project.</p> <p>2.2 Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and</p>	<p>3.1 Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall.</p> <p>3.2 Capacity and role of each participant, and the extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.</p>

<p>assumptions, inter-disciplinary approaches, appropriate consideration of the gender dimension in research and innovation content, and the quality of open science practices, including sharing and management of research outputs and engagement of citizens, civil society and end-users where appropriate.</p> <p>(*) Including all aspects mentioned in the first stage proposal template, which also include the integration of the gender dimension in research and innovation content as well as open science practices.</p>	<p>exploitation plan, including communication activities.</p>	
<p>Overall Score Threshold at Full proposal stage: 10/15</p>		

5.3. Scoring system

Evaluation Panel members will address all sub-criteria described in Table 3, but individual scores will be attributed only to the three main criteria. Each criterion will be scored from 0 to 5 (half marks are only allowed in step 1) based on the scoring system. The threshold for each criterion is 3 out of 5: no project with a lower score for one of the criteria, or an overall score lower than ten (10) at Step 2 will be funded.

TABLE 4: SCORING SYSTEM

- 0 – LIMITED** - The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
- 1 – POOR** - The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
- 2 - FAIR** - The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
- 3 – GOOD** - The proposal addresses the criterion well, but 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.

EP members will identify strengths, shortcomings and weaknesses (if any) and provide context for their comments based on the application, i.e., EP members will be asked to score proposals as they were submitted, rather than on their potential if certain changes were to be made. When an EP member identifies substantial

shortcomings and weaknesses, he/she must reflect this by awarding a lower score for the criterion concerned. There should be consistency between the numerical scores and written comments.

5.4. Funding recommendation

Transnational Projects will be recommended for funding by the CSC, based on the ranking lists of the full proposals described above and in accordance with budgetary considerations. Final funding decisions are made by the participating FPOs.

5.5. Redress procedure

Applicants can request to redress the evaluation outcome if they suspect a breach in the application of the evaluation and selection procedures. This redress procedure only covers the procedural aspects of the evaluation and/or eligibility checks, including the national eligibility checks. The request to redress will not call into question the scientific or technical judgement of appropriately qualified experts.

In this case they shall submit their appeal to the Partnership Coordination Team of Water4All (redress_water4all@agencerecherche.fr) and the CS (water4all2025_callsecretariat@mur.gov.it) via email, up to 14 calendar days after the date of dispatch of the evaluation outcome email by the CS at the end of each stage (first or second step). The proposal outcome email containing the results of the evaluation will give information on the appeals procedure, which is described below.

Admissibility of request to redress

For a request to redress to be admissible the following conditions must be met:

- The request must be submitted by the Consortium Coordinator of the proposal to which the request to redress relates
- Only one request to redress per proposal will be considered
- The request must be addressed to the Water4All Vice-Chair
- The request must be submitted via email within the 14 calendar days deadline
- The request must contain the following minimum information:
 - The name of the call for proposals;
 - The proposal number;
 - The title of the proposal;
 - A description of the alleged shortcomings of the evaluation procedure.

The request to redress must demonstrate a procedural irregularity, factual error, manifest error of assessment, misuse of powers, or a conflict of interest. Requests to redress that do not meet the above conditions, do not deal with the evaluation of a specific proposal or merely express disagreement with the result or the reasoning of the evaluation will not be considered suitable for redress.

Procedure

Upon receipt of a request to redress, an acknowledgement of receipt will be sent by the CS within 7 calendar days. The acknowledgement will report the redress process and the anticipated date by which a decision on the request to redress will be communicated to the appellant.

All requests to redress received by the 14 calendar days deadline will be processed together and the decision will be communicated to the appellant within 14 calendar days from the deadline for submitting the requests. The Water4All Vice-Chair will establish an internal "Redress Committee" chaired by the Water4All Vice-Chair and comprised of the Independent Observer, one representative from the Ethics and Deontology Board of

Water4All and one representative of the Water4All consortium (Pillar B leader / representative of the Water4All Partnership Coordination Team / FPO not involved in the 2025 JTC). The role of the “Redress Committee” is to evaluate the requests to redress according to the procedure, ensuring fair and equal treatment of applicants.

They will examine the requests with support of the CS and one representative per FPO concerned by the requesting projects, if needed. The “Redress Committee” will provide its opinion on the implementation of the evaluation procedure, on the basis of the available information related to the proposal and its evaluation, and will make recommendation to the Water4All Vice-Chair, who is in charge of deciding, except for national eligibility.

A negative national eligibility check of a FPO cannot be overruled by the Vice-Chair. Requests to redress on national eligibility decisions will be assessed by the FPO responsible for the national eligibility check, that will provide justification about its decision to the Vice Chair, in order to prove that national funding rules listed in the Call Announcement have been applied correctly.

For Step 1: Pre-proposals which were originally considered ineligible or not admissible to submit a full proposal, but which the Water4All Vice-Chair found to be eligible, will be allowed to participate in Step 2. This will not lead to a change of the deadline for the full proposal submission.

For Step 2: The redress procedure may lead to a re-evaluation of all or part of the proposal by independent experts not involved in the previous evaluation or to the confirmation of the initial evaluation.

A re-evaluation will only be carried out if the request to redress shows that the selection procedure was flawed by a breach which affects the evaluation outcome and the final decision on whether to fund a proposal. This means, for example, that a problem relating to one evaluation criterion will not lead to a re-evaluation if the proposal has failed anyway on another criterion or if even by adding the maximum points for this criterion, the final score still remains below the funding threshold.

The score following any re-evaluation will be regarded as definitive. It may be lower than the original score.

All requests to redress will be treated in confidence and will not prejudice future applications.

5.6. Widening Option

The “widening” option between the pre-proposal stage and the full-proposal stage aims to maximize the number of countries/regions involved into the projects funded.

Consortia invited to submit a full proposal in step 2 of the evaluation process will have the possibility to include in their consortium, either on request of the Funding Partner Organisations (FPOs) or on a voluntary basis, a new partner established in an underrepresented country and FPO between Step 1 and Step 2. The list of underrepresented countries and FPOs will be published on Water4All website after Step 1 outcomes.

The addition of a new partner should not substantially change the proposals’ content, but should be relevant and enhance the original focus of the proposal.

The addition of a partner from an underrepresented funding organisation does not count towards the maximum changes allowed between step 1 and 2 (cf. section 6.2). However, eligibility procedure remains the same and national/regional eligibility rules still apply. Consortia are invited to check the Water4All Partnering Tool for potential suitable partners.

Please note that all changes in the consortium composition should be conducted in close collaboration with the concerned Funding Partner Organisation and requests for changes shall be assessed and allowed by all the FPOs involved in the proposal.

5.7. Fallback Procedure

The objective of this procedure is to provide an additional mean between step 1 and step 2 to avoid rejecting valuable pre-proposals due to high financial pressure on some individual FPOs. This procedure is complementary to the “widening” option and provides a consortium with the possibility to remove a project partner requesting funding from a FPO under high financial pressure (i.e. oversubscribed by a factor higher than 4, or 3 for a FPO not eligible for EC co-Funding) or replace it with a project partner requesting funding from an underrepresented FPO listed in the “widening” option.

This procedure can be used only upon suggestion of the Call Steering Committee among the pre-proposals in Group B invited to submit a full proposals in step 2 and which fulfil the following criteria:

- The pre-proposal must include only one project partner requesting funding from a FPO with high financial pressure;
- This project partner must not be the coordinator;
- This project partner should not contribute more than 25% of the overall project person months;
- If the removal of this project partner results in a breach in the general eligibility criteria (i.e. project partners from less than three countries or less than two EU MS or Horizon Europe AC countries), the removed project partner must be replaced with a project partner requesting funding to an underrepresented FPO listed in the “widening” option in order to comply with the general eligibility criteria.

All applicants will be informed at the same time. Removing (and/or replacing) a project partner requesting due to high financial pressure will be part of the writing process of the full proposal.

The Fallback Procedure is not mandatory - should a consortium choose that they do not wish to proceed without the project partner in question, they can choose not to submit their full proposal. Additionally, depending on any contracts/agreements already signed within the consortium in question or any intellectual property arrangements, the project partner in question may also refuse to be removed/replaced (which would also lead to the pre-proposal remaining unchanged and being removed from the Call).

The removal of a project partner requesting funding from a highly oversubscribed FPO or addition of a partner from an underrepresented funding organisation does not count towards the maximum changes allowed between step 1 and 2 (cf. section 6.2).

After Step 2 of the Call has closed, the Call Secretariat will examine the affected full proposals as part of the international eligibility checks and declare ineligible the full proposals which have not removed the project partners concerned by the Fallback procedure. Additionally, full proposals which no longer fulfil the general eligibility and/or national eligibility rules will also be declared ineligible.

Please note that all changes in the consortium composition should be conducted in close collaboration with the concerned Funding Partner Organisation and requests for changes shall be assessed and allowed by all the FPOs involved in the proposal.

6. Application procedures

A two-step application procedure will apply equally for the JTC and its modalities. Pre-proposals and full proposals must be submitted electronically via a specifically designed web platform, the [Electronic Proposal Submission System \(EPSS\)](#), using the templates provided.

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

6.1. Online Submission Tool

The Electronic Proposal Submission System (EPSS) is available at the following address: <https://proposals.etag.ee/water4all/>

Step 1 (Pre-proposal stage)

1. The Consortium Coordinator creates an account on the EPSS Section for the Water4All 2025 JTC
2. The Consortium Coordinators should choose under which modality they wish to participate: the Regular or the ECR modality.
3. The Consortium Coordinators can enter, edit and save the electronic forms, add partners to the consortium, upload the project description and submit the proposal. Partners can enter and edit their own data only.

Consortium Coordinators can edit partner's data only after a partner has created an EPSS user account and has agreed to join the proposal

4. It is possible to update and submit the pre-proposal as many times as necessary until the **submission deadline (13/11/2025, 15:00 CET)**.

Applicants should note that any core data change (such as the partner institutions, applicants' personal data and budget) after pre-proposal submission will need to be approved by the concerned FPO should the proposal be invited to Step 2 (See section 6.2).

The submission of a pre-proposal is mandatory. It is not possible to enter the application procedure at a later stage. The information given in the pre-proposal will be used to check for eligibility and to evaluate the pre-proposal.

Please note, that **some of the partners will also need to submit an application directly to their respective national/regional FPOs**. For further details about these procedures and schedule, please consult the [national/regional regulations](#) and/or your NCP (ANNEX A).

Step 2 (Full proposal stage)

The second step of the application consists of the submission of a more extensive full proposal. Only research consortia which successfully passed the first step will be invited to submit a full proposal.

All rules mentioned in the pre-proposal stage apply for this stage as well.

The Consortium Coordinator and the project partners should consider the following for the submission of the full proposal:

5. [The Electronic Proposal Submission System](#) will be open for invited consortia.
6. The information provided in the pre-proposal will be automatically imported into the full proposal.
7. The Consortium Coordinator can enter, edit and save all new information according to the guidelines of the full proposal in the submission tool.

8. It is possible to update and submit as many times as necessary the full proposal until the **submission deadline (13/04/2026, 15:00 CEST)**.

Applicants should note that information on the core data (e.g., funding requested or institutions) cannot be changed in full proposals, unless explicitly requested by evaluators, by an FPO or by the CSC, or under the conditions laid down in section 6.2.

When applying, keep in mind that the **submission system will close at 15:00 CET/CEST** of the deadline date established for both Step 1 and Step 2. However, the **CS can only ensure responses to email support requests up to 12:00 CET/CEST**. The respective email contacts for the CS and NCPs are listed in the document and in ANNEX A.

For any questions regarding the submission, please contact the Water4All 2025 JTC Call Secretariat (water4all2025_callsecretariat@mur.gov.it). For any technical question regarding the EPSS, please contact the EPSS Help desk (epss.water4all@g.etag.ee).

6.2. Changes between Step 1 (Pre-proposal stage) and 2 (Full proposal stage) of the Call

Please note that the information given in the pre-proposals is binding. **No major changes regarding the proposals' content will be allowed by the Call Steering Committee (CSC) between the pre-proposals and full proposals.**

Regarding the **administrative details**, a limited number of changes may be allowed, provided they are in line with the general rules of the call and the national/regional funding rules of the FPOs. Participant shall contact the Call Secretariat via e-mail and their NCPs via the contacts reported in ANNEX A in order to inform them about their request to modify the project proposal data. Requests for changes shall be assessed and allowed by all the FPOs involved in the proposal.

The following changes may be accepted:

- **Minor change of budget** may be allowed by the relevant FPO.
- **Changes in the consortium composition:**
 - 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. self-financed partners). Please note that the maximum number of changes applies to "Partner", i.e., the independent legal entity participating in the Transnational RDI project.
 - The addition of a partner from an underrepresented funding organisation does not count towards the maximum changes allowed between step 1 and 2 (Widening option, cf section 5.6);
 - The removal of a project partner requesting funding to a FPO with high financial pressure or addition of a partner from an underrepresented funding organisation does not count towards the maximum changes allowed between step 1 and 2 (Fallback procedure, cf section 5.7).

7. Transnational Project funding and reporting

7.1. Negotiation of grant agreements

After a positive funding recommendation, the outcome of this process will be communicated by the CS to the Consortium Coordinators, who will then have to inform the Principal Investigator of the Transnational Project partners. The grants for the funded Transnational Projects will be awarded on a national/regional basis by the relevant FPO according to their terms and conditions. Each FPO will thus fund its own national /regional research teams within the project.

The project partners must directly contact their NCP (see ANNEX A) in order to start the contract negotiation and accomplish the remaining steps until the research project can start. The Consortium Coordinator is responsible for synchronising the project start with the whole consortium.

7.2. Consortium Agreement

Successful consortia must sign a Consortium Agreement before commencement of the project. This should address matters such as the regulation of intellectual property rights, decision making and actions to be taken in the event of unsatisfactory performance by one or more partners. In some countries/regions, such an agreement might be required for release of the funds. Applicants must comply with the [national/regional regulations](#) regarding this issue. Support for the preparation of a Consortium Agreement can be found on the [DESCA webpage](#).

Upon request, this Consortium Agreement must be made available to the participating FPO.

7.3. Project Reporting

In addition to the reporting required by the national/regional rules, Consortium Coordinators will be required to submit a Mid-term Progress Report and a Final Report (and deliverables needed to monitor the progress) to the CSC according to common templates which will be provided to them. All partners will have to deliver input for these reports. The monitoring will be conducted during the life span of the project.

Funding recipients must ensure that all outcomes (publications, etc.) of the Transnational Projects funded by the 2025 JTC include a proper acknowledgement of the Water4All Partnership, the EC, and the respective FPOs. In addition, each Transnational Project partner must comply with the reporting requirements of its respective national FPOs.

More information on the monitoring and reporting procedures will be provided to the Consortium Coordinators of the Transnational Projects selected for funding.

7.4. Dissemination and exploitation

Water4All will organise a minimum of three events for the Transnational Projects funded in the frame of the present call (see Table 5). Relevant stakeholders will be invited to these events. Funded Transnational Projects should dedicate appropriate resources for dissemination activities including for participation in activities organised by Water4All.

TABLE 5: MEETINGS OF WATER4ALL TRANSNATIONAL PROJECTS FUNDED FROM THIS CALL.

Events	Participants	When
Water4All Kick-off meeting of the funded Transnational Projects	Coordinators and partners of funded projects, stakeholders, CSC	Spring 2027
Water4All Mid-term meeting of the funded Transnational Projects	Coordinators and partners of funded projects, stakeholders, CSC	Autumn 2028
Water4All Final meeting of the funded Transnational Projects	Coordinators and partners of funded projects, stakeholders, CSC	Spring 2030

Dissemination of Transnational Project results is essential, and the dissemination plan should propose communication routes, such as scientific papers, posters, courses or training material, web-based tools, workshops or direct intervention towards end users.

Dissemination to national end-users is necessary in all partner countries. A dissemination plan will be requested for the full proposal and should specify how the planned activities will contribute to the impact of the Transnational Project.

7.5. Open Access and Open Data

The optimisation of the impact of publicly-funded scientific research is of fundamental importance to improve conditions to i) minimise the time spent searching for information and accessing it, ii) be able to speed up scientific progress, and iii) make it easier to cooperate across and beyond the EU.

Open Access requirements for all scientific publications and long form publications produced by the Transnational Projects funded by the 2025 JTC will support Green Open Access (immediate or delayed open access provided through self-archiving), or Gold Open Access (immediate open access provided by a publisher for the most important outputs). In the case of Green Open Access, partners will (as soon as possible and at the latest on publication) deposit a machine-readable electronic copy of the published version or final peer-reviewed manuscript accepted for publication in a repository for scientific publications. In addition, partners will ensure open access to the deposited publication and bibliographic metadata. Information should be provided about all the other scholarly objects, tools and instruments that are needed to validate the conclusions of the publication.

In case of any Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) issue for some project data and products the consortium may decide to go for Opt Out Option and cover this within the project consortium agreement. Projects can opt out before or after the signature of the Consortium Agreement (thereby freeing themselves from the associated obligations) on the following grounds:

- Incompatibility with the need for confidentiality in connection with security issues;
- Incompatibility with rules on protecting personal data;
- If there are other legitimate reasons not to provide open access to research data.

Depending on the funding rules of the FPOs, the costs related to the implementation of these provisions may be eligible for reimbursement during the grant.

The funded Transnational Projects are requested to develop a Data Management Plan within the first six months of the project's lifetime, according to the provisions of the HE MGA art. 17, page 110 - 112⁶, and are expected to **appoint FAIR contact points**.

The funded projects will be requested to submit metadata on all the resources directly generated by the project, as well as additional information on how this data will be used, if and how the data will be made accessible for verification and re-use, and how the data will be curated and preserved.

7.6. Ethics framework

The funded projects are expected to carry out their research activities in line with the highest ethical standards and the applicable EU, international and national law on ethical principles. An Ad Hoc Ethics Monitoring procedure will be established to review how ethics issues are being addressed.

8. Water4All 2025 JTC - Call Secretariat contact

Sara Cella, Yasmine Iollo,
Ministry for Universities and Research
water4all2025_callsecretariat@mur.gov.it

List of Annexes to the Call Announcement document

The most updated version of ANNEXES listed hereafter will be available for download on the 2025 Joint Transnational Call dedicated webpage, from Water4All website – www.water4all-partnership.eu.

ANNEX A: List of national contact points (NCPs) and a matrix of the topics and modalities funded by each participating country/region

ANNEX B: List of Water4All beneficiaries that may apply to the 2025 Joint Transnational Call

⁶ [Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement](#)

Stand-alone documents supporting the Call Announcement document

Supporting documents listed hereafter will be made available for download on the 2025 Joint Transnational Call dedicated webpage, from Water4All website – www.water4all-partnership.eu.

- **National/regional regulations**
- **Pre-proposal template**
- **Full proposal template**
- **Frequently Asked Questions**