

WATER4ALL
PARTNERSHIP

Water4All: Water security for the Planet

Information webinar

5 October 2023

Speakers

- Maja Kolar, Water4All Leader of Pillar B on Joint activities (AEI, Spain)
- Esther Diez Cebollero, Water4All Leader of Pillar A on Strategic Research&Innovation Agenda, member of the Call drafting group (ANR, France)
- Sylvain Pasquier & Claire Treignier, Call Secretariat (ANR, France)

Webinar Instruction

- The webinar is recorded and will be available on replay on the Water4All Call webpage.
- Audio available to Speakers only
- Please ask your questions using the Webex **Q&A Tool**
- FAQ document will be published on the Call website in the following days

Programme of the webinar

13:30-13:40	Introduction <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Quick presentation of Water4All European Partnership2. Functioning a European Partnership Joint Transnational Call	
13:40-14:10	Presentation of Call topics <ol style="list-style-type: none">3. Topic and scientific content of the call4. Expectations towards applicants	Q&A
14:10-14:50	Presentation of the Call process <ol style="list-style-type: none">5. Modalities6. Call process & eligibility rules	Q&A
14:50-15:00	Conclusions	

Introduction

Maja Kolar, AEI

1. Quick presentation of the Water4All Partnership

A co-funded partnership under Horizon Europe

- National/regional research funders and policy makers in association with other research and economic actors
- From 2022 to 2029 and beyond
 1. Launch: 1st June 2022
 2. Some activities may last until 2032
 3. Annual Joint Transnational Calls (in September each year)
- 81 partners
 - 23 EU MS + 8 non-EU countries



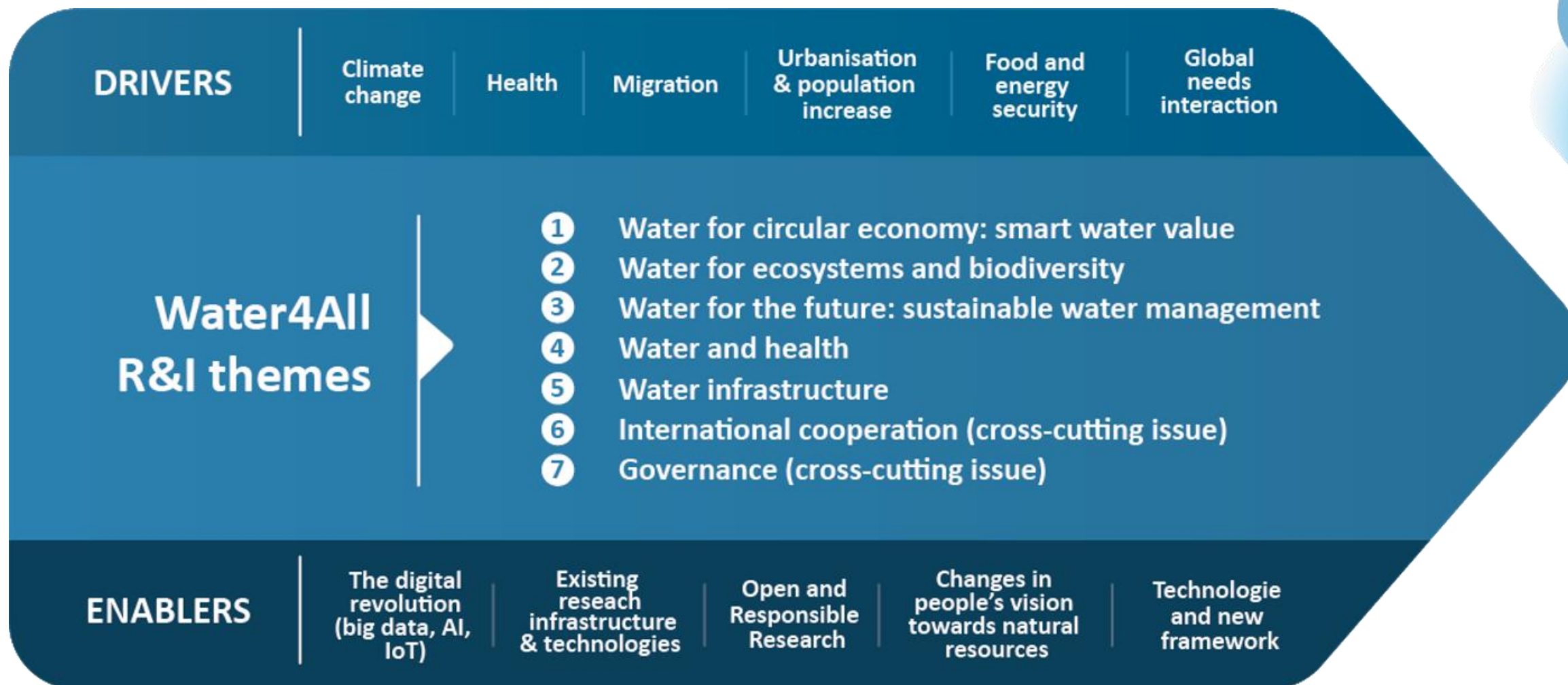
Category	Number of partners
R&I ministries / agencies	34
Sectoral ministries /agencies	15
Local authorities	3
EU networks	3
National/regional networks	8
Research Performing Organisations	18

Aiming at concentrating water R&I actors and its funding in Europe and beyond

Vision:

- Systemic transformations across the water research and innovation pipeline, fostering the matchmaking between problem owners and solution providers.
- Ensuring water security for all in the long term

Water4All's RDI themes: SRIA



SRIA Themes addressed through a variety of actions

E. Internationalisation

Developing international cooperation agreements
Engaging with UN Water and other international stakeholders
Developing innovative tools for cooperation

B. Research and innovation Development

Joint transnational calls
Thematic annual programming
Young researchers calls
Demo/transfer calls

A. Joint vision & SRIA

SRIA Development
Mapping of programmes and impacts
Development of synergies
Dissemination

D. Demonstrating Solution efficiency

Water Living Labs (LLs) & demos atlas
Network of LLs/demos and roadmap for demonstration implementation
Support to development of new LLs
Market uptake support
Liaising with investors

C. Science – Policy - End-users interface

Knowledge hubs, policy WGs
Support to start-ups creation
PhD scheme; mobility scheme
Vocational training
Capacity building on systemic thinking
Link to research infrastructures
Toolbox for managing water data

2. Functioning of a European Partnership Joint Transnational Call (JTC)

How does a Joint Transnational Call work?

Funding Organisation #1
Funding Organisation #2
Funding Organisation #3

...

Funding Organisation #N



Co-funding from the
European Commission (EC)



One joint Call

With one single joint (international) evaluation

- One ranking list
- Funding of the best top projects



NO NATIONAL PRE- OR POST- SELECTION

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Presentation of the call topics

Esther Diez Cebollero, ANR

3. Topic & scientific content of the call



Topic 1. Mapping, monitoring, and assessment for a better understanding of ecosystem services in a context of changes, from local to global change

Proposals may cover the following subtopics:

- 1.1 Enhancing the added value of data on the state and trends of ecosystem services: promoting meta- analyses across scales and syntheses of existing data sets.
- 1.2 Supporting a transnational network of harmonized monitoring schemes building upon the work conducted under other initiatives and previous EU projects.
- 1.3 Developing, testing, and comparing methodologies for the biophysical and monetary valuation of ecosystem services in aquatic ecosystems, including intrinsic social and economic values. Valuation methodologies should reflect stakeholders' perceptions of value and ensure that users of ecosystem services are involved in the process.
- 1.4 Identifying operational ecosystem services metrics that consider the interactions between people and ecosystems.

Topic 2. Understanding and predicting multiple pressures (including anthropogenic pressures) - impact – response relationships in ecosystem services through advanced methods and techniques.

- 2.1 Assessing the effect of different anthropogenic pressures from human activities and cumulative effects on ecosystems and ecosystem services.
- 2.2 Improving/Developing approaches aimed at improving our understanding of the impacts of policy interventions for the protection or restoration of ecosystem services at relevant temporal and spatial scales.
- 2.3 Developing innovative approaches for the restoration of aquatic systems (e.g. habitat dynamics, nutrient cycling, trophic relations, morphological conditions, river continuity and connectivity, sediment flows, hydraulic connectivity, groundwater flow, and ecological flow) and ecosystem services. Opportunities provided by new technological developments should be seized.
- 2.4 Analysing the potential for upscaling in space and time successful ecosystem services restoration approaches.

Topic 3. New tools and solutions for a better integration of ecosystem services into the management of water resources

- 3.1 Innovative management and governance strategies for integrating ecosystem services into conservation policies and restoration measures. Proposals should build upon the ecological knowledge of indigenous and local communities to enable their involvement in the co-design and co-implementation of proposed solutions, as well as the “One Health” approach to better understand existing links between ecosystem services and human well-being.
- 3.2 Assessing the performance of different governance systems in supporting ecosystem services (resilience, adaptation to global changes, key lessons, failures) and of developing our understanding of existing barriers or resistance in the implementation of ecosystem services frameworks.

Selected notes from Call Announcement

- It is **not compulsory to address all subtopics** within a topic in the proposals.
- It is possible to submit comprehensive proposals addressing more than one topic and subtopic.
- The context for the general call topics are described in **Theme II of the Water4All Strategic and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)**, “Water for ecosystems and biodiversity”.
- Themes VI and VII in the SRIA on “International cooperation” and “Governance”, respectively, must be considered as they are cross-cutting issues to all other themes.
- Applicants are encouraged to check links in the SRIA between ecosystem services and themes, subthemes, drivers and enablers.
- This comprehensive approach must be reflected in the proposals.

Complementary with Horizon Europe calls

- In September 2023, two other European Partnerships under Horizon Europe launched calls for research on topics that are complementary:
 - The Biodiversity Partnership ([Biodiversa+](#)) has launched a call on “**Nature-based Solutions for biodiversity, human well-being and transformative change**” on Sept. 11th 2023; referred to as BiodivNBS hereafter.
 - The Driving Urban Transition ([DUT](#)) partnership has launched a call on “**People-centred urban transformation**” on Sept. 1st 2023. Link to call webpage: [DUT Partnership Call 2023 - first information available](#).
- Aquatic ecosystems are the focus of the Water4All call whereas DUT Call is interested in urban areas and BiodivNBS is open to all environments/realms (terrestrial, aquatic, marine, coastal, etc.).
- See further details on the complementarity between the Calls on the Water4All website.

4. Expectations toward applicants

Proposals are expected to:

- Be **scientifically excellent**: The proposals can focus on the development of new knowledge through basic research and/or the implementation of solutions and tools, not duplicating past efforts and results.
- Be **multi-disciplinary**, where relevant: Consortia should also crosscut scientific disciplinary boundaries (multi- or interdisciplinarity), combining exact sciences with social sciences and humanities.
- Demonstrate a **transnational added value**: approaches should avoid focus on local cases and solutions that cannot be used or scaled-up elsewhere. Activities are not restricted to Europe, unless the national rules state otherwise.
- The results should contribute to the implementation of evidence-based, global, EU and national water management policies and strategies.

Proposals are expected to:

- Clarify how they contribute to the overall impacts defined for this call:
 - Integration of ecosystem services approach and accounting approaches in policy and practice;
 - Improved governance of ecosystems for the delivery and protection of their ecosystem services;
 - Mitigation and adaptation to global changes, and improved resilience of aquatic ecosystems for securing delivery of services;
 - Supporting the implementation of the UN SDGs and ensuring a Just Transition for all, EU Green Deal, Biodiversity Strategy;
 - Maintenance or restoration of natural ecosystems for preservation of ecosystem services;
 - Providing guidelines for the creation and management of habitats in regions where they were previously lost (e.g., in urban areas) to restore lost ecosystem services.

Q&A Session

Please ask your
questions using the
Webex Q&A Tool

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Presentation of the call process

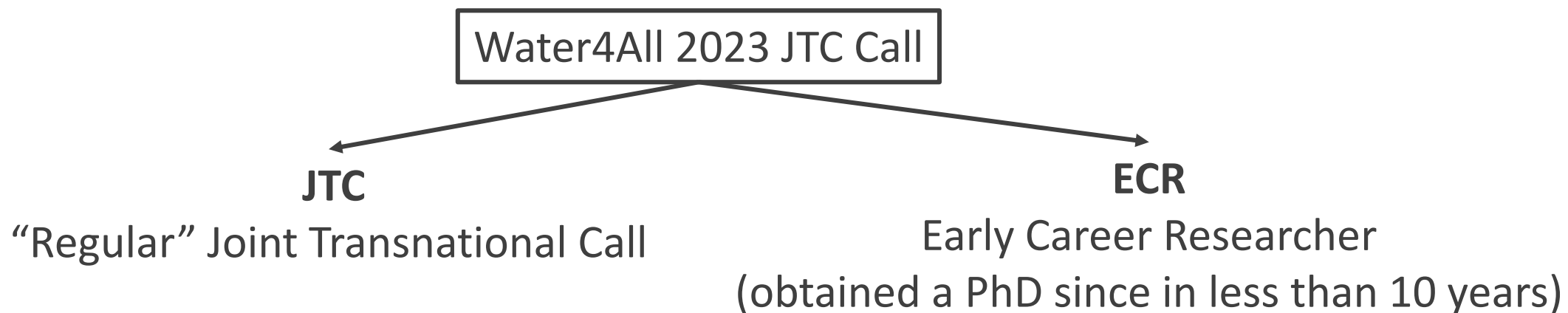
Sylvain Pasquier & Claire Treignier, ANR

5. 2023 JTC Modalities:

- **Early Career Researcher**
- **Expression of interest to participate in the Water4All Knowledge Hub**

Early Career Researcher modality

- **Coordinator** who obtained their PhD since less than 10 years before the call launch have the possibility to apply under the Early Career Researcher modality if the FPO is supporting this modality (see national regulations)
- When creating the proposal, the Coordinator chooses whether to apply under the regular JTC or under the Early Career Researcher modality:



Consortium Coordinator who complies with the ECR criteria may decide whether they wish to participate in the JTC or in the ECR, however, participation in both modalities is incompatible.

Early Career Researcher modality

- **Only the coordinator** needs to comply with this criteria. Principal Investigators of other consortium partners or the team members do not need to be early career researchers. -> only the FPO funding the coordinator must participate in the ECR modality, and not the rest of the FPOs funding the partners in the ECR Consortium (unless the national rules state otherwise)
- All other **General eligibility criteria are the same** (e.g. consortium composition)
- The ECR modality is governed by the same thematic framework (**same topics**) and the same proposal structure is expected.
- Evaluation and ranking of the proposals submitted in the JTC and ECR will be subject to the same rules:
 - same evaluation criteria
 - a unique ranking of all the proposals
- However, in their final funding decisions, **in case of equal ranking** Funding Organisations **will prioritize the projects submitted under the ECR modality whenever possible**

Expression of interest to participate in the 2023 Water4All Knowledge Hub

- Researchers from Transnational Projects funded in both the regular JTC and the ECR modality can express their interest to participate in the 2023 Water4All Knowledge Hub.
- The Knowledge Hub will function as a networking platform for experts with the aim to translate and transfer the JTC and ECR **projects' outcomes into applicable recommendations to support evidence-based decision-making processes for targeted stakeholders and policymakers.**
- The Knowledge Hub falls under the general theme of JTC Call, “Aquatic Ecosystem Services”, and its duration is equal to the duration of projects funded (i.e. 36 months).
- Projects with expression of interest for KH will not be favored over other projects! Knowledge Hub expression of interest will not be evaluated by the evaluation panel.

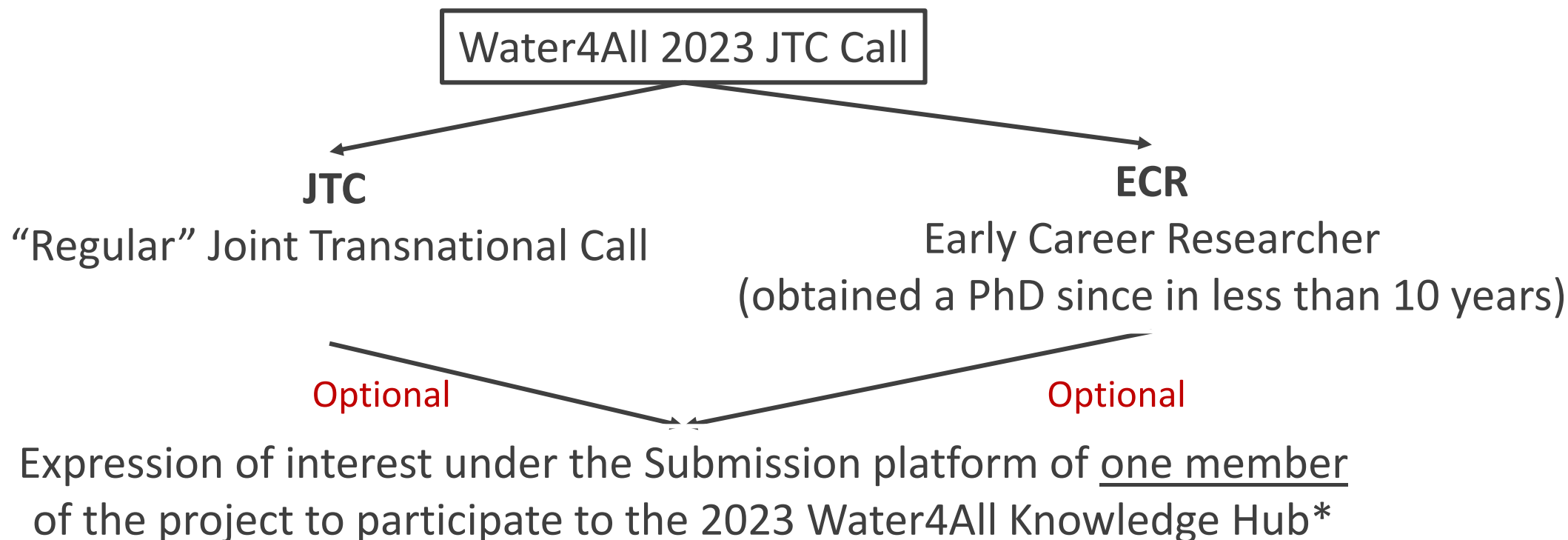
Expression of interest to participate in the 2023 Water4All Knowledge Hub

- Three physical workshops (from 2025 to 2028) in addition to a series of online meetings are foreseen for the Expert Group as Knowledge Hub activities.
- The composition of the KH Expert Group is as follows:
 - a) Expert group members: researchers and experts from the 2023 funded projects (regular JTC or ECR modality).
 - b) Two scientific coordinators to co-chair the Expert Group and ensure the scientific coordination of the Knowledge Hub activities
 - c) One facilitator, who has expertise and competence in knowledge brokerage and communication activities.

* See further details on the Knowledge Hub Governance in the Call documents - Annex C “Terms of reference of the Water4All Knowledge Hub”

Expression of interest to participate in the 2023 Water4All Knowledge Hub

- Each project consortium has the option to propose maximum 1 person, either as expert group member, scientific coordinator or facilitator to participate to 2023 Water4All Knowledge Hub.



* Not all Funding organisations participate in the KH, please consult the Call text or your national annexes.

6. Call process & Eligibility rules

Participating countries and rules for participation

- **36 Funding Performing Organisations (FPOs)** from **30 countries**
- **37 M€** national commitments from FPOs and EC co-funding

- Applicants must comply with:
 - the general (international) eligibility criteria defined in the Call text
 - the national eligibility criteria defined by the FPOs in the national regulations

- In addition to the general criteria, the FPOs may have defined:
 - Maximum allowed budget per partner and/or project
 - Possibility to participate or not in the ECR modality and in the Knowledge Hub.
 - Other national criteria

Participating countries/FPOs and budgets

21	Country	FPO	JTC	ECR	KH	Tentative budget
1	Austria	FWF	X	No	No	500 000
2	Belgium	FIO	X	No	X	800 000
3	Belgium	FWO	X	X	X	700 000
4	Belgium	F.R.S.-FNRS	X	X	X	300 000
5	Brazil	CONFAP	X	X	X	1 990 000
6	Brazil	CNPq	X	No	No	100 000
7	Czechia	TA CR	X	No	X	450 000
8	Denmark	IFD	X	No	No	1 000 000
9	Estonia	ETAg	X	No	No	300 000
10	Finland	AKA	X	X	X	850 000
11	Finland	YM	X	X	No	150 000
12	France	ANR	X	X	X	1 700 000
13	Greece	GSRI	X	No	No	500 000
14	Hungary	NKFIH	X	No	No	330 000
15	Ireland	EPA	X	X	X	500 000
16	Italy	MUR	X	X	X	2 000 000
17	Italy	MIMIT	X	No	No	3 000 000
18	Israel	MoE	X	No	No	400 000
19	Latvia	LZP	X	X	No	600 000
20	Lithuania	LMT	X	X	No	200 000
21	Luxembourg	FNR	X	X	No	350 000

22	Malta	MEEE	X	X	X	300 000
23	Moldova	NARD	X	X	X	100 000
24	Netherlands	NWO	X	No	X	1 500 000
25	Norway	RCN	X	X	X	1 000 000
26	Poland	NCBR	X	No	No	1 000 000
27	Portugal	FCT	X	X	X	500 000
28	Romania	UEFISCDI	X	No	No	1 000 000
29	Slovak Republic	SAS	X	No	No	240 000
30	South Africa	WRC and DSI	X	No	No	90 000
31	Spain	AEI	X	X	X	1 500 000
32	Spain	CDTI	X	No	No	1 200 000
33	Sweden	FORMAS	X	X	X	2 000 000
34	Switzerland	SNSF	X	X	No	1 100 000
35	Turkey	TUBITAK	X	No	No	500 000
36	United Kingdom	EPSRC UKRI and NERC	X	No	X	1 450 000
Estimated EU contribution (in Euro)						6 899 220
Total national commitments (in Euro)						30 200 000
Total contribution (in Euro)						37 099 220

General eligibility rules - Consortium Composition

- Each consortium must be composed of at least a minimum of **three eligible partners that request funding from participating Funding Partner Organisations from three different countries.**
 - In addition, part of the eligible Partners, **at least two must be from different EU Member States or Associated Countries (AC)** participating in the call (https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf)
 - Other countries in Water4All call are Brazil, Switzerland and UK.
- **The upper limit of eligible project partners per consortium is 7 (including 1 self-funded partner).**
 - 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**.
 - A self-funded partner cannot coordinate a project.

General eligibility rules - Consortium Composition

- The maximum number of partners from the same country within the consortium must comply with national/regional regulations.

A consortium including organisations from Portugal, Italy and Brazil (Non EU member BUT participating in the Call)

Eligible

- ✓ 2 different EU MS and AC (Portugal and Italy) & Partners from 3 different countries participating in the call (Brazil)

A consortium including organisations from France, Spain and Cyprus (as self-funded partner)

Not Eligible

- ✓ 2 different EU MS and AC (France and Spain) & Partners from 3 different countries participating in the call (Cyprus is not participating in the call)
-

Other general eligibility rules

- **Project duration: 3 years**
- The **Consortium Coordinator must be eligible** for funding by a Funding Partner Organisation (FPO) of this call.
- The Principal Investigator acting as **Consortium Coordinator** can only participate in one proposal of this call, i.e., he/she cannot participate in any other proposal, neither as a Consortium Coordinator nor as Principal Investigator of a partner. In roles other than that of a Coordinator, the applicants can participate in several proposals, as long as this is in line with their funding organisation's eligibility rules.
- Proposals must be written in **English**.
- Workload distribution:
 - No partner shall have more than 50% of PM.
 - Partners from the same country shall not have, altogether, more than 50 % of PM

Self-funded partners and eligibility of international research institutions

- **Institutions from countries not participating in the Call** may join consortia only as partners (**not a coordinator**). Participation will be **at the institutions' own expense**. Max 1 self-funded partner per consortium allowed.
- Self funded 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.
- **The Joint Research Centre (JRC)** can participate in a proposal as a self-funded partner.
- **International institutions** need to investigate their respective national eligibility guidelines if they are eligible to participate as funded partners and make sure they would be able to fulfil the duties of funded projects (i.e. signature of consortium agreement).

Funding organisations' financial rules and eligibility criteria

Each National / regional Funding Organisation funds its own national / regional team

!! Applicants must comply with their funding organisations' eligibility criteria and rules
(e.g. eligible budget items)

Applicants are strongly advised to approach their respective Funding organisation Contact Point to make sure they respect all the eligibility criteria and rules **!!**

Consult the Funding Organisations' Contact Points and National Regulations **in the call documents to download** on the 2023 JTC dedicated webpage: <https://www.water4all-partnership.eu/joint-activities/water4all-2023-joint-transnational-call>

- **NATIONAL REGULATIONS:**

https://www.water4all-partnership.eu/sites/www.water4all-partnership.eu/files/2023-09/water4all_jtc2023_national_regulations.pdf

- **THE LIST OF NCPs**

Changes allowed between pre & full proposals

!! The information given in the pre-proposals is binding**!!**

- **No major changes regarding the proposals' content** will be allowed 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 rules of the Funding Partner Organisations (FPO). Participant shall contact the call secretariat via e-mail and their NCP.
 - **Minor change of budget** if allowed by the relevant FPO.
 - **No changes of coordinator** (P.I. Principal Investigator in charge) 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.

Changes in the consortium composition

- **A limited number of changes in the consortium composition** 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.

WHAT IS CONSIDERED AS A CHANGE?

- **Addition, removal or replacement of a Partner** (incl. subcontracted and self-financed partners).
- Please note that the maximum number of changes applies to **“Partner”, i.e., the independent legal entity** participating in the Transnational RD&I project

- **In terms of procedure:** The eligibility of new research Partners must be confirmed before the full proposal submission deadline. Changes must be asked first to the NCP, who needs to check the eligibility and agree with the change.

Submission procedure

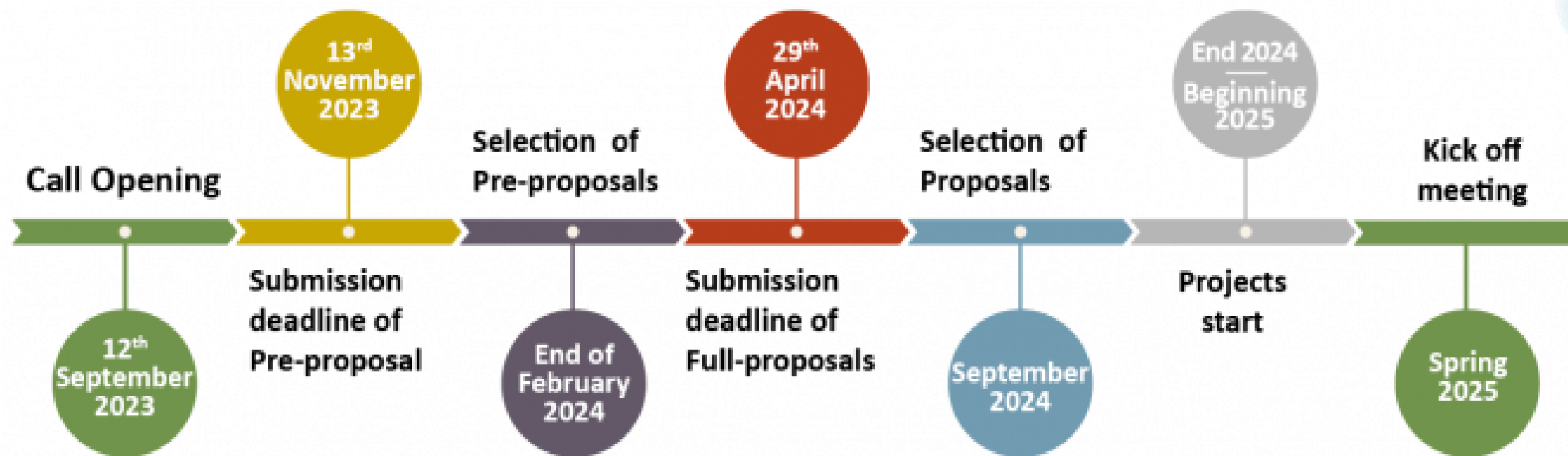
- **STEP 1: Mandatory submission of pre-proposals** through the Electronic platform submission system (EPSS) under the regular JTC or ECR modality
 - !! Applicants cannot enter the procedure at a later stage !!
 - Eligibility check (Call Secretariat and related Funding Organisations)
 - First evaluation by independent evaluation panel according to the following criteria:
 - i. Excellence*
 - ii. Impact*

Minimum threshold, i.e., 3 out of 5 in each criterion.
- **STEP 2: Applicants invited to step 2 have to submit a full proposal via the Electronic platform submission system**
 - Eligibility check (Call Secretariat and related Funding Organisations)
 - Evaluation by an independent evaluation panel according to the following criteria:
 - i. Excellence*
 - ii. Quality and efficiency of the implementation*
 - iii. Impact*

Threshold on the final score is 10/15 .

Timeline

!! Do not wait until the last minute to submit !!



Q&A Session

Please ask your
questions using the
Webex Q&A Tool

Conclusions

Resources available online

Water4All website dedicated section « Joints Calls / Open Calls»

<https://www.water4all-partnership.eu/joint-activities/water4all-2023-joint-transnational-call>

➤ **CALL DOCUMENTS available for download** containing the following information:

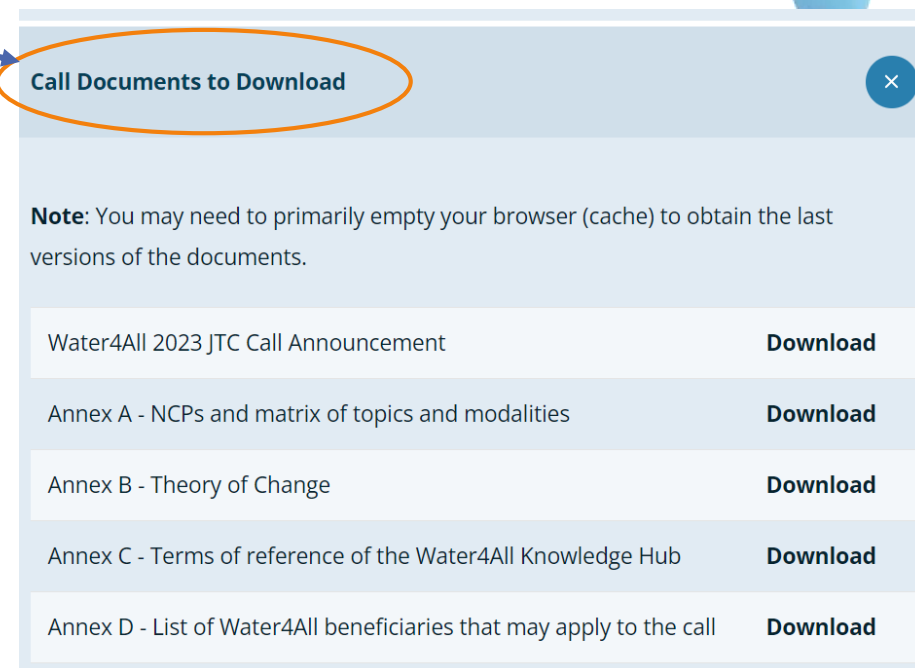
- Call Announcement (call text)
- Annex A - NCPs and matrix of topics and modalities
- Annex B - Theory of Change
- Annex C - Terms of reference of the Water4All Knowledge Hub
- Annex D (Only for applicants of organisations that are also involved in Water4All)
- National Regulations
- Preproposal Template

➤ Link to the **Online Submission Tool**

➤ **Partnering Tool** (If you are looking for a partner or for a project to join)

➤ **Coming Soon:**

- Webinar recording and master presentation



Call Documents to Download

Note: You may need to primarily empty your browser (cache) to obtain the last versions of the documents.

Water4All 2023 JTC Call Announcement	Download
Annex A - NCPs and matrix of topics and modalities	Download
Annex B - Theory of Change	Download
Annex C - Terms of reference of the Water4All Knowledge Hub	Download
Annex D - List of Water4All beneficiaries that may apply to the call	Download

IMPORTANT: check the website regularly, as there may be updates on the call, including the national regulations!!

Submission Platform and Partnering Tool

- **Water4All Electronic platform submission system (EPSS):**
<https://proposals.etag.ee/water4all/>

- **Use the Water4All Partnering Tool**

You simply have to fill in a Partner / Project Search form on the Online Submission Platform:

<https://proposals.etag.ee/water4all/2023/partner-search>

- ❖ Your form will be visible on the platform and you may be contacted by other applicants
- ❖ Have a look at the forms submitted through a user-friendly search function: search for partners or projects to join on the platform according to different criteria: country, call topic, keywords (already more than 40 entries!)



The graphic features the Water4All logo at the top. Below it, the text 'Partnering tool' is displayed in a bold, dark blue font, with 'Aquatic Ecosystem Services Call' in a smaller font underneath. To the left, there is a circular icon with a lightbulb and three stylized human figures below it. On the right, the text '50 & + Registrations!' is written in large, bold green and blue letters. At the bottom right, the text 'Find a partner' and 'Find a project' is written in blue.

Water4All
Water security for the planet

Partnering tool
Aquatic Ecosystem Services Call

50 & +
Registrations!

Find a partner
Find a project

Find out more about the call:

<https://www.water4all-partnership.eu/joint-activities/water4all-2023-joint-transnational-call>

Partnering tool:

<https://proposals.etag.ee/water4all/2023/partner-search>

Online submission tool:

<https://proposals.etag.ee/water4all/>

Contacts:

2023 Call Secretariat (ANR):

Claire Treignier & Sylvain Pasquier Water4All-CallsFR@agencerecherche.fr
and

National Contact Points

National regulations:

https://www.water4all-partnership.eu/sites/www.water4all-partnership.eu/files/2023-09/water4all_jtc2023_national_regulations.pdf

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION

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