

GeoERA – Stage Two Call

Instructions to Technical Reviewers

This document serves as a guide for technical experts to review Project Proposals submitted for the GeoERA Stage Two Call. The technical reviewer is to provide reasons/justification of each criterion as well as input on the strengths and weaknesses of each proposal, drawing attention to any specific points and including any constructive feedback to give to the applicants.

GeoERA is a H2020 ERA-NET, which aims to set up a European Geological Research Area, which stimulates transnational sharing of knowledge, people and infrastructure by:

- promoting the free movement of researchers, technology and knowledge
- address challenges more effectively on a high international level
- ensure effective and efficient use of public funds by aligning national research agendas

It is relevant to realise that working at the boundaries of countries, as similar to the boundaries of disciplines, is challenging, but will deliver new insights. The aim for GeoERA is therefore not to deliver high and new technologies as in H2020, but deliver a harmonised geological knowledge base across borders. To achieve this, all geological survey organizations (GSOs) will collaborate by aligning their national research agenda's and national funds (around 70%) to carry out work within GeoERA. While some surveys are already involved in research activities and familiar with EU-funding and administration, others are not familiar with this as their responsibilities are defined – and restricted – to their national task of gathering data and using these to provide unbiased information on subsurface. The projects under GeoERA will therefore also reflect capacity building and knowledge sharing on collaboration in a European context. This should be kept in mind while evaluating the GeoERA Project Proposals.

Evaluation

For details on the evaluation process we advise you to:

- consult the relevant section in GeoERA Joint Call Document [No. 8: Evaluation and Selection](#) to get familiar with details on the review procedure.
- read the introduction and the relevant SRTs from the GeoERA Joint Call Document [No. 9: Call Announcement and Scientific Scope](#).
- understand the excellence, impact and the implementation requirements of proposals by reading Joint Call Document [No. 11: Submission Template for Project Proposals](#), including Submission Guide.
- contact NWO (geoera@nwo.nl) if a conflict of interest is identified, or find that the research is outside of their area of expertise (keep in mind that GeoERA chose to have experts with rather general than specific expertise).

GeoERA Aims & Objectives

GeoERA **aims** to integrate European Geological Survey Organisations' (GSOs) information and knowledge on subsurface energy, water and raw material resources to support sustainable use of the subsurface in addressing Europe's societal challenges.

GeoERA addresses four themes: **A) Geo-Energy, B) Groundwater, C) Raw Materials, and D) Information Platform**. The Information Platform theme is crosscutting in nature, and is designed to provide a sustainable framework to disseminate the findings and data from the other themes. The Scientific Scope of the GeoERA Research Programme and the objectives are described in GeoERA Joint Call Document [No. 9: Call Announcement and Scientific Scope](#). A more elaborated list of objectives for each theme, used in the Stage One Call phase, can be found – for information - in GeoERA Call Document [No. 4: Scientific Scope](#).



Project Proposals have been submitted to reflect the Specific Research Topics (SRTs) that accomplish the general challenges, objectives and scope of the specific GeoERA Themes. In all SRTs submitting proposals on cross-thematic research is encouraged. The SRTs can be found in the GeoERA Call Document [No. 9: Call Announcement and Scientific Scope](#).

The Project Proposals should address the development of:

- Interoperable, pan-European data and information services on the distribution of geo-energy, groundwater and raw material resources and harmonized methods to assess them;
- Common assessment frameworks and methodologies supporting a better understanding and management of the water-energy-raw materials nexus and potential impacts and risks of subsurface use;
- Knowledge and services aimed at European, national and regional policy makers, industry and other stakeholders.

The **objectives** of the Projects Proposals should be to:

- Integrate national and regional research resources;
- Develop, improve, optimize and harmonize pan-European geological data and information at a scale and resolution that is useful for national and regional geological mapping programmes;
- Contribute to the establishment of a common European Geological Knowledge, and to the provision of a Geological Service for Europe, through a Geological Research Area.

The European Geological Knowledge Base will provide European stakeholders with access to objective and seamless data, information, knowledge and expertise on subsurface resources. This will contribute to the following **goals**:

- Facilitate the optimal use and sustainable management of the subsurface; maximising its added value for energy, groundwater and raw material resources; while minimising environmental impacts and footprints;
- Support the reaching of good environmental status for subterranean and seabed resources.

Note to reviewers:

Please note that all comments (but not your identity) will be revealed to the applicants.

An independent observer will observe the reviewing and evaluation process of the GeoERA Stage 2 Call. If you have any comments you wish to share with him, please contact Duncan Jarvis: duncan.jarvis@euramet.org.



Criterion 1: Excellence

1.1. Relevance to call objectives

Please comment on the following aspects:

- Is the topic description of the proposal addressed in the Specific Research Topic (GeoERA Joint Call Document [No. 9 – Call Announcement and Scientific Scope](#))
- Are the challenges and scope of the Specific Research Topic addressed in the proposal?¹

Please specify the STRENGTHS of this proposal within this criterion

Please specify the WEAKNESSES of this proposal within this criterion

¹ In some SRTs proposers can choose to only react on a part of the scope, especially in the SRTs: GE2, GE6 and GW1.



1.2. Scientific and/or technological excellence

Please assess the following:

- The soundness of concept and credibility of the proposed methodology
- The project ambitions beyond state-of-the-art
- Innovation potential (e.g., ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches, new products, services or business and organisational models)
- Appropriate consideration of interdisciplinary approaches (in particular interactions with other GeoERA themes) and use of stakeholder knowledge.

Please specify the STRENGTHS of this proposal within this criterion

Please specify the WEAKNESSES of this proposal within this criterion



Criterion 2: Impact

2.1 Expected and additional impacts

Please refer to the GeoERA themes indicated in this proposal (Joint Call Document [No. 9 – Call Announcement and Scientific Scope](#)):

- Does the output of the project contribute to the expected impact of GeoERA as a whole and the SRT, as described above in the instructions for reviewers?
- Are there other substantial impacts mentioned in the proposal, that would enhance innovation capacity, create new market opportunities, and/or strengthen competitiveness and growth of companies?
- Does the proposal address issues related to Horizon 2020 challenges, specifically climate change and/or environment, and cover the interest of multiple European countries, or bring other important benefits for society?

Please specify the STRENGTHS of this proposal within this criterion

Please specify the WEAKNESSES of this proposal within this criterion



2.2. Measures to maximize impact

Are the measures described appropriate for:

- The exploitation and dissemination of the projects' results (including management of IPR)?
- Where relevant – the management of research data?
- Sufficient for communicating the project activities to different target audiences to achieve the expected impacts?

Please specify the STRENGTHS of this proposal within this criterion

Please specify the WEAKNESSES of this proposal within this criterion



Criterion 3: Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation

Please assess:

- The quality and effectiveness of the work plan, including the extent to which the resources assigned to the work packages are in line with work plan's objectives and deliverables.
- The effectiveness of the proposed management structures and procedures, including risk and innovation management.
- The match of the consortium to the project's objectives thereby bringing together the necessary expertise.
- The quality of the consortium as a whole, including complementarity and balance.
- The appropriateness of the allocated tasks, ensuring that all participants have a valid role with adequate resources to fulfil this role.

Please specify the STRENGTHS of this proposal within this criterion

Please specify the WEAKNESSES of this proposal within this criterion



4. Overview

How would you rate the overall quality of the proposed research in relation to the criteria above?

- Excellent
- Very Good
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

Please specify