

GeoERA



Establishing the European Geological Surveys Research Area to deliver a Geological Service for Europe

JOINT CALL DOCUMENT NO.2

INTRODUCTION TO THE CALL PROCEDURE

Joint Call on applied geoscience in the fields of:

- Geo-energy
- Groundwater
- Raw materials
- Information platform

This document is an informal document for information purposes only.

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1 Introduction

This **Joint Call Document No.2** provides a brief overview of the Call Procedure used in the GeoERA Joint Call. The Joint Call procedure is accompanied by a series of modular **Joint Call (JC) Documents, No.1 to No.12**, The Project implementation procedure is accompanied by two the **Project Implementation Documents (PI) No.1 and No.2**. These documents will be published at <http://geoera.eu/call/>, which support specific steps of the procedure (Table 1).

Table 1 Joint Call and Project Implementation Documents

| <i>Joint Call Phase</i> | |
|---|--|
| No JC 1 | Call Announcement |
| No JC 2 | Introduction to the Call Procedure |
| No JC 3 | Admissibility and Eligibility |
| <i>Stage One - Call for Project Ideas</i> | |
| No JC 4 | Scientific Scope |
| No JC 5 | Submission Guide |
| No JC 6 | Submission Template |
| No JC 7 | Eligibility Check and Assessment |
| <i>Stage Two - Call for Project Proposals</i> | |
| No JC 8 | Evaluation and Selection of GeoERA projects |
| No JC 9 | Call Announcement and Scientific Scope |
| No JC 10 | Online Submission Tool |
| No JC 11 | Submission Guide |
| No JC 12 | Submission Template |
| <i>Project Implementation phase</i> | |
| No PI 1 | Reporting procedures and Monitoring Indicators |
| No PI 2 | Reporting Templates and E-Tool |

GeoERA is an ERA-NET Co-fund Action. It is supported by the European Commission (EC) under “Secure, Clean and Efficient Energy” topic LCE-26-2016 “Cross-thematic ERA-NET on Applied Geosciences” of the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, GeoERA addresses three specific challenges relevant to the sustainable use of the subsurface: Geo-Energy, Groundwater and Raw Materials, combined with the development of an Information Platform.

The GeoERA Consortium is formed by the majority of national and regional Geological Survey Organizations in Europe.



The task of GeoERA is:

- To implement and co-fund together with the EC a Joint Call for transnational research project. The transnational projects selected in the call will be implemented by the consortium partners themselves, who provide their co-funding in-kind.
- To contribute to the overall EU objective of building the ERA through enhanced cooperation and coordination of national and regional Geological Survey research programmes.

The Joint Call budget is 30,3 M €, of which 10 M € is contributed by the EC. The budget is divided over the four GeoERA Call themes as shown in Table 2.

Table 2 Budget per GeoERA Call theme

| Call Theme | Budget |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Geo-energy | EUR 10,3 million |
| Groundwater | EUR 7,7 million |
| Raw Materials | EUR 8,4 million |
| Information Platform | EUR 3,9 million |
| Total | EUR 30,3 million |

2 Joint Call Procedure

Responsibility for the implementation of the GeoERA Joint Call for transnational research projects lies with the GeoERA General Assembly. The call procedure is coordinated by the GeoERA Call Secretariat and monitored by the GeoERA Executive Board, and has been approved by the GeoERA General Assembly and the EC. The Call follows a two-stage procedure (**Joint Call Document No.1 “Call Announcement”**):

- Stage One of the Joint Call is for *Project Ideas*. It is open to any interested party. The *Project Ideas* received in Stage One will provide input for the formulation of Specific Research Topics in Stage Two of the Joint Call.
- Stage Two of the Joint Call is for *Project Proposals* that should address Specific Research Topics. Stage Two is open only to GeoERA participants. Third parties could join on their own expenses.

Admissibility and eligibility for participating in the Joint Call is described in **Joint Call Document No.3 “Admissibility and Eligibility Criteria”**. The procedure will be steered by the time schedule shown in Table 3.



Table 3 Time schedule of the Co-Fund Action

| Phase | Stage | Description | Date (mm/yyyy) |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|----------------|
| | Kick-off GeoERA | Pre-Announcement | 01.2017 |
| Joint Call | Stage One Project Ideas | Launch of the Stage One Call for Project Ideas | 04.2017 |
| | | Deadline for submission of proposed Project Ideas | 06.2017 |
| | Stage Two Project Proposals | Launch of the Stage Two Call for Project Proposals | 10.2017 |
| | | Deadline to submit Project Proposals | 12.2017 |
| | | Selection of Joint Research Projects | 04.2018 |
| Project Implementation | Projects Kick-off | Expected start of Joint Research Projects | 06.2018 |
| | Projects End | Joint Research Projects end | 06.2021 |
| | Close-out GeoERA | | 12-2021 |

2.1 Stage One Call for Project Ideas

Project Ideas are short proposals allowing stakeholders to provide input to the content of the GeoERA Joint Research Programme, thereby helping GeoERA to focus effort and resources on the most urgent challenges and needs related to applied geoscience research for Europe. All interested parties can submit proposals for Project Ideas provided they are within the area covered by the Scientific Scope (**Joint Call Document No.4 “Scientific Scope – Stage One”**). Project Ideas must be submitted using the provided template (**Joint Call Document No.6 “Submission Template - Stage One”**). A detailed instruction and description on how to complete the Submission Template is given (**Joint Call Document No.5 “Submission Guide – Stage One”**). to be submitted to The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO). NWO is an official subcontractor of the GeoERA Call Secretariat and ensures impartiality and transparency during the review stages.

After closure of the submission deadline, the submitted Project Ideas will formally be checked on admissibility and eligibility against GeoERA criteria by the GeoERA Secretariat. Eligible Project Ideas will then be assessed by the GeoERA Executive Board (EB) on their contents (**Joint Call Document No.7 “Eligibility Check and Assessment”**). The EB may choose to merge, split or amend Project Ideas to create a number of Specific Research Topics (SRTs). The SRTs will form the Scientific Scope for the Stage Two Call for Project Proposals.

Please note the Project Ideas are not pre-proposals! Project Ideas should describe stakeholder needs. How these needs should be addressed is not requested in Stage One (only at Stage Two). Submission of a Project Proposal at Stage Two is not dependent on the successful submission of a Project Idea in Stage One, i.e. whether a Project Idea is assessed and/or taken on board in the description of a Specific Research Topic.



2.2 Stage Two Call for Project Proposals

Call Stage Two (**Joint Call Document No.9 “Call Announcement and Scientific Scope”**) invites eligible parties (**Joint Call Document No.3 “Admissibility and Eligibility”**) to submit full Project Proposals addressing one Specific Research Topic. All parties submitting proposals at Stage Two will be treated equally, regardless of any input at Stage One. Stage Two Project Proposals must be submitted using the provided template (**Joint Call Document No.12 “Submission Template”**) A detailed instruction and description on how to complete the Submission Template is given (**Joint Call Document No.11 “Submission Guide”**).

At Stage Two, eligible proposals will be subject to an Independent Expert Evaluation (**Joint Call Document No.8 “Evaluation and Selection”**). Submitted project proposals will be checked for Eligibility and Admissibility (**Joint Call Document No.3**) by the GeoERA Secretariat. Eligible Project Proposals will be forwarded to the Expert Panel. Evaluation of the eligible proposals by the Expert Panel will follow the rules described in **Joint Call Document No.8 “Evaluation and Selection”** of GeoERA projects, which are based on the general H2020 evaluation rules where appropriate, and the award criteria Excellence, Impact and Quality and Efficiency of Implementation. The Expert Panel will prepare a consensus report for each Project Proposal and establish a ranking list of the fundable Project Proposals. An Independent Observer and a European Commission representative will accompany the process.

2.3 Decision process for funding

The ranking list is forwarded to the Executive Board, which draws up a recommendation for projects to be funded based on the ranking list, following the rules described in **Joint Call Document No. 8 “Evaluation and Selection of GeoERA projects”**. This recommendation is sent to the General Assembly, which will meet to decide on the final list of projects to be funded. The GeoERA Secretariat collects the outcome of the evaluation and communicates the results to the proposers.

3 Project Implementation Procedure

Joint Research Projects can have a duration of up to 36 months. Joint Research Projects are expected to start in June 2018 on the basis of Project Agreements.

4 Monitoring

Monitoring of Joint Research Projects will be carried out to ensure the quality of implemented activities and results, in line with the strategic objectives, goals and scope of the GeoERA. Projects will be required to submit Progress Reports twice during lifetime of the project followed by presentation of activities and results achieved on Review Meeting. More details about monitoring procedures can be found in **Project Implementation Document No.1 “Monitoring indicators and procedures”**.