



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

## Deliverable 1.6

### Report on the outcome of the co-funded call

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## 1 SUMMARY CO-FUNDED CALL

The GeoERA joint call has two stages: Stage One Call for Project Ideas, and Stage Two Call for Project Proposals. Deliverable 3.3 described the process from receiving Ideas in Stage One to the deliverance of the call text for Stage Two, i.e. Joint Call Document No. 9 – [Call Announcement and Scientific Scope](#).

Deliverable 3.5 describes the process from the launch of Stage Two Call for Project Proposals, the evaluation process, and the selection of proposals for funding. Besides from an overview with conclusions, this document comprises: reports describing the procedure when selecting experts, the review process, Independent Expert Panel Meeting, final and approved ranking list and minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> General Assembly.

This deliverable presents the scores and ranking list and the joint selection of projects to be funded. The Annex includes the evaluation report of the Independent Observer with a written reaction of the Executive Board. The formal commitment letters on the availability of funds of the beneficiaries are included as well.



## 2 SCORES AND RANKING LIST PROJECTS

At March 21<sup>st</sup> 2018 the Independent Expert Panel met in The Hague, The Netherlands, for a review meeting arranged and facilitated by The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO). The Panel reviewed the 17 proposal received as a result of the GeoERA Stage Two Call, and scored and ranked the proposals as can be seen in table 1 below.

Evaluation consensus reports on each proposal can be found in *Deliverable 3.4 Ranking list*.

*Table 1. Scores and ranking (within each theme) of the proposals submitted to the GeoERA Stage Two Call*

Proposal no.	Acronym	Rank	Criterion I - Excellence	Criterion II - Impact	Criterion III - Implementation	Total score	SRT	Requested budget (€)
GeoE.171.014	GIP-P	1	3.5	3.5	3.5	10.5	IP1	3,860,804
GeoE.171.013	HOVER	1	5	4.5	5	14.5	GW1	2,999,814
GeoE.171.008	TACTIC	2	4.5	4.5	4.5	13.5	GW2	1,799,979
GeoE.171.004	RESOURces	3	3.5	4	4	11.5	GW3	2,465,654
GeoE.171.015	VoGERA	4	3.5	4	4	11.5	GW4	433,781
GeoE.171.001	MINDeSEA	1	3.5	4	4.5	12	RM3	783,285
GeoE.171.016	Mintell4EU	2	4	3	5	12	RM1	2,859,159
GeoE.171.017	EuroLithos	3	4	3	4	11	RM2	1,100,357
GeoE.171.010	FRAME	4	3.5	3	4	10.5	RM4	3,139,634
GeoE.171.012	AGRRE-GRADES	5	3	3	4.5	10.5	RM2	1,936,616
GeoE.171.006	MUSE	1	4.5	4	4.5	13	GE2	1,313,260
GeoE.171.007	HotLime	2	4	4	4	12	GE2	1,658,728
GeoE.171.011	HIKE	3	4	4	4	12	GE4	1,620,649
GeoE.171.005	3DGEO-EU	4	4	3.5	4	11.5	GE5	3,651,677
GeoE.171.009	GeoConnect <sup>3d</sup>	5	4	3.5	4	11.5	GE6	1,827,753
GeoE.171.002	GARAH	6	3.5	3.5	3.5	10.5	GE1	1,060,707
GeoE.171.003	Geo4Sure	7	3.5	3.5	3.5	10.5	GE2	974,719





### 3 JOINT SELECTION LIST OF THE PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED

After the Independent Expert Panel Meeting, the GeoERA Executive Board met in The Hague on March 22nd to develop recommendation for selection of proposals for funding, see *Deliverable 3.5 Report on call stage two*.

After selecting the highest ranked proposals for funding within each theme until the individual available theme budget were exhausted, small amounts of budget was left over in all four themes. This added up to EUR 785,466 which was not enough to fund the highest ranked proposal (GARAH) of those not being recommended for funding within their own themes

However, the Executive Board decided to explore whether the left over budget could be allocated to GARAH and put forward the suggestion to the General Assembly, the Project Officer of the European Commission, and to the Project Consortium to carry out the project with a lower reimbursement rate, resulting in 22% EC contribution instead of the agreed 29,7% that applied to the already recommended proposals.

The recommendations of the Executive Board were agreed at the General Assembly meeting in Vienna April 13<sup>th</sup>. See *Deliverable 5.4* for details.



Table 2. Final list of projects to be carried out

\* GARAH have accepted a lower reimbursement rate (22%) than the other projects (29,7%)

Proposal no.	Acronym	Rank	Criterion I - Excellence	Criterion II - Impact	Criterion III - Implementation	Total score	SRT	Requested budget ( € )	Cumulative budget (€)
GeoE.171.014	GIP-P	1	3.5	3.5	3.5	10.5	IP1	3,860,804	3,860,804
GeoE.171.013	HOVER	1	5	4.5	5	14.5	GW1	2,999,814	2,999,814
GeoE.171.008	TACTIC	2	4.5	4.5	4.5	13.5	GW2	1,799,979	4,799,793
GeoE.171.004	RESOURces	3	3.5	4	4	11.5	GW3	2,465,654	7,265,447
GeoE.171.015	VoGERA	4	3.5	4	4	11.5	GW4	433,781	7,699,228
GeoE.171.001	MINDeSEA	1	3.5	4	4,5	12	RM3	783,285	783,285
GeoE.171.016	Mintell4EU	2	4	3	5	12	RM1	2,859,159	3,642,444
GeoE.171.017	EuroLithos	3	4	3	4	11	RM2	1,100,357	4,742,801
GeoE.171.010	FRAME	4	3.5	3	4	10.5	RM4	3,139,634	7,882,435
GeoE.171.006	MUSE	1	4.5	4	4.5	13	GE2	1,313,260	1,313,260
GeoE.171.007	HotLime	2	4	4	4	12	GE2	1,658,728	2,971,988
GeoE.171.011	HIKE	3	4	4	4	12	GE4	1,620,649	4,592,637
GeoE.171.005	3DGEO-EU	4	4	3.5	4	11.5	GE5	3,651,677	8,244,314
GeoE.171.009	GeoConnect <sup>3d</sup>	5	4	3.5	4	11.5	GE6	1,827,753	10,072,067
GeoE.171.002	GARAH	6	3.5	3.5	3.5	10.5	GE1	1,060,707*	11,132,774



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## **4 ANNEXES**

### **4.1 Evaluation report Independent Observer**



GeoERA CALL 2018 –

# INDEPENDENT OBSERVER'S REPORT

DUNCAN JARVIS

Version 1.0, issued 2018-04-15

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The independent observer is assigned to report on the evaluation process of the GeoERA 2018 Call, to ensure the rules that govern the GeoERA ERA-NET-Cofund action 731166 are being adhered to. In particular, this covers the way that the expert evaluators apply the evaluation criteria and the process of arriving at a fair and transparent consensus on the single ranked list of proposals. In carrying out this function, the independent observer must not express any opinions on the proposals or the expert's opinions but may offer observations and suggestions on how the procedures could be improved.

## OVERVIEW OF THE JOINT CALL

48 national and regional Geological Survey Organisations (GSOs) from 33 European countries have joined forces to develop an ERA-NET Co-Fund Action: Establishing the European Geological Surveys Research Area to deliver a Geological Service for Europe (GeoERA).

The main objective of GeoERA is to contribute to the optimal use and management of the subsurface. GeoERA will launch a co-funded joint call that will fund transnational research projects that will aim to support 1) a more integrated and efficient management and 2) more responsible and publicly accepted, exploitation and use of the subsurface.

The co-funded joint call is a two stage call to fund transnational research projects and will cover the applied geosciences, addressing the following four themes:

1. **Geo-energy.** Secure, clean and efficient energy are at the heart of the H2020's Societal Challenge 3. As Europe progresses to make its transition to a reliable, sustainable and competitive energy...
2. **Groundwater.** The objective of the groundwater theme is to provide data, information and decision-support tools for the protection, sustainable management and improvement of groundwater resources...
3. **Raw materials.** Mineral Raw Materials underpin societal development and Europe's ambition for economic growth and well-being. The European Commission recognises the importance of Raw Materials...
4. **Information platform.** The geo-energy, groundwater and raw materials themes share the common objective to provide and disseminate spatial information on their respective resources...

More details can be found at <http://geoera.eu/>

## DESCRIPTION OF THE TASK OF THE INDEPENDENT OBSERVER

The Terms of Reference were defined as follows:

The Independent Observer (IO) must assist in monitoring the implementation of the GeoERA ERA-NET-Cofund action 731166. The IO must inform the GeoERA Executive Board of the conduct and fairness of all evaluation phases of the Joint Call, issued on the basis of the GeoERA ERA-NET-Cofund Grant Agreement 731166, through:

- Review of the publications associated with the Call ([www.geoera.eu/call](http://www.geoera.eu/call))
- Review of the development of the Call for Proposals (Stage Two) based on the Call for Project Ideas (Stage One)
- Review of the selection process for the technical experts and the Expert Panel and briefing materials
- Participation in the Expert Panel meeting on the production of the ranking list as an observer
- Participation in the Executive Board meeting on the selection of projects as an observer
- Provision of feedback by email after each attended meeting, within 2 weeks after that meeting, addressing observations and suggestions for improvements.
- Preparation of the independent observer's final report on the evaluation process and the selection procedure of the Joint Call according to the template provided in Appendix A. This report is part of the GeoERA Report on the outcome of the Co-Funded Call (D1.6), which will need to be delivered before the start of the Project Implementation Phase, i.e. 30-06-2018.

The IO will review the conformity of the Joint Call implementation and, in particular, ensure the proper implementation of the independent international peer review and the establishment of the ranking list of transnational projects. The IO will be invited to participate in relevant meetings related to the development and evaluation of the Joint Call, i.e. the Stakeholder Council Meeting (4 September 2017; Vienna), the Expert Panel Meeting and the Executive Board Meeting (21 and 22 March-2018; The Hague) on selected projects in the frame of the co-funded call.

The IO must monitor the way in which the experts acting as evaluators apply the evaluation criteria, and how the evaluation procedures could be improved. In this context, the IO must verify that the procedures set out or referred to in the guidelines for submission of proposals and the related evaluation, selection and award procedures are followed.

## APPROACH TO THE TASK

My observations are based on:

- Study of the public documents available at <http://geoera.eu/>
- Study of the confidential documents passed to me by the GeoERA consortium
- Attendance at the stakeholder council meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017 in Vienna.
- A meeting at NWO in the Hague on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018 to review the selection of the Technical Reviewers and the Independent Expert Panel.
- Attendance at the Independent Expert Panel meeting at NWO in The Hague on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

- Attendance at the GeoERA Executive Board meeting at TNO in The Hague on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018.
- Informal discussions around the meetings with those present.

I am therefore satisfied that I had free and open access to all information, presentations and discussions that constituted the evaluation of the proposals.

## 2. OBSERVATIONS ON THE EVALUATION PROCESS

### STAGE 1 PROJECT IDEAS EVALUATION

I attended the Stakeholder Council Meeting held at the beginning of September 2017 in Vienna where the selected research topics were reviewed.

In preparation for this, I read all the public documents available on the website and those private documents circulated for the meeting.

In the documents, I recognised many of the principles from my own programmes. In general, I thought they were presented clearly - but I know what to expect, It never fails to amaze me how proposers can misunderstand the clearest of instructions. I recommended that comprehensive presentations were prepared for the proposers and evaluators to give them the key principles of their tasks.

After the meeting I reported the following observations and questions to the consortium:

1. I'm surprised that there is no "ethics review" in your evaluation process. If this is consistent with your Grant Agreement then I am content, but it would have answered the questions some of the Stakeholder Council had on the protection of personal data within the projects. I suggest you check this with your project officer.
2. I find that you use the word "Budget" to mean several different things and I think you would find it helpful to agree some terms that you used consistently e.g.
  - "EU Contribution" - the money the EU will provide to the project. So, the "Budget EU Contribution" is the maximum amount you have from the EU to distribute to the selected projects.
  - "Total Costs" - the costs predicted or declared by the projects. So, a proposal and a selected project have a "Total cost Budget" and you will have a sum of this for all the proposals and all the selected projects. The ratio of the "Total costs of selected projects" to "Total costs of proposed projects" will be some form of "average success rate". You may calculate this for each of the different themes and the overall call.
  - "in-kind funding" - the difference between "total costs" and "EU Contribution".
  - One of your documents has a table giving "Budget" by country. I believe this is a limit on the total "in-kind funding" per country allowed across all proposals. I would call this a "Bid Limit" rather than a budget. I have not seen your finance entry forms but if the individual partners in each project think first in "total costs" terms rather than "in-kind funding" terms then I suggest you put the "bid limit" in terms of "total costs".
  - We have a term called "over booking factor (OBF)". I hope you can find a better phrase, but the concept is important to understanding the likely success rate. The maximum OBF is the ratio of the "total costs" associated with the bid limit to the total costs associated with the maximum EU contribution. The OBF per theme is the

proposed "total costs" to the "total costs" associated with the maximum EU budget per theme. These numbers are important for the evaluators as it helps them understand where the cut line is likely to be in their ranked list. I think your maximum OBF is about 1.5 based on  $(3.6+1)/(2+1)$ .

3. How will I connect with the first line reviewers? Your briefing to them should include my contact details and an invitation to send me comments. Will you survey them on improvements that could be made on the process?
4. I'm a little concerned about the lack of communication between reviewers in your evaluation process. As I understand it at present, the first line reviewers do not discuss their views with each other, the second line reviewers meet together to discuss but have no route to communicate with the first line reviewers to seek clarification. You know that my process involves all reviewers and proposers meeting at a "Review Conference" and I see great benefit from the interaction as evaluators questions get answered by the proposers and one evaluator explains their understanding of the proposal to another. Your process looks more like one used for deciding whether a paper is suitable for publication, but even that results in a written discussion between author and reviewer moderated by the editor. **[Observation 01]**
5. It is too late to change now, but I think that anticipating multiple selected projects from a single SRT increases the risk of overlap between projects. You say in some places that proposers must address the full SRT but then allow multiple funded projects against some SRTs. You say you rely on the Theme Coordinators to liaise between the different project coordinators to avoid overlap in this case, but this is also a competition and proposers may not disclose the full details of their proposal to the theme coordinator. If the theme coordinator misses something, then you will have to untangle any double funding issues in negotiation. Your timetable allows little time for this as all projects run concurrently. It would have been much better to define individual SRTs for each expected project - sorting out the project boundaries at stage 1 rather than leaving it until the proposal stage. **[Observation 02]**
6. Please ensure I receive copies of all instructions and briefings to the reviewers including the emails asking them if they are willing to act as a reviewer and their appointment emails. At some point I would like to review the selection process and statistics on those selected (gender, age, nationality, employment sector etc) with those responsible. We may be able to arrange this when I am in the Netherlands for another purpose or have the conversation by Skype.

## SELECTION AND BRIEFING OF EXPERTS FOR STAGE 2

This call used two types of Experts – Technical Reviewers that reviewed a single proposal remotely and wrote a report that was shown to the proposers in order that they could submit a reply to the comments (a "rebuttal" letter), and members of the Independent Expert Panel which remotely reviewed the proposals, technical reviews and rebuttal letters for all proposals in a theme and then met to produce consensus marks and comments for all proposals in the call. **[Observation 03]**

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## SELECTION AND BRIEFING OF THE TECHNICAL REVIEWERS

After the launch of Stage 2, NWO started the search for suitable Technical Reviewers in relevant databases – their own and one provided by Elsevier. They reviewed abstracts of papers published by candidates and the responsibilities of the organisations they were employed by. Those deemed suitable were emailed to ask if they would be willing to act as a reviewer. As the replies came in, new

candidates were identified and approached until at least 3 had accepted for each proposal. In the end 226 had been approached, 54 accepted, 96 declined and the remainder did not reply. A small number of those that declined cited a lack of relevant expertise but most stated that they did not have the time available for the task. All those that accepted also declared that they had no conflict of interest. The reviewers that accepted came from a wide range of countries and were 70 % male, 30 % female. This is an acceptable diversity for this call, the initial identification had been aimed at achieving the best possible.

Instructions to the Technical Reviewers and the associated form, had been prepared by the GeoERA secretariat, based on the standard NWO process. This was approved by the GeoERA GA and published with the stage 2 launch on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017. The form asked for comments including identification of the strengths and weaknesses against each of:

- Relevance to call objectives
- Scientific and / or technological excellence
- Expected and additional impacts
- Measures to maximise impact
- Quality and efficiency of the implementation

As an overview, the form included a 5-point scale asking the reviewer "How would you rate the overall quality of the proposed research in relation to the criteria above". They were given 5 options between Excellent and Poor and a text box headed "Please specify".

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## SELECTION AND BRIEFING OF THE INDEPENDENT EXPERT PANEL

The search for members of the Independent Expert Panel followed a similar process to that for the Technical Reviewers. Here the theme descriptions were used to provide the key words for the search rather than the SRTs. Again, the process was iterative and about 15 had to be contacted for each theme before 3 accepted. Following acceptance, 2 withdrew and had to be replaced, one discovered a conflict of interest, 2 later discovered a clash of diaries and could only join the panel remotely, 1 was ill on the day and only contributed by written comments and took no part in agreeing the consensus view.

Instructions to the Independent Expert Panel and the associated form, had been prepared by the GeoERA secretariat, based on the standard H2020 evaluation questions and marking process. This was approved by the GeoERA GA, submitted to the EC project officer, and published with the stage 2 launch on the 11<sup>th</sup> October. The panel members completed individual assessments using this form. The complete set of individual assessments were only available to NWO at the end of the day before the panel meeting and were only distributed to the other panel members in hard copy during the meeting. NWO collated the individual marks and displayed these at the meeting. **[Observation 04]**

## REMOTE TECHNICAL EXPERTS EVALUATION

The reviewers that accepted were sent the proposals and had between 20 and 10 days to complete their reviews. All 54 did submit reviews although several had to be chased after the deadline. On receipt of the reviews, NWO did a simple quality check – that the review was readable and clear. One review was returned 3 times for revising until deemed acceptable.



All the Technical Reviews were sent to the proposers for their comments – rebuttal letters. For those that had been submitted on time the proposers had a week for the reply, for those returned late they had less time, but all had at least 5 days.

On receipt, the rebuttal letters also underwent a simple quality check. 2 exceeded the page length limit but were accepted because they either included diagrams or were only over the limit because of a non-standard choice of font size and margins.

The Technical Reviewers will receive a list of the funded projects when this is announced.

## CENTRAL EXPERT PANEL EVALUATION

### ORGANISATION & LOGISTICS

The central expert panel evaluation was held at the offices of NWO in The Hague. They are used to holding similar evaluation meetings there and the organisation and logistics were suitable for the purpose.

### BRIEFING OF THE EVALUATORS

The Consensus meeting opened with an introduction of the participants and a welcome by Pieter de Witte from NWO – their Head of Strategic Partnerships. There was further information from the NWO facilitator of the meeting that due to a conflict of interest one of the panel members would leave the room for the discussion of one proposal and one member that was ill had submitted written input but would not participate in the meeting. There were still at least three panel members per proposal that had read the proposals and would contribute to the consensus marks and comments. There was further information on the process for claiming expenses, the confidentiality of the discussions and the evaluation procedure – especially that the panel should only take into account issues identified by the Technical Reviewers that the proposers had had an opportunity to rebut – no new issues could be introduced at this stage.

One panel member raised a question on the level of competition in the call. The GeoERA Programme Manager replied that while 2 SRTs had received no bid, the total funding requested was still more than the available funding by 3.2 M€, so there was a competition. She further explained that she had hoped for some 20 or 22 proposals, and the 17 received was less than that. **[Observation 05]**

The Programme Manager then gave a presentation on the aims of the GeoERA call and the budget constraints on the themes. The budget per theme had been fixed by the different DGs that were contributing to the budget although there was 10 % reserved for the cross-theme knowledge transfer project and there was a process where up to 10 % of a Theme's budget that was unallocated to that theme could move into a common pot to fund other proposals.

The Programme Manager left at that point as the NWO considered that her presence may put the transparency of the remaining process at risk.

### CONSENSUS MEETINGS

The facilitator then displayed the individual marks for the information platform proposal and distributed hard copies of the individual comments. The Panel Member assigned to chair the discussion on this theme then led the discussion to develop the consensus marks.

The process continued in this manner for the remaining themes. Consensus total marks were agreed for all themes, consensus marks by evaluation criteria were not recorded for the first two themes discussed (Information Platform and Geo-Energy) but agreed later by email. For one project the consensus mark was only agreed by two of the three reviewers – the third was attending remotely and had to leave for a train before consensus was achieved. **[Observation o6]**

At several points during the discussion there was some confusion expressed by the members on the exact budget for each theme compared to the total value of the proposals in that theme – essentially in which themes could all the proposals be afforded and in which themes would some proposals be left unfunded. This was because the facilitator did not present this information as she started a theme. **[Observation o7]**

One member raised questions about the ability of one specific partner in a proposal to make a significant contribution to the work. The subsequent discussion took some time but in the end the issue was not taken into consideration in the mark. The question could have been excluded simply on the grounds that it had not been raised by one of the Technical Reviewers and so was out of scope, but that argument was not used. It could have been treated as an issue of “Operational Capacity” as under the H2020 process, but that path was not taken by the facilitator either. **[Observation o8]**

Over lunch I asked some members if they were content with the way the consensus marks had been arrived at, and if they had a good understanding of what the consensus comments were. It became apparent that more than one of them was under the impression that the only thing to be reported from the meeting was the consensus mark. I asked the facilitator to make the process clear when we returned from lunch. She reminded them that not only would the consensus marks be reported but that, based on the minutes of the meeting, a paragraph of comments would be drafted by the NWO and sent to them for their approval before being communicated to the proposers. In addition, the NWO intended to publish their individual comments and marks, although their names would be removed from those. This prompted significant discussion, few realised that their individual inputs would be made public, and it was agreed that each of them would have the opportunity to revise their individual inputs and re-submit them before they were published. **[Observation o9]**

At one point in the discussion one member said that she had not realised that she could give marks with a resolution of 0.5. Indeed, that was not in the briefing material, but is common practice in H2020 evaluations. **[Observation 10]**

For at least two proposals the members thought the Technical Reviewers had been over generous in their “overview” box marking. The technical reviewers had had serious concerns about the whether the projects could be delivered as proposed but still gave “Excellent” or “Very Good” indications. The panel members shared the concerns of the technical reviewers about whether the proposals were realistic. There followed a debate on whether those projects should be marked below threshold, but swayed by the “overview” indications of the Technical Reviewers they decided to give low marks but above threshold. **[Observation 11]**

At several points the members challenged themselves on the consistency of marks between themes, the consensus view was that marks did not have to be consistent between themes as each theme had its own ranking list and budget. **[Observation 12]**

At the end of the meeting there was a discussion on what improvements to the process they would like to see and the chairs of each theme said that they would have liked to see the individual marks

and comments from the other experts at least a day before the meeting in order to prepare for the discussion **[Observation 13]**

Looking back over the progress of the meeting it is clear that it would have benefited from a much more detailed presentation on the process at the start. While all the information may have been present in the briefing material available on the website, it needed to be given to them again, in a different form, at the start of the meeting. Compared to a briefing in the H2020 evaluation meetings there was no labelling of the words associated with individual marks to ensure consistency between themes - no instruction to use the full range of the marks, no encouragement to mark below threshold if they thought the proposal should not be funded, no instruction that they could mark with a precision of 0.5, no instruction to ensure that the comments matched the marks, no clear reminder of what would be made public from the meeting. **[Observation 14]**

It would also have helped to have reminders throughout the meeting of what issues belonged to the Technical Reviewers and were out of scope for these discussions, and what were legitimate issues for them to consider beyond those. **[Observation 15]**

In a H2020 evaluation meeting in Brussels there is a very clear point at which individual marks and comments and consensus marks and comments are agreed, as each participant has to log in to the evaluation system and sign electronically. At a EURAMET review conference the signing is physical – once the consensus marks and comments are agreed, marking books are printed and signed by those contributing and the ranked list is compiled at the meeting and signed by all the evaluators that evaluated the projects on that list before they can leave the meeting. In this meeting there was no clear sign off. Some remote participants were only there for part of the process, comments were not decided in the meeting but will be drafted by the facilitator and agreed by email. I am content that the facilitator did reach a consensus for the marks of those present in the room and will have recorded it accurately (it was displayed on a screen) – but should one of the participants later claim that they did not agree then there would be little evidence to refute that claim. **[Observation 16]**

Whilst I raise these concerns I have no doubt that the consensus total marks by theme produced by the consensus meeting are reliable for the next stage of the process.

## EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING ON THE SELECTED PROJECTS

I was present for the whole Executive Board meeting, but only record here the discussions relevant to the selection process - there were other discussions about the wider management of GeoERA which are not recorded.

The Executive Board were reminded that the results discussed at the meeting were confidential until agreement was reached at GA and should not be disclosed outside the meeting.

NWO gave a presentation on the evaluation and selection rules, the process so far and the tasks for this meeting. There was a discussion on why the two sets of reviewers had marked the proposals on different scales on different forms.

It was noted that document 8 says the Expert Panel should try to separate ties but this had not happened. **[Observation 17]**

Before the results were presented a number of questions on the principles of the decision to be made was asked:

- The key issue would be the separation of equally ranked proposal at the edge of the budget line.
- What if the top ranked project below the budget line is unaffordable – is a lower ranked, but affordable, project funded, or can the top project be negotiated down in cost?

These questions resulted in long discussions which exposed some apparent inconsistencies in the guidance documents. The Board decided not to take a decision before the results were known.

**[Observation 18]**

NWO reported on process that had taken place and then displayed the individual marks by project for each of the technical reviewers, panel members and the consensus mark. At this point the Board got very interested in the individual comments and comparisons between the marks of the Technical Reviewers, the marks of the Panel members before they met and the consensus marks. While a discussion about how these related was educational for them, it was not the important matter at hand. At this point it would have been sufficient to display the ranked lists and the consensus marks for those near the budget lines so the Board could apply the rules for breaking any remaining ties and determining which would be funded. The discussion was long. Only after a break for lunch were the proposals displayed in ranked order and the rules applied, showing that there would be 785 k€ of the available funds unallocated because the next project on the list would require more than this.

There was then another long debate on whether to publish the initial individual marks of the Expert Panel – given the complicated relationship between those and the consensus marks it was decided not to. **[Observation 19]**

### 3. OVERALL IMPRESSIONS

#### COMPLIANCE WITH THE RULES FOR EU CO-FUNDING

I am content that the processes I witnessed were consistent with the relevant parts of the H2020 rules for participation and the grant agreement. I have not checked the arithmetic in the finance forms.

#### CONFORMITY OF THE EVALUATION PROCESS WITNESSED WITH THE PUBLISHED EVALUATION PROCEDURES

I am content that the processes I witnessed were, in general, consistent with the published evaluation procedures. However, I note that there are inconsistencies in the published documents e.g. the evaluation procedure does not include a check of “operational capacity”, yet the template for the independent panel members to give their individual comments does include this question. At one point Document 8 sets an expectation that the panel will attempt to separate ties in the ranked lists – yet in another place it defines the criteria for doing so without saying that this is only applied where the panel have left ties unseparated. **[Observation 20]**

#### TRANSPARENCY, FAIRNESS AND CONFIDENTIALITY OF THE SELECTION PROCESS

I understood the background to the various decisions made and believe they are based on fairness. I have not seen the minutes or consensus comments from the meetings yet, nor have I witnessed (or heard of) any breaches of confidentiality.

## EFFICIENCY AND SPEED OF THE CALL/EVALUATION PROCESS

As this was the first time the GeoERA consortium had used these procedures the process was relatively efficient. If they get the opportunity for a further call then they will already have identified where improvements could be made. My recommendations will also assist them with that. The speed of the process was determined by the timetable in the grant agreement – I see little room for taking it faster.

## QUALITY OF THE OVERALL CALL/EVALUATION PROCESS

The secretariat expected some 20 or 22 proposals, but they only received 17, there were no bids against 2 SRTs. The SRTs were quite broad, with no maximum value for the proposals that could be submitted against them. Consequently, some proposals were big and broad in scope - one proposal was 243 % of the recommended budget. This led to limited competition. As there were limits on the funding that could move between theme, had some projects been marked below threshold then there may not have been enough proposals to use the available funding. The success rate was at least 82 % (it could be 88 % if current ideas to fund the next project with the remaining EU contribution and additional in-kind funding are successful). In my opinion the quality of the process would have benefited from more proposals of a smaller size – so that the process was selecting say 20 out of 30 proposals to be funded. **[Observation 21]**

In general, evaluators find it difficult to take the cost of projects into their evaluation – should one project for 2 M€ be funded or two at 1 M€ each? To help them it is useful if the projects to be ranked in one list are of similar size. This can be achieved by setting an expectation for the average cost of proposals in a theme and a maximum size, above which the proposal would be declared ineligible. **[Observation 22]**

## 4. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

### MAJOR ISSUES

In any future call based on this process, the consortium should:

1. Publish enough SRTs to allow a significant competition aiming for a success rate of no more than 2/3. **[05, 21]**
2. Publish smaller and more focussed SRTs, allowing a better competition, more choice for the selection process, avoiding that unrelated weaker work gets funded merely by being packaged with better work. **[21, 22]**
3. Only allow one project to be funded from each SRT. **[02, 22]**
4. Define a maximum cost for eligible proposals in each SRT. **[21, 22]**

The numbers in brackets refer to the relevant observations.

### MINOR ISSUES

In any future call based on this process, the consortium should consider

1. Whether the two tiers of reviewers improve the evaluation process or merely introduces complexity. Would it be better to have the proposers meet a single tier of reviewers to explain

their proposals without any previous submission of comments/marks and rebuttals? [01, 03, 11, 15]

2. How they could improve the consistency of the call documents. [17, 18, 19, 20]
3. Circulating the results of any pre-marking to the panel at least a day before the meeting. [04, 13]
4. Clearer briefing to the panel including budget lines, responsibilities and confidentiality. If there is pre-marking then this briefing may be necessary by a video conference before the proposals are distributed. [07, 08, 09, 10, 12, 14, 15]
5. Changing the process so marks and comments are decided at the meeting with the members signing agreement to the principle decisions before they leave, even if the facilitator makes editorial improvements afterwards. [06, 16]



## Reaction of the Executive Board to the report of the Independent Observer

After receipt of the report of the Independent Observers (IO), the Executive Board (EB) felt it was good to give some additional clarifications to the reader. The report is much appreciated and helps GeoERA in any future activities to improve its process and communication.

### Stage 1

- Observation 01: the GeoERA EB decided not to hold a review conference due to the number of people that would have to attend and the corresponding costs it would imply, e.g. technical experts (54), the expert panel (12) and the project leads (17). It is a choice in balance between interaction between reviewers and depth of expertise. Since we do wanted to have the proposals reviewed by both technical experts in their field, but also address a more generic approach on the applicability of the research to tackle societal challenges, we choose to use the ERC two tier approach. It was also decided, since the technical reviewers do not weigh the relative merits, a lighter review or overall “SWOT” was requested, due to time and effort considerations within the entire evaluation process.

### Stage 2

- Observation 05: In view of competition it is relevant to realize that the GeoERA programme is a two stage call in which already 61 Project Ideas, where minimized to 17 Project Proposals, from which 15 projects where selected.
- Observation 10: it is recognized that a general introduction or recap of the briefing material (process, (0.5) scoring, theme budgets, etc.) should have been given at the start of the meeting in more detail than was done at the moment. So the boundary conditions are clear before the evaluation kicks-off. NB The evaluation is about reviewing the quality of the proposals. The reviewers have not budgetary responsibility.
- Observation 13: The timeline has been extremely tight and hindered distribution of forms and evaluations. It has been very challenging to have a two tier evaluation within 3 months.
- Observation 16: The final view of the discussion on the consensus scores where emailed after the plenary session, for final confirmation of the Expert Panel (including confirmation by the experts that were not physically at the meeting).
- Observation 17-18-20: For “ties” or proposals with equal scores the decision tree agreed in the call text was used to determine the precedence. In Call Document JC No. 8. It was stated that the Expert Panel should break ties using those criteria, however, in case they are not able to (for any reason) the EB should do this. This description caused some confusion who is responsible for determining the precedence. Eventually this ranking order has been determined in the Executive Board.

All suggested actions of the IO in the report have been taken up. The communication with reviewers, reports and suggested meetings have been shared or taken place with the IO. All reviewers and proposers have had access to the contact details of the IO to file any concerns or complaints about the procedure. No complaints have been filed. We take all comments from the IO to heart and will use these in any future GeoERA activities.



## 4.2 Formal commitment on availability of funds (Annex 7 Grant Agreement)

	Beneficiary	EC funding	In-kind commitment
1	AGS SUM	€ 38.053	€ 81.065
2	ARPAP SUM	€ 41.970	€ 89.410
3	BGR SUM	€ 639.309	€ 1.390.725
4	BRGM SUM	€ 61.469	€ 1.207.092
5	CGS SUM	€ 99.395	€ 211.742
6	DLT SUM (third party TNO)	€ 92.751	€ 197.589
7	FZZG SUM	€ 39.987	€ 85.185
8	GBA SUM	€ 257.682	€ 548.942
9	GEOINFORM SUM	€ 228.574	€ 494.304
10	GeoZS SUM	€ 424.149	€ 903.567
11	GEUS SUM	€ 1.160.708	€ 2.583.298
12	GSD SUM	€ 42.715	€ 90.997
13	GSI SUM	€ 358.878	€ 764.519
14	GSS SUM	€ 41.907	€ 89.274
15	GTK SUM	€ 94.885	€ 202.135
16	HGI-CGS SUM	€ 210.121	€ 447.622
17	ICGC SUM	€ 170.472	€ 363.158
18	IGME-GR SUM	€ 81.304	€ 173.203
19	IGME-SP SUM	€ 718.956	€ 1.567.028
20	IGR SUM	€ 160.410	€ 341.723
21	ISOR SUM	€ 104.901	€ 223.471
22	ISPRA SUM	€ 259.512	€ 552.839
23	LAGB SUM	€ 113.301	€ 241.366
24	LBEG SUM	€ 213.586	€ 455.002
25	LBGR SUM	€ 115.999	€ 247.113
26	LEGMC SUM	€ 4.674	€ 9.957
27	LFU SUM	€ 231.155	€ 492.429
28	LGRB SUM	€ 153.623	€ 327.264
29	LGT SUM	€ 24.060	€ 51.255
30	LNEG SUM	€ 328.571	€ 699.956
31	LUNG SUM	€ 120.811	€ 257.364
32	MBFSZ SUM	€ 93.100	€ 198.333
33	MTI SUM	€ 34.372	€ 73.224
34	NERC SUM	€ 369.645	€ 846.707
35	NGU SUM	€ 209.251	€ 445.769
36	PIG-PIB SUM	€ 189.884	€ 404.511
37	RBINS-GSB SUM	€ 461.261	€ 982.626
38	RT SUM	€ 9.798	€ 20.873
39	RU SUM	€ 13.872	€ 29.551
40	SCK SUM (third party VMM)	€ 45.602	€ 97.146
41	SGIDS SUM	€ 38.445	€ 81.899
42	SGL SUM	€ 15.665	€ 33.371
43	SGSS SUM	€ 51.335	€ 109.359
44	SGU SUM	€ 285.672	€ 608.565
45	TNO SUM*	€ 796.041	€ 1.718.331
46	VITO SUM (third party VPO)	€ 118.860	€ 253.208
47	VMM SUM*	€ 109.086	€ 232.386
48	VPO SUM*	€ 24.193	€ 51.539
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€ 9.999.970</b>	<b>€ 21.577.992</b>

\* The in-kind commitment letter (Annex 7) of this beneficiary includes the budget of its third party



## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

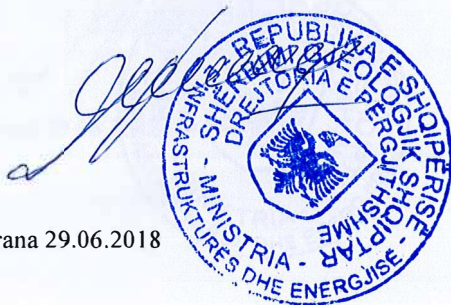
**Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA**

The undersigned Viktor Doda:

- declares that Albanian Geological Survey can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR [81,065] to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.

Dr. Viktor Doda, General Director of AGS

Tirana 29.06.2018



**COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS**

**Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA**

The undersigned **ANGELO ROBOTTO**:

- declares that **Arpa Piemonte** (Agenzia Regionale per la Protezione Ambientale del Piemonte) can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR **89.410,00** to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.

Name and signature

**Ing. Angelo Robotto**

**IL DIRETTORE GENERALE**  
**Ing. Angelo Robotto**

Date and stamp

**31 MAG. 2018**



## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

**Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA**

The undersigned Prof. Dr. Ralph Watzel

- declares that Bundesanstalt für Geowissenschaften und Rohstoffe (BRG) can commit and make available national resources totalling EUR 1,390,725.00 to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.

**Bundesanstalt für  
Geowissenschaften und Rohstoffe  
Stilleweg 2  
30655 Hannover**



Name and signature



Date and stamp

## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

**Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA**

The undersigned, Pierre Toulhoat:

- declares that BRGM can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR 1 207 092 to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.

Name and signature

Pierre TOULHOAT



**Pierre TOULHOAT**  
Directeur général délégué

Date and stamp

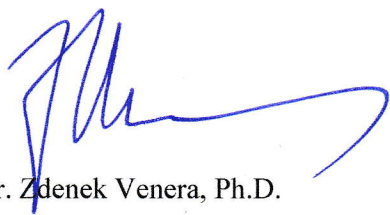


## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

**Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA**

The undersigned Zdenek Venera:

- declares that **Česká geologická služba / Czech Geological Survey** can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling **EUR 211.742** to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.



Mgr. Zdenek Venera, Ph.D.

Director

**Czech Geological Survey**  
Director  
Klárov 3/131, 118 21 Prague 1  
Czech Republic

*25.5.2018*  
Date and stamp



## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA

The undersigned Hazim Hrvatović

- declares that Geological Survey of Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR (85.185) to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.

Name and signature

Prof.dr. Hazim Hrvatović



Date and stamp

BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA-FEDERACIJA BOSNE I HERCEGOVINE  
FEDERALNI ZAVOD ZA GEOLOGIJU  
SARAJEVO

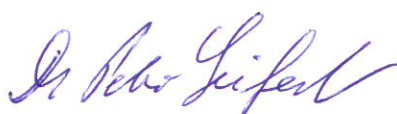
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## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

### Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA

The undersigned Dr. Peter SEIFERT:

- declares that Geologische Bundesanstalt can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR 548.942,-- to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.



Dr. Peter Seifert

Name and signature

 Geologische Bundesanstalt  
Neulinggasse 38, A-1030 Wien, Tel: 712 56 74  

---

IM RAHMEN D. TEILRECHTSFÄHIGKEIT

04.06.2018

Date and stamp

Державна служба  
геології та надр України  
**Державне**  
**науково-виробниче підприємство**  
**«Державний інформаційний**  
**геологічний фонд України**  
**(ДНВП «Геоінформ України»)**  
03680, Київ – 680, вул. Ежена Потьє 16,  
тел. 456-60-61, факс 455-60-75  
[geoinf@geomail.kiev.ua](mailto:geoinf@geomail.kiev.ua)



State Geological and Subsurface  
Survey of Ukraine  
**State**  
**Research and Development Enterprise**  
**“State Information Geological Fund**  
**of Ukraine”**  
**(SRDE “Geoinform of Ukraine”)**  
Ezhena Potie Str, 16, Kyiv 03680, Ukraine  
Tel (+38044) 456-60-61, fax (+38044) 455-60-75  
[geoinf@geomail.kiev.ua](mailto:geoinf@geomail.kiev.ua)

№ \_\_\_\_\_  
« \_\_\_\_\_ » \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_ р.

## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

### Grant Agreement: 731166 — GeoERA

The undersigned, Sergii Prymushko, Director:

- declares that the State Research and Development Enterprise “State Information Geological Fund of Ukraine” (SRDE “Geoinform of Ukraine”) can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR 494 304,00 to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.

Sergii Prymushko





## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

**Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA**

The undersigned Miloš Bavec, PhD:

- declares that Geological Survey of Slovenia can commit and make available national resources totalling EUR 903.567 to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.

Miloš Bavec, PhD

Director



Ljubljana, 16.05.2018

## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

### Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA

The undersigned Flemming Larsen

- declares that the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR 2,583,298 to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.



Flemming Larsen

Managing Director

### GEUS

Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland  
Danish Ministry of Energy, Utilities and Climate  
Øster Voldgade 10  
DK-1350 Copenhagen K, Denmark

Copenhagen, 30 May 2018

## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

**Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA**

The undersigned Dr Costas Constantinou:

- declares that Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment of Cyprus – Geological Survey Department (GSD) can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR 90.997 to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.



Dr Costas Constantinou

Name and signature



29 May 2018

Date and stamp

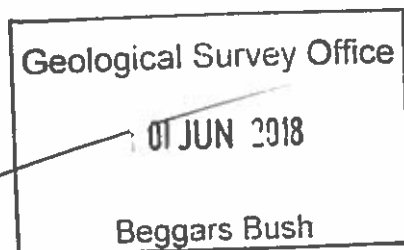
## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

**Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA**

The undersigned Mr Koen Verbruggen:

- declares that the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment/Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR 764,519 to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.

  
Mr Koen Verbruggen,  
Director



## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

**Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA**

The undersigned [Prof. dr Dragoman Rabrenović]:

- declares that [Geological Survey of Serbia] can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR [89.273,78] to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.

Name and signature  
Prof. dr. Dragoman Rabrenović



Date and stamp

## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

## Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA

The undersigned, Director General, Mika Nykänen:

- declares that Geologian tutkimuskeskus, GTK, can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR 202 135 to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding as specified in the table:

Proposal	Total estimated eligible costs	Requested EU contribution	Surveys in-kind contribution
Frame	97 500 €	28 958 €	68 543 €
GIP-P	68 000 €	20 196 €	47 804 €
HOVER	13 349 €	3 965 €	9 385 €
Mintell4EU	77 500 €	23 018 €	54 483 €
RESOURces	14 169 €	4 208 €	9 961 €
TACTIC	17 011 €	5 052 €	11 959 €

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>287 529 €</b>	<b>85 397 €</b>	<b>202 135 €</b>
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29.5.2018, Espoo



Mika Nykänen

Director General



Petri Lintinen

Director, Projects and Customers



**COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS**

**Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA**

The undersigned SLOBODAN MIKO:

- declares that CROATIAN GEOLOGICAL SURVEY can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR 447.622,00 to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.

Name and signature

Dr.sc. Slobodan Miko, dipl.ing.geol.



Date and stamp

03.05.2018.

HRVATSKI GEOLOŠKI INSTITUT  
ZAGREB - Sachsova 2

## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

### Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA

The undersigned Jaume Massó Cartagena:

- declares that Institut Cartogràfic i Geològic de Catalunya can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR 363.158€ to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.

"HOTLIME - Mapping and Assessment of Geothermal Plays in Deep Carbonate Rocks – Cross-domain Implications and Impacts

"MUSE- Managing Urban Shallow geothermal Energy.

"HOVER – Drinking water and human health. Geogenic diversity and hydrochemical base line & anthropogenic impacts:

"TACTIC – Tools for climate change impact assessment and adaptation.

"RESOURCE – Harmonization of Groundwater resources information at cross-border to pan European scale.



Jaume Massó Cartagena

Director



June 6<sup>th</sup> 2018



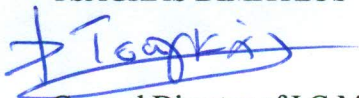
## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

**Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA**

The undersigned TSAGKAS DIMITRIOS:

- declares that the INSTITUTE OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL EXPLORATION – I.G.M.E. OF GREECE can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR 173.203 to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.

TSAGKAS DIMITRIOS



General Director of I.G.M.E. (Greece)

02.05.2018



## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

### Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA

The undersigned Francisco González Lodeiro

- declares that Instituto Geológico y Minero de España (IGME- Spain) can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR 1.567.028 to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.



Francisco González Lodeiro

Director

11 June 2018


## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

**Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA**

The undersigned Ștefan Marincea:

declares that Institutul Geologic al României can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR 341.723 to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.

Name and signature

/ Ștefan Marincea 

Date and stamp

25.06.2018





Grant Agreement number: 731166 — GeoERA — H2020-LCE-2016-2017/H2020-LCE-2016-ERA

ANNEX 7

### COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

**Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA**

The undersigned Guðrún Erlingsdóttir

- declares that Íslenskar orkurannsóknir can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR 223.471 to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.

---



Íslenskar orkurannsóknir  
ÍSOR Orkugarði Grensásvegi 9



Guðrún Erlingsdóttir

---

Reykjavík 20 June 2018

## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

**Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA**

The undersigned Alessandro Bratti

- declares that **ISPRA** can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR **552.839,00** to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.

Alessandro Bratti

**DIRETTORE GENERALE**  
**Dott. Alessandro Bratti**



## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

**Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA**

The undersigned *Dr. Bodo-Carlo Ehling*:

- declares that *Landesamt für Geologie und Bergwesen, Sachsen-Anhalt* can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling *EUR 241,366.00* to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.



Dr. Bodo-Carlo Ehling

May 7, 2018

Landesamt für Geologie und Bergwesen Sachsen-Anhalt Köthener Straße 38, 06118 Halle (Saale) PF 156, 06035 Halle (Saale) Tel.: (0345) 5 21 20 Fax: (0345) 522 99 10
---

## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

**Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA**

The undersigned President A. Sikorski:

- declares that Landesamt für Bergbau, Energie und Geologie (LBEG) can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR 455002,00 to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.



Andreas Sikorski

Präsident Landesamt für Bergbau, Energie und Geologie

24.05.2018

Date and stamp

**Landesamt für Bergbau,  
Energie und Geologie  
Stilleweg 2  
30655 Hannover**

## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

### Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA

The undersigned Hans-Georg Thiem, President of the LBGR Landesamt für Bergbau, Geologie und Rohstoffe Brandenburg:

- declares that LBGR can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR 247 113 to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.

  
Name and signature

22. Juni 2018  
  
Date and stamp  
Landesamt für Bergbau,  
Geologie und Rohstoffe  
Brandenburg  
Postfach 10 09 33  
03009 COTTBUS



## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

**Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA**

The undersigned Kristaps Treimanis and Jānis Lapiņš:

- declare that Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Centre (LEGMC) can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR 9 957 to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.



Kristaps Treimanis  
Chairman of the Board



Jānis Lapiņš  
Member of the Board



29 May 2018

## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

### Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA

The undersigned Dr. Gerold Diepolder:

- declares that Bayerisches Landesamt für Umwelt (LfU) can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR 492.429,00 to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.

Project	Total estimated eligible costs (EUR)	Requested EU contribution	Surveys in-kind contribution
GeoConnect <sup>3d</sup>	104.750	31.111	73.639
GIP-P	111.594	33.143	78.450
HIKE	115.625	34.341	81.284
HotLime	368.500	109.445	259.056
<b>Total</b>			<b>492.429</b>



Dr. Gerold Diepolder  
LEAR and GeoERA Coordination LfU

Bayerisches Landesamt für Umwelt  
Bürgermeister-Ulrich-Str. 20  
D-86179 Augsburg  
Telefon 0821/9071-0  
Telefax 0821/9071-5555

Augsburg, 2018-05-16

## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

**Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA**

The undersigned **apl. Prof. Dr. Jörg-Detlef Eckhardt, Abteilungspräsident 9:**

- declares that **Regierungspräsidium Freiburg (LGRB)** can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling **EUR 327 264** to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.

  
Prof. Dr. Jörg-Detlef Eckhardt,  


Abteilungspräsident 9 RP Freiburg (LGRB)

Freiburg, 28.05.2018

## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA

The undersigned Jolanta Čyžienė:

- declares that Lithuanian Geological Survey under the Ministry of Environment can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR 51.255 to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.

Acting Director Jolanta Čyžienė

The image shows a purple circular official stamp of the Lithuanian Geological Survey. The text around the perimeter of the stamp reads "LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKA" at the top and "GEOLOGIJOS TARNYBA" at the bottom. In the center of the stamp is a coat of arms featuring a knight on horseback. Overlaid on the right side of the stamp is a handwritten signature in blue ink.

2018-06-04

## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

### Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA

The undersigned Teresa Ponce de Leão:

- declares that Laboratório Nacional de Energia e Geologia, I.P. (LNEG, I.P.) can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR 699.956 to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.

Participant	Proposa	Total estimated eligible costs (EUR)	Requested EU contribution	Surveys in-kind contribution
LNEG	EuroLithos	118.675	35.246	83.429
LNEG	Frame	533.914	158.573	375.342
LNEG	GIP-P	72.938	21.662	51.275
LNEG	HIKE	80.750	23.983	56.767
LNEG	HOVER	20.829	6.186	14.642
LNEG	MINDeSEA	67.500	20.048	47.453
LNEG	Mintell4EU	21.250	6.311	14.939
LNEG	RESOURces	20.439	6.070	14.368
LNEG	TACTIC	59.375	17.634	41.741

Amadora, 28-06-2018

Name: Teresa Ponce de Leão

Title: President of the Administration Board



**TERESA PONCE DE LEÃO**  
Presidente do LNEG, I.P.  
Laboratório Nacional de Energia e Geologia, I.P.

**COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS**

**Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA**

The undersigned Dr. Harald Stegemann:

- declares that Landesamt für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Geologie Mecklenburg-Vorpommern can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR 257.364 to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.



Name and signature

**Landesamt  
für Umwelt, Naturschutz und Geologie  
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern  
Goldberger Str. 12 • 18273 Güstrow  
Tel. (0 38 43) 777-0 • Fax 777-106**

**25.06.2018**

Date and stamp

## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

**Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA**

The undersigned Gábor Zelei, president:

- declares that the Mining and Geological Survey of Hungary (MBFSZ) can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR 198 333 (onehunder-nighty eight thousand threehundred thirty three) to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.

Gábor Zelei



May 28, 2018

## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

### Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA

The undersigned Dr Albert Caruana (Director General, Continental Shelf Department)

- declares that the Office of the Prime Minister, Malta [former official name in the GeoERA Grant Agreement: Ministry for Transport and Infrastructure (MTI)] can commit and make available national in-kind resources totalling EUR 73,224 to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.

Name and signature:



Dr Albert Caruana

Date and stamp:

5 June 2018

Dr Albert Caruana  
Director General  
Continental Shelf Department



## ANNEX 7

## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

## Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA

Participant	Proposal	(A) Direct personnel costs (EUR)	(B) Other direct costs; travel, equipment, infrastructure, other (EUR)	(C) Direct costs of subcontracting (EUR)	(D) Indirect costs (= (A + B) * 0,25) (EUR)	(E) Total estimated eligible costs (= A+B+C+D) (EUR) - from proposal	(H) Reimbursement Rate GeoERA projects (29,7%)	(I) EC funding per organisation (= E*H)	(L) Surveys in-kind contribution (project + coordination cost) = (E - I)
NERC	GARAH	165.979	16.843	0	45.705	228.527	22,0%	50.276	178.251
NERC	RESOURCES	46.717	16.819	0	15.886	79.432	29,70%	23.591	55.841
NERC	MUSE	87.787	10.164	0	24.488	122.439	29,70%	36.363	86.076
NERC	TACTIC	73.556	6.941	0	20.124	100.621	29,70%	29.884	70.737
NERC	MOVER	87.185	7.000	0	23.546	117.731	29,70%	34.966	82.765
NERC	GIP-P	139.610	13.000	0	38.153	190.763	29,70%	56.656	134.107
NERC	VoGERA	58.124	14.576	0	18.175	90.875	29,70%	26.990	63.885
NERC	Mintelli4EU	185.724	18.474	0	49.800	248.998	29,7%	73.952	175.045

The undersigned Christopher Luton

- declares that UKRI can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR 846,707 to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.



Christopher Luton  
Head of Legal,  
British Geological Survey as represented by UKRI



**British  
Geological Survey**  
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

Date and stamp

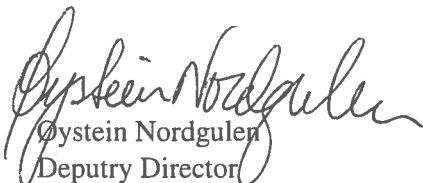
8<sup>th</sup> June, 2018.

## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

### Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA

The undersigned Morten Smelror

- declares that the Geological Survey of Norway (NGU) can commit and make available national resources totalling EUR FOUR HUNDRED FOURTY FIVE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY NINE (445 769) ONLY to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.



Øystein Nordgulen  
Deputy Director

On behalf of

Morten Smelror  
Director General

Trondheim, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018

## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

**Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA**


The undersigned dr Tomasz Nowacki:

- declares that Państwowy Instytut Geologiczny – Państwowy Instytut Badawczy can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR 404,511 to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.

PAŃSTWOWY INSTYTUT GEOLOGICZNY  
PAŃSTWOWY INSTYTUT BADAWCZY  
ul. Rakowiecka 4, 00-975 Warszawa  
Tel. 22 459 20 00  
Fax 22 459 20 01

Name and signature

Date and stamp

DYREKTOR  
Państwowego Instytutu Geologicznego  
Państwowego Instytutu Badawczego  
  
dr Tomasz Nowacki

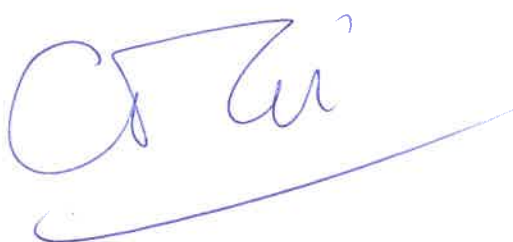
14 CZE. 2018

## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

**Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA**

The undersigned dr. Camille Pisani

- declares that Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR 982.626 to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.



Name and signature

11.05.2018

Date and stamp

**CAMILLE PISANI**  
**DIRECTEUR GENERAL - ALGEMEEN DIRECTEUR**



## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

**Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA**

The undersigned dr. Camille Pisani

- declares that Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR 982.626 to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.



Name and signature

11.06.2018

Date and stamp

**CAMILLE PISANI**  
**DIRECTEUR GENERAL - ALGEMEEN DIRECTEUR**



## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

**Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA**

The undersigned **Maurizio Trevisani**:

- declares that **Regione Toscana, Settore Sistema Informativo Territoriale e Ambientale** can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling **EUR 20.873,00** to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.

Name and signature

Il Dirigente  
Dott. Maurizio Trevisani



Date and stamp

08/05/2018



## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

### Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA

The undersigned Motti Andrea

- declares that Regione Umbria-Servizio Geologico can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR 29.551,00 to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.

Motti Andrea



2018-06-01

## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

**Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA**

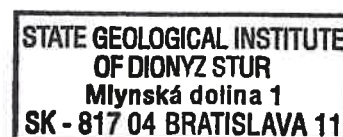
The undersigned [name of the authorised representative]: **Dipl.Eng. Branislav Žec, CSc.**

- declares that **State Geological Institute of Dionýz Štúr** [name of beneficiary] can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling **EUR 81 899** [insert amount] to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.

**Branislav Žec**

General Director

Name and signature



Date and stamp - 5 -06- 2018

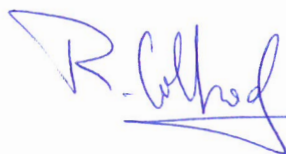


## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

**Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA**

The undersigned **Robert Colbach**

- declares that the **Geological Survey of Luxembourg (Service géologique du Luxembourg - SGL)** can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling **EUR 33 371** to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.



Robert Colbach

Head of division



07/06/2018

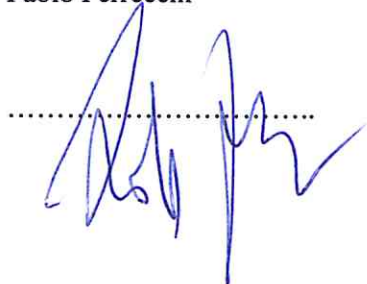
## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

**Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA**

The undersigned Paolo Ferrecchi:

- declares that the Regione Emilia-Romagna can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR 109.359 to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.

Paolo Ferrecchi



Date and stamp

.....15.06.2018.....

**IL DIRETTORE GENERALE**  
**Ing. Paolo Ferrecchi**

## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

**Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA**

The undersigned Lena Söderberg:

- declares that the Geological Survey of Sweden can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR 608,565 to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.



Name and signature

Lena Söderberg

Lena Söderberg

18 05 14  
Date and stamp

**SGU**  
Sveriges geologiska undersökning  
Box 670, 751 28 Uppsala

## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

**Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA**

The undersigned Tirza van Daalen

- declares that the Geological Survey of the Netherlands (TNO) can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR 1.915.920 to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.



Tirza van Daalen  
Director

**TNO**  
Princetonlaan 6  
3584 CB UTRECHT  
P.O. Box 80015  
3508 TA UTRECHT  
The Netherlands

[www.tno.nl](http://www.tno.nl)

*June 25, 2018*

Date and stamp

## COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

**Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA**

The undersigned Barbara Vael

- declares that Vlaamse Milieumaatschappij (VMM) can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling EUR 329.531 to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.

Barbara Vael

30-05-2018



Barbara Vael  
Afdelingshoofd  
Operationeel Waterbeheer



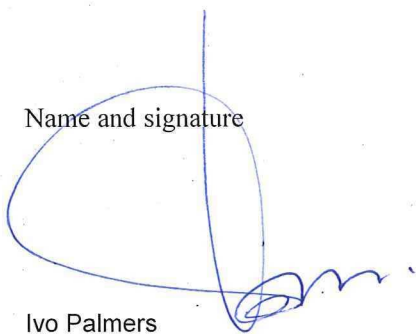
**COMMITMENT ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS**

**Grant Agreement: 731166 GeoERA**

The undersigned **Ivo Palmers**:

- declares that **VPO** can commit and make available national/regional resources totalling **304.747 euro (inkind of 253.208 euro for Vito plus inkind of 51.539 for VPO)** to fund its assigned share of the transnational projects of the joint selection list, based on the indicated amounts of planned funding.

Name and signature



Ivo Palmers

Head of Division

Date and stamp

31/05/2018

**Ivo Palmers**  
**Afdelingshoofd**  
**Vlaams planbureau voor omgeving**