



1st External Call

„Towards Healthy, Resilient and Sustainable Agricultural Soils“

Call Announcement V1.6 08 Jul 2021

Guidelines for Applicants

Deadline pre-registration: 25th Jun 2021, 13:00 CEST (Berlin time)

Deadline proposal submission: 07th Sep 2021, 16:00 CEST (Berlin time)

Online submission tool: <https://ejp-soil.ptj.de/>

History of Changes

Version	Changes
V1.0 29 Apr 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Original version
V1.1 03 May 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FCT (Portugal) is now confirmed as Funding Party (see table 1 p.10 and Annex A p.19 and National regulations for FCT p. 56) National Regulations for Funding Party MIPAAF (Italy) has been included (see p. 45) National Regulations for NCBR (Poland) correction of section “other stakeholders”: Journal of Laws item 1861, 2020; (p. 53) Overall call budget increased to 12,120,000 € (Annex A p.19)
V1.2 10 May 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Regulations ZUM (Lithuania) additional information provided in section “eligible partners for funding” and “additional information” (p.49) National Regulations for BMBF (Germany) link to national call announcement has been added in “additional information” (p. 34)
V1.3 09 Jun 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AAFC (Canada) is now confirmed as Funding Party (see table 1 p.9 and Annex A p. 18 and National regulations for AAFC p.34)
V1.4 24 Jun 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> INIA (Uruguay) is now confirmed as Funding Party (see table 1 p.9 and Annex A p. 18 and National regulations for INIA p. 63)
V1.5 05 Jul 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Regulations for Funding Party MSHE (Russia) has been included (see p. 60)
V1.6 08 Jul 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Regulations for Funding Party MIPAAF (Italy) has been changed (see p. 47)
V1.7 11 Aug 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Typo corrected on p. 20 (transitional into transnational)



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Definitions and Tasks

Associated partners	Partners in a consortium who do not apply for funding e.g. because of ineligibility of funding due to National/Regional/Funding Party regulations.
call office	The call office is responsible for administrative support regarding the Call, Call documents and procedures, submission tool and webinar.
External Call Board of Funders (EXCBF)	The EXCBF consist of all Funding Parties giving funding to the 1 st external call. The EXCBF will have the final decision on the selection of projects based on the ranking list provided by the IEP
Funding Parties	Funding Parties are organisations who give funding to the call.
Independent observer	An independent observer will overlook the entire Call process from launch to evaluation and selection of the research projects.
International Expert Panel (IEP)	The IEP consist of international experts in the fields of the topics of the 1 st external call. Members of the IEP will evaluate each proposal according to the evaluation guidelines (see also chapter 7 of this document). During the IEP meeting, the IEP will generate a ranked list of proposals recommended for funding which will be provided to the EXCBF.

1 Introduction

The European Joint Programme (EJP) SOIL started in February 2020, to create an integrated framework for agricultural soil research in Europe to enhance capacity, capability and knowledge in the area of soil research. Thus allowing all Member States equal opportunities to contribute to policy and societal targets for soil. It aims to overcome current fragmentation in research and to unleash the potential of agricultural soils to contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation of GHG emission released by agriculture to contribute to carbon neutral production. In parallel, research will be conducted to preserve or even enhance soils performance in relation to these and other agricultural (plant productivity and health) and environmental functions (potable water, air, biodiversity). Furthermore, EJP SOIL works towards a sustainable European integrated research system on agricultural soils to develop and deploy a reference framework on climate smart sustainable agricultural soil management.

One task in the EJP SOIL programme is the development of a roadmap, which functions as a strategic research agenda and describes the targeted vision of EJP SOIL. Six main objectives have been identified in order to address the targeted vision of EJP SOIL: i) Sustainable agricultural production, ii) Carbon sequestration, iii) Healthy Soils, iv) Land and Soil restoration, v) Biodiversity and vi) Ecosystem services including to enhance understanding of their linkages. With the help of the roadmap, an implementation plan has been created which engages and commits Member States and stakeholders across Europe to join forces in the relevant research areas.

Within the roadmap, research activities have been identified and outlined which would benefit and enhance the impact of EJP SOIL activities by widening the research and hence participation to funder organisations outside the EJP SOIL consortium. This will be realized by opening external calls to European and international participation.



2 Scope of the call

The objective of this call is to foster holistic agricultural (forestry soils are not excluded) soil management practices which will assist in making a shift to diversify farming to include a variety of sustainable and environmental practices. To achieve this aim, knowledge about SOC sequestration and biodiversity is essential. Thus, the call addresses three major topics: SOC sequestration, biodiversity and sustainable production and environment.

Hence the call will address the first two expected impacts outlined in chapter 3 and will contribute to this area in a substantial way.

Knowledge gaps in the area of SOC sequestration need to be closed, e.g. by developing soil management options which help to protect existing stocks of soil carbon and store additional C through sequestering CO₂ from the atmosphere. Effective CO₂ sequestration can help reduce GHG emissions thereby helping to fulfil the objectives of the European Green Deal.

Another objective is to make a shift from those agricultural practices that contributes to soil degradation, towards, more sustainable practices and methods.

This not only addresses sustainable production but also a healthy environment, which can be achieved by, enhancing knowledge about biodiversity, and understanding functionalities and interactions in soils. Strong population growth combined with climate change challenges has placed food security high on the global agenda and therefore it is one of the key elements of the EU's Farm to Fork strategy. Sustainable production refers to not only healthy soil management but also addresses research in respect of water storage, soil salinization and biodiversity, while considering climate change.

Drastic changes are required to some of our current farming systems to modify agriculture's practises as a provider of adequate, safe and healthy food that is produced in a manner that is sustainable and environmentally friendly.

Three topics have been identified which will help solve the challenges mentioned above and are described in detail in chapter 4 below.

3 Expected impact

In the long term, the work and research done in EJP SOIL will contribute to guidance helping farmers to become better stewards of the land and soil resources not only in European but on a global level. The global perspective will significantly enhanced by this call as Funding parties also from non-European countries join this call. Additionally, farmers will actively contribute to the adaptation of agro-ecosystems to climate change and to the mitigation of climate change.

The call refers to the first two main impacts of EJP SOIL namely:

- 1) Fostering understanding of soil management and its influence on climate mitigation and adaption – sustainable agricultural production and a healthy environment
- 2) Understanding how soil carbon sequestration can contribute to climate change mitigation at regional level, including accounting for carbon



Both objectives will be addressed by the three topics that are outlined below. Projects shall have a clear added value to one on the above mentioned impacts – in their mid as well as long term perspective and also to the objectives of EJP SOIL (<https://ejpsoil.eu/>).

4 Call topics and cross cutting issues

Interested project consortia should apply to one of the three topics:

a) Understanding SOC sequestration (stabilization, storage and persistence)

- Saturation of C sequestration in organic matter of different soil forms (including C sequestration potential, quantification of stable C, how to increase the amount of C in different soils, influence of organo-mineral interactions on saturation and stabilization of C).
- Understanding the mechanism of SOC persistence in soil and subsoil (influence of minerals, microorganism and organic matter, stoichiometry of C-N-P).
- Dynamic interactions of SOC and greenhouse gasses (primarily CO₂, N₂O and CH₄) emissions.
- Management practices on different agriculture and forest soil types in order to minimize greenhouse gas emission.

b) Soil biodiversity: status, and role in ecosystem services provided by soils

- Development of holistic indicators and target values to define healthy soils for agricultural productivity, for example soil fertility, biodiversity, resilience, nutrient levels and soil-microbe-plant interactions.
- Understanding the functional role of soils in the provision of ecosystem services, e.g. the provision of food and non-food crops, nutrient cycling, water storage and filtration.
- Understanding the role of fauna, microbiome, plants and their interactions on maintaining, enhancing and restoring healthy and resilient soils for agricultural productivity.
- Impact of novel soil amendment (e.g. fiber sludges from the paper and pulp industry) materials to soil biota.

c) Site-specific or landscape-scale approaches to improve sustainability, resilience, health, and productivity of soils, including:

- Innovative practices and/or technologies* that maximise the storage of organic carbon in soils (protecting existing stocks or sequestration).
- Management strategies and agronomic management, including precision farming, that help reduce net emission of greenhouse gases (GHGs) from soils.
- Integrated management of farming systems, farm-networks, and agroecosystems, including for example, diversification of production, agroecological approaches, smart fertility/fertiliser management.
- Technologies, practices and management approaches to increase farming systems' sustainability and resilience to climate change.
- Technologies, practices, and management approaches that contribute to the restoration of landscapes and the maintenance of natural capital.



- Evaluation of the applicability of site-specific technologies or practices for different pedo-climatic zones and farming systems, and taking into account socio-economic issues.

*Technologies include but are not limited to, digital tools, drones and sensors, autonomous robots, tillage and traffic management, precision fertilization, weed and pest control, irrigation, amongst others

Research topics must have a clear added value to the EJP SOIL programme and to its targets and objectives (<https://projects.au.dk/about-ejp-soil/targets-objectives/>) as well as to the two impacts mentioned above.

Forest soils are not the main focus for this call, but for topic a) and b) forest soils are not excluded as long as the proposal has a clear added value to the targets and objectives of EJP SOIL programme and to this call.

5 Funding modalities and who can apply

The Funding Parties from the following countries and organisations will provide funds for the Call: Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, United Kingdom and Uruguay. In addition the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases will also participate in this call as funders and the following countries can apply to GRA funding: Argentina, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Honduras, Indonesia, Malaysia, Malawi, Mexico, Mongolia, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe. A list of the Funding Parties can be found in table 1. The funding for transnational projects will be based on a virtual common pot instrument. This means that applicants of projects that have been selected for funding will receive the grant directly from their national/regional Funding Party from which they sought funds, according to their terms and conditions. Same applies for funding received from the GRA on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases.

5.1 Who can apply

Universities and other higher education institutions, public research institutions, private non-profit organisations, and private companies can apply, subject to the national/regional regulations and funding regulations from the GRA respectively, and eligibility criteria. Research consortia should consist of a minimum of three partners seeking funding from at least three different countries. Research consortia partners ineligible to receive funding from any of the Funding Parties can be part of research consortia if they bring in their own funding and submit an appropriate "Commitment letter" (see Annex E). Funding of the participating research partners will be provided by the Funding Party from which they sought funding, according to their legal terms and conditions for project funding. A provisional list of Funding Parties is given below in table 1.

5.2 Eligibility criteria

The call is conducted as one-step-procedure but proposals are only eligible if



a project summary is submitted and coordinator and corresponding partners of the projects are registered before the 25th June 2021 via the online-submission tool.

Projects that have not been registered within this time may not be considered for submission of proposals.

Proposals have to be submitted before 07th of September 2021.

Proposals that have not been submitted within this time may not be considered for evaluation.

Apart from that, applicants are strongly advised to contact their national contact point and respectively the contact point of the GRA on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases before submitting a proposal (see Annex A).

All proposals must fulfil the general criteria, as well as the applicable national eligibility criteria and respectively eligibility criteria of the GRA on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases. If the national criteria and respectively the criteria of the GRA on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases differs from the general eligibility criteria, the national criteria and respectively the criteria of the GRA on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases has to be respected. General eligibility criteria are:

- Proposals must be written in English
- Proposals must be complete and in accordance to the procedure and must be submitted via the online submission tool
- **A project summary including assignment to one of the topics described in chapter 4 must be submitted and the coordinator and partners must be registered until 25th June 2021 13:00 CEST (Pre-registration) via the online submission tool, registration means that coordinator and partners have to fill in their contact data into the appreciate forms.**
- **Complete proposals must be submitted until 07th September 2021 16:00 CEST via the submission tool**
- Consortia must include at least three eligible partners requesting funding from at least three different EXCBF member countries who contribute funds to the Call. There is no maximum number of partners. However, the EXCBF of the call recommends that applying consortia should not include more than ten partners requesting funding.
- The involvement of applicants not seeking funding from any of the Funding Parties listed below is additional to the 3 minimum entities
- The same person cannot act as a coordinator for more than one proposal
- Applicants should avoid duplication with projects funded or submitted in other calls in the H2020 programme or ERA-NETs
- Each applying consortium must be led by a project coordinator, who must be from an organisation that is eligible for funding from its Funding Party. Applicants seeking funding from the GRA are eligible as project partners, but cannot apply as project coordinator
- The minimum project duration is 24 months and the maximum is 36 months



- Applicants must complete an ethics self assessment as part of the application
- Applicants ineligible to receive funding from any of the Funding Parties of the 1st external call of EJP SOIL are welcome to contribute to project consortia if they can secure their own expenses and hence have to submit a “letter of financial commitment” (see Annex E). However these applicants cannot be coordinator and their contribution should not be essential for the project’s successful implementation (achieving of milestones) and they will not count towards the minimum number of partners. Same applies to associated partners.

In addition, National/regional eligibility criteria and respectively eligibility criteria of the GRA on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases must be respected and the proposed research project must be consistent with the national/organisational thematic priorities of the Funding Party. National/organisational requirements are described in the national/regional regulations and GRA on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases regulations, respectively (Annex H). The Funding Parties may require additional documents according to their National/Regional or organisational Regulations. If additional documents are required, these must be submitted according to the requirements and by the deadlines stated in Annex H.

Failure of one applicant to meet any of the eligibility criteria, including the national/regional as well as GRA funding eligibility criteria will result in the rejection of the entire proposal.

Each applicant is therefore strongly recommended to consult, well in advance of submission, with the National Contact Point (NCP) of the Funder to which the funding request is addressed (Annex A). Partners from countries eligible to sought funds from the GRA on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases are also advised to contact the corresponding contact point (Annex A). Please check the National/Regional Regulations and regulations of the GRA on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases to ensure eligibility; in cases when different Funding Parties of one country participate in the call, they can have different organisational rules (Annex H).

After the closing date, the call office will carry out a General Call Eligibility Check of the proposals with respect to the criteria listed in this section. Proposals not meeting the minimum requirements will be rejected by the call office, following consultation with the External Call Board of Funders (EXCBF).

The members of the EXCBF will then check the proposals against national/regional eligibility criteria as described in the National Regulations and against the regulations of the GRA on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases. Proposals complying with both sets of criteria (General Call Eligibility Criteria and National Eligibility Criteria) will undergo the evaluation procedure.

The results of the General Eligibility check, the National Eligibility check as well as the eligibility criteria of the GRA on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases check will be communicated by the call office to the coordinators before the evaluation phase of the proposals.

5.3 Coordinator of the research project consortium

Each research project consortium needs to appoint a project coordinator. The project coordinator has the following role and responsibilities:



- Check the national/regional regulations and funding modalities and respectively the regulations to sought funding from the GRA on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases of all involved countries to ensure the eligibility of the project,
- Lead the consortium throughout the application procedure and be responsible for the correct Pre-registration of the project and proposal submission. The coordinator should be the one who creates an account for the proposal in the online submission tool,
- Be responsible for the overall project coordination and act as the central contact point for the consortium during the full lifespan of the research project,
- Inform the call office about any event that might affect the implementation of the project,
- Ensure that all work is carried to a high standard and meets contractually bound deliverables and milestones presented in the proposal and approved by the funding parties,
- Be responsible for sharing all information with consortium partners,
- Be responsible for monitoring data and timely delivery of project reports,
- Ensure that the project fulfils its obligations of funded project.

The project coordinator will not be responsible for the financial management of project funding, which will be handled directly between the consortium members and their corresponding Funding Parties.

Note that the inclusion of a non-eligible partner without a letter of commitment in a proposal will result in the rejection of the entire proposal. The same applies to project partners that participate on their own expense.

5.4 Funding Parties

table 1. List of Funding Parties of the 1st external call.

Country	Funding Party
/	Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases
AR	National Institute of Agriculture Technology
BE	Fonds voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek – Vlaanderen
CA	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
DE	Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung
EE	Ministry of Rural Affairs
FI	Maa- ja metsätalousministeriö
FR	Agence nationale de la recherché
HU	National Research, Development and Innovation Office
IE	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
IT	Ministero delle politiche agricole alimentari e forestali



LT	The ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Lithuania
NO	Norwegian Research Council
NZ	Ministry for Primary Industries
PL	The National Centre for Research and Development
PT	Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia
RU	Department of State scientific and technological policy in the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation
UK	Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council
UY	Instituto Nacional de Investigación Agropecuaria

5.5 Submission tool

The Call will be implemented using an online submission tool. It consists of a platform, where applicants can find all information necessary for the preparation and submission of proposals. The submission tool is available following this link: <https://ejp-soil.ptj.de/>

A webinar will be organised on May 25th from 10:00 CEST (Berlin time, Germany) for all interested applicants. Content of the webinar will be an overview about all relevant aspects for the Call and will give a short introduction for the submission tool.

5.6 Partnering tool

In addition, a partnering tool is attached to the submission platform, where project partnerships can be offered or searched for.

6 Call procedure

6.1 Management of the call

The call office will be operated by Project Management Jülich (Germany).

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6.2 Time schedule

The 1st external Call will follow a one-step-procedure whereas a pre-registration of project and partners of the consortium is mandatory for submission of proposals (see next section). A time schedule is provided below (tentative).



table 2: Timeline for the call.

Step	Date/Timeline
Pre-Announcement	April 06 th 2021
Launch of the Call	April 29 th 2021
Webinar	May 25 th 2021
Deadline Pre-registration of project	June 25 th 2021
Submission deadline	Sep 07 th 2021
Evaluation and selection	Sep-Nov 2021
Letters to applicants	Nov/Dec 2021
Aimed start of research projects	Dec 2021 – Jan 2022

6.3 Pre-Registration of projects and project consortia

All projects and corresponding partners of the consortia have to pre-register beforehand of proposal submission. The pre-registration comprises the upload of a project summary including the assignment to one of the topics described in chapter 4 and a registration of all partners of the potential consortia, which comprises to fill in the contact data of all partners. All relevant data for pre-registration are clearly marked within the submission tool and will be also explained during the Webinar (<https://ejp-soil.ptj.de>). This step is mandatory to apply for this call and hence to submit the proposal in September.

**The deadline for pre-registration is
25th of June 2021 13:00 CEST (Berlin, Germany).**

Applicants who miss to register and upload a project summary cannot submit their proposals in September. It is possible to replace and add partners to a project within the registration and submission step. The coordinator of the project shall not change, provided that serious and justified reasons will occur, acceptable for EXCBF which will take final decision about the change.

The pre-registration will support the call office in preparation of the evaluation phase (contacting required experts). The project summary will not undergo an expert evaluation, but will undergo a general check against the number and type of partners. If partners does not met the general or National regulations or the regulations from the GRA on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases, the coordinator of the project will be informed and asked to add and/or replace partners in order to be eligible.

6.4 Submission of proposals

The 1st external Call of EJP SOIL follows a one-step procedure with a deadline for submission of proposals being the 07th of September 2021 at 16:00 CEST (Berlin, Germany).

Proposals have to be registered beforehand (see section 6.3) Proposals, which have not been registered in time, will be rejected.

It will be possible to update and resubmit the application as many times as required until the submission deadline (07th September 2021, 16:00 CEST), but not after that.



Applicants should note that the online submission system may experience high traffic volumes in the last hours before the submission deadline. It is therefore highly recommended to submit the final version of the proposal well in advance of the deadline to avoid any last minute technical problems. Requests for extensions of the deadline due to last minute technical problems may be considered.

Before the submission of a proposal the coordinator should make sure that all consortium partners requesting funding from this Call are eligible for support from their respective national/regional funding organisations or the GRA on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases.

For additional partners who are not eligible for funding from any of the Funding Parties, the coordinator has to ensure that each of these partners possesses the required financial security to fulfil their tasks within the project via a Letter of Financial Commitment (see Annex E).

The project coordinator is responsible for the timely submission of the proposal via the online submission system.

Note: that the inclusion of a non-eligible partner without a letter of financial commitment in a proposal will result in the rejection of the entire proposal.

7 Expert evaluation procedure

7.1 General

The EXCBF will establish an International Evaluation Panel (IEP) that has the following mandate:

- provides the peer review evaluation of proposals, on the basis of the Evaluation criteria published in the chapter 7.2.1 of the 1st external call of EJP SOIL;
- provides a written summary of each proposal to explain the decisions to the EXCBF. The summary will be provided to the applicant by the call office;
- recommends proposals as described below recommended ranking list of projects for funding).

A Chair and a vice-chair will coordinate the work of the IEP and an Independent observer will oversee the whole evaluation process. Each IEP member will be independent of any funding party and applicant involved in this Call. The call office will ensure that no conflict of interest exists concerning the expert and the proposals evaluated. For this purpose, the IEP members will be required to sign a conflict of interest and a Declaration of Confidentiality form. The online evaluation tool will include a feature which will prevent access to a proposal in case of a Conflict of Interest is declared by an expert.

During the entire procedure, strict confidentiality will be ensured with respect to the identities of the applicants and the content of the proposals. The proposals will be only read by the EXCBF members and by the IEP members involved, and be handled by the call office. All persons in charge will have signed a confidentiality agreement before they get access to the proposals. Furthermore, all collected data will be handled in accordance with the GDPR (see section 8).



Eligible proposals will be evaluated online by a minimum of three international experts per proposal. The experts will then meet (via online meeting) and agree on consensus scores for each proposal.

7.2 Evaluation and selection of proposals

7.2.1 Evaluation criteria

The reviewers will evaluate the proposals in accordance with the scope and expected impact described in this call announcement (see section 2, 3 and 4), and using the three equally-weighted evaluation criteria (including sub-criteria) described below.

The three equally-weighted evaluation criteria are:

1. Scientific excellence

The excellence of the proposal will be assessed by evaluators considering the following points:

- a) Clarity and pertinence of the objectives
- b) Soundness of the concept
- c) Credibility of the proposed methodology
- d) Quality and expertise of the consortium as a whole (Project Coordinator's and Project Partners' information)
- e) Degree of novelty and innovation of the proposed approach and extent to which the proposed work is beyond the state of the art and demonstrates innovation potential (e.g. ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches, new products, services or business and organisational models)
- f) Appropriate application of system thinking, interdisciplinary approaches and where relevant use of stakeholder knowledge/involvement and gender dimension in research and innovation content

2. Relevance and potential impact

This evaluation criterion will focus on the call scope looking at the relevance to the Call and the potential impact of the project.

The relevance to the Call will be done by checking each proposal against

- topics and subtopics outlined in section 4
- overall objective of EJP SOIL (<https://ejpsoil.eu/>)

The impact assessment will focus on specific impacts underlined in the call scope.

The evaluator will consider the extent to which the outputs of the project will contribute to the expected impacts outlined in the call scope (see chapter 3) and the overall objective of EJP SOIL.

The evaluator will also consider the quality of the proposed measures to:

- Exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of Intellectual Property Rights)
- Communicate the project activities to different target audiences



3. Quality and efficiency of the Implementation

- a) Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, including extent to which the resources assigned to work packages are in line with their objectives and deliverables
- b) Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk, ethical issues and data management
- c) Complementarity of the participants and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise
- d) Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks, ensuring that all participants have a valid role and adequate resources in the project to fulfil that role
- e) Appropriateness of the project budget to the planned work and the achievement of the project goals

7.2.2 Scoring

For proposal evaluation, scores will be awarded for each of the three main criteria mentioned above. Each criterion will be scored out of 5 (half scores are not allowed) and equally weighted.

The 0-5 scoring system for each criterion indicates the following assessment:

- **0: The proposal fails to address the criterion** or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
- **1: Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed**, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
- **2: Fair. The proposal broadly addresses the criterion**, but there are significant weaknesses.
- **3: Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well**, but a number of shortcomings are present.
- **4: Very Good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well**, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
- **5: Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion.** Any shortcomings are minor.

An average score of each criterion is calculated out of the scores given by a minimum of 3 experts who evaluated the proposal. Two thresholds will be applied with respect to the scores. **A threshold of 3/5** will be applied for each criterion, i.e. proposals with a mean score < 3.0 in any main criterion will not be recommended for funding. **A threshold of 10** will be applied with respect to the total score, i.e. proposals with a total score under 10 will not be proposed for funding. All proposals will be ranked according to the final scores.

The outcome of the evaluation is irrevocable.

7.3 Proposal selection (Funding decision)

The call office will prepare a list of recommended projects taking into account the ranking list as provided by the IEP and available funding. The EXCBF will meet to take the final



decision on selecting transnational projects recommended for national/regional funding, based on the ranking list provided by the IEP to ensure to fund as many high quality projects as possible with the available funds from the Funding parties.

The outcome of the evaluation process and funding recommendation will be communicated by the call office to the project coordinators. Evaluation summaries will be provided to the coordinators which are responsible for forwarding all information to their research consortium partners.

Upon the final decision by the EXCBF, a list of funded projects will be published on the EJP SOIL website (<https://ejpsoil.eu/>) containing the following information from the proposals:

- Project title and project acronym
- Duration of the project
- Project Summary
- Total requested funding of the project
- Name and contact information of the project coordinator
- Country, organisation and participant name of each partner.

8 General Data Protection Regulations Issues

All personal data offered for project applications, reviewers and expert assessments, mailing lists, tracking websites, registration for activities and events will be collected, stored and processed in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (Regulation EU 679/2016). A data protection officer (DPO) is appointed to ensure compliance with the GDPR rules. For more information please consult the privacy policy on the submission website.

9 Obligations for funded projects

9.1 Negotiation of contract

Once the notification letter from the call office to the coordinators with the communication of the funding decision has been received, the project partners of proposals recommended for funding will be contacted by the Funding Parties or will need to contact the Funding Parties of their respective countries themselves according to their Regulations (Annex H) in order to start the grant negotiation and accomplish the remaining steps until the research project can start.

Each Funding Party will fund their respective applicant(s) within the research project. Formal funding decisions are made by the participating Funding Parties and funding will be provided according to applicable National/Regional funding or GRA on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases Regulations and specific ethical issues raised by the evaluators.

For some Funding Parties, a signed consortium agreement might be required for release of the national/regional funds. It is strongly recommended that successful consortia should therefore negotiate and sign a Consortium Agreement before commencement of the project as required per National/Regional Regulations. This should address at least the following topics:



- Internal organisation and management of the consortium
- Intellectual property arrangements
- Settlement of internal disputes

Support for the preparation of a Consortium Agreement can be found on the DESCAs webpage (<http://www.desca-2020.eu>): the form was developed for H2020 projects and will have to be adjusted to this Call.

9.2 Dissemination and Communication

A list of the funded projects will be published at the end of the 1st external Call of EJP SOIL. Therefore, applicants should be aware that the information from the proposals as listed under section 7.3 will be published for promotional purposes.

9.3 Project monitoring and meetings

In addition to the reporting required by the National/Regional Regulations (Annex H), reporting will be required at mid-term (M12 or M18, depending on the project duration and start) at the end of each project (M24 or 36 by dates, depending on the project duration and start). This will consist of a project status report and in-depth monitoring survey to measure project progress and contribution to the overall aims of the 1st external Call of EJP SOIL. All project partners will have to deliver input for these reports.

In order to enhance dissemination of the project results a mid-term and end-term meeting will be planned by the EJP SOIL consortium where all projects shall be presented. Project coordinators should calculate costs for attendance of those two mandatory joint network meetings (mid-term and end-term meeting) in their project plan.

The report due to this Call for the monitoring process can include also some budgetary indications but the binding information about the budget are due to the Funding Party, following its own regulations.

Detailed information on the reporting and monitoring procedures as well as templates will be provided to the coordinators of the funded projects in due course.

9.4 Data Management Issues

As relevant, applicants must include information on how the project partners will manage the research data generated and/or collected during the project. Each proposal must include a maximum one page Data Management Plan. Advice for preparing the Data Management Plan is provided in Annex D of this document.

In addition, applicants must include an updated Data Management Plan as a distinct deliverable within the first six months of the project. A template for such a plan is given in the guidelines on data management in the H2020 Online Manual. This deliverable will evolve during the lifetime of the project in order to present the status of the project's reflections on data management.

9.5 Ethics assessment

Work involving the use of animals or humans should be carried out under the appropriate authorization taking into account the European Union and national ethical requirements.



Any proposal, which seems to contravene fundamental ethical principles, shall not be selected, and may be excluded from the evaluation and selection procedure. Judgement of the significance of ethical issues will be made by using the criteria published by the European Commission in its guidelines for the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme.

To prove absence of potential misuse of research results, other ethics issues above listed, the applicant is required to complete the ethics self-assessment and provide a support documentation referred to in the ethics issues checklist. Please consult Horizon 2020 Programme Guidance How to complete your ethics self-assessment (https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/ethics_en.htm).

These guidelines address, in more detail, the following ethical issues: human embryos & fetuses, human beings, human cells or tissues, personal data, animals, non-EU countries, environment, health & safety, dual use, exclusive focus on civil applications. Applicants can also consult on the European Commission website the Guidance Note – Ethics and Food- Related Research on core issues of ethical concern in the field of food-related research including appendix that addresses broader concerns in the field of food ethics.

This self-assessment, as well as any additional ethical issues that are raised by the evaluation committee will be shared with national funders and national funders may stipulate specific ethical requirements which must be met by successful applicants as part of the national funding contract.

In case activities undertaken in non-EU countries raise ethics issues, the applicants must ensure that the research conducted outside the EU is legal in at least one EU Member State



Annex A | National/Regional contact points and indicative call budget

Table 3: List of National/Regional and GRA contact points and indicative call budget. For more details, please refer to Annex H.

Country	Organisation	NCP	E-mail	Budget (k€)
/	GRA	Hayden Montgomery	research.calls@globalresearchalliance.org	600
AR	INTA	Alejandro Valeiro	valeiro.alejandro@inta.gob.ar	100
BE	FWO	Toon Monbaliu	erant@fwo.be	700
CA	AAFC	Sara Sarkar	sara.sarkar@canada.ca	1,300
DE	BMBF	Ulrike Ziegler Christian Breuer	u.ziegler@fz-juelich.de c.breuer@fz-juelich.de	2,000
FI	MMM	Elina Nikkola	Elina.Nikkola@mmm.fi	500
FR	ANR	Maurice Heral	Maurice.HERAL@agencerecherche.fr	1,000.
HU	NKFIH	Orsolya Toth	orsolya.toth2@nkfi.gov.hu	300
IE	DAFM	Matthew Clarke	Matthew.Clarke@agriculture.gov.ie	750
IT	MIPAAF	Serenella Puliga	s.puliga@politicheagricole.it	400
LT	ZUM	Diana Salkauskiene	Diana.Salkauskiene@zum.lt	150
NO	RCN	Thorbjørn Gilberg	thgi@forskningsradet.no	1,000
NZ	MPI	William Aitkenhead	William.Aitkenhead@mpi.govt.nz	900
PL	NCBR	Bozena Grzybowska	bozena.grzybowska@ncbr.gov.pl	600
PT	FCT	Maria Maia	Maria.Maia@fct.pt	200
RU	MSHE	Elena Vaganova	vaganovaev@minobrnauki.gov.ru	670
UK	BBSRC	Tim Willis	tim.willis@bbsrc.ac.uk	2,250
UY	INIA	Verónica Musselli	vmusselli@inia.org.uy	100
*not confirmed yet			Sum	13,520



Annex B Checklist proposal documents to be uploaded

The proposal has to be submitted via online submission tool. Beside the data which have to be filled into the submission tool directly the following documents have to be uploaded as separate files (see also Annex C). If not described different all documents shall have the font and size Arial 11pt with a line pitch of 1.15 and have to be uploaded as pdf. Beside the documents, 6 images can also be uploaded. (please pay attention to proper size).

Document	Comment	Done
Coordinator CV	Max. 2 pages (incl. personal details, brief description of your profile incl. relevant qualification and international expertise, expertise in project management and international collaboration, list of academic and non-academic degrees and year awarded, list of current and past positions)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Partner CVs	Max. 2 pages (incl. personal details, brief description of your profile incl. relevant qualification and international expertise, expertise in project management and international collaboration, list of academic and non-academic degrees and year awarded, list of current and past positions)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Work plan	Max. 20 pages, please use the template provided in Annex F and as download on the submission website	<input type="checkbox"/>
Data management plan	Max. 2 pages, see Annex D	<input type="checkbox"/>
Letter of commitment(s)	Please compile on pdf file for all commitment letters	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dissemination and communication plan	Max. 2 pages, see Annex G	<input type="checkbox"/>
Letter of commitment(s)	Please compile on pdf file for all commitment letters; a template is also provided in Annex E and as download on submission website	<input type="checkbox"/>
Literature References	Optional	<input type="checkbox"/>



Annex C Template proposal

Project Coordinator/partner information

- Contact details
- CV of coordinator/partner
CV shall be uploaded as pdf file max. 2 pages, Arial 11pt, line pitch 1.15, max. 2 MB, literature references can be uploaded as separate document
- Tasks within the project
max 2,500 characters incl. spaces
- 5 references/publications
more can be provided as separate document in literature references
- Team members and their relevant qualifications
max 2,000 characters incl. spaces

Project data

- Project title
- Acronym
- Expected project start date and end date

Keywords

- Supplementary keywords
Max. 5 keywords related to your project, separated by comma

Project summary

- Please provide a short summary of your project. This summary may be used for communication and dissemination activities in case your project is recommended for funding. Please make sure that it is publishable
max. 4,000 characters incl. spaces

Description of Work

The description of work consists of the three parts described below. Please stick to the structure outlined below.

- **Scientific Excellence**
 - Objectives
 - State of the art
 - Concept and approach
 - Ambition
 - Added value for transnational research and innovations*Max. 20,000 characters incl. spaces*
- **Relevance and Impact**
 - Relevance to the call scope and main objectives of EJP SOIL
 - Expected impacts
 - Measure to maximise impact
 - Dissemination and Communication activities and exploitation of results*Max. 20,000 characters incl. spaces*



▪ **Implementation**

- This part shall reflect the implementation of the project. Please describe the work flow and management structure within the consortium (organigram is recommended)
- The related work plan shall be uploaded as separate file
- Please do not copy the work plan but reference the work plan if appropriate

Max. 10,000 characters incl. spaces

Work plan

The work plan is part of the implementation and hence part of the description of work. Upload your detailed work plan, including detailed description of work packages, tasks, deliverables and milestones as well as a Gantt-Chart. A template is provided in Annex F and on the submission website and shall be used. The size of the pdf file is limited to 20 pages. Uploading of more than 20 pages will be blocked by the system.

Upload pdf file, max. 20 pages, Arial 11pt, line pitch 1.15, max. 5 MB

Data Management plan

Please consider recommendations and checklist of questions provided in Annex D.

Upload pdf file, max. 2 pages, Arial 11pt, line pitch 1.15, max. 1 MB

Societal and Ethical Aspects

- Are there any aspects of the proposal that could possibly raise societal concerns or ethical issues? Yes/no

If yes, please address these concerns/issues. Proposals may be rejected from funding on ethical grounds if they do not comply with European and/or National/Regional Legislation.

Furthermore, the full implementation of the 3R (reduction, replacement, refinement) principles in any research project using animals is required. Please also consider https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/ethics_en.htm for ethical self assessment

Financial Plan

Please insert the requested budget **for all partners** within the consortium into the appropriate columns within the submission tool. Also add your own contribution if applicable and **write a short explanation for each budget item.**

Table financial plan including comment (k€)

<i>Partner Organization name</i>	<i>Personnel costs</i>	<i>Travel costs</i>	<i>Consumables/equipment</i>	<i>Other direct costs/overhead /Subcontracts</i>
<i>ABC</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Overhead</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>



Dissimination and communication plan

Please consider recommendations and explanations provided in Annex G.

Upload pdf file, max. 2 pages, Arial 11pt, line pitch 1.15, max. 1 MB

Letter of Commitment(s)

Partners who are not eligible for National/Regional funding from the funding parties listed in table 1 and partners who are able to fully work on their own financial resources, may join the project at their own expense or funded by another agency, if their contribution is important to achieve the project goals.

You have to upload for each of these partners a Letter of Commitment via the Upload Field of the submission tool. Please use the template provided under Annex E and compile all Letter of Commitments into one pdf file.

Upload one pdf file

Literature References (optional)

Upload one pdf file

Evaluators (optional)

Applicants can name experts who shall be excluded for reviewing their proposal because of Conflict of Interest. Please enter full name, affiliation and reason for refusal of the expert.

Figures (optional)

You can upload up to 6 figures. Please make sure to use the correct format (jpg, png or gif) and maximum size that is supported by the online submission system (max. 2MB and 600px x 600px)



Annex D Data Management Plan

Data management is an essential component to the success of projects using systems/synthetic biology approaches and/or tools in bioinformatics. Representatives from academia, industry, funding agencies, and scholarly publishers designed and jointly endorsed a concise and measurable set of principles referred to as FAIR Data Principles with the intention to provide a guideline for reusability of data holdings. Four foundational principles – **F**indability, **A**ccessibility, **I**nteroperability and **R**eusability– are a necessity of data management. The EC recently published Guidelines on FAIR Data Management in Horizon 2020.

All applicants must include a maximum one page Data Management Plan. This plan should mainly detail how the project partners will manage the research data generated and/or collected during the project, in particular addressing the following issues:

- What types of data will the project generate/collect?
- What standards will be used?
- How will this data be exploited and/or shared/made accessible for verification and reuse?

If data cannot be made available, explain why.

- How will this data be curated and preserved?
- How will the costs for data curation and preservation be covered?

Additional guidance on data management, including a template for a Data Management Plan, is given in the guidelines on data management in the Horizon 2020 Online Manual, available at: https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/open-access-data-management/data-management_en.htm



Annex E Template financial commitments

This template should be used as evidence of the availability of funds by applicants who are:

- from partners ineligible to receive funding from any of the Funding Parties participating in the 1st external Call of EJP SOIL or
- eligible, to receive funding from a Funding Party, but not seeking funding from a Funding Party.

Organisations are allowed to use their own templates, however the content of the letter as described hereunder should be regarded as the minimum requirement.

**This document must be signed by
an authorised representative of the organisation.**

This letter should be submitted electronically with the proposal through the Online Submission Tool.

In case of failure to provide such a commitment in a proposal submission, an applicant could be regarded as ineligible and so will be the whole consortium.

Name and address of organisation Name and address of contact person

1st external call of EJP SOIL

Letter of Commitment

City, Date:

We hereby confirm that (Organisation Name) has sufficient resources and is committed to participating in the project (project title)

.....

In accordance with the proposal which is submitted by (coordinator name)



Annex F Work plan

Template for description of work packages and Gantt Chartt. Text in blue shall be adapted. The template can be also downloaded at the website of the online submission tool.

WP 1	<i>Name of WP</i>				
WP leader	<i>P1</i>	Start month	<i>M1</i>	End month	<i>M6</i>
Partners involved	<i>P1</i>	<i>P2</i>	<i>P3</i>	<i>P4</i>	
Person months	<i>1</i>	<i>2.5</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>1</i>	
Deliverables	<i>D1.1 (M3) D1.2 (M6)</i>		Milestones	<i>M1.1 (M3)</i>	
Aim of WP <i>Brief description of objectives and interrelations with other WPs</i>					
Description of Tasks <i>Task 1.1: Title (Duration in month)</i> Task leader and partners involved: Leader , <i>partner1, partner2, ...</i> <i>Description of task</i> <i>Task 1.2:</i>					
Deliverables <i>D1.1: title (Month of deliverable)</i>					
Milestones <i>M1.1: title (Month of deliverable)</i>					
Risks and mitigation of risks <i>Brief description of main risks and their mitigation and plans how to adapt work plan</i>					

The Gantt chartt shall contain time span of each WP and corresponding tasks as well as deliverables and milestones. An example for a Gantt chartt is given below:

	M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6	M7	M...	M36
WP 1									
Task 1.1			M1.1						
Task 1.2						D1.2			
WP 2									
...									



Annex G Dissemination and Communication Plan

Plans for communication and dissemination of the project and its results have to be described and will be taken into account in the evaluation with the aim to increase the quality of the implementation and to reach higher impact (see chapter 7.2.1). This should be organised in the form of various communication routes (both national and international) such as scientific papers, posters, presentations, a course or training material, web based tools, workshops as well as stakeholder involvement or direct intervention directed towards end users.

Appropriate resources should be dedicated for the communication and dissemination activities. To enhance dissemination of the project results, additionally or in parallel to the own project meetings, all project coordinators should calculate costs for the attendance of two mandatory joint network meetings (mid-term- and end-term meeting) in their project plan.

Please consider that all project partners must give proper reference to the EJP SOIL in any document that is published (in written, oral or electronic form) within the research project.

There are possibilities to get support and advice for your plan for communication, dissemination and capacity building, please consider: The EC guidelines on "Communication EU research and innovation guidance for project participants" (https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/gm/h2020-guide-comm_en.pdf)



Annex H National/Regional and GRA on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases regulations

GLOBAL RESEARCH ALLIANCE ON AGRICULTURAL GREENHOUSE GASES (GRA)



Participating organisation	Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA)
Indicative budget	Minimum 600,000 €
Contact point	Hayden Montgomery
Phone	+59 891457755
E-Mail	research.calls@globalresearchalliance.org

Link to funding programme and other relevant information	<p>www.globalresearchalliance.org</p> <p>GRA encourages those research institutions considering requesting GRA funding under this call to contact the GRA contact person at research.calls@globalresearchalliance.org.</p> <p>Proposals should explicitly link to the work of the Research Groups and Networks of the GRA and should have the potential to become Flagship projects of the GRA.</p> <p>GRA Flagship projects are projects which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Address a critical research gap and/or capability building need of the GRA. - Facilitate engagement by a broad range of Alliance Members and Partners, by providing a range of collaboration opportunities, including at low cost e.g. data, sample or knowledge sharing. - Generate new knowledge, high scientific impact. - Should have global relevance, if not global participation in their delivery.
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Project duration	Min. 24 months	Max. 36 months
Maximum funding per project	200,000 € (Maximum budget per research institution per project €100,000)	
Topics to be funded	▪ GRA will only fund projects addressing topic A or C of this call.	
Exceptions for funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	▪ GRA will not fund projects addressing topic B of this call.	
Following partners are eligible for funding	Yes	No
Partners of the EJP SOIL consortium	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Research institutes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Industry partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other stakeholders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Any additional rules or documents or information		
Only research institutions* from the following countries are eligible for funding from GRA:		
Argentina	Eswatini	Philippines
Bangladesh	Ethiopia	Republic of Korea
Benin	Ghana	Samoa
Bolivia	Honduras	Senegal
Brazil	Indonesia	South Africa
Cameroon	Malaysia	Sri Lanka
Chile	Malawi	Thailand
China	Mexico	Tunisia
Colombia	Mongolia	Turkey
Costa Rica	Namibia	Uganda
Cote d'Ivoire	Nicaragua	Uruguay
Democratic Republic of Congo	Nigeria	Viet Nam
Dominican Republic	Panama	Zambia
Ecuador	Paraguay	Zimbabwe
Egypt	Peru	
* Universities conducting research qualify as research institutions for the purposes of the GRA's funding regulations in this call.		



All research institutions requesting GRA funding must contain a letter of eligibility from the GRA and this must be included with the full application due on **07 September 2021**. Letters of eligibility must be requested from the GRA contact person at research.calls@globalresearchalliance.org, no later than **24 August 2021**.

Please note that GRA will give priority to applications from research institutions eligible for GRA funding with a view to maximising participation of GRA member country research institutions and maximising the level of co-investment by GRA member research institutions.

All intellectual property (IP) arising from projects supported by this call will be managed through an IP Plan. Proposals should indicate in general how IP will be managed, with a full IP Plan developed at the contracting phase. This plan must outline in detail how IP (including background IP, and IP developed while carrying out a project) will be managed.

GRA general principles in relation to the management of IP are set out below. IP plans should be consistent with these principles:

- i. IP should be dealt with in a manner that ensures widest possible benefit.
- ii. Unless there are strong reasons to withhold, protect, or commercialise IP developed while carrying out a project, then it should be made public and freely available.
- iii. All publications arising from work funded by GRA should be open access and GRA should be appropriately acknowledged.



ARGENTINA
National Institute of Agriculture Technology (INTA)

 Instituto Nacional de
 Tecnología Agropecuaria

Participating organisation	National Institute of Agriculture Technology (INTA) Av. Rivadavia 1439 (C1033AAE) Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires; Argentina
Indicative budget	100,000 €
National contact point	Alejandro, VALEIRO INTA Labintex-Europe
Phone	+54 9 11 34214156
E-Mail	Valeiro.alejandro@inta.gob.ar

Link to funding programme and other relevant information	▪ N/A		
Project duration	Min. 24 months	Max. 36 months	
Total national budget available (€)	100,000 €		
Topics to be funded	▪ All topics		
Exceptions for funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	▪ Funding eligibility includes travel and per diem, consumables and other agreed costs, but no investments or personnel expenses.		
Following partners are eligible for funding	Yes	No	Specific requirements
Partners of the EJP SOIL consortium	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	▪
Research institutes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	▪ The call will be restricted to INTA researchers within the usual institutional planning system
Industry partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	▪



Other stakeholders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	▪
Any additional national rules or documents or information			
<p>a. Proposals must meet the general eligibility criteria established by the joint call document and fit within the mission and strategic objectives of INTA</p> <p>b. All applications requesting financing for Argentina under this call must include a letter of support from INTA.</p> <p>c. The call will be restricted to INTA researchers who work in the selected research areas.</p> <p>d. Proposals must include a plan for dissemination of information.</p> <p>e. All intellectual property that may arise from the projects supported by this call will be managed through an IP Plan. Proposals should generally indicate how IP will be managed, with a full IP Plan developed at the procurement phase.</p> <p>f. Proposals must not exceed 36 months of project duration.</p> <p>g. Funding eligibility includes travel and per diem, consumables and other agreed costs, but no investments or personnel expenses.</p> <p>h. INTA will prioritize proposals that adopt a holistic approach to the problem.</p>			



Belgium (Flanders)
The Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO)

Participating organisation	FWO Egmontstraat 5, Brussels, Belgium
Indicative budget	700,000 €
National contact point	Toon Monbaliu
Phone	+32 2 550 15 70
E-Mail	eranet@fwo.be

FWO participation scheme	<p>The FWO participates with its ‘research projects’ funding scheme, which implies the funding of basic research. Accordingly, the FWO project regulations apply, although there are some deviations when it comes to EJP projects.</p> <p>Who can apply? In order to be eligible for FWO funding, researchers have to comply - amongst others - with Articles 10 and 11 of the research project regulations. PI’s in this call should have a permanent or so-called ‘ZAP position’ and be appointed at an eligible main host institution.</p> <p>Eligible costs: Funding money can be used for staff (only ‘temporary’ staff: permanent staff (PI’s) cannot be justified on FWO budget), consumables (incl. e.g. travelling, other costs, etc.) and equipment. Projects may last up to 36 months, which implies the funding has to be budgeted and spent accordingly.</p> <p>The minimal and maximal allowed funding amounts per cost category and per budgetary year, as applicable to the regular FWO-projects, should not be applied to projects funded in this call.</p> <p>The maximum amount that can be requested per project/consortium is 350.000 EUR - independent of the number of researchers applying for funding at FWO - including a mandatory 6% overhead cost. This</p>
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	<p>overhead cost of 6% on the applied for budget needs to be inserted in the overhead category from the budget table and is calculated by applying a 6% structural overhead rate on the total direct costs (personnel, consumables, travel, equipment, subcontracting, etc.). The sum of the total direct costs and this overhead cost form the 'total requested budget', which may not exceed 350.000 EUR.</p> <p>Additionally, it is not allowed that researchers apply for part of their budget at different funding authorities (e.g. matching funding) for the same project, and thus within the same consortium.</p>		
Project duration	Min. 24 months	Max. 36 months	
Maximum funding per project	350,000 € (overhead included)		
Topics to be funded	All call topics are fundable		
Exceptions for funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The FWO only funds basic research ▪ Eligible TRL range: 1-3 		
Following partners are eligible for funding	Yes	No	Specific requirements
Partners of the EJP SOIL consortium	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Research institutes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Industry partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Other stakeholders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Any additional national rules or documents or information			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A researcher can be included/participate in maximum two different consortia/projects in this call, with different topics. ▪ Researchers have to inform the central research coordination units, from their host institutions, about their participation. ▪ No additional 'national/regional' submission is required for the FWO. ▪ No additional limitations are in place, and thus no interference exists when it comes to the 'national projects' (i.e. limit on running and applied for projects). <p>More information about ERA-NET and the FWO participation can be consulted online, on the FWO-website.</p>			



**CANADA
 AGRICULTURE AND AGRI-FOOD
 CANADA (AAFC)**

 Agriculture et
 Agroalimentaire Canada

 Agriculture and
 Agri-Food Canada

Participating organisation	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Science and Technology Branch	
Indicative budget	1,300,000 €	
National contact point	Sara Sarkar	Bob Turnock
Phone	(613) 878-3046	(306) 523-6578
E-mail	sara.sarkar@canada.ca	bob.turnock@canada.ca

Link to funding programme and other relevant information	N/A		
Project duration	Min. 24 months	Max. 36 months	
Maximum funding per project	200,000 €		
Topics to be funded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All topics 		
Exceptions for funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ N/A 		
Following partners are eligible for funding	Yes	No	Specific requirements
Partners of the EJP SOIL consortium	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Research institutes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Industry partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Other stakeholders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Any additional national rules or documents or information			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Only AAFC Science and Technology Branch researchers with existing funding are eligible. Note that this budget is the value of existing funded AAFC Science and 			



Technology Branch Projects that could be linked with EJP Soil consortia. AAFC Applicants are strongly advised to contact the National Contact Point prior to submission regarding the eligibility criteria.

- This amount does not represent a fund that is available to non-AAFC Canadian researchers. Non-AAFC Canadian researchers with their own funding who are interested can contact the EJP Soil Secretariat directly.



GERMANY
Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (BMBF)


Participating organisation	Bundeministerium für Bildung und Forschung (BMBF)	
	Heinemannstraße 2, 53175 Bonn	
Indicative budget	2,000,000 €	
National contact point	Ulrike Ziegler	Christian Breuer
Phone	+49 2429 908 8055	+49 2465 305 8847
E-mail	u.ziegler@fz-juelich.de	c.breuer@fz-juelich.de

Link to funding programme and other relevant information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nationale Bioökonomiestrategie 		
Project duration	Min. 24 months	Max. 36 months	
Maximum funding per project	400,000 €		
Topics to be funded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All topics 		
Exceptions for funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects must have a clear added value to the national funding programme 		
Following partners are eligible for funding	Yes	No	Specific requirements
Partners of the EJP SOIL consortium	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any specific mandatory requirements are defined in the national call announcement.
Research institutes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Industry partners	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other stakeholders	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Any additional national rules or documents or information			



- German applicants are strongly recommended to contact their National Contact Persons before submitting a proposal and to refer to the National Announcement
- BMBF funding of the EJP SOIL 1st external call is provided as delineated in the announcement "[Auf dem Weg zu gesunden, belastbaren Böden und nachhaltiger Bodenbewirtschaftung](#)"
- German applicants who are eligible to receive "Projektpauschale" must make sure, that this is drawn in the section "Finances" under "Overhead". Additional explanations is to be added in the section "Comments on finances". More information is available in the "FAQ zur Projektpauschale": <https://foerderportal.bund.de>
- Funding bases on §§23 and 44 BHO ("Bundeshaushaltsordnung") and associated administrative regulations. The main items are as follows:
 - The procedure ("Verfahren") is according to the above-mentioned protocol (see Chapter "Application Procedure"). Funding will be awarded as non-repayable project grant.
 - The funding regulations, the follow up and reporting of publicly funded projects are regulated according to the national announcement "Auf dem Weg zu gesunden, belastbaren Böden und nachhaltiger Bodenbewirtschaftung" and NKBF 2017, NABF and BNBest-mittelbarer Abruf-BMBF, respectively. Additionally, reporting duties as delineated in this Call Announcement in the Chapter „Reporting requirements" must be respected as well.
 - Research institutions, which receive basic financing, can be funded subject to specific conditions.
 - Enterprises must be registered in Germany and must be well established in Germany with plants, laboratories, employees, etc. The proposed project must be beneficial to the national economy. In order to prove their financial ability to participate in the proposed project, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) have to submit the following documents to the contact person written below together with the electronic submission of the proposals (documents received latest on 07th Sept 2021):
 - 1) Financial statement for the last two years (Jahresabschlüsse der letzten zwei Jahre)
 - 2) Confirmation of the financial own contribution (Erklärung zur Aufbringung des Eigenanteils)
 - 3) Business assessment (Aktuelle BWA)

The documents have to be submitted to:

Dr. Ulrike Ziegler

Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH

Projektträger Jülich

Geschäftsbereich Bioökonomie/ PTJ BIO7:Europäische Initiativen und Internationales
D-52425 Jülich

In the case of a positive funding recommendation, all German applicants will be asked to submit a formal national application. It is mandatory to use the electronic application system "easy-online" <https://foerderportal.bund.de/easyonline>.



FINLAND
MMM

 Maa- ja metsätalousministeriö
 Jord- och skogsbruksministeriet
 Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Participating organisation	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MMM)	
	PO Box 30 FI-00023 GOVERNMENT	
Indicative budget	500,000 €	
National contact point	Marjaana Suorsa	Elina Nikkola
Phone	+358 2951 62333	
E-Mail	marjaana.suorsa@mmm.fi	elina.nikkola@mmm.fi

Link to funding programme and other relevant information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research and Development Funds of the MMM 		
Project duration	Min. 24 months	Max. 36 months	
Maximum funding per project	170,000 €		
Topics to be funded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All topics 		
Exceptions for funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MMM finances only applied research; fundamental research is not funded 		
Following partners are eligible for funding	Yes	No	Specific requirements
Partners of the EJP SOIL consortium	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natural Resources Institute Luke, which act as a Programme Manager in the EJP Consortium is excluded from this call.
Research institutes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Also universities are financed in addition to research institutes
Industry partners	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only public, pre-competitive research. We do not support



			product development, which support only individual companies.
Other stakeholders	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ E.g. guidance organisations may receive funding
Any additional national rules or documents or information			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Costs that are necessary and reasonable in view of the project work and which can be allocated to the project in accounting (see Additional information: the general terms and instructions). ▪ For research organizations and universities, max. 70 % of the project's gross eligible costs are covered. ▪ When granting funding (discretionary government transfers) to companies for research and development activities, the EU framework for granting state funding for research, development and innovation work and the General Block Exemption Regulation shall be applied. The amount of funding is determined based on the nature of the research and development project and the size of the company. The amount of funding can be 25–80% ▪ For research and guidance organisations that are outside of state finances and may receive state funding, the share of funding from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry can be a maximum of 70–90% of the approved total costs, depending on the amount of the organisation's total costs 			



FRANCE
Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR)


Participating organisation	Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR)	
	50 avenue Daumesnil, 75012 Paris	
Indicative budget	1,000,000 €	
National contact point	Clémence Bonnot	Maurice Héral
	Nathalie Pavy	
E-Mail	ejpsoil@agencerech erche.fr	maurice.heral@agencerecher che.fr

Link to funding programme and other relevant information	https://anr.fr		
Project duration	Min. 24 months	Max. 36 months	
Maximum funding per project	See details below		
Topics to be funded	▪ All topics		
Exceptions for funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	N/A		
Following partners are eligible for funding	Yes	No	Specific requirements
Partners of the EJP SOIL consortium	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	▪ See details below
Research institutes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	▪ See details below
Industry partners	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	▪ See details below
Other stakeholders	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	▪ See details below
Any additional national rules or documents or information			
It is important to read carefully the call text, the present guidelines, the appendix "Modalités de participation pour les partenaires sollicitant une aide de l'ANR" on the ANR			



website and the ANR funding regulation (<https://anr.fr/fr/rf/>) before contacting the NCP and submitting a research project. It is highly recommended to contact the NCP to enquire about the eligibility before submitting a proposal.

The guidelines below are translations from the ANR Funding regulations (*RF*) and the appendix "Modalités de participation". In case of any contradiction between these, the terms of the *RF* and the "Modalités de participation" shall prevail.

The project proposal must not be considered to infringe an intellectual property right characterizing a counterfeit within the meaning of intellectual property.

Eligibility criteria:

To be eligible, partners requesting funding from ANR must meet all the following criteria:

- **Similarity with another proposal**

A proposal cannot be similar as a whole or in part to another proposal submitted to ANR (in any other ANR call, whatever the yet undergoing evaluation phase) or funded by ANR. Similarity between two Projects is established when these Projects (in their entirety or in part) describe identical main objectives or result from a simple adaptation.

- **Requested funding**

The funding requested from ANR for a project must be between 15 000 € and 300 000 €. If there are several partners requesting funding from ANR, the 300 000 € have to be shared. If a partner requesting funding from ANR is coordinator of a proposal, the maximum amount of funding requested can reach 350 000 €.

- **Consortium composition**

ANR may finance Partners that have their primary establishment in France and/or Partners established in the EU and that can prove that they have a secondary establishment in France. To be eligible, the consortium must include at least one French public research organization (EPA, EPSCP, EPST, EPIC).

The involvement of a company is encouraged but not mandatory.

Project partners' commitment:

Access to genetic resources and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources

Pursuant to the Nagoya Protocol, ANR must obtain documentary evidence of Due Diligence Declarations (DDD) for all research projects that it funds. Projects funded will be asked to make a declaration on potential utilisation of genetic resources during their projects.

DDDs for research work can be submitted online using the special application on the MESRI website. Credentials to access the application can be obtained from the director of the host institution. For full details, go to: <http://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/pid37627/utilisation-ressources-genetiques-associees.html>

Open Science

As part of the contribution of the ANR to the promotion and implementation of an open science, and in connexion with the National plan for an open science, the applicants



formally undertake, if they receive funding, to: (1) post the full texts of all scientific publications resulting from the research project in an open archive (either directly in HAL or via a local institutional archive); and (2) to provide a data management plan (DMP) within 6 months of the project start, as per the ANR Funding regulation (*Règlement financier*) and the arrangements communicated in the act allocating the grant. Besides, the ANR recommends that publications be made in reviews or books in native open access.



Hungary
National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NKFIH)


Participating organisation	National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NKFIH) 1077 Budapest, Kéthly Anna tér 1.
Indicative budget	300,000 €
National contact point	Orsolya Tóth Phone: +36 1 896 3744 E-Mail: orsolya.toth2@nkfi.gov.hu

Link to funding programme and other relevant information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://nkfi.gov.hu/palyazoknak/nkfi-alap/era-net-ejp-cofund-2019-217-era-net/palyazati-felhivas-2019-217-era-net 		
Project duration	Min. N/A	Max. 36 months	
Maximum funding per project	150,000 €		
Topics to be funded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All topics 		
Exceptions for funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 		
Following partners are eligible for funding	Yes	No	Specific requirements
Partners of the EJP SOIL consortium	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Research institutes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Industry partners	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Other stakeholders	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Any additional national rules or documents or information	N/A		



**Ireland
 Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
 (DAFM)**

 An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
 Bia agus Mara
 Department of Agriculture,
 Food and the Marine

Participating organisation	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)	
Address	Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2	
Indicative budget	750,000 €	
National contact points	Matthew Clarke	Justyna Horodyska
Phone	+353 87 102 6192	+353 87 333 2346
E-Mail	Matthew.Clarke@agriculture.gov.ie	Justyna.Horodyska@agriculture.gov.ie

Link to funding programme and other relevant information	gov.ie - Research - TransNational Funding (www.gov.ie)		
Project duration	Min. 24 months	Max. 36 months	
Maximum funding per project	Maximum funding of €375,000 per project with a limit of €300,000 for a coordinator and/or €250,000 as a partner.		
Topics to be funded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submissions for all topics are eligible however there is a preference for topics (a) and (b) 		
Exceptions for funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (see 'National guidelines for Irish applicants to the EJP SOIL 1st External Call' document at the link above) 		
Following partners are eligible for funding	Yes	No	Specific requirements
Partners of the EJP SOIL consortium	X		Provided that there is at least one other Irish partner in the consortium seeking funding of at least €50,000.
Research institutes	X		Approved RPOs only (see 'National guidelines for Irish applicants to the EJP SOIL 1 st External Call' document at the link above)
Industry partners		X	Involvement of industry is encouraged on a self-financing basis.



Other stakeholders		X	Involvement of stakeholders is encouraged on a self financing basis.
Any additional national rules or documents or information	All national guidelines are listed in the "National guidelines for Irish applicants to the EJP SOIL 1 st External Call" document at the link above.		



Italy
Ministero delle politiche agricole alimentari e forestali (MiPAAF)


Participating organisation	Ministero delle politiche agricole alimentari e forestali)	
	Via XX Settembre 20 – 00187 Rome - Italy	
Indicative budget	400,000 €	
National contact point	Serenella Puliga	Silvia Baralla
Phone	+39 055 2492220	+ 39 06 94354524
	+ 39 06 46655076	+ 39 3402267588
E-mail	s.puliga@politicheagricole.it	s.baralla@politicheagricole.it

Link to funding programme and other relevant information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The funding is within the Mipaaf "National Strategic Plan on Research and Innovation" 		
Project duration	Min. 24 months	Max. 36 months	
Maximum funding per project	Requested budget to Mipaaf must be maximum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 200.000 € for each project (including coordination costs, if present) - 120.000 € for a single research unit (unità operativa) (coordination costs excluded) 		
Topics to be funded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topic b Topic c 		
Exceptions for funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topic a 		
Following partners are eligible for funding	Yes	No	Specific requirements
Partners of the EJP SOIL consortium	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">
Research institutes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National public and private no profit research institutions and



			universities. See details in User's Manual at https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/10656
Industry partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SMEs and organisations with other statutory nature are welcome as participants if an added value to the project is proven and if their costs are covered by their own or other external resources. Costs cannot be covered by Mipaaf.
Other stakeholders	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Private no profit research institutions (performing research as one of statutory scope) and private Universities ▪ The no-profit private bodies are eligible partners if in their institutional and statutory scope there is "performing" research activities. ▪ See details in User's Manual at https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/10656
Any additional national rules or documents or information			
<p>Please, note that for Italian applicants, the same person cannot apply to more than one proposal both as coordinator, participant or team member.</p> <p><u>Financing and cost eligibility</u> In defining the eligibility for funding of project costs, national applicants must refer to the regulations indicated in the standing User's Manual https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/10656 Read carefully the User's Manual</p> <p><i>A brief summary not exhaustive is here reported</i></p> <p>The selected national institutions will be financed up to 99% of the eligible requested costs ("costo richiesto" eligible for Mipaaf). The total eligible requested budget (100%) must be indicated in the financial plan and must correspond to all eligible costs to be declared in the financial reports.</p> <p><i>Eligible costs</i> A) Personnel 1) Salaries – For public institutions/universities only non-permanent scientific staff; for private no-profit institutions also permanent scientific staff; administrative staff can be included only in the coordination activity, if the research unit acting also as coordinator. Cost of permanent personnel working in the project must be declared (as own contribution) even if it will not be reimbursed.</p>			



2) *Travel expenses* – for permanent and non-permanent staff working in the project. The amount for this item (excluded coordination) should not exceed 6% of the total partner requested budget. In exceptional cases this amount can be higher, if duly motivated in relation to the specificity of the project. Travels related to the coordination activity are included in the coordination costs and separately indicated (see point F)

B) Consumables

Any not durable material necessary for the research activity

C) External activity costs

They include advisory/consultant services, specialistic services supply (scientific, logistics for meetings, open access, devices and machine rent, etc.).

The costs at point C) must be indicated and detailed as “Other direct costs” in the financial plan of the call application form (online submission). These costs cannot exceed 30% of the sum of the other eligible costs (A+B+D).

D) Equipments – Only use cost (related to the project duration) for scientific equipment will be reimbursed.

E) Overheads – no more than 12% of the total amount of the above mentioned eligible costs (A+B+C+D). In the submission tool overheads are split in the different items; in the national system (in case of financing) only the sum will be considered.

F) Coordination - if the Italian institution is also playing the role of coordinator, the eligible costs are those indicated in the User’s manual. Mipaaf will pay the coordination cost calculated on the total budget request of the whole project (including the amount not paid with national resources).

No cost for project monitoring by an expert is foreseen: this budget cannot be requested. Also costs related to the coordination activity have to be included in the section “other direct costs” in the online submission system and duly justified in the available space.

National document to be presented

By the application deadline no documents have to be submitted to Mipaaf, other than the application through the online call submission platform.

Only no-profit private research bodies participating in a project proposal must send to Mipaaf, by the application deadline, copy of the documents stating their research mission (statute and/or articles of incorporation or memorandum of association, etc.) to the following PEC address: aoo.cosvir@pec.politicheagricole.gov.it specifying in the object “2021 1st External Call EJP SOIL documenti bando – ente privato”.

Only after the final funding decision, and the official communication by the Call Office to the winning project coordinators, expected in december 202, Mipaaf DISR IV will write a request to each Italian research unit of the selected projects to fill in a specific national template which will be sent along with the request necessary to apply for the national grant.

Any additional clarification can be requested to the NCPs



**Lithuania
 MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OF
 THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
 (ZUM)**


Participating organisation	ZUM	
	Gedimino Ave.19, LT-01103 Vilnius, Lithuania.	
Indicative budget	150,000 €	
National contact point	Diana Šalkauskienė	Laima Taparauskienė
Phone	+370 5239 1025	+370 5239 1082
E-Mail	diana.salkauskiene@zum.lt	laima.taparauskiene@zum.lt

Link to funding programme and other relevant information	▪ N/A		
Project duration	Min. 36 months	Max. 48 months	
Maximum funding per project	150,000 €		
Topics to be funded	▪ All topics		
Exceptions for funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	▪ Project within all three topics could be funded, although we prioritize soil health, biodiversity and carbon sequestration topics.		
Following partners are eligible for funding	Yes	No	Specific requirements
Partners of the EJP SOIL consortium	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	▪ N/A
Research institutes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	▪ Universities and any other legal entities, irrespective of their legal form and method of funding, whose main form of activity is to conduct and apply research and to disseminate their results.
Industry partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	▪ N/A



Other stakeholders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	▪ N/A
Any additional national rules or documents or information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All applicants must comply with general national eligibility rules that are stated in the rules for the administration of international research and development projects of the Ministry of Agriculture Link. 		



Norway
Research Council of Norway (RCN)


Participating organisation	Research Council of Norway (RCN)
Indicative budget	1,000,000 €
National contact point	Thorbjørn Gilberg
Phone	+47 22037433
E-Mail	thgi@rcn.no

Link to funding programme and other relevant information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The funding is within the remit of the portfolio of Land-based food, the environment and bioresources 		
Project duration	Min. 24 months		
Maximum funding per project	400,000 €		
Topics to be funded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All topics 		
Exceptions for funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 		
Following partners are eligible for funding	Yes	No	Specific requirements
Partners of the EJP SOIL consortium	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	▪
Research institutes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	▪
Industry partners	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	▪
Other stakeholders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	▪
Any additional national rules or documents or information			
The RCN can support the following alternative project models for the national participation:			



- A project, with a Norwegian research organization as project owner, and which represents actual cooperation between research and business(s), ref state aid scheme. At least one Norwegian company must be partner in the project.
- A project, with a Norwegian research organization as project owner. A Norwegian company can be subcontracted.

The Research Council of Norway can fund projects that fall within fundamental research (F), industrial research (I) and experimental development (D). Additional eligibility and funding criteria State aid guidelines The funding of a research and development project granted in this call is set by the State Aid Rules;
<https://www.forskingsradet.no/en/apply-for-funding/funding-from-the-research-council/Conditions-for-forwarding-state-aid/>

State aid awarded by the Research Council is granted under the General Block Exemption Regulation for state aid, Article 25: Aid for research and development projects. Support from the Research Council constitutes state aid when it is awarded to an "undertaking", i.e. an actor that carries out an economic activity consisting of offering products or services on a given market. To ensure that support is awarded in compliance with the state aid rules, the Research Council asks applicants selected for conditional allocation of funding to provide supplementary information. The Project Owner must be able to document that its own institution and all its partners (all recipients of state aid) are eligible to receive state aid.

Open access / Open science The Research Council seeks to lead the way in making research as open as possible and as closed as necessary. The Research Council of Norway has stipulated requirements relating to self-archiving and open access to publications and research data produced in connection with R&D projects funded by the Research Council. Read more about The Research Council's Principles for Open Science: <https://www.forskingsradet.no/en/Adviser-research-policy/open-science/>

In doubt, contact the National Contact mentioned above.



**New Zealand
 Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)**

 Ministry for Primary Industries
 Manatū Ahu Matua


Participating organisation	Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI)	
	34-38 Bowen Street	
	PO Box 2526	
	Wellington 6140	
	New Zealand	
Indicative budget	900,000 €	
National contact point	William AITKENHEAD	Jessica SOMERTON
Phone	+64 4 830 1729	+64 6 351 8305
E-Mail	william.aitkenhead@mpi.govt.nz	jessica.somerton@nzagrc.org.nz

Link to funding programme and other relevant information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guide to New Zealand's GRA Mitigation Research funding, which can be found on the New Zealand page of the GRA website - https://globalresearchalliance.org/country/new-zealand/ ▪ Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases website - https://globalresearchalliance.org/ ▪ New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre - https://www.nzagrc.org.nz/ ▪ MPI - https://www.mpi.govt.nz/ 	
Project duration	Min. 24 months	Max. 36 months
Maximum funding per project	300,000 €	
Topics to be funded	▪ Topic A) and Topic C)	
Exceptions for funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Topic B) will not be funded, ▪ Only aspects of Topic C) aligning with the guidelines to New Zealand's GRA Mitigation Research funding will be funded 	



Following partners are eligible for funding	Yes	No	Specific requirements
Partners of the EJP SOIL consortium	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ N/A
Research institutes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MPI will only contract with New Zealand research institutions
Industry partners	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MPI will only contract with New Zealand Industry partners
Other stakeholders	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MPI will only contract with New Zealand stakeholders
Any additional national rules or documents or information			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All applications requesting New Zealand funding under this call must contain a letter of eligibility from MPI before submission. ▪ Letters of eligibility must be requested from the New Zealand contact person, no later than 24 August. ▪ All intellectual property (IP) arising from projects supported by this call will be managed through an IP Plan. Proposals should indicate in general how IP will be managed, with a full IP Plan developed at the contracting phase. This plan must outline in detail how IP (including background IP, and IP developed in the course of carrying out a project) will be managed. ▪ New Zealand's general principles in relation to the management of IP are set out below. When required, specific terms for the ownership and use of IP will be negotiated by MPI at the contracting phase in good faith consistent with these principles: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. IP should be dealt with in a manner that ensures maximum benefit for both New Zealand and globally. ii. Unless there are strong reasons to withhold, protect, or commercialise IP developed in the course of carrying out a project, then it should be made public and freely available. 			



POLAND
National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR)


Participating organisation	National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR) ul. Nowogrodzka 47a, 00-695 Warszawa, Poland
Indicative budget	600,000 €
National contact point	Bożena Grzybowska
Phone	+48 22 39 07 337
E-Mail	bozena.grzybowska@ncbr.gov.pl

Link to funding programme and other relevant information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ https://www.gov.pl/web/ncbr 		
Project duration	Min. n/a months	Max. 36 months	
Maximum funding per project	200,000 €		
Topics to be funded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All topics 		
Exceptions for funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ N/A 		
Following partners are eligible for funding	Yes	No	Specific requirements
Partners of the EJP SOIL consortium	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ N/A
Research institutes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research organizations (research and knowledge-dissemination organisations)
Industry partners	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Micro, Small, Medium and Large enterprise
Other stakeholders	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Group of entities (within the meaning of art. 37 section 1, point 1a of The Act of 30 April 2010 on the National Centre for Research



and Development, published in Journal of Laws item 1861, 2020;)

Any additional national rules or documents or information

- The organisation must conduct its business, R&D or any other activity on the territory of the Republic of Poland, confirmed by an entry into the relevant register, and provide a sufficient guarantee of reliable disbursement of public funds;
- The project consortium with Polish participation must contain at least one Polish enterprise to be eligible for funding;
- The eligible costs shall be the following:
 1. Personnel costs (W) - researchers, technicians and other supporting staff to the extent employed on the research project;
 2. Costs of subcontracting (E) - i.e. costs based on agreements with third parties to perform a portion of the project without a direct supervision of the project participant and without a relationship of subordination the subcontracting can be obtained from consortium partner only in justified case, this need will be verified by a national experts panel; Costs of subcontracting cannot exceed 70% of all eligible costs of the project.
 3. Other costs (Op):
 - Costs of instruments, equipment and intangible assets (such as patents, certificates etc.) to the extent and for the period used for the research project; if they are not used for their full life for the research project, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the life of the research project, as calculated on the basis of good accounting practice, shall be considered eligible;
 - Purchase of land and real estate to the extent and for the period used for the re-search project; if such instruments and equipment are not used for their full life for the research project, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the life of the research project, as calculated on the basis of good accounting practice, shall be considered eligible;
 - Other costs including costs of support services, materials, supplies and similar products incurred directly as a result of the research activity, travel costs (costs of delegations, costs of participation in conferences), costs of maintaining a separate bank account, costs of promoting the project.
 4. Overheads (O) - incurred indirectly as a result of the research project; Overheads must be calculated according to the formula: $O = (W+Op) \times 25\%^*$

*percentage 25% estimated by the Applicant himself (the same percentage for every task in the project).

National funding rates:

- Funding quota of Polish participants can be up to 100% for research organizations. In the case of enterprises, funding quota will be decided on a case-by-case basis depending on the size of the company, type of research/development, risk associated with the research activities and commercial perspective of exploitation, under the Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 19 August 2020 on granting state aid by the National Centre for Research and Development, published in Journal of Laws item 1456, 2020.



	Large Enterprises	Medium Enterprises	Micro/Small Enterprises	Universities and research organizations
Fundamental/Basic Research	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Industrial/Applied Research	Up to 50+15 (max 65 %)	Up to 50+10+15 (max 75 %)	Up to 50+20+15 (max 80 %)	Up to 100 %
Experimental development	Up to 25+15 (max 40 %)	Up to 25+10+15 (max 50 %)	Up to 25+20+15 (max 60 %)	Up to 100 %

In any case only Industrial/Applied Research and Experimental Development will be funded. Other type of activities (e.g. coordination, dissemination, management) cannot be included into separated task. All eligible entities, invited to submit Polish proposal are obliged to use the rate of exchange of The European Central Bank dated on the day of opening the call. Polish Participants will be informed and invited to submit Polish proposal once the international evaluation and the ranking list will be established.

Other types of activities (e.g. coordination, dissemination, management) are not eligible for funding as separate tasks. They can be included in an appropriate cost category within research tasks.

- Only projects recommended for funding will be asked to submit a national application form. According to national regulations Polish partners have to submit: annual scientific reports, payment requests, final scientific and financial report.
- If more than one Polish entity participates in the project, the national application is submitted by a consortium of all Polish entities



Portugal
Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P. (FCT)


Participating organisation	Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P. (FCT) Av. D. Carlos I, 126, 7º
Indicative budget	200,000 €
National contact point	Maria Maia
Phone	+213911543
E-Mail	Maria.Maia@fct.pt

Link to funding programme and other relevant information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regulation on Projects Funded Solely by National Funds ▪ FCT – EJP – European Joint Programme (available soon) 		
Project duration	Max. 36 months		
Maximum funding per project	200.000,00 € for a project coordinated by Portugal and 100.000,00€ for a project participated by Portugal. If more than one partner requesting FCT funds in a consortium, funds are to be shared among them.		
Topics to be funded	▪ All topics		
Exceptions for funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	No exceptions		
Following partners are eligible for funding	Yes	No	Specific requirements
Partners of the EJP SOIL consortium	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Research institutes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Industry partners	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	▪ Consult the above Regulation
Other stakeholders	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	



Any additional national rules or documents or information

- All the entities requesting FCT's funds under this call for proposals have to submit their individual Statement of Commitment, downloadable [here](#) until the 21st of September 2021. For further information on the submission please consult our webpage [FCT – EJP – European Joint Programme](#)



**Russia
 MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND
 HIGHER EDUCATION OF THE
 RUSSIAN FEDERATION (MSHE)**

 МИНИСТЕРСТВО НАУКИ
 И ВЫСШЕГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ
 РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ

Participating organisation	Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation (MSHE)	
Indicative budget	660,000 €	
National contact point	Ms. Elena Vaganova (MSHE, Department of State Scientific and Technological Policy)	Ms. Albina Kutuzova (MSHE, Department of International Cooperation)
Phone	+7(495)5471325 add. 7531	+7(495)5471325 add. 7836
E-mail	vaganovaev@minobrnauki.gov.ru	kutuzovaaa@minobrnauki.gov.ru
Name	Ms. Anastasia Zadorina (ICISTE)	Ms. Irina Kuklina (ICISTE)
E-mail	zadorina@mniop.ru	kuklina@mniop.ru

Link to funding programme and other relevant information	Applicants to the call who would like to request funding from Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation (MSHE) have to submit a national application within the State Program of scientific and technological development of the Russian Federation	
Project duration	Min. 24 months	Max. 36 months
Maximum funding per project	Up to 110,000 € for one project per calendar year	
Topics to be funded	All topics	
Exceptions for funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Russian Federation (MSHE) supports only applied research.	



Following partners are eligible for funding	Yes	No	Specific requirements
Partners of the EJP SOIL consortium	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Research institutes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Industry partners	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other stakeholders	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Higher education institutions
Any additional national rules or documents or information			
<p>Projects shall not be a repetition of the research works performed in the previous periods and/or performed in terms of the project implementation at the expense of budgets of different levels and/or other sources.</p> <p>The project participants' organisations should enter into a collaborative research agreement to specify how intellectual property rights will be handled, as well as indicate the distribution of work between the project participants' organisations, time-line of project implementation and allocated resources including funding per each year of work. The collaborative research agreement has to be signed by all collaborating organisations involved.</p> <p>The participants from Russia, applying for the funding from MSHE, can receive up to 50% of the total funding of the joint project. Funding is provided in Russian roubles.</p> <p>The funding allocated by the foreign partners per calendar year is to be not less than 100% of the funding requested by the Russian applicant from MSHE for each year of the project.</p>			



United Kingdom
 Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council,
 part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI-BBSRC)



Participating organisation	Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI-BBSRC) Polaris House, North Star Avenue, Swindon SN2 1FL, United Kingdom
Indicative budget	2,250,000 €
National contact point	Dr Luke Williams
E-Mail	luke.williams@bbsrc.ukri.org

Link to funding programme and other relevant information	<p>UKRI-BBSRC supports the EJP Soil First External Call for proposals and encourages its community to apply for funding for collaborative research through this call. Subject to scientific excellence, and all conditions of eligibility and peer review being fully met, UKRI-BBSRC anticipates a contribution of up to £2M (approximately €2.25M) to the call.</p> <p>All UK components submitted to this call will be subject to standard UKRI-BBSRC funding criteria. The following guidance should be read in conjunction with the UKRI-BBSRC Grants Guide https://bbsrc.ukri.org/documents/grants-guide/</p> <p>Applicants are asked to contact the UKRI-BBSRC National Call Secretariat before starting to prepare proposals for submission (contact details above).</p>	
Project duration	Min. n/a	Max. 36 months
Maximum funding per project	n/a	
Topics to be funded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BBSRC, as the only UK funding partner in this call, will only consider funding UK participants in two of the 3 topics: ▪ Topic b: Soil biodiversity: status, and role in ecosystem services provided by soils ▪ Topic c: Site-specific or landscape-scale approaches to improve sustainability, resilience, health, and productivity of soils 	



Exceptions for funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	<p>UK funding is NOT available for UK participants to topic a: Understanding SOC sequestration (stabilization, storage and persistence)</p> <p>Standard UKRI eligibility criteria will be applied to the UK components of applications. Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), Research Council Institutes (RCIs) and Independent Research Organisations (IROs) that are normally eligible to UKRI funding can apply. Full details of eligibility for Research Council funding can be found on the UKRI website: https://www.ukri.org/funding/how-to-apply/eligibility/</p> <p>Potential applicants are strongly advised to contact the UK National contact in advance of making an application to resolve any eligibility queries.</p>		
Following partners are eligible for funding	Yes	No	Specific requirements
Partners of the EJP SOIL consortium	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If eligible to apply for UKRI-BBSRC funding
Research institutes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If eligible to apply for UKRI-BBSRC funding
Industry partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UKRI -BBSRC is not able to fund industrial partners and any costs incurred, direct or otherwise, by industrial partners cannot be met by UKRI-BBSRC. UKRI-BBSRC IPA and LINK schemes do not operate in this call.
Other stakeholders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ n/a
Any additional national rules or documents or information			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Costs incurred by the UK academic partner as a direct result of working with other consortium partners (such as visits to labs or exchange of materials) can be requested. A full list of eligible costs can be found on the UKRI-BBSRC website: https://bbsrc.ukri.org/funding/apply/application-guidance/ ▪ PhD students cannot be funded within this call. ▪ Awards will be made from BBSRC to successful UK applicants of transnational consortia: UK partners will be required to upload their application on to Je-S. Additional guidance will be provided to successful applicants. Grants will be subject to standard Research Council Grants Terms and Conditions https://www.ukri.org/funding/information-for-award-holders/grant-terms-and-conditions/ ▪ The UK component of applications should be costed on the basis of full economic costing (fEC) as described in the UKRI-BBSRC Grants Guide. If the grant is awarded, UKRI-BBSRC will provide funding on the basis of 80% of fEC. Applicants must clearly justify all the requested resources. The submitting organisations must agree to find the 			



balance of fEC for the project from other resources. Final awards from UKRI-BBSRC will be made in British Pounds (GBP). UK costs listed in the application forms must be converted into Euros (EUR) using the exchange rate of £1 = €1.131 (European Central Bank average exchange rate October 2020 to April 2021).

- In addition to reporting requirements set out in the call document, standard UKRI reporting terms and conditions will apply. UK partners are expected to report on outputs and outcomes on a regular basis (and for at least five years post-completion) through Researchfish.
- UK grant holders are required to comply with UKRI Data Sharing and Open Access policies.



Uruguay
 Instituto Nacional de Investigación Agropecuaria (INIA)



Participating organisation Instituto Nacional de Investigación Agropecuaria, INIA
 Dirección Nacional

Parque Tecnológico LATU
 Av. Italia 6201, Edificio Los Guayabos,
 11500 Montevideo – Uruguay

Indicative budget 100,000 €

National contact point **Verónica Musselli**

Phone +59 899 757 061

E-Mail vmusselli@inia.org.uy

Link to funding programme and other relevant information	N/A		
Project duration	Min. 24 months		Max. 36 months
Maximum funding per project	100,000 €		
Topics to be funded	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All topics 		
Exceptions for funding of the research topics based on your national priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding eligibility includes travel and per diem, consumables and other agreed costs, but no investments or personnel expenses. 		
Following partners are eligible for funding	Yes	No	Specific requirements
Partners of the EJP SOIL consortium	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ N/A
Research institutes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The call will be restricted to INIA researchers within the usual institutional planning system
Industry partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ N/A
Other stakeholders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ N/A



Any additional national rules or documents or information

- a. Proposals must meet the general eligibility criteria established by the joint call document and fit within the mission and strategic objectives of INIA
- b. All applications requesting financing for Uruguay under this call must include a letter of support from INIA.
- c. The call will be restricted to INIA researchers who work in the selected research areas.
- d. Proposals must include a plan for dissemination of information.
- e. All intellectual property that may arise from the projects supported by this call will be managed through an IP Plan. Proposals should generally indicate how IP will be managed, with a full IP Plan developed at the procurement phase.
- f. Proposals must not exceed 36 months of project duration.
- g. Funding eligibility includes travel and per diem, consumables and other agreed costs, but no investments or personnel expenses.
- h. INIA will prioritize proposals that adopt a holistic approach to the problem

