



Call 2021 Announcement

Maritime and Marine Technologies for a new
Era

22.12.2020

Content

1. Introduction	2
1.1 Objectives of the ERA-NET Cofund MarTERA	2
1.2 The Objective of the Call	2
2. Scope and Detailed Objectives of the Call	3
3. Call Structure	5
3.1 Definitions	5
3.2 Participating Countries	5
3.3 Call Process	7
Step 1:	7
Step 2:	7
3.4 Dates and deadlines	8
3.5 Confidentiality & Conflict of Interest	8
3.6 Publishable Information	8
4. Eligibility Criteria	9
5. Application Procedure	11
6. Evaluation	12
6.1 Eligibility Check and Selection of the Pre-Proposals	12
6.2 Eligibility Check and Evaluation of Full Proposals	13
7. Funding recommendation	15
8. After the funding recommendation	15
8.1 Negotiation of Grant Agreements / Project Funding	15
8.2 Project Monitoring and Reporting	16
8.3 Dissemination and Communication	16
9. Further Information	16
Annex – List of Call documents	17
National Programme Managers	17

1. Introduction

1.1 Objectives of the ERA-NET Cofund MarTERA

The overall goal of the ERA-NET Cofund MarTERA is to strengthen the European Research Area (ERA) in maritime and marine technologies as well as Blue Growth. The ERA-NET Cofund MarTERA is a network of eighteen (18) ministries, authorities and funding organisations responsible for funding research and innovation projects in the field of maritime and marine technologies from sixteen (16) countries.

The MarTERA Parties aim to repeatedly organise and fund joint calls for transnational research and innovation projects on different thematic priority areas under Horizon 2020.

1.2 The Objective of the Call

The realisation of a European research and innovation agenda requires a broad and systematic cooperation in all areas of waterborne transport, offshore activity, marine resources, maritime security, biotechnologies, desalination, offshore oil & gas, fisheries, aquaculture etc. for a sustainable development of the maritime and marine sector. Research and innovation activities in these fields cannot be tackled either at national levels alone, or solely by a single sector. Coordinated actions are required for the maritime industry to strengthen Europe's position in this important and complex economic field in a global market. **The focus of development in MarTERA is given to technologies (instead of sectors) due to their potentially large impact to a wide range of application fields.**

Sectors with a high potential for sustainable **blue economy** like **waterborne transport, shipbuilding & ship repair, offshore and sub-sea activities, monitoring and observations**, can support sustainable growth in the marine and maritime sectors as a whole and use the potential of Europe's oceans, seas and coasts for jobs, value and sustainability. Technological breakthroughs are of importance for improving ocean governance, which is by itself a big market for maritime industries recalling that European countries spend significant amounts annually on purchasing and running infrastructure to monitor the seas and oceans.

Concentrated and targeted Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) funding on common research priorities will foster maritime and marine technologies in Europe. In this highly competitive sector networking, trans-national collaboration and joint initiatives are the keys to success. The main objective of MarTERA is to address a number of prevailing **challenges** that can be identified as follows:

- While collaborative projects funded by the EC are often quite large and complex to attract participation especially of SMEs, national funding schemes offer limited opportunities to collaborate with foreign partners, especially if cross-border funding is impossible;
- The participation in trans-national projects offers advantages by using respective national funding, to tackle complex projects which cannot be accomplished by one nation alone;
- Transnational projects provide a better chance for innovation to enter into new markets;
- The cross-cutting perspective in technology development can lead to innovations capable of benefiting more than one sector, hence increasing the impact of the funded trans-national projects.
- Bringing industry and research actors across borders together will strengthen Europe's economic position underpinning Blue Growth.
- Through trans-national cooperation, it is feasible to create critical mass and focus excellence on precompetitive breakthroughs, which can benefit marine and maritime industries in general and make them more competitive in the longer term, thereby maintaining Europe's competitive edge.

The positive effects of cooperation will lead to an increase of marine or maritime investments, which will in turn strengthen the industrial innovation, and secure and create jobs. The MarTERA project will continue improving the implementation of joint activities and has ambitious goals for funding transnational research.

Funding of the projects is decentralised, i.e. each country participating in the call provides funds to their entities. The submission of proposals to the call follows a well-defined procedure with a strictly enforced submission deadline.

The proposals are evaluated in order to identify those with a sufficiently high quality to give guidance to national recommendations.

2. Scope and Detailed Objectives of the Call

There is an urgent requirement for coordinated actions across the EU in order to tackle the challenges arising across a large number of sectors related to the oceans. The need for highly-specialised marine equipment, more efficient and greener waterborne transport systems, clean energy, increased seafood production, technologies for reliable ocean observations, and safe marine and maritime operations etc. calls for substantial innovations with respect to the whole spectrum of marine and maritime technologies.

The selection of topics for funding is based on the **overarching technological challenges**, due to their relevance and beneficial effect on a **wide range of applications and sectors**. The topic area is a natural continuation and expansion of previous activities undertaken by MARTEC I&II and is in alignment with Strategic Areas of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) of JPI Oceans. The participating organisations have agreed to split the topics of the call into the following **five (5) Priority Areas (PAs)**:

- **PA1: Environmentally friendly maritime technologies**
 - Emission reduction
 - Exhaust gas treatment (CO₂, SOX, NOX, black carbon etc.)
 - Waste and ballast water management
 - Response to marine pollutions (e.g. oil spills, micro- and nano-plastics)
 - Reducing greenhouse gases from oil and gas platforms
 - Energy efficiency
 - Voyage optimisation, on-board power, vessel efficiency and energy management
 - Advanced technologies for the use of new fuels
 - Improving energy efficiency of oil and gas platforms
 - Noise and vibration reduction
 - Innovative propulsion and powering systems (e.g. fully electric ships)
 - Technologies for sensitive regions

- **PA2: Innovative concepts for ships and offshore structures**
 - Novel materials
 - Light, robust and resistant materials
 - Environmental impact assessment (material testing)
 - Joining technologies
 - Intelligent materials and metamaterials
 - Biofouling and corrosion prevention
 - Coatings
 - Advanced technologies
 - Structures
 - Development, monitoring, maintenance and dismantling of maritime structures

- Development of technologies for economic and environmentally sustainable renewable energy from sea
- Sustainable and cost-efficient platforms for offshore technologies, including multi-purpose offshore platforms and deep-sea structures
- New vessel design incl. inland water vessels
- Improved models for marine vehicles and structures behaviour
 - Software and simulation tools
 - Advanced model testing procedures incl. hybrid testing
 - Full scale measurements
- Deep Sea Mining
 - Environmentally friendly technologies for exploitation, exploration and monitoring of deep-sea resources
- **PA3: Automation, sensors, monitoring and observations**
 - Technologies for detection and removal of dumped munition
 - Intelligent predictive maintenance systems
 - Sensor development
 - Detection of marine pollutions (e.g. oil spills, micro- and nano-plastics)
 - Robust and efficient technologies for detection, monitoring and observation (physical, geological, chemical and biological measurements, including remote sensing)
 - Sensor fusion technologies covering observation systems, condition monitoring
 - Miniaturisation of sensors
 - Data transmission, E-infrastructure and telemetry for data transfer; remote control platforms and systems, including satellite and land-based control systems
 - Underwater technology
 - For inspection, intervention, monitoring and control (robotics)
 - Development of intelligent and cost-efficient systems and devices
 - Path planning, guidance, navigation (e-navigation) and control methodologies for ships and other marine vehicles, including multiple cooperative vehicles (incl. swarm technologies)
 - Innovative, robust and reliable power supply for automated sub-marine technologies
 - Underwater navigation and communication
- **PA4: Advanced manufacturing and production**
 - Digitalisation and automation of production
 - Optimisation of production: improved and novel production technologies for flexible manufacturing with focus on organization and networking along the value chain
 - Circular economy concepts
 - Life cycle management
 - Intelligent/innovative interacting components
 - Human machine interaction, Augmented and Virtual Reality
- **PA5: Safety and security**
 - Individual safety concepts harmonized with navigational requirements
 - ICT tools for monitoring and optimization of maritime operations (e.g. routing following best weather conditions)
 - Hinterland connection through inland waterways
 - Early warning and accident management systems
 - Evacuation and rescue concepts
 - Decision support systems
 - Improved operations

- Automation of processes
- Dynamic positioning
- Docking and mooring
- Handling of goods
- Subsea intervention
- Applications for increased fire safety
 - Risk reduction of major accidents from offshore activities

In the Annexes to this document, a **matrix of the Priority Areas** funded by the participating country/region as well as an overview of the applying **National Regulations** is provided.

Not all Priority Areas are funded by every Participating Funding Organisation. It is required that each Partner in a consortium contacts his/her National Programme Manager(s) to receive information about the rules in his/her country/region prior to the submission of a pre-proposal and a full proposal. Coordinators should also be aware of the rules that apply for the partners from other countries in their consortia in order to avoid any risk of ineligibility of the proposal. It should for example be noted that **some Participating Funding Organisations implement a review process on the national level for pre-proposals in Step 1.**

3. Call Structure

3.1 Definitions

Call Office

The MarTERA Call Office, hosted by Projektträger Jülich, Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH, Germany, is the central contact point for applicants regarding all technical and general issues of the submission.

Steering Committee (SC)

The SC will be composed of one representative per Participating Funding Organisations and will be the decision-making body in the framework of this call

National Programme Manager (NPM)

Each Participating Funding Organisation in this call has nominated NPM(s) to provide information on national/regional funding rules and procedures. It is required that each Partner in a consortium contacts his/her NPM prior to the submission of pre-proposals.

Project costs

The project costs are the total sum of all eligible costs, which are necessary for the implementation of the planned project. Regarding **the conditions for eligibility of costs**, please contact your NPM.

Funding

Funding depends on the applying national/regional regulations and the eligible project costs for each applicant. Funding is limited by the committed budget of the respective country as well as **possible limitations that are stated in the National Guidelines.** For further details, please contact your NPM.

3.2 Participating Countries

Consortia for transnational research projects can apply for funding and will get guidance (see National Regulations) from the partner institutions of the MarTERA consortium listed below.

Applicants from countries, which are not partners in the MarTERA consortium or from countries, which do not provide funding for a specific thematic area of the Call 2021, are welcome to participate in the Call 2021. However, these applicants will not be funded through the Call 2021, i.e. they have to secure their own funding as an associated party to the Transnational Project. A letter of engagement of the budget availability and the origin of the funds must be presented. Applicants from non-partner countries are not taken into account when

assessing the minimum requirement of eligible Partners and countries in the MarTERA eligibility criteria; moreover, they are not allowed to coordinate projects and their contribution to the Transnational Project should not be crucial for the project implementation.

The indicative total available budget amounts to approx. **EUR 8.5 million**.

The following ministries, authorities and funding organisations from **nine (9) countries** participate in the call:

Country	Participating organisation name	Participant short name	Committed Budget ¹ in EURO
Germany	Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Energie	BMWi	3,000,000
Belarus	National Academy of Sciences of Belarus	NASB	70,000
Belgium	Fund for Accompanying Economic and Innovation Policy	VLAIO	1,000,000
Malta	Malta Council for Science and Technology	MCST	300,000
Norway	The Research Council of Norway	RCN	1,500,000
Poland	Narodowe Centrum Badan i Rozwoju	NCBR	1,000,000
Romania	Unitatea Executiva pentru Finantarea Invatamantului Superior, a Cercetarii, Dezvoltarii si Inovarii	UEFISCDI	500,000
Turkey	The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey	TÜBİTAK	750,000
South Africa	Department of Science and Innovation	DSI	400,000
TOTAL in €			8,520,000

European Member States
Associated countries
Third countries

¹ Financial commitment of the participating funding organisation

3.3 Call Process

The call process will be carried out via the MarTERA online submission platform <https://www.martera.eu/submission/call4>.

The application process consists of **two separate** and consecutive steps:

Step 1:

The Project Coordinator of an applying research consortium has to submit a pre-proposal on behalf of the consortium, providing key data on the future project proposal. The deadline for the submission of the pre-proposal is **2021-03-26, 17:00 CET**.

It is required that each partner in a consortium contacts his/her NPM(s) to receive information on the applying rules in his/her country/region prior to submission of a pre-proposal.

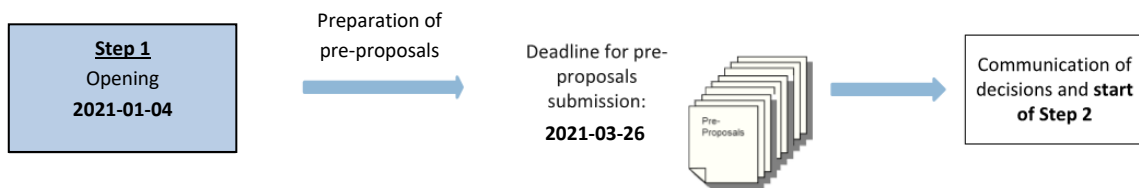


Figure 1: Step 1 process

Step 2:

The second step of the application consists of the submission of an extensive full proposal. Only research consortia, which successfully passed the first step, will be invited to submit a full proposal and will again get access to the MarTERA Submission Tool. The deadline for full proposal submission is **2021-09-10, 17:00 CET**.

It is required that each partner in a consortium contacts his/her NPM(s) to receive information on the applying rules in his/her country/region prior to submission of a full proposal.



Figure 2: Step 2 process

In the Annexes to this document, the contact information of the National Programme Manager(s) (NPM) of each participating country/region and the National Regulations are provided.

3.4 Dates and deadlines

Time schedule of the Call	
Step 1: Submission of pre-proposals	
2021-03-26 (17:00 CET)	Deadline pre-proposal submission
2021-05-31	Notification of Step 1 outcomes to the project coordinators
Step 2: Submission of full proposals	
2021-09-10 (17:00 CET)	Deadline full proposal submission
2021-12-01	Notification of Step 2 outcomes to the project coordinators
From December 2021	Start of the Contract negotiations
Early to mid 2022	Start of projects

3.5 Confidentiality & Conflict of Interest

The MarTERA partners ensure complete confidentiality to all applicants. The proposals will only be accessible to the national/regional funding organisations and the mandated experts responsible for the evaluation of the proposals. Experts appointed for the evaluation will sign a confidentiality agreement and will be asked to declare any conflict of interest. The proposals will be handled by the MarTERA Call Office.

For projects selected for funding, the publishable information as listed in [chapter 3.6](#) will be made publicly available through the MarTERA websites.

3.6 Publishable Information

For projects selected for funding, the following information will be published on the MarTERA websites after the official project start:

- Project title and acronym
- Publishable abstract
- Duration
- Total costs and total funding
- Organisation name, type and country of each partner
- Name of the Project Coordinator

4. Eligibility Criteria

The following criteria are mandatory and must be fulfilled for any pre-proposal and full proposal in order to be considered eligible:

Types of project

- The types of project that are eligible within this call encompass fundamental research (F), industrial research (I) or experimental development (D). The **Priority Areas Matrix and National Guidelines** contain further information on the types of project that are supported by the participating countries/regions.

Scope

- The proposed research and innovation project must be consistent with the scope and objectives of this call and with the thematic priorities of the associated national programmes of the involved countries/regions. National/regional priorities are described in the **National Guidelines** and can be further elaborated by the respective **National Programme Managers (NPM)**.
- The proposed project must address at least one of the sub-topics listed in the **Priority Area Matrix** of this call.
- The proposed research must be original, innovative and clearly distinguished from on-going or completed projects funded by other instruments, programmes or projects.

Consortium composition

- Project consortia consisting of at **least two independent eligible legal entities** from at least **two different European Member States or associated countries** as listed in section 3.2 can apply for funding. Legal entities from Belarus and South Africa are eligible for funding but consortia with Belarussian or South African partners must in addition have **at least two independent eligible legal entities** from at least **two different European Member States or associated countries** as listed in section 3.2.
- The project proposals **must involve industry partners**. Depending on the national funding rules, not all types of entities are eligible in all countries/regions. The eligibility of each partner in a consortium should be assessed by checking the **Matrix of Priority Areas** and by contacting the National Programme Manager(s) (NPMs).
- The proposals should be balanced regarding work, budgets and national/regional origin of the involved partners.
- One entity has to act as coordinator of the consortium and is responsible for the submission of the proposal.
- There is no upper limit for the consortium size. Consortia may consist of as many partners as necessary to achieve the project objectives. Moreover, there is no upper limit for the number of partners from one country/region, unless stated otherwise in the **National Guidelines**.
- Entities who are not eligible for funding, including entities from countries not participating in this call may participate at their own expense or with their own separate source of funding. This must be confirmed by a letter of intent/commitment to be submitted together with the pre- and full proposals via the coordinator of the project. Generally, the rules and prerequisites stated in this **Call Announcement** apply. However, entities not eligible for funding are not allowed to coordinate a project

and their contribution to the project objectives must not be crucial. They are not considered in the assessment of the requirements for consortium composition stated above.

- The eligibility of each applicant with respect to the national criteria stated in the **National Guidelines** of the country/region must be checked prior to submission of a pre-proposal or full proposal.

Budget

National/regional programme specific rules apply. Please check the **National Guidelines** and contact your NPM(s) to receive detailed information on budgetary criteria.

- The indicated costs for each project must be in accordance with the project objectives. Possible national/regional budgetary criteria, including potential restrictions such as lower and upper budget limitations, are stated in the **National Guidelines** and must be considered.
- The total amount of funding requested from a national funding organisation in a proposal must not exceed the total available budget of this organisation as listed in section 3.2.
- Project costs should be balanced with respect to the partners and countries/regions.

Project duration

- The maximum project duration is **three (3) years** (36 months).
- The earliest possible starting date for projects will be fixed at the beginning of the contract negotiations with the national funding organisations.
- Additional national/regional regulations on starting and ending dates and permitted project duration may apply. Please check the **National Guidelines** and contact your NPM(s).

Submission

- Pre-proposals and full proposals must be submitted duly and completely prior to the respective deadlines via the MarTERA Online Submission Tool (www.martera.eu/submission/call4) according to the application procedure (see chapter 5) and the Guidelines for Proposal Submission (see MarTERA websites and Submission Tool). Applicants should note that failure to comply with the submission rules would render the project ineligible and therefore cause its exclusion from the further application process.
- The proposal must be written in **English**. Applicants have to ensure a good level and style of language before submitting.
- Each duly and timely submitted pre-proposal will be checked for eligibility. Failure of one single partner within a consortium to comply with the criteria will cause the rejection of the entire project. Each partner is therefore strongly advised to contact his NPM(s) to ensure eligibility. The coordinator of a pre- or full proposal should check the National Guidelines of all countries/regions involved.

The criteria mentioned above apply in general, but they might be complemented with national/regional criteria. Applicants from countries/regions participating in the call must also meet the respective national/regional criteria as outlined in the **National Guidelines**. Further details can be requested from the NPM(s).

5. Application Procedure

The entire call process will be carried out online via the MarTERA Submission Tool (www.martera.eu/submission/call4) using the provided forms.

The application process comprises two steps:

Step 1

The project coordinators create accounts on the MarTERA Submission Tool (www.martera.eu/submission/call4). The pre-proposals are prepared online on this platform. A description of the pre-proposal content and format requirements is provided in the **Guidelines for Pre-Proposal Submission** available on the MarTERA websites. Applicants should note that certain core data as defined on page 11 below are fixed after submission of the pre-proposal. In particular, the requested funding of each partner must not be increased in Step 2.

It is permitted to update and re-submit a pre-proposal as often as necessary until the submission deadline (**2021-03-26, 17:00 CET**). Applicants should be aware that the system might experience a slowdown under high traffic in the last hours before the submission deadline. It is therefore recommended to submit well in advance.

Apart from the pre-proposal factsheet that is created via the Submission Tool, no other documents are accepted at the online submission stage. Nevertheless, the participating funding organisations may contact the applicants directly and request additional documents according to their national/organisational regulations.

The submission of a pre-proposal is mandatory; it is not possible to enter the application process at a later stage. The information given in the pre-proposal is the basis for the eligibility check and possible evaluations on the national/regional level (see **National Guidelines**).

For any technical questions regarding the submission, please contact the MarTERA Call Office.

Step 2

The second step of the application process comprises the submission of an elaborate full proposal. Only research consortia, which successfully passed Step 1 will be invited to submit a full proposal and will be granted access to the MarTERA Submission Tool again.

Applicants should be aware that the core data fixed in Step 1 (definition below) must not be changed at this stage unless explicitly requested by a funding organisation or the MarTERA Call Office.

Core data

Core data of the project proposals are:

- Project title
- Acronym
- Subtopic
- Duration
- Consortium composition, i.e. organisation name, type and country for each partner
- Project coordinator
- Abstract
- Total requested funding for each partner

This information is provided by the applicants in Step 1 and must not be changed in Step 2.

6. Evaluation

6.1 Eligibility Check and Selection of the Pre-Proposals

Pre-proposals that are submitted duly and on time will be checked for eligibility by the Call Office. The pre-proposals are forwarded for further eligibility checks on the national/regional level according to national/regional criteria (see **National Guidelines**).

Subsequently, some of the Participating Funding Organisations conduct a national review process for the eligibility assessment of pre-proposals with involvement of applicants from their country/region. The respective funding organizations explicitly state this in the **National Guidelines** for the Call 2021.

In a Steering Committee (SC) Meeting, the representatives of the Participating Funding Organisations will decide on the list of proposals that are invited to proceed to Step 2. The decisions will be based on the results of the eligibility checks, national review processes (where applicable) and on the available national/regional budgets. A justified oversubscription ratio of three (3) of the total available funding per Participating Funding Organisations is permitted during the pre-proposal phase.

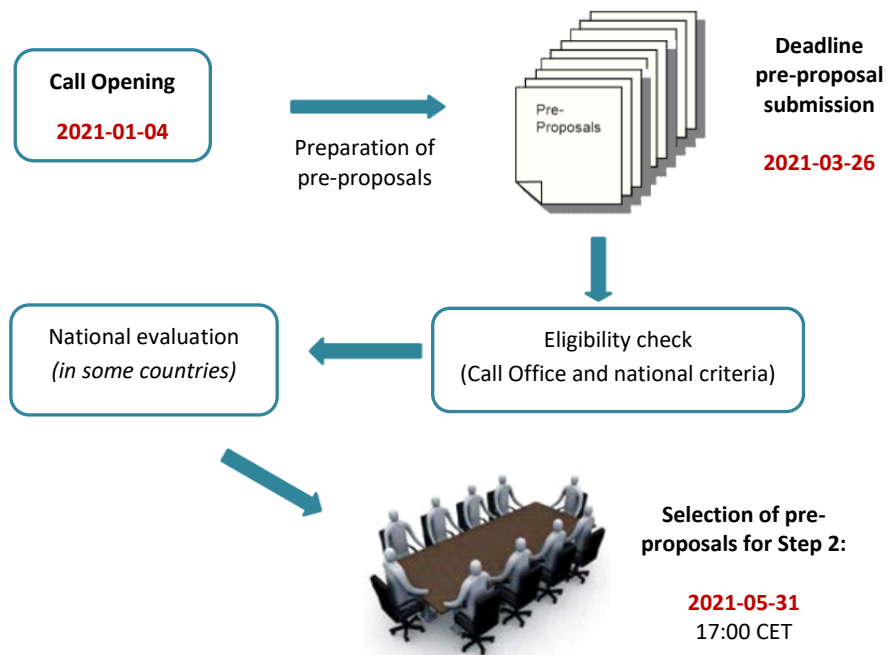


Figure 3: Eligibility check and selection of pre-proposals in Step 1

The MarTERA Call Office will inform the project coordinators on the outcome of the pre-proposal evaluation and invite the selected consortia to submit a full proposal in Step 2.

6.2 Eligibility Check and Evaluation of Full Proposals

The submitted full proposals will be checked to ensure that they meet the formal Call 2021 criteria and do not deviate substantially from the respective pre-proposals. Full proposals violating the formal criteria will be rejected immediately without further review.

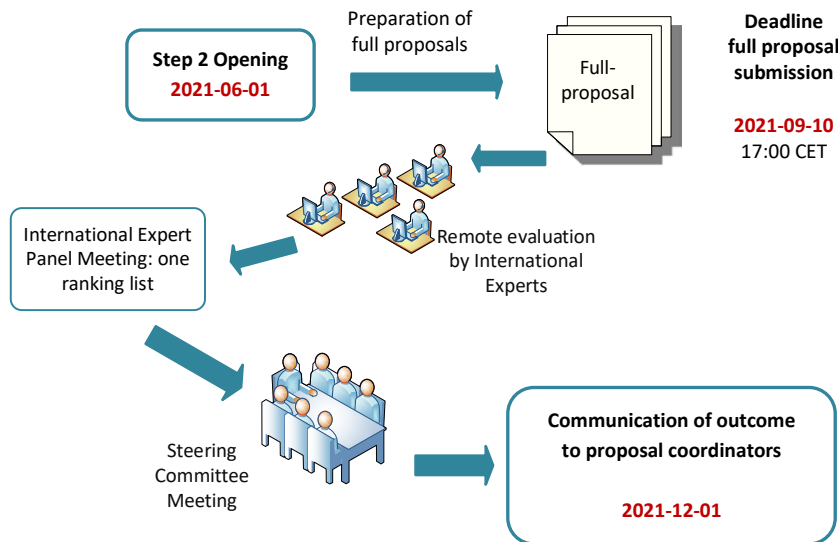


Figure 4: Eligibility check and evaluation of the full proposals in Step 2

All eligible full proposals will be peer-reviewed by at least three international reviewers with expertise in the domain of the respective proposal. Each expert is independent of any Participating Funding Organisation and Partner involved in the Call 2021, and the SC will ensure that no Conflict of Interest exists concerning the proposals to be evaluated.

For each proposal, a rapporteur (one of the proposal evaluators will be appointed to this role) will elaborate an Evaluation Summary Report (ESR). The ESR will be presented and discussed in an International Expert Panel (IEP) meeting.

In this meeting, the IEP will finalise one single ranking list. The Call Office will assist the review panel so that financial aspects can be taken into account. An independent expert will be invited as external observer to the IEP meeting to assess the conformity of the general procedure.

The final ranking list will be forwarded to the MarTERA SC, which will meet to decide on the projects to be funded. For this decision, the SC will take into account the order of the IEP final ranking list and the available funding. The Call Office will inform the full proposal coordinators about the outcome of the Call 2021.

The IEP establishes the final ranking list in the order of merit and in line with the Step 2 evaluation criteria:

- 1) Excellence,
- 2) Impact,
- 3) Quality and efficiency of implementation.

<p>Excellence</p> <p>Scientific and/or technological excellence - Quality of the transnational project</p>	<p>Potential impact</p>	<p>Quality and efficiency of the implementation and management</p>
<p>Threshold: 3/5</p>	<p>Threshold: 3/5</p>	<p>Threshold: 3/5</p>
<p>1.1 Relevance to the MarTERA Priority Areas</p> <p>1.2 Sound concept and quality of objectives</p> <p>1.3 Innovation level (progress beyond the state of the art)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does the proposal contribute to and/or increase the advance of the S&T knowledge? - Does the proposal take scientific and/or technological risk? Does the proposal have a potential breakthrough despite this risk-taking? <p>1.4 Quality of the S/T approach, methodology and work plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are the proposal objectives clear, feasible, suitable and focused, especially with regard to methods and management of scientific risk? - Is the methodology, research design and work plan adequate to the proposed objectives? 	<p>2.1 The extent to which the proposed project is suitably ambitious in terms of its strategic impact on reinforcing competitiveness or on solving societal or environmental problems at European and regional level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impact: enhance innovation capacity, create new market opportunities, strengthen competitiveness and growth of companies, address issues related to climate change or the environment, or bring other important benefits for society <p>2.2 The extent to which the innovation-related activities and exploitation and/or dissemination plans are adequate to ensure optimal use of the project results</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feasible exploitation and dissemination strategies of the project results including PR (who will exploit the technology and how will it be realised?) - Are the expected results or the knowledge acquired of importance for economic/ societal sectors and the economic development? <p>2.3 Added value of European transnational co-operation</p>	<p>3.1 Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, the consortium, the management structures and procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are the participants in the proposal well suited and committed to the tasks assigned to them (necessary expertise)? Do the participants adequately complement each other? - Is there a satisfactory plan for the management of the project incl. knowledge, intellectual property and potential risks? <p>3.2 Appropriateness of the allocation of tasks, ensuring that all participants have a valid role and adequate resource in the project to fulfil that role</p> <p>3.3 Appropriateness of the allocation and justification of the resources to be committed (budget, staff, equipment ...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Balance of scientific and financial contributions from the participating partners and countries - Degree of alignment of the resources assigned to the work packages and the objectives and deliverables
<p>Overall score: 10/15</p>		

Evaluation scores will be awarded for each of the three criteria globally but not at the level of the sub-criteria. The meaning of the sub-criteria is to detail the aspects, which the evaluation expert should consider in the assessment of that criterion. They also serve as reminders of potential issues to be addressed during the discussions of the proposal.

Each criterion is rated between zero (0) and five (5).

The scores with respect to the criterion under examination are interpreted as follows:

- 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.

The threshold for the individual criteria is three (3). **The overall threshold**, applying to the sum of the three individual scores, is **ten (10)**.

7. Funding recommendation

Based on the ranking lists of the full proposals described above, the Steering Committee will recommend projects for funding.

The outcome of this process will be communicated by the Call Office to the proposal coordinators, who in turn will have to inform their partners.

Formal funding decisions are made by the participating funding organisations. **The funding recommendation is irrevocable and therefore no redress procedure is possible.**

8. After the funding recommendation

8.1 Negotiation of Grant Agreements / Project Funding

After a positive funding recommendation, all project partners must directly contact their NPM(s) in order to initiate the contract negotiation and accomplish the remaining steps until the research project can start. The project coordinator is responsible for synchronising the project start with his/her partners.

The funding of a project is provided based on the **virtual common pot scheme**, meaning that each funding organisation will fund its own national/regional partner(s) within the project (funding of project partners is provided by the participating funding programmes according to applicable national/organisational funding rules).

Applicants are therefore strongly advised to read the **National Guidelines** (see Annex to this document) of all countries involved in the consortium.

Consortium Agreement

Successful consortia must negotiate a Consortium Agreement before commencement of the project. This agreement should address matters such as the regulation of intellectual property rights and actions to be taken

in the event of unsatisfactory performance by one or more partners. In some countries/regions, such an agreement might be required for release of the funds. All applicants have to obey national/organisational regulations (see **National Guidelines**) and are advised to contact their NPM(s) in this process. Guidance for the preparation of a Consortium Agreement can be found on the DESCA webpage (<http://www.desca-agreement.eu/>).

8.2 Project Monitoring and Reporting

In addition to the reporting required as per the national/organisational rules, project coordinators are required to provide a mid-term and an end-term report to the MarTERA Steering Committee according to common templates, which are provided on the MarTERA websites. All partners must provide input to these reports. The monitoring will be continued during the entire duration of the project.

More information on the monitoring and reporting procedures will be provided to the coordinators of the projects recommended for funding.

8.3 Dissemination and Communication

MarTERA will organise the following common events for the projects funded in the frame of the present call. Relevant stakeholders will be invited to these events. Funded projects can dedicate appropriate resources for dissemination activities including the participation in activities organised by MarTERA.

Events	Participants	When	Where
Brokerage event 2021	Applicants, stakeholders, funded projects consortia etc.	2021-02-17	online
Final meeting Call 2017, mid-term meeting Call 2019 and Kick-Off Call 2021	Coordinators and consortia of funded projects, Steering Committee, stakeholders	Fall 2021	To be announced

Dissemination of project results is requested in the form of various communication routes such as scientific papers, posters, courses or training material, web based tools, workshops or direct intervention towards end users.

Dissemination in all partner countries to national end users is necessary. A dissemination and exploitation strategy must be prepared for all full proposals. It should specify the plans and schedules for the market launch of the project outcomes after the end of the project.

MarTERA will publish electronic newsletters for the promotion of the funded projects and the preparation of the dissemination on the individual project web pages. All publications originating from the projects must be made available via the project website (unless subject to IPR concerns).

9. Further Information

For further information, reference the MarTERA website or contact your NPM(s).

Annex – List of Call documents

- National Programme Managers
- MarTERA Priority Area Matrix (see MarTERA websites, <https://www.martera.eu/joint-calls>)
- National Guidelines (see MarTERA websites, <https://www.martera.eu/joint-calls>)
- Guidelines for Pre-/Full Proposal Submission (see MarTERA websites, <https://www.martera.eu/joint-calls>)

National Programme Managers

Country	Organisation	National/regional Programme Manager	
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