



JPI Oceans Joint Call: Sources, distribution & impact of microplastics in the marine environment

Estonian national conditions for funding

Funding organisations	Ministry of the Environment (MoE) / Environmental Investment Centre (EIC); Estonian Research Council (ETAg)	
National contact points	General contact: Mr Rene Reisner Head of Marine Environment Department Ministry of the Environment Rene.reisner@envir.ee (+372) 626 2851	Technical advice to applicants: Dr Katarina Viik Scientific Adviser Environmental Management Department Ministry of the Environment Katarina.Viik@envir.ee (+372) 626 2949
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Funding programme	MoE will finance successful Estonian applicants through EIC Environmental Program, the Marine Environment Programme (https://kik.ee/et/toetatav-tegevus/merekeskkonna-programm-0) in accordance with the Regulation of the Minister of the Environment No 13 (https://www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/130012018012?leiaKehtiv), the funding rules of EIC (https://kik.ee/et/elluviimine) and limits specified below. MoE plans to participate in the Joint Call with up to 100 000 euros.	
	ETAg will finance successful Estonian applicants from state budget means allocated to ETAg. The funding conditions are based on ETAg's Eligibility criteria for grant applications in ERA-NET calls . ETAg plans to participate in the Joint Call with up to 100 000 euros.	
Topics to be funded	MoE has three priority fields of funding in the JPI Ocean Microplastics Call: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information on microplastic sources – identification, characterization and quantification of the sources; degradation and fate of microplastic particles in the aquatic environment – mechanisms and time scales of fragmentation, leaching of additive chemicals, fragmentation and residence time of biodegradable plastics; exposure, uptake, residence time, accumulation, degradation products and effects in aquatic organisms; modelling environmental fate, behavior, transport, sedimentation and accumulation of plastic particles. 2. New analytic methodologies for in situ measurement methods for all matrices (water, sediment, biota); comparable methodologies and protocols at the international level. 	



	<p>3. Reliable and economically feasible monitoring and mapping of microplastics in the different matrices including its effects on the marine environment; monitoring and methodologies compatible with EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008/56/EC) and Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848 requirements.</p>
	<p>ETAg will fund all JPI Oceans Microplastics Call themes including both, basic and applied research. Applied research is only funded as far as it does not refer to product development with commercial value and for marketing purposes.</p>
Eligible institutions	<p>MoE funds positively evaluated Estonian research & development (R&D) institutions and research organisations, registered and located in Estonia. To be eligible, the project consortium must include at least one Estonian positively evaluated R&D institution.</p> <p>EU and Estonian regulations on State Aid must be taken into account when requesting funding. The state aid form must be filled in, if relevant. No tax arrears are allowed on the proposal submission date.</p>
	<p>ETAg funds positively evaluated R&D institutions, and enterprises (see Eligibility criteria for grant applications in ERA-NET calls). The host institutions must be registered and located in Estonia. Enterprises must take into account the EU and Estonian regulations on State Aid when requesting funding. The state aid form must be filled in, if relevant. No tax arrears are allowed on the proposal submission date.</p>



Eligible applicants	<p>To be eligible, the Principal Investigator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- must have an updated public profile in the Estonian Research Information System (ETIS), or as an alternative, convert his/her ETIS publications table into a PDF and send it directly to the contact point at ETAg;- must hold a doctoral degree or an equivalent qualification. The degree must be awarded by the submission deadline of the grant application, at the latest;- must have published at least three articles which comply with the requirements of clause 1.1 of the ETIS classification of publications, or at least five articles which comply with the requirements of clauses 1.1, 1.2, 2.1 or 3.1, within the last five years prior to the proposal submission deadline. International patents are equalled with publications of clause 1.1. A monograph (ETIS clause 2.1) is equalled to three publications mentioned in clause 1.1 if the number of authors is three or less. If the applicant has been on pregnancy and maternity or parental leave or in the compulsory military service, or has other serious grounds, the publication period requirement will be extended by the respective time. <p>Senior research staff of the project participates in the substantial performance of the project. They must hold at least master's degree or an equivalent qualification.</p> <p>Funding is limited to applicants residing in Estonia.</p> <p>The host institution must declare that the project will be carried out as agreed and that it will employ the Principal Investigator during the proposed project, should the project receive funding.</p> <p>In MoE funded projects, Estonian applicants should have previous experience in microplastics research in aquatic (marine) environment and must have experience as investigators in projects funded by the EIC, institutional (IUT) or personal research grants, European Framework Programs or other relevant programs. ETAg does not limit applicants by this criterion.</p>
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Eligible costs	<p>The maximum eligible requested budget for an Estonian partner is 100 000 €.</p> <p>The following expenses are eligible in projects funded by both, ETAg and MoE/EIC:</p> <p>Research expenses consist of direct costs (personnel costs, travel costs, surveys, analyses etc) and subcontracting costs. The research expenses must be used to carry out the project and be respectively identifiable.</p> <p>Direct costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Personnel costs are monthly salaries with social security charges and all other statutory costs of the participants of the project calculated according to their commitment and proportionately to their salary cost at their Host Institution.- Travel costs may cover expenses for transport, accommodation, travel insurance and daily allowances according to national regulations (fringe benefits costs are uneligible). <p>Other direct costs are: consumables, IT software (and licenses) and equipment related to the project implementation; disposable materials; costs for publication and dissemination of project results; costs for organizing meetings, seminars or conferences related to the project; fees for participation in scientific forums and conferences related to the project; all other costs that are identifiable as clearly required for the implementation of the project.</p> <p>Subcontracting costs (incl. from private sector) should not be included in the overhead calculation and should cover only additional or complementary research related tasks (e.g. costs for translation, analyses, etc.) performed by third parties. Core project tasks should not be subcontracted. Subcontracting costs may not exceed 10% of the partners total cost.</p> <p>Double funding of activities is not acceptable. MoE and ETAg will avoid double funding and will not finance projects or parts of projects already funded through other national or international calls.</p> <p>The following expenses are eligible in projects funded by ETAg only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Scholarships equal to the state doctoral allowance may be paid out of the grant to doctoral students not receiving any salary from the Host Institution. Should a doctoral student participate in several projects financed by ETAg, the total amount of the scholarship from these projects may not exceed the nationally determined amount of doctoral allowance.- Overhead up to 20% of eligible direct research costs and should cover general expenses of the Host Institution. Costs for equipment and services intended for public use (copying machine or printer publicly used, phone bills, copying service, etc.) should be covered from the overhead. <p>The following expenses are eligible in projects funded by MoE/EIC only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Eligible costs of MoE/EIC are financed according to the rules of EIC;- Overhead up to 7% of direct costs (office consumables, communication services, room rent and utilities).
Funding commitment	<p>Maximum amount of Estonian funding is 100 000 € per proposal.</p> <p>Compliance with the funding limits will be considered during the eligibility check. Proposals not respecting these limits can be declared ineligible.</p>



Other funding criteria	<p>If human research or animal tests are intended in the project, a positive resolution by the Human Research Ethics Committee or the Authorization Committee for Animal Experiments must be submitted to the funding organisation by the start of the relevant activities.</p> <p>By applying for funding, applicants agree to consider the relevance of Nagoya protocol for their research, and to submit the Due Diligence Declaration if applicable.</p> <p>Data acquired in the project should be freely available to everyone to use.</p>
Mandatory acknowledgement	<p>Any publication or dissemination activity resulting from the funded projects must acknowledge the respective funding organisation.</p>

APPLICANTS MUST COORDINATE THEIR PROPOSAL WITH THEIR HOST INSTITUTION.

APPLICANTS ARE ASKED TO CONTACT THE NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS FOR PRE-ELIGIBILITY CHECK.