

WATER4ALL - European Partnership Water Security for the Planet - Call 2022

National Rules for Participation

Version 1 – September 2022

1. Introduction

Funding Party:

Ministry for Environment, Energy and Enterprise
Barriera Wharf
Valletta - Malta

1.1 Scope and Focus of the Call

The Water4All partnership is starting in 2022 under the auspices of the European Union Horizon Europe programme for research and innovation, to concentrate research and innovation on water in Europe and beyond. Water4All's Vision is to "boost the systemic transformations and changes across the entire research – water innovation pipeline, fostering the matchmaking between problem owners and solution providers for ensuring water security for all in the long term".

Water security stands for the capacity of a population to safeguard sustainable access to adequate quantities of acceptable quality water for sustaining livelihoods, human well-being and socio-economic development, for ensuring protection against water-borne pollution and water-related disasters, and for preserving ecosystems in a climate of peace and political stability. Water security and 'Just' access to clean water for all of society are an essential aspect for Sustainable Development. This is reflected specifically in the UN Sustainable Development Goals¹ (SDGs), in first instance SDG 6 "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all", which is interconnected with SDGs addressing Poverty (1), Hunger (2), Health (3), Clean Energy (7), Cities (11), Responsible Consumption and Production (12), Climate (13), Life below Water (14) and on Land (15), Peace, justice and strong institutions (16).

The call will focus on solutions for hydroclimatic extreme events, as described in the Water4All Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda Theme III "Water for the future: sustainable water management", as well as address the cross-cutting Theme VII "Governance" and Theme V "Water Infrastructures". Research & innovation proposals submitted under the Water4All 2022 Joint Transnational Call are required to address at least one of the following topics:

Topic 1. Resilience, adaptation and mitigation to hydroclimatic extreme events

1.1 Addressing knowledge gaps in our understanding of the causes of water scarcity, drought events, seasonal variability in climate impacts to develop adaptation and mitigation measures, taking climate change into account.

1.2 Developing and demonstrating innovative (or improved) societally acceptable adaptation and mitigation strategies to cope with hydro-climatic extreme events and their increase in length and duration. This includes floods and droughts, although is not limited to them, adopting a regional or a basin scale wide approach.

1.3 Improving resilience and adaptation capacity of water infrastructure (e.g., industrial water facilities, urban networks, wastewater treatment facilities, stormwater management systems and rural systems) to hydroclimatic extreme events.

Topic 2. Tools for water management - in the context of hydroclimatic extreme events

2.1 Developing tools (e.g., multi-risk approach, decision support tools, monetary/non-monetary costs valuation) to support the design and implementation of strategies for adaptation and mitigation to

hydro-climatic extreme events, especially floods (including “flash-floods”), heat waves and droughts in a catchment to sea perspective. www.water4all-partnership.eu

2.2 Generating new methodologies, tools and models for water resources assessment/modelling for water bodies in scarcely monitored /data scarce areas. A combination of physical and digital solutions is expected, and opportunities provided by citizen science should be seized.

2.3 “Smartening the water system” and use of innovative digitalization, including improved/new sensors, models, communications and computing technologies.

Topic 3. Improved water governance in the context hydroclimatic extreme events and international contexts

3.1 Undertaking an analysis and developing robust Governance models for the management of water resources in the context of extreme events, is critical increasing the decision-making capacity of institutions and involvement of citizens. This should include ways of improving coordination between water managers to increase our capacity to reduce vulnerability to extreme events, as well as effectively respond to them.

3.2 Addressing and encouraging international cooperation in the field of water, including management of transboundary water resources and contribution to Water Diplomacy.

It should be noted that within the area of water governance there is an extensive framework already set by the OECD Principles on Water Governance. This framework could be used as a starting point for preparing project proposals.

Each project proposal must be in accordance with the following common conditions:

Scope

- Proposals must address at least one main topic, even though it is not compulsory to address all subtopics within a topic in the proposals.

General Consortium composition:

- Each consortium must be composed of at least a minimum of three eligible partners¹ that request funding from participating Funding Partner Organisations from three different countries.

- In addition to the abovementioned condition, at least two independent legal entities from two different EU Member States or Associated Countries.

- The upper limit of eligible project partners per consortium is 7 (including 1 self-funded partner).

- The maximum number of partners from the same country within the consortium must comply with national/regional regulations.

Consortium Coordinator:

- In each proposal, one of the entities must act as the Consortium Coordinator which has the responsibility for submitting the proposal.

- The Consortium Coordinator must be eligible for funding by a Funding Partner Organisation (FPO) of this call.

- The P.I. of the entity acting as Consortium Coordinator can only participate in one proposal (i.e. if the principal investigator is the Consortium Coordinator of a proposal, he/she cannot participate in any other proposal, neither as a Consortium Coordinator nor as a partner).

Workload:

- The workload distribution within a consortium must be balanced, and no partner (including a self-funded partner) should have more than 50% of person-months.

¹ Partners from other countries will need to follow the national regulations issued by their respective funding country.

- Partners from the same country shall not have, altogether, more than 50 % of person months

Partners not requiring funding:

- No more than one self-funded project partner per consortium is allowed.
- The applicants have to prove their willingness to self-fund their own activities or the willingness of other partners to fund their activities by sending a letter of intent/commitment together with the full proposal.
- They have to be part of the project consortium agreement.
- A self-funded partner cannot coordinate a project.
- They are not considered in the minimum requirement of eligible partners and countries in the Water4All eligibility criteria
- They are counted for the requirement of the maximum number of partners in a project.

Duration:

- The international RD&I projects duration should be 36 months.

Submission:

- Pre-proposals and Full Proposals must be received before the deadlines.
- The pre-proposal and the full proposal must be submitted correctly and completely via the Online Submission Tool (<https://water4all2022-submission.mur.gov.it>)
- Proposals must be written in English.
- Each proposal submitted correctly and on time will be checked for eligibility as a whole. This means that failure of one partner within the consortium to meet the criteria will cause the entire project to be rejected.
- The eligibility of each applicant has to be checked according to the national criteria published in the National Regulations before submission.
- Submission will follow a two-stage procedure. For the first stage, a pre-proposal must be submitted. Successful applicants in the first stage will be invited to submit a full proposal for the second stage (see below call schedule).

Funding under Water4All is made available on the basis that an Applicant does not benefit from any other grant or financial incentive in respect of the expenses related to execution of the project.

The call schedule is shown in the table below:



1.2 National Contact Points

All correspondence should be directed to:

MEEE
Head Office
6, Qormi Road
St Venera

water4all@gov.mt

[+356 20953179](tel:+35620953179)/[+356 20953115](tel:+35620953115)

1.3 Definitions

Research and Development is defined as the systematic investigation, work or research carried out in any field of science or technology through experiment, theoretical work or analysis undertaken in order to acquire new knowledge, primarily directed towards a specific practical aim or objective, and includes:

(a) **Basic Research** comprising activities undertaken for the advancement of scientific or technological knowledge that may draw on existing knowledge gained from research and practical experiences and is directed to produce new materials, products and devices, the implementation of new processes, systems or services, or to substantially improve those already produced, installed or existing;

(b) **Applied Research** where a final specific application is in view;

(c) **Development** involving the use of the results of basic or applied research as aforesaid for the purpose of creating new or of improving existing material, devices, products or processes, but excludes routine or periodic design, testing and analysis of equipment or products for the purposes of quality or quantity control, routine or periodic alterations to existing products or processes, or routine activities where there is no appreciable novelty or problem resolution.

Innovation is defined as the internationally novel scientific/technological development of a technological process, product or service. Also, the definition of innovation within the same context, can also be applied to non-novel, yet step-change/ground-breaking enhancement of existing technological processes, products or services, or even the application of existing knowledge to new novel applications of these solutions to deliver step-change competitiveness through such an application.

Public Entity means any Maltese Public Service Department or Maltese Public Sector Entity, or any Maltese Legal Entity which has more than 50% government shareholding. Public Service refers to all Ministries and Departments; and Public Sector Entities refers to authorities, corporations, agencies and commercial public sector entities in which the Government has a majority shareholding and that are not listed on the stock exchange. Public Entities also include foundations, local councils and public academic entities. In the case of public academic entities, this includes but is not limited to a higher education entity or a research institute, whether as a whole body or as a component unit or department within such body, provided that the entity's ongoing education and research is scientifically in line with the subject of the application being submitted during this call provided that the higher education entity must be in possession of a license for Higher Education according to the Further and Higher Education (Licensing, Accreditation and Quality Assurance) Regulations - Subsidiary Legislation 327.433. This does not include the license for a tuition centre.

Applicant means anyone eligible for participation in a Water4All Project in terms of these Rules for Participation and who consequently applies for funding under this joint initiative.

Project Contact Point is the individual, appointed to act on behalf of the Applicant and who is responsible for communicating with MEEE about the Water4All Project.

Eligible direct costs are those costs incurred directly by the national beneficiaries during the duration of the project and used primarily for the purpose of achieving the objectives of the project. All eligible expenses must be incurred between the Start Date and the End Date of the Project and must be limited to the budgeted value.

Start Date means the date which is stated in the grant agreement for the official start of the project.

End Date means the date when the Project Period, having commenced on the Start Date, expires. The Project Period is the time required to execute the Project as indicated in the grant agreement.

Project Value means the entire project budget (including where applicable any co-financing)

Project Grant means the granted funding provided.

Partner is defined as a partner in a consortium of a funded transnational project.

Project Coordinator is one of the beneficiaries of a project consortium that is appointed as the single point of contact between the Water4All secretariat and/or the funding bodies and the consortium partners from proposal submission to project end. He/she will have the responsibility of ensuring that all the partners involved in the consortium are eligible and supervises the project workflow with the help of WP leaders. Additionally, he/she will be required to submit the project application on behalf of the consortium and must also compile and submit reports / deliverables to the funding bodies which in turn will relay these documents to the Water4All secretariat.

Subcontracted Activity means any activity related to the project, (including but not limited to consultancy), which is not carried out directly by a Partner or its employees but is carried out by any third party (local or foreign) individual, company, partnership or entity, under whatsoever terms and conditions.

Consortium Agreement is a binding document among the project partners addressing at least the repartition of the tasks between partners, the sharing of intellectual property rights of the project results, the conditions of publication and dissemination of the results, the technology transfer and the exploitation of the results and any specific requirements from a funding body.

2. Eligibility for Participation

2.1 Partner Eligibility

Any Public Entity as defined in Section 1.3 above may apply for a Water4All funded project and will be eligible for funding subject to the terms and conditions laid out in this document.

~~**2.2 Eligibility under the State Aid Rules**~~

~~This joint initiative operates under the de minimis State Aid regime, which stipulates that a single undertaking cannot receive more than €200,000 in aid over any 3-year period through schemes operating under this regime. Applicants are required to ensure they are eligible for the requested grant under State Aid rules before submitting an application.~~

CORRIGENDUM:

Section 2.2 should read:

Eligible applicants: Any Public Entity as defined in Section 1.3 above.

3. Funding Criteria

The funds for the national beneficiaries participating in the Water4All consortium will be made available in accordance with these rules and regulations.

3.1 Project Duration

The duration of a project should be a maximum of 36 months.

The projects are expected to start not later than five months after the conclusion of the Grant Agreement.

3.2 Grant Value

The total maximum National Budget for this Call is of €300,000. There is a capping on the maximum amount a project can request for funding according to the thematic area chosen (thematic area 1 = €150,000; thematic area 2 = €150,000; thematic area 3 = €100,000). The capping will increase by €50,000 in case of the Maltese applicant is the project coordinator.

It is within the MEEE's discretion to shift funds from one thematic area to the other or provide additional funds to the total National Budget during the scientific ranking phase.

Funding for successful project submissions will be on the basis of a periodic cash advance, and will be regulated through a contractual agreement establishing the terms and conditions governing the financing of the project.

Funding under this joint initiative is made available on the basis that an Applicant does not benefit from any other grant or financial incentive in respect of the expenses related to execution of the project.

3.3 Project Contact Point

The Maltese applicant shall appoint a Project Contact Point. The Project Contact Point shall have the following responsibilities:

- To ensure compliance with their obligations in terms of the Contractual Agreement;
- To compile Periodic Reports and Final Reports including their timely submissions and effective execution of the project;
- To execute the project activities according to set timeframes and deliverables.

3.4 Activities and Deliverables

Eligible Activities

The following activities are eligible:

- Research and Innovation actions aiming to establish new knowledge and/or to explore the feasibility of a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution. These may include basic and applied research, technology development and integration, testing and validation on a small-scale prototype in a laboratory or simulated environment.
- Collaborative research projects that will have an impact and contribute to demand and policy driven research.

Mandatory deliverables

The project plan must give details of certain activities which are required by MEEE as the National Coordinating Authority. These should be included as deliverables in the project proposal and include:

1. A showcase of the project to the general public by the national project partner through:
 - The publication of at least one article per year in local newspapers or magazines, raising awareness about the project and its benefits.
 - The organisation of at least one half-day event open to the general public for presenting the context of the project and its main deliverables.
2. Reporting on project progress as per the list hereunder in line with the templates provided by MEEE:
 - Periodic Financial and Administrative Report
 - End of Project Technical and Scientific Report;
 - End of Project Audited Financial Report

The reports are to include sufficient evidence on the achievement of the project objectives as well as the parameters indicated in the application.

Changes to the project objectives, work-packages and all the parameters committed in the applications are to be detailed, justified and approved by MEEE.

Recommended deliverables

Further to the mandatory deliverables, MEEE invites applications to also include deliverables as recommended below:

1. Peer-reviewed paper/s for accepted publication in international journal/s of repute based on the work carried out through the Project. The subscription levels or Impact Factor of journals are important considerations. Similar papers published on open-source media would also be considered favourably.
2. Oral presentation/s at international conference/s on the work carried out through the Project.

3.5 Confidentiality of Submissions

Unless otherwise indicated, all project application submissions except for the abstract shall be treated by MEEE in strict confidence.

4. Actions to be funded

The following actions will be eligible for funding:

- Research and Innovation Actions (RIA) - Action primarily consisting of activities aiming to establish new knowledge and/or to explore the feasibility of a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution. For this purpose, they may include basic and applied research, technology development and integration, testing and validation on a small-scale prototype in a laboratory or simulated environment.
- Collaborative research projects that will have an impact and contribute to demand and policy driven research.

5. List of Eligible and Ineligible Costs

5.1 Eligible Costs

Eligible costs are those costs incurred directly by the project partner during the duration of the project and used primarily for the purpose of achieving the objectives of the project. All expenses must be

incurred between the Start Date and the End Date of the project and must be limited to the budgeted value.

Personnel Costs

The permissible number of hours funded by this Programme is not to exceed an average of 20 hours per week per existing employee, as part of their normal working hours.

There is no limit on the number of employees per project other than that the total cost of funded hours per project will not exceed 40% of the project value.

The hourly rate (z) is calculated using the formula:

$$€ z = (\text{basic salary} + \text{fixed allowances}) / \text{yearly weekday hours.}$$

Eligible salaries are pinned to the following hourly rates (including National Insurance and Inland Revenue and allowances) and personnel limits per project:

Role in Project	Monthly rates	Limits per project
Top Management or equivalent	up to € 5000/month	Max 2 per project
Middle Management, Senior Researcher or equivalent	€ 3500/month to € 4000/month	Max 2 per project
Technical Officers, Researchers or equivalent	Up to € 3500/month	Max 2 per project
Operational, technician, research support assistant or equivalent	Up to € 2000/month	

The rates stated in the table above are for the year 2022. For subsequent years a 5% increase per year is allowed.

*The term 'senior researcher' is to be used for a postdoctoral researcher with a specialist and high level of local and international experience in the field. Individuals possessing a high level of experience in industry can still be considered.

¥The term 'technical officer' or 'researcher' is to be used for a Bachelor's, Master's or a Ph.D. degree holder and hence the hourly rate should be equivalent to the degree held by the relevant individual.

Personnel in salary brackets that are higher than those noted above will still only be reimbursed at the rates of the eligible brackets above depending on their role in the project. The hourly rates will have to be noted in the application along with the number of hours on the project per individual.

The salary of technical officers, senior researchers, researchers, technicians, operators and research support assistants that are employed specifically for the project would not form part of the personnel costs limit of 40% of the project value. This provision is not applicable to existing personnel that are provided with separate part time contracts to extend their working hours with the entity, for the purpose of the project.

Personnel Costs related to Project Management are further limited to 10% of the project value and form part of the 40% limit set on personnel costs. Any project management which is not carried out by any of the partners shall be deemed to be subcontracting and, apart from being subject to the 10%

maximum threshold detailed herein, will also be calculated as part of the 25% maximum referred to in Section 5.3 for subcontracting costs.

Filled time sheets are to be retained for all personnel as proof of number of hours spent on the project.

Specialised equipment and research consumables

Purchase of specialised equipment including software. Overall value of consumables typically cannot exceed 30% of project value. Proposals with consumables exceeding 30% of the project value need to be discussed at application stage.

Travel and Subsistence

Applicants are required to obtain three quotations for purchases related to travel.

For the attendance of consortium meetings, only 2 persons will be eligible to attend the meeting.

For the attendance of international conferences, up to 2 persons will be eligible to attend per year.

Other

Other operating expenses directly related to the project.

Any expenses incurred during the course of the project must be consistent with the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness and are to follow applicable Public Procurement Regulations.

Any calls for the recruitment of staff on a project is to be conducted in a strictly transparent manner and is to include a public call in the form of an advert published in a Sunday newspaper (minimum size of advert: 2 columns by 8cm) and interview process.

Commercial transactions between any Applicants or consortium partners, or between any Applicants or a consortium partner and a company with similar shareholding to a consortium partner, is not allowed.

5.2 Eligible indirect costs

Overheads will be covered at 10% of direct eligible costs, excluding the costs of (1) subcontracting; (2) items of equipment above €5000; and (3) consumables above €5000. It is to be noted that for equipment, the capping of €5000 is per piece while for consumables, the capping of €5000 is for the total amount of consumables.

5.3 Subcontracted Activities

Subcontracted activities shall be allowed up to a limit of 25% of the project value, provided that Public Procurement Regulations are followed for their procurement.

5.4 Ineligible Costs

The following expenditure shall be considered as ineligible costs:

- Expenses related to loans, interest, etc
- Recoverable value added tax.
- Expenses which are recoverable through other funding mechanisms.
- Re-purchase of equipment originally procured through other funding mechanisms. • Purchase of equipment from partners or their subsidiaries.

- Opportunity costs related to foregone production and production downtime arising from the allocation of resources to the Project.
- Standard office equipment.
- Personnel hours for travelling.

5.5 Co-Financing

The following rates of co-financing shall be applicable:

The financial contribution to a Partner which falls under the definition of Public Entity shall be 100% of eligible costs incurred by that Partner.

6. Evaluation

Project applications will be first checked for eligibility by both the Water4All call secretariat as well as the individual participating countries. Proposals that pass the eligibility check will then be scientifically evaluated by WATER4All in accordance with their stipulated evaluation criteria as outlined in the Water4All Call Document.

6.1 National eligibility criteria

As part of the evaluation process, the Call Secretariat asks the National Authority to check and confirm the eligibility of Applicants participating in a proposal consortium according to these rules and regulations.

To receive funding, Applicants must be eligible for funding by the national funding organisations participating in the call. All participants in a bidding consortium should check their eligibility in these Rules at the earliest possible stage.

MEEE may undertake a due diligence exercise through its contractors for the purpose of administrative compliance.

6.2 Scientific Evaluation

The evaluation process is stipulated in the Water4All Call Announcement. Only proposals that have passed the eligibility checks will pass to the scientific evaluation phase. The evaluation committee will review by itself the different projects according to evaluation criteria. The final selection of funded projects is performed by the Call Board based on the ranked list provided by the Scientific Advisory Committee. All the Applicants will be informed by the Call Secretariat of the final results and a Scientific Advisory Committee report will be sent.

All proposals submitted will be treated confidentially by the Water4All Secretariat and their appointed evaluation experts.

7. Post Selection Process

7.1 The Grant Agreement

For each project approved for funding, individual Grant Agreements will be signed between the successful Applicant and MEEE. This Agreement will act as the basis for project funding and will regulate the transfer of funds to national beneficiaries based on these regulations.

Following the final decision taken by the Water4All Coordination Committee, the Call Secretariat will present all necessary documents to MEEE in order to start in-parallel contract negotiations with the national beneficiaries which have been selected for funding. The final consortium agreement must be signed before the conclusion of the national Grant Agreement.

The Project Coordinator has to decide with the project partners on a common starting date for the project and send this information to all the funding bodies involved in funding this project in order to ensure that the National Contracts are synchronised in time to cover all the periods of the project.

A copy of the Consortium Agreement binding the project partners will be required so that the National funding body will know how the project tasks will be distributed.

The Water4All Call Secretariat will be responsible for the overall monitoring of the projects according to the terms set out in the Terms of Reference.

The Project Contact Point must provide two (2) images related to the project and a project abstract upon signing the Grant Agreement. These will be used to publicise the award.

7.2 Start Date and End Date

The project will start on a pre-determined date as agreed by all the respective parties and determined in the Grant Agreement.

In view of the particular nature of the Grant Agreement, the said agreement will not be signed simultaneously by all parties but will be signed by all the parties separately. Each party will signify the date of signing and the Grant Agreement will come into force on the date on which the final signature is made thereon (hereinafter the "Agreement Date").

Between the Agreement Date and the Start Date, the Project Contact Point should ensure that all activities required for a smooth project start are completed.

To be eligible for funding, all expenses must be incurred between the Start Date and the End Date of the Project.

7.3 Double Funding

Funding under this joint initiative is made available on the basis that the Applicant has not benefited and will not benefit from any other grant or financial incentive of whatever nature, applied for and/or utilised for the same scope as that subject of the funding requested under this joint initiative. Provided that, in the case where the application covers work that is part of a larger project, the Applicant must submit a table as an appendix to the application form that shows a comprehensive list of the items of work and the source of funding for each item.

The Applicant will be required to sign a declaration to this effect and authorising MEEE to exchange essential information related to the project with other funding agencies, both local and overseas, for any necessary checks.

8. Funding, Management and Progress Monitoring

8.1 Allocation and Disbursement of Funding

Following the termination of the project or expiry of the Grant Agreement, the Project Contact Point will be required to submit a Final Technical Project Report for the whole project, thus covering the work undertaken.

For the purpose of funding and reporting, a project submission shall be divided into three of Stages. Each Stage shall be of 12 months duration. Funding for any one Stage shall not exceed 50% of the total project financial contribution due. Total financial contribution over the lifetime of the project shall not exceed the funding limit as established in the Grant Agreement, irrespective of actual expenditure. The periodic funding will be allocated according to the following schedule:

1. For the first Stage, MEEE will make an initial advance payment of 100% of the due financial contribution in relation to that particular Stage. This will be calculated on the Applicant's component of projected expenditure for that Stage, and include both direct and indirect costs.
2. At the end of each Stage, the Project Contact Point will be required to submit a Financial Stage Report to MEEE with details of actual expenditure over the past stage, together with an updated forecast of projected expenditure for the following stage.
3. For the second and subsequent Stage, MEEE will calculate the due financial contribution in relation to that particular Stage based on the Financial Stage Report submitted. This contribution will be calculated as forecast eligible expenditure, adjusted for any overspend or underspend of the preceding Stage.
4. Except for the final Stage of the project, MEEE will make an advance payment equivalent to 100% of the due financial contribution in relation to that particular Stage, calculated as in bullet (3) above
5. For the final Stage of the project, MEEE will make an advance payment of up to 80% of the due financial contribution calculated as in bullet (3) above. However, MEEE shall retain 20% of the total project grant to be transferred only upon successful completion of the project.
6. Following the termination of the project or expiry of the Grant Agreement, the Project Contact Point will be required to submit a Final Technical Project Report together with a Final Financial Report for the whole project, thus covering the work and expenditure undertaken. The Final Financial Report needs to be audited by a certified auditor appointed by the Applicant and approved by MEEE once submitted. The audit should determine the total eligible costs and compare these to the funds forwarded. The Council reserves the right to appoint an auditor to audit the Project Financial Audit as submitted.
7. As soon as the verifications and audits are finalised and cleared MEEE will release the retention money due. In the case of overpayment, the Applicant will be required to refund the under-spend amount to MEEE within a specific timeframe, or as agreed to with MEEE.

MEEE reserves the right to alter the funding parameters as deemed appropriate.

8.2 Dissemination & Externalisation

Any articles and text material related to the project should include the words:

'Project <Project Name> funded through Water4All - European Partnership Water Security for the Planet.

Any websites or printed material related to the project should also include the MEEE logo, and the Water4All and Horizon Europe logo. Such material should follow the specifications described in the Water4All Publicity Guidelines.

During the term of Agreement and for five (5) years thereafter, the Applicant shall include and prominently feature MEEE and Water4All in any publicity related to the project.

All publicity material shall be vetted and approved by MEEE before publication and should make mention of Water4All and MEEE. In the case where printed material is published without a mention of Water4All and MEEE, the Applicant shall be obliged to publish a correction at its own expense in the subsequent issue of the publication. This is also applicable for published material produced by persons who are not members of the Water4All call.

In the case where such publicity does not mention the Water4All initiative and MEEE, associated costs will be considered ineligible.

Within 12 months from the end of the Project, the Applicant shall publish, at least one (1) research paper based on the work carried out throughout the Project in a pre-peer reviewed open access repository.

8.3 Reporting

On the last day of a stage, an End of Stage Financial and Administrative Report is to be presented to MEEE. An End of Stage Financial Report is then to be submitted within one month from the end of the stage.

On the last day of the project, the Project Contact Point is required to submit a Final Technical Project Report. Audited accounts are to be presented within one month from the end of the project.

MEEE reserves the right to request additional project-related information.

Approval of the stage reports allows the beneficiary to proceed with the next stage of the project. Approval of the final reports permits the release of the retention.

In the event that a project is found to be in breach of the Grant Agreement or to materially depart from the submitted application, MEEE reserves the right to discontinue the award and the Applicant may be required to refund the Grant in part or in full. In any such event, MEEE may also exclude an Applicant from participating in future calls.

The applicant shall set a schedule for quarterly progress meetings with MEEE to take place as part of the reporting work package.

The templates provided by MEEE should be used to develop the Interim and End of Stage Technical and Financial Reports as well as the Final Technical and Financial Reports.

The End of Stage Technical and Financial Reports shall contain the following details:

- (i) An account of project activity and achievements over the past stage compared with the originally submitted application;

- (ii) An account of actual expenditure over the past stage compared with the originally submitted budgeted expenditure. All financial reports must be signed by the person responsible for the financial management, and assembled as per the instructions in the Grant Agreement;
- (iii) An updated forecast of project activity and projected achievements for the following stage;
- (iv) An updated forecast of projected expenditure for the following stage;

The beneficiary shall appoint an auditor to conduct a detailed financial audit, following the completion of the project. The audit will consist of, at least, the following checks:

- Accounts
- Physical inventory
- Time-sheets and payslips / employee contracts
- Receipts for all equipment and consumables
- Bank statements for the Project Account

8.4 Accountability

The beneficiaries shall keep a separate project bank account and records, clearly distinguishable from their other accounting records. All relevant expenses must be recorded in these accounts.

Eligible expenses must have been determined in accordance with the usual accounting and management principles and practices of the Applicant. Direct eligible costs must be backed up with the relevant documentation as specified in the Grant Agreement.

8.5 Supervening Circumstances

The Project Contact Point is obliged to immediately advise MEEE of any internal or extraneous significant event which might affect the validity or implementation of the project. This obligation applies to the entire period between the submission of the Project Application and the completion of the project.

MEEE shall then, at its own discretion either give such directives as it deems necessary for the furtherance of the project or re-assess the project in its entirety accordingly.

Failure on the part of the Project Contact Point to respect this obligation may lead MEEE to suspend or terminate funding for the project and request a refund of funds already paid out.

If during the course of a project a partner withdraws from the Water4All Project Consortium, the Applicant will immediately advise MEEE. In this event, the relevant articles of the Water4All Project Consortium Agreement and the National Grant Agreement shall apply.

8.6 Default

If the implementation of a project becomes impossible or if the Applicant fails to implement it, MEEE shall be entitled to collect refunds of money already paid out.

8.7 Interpretation of Rules

This document endeavours to establish comprehensive and unambiguous rules governing participation in the Water4All initiative. However, should circumstances arise where the rules are

inadequate, unclear, ambiguous or conflicting, MEEE shall exercise its discretion in the interpretation of the rules through the setting up of an ad hoc committee.