



JOINT BALTIC SEA RESEARCH PROGRAMME
BONUS+ CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2007

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Summary

BONUS – Baltic Organisations Network for Funding Science EEIG representing altogether ten research funding organisations in the Baltic Sea states (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russian Federation and Sweden) opens a call for multilateral research projects within the framework of the BONUS-169 Science Plan. The total amount of funding by BONUS for this call is about 23.3 million euros.

The research should focus on supporting an ecosystem-based approach to management of human activities. It should enhance our understanding and predictive capacity about the Baltic Sea ecosystem's response to impending changes caused by both naturally and human-induced pressures. It should also reveal linkages between environmental problems and the social and economic dynamics in responding to them. In turn, the research should support formation of the basis for prudent management aimed at safeguarding the sustainable use of the ecosystem's goods and services.

Funding will be provided for a maximum of a three-year period for transnational, collaborative projects based on a division of work with a high degree of scientific excellence as well as sharing of resources and data. The lower and upper limits of the total costs of a project are 100,000 and 2,000,000 euros, respectively. A minimum of two BONUS partner countries is required. Partners from non-Baltic European Community States and third parties are welcome to join the consortia with 50 per cent own funding when expertise or facilities, not existing or scarce in the Baltic Sea states, are brought into the project. The funding decision will be based on international peer-review of the scientific excellence, the quality of the implementation and the impact of the project proposal.

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1 BACKGROUND

About the Baltic Sea

The Baltic Sea is a semi-enclosed European inland sea forming one of the world's largest brackish water bodies. It is surrounded by nine Baltic Sea coastal states: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russian Federation and Sweden. The drainage basin emptying into the Baltic Sea has a population of about 85 million people, from 14 states, situated in a catchment area that is about four times larger than the area of the sea. About 33 per cent of this population lives within 50 km of the coast. Since the Baltic Sea formed about 8,000 years BP, the region has been a major focus of human habitation attracted by the natural beauty and rich resources of the coastal and offshore areas. These resources have historically provided the basis for food security and trade within the region and with other regions, as well as many other socio-economic benefits.

Today, the Baltic Sea ecosystem is seriously impacted by many naturally and human-caused pressures. This has reduced the capacity of the Baltic Sea to sustainably provide the goods and services upon which humans depend directly and indirectly for social, cultural and economic benefits. At the regional seas' level in the European Community, the Marine Strategy¹ and the Maritime Policy² have recently been introduced to holistically integrate, focus and make more effective a raft of national and international policies, agreements and regulatory instruments. Their aim is to reduce marine pollution, conserve exploitable living resources and biodiversity, and tackle climate change while also ensuring sustainable human socio-economic development. An important constituent is elaboration and implementation of the 'ecosystem approach to the management of human activities' in the European regional seas, the success of which must be supported by appropriate research and technological development (RTD) across a wide range of scientific disciplines.

1 <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/marine.htm>

2 http://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/policy_en.html

About the ERA-NET Project BONUS

The eight Baltic Sea states of the European Union together with the Russian Federation and the European Commission have collaborated within an ERA-NET project *BONUS for the Baltic Sea Science – Network of Funding Agencies* during 2005–2007 with the aim to establish and implement a joint Baltic Sea Research Programme. The mission of BONUS is to facilitate and implement a joint Baltic Sea regional research programme, thereby establishing durable cooperation of the Member States’ research policies and their scientific communities in order to support the sustainable development of the Baltic Sea region. Themes for a joint programme have been developed and the specific objectives are described in Themes of the *BONUS-169 Science Plan*³ (www.bonusportal.org).

About the Joint Baltic Sea Research Programme

The outcome the ERA-NET BONUS is establishing the *BONUS – Baltic Organisations Network for Funding Science EEIG*⁴ (*BONUS EEIG*), representing altogether ten research funding organisations in the Baltic Sea states (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russian Federation and Sweden). The BONUS EEIG is implementing the Joint Baltic Sea Research Programme within the framework of the BONUS-169 Science Plan.

The Joint Baltic Sea Research Programme opens a call for proposals. The total amount of national and EU funding for this call is 23.3 million euros over three years. This includes 1,000,000 euros from the Research Council for Biosciences and Environment of the Academy of Finland that will support targeted research (see below).

³ The BONUS ERA-NET has published the BONUS-169 Science Plan and Implementation Strategy, which defines the key research issues for the Joint Baltic Sea Research Programme. The Plan can be downloaded from www.bonusportal.org.

⁴ RTD organisations committed to funding the Joint Baltic Sea Research Programme have established a legal entity that will take the responsibility of managing and coordinating the programme. Its legal form is European Economic Interest Grouping EEIG and its headquarters are located in Helsinki.

2 AIM OF THE CALL

The research should focus on supporting an ecosystem-based approach to management of human activities. It should enhance our understanding and predictive capacity about the Baltic Sea ecosystem's response to impending changes caused by both naturally and human-induced pressures and about linkages between environmental problems and the social and economic dynamics in responding to them. In turn, the research should support formation of the basis for prudent management aimed at safeguarding the sustainable use of the ecosystem's goods and services.

The proposals should focus on key research issues described in the BONUS-169 Science Plan:

Theme 1: Linking Science and Policy

Theme 2: Understanding Climate Change and Geophysical Forcing

Theme 3: Combating Eutrophication

Theme 4: Achieving Sustainable Fisheries

Theme 5: Protecting Biodiversity

Theme 6: Preventing Pollution

Theme 7: Integrating Ecosystem and Society

In the evaluation process, priority will be given to research projects within Themes 1 and/or 7 and to projects that link Themes 2–6 with 1 and 7 in an interdisciplinary manner. However, interdisciplinary research among Themes 2–6 is also encouraged.

A more detailed description of the themes and key research issues can be found in the BONUS-169 Science Plan (www.bonusportal.org).

Targeted Research financed

by the Research Council for Biosciences and Environment.

Proposals with a Finnish coordinator can be financed by the Research Council for Biosciences and Environment of the Academy of Finland. The Council will finance research projects with a potential to

have strong impact on the environmental status of the Baltic Sea within the framework of the BONUS+ Call. The project may, however, include a higher risk factor as regards its success in reaching all of its goals. It is recommended that research teams have a strong international set-up. The application procedure and evaluation will go through a standard BONUS+ application procedure, with the exception that the potential impact of the suggested research project will be a notably higher evaluation criterion than in other BONUS+ Call funding, while simultaneously some risk factors may be identified. The potential impact should be clearly stressed in the research plan. Impact can be either direct or indirect. Impact funded projects and their results should, however, have a strong potential to lead to new environmental management approaches, tools or strategies. No particular field of research is favoured in this funding type, but it is open for proposals from all BONUS+ research themes. The total amount of funding for targeted research is at most one million euros.

3 FUNDING

Funding is granted for a maximum of three (3) years during the period between 1 July 2008 and 31 December 2011. The lower and upper limits of the total costs of a project are 100,000 and 2,000,000 euros respectively. Eligible costs are the costs required for the successful implementation of the project, including salaries, travel, consumables, overhead etc. It is emphasised that the project budget should be appropriate and realistic.

The funding granted will be managed by the national funding agency and the cost eligibility rules will follow the national funding agency's rules.

IMPORTANT:

Participants are advised to contact the national funding agency for further information on the eligibility of the participants and costs for which funding is requested (p. 21).

To be considered:

- *Research proposals may be submitted by consortia created by universities, non-university public national or international research establishments and commercial companies, or by individual scientists associated with institutions according to relevant national regulations.*
- *Project proposals with total funding between 100,000 euros and 2,000,000 euros are welcome.*
- *A minimum of two BONUS partner countries is required.*
- *Participants from non-Baltic European Community States and third parties should cover 50 per cent of their expenses and can apply the other 50 per cent from the Call. BONUS+ funding of such participants is managed by the BONUS+ Secretariat. The official participant is the Principal Scientist's organisation.*
- *Each consortium must nominate a Project Coordinator⁵ to represent the consortium externally and to be responsible for its internal management, and be the contact person between the consortium and the BONUS+ Secretariat.*
- *A Principal Scientist⁶ has to be defined by each Participant⁷. The Principal Scientist will be the responsible person on behalf of the Participant⁷ and the contact person for the relevant national funding agency and Project Coordinator.*

⁵ **Project Coordinator** is a physical person representing one participant chosen by the consortium who has overall responsibility for and authority over a project in relation to the project management towards Participants and towards overall management of the Joint Baltic Sea Research Programme. He/she is the applicant and the contact person on behalf of the consortium.

⁶ **Principal Scientist** is in charge of the project in each institute and has the responsibility over his/her task in relation to the participant institute and the national funding agency.

⁷ **Participant** is a research institute, university, company or other entity that is part of a consortium and implements part of the work described in the project proposal. It is also the receiver of the research funds (mixed EU and national funds) from the national funding agency.

- *All funded research teams agree to abide by the rules and agreements made within the framework of BONUS EEIG. Specific agreements will be prepared and signed between the national funding agencies and Participants regarding reporting, data policy, rules for acknowledgement etc. (the rules are still under development, but will be ready before 14 February, 2008)*
- *The project Participants are advised to enter into a Collaboration Agreement to specify the mode of operation of the collaboration and the handling of Intellectual Property Rights.*
- *Scientists participating in a project funded by BONUS+ have to take part in the activities organised by the programme management, such as dissemination activities and events, stakeholder consultations, workshops, conferences etc. It is estimated that there will be about two common events per year for the Principal Scientists and four meetings per year for the Project Coordinators. This has to be taken into account in project budgeting.*
- *Optional: Joint PhD training programme/one week course (for about 20 participants) is part of the overall programme. You may suggest a title for a training programme or a course related to your project, but available for all PhD students in the Joint Baltic Sea Research Programme. If your suggestion is approved, it will be financed by an additional 10,000 euros.*

4 SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Submission of proposals follows a two-step procedure. The call for Letters of Intent is open between 17 September and 28 November 2007. The evaluation will be completed by 14 February 2008. The highest ranked Letters of Intent will be asked to send in Full Proposals by 14 March 2008.

Both the Letter of Intent and the Full Proposal are submitted electronically, using the Electronic Proposal Submission System (EPSS), through a link from the BONUS+ Call website www.bonusportal.org or directly from <https://proposals.etf.ee/bonus>.

IMPORTANT:

It is possible to save incomplete forms and go back and continue later.

Most of the information on the electronic forms is administrative information (e.g. contact information, CV, list of publications etc.). It is recommended that this information be given in electronic forms well in advance in order to avoid unexpected Internet problems.

4.1 Submission of Letter of Intent

The Project Coordinator should initialise the electronic submission process. Directly after the Project Coordinator's first login and identification of the Principal Scientists, they will have access to the proposal submission site and are able to fill in electronic forms.

Only the Project Coordinator will have access to upload the short research plan, but all Principal Scientists are able to read it.

A Letter of Intent consists of two forms:

Form A is submitted by the Project Coordinator and consists of two parts.

- Part one for administrative information
- Part two is a short research plan (max. 7 pages) submitted as a PDF file.

Form B is submitted by each Principal Scientist including the Project Coordinator. Form B includes administrative information including the Principal Scientist's CV, a list of recent publications, and the Participant's budget.

The short research plan should include the following:

Cover page:

Project acronym and title

Project Coordinator (name, institute, country)

List of Principal Scientists (name, institute, country)

Pages 1–7:

1. General aim, approach and expected outcome of the project (1 page)
2. Relevance to the topic of the Call (1/2 page)
3. Themes and key research issues of the BONUS-169 Science Plan addressed. Relevance for the management of the Baltic Sea – relation to themes 1 and 7 (1 page)
4. State of the art (1 page)
5. New approaches and innovation (1/2 page)
6. Transnational added value (1/2 page)
7. Preliminary budget (1/2 page)
8. Tentative Participants/institutes and management of the project (1 page)

Steps How to Submit the Letter of Intent:

Project Coordinator's steps:

1. Browse BONUS Portal website at www.bonusportal.org.
2. Find open call BONUS+, and you are redirected to the Electronic Proposal Submission System (EPSS) at <https://proposals.etf.ee/bonus>. Register or login into the EPSS.
3. Fill in Form A (see Annex 1): Project Info, List of Participants and Principal Scientists.
4. Invitation to register in the EPSS is sent automatically to other Participants.

5. Create and convert the short science plan (max. 7 pages) into PDF document and upload the document (as PDF file only) as an appendix to Form A.
6. Edit your Form B (see Annex 1): Organisation and contact information, budget (specified estimated costs), Principal Scientist's CV.
7. Validate Letter of Intent to ensure basic checks are satisfied.
8. Submit Letter of Intent.
9. Log out.

Principal Scientist's steps:

1. Receive invitation letter to register and log in into the EPSS.
2. Register and log in to access the EPSS.
3. Edit your Form B (see Annex 1): Organisation and contact information, budget (specified estimated costs), Principal Scientist's CV.
4. Validate your Form B to ensure that basic checks are satisfied.
5. Submit your Form B.
6. Log out.

IMPORTANT:

Only electronic forms and submission should be used. Letters of Intent are expected to arrive no later than **16:00 CET on 28 November 2007**. Submissions received after this time will automatically be rejected. In case of technical problems when submitting the Letter of Intent, contact BONUS+ Call help desk bonus@etf.ee, tel. +372 504 0761.

4.2 Evaluation of Letters of Intent

The Letters of Intent will be evaluated by international peer review. Each Letter of Intent will be evaluated at least by three experts. The evaluation criteria are:

- *relevance to the topic of the Call;*
- *transnational added value;*
- *scientific quality of the proposal;*
- *quality of the composition of the consortium and*
- *novelty and originality of the project.*

The evaluation form is as Annex 2. Based on the ratings and comments given by the evaluators, the Steering Committee decides which consortia are invited to submit a Full Proposal. The information is available to Project Coordinators and Principal Scientists on 15 February 2008 at the latest.

4.3 Submission of Full Proposal

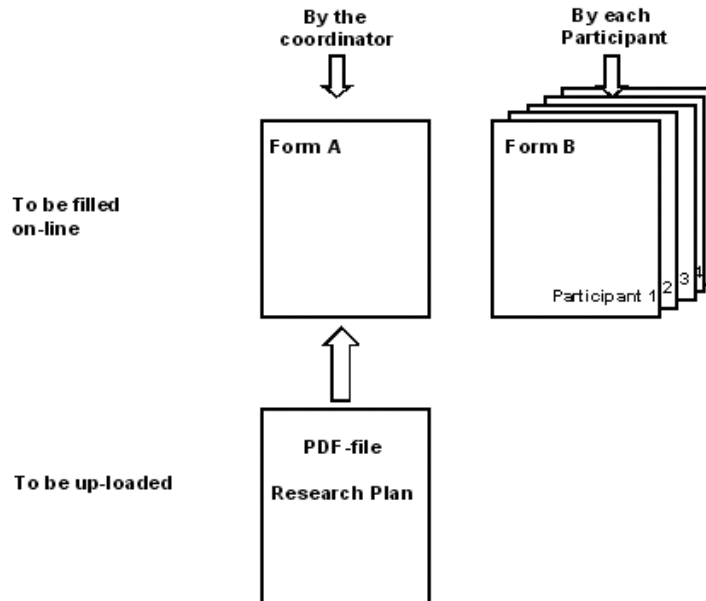
A Full Proposal consists of two forms:

Form A, should be complemented into a Full Proposal and, if necessary, modified and the full research plan should be uploaded as PDF.

Form B, should be complemented and, if necessary, modified by each Principal Scientist, including the Project Coordinator.

IMPORTANT:

If a Project Coordinator and/or the Principal Scientist is participating in several projects, he/she may fill in a different set of CV information or publications for each proposal.



The full research plan should include the following:

Cover page:

Project acronym and title

Project Coordinator (name, institute, country)

List of Principal Scientists (name, institute, country)

Inner Cover page:

Table of contents

Pages 1–20:

1. Concept, objectives and expected outcome of the project
2. State of the art, theory and methods
3. Innovation and new approaches
4. Themes and key research issues of BONUS-169 Science Plan addressed. Relevance for the management of the Baltic Sea – relation to Themes 1 and 7
5. Contribution in producing deliverables described in the BONUS-169 Science Plan
6. Dissemination plan
7. Participants and management of the project
8. Overall budget requested from BONUS+ (incl. max. overheads according to the national regulations), *in kind* contributions and possible other sources for financing
9. Description of the significant facilities and large equipment available for the project
10. Researcher exchange and training, including possibility of organising a course
11. Detailed work plan/research plan divided into Work packages and Tasks indicating responsibilities of each consortium participant, as well as a time schedule for the project (max. ½ page per Task)
12. Gantt chart or similar to show the timing of different Work packages and Tasks
13. Plan of submitting project data to some common database
14. Ethical issues
15. Reference list

Steps how to submit the full proposal:

Project Coordinator's steps:

1. Browse BONUS Portal website at www.bonusportal.org.
2. Find open call BONUS+, and you are redirected to the Electronic Proposal Submission System (EPSS) at <https://proposals.etf.ee/bonus>. Log in into the EPSS using your existing EPSS username and password.
3. Edit and complement Form A (see Annex 1): Project Info, List of Participants and Principal Scientists.
4. Send invitation letters to other Participants to login into the EPSS and edit and complement their Form B: Organisation and contact information, budget (specified estimated costs), Principal Scientist's CV (see Annex 1). This can be done using EPSS.
5. Edit and complement your Form B: Organisation and contact information, budget (specified estimated costs), Principal Scientist's CV (see Annex 1).
6. Create and convert the full research plan (max. 20 pages) into PDF document and upload the document (as PDF file only) as an appendix to Form A.
7. Validate the proposal to ensure that basic checks are satisfied.
8. Submit the proposal.
9. Log out.

Principal Scientist's steps:

1. Receive invitation letter. Log in into the EPSS using your existing username and password.
2. Edit and complement your Form B: Organisation and contact information, budget (specified estimated costs), Principal Scientist's CV (see Annex 1).
3. Validate your Form B to ensure that basic checks are satisfied.
4. Submit your Form B.
5. Log out.

IMPORTANT:

Only electronic forms and submission are used. Full Proposals are expected to arrive no later than **16:00 CET on 14 March 2008**. Submissions received after this time will automatically be rejected. In case of technical problems when submitting the proposal, contact BONUS+ Call help desk bonus@etf.ee, tel. +372 504 0761.

IMPORTANT:

After submitting the Full Proposal a letter of approval will be sent to each Principal Scientist. This letter should be **signed** by the head of the organisation and sent to the Secretariat at the latest one week after the proposal submission.

BONUS EEIG Secretariat, Hämeentie 33, FI-00500 Helsinki, Finland

4.4 Evaluation of Full Proposals

It is estimated that half of the consortia invited to submit a Full Proposal will receive funding based on the result from the evaluation process. An international evaluation panel, appointed by the BONUS+ Steering Committee, will evaluate the scientific quality based on the following criteria:

Scientific excellence (Threshold 3/5):

- *sound concept, and quality of objectives;*
- *progress beyond the state-of-the-art;*
- *quality and effectiveness of the scientific methodology and associated work plan;*
- *innovation and new approaches; and*
- *interdisciplinarity.*

Implementation (Threshold 3/5):

- *appropriateness of the management structure and procedures;*
- *quality and relevant experience of the individual participants;*
- *quality of the consortium as a whole (including complementarity, balance, research environments); and*
- *appropriate allocation and justification of the resources to be committed (staff, equipment).*

Impact (Threshold 3/5):

- *relevance of the proposal in relation to the Themes of the Call and the BONUS-169 Science Plan;*
- *appropriateness of measures for the dissemination and/or exploitation of project;*
- *researcher training and*
- *international cooperation beyond the project.*

The proposals will be rated according to the scale below. Only whole or half numbers shall be used.

- 1 Poor
- 2 Fair
- 3 Good
- 4 Very good
- 5 Excellent

The rated projects will be set against a quality threshold of 3/5 for each of the three above-mentioned criteria. The purpose of the threshold is to guarantee the quality of the projects, before a recommendation based on their relevance is given by the Advisory Board and a ranking list is made by the Steering Committee. Any proposal failing to pass the threshold will be rejected and will not progress to the relevance evaluation.

The decision on funding will be taken by the Steering Committee after the decision of the participating national funding organisations. The decision concerning the Community funds will be made by the Steering Committee.

This information is available to Project Coordinators and Participants on the BONUS+ Call website (www.bonusportal.org) on 1 July 2008 at the latest.

5 JOINT BALTIC SEA RESEARCH PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

- 1) **The Secretariat** runs the Joint Baltic Sea Research Programme and this specific Call. It has responsibility for the overall coordination and technical organisation of the programme with the help of the BONUS+ Call Task Force. During the implementation of the research projects, it will take the responsibility for organising the scientific coordination with the help of Forum of Project Coordinators, arranging workshops and conferences, disseminating knowledge, creating communication and maintaining communication with relevant actors. The Secretariat is led by the Executive Director of the EEIG.
- 2) **The Steering Committee** is composed of one representative from each BONUS EEIG Member or participating funding agency. It will supervise the Call and will ultimately make recommendations concerning the projects to be funded to the national funding bodies. It will also make decisions concerning the EU funds. After the selection of the funded projects the Steering Committee will continue steering the scientific coordination and monitoring the funded projects.
- 3) **The Advisory Board** is an international panel of scientific experts and stakeholders, appointed by the Steering Committee. It gives a recommendation concerning the projects to be funded on the basis of their relevance in relation to the programme objectives. The Advisory Board selects its own chair.
- 4) **The Evaluation Panel** consists of scientific experts, appointed by the Steering Committee. Its composition should cover all relevant fields of expertise related to the themes of the Call. It should be unbiased geographically, nationally and in respect to gender or conflict of interest. The chair of the Evaluation Panel is appointed by the Steering Committee. One expert is nominated as a rapporteur. He/she produces a report of the evaluation process for the Steering Committee.

5) **The Call Task Force** is composed of national programme managers appointed by the BONUS EEIG Members or participating funding agencies. It will assist the Secretariat with technical matters concerning processing of the proposals as well as take care of all local matters in each country/organisation. The Call Task Force is chaired by the Executive Director of the BONUS EEIG.

6) After the selection of the projects to be funded, a **Forum of Project Coordinators** will be created. It will support the Secretariat in organising the scientific coordination of the projects. Its main aim is to ensure that the Joint Baltic Sea Research Programme will create the added value and fulfill its overall goals.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

17 September, 2007:	Opening of the Call
28 November, 2007:	Deadline for the submission of Letters of Intent
14 March, 2008:	Deadline for the submission Full Proposals

6 FURTHER INFORMATION

General information on BONUS+ and the Call will be given by:

Kaisa Kononen
BONUS EEIG Secretariat
Hämeentie 33, FI-00500 Helsinki, Finland
kaisa.kononen@aka.fi
Tel: +358 40 581 1189
www.aka.fi
www.bonusportal.org

Funding agencies involved and contact persons:

Finland

Academy of Finland
Susanna Hyvärinen
susanna.hyvarinen@aka.fi
Tel: +358 40 352 8163
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(concerning Targeted Research funding)

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Barbara Tanner
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Tel: +49 381 519 72 91
www.fz-juelich.de/ptj

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Denmark

Danish Agency for Science, Technology and
Innovation (Danish Natural Science Research
Council)
Anders Ødegaard
aod@fist.dk
Tel: +45 35 44 62 53
www.fist.dk

Estonia

Estonian Science Foundation
Margit Enel
margit@etf.ee
Tel: +372 699 6213
www.etf.ee

Lithuania

Agency for International Science and Technology
Development Programmes
Audrius Zvikas
audrius.zvikas@tpa.lt
Tel: + 370 5 2644 712
www.tpa.lt/bonus

Latvia

Foundation Higher Education Quality Evaluation
Centre (HEQEC)
Ineta Pliksa
inetap@lanet.lv
Tel: +371 67033871
www.lzp.lv/latv/centr.htm

Poland

Foundation for the Development of Gdansk
University
Andrzej Tonderski
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Tel: +48 661360170
www.frug.gda.pl

Russia

Russian Foundation for Basic Research
Valeriy Smirnov
smirnov@rfbr.ru
Tel: +7 095 938 08 13
www.rfbr.ru

Sweden

Swedish Research Council for Environment,
Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning,
FORMAS
Susanna Pakkasmaa
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Tel: +46 8 775 4053
www.formas.se

Ulf Westerlund
ulf.westerlund@formas.se
Tel: +46 8 775 4025
www.formas.se

Swedish Environmental Protection Agency
Sif Johansson
sif.johansson@naturvardsverket.se
Tel: +46 8 698 1536
www.internat.naturvardsverket.se

ANNEX1:

Electronic Proposal Submission Forms

Project title (display guidelines)

Project acronym should be no longer than 10 characters.

Project title should be no longer than 100 characters.

Project acronym*

Project title*

0 out of max 100 characters used

Themes addressed (display guidelines)

Select one or more themes relevant to the project.

Priority will be given to research projects within themes 1 and/or 7 and to projects that link themes 2-6 with 1 and/or 7 in an interdisciplinary manner. However, interdisciplinary research among themes 2-6 is also encouraged.

More detailed information of the themes and key research issues can be found from the BONUS –169 Science Plan.

- Themes* Theme 1: Linking Science and Policy
 Theme 2: Understanding Climate Change and Geophysical Forcing
 Theme 3: Combating Eutrophication
 Theme 4: Achieving Sustainable Fisheries
 Theme 5: Protecting Biodiversity
 Theme 6: Preventing Pollution
 Theme 7: Integrating Ecosystem and Society

Project duration (display guidelines)

Project start date should not be prior to July 1st 2008 and cannot end later than December 31st 2011.

Maximum duration of the project is 36 months.

Project start date should be entered in the format **yyyymmdd**

For example: 20080701 stands for 1st of July 2008.

Project start date* (yyyymmdd)

Project duration* (months)

Project summary (display guidelines)

Project summary should include the following information:

- Relevance of the research topic to the Call.
- Objectives / expected outcomes of the project.
- Explanation on how the project would be implemented.

Project summary should be no longer than 1500 characters (including blanks).

This Information will be public if the project is funded by BONUS.

Project summary*

0 out of max 1500 characters used

Project keywords (display guidelines)

Provide up to 5 keywords relevant to the project.

Keywords should be separated with a comma.

Project keywords (max 5, separated with a comma)

Project relevance for the management of the Baltic Sea (display guidelines)

Describe relevance in relation to the Themes 1 and 7.

Description of project relevance should be no longer than 1500 characters (including blanks).

Project relevance*

0 out of max 1500 characters used

Short research plan (display guidelines)

The Short Research Plan (max 7 pages) must be created/converted into .PDF document and then uploaded. Short Research Plan must include the following:

Cover page:

- Project acronym and title
- Project Coordinator (name, institute, country)
- List of Principal Scientists (name, institute, country)

Pages 1-7:

1. General aim, approach and expected outcome of the project (1 page)
2. Relevance to the topic of the Call (1/2 pages)
3. Themes and key research issues of the BONUS-169 Science Plan addressed. Relevance for the management of the Baltic Sea – relation to the Themes 1 and 7 (1 page)
4. State of the art (1 page)
5. New approaches and innovation (1/2 page)
6. Transnational added value (1/2 pages)
7. Preliminary budget (1/2 page)
8. Tentative participants/institutes and management of the project (1 page)
9. Description of the significant facilities and large equipment available for the project (1/2 pages)

One page equals 2400 characters including spaces.

1. Select a .pdf file to upload*
2. Upload a file
3. View uploaded file [research_plan.pdf](#)

Full research plan (display guidelines)

Please note! You do not need to provide Full Research Plan at this time. It will be asked later and only if your proposal is selected after evaluation of all Letter of Intents.

The Full Research Plan (max 20 pages) must be created/converted into .PDF document and then uploaded. Full Research Plan must include the following:

Cover page:

- Project acronym and title
- Project Coordinator (name, institute, country)
- List of Principal Scientists (name, institute, country)

Inner Cover page:

- Table of contents

Pages 1 - 20:

1. Concept, objectives and expected outcome of the project
2. State of the art, theory and methods
3. Innovation and new approaches
4. Themes and key research issues of BONUS-169 Science Plan addressed. Relevance for the management of the Baltic Sea – relation to Themes 1 and 7
5. Contribution in producing deliverables described in the BONUS-169 Science Plan
6. Dissemination plan
7. Participants and management of the project
8. Overall budget requested from BONUS+ (incl. max. overheads according to the national regulations), in kind contributions and possible other sources for financing
9. Description of the significant facilities and large equipment available for the project
10. Researcher exchange and training, including possibility of organising a course
11. Detailed work plan/research plan divided into Work packages and Tasks indicating responsibilities of each consortium participant, as well as a time schedule for the project (max. 1/2 page per Task)
12. Gantt chart or similar to show the timing of different Work packages and Tasks
13. Plan of submitting project data to some common database
14. Ethical issues
15. Reference list

One page equals 2400 characters including spaces.

You can skip this page for now.

PSI The Full Research Plan will only be asked **later** if your proposal is selected after evaluation of the Letter of Intent.

List of Participants and Principal Scientists ([display guidelines](#))

1. *Participant:*

English name of the institute*

Country*

Principal Scientist:

Last name

First name

E-mail

Organisation name and contact information (display guidelines)

English name of the institute*	<input type="text" value="Institute of Baltic Studies"/>
National name of the Institute*	<input type="text"/>
Sub-division	<input type="text"/>
Abbreviation	<input type="text"/>
Postal address*	<input type="text"/>
Street address	<input type="text"/>
Postal code*	<input type="text"/>
City*	<input type="text"/>
Country*	<input type="text"/>
Website	<input type="text"/>
Phone*	<input type="text"/>

Research group (display guidelines)

Only PhD level researchers can be listed.

1. Last name	<input type="text" value="Tiirik"/>
First name	<input type="text" value="Taavi"/>
E-mail	<input type="text" value="taavi@ibs.ee"/>
Position*	<input type="text"/>
Institution	<input type="text" value="Institute of Baltic Studies"/>
Number of person months*	<input type="text"/>

2. Last name*	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Delete"/>
First name*	<input type="text"/>	
E-mail*	<input type="text"/>	
Position*	<input type="text"/>	
Institution*	<input type="text"/>	
Number of person months*	<input type="text"/>	

Budget (display guidelines)

For the letter of intent phase the estimated costs have to be specified. Estimated costs can be updated in the Full Proposal phase.

Person months:

- Specify how many person months are planned for the personnel costs given below (including non PhD level personnel).

Other EU funding:

- If the project has applied EU funding at the same time from somewhere else. Please specify the amount in euro

Note! Participants are strongly recommended to consult the **national rules** with the national funding agency. See the list of national funding agencies at www.bonusportal.org

PSI Maximum duration of the project is 36 months.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	Sum
Personnel costs:	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Person months	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Consumables	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Travel costs	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Equipment	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Other costs	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Overhead	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>
Total costs	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>	<input type="text" value="0"/>

Other EU funding

Explanation*

0 out of max 3000 characters used

Principal Scientist (display guidelines)

Last name*
First name*
Year of birth (yyyy)*
Gender* Male
 Female
Nationality*
Phone*
E-mail*
Website

Degree information (display guidelines)

Degrees will be automatically ordered by year and degree.

1. Degree*
Year*
Subject*
University*
Country*

Current and previous positions (display guidelines)

Current position can be specified by leaving the To year field empty.

Up to 5 relevant previous positions can be specified.

Positions will be automatically ordered by years.

	From year* (yyyy)	To year (yyyy)	Position, institute, country*
1.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Delete"/>

Major research projects (display guidelines)

Up to 5 major research projects.

Specify: name of the project, Principal Scientist's name, funding organisation.

PS! Leave one empty line between two research project records.

Supervision of PhD students (display guidelines)

Specify: names, year of exam, principal or deputy supervisor.

PS! Leave one empty line between two supervision records.

Hosting of post-docs (*display guidelines*)

Specify: names, year(s) + nr. of months.

PS! Leave one empty line between two records.

Major scientific assignments (*display guidelines*)

Up to 5 major scientific assignments.

PS! Leave one empty line between two scientific assignment records.

List of 10 most relevant publications (*display guidelines*)

For each publication, a complete literature reference should be given, indicating the authors, publication year and the name of the article as well as the publisher.

Total number of articles and other publications listed here must not exceed 10.

Articles in refereed scientific journals

PS! Leave one empty line between two publication records.

Other publications

PS! Leave one empty line between two publication records.

Annex 2 Evaluation forms: BONUS+ Evaluation Form of LOI

BONUS+ EVALUATION FORM OF LETTER OF INTENT



Name of reviewer:
Title of proposed project:
Acronym of the project:
Proposal number:

Please indicate your scores for each of the criteria listed below. Please use the scale 0-5, and give a final score, supported by a brief explanatory comment. For purpose of transparent evaluation procedure these statements will be forwarded to the applicants after decision. The identity of the reviewers of the individual proposals will not be revealed to the applicants.

Scale:

1 = poor, 2 = fair, 3 = good, 4 = very good, 5 = excellent,

0= the proposal fails to address the issue under examination or cannot be judged against the criterion due to missing or incomplete information

Score 0-5

Relevance to the topic of the call	
Transnational added value (additional merit of the proposal due to the transnational collaboration)	
Scientific quality of the proposal	
Quality of the composition of the consortium	
Novelty and originality of the project	

Final score reflecting your overall impression of the pre-proposal

Brief explanatory statement (Please make it useful for coordinator):


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Conflict of Interest

You should not evaluate the proposal in case of past (up to 5 years) or present collaborations or other interactions with the applicants or the proposed host institutions or if you are expecting benefit in a professional, financial, or personal matter from the success or failure of this application. In case of conflict of interest please inform BONUS Secretariat.

BONUS+ Full Proposal Evaluation Form

BONUS+ FULL PROPOSAL EVALUATION FORM



Name of reviewer:
 Title of proposed project:
 Acronym of the project:
 Proposal number:

Please use the scale 1-5 and answer the questions where applicable.
 1 = poor, 2 = fair, 3 = good, 4 = very good, 5 = excellent

1 Scientific excellence

1.1 Sound concept, and quality of objectives Rating 1 2 3 4 5
 Is the project scientifically/academically significant? Is the research plan academically/scientifically solid?
 Are the objectives sufficiently challenging?

1.2 Progress beyond the state-of-art Rating 1 2 3 4 5
 Would the results present significant progress beyond the current state-of-the-art?

1.3 Quality and effectiveness of the scientific methodology and associated work plan Rating 1 2 3 4 5
 Is the scientific or technical problem clearly specified? Are the research plan, the proposed schedule, and objectives clearly presented and realistic? Comments on the feasibility of the methodological approach, and its consistence with the project objectives. Are the research methods and materials appropriate for the project? Have the risks been identified and are they reasonable

1.4 Innovation and new approaches Rating 1 2 3 4 5
 What is the scientific significance and innovativeness or novelty of the research? Can the project generate new knowledge, new methods, new technology etc.?

1.5 Interdisciplinarity Rating 1 2 3 4 5
 The level of inter- and multidisciplinary?

Overall rating 1.1-1.5 1 2 3 4 5

2 Implementation

2.1 Appropriateness of the management structure and procedures Rating 1 2 3 4 5
 Are the management structure(s) and procedures appropriate?

2.2 Quality and relevant experience of the individual participants Rating 1 2 3 4 5
 Have the researcher(s) necessary and appropriate expertise and competence to carry out the project? Have the proposers demonstrated a sound knowledge of the current international state-of-art level of the research in concern? What is the quality of their publications and publication forums? What are the merits and previous scientific achievements of the applicant and other researchers?

2.3 Quality of the consortium as a whole (including complementarity, balance, research environments) Rating 1 2 3 4 5
 Is there a well-considered and effective distribution of tasks and responsibilities among the consortium? Is the distribution of tasks among partners well-considered? Comments on the quality of the consortium as whole (including complementarity, balance, research environments)?

2.4 Appropriate allocation and justification of the resources to be committed (staff, equipment) Rating 1 2 3 4 5
 Are the committed resources in terms of staff (man-months), equipment/infrastructure well-allocated? Is the project management and the division of labour appropriate and well-planned? Do not pay attention to the budget which will be evaluated separately

Overall rating 2.1-2.4 1 2 3 4 5

3 Impact

3.1 Relevance of the proposal in the relation to the Themes of the Call and BONUS-169 Science Plan **Rating 1 2 3 4 5**

How does the research fit in the objectives of the BONUS as described in the Science Plan? Does the research add into information needed in solving environmental problems in the Baltic Sea?

3.2 Appropriateness of measures for the dissemination and/or exploitation of project **Rating 1 2 3 4 5**

Are the measures appropriate for dissemination and/ or exploitation of project?

3.3 Researcher training **Rating 1 2 3 4 5**

Is there a clear plan for the PhD students and post-docs training in the project? Does the project suggest joint PhD courses?

3.4 International cooperation beyond the project **Rating 1 2 3 4 5**

Is there international cooperation beyond the project? Is research team engaged in significant national and/or international research collaboration? What is the importance of the collaboration networks for the proposed project?

Overall rating 3.1-3.4 1 2 3 4 5

4 Overall assessment

4.1 Main strengths and weaknesses of the proposal

What are the main strengths and weaknesses of the proposal? Possible remarks, additional comments and recommendations.

Strengths:

Weaknesses:

Comments

4.2 Could this proposal be considered to be Targeted Research funded by the Research Council for Biosciences and Environment

4.3 Overall rating:
(This should not be based on the mathematical average of the above sub-categories. Both full and half numbers can be used)

Scale:

5 Excellent

4 Very good proposal, which however contains minor elements that could be improved

3 Good proposal, which contains elements that could be improved

2 Fair proposal, in need of substantial modification or improvement

1 Poor proposal, with severe weaknesses that are intrinsic to the proposed project

Date

Signature



