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BONUS briefing

SCIENCE FOR A BETTER FUTURE OF THE BALTIC SEA REGION

BONUS call 2012: Viable ecosystem

- Date of publication: **12 November 2012**
- Preregistration deadline: **14 January 2013 at 17.00 CET**
- Proposal submission deadline: **14 February 2013 at 17.00 CET**
- Budget: **EUR 31 million with flexibility of 10 %**
- Funding scheme: **Collaborative projects**
- Funding threshold: Maximum requested BONUS contribution to collaborative project, including contributions from both the BONUS EEIG and the BONUS participating states, is limited to EUR 4 million
- Project implementation: Projects will start at the earliest in November 2013 and the total duration of projects will be no longer than four years
- Themes addressed: Each proposal must address one key theme and two to four supplementary themes from those opened for this call

BONUS STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	THEMES CALLED Themes and expected outcomes are presented in the BONUS strategic research agenda 2011-2017 www.bonusportal.org/sra
1: Understanding the Baltic Sea ecosystem structure and functioning	1.1. Ecosystem resilience and dynamics of biogeochemical processes, including cumulative impacts of human pressures
	1.2. Causes and consequences of changing biodiversity
	1.3. Food web structure and dynamics
	1.4. Multilevel impacts of hazardous substances
2: Meeting the multifaceted challenges in linking the Baltic Sea with its coast and catchment	2.1. Natural and human-induced changes in catchment land cover patterns, including the role of e.g. agriculture, forestry and urbanisation
	2.2. The role of the coastal systems in the dynamics of the Baltic Sea
3: Enhancing sustainable use of coastal and marine goods and services of the Baltic Sea	3.3. Improving stock assessments and resolving spatial heterogeneity and temporal dynamics of the Baltic Sea fish stocks
	3.4. Evaluation framework for fisheries management
4: Improving the capabilities of the society to respond to the current and future challenges directed to the Baltic Sea region	4.1. Governance structures, policy performance and policy instruments
5: Developing improved and innovative observation and data management systems, tools and methodologies for marine information needs in the Baltic Sea region	5.1. Developing and improving scientific basis for integrated monitoring programmes for continuous assessment of ecological status and human pressures

Eligibility conditions:

- Proposal is preregistered by the deadline of 17.00 CET, 14 January 2013
- Proposal has been submitted to the BONUS Electronic Proposal Submission System (EPSS) by the deadline of 17.00 CET, 14 February 2013
- At least three legal entities participate in the proposal, each of which is established in a different EU member state or associated country; at least two of these countries must be BONUS participating states (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland or Sweden)
- Proposal is complete with all required parts including the work plan, all administrative forms and declarations of the applicants
- Proposal addresses one key theme and two to four supplementary themes from those opened for this call
- Total requested contribution including contributions from both the BONUS EEIG and the BONUS participating states does not exceed EUR 4 million
- Applicants from non-Baltic EU member states, associated countries or third countries have included a funding commitment statement confirming that the necessary resources to cover their part of the costs exist, except Russian applicants applying support from the Russian Foundation for Basic Research[1] who submit a confirmation letter instead
- The legal entity acting as the project coordinator is established in one of the BONUS participating states

1. Further information about participation of Russian applicants in the call is provided in the Guide for applicants specific to the BONUS call 2012: Viable ecosystem

Evaluation procedure:

- Proposals on all themes opened for this call are evaluated in accordance with the evaluation guidelines by independent expert evaluators and ranked within one common ranking list which is the basis for the funding decision
- The evaluation follows a single stage procedure. Proposals are evaluated on the basis of three core criteria[2]: scientific and/or technological excellence (4/5[3]); quality and efficiency ot the implementation and the management (3/5); the potential impact through the development, dissemination and use of project results (4/5). The total score threshold is 11, below which no project can be funded. Scores may be awarded with 0.5 point step
- The evaluation review panel will determine a priority order for proposals which have been awarded the same total score within a ranked list. The following approach will be applied successively for every group of proposals requiring such prioritisation:
  - Proposals will be prioritised according to the scores they have been awarded for the criterion scientific and/or technological excellence
  - When these scores are equal, proposals that address topics not otherwise covered by more highly-rated proposals will be considered to have the highest priority
  - If necessary, any further prioritisation will be based on other appropriate characteristics, to be decided by the panel (e.g. presence of SMEs, international co-operation, public engagement)

2. Exact meaning of the core evaluation criteria is provided in the Guide for applicants specific to the BONUS call 2012: Viable ecosystem
3. Threshold score/the highest score

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Indicative timetable:

- Evaluation and panel meetings end: 25 April 2013
- Announcement of evaluation outcome: 17 May 2013
- Earliest start of the projects (after grant agreements concluded): November 2013

Contact:

helpdesk@bonusportal.org for call related advice
epss@bonusportal.org for technical advice on proposal submissions

Download guidance to applicants from www.bonusportal.org/call2012:

- The BONUS strategic research agenda 2011-2017 representing the programmatic foundation for the whole BONUS programme
- Guide for applicants specific to the BONUS call 2012: Viable ecosystem providing comprehensive instructions and guidelines for the applicants of this call
- Guide for BONUS proposal evaluators specific to the BONUS call 2012: Viable ecosystem describing how the proposals of this call are evaluated
- Model BONUS grant agreement as the legally binding basis for BONUS funding

BONUS is supported by national research funding institutions in the eight EU member states around the Baltic Sea and the EU Research Framework Programme. Scientists from Russia participate in BONUS through special agreements.

More information about BONUS:

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www.bonusportal.org

BONUS
Science for a better future of the Baltic Sea region