

7th JOINT CALL FOR PROPOSALS OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION IN THE TWO THEMATIC AREAS OF

SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION and CLIMATE CHANGE : RESILIENCE & ADAPTATION

Type of funded projects:

Southeast Asia - Europe Joint Call Project consortia must comprise of at least 3 partners from 3 different countries fulfilling the 2+1 rule: Either 2 partners from 2 different Southeast Asian countries and 1 European partner or 2 partners from 2 different European countries and 1 Southeast Asian partner. At least 1 partner from each region must be eligible for JFS funding. Further, the coordinator must be selected from among the partners eligible for funding. The required third partner can be funded by a funding organization from a country participating in the JFS or bring his own funding. The proposals have to cover the thematic areas of "Sustainable Food Production" or "Climate Change: Resilience and Adaptation" to enhance bi-regional cooperation and develop new partnerships as well as strengthen existing ones. Please read the National Regulations from the funding organization that you are requesting funding from carefully since the National Regulations may include additional requirements, e.g. certain Technology Readiness Levels.

Deadline: 15 October 2021 12:00 (noon) CET/ 05:00 pm Bangkok time

Thematic Areas

1) Sustainable Food Production:

Food production is an important economic factor in Southeast Asia and Europe with both regions relying on import and export. For example: 90% of all world aquaculture production is based in Asia and Europe imports close to 70% of its seafood from South- East Asia. Joining forces hence is of economic interest of both regions. At the same time, cooperation of both regions in sustainable food production can contribute to fight global hunger and poverty and reduce related conflicts.

The objective of the 7th JFS Call for Proposals is to support STI projects towards high quality, affordable and sustainable food production along the whole agri-food chain (production, harvesting, processing, transport and distribution). Innovative food technologies such as the application of nanotechnologies will remain a key factor of competitiveness, jobs, sustainable growth and social progress in both regions. Besides technological innovations, new societal or logistical approaches optimizing a sustainable food production chain may be researched.

2) Climate Change: Resilience and Adaptation:

Climate change affects everyone at all levels, from global to local, but not to the same extent or scale. The ASEAN region is among the most vulnerable regions in the world, with long and heavily populated coastlines and heavy reliance on agriculture for livelihood, especially for a large segment of population living below the poverty line. Climate change originating from human civilizations from all over the globe has exacerbated water shortages in many areas, constraining agricultural production and threatening food security, causing forest fires and degradation, damaging coastal and marine resources, and increasing the risk of outbreaks of infectious diseases. Heat waves, droughts, floods, and tropical cyclones have also become more intense and frequent in many parts of the region, causing extensive damage to property, assets, human life, health and wellbeing, and the environment. A central aspect of these climate risks are the effects on social and environmental determinants of health – clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food and secure shelter. The 7th JFS Call aims at funding activities that join STI forces in Southeast Asia and Europe to cope with the above-mentioned impacts of climate change, help to adapt and increase resilience.

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES AND FUNDING AGENCIES / MINISTRIES

(1= Sustainable Food Production; 2= Climate Change: Resilience and Adaptation)

- **Brunei Darussalam** – University of Brunei Darussalam (UBD)²
- **Bulgaria** - Bulgarian National Science Fund (BNSF)
- **Cambodia** – Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MEYS)
- **Czech Republic** – Czech Academy of Sciences (CAS) ^{1,2}
- **Germany** - Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) ^{1,2}
- **Indonesia** – Ministry of Research and Technology / National Research & Innovation Agency (RISTEK / BRIN)
- **Malaysia** – University of Malaya (UM)
- **Malaysia** – Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) ^{1,2}
- **Myanmar** – Ministry of Education (MOE)
- **Netherlands** – Dutch Research Council (NWO) ^{1,2}
- **Spain** - Centre for the Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI)^{1,2}
- **Switzerland** - Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) ^{1,2}
- **Thailand** - National Science and Technology Development Agency
- /Program Management Unit – Brain Power (NSTDA/PMU-B) ^{1,2}
- **Turkey** - Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) ^{1,2}

PLEASE NOTE:

Some funders may only participate in one of the thematic areas. This is indicated with 1= Sustainable Food Production; 2= Climate Change: Resilience and Adaptation after the name of each funding agency in the list above.

Scope of the projects:

Funding will typically be provided for the **duration of a maximum of three years (36 months)**. They should start earliest in **June 2022**.

Within the framework of the Joint Call, funding can in general be applied for:

- Personnel costs
- Equipment and consumables (project-related miscellaneous expenses and project-related larger equipment)
- Mobility costs (exchange research visits between Europe and Southeast Asia. Travel costs, living expenses and visa costs are eligible for funding.
- Other costs (Costs which cannot be classified under the previous cost items but are required for the project implementation, such as costs related to dissemination, intellectual property, demonstration, market search, management, organisational and subcontracting costs)

The eligibility of cost items and their calculation is according to the respective National Funding Regulations from the participating organizations and can be downloaded at the end of this site.

The upper funding limit usually can also be found in the respective national regulations.

Who can apply?

Proposals may be submitted by public legal RTD (Research and Technology Development) entities, higher education institutions, non-university research establishments, companies (all depending on National Funding Regulations). Eligibly criteria can be found in the respective National Funding Regulations.

Institutions not explicitly mentioned as recipients might be included in consortia if they provide their own funding (non-eligible organizations might join at their own costs). A Letter of Commitment has to be submitted in these cases by this partner confirming his contribution. Other entities may apply if the respective National Funding Regulations allow it.

The JFS welcomes the submission of project proposals by interdisciplinary project consortia. The JFS also welcomes the submission of project proposals by project consortia that involve partners from the private sector.

We strongly suggest that applicants discuss their intentions and confirm eligibility with their respective National Contact Point (NCP) before submitting a proposal. The details of the NCPs can be found at the end of this side.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Proposals for STI projects have to be submitted electronically using PT-Outline Web Tool, accessible through <https://ptoutline.eu/app/jfs21>.

During the submission phase, the web tool will be open from the publishing date of the Call on **15 June 2021 until October 15th 2021, 12:00pm CEST (noon) / 05:00pm Bangkok/Jakarta time.**

Any proposal that is submitted after this deadline cannot be accepted by the secretariat and therefore will not be considered for evaluation.

After successful submission of the proposal, each principal coordinator will receive an automatic **confirmation e-mail**. This e-mail can be used **as proof that the proposal was submitted on time and correctly**. In case the coordinator is not sure whether the proposal was submitted correctly, he or she should contact the call secretariat immediately and/or resend the proposal via e-mail to the Joint Call Secretariat **within the deadline**.

Please note: Some funding organizations require that applicants from their respective countries **submit specific complementary documents at the national level**, in addition to the JFS application. These additional requirements will be made clear in the National Funding Regulations of the concerned countries / funding organization.

Each project consortium has to choose a **Project Coordinator** from among all partners of the respective project eligible for funding (partners participating on their own budget may not be coordinators). Only **one proposal per project should be submitted using PT-Outline**. The project proposal shall be submitted **by the Project Coordinator**. The Project Coordinator is responsible for submitting the proposal on behalf of his / her project consortium. The responsibilities of the Project Coordinator are to keep the other project partners updated on the submission process, to ensure the internal management and coordination of the project consortium and to constitute the main contact to the Joint Call Secretariat. The project coordinator of a project receiving funding through the JFS is also the first contact point for the JFS coordinators whenever information related to the projects are required and for monitoring purposes. All proposals must be written in **English only**.

The PT-Outline electronic form consists of four pages (General information, Project coordinator, Project partners and Project description) that need to be filled-in online. In addition, a word template has to be downloaded from the project description page of PT-Outline, filled-in with the requested information, converted to PDF format and then uploaded again.

The Project description document should contain the following information (max. number of 6,000 words excl. all Annexes):

1. Basic project data

1.1 Project title

1.2 Project Acronym

1.3 Name and institution of the Project Coordinator

1.4 Names and institutions of other project partners

2. Project description

2.1 Describe why your proposal suits the respective call thematic area.

2.2 Describe as precisely as possible the technological objectives of the project.

2.3 Explain the novel character of the activities proposed. Show how the objectives of the project aim at significant advances in the state-of-the-art through extending the current technologies and/or filling the gaps identified.

2.4 Lay down the added-value of transnational cooperation which is implemented in your consortium.

2.5 Describe what makes up the excellence of your consortium. Describe how the teams complement each other and the added value resulting from the multilateral cooperation. Mention where there is a potential for synergy effects between different tasks of the project and how this is going to be exploited.

2.6 Describe the multidisciplinary / interdisciplinary of your proposal.

2.7 Lay down if (and how) the research project matches national priorities of the partners involved.

2.8 Self-assessment of targeted Technology Readiness Level (TRL) and explanation

3. Work plan

3.1 Describe the research project with respect to the methodology; justify the methodology chosen to reach the objectives. Highlight the particular advantages of the methodology chosen.

3.2 Describe the type of activities that are implemented in your project.

3.3 Describe the distribution of tasks. What is the involvement of each partner in relation to the proposed activities? How are the resources distributed among the partners? (time plan).

3.4 Describe the management structure of your project.

4. Potential impact and exploitation of results

4.1 Describe the scientific and / or commercial expected impact.

4.2 Describe whether the project has any beneficial impact on society, in particular regarding societal challenges.

4.3 Describe the measures for the dissemination and./or exploitation of trans-national projects results, and management of intellectual property. What are the next steps?

4.4 Prospects for establishing efficient and sustainable partnership.

5. Financial Plan

6. Annexes

6.1 If applicable: the Letter of Commitment securing willingness to collaborate by partners from countries which are not on the list of funding for the JFS 7th Call.

6.2 CVs and lists of principal publications of participating researchers (3 pages max. per researcher).

Aims and methods of the proposed collaborative project should clearly demonstrate the excellence and innovativeness of the project, product or service, including the added value for Southeast Asian - European research and innovation cooperation and describe expected outcomes / marketability. In addition, a financial plan and a time and work-plan, including milestones, have to be included. All budgets will be submitted in Euros. The applicants will have to identify the TRL which is targeted at the end of the project, and the TRL of the work that the project proposal is based on. This self-assessment / estimation will have to be justified in brief paragraphs.

The applicant is responsible for determining whether the execution of the proposed research requires an ethical statement or license, and complies with national and international sanction rules and legislation. The applicant must ensure that the ethical statement or license is acquired in a timely manner from the relevant ethics review committee.

All information inserted into the PT-Outline web tool is saved after having clicked on the "SAVE" button at the bottom of each page.

During the proposal submission phase, it is allowed to replace already registered and eligible project partners, or to add project partners to the consortium. Please note that after the binding submission of a proposal (through clicking on the 'SUBMIT NOW' button in PT-Outline) **no further changes can be made to your proposal.**

EVALUATION PROCESS

The evaluation process includes the following steps.

Eligibility check

The Joint Call Secretariat (JCS) will check all proposals to ensure that they meet the following **general eligibility criteria** of the Call:

- Date of submission
- Composition of consortium (2+1 rule)
- Duration of project
- Inclusion of all necessary information in English
- Appropriate length of the proposal
- Eligibility of the Project Coordinator
- Eligibility of the other project partners (in case the Project Coordinator or a project partner is rejected in the eligibility check, the whole proposal might be rejected)
- Eligible thematic focus
- Reflection of national priorities (if applicable)
- Eligibility of required funding
- Complete appendixes required

The JCS will forward the proposals to the National Contact Points (NCPs) who will perform a check for compliance of the respective country / national regulation.

Please note if the proposal does not meet the formal criteria / the national regulation / eligibility criteria and requirements, **the proposal may be declined without further review.**

Peer review

Independent scientific experts in the relevant thematic research fields will carry out the anonymous peer review of the eligible project proposals according to evaluation criteria set up by the funding parties. Each proposal will be evaluated by at least two online evaluators (at least one Southeast Asian and one European peer reviewer). The peer reviewers will be nominated by the Southeast Asian and European National Contact Points in cooperation with the funding parties.

The evaluation is done using the following evaluation criteria:

1. Scientific / technological excellence and innovativeness of the project idea (scoring from 0 to 10)
 - Sound concept, quality of objectives
 - Innovativeness of the project idea: Capacity of the project to contribute to the development of a new technology, service or product.
 - Quality and effectiveness of the methodology and associated work plan
 - Good balance between the technology / knowledge available at each participating team
 - Complementarity of qualifications and relevant experience of the coordinator and the individual participants/participating teams

2. Potential impact and expected outcomes of the project (scoring from 0 to 10)
 - Social and / or market related impact
 - Potential to meet market, economical and societal needs and significant exploitation potential
 - Prospects for establishing efficient and sustainable partnership within the network, including transfer of know-how and experience
 - Appropriateness of measures for the dissemination and / or exploitation of trans-national project results, and management of intellectual property

3. Management, Transnationality and Cooperation (scoring from 0 to 10)
 - Quality and effectiveness of the management structure and distribution of tasks
 - Added value of transnational cooperation
 - Appropriate allocation and justification of the resources to be committed (budget, staff, equipment).

The total score of the proposal is the weighted average of the individual scores given to each criterion, rated from 0 to 10. The table below summarizes the scores and weight coefficients per criterion:

	Criteria	Score	Weight
1.	Scientific / Technological excellence and innovativeness of the project idea or product / service to be developed	0-10	40%
2.	Potential impact and expected outcomes of the project / marketability	0-10	40%
3.	Management, Transnationality and Cooperation	0-10	20%
	TOTAL	0-10	100%

After the peer reviewers submitted their results, applicants will be contacted and informed about the online evaluation results. At this point the applicants get the opportunity to **defend** their application on specific points and give a written statement (max. 2 A4 pages).

Once the peer review process is finalized, the JCS will send the proposals and pooled reviews to the Scientific Council (SC) members. The SC meeting is in charge to the final ranking based on the peer review results. The SC members consist of internationally recognized experts offering a high degree of technical, scientific and innovation expertise in the respective research field, as well as broad experiences in international collaboration.

The final ranking list as well as the written remarks by the SC will be forwarded to the Programme Steering Committee (PSC) for the funding decision meeting.

Funding Decision

Based on the ranking list established and the written minutes of the SC meeting, as well as the available funding, the PSC will take a final decision. The JCS will communicate to all project coordinators about the final decisions of their proposal together with the main comments from the SC about the proposal. In the case of a positive funding decision, the national funding agencies will then get in touch with the individual project partners to initiate the process of drafting the contract. The start of funded projects is expected to begin no later than July 2022.

MONITORING OF IMPLEMENTATION OF JFS CALL PROJECTS

The projects funded under the JFS will be asked to submit annual monitoring reports. Each project participant should also submit financial and scientific reports to their national / regional funding organisations according to his / her national regulations.

In the case a partner decided to withdraw from a project before the completion date, due to the reasons such as: discrepancies within the consortia, funding problems, changes in the strategy of companies, technical or sudden market problems; the NCPs have to check whether the basic JFS eligibility criteria are still met and if the excellence of the project is still maintained. If not, the involved funding agencies may decide jointly to cease the funding for this specific project.

In addition, the following regulations will apply for all research projects that are funded through the JFS Call:

- Publications or other form of output resulting from the research for which funding was awarded should be made available to the JFS Call Secretariat (publication of the results in open access journals is strongly encouraged).
- In any publication of results of the research for which JFS Call funding was awarded, mention must be made of the support received.

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