



Joint Baltic Sea Research Programme BONUS+ Call for Proposals 2007



BONUS PLUS POLSKA spotkanie 17 września 2007 Gdynia



BONUS+ Call

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• 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 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 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.

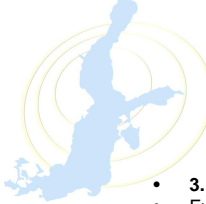

A more detailed description of the Themes and key research issues can be found from the BONUS –169 Science Plan (www.bonusportal.org).



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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.

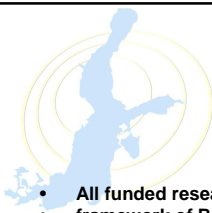
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- **3. FUNDING**
- Funding is granted for a maximum of three (3) years during the period between July 1st, 2008 and December 31st, 2011. The lower and upper limits of total costs of a project are 100.000 and 2.000.000 euros respectively. Eligible costs are the costs required for the successful implementation of the project, including salaries, travel, consumables, overhead etc. It is emphasized 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 rules.**

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- Participants from other European Community States and third parties should cover 50 % of their expenses and can request the other 50 % from the Call. BONUS+ funding of such
- Participants is managed by the BONUS+ Secretariat. The official participant is the researcher's institution.
- 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.
- Projects with total funding between 100 000 € and 2 000 000 € are welcome
- A minimum of two BONUS partner countries is required.
- Each consortium must nominate a Project Coordinator to represent the consortium externally and be responsible for its internal management.
- A Principal Scientist has to be defined by each Participant. The Principal Scientist will be the responsible person on behalf of the Participant⁷ and the contact person for the relevant national funding agency, project coordinator and the BONUS Secretariat.



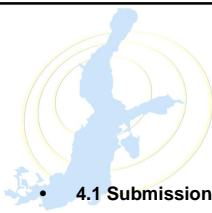
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- All funded research groups agree to abide by the rules and agreements made within the framework of BONUS EEIG. Specific agreements will be prepared and signed between the national funding agencies and Participants regarding reporting, data policy,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



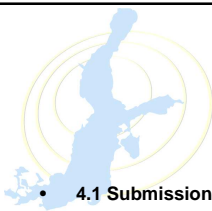
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- **4. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS**
- Submission of proposals follows a two-step procedure.
- The call for Letters of Intent is open between September 17 and November 28, 2007.
- The evaluation will be finished at latest February 14, 2008.
- The highest ranked Letters of Intent will be asked to send in Full Proposals at latest March 14, 2007.
- Both the Letter of Intent and the Full Proposal are submitted electronically, using the Electronic Proposal Submission System (EPSS), through a link from BONUS+ Call website <http://www.bonusportal.org> or directly from <https://proposals.etf.ee/bonus>.



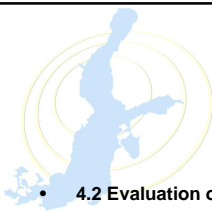
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- **4.1 Submission of the Letter of Intent**
 - The Project Coordinator should initialize the electronic submission process. Directly after the Project Coordinator's first login and identification of the Principal Scientists, they will have access 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.
 - 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 Participant's budget.



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- **4.1 Submission of the Letter of Intent**
 - **The Short Research Plan shall include:**
 - **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 page))



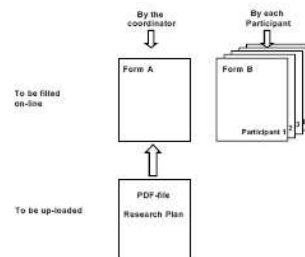
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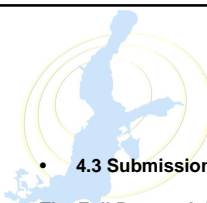
- **4.2 Evaluation of the Letter of Intent**
- The Letters of Intent will be evaluated by international peer review. Each Letter of Intent will be evaluated at least by three experts. The evaluation criteria are:
 - relevance to the topic of the Call
 - transnational added value
 - scientific quality of the proposal
 - quality of the composition of the consortium
 - 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 projects are invited to submit a Full Proposal. This information is available for Project Coordinators and Principal Scientists on the BONUS+ Call website on 15 February, 2008 at the latest.



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- **4.3 Submission of the 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.



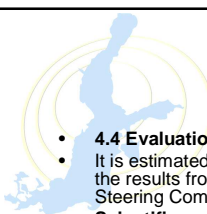


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• 4.3 Submission of the Full Proposal

The Full Research Plan shall include:

- **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 the 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+ (including 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 workplan/research plan divided into Workpackages 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 Workpackages and Tasks
 - 13. Plan of submitting project data to some common database
 - 14. Ethical issues
 - 15. Reference list



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• 4.4 Evaluation of the full proposals

It is estimated that half of the consortia invited to submit a Full Proposal will receive funding based on the results 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
 - 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)
 - 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
 - International cooperation beyond the project

The rated projects will be set against a quality threshold of 3/5 for each 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 for Project Coordinators and Participants on the BONUS+ Call website on 1 July, 2008 at the latest.




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- **5. THE JOINT BALTIC SEA RESEARCH PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE**
 - 1) The Secretariat, will run the Joint Baltic Sea Research Programme and this specific Call. It will have the responsibility of the overall coordination and technical organization of the programme with the help of BONUS+ Call Task Force. During the implementation of the research projects, it will take the responsibility of organizing 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. 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 a panel of scientific experts and stakeholders, ca. 10 persons, appointed by the Steering Committee. It gives a recommendation concerning the projects to be passed to the second stage of evaluation on the basis on their relevance in relation to the programme objectives. The Advisory Board selects its own chair.




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- **5. THE JOINT BALTIC SEA RESEARCH PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE**
 - 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 will be present in all panels and produce a report of the evaluation process for the Steering Committee.
 - 5) The Call Task Force is composed of national programme manager appointed by BONUS EEIG Members. 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. It's main aim to ensure that the Joint Baltic Sea Research Programme will create the added value.



BONUS+ Call Memorandum of Understanding



BONUS EEIG meeting 21 August 2007 Stockholm

Ranking list of projects:

The projects inside the rectangle consume the total amount of funds in the Virtual Common Pot

Project 1: FI, ~~SE~~, DK, RU, EE

Project 2: LT, LV, DE, FI, SE, PL

Project 3: PL, DK, RU, EE

Project 4: FI, PL

Project 5: LT, PL, DE, FI, SE

Project 6: SE, DK, RU, EE

Project 7: PL, LV, FI

Project 8: FI, DK, RU, EE

Project 9: LT, LV, DE, FI, SE

Project 10: FI, RU, EE

Project 11: LV, DE, FI, SE

Project 12: DK, RU, EE

Finnish national allocation is sufficient to fund the participants marked with a circle.

The rest of the Finnish participants inside the rectangle (underlined) are funded by EC money

Project 13: LT, LV, DE, FI, SE

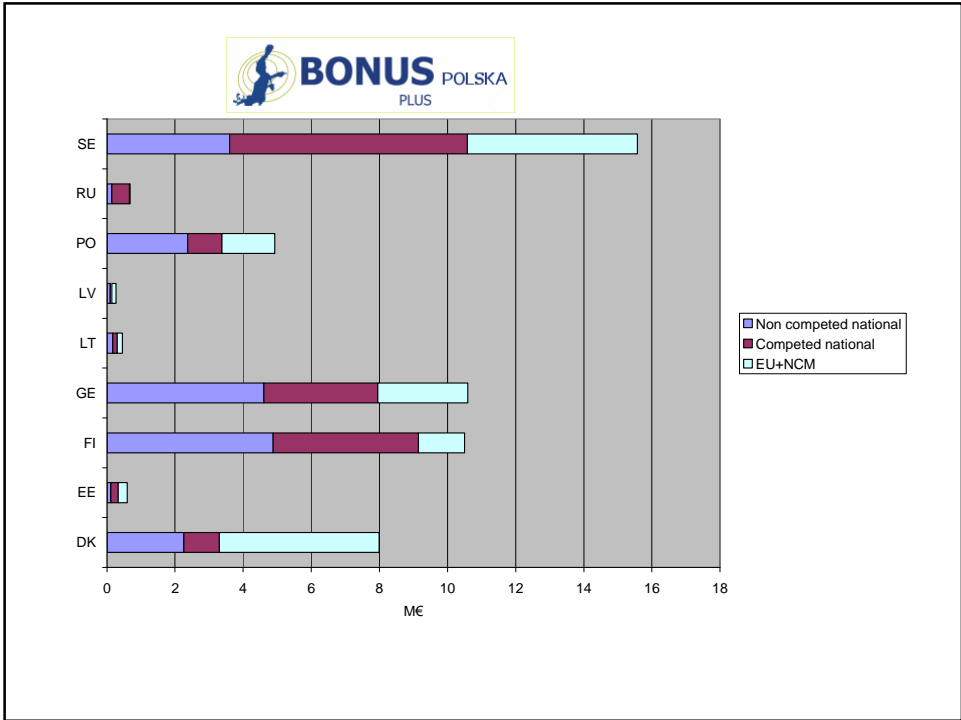
Project 14: PL, DK, RU, EE

Project 15: FI, PL

Project 16: LT, PL, DE, FI, SE

Project 17: SE, DK, RU, EE

Principle: More EU money goes where there exists most competence!
BUT.....



BONUS EEIG Member & Funding agency	Fresh R&D money
FiRD & Academy of Finland	4 000 000 ¹⁾
Forschungszentrum Juelich Beteiligungsgesellschaft mbH & Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany	3 000 000
Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation & Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation (Danish Natural Science Council), Denmark	1 200 000
Estonian Science Foundation	350 000
Agency for International Science and Technology Development Programmes & Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania	300 000
Zinātnes Centrs & Latvian Council of Science	214 000
FDGU & Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Poland	766 610
Russian Foundation for Basic Research	900 000
Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning	3 300 000
Swedish Environmental Protection Agency	1 500 000
<i>National funding under negotiations^[1]</i>	2 469 390
Total national	18 000 000

^[1] BONUS EEIG is continuing negotiations with national funding agencies.



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- *Participants from other EU States and third parties*
 - Must cover 50 % of their expenses
 - Can be project coordinators
- *Size of the project*
 - Minimum of two participants from Baltic Sea States
 - Volume 100 000 – 2 000 000 €
- *Training programmes or courses*
 - Projects can make suggestions
 - Additional 10 000 € per course



Association agreement with RFBR

Article 5 Term of this Agreement

This Agreement shall come into force as from the date of its signature by both the RFBR and the EEIG.

RFBR will set to fulfil obligations under this Agreement if the following conditions are met:

a) RFBR's participation in this Agreement does not constitute contradictions with laws and regulations of the Russian Federation;

b) Payments in favor of EEIG are approved in accordance with the regulations of the Russian.

This Agreement shall continue in full force and effect until terminated in accordance with this Agreement.



Meanwhile RFBR proposes:

- *Bilateral Memorandum of Understanding on scientific collaboration between BONUS EEIG and RFBR*
- *Bilateral Memorandum of Understanding concerning BONUS+ Call*

Alternatively:

- *RFBR joins the BONUS+ MoU*
 - *Modify the model Memorandum of Understanding given by RFBR to correspond the BONUS+ Call*
-