## **Summary of the H2020 project - CIRC-02-2016-2017**

**TOPIC: Water in the context of the circular economy**

**Scope:** Proposals shall address **one**of the following issues:

1. Demonstrating the potential of efficient nutrient recovery from water (2016).
2. Towards the next generation of water systems and services – large scale demonstration projects (2017): the objective of this topic is to demonstrate innovative solutions at a large scale (i.e regions, cities and/or river basins), in line with EIP Water priorities and the objectives of the Water Framework Directive; proposals should focus on developing the water services of the future, going beyond water supply sustainability addressing the different water value chains.

**Expected Impact:**

Projects are expected to contribute to:

a)

* decreasing the dependency on primary nutrient resources and increasing the supply security at European level;
* reducing the adverse effects of nutrient emissions on the environment;
* closing the water and nutrients cycles in the whole production and consumption value chain;
* improving the quality of data on nutrient flows, thus providing important information for investments into the recycling of recovered nutrients;
* creating new green jobs and industries around nutrient recovery and recycling, including exports;
* creating new business opportunities for industry and SMEs in the EU, contributing to the exploitation of EU innovative solutions, and improving the competitiveness of European enterprises in the global market for eco-innovative solutions;
* improving the policy and market conditions in Europe and globally for large scale deployment of innovative solutions;
* providing evidence-based knowledge regarding the enabling framework conditions (such as the regulatory or policy framework) that facilitate a broader transition to a circular economy in the EU.

b)

* significant reduction of the current water and energy consumption at regional and/or river basin scale by closing the cycles of material, water and energy, using alternative water sources and supporting the transition towards smart water services;
* interconnectivity between the water system and other economic and social sectors;
* increased public involvement in water management;
* increased citizen satisfaction with water services;
* replication of new business models in other areas and replication of models for synergies between appropriate funding instruments at regional, national or European level;
* closing of the infrastructure and investment gap in the water service sector;
* creation of new markets in the short and medium term;
* providing evidence-based knowledge regarding the enabling framework conditions (such as the regulatory or policy framework) that facilitate a broader transition to a circular economy in the EU;
* Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 12 'Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns' and SDG 6 'Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all', as well as the conclusions of the COP21 Paris Agreement.

**Where technological innovation is concerned, TRL 5-7 should be achieved.**

**Type of action:** IA Innovation action

Description: Action primarily consisting of activities directly aiming at producing plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services. For this purpose they may include prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication.

**Eligibility conditions**

Innovation actions (IA) - At least three legal entities. Each of the three must be established in a different EU Member State or Horizon 2020 associated country. All three legal entities must be independent of each other.

**Time frame:**

Deadline model: two-stage

Opening date: 08 November 2016

1st stage Deadline: 07 March 2017 17:00

2nd stage Deadline: 05 September 2017 17:00

**Information on the outcome of two-stage evaluation:**

For stage 1: maximum 3 months from the deadline for submission.

For stage 2: maximum 5 months from the deadline for submission.

Signature of grant agreements: maximum 8 months from the deadline for submission.

**For all topics and types of action, the prioritization will be done first on the basis of the score for Impact, and then on that for Excellence.**

**Budget (EUR) foreseen for the topic for 2017:** up to 30,000,000 Euro.

**Funding rate**: 70% (except for non-profit legal entities, where a rate of 100% applies).

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of **a range of EUR 10 million** would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately.

**Eligible costs:**

**(a)** ***Direct personnel costs*** (as actual costs or unit costs depending on the type of beneficiary and accounting system);

**(b)** ***Direct costs of subcontracting***;

**(c)** ***Direct costs of providing financial support to third parties***;

**Actions involving financial support to third parties:**

* A fixed and exhaustive list of the different types of activities for which a third party may receive financial support,
* the definition of the persons or categories of persons which may receive financial support,
* the criteria for awarding financial support
* the criteria for calculating the exact amount of the financial support,
* **the maximum amount to be granted to each third party (may not exceed EUR 60 000 for each third party unless it is necessary to achieve the objectives of the action) and the criteria for determining it.**

**(d)** ***Other direct costs***:

* Travel costs and related subsistence allowances (including related duties, taxes and charges such as non-deductible value added tax (VAT) paid by the beneficiary).
* Depreciation costs of equipment, infrastructure or other assets, costs of renting or leasing.
* Costs of other goods and services (consumables and supplies, dissemination, incl. open access, protection of results, certificates on the financial statements (if they are required by the Agreement), certificates on the methodology, translations and publications.

**(e)** ***Indirect costs*** - on the basis of a flat-rate – **25% of the eligible direct costs excluding** costs of subcontracting and costs of in-kind contributions provided by third parties which are not used on the beneficiary’s premises.

**Budget flexibility**

The final figures may change by up to 20% compared to those indicated in this Work Programme, for the following budgeted activities:

* total expenditure for calls (up to 20% of the total expenditure for each call);
* repartition of call budgets within a call (up to 20% of the total expenditure of the call);
* evaluation and monitoring (up to 20% of the total expenditure for all these activities);
* other individual actions not implemented through calls for proposals (up to 20% for each one).

The cumulated changes above may not exceed 20% of the maximum contribution provided for this Work Programme.

**Admissibility conditions:**

* The following supporting documents will be required to determine the operational capacity for grant proposals, unless otherwise specified in the call:
* A curriculum vitae or description of the profile of the persons who will be primarily responsible for carrying out the proposed research and/or innovation activities;
* A list of up to five relevant publications, and/or products, services (including widely used datasets or software), or other achievements relevant to the call content;
* A list of up to five relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal;
* A description of any significant infrastructure and/or any major items of technical equipment, relevant to the proposed work;
* A description of any third parties that are not represented as project partners, but who will nonetheless be contributing towards the work (e.g. providing facilities, computing resources).
* Grant proposals must include a **draft plan for the exploitation and dissemination** of the results, unless otherwise specified in the call conditions. **The draft plan is not required for proposals at the first stage** of two-stage procedures.
* The limit for a full proposal for Innovation Action is **70 pages. The limit for a first-stage proposal is 10 pages.**

More information can be found on the web site of the topic:

<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/circ-02-2016-2017.html>

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