Eurofleets⁺

EUROFLEETSPlus
Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) Programme

Guidelines for Applicants

www.eurofleets.eu

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents

1   Introduction

On the first of February 2019 the European project EUROFLEETSPlus (hereafter referred to as EUROFLEETS+) *"An alliance of European marine research infrastructure"* was launched. The EUROFLEETS+ Consortium consists of 42 partners, whose primary focus will be **access provision, optimised use,** and **further improvement of the services** offered by the research infrastructure, to establish a world-class marine research integrated infrastructure.

EUROFLEETS+ will build **on the achievements** in two preceding Eurofleets projects, and integrate a **larger number of research vessels (RVs)** and extend the research infrastructure by **adding a range of advanced mobile marine equipment (ME)**. Its objective is to undertake specific actions to consolidate research fleets' organization, methodology and tools through operational initiatives leading to more interoperable and cost effective coordination within European research fleets.

The central aim of EUROFLEETS+ is to facilitate open and effective access to an integrated and advanced research vessel fleet, designed to meet the evolving and challenging needs of the user community. European and international researchers from academia and industry will be able to apply. Eurofleets+ particularly invites scientists from **nations with limited, or no, access to research vessels and other marine infrastructure**. **Researchers from all career stages and female researchers are encouraged to apply**. Access will be granted based on scientific excellence covering all fields of marine science, giving priority to research on sustainable, clean and healthy oceans, linking with existing ocean observation infrastructures, and innovation through working closely with industry will be supported.

To pursue this aim, fully funded ship-time on a range of international research vessels and marine equipment will be made available between 2020 and 2022 to support outstanding research projects.

Within the three different access programmes of EUROFLEETS+, the **Co-Principal Investigator (PI)** Programme is specifically aimed at **early career researchers**, or **researchers with no experience in leading a research cruise**, to implement their own research together with experienced scientists in EUROFLEETS+ scheduled cruises. Applicants to the Co-PI programme will be able to apply for all 27 state-of-the-art research vessels (RVs) (13 Global/Ocean and 14 Regional) offered within Eurofleets+. If applicable, ME may be utilised if scheduled for a main cruise on an Eurofleets+ vessel. The programme will provide the successful applicant with one to three days(maximum) of access to a RV and ME.

Within the **Co-PI** Programme, EUROFLEETS+ is opening a **running call**, which allows the continuous submission of proposals until call closure.

We are inviting you to submit proposals for funding for ship-time within the Co-PI Programme

with any of the following **research vessels**

to carry out ship-based research activities within any field of marine science (restrictions may apply, check specific access conditions for each vessel at www.eurofleets.eu).

No proposals will be accepted after **31st of January 2022, 12:00 CET**.

Submitted applications will be evaluated every 6 months or when a sufficient amount of proposals has been submitted.

Availability of funds for this call is limited, thus it might close as soon as enough excellent proposals are granted to exhaust the budget.

Research vessels scheduled for the Co-PI Programme

Arctic Ocean
RV Sanna (GRONLANDS, Greenland)
RV G.O. SARS (HAVFO, Norway)

North Atlantic Ocean
RV Arni Freidrickson (HAFRA, North Atlantic)
RV Belgica/Belgica II (RBINS, Belgium)
RV Celtic Explorer (MI, Ireland)
RV DANA (DTU, Denmark)
RV Magnus Heinason (HAVST, Faroe Islands)
RV Mar Portugal (IPMA, Portugal)
RV Sarmiento de Gamboa (CSIC, Spain)
RV Simon Stevin (VLIZ, Belgium)
RV Thalassa (IFREMER, France)

North-West/West Atlantic
RV Atlantic Explorer (BIOS, Bermuda)
RV Coriolis II (UQAR, Canada)

Pacific Ocean
RV Tangaroa (NIWA, New Zealand)

Baltic Sea, North Sea
RV Alkor (Geomar, Germany)
RV Aranda (SYKE, Finland)
RV Skagerak (UGOT, Sweden)

Mediterranean Sea, Atlantic Ocean
RV Alliance (NATO-CMRE, Italy)
RV Angeles Alvarino (IEO, Spain)
RV L'Europe (IFREMER, France)
RV Ramon Margalef (IEO, Spain)
RV SOCIB (SOCIB, Spain)
RV Tubitak Marmara (TUBITAK, Turkey)
RV Pelagia (NIOZ, The Netherlands)

Mediterranean, Black Sea
RV Mare Nigrum (GEOCOMAR), Romania
RV Aegeo (HCMR, Greece)

Marine Equipment available within the Co-PI Programme, if scheduled for an EF+ cruise in the SEA-Programme

AUV ASTERx or IDEFx (Ifremer, France)

AUV CNR Glider 'Teresa' (CNR ISMAR, Italy)

AUV Hugin (UGOT, Sweden)

AUV Hugin (FFI, Norway)

AUV VLIZ (VLIZ, Belgium)

ROV Ægir 6000 (UiB, Norway)

ROV Ariane (Ifremer, France)

ROV Genesis (VLIZ, Belgium)

ROV Holland1 (MI, Ireland)

ROV LUSO (IPMA, Portugal)

ROV Marum Squid (UB, Germany)

ROV Ocean Modules V8 offshore (UGOT, Sweden)

VSAT Satellite System (Telepresence Unit) (GFOE, United States of America)

For more information on EUROFLEETS+ calls for proposals and on the infrastructure capabilities, schedule and geographic areas offered visit the vessel descriptions at www.eurofleets.eu.

Proposals must be submitted using the **online proposal submission portal (shared platform & single entry point for the EUROFLEETS+ Co-PI Programme & RTA Programme)** https://ptoutline.eu/app/eurofleetsplus_rc

Check carefully if you fulfil the **eligibility criteria** before submitting your application.

Instructions on how to draft the proposal can be found in the document **EUROFLEETSPlus Co-PI Proposal Template**.

Detailed instructions to submit your proposal online can be found in the document **EUROFLEETSPlus Co-PI & RTA Online Submission Guidelines**.

Documents and templates are available at https://www.eurofleets.eu/access/co-pi/call-documents-and-templates/

2   Call opening period & deadline

The Co-PI Programme will be open to applications in a running call. Proposals can be continuously submitted online via the online proposal submission website until call closure. No proposals will be accepted after **Monday, 31st of January 2022, 12:00 HOURS (CET).**

Note: Availability of funds for this call is limited, thus it might close as soon as enough excellent proposals are granted to exhaust the budget.

3 Eligibility criteria

Trans-national access will be provided to selected Co-PI projects ('user groups'), i.e. teams of one up to three participants in maximum, led by a principal investigator (PI). Proposals for access to any of the offered infrastructures will be accepted if they meet the following **5 strict criteria**:

1. **Affiliation:** The applicant (PI) for a Co-PI project must work in a country other than the country that owns and operates the infrastructure. E.g. a Norwegian PI is entitled to apply for ship-time on all of the listed vessels, except RVs carrying the Norwegian flag (e.g. *RV G.O. Sars*).

2. **Work experience:** The Co-PI Programme is open to early career researchers or experienced researchers of any nationality, without previous participation as PI in a research cruise.

3. **Cruise duration:** The days of access to RVs or ME, requested by the applicants, should not exceed three working days as the days will be incorporated into larger EF cruises.

4. **Data management:** A Data Management Plan (DMP) must be submitted together with the proposal. The DMP should follow the EUROFLEETS+ guidelines.

5. **Dissemination:** Only users that are entitled to and willing to disseminate the knowledge they will generate under the project are eligible to benefit from access free of charge to the infrastructures under the Eurofleets+ flag. Users must agree to comply with the EUROFLEETS+ data policy.

The non-fulfilment of any of the previous criteria implies the non-acceptance of the proposal for further evaluation.

NOTE: Access for user groups with a PI and majority of users not working in a EU or associated country[1] is limited to 20% of the total amount of units of access provided by the Eurofleets+ Project.

I.e., at least 80% of the total units of access (days on RVs and use of ME) provided by the Eurofleets+ project will be granted to parties with the majority of users working in an institution established in a EU or associated country[1].

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[1] Legal entities from Associated Countries can participate under the same conditions as legal entities from the Member States. As of 01 January 2017, the following countries are associated to Horizon 2020: Iceland, Norway, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Israel, Moldova, Switzerland, Faroe Islands, Ukraine, Tunisia, Georgia, Armenia.

4 Terms and Conditions

4.1 General Funding Conditions

1. Only one Co-PI project will be funded and allowed to attend a scheduled cruise per EUROFLEETS+ vessel. A Co-PI project may be granted up to three participants, depending on berth availability and main activities of already scheduled cruises.

2. Funding is provided for accessing the research vessels and marine equipment offered by the EUROFLEETS+ beneficiaries. Co-PI applicants may also apply for access to marine equipment scheduled for an EUROFLEETS+ cruise.

   Note: Applicants may apply for own marine equipment to be installed and deployed from a EUROFLEETS+ vessel.

3. In case the Co-PI cruise involves the use of ME, this will be ruled by the specific terms for ME by the EUROFLEETS+ SEA Programme "OCEANS"/"REGIONAL".

4. A Co-PI project will form part of longer, scheduled EUROFLEETS+ cruises with other working groups embarked. The total number of days available on each EUROFLEETS+ infrastructure is from one to a maximum of three days Ship-time and – if it applies - marine equipment time may be awarded depending on the recommendations of the EUROFLEETS+ Scientific Liaison Panel and Operational Liaison Panel and subject to the formal approval of the EUROFLEETS+ Project management board.

5. The access of EUROFLEETS+ infrastructure will be free of charge for selected user-groups and will cover the use of the vessels (with berth limitation in some cases), full crew, fuel (at economical service speed, for details contact vessel operator), victuals and other standard operating costs. Travel expenses for the embarked team a will be covered up to a maximum amount designated to the individual infrastructures.

6. The access will include the logistical, technological and scientific support.

7. Grantees will not invoice the EUROFLEETS+ Consortium or respective vessel operator for any additional or third-party costs, such as salary costs, equipment manufacture, repair and rental of equipment, consumables, sub-contracting and assistance, publication costs and overheads.

8. The available ship-time funded by EUROFLEETS+ might be extended providing sufficient complementary funding by the applicant for additional time. The leveraging of funds from other sources for a portion of the total amount of ship -time applied for is encouraged and should be clearly stated in the application. **However, cross funding from other EU projects is not permitted.** A cruise or work funded already by another EU project cannot be proposed to EUROFLEETS+ funding.

9. If the number of funded days is reduced by the EUROFLEETS+ Consortium for any reason or if the vessels are prevented from working (e.g. by poor weather or technical difficulties) no form of compensation shall be payable in respect of any time lost. Please note that cruise schedules could change during the year.

10. Vessel users should note that installation and operation of any equipment that they bring on board the vessels is done at their own risk, even when it is carried on board or deployed from the vessel. Further details will be provided during the negotiation phase.

11. A contract will be signed between the PIs institution, the EUROFLEETS+ Consortium and the beneficiary giving access to its infrastructure laying out terms and conditions of access detailing the support granted, reporting, liability, applicable safety/security regulations and modalities of payment of travel and subsistence costs of the scientific party.

12. In Part A of the application procedure, the applicants will have to agree that in the execution of the EUROFLEETSPlus project and any research funded, facilitated or executed therein, the ethical standards and guidelines of Horizon2020 will be rigorously applied, regardless of the country in which the research is carried out.

4.2   Reporting

Following completion of a funded cruise the PI must submit a digital **Cruise Report** (in English) to the EUROFLEETS+ Evaluation Office at eurofleetsplus@awi.de, within two months after completion of the cruise, designed to report on the science carried out during the cruise. It must explicitly refer to and comment on the fulfilment of the points of the work plan outlined in the proposal. A **cruise report template** will be provided prior to cruise commencement. The EUROFLEETS+ Scientific Liaison Panel may request further information/clarifications (or re-submission of the report) within a reasonable time-frame.

The Cruise Summary Report (CSR) is the usual means for reporting metadata arising from the cruise, including details of completed cruises and summary information of scientific measurements made and samples taken. Within two weeks after the cruise, the PI of a EUROFLEETS+ funded Co-PI project is obliged to submit a Cruise Summary Report either a) to his/her National Oceanographic Data Centre (NODC) (please consult the list of operational NODCs), or b) in the case where no such NODC exists is requested to furnish a CSR directly via the online Cruise Summary Report Content Management System (CSR CMS) (Username: csronline, Password: jellyfish). The Co-PI grantee should provide a summary of operations and a list of all samples and deployments within a week after the cruise to the cruise PI, so that he can complete the CSR of his research cruise.

An example and a blank Cruise Summary Report form as word files are available for download to be used on board. In any case, Cruise Summary Reports must be made available online after the cruise.

Further information on Cruise Summary Reports and an interface to query existing Cruise Summary Reports can be found at the SeaDataNet website at: http://seadata.bsh.de/csr/online/ (Username: csronline, Password: jellyfish).

All Cruise Summary Reports submitted for EUROFLEETS+ will become available via the SeaDataNet Cruise Summary Reports user interface and also via a dedicated EUROFLEETS+ Cruise Summary Reports user interface.

4.3   EUROFLEETS+ Data policy

EUROFLEETS+ aims at its research data to be findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable (FAIR).

Data management in EUROFLEETS+ is coordinated with the SeaDataNet FP6 European project and adopts the SeaDataNet standards. The SeaDataNet infrastructure can be visited at: http://www.seadatanet.org.

Cruise applicants must create a preliminary Data Management Plan (DMP) by using the online tool at http://dmp.ef-ears.eu, to be provided when submitting the proposal. This page also details the steps needed to make the data FAIR.

If the application is successful, the PI of the research cruise hosting the Co-PI project will invite the Co-PI grantee to contribute to his/her full Data Management Plan.

All data generated under EUROFLEETS+ funding is accessible to the user group which collected the data.

A copy of any data sets generated should be deposited together with sufficient metadata to one of three reference National Oceanographic Data Centres (OGS in Italy, HCMR in Greece or BMDC in Belgium) within two months after cruise completion. These reference data centres will then make sure that the data sets are quality controlled, archived, and linked to the metadata of the respective cruise. The reference data centres will share the data with the NODC the vessel is connected to.

The PI may choose to restrict access to the data sets and samples to the scientific party and its designated partners up to 2 years after the cruise. This embargo must be reported in the DMP. Requests of external users for data access during this time will be forwarded to the data originators for their decision.

A copy of every publication generated with EUROFLEETS+ benefits has to be sent to the EUROFLEETS+ Evaluation Office for the project records via E-Mail.

4.4   Acknowledgements

All results/publications/presentations/publicity arising from a EUROFLEETS+ funded cruise should carry an acknowledgment of the funding source as well as to the research vessel utilized, referring to support given by the H2020 Grant Agreement No. 824077 - EUROFLEETSPlus.

Logos for presentations can be found on the Project Website.

5   Technical information on research vessels and equipment

In preparation of their respective proposal, applicants are advised to consult the EUROFLEETS+ research vessel and equipment information website on the technical capabilities, availability of scientific equipment and large equipment of the research vessel they intend to apply for and/or

characteristics of the available marine equipment. If more detailed information is required, applicants should contact the respective vessel operator directly (contact details are given at the infrastructure information sheets), or at eurofleetsplus@awi.de and their request will be forwarded to the vessel operator.

6 Application procedure

Proposal submission involves three steps, as outlined below. Proposals have to be submitted online via the [online proposal submission website](#):

- **Step 1**: Register on the proposal submission website and retrieve a password for further access. Please note, that your password will only be displayed once and you should save it.

- **Step 2**: Prepare and submit your proposal, including all relevant information. This step consists of two main parts:

  Part A: General information about the proposal, applicants (Principal Investigator/user group leader and user group) and technical/logistical information regarding the intended research cruise. This section has to be completed online.

  Part B: This part consists of **three documents,** to be uploaded as unprotected pdf file.

    1) **Scientific and financial description of the project**, to be uploaded under "Project description". Applicants should follow the proposal structure as indicated in the [EUROFLEETSPlus Co-PI PART B Proposal Template](#). This document must

        1) not exceed 5MB in size

        2) **not exceed 9 pages**

        3) use a font size of Times New Roman 12pt with 14pt spacing.

    2) A single PDF file with the collection of **CVs of PI and proposed partners (if any),** using the dedicated [CV template](#) (mandatory).

    3) A preliminary Data Management Plan (DMP), using the dedicated [DMP online tool](#) (mandatory).

- **Step 3**: On the finalization of the proposal submission the system will automatically generate a **Proposal Summary Sheet** (containing all **Part A** information), and send an email as a confirmation of a successful submission. Applicants should download a copy of this document. Proponents are able to preview the Proposal Summary Sheet whilst preparing their application following the Proposal Summary Sheet Preview link in the "Finalization" menu of the submission website.

The evaluation of proposals will be based upon the information provided in the completed application form, which should be correct, sufficient and adequate for this purpose, taking into consideration the outlined evaluation criteria.

7   Freedom of Information & Data protection

Personal information supplied to the EUROFLEETS+ Consortium will be stored by electronic means (e.g. database) for use only in connection with the handling of proposals. All personal data supplied to the EUROFLEETS+ Consortium shall be processed in accordance with the Belgium Data Protection Act of 1992, as modified by the law of December 11, 1998 implementing Directive 95/46/EC entering into force in 2001, on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data. You have the right to access and update the personal information about you and to ask for such information to be deleted.

All applicants who wish to query the outcome of their application and/or regarding the treatment of personal data may contact the EUROFLEETS+ Call Management & Evaluation Office.

8   Contact details

EUROFLEETS+ Call Management & Evaluation Office

Dr. Anneli Strobel

EUROFLEETS+ Evaluation Office

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