

Selected Proposals for Integrated Research for Development Call

The final selection of proposals was based on the external reviews (scores + discussion comments) and the need for a balanced distribution of research projects across the DGIS regions and thematic priorities.

Selected first stage proposals

- A4 Labs - Arid African Alluvial Aquifers Labs securing water for development
- Enabling the assessment of alternative water supply systems to promote urban water security in the Global South.
- Evidence4Policy: Developing the evidence-base in support of water resources management policy for sustainable agriculture development and environmental protection
- From conflict on wastewater management in the Kidron/Al-Nar basin towards sustainable development by decentralised local solutions for wastewater treatment and reuse
- Open Water Diplomacy LabMedia, science and water diplomacy in the Nile Basin (and beyond)
- SALINPROVE: Mitigating groundwater SALINity impacts for imPROVED water security in coastal areas under socio-economic and climate change
- Sustainable Hydropower and Multipurpose Storage to meet Water, Food, and Energy Development Goals: A Program for Collaborative Research and Innovation (S-MultiStor)
- Water Supply and Sanitation in Small Towns: the urban rural intersection (SMALL)

Selection process: The procedure of selecting proposals was the following.

- All proposals were reviewed by minimum 2 reviewers
- Proposals were discussed individual by all reviewers, following the initial ranking by numerical scoring. For some proposals, this discussion resulted in a new score.
- External reviewers came from Africa (2), NL (1) and Asia (1). The reviewers represented a range of expertise in terms of academic disciplines, and sectoral perspectives (civil society, private sector, academic, government)
- The DUPC coordinated and facilitated this process, and before sending as a recommendation to the UNESCO-IHE Rectorate assessed whether there were no large imbalances between DGIS regions and thematic priorities.

Overall comments from the DUPC committee:

The Integrated Research for Development requires a strong focuses on development impact - this criteria represented 45% of overall score. The focus – and convincing presentation – as to the impact of the research results varied between the submissions. Some proposals submitted, but not selected, under DUPC 2 call might be better placed to get funding through another facility

which does not place so much emphasis on development impact. Applications represented some very good cross-disciplinary collaborations and involvement of civil society and government partners, but there is still an overall need by majority of proposals to go beyond technical (or conceptual) analyses and solutions in order to address how the research will achieve any change in development outcomes. Broadening of IHE partnerships outside of local academic partners, and outside of water sector is something we could still all improve on.

The intended impact statements of many proposals was not always sufficiently supported by the expertise and skills of research consortium - in many cases there were required disciplinary or methodological skills missing. Trans-disciplinarity is a buzz-word and was used frequently in the majority of the applications. However, an adequate understanding and implementation of this approach was not always convincing.

Writing a good proposal is a real skill which takes a lot time and energy and so we appreciate the very good submissions that presented their ideas in a way which clearly related to an existing gap or address existing need, and presented a logical, convincing set of activities to convince the reviewers as to how they could achieve actual improvements in development outcomes.

We encourage all unsuccessful applicants, together with partners, and advice from LO identify other possibilities, now and in future to identify funding facilities best matched to their topics and approach.

For the full list of submitted first stage proposals + applicants, see list below:

First Stage Proposal (in alphabetical order)	Project Leader
A4 Labs - Arid African Alluvial Aquifers Labs securing water for development	Pieter van der Zaag, IWSG, WM
Alternative dam operations – Balancing the needs of people, ecosystems and economic developments in hydropower dominated river basins	Susan Graas, IWSG, Water Management
BanglaResilia Strengthening resilience and adaptation to coastal flood disasters under climate change in Southern Bangladesh	Biswa Bhattacharya, IWSG, Hydroinformatics Chair Group
BOUNTI (Balancing Of Underground Needs and Threats on Islands)	Dano Roelvink, WSE, CSEPD
Enabling the assessment of alternative water supply systems to promote urban water security in the Global South.	Dr. Janez Sušnik, IWSG, Water Management

Evidence4Policy: Developing the evidence-base in support of water resources management policy for sustainable agriculture development and environmental protection	Micha Werner, HERBD, WSE
From conflict on wastewater management in the Kidron/Al-Nar basin towards sustainable development by decentralised local solutions for wastewater treatment and reuse	Peter van der Steen, PPRR chair group, EEWT department
Integrating Communities and Decision Makers in Co-produced knowledge for sustainable use of wetlands	Aquatic Ecosystem k.irvine@unesco-ihe.org
Learning for sustainable deltas: establishing a community of practice	Anna Wesselink, IWSG, Water Governance
NAiCE Water - Nature Inspired Solutions in Colombia for the Efficient management and use of water: enhancing the resilience of the water sector	Damir Brdjanovic, EEWT DepartmentName, Dept, Chair group:
Non-Revenue Water Management: Options for Desalinated and Conventional Water Supply (NRWM)	Dr. Saroj Sharma, Associate Professor, WSE, EEWT
Open Water Diplomacy LabMedia, science and water diplomacy in the Nile Basin (and beyond)	Emanuele Fantini, IWSG, Water Governance Chair group
Operationalizing Water Sensitive Cities for Urban Climate	Assela Pathirana, Flood Resilience, Water Science and Technology
Package/Movable Innovative Treatment System for the Treatment of Fresh Faecal Sludge from Heavily Used Onsite Sanitation Facilities	Hector Garcia, EEWT, Sanitary Engineering
PSYCHE – Promoting the SYmbiosis of Cultural Heritage and Ecosystem services	Michael Hammond, EEWT, Sanitary Engineering
SALINPROVE: Mitigating groundwater SALINity impacts for imPROVED water security in coastal areas under socio-economic and climate change	Tibor Stigter, WSE, HWR

Sustainable Hydropower and Multipurpose Storage to meet Water, Food, and Energy Development Goals: A Program for Collaborative Research and Innovation (S-MultiStor)	Michael McClain, WSE, Hydrology and Water Resources
Sustainable Natural Technologies for Agricultural and Aquaculture Reuse of Acid MINE Drainage and Metal Polluted Wastewater	Eldon Raj Rene, EEWT, Pollution Prevention and Resource Recovery
Towards more effective river basin management --- Developing the capacities of river basin organizations	Prof.dr.ir. G.J. Alaerts
Transboundary water management in the Nile: is it possible? Improved water management of the Tekezze-Atbara sub-basin	Yasir A. Mohamed, IWSG, water management
Wastewater treatment and disinfection in photo-activated sludge systems for recovery of irrigation water, fertilisers and energy	Peter van der Steen, EEWT, PPRR
Water stress reduction in Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine by utilization of unused contaminated	Branislav Petrusevski, EEWT, Water supply engineering CG
Water Supply and Sanitation in Small Towns: the urban rural intersection (SMALL)	Giuliana Ferrero, EEWT Department, Water Supply Engineering
Water-Energy-Food Nexus Under Climate Change and Variability in Ayeyarwady Basin, Myanmar (WEF-Nexus-ABM)	Shreedhar Maskey, WSE, Hydrology and Water Resources
WIoDER – Western Indian Ocean Deltas Exchange and Research Network	Paolo Paron, WSE, HERBD