



## **Guidelines for Call for Indian Proposal**

### **Ministry of Earth Science (MoES), Government of India**

**Call Published in the Framework of**  
**EU-India Trade & Technology Council (TTC)**  
**Working Group 2**

**EU-India Cooperation on Cumulative Impacts of Marine**  
**Pollution on Marine Organisms and Ecosystems**  
**(HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-ZEROPOLLUTION-05)**

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## Annexure Table

| Annexure Number | Possible Name                                 | Description  | Referenced Section                                 |
|-----------------|---|--|--|
| Template        | Part B – Scientific Proposal (Horizon Europe) | Technical annexure detailing the scientific proposal, identical for Horizon Europe and MoES submissions. | 5.1 Preparation of Proposal                        |
| Annexure 1      | Total Budget of EU & Indian Consortium        | Overview of the combined budget for EU and Indian consortium partners.                                   | 4.1 Funding Commitment                             |
| Annexure 2      | Instructions to Project Coordinator           | Guidelines for coordinators, including partner information and budgeting templates (Tables 1–3.4).       | 5. Submission to MoES via email+ hard copy         |
|                 | - Table 1: Key Project Information            | Details project title, acronym, coordinator, and total budget.   |  |
|                 | - Table 2: Project Partners                   | Lists all partners' details (organisation, contact, country).  |  |
|                 | - Table 3: Cost                               | Total project costs by category and year.  |  |
|                 | - Table 3.1: Itemized Cost Details            | Breakdown of costs (personnel, equipment, consumables, etc.) per partner.                                |  |
|                 | - Table 3.2: Work Package                     | Cost allocation across work packages for each partner.   |  |
|                 | - Table 3.3: Financing Table                  | Funding sources and amounts per partner and year.  |  |
|                 | - Table 3.4: Cost Code                        | Costs categorized by partner type (e.g., private, academic) for the whole project.                       |  |
| Annexure 3      | MoES Funding Specifications                   | Detailed funding rules, eligible costs, and rates for Indian participants.                               | 4.3 Funding by MoES; 4.4 Eligibility Costs         |
| Annexure 4      | Terms & Conditions of the Grant               | Conditions governing MoES funding, asset management, and project execution.                              | 6.2 MoES Terms and Conditions for Indian Applicant |
| Annexure 5      | Proformas                                     | Collection of required certificates and endorsements for MoES submission.                                | 5.3 Submission to MoES via email+ hard copy        |

|             |   |   |   |
|-------------|---|---|---|
|             | - Proforma-I: CV  | Bio-data of PI, Co-PI, and coordinating investigators from each institution.            |   |
|             | - Proforma-II: Certificate from Investigator(s)               | Commitment from investigators to project terms and resource availability.               |   |
|             | - Proforma-III: Endorsement from Head of Organisation         | Assurance of institutional support and responsibility from the head (on letterhead).    |   |
|             | - Proforma-IV: Endorsement from Collaborating Industry/Agency | Commitment from industry/agency collaborators, including contributions (on letterhead). |   |
| Guideline 1 | Horizon Europe – Adding Associated Partners                   | How to add Indian Associated Partners in HE Part A proposal                             | 5.1-5.2 Submission to Horizon Europe Funding & Tenders Portal |
| Guideline 2 | How to include budget of Associated Partner in HE proposal    | How to include Indian Associated Partners in HE Part A budget table                     | 5.1-5.2 Submission to Horizon Europe Funding & Tenders Portal |
| Guideline 3 | TRL Levels  | Technology Readiness Level (TRL), the following definitions                             | 2.4. Type of Research to be Funded by MoES India              |

## Summary

This table provides a concise overview of MoES Guidelines for Indian applicants.

| Category                             | Details  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Call Text                            | HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-ZEROPOLLUTION-05: EU-India Cooperation on Cumulative Impacts of Marine Pollution on Marine Organisms and Ecosystems (Ref: Section 2.1).<br><br>EU Horizon Europe: Call ID <a href="#">HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-ZEROPOLLUTION-05</a> (Page 204 to 207)   |
| Technology Readiness Level (TRL)     | Research and Innovation Actions (RIA) up to TRL 5 as an outcome (Ref: Section 2.4).  |
| Submission Deadlines                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Horizon Europe (European Coordinator): <b><u>17 September 2025 17:00 CET</u></b> (Ref: Section 5.2)</li> <li>MoES (Indian Coordinator): <b><u>23 September 2025 17:00 IST</u></b>(electronic and hard copy) (Ref: Section 5.3).</li> </ul>  |
| Minimum Participants                 | At <b><u>least 3 independent entities from India and 3 from Europe</u></b> (3 distinct legal entities from 3 different EU Member States/Associated Countries, per Horizon Europe rules) (Ref: Section 3.2).  |
| Additional EU Eligibility Criteria   | YES. An European – Horizon Europe eligibility – at least <b><u>one Indian entities</u></b> participate as ‘Associated Partners’ (AP), not signing the EU Grant Agreement.  |
| Indian Eligible Organisations (MoES) | <p><b>Indian Coordinator Institution:</b> Faculties/scientists in regular positions at recognized Academic Organizations, Public-funded R&amp;D Institutions/Laboratories, Central/State Government autonomous organizations in consortium mode (Academia/Industry).</p> <p><b>Participating Entities:</b> Includes DSIR-recognized SIRO organizations, industry associations, industries, etc. Participation of industries/PSUs/startups encouraged, with at least one technology designer and provider. Must be distinct legal entities; multiple investigators from the same entity allowed.</p> <p><b>Submission Requirements:</b> Evidence of resources/finances, audited accounts (last 3 years).</p> <p><b>Ineligible:</b> Sole proprietors, partnership firms, companies owned/headquartered outside India or their subsidiaries. (Ref: Section 3.4)</p> |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Funding Commitment</b>                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MoES: <b>INR 90 Crore</b> (only for Indian consortium)</li> <li>Horizon Europe: <b>EUR 12 million</b> (only for EU consortium).</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Maximum Funding per Project</b>                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MoES: <b>INR ~ 45 Crore per project</b> for Indian Consortium (Ref: Section 4.2).</li> <li>EU: <b>EUR ~6 million per project</b> for European Consortium</li> </ul> <p>Up to <b>2 projects</b> may be funded (Ref: Section 4.1). The per-project funding ensures these outcomes are addressed effectively. However, proposals with different funding requests can still be submitted and considered. (Ref: Section 4.2).</p> |
| <b>Duration of Project</b>                                     | Either <b>36 or 48 months</b> , to be decided by the joint consortium and <u>must be same</u> for both European and Indian partners (Ref: Section 8.1).   |
| <b>Funding and Eligible Costs (MoES)</b>                       | Indian academic institutions, public/private R&D labs, government autonomous organizations, and industry associations may receive up to 100% of approved costs as grant-in-aid, covering personnel, equipment (max 30%), consumables, travel, and overheads, per MoES rules (Ref: Section 4).   |
| <b>Submission of Proposal to Horizon Europe F&amp;T Portal</b> | European Project Coordinator submits full proposal (Part A + B) to Horizon Europe F&T Portal as per the European Commission Rules by <b>17 September 2025, 17:00 CET</b> (Ref: Section 5.2)<br>F&T proposal submission link: Call ID – HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-ZEROPOLLUTION-05 <a href="#">Click Here</a>  |
| <b>Submission of Proposal to MoES India</b>                    | Indian Project Coordinator submits full proposal (Part B, identical to Horizon Europe submission and Financial details) as a consolidated PDF to MoES ( <a href="mailto:ttc-marinepollution@gov.in">ttc-marinepollution@gov.in</a> ), email & hard copy by <b>23 September 2025, 17:00 IST</b> with budget and certificates (see Annexures). (Ref: Section 5)   |
| <b>Contact Point</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Primary: Dr Anil Kumar Vijayan Scientist E, Email: <a href="mailto:anilkumar.v@gov.in">anilkumar.v@gov.in</a>, Phone: +91-11- 24669719;</li> <li>Secondary: Cdr P K Srivastava, Scientist G, Email: <a href="mailto:srivastava.pks@gov.in">srivastava.pks@gov.in</a> (Ref: Section 5.5).</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Information Sources</b>                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MoES: <a href="https://www.moes.gov.in/">https://www.moes.gov.in/</a> (Ref: Section 5.5);</li> <li>Horizon Europe: <a href="#">[Link]</a> (Ref: Section 5.2).</li> </ul>   |

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Additional Notes</b> | Projects adhere to MoES terms (see Annexure 3, Ref: Section 6.2). Full guidelines on MoES website prevail. |
|-------------------------|--|

## 1. Overview

### 1.1. Introduction/Context

India, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), is committed to tackling marine pollution and advancing a sustainable blue economy, as highlighted during its G20 Presidency theme “Scientific Challenges and Opportunities for a Sustainable Blue Economy”<sup>1</sup>. The National Mission on Blue Economy and marine litter policy align with global efforts like the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the planned Global Agreement to End Plastic Pollution.

The India-EU partnership, governed by the Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation<sup>2</sup> and strategic partnership, was elevated in April 2022 with the Trade and Technology Council (TTC), launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen. The TTC, a key forum for deepening trade and technology engagement, prioritizes joint research under Working Group 2 (WG2) on Clean and Green Technologies. The call *HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-ZEROPOLLUTION-05* targets the cumulative impacts of marine pollution on ecosystems, backed by around INR 180 crore joint funding from India and the EU’s Horizon Europe programme. This collaboration aligns India’s national priorities with EU expertise, fostering innovative solutions for a cleaner marine environment.

### 1.2. EU-India Trade and Technology Council (TTC)

The EU-India Trade and Technology Council (TTC), established in April 2022 by Prime Minister Hon’ble Narendra Modi and European Commission President H.E. Ms Ursula von der Leyen, is a strategic platform to enhance cooperation on trade, technology, and security. Created to strengthen bilateral ties amid a multipolar world, it leverages the shared democratic values and economic strengths of India and the EU. The TTC’s importance lies in fostering innovation, market access, and sustainable growth, aligning the two regions’ ambitions for a resilient, tech-driven future.

Working Group 2 (WG2) on Green and Clean Technologies under the TTC drives this agenda by accelerating the shift to sustainable, low-carbon economies. As of March 2025, WG2 prioritizes joint research in renewable energy, circular economy solutions, and pollution mitigation, with recent projects focusing on green hydrogen, sustainable urban mobility, and climate-resilient infrastructure. By connecting Indian and EU innovators, WG2 scales clean tech solutions, emphasizing practical implementation and capacity building for a greener tomorrow.

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.moes.gov.in/g20-india-2023/riig?language\\_content\\_entity=en](https://www.moes.gov.in/g20-india-2023/riig?language_content_entity=en)

<sup>2</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A22002A0809%2801%29>



### 1.3. Participating Funding Organisations

This call is a joint effort under the EU-India Strategic Partnership and the EU-India Trade and Technology Council (TTC) Working Group 2 (WG2) commitment to Research & Innovation on marine pollution. Joint funding totals approximately INR 180 crore from the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Government of India, for Indian organisations and the European Union side, funding is provided through the EU's Horizon Europe programme for EU Member States/Associated Countries (MS/AC).

### 1.4. Call Timeline

| Event  | Date                       |
|--|----------------------------|
| Launch of the Call for Proposals                             | 05 May 2025                |
| Deadline for Europeans to submit proposals to Horizon Europe | 17 September 2025          |
| Deadline for Indians to submit proposals to MoES             | 23 September 2025          |
| Notification of call results to Indian applicants            | Estimated by December 2025 |
| Grant agreement signature for successful projects            | Estimated by May 2026      |
| Start of first India-funded projects                         | Estimated by June 2026     |

## 2. Call Details

### 2.1. Call Title

EU-India Cooperation on Cumulative Impacts of Marine Pollution on Marine Organisms and Ecosystems ([HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-ZEROPOLLUTION-05](#))

### 2.2. Expected Outcomes

In line with the European Green Deal, notably the EU zero pollution action plan, a successful proposal will contribute to the impacts of this Destination related to addressing pollution for a healthier ocean, seas, and waters. Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following:

- Improved scientific understanding of the interplay of different pollutants, their 'cocktail effect' and degradation pathways, on marine organisms and ecosystems;
- Improved understanding of the risks and cumulative impacts of different forms of pollutants for the health of marine organisms and ecosystems and ultimately human health;
- Policy-makers gain a better understanding of the interplay of the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution on marine life;
- Reinforced cooperation between EU and Indian research and innovation communities on marine litter and its effects, including cumulative effects with other forms of pollution.

### 2.3. Scope

Marine pollutants cause harmful effects on marine species and wildlife, serious negative impacts on the structure and functioning of ecosystems, the goods and services they provide, and ultimately on human health, wellbeing and prosperity. While there have been significant advances in understanding the effects of individual pollutants on marine life, the cumulative effects of different marine pollutants, including persistent organic pollutants (POPs), pharmaceuticals, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), heavy metals and trace elements, micro- and nano plastics, nanomaterials, biodegradable products, microbiological contaminants, pesticides, fertilisers and nutrients, and the associated risks for marine life are not fully understood. The interplay of climate change (and the resulting effects of a warming and more acidic ocean) with pollutants including actual and predicted changes in their bioavailability, toxicity and water quality, need to be further examined (see section 2.4 to know the type of research to be funded by MoES India) including (gender-specific) implications for human health following a ‘One-Health’ approach.

R&I in this area is therefore expected to support the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, in particular the assessments of the adverse effects of pollutants, including cumulative effects, on the health of species and habitats in line with Commission Decision (EU) 2017/848, the Water Framework Directive, the zero pollution action plan, the objectives of protecting and restoring ecosystems of the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030 and of the EU Nature Restoration Regulation, the evaluation and possible revision of the Single Use Plastics Directive, the planned Global Agreement to End Plastic Pollution and contribute to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

Marine litter and marine plastic pollution is a particularly pervasive global problem, with particularly high concentrations observed in European seas as well in Southeast Asia. R&I in this area have thus been identified as a priority by the EU-India Trade and Technology Council’s Working Group on Green and Clean Energy Technology to reinforce bilateral cooperation.

Proposals should demonstrate how they will contribute significantly to:

- Develop new analytical tools, methods and sensors for the screening, detection, identification and monitoring of different pollutants in the marine environment such as persistent organic pollutants (POPs), pharmaceuticals, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), heavy metals and micro- and nano plastics including their degradation products, microbiological contaminants, pesticides, fertilisers and nutrients;
- Advance assessments of the risks in real conditions, accumulation, exposure (incl. low-level) and ecotoxicological effects (e.g., on endocrine systems, fertility, metabolism, neurological development and behaviour, growth as well as genetic and physiological changes) of these pollutants on marine organisms and (vulnerable) populations including seabed habitats, benthic communities, endangered species and species for human consumption, incl. risks associated with effects such as harmful algal blooms;
- Analyse the cumulative impacts of a combination of different pollutants (‘cocktail effect’), their degradation pathways in ecosystems and organisms, and their interplay with climate change such as changes in bioavailability, toxicity and water quality on marine organisms and populations;
- Assess bioaccumulation and biomagnification processes of pollutants in the marine food chain including in seafood and implications for human health including and

variations in effects on e.g., different sexes or age groups. Proposals should build on the outcomes and establish links with relevant projects, including those funded under the EU Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters and its Mediterranean lighthouse, and the topic *HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-CLIMATE-02: The ocean-climate-biodiversity-people nexus: uncovering safe operating space for safeguarding the integrity and health of the global ocean* and relevant JPI Oceans projects. Proposals are encouraged to liaise with and consider the services offered by, where relevant, European research infrastructures.

This topic is within the scope of the EU-India Strategic Partnership and the EU-India Trade and Technology Council in relation to marine litter. For the purposes of this topic, the Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Government of India has made the required co-funding available for associated partners in selected projects.

## 2.4. Type of Research to be Funded by MoES India

Under the *EU-India Cooperation on Cumulative Impacts of Marine Pollution on Marine Organisms and Ecosystems*, MoES will fund research tackling marine litter and plastic pollution, a key issue in Southeast Asia and European seas, as prioritized by the EU-India Trade and Technology Council's Working Group on Green and Clean Energy Technology. Focus areas include: developing tools to detect marine micro/nano plastic litter and pollutants (e.g., POPs, microplastics, heavy metals); assessing risks and ecotoxicological effects on marine life; studying cumulative impacts and climate change interactions; and evaluating bioaccumulation in the food chain and human health risks; Innovative technology and solutions for reduction and mitigation of the marine plastics from the source/entry points including the waste management and recycling (see scope of the call).

Eligible projects can combine applied research with pilot-scale demonstrations (up to TRL 5) within one project, with stages differentiated in work packages. While no specific TRL targets are set, consortia should aim for TRL 5 or higher, advancing TRL as a project outcome (see Guideline 3).

## 3. Eligibility and Consortium Requirements

### 3.1. Definitions

The following terms apply to this Call:

- **Research and Innovation Action (RIA):** Activities to create new knowledge or develop new/improved technologies, products, processes, services, or solutions.
- **Project Consortium:** A group submitting a full proposal, including:
  - **Indian Coordinator:** The proposals are to be led by faculties/scientists working in regular position in recognized Academic Organizations/Public funded R&D Institutions/Laboratories, Central and State Government autonomous organizations.
  - **Indian Beneficiary Partners:** All Project Consortium Partners (including the Coordinator) applying for funding from the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
  - **Self-financed Partner(s):** Indian Project Consortium Partners participating without MoES funding, submitting a Letter of Commitment with their declared costs.

- **Eligible Indian Project Consortium Partners:** Legal entities from India, such as:
  - Public or private academic institutions.
  - National or state-funded R&D labs.
  - Urban and local bodies.
  - Non-academic R&D centers or research foundations recognized as Scientific and Industrial Research Organizations (SIRO) by DSIR.
  - Darpan Portal-registered not-for-profit organizations (NGOs, voluntary organizations, trusts) with at least 3 years of operation.
  - Start-up companies registered in India by Indian residents with valid incorporation certificates from the Indian Companies Act or the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
  - Indian companies under the Indian Companies Act with 51% or more ownership by resident Indian citizens.
  - Section 8 companies registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956/2013.
- **Team Roles:**
  - **Principal Investigator (PI):** Leads the project for a Consortium Partner.
  - **Team Members:** Support the PI in project activities.
- **EU Member States (MS): 27 countries:** Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden.
- **Horizon Europe Associated Countries (AC): 19 countries:** Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Türkiye, Tunisia, Ukraine, United Kingdom. Please check updated list – [click here](#).
- **Associated Partners:** In Horizon Europe, Associated Partners from Third Countries (TC) are entities from countries outside the EU Member States (MS) and Horizon Europe Associated Countries (AC) that participate in a project without receiving direct EU funding. These partners, referred to as "Associated Partners," collaborate with the consortium but do not sign the EU Grant Agreement (GA).
- **Participant Identification Code (PIC):** PIC is a unique nine-digit identifier assigned by the European Commission to organizations participating in EU-funded research and innovation programs like Horizon Europe – [click here](#)

### 3.2. Eligibility Criteria

The Call includes two sets of requirements:

- **Transnational Eligibility Criteria:** Applicable to all Project Consortia.
- **MoES National Requirements:** Applicable to Indian Beneficiary Partners seeking MoES funding.

| Criteria   | Details   |
|--|---|
| <b>Minimum Participants</b>                        | At least <b>3 participants from India</b> and <b>3 from Europe</b> (3 independent entities from 3 different EU Member States/Associated Countries, per <a href="#">Horizon Europe rules</a> ).  |
| <b>Indian Consortium Composition</b>               | Minimum of <b>3 India Beneficiary Partners</b> (including 1 Coordinator), meeting national eligibility criteria.<br><br>Minimum of <b>3 independent entities</b> from 3 different EU Member States/Associated Countries.  |
| <b>European Consortium Composition</b>             | Minimum of <b>3 independent entities from 3 different EU Member States/Associated Countries</b> .<br><br>Due to the scope of this topic, European consortia must include as associated partner(s) <b>at least one legal entity established in India</b> ; Legal entities established in India can only participate as associated partners.                    |
| <b>MoES - Effort Limits - Indian Partner</b>       | One Indian Project Consortium Partner's effort cannot exceed 60% of total project effort.   |
| <b>Effort Limits - India &amp; Europe Combined</b> | Total effort from one organisation cannot exceed 75% of total project effort (measured in person-months).   |
| <b>Ineligible Individuals</b>                      | Researchers/experts on Indian or European evaluation panels for this Call cannot submit proposals.  |
| <b>Project Duration</b>                            | Must be completed within 36 or 48 months from the project start date.   |
| <b>Submission of Proposal to MoES</b>              | Indian 'Project Coordinator' should submit completed proposal, Part B ( <b>same as submitted on the Horizon Europe Funding &amp; Tenders Portal</b> ). In addition, administrative and financial form as one single consolidated PDF file to <a href="mailto:ttc-marinepollution@gov.in">ttc-marinepollution@gov.in</a> along with other requisite documents. |

### 3.3. Consortium Composition

The whole consortium must include a minimum of 3 Indian beneficiary partners (including 1 coordinator) meeting national eligibility criteria, alongside at least 3 independent entities from 3 different EU Member States/Associated Countries.

#### 3.3.1. Indian Consortium Composition

An Indian Project Consortium must include at least **3 Indian participants** and **3 European participants** (independent entities from 3 different EU Member States/Associated Countries, per Horizon Europe rules), collaborating on research and innovation areas outlined in the Call. There's no limit on additional partners from India or Europe, but their number should match project goals, demonstrating each partner's necessity, complementary skills, and added value.

- **Effort Limits:**
  - No single partner's effort can exceed 60% of total project effort (in person-months).
  - Total effort from one country/organisation (India or Europe) cannot exceed 75% of total project effort (in person-months).
- **Self-financed Partners:** Must submit a Letter of Commitment with the full proposal.
- **Evaluators:** No individual involved in a proposal can serve as an evaluator for this Call.
- **Project Coordinators:** An Indian Project Coordinator, nominated from Indian participants, handles all official communication with MoES.

#### 3.3.2. European Consortium Composition

An European Project Consortium must include at least 3 European participants (independent entities from 3 different EU Member States/Associated Countries, [per Horizon Europe rules](#)).

Due to the scope of this topic, European consortia must include as associated partner(s) at least one legal entity established in India; Legal entities established in India can only participate as associated partners.

- **Indian Associated Partners:** At least one legal entity from India must join as an Associated Partner, eligible only in this role and not signing the European Commission's Grant Agreement (GA).
- **Project Coordinators:** A European Project Coordinator, familiar with Horizon Europe rules, is recommended to serve as the consortium's central contact with the European Commission.

### 3.4. Indian Eligible Types of Organisations

#### 3.4.1. Lead Institution

- The proposals are to be led by faculties/scientists working in regular position in recognized Academic Organizations/Public funded R&D Institutions/Laboratories, Central and State Government autonomous organizations in partnership with other academic/R&D organisation, DSIR recognized SIRO organizations, Central and state autonomous organisations, industry association, industries etc.

- Participation of relevant industries, public sector undertakings (PSUs), or startups is strongly encouraged. Each consortium encouraged to include at least one technology designer and one technology provider, with installation, testing, and validation conducted at a collaborating site with the participating industry. Proposals with clear, synergistic partnerships between institutes, users, and industries are preferred.
- All Indian partners in a project must be distinct legal entities. Multiple investigators from the same entity are allowed.
- The proposals have to be submitted in the consortium mode only (Academia/Researcher and Industry).

### 3.4.2. Participating Indian Entities

- The participating Indian entities in consortium can be all the entities mentioned above ‘Lead Institution’, DSIR recognized Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (SIRO) organizations, industry association, industries etc.
- The proposals should have well-defined and synergistic partnership of all participating entities. Involvement of need owners and industries is preferred.
- All Indian partners in a single project must be separate legal entities. However, there can be more than one investigator from the same entity.
- Participating Indian companies must:
  - Be incorporated in India under the Companies Act 1956/2013.
  - Have at least 51% stake of the company be owned by Indian citizens.
  - Have been in operation for at least 3 financial years before the closing date for application.
  - Be registered under relevant provisions of Good & Services Taxation (GST) Act.
  - Have required expertise and capacity to technically contribute to the proposed project.
  - The maximum funding for Industry will not be more than their MSME definition based on Investment in plant and machinery for manufacturing Sector and Investment in equipment for Service Sector (MSMED Act 2006 or their consecutive amendments).
  - MoES funding for Industry will be in line with the percentage rates mentioned in the table below (point below funding by MoES) enclosed.
  - The person-hours of existing workforce, utilization of facilities etc. will not be counted as industry contribution.

### 3.4.3. Submission Requirements for Indian Companies

- Evidence they have the resources (both technical and financial) to undertake the project.
- An audited copy of their submitted annual accounts for the last three financial years.

### 3.4.4. Ineligible Entities

- Sole proprietors and partnership firms are not eligible for support under this programme.
- Companies headquartered and owned outside India and their subsidiaries in India, or vice versa, are not eligible to receive funding directly or indirectly. These entities are also not eligible for participating in the call as part of Indian Consortium.



### 3.5. Gender Balance

Consortiums are encouraged to promote equal opportunities in the implementation of the action by ensuring a balanced participation of women and men at all levels of the research and innovation teams and in the management structures.

## 4. Funding and Duration

### 4.1. Funding Commitment

- **MoES Co-Funding:** INR 90 Crore
  - **EU Horizon Europe Co-Funding:** EUR 12 million
- **Anticipated Number of Projects:** Maximum **2 projects** could be funded as per the availability of funds.

### 4.2. Maximum Funding Per Awarded Project by MoES

- It is considered that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of around EUR 6 million would allow this specific challenge to be addressed appropriately, to be matched by contribution from India/MoES for Indian participants as per project requirement in Indian Rupees (₹).
- There is no fixed budget allocation between European and Indian participants. All requests for budget have to be necessary for the execution of the project and justified. Accordingly, consortia and individual partners should not "over claim". This aspect will be duly considered during the evaluation under the 'implementation' criterion, which considers efficiency of the implementation where budget efficiency should be covered.
- **MoES reserves the right to reduce the budget requested** in the evaluated projects if the Indian applicants cannot justify effective use and provide the necessary documents / justifications and proof of requested budget.
- **Note:** Indian financial contribution requested to MoES should not be counted in EU requested grant. Which means that total project cost (EU+India) could be around EUR 6 million for EU and 45 Crore for Indian consortium members (See guidelines for Horizon Europe Budget for Associated Partner).

### 4.3. Funding by MoES

- MoES will fund the Indian consortium members through the lead institution as per requirement of the project, and as per the regulations of the MoES, as outlined here under for the maximum project duration up to 48 months.
- Budgeted costs of the project to following entities subject to obligatory fulfilment of eligibility criteria.
- Indian Academic Organization, Public/Private funded R&D Institutions/Laboratories, Central or State Government controlled Autonomous Organizations and industry associations may receive up to **100%** of their approved costs (within applicable funding range and as per MoES approved budget) **as grant-in-aid**.
- MoES funding for Industry will be in line with the percentage rates mentioned in the table below and the remaining contribution in cash shall mandatorily come from



respective Enterprise/Start ups/Public authorities. The man hours of existing workforce, utilization of facilities etc. will not be counted as industry contribution.

| Indian Entities                                     | Basic Research | Industrial/Applied Research | Experimental Development/Innovation |
|---|----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Public/private universities, research organisations | 100%           | 100%                        | 100%                                |
| Start-ups   | 90%            | 90%                         | 90%                                 |
| Public authorities                                  | 75%            | 75%                         | 75%                                 |
| Large Enterprises                                   | 75%            | 75%                         | 75%                                 |
| Medium Enterprises                                  | 75%            | 75%                         | 75%                                 |
| Small Enterprises                                   | 75%            | 75%                         | 75%                                 |

#### Notes:

(1) Indian Enterprises may receive their part of the eligible costs on a “Reimbursement Basis”, for costs already incurred on a proportionate basis through the lead organization.

(2) Rates mentioned above will be the maximum cap on funding lines subject to MoES funding guidelines.

- The Indian Industry partner may receive their share of funds in reimbursement mode through India Coordinator in a phased manner depending on the progress of the project and subject to submission of Vouchers/Bills against the actual expenditure and submission of audited accounts for specific targets as per requirement of the project (as per the regulations of the lead partners institute). In this case, the lead partner will be responsible for achieving the specific target for which the funds will be released.

#### 4.4. Eligibility Costs

- All project-related costs (e.g., Equipment, Personnel, Consumables, Contingencies, Travels, Other Costs, Overheads etc.) will be covered.
- Capital/Non-recurring costs are to be capped at max. 30% of the total project cost.
- Indian applicants must comply with the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), India Rules and Regulations regarding all eligible costs.
- Subcontracting of tasks is NOT ALLOWED.

### 5. Proposal Submission Process

#### 5.1. Preparation of Proposal

The submission process differs slightly for Indian and EU partners due to separate funding bodies (MoES and Horizon Europe), but requires a joint effort. Indian and European participants must develop a single proposal, adhering to Horizon Europe Funding & Tenders Portal templates (see Annexure – Part B of HE proposal) and MoES administrative and financial requirements (see Annexure 3). Compliance with both formats is mandatory. Indian entities participate as Associated Partners (APs), not signing the EU Grant Agreement.

## EU Proposal Structure:

- **Part A (Administrative Forms):** Includes project details (title, abstract, keywords), consortium information (administrative data, contact persons, declarations), and budget overview.
- **Part B (Technical Annexure):** Details the scientific proposal, structured per the Research and Innovation Action (RIA) evaluation criteria in the Horizon Europe template.

## Indian Proposal Structure:

- **Part B (Technical Annexure):** Details the joint scientific proposal, structured per the Research and Innovation Action (RIA) evaluation criteria in the Horizon Europe template. To be developed jointly by Indian and European Consortium partners.
- **Administrative Forms:** Includes project details (title, abstract, keywords), consortium information (administrative data, contact persons, declarations – see annexure 1-5), and budget overview. To be done by the Indian Coordinator.

## Submission Steps:

- **Horizon Europe:** The European Project Coordinator submits Parts A and B to the Funding & Tenders Portal by **17 September 2025, 17:00 CET**.
- **MoES:** The Indian Project Coordinator submits Part B, plus additional financial and administrative documents via email ( [ttc-marinepollution@gov.in](mailto:ttc-marinepollution@gov.in) ) and hard copy to the MoES by **23 September 2025, 17:00 IST**

## 5.2. Submission to Horizon Europe Funding & Tenders Portal

The European Project Coordinator leads the submission to the Horizon Europe Funding & Tenders Portal, following Horizon Europe rules. The consortium (minimum 3 EU entities from 3 different Member States/Associated Countries) must include at least one Indian legal entity as an Associated Partner in Part A, per the call's eligibility criteria. Additional Indian APs may be added at the consortium's discretion. The Coordinator must collect required information from Indian participants in advance. Indian APs need a [Participant Identification Code \(PIC\)](#) for preparation—see Annexure 2. For guidance, refer to the Proposal Submission Service User Manual. **Indian administrative and financial documents are not included in this submission.**

## 5.3. Submission to MoES

The Indian Project Coordinator submits the proposal to MoES, including:

- **Electronic Submission:** Upload Horizon Europe Part B (identical to the Funding & Tenders Portal submission) and administrative/financial forms as a single PDF to [ttc-marinepollution@gov.in](mailto:ttc-marinepollution@gov.in) by **23 September 2025, 17:00 IST**, along with:
  - Budget in the MoES format (see Annexure 2), detailing planned expenditures in Indian Rupees for all Indian partners.
  - Certificates from Investigators and Heads of Institutes (see Proforma II, III and IV).

- The Indian Coordinator must submit the complete proposal in PDF by 23 September 2025 via email, along with:
  - **Horizon Europe Part B** (identical jointly developed scientific proposal to the Funding & Tenders Portal submission)
  - **Budget in the MoES format** (see Annexure 2), detailing planned expenditures in Indian Rupees for all Indian partners.
  - Certificates from Investigators and Heads of Institutes (see Proforma II, III and IV).
- **Hard Copy Submission:** Send one (1) hard copy of the same proposal submitted via email, postmarked by 23 September 2025, to:

**Dr Anil Kumar Vijayan**

Scientist E, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India

Prithvi Bhavan, Opp. India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110003

The envelope must be super-scribed: *"India-EU Cooperation on Cumulative Impacts of Marine Pollution on Marine Organisms and Ecosystems (HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-ZEROPOLLUTION-05)"*.

**Important:** The proposal will be disqualified if discrepancies are found in Part B (jointly developed scientific proposal) between the Horizon Europe and MoES submissions.

#### 5.4. Instructions for sending Full Proposal to MoES via email by Indian Coordinator

- Before filling up the form, Indian applicants are advised to carefully go through the Relevant Advertisement published at the MoES Website (<https://www.moes.gov.in/>).
- Applicants are advised to carefully fill in and verify the details required for the application themselves, as no change will be possible/entertained after submission.

#### 5.5. Instructions to Indian Project Coordinator for Submission of Full Proposal

- The Indian Project Coordinator must ensure the proposal includes the Horizon Europe **Proposal Code** (obtained from the Funding & Tenders Portal submission system) and uses the same **Project Acronym and Title as submitted** by the European Coordinator to the Horizon Europe Funding & Tenders Portal.
- Indian Project Coordinator needs to submit consolidated budget table for all the Indian collaborating partners.
- They also need to submit detailed budget table for each of the collaborating partners.
- Details and Justification should be provided for each head.
- All figures must be in Indian Rupees. Please indicate exchange rates used for other currencies.
- Save the complete application form as a single pdf file and send it to [ttc-marinepollution@gov.in](mailto:ttc-marinepollution@gov.in).
- Send one (1) hard copy of the proposal submitted via email, postmarked by 23 September 2025, 17:00 IST.

**National Contact Persons:**

- **Primary Contact:**  
**Dr Anil Kumar Vijayan**  
Scientist E  
Email: [anilkumar.v@gov.in](mailto:anilkumar.v@gov.in)  
Phone: +91-11- 24669719;
- **Secondary Contact:**  
**Cdr P K Srivastava**  
Scientist G  
Email: [srivastava.pks@gov.in](mailto:srivastava.pks@gov.in)

## 6. Financial Requirements and Terms

### 6.1. Preparation of Financial Requirement Schedule by Indian Applicant

- Indian participants **MUST** submit financial requirements in Indian Rupees for duration of the project.
- The detailed financial requirement for each Indian participant in the project must be specified according to format provided by MoES in Annexure-2: Indian applicants must also upload their budget in MoES format for the full proposal.
- The budgeting by Indian Participants have to be done in conformity with MoES terms and conditions (see hereunder), and filled in according to MoES Budget Format and Templates (see Annexure-2, 3 & 4).

### 6.2. MoES Terms and Conditions for Indian Applicant

- Indian applicants should follow the MoES's Terms and Conditions. [as per Annexure-1, 2, 3 & 4]
- The final technology developed under the project will have to meet the relevant India / international standards, if already available. Otherwise, all partners will pursue respective organizations at their respective countries for bringing such standards.
- Indian applicants will have to follow the provisions of General Financial Rules (GFR)12017 and / or any other rules as decided by MoES from time-to-time.

## 7. Evaluation Criteria

### 7.1. Evaluation Process

Each full project proposal is evaluated on the basis of the information as completed and submitted online at the closing date and time, in accordance with the evaluation criteria (see below). The evaluation will involve external peer reviewers and panel members. **The scientific panel is joint for both funding organizations.**

The aim is for each project proposal to be evaluated by external peer reviewers (after checking that there is no conflict of interest). Peer reviewers operate individually and confidentially without any discussion with third parties. Peer reviewers complete an individual assessment report, commenting on each evaluation criterion.

The full project proposals are evaluated by the members of the **scientific panel** based on the information submitted by the applicants for proposals and on the peer reviewers' reports.

## 7.2 Evaluation Criteria

There are three assessment criteria: I) Excellence, II) Impact and III) Quality & Efficiency of the Implementation. The scoring threshold for the three assessment criteria is as follows

| Criteria                                     | Threshold |
|--|-----------|
| Excellence                                   | 3/5       |
| Impact                                       | 3/5       |
| Quality and efficiency of the implementation | 3/5       |
| Total  | 10/15     |

### 7.2.1. Excellence

- Clarity and pertinence of the project's objectives in relation to the Call.
- Extent to which the project's objectives are ambitious, and go beyond the state-of-the-art of the proposed work in terms of research/innovation.
- Soundness of the proposed methodology, including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, and interdisciplinary approaches.
- Appropriate consideration of the diversity and gender dimension in research/innovation content.
- The quality of open science practices including sharing and management of research/innovation outputs and engagement of citizens, civil society and end users where appropriate.

### 7.2.2. Impact

- Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the Call.
- Likely scale and significance of the contributions due to the project, through appropriate involvement of end-users and other relevant target groups.
- The added value of the transnational collaboration.
- Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan through use of the solutions by target groups where appropriate, including communication activities.

### 7.2.3. Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation

- Quality and effectiveness of the work plan.
- Assessment of risks.
- Appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages and the resources overall.
- Capacity and role of each participant, and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.
- Gender balance in personnel named in the proposal will be one of the criteria to decide in case of ex aequo proposals.

### 7.3. Scoring

For proposal evaluation, a full score in the range of 0–5 (see Table 7.1) will be awarded at individual evaluations and panel meetings for each of the three main evaluation criteria, not for any sub-criteria. Each main evaluation criterion will be equally weighted.

**Table: Evaluation Scores**

| Score | Description  |
|-------|--|
| 0     | Fail/Missing: The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information (unless the result of an ‘obvious clerical error’). |
| 1     | Poor: The criterion is inadequately addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses.  |
| 2     | Fair: The proposal broadly addresses the criterion but there are significant weaknesses.   |
| 3     | Good: The proposal addresses the criterion well but with a number of shortcomings.   |
| 4     | Very good: The proposal addresses the criterion very well but with a small number of shortcomings.   |
| 5     | Excellent: The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.  |

### 7.4. Selection and Funding Decision

Once the peer reviewers have completed their evaluations, the scientific panel meets in a plenary session.

The collective discussion results in ranking the full project proposals in relation to each other. The outcome of the discussion is recorded in a final evaluation report reflecting the consensus reached by the scientific panel.

The funders will notify the results to the Coordinator only (successful and non-successful proposal) with detailed evaluation summary report.

## 8. Project Implementation

### 8.1. Funding Arrangements and Duration

Funding is arranged directly between Project Consortium Partners and their respective national/regional Funding Organisations (MoES for India, Horizon Europe for EU partners), following each organisation’s procedures. Projects will start by **June 2026** and be completed within 36 or 48 months. All partners should aim to align their project start and end dates, even if funding schedules differ.

### 8.2. Consortium/Coordination Agreement (CA)

Every Project Consortium must sign a Consortium/Coordination Agreement (CA) between all partners, covering intellectual property rights (IPR) and other key terms. It’s best to have the CA in place at the project start or within 6 months, with input from the Coordinator’s legal

team. Templates like [DESCA](#), [DIGITALEUROPE MCARD-HEU](#), or [EUCAR](#) from Horizon Europe can be adapted for this purpose.

### 8.3. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

- **Importance:** IPR rules affect how knowledge is shared during the project and how results can be used commercially.
- **Consortium/Coordination Agreement Details:** The CA, developed jointly by all partners, must define:
  - Ownership of project results (foreground) and pre-existing knowledge (background).
  - Protection and user rights for research, development, and commercial use.
  - Rules for dissemination, joint publications, visiting researchers, deliverables, licensing, and dispute resolution.
- **Compliance:** IPR arrangements must align with the India-EU Scientific and Technological Cooperation Agreement<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:22002A0809\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:22002A0809(01))