



Appendix B: Selection criteria elaborated

RELEVANCE TO TRACK SCOPE

Projects must be within the scientific scope of Bridge4Water, as detailed in the call guidelines.

POTENTIAL FOR DOWNSTREAM INNOVATION

Bridge4Water projects must be real collaborations between academia and industry partners – and they must have the potential to generate the building blocks for subsequent innovations for the industry. Applicants must clearly describe in the project application how the project (e.g. by solving a particular industry problem) can eventually lead to short and/or long-term innovation and value for the companies involved (new products, services, processes etc.), the planet, and its population.

The reviewers will look for innovative and value-creating aspects in both the application and in the letters of support from company partners. Moreover, they will look for company involvement and co-creation activities in the project as an indicator of the project's potential for innovation.

The support letters and the application's project design must therefore reflect, that the industrial partners are actively engaged in the project – and why. Their motivation for participating, their level of commitment and their potential gain will be seen as indicators of the project's innovative potential. In their Letters of Support, company partners must therefore detail their motivation for participating (the value proposition for them) and their contributions to the project. Reviewers will assess the level of industry commitment through e.g. their potential intellectual contributions, active participation in work packages, their contributions in the form of analyses on in-house equipment, and/or by lending materials/technologies to other project participants. Insofar the project can open new opportunities for spinouts from the universities; applicants should detail this as well.

SCIENTIFIC ADDITIONALITY/HEIGHT

The Bridge4Water International Review Panel will assess scientific excellence based on classical indicators such as e.g. novelty and quality of approach/objectives, expected output, and competitive strength.

INTERDISCIPLINARITY

Bridge4Water aims to create research projects that address complex problems with the best tools and competencies across disciplines and industries. The reviewers will favor projects that create meaningful collaborations across scientific disciplines and industry – unlocking new opportunities across the value chain – and projects that actively leverages industry expertise and involvement as part thereof.



Project applications must always document a strong engagement from industry partners through Letters of Support and project designs that clearly show their interests, involvement and contributions. Moreover, projects that can demonstrate a meaningful inclusion of relevant stakeholders (for example through collaboration with social sciences and humanities researchers) will often demonstrate value creation for a broader range of stakeholder types.

In Bridge4Water projects, international collaboration is highly favored to address the fragmentation of European water research.

BROADNESS IN VALUE CREATION

Although Bridge4Water projects address research needs that are relevant to the individual companies involved, the projects must not limit their value creation by focusing too narrowly on one company's specific needs or on niche applications. Applications must therefore address generic challenges/research needs that are shared by several companies.

OPENNESS

Bridge4Water projects must be precompetitive. In open projects within other sectors, precompetitive research has often been defined by its Technological Readiness Level (TRL 1-3). Within the area of Bridge4Water, however, the TRL scale is less useful as a stand-alone indicator.

The reviewers will assess the precompetitiveness of the projects by focusing on e.g. description of the project's relevance to groups of companies/entire industry, and its contribution to creation of a generic knowledge foundation and/or common tools and methods.

The reviewers will also assess whether the project is sufficiently open by looking at the types of scientific output, the applicants plan to share, and how they plan to share it. Are there any obstacles that prevent central elements of the projects from being shared with the public?

BUDGET

The reviewers will review whether the budget is reasonable compared to the project aim, activities, and expected output.