Theme proposal for KA-WSS

**Overall Theme Project Title - Acronym**

Application for funding from the Initiative and Networking Fund (INF) of the Helmholtz Association within the framework of the Helmholtz Water Safety and Security Campaign

*[Notes: To facilitate the use of the template, you will find short explanations or guiding questions (highlighted in green) under the respective headings.
Please delete them completely before submitting this document!*

*The template must be completed in Arial, 10pt font size with a line spacing of at least 13 pt (see “Standard” in the format styles). The page margins must be at least 3.5 cm at the top, 2.5 cm left and right and 1.5 cm at the bottom. The theme proposal (chapter 1 to 3) must not exceed 15 pages (excl. cover, content and annex.)*

*The submission of the overall theme proposal and the sub-projects is made via the ProMeta platform; you must first register there using the following link* [*https://ivf.helmholtz.de/*](https://ivf.helmholtz.de/)*.*

*The application documents are then uploaded at the call level in ProMeta using the following link:* <https://ivf.helmholtz.de/?chifid=44d2d0ca257f275225245245225>.

Proposals must be uploaded in two copies: 1. Please upload a consolidated PDF file containing the template for the overall theme project (incl. annex) and all templates for the sub-projects. 2. In addition, each sub-project template should also be uploaded separately as an individual file.

Applying Helmholtz Centers: ...

Date: dd.mm.2025

Content

[1 Overview Overall Theme Project 1](#_Toc196906478)

[1.1 Key data on the planned overall project 1](#_Toc196906479)

[1.2 Summary in English [max. 250 words] 2](#_Toc196906480)

[1.3 Zusammenfassung auf Deutsch [max. 250 Wörter] 2](#_Toc196906481)

[2 Overall Theme Project description 3](#_Toc196906482)

[2.1 Define the challenge: Research question and its socio-economic relevance 3](#_Toc196906483)

[2.2 Define the research approach 3](#_Toc196906484)

[2.3 Overall project structure & Management: Define the structure and function 3](#_Toc196906485)

[2.4 Integration in the Solution Lab 4](#_Toc196906486)

[2.5 Transfer strategy 4](#_Toc196906487)

[2.6 Talent promotion & diversity: Approach for talent recruitment and early careers [250 words] 4](#_Toc196906488)

[2.7 Open Science: Define the Open Science concept [max. 250 words] 5](#_Toc196906489)

[2.8 Dissemination, usability, exploitation of results [Verwertungsplan] [max. 250 words] 5](#_Toc196906490)

[3 Financial Resources 5](#_Toc196906491)

[3.1 Contribution and function of planned resources 5](#_Toc196906492)

[3.2 Contributions by the Center, partners & funding from resources of INF 7](#_Toc196906493)

[4 Annex 8](#_Toc196906494)

[4.1 List of Principal investigators [max. 0.5 pages per PI] 8](#_Toc196906495)

[4.2 Utilization dimensions of the project 8](#_Toc196906496)

[4.3 Declaration by the applicant on the exclusion of double funding 9](#_Toc196906497)

[4.4 Letters of support by the participating institutions (mandatory) 9](#_Toc196906498)

# Overview Overall Theme Project

* 1. Key data on the planned overall project

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Overall project Title |  |
| Overall project No and/or Acronym | ACRONYM [*Please use “Acronym” also for your files]* |
| Participating Helmholtz Centers  |  |
| Other partners involved (e.g. cities/municipalities, local/regional water companies, companies, universities, etc.) |  |
| Coordinator | [Name][affiliation, e-mail, phone] |
| Requested INF Funding in total | ###.### TEUR |
| INF-share of each Center | Center #1: ###.### TEURCenter #2: ###.### TEUR (please delete if not relevant)Center #3: ###.### TEUR (please delete if not relevant) |
| Total Budget (incl. matching) | ###.### TEUR |
| Planned Start of funding |  |
| Planned duration of funding |  |
| Keywords | [Up to 10 keywords relevant to the project research topic] |
| Corresponding Solution Lab | [ ]  KA4-WSSC-01 (SOLVE)[ ]  KA4-WSSC-02 (SLRE)[ ]  KA4-WSSC-06 (URBAN LE) |
| Corresponding research fields | [ ]  Energy[ ]  Earth & Environment[ ]  Health[ ]  Information[ ]  Aeronautics, Space and Transport [ ]  Matter |
| Sub-project 1 Title |  |
| Sub-project 2 Title |  |
| Sub-project 3 Title |  |
| Sub-project 4 Title |  |
| Sub-project 5 Title |  |
| Sub-project 6 Title |  |

* 1. Summary in English [max. 250 words]

Text

* Text
* Text
* Text

Text

* 1. Zusammenfassung auf Deutsch [max. 250 Wörter]

Text

* Text
* Text
* Text

Text

# Overall Theme Project description

* 1. Define the challenge: Research question and its socio-economic relevance

*[Key questions:*

* *Define the research question: What major challenge does the overall project address in line with the goals of this call, and which of the three overarching campaign themes is it linked to? What is the specific ambition of the overall project? Please explain its relevance to the current state of R&D in this context.*
* *Clarify the originality of the scientific question and explain how the topic of the proposal differs from or complements existing research activities in the programs, centers or ongoing initiatives?*
* *Identify who else besides your consortium is working on this question in the international research environment. How is your consortium positioned in this context?*
* *Formulate one or more specific goals: What tangible results do you expect within 3 years?*
* *Outline the potential impact: If successful, how could the knowledge, results, and potential applications developed within the project impact society and/or the research environment? What is the long-term vision?]*

Text

* 1. Define the research approach

*[Key questions:*

* *Explain the approach and methods used to address the overall research question/challenge and elaborate on the research design: how does the project draw on skills and competencies from different research fields, centers and scientific domains? What contribution does the project make to addressing the cross-cutting topics?*
* *Explain how the research question is divided into the different sub-projects. Explain the reasons and priorities that led you to this internal structure.*
* *Outline the potential risks: What would be a possible make-or-break point for your approach?*

Text

* 1. Overall project structure & Management: Define the structure and function

*[Key aspects and questions:*

* *Provide an overview of the project structure in an organizational chart.*
* *Describe the project management.*
* What is the division of responsibilities within the team? Who is in charge of the project management to reflect on the further scientific development during the project’s lifetime and/or promotion of instruments / field of action i.e. transfer, young talent promotion?]
* *How does the overall project design support collaboration and coherence among the sub-projects? What synergies exist between the sub-projects*? How will coordination and regular exchange between the sub-projects be ensured?
* *How does the overall project structure foster networking with stakeholders (as defined above) and the other Solution Labs?*

Text

* 1. Integration in the Solution Lab

*[Key questions:*

* *Explain the structural integration and thematic collaboration of the overall project and its sub-projects with the selected Solution Lab.*
* *How does the Solution Lab contribute to the achievement of the project goals?*

Text

* 1. Transfer strategy

*[Key questions:*

* *How are you aiming to achieve tangible outcomes or impact within three years?*
* *What potential target group of scientific and non-scientific stakeholders (business cases, industry, user-groups, customers, associations) do you (intend to) involve in the project and for whom are your research or transfer-oriented solutions relevant?*
* *Present your collaboration strategy and your approach to inter- and transdisciplinary collaboration explaining the expected contributions of the involved groups and stakeholders and underlining the added value of the network.*
* *How will the results of the project be disseminated?*

Text

* 1. Talent promotion & diversity: Approach for talent recruitment and early careers [250 words]

*[Key aspects and questions:*

* *Explain your concept for promoting talents and particularly early career researchers, in line with the* [*Helmholtz Doctoral Guidelines*](https://www.helmholtz.de/fileadmin/user_upload/06_jobs_talente/Doktoranden/190520_Helmholtz_Promotionsleitlinien_EN.pdf) *and the* [*Helmholtz Guidelines for the Postdoctoral Phase*](https://www.helmholtz.de/fileadmin/upload_Karriere/Helmholtz_Postdoc_Guidelines.pdf)*. Which existing concepts and measures in your centers do you want to* draw on when implementing talent development?
* *Which concepts and measures from the participating centers do you want to use to ensure that diversity aspects are taken into account?*
* *Outline your recruiting strategy: How do you intend to set up and foster a gender-sensitive and diverse research team, which benefits from the different perspectives and backgrounds of its members?*

Text

* 1. Open Science: Define the Open Science concept [max. 250 words]

*[Key questions:*

* *Explain how the project is committed to the principles of Open Science by referring to the* [*Helmholtz Open Science Policy*](https://os.helmholtz.de/open-science-in-helmholtz/open-science-policy/)*? How does the consortium provide open access to scientific textual publications, Open and FAIR research data and research software (wherever possible and appropriate)?*
* *Optional: Indicate whether the project uses Citizen Science methodology in individual sub-projects and how it contributes to the core project.]*

Text

* 1. Dissemination, usability, exploitation of results [Verwertungsplan] [max. 250 words]

*[Key issues to be addressed - a brief response to the three bullet points should be given here in the proposal text. The table with the utilization dimensions should be completed as far as possible and included in the annex (see chapter 4.2):*

* *How can the expected research results and activities be further disseminated, utilized or communicated in order to reach potential users, stakeholders and target groups - including those in related domains or areas of application?*
* *What further developments of the project results, what next steps towards application do you think are likely and how relevant do you consider them to be?*
* *In the case of a successful outcome, please outline who should undertake the next phase or the next innovative steps for the successful implementation of the project results and how this should be approached?]*
1. Financial Resources
	1. Contribution and function of planned resources

*Depending on the funding decision, this information may need to be adjusted and specified in relation to the funding and project controlling requirements.*

*In this respect, we kindly ask you to provide as plausible information and expenses as possible when submitting your application (including order of magnitude and preliminary estimates), which correspond to the requested work program and the distribution of tasks within the consortium - so that this quantity structure supports an effective review of the project.*

*[Explain the type of resources required – including personnel (in Full Time Equivalent FTE over time), material costs, investments (if applicable) –for both the overall project and each sub-project. Please specify these separately and indicate how your own contributions (matching funds) will be used. Note that matching funds can be provided in form of direct in-kind resources or in cash. Please indicate the uses that are applicable here and the financial magnitude of each category, to the extent that estimates can be made. Please also indicate whether resources will be provided from INF funds or your own funds.*

* ***Personnel*** *[number & function of staff (FTE/ x-month) in each category as in the example]:*

*0.8-1 Postdoc/36 month (e.g. Scientific Manager); 1 Postdoc/36 month (sub-project A) etc.*

*1.5 PhD/36 month (sub-project A), 2.25 PhD/36 month (sub-project B) etc.*

*0.75 Technician/24 month, etc.*

* ***Material costs*** *(incl. travel):*

*Equipment & consumables (devices, office tools, lab supplies, IT etc.): Total X EUR*

*Travel expenses (conferences, field visits, accommodation etc.) Total X EUR*

*Administrative costs (recruiting, organization of conferences, PR): Total X EUR*

*Other material costs (buildings & labs rent costs, energy etc.): Total X EUR*

* ***Investments*** *(investments ˃ 100,000 EUR, procurements must be explicitly listed): Total X EUR*

*1 Device A, 2 Instruments B]*

* 1. Contributions by the Center, partners & funding from resources of INF

*[Please indicate for each partner and in total what contributions are planned to cover the required direct costs with annual details of personnel, material resources and investments from the Initiative and Networking Fund (INF) and from the partners' own resources (at least 25% of the IVF funding amount in direct costs, excluding overheads).*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Financial Budget in EUR** | **2026** | **2027** | **2028** | **Sum** |
| **Budget Initiative and Networking Funds INF**  |
| **Budget share leading *Center X***  | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| Personnel | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| Material costs (incl. travel) | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| Investments | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| **Budget share of Partner *Y***  | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| Personnel | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| Material costs (incl. travel) | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| Investments | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| **Budget share of Partner / Univ. *Z***  | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| Personnel | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| Material costs (incl. travel) | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| Investments | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| **Total Budget INF** | **###.###** | **###.###** | **###.###** | **###.###** |
|  |
| **Total budget** | **2026** | **2027** | **2028** | **Sum** |
| **Own contribution leading *Center X***  | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| Personnel | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| Material costs (incl. travel) | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| Investments | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| **Own contribution of Partner *Y***  | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| Personnel | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| Material costs (incl. travel) | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| Investments | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| **Own contribution of Partner/ Univ. *Z***  | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| Personnel | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| Material costs (incl. travel) | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| Investments | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| **Own contributions by all partners**  | **###.###** | **###.###** | **###.###** | **###.###** |
|  |
| **Total budget** | **2026** | **2027** | **2028** | **Sum** |
| **Budget INF** | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### | **###.###** |
| **Own budget** | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### | **###.###** |
| **Total budget** | **###.###** | **###.###** | **###.###** | **###.###** |

# Annex

* 1. List of Principal investigators [max. 0.5 pages per PI]

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Affiliation |  |
| Current position |  |
| Research expertise |  |
| h-index |  |
| Key publications | 1. Text
2. Text
3. Text
4. Text
5. Text

[5 most important with DOI] |
| Please indicate the part(s) to which the PI contributes | * Text
* Text
* Text
 |

* 1. Utilization dimensions of the project

*[Please elaborate in more detail on your answers from chapters 2.8. This table will serve as a reference for monitoring and controlling purposes during the project implementation]*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Utilization Dimension** | **Guiding Questions** (If applicable, please answer the following questions) |
| Scientific or technical prospects of success | * How will the results of the project be disseminated?
* How can the results be used for public tasks, or cooperation with other institutions in academia or industry?
* Will the results impact the training of young researchers?
* Can the results open up new areas for research and development?
* How will technological progress affect the use of your project results? What is the role of technical standards and non-technological developments?
 |
| Economic prospects of success | * Who needs the results? Who are the users/ customers? What are the benefits?
* If applicable, what steps will be taken and when to realize the exploitation/ enter the market?
* What will be the steps/ timeline to realize the exploitation/market entry?
* Will property rights/patents be applied for as part of the project? If so, who will own them and how will they be used, or will they be licensed to third parties?
* What are the risks associated with the planned exploitation?
 |
| Scientific and economic sustainability | Scientific applicability and broader dissemination: Can the results be used for e.g.:* Integration of the approaches/ results into the core-funded research (PoF program/topic)?
* Implementing further research (e.g. plans for follow-up activities/proposals)?
* Deepening results in theses and dissertations?
* Adoption of the findings in research and teaching?
* Transferring the results to related fields of knowledge or new domains?
 |

* 1. Declaration by the applicant on the exclusion of double funding
* *[Declaration by the applicant that the proposed Water Safety and
Security Theme Project is not funded in whole or in part by any other funding organization and is not already funded by the PoF core funding.]*

**Explanation**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Has the project been submitted to other funding organizations? | [ ]  No [ ]  Yes, namely: |
| Has the project topic already been addressed in this way in the PoF? | [ ]  No [ ]  Yes, namely: |
| Has the project already received public funding? | [ ]  No [ ]  Yes, namely: |

* 1. Letters of support by the participating institutions (mandatory)
* *[Please submit digital copies of the signed letters of confirmation from each participating institution of the consortium (responsible executive board of the Helmholtz Center and, if applicable, the management of the partner) supporting the application for the theme project and assuring the provision of the required matching funds according to the theme proposal in case of funding (the letter may be submitted in any format; neither original copies nor digital signatures are required.).*
* *Addressee for confirmation letters:*
*Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft Deutscher Forschungszentren e.V.*

*Prof. Dr. Otmar D. Wiestler*

*Impuls- und Vernetzungsfonds*

*Anna-Louisa-Karsch-Str. 2*

*10178 Berlin]*