[Your project logo/picture, if applicable]

**[Title]**

**[Acronym]**

AQUARIUS TA Call 1

Research Plan

[User group leader/applicant(s)]

[Date]

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# Introduction

## Background

Proposals must be submitted exclusively in electronic form via the [**AQUARIUS TA Portal**](https://aquarius-tap.eu.inkode.org/). In order to be able to login you have to register to the system. Once registered you are able to proceed with the submission of your application.

This document will guide you to prepare the **SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PLAN**.

The research plan is a mandatory annex to the application via the AQUARIUS TA Portal. Research plans that do not adhere to the specified structure and exceed the length limit will be excluded from the assessment.

Pay particular attention to information on research permits and special logistical requirements that are necessary for some infrastructures (import and export licences, diplomatic clearance, etc.). Check the [AQUARIUS Infrastructure Catalogue](https://aquarius-ri.eu/research-infrastructures-catalogue/) and the responsible infrastructure operator for the necessary permits, if required.

### Research plan format

To guarantee the comparability of applications, the research plan must follow the structure below. Please **use this AQUARIUS word template for your research plan**.

Name the file as follows: **Project acronym\_your surname\_research plan**.

**Document length & format**: **10 pages**. A font size of Times New Roman 12 pt or corresponding should be used, max. 3500 characters without spaces per page, including appendices, tables, maps and references. Research plans exceeding 10 pages will not be evaluated.

The plan will be reviewed by international experts and shall include information and structure provided below.

### Scientific project description

The most important parts are the **Scientific Background, Objectives and the Work Programme**. When writing your proposal, please keep in mind that the evaluation of the proposal will be based, in large part, on the information provided in these sections. The proposal should provide a comprehensive and robust justification for the provision of funding, without referring to cited or additional literature. When writing your proposal, you should bear the [**AQUARIUS evaluation criteria**](https://aquarius-ri.eu/evaluation-and-selection-procedure/) in mind. The proposal should be as concise as possible to ease the proposal evaluation.

# Research Plan template

## Information about the applied Transnational Access (TA) project

Provide project name, project acronym, name and contact information of the user group leader, duration of the planned access (applied access time, preferred dates of the planned research), requested infrastructures.

## Scientific background & Motivation

* General background
  + Current state of scientific knowledge inthe field of research directly linked to the proposed work, including relevant citations and challenges of the proposed work.
  + Your own, previous work in the field and how the research project links to other research by the group leader or research team.
* Relevance of the proposed research, innovative aspects and novelty.
* Research objectives
  + Description of the scientific objectives to be achieved with the proposed project.
  + Clear evidence of expected outputs and deliverables from the proposed work.

## Work Programme

### Research methods and material

* Explain how the research methods will contribute to answering the research questions and objectives, and how they will support the chosen approach.
* Which equipment, which infrastructures are used and integrated for which methods?
* Which research material and data will be collected?
* An outline and timeline of how and when gathered data and samples will be analysed, considering additional funding sources.

### Timetable, working area and sampling sites

1. **General timetable** and a description of activities in relation to requested access time and for the research per station/sampling site or similar (e.g. station, timing, what is done and by who). See example below, please adopt according to requested infrastructure(s).

Example: Timetable for research cruises:

* 1. Include distances to be covered and a calculation of time needed to accomplish them at a given cruise speed as well as station time
  2. Please consider that the passage from the port to the work site is counted as part of the access time. Furthermore, allocated access-time includes mobilisation in the port of departure and demobilisation at the end of the access. Please contact the vessel operator for concrete calculations.

Example for access to research vessels:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Activity** | **Timing** | **Geographic coordinates** | | **Depth /**  **Distance** | **Est. time** | **Operations**  *(what is done)* | **Responsible person** |
|  |  | **Latitude**  **(N)** | **Longitude**  **(W)** | **(m)/(nm)** | **(h)** |  |  |
| **Mobilisation** |  |  |  |  |  | Mobilisation of scientists and equipment onboard, safety briefing | User group |
| **Passage from preferred Port of Departure – Station 1** |  | Horta  Start: 38.537  End: 37.930 | Start: -28.626  End: -15.820 | 605nm | 60 | Training, setting up laboratory,  underway measurements SST, nutrients | Name, User group leader |
| **Station 1/Task 1** |  | 37.930 | -15.820 | 4283m | 2.5 | CTD cast | Student (NN) |
| **Station 1/Task 2** |  | 37.930 | -15.820 | 4283m | 3 | Multicorer cast | Name, Technician |
| **Transect 1** |  | *Start*: 37.930  *End*: 35.770 | *Start*: -15.820  *End*: -13.180 | 188nm | 30.4 | Multichannel seismics line | Name, Early Career Researcher |
| **Etc.** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **De-mobilisation** |  |  |  |  |  | De-mobilisation of users’ equipment, samples etc | User group |

Total units of access:

Total steaming/transit time:

### Risk management/Contingency plan

* Critical points, alternative ways to implement the project
* Downtime/bad weather, contingency plan

## Scientific impact and challenges

* Impact

Explain the scientific impact of the project. Are the results expected to raise awareness among potential end-users, the scientific community and the general public?

* Challenges

Clear outline of the specific benefits and impacts related to the call theme and challenges (c.f. AQUARIUS [Deliverable 3.3](https://aquarius-ri.eu/aquarius-ri-downloads/))

* Collaboration

If applicable, please provide information on how your proposed project is embedded into other larger research projects or programs on a national or international level. If applicable, describe how new user groups with limited access to infrastructures will be integrated, or if there is collaboration with industry.

## User Group

Provide information on the number of people in the user group who are directly involved in and joining the TA project on site (user group) and their assigned tasks. Please provide details of their career status, expertise and tasks in the project. It is not necessary to list the expertise of the remote participants, if there are any. Please indicate whether the team members are funded by a source other than AQUARIUS.

Provide information on the involvement of Early Career Researchers and how you will support the training of young scientists in the frame of your project.

Match the expertise of your team in relation to the objectives and work to be carried out.

**Use the table format as in the example below!**

**Example:**

**On-site participants/user group**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Name** | **Gender** | **County of the workplace** | **Career status\*** | **On-board tasks, expertise** | **AQUARIUS-financed (Y/N)** |
| **1** | Peter Jansen | M | The Netherlands | Senior scientist | **User group leader** Sedimentologist |  |
| **2** | NN, Student | F | Finland | Student | CTD work, Nutrient analysis |  |
|  | Etc. |  |  |  |  |  |

**Remote participants**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No.** | **Name** | **Gender** | **County of the workplace** | **Career status\*** | **Tasks** | **AQUARIUS-financed (Y/N)** |
| **1** | Laura Sánchez | F | Spain | Early career | Palinology |  |
| **2** | Folco Rossi | M | Italy | In formation | Data processing |  |
|  | Etc. |  |  |  |  |  |

**\*Senior scientist/Early Career Researcher (ECR)/In formation.** ECR: up to five years active in science from PhD degree; Student: PhD/MSc/BSc student.

## Technical capability and logistic implications

* Provide information on the infrastructures and technical equipment necessary to carry out the proposed work and its availability
* Describe how the requested infrastructures contribute to the fulfilment of the objectives of the research plan. Also describe whether other infrastructures than those offered by AQUARIUS are necessary to fulfil the project objectives.
* If applicable: “own equipment” or complementary funding available to support the proposed work
* Specific logistical needs, including import licenses for equipment, export licenses for samples requests for specific scientific equipment
* Required diplomatic clearances, research permits or information on pending permit applications
* In case of Remote Access: Please include particularly what expertise Remote Access would require from the infrastructure staff, how many measurements/sample collections would be needed, what kind of facilities the infrastructure should have etc.

## Data exploitation and dissemination

* Describe the applicability of the results of the proposed research, and if the publication of results is expected to raise awareness among potential end-users, the scientific community and the general public.
* Describe how you plan to analyse and publish the collected data.
* Describe how the knowledge gained through an AQUARIUS funded project will be disseminated and where gained data will be stored.
* Specify which activities will be undertaken to inform the scientific community and general public about your research activities.

## References/Bibliography

List of references used in the research plan

*- end of research plan -*

# Attachments to TA applications

Attach the (scientific) research plan and a maximum 2-page CV of the user group leader to your application through the AQUARIUS TA Platform.

An initial Data Management Plan (DMP) must also be uploaded as part of the application.

For the CV and the DMP, AQUARIUS templates can be found in the TA Platform document library and the [website](https://aquarius-ri.eu/additional-links-and-resources/), which must be used. The CV and DMP will not count against the research plan page limit.

Applicants who apply as user group leaders and do not have a PhD must upload at least one Letter of Recommendation with their application.