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Project acronym
FENCO-ERA

Project title
Promotion of an Integrated European and National R&D Initiative for Fossil Energy Technologies
towards Zero-Emission Power Plants

Instrument: Coordination Action

Thematic Priority: ERA-NET: Energy Technology

Evaluation of FENCO-ERA first Joint Call for proposals

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Dissemination Level		
PU	Public	X
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

Summary

From February 2007 to the end of 2008 FENCO ERA-net went through the process of developing and executing a joint Call for Proposals. This evaluation report describes this process and confronts it with the criteria of efficiency, efficacy, budget raised and successfulness.

It took a considerable amount of time and effort to develop the FENCO system for joint Calls. The resulting Call for Proposals can be considered effective, efficient and successful although of limited size. With this Call procedure FENCO ERA-net has an excellent instrument in hand for further joint research.

Overview preparation and execution 1st FENCO call.

1. Start

In February 2007 at an ExCo-meeting the discussion was initiated on possible topics of joint interest and their ranking. The ExCo decided to organise a workshop for structured topic selection and also to set up a development plan for the organisation of joint Calls.

At the next ExCo-meeting in April 2007 through a open-to-invitees workshop decisions were made as follow:

- Two topics to publish:
 - Public Acceptance of CCS
 - Economic Modelling
- Only a single FENCO-procedure
- Application of a 2-stage proposal process:
 - The 1st stage on simplified criteria, followed by a selection procedure
 - The 2nd stage for a full proposal
- Submission of 2nd stage proposals to a Call Secretariat
- Evaluation of these proposals by a Call Steering Committee
- Total duration approximately 9 month (from publication to final selection).
- A Working Group was to be formed to prepare the complete procedure (decisions to be made by Management Board).

2. Preparation

Through a series of in total 4 meetings of the Working Group preparation for the call publication was made:

- Reflexion on and focussing of both topics
- List of necessary procedures and steps within
- Draft forms for 1st and 2nd proposals
- Guide for proposers
- Guide for evaluators (CSC)
- Cooperation agreement for the respective Funding Agencies as members in the Call
- Model for the Consortium Agreement

- Set-up for the Call Secretariat, including framework for operation and proposal for operator
- Set-up for Call Steering Committee, including framework for operation and draft selection of membership
- Final proposal to ExCo

3. *Towards publication*

Through the next two ExCo meetings in September 2007 resp January 2008 the final approval of the set-up of the Call, including procedures, was given. As a result the Call was published.

4. *Publication*

The publication of the first call was achieved in several steps. First, in March 2008 a pre-announcement was done, announcing the call to be published around April 2008. Then, the following steps and deadlines followed:

- Publication of call 1st April 2008
- Deadline submission of 1st stage proposals 15th June 2008
- Invitation for submission of 2nd stage proposal 15th July 2008
- Deadline for 2nd stage proposals and national applications forms 1st October 2008
- Funding decisions by the involved National Agencies 15th November 2008
- Start of selected projects 1st January 2009

5. *Promotion*

Promotion for this first call was achieved by internet publicity via the website of era-net fenco (www.fenco-era.net) and by the websites of the participating National Funding Agencies, which contained links to the era-net fenco website. Eleven National Funding Agencies participated in this first joint call.

Also, during several presentations held at different venues (conferences and meetings) the upcoming call had been announced. Finally, participants of interest were informed via e-mail.

The documents for the call were placed at the FENCO ERA-net website and on the websites of the National Funding Agencies. Applicants were asked to fill out their application form on-line.

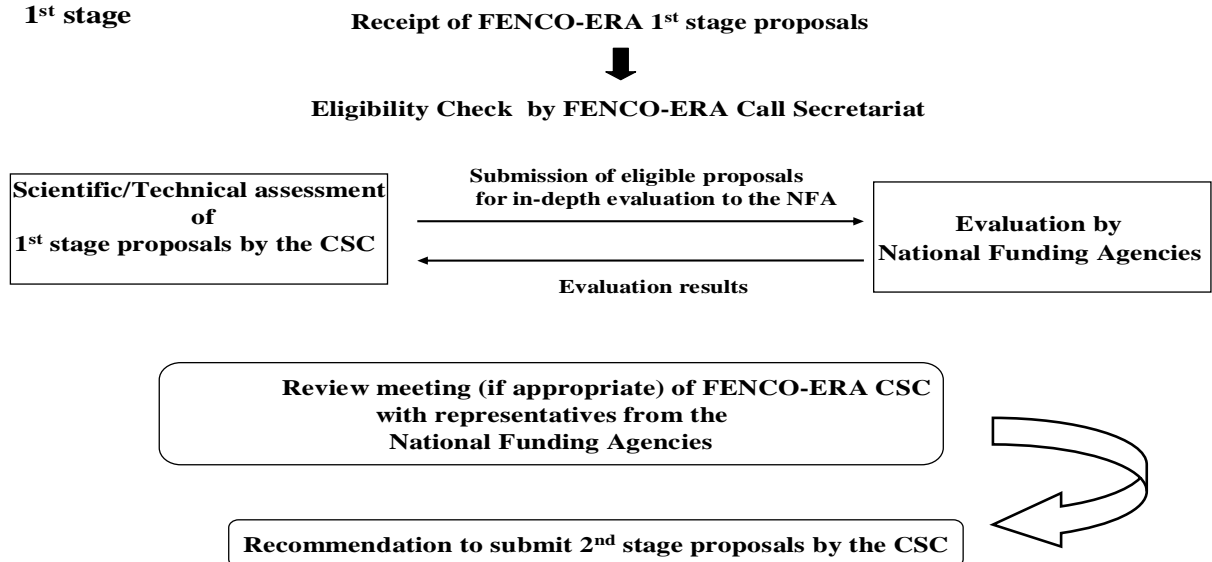
6. *Evaluation method of proposals*

In the application process were involved the Call Steering Committee (CSC) of FENCO-ERA and the National Funding Agencies (NFA). The Call Steering Committee was referred to as the assessment committee of FENCO-ERA proposals while the National Funding Agencies of the contributing countries were referred to as the decision-makers for the FENCO-ERA 1st Joint Call for proposals.

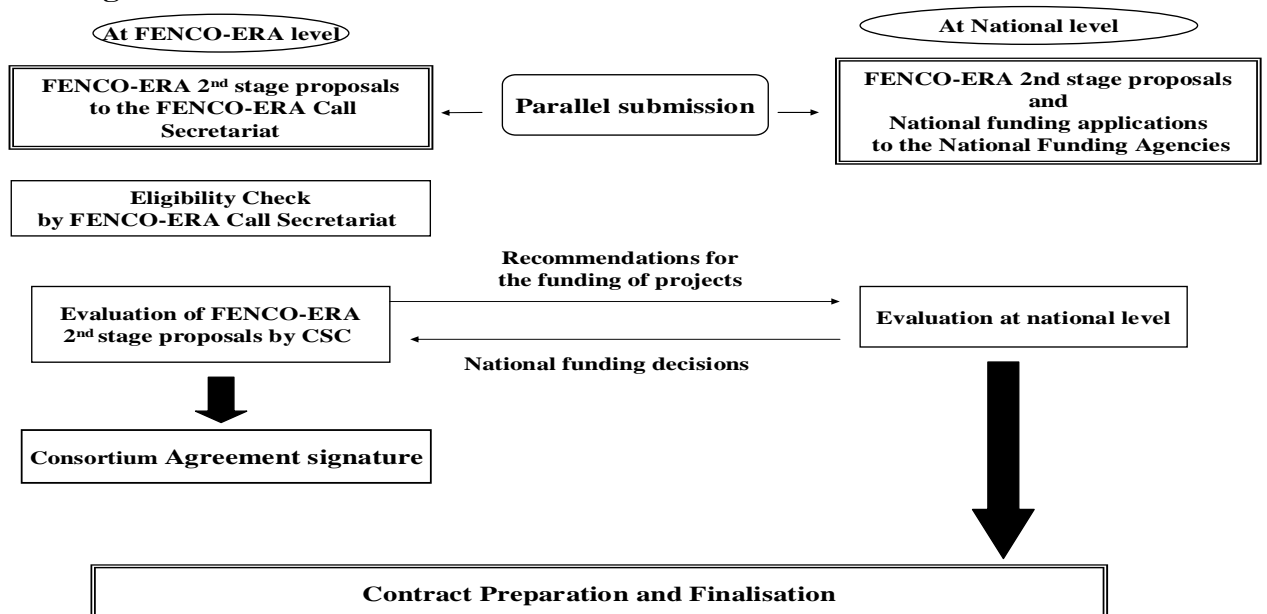
The FENCO-ERA 1st Joint Call followed a two step application process, with 1st stage project proposals followed by 2nd stage proposals in line with national application forms submitted to each of the involved National Funding Agencies. This helped to reduce oversubscription and ensured a reasonable success rate for 2nd stage

proposals. The 1st stage proposals intended to show the suitability for national funding, the quality of the research plan within the scientific scope of the call, the expected objectives and results as well as the added value of the proposed collaborative approach. The 2nd stage enabled the most promising projects to submit a full research plan. Below, the complete application process is graphically depicted.

1st stage



2nd stage



This second stage consisted of a project evaluation by the National Funding Agencies. Depending on the evaluation procedure within the National Funding Agency this was done in close collaboration with external experts in the field. The

projects were evaluated following the criteria set by the subsidy schemes applicable in the participating countries.

Parallel to this the evaluation by the Call Steering Committee was done, based on the input of the evaluation of the National Funding Agencies. In a final meeting by the Call Steering Committee a decision was made concerning the funding of the projects.

7. Evaluation of submitted proposals results

Four project proposals were submitted to the 1st evaluation stage. All four were considered to be of sufficient merit.

Four projects were selected to submit a full research plan for the 2nd stage. All four passed the evaluations by the CSC and at national level.

8. Contracting

Finally, three contracts have been issued. One project could not proceed due to national issues of co-financing. Funding to the participating partners was achieved via the National Funding Agencies.

The contracted projects dealt with the topics of this first call, economic modelling and strategy for roll out of CCS and public acceptance and development of public perception and public outreach on CCS. The three projects were named EMACE, Storage Utsira and Impact of Communication

9. Evaluation of the Call process

The development and execution of the the first FENCO ERA-net joint Call for Proposals took almost two years. This is a long time and a lot of effort was required during that time period.

Confrontation of the execution of this Call with the criteria of efficiency, efficacy and budget raised and successfulness gives course to the following remarks.

Efficiency:

The call procedure was very well organised and coordinated. Deadlines were clearly set and participants were able to meet these deadlines. The online execution of the call had greatly reduced the impact on administrative issues for both applicants and participating National Funding Agencies.

Efficacy:

The three projects fulfilled the topics set for this first Joint Call. Participants are all experts in their working field. This first call was highly welcomed by participants for this enabled them to seek international (EU) cooperation.

Available budget and rate of success:

For this first call a budget of 1 million euro was available. This was put in a virtual common pot, which means that each National Funding Agency funded their respective participant. Four projects had applied for funding, of which one was rejected due to a non-eligibility issue. All three remaining projects could be funded, the total requested budget was around 1 million euro. With regards to this, the rate of success was 100%.

With this Call procedure FENCO ERA-net has an excellent instrument in hand for further joint research.