

FAQ

ERA-NET Cofund Urban Accessibility and Connectivity

Updated 2020-03-16



This is a collection of the frequently asked questions (FAQ) about this call. It includes questions that have been posed in connection to and during our webinars and matchmaking sessions. Please note that it is the call text available at the call page that is the guiding document for your proposal. This FAQ only includes short answers related to specific questions. If you can't find the answers you need amongst these questions or from reading the call text, please contact the international call secretariat or your national funding agency.

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1. Elements of the proposal

Q: Referring to Annex A, Table 1: what if the consortium has a mix of countries that want to prioritize funding basic/applied research and prioritize innovation? Can the consortium still proceed with a proposal on the research pathway and substantively focus on basic/applied research?

A: Of course, the choice of the pathway must be coherent with the aim of the project and the focus on research or innovation activities. If your project is totally focused on demonstration, it should be submitted to the innovation pathway. But, if your funding agencies support only research activities, it makes sense to submit this kind of project. The choice of the funding agency must be in coherence with the planned type of activities in the project.

Q: Regarding a choice between research/innovation pathway, we are proposing a planning support tool for accessibility and include practitioners and companies that is also a methodological advancement. Which pathway would be advisable?

A: The description is detailed in the call text. We don't do any recommendation in the choice of a pathway, this is under the responsibility of the consortium, depending on the main aim of the research project.

Q: Would a project looking to develop scalable digital services for operating electric autonomous shuttles fit into the "Challenge 2"-Cluster?

A: I would say yes but I cannot be too specific in my answer without having more information on the project.

Q: I noticed that the pre-proposal we need to submit is on a provided template (word) with a table. Is that all? Can we include PowerPoint slides? Or is this strictly on the template provided by the organisers?

A: No, you need to complete and provide the template, the Excel sheet for the funding demand and of course some information online on the submission tool of ANR. You cannot upload a PowerPoint.

Q: It is written that ANR funds basic and industrial research projects, does that cover both the basic research and the innovation pathway?

A: Yes, French partners can also participate to a proposal submitted into the innovation pathway, but we expect that they will do mainly task related to research within this project and for instance no research at very high TRL level or demonstration only.

Q: What is the impact of the Brexit?

A: For all we know, none for this call.

Q: What level of success rate do you expect?

A: Very difficult to say because it will depend on the number of pre-proposals. For the 2nd stage, we will invite a number of proposals that ensures a good success rate (about 30%).

Q: In a project foresees 4 partners, will the same project be submitted 4 times?

A: There is one submission made by one main applicant for all the consortium.

Q: Can basic research be part of an innovation project/test bed?

A: It is not prohibited, as long as the major part of the project is innovation oriented. A partner included in an innovation project can ask for funding from a funding agency that funds basic research, but this partner has to implement basic research in the innovation project and the part dedicated to basic has no to be preponderant.

Q: Should I choose the research or innovation pathway?

A: Research: production of knowledge, data, modelling. **Innovation**: production of operational solution. Research and innovation projects are not evaluated with the same criteria. The assessment of research pathway projects will have more researchers weighted in the panel, and more operational experts to assess innovation pathway proposals.

Q: How can I include dissemination in the proposal?

A: you can for example mention participation in the JPI UE Policy Conference and other programme events, integrate to ELTIS database, participating in the annual SUMP conference and Civitas forum...

2. The Consortium

Q: Is it necessary to look for partners and making a consortium prior to the application/proposal?

A: Yes. Please see page 27 of the call text.

Q: Does the consortium need to be formalised prior to pre-proposal (e.g. in an intention letter)?

A: It is not compulsory to submit these documents for the preproposal stage, since the intention letters won't be directly be assessed by the experts. The collaboration must be explained in the scientific document (the 12 pages maximum) when describing the role of each partner. You will have the possibility to submit such letters for the 2nd step, so the consortia are advised to safely keep their letters.

Q: Are the potential partners to be contacted only from eligible countries?

A: The 16 partners contributing explicitly to the call are part of the 22 million budget of this call. However, some of these national funding agencies cannot support specific type of partners or applicant, please see to your national funding agency for information about this. All of this does not mean that actors from other countries than these 16 can't participate in this call at all. But, since they can't receive funding from this call budget, they will have to ensure funding from elsewhere to make sure they can contribute effectively to the project and achieve their tasks in the project. If funding appears to be an issue for a specific partner that is not one of the 16 participating countries in this call, consider whether this partner should be a cornerstone in your project plan or not.

A: Is the United States going to be a participating country as well?

A: We are in dialogue with NSF, the National Science Foundation in the United States. There is no formal agreement in place. As for now, the US is not one of the 16 eligible countries in this call. Please stay updated via the call page. If you are an American actor interested in joining the call, please contact: David Corman, Program Director NSF: dcorman@nsf.gov or Mangala Sharma, Program Manager NSF: msharma@nsf.gov

Q: How do I collaborate with cities and companies? What level of cooperation is foreseen?

A: We would like to refer to the parts of the call text about multi-stakeholder cooperation, practitioners and end-user participation and the type of involvement that we expect.

Q: Can the Co-PIs take part in more than one proposal? What is exactly the difference between the PI and the Main Applicant?

A: Please see page 21 in the call text: No more than two proposals as partners, and no more than one as main applicant. The PI is a person, the Main Applicant is the organization or institution.

Q: Who are the experts and stakeholders referred to in the call text?

A: The "experts" will be the persons (coming from the academic world but also from companies, cities...) who will assess the pre-proposals and the full proposals. The stakeholders are bodies that are not operating directly research and innovation activities (companies, NGOs, municipalities...).

Q: Is it possible to create a consortium which just consists exclusively out of research institutions (universities)? Or is the participation of municipalities or companies needed?

A: You have to involve other partners than research institutions in the project. We do not request to have them as full partners, but they have to be involved in some way that you have to explain in the preproposal.

Q: As a researcher in a university environment (in the mobility area) under what category of participation can I be listed?

A: University

Q: When building the transnational partnership, should each of the partners take contact with the respective agency in its own country?

A: This is recommended if uncertainties about eligibility or the funding rules remain. This is also requested for some funding agencies.

Q: Can a consortium continue with one member less at second stage if a national agency has a negative assessment?

A: The assessment is made for all the consortium by experts, not by funding agencies. National agencies check their eligibility criteria: it can happen that a partner is not eligible for a funding agency, but the proposal is still eligible from the global point-of-view.

Q: Is it possible to add a partner from an EU country that is not included in ERA-NET as sub-contractor?

A: Yes, but usually funding agencies limit such possibility: please check with your funding agency if this is doable.

Q: In how many project proposal/consortia can a company be? As a Lead Partner or/and Partner?

A: The number of participations of a person as PI is mentioned in the call text. There is no limit on the number of participations of an institution or a company.

3. Call Topics

Q: Which topics are most relevant in the call?

A: There is not thematic priority in the call text. Please explain how your topic is related to the challenges stated in the call text.

Q: Any preference for the “type of mobility” or is it open for discussion?

A: The call addresses mobility of human beings as well as mobility of goods. It is very open to all kinds of modes and types of mobility.

Q: Does the topic on (seismic) resilience assessment of urban system, functionality of the city network etc. match the call?

A: Seismic resilience seems a bit far and disconnected from the subject of the call, except if you can indicate how it affects urban mobility.

Q: Is there a requirement for project’s results to have a certain TRL level? Or is this a research project for finding new ideas for improving urban mobility?

A: Each project should have clear objectives, deliverables and expected impact on urban mobility. But this does not mean that it has to deliver a technology with a certain TRL level. It can also be on methodology, useful and practical knowledge (for end users), tool...

Q: What are areas in transport/infrastructure are relevant in this call?

A: Transports of goods and people, Ship transport is possible IF inside the city, Infrastructure could be included (if enough holistic, see *tactical urbanism*)

4. Funding

Q: A startup might struggle to prove financial solvency. How can start-ups participate?

A: It depends on national regulations mainly. Please see with your national funding agency.

Q: Is the national agency funding only partners in its national territory OR all consortium partners involved in the project proposal?

A: A funding agency funds only partners of its country (and that are eligible for the funding agency since not all funding may fund all kind of partners).

Q: Can the availability of budget in a certain participating country affect the granting of the proposal?

A: Each funding agency funds only eligible partners from their country. For instance, in France, ANR will fund only eligible partners in France. It makes little sense to, in your proposal, ask for more funding than what your national funding agency can spend in this call. You can compare the amount that your national funding agency has budgeted for this call with the number of projects they wish to approve, and get an idea of what would be a reasonable amount of budget to apply for in your proposal.

Q: Is the funding equally allocated across the challenges?

A: Funding is not allocated by challenges. It is more or less allocated by pathways since not all funding agencies contribute to the 2 pathways, but we are very flexible about that.

Q: Do the partners apply separately for funding? What happens if in one country the project gets support and, in the other, doesn't?

A: Partners apply for funding as a consortium of a project. It is the project as a whole that is assessed. You have to distinguish national eligibility (where a funding agency may reject a partner or a

proposal) and global assessment of the project, when the project is considered eligible. Only eligible project will be assessed.

Q: Are the budget limits (total available budget and per project) listed in Annex A / Table 1-3 hard limits or estimates?

A: All needed information concerning the total available budget and the limited budget per project are in the Annex A in the description of each concerned funding agency. If you have doubt or want to have more information, please contact your funding agency.

Q: Does funding for the associate partners (non-eligible under call) have to be secured at the pre-proposal stage or should the associate partners only declare that they will secure it?

A: It has to be clearly explained already at the preproposal stage.

Q: Do we supply budget for another participants partner?

A: No, each partner has its own budget and has to declare it separately to the dedicated funding agency in case of partners from participating countries. From non-participating countries, partners have to secure their funding by their own means before the pre-proposal stage.

Q: If one of the partners is a company, does its funding constitute state aid? Are there any call-specific regulations or should general EU rules apply?

A: The rules are specific to each funding agency. Please consider the rules that are detailed in Annex A of the call text.

Q: On the Template for the budget, what does "M1/2 Partner contribution in EUROS" correspond to?

A: The partner contribution in the Excel sheet is the part of the full cost of the project that will not be covered by the funding agency, since not all funding agencies cover 100% of the full cost.

Q: Does "partner contribution" = researchers' time/investment dedicated to the project?

A: No, the partner contribution in the Excel sheet is the part of the full cost of the project that will not be covered by the funding agency, since not all funding agencies cover 100% of the full cost.

Q: Can a project get funding if one of the national agencies assess that a project is not eligible? Would the project be conducted without the partner of the corresponding national agency? What if the partner is responsible for relevant milestones/workpackages that are a prerequisite for other workpackages (WP)?

A: Having a funded project not eligible cannot happen since eligibility of the projects is checked before their assessment. However, a project may stay eligible even if some partners are not eligible. In this case, they must secure their financial resources from elsewhere.

Q: We are a SME from Spain and we were wondering if we are eligible to participate in this call. What I found on the call website and Annex A of the file attached, Spain was not on the list of countries eligible to apply as Co-applicants. Can we participate and get funding by any other way, e.g. as consultants, subcontractors, etc.?

A: Not as a funded partner since there is no Spanish funding agency supporting this call. You have to get your funding from somewhere else.

Q: What costs can be included in the investment / equipment / etc. framework? What happens after the project?

A: Eligible costs are the costs consumed / depreciated during the project period (start to end). Settlement of residual value / permanent value needs to be made in cases where the actors want to take over after the end of the project. Each case is unique so feel free to contact your national funding agency for assessment. Sometimes there is no stakeholder who can take the technology forward despite ambitions. In such cases technology needs to be dismantled / removed.

5. Other

Q: Where can I find an overview of the projects that were approved in previous calls?

A: On the JPI Urban Europe website, you have the summary of the projects already funded (<https://jpi-urbaneurope.eu/projects/>). Usually, this information is enough, but you can also contact the main application of a project if you need more details (her or his email is provided on the webpage of the project).

Q: How similar are criteria for selection when compared with H2020 compatible?

A: The selection criteria have been approved by the European Commission and are comparable to H2020 criteria for this kind of projects.