

ERA-Net SES Joint Call 2019 (“MICall19”): Frequently Asked Questions



QUESTIONS ON FORMAL REQUIREMENTS

Is it correct that a project needs to find the intersection of national criteria for the various countries of the applicants or is there agency help to coordinate these issues?

There is no agency for coordinating such issues. The national/regional criteria are available in the call text, Annex B. Project applicants must also get in contact with the relevant funding agencies

If I am currently contributing (without funding) to an ongoing ERA-Net SES project which will end in 2021, shall I look for completely different partners as well as define the difference with the ongoing one?

After the submission of the expression of interest, you will be able to exchange, add partners or similar to accommodate any divergence- the project you apply for need to be "new", i.e. you cannot apply for participation in an existing project. However, a "new" project you apply for can build onwards and even include activities of ongoing projects as long as it makes sense and is a new project. Whether you could apply funding for those activities that would be in an overlap is a question you would need to clarify with your funding agency.

Do the partners need to origin from 2 neighbouring countries by nature of the scope of the call?

No, there need not to be any geographical "neighbourhood" in the consortia. Collaboration can for instance be based on complementary aspects of research competence, business models, synergies in aspects of the regional contexts etc.

In the context of BREXIT, is it permissible to partner with potential collaborators from the U.K.?

It's allowed to have UK partners, but only partners eligible to apply for funding in Scotland (check SCOTENT specific rules) will be eligible for funding from ERA-Net SES RegSys partners. I.e. partners from other parts of the UK must find other sources or be fully self-financed to participate in projects of the call. Also, be aware that if one partner is from for instance England you still would need two independent partners from two other ERA-Net SES RegSys-partner countries to fulfil the criteria of transnationality.

How many different countries does an average project consortium include?

Involvement of more than two countries is encouraged, but it is highly variable how many countries/partners the projects usually include. The criterium is that the number of partners is suitable for the purpose of the project. Please, check earlier successful projects on homepage: <https://www.eranet-smartenergysystems.eu/Projects>

How does it work for potential applicants or associated partners from countries not aligned with your list of participating funding agencies?

In the Joint Call 2019 (“MICall19”) you can only apply for funding if you are eligible for funding in one of the countries/regions participating in this specific call. Partners from countries that are not participating in the call are encouraged to join a project consortium as additional partners. However, these additional partners must finance their activities from other sources, as each participating funding agency will only fund partners from their own country/region.

Associated partners are connected to the entire ERA-Net SES network and not connected only to one specific call. They do not receive funding in the calls, but they may find it valuable to be associated partners even if they are not based in any of the participating countries.

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The call text says that "It is highly encouraged to identify and involve need-owners". What does that mean? Should they be a partner of the consortium? If not, what is the right way to illustrate that this need-owner/user really exists and collaborates?

The early and active involvement of the need-owners has various purposes. One key reason is to make sure that the ideas and services that being researched, developed and piloted are motivated and centered around stakeholders with actual incentives to use and further implement successful solutions and knowledge, rather than development of a new product or service looking for market. Ideally, they should be part of the project as an active partner. In practice this can be structured in various ways. In the call text you also find a shorter definition of what is meant by a "need-owner".

Can an organization submit multiple proposals or participate in multiple project proposals?

As long as an organization is willing to commit to being part of multiple projects at the same time, in the case that all of the applying projects succeeds in getting funding, there is nothing that prevents them from doing this.

Can you explain better the idea of "Knowledge Community Standard Work Package"?

The knowledge community standard work package is aimed at activities supporting dissemination of results and dialogue on a program-level, i.e. between on-going projects and also with interaction of external experts participating in the knowledge community. This includes contribution to working groups with topics related to the on-going projects and it also includes interaction with other projects working with similar topics or models. All together this should strengthen the knowledge sharing and dissemination from projects as well as increasing quality and impact on a project community level. Please find all information in Annex E in the call text.

Is the funding only for TRL5-8 type of project proposals? Or TRL 1-4 as well?

As stated in the call text: projects should address solutions within Technology Readiness Level 5 – 8 (TRL - see definitions in Annex D). Activities with lower TRL levels (3-6) may be included if they contribute to the higher project goal. Please consult your regional/national funding agency to find out what TRL level they will be able to support.

Is there a minimum size of a project in funding?

Please consult your regional/national funding agency to receive information about any criteria for minimum size.

Is it possible to add a partner from a country that is not mentioned in the registration of interest?

Yes, it is possible to make changes to project consortia for the full proposal - make sure to coordinate with the respective funding agency.

Does this call support the mobility of researchers working in the project, particularly for short term mobility by student (3 to 6 months)?

Please consult your regional/national funding agency.

If one partner at the end is not funded can the project go ahead anyway?

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It is possible to include a fall-back strategy in the project proposal's risk assessment. If the fall-back strategy is evaluated as feasible, it may be possible for a project to continue without the partner in question.

What is a Participation Identification Code (PIC) and how do I find out if my organisation has one?

PIC is a 9-digit number serving as a unique identifier for organisations (legal entities) participating in EU funding programmes. You may search for registered organisations in the [Participant Portal](#). If your organisation does not have a PIC, please register to receive one.

QUESTIONS ON FINANCIAL ASPECTS

How many projects will be funded in this call? How is the budget distributed among the projects?

Different scale: usually 1-5 Million, national funds limit.

Is there a limit for the funding of the full cost of the project e.g. 50/ 80%?

Depends on activity and what kind of partner you are. Please contact your funding agency to receive information.

Will the de minimis regulations apply for any funding through the call?

Yes. Please consult Annex B in the call text and contact your national/regional funding agencies for details.

Are there any limitations with the funding, e.g. regarding salaries or subcontracting?

Please, check with your national/regional funding agency for their specific requirements.

What type of costs can be financed? Construction/works? Services? Salaries? Overhead?

In general, the allocated funding is supposed to cover ordinary project costs such as salaries (including overhead), travels and meetings, external services, infrastructure and facilities, etc. However, please, contact your national/regional funding agencies for specific national/regional rules.

What about travel budget for partner? is it supported fully by respective funding agency?

Each funding agency will assess and support a certain rate of the eligible costs of the projects. In general travel costs related to the project are eligible for funding but the level of support and to what extent they are eligible need to be clarified with your respective funding agency.

Should we make "Work Plan budget distribution" according to total budget?

Yes - the project's work plan budget distribution should show the project's total cost budget distribution per partner.

PROCESS RELATED QUESTIONS

How can we express interests in the call?

Please submit your expression of interest through the [NordForsk Call and Application Portal](#).

Can a project start before the decision is taken i.e. prior to May 5, 2020?

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Normally not, since a funding agency cannot make decisions about a project that has already started. Please consult the relevant Funding Agencies to find out about national/regional regulations regarding project start.

Can you do prep-work but not start the project as such?

Yes, you can do preparation work, but it cannot be part of a project from a funding perspective-it has to be independent.

When will the funding decision be? It takes many months after that date to get the national bodies to start funding.

The evaluation and selection of projects takes place in April/May 2020. Applicants will receive the decision no later than 5 May 2020. After that, it depends on the funding agency when the contract is ready.

Are all the project outlines submitted in September invited to submit a full proposal or some of them are rejected in this first stage?

All consortia that have submitted a project outline are invited to submit a full project proposal. However, the project outline will form the basis for the feedback you will receive during the advisory period when you are in contact with your national/regional contact points.

Do the project partners need to contact funding agencies after submitting the project outline or before that?

Project partners may of course contact their national funding agencies while writing their project outline if any questions should arise. They should thereafter contact them when the project outline is submitted to discuss and receive support needed to ensure that the proposal is eligible.

When do we get feedback on the submitted project outline?

The projects will get feedback on their project outlines after the 18th September, during the advisory period. Some countries have received a lot of registrations of interest and it may take some time before you get feedback from your funding agency. The most important meanwhile is that applicants consider all information available regarding national/regional requirements and aspects.

Can you please elaborate on the project proposal: what documents are needed (overall), which ones are extra per country/region? Where can these be found?

All information regarding the full project proposal is available in the Application portal. For any additional documents required, please consult the national/regional requirements in the call text and contact your relevant funding agency.

Are a consortium agreement and IPR agreement compulsory? Do you have a specific format to use?

Yes, for all selected projects there will be mandatory to setup a consortium agreement including how to handle IPR and more. We do not provide any specific format or template for these agreements; they might look different depending on the type of projects etc.

Is there any indication on how many Indian projects will be funded as it appears heavily subscribed?

It is unfortunately very difficult to predict in this stage how many projects that will be funded from any of the countries/regions.

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Is there a limitation on proposal length?

This information is available in the Application portal.

PRACTICAL QUESTIONS

Where is the list of associated partners?

All ERA-Net SES Associated Partners can be found [here](#) on the website.

Will you be sharing the presentation and recording of this webinar?

The final version of presentation slides of the webinars can be found [here](#) on the website.

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ERA-Net SES funding partners



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