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.

Can two partnering organizations from India submit a single proposal to DST?

The project consortia must be transnational by nature, involving at least two independent, actively participating partners from two different countries that are participating in the Joint Call 2019 (MICall19). The full project proposal (only one per project consortia) must be submitted through [NordForsk Application Portal.](#)

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? Is there is a limit on the maximum number of consortia members from one country?

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

What is difference between project owner and project manager?

The project owner is the organisation that is responsible for ensuring that the project is carried out in accordance with the contract. The project manager is the individual who is responsible for the performance of the *project on behalf of the project owner (can be, but is not required to be, from the same organisation as the project owner).*

Could project owner and project manager be from different countries?

Yes.

Can the project owner be changed for the full project proposal?

Yes, but make sure to contact the involved funding agencies to inform them about any changes.

What is the difference between project manager and partner?

The project manager is a partner in the consortia but is also the leader and coordinator of the project. There can only be one project manager.

Can a partner be both an observer and a partner contributing to the project?

If a participant is applying for funds, they should be listed as partner. If not, they should be listed as observer.

Can the project acronym be slightly changed?

Yes.

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.

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 cantered 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?

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.

Is it possible to insert figures & illustrations in the text boxes?

No, only in PDF documents.

Our proposal is on energy generation, storage and distribution with infrastructural development. Does this come under the call scope?

For any questions regarding content of your projects, please consult the call text and the related documents. You may also contact your national/regional funding agency for guidance.

Do we need to upload letters of intent?

No, this is not required. Such issues will be handled between the project partners and the funding agencies.

Is there is a limit on the maximum number of consortia members from one country?

No, there are no limitations to the number of consortia members. It depends on the project.

If the project owner is the project manager, do we have to include the details of the project manager three times (project owner, project manager and participants)?

No, you should only list project manager, partners and observers.

What is the difference between Risk analysis and Risk identification?

The risk identification described potential risks for the project. The risk analysis is where you analyse the risks and their effects on the success of the project.

During the submission to DST from India, do both the partnering organizations from India should submit the complete proposal separately?

For questions related to national/regional processes, please consult Annex B in the call text and contact your national/regional funding agency.

Do we need to submit applications to other public funding entities other than this one?

Some countries/regions require national/regional application as well – make sure that all partners are aware of this. , Please consult Annex B in the call text and contact your national/regional funding agency.

Do we need to have pilot sites in each EU partner countries participating in the call?

No, there is no general rule for how many pilot sites to provide through the project – this depends on the nature and concept of the project. But please always consult your national/regional funding agencies to find out what is required for funding.

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 you 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.

In case of a partner institution being observer, can fund be allocated for their international travel?

Applicants should consult the national/regional funding agencies with questions related to budget distribution. A project participant that is applying for any kind of funding should be listed as partner, not observer.

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.

Are PhD students’ international travel being funded? How many trips is allowed for the entire tenure of the proposal?

Please consult the national/regional funding agencies with questions related to budget distribution and eligible costs.

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.

Does the risk section also apply, if the country of a partner does not have enough budget?

Yes, budget issues could be part of the risk assessment.

What is the difference between internal vs external financing?

Internal funding is in-kind/financial funding provided by the participating organisation/company/institution. External financing is financial support received from private or public external sources.

If proposal is accepted, will the fund be released to all partners simultaneously irrespective of country/funding agency?

No, the national/regional processes will vary.

How much manpower can be allocated at maximum from each participating institute or organization?

There is no general rule for this in the call requirements - please consult your national/regional funding agency for specific national/regional budget criteria.

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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?

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 feed-back 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 ex-tra 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 rele-vant 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.

Is there a limitation on proposal length?

This information is available in the Application portal.

May we add partners from countries in the second stage, which were not included in the consortia in the first step?

Yes, new partners may be added for the full project proposal. We recommend that you inform all involved funding agencies about changes to consortia. Some countries/regions require national/regional application as well – make sure that all partners are aware of this.

PRACTICAL QUESTIONS

Is it necessary that all partners participate at the annual workshops or just one representative per project?

It is up to the project if you wish more than one partner to participate, but not required that all partners participate. In general, it is enough if one representative from each project participate.

Where is the list of associated partners?

All ERA-Net SES Associated Partners can be found here on the website.

Is there a list of contact persons in the country funding agency?

Yes, this information is available on the ERA-Net SES 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.

ERA-Net SES funding partners

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