

# ERA-Net Smart Energy Systems RegSys Joint Call 2018: Frequently Asked Questions



Collected during the webinars on the ERA-Net Smart Energy Systems (ERA-Net SES) RegSys Joint Call 2018, June 14, July 12, August 23

## CONTENT RELATED QUESTIONS

Could you please specify "local/regional" in this context? Is e.g. North-West Europe a region? What are the boundaries?

*In general, regional is meant as sub-national. It can be both rural and urban areas and in many case it involves a larger community than one village or one city. Local is meant as sub-regional. The approach local/regional can be interpreted as bottom up from a geographical perspective. However, please, check with your national/regional contact point how your relevant funding agencies define these terms as definitions may vary. For more information you can also join [expera](#) and follow the discussions in the living documents there.*

Can you provide more information about Smart Power Grids specific topic? Can large renewable facilities providing grid flexibility be part of this topic?

*In principle, yes it can include renewable facilities but be sure that it's put into an integrated energy context and you must also check with your national/regional funding agency how they look at funding specific technologies/areas. For more information on Smart power Grids you can also join [expera](#) and follow the discussions in the living documents there.*

Is an implementation of a proposed technology obligatory? Or is planning enough? *It's not a criterium that you need to implement or even pilot anything in the project. Still you need to explain and motivate how your project idea will contribute to the relevant TRL 5-7, how it involves collaboration between need-owners and solution providers, as well as how it is supposed to reach anticipated impact as asked for in the call text. The rest is up to your creativity.*

Would the call allow for a project that demonstrate a technology with different end use options in 3 different countries (and 1 specific region there)?

*In principle, yes. But be sure to sort out the project idea and content with all involved funding agencies so that it complies with their expectations.*

How should the \*regional\* and the \*transnational\* aspect be united in the project? For example, should the regions in the different partner countries address the same need(s) / similar need owners?

*It can be united in different ways, there is no specific right way. The idea of doing transnational collaboration on regional and local aspects comes from the belief that although every local context is unique, similarities and synergies will and must be found in the solutions. Furthermore, all local and regional systems will be integrated and linked into a common transnational system whit common markets and joint central infrastructure etc. Hence, use the transnationality as an opportunity to make the project more relevant, replicable and impactful.*

What does "implementation" actually mean? The operation of a solution at one need-owner? Bigger roll-out?

*The requirements for implementation may vary between the national/regional funding agencies. Please, contact the relevant national/regional contact points for further specifications.*

There has been a shift from Smart Grid to Smart Energy (local & regional networks). This shift could mean that projects focused on smart grid stakeholders and technology (e.g. Distribution network operators, automation software providers), but not on the integration of other energy systems, would be less aligned with the ERA-Net SES RegSys scope. Would a project with such a scope be eligible?

*The perspective of the project must be integrated energy systems that goes beyond electricity-only, or gas-only etc. It does not mean that a project with a heavy focus on smart grid stakeholders and technology must be ineligible. However, it will require that the project is set in a context where the integrated energy system is at the centre. It also*

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*requires research and innovation activities that explores the integrated aspect between the electricity system and other aspects of the energy system and/or society.*

Resilience and security of supply are hot topics for smart energy systems. Does this call fund related applications?

*In principle yes, however be sure to check with the relevant national/regional funding agencies for your consortium if there are local restrictions.*

It seems that your call is very oriented towards "decentralized energy systems". Would this discount small DH systems (e.g. for a small neighborhood or a few blocks of buildings)?

*In principle this should not be a problem, but it must still be motivated from an integrated energy system perspective and include aspects of replication and how this will/can contribute to the larger transition of regional energy systems. Furthermore, for all anticipated activities of your project be sure to ask relevant national/regional funding agencies that it complies with local rules.*

## QUESTIONS ON FORMAL REQUIREMENTS

Do the partners need to originate from 2 neighboring countries by nature of the scope of the call?

*No, there need not to be any geographical "neighborhood" 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 fulfill the criteria of transnationality.*

Slovenia is not partner of the call, but mentioned on the map?

*Slovenia is a part of ERA-Net SES network but they do not provide funding for this call.*

How many different countries does an average project consortium include?

*It is highly variable how many countries/partners the projects include. The only 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>*

Are there any requirements on the type of partners (research, companies, etc.)?

*Check with your national/regional funding partner for their specific requirements.*

Are there any requirements on how partners participate (money, time)?

*Check with your national/regional funding partner for their specific requirements.*

Who can apply? Academia, industries, start-ups?

*Check with your national/regional funding partner for their specific requirements.*

Assumed, that in a submitted proposal one partner of a country (e.g. one out of 3) does not receive funding, can the proposal still be funded for the rest of the countries? To clarify: if three countries are part of a proposal, but one

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country cannot get funding. How is that dealt with? I understand that we should check the funding for all national countries upfront, but what happens, when a country still gets no funding? Will the whole project be cancelled or only the one country? So, between first and second phase we can leave out one country, in case it would get no funding to adjust the project to be eligible.

*If partners from one country/region are found ineligible after the full proposal and national/regional eligibility check, then the project as a whole is found ineligible and will not be selected. This is one reason why the advisory period is very important. Changes to the consortium can be made until the full proposal deadline.*

For Denmark, the logos of both EUDP and InnovationFundDenmark are represented - both of which have their national calls and norms for funding. Which of these funding agencies sets the Danish norm for evaluation of projects? *Innovation fund Denmark is the Danish funding agency participating in the ERA-Net SES RegSys call.*

How does it work for potential applicants or associated partners from countries not aligned with your list of participating funding agencies (e.g. I saw several Croatian associated partners, but no Croatian funding agency)?

*In the current ERA-Net SES RegSys-call 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 members of ERA-Net SES RegSys call are encouraged to join a project consortium as additional partners. However, these additional partners must finance their activities from other sources, as each ERA-Net SES RegSys funding agencies 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.*

It says "need-owners / need-users should be involved in the development". 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".*

Previous calls: ✓ 33 projects – ✓ Success rate: ~40% how many partners is the best consortium for this application

*The number of partners in previous and ongoing projects highly varies. A project should involve as many partners as necessary to perform its task. Some projects may require three partners, some may require five. Applicants do not receive "extra points" for including a high number of partners.*

Do partners from two different countries need to submit project outline to ERA-Net SES RegSys at the same time? Or only the project coordinator needs submit it to ERA-Net SES RegSys?

*Only the project manager needs to submit a project outline for the consortia to ERA-Net SES RegSys. The partners should be listed in the project outline.*

Is it better if the project coordinators are a company rather than a university?

*We do not have any specific view on that. This rather depends on the nature of the project.*

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Am I mistaken in finding in the call document that cities themselves are rarely considered as eligible applicants (I only found in France and Sweden), and I noticed none for regional authorities, even though they are very often significant need-owners? If so, I this should be rectified in future calls.

*Thanks for the good input. As we are a network with many different funders, it is sometimes a challenge that various funding agencies have different criteria for how their funding can be applied. However, please consider that there are many examples of need-owners that would not be defined as cities. It could be a more conventional end-user of services from the energy sector, or an infrastructure owner in the energy sphere or with a direct link to the energy system etc.*

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.*

Do I understand correctly that there are no restrictions whatsoever regarding the use of project results to go to the market? (to create commercial solutions)

*All questions on what is eligible for funding must be directed to relevant national/regional funding agencies. In general terms, all funding follows common EU-legislation and frameworks, please see annex D for a general outline on what that means.*

## QUESTIONS ON FINANCIAL ASPECTS

What top-up funding is available from the EU in addition to the National funding?

*Applicants will only see the national funding. The final distribution of top-up will depend on how projects are ranked, i.e. national funding is consumed, and on how the ERA-Net SES RegSys call Steering Board decides to distribute the top-up after the final evaluation of projects. This means that the top-up from the EU is not a fixed number.*

Is the national max budget per project only regarding the national partners or all of the consortium?

*The national max budget is only relevant for the national partners.*

How many projects will be funded and is there an average budget per project?

*The number of projects funded will depend on the size of those projects ranked best. We do not have any numbers or targets in this respect. The project budgets are highly variable. There is not stated any budget limit in the ERA-Net SES RegSys call text, but the national funding agencies may have budget suggestions related to a specific project proposal. Please contact your national funding agency to find out about possible limitations to the funding.*

Is it necessary to have the founding in 1 project balanced in different countries, e.g. similar amounts if 3 countries are involved?

*This is not necessary. The project partners should apply for the amount of funding sufficient for them to perform their part of the project. Some partners may have a bigger or smaller role. However, project partners should contact their national funding agency to sort out budgetary matters.*

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

*Yes. Please consult Annex C and D in the call text and contact you national/regional funding agencies for details.*

What is the funding type/ratio, e.g., in Austria for FFG as a national funding agency, is it "experimental development"?

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*Please, check with your national/regional funding agency (FFG) for their specific requirements.*

Are there any limitations with the funding? Is it possible to pay salaries or subcontracting if necessary?

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

I contacted our local office regarding the financial support of the project whether it is partly supported (e.g. 60%) or 100% supported by the co-fund. Their comment was that the ratio will be funded according the call specifications. What is the call specification?

*The ratio of project funding would depend on national/regional rules, so please contact your national/regional contact point again to see if they can clarify their answer. There are no specifications given in the call text regarding the funding ratio. If you are not able to resolve the issue in this way, then please contact the Call Management directly so we can try to help you sort this out.*

Is there a project funding budget limit e.g. 1 million euros per project? What could be the maximum funding budget?

*ERA-Net SES RegSys call text do not state any budget limit, but the national/regional funding agencies may have budget suggestions related to a specific project proposal. Please, contact your national funding agency to find out about possible limitations to the funding.*

Could you go over the funding available and the number of projects that may be funded?

*The funding available is €33.3 million. The number of projects funded will depend on the size of those projects ranked best. Therefore, it is difficult to give an estimated number of how many projects that may be funded. You can find a list of the participating national funding agencies and their respective funding [here](#).*

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.*

## PROCESS RELATED QUESTIONS

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.*

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## 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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