

# JPP SES Joint Call 2020 (MICall20): Frequently Asked Questions



Joint programming Platform Smart Energy Systems (JPP SES) Joint Call 2020 ("MICall20") on digital transformation for green energy transition

## PROCESS RELATED QUESTIONS

### **Should we follow any templates for the application?**

*All application templates will be made available in the application portal. A link to the application portal is available on the call website, [https://www.eranet-smartenergysystems.eu/Calls/EnerDigit\\_Calls\\_funding/Joint\\_Call\\_2020](https://www.eranet-smartenergysystems.eu/Calls/EnerDigit_Calls_funding/Joint_Call_2020). A preview application form for the registration of interest is available in the portal. If you have not used the application portal before, you need to create a new user to submit your registration of interest (deadline February 17, 2021). The portal opens for submissions of full proposals March 12, 2021.*

### **It seems that contacting the national/regional contact is an important step of the application process. Where can we find our national/regional contact?**

*The contact details for the national/regional funding agencies participating in the call are listed on the call website, [https://www.eranet-smartenergysystems.eu/Calls/EnerDigit\\_Calls\\_funding/Joint\\_Call\\_2020](https://www.eranet-smartenergysystems.eu/Calls/EnerDigit_Calls_funding/Joint_Call_2020) and in the call text's Annex B.*

### **Is the registration of interest unique for the entire consortium or should each partner submit a registration of interest to the national funding agency?**

*Only one registration of interest is needed per one consortium, and you include all the partners of the consortium in that registration.*

### **Is there support for networking and partner search?**

*Yes, we host a matchmaking and co-operation platform, <http://jpp-ses-matchmaking-micall20.eranet.b2match.io/>. On this platform you can find and get in touch with potential project partners for the call. We also advise you to follow our call web page [https://www.eranet-smartenergysystems.eu/Calls/EnerDigit\\_Calls\\_funding/Joint\\_Call\\_2020](https://www.eranet-smartenergysystems.eu/Calls/EnerDigit_Calls_funding/Joint_Call_2020) where any additional match-making activities and meetings will be announced.*

## CONTENT RELATED QUESTIONS

### **We have a project idea and are wondering if the call does apply to us and to our research?**

*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. In general, the project needs to have a clear scope in relation to the energy transition.*

### **In relation to the Work Package dedicated to the "knowledge community": is it expected that all the partners of the consortium are involved in it? Does the budget for this WP have to be more or less equally distributed between the partners?**

*All applications to this call should participate in the ERA-Net Smart Energy Systems (SES) Knowledge Community (see Standard Work Package, Annex F). However, the final organization and execution of these activities will be the result*

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*of an iterative process between the Knowledge Community Management and each funded project, as applicable. In the application stage, you are responsible for setting up how you contribute to the Knowledge Community, but we recommend involving as many partners as possible in the respective Work Package.*

## QUESTIONS ON FORMAL REQUIREMENTS

**The requirements include partners from at least 2 different countries/regions participating in the call, and at least 2 partners from the EU/EEA Member States. Is it possible to satisfy the second requirement with participants not in the list?**

*You will need to have 2 fund-seeking partners from participating EU/EEA Member States. In general, we would strongly encourage the involvement of more than 2 countries. Although the number of countries/partners in the projects tends to vary, most projects in earlier calls have consisted of partners from 3-5 countries/regions. 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>.*

**The call addresses three main objectives. Must each project address all the objectives?**

*You do not need to address all objectives within one project. However, it is important to be very clear about what objective(s) your project is aimed at contributing to.*

**After the submission of the registration of interest, you mentioned that the partners may change. Is it possible to change partners' countries, as well?**

*After the submission of the registration of interest, you will be able to exchange, add partners or similar to accommodate any divergence. It is possible to add a partner from a country that is not mentioned in the registration of interest, but make sure to coordinate this with all the relevant national/regional funding agencies of the partners.*

**Does expert evaluation only happen at the transnational level, not by the national/regional funding agencies?**

*Yes, the evaluation is performed by a panel of at least three independent experts. Project proposals are also subjected to an eligibility check of formal requirements as well as a national/regional eligibility check.*

**Can a partner apply for two projects within the same call?**

*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. You should also contact your national/regional funding agency for guidance.*

**Are universities/research institutes/SMEs/industrial partners/etc. qualified to apply?**

*In general, yes, but you have to check this with your national funding agency. Please check the Annex B for your country/region and contact your national/regional contact point regarding the funding agency's criteria for applicants.*

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## **Is there any guideline on the partner selection, for example on the appropriate mixture of research organisations, SMEs, local authorities, etc.?**

*This mixture depends on the “need-owner(s)” and other stakeholders of your project. The “need-owners” may include infrastructure operators, local industries or communities and end-users in value chains from the local and regional, up to the European and global levels. Projects are encouraged to engage with all relevant parts of the value chain for the developed solution. The key reason of this is to make sure that the ideas and services that being re-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.*

## **Is there a limitation on the number of types of partners per country?**

*Generally, no, but please consult the national/regional guidelines in Annex B.*

## **Is it mandatory to include Living Labs (LL) and/or Digital Platform Providers (DPP) as full partners? Can we involve them as partners without financial support?**

*It is not mandatory to include LLs and DPPs in projects. The proposed project should be clearly based on a specific need, involving (a) specific “need-owner(s)” or clearly demonstrates engagement with relevant stakeholders. Project teams are expected to include partners from different parts of society with a “digital” and close to market mindset in transnational collaboration, to develop scalable, customizable and replicable solutions. Projects are encouraged to link and coordinate their activities with LLs and DPPs and include them in their development plans in various ways, but it is not mandatory to involve them.*

## **How can we apply to become an associated Digital Platform Provider (DPP) for the call?**

*The call for new Digital Platform Providers (DPP) is closed but may open for another round. Please follow our homepage for further details.*

## **Can we involve a Living Lab (LL) or a Digital Platform Provider (DPP) not associated with the ERA-Net SES? If yes, how should we define a LL or DPP?**

*The applicants are welcome to involve LLs and DPPs that are not associated with the ERA-Net SES. It is not critical to ‘predefine’ a LL or a DPP, as their character will depend on the purpose of the project. The aim of involving LLs and DPPs is to build projects on existing infrastructures and platforms, regardless of whether these partners are already associated with the ERA-Net SES list.*

## **Does Brexit have any consequences for participation by Scotland?**

*UK partners are allowed, but only partners eligible to apply for funding in Scotland (check SCOTENT specific rules) will be eligible. 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. Please also note that if one partner is from for instance England, you still would need two independent partners from two other partner countries to fulfil the criteria of transnationality.*

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## QUESTIONS ON FINANCIAL ASPECTS

### **What is the average budget of the approved projects?**

*A typical budget ranges from 1,5 M EUR applied funding to about 4 M EUR but lower or higher funding figures are possible. You can find information about earlier projects here at our webpage:*

<https://www.eranet-smartenergysystems.eu/Projects>

### **What is the funding intensity (%) for participating partners?**

*Funding intensity is decided according to national/regional requirements. Please check the Annex B for your country/region and contact your national/contact point regarding rules for funding intensity. Please also see Annex C for more information on general EU/EEA framework for state aid and eligible costs. National rules prevail when they are stricter.*

### **Each country/region makes up part of the budget. Does this mean the maximum amount that a partner from that country/region can ask for in the budget?**

*The total funding available for Joint Call 2020 projects amounts to ~25 M EUR, made up of national/regional budgets and European Commission contribution. The research funded in countries and regions, including the minimum and maximum budgets in some cases, depends on the funding agencies' own specifications and state aid rules. Please consult Annex B of the full call text for further details.*

### **Provided that the total budget is 25 M EUR, how many projects do you expect to be funded?**

*This website holds fact sheets for all projects that have been awarded funds under ERA-Net SES: <https://www.eranet-smartenergysystems.eu/Projects>.*

### **The budget limits in each country per project makes it difficult to establish implementation projects. What is the expectation on this side?**

*This depends partially on what is meant by an implementation project. However, considering the number of countries participating, this call cannot generally fund major budget-intensive implementation projects.*

### **Does the repartition of budget between individual partners need to reflect the availability of the funding by national funding agencies?**

*No, but consortia need to be balanced between countries both in terms of number of partners and distribution of budget; such that all project partners contribute to and benefit from an equitable and balanced cooperation. Requested funding for one partner may not exceed 70% of the total requested funding budget.*

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