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Vastavusnõuded partnerluste ühiskonkurssidel toetuse taotlejatele

National Eligibility Criteria for grant applications in partnership calls for transnational research projects

The following eligibility criteria address Estonian applicants in European partnership calls for transnational research projects. Each project is carried out by a consortium that consists of research institutions (partners) from different countries. Each partner in a funded project will be funded by their national Funding Organisation. It is mandatory for all Estonian applicants to follow both the general and the national eligibility criteria of the call by the submission deadline (in case of two-stage application, by the preproposal deadline). Please note that if one of the partners is not eligible, the entire proposal might be considered ineligible.

In case of a positive funding decision the Host Institution, the Principal Investigator and the Funding Organisation will enter into a trilateral agreement.

1. Project Participants

1.1. The Host Institution may be any legal entity that is registered and located in Estonia and has an Estonian bank account. Restrictions to eligible institutions and applicants may however be stated in the general call conditions which also apply to Estonian participants.

The Host Institution (the final recipient) is the institution to which the grant will be allocated.

After the submission deadline (in case of two-stage application, after the preproposal deadline) and upon the notice from the Funding Organisation, the Host Institution must confirm to the Funding Organisation in writing that the Estonian sub-project can be carried out on their premises in Estonia and that they will employ the Principal Investigator during the sub-project, should the project receive funding.

If the Host Institution is an undertaking, the State aid and de minimis aid regulations must be taken into account.

1.2 The Principal Investigator (PI) is a researcher who acts as the Estonian team leader in the project proposal. He/she will be responsible for how the grant is used and how the Estonian part in the project is executed. The PI must be clearly identified in the proposal.

The Principal Investigator:

1.2.1 must have an updated public profile in the Estonian Research Information System (ETIS) by the submission deadline (in case of two-stage application, by the preproposal deadline);

1.2.2 must hold a doctoral degree or an equivalent qualification. The degree must be awarded by the submission deadline (in case of two-stage application, by the preproposal deadline) at the latest;

1.2.3 must have published at least three articles that comply with the requirements of Clause 1.1 of the ETIS classification of publications, or at least five articles that comply with the requirements of Clauses 1.1, 1.2, 2.1 or 3.1, within the last five calendar years prior to the proposal submission deadline (in case of two-stage application, prior to the preproposal deadline).[1] Patents are equalled with publications specified under Clause 1.1. A monograph (ETIS Clause 2.1) is equalled with three publications specified in Clause 1.1 if the number of authors is three or fewer. If the applicant has been on maternity, paternity, or parental leave, in compulsory military service, or if there have been other exceptional circumstances (e.g., serious illness), they can request the publication period requirement to be extended by the relevant period of time.

If the Principal Investigator has received the PhD degree outside Estonia, its correspondence to an Estonian doctoral degree must be recognised by either the Estonian ENIC-NARIC Centre or the Host Institution in accordance with the Regulation of the Government of the Republic of April 6, 2006, No. 89 "Evaluation and academic recognition of documents proving foreign education and the name of the qualification awarded in the foreign education system terms and conditions of use". The Funding Organisation may ask for a relevant Evaluation Report[2].

If several Estonian institutions participate in a proposal, all institutions must have a Principal Investigator who meets the national eligibility requirements.

2. Budget

2.1. The budget contains costs directly related to the implementation of the project (direct costs) and indirect (overhead) costs. The direct costs must be used to carry out the project and be separately identifiable.

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[1] *ETIS classification: 1.1. Scholarly articles indexed by Web of Science, Science Citation Index Expanded, Social Sciences Citation Index, Arts & Humanities Citation Index, Emerging Sources Citation Index and/or indexed by Scopus (excluding chapters in books); 1.2. Peer-reviewed articles in other international research journals with an ISSN code and international editorial board, which are circulated internationally and open to international contributions; 2.1. Scholarly monographs; 3.1. Articles/chapters in books published by the publishers listed in*

Annex (including collections indexed by the Web of Science Book Citation Index, Web of Science Conference Proceedings Citation Index, Scopus)

[2] The required documents and procedure, including the application form can be found on the web page https://www.harno.ee/en/enicnaric. The evaluation period can take up to 30 days.

2.2. Direct costs:

2.2.1. Personnel costs are monthly salaries (along with all state taxes, contributions, and compensations arising from law) of the project participants, calculated according to their commitment and in proportion to their total workload at their Host Institution.

2.2.2. Other direct costs are:

- travel costs that may cover expenses for transport, accommodation, daily allowances and travel Insurance. If the project is funded from the European Regional Development Fund (Mobilitas 3.0) resources, travel costs are eligible only for travels abroad;

- consumables and minor equipment directly and fully related to the project;

- publication and dissemination of project results;

- organising meetings, seminars or conferences (e.g room rent, catering, equipment rental and related costs);

- fees for participating in scientific forums, conferences and other events directly and fully related to the project;

- patent costs;

- all other costs that are identifiable as clearly required for carrying out the project (e.g. translation, copy editing, webpage hosting, postage costs etc.) and are directly and fully related to the project.

2.3. Indirect costs (overhead) are costs that cannot be identified as specific costs directly linked to the performance of the action and/or should cover the general expenses of the Host Institution related to the management of the grant. Office consumables and costs for equipment and services intended for general use (e.g., phone bills, copy service, printer) should be covered from the indirect costs. Indirect costs are 15% of the personnel costs of the Estonian sub-project.

2.4. Subcontracting costs are direct costs. Subcontracting costs should cover only additional or complementary research related tasks (e.g. analyses, conducting surveys, building a prototype, etc.) performed by third parties. Subcontracting costs should not be included in the overhead calculation. The activities and budget should be described in the proposal. Core project tasks should not be subcontracted. Subcontracting costs may not exceed 15% of the total costs of the Estonian sub-project.

2.5. Double funding of activities is not acceptable (i.e. the same cost item may not be reimbursed from different funding sources).

2.6. If several Estonian institutions participate in one proposal, the sum of their requested budgets may not exceed the maximum contribution per proposal of the respective national Funding Organisation indicated in the call documents.

3. Exclusion from the scope of the ERDF (Mobilitas 3.0) funding

Following the restrictions laid down in Article 7 of the Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council No 2021/1058 of 24 June 2021 on the European Regional Development Fund and on the Cohesion Fund[3] research and other activities related to fossil fuels and their use, as well as other activities not eligible as per Article 7 of the Regulation, cannot be funded from the European Regional Development Fund (Mobilitas 3.0) resources.

4. State Aid

If the Host Institution is an undertaking, EU Regulations on State aid and de minimis aid must be taken into account when requesting funding. An undertaking is any entity, be it a natural or a legal person, engaged in an economic activity (i.e. activity consisting in offering goods and services on a market), regardless of its legal status and the way in which it is financed.

The criteria defined in Clauses 18–24 of Communication from the European Commission – Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (2022/C 414/01[4]) form the basis for determining whether the activities carried out are economic activities and whether the Host Institution is an undertaking that is considered to be a State aid recipient when it receives funding.

If the institution applies for State aid or de minimis aid, it must fill in the State aid form upon request by the Funding Organisation after the submission deadline. In case of two-stage application, the State aid form must be filled in after the notification of getting to the full proposal stage.

5. Grant Agreement

If a positive funding decision is made, the Funding Organisation enters into a grant agreement with the Host Institution and Principal Investigator. Information on the transnational project must be entered into ETIS once the agreement has been signed.

The Consortium Agreement should be signed six months after the grant agreement has been signed at the latest. If one year has elapsed and the CA has not been signed, the next instalment of funding will not be paid out.

6. Research Involving Human Subjects or Animal Testing

If human research or animal testing are intended in the project, a positive resolution by the Human Research Ethics Committee or the Authorisation Committee for Animal Experiments must be submitted to the Funding Organisation by the start of the relevant activities.

7. Nagoya Protocol

By applying for funding by the Funding Organisation, the applicants commit to consider the relevance of the Nagoya protocol for their research, and to submit the Due Diligence Declaration, if applicable.

[3] *https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021R1058*

[4] *https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52022XC1028(03)*