



# **Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL)**

## Call for proposals

Cloud, data and artificial intelligence  
(DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06)

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**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
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 CNECT.R– Resources and Support  
**CNECT.R.5 – Programme Implementation**

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

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## 0. Introduction

This is a call for proposals for EU **action grants** in the field of cloud, data and artificial intelligence under the **Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL)**.

The regulatory framework for this EU Funding Programme is set out in:

- Regulation 2018/1046 ([EU Financial Regulation](#))
- the basic act (Digital Europe Regulation [2021/694](#)<sup>1</sup>).

The call invitation is launched in accordance with the 2023/2024 Work Programme<sup>2</sup> and will be managed by the **European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication, Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT)**.

The call covers the following **topics**:

- **DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-EDGE — Reference deployments of European cloud-edge services (industrial IoT Edge and Telco Edge developments)**
- **DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-GREENDEAL— European Green Deal Data Space**
- **DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-ENERSPACE - Energy Data Space**
- **DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-MOBSPACE - Common European mobility data space**
- **DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-HEALTHACCESS - Supporting patients' access to their health data in the context of healthcare services for citizens across the EU**
- **DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-HEALTHRECORD - Demonstrating the in-service use of the European Electronic Health Record Exchange Format (EEHRxF) in healthcare settings**

Each project application under the call must address only one of these topics. Applicants wishing to apply for more than one topic, must submit a separate proposal under each topic.

We invite you to read the **call documentation** carefully, and in particular this Call Document, the Model Grant Agreement, the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal Online Manual](#) and the [EU Grants AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement](#).

These documents provide clarifications and answers to questions you may have when preparing your application:

- the [Call Document](#) outlines the:

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/694 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing the Digital Europe Programme (OJ L 166, 11.5.2021, p. 1).

<sup>2</sup> Commission Implementing Decision C/2023/8620 final of 14.12.2023 concerning the adoption of the work programme for 2023-2024 and the financing decision for the implementation of the Digital Europe Programme.

- background, objectives, scope, outcomes and deliverables, KPIs to measure outcomes and deliverables, targeted stakeholders, type of action and funding rate and specific topic conditions (sections 1 and 2)
- timetable and available budget (sections 3 and 4)
- admissibility and eligibility conditions (including mandatory documents; sections 5 and 6)
- criteria for financial and operational capacity and exclusion (section 7)
- evaluation and award procedure (section 8)
- award criteria (section 9)
- legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements (section 10)
- how to submit an application (section 11).
- the Online Manual outlines the:
  - procedures to register and submit proposals online via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal ('Portal')
  - recommendations for the preparation of the application.
- the AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement contains:
  - detailed annotations on all the provisions in the Grant Agreement you will have to sign in order to obtain the grant (*including cost eligibility, payment schedule, accessory obligations, etc*).

## 1. Background

The Specific Objective 2 of the Digital Europe Programme aims to reinforce the EU's core Artificial Intelligence (AI), Cloud to Edge Computing and Data capacities as a crucial driver for the digital transformation of the public and private sectors.

The EU Data Strategy outlined the importance of building a thriving ecosystem of private and public actors to generate economic and societal value from data, while preserving high privacy, security, safety and ethical standards. It announced that the Commission will invest in a High Impact Project that will foster and exploit innovative, secure, energy efficient cloud-to edge capabilities, data-sharing tools, architectures and governance mechanisms for thriving data-sharing and Artificial Intelligence ecosystems. To reach these objectives, three main interlinked work strands are foreseen in the fourth year of implementation of the Digital Europe Programme:

- Continuation of activities in the area of cloud-to-edge infrastructure and service by providing support to stakeholders for the use of Simpl, developed under the first WP, and by foreseeing a new action for the deployment of joint 5G edge nodes by telecom operators
- The deployment of a Data for EU strand with a focus on deploying sectorial common data spaces, based on the above federated cloud-to-edge infrastructure and services that are accessible to businesses and the public sector across the EU that were initiated in the first WP. The Commission is investing in common European data spaces in strategic economic areas and areas of public interest, such as health, the Green Deal, energy and transport.
- Besides the continuation of the work on AI reference testing and experimentation facilities and the creation of synergies and building on existing initiatives, new actions are introduced aiming at supporting the preparation of

the future AI Act implementation, the deployment of AI powered systems for eHealth, and the development of the different layers of VR/AR worlds for communities, moving towards an ecosystem of networked Local Digital Twins across the EU. Finally, in its fourth year of programming, Digital Europe will also fund the formation of a language technologies ecosystem for the deployment of innovative large language foundation models.

## **2. Objectives — Scope — Outcomes and deliverables — KPIs to measure outcomes and deliverables — Targeted stakeholders — Type of action and funding rate — Specific topic conditions**

### **DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-EDGE — Reference deployments of European cloud-edge services (industrial IoT Edge and Telco Edge developments)**

#### Objectives

Edge computing is the essential technology to cope with the requirement for highly distributed and decentralised data processing identified in the European Data Strategy. Edge computing will process and extract value from the ongoing data deluge triggered by the widespread deployment of connected objects and sensors, such as connected cars, home appliances or manufacturing robots. Because it is an emerging market, edge computing represents a significant opportunity for European leadership, in economic, competitiveness, sustainability and data sovereignty terms.

Specifically, Telco Edge deployment, i.e. the deployment led by telecom operators of joint 5G and edge deployments, has the potential to be a driving force behind the growth of ultra-low latency data processing enabled by edge computing.

Telco edge deployment – combined with industrial IoT edge solutions where appropriate – will ensure access to data services with low latency (few milliseconds) across the entire European continent, providing European digital infrastructures that meet the needs of citizens, businesses, and public administrations.

The objective of this action is to setup one pilot demonstrating Telco Edge deployment and benefits obtained in key application areas and sectors. Furthermore, this topic intends to incentivise the balanced deployment of climate-neutral highly secure edge nodes across the EU (as per the Digital Decade objectives), by focusing on integration and interoperability of Telco Edge and IoT Edge technologies (including open technical specifications and standards), and by targeting concrete use cases from a broad stakeholder base (including telecom operators, telecom equipment manufacturers, cloud service providers, and industrial IoT equipment providers). Wherever possible, this action should build on the results of the IPCEI on Cloud Infrastructures and Services (IPCEI-CIS). This action should foster integration of different edge solutions coming from the telecom and industrial sectors and ensure their effective interoperability, in view of overcoming siloed business strategies.

#### Scope

Proposals for a pilot project should target the deployment, take-up and up-scaling of Telco Edge Cloud, including their hardware and software frameworks, focusing on far Edge and near Edge installations (for example as part of 5G deployments) under real life conditions, and demonstrating smooth interoperability with on-device and on-premises Edge. Actions should showcase cross-border and balanced deployment across the EU and address key applications and sectors crucial for Europe's competitiveness and strategic autonomy, such as industrial IoT.



Such systems will create value by demonstrating a tight technology integration that includes everything from the most constrained devices at the Edge, to the interaction with highly performant cloud, demonstrating seamless integration and seamless interoperability of Telco Edge developments with Industrial Edge solutions. Ultimately, the aim is to incentivize the realisation of an adequate European Edge nodes deployment density. In particular, the pilot project should avoid siloed approaches to edge computing technology developments.

The pilot project should be co-designed and co-created in close cooperation between all the stakeholders involved, representing the complete value chain of Edge and Cloud computing both from the telco edge (including industrial edge) on the supply side, and addressing innovative and concrete services and solutions on the demand side.

The pilot project should address, when necessary, the standardization efforts needed to drive a transparent interoperability among these diverse edge computing environments and clouds. The pilot project should as well, where possible, re-use components of Simpl, and in any case, ensure that its outputs feed into its associated Open-Source community.

The selected project should act as a showcase for the whole of the Union, providing examples of Edge nodes deployment at adequate densities, and show how it could be taken up in multiple application sectors by clearly demonstrating its added-value and its impact.

### Outcomes and deliverables

#### Outcomes:

- Deployments and Implementation of Edge solutions evenly distributed across the European territory and demonstration of its use in key applications and sectors.
- A robust strategic industrial cooperation in diverse Edge computing architectures and standards, critical to establishing a mature European supply chain.
- Demonstration of seamless interoperability, uptake and scaling-up of diverse edge computing solutions.

#### Deliverables:

- Demonstrator of Telco Edge Cloud spanning many member states, taking into consideration edge densities that meet the latency requirements of various use cases.
- Interoperable Telco Edge developments with Industrial Edge solutions, addressing the full range of Edge models.
- Portfolios of best practices and lessons learned regarding deployment approaches and solution applicability in a diverse range of European economic sectors, demonstrating the benefits and effects of Edge adoption.

### KPIs to measure outcomes and deliverables

Progress should be demonstrated by qualitative and quantitative KPIs, demonstrators, benchmarking and progress monitoring. The proposal should define a set of

methodologies and kits of specific quantitative and qualitative KPIs to enable appropriate control of the implementation progress of the pilot.

The consortium should also propose relevant indicators (including industry and service relevant KPIs) for measuring the final usage and impact of the pilot. These indicators should be accompanied by target values.

### Targeted stakeholders

The consortium may include edge technology, equipment, services and solutions providers, telecom operators and technology providers, cloud technology and services providers, cloud users, system integrators, open-source organisations, industrial associations, etc.

The consortium composition should contribute to reinforce European Digital sovereignty and provide adequate EU coverage for the initial role out of the pilot.

### Type of action and funding rate

Simple Grants — 50% funding rate



For more information on Digital Europe types of action, see *Annex 1*.

### Specific topic conditions

- For this topic, security restrictions under Article 12(6) of the Digital Europe Regulation apply (see sections 6 and 10 and Annex 2)
- For this topic, multi-beneficiary applications are mandatory and specific conditions for the consortium composition apply (*see section 6*)
- For this topic, following reimbursement option for equipment costs applies: depreciation and full cost for listed equipment (*see section 10*)
- The following parts of the award criteria in section 9 are exceptionally NOT applicable for this topic:
  - extent to which the proposal can overcome financial obstacles such as the lack of market finance

## **DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-GREENDEAL— European Green Deal Data Space**

### Objectives

The objective of this action is to deploy an operational Green Deal Data Space (GDDS). The Action is expected to take into account the latest developments in the data strategy and green deal landscape including the results of the Coordination and Support Action on “Preparatory actions for the Green Deal data space”<sup>3</sup>, funded under the WP 2021/22. It should also take into account the results from the Horizon Europe projects funded under HORIZON-CL6-2021-GOVERNANCE-01-17: Common European

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<sup>3</sup> [GREAT](#)

Green Deal data space to provide more accessible and exploitable environmental observation data in support of the European Green Deal priority actions<sup>4</sup>.

The action is expected to deploy a technical infrastructure and governance mechanism for the GDDS with related use cases. It should enable reusing and sharing data from existing relevant private and public data ecosystems and data spaces, which will feed new services and applications that contribute to reaching the objectives of the Green Deal.

### Scope

The awarded proposal(s) from this action is/are expected to focus on data space applications and use cases that contribute to the Green Deal overall, and specifically to the policy objectives set out in the following focus areas: biodiversity, circular economy, zero pollution, climate change mitigation and adaptation. Any GDDS use case whose principal value lies in at least one of the four focus areas is in scope.

The action will further help supporting and monitoring the implementation of the Council Recommendation on ensuring a fair transition towards climate-neutrality, including the primary objective to ensure an effective, fair and effective green and digital transition<sup>5</sup>.

Applications and use cases impacting simultaneously other relevant areas and clearly demonstrating links with relevant sectoral data spaces (e.g. agriculture, energy, mobility, etc.) are strongly encouraged.

Synergies and joint use cases with the following Digital Europe Programme actions are welcome:

- The operational data ecosystem for the development and operations of 'Digital Twins' of the Earth under the 'Destination Earth' topic (DestinE)
- The Digital product passports in the key value chains of electronics (consumer and/or industrial), batteries and at least another two of the priority products identified in the Circular Economy Action Plan
- The data space for smart communities, validated and refined through cross-sector data pilots, and paving the way for the adoption of Local Digital Twins

Proposals should describe the use cases in sufficient detail: their scope, how data creates value for the specific focus area and how the private and the public sector benefit from it. Proposals should also illustrate in sufficient detail what is needed to support the operational phase of the use case, be it IT-infrastructure, regulatory interventions, change in culture or behaviours and how to promote them etc.

The awarded proposal(s) will use, in so far as possible and when available, the smart cloud-to-edge middleware platform Simpl<sup>6</sup>. It will also work in close partnership with the Data Spaces Support Centre (DSSC)<sup>7</sup> in order to ensure alignment with the rest of the ecosystem of data spaces implemented with the support of Digital Europe Programme, in particular in view of a data spaces reference architecture; common building blocks, toolboxes and standards; and data governance models. Right from the outset, the awarded proposal(s) is/are expected to work towards achieving financial sustainability by the conclusion of the action and consider relevant actions in this respect.

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<sup>4</sup> [AD4GD](#), [B-Cubed](#), [FAIRiCUBE](#), [USAGE](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Council Recommendation \(2022/C 243/04\)](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Simpl](#)

<sup>7</sup> [DSSC](#)

The active integration and participation of data holders and users from the project's inception is a must, since it will ensure that the data space is designed and structured to meet their needs, making the data space more relevant and leading to increased adoption rates and a stronger sense of ownership of data holders and users by the end of the project's runtime. The proposal(s) should therefore clearly indicate the aimed number of stakeholders that will participate in the data space by the end of the project.

The inclusion in the proposal(s) of concrete use cases that benefit citizens and businesses and especially SMEs will be **considered an asset** in the evaluation process. Applicants are encouraged to consider the following **examples and guiding directions**:

- Collecting data for calculating certain forest indicators is essential in order to **monitor pressures and hazards encountered by forest eco-systems**.<sup>8</sup> The GDDS could enable access to Earth Observation and National Forest Inventories (NFI) data for calibrating geospatial machine learning models that underpin development and delivery of forest indicators. The GDDS should deploy confidentiality preserving technologies to ensure confidentiality for the plot locations of the NFI data. Proposals could also explore how access to Earth Observation and NFI data can be the basis for new downstream services benefitting the broader forest economy. Similar use cases that seek to allow access to certain environmental data-sets considered confidential in order to train machine learning models are also encouraged.
- In a **circular economy for textiles**, there is a need to close material and data loops along the value chain. The GDDS could contribute by designing and deploying a **Producer Responsibility Organization Information System (PRO-IS)**<sup>9</sup> as a complement and interface with the Digital Product Passports (DPPs). For instance, the PRO-IS could close data loops via collecting and feeding DPPs of newly manufactured textiles with information on the recovered/ recycled fibres content. Involving actors from the textile, waste and digital sectors for such a use case would be important.
- **Sustainability reporting and due diligence** along supply chains and operations helps private operators assess and disclose their environmental and sustainability performance while complying with legal obligations<sup>10</sup>, which can become a competitive advantage in the sustainability race. The GDDS could support private operators in their journey to collect, verify and share “data-points” across their value chains, to calculate scope 3 GHG emissions, deforestation caused by commodities, biodiversity impact, water use etc. Where transparency requirements and the imperative to disclose collide with the need to protect commercially confidential information, applicants should propose digital solutions and protocols resolving such tension (e.g., by using technologies from domains such as cryptography, “secret sharing” and “zero knowledge proofs”). Applicants are encouraged to explore ways that data collected and shared in the context of

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<sup>8</sup> This is acknowledged by the recent proposal for a monitoring framework for resilient European forests, [COM\(2023\) 728 final](#).

<sup>9</sup> The proposed amendment to the Waste Framework Directive ([COM\(2023\) 420](#)) is providing for a national Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme and a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) for the textile, textile-related and footwear products.

<sup>10</sup> For instance, the Deforestation Regulation ([EU\) 2023/1115](#) and the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive ([EU\) 2022/2464](#).

due diligence can be used as a product for creating further value and propose potential business models.

### Outcomes and deliverables

The awarded proposal(s) is/are expected to deliver a fully operational Green Deal data space, including:

- An overall governance structure with roles and operational processes for decision making in the framework of the GDDS
- A GDDS data-governance algorithmic mechanism embedded in the IT infrastructure
- A GDDS technical infrastructure for operating the selected applications and use cases supporting the indicated areas (biodiversity, circular economy, zero pollution, climate change mitigation and adaptation), while also seamlessly connecting previously fragmented green data infrastructures and operational data ecosystems, whether public or private
- High-value, reusable datasets relevant for the European Green Deal in the context of the selected use cases and more broadly the focus areas
- The number of stakeholders (data holders and users) participating in the data space and a stakeholder mapping analysis of those who could join the data space after the end of the project.
- A set of concrete policy recommendations that will complement digital solutions in the implementation of the selected use cases.

### KPIs to measure outcomes and deliverables

- A GDDS governance structure with specific roles linked with specific governance processes
- An audit report for data governance services, explaining how data governance services specifications are tested and verified – with emphasis on how certain data usage control requirements are met
- A GDDS technical infrastructure blueprint including: a detailed system architecture illustrating hardware components and how they are linked, a detailed software architecture with all modules and key functions, a data ontology and data specifications, sequence diagrams explaining the different functions executed when in operation
- A list of high-value datasets accompanied by a qualitative/quantitative analysis of the value these datasets create, for which use cases and who are the recipients of this value
- The number of stakeholders (data holders and users) participating in the data space and a stakeholder mapping analysis of those who could join the data space after the end of the project.

- A set of concrete policy recommendations that will complement digital solutions in the implementation of the selected use cases.

### Targeted stakeholders

- All GDDS actors for each selected use case: private and public data holders, data intermediaries, data users and their customers or beneficiaries, technology solutions providers etc. For the 3 indicative use cases, a detailed list of actors has been mentioned already
- Policy makers in charge of relevant policy areas and private operators benefitting from the selected GDDS use case
- The Data Spaces Support Centre
- Where use case analysis demonstrates important scientific and technological gaps against the State-of-the-Art, the scientific and technology community, e.g. academic institutions with the necessary expertise, should be tasked to bridge the gap by carrying focused research and development activities.

### Type of action and funding rate

Simple Grants — 50% funding rate



For more information on Digital Europe types of action, see *Annex 1*.

### Specific topic conditions

- For this topic, security restrictions under Article 12(6) of the Digital Europe Regulation apply (*see sections 6 and 10 and Annex 2*)
- For this topic, multi-beneficiary applications are mandatory and specific conditions for the consortium composition apply (*see section 6*)
- For this topic, following reimbursement option for equipment costs applies: depreciation and full cost for listed equipment (*see section 10*)
- The following parts of the award criteria in section 9 are exceptionally NOT applicable for this topic:
  - extent to which the project would reinforce and secure the digital technology supply chain in the Union
  - extent to which the proposal can overcome financial obstacles such as the lack of market finance

## DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-ENERSPACE - Energy Data Space

### Objectives

The objective is to deploy a reliable and secure common European data space for energy announced in the European Strategy for Data<sup>11</sup> and the EU Action plan on digitalising the energy system<sup>12</sup>. This data space will broaden access to data needed to develop innovative energy services that will help to balance and optimise the electricity grids and improve the energy efficiency of the built environment. It will play a key role in increasing the integration of intermittent renewable energy sources and thus advancing towards the goals set by the 'Fit for 55' package and the RePowerEU plan. The energy data space will be closely linked to other sector-specific data spaces (e.g. mobility and smart communities) and will thus enable actors from various sectors such as building automation and electro-mobility to actively participate in the energy market, deliver energy services, promote sector integration (the linking of various energy carriers - electricity, heat, cold, gas, solid and liquid fuels - with each other) and facilitate electrification of the end-uses such as heating/cooling and transport. This will allow them to contribute to the efficient use of energy, boost the use of renewables, and support the integration, collaboration and information exchange between different sectors as well as create new business opportunities.

### Scope

Proposal(s) should foresee the deployment of the first version of a common European energy data space and its infrastructure building as much as possible on the results of the ongoing Horizon Europe projects establishing the grounds for the common European energy data space.<sup>13</sup> Any additional existing deployments (federated data sources or data hubs) in the Member States or at European level, should be considered and integrated as far as possible.

Specifically, proposals under this action should address:

- Deployment of a first version of a common European energy data space at scale (in at least 10 Member States) and identification and piloting of at least five use cases (e.g., distributed energy resources (DER) management, provision of flexibility services for electricity grids (e.g., grid balancing, congestion management, voltage control) based on digitally-enabled energy assets, smart and bi-directional electric vehicle (EV) charging (which could include dynamic energy optimization of large EV fleets, etc.) addressing at least two of the three policy priorities (high level use cases described in the EU Action plan on digitalising the energy system).
- Use a commonly agreed reference architecture, replicable and scalable building blocks, e.g., data models and formats, data exchange APIs, data provenance and traceability, metadata and service discovery, identity management /

<sup>11</sup> <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/strategy-data>

<sup>12</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions: Digitalising the energy system - EU action plan, COM(2022) 552 final.

<sup>13</sup> Six (ongoing) projects funded by Horizon Europe through the 2021 work programme are preparing the ground for a future deployment of the energy data space. The projects started in 2022, have implementation periods of around three years, and benefit of a combined EU contribution of EUR 44 million. The projects are:

DATA CELLAR: <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101069694>;

EDDIE: <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101069510>;

ENERSHARE: <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101069831>;

OMEGA-X: <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101069287>;

SYNERGIES: <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101069839>;

IntNET: <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101070086>.

identification and authentication, data access and usage control arrangements, business agreements, operational agreements, governance agreements. In particular regarding data interoperability arrangements, the data space should be based on agreed minimal interoperability mechanisms that will align energy relevant key stakeholders on a set of minimal sufficient capabilities needed to achieve interoperability of data, systems and services between the key players of the energy value chains at all levels (European, national and local). Interoperability with other data spaces (e.g. mobility or smart communities' data space), on the appropriate level, shall be considered from the outset, whenever possible.

- Consider a complete set of common open standards, including semantic standards such as SAREF, ontology and data interoperability, both domain-specific and cross-cutting.
- Define suitable business models with the objective to ensure financial sustainability of the energy data space beyond the end of the project.
- Implement a governance system for overseeing the operations of the energy data space according to the defined business models.

The deployment of the energy data space will build on previous actions, in so far as possible, supported under the Horizon Europe programme (as mentioned above) and should leverage on existing national or regional efforts.

The selected proposal(s) will use, in so far as possible and when available, the smart cloud-to-edge middleware platform Simpl<sup>14</sup>. They will also work in close cooperation with the Data Spaces Support Centre in order to ensure alignment with the rest of the ecosystem of data spaces implemented with the support of Digital Europe Programme, in particular in view of a data spaces reference architecture, common building blocks, toolboxes and standards; and data governance models. The project will work in close cooperation with specific stakeholder expert groups on smart energy and energy data established by the European Commission. Right from the outset, the awarded proposal(s) is/are expected to work towards achieving financial sustainability by the conclusion of the action and consider relevant actions in this respect.

Relevant stakeholders to implement this action are all entities which have an active role in managing energy system operations and in energy markets, e.g. an increasing share of SME/midcaps of providers of energy services to consumers (data users) as well as all entities which conclude data agreement(s) in view of providing flexibility services.

The active participation of data providers and users from the project's inception is highly recommended since it will ensure that the data space is designed and structured to meet their needs, making the data space more relevant and leading to increased adoption rates and a stronger sense of ownership of data providers and users by the end of the project's runtime.

### *Outcomes and deliverables*

- (Technical) infrastructures for the common European Energy Data Space covering all the building blocks mentioned above and addressing the identified use cases.

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<sup>14</sup> [Simpl: cloud-to-edge federations and data spaces made simple \(updated August 2023\) | Shaping Europe's digital future \(europa.eu\)](#)



- Fully defined use cases that are deployed through the data space.
- Suitable business models that ensure the maintenance and upscaling of the common European energy data space beyond the lifetime of the project and the accessibility of the federated data.
- Governance system for the common European energy data space.
- Biannual reports on connections between relevant local and national data ecosystems and initiatives at EU level, as well as with other sectoral data spaces.
- Guidance/training documents to involve stakeholders in sharing data.
- Once the data space is operational, regular reports on usage data and maintenance.

### KPIs to measure outcomes and deliverables

Progress should be demonstrated by qualitative and quantitative KPIs, demonstrators, benchmarking and progress monitoring. The proposal should define a set of methodologies and kits of specific quantitative and qualitative KPIs to enable appropriate control of the implementation progress of the pilot.

The consortium should also propose relevant indicators (including industry and service relevant KPIs) for measuring the final usage and impact of the deployment. These indicators should be accompanied by target values.

### Targeted stakeholders

Energy operators (including grid operators (TSOs and DSOs), technology providers, energy service providers (including aggregation and storage), ICT companies, system integrators, platforms providers, authorities, EV (charging) stakeholders, building (management) stakeholders (operating buildings e.g. managing and optimising their energy consumption, production and storage, etc.), data management stakeholders, cloud-edge stakeholders, telcos.

### Type of action and funding rate

Simple Grants — 50% funding rate



For more information on Digital Europe types of action, see *Annex 1*.

### Specific topic conditions

- For this topic, security restrictions under Article 12(6) of the Digital Europe Regulation apply (see *sections 6 and 10 and Annex 2*)
- For this topic, multi-beneficiary applications are mandatory and specific conditions for the consortium composition apply (see *section 6*)
- For this topic, following reimbursement option for equipment costs applies: depreciation and full cost for listed equipment (see *section 10*)
- For this topic, first exploitation obligations apply (see *section 10*)
- The following parts of the award criteria in section 9 are exceptionally NOT applicable for this topic:

- extent to which the project would reinforce and secure the digital technology supply chain in the Union
- extent to which the proposal can overcome financial obstacles such as the lack of market finance

## **DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-MOBSPACE - Common European mobility data space**

### Objectives

The objective of this action is to contribute to the effective implementation of the Multi-Country Project (MCP) on European common data infrastructure and services with a focus on the mobility and transport sector. The action will contribute to the further development of the common European mobility data space (EMDS), which will facilitate the access, sharing and reuse of data in the mobility and logistics sectors. It will further support the implementation of the Communication on the creation of the EMDS<sup>15</sup>. It aims to contribute to the sustainability of common data infrastructure and promote its large-scale adoption.

In line with the European Data Strategy, the action should contribute to creating a fair, competitive, and innovative data economy. It should help make the mobility and transport system smarter, more environmentally friendly and better adapted to the needs of its users, supporting the objectives of the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy. The awarded proposal will have to take into account already existing data sharing initiatives at the European, national and local levels.

### Scope

The awarded proposal should address the following activities:

- Provide operational support to the establishment of a sustainable collaboration structure between Member States and other actors, taking into account the potential creation of a European Digital Infrastructure Consortium (EDIC).
- Support, among the participants in the action and in the structure it seeks to establish, the exchange of information on available infrastructures, solutions, tools, agreements and standards related to the scope of the action, as well as the coordination across initiatives and projects in different countries and domains.
- Analyse gaps in existing data and services infrastructure and propose measures to support the deployment, operation and maintenance of data and service infrastructure enabling mobility and logistics data access and exchange at the European level.
- Assist, primarily through financial support to third parties, the development of cross-border use cases focusing on real-life use cases based on mobility and logistics data sharing. These use cases should be implemented in several Member States, preferably address both passenger mobility and goods transport, follow a coherent approach to interoperability and promote the sharing and reuse of best practices. Indicative areas for use cases are logistics, including at urban level, multimodal passenger mobility, cross-border sharing of e-mobility charging data and cross-border sharing of vehicle and

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<sup>15</sup> COM(2023) 751 final

driver data to check compliance with Urban Vehicle Access regulations, in particular Low Emission Zones, as well as use cases combining data spaces in mobility and other sectors.

All activities under this project will require close collaboration and alignment with existing and evolving EU initiatives related to mobility and transport data, in particular:

- NAPCORE and relevant National Access Points;
- DTLF and related projects under CEF;
- The CEF technical assistance project which aims at identifying and recommending common building blocks and governance models for the EMDS;
- The deployment action for the common European mobility data space (deployEMDS), especially regarding the development of data space building blocks and governance mechanisms, as well as use cases.

Duplication of existing initiatives should be avoided. Compliance is required with applicable EU legislation such as the ITS Directive and its Delegated Regulations and the implementation specifications of the Regulation (EU)2020/1056 on electronic freight transport information.

The awarded proposal will have to build on the outcomes of the preparatory action for the EMDS (PrepDSpace4Mobility) funded under WP 2021-2022, notably the inventory of existing mobility data ecosystems and the analysis of possible common building blocks for the EMDS.

The awarded proposal will work in partnership with the Data Spaces Support Centre to ensure alignment with other common European data spaces, especially regarding the cross-sectoral blueprint and building blocks. It will use, in so far as possible and when available, the smart cloud-to-edge middleware platform Simpl<sup>16</sup>.

The awarded proposal is expected to work towards achieving financial sustainability beyond the duration of the project. The awarded proposal should ensure that outcomes and deliverables of the project are owned or usable by a lasting structure supporting the implementation of the MCP in the mobility and transport sector.

The active involvement of data providers and users is highly recommended to ensure that the project's outcomes are designed and structured to meet their needs and to create a stronger sense of ownership.

To encourage the participation of diverse actors, the project should make use of financial support to third parties as part of the implementation of cross-border use cases. The minimum share of the grant allocated to financial support to third parties is 65%. The maximum amount per recipient of financial support to third parties is EUR 1 million.

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16 <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/simpl-streamlining-cloud-edge-federations-major-eu-data-spaces-updated-october-2023><https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/simpl-streamlining-cloud-edge-federations-major-eu-data-spaces-updated-october-2023>

### Outcomes and deliverables

- Establishment of a structure supporting the implementation of the objectives of this action and allowing collaboration beyond the duration of the project.
- Information exchange platform: A platform for sharing, primarily among participants in the action and in the structure it seeks to establish, insights and data about infrastructure, tools, standards and agreements related to the scope of this action and complementing related initiatives.
- Coordination roadmap: A comprehensive plan detailing the alignment of various initiatives of actors participating in the action and in the structure it seeks to establish, across different sectors and member states.
- Recommendations for the development, operation and maintenance of key foundational elements supporting mobility data access and exchange, focusing on addressing gaps in the existing data and service infrastructure.
- Use cases portfolio: A collection of cross-border use cases implemented by third parties that demonstrate how cooperation and interoperability work in practice including guidelines and standards for the implementation of such use cases more generally, in alignment with existing European initiatives and in compliance with applicable legislation. This deliverable should be prepared in by the consortium with support from third-party funding recipients.
- Use case evaluation reports: Detailed assessments for each use case, which include performance results, lessons learned, and recommendations for future projects. This deliverable should be prepared by participants in use cases (supported third parties and, where relevant, beneficiaries) under the guidance of the consortium.

### KPIs to measure outcomes and deliverables

- Number of Member States and other organisations participating in the collaboration structure.
- Number of supported cross-border use cases, and coverage in terms of geographical scope and application areas.
- Number of stakeholders participating in cross-border use cases, including SMEs.
- Amount and types of data transactions enabled through cross-border use cases.
- Services, products and processes developed or improved through cross-border use cases.
- Net gains in environmental performance enabled by cross-border use cases.

Proposals are encouraged to propose additional KPIs, or alternative performance assessment approaches (qualitative or quantitative), in particular to assess the value created through the sharing and reuse of data, and the contribution to the action's objectives, notably increasing the sector's economic and sustainability performance.

### Targeted stakeholders

The consortium should preferably include public administrations representing at least three different eligible countries, research and technology organisations and (a) partner(s) with the capacity to manage open calls.

Cross-border use cases should involve economic actors in the mobility and logistics sector, including SMEs, as well as public administrations at national, regional or local level.

### Type of action and funding rate

Grants for Financial Support — funding rate of 100% of eligible costs for the consortium, co-financing of 50% of total eligible costs by the supported third party.

 For more information on Digital Europe types of action, see *Annex 1*.

### Specific topic conditions

- For this topic, security restrictions under Article 12(6) of the Digital Europe Regulation apply (*see sections 6 and 10 and Annex 2*)
- For this topic, multi-beneficiary applications are mandatory and specific conditions for the consortium composition apply (*see section 6*)
- For this topic, following reimbursement option for equipment costs applies: depreciation and full cost for listed equipment (*see section 10*)
- For this topic, financial support to third parties is allowed (*see section 10*)
- The following parts of the award criteria in section 9 are exceptionally NOT applicable for this topic:
  - extent to which the project would reinforce and secure the digital technology supply chain in the Union
  - extent to which the proposal can overcome financial obstacles such as the lack of market finance

## **DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-HEALTHACCESS - Supporting patients' access to their health data in the context of healthcare services for citizens across the EU**

### Objectives

The action will enable patients to access their health data in the context of healthcare provision for individual citizens (i.e., 'primary use' of health data) thus contributing to reaching the digital target of 100% of EU citizens having access to electronic health records by 2030 as set by the Digital Decade Policy Programme<sup>17</sup>. It will scale up and leverage the results from existing projects, frameworks and technologies, such as the services implemented in the 'MyHealth@EU'<sup>18</sup> infrastructure supported under

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<sup>17</sup>[https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2022/2481/oj#ntr1-L\\_2022323EN.01000401-E0001](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2022/2481/oj#ntr1-L_2022323EN.01000401-E0001)

<sup>18</sup> [https://health.ec.europa.eu/ehealth-digital-health-and-care/electronic-cross-border-health-services\\_en](https://health.ec.europa.eu/ehealth-digital-health-and-care/electronic-cross-border-health-services_en)

EU4Health, the European Electronic Health Record Exchange Format (EEHRxF)<sup>19</sup>, the EU Digital Covid Certificate (EU DCC), or the EU Digital Identity Wallet. Therefore, it will contribute to the technical implementation and large-scale deployment actions foreseen in the proposal for a Regulation on the European Health Data Space (EHDS)<sup>20</sup>.

### *Scope*

Proposal(s) under this action should expand the geographical coverage of the services offered through MyHealth@EU allowing patients' access to their consolidated health data and cross-border health data exchanges. Furthermore, it should deploy at scale the EU Digital Identity Wallet in the national eID ecosystems in health and deploy solutions enabling patients to access their translated health data on the basis of MyHealth@EU services.

The outcomes of projects launched under EU4Health, Digital Europe and Horizon Europe programmes should be used and leveraged to accelerate the uptake of patient-mediated services in MyHealth@EU.

In addition, the awarded proposal(s) will have to review and map the work performed under other EU-funded actions and projects in the field of eID for health, in particular those enabling digital identification and access of patients to their health data, such as the POTENTIAL project<sup>21</sup> that is piloting the EU Digital Identity Wallet for claiming ePrescriptions.

The solution that awarded proposal(s) will deploy should ensure ubiquitous access, i.e. a mobile-first approach should be favoured. In addition, the solution should be designed with accessibility in mind, to ensure equal access to health data. Patients should be able to view and consult their health data in their country and abroad, potentially use online services, control, and allow access to their health data and carry out transactions through the online healthcare system. The solution is to enable patients to access priority categories of data as proposed in the EHDS, i.e. patient summaries, ePrescriptions, hospital discharge reports, images and imaging reports, and laboratory results.

To test this solution, the action should engage with relevant user communities, including cancer patients, survivors and their families, persons with different disabilities, older people, and should seek their feedback.

Overall, the proposal(s) under this action are expected to cover the following tasks:

- Review and Map Projects: Evaluate and chart relevant ongoing projects for standards tech methods of electronic identification of patients and digital solutions for MyHealth@EU development.
- Design Consolidated Patient Solution: Create a unified patient data access solution, building on past projects, for cross-border use regardless of Member State, aligning with EEHRxF and collaboration with NCPeHs and patients.
- Deploy NCPeH and MyHealth@EU: Establish NCPeHs and MyHealth@EU services for cross-border health data exchange, enhancing data consolidation.
- Scale Solution: Roll out the solution widely in healthcare settings, linking to MyHealth@EU's NCPeHs, including user-facing features and backend APIs.

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<sup>19</sup><https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/recommendation-european-electronic-health-record-exchange-format>

<sup>20</sup> [https://health.ec.europa.eu/ehealth-digital-health-and-care/european-health-data-space\\_en](https://health.ec.europa.eu/ehealth-digital-health-and-care/european-health-data-space_en)

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.digital-identity-wallet.eu/>

- Test Patient Access Acceptance: Collaboratively assess patient access via MyHealth@EU, working closely with NCPeHs and stakeholders, reporting on user experience, especially in cancer-related domains.
- Engage Users and Assess Implications: Involve users and stakeholders in design, assessing ethical, legal, and societal impacts during technical deployment.

The solution should cover a large number of Member States. The active participation of data providers and users from the project's inception is highly recommended since it will ensure that the action is designed and structured to meet their needs, making the action more relevant and leading to increased adoption rates and a stronger sense of ownership of data providers and users by the end of the project's runtime.

### Outcomes and deliverables

- Review report with review, analysis, and mapping of precursor projects with standards, technologies, and digital solutions, justifying the chosen solution for broader adoption;
- Documentation on the deployment of the necessary NCPeHs, MyHealth@EU services and infrastructures for the cross-border exchange of health data to support patient access;
- Open-source solution for patients' access to their health data, including the integration with MyHealth@EU;
- Large-scale deployment of the solution, with the aim of covering a large number of Member States;
- User acceptance reports;
- Report on efforts to raise user awareness and assess ethical, legal, and societal implications of the technical deployment.

### KPIs to measure outcomes and deliverables

Proposals are expected to set clear, pertinent targets and define measurement methods for all measurable outcomes and deliverables. At least the following KPIs must be defined and achieved by the end of the project:

- Number of data categories supported by the solution
- Number of open-source components made publicly available for reuse.
- Number of Member States where the solution is deployed – at least 10.
- Number of individuals who used the solution.
- Number of unique transactions of the solution per month
- Number of relevant user communities (including patients, survivors, their carers and families, vulnerable populations etc.) engaged in testing the solution.

### Targeted stakeholders

The consortium can include public and private entities such as (but not limited to): public administrations and Member State authorities (e.g. national contact points for eHealth, digital health authorities), hospitals, medical centres, end-users (such as patients' and healthcare professionals' organisations), not-for-profit organisations, industry, SMEs.

### Type of action and funding rate

Simple Grants — 50% funding rate



For more information on Digital Europe types of action, see *Annex 1*.

### Specific topic conditions

- For this topic, security restrictions under Article 12(6) of the Digital Europe Regulation apply (see *sections 6 and 10 and Annex 2*)
- For this topic, multi-beneficiary applications are mandatory and specific conditions for the consortium composition apply (see *section 6*)
- For this topic, following reimbursement option for equipment costs applies: depreciation *only* (see *section 10*)
- For this topic, first exploitation obligations apply (see *section 10*)
- The following parts of the award criteria in section 9 are exceptionally NOT applicable for this topic:
  - extent to which the project would reinforce and secure the digital technology supply chain in the Union
  - extent to which the proposal can overcome financial obstacles such as the lack of market finance
  - extent to which the proposal addresses environmental sustainability and the European Green Deal goals, in terms of direct effects and/or in awareness of environmental effects

## **DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-HEALTHRECORD - Demonstrating the in-service use of the European Electronic Health Record Exchange Format (EEHRxF) in healthcare settings**

### Objectives

The objective of this action is to showcase in-service, sustainable implementation of the European Electronic Health Record Exchange Format (EEHRxF) in healthcare settings. In particular, it will aim at demonstrating that the EEHRxF brings value, without introducing undue burden on health professionals and health systems.

The result of this action will be real-world demonstrators of the EEHRxF that will guide other stakeholders to adopt the EEHRxF, reduce the costs for its adoption and produce lessons learned.

### Scope

The Commission Recommendation (C (2019) 800 final)<sup>22</sup> on a European Electronic Health Record Exchange Format (EEHRxF) defined the scope and baseline for common technical specifications for the transfer of health data in chosen health information domains, or data categories, such as patient summaries and ePrescriptions, but also laboratory results, medical images and imaging reports, and hospital discharge

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<sup>22</sup> [COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION \(EU\) 2019/ 243 - of 6 February 2019 - on a European Electronic Health Record exchange format \(europa.eu\)](#)



reports. On 3 May 2022, the Commission adopted a legislative proposal on the European Health Data Space (EHDS)<sup>23</sup>, which takes forward this idea.

A number of Union initiatives continue to contribute to the development and adoption of the technical specifications for the EEHRxF, including the MyHealth@EU infrastructure<sup>24</sup>, X-eHealth<sup>25</sup>, XpanDH<sup>26</sup> and projects funded under HORIZON-HLTH-2023-IND-06-02. The joint action on primary use of health data from work programme 2022 of EU4Health<sup>27</sup> aims at providing recommendations for a formal description of the EEHRxF.

The readiness of the EEHRxF varies per data category. Thanks to their implementation in MyHealth@EU services for cross-border health data exchanges, certain data categories such as patient summaries, e-prescription and e-dispensation are already at a higher level of maturity for their widespread adoption. However, further development is needed for other data categories, such as laboratory results, medical images/imaging reports, and hospital discharge reports.

The scope of proposal(s) thus covers real-world, reference, mature (TRL-9 or equivalent) and complete implementation of EEHRxF demonstrators in operational healthcare settings that fully support collection and exchange of health data in priority categories for the EHDS. Examples of data categories in these demonstrators include ePrescriptions, eDispensations, patient summaries, medical images and imaging reports, laboratory results and hospital discharge reports. The project, or projects, selected as part of this call should go beyond analysis and design and shall focus on the longer-term deployment, operation and use of the EEHRxF.

Awarded proposal(s) will demonstrate the use of the EEHRxF in healthcare settings and develop guidelines on how to improve the user-friendliness of the format for health professionals and its cost-effectiveness for health systems.

The specific activities covered by this action are to:

- Collect information on technical and non-technical challenges in EEHRxF adoption and data entry tools, including those using free text analysis by health professionals;
- Design, implement and deploy user-friendly EEHRxF demonstrators and data entry tools in operational clinical settings across multiple sites, considering expansion and sustainability;
- Through real-world implementations, demonstrate the added value of the use of the EEHRxF and its user friendliness for health professionals and cost-effectiveness for health systems, by:
  - increasing the availability of high-quality and structured health data;
  - increasing interoperability of health data for healthcare services at local, regional, national and European level;
  - increasing quality and completeness of health data included in electronic health records for use at national level and across borders through MyHealth@EU;
  - increasing the accessibility for patients to their health data using the EEHRxF;

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<sup>23</sup> [https://health.ec.europa.eu/ehealth-digital-health-and-care/european-health-data-space\\_en](https://health.ec.europa.eu/ehealth-digital-health-and-care/european-health-data-space_en)

<sup>24</sup> [Electronic cross-border health services - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)  
[X-eHealth - Exchanging Electronic Health Records](#)

<sup>26</sup> [Home - XpanDH Project \(iscte-iul.pt\)](#)

<sup>27</sup> [wp2022\\_en - p81 DI-g-22-22.06.pdf \(cec.eu.int\)](#)

- increasing the cost-effectiveness and sustainability for health systems.
- Provide guidelines for the implementation of the EEHRxF, following the lessons learnt from the demonstrators, including technical and non-technical aspects.

These activities shall build upon the outcomes of other projects aiming at the development and rollout of the EEHRxF, such as X-eHealth, XpanDH, projects funded under HORIZON-HLTH-2023-IND-06-02, and the relevant joint actions supported by EU4Health.

The active participation of data providers and users from the project's inception is highly recommended since it will ensure that the action is designed and structured to meet their needs, making the action more relevant and leading to increased adoption rates and a stronger sense of ownership of data providers and users by the end of the project's runtime.

### Outcomes and deliverables

- Analysis of the challenges of the use of the structured electronic health data in real clinical settings and methods, processes, tools and/or technologies that can address these challenges;
- Implementation of the EEHRxF and of tools for structured data entry in operational clinical settings in a user-friendly way for health professionals and health systems;
- Description of the design, development, deployment and testing of the implementation of the EEHRxF in real clinical settings;
- Analysis of ways to overcome possible barriers to EEHRxF implementation;
- Assessment of cost effectiveness in a cross-border setting;
- Recommendations on the EEHRxF optimal use, management and evolution, with a focus on how to address the challenges related to the collection of high-quality health data and of making it available to patients or to other health professionals at local, regional national or European level.

### KPIs to measure outcomes and deliverables

Proposals are expected to set clear, pertinent targets and define measurement methods for all measurable outcomes and deliverables. At least the following KPIs must be defined:

- Number of Member States where the complete implementation of the EEHRxF demonstrators was achieved.
- Number and percentage per Member State of health professionals reached who provided feedback on the use of the EEHRxF in clinical settings.
- Satisfaction rate with the use of EEHRxF.
- Number of users from different user groups actively using the EEHRxF.
- Number of patients covered by the EEHRxF demonstrators.

### Targeted stakeholders

The consortium can include public and private entities such as (but not limited to): public administrations and Member State authorities (e.g. digital health authorities, national contact points for eHealth in MyHealth@EU), hospitals, medical centres, end-users (such as patients' and healthcare professionals' organisations), not-for-profit

organisations, industry (particularly, electronic health record systems manufacturers) and SMEs.

All stakeholders shall be able to demonstrate a good understanding of analysis, including cost-benefit analysis, and assessment of implementation of tools in clinical settings, and writing recommendations. Stakeholders should also be able to demonstrate a good understanding of healthcare system and practical experience of ICT implementation, user friendliness etc.

### Type of action and funding rate

Simple Grants — 50% funding rate



For more information on Digital Europe types of action, see *Annex 1*.

### Specific topic conditions

- For this topic, security restrictions under Article 12(6) of the Digital Europe Regulation apply (see sections 6 and 10 and Annex 2)
- For this topic, multi-beneficiary applications are mandatory and specific conditions for the consortium composition apply (see section 6)
- For this topic, following reimbursement option for equipment costs applies: depreciation only (see section 10)
- For this topic, first exploitation obligations apply (see section 10)
- The following parts of the award criteria in section 9 are exceptionally NOT applicable for this topic:
  - extent to which the project would reinforce and secure the digital technology supply chain in the Union
  - extent to which the proposal can overcome financial obstacles such as the lack of market finance
  - extent to which the proposal addresses environmental sustainability and the European Green Deal goals, in terms of direct effects and/or in awareness of environmental effects

## 3. Available budget

The estimated available call budget is **EUR 75 000 000**.

Specific budget information per topic can be found in the table below:

Topic	Topic budget
DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-EDGE — Reference deployments of European cloud-edge services (industrial IoT Edge and Telco Edge developments)	<b>EUR 30 000 000</b>

DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-GREENDEAL — European Green Deal Data Space	<b>EUR 8 000 000</b>
DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-ENERSPACE — Energy Data Space	<b>EUR 8 000 000</b>
DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-MOBSPACE — Common European mobility data space	<b>EUR 15 000 000</b>
DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-HEALTHACCESS — Supporting patients' access to their health data in the context of healthcare services for citizens across the EU	<b>EUR 10 000 000</b>
DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-HEALTHRECORD - Demonstrating the in-service use of the European Electronic Health Record Exchange Format (EHRx) in healthcare settings	<b>EUR 4 000 000</b>

We reserve the right not to award all available funds or to redistribute them between the call priorities, depending on the proposals received and the results of the evaluation.

#### 4. Timetable and deadlines

Timetable and deadlines (indicative)	
Call opening:	29 February 2024
<u>Deadline for submission:</u>	<u>29 May 2024 – 17:00:00 CEST</u> <u>(Brussels)</u>
Evaluation:	June-July 2024
Information on evaluation results:	July-August 2024
GA signature:	February 2025

#### 5. Admissibility and documents

Proposals must be submitted before the **call deadline** (see *timetable section 4*).

Proposals must be submitted **electronically** via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System (accessible via the Topic page in the [Search Funding & Tenders](#) section). Paper submissions are NOT possible.

Proposals (including annexes and supporting documents) must be submitted using the forms provided *inside* the Submission System (⚠️ NOT the documents available on the Topic page — they are only for information).

Proposals must be **complete** and contain all the requested information and all required annexes and supporting documents:


- Application Form Part A — contains administrative information about the participants (future coordinator, beneficiaries and affiliated entities) and the summarised budget for the project (*to be filled in directly online*)
- Application Form Part B — contains the technical description of the project (*to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed and then assembled and re-uploaded*)
- **mandatory annexes and supporting documents** (*templates available to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed, assembled and re-uploaded*):
  - detailed budget table/calculator: not applicable
  - CVs of core project team: not applicable
  - activity reports of last year: not applicable
  - list of previous projects (key projects for the last 4 years) (*template available in Part B*) for topics: **applicable for**
    - DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-ENERSPACE
    - DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-HEALTHACCESS
    - DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-HEALTHRECORD
  - ownership control declarations (including for associated partners and subcontractors): **applicable for all topics**

At proposal submission, you will have to confirm that you have the **mandate to act** for all applicants. Moreover you will have to confirm that the information in the application is correct and complete and that the participants comply with the conditions for receiving EU funding (especially eligibility, financial and operational capacity, exclusion, etc). Before signing the grant, each beneficiary and affiliated entity will have to confirm this again by signing a declaration of honour (DoH). Proposals without full support will be rejected.

Your application must be **readable, accessible and printable**.

Proposals are limited to maximum **70 pages** (Part B). Evaluators will not consider any additional pages.

You may be asked at a later stage for further documents (*for legal entity validation, financial capacity check, bank account validation, etc*).

 For more information about the submission process (including IT aspects), consult the [Online Manual](#).

## 6. Eligibility

Applications will only be considered eligible if their content corresponds wholly (or at least in part) to the topic description for which they are submitted.

[Eligible participants \(eligible countries\)](#)

In order to be eligible, the applicants (beneficiaries and affiliated entities) must:

- be legal entities (public or private bodies)
- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
  - EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs))
  - non-EU countries:
    - EEA countries (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein)
    - other countries associated to the Digital Europe Programme ([list of participating countries](#))<sup>28</sup>

Beneficiaries and affiliated entities must register in the [Participant Register](#) — before submitting the proposal — and will have to be validated by the Central Validation Service (REA Validation). For the validation, they will be requested to upload documents showing legal status and origin.

Please note that this call is subject to restrictions due to security reasons:

- Entities must not be directly or indirectly controlled from a country that is not an eligible country unless they comply with the requirements to guarantee<sup>29</sup> the protection of the essential security interests of the Union and the Member States and to ensure the protection of classified documents information as set out in the relevant work programme (conditions for foreign controlled entities - guarantees)<sup>30</sup>.

For more information, **see Annex 2**.


### *Specific cases*

**Natural persons** — Natural persons are NOT eligible (with the exception of self-employed persons, i.e. sole traders, where the company does not have legal personality separate from that of the natural person).

**International organisations** — International organisations are not eligible, unless they are International organisations of European Interest within the meaning of Article 2 of the Digital Europe Regulation (i.e. international organisations the majority of whose members are Member States or whose headquarters are in a Member State).

**Entities without legal personality** — Entities which do not have legal personality under their national law may exceptionally participate, provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf, and offer guarantees for the protection of the EU financial interests equivalent to that offered by legal persons<sup>31</sup>.

**EU bodies** — EU bodies (with the exception of the European Commission Joint Research Centre) can NOT be part of the consortium.

**Associations and interest groupings** — Entities composed of members may participate as 'sole beneficiaries' or 'beneficiaries without legal personality'<sup>32</sup>.  Please note that

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<sup>28</sup> Subject to a positive assessment by the Commission on the replies to their associated country security questionnaire – see Annex 2

<sup>29</sup> See guarantee template in the annex to the application form for ownership and control declaration

<sup>30</sup> See 9.3. Appendix 3 – Implementation of Article 12(5) and 12(6) of the work programme for the guarantee conditions

<sup>31</sup> See Article 197(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

<sup>32</sup> For the definitions, see Articles 187(2) and 197(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

if the action will be implemented by the members, they should also participate (either as beneficiaries or as affiliated entities, otherwise their costs will NOT be eligible).

Countries currently negotiating association agreements — Beneficiaries from countries with ongoing negotiations for participating in the programme (*see list of participating countries above*) may participate in the call and can sign grants if the negotiations are concluded before grant signature and if the association covers the call (i.e. is retroactive and covers both the part of the programme and the year when the call was launched).

Following the [Council Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2022/2506](#), as of 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022, no legal commitments (including the grant agreement itself as well as subcontracts, purchase contracts, financial support to third parties etc.) can be signed with Hungarian public interest trusts established under Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity they maintain.

Affected entities may continue to apply to calls for proposals. However, in case the Council measures are not lifted, such entities are not eligible to participate in any funded role (beneficiaries, affiliated entities, subcontractors, recipients of financial support to third parties). In this case, co-applicants will be invited to remove or replace that entity and/or to change its status into associated partner. Tasks and budget may be redistributed accordingly.

EU restrictive measures — Special rules apply for certain entities (*e.g. entities subject to [EU restrictive measures](#) under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)*<sup>33</sup>). Such entities are not eligible to participate in any capacity, including as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any).

For more information, see [Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment](#).

### Consortium composition

Proposals must be submitted by:

For topics:

- **DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-EDGE, DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-GREENDEAL, DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-ENERSPACE:**
  - Minimum 3 independent applicants (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities) from 3 different eligible countries.

For topic:

### **DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-MOBSPACE:**

- Minimum 3 independent applicants (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities) from 3 different eligible countries OR minimum 1 European digital infrastructure consortium (EDIC) composed of at least 3 Member

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<sup>33</sup> Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the [EU Sanctions Map](#).

States<sup>34</sup>

For topics:

- **DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-HEALTHACCESS, DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-HEALTHRECORD:**
  - minimum 5 independent applicants (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities) from 5 different eligible countries.

### Eligible activities

Eligible activities are the ones set out in section 2 above.

Projects should take into account the results of projects supported by other EU funding programmes. The complementarities must be described in the project proposals (Part B of the Application Form).

Projects must comply with EU policy interests and priorities (*such as environment, social, security, industrial and trade policy, etc*).

Financial support to third parties is allowed for **DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-MOBSPACE** for grants or similar forms of support under the following conditions:

- the calls must be open, published widely and conform to EU standards concerning transparency, equal treatment, conflict of interest and confidentiality
- the calls must be published on the Funding & Tenders Portal, and on the participants' websites
- the calls must remain open for at least two months
- if call deadlines are changed this must immediately be published on the Portal and all registered applicants must be informed of the change
- the outcome of the call must be published on the participants' websites, including a description of the selected projects, award dates, project durations, and final recipient legal names and countries
- the calls must have a clear European dimension.

Your project application must clearly specify why financial support to third parties is needed, how it will be managed and provide a list of the different types of activities for which a third party may receive financial support. The proposal must also clearly describe the results to be obtained.

### Geographic location (target countries)

Due to restrictions due to security:

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34 An European Digital Infrastructure Consortium (EDIC) in the process of being established may submit a proposal or may participate in a proposal. If the proposal is retained for funding, such EDIC will have to be officially established before the signature of the grant agreement. This requirement must be fulfilled within the specified timeline in this document in Section 4 - Timetable and deadlines; otherwise the granting authority reserves the right to cancel the grant agreement preparation.



- for all topics: the proposals must relate to activities taking place in the eligible countries (*see above*)

### Ethics

Projects must comply with:

- highest ethical standards and
- applicable EU, international and national law (including the [General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679](#)).

Proposals under this call will have to undergo an ethics review to authorise funding and may be made subject to specific ethics rules (which become part of the Grant Agreement in the form of ethics deliverables, *e.g. ethics committee opinions/notifications/authorisations required under national or EU law*).

For proposals involving development, testing, deployment, use or distribution of AI systems, the ethics review will in particular check compliance with the principles of human agency and oversight, diversity/fairness, transparency and responsible social impact, while the experts performing the technical evaluation will assess the robustness of the AI systems (i.e. their reliability not to cause unintentional harm).

### Security

Projects involving EU classified information must undergo security scrutiny to authorise funding and may be made subject to specific security rules (detailed in a security aspects letter (SAL) which is annexed to the Grant Agreement).

These rules (governed by Decision [2015/444](#)<sup>35</sup> and its implementing rules and/or national rules) provide for instance that:

- projects involving information classified TRES SECRET UE/EU TOP SECRET (or equivalent) can NOT be funded
- classified information must be marked in accordance with the applicable security instructions in the SAL
- information with classification levels CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or above (and RESTREINT UE/ EU RESTRICTED, if required by national rules) may be:
  - created or accessed only on premises with facility security clearance (FSC) from the competent national security authority (NSA), in accordance with the national rules
  - handled only in a secured area accredited by the competent NSA
  - accessed and handled only by persons with valid personnel security clearance (PSC) and a need-to-know
- at the end of the grant, the classified information must either be returned or continue to be protected in accordance with the applicable rules
- action tasks involving EU classified information (EUCI) may be subcontracted only with prior written approval from the granting authority and only to entities established in an EU Member State or in a non-EU country with a security of information agreement with the EU (or an administrative arrangement with the

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<sup>35</sup> See Commission Decision 2015/444/EU, Euratom of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, [17.3.2015](#), p. 53).

Commission)

- disclosure of EUCI to third parties is subject to prior written approval from the granting authority.

Please note that, depending on the type of activity, facility security clearance may have to be provided before grant signature. The granting authority will assess the need for clearance in each case and will establish their delivery date during grant preparation. Please note that in no circumstances can we sign any grant agreement until at least one of the beneficiaries in a consortium has facility security clearance.

Further security recommendations may be added to the Grant Agreement in the form of security deliverables (*e.g. create security advisory group, limit level of detail, use fake scenario, exclude use of classified information, etc*).

Beneficiaries must ensure that their projects are not subject to national/third-country security requirements that could affect implementation or put into question the award of the grant (*e.g. technology restrictions, national security classification, etc*). The granting authority must be notified immediately of any potential security issues.

## 7. Financial and operational capacity and exclusion

### Financial capacity

Applicants must have **stable and sufficient resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share. Organisations participating in several projects must have sufficient capacity to implement all these projects.

The financial capacity check will be carried out on the basis of the documents you will be requested to upload in the [Participant Register](#) during grant preparation (*e.g. profit and loss account and balance sheet, business plan, audit report produced by an approved external auditor, certifying the accounts for the last closed financial year, etc*). The analysis will be based on neutral financial indicators, but will also take into account other aspects, such as dependency on EU funding and deficit and revenue in previous years.

The check will normally be done for all beneficiaries, except:

- public bodies (entities established as public body under national law, including local, regional or national authorities) or international organisations
- if the individual requested grant amount is not more than EUR 60 000.

If needed, it may also be done for affiliated entities.

If we consider that your financial capacity is not satisfactory, we may require:

- further information
- an enhanced financial responsibility regime, i.e. joint and several responsibility for all beneficiaries or joint and several liability of affiliated entities (*see below, section 10*)
- prefinancing paid in instalments
- (one or more) prefinancing guarantees (*see below, section 10*)

or

- propose no prefinancing
- request that you are replaced or, if needed, reject the entire proposal.

 For more information, see [Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment](#).

### Operational capacity

Applicants must have the **know-how, qualifications** and **resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share (including sufficient experience in projects of comparable size and nature).

This capacity will be assessed together with the 'Implementation' award criterion, on the basis of the competence and experience of the applicants and their project teams, including operational resources (human, technical and other) or, exceptionally, the measures proposed to obtain it by the time the task implementation starts.

If the evaluation of the award criterion is positive, the applicants are considered to have sufficient operational capacity.

Applicants will have to show their capacity via the following information:

- general profiles (qualifications and experiences) of the staff responsible for managing and implementing the project
- description of the consortium participants
- list of previous projects (key projects for the last 4 years; *template available in Part B*) if applicable in section 5 - mandatory annexes.

Additional supporting documents may be requested, if needed to confirm the operational capacity of any applicant.

### Exclusion

Applicants which are subject to an **EU exclusion decision** or in one of the following **exclusion situations** that bar them from receiving EU funding can NOT participate<sup>36</sup>:

- bankruptcy, winding up, affairs administered by the courts, arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or other similar procedures (including procedures for persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- in breach of social security or tax obligations (including if done by persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- guilty of grave professional misconduct<sup>37</sup> (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- committed fraud, corruption, links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-

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<sup>36</sup> See Articles 136 and 141 of EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

<sup>37</sup> Professional misconduct includes: violation of ethical standards of the profession, wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility, false declarations/misrepresentation of information, participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition, violation of IPR, attempting to influence decision-making processes or obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain advantage.

- making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of EU Regulation [2988/95](#) (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin or created another entity with this purpose (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant).

Applicants will also be rejected if it turns out that<sup>38</sup>:

- during the award procedure they misrepresented information required as a condition for participating or failed to supply that information
- they were previously involved in the preparation of the call and this entails a distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise (conflict of interest).

## 8. Evaluation and award procedure

The proposals will have to follow the **standard submission and evaluation procedure** (one-stage submission + one-step evaluation).

An **evaluation committee** (composed or assisted by independent outside experts) will assess all applications. Proposals will first be checked for formal requirements (admissibility, and eligibility, *see sections 5 and 6*). Proposals found admissible and eligible will be evaluated (for each topic) against the operational capacity and award criteria (*see sections 7 and 9*) and then ranked according to their scores.

For proposals with the same score (within a topic or budget envelope) a **priority order** will be determined according to the following approach:

Successively for every group of *ex aequo* proposals, starting with the highest scored group, and continuing in descending order:


- 1) Proposals focusing on a theme that is not otherwise covered by higher ranked proposals will be considered to have the highest priority.
- 2) The *ex aequo* proposals within the same topic will be prioritised according to the scores they have been awarded for the award criterion 'Relevance'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on their scores for the criterion 'Impact'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on their scores for the criterion 'Implementation'.
- 3) If this does not allow to determine the priority, a further prioritisation can be done by considering the overall proposal portfolio and the creation of positive synergies between proposals, or other factors related to the objectives of the call. These factors will be documented in the panel report.
- 4) After that, the remainder of the available call budget will be used to fund projects across the different topics in order to ensure a balanced spread of the geographical and thematic coverage and while respecting to the maximum

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<sup>38</sup> See Article 141 EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

possible extent the order of merit based on the evaluation of the award criteria.

All proposals will be informed about the evaluation result (**evaluation result letter**). Successful proposals will be invited for grant preparation; the other ones will be put on the reserve list or rejected.

 No commitment for funding — Invitation to grant preparation does NOT constitute a formal commitment for funding. We will still need to make various legal checks before grant award: *legal entity validation, financial capacity, exclusion check, etc.*

**Grant preparation** will involve a dialogue in order to fine-tune technical or financial aspects of the project and may require extra information from your side. It may also include adjustments to the proposal to address recommendations of the evaluation committee or other concerns. Compliance will be a pre-condition for signing the grant.

If you believe that the evaluation procedure was flawed, you can submit a **complaint** (following the deadlines and procedures set out in the evaluation result letter). Please note that notifications which have not been opened within 10 days after sending will be considered to have been accessed and that deadlines will be counted from opening/access (see also [Funding & Tenders Portal Terms and Conditions](#)). Please also be aware that for complaints submitted electronically, there may be character limitations.

## 9. Award criteria

The **award criteria** for this call are as follows:

### 1. Relevance

- Alignment with the objectives and activities as described in section 2
- Contribution to long-term policy objectives, relevant policies and strategies, and synergies with activities at European and national level
- Extent to which the project would reinforce and secure the digital technology supply chain in the EU\*
- Extent to which the project can overcome financial obstacles such as the lack of market finance\*

### 2. Implementation

- Maturity of the project
- Soundness of the implementation plan and efficient use of resources
- Capacity of the applicants, and when applicable the consortium as a whole, to carry out the proposed work

### 3. Impact

- Extent to which the project will achieve the expected outcomes and deliverables referred to in the call for proposals and, where relevant, the plans to disseminate and communicate project achievements
- Extent to which the project will strengthen competitiveness and bring important benefits for society

- Extent to which the project addresses environmental sustainability and the European Green Deal goals, in terms of direct effects and/or in awareness of environmental effects \*.

\*May not be applicable to all topics (see specific topic conditions in section 2).

Award criteria	Minimum pass score	Maximum score
Relevance	3	5
Implementation	3	5
Impact	3	5
<b>Overall (pass) scores</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>

Maximum points: 15 points.

Individual thresholds per criterion: 3/5, 3/5 and 3/5 points.

Overall threshold: 10 points.

Proposals that pass the individual thresholds AND the overall threshold will be considered for funding — within the limits of the available budget (i.e. up to the budget ceiling). Other proposals will be rejected.

## 10. Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements

If you pass evaluation, your project will be invited for grant preparation, where you will be asked to prepare the Grant Agreement together with the EU Project Officer.

This Grant Agreement will set the framework for your grant and its terms and conditions, in particular concerning deliverables, reporting and payments.

The Model Grant Agreement that will be used (and all other relevant templates and guidance documents) can be found on [Portal Reference Documents](#).

### Starting date and project duration

The project starting date and duration will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 1*). Normally the starting date will be after grant signature. A retroactive starting date can be granted exceptionally for duly justified reasons — but never earlier than the proposal submission date.

Project duration:

- For topic **DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-EDGE**: between 30 and 36 months
- For topic **DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-GREENDEAL**: between 24 and 36 months
- For topics **DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-ENERSPACE**: 36 months
- For topics **DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-MOBSPACE**: 48 months
- For topic **DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-HEALTHACCESS**: between 36 and 48 months

- For topic **DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-HEALTHRECORD**: between 36 and 48 months

Extensions are possible, if duly justified and through an amendment.

### Milestones and deliverables

The milestones and deliverables for each project will be managed through the Portal Grant Management System and will be reflected in Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement.

The following deliverables will be mandatory for all projects:

- additional deliverable on dissemination and exploitation, to be submitted in the first six months of the project

### Form of grant, funding rate and maximum grant amount

The grant parameters (*maximum grant amount, funding rate, total eligible costs, etc*) will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 3 and art 5*).

Project budget (maximum grant amount):

- for topic **DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-EDGE**: EUR 30 000 000 per project (we expect one project to be funded)
- for topic **DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-GREENDEAL**: EUR 8 000 000 per project (we expect one project to be funded)
- for topic **DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-ENERSPACE** EUR 8 000 000 per project (we expect one project to be funded)
- for topic **DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-MOBSPACE**: EUR 15 000 000 per project (we expect one project to be funded)
- for topic **DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-HEALTHACCESS**: EUR 10 000 000 per project (we expect one project to be funded)
- for topic **DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-HEALTHRECORD**: EUR 4 000 000 per project (we expect one project to be funded)

The grant awarded may be lower than the amount requested.

The grant will be a budget-based mixed actual cost grant (actual costs, with unit cost and flat-rate elements). This means that it will reimburse ONLY certain types of costs (eligible costs) and costs that were *actually* incurred for your project (NOT the *budgeted* costs). For unit costs and flat-rates, you can charge the amounts calculated as explained in the Grant Agreement (*see art 6 and Annex 2 and 2a*).

The costs will be reimbursed at the funding rate fixed in the Grant Agreement. This rate depends on the type of action which applies to the topic (*see section 2*).

Grants may NOT produce a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + EU grant over costs). For-profit organisations must declare their revenues and, if there is a profit, we will deduct it from the final grant amount (*see art 22.3*).

Moreover, please be aware that the final grant amount may be reduced in case of non-compliance with the Grant Agreement (*e.g. improper implementation, breach of obligations, etc*).

*Budget categories and cost eligibility rules*

The budget categories and cost eligibility rules are fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 3 and art 6*).

*Budget categories for this call:*

- A. Personnel costs
  - A.1 Employees, A.2 Natural persons under direct contract, A.3 Seconded persons
  - A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries
- B. Subcontracting costs
- C. Purchase costs
  - C.1 Travel and subsistence
  - C.2 Equipment
  - C.3 Other goods, works and services
- D. Other cost categories
  - D.1 Financial support to third parties (for topics **DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-MOBSPACE** )
  - D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services
- E. Indirect costs

*Specific cost eligibility conditions for this call:*

- personnel costs:
  - average personnel costs (unit cost according to usual cost accounting practices)<sup>39</sup>: Yes
  - SME owner/natural person unit cost<sup>40</sup>: Yes
- travel and subsistence unit costs<sup>41</sup>: No (only actual costs)
- equipment costs:
  - depreciation only for topics DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-HEALTHACCESS and DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-HEALTHRECORD
  - depreciation + full cost for listed equipment for topics DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-EDGE ; DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-GREENDEAL ; DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-ENERSPACE; DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-MOBSPACE
- other cost categories:
  - costs for financial support to third parties: allowed for grants or similar:
    - for topics **DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-MOBSPACE**:

<sup>39</sup> [Decision](#) of 29 June 2021 authorising the use of unit costs based on usual cost accounting practices for actions under the Digital Europe Programme.

<sup>40</sup> Commission [Decision](#) of 20 October 2020 authorising the use of unit costs for the personnel costs of the owners of small and medium-sized enterprises and beneficiaries that are natural persons not receiving a salary for the work carried out by themselves under an action or work programme (C(2020)7115).

<sup>41</sup> Commission [Decision](#) of 12 January 2021 authorising the use of unit costs for travel, accommodation and subsistence costs under an action or work programme under the 2021-2027 multi-annual financial framework (C(2021)35).



- maximum amount per third party EUR 1 000 000; amounts of more than 60 000 EUR per third party are necessary because the nature of the actions under this call is such that their objectives would otherwise be impossible or overly difficult to achieve
  - minimum 65% of the EU grant should be devoted to financial support to third parties
  - The recipients of financial support to third parties have to co-finance the activity by minimum 50% of the total costs.
- 
- internally invoiced goods and services (unit cost according to usual cost accounting practices)<sup>42</sup>: Yes
  - indirect cost flat-rate: 7% of the eligible direct costs (categories A-D, except volunteers costs and exempted specific cost categories, if any).
  - VAT: non-deductible VAT is eligible (but please note that since 2013 VAT paid by beneficiaries that are public bodies acting as public authority is NOT eligible)
  - other:
    - in-kind contributions for free are allowed, but cost-neutral, i.e. they cannot be declared as cost
    - kick-off meeting: costs for kick-off meeting organised by the granting authority are eligible (travel costs for maximum 2 persons, return ticket to Brussels and accommodation for one night) only if the meeting takes place after the project starting date set out in the Grant Agreement; the starting date can be changed through an amendment, if needed
    - project websites: communication costs for presenting the project on the participants' websites or social media accounts are eligible; costs for *separate* project websites are not eligible
    - restrictions due to security:
      - country restrictions for subcontracting costs: Yes, subcontracted work must be performed in the eligible countries (for all topics)
      - eligible cost country restrictions: Yes, only costs for activities carried out in eligible countries are eligible (for all topics)
    - other ineligible costs: No.

### Reporting and payment arrangements

The reporting and payment arrangements are fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 4 and art 21 and 22*).

After grant signature, you will normally receive a **prefinancing** to start working on the project (float of normally **80%** of the maximum grant amount; exceptionally less or no prefinancing). The prefinancing will be paid 30 days from entry into force/10 days before starting date/financial guarantee (if required) – whichever is the latest.

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<sup>42</sup> [Decision](#) of 29 June 2021 authorising the use of unit costs based on usual cost accounting practices for actions under the Digital Europe Programme.

There will be one or more **interim payments** (with cost reporting through the use of resources report). For topic **DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-MOBSPACE** there could be more than one prefinancing payments.

**Payment of the balance:** At the end of the project, we will calculate your final grant amount. If the total of earlier payments is higher than the final grant amount, we will ask you (your coordinator) to pay back the difference (recovery).

All payments will be made to the coordinator.



Please be aware that payments will be automatically lowered if one of your consortium members has outstanding debts towards the EU (granting authority or other EU bodies). Such debts will be offset by us — in line with the conditions set out in the Grant Agreement (see *art 22*).

Please also note that you are responsible for keeping records on all the work done and the costs declared.

### Prefinancing guarantees

If a prefinancing guarantee is required, it will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 4*). The amount will be set during grant preparation and it will normally be equal or lower than the prefinancing for your grant.

The guarantee should be in euro and issued by an approved bank/financial institution established in an EU Member State. If you are established in a non-EU country and would like to provide a guarantee from a bank/financial institution in your country, please contact us (this may be exceptionally accepted, if it offers equivalent security).

Amounts blocked in bank accounts will NOT be accepted as financial guarantees.

Prefinancing guarantees are normally requested from the coordinator, for the consortium. They must be provided during grant preparation, in time to make the prefinancing (scanned copy via Portal AND original by post).

If agreed with us, the bank guarantee may be replaced by a guarantee from a third party.

The guarantee will be released at the end of the grant, in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Grant Agreement (*art 23*).

### Certificates

Depending on the type of action, size of grant amount and type of beneficiaries, you may be requested to submit different certificates. The types, schedules and thresholds for each certificate are fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 4 and art 24*).

### Liability regime for recoveries

The liability regime for recoveries will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet point 4.4 and art 22*).

For beneficiaries, it is one of the following:

- limited joint and several liability with individual ceilings — *each beneficiary up to their maximum grant amount*
- unconditional joint and several liability — *each beneficiary up to the maximum grant amount for the action*

or

- individual financial responsibility — *each beneficiary only for their own debts.*

In addition, the granting authority may require joint and several liability of affiliated entities (with their beneficiary).

*Provisions concerning the project implementation*

Security rules: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 13 and Annex 5)*

Ethics rules: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 14 and Annex 5)*

IPR rules: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 16 and Annex 5):*

- background and list of background: Yes
- protection of results: Yes
- exploitation of results: Yes
- rights of use on results: Yes
- access to results for policy purposes: Yes
- access to results in case of a public emergency: Yes
- access rights to ensure continuity and interoperability obligations: No
- special IPR obligations linked to restrictions due to security:
  - exploitation in eligible countries: Yes (for all topics)
  - first exploitation obligation in eligible countries: Yes (for topics **DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-ENERSPACE, DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-HEALTHACCESS** and **DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-HEALTHRECORD**)
  - limitations to transfers and licensing: Yes (for all topics)

Communication, dissemination and visibility of funding: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 17 and Annex 5):*

- communication and dissemination plan: Yes
- dissemination of results: Yes
- additional dissemination obligations: No:
- additional communication activities: Yes
- special logo: No

Specific rules for carrying out the action: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 18 and Annex 5):*

- specific rules for PAC Grants for Procurement: No
- specific rules for Grants for Financial Support: Yes for topic **DIGITAL-2024-CLOUD-AI-06-MOBSPACE**
- specific rules for blending operations: No
- special obligations linked to restrictions due to security:

- implementation in case of restrictions due to security or EU strategic autonomy: Yes for all topics

### Other specificities

n/a

### Non-compliance and breach of contract

The Grant Agreement (chapter 5) provides for the measures we may take in case of breach of contract (and other non-compliance issues).

 For more information, see [AGA – Annotated Grant Agreement](#).

## **11. How to submit an application**

All proposals must be submitted directly online via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System. Paper applications are NOT accepted.

Submission is a **2-step process**:

### a) **create a user account and register your organisation**

To use the Submission System (the only way to apply), all participants need to [create an EU Login user account](#).

Once you have an EU Login account, you can [register your organisation](#) in the Participant Register. When your registration is finalised, you will receive a 9-digit participant identification code (PIC).

### b) **submit the proposal**

Access the Electronic Submission System via the Topic page in the [Search Funding & Tenders](#) section (or, for calls sent by invitation to submit a proposal, through the link provided in the invitation letter).

Submit your proposal in 3 parts, as follows:

- Part A includes administrative information about the applicant organisations (future coordinator, beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners) and the summarised budget for the proposal. Fill it in directly online
- Part B (description of the action) covers the technical content of the proposal. Download the mandatory word template from the Submission System, fill it in and upload it as a PDF file
- Annexes (*see section 5*). Upload them as PDF file (single or multiple depending on the slots). Excel upload is sometimes possible, depending on the file type.

The proposal must keep to the **page limits** (*see section 5*); excess pages will be disregarded.

Documents must be uploaded to the **right category** in the Submission System otherwise the proposal might be considered incomplete and thus inadmissible.

The proposal must be submitted **before the call deadline** (*see section 4*). After this deadline, the system is closed and proposals can no longer be submitted.

Once the proposal is submitted, you will receive a **confirmation e-mail** (with date and time of your application). If you do not receive this confirmation e-mail, it means

your proposal has NOT been submitted. If you believe this is due to a fault in the Submission System, you should immediately file a complaint via the [IT Helpdesk webform](#), explaining the circumstances and attaching a copy of the proposal (and, if possible, screenshots to show what happened).

Details on processes and procedures are described in the [Online Manual](#). The Online Manual also contains the links to FAQs and detailed instructions regarding the Portal Electronic Exchange System.

## 12. Help

As far as possible, ***please try to find the answers you need yourself***, in this and the other documentation (we have limited resources for handling direct enquiries):

- [Online Manual](#)
- FAQs on the Topic page (for call-specific questions in open calls; not applicable for actions by invitation)
- [Portal FAQ](#) (for general questions).

Please also consult the Topic page regularly, since we will use it to publish call updates. (For invitations, we will contact you directly in case of a call update).

### Contact

For individual questions on the Portal Submission System, please contact the [IT Helpdesk](#).

Non-IT related questions should be sent to "[Write to us](#)"

Please indicate clearly the reference of the call and topic to which your question relates (see cover page).

## 13. Important



### IMPORTANT

- **Don't wait until the end** — Complete your application sufficiently in advance of the deadline to avoid any last minute **technical problems**. Problems due to last minute submissions (*e.g. congestion, etc*) will be entirely at your risk. Call deadlines can NOT be extended.
- **Consult** the Portal Topic page regularly. We will use it to publish updates and additional information on the call (call and topic updates).
- **Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Exchange System** — By submitting the application, all participants **accept** to use the electronic exchange system in accordance with the [Portal Terms & Conditions](#).
- **Registration** — Before submitting the application, all beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners must be registered in the [Participant Register](#). The participant identification code (PIC) (one per participant) is mandatory for the Application Form.
- **Consortium roles**— When setting up your consortium, you should think of organisations that help you reach objectives and solve problems.

The roles should be attributed according to the level of participation in the project. Main participants should participate as **beneficiaries** or **affiliated entities**; other entities can participate as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions. **Associated partners** and third parties giving in-kind contributions should bear their own costs (they will not become formal recipients of EU funding). **Subcontracting** should normally constitute a limited part and must be performed by third parties (not by one of the beneficiaries/affiliated entities). Subcontracting going beyond 30% of the total eligible costs must be justified in the application.

- consortium (group of beneficiaries). They will have to choose a coordinator, who will take care of the project management and coordination and will represent the consortium towards the granting authority. In mono-beneficiary grants, the single beneficiary will automatically be coordinator.
- **Affiliated entities** — Applicants may participate with affiliated entities (i.e. entities linked to a beneficiary which participate in the action with similar rights and obligations as the beneficiaries, but do not sign the grant and therefore do not become beneficiaries themselves). They will get a part of the grant money and must therefore comply with all the call conditions and be validated (just like beneficiaries); but they do not count towards the minimum eligibility criteria for consortium composition (if any).
- **Associated partners** — Applicants may participate with associated partners (i.e. partner organisations which participate in the action but without the right to get grant money). They participate without funding and therefore do not need to be validated.
- **Consortium agreement** — For practical and legal reasons it is recommended to set up internal arrangements that allow you to deal with exceptional or unforeseen circumstances (in all cases, even if not mandatory under the Grant Agreement). The consortium agreement also gives you the possibility to redistribute the grant money according to your own consortium-internal principles and parameters (for instance, one beneficiary can reattribute its grant money to another beneficiary). The consortium agreement thus allows you to customise the EU grant to the needs inside your consortium and can also help to protect you in case of disputes.

- **Balanced project budget** — Grant applications must ensure a balanced project budget and sufficient other resources to implement the project successfully (*e.g. own contributions, income generated by the action, financial contributions from third parties, etc*). You may be requested to lower your estimated costs, if they are ineligible (including excessive).
- **Completed/ongoing projects** — Proposals for projects that have already been completed will be rejected; proposals for projects that have already started will be assessed on a case-by-case basis (in this case, no costs can be reimbursed for activities that took place before the project starting date/proposal submission).
- **No-profit rule** — Grants may NOT give a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + EU grant over costs). This will be checked by us at the end of the project.
- **No cumulation of funding/no double funding** — It is strictly prohibited to cumulate funding from the EU budget (except under 'EU Synergies actions'). Outside such Synergies actions, any given action may receive only ONE grant from the EU budget and cost items may under NO circumstances be declared under two EU grants. If you would like to nonetheless benefit from different EU funding opportunities, projects must be designed as different actions, clearly delineated and separated for each grant (without overlaps).
- **Combination with EU operating grants** — Combination with EU operating grants is possible, if the project remains outside the operating grant work programme and you make sure that cost items are clearly separated in your accounting and NOT declared twice (see [AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement, art 6.2.E](#)).
- **Multiple proposals** — Applicants may submit more than one proposal for *different* projects under the same call (and be awarded funding for them).

Organisations may participate in several proposals.

BUT: if there are several proposals for *very similar* projects, only one application will be accepted and evaluated; the applicants will be asked to withdraw the others (or they will be rejected).

- **Resubmission** — Proposals may be changed and re-submitted until the deadline for submission.
- **Rejection** — By submitting the application, all applicants accept the call conditions set out in this this Call Document (and the documents it refers to). Proposals that do not comply with all the call conditions will be **rejected**. This applies also to applicants: All applicants need to fulfil the criteria; if any one of them doesn't, they must be replaced or the entire proposal will be rejected.
- **Cancellation** — There may be circumstances which may require the cancellation of the call. In this case, you will be informed via a call or topic update. Please note that cancellations are without entitlement to compensation.
- **Language** — You can submit your proposal in any official EU language (project abstract/summary should however always be in English). For reasons of efficiency, we strongly advise you to use English for the entire application. If you need the call documentation in another official EU language, please submit a request within 10 days after call publication (for the contact information, see *section 12*).

- **Transparency** — In accordance with Article 38 of the [EU Financial Regulation](#), information about EU grants awarded is published each year on the [Europa website](#).

This includes:

- beneficiary names
- beneficiary addresses
- the purpose for which the grant was awarded
- the maximum amount awarded.

The publication can exceptionally be waived (on reasoned and duly substantiated request), if there is a risk that the disclosure could jeopardise your rights and freedoms under the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights or harm your commercial interests.

- **Data protection** — The submission of a proposal under this call involves the collection, use and processing of personal data. This data will be processed in accordance with the applicable legal framework. It will be processed solely for the purpose of evaluating your proposal, subsequent management of your grant and, if needed, programme monitoring, evaluation and communication. Details are explained in the [Funding & Tenders Portal Privacy Statement](#).



## Annex 1

### Digital Europe types of action

The Digital Europe Programme uses the following actions to implement grants:

#### Simple Grants

**Description:** Simple Grants (SIMPLE) are a flexible type of action used by a large variety of topics and can cover most activities. The consortium will mostly use personnel costs to implement action tasks, activities with third parties (subcontracting, financial support, purchase) are possible but should be limited.

**Funding rate:** 50%

**Payment model:** Prefinancing – (x) interim payment(s) – final payment

#### SME Support Actions

**Description:** SME Support Actions (SME) are a type of action primarily consisting of activities directly aiming to support SMEs involved in building up and the deployment of the digital capacities. This type of action can also be used if SMEs need to be in the consortium and make investments to access the digital capacities.

**Funding rate:** 50% except for SMEs where a rate of 75% applies

**Payment model:** Prefinancing – (x) interim payment(s) – final payment

#### Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs)

**Description:** Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs) are a small type of action (a typical amount of 1-2 Mio) with the primary goal to support EU policies. Activities can include coordination between different actors for accompanying measures such as standardisation, dissemination, awareness-raising and communication, networking, coordination or support services, policy dialogues and mutual learning exercises and studies, including design studies for new infrastructure and may also include complementary activities of strategic planning, networking and coordination between programmes in different countries.

**Funding rate:** 100%

**Payment model:** Prefinancing – (x) interim payment(s) – final payment

#### Grants for Procurement

**Description:** Grants for Procurement (GP) are a special type of action where the main goal of the action (and thus the majority of the costs) consist of buying goods or services and/or subcontracting tasks. Contrary to the PAC Grants for Procurement (*see below*) there are no specific procurement rules (i.e. usual rules for purchase apply), nor is there a limit to 'contracting authorities/entities'. Personnel costs should be limited in this type of action; they are in general used to manage the grant, coordination between the beneficiaries, preparation of the procurements.

**Funding rate:** 50%

**Payment model:** Prefinancing - second prefinancing (to provide the necessary cash-flow to finance the procurements) – payment of the balance

#### PAC Grants for Procurement

**Description:** PAC Grants for Procurement (PACGP) are a specific type of action for procurement in grant agreements by 'contracting authorities/entities' as defined in the EU Public Procurement Directives (Directives 2014/24/EU , 2014/25/EU and 2009/81/EC) aiming at innovative digital goods and services (i.e. novel technologies on the way to commercialisation but not yet broadly available).

**Funding rate:** 50%

**Payment model:** Prefinancing - second prefinancing (to provide the necessary cash-flow to finance the procurements) – payment of the balance

### **Grants for Financial Support**

**Description:** Grants for Financial Support (GfS) have a particular focus on cascading grants. The majority of the grant will be distributed via financial support to third parties with special provisions in the grant agreement, maximum amounts to third parties, multiple pre-financing and reporting obligations.

Annex 5 of the model grant agreements foresees specific rules for this type of action regarding conflict of interest, the principles of transparency, non-discrimination and sound financial management as well as the selection procedure and criteria.

In order to assure the co-financing obligation in the programme, the support to third parties should only cover 50% of third party costs.

**Funding rate:** 100% for the consortium, co-financing of 50% by the supported third party

**Payment model:** Prefinancing - second prefinancing (to provide the necessary cash-flow to finance sub-grants) – payment of the balance

### **Lump Sum Grants**

**Description:** Lump Sum Grants (LS) reimburse a general lump sum for the entire project and the consortium as a whole. The lump sum is fixed ex-ante (at the latest at grant signature). on the basis of a methodology defined by the granting authority (either on the basis of a detailed project budget or other pre-defined parameters). The lump sum will cover all the beneficiaries' direct and indirect costs for the project. The beneficiaries do not need to report actual costs, they just need to claim the lump sum once the work is done. If the action is not properly implemented only part of the lump sum will be paid.

**Funding rate:** 100%/50%/50% and 75% (for SMEs)

**Payment model:** Prefinancing – (x) interim payment(s)– final payment

### **Framework Partnerships (FPAs) and Specific Grants (SGAs)**

#### **FPAs**

**Description:** FPAs establish a long-term cooperation mechanism between the granting authority and the beneficiaries of grants. The FPA specifies the common objectives (action plan) and the procedure for awarding specific grants. The specific grants are awarded via identified beneficiary actions (with or without competition).

**Funding rate:** no funding for FPA

#### **SGAs**

**Description:** The SGAs are linked to an FPA and implement the action plan (or part of it). They are awarded via an invitation to submit a proposal (identified beneficiary action). The consortium composition should in principle match (meaning that only entities that are part of the FPA can participate in an SGA), but otherwise the implementation is rather flexible. FPAs and SGAs can have different coordinators ; other partners of the FPA are free to participate in an SGA or not. There is no limit to the amount of SGAs signed under one FPA.

**Funding rate:** 50%

**Payment model:** Prefinancing – (x) interim payment(s) – final payment

## Annex 2

### Eligibility restrictions under Articles 12(5) and (6) and 18(4) of the Digital Europe Regulation

#### Security restrictions Article 12(5) and (6)

If indicated in the Digital Europe Work Programme, and if justified for security reasons, topics can exclude the participation of legal entities *established* in a third country or DEP associated country, or established in the EU territory but *controlled* by a third country or third country legal entities (including DEP associated countries)<sup>43</sup>.

This restriction is applicable for SO1 (High Performance Computing), SO2 (Artificial Intelligence) and SO3 (Cybersecurity), but at different levels.

- In the case of SO3, the provision is implemented in the strictest way. When activated, only entities established in the EU AND controlled from the EU will be able to participate; entities from associated countries (which are normally eligible) can NOT participate — unless otherwise provided in the Work Programme.
- In SO1 and SO2, entities established in associated countries and entities controlled from non-EU countries may participate, if they comply with the conditions set out in the Work Programme (usually:
  - for the associated countries: be formally associated to Digital Europe Programme and receive a positive assessment by the Commission on the replies to their associated country security questionnaire. Currently none of the associated countries have passed the assessment yet
  - for the participants: submission of a guarantee demonstrating that they have taken measures to ensure that their participation does not contravene security or EU strategic autonomy interests).



EEA countries (and participants from EEA countries) are exempted from these restrictions (and additional requirements) because EEA countries benefit from a status equivalent to the Member States.

In order to determine the ownership and control status, participants<sup>44</sup> will be required to fill in and submit an [ownership control declaration](#)\* as part of the proposal (and later on be requested to submit supporting documents) (see [Guidance on participation in DEP, HE, EDF and CEF-DIG restricted calls](#)).

In addition, where a guarantee is required, the participants will also have to fill in the [guarantee template](#)\*, approved by the competent authorities of their country of establishment, and submit it to the granting authority which will assess its validity.

The activation of these restrictions will also make a number of specific provisions in the Grant Agreement applicable, such as country restrictions for eligible costs, country restrictions for subcontracting, and special rules for implementation, exploitation of results and transfers and exclusive licensing of results.

Thus:

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<sup>43</sup> See Article 12(5) and (6) of the Digital Europe Regulation [2021/694](#).

<sup>44</sup> Beneficiaries and affiliated entities, associated partners and subcontractors — except for entities that are validated as public bodies by the Central Validation Service.

- participation in any capacity (as beneficiary, affiliated entity, associated partner, subcontractor or recipient of financial support to third parties) is also limited to entities established in and controlled from eligible countries
- project activities (included subcontracted work) must take place in eligible countries
- the Grant Agreement provides for specific IPR restrictions.

### **Strategic autonomy restrictions Article 18(4)**

If indicated in the Digital Europe Work Programme, calls can limit the participation to entities *established* in the EU, and/or entities established in third countries associated to the programme for EU strategic autonomy reasons<sup>45</sup>.

The activation of these restrictions will make a number of specific provisions in the Grant Agreement applicable, such as country restrictions for eligible costs, country restrictions for subcontracting, and special rules for implementation, exploitation of results and transfers and exclusive licensing of results.

 For more information, see [Guidance on participation in DEP, HE, EDF and CEF-DIG restricted calls](#).

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<sup>45</sup> See Article 18(4) of the Digital Europe Regulation [2021/694](#).