



Justice Programme (JUST)

Call for proposals

Call for proposals for action grants to support transnational projects in the fields of e-Justice, victims' rights and procedural rights (JUST-2025-JACC-EJUSTICE)

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers

JUST.H.3 - Budget, Programmes and Financial Management

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

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0. Introduction

This is a call for proposals for EU action grants in the field of e-Justice, victims' rights and procedural rights under the Justice Programme (JUST).

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

- Regulation 2024/2509 (EU Financial Regulation)¹, and
- the basic act (Justice Programme Regulation 2021/693²).

The call is launched in accordance with the 2023-2025 <u>Work Programme</u>³ and will be managed by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers (DG JUST).

The call covers the following topic:

 JUST-2025-JACC-EJUSTICE — Call for proposals for action grants to support transnational projects in the fields of e-Justice, victims' rights and procedural rights

We invite you to read the call documentation carefully, and in particular this Call document, the <u>Model Grant Agreement</u>, the <u>EU Funding & Tenders Portal Online Manual</u> and the <u>EU Grants AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement</u>.

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

- the <u>Call document</u> outlines the:
 - background, objectives, scope, activities that can be funded and the expected results (sections 1 and 2)
 - timetable and available budget (sections 3 and 4)

Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast) ('EU Financial Regulation') (OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024).

² Regulation (EU) 2021/693 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing the Justice Programme (OJ L 156, 5.5.2021, p. 21).

³ Commission Implementing Decision C(2024) 4921 final of 18.07.2024 on the adoption of the Justice work programme for 2023-2025.

- 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 <u>Online Manual</u> outlines the:
 - procedures to register and submit proposals online via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal ('Portal')
 - recommendations for the preparation of the application
- the <u>AGA Annotated Grant Agreement</u> 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.).

You are also encouraged to visit the <u>Justice and Consumers</u> page on Europa and the <u>Justice Programme Project Results</u> website to consult the list of projects funded previously.

1. Background

Digitalisation has the potential to improve the efficiency of justice, for example by replacing paper-based with digital communication and by allowing scarce human resources to focus on the essential functions of justice. Digitalisation can also tangibly contribute to increasing the resilience of justice systems in time of crisis. Similarly, progress on European e-Justice can support an effective European area of justice with regard to strengthening judicial cooperation and facilitating access to justice for individuals, legal practitioners and businesses.

Policy documents such as the <u>Commission's Digital Decade</u>⁴ or the <u>Council e-Justice Strategy 2024-2028</u>⁵ provide a general framework for the digitalisation of justice over the next years. A major step in the area of digitalisation of justice is <u>Regulation 2023/2844</u>⁶, which stipulates the digitalisation of cross-border judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters. The Regulation sets out an ambitious planning for the adoption of 24 implementing acts on the decentralised IT system for cross-border judicial communication and the European electronic access point on the e-Justice Portal.

However, progress in the digitalisation of justice also bears challenges in terms of ensuring that all affected persons, in particular suspects or accused persons and victims of crime, can effectively exercise their rights on an equal basis.

In the area of procedural safeguards for suspects and accused persons, there is therefore a need to continue improving the implementation and application in practice of the six EU procedural rights Directives, namely <u>Directive 2010/64/EU</u> on the right to

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https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/europe-fit-digital-age/europes-digital-decade-digital-targets-2030_en

⁵ https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-15509-2023-INIT/en/pdf

⁶ https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/2844/oj/eng

interpretation and translation, <u>Directive 2012/13/EU</u> on the right to information, Directive 2013/48/EU on the right of access to a lawyer, Directive (EU) 2016/343 on strengthening certain aspects of the principle on presumption of innocence as well as the right to be present at the trial, Directive (EU) 2016/800 on procedural safeguards for children, Directive (EU) 2016/1919 on legal aid, and to raise awareness about the legislation adopted in this area both for criminal proceedings conducted in person as well as for proceedings that are (partially) digitalised. As regards (partially) digitalised proceedings, particular attention needs to be paid to the effectiveness of existing procedural safeguards for suspects or accused persons who, on account of limited digital literacy or skills or other factors, are less capable of effectively participating in (partially) digitalised criminal proceedings. It is also necessary to explore possible further developments in the area of procedural rights. This includes, but is not limited to, issues such as access to effective judicial remedies, the protection of legal professional privilege, the collection and admissibility of evidence and, in particular, the ability of defence to effectively exercise its rights in these stages of the procedure in the cross-border context (including as linked to the use of AI tools in criminal proceedings), as well as procedural safeguards for vulnerable adults who are suspects or accused persons (as also addressed in the respective 2013 Commission Recommendation⁷).

In the area of victims' rights, there is a need to continue improving the application of the EU rules on victims' rights. Notably, the activities should follow the recommendations set up in the EU Strategy on victims' rights (2020 - 2025). Important objectives of the strategy include empowering victims of crime by ensuring a safe environment so that they can report crime, participate in criminal proceedings, claim compensation and ultimately recover from consequences of crime. Strengthening cooperation and coordination among all relevant stakeholders is also particularly important. It encourages civil society to get involved in providing support to victims in cooperation with the relevant national authorities. Actions considering the specific situation of victims of core international crimes, in particular in relation to provision of access to information, support and protection to those victims, shall also be duly considered. These actions shall be victim-sensitive and address the complexity of the victims' situation by applying an intersectional perspective on the victims' characteristics such as gender, age, ethnic origin, religious belief or disability status. In addition, particular attention should be paid to the challenges for victims of crime related to digitalisation of justice as well as to victims' access to legal remedies. The activities should also take into account the developments in the EU policy on victims' rights. Notably, they should take into consideration the proposal for a revision of the Victims' Rights Directive⁸, adopted by the Commission on 12 July 2023.

2. Objectives — Themes and priorities — Activities that can be funded — Expected impact

JUST-2025- JACC-EJUSTICE — Call for proposals for action grants to support transnational projects in the fields of e-**Justice, victims' rights and procedural** rights

Objectives (expected outcome)

Facilitate effective and non-discriminatory access to justice for all, and effective redress, including by electronic means (e-Justice), by promoting efficient civil, and criminal procedures, and by promoting and supporting the rights of all victims of crime

⁷ Available at https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32013H1224%2802%29

⁸ Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2012/29/EU establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2001/220/JHA, COM(2023) 424 final.

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as well as the procedural rights of suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings.

Themes and priorities (scope)

This call for proposals, under the Access to justice specific objective, covers two priorities:

Priority 1 - e-Justice

The key objective under the e-Justice priority is to support the implementation of Regulation 2023/2844.

<u>Primary priority</u> will be given to projects facilitating electronic cross-border interaction and communication between judicial authorities, as well as with citizens, businesses and practitioners in judicial proceedings:

- Preparatory and implementation activities with regard to the application of Regulation 2023/2844 on the digitalisation of cross border judicial cooperation. Activities should aim among others at facilitating the development and installation of national access points to the decentralised IT system to be set up under the Regulation and the implementation of provisions of the Regulation on videoconferencing and electronic payment of fees.
- Further actions on the use of videoconferencing in a cross-border setting, not falling under the scope of regulation 2023/28447, such as:
 - providing a concrete IT solution for the digital identification of the parties of the trial in accordance with the European Digital Identity Framework (Regulation (EU) 2024/1183);
 - o providing an IT solution or software that would help to solve the problem of interoperability arising from the use of different videoconferencing software by the Member States;
 - o providing solutions that would help to ensure equal access to videoconferencing in case of vulnerable persons, people with lack of digital knowledge or people with disabilities.

<u>Secondary priority</u> will be given to projects aiming at joining or enhancing existing or ongoing e-Justice projects:

- Implementation of the European Case Law Identifier (ECLI⁹) in case law repositories and interconnection with the e-Justice Portal;
- Participation in the European Court Database (in both civil and criminal matters) hosted on the e-Justice Portal.
- Participation in the Find a Lawyer (FAL) search tool hosted on the e-Justice Portal;
- Participation in the Find a Notary (FAN) search tool hosted on the e-Justice Portal.

Finally, as <u>tertiary priority</u>, other e-Justice projects related to the development of relevant EU policies that are in advanced stage of development or already live on the e-Justice Portal at the moment when the call is published could also be financed.

⁹ Relevant activities could also relate to the adoption of / migration to the new ECLI Extension Language ("ECLI-XL") standard: https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-9280-2019-REV-2/en/pdf.

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National projects will be funded insofar as they offer a clearly demonstrated EU added value, for instance allowing to participate in EU projects, providing best practices for other EU Member States or promoting interoperability. Notwithstanding, transnational (multi-country) projects will have priority over national ones.

Indicative budget: EUR 2 400 000

Priority 2 - Victims' rights and procedural rights

Projects to be funded under this priority should:

- contribute to the effective and coherent application of EU law in the area of the rights of victims of crime, notably in line with the priorities set up by the <u>EU Strategy on victims' rights (2020-2025)</u>.
- contribute to the effective and coherent application of EU criminal law in the area of the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime;

In both areas (procedural rights and victims' rights), the Commission will consider proposals concerning possible future EU initiatives regarding gaps in EU legislation and policy where a further need for EU action is identified that would tie in with the exisiting EU acquis/policy and its effective implementation. Projects ensuring maximum practical benefits and impact for the target groups will be assessed more favorably than theoretical projects consisting mainly of research and other analytical activities. Actions on access to information, support, protection to victims of core international crimes will also be considered. Successful projects shall ensure easy access to and wide dissemination of their results.

In the area of procedural rights, the main legislative measures concerned include in particular:

- <u>Directive (EU) 2016/800</u> on procedural safeguards for children who are suspects or accused persons in criminal proceedings;
- <u>Directive (EU) 2016/1919</u> on legal aid for suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings and for requested persons in European arrest warrant proceedings;
- <u>Directive 2010/64/EU</u> on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings;
- <u>Directive 2012/13/EU</u> on the right to information in criminal proceedings;
- <u>Directive 2013/48/EU</u> on the right of access to a lawyer in criminal proceedings and in European arrest warrant proceedings, and on the right to have a third party informed upon deprivation of liberty and to communicate with third persons and with consular authorities while deprived of liberty;
- <u>Directive (EU) 2016/343</u> on the strengthening of certain aspects of the presumption of innocence and of the right to be present at the trial in criminal proceedings.

Additional key soft law measures are

- Commission Recommendation of 27 November 2013 on procedural safeguards for vulnerable persons suspected or accused in criminal proceedings and
- <u>Commission Recommendation (EU) 2023/681</u> of 8 December 2022 on procedural rights of suspects and accused persons subject to pre-trial detention and on material detention conditions.

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In the area of victims' rights, the main legislative measures concerned include in particular:

- <u>Directive 2012/29/EU</u> establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime;
- Council Directive 2004/80/EC relating to compensation to crime victims;
- <u>Directive 2011/99/EU</u> on the European protection order;
- Regulation (EU) No 606/2013 on mutual recognition of protection measures in civil matters;
- <u>Directive (EU) 2017/541</u> on combating terrorism.

It should also be taken into account that on 12 July 2023 the Commission adopted a proposal for a revision of the Victims' Rights Directive.

Indicative budget: EUR 3 000 000

Activities that can be funded (scope)

Gender mainstreaming:

All proposals should assess the gender dimension of their project. In principle, all activities should, both at design and implementation stage, incorporate a gender equality perspective. Thus, applicants are expected to conduct and include in their proposal a gender analysis, which outlines how the target groups' genders relate to the needs the project seeks to address. Needs assessments are expected to outline a differentiated, gender-sensitive account of the target groups' needs.

The gender analysis should also map the potential different impact of the project on women and men as well as girls and boys in all their diversity.

To support applicants in conducting a gender analysis and integrating it in their proposals, this call for proposals encourages all applicants to consult DG JUST's <u>online recording</u> on gender mainstreaming projects.

The findings from the gender analysis should inform the project's risk management. Thereby, unintended negative effects of the intervention on either gender should be forestalled (do no-harm approach). Under this call particular attention should be paid to victim-sensitive and trauma-informed approaches that prevent harm. To this end, applicants are encouraged to consult the key questions listed on the EIGE website, when conducting their gender analysis.

All applicants are encouraged to make their project's contribution to gender equality visible by creating gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation indicators. All applications should also explain how their project promotes gender equality. The **project's** ambitions should be comensurate to its scale.

A gender-sensitive approach should be taken to the identification of best practices, data collection, including <u>sex-disaggregated statistics</u>, and information dissemination. All communication activities should forestall discrimination, (re)-victimisation and stereotyping of any social group. Mutual learning, analytical and training activities should incorporate a gender equality perspective.

NB: Applicants should include in their proposals an assessment of their project's gender dimension. If this assessment concludes by providing robust reasons that the project's gender dimension is limited due to the specific nature of the project, this will not negatively impact the proposal in the evaluation.

For priority 1 - e-Justice

Project activities under this call would in principle include analytical, conceptual, design and elaboration work, IT software development, quality assurance and related auxiliary measures necessary for the establishment of new IT systems, as well as the expansion and adaptation of existing national and transnational solutions towards addressing the objectives of the call.

The requirements of the <u>eIDAS Regulation</u>¹⁰, the use of the Digital Building Blocks developed under the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) programme¹¹, as well as the results from the e-CODEX project and ISA Core vocabularies, should be taken into account if and where relevant.

Supporting activities relating to project management, content preparation, editorial work, communication, promotion and dissemination are also eligible for funding.

For priority 2 - Victims' rights and procedural rights

The following activities can be covered:

- mutual learning, exchange of good practices, development of working and learning methods which may be transferable to other participating countries;
- exchange and provision of information and development of information and educational tools;
- capacity building for professionals, including training in victim-sensitive communication:
- facilitating cooperation between competent authorities (including where relevant national experts or agencies dealing with the aspects covered by this call) and/or legal practitioners and/or service providers (including multi-disciplinary networks at EU or international, national, regional or local levels) and/or civil society organisations / National Human Rights Institutions / Equality bodies, Ombuds Institutions and national authorities (at national and local level, where relevant, including experts with gender expertise);
- communication activities including dissemination of information about rights and activities raising awareness of the existing rules on rights at EU and national levels, relevant to the priorities of the call;
- training activities, as long as they are of ancillary nature and not the main purpose of the project;
- analytical activities, such as data collection and creation of data bases, surveys, research etc.

All proposals should demonstrate the added value of planned activities via-à-vis previous work in the respective subject area, in particular vis-à-vis activities conducted in the context of previous EU-funded projects.

¹⁰ Regulation (EU) 910/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council.

¹¹ https://ec.europa.eu/cefdigital/wiki/display/CEFDIGITAL/CEF+Digital+Home.

Expected impact

For priority 1 - e-justice

Expected results are:

- Strengthening the digitalisation of cross-border judicial procedures, in particular the use of videoconferencing, as mentioned also in the European e-Justice Strategy (2024-2028) of the Council of the European Union;
- Implementation of Regulation (EU) 2023/2844 by the national authorities of the Member States;
- Increased awareness in the judiciary of the need for digitalisation of justice and the use of projects digitalising justice and showcasing concrete use cases of digitial solutions
- Improved participation in the various e-justice interconnection projects with the aim of achieving full EU coverage.

For priority 2 - victims' rights and procedural rights

Expected results under the area of procedural rights are:

- Improved knowledge of the legislation and administrative practices related to specific provisions of the EU acquis regulating the rights of suspects and accused persons in criminal proceedings including their application in the context of developments in the digitalisation of justice;
- Increased capacity of national practitioners to address issues related to such rights;
- Strengthened cooperation and exchange of information between competent national authorities, NGOs and professional organisations in relation to the rights of persons suspected or accused of crime and emerging challenges in this field;
- Harmonisation of the administrative practices in relation to the relevant legislation in different Member States;
- Reduced risks of breaches of fair trial rights;
- Compatibility of the national legal framework and regulations linked to the rights
 of persons suspected or accused in criminal proceedings with the relevant EU
 acquis and related case law by the Court of Justice of the European Union;
- Identification of important remaining or newly emerging challenges and/or necessary developments in the field of procedural rights and safeguards for suspects and accused persons which would merit an enhancement of the EU acquis.

Expected results under the area of **victims' rights** are:

- Increased capacity of national practitioners to address issues related to the rights of victims of crime, including in the context of digitalisation of justice;
- Improved knowledge among national practitioners on issues related to the EU rules on compensation to victims of crime in light of the recent case law by the Court of Justice of the European Union;

- Improved cooperation among the competent national authorities, NGOs and/or professional organisations in the field of victims' rights, including for compensation in cross-border cases;
- Improved public awareness and knowledge about victims' rights at both EU and national level (including amongst the most vulnerable groups);
- Improved knowledge about specific provisions of the EU acquis regulating issues such as referring victims to the relevant support services, victims' access to information in the area of victims' rights, individual assessment of victims' needs, use of procedural means to protect victims during criminal trial, including use of remote hearings and video testimonies; improved knowledge about legal remedies available for victims in case of a violation of their rights as well as about challenges for victims related to digitalisation of justice.
- Compatibility of the national legal framework and administrative practice related to victims' rights with the relevant EU acquis;
- Improved support services to victims through:
 - increased number of victims' support organisations providing general and specialist support services to victims of crimes and their family members, and of targeted and integrated specialist support services for victims with specific needs such as victims of domestic violence, victims of other forms of gender-based violence, child victims, victims of hate crime and migrant victims of crime, victims of core international crimes in a targeted, gender-sensitive and integrated manner that regroups psychological and social aid with a cooperation with police and judicial authorities;
 - o improved access of victims to such support services;
 - o increased quality of the services (including gender-sensitive, victimcentred and trauma-informed approaches to services) provided by victims support organisations;
- Increased awareness of the problematic of relations between victims and offenders including actions aimed at improving victims' access to justice and decreased re-offending via tools such as restorative justice.

3. Available budget

The estimated available call budget is EUR 5 400 000.

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

imetable and deadlines (indicative)		
Call opening:	6 May 2025	
Deadline for submission:	2 October 2025 - 17:00:00 CET (Brussels)	
Evaluation:	October 2025 -January 2026	
Information on evaluation results:	February - March 2026	
GA signature:	April - May 2026	

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 <u>Calls for proposals</u> 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 (template to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed, assembled and re-uploaded)
- KPI tool contains additional project data regarding the project's contribution to EU programme key performance indicators (to be filled in directly online, all sections to be completed)
- mandatory annexes and supporting documents (templates available to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed, assembled and reuploaded):
 - detailed budget table (template available in the Portal Submission System - to be re-uploaded filled out in the format xlsx)
 - CVs (standard) of core project team (or, where the key personnel is not yet known, a job profile description)
 - activity report of last year of the coordinator (unless it is a public body)

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- list of previous projects (key projects for the last 4 years) (template available in Part B)
- for participants with activities involving children (below the age of 18): child protection policy (for private bodies: copy of their policy; for public bodies: <u>child protection policy declaration</u>). See section 6 on "Ethics and EU values" for more information.

Please note that an annual activity report is NOT a financial audit report or balance sheet, but a report highlighting the activities and projects of your organisation.

Please be aware that since the detailed budget table serves as the basis for fixing the lump sums for the grants (and since lump sums must be reliable proxies for the actual costs of a project), the costs you include MUST comply with the basic eligibility conditions for EU actual cost grants (see <u>AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement, art 6</u>). This is particularly important for purchases and subcontracting, which must comply with best value for money (or if appropriate the lowest price) and be free of any conflict of interests. If the budget table contains ineligible costs, the grant may be reduced (even later on during the project implementation or after their end).

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 all 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, please check carefully the layout of the documents uploaded.

Proposals are limited to maximum 45 pages (Part B). Evaluators will not consider any additional pages. Shorter proposals are welcome.

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

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), excluding Denmark)
 - non-EU countries:
 - countries associated to the Justice Programme or countries which are in ongoing negotiations for an association agreement and where the agreement enters into force before grant signature (<u>list of participating countries</u>).

Please check the list regularly, to get the latest status on countries in the process of association.

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Beneficiaries and affiliated entities must register in the <u>Participant Register</u> — 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.

Other entities may participate in other consortium roles, such as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions, etc (see section 13).

Specific cases and definitions

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 eligible both as coordinators and partners. The rules on eligible countries do not apply to them.

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 persons¹².

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 (like for instance networks) may participate as 'sole beneficiaries' or 'beneficiaries without legal personality'¹³. Please note that 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 (see list above) may participate in the call and can sign grants if the negotiations are concluded before grant signature (with retroactive effect, if provided in the agreement).

EU restrictive measures — Special rules apply for entities subject to <u>EU restrictive</u> <u>measures</u> under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)¹⁴. 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 <u>Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment</u>.

Consortium composition

For priority 1 - e-Justice

Proposals must be submitted by a consortium of at least two applicants (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities), which complies with the following conditions:

- minimum two independent entities from two different eligible countries.

For the definitions, see Articles 190(2) and 200(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509.

See Article 200(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509.

Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the <u>EU Sanctions Map</u>.

- The consortium must include at least one public body, private non-profit organisation or international organisation as beneficiary (not as affiliated entity).

Proposals by single applicants or by a consortium from one eligible country are exceptionally allowed, but only if the project application clearly demonstrated potential for EU added value.

For priority 2 - Victims' rights and procedural rights

Proposals must be submitted by a consortium of at least two applicants (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities), which complies with the following conditions:

- minimum two independent entities from two different eligible countries.
- the consortium must include at least one public body, private non-profit organisation or international organisation as beneficiary or affiliated entity.

Eligible activities

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 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 respect of EU values, environment, social, security, industrial and trade policy, etc). Projects must also respect EU values and European Commission policy regarding reputational matters (e.g. activities involving capacity building, policy support, awareness raising, communication, dissemination, etc)¹⁵.

Financial support to third parties is not allowed.

Geographic location (target countries)

Proposals must relate to activities taking place in the eligible countries (see above).

Duration

Projects should normally range between 12 and 24 months.

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

Project budget

For priority 1 (e-Justice): Project budgets (requested grant amount) cannot be lower than EUR 100 000. The maximum requested grant amount is EUR 800 000 per project.

For priority 2 (**victims' rights and procedural rights**): Project budgets (requested grant amount) cannot be lower than EUR 100 000. There is no upper limit.

For both priorities, the grant awarded may be lower than the amount requested.

See, for instance, <u>Guidance on funding for activities related to the development, implementation,</u> monitoring and enforcement of Union legislation and policy.

Ethics and EU values

Projects must comply with:

- highest ethical standards
- EU values based on Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union and Article
 21 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and
- other applicable EU, international and national law (including the General Data Protection Regulation <u>2016/679</u>).

Projects must seek to promote gender equality and non-discrimination mainstreaming in accordance with the <u>Gender Mainstreaming Toolkit</u>. Project activities should contribute to the equal empowerment of women and men in all their diversity, ensuring that they achieve their full potential and enjoy the same rights. They should also seek to reduce levels of discrimination suffered by particular groups (as well as those at risk of multiple discrimination) and to improve equality outcomes for individuals ¹⁶. Proposals should integrate gender and non-discrimination considerations in proposals and target a gender-balanced representation in project teams and activities. It is also important that individual data collected by the beneficiaries are broken down by sex (<u>sex-disaggregated data</u>), disability or age whenever possible.

Applicants must show in their application that they respect ethical principles and EU values based on Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union and Article 21 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.

Participants with activities involving children must moreover have a child protection policy covering the four areas described in the <u>Keeping Children Safe Child Safeguarding Standards</u>. This policy must be available online and transparent to everyone who comes in contact with the organisation. It must include clear information about the recruitment of staff (including trainees and volunteers) and include background checks (vetting). It must also include clear procedures and rules to staff, including reporting rules, and continuous training.

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 projects.

The financial capacity check will be carried out on the basis of the documents you will be requested to upload in the <u>Participant Register</u> 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 coordinators, except:

- natural persons
- public bodies (entities established as public body under national law, including local, regional or national authorities) or international organisations

¹⁶ Non-discrimination mainstreaming- instruments, case studies and way forwards

- if the project 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 <u>Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and</u> 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 'Quality' 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
- applicants' activity reports of last year (if applicable)
- list of previous projects (key projects for the last 4 years) (template available in part B).

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

Public bodies, Member State organisations and international organisations are exempted from the operational capacity check.

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 17:

- 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 misconduct¹⁸ (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-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 Regulation No 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).
- intentionally and without proper justification resisted¹⁹ an investigation, check or audit carried out by an EU authorising officer (or their representative or auditor), OLAF, the EPPO, or the European Court of Auditors.

Applicants will also be rejected if it turns out that²⁰:

 during the award procedure they misrepresented information required as a condition for participating or failed to supply that information

See Articles 138 and 143 of EU Financial Regulation <u>2024/2509</u>.

^{&#}x27;Professional misconduct' includes, in particular, the following: violation of ethical standards of the profession; wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility; breach of generally accepted professional ethical standards; false declarations/misrepresentation of information; participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition; violation of IPR; attempting to influence decision-making processes by taking advantage, through misrepresentation, of a conflict of interests, or to obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain an advantage; incitement to discrimination, hatred or violence or similar activities contrary to the EU values where negatively affecting or risking to affect the performance of a legal commitment.

^{19 &#}x27;Resisting an investigation, check or audit' means carrying out actions with the goal or effect of preventing, hindering or delaying the conduct of any of the activities needed to perform the investigation, check or audit, such as refusing to grant the necessary access to its premises or any other areas used for business purposes, concealing or refusing to disclose information or providing false information.

See Article 143 EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509.

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 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 (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 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 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) 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 'Quality'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on their scores for the criterion 'Impact'.

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. Full 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 <u>Funding & Tenders Portal Terms and Conditions</u>). 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: extent to which the proposal matches the priorities and objectives of the call; clearly defined needs and robust needs assessment; clearly defined target group, with gender perspective being appropriately taken into account; contribution to the EU strategic and legislative context; European/trans-national dimension; impact/interest for a number of countries (EU or eligible non-EU countries); possibility to use the results in other countries (potential for transfer

of good practices); potential to develop mutual trust/cross-border cooperation, building synergies and avoiding duplication with previous projects (40 points)

- 2. Quality: clarity and consistency of project; logical links between the identified problems, needs and solutions proposed (logical frame concept); methodology for implementing the project with gender perspective being appropriately taken into account (organisation of work, timetable, allocation of resources and distribution of tasks between partners, risks and risk management, monitoring and evaluation); ethical issues and measures/policies to guarantee compliance with EU values are addressed; feasibility of the project within the proposed time frame; financial feasibility (sufficient/appropriate budget for proper implementation; cost-effectiveness (best value for money) (40 points)
- 3. Impact: ambition and expected long-term impact of results on target groups/general public; appropriate dissemination strategy for ensuring sustainability and long-term impact; potential for a positive multiplier effect; sustainability of results after EU funding ends (20 points).

Award criteria	Minimum pass score	Maximum score
Relevance	25	40
Quality	n/a	40
Impact	n/a	20
Overall (pass) scores	70	100

Maximum points: 100 points.

Individual threshold for the criterion 'Relevance': 25/40 points.

Overall threshold: 70 points.

Proposals that pass the individual threshold for the criterion 'Relevance' 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). The starting date should be after grant signature (normally within 6 months). A retroactive starting date can be granted exceptionally for duly justified reasons but never earlier than the proposal submission date.

Project duration: see section 6 above.

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

Milestones and deliverables

Activities must be grouped into work packages which are major sub-divisions of the project (e.g.: Project Management and Coordination; Communication and Dissemination, etc.). The coordination and management costs of WP1 should not be higher than 10% of the total cost of the proposal.

For each work package, an objective and lists of tasks/activities, milestones and deliverables must be defined. The deliverables and milestones must be quantifiable and measurable. Their structure should be logical and guided by identifiable outputs with clear indicators.

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.

Beneficiaries will have to ask attendees in events to participate in the EU Survey on Justice, Rights and Values. This survey allows the granting authority to closely monitor training, mutual learning and awareness-raising events. The beneficiaries will receive a weblink to the survey, to be forwarded to the attendees. They will have access to the survey results for their project and can use it for their project evaluation. The granting authority will aggregate the results of all the projects financed under the Justice programme.

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 (requested grant amount): see section 6 above.

The grant awarded may be lower than the amount requested.

The grant will be a lump sum grant. This means that it will reimburse a fixed amount, based on a lump sum or financing not linked to costs. The amount will be fixed by the granting authority on the basis of the estimated project budget and a funding rate of 90%.

Budget categories and cost eligibility rules

The budget categories and cost eligibility rules are fixed in the Grant Agreement (Data Sheet, point 3, art 6 and Annex 2).

Budget categories for this call:

Lump sum contributions²¹

Specific cost eligibility rules for this call:

- the lump sum amount must be calculated in accordance with the methodology set out in the lump sum decision and using the detailed budget table provided
- the lump sum calculation should respect the following conditions:

Decision of 30/09/2022 authorising the use of lump sums for actions under the Justice Programme (2021-2027).

- for lump sums based on estimated project budgets: the estimated budget must comply with the basic eligibility conditions for EU actual cost grants (see <u>AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement, art 6</u>)
- for lump sums based on estimated project budgets: costs for financial support to third parties is not allowed
- communication costs for presenting the project on the participants' websites or social media accounts are eligible; costs for separate project websites are not eligible
- personnel costs:
 - o **volunteers' unit costs**²² are allowed (without indirect costs)

The details and the breakdown of the 'Other cost' items from headings A.1 and C.3 should be provided in the 'any comments' sheet of the detailed budget table.

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 pre-financing). The pre-financing will be paid 30 days from entry into force/financial guarantee (if required) — whichever is the latest.

There may also be additional prefinancing payments, especially in case of a weak financial capacity.

There will be no interim payments.

For projects with duration of 24 months or more, you will be expected to submit one progress report not linked to payments after 12 months.

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 you or 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.

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.

²² Commission <u>Decision</u> of 10 April 2019 authorising the use of unit costs for declaring personnel costs for the work carried out by volunteers under an action or a work programme (C(2019)2646).

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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 quarantee 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.

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 limited joint and several liability with individual ceilings — each beneficiary up to their maximum grant amount.

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

Provisions concerning the project implementation

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

rights of use on results: Yes

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

- additional communication and dissemination activities: Yes

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 <u>AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement</u>.

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 <u>create</u> an EU Login user account.

Once you have an EULogin account, you can <u>register your organisation</u> 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 <u>Calls for proposals</u> section (or, for calls sent by invitation to submit a proposal, through the link provided in the invitation letter).

Submit your proposal in 4 parts, as follows:

- Part A includes administrative information about the applicant organisations (future coordinator, beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners²³) 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
- KPI tool containing additional project data. To be filled in directly online, all sections to be completed.
- 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 may 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 <u>Online Manual</u>. 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):

See section 13 for more information on consortium roles and the roles of coordinator, affiliated entities and associated partners.

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- Online Manual
- Topic Q&A on the Topic page (for call-specific questions in open calls)
- Portal FAQ (for general questions).

Please also consult the Call and Topic pages regularly, since we will use them to publish call updates, including an invitation to the info session for applicants (if any) after the opening of the call. (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 $\frac{|T|}{Helpdesk}$.

Non-IT related questions should be sent to the following email address: <u>EC-JUSTICE-CALLS@ec.europa.eu</u>.

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

13. 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 Call and Topic pages regularly. We will use them 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 <u>Portal Terms & Conditions</u>.
- Registration Before submitting the application, all beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners must be registered in the <u>Participant Register</u>. 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.
- Coordinator In multi-beneficiary grants, the beneficiaries participate as 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). If affiliated entities participate in your project, please do not forget to provide documents demonstrating their affiliation link to your organisation as part of your application.
- 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; 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 <u>AGA Annotated Model Grant Agreement, art 6.2.E)</u>.
- Multiple proposals Applicants may submit more than one proposal for different projects under the same call (and be awarded a 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 one of them (or it 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.

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- 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 <u>EU Financial Regulation</u>, information about EU grants awarded is published each year on the <u>Europa website</u>.

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 Regulation 2018/1725. 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.