TOPIC : Policy and international cooperation measures for research infrastructures

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Types of action:	CSA Coordination and support action , RIA Research and Innovation action
DeadlineModel:	single-stage
Planned opening date:	05 December 2017
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Types of action:	CSA Coordination and support action , RIA Research and Innovation action
DeadlineModel:	single-stage
Planned opening date:	14 November 2018
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  Work Programme Part: European research infrastructures (including e-Infrastructures)
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Topic Description   - Less

 Specific Challenge:

High-quality, accessible research infrastructures are at the heart of the knowledge triangle of research, education and innovation. They enable tens of thousands of researchers in academia and industry to develop innovative ideas, products and services that foster European competitiveness and help tackle societal challenges facing our continent. However, ensuring the availability of state-of-the-art facilities requires multi-billion Euro long-term investments across the European Research Area. In the context of implementing the ERA Roadmap, the focus of this action is to set the conditions for effective investment and optimise the use of research infrastructures of European interest.

In line with the strategy for EU international cooperation in research and innovation (COM(2012)497), international cooperation for research infrastructures is needed with a number of key partners located in third countries/regions seen as strategic both for the development, exploitation and management of world-class research infrastructures and for ensuring the necessary complementarities on the international scene required to address research challenges with a global dimension by optimising the use of the available resources.

 Scope:

Proposals will address one of the following sub-topics:

(a) Research and Innovation actions for the 2018 deadline

The objective of this sub-topic is to support the development and installation of a dedicated beam-line in

with the SESAME Scientific Advisory Committee to define the scope of the beam-line more appropriate for the scientific community of reference. It should involve European partner laboratories having similar energy and technical specifications in the design and development of the beam-line components and the related instrumentation. The action will cover the installation of the beam-line and its initial commissioning. The action should also address how SESAME will secure the necessary human and financial resources for the operation of the beam-line.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of up to EUR 6 million would allow this activity to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

(b) Coordination and Support actions for 2018 deadline

(b1) ERIC network

The growing number of established and upcoming European Research Infrastructure Consortia[1] (ERICs) will have to address similar issues on different procedural and administrative levels such as for example employment of staff, procurement rules, evaluation procedures, access policy, financial accounting, economic activities etc. A more formal and structural collaboration and coordination between them would allow for a more effective approach and mutual benefit for addressing common hurdles. Actions selected under this sub-topic will:

- aim at strengthening coordination and networking reinforcing the informal ERIC network or its successor framework;
- support the organisation of specific meetings, targeted thematic workshops focussing on common challenges such as the development of internal procurement rules, harmonised reporting, VAT exemption practices, insurances and pensions policies and training of governance bodies representatives;
- support ERICs in preparation, on the basis of best practices;
- support common communication and outreach activities and strengthening external representation of ERICs' as a stakeholder in consultations and other policy actions that could affect them.

(b2) International visibility of European research infrastructures

The long-term sustainability consultation process highlighted that there is a need to establish international strategic partnerships with third-countries and also to improve the relationship between European research infrastructures and industry. The purpose of this sub-topic is to improve the international visibility of European research infrastructures and of their service. To attain these objectives, the selected action should:

- organise thematic workshops and brokerage events covering the various scientific disciplines. These events would bring together the relevant European and international players (research infrastructures / funding agencies / Ministries) and set the conditions for new collaboration opportunities to be explored. A brokerage based approach and organization of a science market place would be expected;
- develop concrete tools which Research Infrastructures could use to improve their communication/outreach strategy;

Proposals should build on the European research infrastructures landscaping analysis performed by ESFRI and published in the 2016 update of the ESFRI Roadmap, and establish links with the ongoing RISCAPEproject which is conducting an international landscaping exercise.

The activity will have to put in place measures to facilitate exchange of information at international level (e.g. web-portals).

(b3) Catalogue of research infrastructure services

This sub-topic addresses the development of an on-line dynamic catalogue of relevant research infrastructure services at national and European levels, starting from the ones offered under Horizon 2020 grants. Research infrastructures should be able to apply for registering their services and to update

users should be foreseen. The catalogue should be complementary and tightly linked to the EOSC catalogue, therefore its focus will be more on physical than digital services. Proposals should address and find solutions for the catalogue long term sustainability.

(b4) Support to ESFRI

Actions selected under this sub-topic will support partnerships between policy makers, funding bodies and the scientific community in the context of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) to foster the priority setting and implementation of pan-European research infrastructures. In particular, the foreseen actions will:

- support the development and publishing of the ESFRI Roadmap;
- support the implementation of ESFRI activities;
- support the ESFRI communication and outreach strategy;
- support effective review and monitoring of research infrastructures on the ESFRI Roadmap through appropriate analytical tools;
- foster cooperation, exchange of experiences and good practices between the research infrastructures, their managers and stakeholders, as well as the funding bodies and policy makers;
- foster the cooperation between ESFRI and e-IRG, as well as between research infrastructures and e-infrastructures, in the area of data management to strengthen the integration of research infrastructure user communities.

The proposal should demonstrate the added-value of the activities proposed, in comparison with the activities and responsibilities of national ESFRI delegations as well as previous EU grants, such as CoPoRi and STR-ESFRI.

(b5) Support to the e-Infrastructure Reflection Group (e-IRG)

Actions selected under this sub-topic will support the activities of the e-Infrastructure Reflection Group (e-IRG) aiming to foster the integration of pan-European e-Infrastructures within the European Research Area.

The following activities should be addressed:

- Contribute to the implementation of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) and the European Data Infrastructure (EDI):

- by fostering the cooperation between European research communities and e-Infrastructures;
- by facilitating interoperability leading to integration and consolidation of e-Infrastructures;
- by increasing the engagement of user communities in the EOSC and the EDI/EuroHPC;
- and by offering an independent view on the implementation of relevant EU policies by collecting and aggregating views from the relevant actors;

- Support cooperation with the ESFRI;

- Promote a change of culture of research communities towards open data, robust data management and data sharing practices;

- Organize outreach events to assist the Commission, Member States and Associated Countries in communication activities on role, mission and implementation of the EDI/EuroHPC and the EOSC.

Proposals should demonstrate the value added of the activities proposed in comparison with the activities of other advisory bodies and previous EU grants. To best enable the realisation of the above activities, the independence of the e-IRG group members is paramount. Therefore, proposals should also demonstrate independence and absence of conflict of interest in the membership of the e-IRG group receiving support.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of up to EUR 1.5 million

would allow these activities to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

(c) Research and Innovation actions for the 2019 deadline

The purpose of this sub-topic is to support the further structuring of the cooperation with the Russian Federation in the Research Infrastructure domain.

Proposals will have to demonstrate the involvement of relevant entities on both European and Russian side and will cover the following 3 dimensions:

i. Building on the strategic recommendations deriving from the CREMLIN project, support the strengthening of the complementarity between Russian Mega Science initiatives and their European counterparts. Proposals will specifically address:

- Joint development and acquisition of specific instrumentation to be used by the European and Russian Infrastructures. This activity will specifically target the NICA and PIK initiatives and their European counterparts.
- Joint conceptual and technical design of Russian Infrastructures of European interest. This activity will particularly target the SSRS-4 initiative and its European counterparts.
- Joint development of future technologies required for Research Infrastructures' instrumentation;

ii. Contribute to overcoming the barriers that prevent European scientists from accessing Russian Research Infrastructures of European interest. The project will support Russian Facilities in setting-up the appropriate access conditions and cover the travel and subsistence costs that European researchers would sustain in accessing the facilities. In this context, the project will have to also take into account the list of Research Infrastructures open to International collaboration produced by the Russian Federation and the European Charter for Access to research infrastructures.

iii. The proposal will develop a staff exchange programme and thematic courses and workshops (e.g. summer schools), aimed at fostering exchanges of best practices on management practices, access procedures and scientific collaboration between infrastructure Staff and Scientists belonging to both the Russian Federation and European Union.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of up to EUR 25 million would allow this activity to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

(d) Coordination and support actions for the 2019 deadline

Actions under this sub-topic, in line with the EU-CELAC SOM[2] strategic approach[3], will concretely build on the outputs of the newly established EU-CELAC Research Infrastructure Working Group, and will:

1. support the identification of priorities for regional and bi-regional cooperation based on the respective strategic road-mapping exercises;
2. foster the exchange of best practices between the EU and CELAC on issues of common strategic relevance such as regional road-mapping processes, research infrastructure management, RI staff development.
3. support the identification of a limited number of Research Infrastructures of bi-regional interest on which the project will have to conduct pilot cooperation demonstrators comprising:

- The organisation of dedicated workshops and meetings between the EU and CELAC involved communities (research infrastructures, ministries, funding agencies). This can also be supported by bi-regional staff exchange activities, dedicated thematic training programmes (e.g. summer schools);
- The development of specific roadmaps for cooperation for each of the pilot thematic dimensions and the initial implementation of identified actions, such as supporting reciprocal access to Research Infrastructures in the two regions by covering travel and subsistence costs;
- The regular reporting to the EU-CELAC RI WG on the progress, for which an advisory board should be set up.

Under this sub-topic, legal entities established in Brazil and Mexico are eligible for funding from the

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of up to EUR 1.5 million would allow this activity to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Expected Impact:

(a) Research and Innovation actions for 2018 deadline

- Consolidating research activity in SESAME, increasing the amount of research time available for the users' community.
- Strengthening SESAME's profile in the region, helping it to become more sustainable by enhancing its capacity for attracting the necessary resources for further deployment of extra beam-lines.
- Provide a tangible example of the European Commission's support of the SESAME initiative as a catalyser for international collaboration in the region.

(b) Coordination and Support actions for 2018 deadline

(b1) ERIC network

- strengthen the structured cooperation between ERICs;
- facilitate the preparation of ERICs to be established;
- strengthen the capacity of ERICs of developing where appropriate harmonised internal regulations and policies based on best practices;
- enhance the visibility of ERICs vis-à-vis stakeholders and policy makers.

(b2) International visibility of European research infrastructures

- Develop cooperation with key international partners for research infrastructures;
- Facilitate the exchange of experiences and good practices between the European research infrastructure and their international counterparts;
- Contribute to the long-term sustainability of European Research Infrastructures;

(b3) Catalogue of research infrastructure services

- Improve visibility of the research infrastructure services
- Support research infrastructure structuring their service orientation;
- Increase efficiency in research infrastructure service management;
- Facilitate the identification of potential gaps of services in Europe

(b4) Support to ESFRI

- strengthen the development of a consistent and dynamic European Research Area policy for research infrastructures;
- strengthen long-term sustainability of the European research infrastructure ecosystem and increase its effectiveness and coherence;
- strengthen a service-oriented culture in the research infrastructures towards user communities and industry partners;
- facilitate the pooling of resources between infrastructure operators at European level in order to face the grand challenges and to foster a culture of co-operation between them, spreading good practices and encouraging infrastructures to develop in complementary ways;
- increase ESFRI operational capacity by establishing durable and coherent support structures for the Forum.

(b5) Support to the e-Infrastructure Reflection Group (e-IRG)

Proposals should address the following impact criteria, providing metrics to measure success where appropriate:

- Increased interoperability of e-Infrastructures and wider engagement of user communities in the EOSC and EUROHPC;
- Rigorously established and evidence-based e-IRG proposals addressing the implementation of existing EU policies and/or the design of new EU policies and the improved ecosystem of European Research Infrastructures and e-infrastructures, encompassing the EOSC, EDI and EuroHPC;
- Increased visibility and outreach of e-Infrastructure policies related to EOSC, EDI and EuroHPC, and for changing the culture of research communities towards open data.

(c) Research and Innovation actions for the 2019 deadline

- strengthen the structured cooperation between European and Russian Research Infrastructures;
- promote the harmonisation of procedures and framework conditions for access;
- develop the framework conditions to improve access of European Scientists to Russian Research Infrastructures;
- promote the participation of Russian researchers in EU projects.

(d) Coordination and Support actions for the 2019 deadline

- strengthen the development of a consistent cooperation agenda with CELAC;
- develop the international outreach of the European research infrastructures' ecosystem;
- foster a global research area vision and the development of global research infrastructures;
- contribute to capacity building and research infrastructures human capital development in targeted/relevant regions;
- enhance the role of the Union in multilateral fora;

Cross-cutting Priorities:

International cooperation

[1] Council Regulation (EC) No 723/2009 on the Community legal Framework for a European Research Infrastructure Consortium

[2]The Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) on Science and Technology of the EU-CELAC Joint Initiative on Research and Innovation (JIRI)

[3]See http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/index.cfm?pg=latin-americ-carib

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Topic conditions and documents   **- Less**

1. Eligible countries: described in Annex A of the Work Programme.
A number of non-EU/non-Associated Countries that are not automatically eligible for funding have made specific provisions for making funding available for their participants in Horizon 2020 projects. See the information in the Online Manual.

2. Eligibility and admissibility conditions: described in Annex B and Annex C of the Work Programme.

(d) Coordination and Support actions for the 2019 deadline

Legal entities established in Brazil and Mexico are eligible for funding from the Union.

Proposal page limits and layout: please refer to Part B of the proposal template in the submission system below.

- **Evaluation criteria, scoring and threshold**s are described in Annex H of the Work Programme.
- **Submission and evaluation processes** are described in the Online Manual.

(b) *Coordination and Support actions for 2018 deadline*

Grants will be awarded to proposals according to the ranking list. However, in order to ensure a balanced portfolio of supported actions, at least the highest-ranked proposal per sub-topic will be funded provided that it attains all thresholds.

4. Indicative time for evaluation and grant agreements:

Information on the outcome of evaluation (**single-stage** call): maximum 5 months from the deadline for submission.
Signature of grant agreements: maximum 8 months from the deadline for submission.

5. Proposal templates, evaluation forms and model grant agreements (MGA):

Research and Innovation Action:

Specific provisions and funding rates
Specific proposal template will be available in the submission system at the time of call opening.
Standard evaluation form
General MGA - Multi-Beneficiary
Annotated Grant Agreement

Coordination and Support Action:

Specific provisions and funding rates
Specific proposal template will be available in the submission system at the time of call opening.
Standard evaluation form
General MGA - Multi-Beneficiary
Annotated Grant Agreement

6. Additional provisions:

Horizon 2020 budget flexibility
Classified information
Technology readiness levels (TRL) – where a topic description refers to TRL, these definitions apply

For grants awarded under this topic, for all types of action, capitalised and operating costs of 'large research infrastructures' as defined in the Article 6.2.D.4 of the Model Grant Agreement are not eligible.

(a) *Research and Innovation actions for the 2018 deadline*

As an exception, for grants awarded under this sub-topic, full purchase costs of equipment, infrastructure or other assets are eligible. The respective option of the Article 6.2.D.2 of the Model Grant Agreementwill be applied.

Members of consortium are required to conclude a consortium agreement, in principle prior to the signature of the grant agreement.

7. Open access must be granted to all scientific publications resulting from Horizon 2020 actions.

Where relevant, proposals should also provide information on how the participants will manage the research data generated and/or collected during the project, such as details on what types of data the project will generate, whether and how this data will be exploited or made accessible for verification and re-use, and how it will be curated and preserved.

Open access to research data

provide open access to the research data they generate, except if they decide to opt-out under the conditions described in Annex L of the Work Programme. Projects can opt-out at any stage, that is both before and after the grant signature.

Note that the evaluation phase proposals will not be evaluated more favourably because they plan to open or share their data, and will not be penalised for opting out.

Open research data sharing applies to the data needed to validate the results presented in scientific publications. Additionally, projects can choose to make other data available open access and need to describe their approach in a Data Management Plan.

Projects need to create a Data Management Plan (DMP), except if they opt-out of making their research data open access. A first version of the DMP must be provided as an early deliverable within six months of the project and should be updated during the project as appropriate. The Commission already provides guidance documents, including a template for DMPs. See the Online Manual.

Eligibility of costs: costs related to data management and data sharing are eligible for reimbursement during the project duration.

The legal requirements for projects participating in this pilot are in the article 29.3 of the Model Grant Agreement.

8. Additional documents:

1. Introduction WP 2018-20
4. Research infrastructures (including e-Infrastructures) WP 2018-20
18. Dissemination, Exploitation and Evaluation WP 2018-20

General annexes to the Work Programme 2018-2020

Legal basis: Horizon 2020 Regulation of Establishment
Legal basis: Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation
Legal basis: Horizon 2020 Specific Programme

Submission Service

The submission system is planned to be opened on the date stated on the topic header.

Get support   **- Less**

H2020 Online Manual is your guide on the procedures from proposal submission to managing your grant.

Participant Portal FAQ – Submission of proposals.

National Contact Points (NCP) - contact your NCP for further assistance in your national language(s).

Research Enquiry Service – ask questions about any aspect of European research in general and the EU Research Framework Programmes in particular.

Enterprise Europe Network – contact your EEN national contact for advice to businesses with

IT Helpdesk - contact the Participant Portal IT helpdesk for questions such as forgotten passwords, access rights and roles, technical aspects of submission of proposals, etc.

Ethics – for compliance with ethical issues, see the Online Manual and Science and Society Portal

European IPR Helpdesk assists you on intellectual property issues

CEN and CENELEC, the **European Standards Organisations**, advise you how to tackle standardisation in your project proposal. Contact CEN-CENELEC Research Helpdesk at research@cencenelec.eu

The European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for their recruitment

Partner Search Services help you find a partner organisation for your proposal.