

## CHIST-ERA Call 2019

# Frequently Asked Questions

The present documents compile answers to most frequently asked questions to the call secretariat. In particular, it builds on the questions collected at the information webinars of the Call 2019 (the slides are available [HERE](#)).

### 1. Consortium

- ***What are the countries participating in the call?***

The countries participating in the call for proposals are listed in the Call Announcement, available on the CHIST-ERA website at <http://www.chistera.eu/call-2019-announcement>.

The countries are represented by one or two funding organisations. The eligibility of a potential consortium partner depends on the funding rules of the respective funding organisation this partner is applying to.

- ***What is the list of Widening Countries?***

The list of Widening Countries is available [HERE](#). In particular, the Widening Countries participating in the Call 2019 are Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Turkey.

CHIST-ERA supports the involvement of these countries by giving priority to consortia with partners from them in case of ex aequo proposals and insufficient budget to fund all of them. The [call Partner Search Tool](#) allows searching potential partners by country.

- ***Can partners from countries not in the call be part of a project?***

They can participate in a project as long as they are able to secure their funding with other funding sources or by own funds. The partners not requesting funding to CHIST-ERA do not count for the minimum number of partners/countries in the consortium (see p. 11 of the Call Announcement). Moreover, the consortium coordinator must be supported by a funding organisation participating in the call.

- ***Can a consortium partner come from the private for profit sector?***

Yes, however its feasibility depends on the national/regional funding regulations. Pages 12 and 13 of the Call Announcement list all the funding organisations allowing such partners to be funded.

- ***Can young researchers (for instance postdoctoral researchers) act as coordinator or partner principal investigator?***

CHIST-ERA encourages excellent young researchers to take responsibilities. This will not be considered *a priori* by the evaluation panel as a weakness. The feasibility may depend on funding regulations at national/regional level.

Generally, PhD costs are eligible as well as post-doctoral costs. However, since the funding follows national/regional rules, the consortium partners need to check with their respective funding organisations the eligible costs.

- ***Is the cost of the permanent researchers eligible?***

It depends on the national/regional funding organisation. You need to contact your national/regional funding organisation contact point to check it.

- ***Can the list of the partners be modified in-between the two stages?***

Yes, but any change must be justified. In particular it should increase the value of the project and strengthens the consortium.

## 2. Submission

- ***Are multiple submissions allowed, within the same topic or across topics?***

At the CHIST-ERA level, there are no restrictions concerning multiple submissions by any individual (acting as coordinator or partner).

Nevertheless, in such case she/he needs to check her/his eligibility with the respective funding organisation, which may have specific rules, by contacting their contact point (p. 12 and 13 of the Call Announcement).

- ***What is the page limit for the short proposal?***

The limit is 10 pages. It applies to the scientific document. All the pages of the document count, including the two first pages and the references at the end. The separate financial form or additional national/regional forms do not count. If the document exceeds this limit, the pages 11 and following will be greyed over.

The instructions below the proposal template section or subsection title can be deleted.

- ***How long should the scientific description of the project be in the short proposal?***

There are no quantitative expectations regarding the length of the different short proposal sections. The main constraint is that the whole document should not exceed 10 pages.

- ***Is a GANTT diagram mandatory for the work plan?***

No, not for the short proposal.

- ***Can the style of the document be adjusted according to the section of the document (typically a smaller font size for the references)?***

The same font and style should be used for the whole proposal (recommended: Arial, 11pt, single-spaced).

- ***Which members of the consortium partner's team must be entered into the online submission platform?***

The Principal Investigator and the other team members already known.

- ***How the proposal documents are uploaded into the submission platform?***

The scientific document must be in PDF format. The financial form in Excel format. The scientific document is uploaded in the main upload field proposed by the platform. The financial form is uploaded as annex.

Letters of support/intent are not mandatory. If the proposal is accompanied by such letters, they must be uploaded as separate documents and as annex.

No other type of documents should be uploaded.

- ***Is the access to the submission system limited to one person per partner?***

Yes, it is limited to the partner Principal Investigator.

### **3. Call scope, target outcomes and expected impacts**

- ***Does the XAI call topic cover explainable Artificial Intelligence in general?***

The call topic XAI focuses on explainable Machine Learning-based Artificial Intelligence.

- ***Do the CES call topic objective fall mainly in the ICT or environmental domain?***

The call topic CES aims at supporting environmental sustainability by tackling ICT-based research challenges. They can be intertwined with environmental sustainability research challenges though.

- ***Is the CES call topic software oriented?***

Novel computing hardware can be part of the project as long as it contributes to the expected impacts.

- ***Should the project aim at covering all “Target Outcomes” (see p. 6 and 7 of the Call Announcement)?***

One, some or all of them.

#### 4. Type of targeted research

- ***What should the project Technology Readiness Level be?***

CHIST-ERA expectations are not expressed in terms of Technology Readiness Levels. The project should combine a long-term vision of a novel science-enabled technology with specific ambitious research objectives addressing this vision for the project duration (the next 2 or 3 years).

- ***What about the expected outcomes of the project in terms of applications?***

At CHIST-ERA level, the expected outcomes should be related to the future/emerging technology. The project should provide kind of a proof-of-concept or significant step forward. While the targeted technology may be inspired by specific potential applications though, this technology will often comprise generic dimensions.

The national/regional funding organisations may have complementary or additional expectations in that regard.

- ***Have CHIST-ERA any expectations in terms of generation of a particular business model, creation of a new product or company?***

Proposals should combine long-term technology vision (10-15 years) with the short terms objectives of the project (2-3 years). In that regard, it is not expected that all projects will have a direct impact on the economy at the end of the project, but how the research results will be exploited should be addressed.

#### 5. Evaluation and selection

- ***What is the role of the national/regional funding organisations in the evaluation process?***

The evaluation is handled by CHIST-ERA on the behalf of the funding organisations in the call. The selection is based on the ranking resulting from this evaluation. There are no parallel national/regional evaluations.

- ***What is the success rate of the short proposals (as opposed to the global success rate of the call)?***

The average success rate of the CHIST-ERA calls is approximately 18%, but it highly depends on the all topic.

For the selection of the short proposals, there is no quantitative target expressed in percentage. The objective is to select a number of short proposals corresponding to around three times the call available budget (approx. 50 M€ for the Call 2019).

## 6. Funding

- ***Is a project selected if and only if all the funding organisations involved in the project recommend it?***

No and yes.

The funding recommendation follows a joint decision of the Call 2019 Steering Committee (composed of the CHIST-ERA funding organisations in the call). There are no national/regional parallel decision processes. Moreover, the funding organisations have to strictly follow the ranking list established by the evaluation panel.

The funding recommendation can go up to rank N if and only if the budget available at each of the funding organisations involved in the project is sufficient.

- ***How does the European Commission funding contribution work?***

The European Commission does not fund the selected projects directly. Its contribution goes through the national/regional funding organisations in the project. Typically, the funding organisations' contribution is reimbursed by the Commission in the range of 10-30%. It depends on the project and on the funding organisation. The sharing mechanism of the Commission's top-up is designed by the funding organisations with the goal to maximise the call success rate.

## 7. Open access to publications and research data

- ***Is open access to research data mandatory?***

At CHIST-ERA level, Open Data is not mandatory but is encouraged. Applicants can contact their national/regional contact points to check if additional rules apply locally. Every funding organisation may have a different Open Science policy.

For guidance on good practices for open access to research data, applicants may rely on the [Data Management Plan template](#) of Horizon 2020.

- ***If some data cannot be shared, for instance due to privacy issue, will it impact the project proposal evaluation?***

CHIST-ERA acknowledges that open access to research data is also a legal and technical issue. In this context, it is expected that, as much as possible, the projects will promote approaches at the level of the state of the art. This aspect will be considered during the proposal evaluation.

For guidance on good practices for open access to research data, applicants can rely on the [Data Management Plan template](#) of Horizon 2020.

## 8. Follow-up

- ***What is the form of the funded projects review?***

The funded projects must submit each 12-month period an activity report. This documents reports on the scientific progress of the project as well as comprises an update of the project Data Management Plan. The report is reviewed by experts in order to propose a feedback to both the project partners and the funding organisations involved in the project.

The project coordinator and partners are also expected to attend a yearly seminar bringing together all the funded projects.