



# Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL)

## Call for proposals

Accelerating best use of technologies  
(DIGITAL-2021-DEPLOY-01)

Version 1.0  
17 November 2021



<b>HISTORY OF CHANGES</b>			
<b>Version</b>	<b>Publication Date</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Page</b>
1.0	17.11.2021	▪ Initial version (new MFF).	
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		▪	
		▪	



**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
 Directorate-General Communications Networks, Content and Technology  
 CNECT.R – Resources and Support  
**CNECT.R.5 – Programme Implementation**

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## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

### 0. Introduction

This is a call for proposals for EU **action grants** in the field of “deployment and best use of digital capacities and interoperability” under the **Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL)**.

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

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

The call is launched in accordance with the 2021/2022 Work Programme<sup>2</sup> and will be managed by the **European Commission, Directorate-General for Communication, Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT)**.

The call covers the following **topics**:

- **DIGITAL-2021-DEPLOY-01-HEALTH** — Uptake of digital solutions in Health and Care
- **DIGITAL-2021-DEPLOY-01-TWINS-HEALTH** - An ecosystem for digital twins in healthcare
- **DIGITAL-2021-DEPLOY-01-LIVING-EU** - Governance of the Living-in.eu community
- **DIGITAL-2021-DEPLOY-01-BAUHAUS** - Digital solutions in support of the New European Bauhaus

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

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

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

- the [Call Document](#) outlines the:
  - background, objectives, scope, activities that can be funded and the expected results (sections 1 and 2)
  - timetable and available budget (sections 3 and 4)
  - admissibility and eligibility conditions (including mandatory documents; sections 5 and 6)

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/694 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2021 establishing the Digital Europe programme (OJ L166, 11305.2021).

<sup>2</sup> Commission Implementing Decision C/2021/7914 of 10.11.2021 concerning the adoption of the multiannual work programme for 2021 - 2022 and the financing decision for the implementation of the Digital Europe Programme.

- criteria for financial and operational capacity and exclusion (section 7)
- evaluation and award procedure (section 8)
- award criteria (section 9)
- legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements (section 10)
- how to submit an application (section 11)
- the Online Manual outlines the:
  - procedures to register and submit proposals online via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal ('Portal')
  - recommendations for the preparation of the application
- the AGA – Annotated Grant Agreement contains:
  - detailed annotations on all the provisions in the Grant Agreement you will have to sign in order to obtain the grant (*including cost eligibility, payment schedule, accessory obligations, etc*).

## 1. Background

The Digital Europe Programme supports the deployment of digital technologies that are strategically important for Europe's future. Through the topics covered in the Specific Objective 5, the Programme aims to roll-out and best use strategic digital capacities in a set of specific priority areas such as the support to the Green Deal, to SMEs and public authorities in their digital transformation. In the first two years of implementation, the activities will be organised around five main strands:

1. Deployment of a digital, multi-dimensional replica of the Earth (system), enabling different user groups to interact with vast amounts of natural and socio-economic information (Destination Earth) as well as other initiatives in support of the Green Deal.
2. The deployment and enhancement of the European Blockchain Services Infrastructure (EBSI) set up in the context of CEF Telecommunications Programme (2014-2020), deployment of use cases as well as a regulatory sandbox for Blockchain standardization.
3. The set up and enhancement of a European Digital Government EcoSystem for the digital transformation of public administrations building on projects funded through CEF Telecommunications Programme (2014-2020) and ISA2 Programme (2014-2020). This will be achieved by providing Member States and Associated Countries with a platform of common services for public administrations, by deploying an EU electronic identity system, by supporting the rollout of the 'once-only' principle in line with the Single Digital Gateway Regulation, and by deploying an interoperability incubator fostering the deployment of new digital services.
4. Support will also be provided for the digitalization European judicial system and consumer protection, health and care and for piloting AI based law enforcement digital solutions.

5. Building trust in the digital transformation by supporting the sustainability of the Better Internet for Kids (BIK) strategy<sup>3</sup> and the European Digital Media Observatory deployed through the CEF Telecommunications programme (2014-2020).

The present call focuses on the implementation of the first and fourth work strand.

Regarding the first work strand, the present call aims to unleash the powers of digital technologies to reach Europe's common climate and environmental goals as set out in the European Green Deal, including being climate neutral by 2050, as well as strengthen the resilience of Europe's industry and increase its open strategic autonomy. The call will support the governance of the Living-in.eu<sup>4</sup> community as well as the takeup of digital solutions and services relevant for projects implementing the New European Bauhaus initiative.

Regarding the support to public services, the present call aims also to boost the digital transformation of the health sector. On this work strand, the present call will coordinate health stakeholders to integrate digital solutions along the continuum of health and care as well as to create a framework for the deployment of digital twins in healthcare.

## **2. Objectives – Scope – Outcomes and deliverables – KPIs to measure outcomes and deliverables – Targeted stakeholders – Type of action – specific topic conditions**

### **DIGITAL-2021-DEPLOY-01-HEALTH – Uptake of digital solutions in Health and Care**

#### Objectives

In its Communication on "Enabling the digital transformation of health and care in the Digital Single Market, empowering citizens and building a healthier society" (COM/2018/233 final), the Commission sets out a number of measures for the large-scale use of digital tools for citizen empowerment and person-centred care. These measures depend on active contributions from local and regional ecosystems, stakeholder groups and organisations including industry, civil society, academia and public administration.

This action will further foster knowledge sharing and multi-stakeholder engagement in the uptake and integration of digital solutions along the continuum of health and care. It will take forward and consolidate achievements in terms of interoperability, common dataspace, telemedicine and digital solutions for person-centred care by engaging with the ecosystems and facilitating active contributions from all stakeholders. It should cover institutional, technological and behavioural aspects and take into account the digital preparedness for pandemics. Synergies with the work in Member States and associated countries – and in the eHealth Network in particular – will ensure links with national and regional strategies on digital health.

#### Scope

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<sup>3</sup> Communication COM(2012) 196 of 2.5.2012 from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on 'European Strategy for a Better Internet for Children' (BIK strategy)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.living-in.eu/>

The action will facilitate the alignment, strengthening and coordination of policies, strategies, instruments and activities regarding the uptake of digital health solutions and services:

- Analyse and monitor the uptake of digital health solutions in regions (with a particular focus on rural and remote areas), Member States and associated countries. This will include independent living and telemedicine solutions, primary and secondary use of health data, related standards, certification and relevant exchange formats, interoperability (in compliance with EU and national legislation). The assessment will also cover wider aspects such as their economic value to both patients and health and care systems, their impact on health and care efficiency and continuity of care, financing and reimbursement models, and citizen empowerment.
- Stimulate mutual learning and transfer of innovative practices between regions, Member States and associated countries; support large-scale deployment of trusted digital health solutions and services; facilitate benchmarking, impact assessment and knowledge sharing between stakeholders.

This work should build on the results of previous and ongoing EU initiatives and have a clear focus on supporting supply and demand sides in implementing scaling up strategies for innovative solutions (technology, integration of health and social care, systemic change). In particular, complementarity and consistency should be ensured with the outcomes, guidelines and strategies delivered in projects funded under e.g. SC1-HCC-05-2018<sup>5</sup> and any other relevant efforts to link initiatives in the scope of the digital transformation of health and care in the Digital Single Market. The work should also ensure synergies with relevant efforts supported under Horizon Europe cluster 1 “Health”, in particular with the Co-funded Partnership with Member States and Associated Countries aimed at Transforming Health and Care Systems.

### Outcomes and deliverables

- A consolidated European framework and ecosystem of digital health solutions and services, covering technological and organisational innovation and addressing the needs of the involved stakeholders, and including those of SMEs and start-ups.
- A set of coordination and support measures to foster upscaling and large-scale deployment through transfer of innovative practices between regions and Member States (twinning) and capacity building for local and regional authorities (e.g. by expanding inspirational ecosystems such as the European network of Reference Sites), to deliver creative and workable solutions focussing on a comprehensive, innovation-based approach towards digital health.
- A cooperation mechanism facilitating regular exchanges between the demand (both public and private procurers) and supply (including SMEs and start-ups) sides to identify the difficulties innovators may experience in scaling up solutions across borders in the EU and define measures to improve cross-border deployment of these solutions.

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<sup>5</sup><https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/sc1-hcc-05-2018>



- Toolkits with indicators to measure the use of digital technologies in health and care, evidence of impact, policy level integration and protocols to tackle the reliability of health information including skills and literacy measures.
- Increased levels of investment by public authorities and private investors leading to successful and cost-effective implementation of digital innovation along the continuum of health and care.

*KPIs to measure 'Outcomes and deliverable'*

Support the coordination and facilitate knowledge sharing:

- Number of stakeholders brought together and supported innovation transfer/capacity building activities
- Number of national/regional initiatives addressed
- Dimensions addressed in the monitoring and analysis of the uptake and integration of digital tools and solutions
- Contribution of the policy activities to i) The Quality of Life of the EU population, ii) The Sustainability of Health and Care delivery and iii) Economic growth and job-creation in the EU.

Adoption rate of digital health solutions and services:

- Presence of national/regional strategies on digital transformation of health and care
- Accelerated progress on uptake and integration of digital solutions along the continuum of health and care across the EU.
- Enhanced market conditions that can facilitate economies of scale for the suppliers of technology and services.

In terms of uptake, number of screened and identified new digital health applications

- Number of relevant stakeholders consulted on the use and impact of digital technologies in health and care
- Number of (cross-border) innovative practice exchanges between regions and Member States benefitting from the support action

*Targeted stakeholders*

The proposal should include partners with demonstrated experience of delivering on the areas mentioned above and provide a broad representation of constituencies relevant to the digital transformation of health and care, as well as of regions across Europe.

The proposal should demonstrate capacity to reach out to and effectively engage with relevant stakeholders across Europe, influence their policies and practices as well as stimulate cooperation amongst them.

Moreover, the proposal should be able to credibly deliver on the expected outcomes, covering the relevant expertise on a variety of domains and an appropriate level of resources convincingly allocated to the action.

*Type of action*

Coordination and Support Actions — 100% funding rate

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

### Specific topic conditions

- For this topic, following reimbursement option for equipment costs applies: depreciation only (*see section 10*)
- For this topic, financial support to third parties is allowed (*see section 10*)
- The following parts of the award criteria in section 9 are exceptionally NOT applicable for this topic:
  - extent to which the proposal can overcome financial obstacles such as the lack of market finance
  - extent to which the proposal addresses environmental sustainability and the European Green Deal goals, in terms of direct effects and/or in awareness of environmental effects

## **DIGITAL-2021-DEPLOY-01-TWINS-HEALTH – An ecosystem for digital twins in healthcare**

### Objectives

Digital twins in healthcare (DTH) have an untapped potential for fostering personalised medicine, starting from targeted prevention, faster diagnosis and prognostic assessment to tailored treatment and development of biomedical products, while also empowering patients and bringing efficiencies to health systems. In order to exploit their benefits in view of better prevention approaches, faster and more accurate diagnoses, personalised treatments and care, a framework to structure cooperation and leverage on synergies between academia, private sector, regulators and end-users needs to be strengthened.

The objective is to support the roll-out of DTH by mapping and structuring the ecosystem within the EU Member States and associated countries to identify and pool existing resources, and foster collaboration and overall integration of the stakeholders, while ensuring adequate clinical representation. This will be facilitated through a roadmap, a federated repository connecting resources and a simulation platform.

The action will be embedded in the existing infrastructure based on former and current relevant developments, including Member States' national and regional strategies; relevant projects funded under Horizon 2020; the European Electronic Health Record exchange format; High Performance Computing (HPC); the European Health Data Space (EHDS); telemedicine and remote monitoring initiatives. It will also build on existing actions for digital pandemic preparedness and cloud preparedness.

### Scope

The action should address all of the following elements:

- Frame and foster an inclusive ecosystem of DTH in Europe, by mapping and linking the relevant actors and initiatives on the DTH. Technical and non-technical barriers in the uptake of DTH should be identified and addressed to converge towards a functional ecosystem that brings in all relevant

stakeholders and ensures that digital twins adequately represent the end-user needs, and fosters their clinical validation.

- Design a roadmap for the uptake of DTH and their further integration towards the Human Digital Twin, i.e. a validated, integrated multi-scale, -time and -discipline digital twin of the whole body enabling the comprehensive characterisation of the physiological and the pathological state in its full complexity and heterogeneity. Besides tangible milestones and deliverables, the roadmap will identify the necessary building blocks up to the clinical deployment of personalised digital companions, and formulate clear short- and mid-term policy recommendations. It will also address aspects of interoperability, computability, integration of health information from various sources to depict an up-to-date digital twin of the individual. Areas of applicability, targeting high medical need and/or high societal benefit and clinical value, should be provided, respecting country-specific peculiarities. Activities shall be carried out in close collaboration with the European Commission and in coordination with relevant stakeholder groups.
- Coordinate the deployment of a federated repository of DTH. This activity will come up with an operational repository that will pool together various types of existing DTH resources across Europe in a federated, cloud-based manner. This includes cataloguing all existing European DTH resources such as digital twin models, datasets, methods, infrastructures, and digital twin-based solutions and services. The digital twin resources to be pooled should be annotated, based on their status of development, testing and clinical validation, their actual implementation, their cloud readiness, as well as access modalities and use cases, including interoperability between repositories, models and other relevant health data sets. It will further provide a governance framework to enable interoperable, cross-border access to the repository resources for various stakeholders, while addressing, among others, accessibility, trustworthiness, cybersecurity, data privacy and liability aspects and respecting the FAIR principles.
- Develop the technical specifications for a simulation platform that will allow developers, engineers and practitioners to design, develop, test and validate digital twin approaches in healthcare, linked also to high performance computing (HPC) infrastructure and capacities to execute high demanding computational tasks. The action will elucidate the needs of current and future DTH approaches in computation power and simulation tools to produce technical specifications for the target simulation platform, in particular considering the complexity of multiscale models. Development of early prototypes shall be fostered, with their (experimental) implementation (or of selected components) running via the simulation platform and in close coordination with the European Commission.

### Outcomes and deliverables

- A consolidated EU ecosystem around digital twins for healthcare that brings together, streamlines and bundles their use across stakeholders in a coordinated manner, thereby empowering patients and enabling health professionals, academia, industry, and regulatory agencies to make use of DTH.
- A roadmap for accelerating the uptake of DTH-based solutions and their further integration towards the Human Digital Twin, identifying stakeholder needs and implementation barriers, depicting the vision for the Human Digital

Twin and its application areas with clear milestones, including the development of a strategic approach for clinical deployment of DTH to foster the uptake of personalised clinical decision-making, with a particular focus on areas of unmet medical need.

- Exhaustive industry needs and barriers' analysis, prioritized according to severity, highlighting mitigation measures for the short- and mid-term and formulating clear policy recommendation based on (international) policy analyses.
- A governance framework for a federated, cloud-based repository, combining DTH resources, as well as its subsequent use and deployment.
- The blueprint and technical specifications for a simulation platform for DTH and relevant building blocks needed for developing the Human Digital Twin, up to early prototypes.

### *KPIs to measure 'Outcomes and deliverable'*

KPIs concerning fostering an integrated ecosystem and design of a roadmap:

- EU-wide and global representativeness and inclusiveness of the DTH ecosystem in terms of the number of initiatives mapped, personalised medicine use cases covered, best practices identified, national and regional strategies incorporated, technical and non-technical barriers identified and addressed, and success factors covered by the roadmap;
- Number of stakeholder groups, regions and countries included and interlinked, and ranked according to their significance in developing the Human Digital Twin;
- Number of identified high-benefit clinical use cases linked to high and/or unmet medical need, high societal benefit, high clinical value, for mid-term deployment of prototypes.

KPIs concerning the federated repository of DTHs and simulation platform:

- Number of DTH models, datasets and total resources identified for their inclusion in the repository;
- Number of DTH models, datasets and total resources made available through the repository;
- Number of identified relevant standards, recommendations, best practices;
- Number of delivered prototypes of infrastructural and computation building blocks of the Human Digital Twin.

### *Targeted stakeholders*

The proposal should include partners with demonstrated experience of delivering on the areas mentioned above, who are widely acknowledged for their expertise and results, while providing a broad representation of constituencies relevant to digital twins in healthcare. The CSA is expected to bring together or demonstrate its capacity to involve during the project lifetime at least the following stakeholder groups (not exhaustive): developers and innovators of digital health solutions, providers of

resources and technology infrastructure (e.g. HPC), end-users (such as patients and respective patient representatives and healthcare professionals), regulatory authorities, and Health Technology Assessment bodies.

### Type of action

Coordination and Support Actions — 100% funding rate



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

### Specific topic conditions

- For this topic, multi-beneficiary applications are mandatory and specific conditions for the consortium composition apply (*see section 6*)
- For this topic, following reimbursement option for equipment costs applies: depreciation only (*see section 10*)
- The following parts of the award criteria in section 9 are exceptionally NOT applicable for this topic:
  - extent to which the proposal can overcome financial obstacles such as the lack of market finance
  - extent to which the proposal addresses environmental sustainability and the European Green Deal goals, in terms of direct effects and/or in awareness of environmental effects

## **DIGITAL-2021-DEPLOY-01-LIVING-EU - Governance of the Living-in.eu community**

### Objectives

This action is to support the governance of the Living-in.eu movement<sup>6</sup> that seeks to scale up the digital transformation of cities and communities the 'European way, in co-creation with citizens, respecting European values and diversity, individuals' digital rights and ensuring technological leadership in the EU.

Living-in.eu was launched in December 2019 in Oulu, Finland as a city-led initiative aimed at accelerating the digital transformation at local level according to the principles set out in the 'Join Boost Sustain' Declaration<sup>7</sup>. This declaration, signed by mayors or leaders and ministers at regional and national level, is still open for signature, so the movement is constantly growing. The declaration includes a set of principles and commitments, focusing on scaling up solutions, sharing expertise and experience, building capacity as well as monitoring progress and impact. Non-city actors such as civil society organisations, technology providers, and research institutes can also join the movement as supporters.

This action should provide ongoing governance of the movement. The consortium will be responsible for:

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<sup>6</sup> <https://living-in.eu/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.living-in.eu/declaration>

- Growing the membership of the movement, both signatories and supporters, so that all Member States are represented at national, regional and local levels and a significant proportion of the EU population is covered;
- Growing number of technology companies as supporters that are active in supplying local digital twins and/or their components and organised around a joint vision compatible with Living-in.EU principles;
- Supporting the co-creation work of the movement and managing its sub-groups (financial; technical; legal; education and capacity building; monitoring and measuring; communication and marketing) and iconic projects teams (including, but not limited to Local Data Platforms, Local Digital Twins, Citizen Cards and the Digital Neighbourhood Instrument)<sup>8</sup>;
- Bringing consortium members' expertise to all sub-group and iconic project domains to further develop the Living-in.eu specifications and assets and to create new ones in close cooperation with signatories and supporters;
- Fostering the take up of Living-in.eu specifications and assets to increase the number of interoperable Urban Data Platforms in the EU based on living-in.eu commonly agreed open standards/specifications as well as the number of Urban Digital Twins;
- Supporting the engagement of cities and communities with other relevant DEP actions for smart cities and communities<sup>9</sup> as well as other EU activities and programmes in related areas (including, but not limited to the Mission on Climate Neutral and Smart Cities, the Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, the Intelligent Cities Challenge, Smart Cities Marketplace, ISA<sup>2</sup> programme and CEF Digital<sup>10</sup>, H2020 and Horizon Europe projects);
- Facilitating the dialogue with the various smart cities and communities actors to nourish conversations about the transformation of our places and life styles towards greater sustainability, accessibility and aesthetics promoted by the New European Bauhaus to advance the construction of a more ecological, social and cultural Europe.

The consortium will report regularly to the Steering Board on its activities and will receive guidance from it regarding its strategic orientation and areas of focus. The Steering Board will comprise for example representatives of cities and communities, regions and member states, Commission Services, organisations representing cities and communities and/or regions, organisations representing citizens, organisations representing Digital industry and organisations engaged in developing digital standards.<sup>11</sup>

### Scope of the action

- Engage and coordinate signatories and supporters in the delivery of the commitments of the Join Boost Sustain declaration, in particular through the work of the sub-groups and iconic project teams and in collaboration with the EU data space for smart communities and taking into account the European Data Spaces Technical Framework developed by the Data Spaces Support Centre (see Work Programme).

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.living-in.eu/groups/solutions>

<sup>9</sup> Data Space for Smart Communities (See 2.2.1.2, DIGITAL Work Programme 2021-2022) and AI Testing and Experimentation Facilities for Smart Communities (2.3.2.4) and Digital Solutions for the for New European Bauhaus (5.1.4)

<sup>10</sup> ISA<sup>2</sup> and CEF Digital Building Blocks will in future be hosted on a new platform, the Common Services Platform.

<sup>11</sup> Such as companies, associations, Civil Society Organisations, trade unions, universities, research institutes, law firms and consultancies.

- Host, improve and maintain the Living-in.eu website<sup>12</sup>, animate and moderate community discussions, ensure engaging content is regularly provided and kept up to date, and use other communications channels as appropriate to amplify the work of the movement;
- Organise communication and marketing campaigns and events to raise awareness of the movement and attract new members, contribute to relevant events and publications and ensure media and press coverage;
- Coordinate and bring expertise to bear on the work of the sub-groups and the plenary meetings, in close consultation with the Steering Board;
- Produce enhanced versions of existing specifications and assets created by the Living-in.eu community, and create new ones in support of the digital transformation at local level for communities at various levels of digit maturity, in close collaboration with signatory cities and communities. These could include for example technical specifications to ensure interoperability of digital services within and across EU cities and communities; guidance on procurement of digital services; training materials such as online tutorials and manuals supporting development and deployment of digital solutions in cities; case studies; catalogues of services and/or use-cases.
- Organise the supply side around a joint vision compatible with the Living-in.EU principles for the provision of Local Digital Twins solutions in Europe;
- Follow, with the help of the supporters, the development of the most relevant standards in particular for Local Digital Twins and engage supporters to further promote the use of the MIMsPlus<sup>13</sup>;
- Promote the uptake by signatory cities and communities of assets developed by the Living-in.eu movement;
- Support engagement of the Living-in.eu community in the delivery of DIGITAL Programme actions in the area of smart cities and communities and related initiatives<sup>14</sup>;
- Help supporting discussion between cities and communities actors and the Commission around the New European Bauhaus initiative underlying values.<sup>15</sup>

Only one project proposal will be selected for this grant.

### *Outcomes and deliverables*

- Community Management Toolkit that enables the management and fosters the growth of the community in a sustainable manner;
- Increased uptake of cross-domain interoperable digital solutions, including local data platforms, and AI-powered local digital twins across EU cities and communities for improved service delivery and to address societal challenges, in particular the objectives of the European Green Deal objectives and the Zero Pollution Action Plan;
- Widespread uptake of easy-to-use digital assets developed by the Living-in.eu community to facilitate their digital transition;

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<sup>12</sup> [www.living-in.eu](http://www.living-in.eu)

<sup>13</sup> <https://living-in.eu/groups/commitments/technical>

<sup>14</sup> See in particular actions in 2.2.1.2 in the Digital Europe Programme Work Programme 2021-2022

<sup>15</sup> Including in cooperation with this action in the Digital Europe Programme Work Programme 2021-2022: 5.1.4 Digital solutions in support of the New European Bauhaus

- Increased visibility of the Living-in.eu community, including a large increase in signatories and supporters; regular dedicated events; contributions to events in connection with related events and policy debates; active participation and co-creation with member cities and communities at various stages of their digital transformation;
- Action Plan to maintain, make available and promote the MIMs Plus and the most relevant Local Digital Twins standards for suppliers in a user friendly manner
- Close collaboration with EU initiatives such as the New European Bauhaus initiative, the Mission on Climate Neutral and Smart Cities and Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change, and others as relevant, in order to promote synergies and alignment with the Living-in.eu principles.
- Long term sustainability plan to ensure the smooth transfer of all Living-in.eu specifications and assets (including the platform content) and any related IPRs to any organisation that will take over the activities of the living-in.eu movement.

#### *KPIs to measure 'Outcomes and deliverables'*

- Number of signatory cities and communities which sign the Join Boost Sustain Declaration (using the EU Survey tool);
- Number of new supporters joining the movement;
- Number of specifications and assets further developed or created and their reuse by cities and communities;
- Number of plenary meetings with signatories and with supporters per year; of meetings of all sub-groups;
- Number of commitments in the 'Join Boost Sustain' Declaration implemented;
- Number of events organised by Living-in.eu movement;
- Number of living-in.eu web site visits
- Number of events relating to smart and sustainable cities and communities where contribution of living-in.eu has been made.

#### *Targeted stakeholders*

Collective and representative groups of mayors and cities, at European, regional and national level, including those with a sectoral focus in digital and the environment;

Public and private organisations active in the area of the digital transformation of cities and communities with relevant expertise;

Research and development organisations active in the area of technology solutions addressing societal challenges and their adoption in cities and communities;

Civil Society Organisations with experience in citizen engagement and upskilling, in particular in areas relating to digital and environmental transformation.

#### *Type of action*

Coordination and Support Actions — 100% funding rate



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

#### *Specific topic conditions*



- For this topic, multi-beneficiary applications are mandatory and specific conditions for the consortium composition apply (*see section 6*)
- For this topic, following reimbursement option for equipment costs applies: depreciation only (*see section 10*)
- For this topic, access rights to ensure continuity and interoperability obligations apply (*see section 10*)
- The following parts of the award criteria in section 9 are exceptionally NOT applicable for this topic:
  - N/A

## **DIGITAL-2021-DEPLOY-01-BAUHAUS - Digital solutions in support of the New European Bauhaus**

### Objectives

The New European Bauhaus (NEB) aims at fostering transdisciplinary, multi-level (from local to global) and participatory initiatives, anchored in the three core values outlined in the NEB Communication<sup>16</sup>: from climate goals to circularity and biodiversity; aesthetics, quality of experience and style, beyond functionality; and inclusion, including accessibility and affordability.

Digital technologies such as very high-speed internet connectivity - Wifi, 5G/6G connectivity, Artificial Intelligence, High Performance Computing, blockchain, IoT, cloud services and big data can play a role in improving sustainability and user-friendliness of services in our cities, making neighbourhoods and buildings greener, healthier and more inclusive places to live, move and work in. Digital tools and technologies offer an unprecedented opportunity for policy-makers to engage with citizens to shape and co-create their living environment. Data dashboards, virtual and augmented reality, and Local Digital Twins allow citizens to visualise impacts of policies and decisions in their locality, and therefore to shape their outcome, in order to better reflect their needs and expectations in the built environment. Digital technologies have thus an important role to play at all steps of the life cycle of NEB initiatives i.e. preparation, design, development, implementation and maintenance.

This action aims to bring together people working in the fields of urban planning, architecture and design, the cultural sector, artists, civil society, technology providers, businesses (including SMEs and startups), smart cities stakeholders, and academia, in order to identify digital solutions that could contribute to the implementation of the New European Bauhaus objectives, and to promote awareness and use of these digital solutions. This will be the case in particular for digital tools developed through EU-funded Programmes that can contribute to improving sustainability and circularity and for participative and sustainable urban development, to co-create a greener, smarter and sustainable living environment, whether in cities, towns, villages or rural areas.

Working in particular with the NEB Lab<sup>17</sup>, the action should establish links with actions falling under data spaces<sup>18</sup>, European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIH), the AI Testing

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<sup>16</sup> COM/2021/252 final

<sup>17</sup> See COM/2021/252 final, the NEB Lab will be tasked with growing the community and preparing policy actions.

and Experimentation Facilities (TEFs), notably for smart communities and health,<sup>19</sup> and the Living-in.EU<sup>20</sup> movement, as well as those Horizon Europe missions that work with communities and cities as key implementing partners (e.g. Mission on Climate Neutral and Smart Cities and Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change), which would provide significant opportunities to test, experiment and up-scale the use of digital tools for the NEB with local partners.

Finally, the project will seek to accelerate the deployment of digital tools contributing to implementing the New European Bauhaus objectives.

### *Scope*

- Engage and facilitating collaboration of transdisciplinary NEB stakeholders (architects, designers, planners, cultural community) with developers and potential users of digital solutions in support of the NEB (including startups, Venture Capitalists, European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIH), working in close cooperation with existing NEB actors including in the building and urban planning sectors, smart communities networks, the Living-in.EU community, and the NEB Lab.
- Identify and map initiatives, solutions and projects, in particular those supported by EU funds, where digital tools (AI, VR/AR, local digital twins, data dashboards, cloud computing, blockchain, Wifi, 5G,6G, IoT, HPC, assisted living technologies, and other digital and data-driven innovation) can contribute to the aims and objectives of the NEB, in particular in co-creation with citizens, presenting relevant uses cases and best practice examples in an engaging manner;
- Showcasing digital technologies in support of the NEB objectives<sup>21</sup>, promoting in particular the reuse of the solutions identified as part of this action which make use open source software, open standards and technical specifications<sup>22</sup> in cooperation with the NEB Lab and Living-in.EU.
- Expected activities to achieve the points above include:
  - Hosting events, workshops and meetings, bridging the link between cultural, digital, and smart communities sectors in support of the NEB objectives, and contributing to relevant external events and publications. Where not already in existence, developing supporting material (user guides, training modules) to facilitate the uptake of these digital technologies across cities and communities in the EU and beyond.
  - Encouraging the expansion of the scope of existing and emerging digital tools for use by citizens in shaping their communities through co-creation and participation. Where relevant, these tools should draw on the European data spaces ecosystem.
  - Identification of possible gaps or challenges in the current digital ecosystem that could be addressed to foster further the implementation of the NEB.

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<sup>18</sup> See action 2.2.1, Digital Europe Programme, Work Programme 2021-2022

<sup>19</sup> See action 2.3.2 Digital Europe Programme, Work Programme 2021-2022

<sup>20</sup> See action 5.1.2, Digital Europe Programme, Work Programme 2021-2022

<sup>21</sup> This showcasing should also deliver co-benefits, for example zero pollution objectives which are part of the European Green Deal.

<sup>22</sup> For example, the Minimal Interoperability Mechanisms (MIMs Plus) developed by Living-in.eu (<https://living-in.eu/groups/commitments/technical>)

- Supporting the identification of skills and capacity needs at local level in order to make best use of the digital tools facilitating the implementation of NEB objectives, working with Living-in.EU and the European Digital Innovation Hubs to address skills gaps.

Only one project proposal will be selected for this grant.

### Outcomes and deliverables

- Presentation of the results of the action's outcomes and deliverables, possibly via the NEB Lab Digital Portal or Living-in.EU, designed in such a way as to facilitate their reuse and widespread dissemination;
- An active network that brings together digital practitioners and NEB actors contributing to the NEB objectives and collaborating across the EU, based on a mapping of stakeholders in the digital and NEB ecosystems;
- Mapping and showcasing of existing initiatives and projects where digital tools and solutions are used for NEB objectives, including existing Local Digital Twin implementations which improve citizen-led urban planning and zero pollution objectives<sup>23</sup>. Their presentation through an interactive tool and a roadmap towards a fully-fledged NEB innovation radar;
- A list of recommendations and roadmap to address current gaps or issues that are preventing the development of digital solution in support of NEB initiatives;
- Identification of existing, and development of new, capacity building material to support the uptake of identified best practice uses of digital technologies in support of the NEB;
- A long-term sustainability plan for the continued reuse of assets produced by this action.

### KPIs to measure outcomes and deliverables

- Number of stakeholders involved in the network;
- Number of best practices/ use cases/ digital tools/lessons learnt/, presented for reuse and upscaling through the means identified in the 'scope' section;
- Number of meetings, workshops and conferences organised by the Network per year;
- Number of events relating to smart and sustainable cities and communities where a contribution by the Network on digital solutions for the New European Bauhaus has been made;
- Number and nature of gaps and challenges identified.

### Targeted stakeholders

Collective and representative groups of designers, architects, urban planners, artists and cultural practitioners, industry (including the construction and assisted living sectors), SMEs;

Members of the European digital ecosystems including EDIH, startups, S+T+ARTS community, academics, venture capital; research and development organisations, living labs, innovators in the area of healthy ageing;

Collective and representative groups of mayors and cities, at European, regional and national level, including those with a sectoral focus in digital and the environment with relevant expertise;


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<sup>23</sup> See Zero Pollution Action Plan COM/2021/ 400 final, Flagship 6

Civil Society Organisations with experience in citizen engagement and upskilling, in particular in areas relating to digital and environmental transformation and inclusiveness.

### Type of action

Coordination and Support Actions — 100% funding rate

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

### Specific topic conditions

- For this topic, multi-beneficiary applications are mandatory and specific conditions for the consortium composition apply (*see section 6*)
- For this topic, following reimbursement option for equipment costs applies: depreciation only (*see section 10*)
- For this topic, access rights to ensure continuity and interoperability obligations apply (*see section 10*)
- The following parts of the award criteria in section 9 are exceptionally NOT applicable for this topic:
  - extent to which the project would reinforce and secure the digital technology supply chain in the Union
  - extent to which the proposal can overcome financial obstacles such as the lack of market finance

## 3. Available budget

The available call budget is **EUR 9.000.000**. This budget might be increased by maximum 20%.

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

Topic	Topic budget
DIGITAL-DEPLOY-2021-01-HEALTH	<b>EUR 1,000,000</b>
DIGITAL-DEPLOY-2021-01-TWINS-HEALTH	<b>EUR 5,000,000</b>
DIGITAL-DEPLOY-2021-01-LIVING-EU	<b>EUR 2,000,000</b>
DIGITAL-2021-DEPLOY-01-BAUHAUS	<b>EUR 1,000,000</b>

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

## 4. Timetable and deadlines

<b>Timetable and deadlines (indicative)</b>	
Call opening:	17 November 2021
<u>Deadline for submission:</u>	22 February 2022 – 17:00:00 CET (Brussels)
Evaluation:	14 March to 29 April 2022
Information on evaluation results:	End of May 2022
GA signature:	September 2022

## 5. Admissibility and documents

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

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

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

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


- Application Form Part A — contains administrative information about the participants (future coordinator, beneficiaries and affiliated entities) and the summarised budget for the project (*to be filled in directly online*)
- Application Form Part B — contains the technical description of the project (*to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed and then assembled and re-uploaded*)
- **mandatory annexes and supporting documents** (*to be uploaded*):
  - detailed budget table: not applicable
  - CVs of core project team: not applicable
  - activity reports of last year: not applicable
  - list of previous projects: not applicable
  - **Ethics issues table: applicable**
  - **Security issues table: applicable**
  - Ownership control declaration: not applicable

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

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

Proposals are limited to maximum **50 pages** (Part B). Evaluators will not consider any additional pages.

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

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

## 6. Eligibility

### Eligible participants (eligible countries)

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

- be legal entities (public or private bodies)
- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
  - EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs))
  - non-EU countries:
    - listed EEA countries and countries associated to the Digital Europe Programme ([associated countries](#)<sup>(O&E)</sup>) or countries which are in ongoing negotiations for an association agreement and where the agreement enters into force before grant signature

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

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

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

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

**Entities without legal personality** — Entities which do not have legal personality under their national law may exceptionally participate, provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf, and offer guarantees for the protection of the EU financial interests equivalent to that offered by legal persons<sup>24</sup>.

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

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<sup>24</sup> See Article 197(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

Associations and interest groupings — Entities composed of members may participate as 'sole beneficiaries' or 'beneficiaries without legal personality'<sup>25</sup>. ⚠ 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 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 certain entities (*e.g. entities subject to [EU restrictive measures](#) under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)*<sup>26</sup> and entities covered by Commission Guidelines No [2013/C 205/05](#)<sup>27</sup>). Such entities are not eligible to participate in any capacity, including as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any).

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

### Consortium composition

Proposals must be submitted by:

for topics

DIGITAL-2021-DEPLOY-01-TWINS-HEALTH,

DIGITAL-2021-DEPLOY-01-BAUHAUS,

- a consortium of at least three applicants (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities) and which complies with the following conditions:
  - minimum three entities from three different eligible countries

DIGITAL-2021-DEPLOY-01-LIVING-EU

- a consortium of at least three applicants (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities)

### Eligible activities

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

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

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

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<sup>25</sup> For the definitions, see Articles 187(2) and 197(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

<sup>26</sup> Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the [EU Sanctions Map](#).

<sup>27</sup> Commission guidelines No [2013/C 205/05](#) on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards (OJEU C 205 of 19.07.2013, pp. 9-11).

Financial support to third parties is allowed in DIGITAL-2021-DEPLOY-01-HEALTH for grants under the following conditions:

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

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

### Ethics

Projects must comply with:

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

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

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

### Security

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

These rules (governed by Decision [2015/444](#)<sup>28</sup> and its implementing rules and/or national rules) provide for instance that:

- projects involving information classified TRES SECRET UE/EU TOP SECRET (or

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<sup>28</sup> See Commission Decision 2015/544/EU, Euratom of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53).



equivalent) can NOT be funded

- classified information must be marked in accordance with the applicable security instructions in the SAL
- information with classification levels CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or above (and RESTREINT UE/ EU RESTRICTED, if required by national rules) may be:
  - created or accessed only on premises with facility security clearing (FSC) from the competent national security authority (NSA), in accordance with the national rules
  - handled only in a secured area accredited by the competent NSA
  - accessed and handled only by persons with valid personnel security clearance (PSC) and a need-to-know
- at the end of the grant, the classified information must either be returned or continue to be protected in accordance with the applicable rules
- action tasks involving EU classified information (EUCI) may be subcontracted only with prior written approval from the granting authority and only to entities established in an EU Member State or in a non-EU country with a security of information agreement with the EU (or an administrative arrangement with the Commission)
- disclosure of EUCI to third parties is subject to prior written approval from the granting authority.

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

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

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

## **7. Financial and operational capacity and exclusion**

### Financial capacity

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

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

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

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

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

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

- further information
  - an enhanced financial responsibility regime, i.e. joint and several responsibility for all beneficiaries or joint and several liability of affiliated entities (*see below, section 10*)
  - prefinancing paid in instalments
  - (one or more) prefinancing guarantees (*see below, section 10*)
- or
- propose no prefinancing
  - request that you are replaced or, if needed, reject the entire proposal.

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

### Operational capacity

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

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

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

Applicants will have to show their operational 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

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

### Exclusion

Applicants which are subject to an **EU exclusion decision** or in one of the following **exclusion situations** that bar them from receiving EU funding can NOT participate<sup>29</sup>:

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<sup>29</sup> See Articles 136 and 141 of EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

- bankruptcy, winding up, affairs administered by the courts, arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or other similar procedures (including procedures for persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- in breach of social security or tax obligations (including if done by persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- guilty of grave professional misconduct<sup>30</sup> (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- committed fraud, corruption, links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-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).

Applicants will also be refused if it turns out that<sup>31</sup>:

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

## 8. Evaluation and award procedure

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

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

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<sup>30</sup> Professional misconduct includes: violation of ethical standards of the profession, wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility, false declarations/misrepresentation of information, participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition, violation of IPR, attempting to influence decision-making processes or obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain advantage.


<sup>31</sup> See Article 141 EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 9. Award criteria

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

- **Relevance**
  - Alignment with the objectives and activities as described in section 2
  - Contribution to long-term policy objectives, relevant policies and strategies, and synergies with activities at European and national level

- Extent to which the project would reinforce and secure the digital technology supply chain in the EU\*
- Extent to which the project can overcome financial obstacles such as the lack of market finance\*
- **Implementation**
  - Maturity of the project
  - Soundness of the implementation plan and efficient use of resources
  - Capacity of the applicants, and when applicable the consortium as a whole, to carry out the proposed work
- **Impact**
  - Extent to which the project will achieve the expected outcomes and deliverables referred to in the call for proposals and, where relevant, the plans to disseminate and communicate project achievements
  - Extent to which the project will strengthen competitiveness and bring important benefits for society
  - Extent to which the project addresses environmental sustainability and the European Green Deal goals, in terms of direct effects and/or in awareness of environmental effects \*

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

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

Maximum points: 15 points.

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

Overall threshold: 10 points.

Proposals that pass the individual thresholds AND the overall threshold will be considered for funding – within the limits of the available call budget. Other proposals will be rejected.

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

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

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

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

### Starting date and project duration

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

Project duration:

- **between 18 and 30 months** for topic DIGITAL-2021-DEPLOY-01-HEALTH
- **24 months** for topic DIGITAL-2021-DEPLOY-01-TWINS-HEALTH and DIGITAL-2021-DEPLOY-01-BAUHAUS
- **48 months** for topic DIGITAL-2021-DEPLOY-01-LIVING-EU

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

### Milestones and deliverables

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

The following deliverables will be mandatory for all projects:

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

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

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

Project budget (maximum grant amount):

- **EUR 1 000 000** per project for topic DIGITAL-2021-DEPLOY-01-HEALTH
- **EUR 5 000 000** per project for topic DIGITAL-2021-DEPLOY-01-TWINS-HEALTH
- **EUR 2 000 000** per project for topic DIGITAL-2021-DEPLOY-01-LIVING-EU.
- **EUR 1 000 000** per project for the topic DIGITAL-2021-DEPLOY-01-BAUHAUS

The grant awarded may be lower than the amount requested.

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

The costs will be reimbursed at the funding rate fixed in the Grant Agreement. This rate depends on the type of action which applies to the topic, *see section 2*. Grants may NOT produce a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + EU grant over costs). For-profit

organisations must declare their revenues and, if there is a profit, we will deduct it from the final grant amount (*see art 22.3*).

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

### Budget categories and cost eligibility rules

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

#### *Budget categories for this call:*

- A. Personnel costs
  - A.1 Employees, A.2 Natural persons under direct contract, A.3 Seconded persons
  - A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries
- B. Subcontracting costs
- C. Purchase costs
  - C.1 Travel and subsistence
  - C.2 Equipment
  - C.3 Other goods, works and services
- D. Other cost categories
  - D.1 Financial support to third parties (for topic **DIGITAL-2021-DEPLOY-01-HEALTH**)
  - D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services
- E. Indirect costs

#### *Specific cost eligibility conditions for this call:*

- personnel costs:
  - average personnel costs (unit cost according to usual cost accounting practices): Yes
  - SME owner/natural person unit cost<sup>32</sup>: Yes
- travel and subsistence unit costs<sup>33</sup>: No (only actual costs)
- equipment costs:
  - depreciation
- other cost categories:
  - costs for financial support to third parties: allowed for topic **DIGITAL-2021-DEPLOY-01-HEALTH**:

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<sup>32</sup> Commission [Decision](#) of 20 October 2020 authorising the use of unit costs for the personnel costs of the owners of small and medium-sized enterprises and beneficiaries that are natural persons not receiving a salary for the work carried out by themselves under an action or work programme (C(2020)7715).

<sup>33</sup> Commission [Decision](#) of 12 January 2021 authorising the use of unit costs for travel, accommodation and subsistence costs under an action or work programme under the 2021-2027 multi-annual financial framework (C(2021)35).

- maximum amount per third party or sub-grant **EUR 60 000**, unless a higher amount is required because the objective of the action would otherwise be impossible or overly difficult to achieve and this is duly justified in the Application Form
- **not exceeding 30% of the total grant amount**
  - internally invoiced goods and services (costs unit cost according to usual cost accounting practices): Yes
  - indirect cost flat-rate: 7% of the eligible direct costs.
  - VAT: non-deductible VAT is eligible (but please note that since 2013 VAT paid by beneficiaries that are public bodies acting as public authority is NOT eligible)
  - other:
    - in-kind contributions for free are allowed, but cost-neutral, i.e. they cannot be declared as cost
    - kick-off meeting: costs for kick-off meeting organised by the granting authority are eligible (travel costs for maximum 2 persons, return ticket to Brussels and accommodation for one night) only if the meeting takes place after the project starting date set out in the Grant Agreement; the starting date can be changed through an amendment, if needed
    - project websites: communication costs for presenting the project on the participants' websites or social media accounts are eligible; costs for *separate* project websites are not eligible

#### 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 **50%** of the maximum grant amount; exceptionally less or no prefinancing). The prefinancing will be paid 30 days from entry into force/10 days before starting date/financial guarantee (if required) – whichever is the latest.

There will be one or more **interim payments** (with cost reporting through the use of resources report).

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

#### Prefinancing guarantees

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

The guarantee should be in euro and issued by an approved bank/financial institution established in an EU Member State. If you are established in a non-EU country and



would like to provide a guarantee from a bank/financial institution in your country, please contact us (this may be exceptionally accepted, if it offers equivalent security).

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

Prefinancing guarantees are formally NOT linked to individual consortium members, which means that you are free to organise how to provide the guarantee amount (*by one or several beneficiaries, for the overall amount or several guarantees for partial amounts, by the beneficiary concerned or by another beneficiary, etc*). It is however important that the requested amount is covered and that the guarantee(s) are sent to us 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 one of the following:

- limited joint and several liability with individual ceilings — *each beneficiary up to their maximum grant amount*
  - unconditional joint and several liability — *each beneficiary up to the maximum grant amount for the action*
- or
- individual financial responsibility — *each beneficiary only for their own debts*.

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

### Provisions concerning the project implementation

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

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

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

- background and list of background: Yes
- protection of results: Yes
- exploitation of results: Yes
- rights of use on results: Yes
- access to results for policy purposes: Yes

- access rights for the granting authority to results in case of a public emergency: Yes
- access rights to ensure continuity and interoperability obligations: Yes for topic **DIGITAL-2021-DEPLOY-01-LIVING-EU** and **DIGITAL-2021-DEPLOY-01-BAUHAUS**

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

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

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

- specific rules for PAC Grants for Procurement: No
- specific rules for Grants for Financial Support: No
- specific rules for blending operations: No

#### Other specificities

n/a

#### Non-compliance and breach of contract

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



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

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

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

Submission is a 2-step process:

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

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

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

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

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

Submit your proposal in 3 parts, as follows:

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

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

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

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

Once the proposal is submitted, you will receive a **confirmation e-mail** (with date and time of your application). If you do not receive this confirmation e-mail, it means your proposal has NOT been submitted. If you believe this is due to a fault in the Submission System, you should immediately file a complaint via the [IT Helpdesk webform](#), explaining the circumstances and attaching a copy of the proposal (and, if possible, screenshots to show what happened).

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

## 12. Help

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

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

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

### Contact

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

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

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

## 13. Important



### IMPORTANT

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

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

- **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).
- **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).
- **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 double funding**— There is a strict prohibition of double 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 declared to two different EU actions.
- **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).
- **Combination with EU operating grants**— Combination with EU operating grants is possible, if the project remains outside the operating grant work programme and you make sure that cost items are clearly separated in your accounting and NOT declared twice (see [AGA – Annotated Model Grant Agreement, art 6.2.E](#)).
- **Multiple proposals** — Applicants may submit more than one proposal for *different* projects under the same call (and be awarded 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.
- **Language** — You can submit your proposal in any official EU language (project abstract/summary should however always be in English). For reasons of efficiency, we strongly advise you to use English for the entire application. If you need the call documentation in another official EU language, please submit a request within 10 days after call publication (for the contact information, see *section 12*).

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

This includes:

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

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

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

## Annex 1

### Digital Europe types of action

The Digital Europe Programme will use the following actions to implement grants:

#### **Simple Grants**

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

**Funding rate:** 50%

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

#### **SME Support Actions**

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

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

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

#### **Coordination and Support Actions (CSAs)**

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

**Funding rate:** 100%

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

#### **Grants for Procurement**

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

**Funding rate:** 50%

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

#### **PAC Grants for Procurement**

**Description:** Specific type of action for procurement in grant agreements by 'contracting authorities/entities' as defined in the EU Public Procurement Directives

(Directives 2014/24/EU , 2014/25/EU and 2009/81/EC) aiming at innovative digital goods and services (i.e. novel technologies on the way to commercialisation but not yet broadly available).

**Funding rate:** 50%

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

### **Grants for Financial Support**

**Description:** Type of action with a particular focus on cascading grants. The majority of the grant will be distributed via financial support to third parties with special provisions in the grant agreement, maximum amounts to third parties, multiple pre-financing and reporting obligations.

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

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

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

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

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

#### ***FPAs***

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

**Funding rate:** no funding for FPA

#### ***SGAs***

**Description:** The SGAs are linked to an FPA and implement the action plan (or part of it). They are awarded via an invitation to submit a proposal (identified beneficiary action). The coordinator of the FPA has to be the coordinator of each SGA signed under the FPA and will always take to role of single contact point for the granting authority. All the other partners of the FPA can participate in any SGA. There is no limit to the amount of SGAs signed under one FPA.

**Funding rate:** 50%

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

### **Lump Sum Grant**

**Description:** Lump Sum Grants reimburse a general lump sum for the entire project and the consortium as a whole. The lump sum is fixed ex-ante (at the latest at grant signature). The granting authority defines a methodology for calculating the amount of the lump sum. There is an overall amount, i.e. the lump sum will cover the beneficiaries' direct and indirect eligible costs. The beneficiaries do not need to report



actual costs, they just need to claim the lump sum once the work is done. If the action is not properly implemented only part of the lump sum will be paid.

**Funding rate:** 50%

**Payment model:** Prefinancing – second (third) prefinancing (as there is no cost reporting) – final payment

## Annex 2

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

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

If indicated in the Digital Europe Work Programme, and if justified for security reasons, topics can exclude the participation of legal entities *established* in a third country or associated country, or established in the EU territory but *controlled* by a third country or third country legal entities (including associated countries)<sup>34</sup>.

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


- In the case of SO3, the provision is implemented in the strictest way. When activated, only entities established in the EU and controlled from EU MS or EU legal entities will be able to participate — with no exceptions.
- In SO1 and SO2, entities controlled by third countries or third country legal entities may be able to participate if they comply with certain conditions set up in the Work Programme. To that end, additional rules will be imposed on those legal entities, which need to be followed if they want to participate.

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

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

If indicated in the Digital Europe Work Programme, calls can limit the participation to entities *established* in the EU, and/or entities established in third countries associated to the programme for EU strategic autonomy reasons<sup>35</sup>.

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

 For more information, see *the Guidance on ownership control restrictions in EU grants*.

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<sup>34</sup> See Article 12(5) and (6) of the Digital Europe Regulation 2021/694

<sup>35</sup> See Article 18(4) of the Digital Europe Regulation 2021/694.