

ECSEL CALLS 2019 - Information Webinar

Questions and Answers

- 1) Q: Is possible to have this presentation at the end of the webinar? Will the presentation be distributed via email?
A: If possible the presentation will be posted on the ECSEL website if not it will be distributed to all attendees by email

- 2) Q: Confirm that the work plan is already on the web. In the morning only the ECSEL Work Plan 2018 was visible
A: Yes it is. Please check regularly the ECSEL Calls 2019 page for updates and not the Calls 2018 webpage.

- 3) Q: For 2-stage calls it is possible to add new partners during the second stage application?!
A: Yes it is possible but to a limited extent not to significantly change the proposal and the initial consortium. The proposal submitted at the second stage (FPP) should not significantly deviate from the proposal submitted at the first stage (PO stage). The National Funding Authorities check the eligibility of the applicants at the PO stage and if there are any changes they have to be made aware about because of the specific national eligibility rules. The new applicants added at the FPP stage are strongly advised to get in touch as soon as possible with their own National Funding Authorities to check their eligibility at national level. It is highly recommended to have a consortium as complete as possible at the PO stage.

- 4) Q: How about SMEs leading a consortium? Is that something viewed positively?
A: The SMEs are encouraged to actively participate in ECSEL projects. SMEs leading consortia is overall positively perceived but the proposals lead by SMEs will be treated the same as the proposals lead by other type of organizations: the same evaluation criteria apply – no extra marks/higher scores for proposals lead by SMEs.

- 5) Q: how can the ratio between national and EU funding be influenced? Since this is given by national eligibility criteria
A: The consortia are encouraged to check with their own National Funding Authorities to check if the applicants are eligible for national funding and as much as possible to try to reach 1.2 ratio. It is a recommendation to strive for whenever possible and as much as possible. There is always the option to request less EU funding than the maximum available EU funding.

- 6) Q: Is it possible to establishing a project with American participation, i.e. American technology to be integrated with European-made products?!
- A: Assuming than by American one refers to US or Canadian partner, then US and Canadian partners (i.e. located in US or Canada and performing the activity there) can participate to an ECSEL project without EU funding. The PAB could decide to allocate EU funding to a US or Canadian partner if the activities of this partner in the project are of vital importance to the project. This should be motivated in the proposal. Organizations located in Europe or in an Associated country but depending from a US or Canadian headquarter can participate in the project and get EU funding (provided the costs are eligible according to H2020 of course), but for the national funding different rules might apply.
- 7) Q: What were the success rates last year?
- A: 50% for the IA and 20% for the RIA.
- 8) Q: The budget of countries in the table on the website are mostly empty: <https://www.ecsel.eu/calls/calls-2019#budget>. When will the national authorities provide the information?!
- A: They have been updated. Some countries will provide final figures at a later stage, please contact the national authorities for more information.
- 9) Q: Is each project/proposal based on a consortium only? No single company per proposal?
- A: one of the eligibility criteria for ECSEL proposals is that the consortium must consist of minimum 3 independent legal entities each established in a different member state or associated country. Consortia of one single company/legal entity are not eligible.
- 10) Q: is there a glossary for all acronyms at the end of the document?
- A: if the question refers to the presentation a glossary will be provided if the question refers to the Annual Work Plan the information will be passed on to the persons responsible so that measures can be taken to provide such a glossary. For both documents there are though indications what the acronyms stand for.
- 11) Q: The max budget for IA Call 2019 is 92.5 M€, and max budget/proposal is 25 M€. Does it mean that approx. 3-4 proposals will be funded?
- A: The average IA proposals have lower budgets and therefore more proposals could be selected.
- 12) Q: Are there any networking events?
- A: No. There was a networking event organized by the 3 industrial associated [mid January 2019 in Brussels](#).

The presenter reminds the attendance about the ECS Collaboration Tool maintained by the 3 industrial associations. There is a direct link to it both on the ECSEL Calls website and the Funding and Tender portal Calls page, which can be used by the applicants to introduce themselves to the community by presenting their expertise and/or to join proposals already in preparation. The Funding and Tenders portal has a new “Partner Search” function on topic page specific for that topic/call. There is also in the “Get Support” section a more general “Partner Search Services” – this is for the whole H2020 programme. The proposals ideas from the event in January are also presented in the ECS Collaboration tool. If the national authorities organize ECSEL Info Days ECSEL office will provide all the needed support.

13) Q: Is Denmark eligible for ECSEL? There are no details in the respective section of the Annual Work Plan

A: Yes, but Denmark does not provide national funding to participants in ECSEL projects, therefore Danish participants can only count on EU funding..

14) Q: How are the expert evaluators selected?

A: According to expertise, gender, nationality and anciency.

15) Q: How to become an evaluator for ECSEL calls: is this different from H2020 or not?

A: ECSEL uses the H2020 experts database. Therefore, experts interested to be evaluators for ECSEL calls need to register themselves in this database. They can also send an email to ECSEL office to indicate their interest.

16) Q: Is there any internal database where applicants can find for partners/project ideas?

A: ECSEL JU does not have such an internal database but there are several options as indicated in the answer to the Q #12 (see above)

17) Q: SME must prepare PO and FPP or not?

A: SMEs do not have any special status when it comes to the proposals submission. They are treated like the other applicants (members of the consortia). They have to be included in the respective consortium when a proposal is submitted at the PO stage. As indicated in the answer to the Q #3 it is possible (to a very limited extent) to add new members to a consortium after PO stage – this is valid for all types of organisations regardless their status (SMEs or not). The rules are the same for all applicants.

18) Q: Basically, there is a restriction on number of participants during PO and FPP, but it is possible that after the final ranking of the national authorities some countries drop out resulting possibly in non-eligible consortia?!

A: Yes that can happen.

19) Q: Is the FPP only applied to the non-profit organisations such as universities?

A: No, similar answer as Q17.

20) Q: What is the expected size of consortia in the different calls?

A: No expected size. .

21) Q: What about funding of UK partners ? Is there any funding from the EU ? Any compensation from the UK?

A: The question was already answered during the presentation. ECSEL JU will apply the same rules as for H2020. Applicants are invited to check for updates on both ECSEL JU website and Funding and Tenders Portal. So far UK did not communicate to ECSEL office anything about a financial commitment for the national funding for Calls 2019. There is no information available about a potential compensation from UK. As soon as more information will become available it will be posted on ECSEL JU website and the Calls pages in the Funding and Tenders Portal.

22) Q: Is it allowed to hire a company (not participating in the actual R&D work) to prepare the proposal and lead the project?

A: Yes it is allowed to hire a company to prepare the proposal. No it is not allowed for a company to lead a project if they are not involved in the R&D&I activities. See the H2020 rules on this.

23) Q: Are there any issue to consider if inviting to a proposal subsidiaries of Chinese companies, such as Huawei in Germany?

A: the same answer as for the Q#6 about American companies.

24) Q: Does total funding for RIA Calls EU plus national funding, amounts to 100% of eligible costs?

A: Not necessarily. That depends on the national rules.

25) Q: Can a company deemed non-eligible by the National Funding Authorities take part of the PO and FPP?

A: Yes except if the national authorities indicate that the reason for national non-eligibility also is of application in the frame of the EU law (company in bankruptcy for example). .

26) Q: Does each member of the consortium have to apply to national funding?

A: Yes, if the national authorities foresee national funding, if not then no. Refer to the chapter 9 in the Work Plan describing the national funding rules if any. Some countries are very strict and require extra information and/or a mandatory registration prior to the deadlines of the ECSEL call

27) Q: Will there be a ECSEL JU coordinators day?

A: ECSEL JU will organize a coordinators day on 26 March..

28) Q: It was mentioned during the presentation that the Project Consortium Agreement (PCA) is in principle expected be available (signed) before the project start. Does this mean that a signed copy of the PCA must be sent to the ECSEL JU before the project start?

A: ECSEL JU does not request any signed copy of the signed PCA. The PCA is expected to be concluded before the start of the project as the costs to prepare the PCA are not eligible for funding. The only request from ECSEL JU is that a PCA is signed. It is also in the consortium best interest to have a PCA in place before the actual work in the project starts.

29) Q: About co-funding: if there are 5 proposals selected for funding and the total budget fits the EU funding budget, but it does not fit the total funding budget of a specific country (e.g. Spain), will the partners of this country have to live with lower funding rates compared to what was originally planned?!

A: It is not clear what doesn't mean lower funding rate. If there is enough EU funding the applicants will receive the EU funding indicated in the Work Plan. If a country runs out of budget but the other countries still have budget available it depends on the applicants from that country: they can decide to stay in the project only with EU funding or to leave the project. If the project is selected but the full EU budget is not available then it is left to the consortium to propose how they deal with this lower funding.

30) Q: Is the success rate for the PO stage lower than the FPP stage? If a proposal is selected after PO stage, its chances of success are close to 100% for the FPP stage?

A: There is no success rate at PO stage because projects are not selected at PO stage.

31) Q: Can one organization apply for all types of calls? IA, RIA and CSA?

A: Yes.

32) Q: are the funding rates the same as in PRIMA: 100% for "non-profit legal entities" and 70% for the other legal entities. Are the universities considered as non-profit entities?!

A: No, please refer to the Work Plan for further information on funding rates.