

EU Research Infrastructures — Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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1. How many proposals are expected to be funded under each of the areas detailed under Infra IA?

Seven areas have been outlined for both the starter community and the advanced community. The expectation is that approximately one proposal will be funded under each area for each “community”. Proposals should take into account all relevant ESFRI RIs to exploit synergies and to ensure coherency in the EU RI landscape.

2. Are there expected budgets for proposals under each Call topic?

Yes. The details of all calls including the expected budget lines are available within the work programme.

3. What specific topics are included in the seven areas covered by Call 2 (IA)?

There are 7 topics under Call 2 for both Advanced and Starter communities (the same 7 topics); the areas/activities covered under each of the seven areas are provided in the work programme (http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/wp/2014_2015/main/h2020-wp1415-infrastructures_en.pdf).

4. Who are eligible to apply to the cluster topic under the InfraDev call #4?

The targets for this call are ESFRI projects together with other world class RIs, ERICs (European Research Infrastructure Consortium), Integrated Activities and/or e-infrastructures.

5. Can just one category under Call 2, Integrating Activities, be focused on within a proposal?

Three categories come in under Call 2: Networking activities; TA/VA; and joint research activities. All three categories of activities are mandatory within proposals (synergistic effects are expected from these different components). However, the focus among these categories may differ for Starting and Advanced Communities.

6. What is the expectation from the Centres of Excellence (Topic 5, e-infra)? Is there to be a central hub or multifaceted?

The expectation is that the CoEs will be user-driven, intergrated, multidisciplinary. They may be distributed facilities with a possible central hub. The expectation will be to exploit available competences across Europe, and ensuring synergies with national/local programmes.

7. How many CoEs are expected to be funded?

Approximately 8 to 10, with an EU contribution of approximately 4 to 5 €M.

8. Can users access facilities if they are not a “member” of a funded RI?

Yes. Access to research facilities and infrastructure, also known as Transnational Access (TA), is currently funded under the FP7 Research Infrastructures Programme. As with FP7, networks funded under Horizon 2020 will receive funding to bring together their facilities and to open them up to those outside of their network. The grant will facilitate the access of researchers from all over the EU to the network's facilities and infrastructure. Access will be provided free of charge to users of the facilities. Access opportunities are currently located at: <http://www.euroris-net.eu/>

9. Where can I download the proposal template?

The proposal templates will be available on the participant portal located here: <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/home.html>

10. What is covered under virtual access costs?

The following is covered: the running costs of the installation; the costs for technological and scientific support to users' access (e.g. help desk). However it excludes all contributions to the capital investments of the infrastructure.

11. What is the policy on Russian partners?

Russian entities can participate across the whole of Horizon 2020, under the following conditions: when there is a bilateral agreement with the country in question; when it is deemed that the participation is essential for carrying out the project; when the funding is explicitly foreseen in the call.

12. In relation to *Advanced Communities*, does each partner need to have been funded under a previous Framework Programme? Should the funding have been awarded under the Research Infrastructure work programme?

Advanced Communities are those whose research infrastructures already show an advanced degree of coordination and networking through Integrating Activities awarded under previous Framework Programmes. Proposals should take into due account all relevant ESFRI RI to exploit synergies and to ensure coherency in the EU RI landscape.

13. Is there any "non-competing" clause re: participation to Integrating activities under INFRAIA-1, i.e., could an organisation submit/participate in two or more proposals under the same topic, e.g., "european smart grid RI"?

There is no clause or formal limitation to the participation of an organisation in IA in the same or in different areas. However, multiple proposals addressing the same area with some common participants would be contrary to the aims of the programme in pooling resources and avoiding duplication of efforts.