



Memorandum of Understanding

regarding the implementation of the CHIST-ERA Call 2025 for research proposals

in partial fulfilment of the objective of CHIST-ERA IV

between

The Research Funding Organisations	Country	In short
Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique – FNRS	BE	F.R.S.-FNRS
Swiss National Science Foundation	CH	SNSF
Estonian Research Council	EE	ETAG
Agencia Estatal de Investigacion	ES	AEI
Suomen Akatemia	FI	AKA
Agence Nationale de la Recherche	FR	ANR
Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland	IE	Research Ireland
Research Council of Lithuania	LT	LMT
Luxembourg National Research Fund	LU	FNR
Narodowe Centrum Nauki	PL	NCN
Slovak Academie of Sciences	SK	SAS
National Science and Technology Council	TW	NSTC
United Kingdom Research and Innovation	UK	UKRI

hereinafter collectively referred to as “Funding Organisations”, represented by the Signatories.

The present Memorandum of Understanding includes two annexes:

I “Call Announcement”

II “Procedures of the Call”

Terms of cooperation

1. The Funding Organisations wish to reach a mutual understanding for the implementation of a new call for research proposals ("Call") as provisioned in the CHIST-ERA IV Consortium Agreement.
2. The implementation of the Call is steered by the Call Steering Committee ("CSC"), composed of one representative of each Funding Organisation.
3. The Funding Organisations agree to the publication of the Call Announcement document found in annex I. Each Funding Organisation ensures that any arrangements needed to implement the call at its level are duly implemented.
4. The Funding Organisations have provided indicative funding commitments which are published in the Call Announcement. Funding Organisations diligently inform the CSC of any change in their commitment and duly justify it.
5. Project partners in a proposal apply for funding to a single Funding Organisation of their choice. Project partners of selected projects are funded by the Funding Organisation they have applied to.
6. Funding Organisations have defined administrative conditions for the approval of their funding, described in their respective national or regional annex of the Call Announcement. Funding Organisations diligently inform the CSC of any change in their funding criteria and regulations.
7. The document detailing the currently agreed implementation procedures for the Call can be found in annex II (Procedures of the Call). The Funding Organisations have taken note of this document. In particular, evaluation panel members will be remunerated according to ANR rules. It may be amended at any time by an unanimous decision of the CSC.
8. The Funding Organisations agree to make every reasonable effort to fulfil the intentions expressed in this MoU including its annexes. If a Funding Organisation becomes aware that it may not be able to fulfil these intentions, it diligently informs all other Funding Organisations, duly justifies the change, and makes every reasonable effort to cooperate with the other Funding Organisations in order to reach a common solution.
9. The implementation of common procedures is funded and supported by CHIST-ERA IV, in accordance with the provisions of the CHIST-ERA IV Grant Agreement and Consortium Agreement.
10. The Funding Organisations accept to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation¹ and they will take any measures to protect the data of all persons involved in the process. The Funding Organisations will not share personal data with third parties other than external confidential advisers and parties required by national laws. The processing of data only takes place in order to conduct an evaluation process and to select eligible projects in cooperation with the respective Funding Organisations. All reviewers will sign a confidentiality agreement.
11. While this MoU is not in itself legally binding, the Funding Organisations are aware that the Call is also governed by the CHIST-ERA IV Grant Agreement and Consortium Agreement, which are legally binding. This MoU complements the provisions of these two agreements. In case of conflict between this MoU and these two agreements, the latter agreements shall have precedence.

¹ The General Data Protection Regulation ([EU 2016/679](#))

BE – F.R.S.-FNRS – Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique – FNRS

Legally represented by:

Date

Signature

Stamp

CH – SNSF – Swiss National Science Foundation

Legally represented by:

Date

Signature

Stamp

EE – ETAG – Estonian Research Council

Legally represented by:

Date

Signature

Stamp

ES – AEI – Agencia Estatal de Investigacion

Legally represented by:

Date

Signature

Stamp

FI – AKA – Suomen Akatemia

Legally represented by:

Date

Signature

Stamp

FR – ANR – Agence Nationale de la Recherche

Legally represented by:

Claire Giry, ANR President and CEO

Date

Signature

Stamp

IE - Research Ireland - Taighde Éireann – Research Ireland

Legally represented by:

Date

Signature

Stamp

LT – LMT – Research Council of Lithuania

Legally represented by:

Viktoras Mongirdas, Head of the International Cooperation Unit

Date

Signature

Stamp

LU – FNR – Luxembourg Research National Fund

Legally represented by:

Date

Signature

Stamp

PL – NCN – Narodowe Centrum Nauki

Legally represented by:

Date

Signature

Stamp

SK – SAS – Slovak Academy of Sciences

Legally represented by:

Date

Signature

Stamp

TW – NSTC – National Science and Technology Council

Legally represented by:

Date

Signature

Stamp

UK – UKRI – United Kingdom Research and Innovation

Legally represented by:

Dr Andrew Bourne, Executive Director of Partnerships

Date

Signature

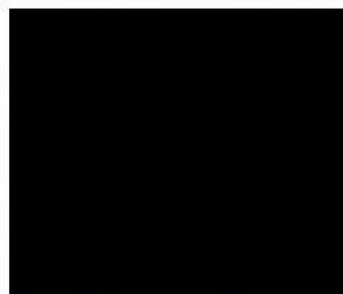
Stamp

SK – SAS – Slovak Academy of Sciences

Legally represented by:

Prof. RNDr. Pavol Šajgalík, DrSc.

12/02/2025



Date

Signature

Stamp

Call for Project Proposals


Supporting the topic of

Science in your Own Language (SOL)

Deadline: 15 April 2025, 17:00 CEST

Documents and procedures: <http://www.chistera.eu>

Call information: Eugenio Echagüe



Indicative budget: Appr. 7.15 M€

Funding Organisations supporting this call:



**CHIST-ERA supports European coordinated research on long-term ICT
and ICT-based scientific challenges**

CHIST-ERA is supported by the Pathfinder programme of the European Innovation Council



Key Facts & Figures

CHIST-ERA support to Open Science

CHIST-ERA is a consortium of research funding organisations in Europe and beyond supporting use-inspired basic research in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) or at the interface between ICT and other domains. The CHIST-ERA consortium is itself supported by Horizon 2020 and is part of the European Innovation Council's Pathfinder programme.

CHIST-ERA fully joins the Open Science agenda of Horizon Europe following the principle 'as open as possible, as closed as necessary':

1. The network proposes an original policy framework, encompassing national/regional policies, for the researchers to shape their projects in line with highest standards of open access practices;
2. With a focus on emerging ICT, CHIST-ERA further accompanies this effort by supporting R & D projects on key enabling tools, services and standards aimed at facilitating and promoting open access, within and beyond ICT research domains.

Content of the Call

Topic: Science in your Own Language (SOL)

Indicative budget:	Approx. 7.15 M€
International consortium:	The project consortia must have a minimum of 3 eligible and independent partners requesting funding from participating funding organisations from at least 3 of the following countries: Belgium, Estonia, Finland, France, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, United Kingdom.
Standard consortium size:	Three to six partners
Evaluation:	Proposals are evaluated based on criteria of a) Relevance to the topic, b) Scientific and technological quality, c) Impact and d) Implementation
Funding:	Each partner is funded separately by the national/regional funding organisation they are applying to. They must fulfil the conditions of their funding organisation, as described in the annex

Tentative Timeline

15 April 2025, 17:00 CEST	Deadline for proposal submission
From Late July 2025	Notification of accepted proposals
From November 2025	Start date for accepted projects

Table of Contents

Key Facts & Figures	2
Table of Contents	3
Projects Targeted in the Call	4
Topic: “Science in your own language (SOL)”	4
Open Science Policy	6
Widening Countries Participation	9
Management of the Call	10
Call Steering Committee	10
Evaluation Panel.....	10
Tentative Timeline.....	10
Eligibility	11
Eligibility of the Consortium	11
Eligibility of Partners	11
National/Regional Research Funding Organisations: Overview Table (see annex for further information)	12
Application Procedure	15
Evaluation and Selection Procedure	16
Evaluation.....	16
Selection.....	17
Management of Projects	18
Contracting of the Consortium	18
Consortium agreement.....	18
Reporting.....	18
Project modifications	18
National Annex: Funding Organisation’s Contact Points and Regulations	19
Estonia - ETAG.....	19
Finland - AKA	21
France - ANR.....	22
Luxembourg - FNR	23
Slovakia - SAS	24
Switzerland - SNSF.....	25
Taiwan - NSTC	27
United Kingdom - UKRI.....	28

Projects Targeted in the Call

The CHIST-ERA (www.chistera.eu) consortium has created a common funding instrument to support transnational projects. Through this instrument, the national/regional funding organisations of CHIST-ERA support and join the [Horizon Europe Open Science](#) agenda. By launching joint calls, they can support more diverse communities, who are able to tackle the most challenging and novel Open Science topics.

This call concerns the following topic:

Topic: “Science in your own language (SOL)”

This multilateral call focuses on automatic translation of scientific knowledge in order to overcome language and cultural barriers.

It has been designed from a dual perspective. Firstly, to account for the needs of scientists or technologists who generate knowledge in their own language but need to publish, compete or peer-review in a different one. Secondly, to assist scientists, technologists or citizens who would like to benefit from the knowledge contained in documents or repositories featuring languages unknown to them.

[European data strategy](#) framework fosters a free flow of data within the EU and across sectors where access to data and use of it benefit quick research and innovation development and transfer to the market. The implementation of the strategy is providing the basis, infrastructure, tools and guidelines for clear access rules and interoperability. In this new ecosystem, knowledge sharing is critical to speed up research outcomes maturity and innovation. On the other side, having better information benefits service providers and users that can implement or select better solutions. Again, getting information in your own language is key.

Stakeholders deserve prompt access to reputed sources of scientific and technical know-how and data to provide answers to societal demands. But would an automatically translated scholarly paper be accepted at a top tier conference? Could a research proposal be written in one language and be reliably evaluated in another? Could higher-educational content be translated not only in their written form, but also in their spoken form, in an online, interactive setting? Could a detailed, public, technical specification, not written in a *lingua franca*, be readily available to remote end users of a data hub in their own language? Because the reasoning of a document can be dramatically altered by a single translation error, be it made in the process of Machine Translation or by the limited knowledge of a foreign language by a human agent, the topic of this Call encompasses multiple scientific challenges. Translation of complex documents (including graphs, images, tables videos and other supporting information) with intricate cross-references, terminology and phraseology issues, also requiring handling dependencies at the document-level will be needed. In addition, it will be necessary to adapt styles and lexicons from a variety of scientific domains and to remain open to accurate simplification and summarisation of the content for non-experts, across linguistic and cultural barriers.

This CHIST-ERA call will address the following two main strategic objectives:

- Promote multilingualism among science and technology *producers* (back-end) and *users* (front-end) through Machine Translation tools.
- Demonstrate, in the EU context, the use of a self-evaluation methodology, contributing to robust developments by ensuring experiment reproducibility with predetermined data sets, performance indicators and schedules.

Target Outcomes

Projects should address one or more of the following issues:

- Machine translation of scholarly documents to and from *different languages* including the translation of research metadata and data where applicable, documents, protocols, paper and project reviews, other academic or technical outputs such as outreach materials and press releases, blogs and other web-based content.
- Design of tools for seamless and interoperable access to multilingual scientific and technology data hubs and repositories for stakeholders who chose to approach and use them in their own language. Tools should be demonstrated by application to sectoral use cases.
- Tools for multilingual detection of scientific frauds and plagiarism.

Expected Impact

Funded projects are expected to significantly advance the state-of-the-art by achieving one or more of the following objectives.

- Open science to citizens and society.
- Take on board all research works independently of their language. Make academic results not published in English, arguably the current *lingua franca*, widely available to the academic communities so they can be internationally recognised.
- Increase the value of research and research driven products and services by facilitating regional or national targeted impacts.
- Increase the visibility of scientific results, irrespective of the language used to report them.
- Make creativity and reasoning in research benefit from all language subtleties.
- Design and implement demonstrations of new approaches to knowledge access both through novel modelling of data structures and software oriented to meet new criteria for accessibility policies.

Reproducible Performance Evaluation

Funded projects are expected to provide a performance evaluation plan where datasets, data repositories, and performance indicators are defined and established. These may be implemented either by the consortium partners themselves or by agreed-upon external non-profit organisations of their own choice. Tools and methodologies developed, by the consortium partners need to be evaluated against the declared datasets and/or repositories according to performance indicators.

Open Science Policy

Research supported by public funds should be available to the public free of charge, to improve transparency, reproducibility, visibility and democratisation of research, and also to avoid multiple payment of the same research. As such, CHIST-ERA is committed to promote Open Science by encompassing national/regional efforts.

This entails achieving more openness in the CHIST-ERA-funded science through open access to peer-reviewed publications and associated software and data, as well as constantly improving the transparency of the CHIST-ERA processes.

At the level of CHIST-ERA, Open Science aspects are positively appreciated already during the evaluation, whose criteria explicitly assess the Open Science practices and activities planned within each project. In addition, we refrain from using inadequate proxies (e.g. impact factors) during the assessment of the projects and give higher weight to the scientific content of a paper than to publication metrics, in line with the principles of the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)¹

1. Open access to publications, data and software

All publications of the project² must be available in open access³ under Creative Commons CC-BY licence or equivalent.

Moreover, the full text of the publication (version Author Accepted Manuscript - AAM or publisher version - VoR) must be deposited on an open institutional repository, at the time of publication at the latest, with a reference to the CHIST-ERA support.

All data⁴ underlying a project output must be widely accessible and deposited on a FAIR-enabling repository⁵ together with all the necessary documentation in accordance with the FAIR principles⁶, as early as possible in the course of the project and at the latest with the publication of the corresponding output and appropriately linked to the latter, with a reference to the CHIST-ERA support.

All software produced by the project must be available under an open-source licence⁷. In order to facilitate contribution and reuse, software development must be performed on a code hosting platform that allows collaborative development⁸. To ensure long term availability of the project results, the source code of the software must be stored together with all its development history in the Software Heritage archive⁹ with a reference to the CHIST-ERA support. It is recommended to have it referenced with curated metadata in an open institutional repository when possible.

¹ <https://sfdora.org/>

² This includes peer-reviewed journal publications, peer-reviewed conference papers, books and book chapters.

³ By publishing i) in a natively open access to publications venue or ii) in a subscription journal by implementing the [Rights Retention Strategy](#).

⁴ It is the necessary material that is commonly accepted in the scientific community as necessary to document, validate and reproduce findings: Datasets, software and any other possible type of artefacts, including metadata.

⁵ Criteria to select a trustworthy repository: <https://scienceeurope.org/media/b0bhp2ro/se-rdm-template-4-researcher-guidance-for-the-selection-of-trustworthy-repositories.docx>

⁶ <https://www.openaire.eu/how-to-make-your-data-fair>

⁷ <https://opensource.org/licenses>

⁸ Many collaborative development platforms for software are available: Besides the popular GitHub, GitLab.com and Bitbucket platforms, one can find other ones operated and maintained by academic institutions.

⁹ It is possible to trigger archival in Software Heritage of software projects hosted on a broad variety of platforms, see <https://www.softwareheritage.org/howto-archive-and-reference-your-code/>

For data and software that cannot be shared for a legitimate reason, the specific reason or clause as well as the conditions under which the data could be accessed must be provided. In this case, the metadata must be deposited on a FAIR-enabling repository.

In the long-term, we expect CHIST-ERA supported projects to aim at preserving data and software beyond the projects' lifetimes.

2. Data Management Plan

The project must produce a Data Management Plan (DMP) that must be submitted to CHIST-ERA at the beginning of the project via the ARGOS¹⁰ online platform. The DMP is a living document and it is the responsibility of the project's Open Science Coordinator to update it within the same platform (at least once per year). At the end of the project, the DMP must be updated and made publicly available on a document or data repository. The main goal is to provide a sustainable overview of data and software associated to the project beyond its mere lifetime, ensuring reproducibility and long-term reuse.

3. Open Science Coordinator

In order to facilitate the planning and the proper implementation of the Open Science policy, the role of Open Science Coordinator must be assigned to one of the project consortium members. The Open Science Coordinator is the main contact point for CHIST-ERA for Open Science-related matters and has the following responsibilities:

- a. Planning the dissemination activities of the consortium in connection with all scientific deliverables;
- b. Assisting the project coordinator with adapting the consortium budget to cover for the Open Science costs, given the available opportunities offered by the CHIST-ERA partners;
- c. Submit and update the project's DMP and follow up with Open Science aspects during the lifetime of the project (data sharing, embargos, etc.). In particular, coordinate these aspects with the elaboration of exploitation plans for some of the project deliverables such as those requiring specific intellectual property strategies (e.g. patenting or commercialisation);
- d. Liaise with project members with respect to Open Science aspects;
- e. Analyse Open Science practices in other projects.

¹⁰ <https://argos.openaire.eu>

Open Access to Publication and Research Data Policy at National/Regional Level and Financial Support Eligibility: Overview Table (see annex for further information)

		Policy at funding level		Financial Support Eligibility			
Country	Funding Organisation	Open access to publications	Open access to research data	Article Processing Charges	Book Processing Charges	Book Chapter Processing Charges	Research Data Repository Charges
Belgium	F.R.S.-FNRS	Yes	No	√	√		No
Estonia	ETAG	Optional	Optional	√	√	√	Yes
Finland	AKA	Yes	Yes				Yes
France	ANR	Yes	Yes	√	√	√	Yes
Ireland	Research Ireland	Yes	Yes	√	√	√	Yes
Lithuania	LMT	Yes	Yes	√	√	N/A	Yes
Luxembourg	FNR	Yes	Yes	√			Yes
Poland	NCN	Yes	Yes	√			Yes
Slovakia	SAS	No	No	√	√	√	Yes
Spain	AEI	Yes	Yes	√	√	√	Yes
Switzerland	SNSF	Yes	Yes	√	√	√	Yes
Taiwan	NSTC	Yes	Optional	√	√	√	No
United Kingdom	UKRI	Yes	Optional				Yes

Widening Countries Participation

The Widening Countries designate a list established by the European Commission of low performing countries in research and innovation, be they European Union Member States or Associated Countries to Horizon Europe.

To spread excellence, CHIST-ERA, as competitive funding instrument of collaborative projects, can support the opening of established research and innovation networks in the non-Widening Countries to most talented researchers and experts in the Widening Countries. Conversely, broader engagement of the Widening Countries' research and innovation communities has the capacity to broaden the European scientific and technological landscape with varied perspectives and scientific and technology challenges to tackle.

To support this ambition, the following actions are implemented:

- The selection criteria prioritise projects with Widening Countries in case of ex aequo projects;
- Dissemination of CHIST-ERA call funding opportunities is strengthened in Widening Countries;
- A Partner Search Tool and an online networking event are made available at www.chistera.eu;
- An additional funding for coordination support may be granted by some funders of the Widening Countries.

With regard to the latter action, applicants are encouraged to consult the 'Overview Table' (p. 13-14) and national/regional annexes (from p. 19) or funding organisation contact points to check if specific support applies.

Further information on CHIST ERA approach to widening concept is available from the CHIST-ERA website at <https://www.chistera.eu/widening-countries-policy>

The participating Widening Countries to the call are: Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia.

Management of the Call

The Call Secretariat is jointly set up at ANR (France) and AEI (Spain) and will assist the Call Steering Committee and the Evaluation Panel.

Call Steering Committee

The Call Steering Committee is the highest decision-making body of the CHIST-ERA call, being composed of representatives of all CHIST-ERA national/regional funding organisations participating in the call.

The CSC steers all activities of the call. In particular, the Call Steering Committee nominates the members of the Evaluation Panel, approves the composition of the Evaluation Panel and establishes the final list of projects recommended for funding to the funding organisations based on the ranking list provided by the Evaluation Panel. All decisions concerning the call implementation are taken by the Call Steering Committee (e.g. management of confidentiality and conflicts of interest).

Evaluation Panel

The Evaluation Panel is the evaluation body of the CHIST-ERA call and is composed of experts in the call topic.

The evaluation panel evaluates the proposals. In particular, it establishes a ranking list of projects which serves as a basis for the Call Steering Committee funding recommendation.

Tentative Timeline

15 April 2025, 17:00 CEST	Deadline for proposal submission
<hr/>	
From Late July 2025	Notification of accepted proposals
<hr/>	
From November 2025	Start date for accepted projects

Eligibility

CHIST-ERA is a hybrid funding instrument. Proposals are submitted by consortia with partners from multiple countries. The call as well as the proposal evaluation and selection are transnational. Funding is then provided by participating national/regional funding organisations directly to the selected consortium partners.

Each partner is directed by a principal investigator (PI), who interacts with the funding organisation. One PI acts as the coordinator for the consortium and is the single point of contact with CHIST-ERA.

It is necessary that both the consortium is eligible for CHIST-ERA and all partners requesting funding are eligible to be funded at national/regional level (see corresponding national/regional annex p. 19 and following). If a partner is eligible to receive funding by multiple participating organisations, the partner must choose a single organisation for funding. **Projects have a duration of 24 or 36 months.**

Eligibility of the Consortium

The following CHIST ERA general eligibility criteria must be met:

1. The consortium is international:
 - It must have a minimum of three eligible and independent partners requesting funding to organisations in the call from three distinct countries.
2. The consortium is balanced:
 - At most 60% of the total requested funding may be requested by partners from one country.

The consortium needs to be focused, that is, the proposed project must have a clearly defined goal. Consortia should therefore typically contain between three and six partners.

Partners who are not requesting funding may be part of a consortium if they are able to secure their own funding. Third-party funding is not considered for the criteria above. The consortium coordinator must be supported by a funding organisation participating in the call.

Proposals requesting a contribution of 250 K€ to 500 K€ would allow this call to be addressed appropriately. This does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Eligibility of Partners

The eligibility rules for partners are specific to the chosen funding organisation. The table on the next page provides an overview of the principal eligibility criteria for each funding organisation, including contact points. The full list of eligibility rules can be found in the corresponding national/regional annex (p. 19 and following).

In particular, be aware that some funding organisations:

- Require that eligibility of partners is checked with them prior to applying;
- Require that additional documents are submitted to them;
- Apply a cap on the amount of funding that can be requested.

In order not to jeopardize the whole consortium, partners should ensure that no doubts exist about the eligibility of their entity, the eligibility of their PI and their eligible costs.

National/Regional Research Funding Organisations: Overview Table (see annex for further information)

* The budget is indicative and represents the committed funding available for all projects the organisation supports in this call. Together with the budget, the expected number of projects gives an indication of the financial constraints that should be expected by partners applying to this funding organisation. Partners are strongly discouraged from requesting greater budgets than are necessary for the activities being proposed. Many proposals will request less than the upper limits (if any) indicated in the table.

Note: If the currency used in the country of the funding organisation is not the euro, the figure in the table is based on the exchange rate of January 2025.

** Some funding organisations require that partners contact them prior to submission or send specific documents. Some allow industrial partners but additional conditions may apply. **Applicants are strongly recommended to contact their contact point prior to submission in order to verify their eligibility.**

Country	Funding organisation	Budget (M€) *	Expected NB of projects *	Limits on amount which may be requested (K€) *	Contact prior to submission **	Additional forms **	Industrial partners eligible for funding **	Contact(s)
Belgium	FRS-FNRS	0,2						
Estonia	ETAG	0,3	1	150 or 300	No	No	Yes	
Finland	AKA	0,5	1-2	450 by partner	Recommended	No	See AKA Annex	
France	ANR	1,5	4-6	350	Yes	No	Yes	
Ireland	Research Ireland	0,32	2	160	Yes	Yes	No	
Lithuania	LMT	0,3	2	150 per project with 1 LT applicant. 200 per project with two LT applicants. Additional 50 if the coordinator is an LT applicant	No	No	Yes	
Luxembourg	FNR	0.35	1-2	350	No	Yes	No	

Country	Funding organisation	Budget (M€) *	Expected NB of projects *	Limits on amount which may be requested (K€) *	Contact prior to submission **	Additional forms **	Industrial partners eligible for funding **	Contact(s)
Poland	NCN	0.75						
Slovakia	SAS	0,12	1	120	Yes	Yes	No	
Spain	AEI	0,6	3-4	0.175 per project with one AEI applicant 0.275 per project if AEI applicant is coordinator 0.325 per project if two AEI applicants with one as coordinator.	No	Yes	No	
Switzerland	SNSF	0,9	3-5	No	Recommended if PI never supported by reference funding scheme	Yes	Only if the institution does not pursue commercial goals	
Taiwan	NSTC	0,81	3	270	Yes	No	No	
United Kingdom	UKRI	0,8	3	350	No	No	No	

Application Procedure

Ensure the Proposal is Valid

- The proposal is clearly in line with the topic of the call;
- The consortium meets the CHIST-ERA eligibility criteria;
- Each partner meets the corresponding national/regional eligibility criteria (the coordinator is strongly encouraged to check it with her/his partners sufficiently in advance).

It is the responsibility of each partner to ensure their eligibility. Consult the overview table on the previous pages and the detailed regulations of each organisation in the annex for partner-specific conditions and processes (i.e. deadlines for submission of additional documents, internal evaluations etc.).

The consortium coordinator shall make sure that all partners who are required to contact their respective funding organisation, do so prior to the submission of the proposal.

Submitting the Proposal

The call follows a one-stage submission and evaluation procedure. The proposal (typically 20 to 30 pages) is submitted and evaluated by a joint international evaluation panel.

The coordinator prepares a joint proposal for the whole consortium, using the template available on the CHIST-ERA website (<http://www.chistera.eu>). The form is submitted via the electronic submission system on the website.

To support the applicants, the following services are provided at <http://www.chistera.eu>: Call Newsletter, information webinars, FAQ, Partner Search Tool and online networking event, and submission technical guidelines.

We recommend that a preliminary proposal be submitted several days before the call deadline to guarantee against unforeseen issues. Proposals that have already been submitted can be modified until the deadline.

Partners whose funding organisation requires submitting forms alongside the joint proposal submission must do so at this point (see overview table and the national/regional annex).

The coordinator and all partners must be in a position to diligently answer e-mail queries after the submission. If a partner's PI is not available, the PI must be represented by a collaborator from the same organisation.

Evaluation and Selection Procedure

Evaluation

The Call Secretariat and the national/regional funding organisations check the proposals against the CHIST-ERA as well as the national/regional eligibility criteria.

The evaluation relies on an international evaluation panel of experts, assisted by external reviewers. The composition of the panel is published after the selection at www.chistera.eu.

The proposals are evaluated and ranked according to the following criteria:

Relevance to the Topic (threshold: 4/5, weight: 1)

Relevance of the project with respect to the topic description.

S/T Quality (threshold: 3.5/5, weight: 1)

Scientific and technological excellence:

- *Clarity of long-term vision of a breakthrough for scientific knowledge translation;*
- *Soundness of the concept, ambition and quality of the proposed objectives that address this vision;*
- *Quality of the research & development method including performance evaluation and assurance of the reproducibility of the results;*
- *Originality and novelty, and potential for non-incremental progress beyond the state-of-the-art;*
- *High risk, flexibility and plausibility of the methodology.*

Impact (threshold: 3.5/5, weight: 1)

The extent to which the outputs of the project would contribute, at the European and/or international level, to:

- *Broader research opportunities based on open or shared data and software;*
- *Convergence with European and/or international initiative(s) and/or infrastructures;*
- *Long-term transformation of research practices;*
- *Long-term facilitation of science-based innovation by societal stakeholders.*

Quality of the proposed measures and plans to:

- *Disseminate and use project results (incl. data and means to reproduce results) in line with the Open Access principles (see pages 6-7), and management of intellectual property;*
- *Communicate the project to different target audiences.*

Implementation (threshold: 3/5, weight: 1)

Quality and efficiency of the implementation and management:

- *Quality and effectiveness of the work plan to achieve project objectives and impacts, including appropriateness of allocation of the resources to tasks and partners (incl. justification of requested resources) and of data management;*
- *Effectiveness of the performance evaluation plan, including steps taken for its implementation by the consortium on the basis of defined datasets, data repositories, metrics and other performance indicators;*
- *Appropriateness of the management structure and procedures (incl. risk management);*

- *Quality and added value of the participants (complementarity, coherence of the consortium as a whole, balance of involvement etc.).*

The assessment by the evaluation panel of each proposal is detailed in a consensus report, which is made available to the applicants.

The proposals have to meet the threshold in each criteria, otherwise are not considered for funding.

Selection

On the basis of the ranking of the proposals and of available funding, the Call Steering Committee prepares a list of projects recommended for funding to the national/regional funding organisations. The project coordinator receives the selection decision and the consensus report who in turn is invited to distribute them to all partners. The list of funded projects is published on CHIST-ERA website.

The list of projects recommended for funding is established by following the ranking list of the evaluation panel starting at rank 1:

If at a given rank N in the ranking list not all ex-aequo projects can be funded because some funding organisation(s) lack budget, the following options (or a combination thereof) are considered:

- Priority 1: The budget of the funding organisation(s) in question can be increased;
- Priority 2: The funding of the projects or of all the projects to be funded by the funding organisation(s) in question is reduced;
- Some project(s) cannot be funded.

In the latter case, the following additional selection criteria are considered:

- The output of the call, i.e. the overall funding, should be maximised (e.g. by prioritising projects with high presence of under-represented countries and vice-versa)
- If possible, each funding organisation funds at least one project;
- The projects involving partners from the Widening Countries should be prioritised.

In the same latter case (some project(s) of rank N cannot be funded), the Call Steering Committee can apply a certain degree of flexibility, when it comes to following the ranking list. In case no other options are available budget wise, additional projects in the ranks N+1 and following may be selected. The same selection procedure as mentioned previously will be applied.

Management of Projects

Contracting of the Consortium

If the project is recommended for funding, each partner may need to submit an administrative application to the chosen funding organisation to apply for their CHIST-ERA funding (grant or contract). In rare cases, specific partners in a consortium may be requested to apply for their funding from another funding organisation than the one they had chosen initially. The subsequent negotiation phase between the partners and the funding organisations follows the established procedures and, if successful, results in a grant agreement between the two parties.

All partners of a consortium should request their funding to start at approximately the same date, to ensure that the collaborative research can be conducted as planned.

The administrative and financial management of funding is overseen by the respective funding organisations, according to their rules and guidelines.

Consortium agreement

A consortium agreement has to be signed by all partners and sent to CHIST-ERA. As some funding organisations require that the consortium agreement is signed before the grant agreement can be finalised it has to be signed as soon as possible, but no later than three months after the start of a project.

Reporting

Consortia must present the status of their project at each yearly event organised by CHIST-ERA (frequency to be confirmed). The project partners, not only the coordinator, are encouraged to attend. The related costs are eligible and should be included into the presented budget (based on yearly events).

Furthermore, the coordinators of funded projects have to submit a scientific report including an up-to-date Data Management Plan on each 12-month period of the project. The reports must be sent to CHIST-ERA within two months after the end of each period. Some funding organisations require separate reports for individual project partners. This is specified in their grant agreements.

Any publications resulting from the projects must acknowledge CHIST-ERA.

Project modifications


During the lifetime of the project, the funding organisations coordinate the management of the project modification requests (incl. extension). Should the request emanate from a single partner, it is formulated by the coordinator on the behalf of the consortium to CHIST-ERA, which in turn coordinates with the funding organisations.

National Annex: Funding Organisation's Contact Points and Regulations

Estonia - ETAG

ETAG
Estonian Research Council,
Soola 8, Tartu 51004
Estonia
<https://etag.ee/en/>

Margit Suuroja
Senior Adviser



Funding Criteria and Regulations

Funding and project duration: The maximum amount of requested funding per project is 150 000 EUR for a project partner and maximum 300 000 EUR for a project coordinator for a total period of up to three years.

Eligibility criteria:

The Host Institution may be any legal entity that is registered and located in Estonia and has an Estonian bank account. If the Host Institution is a for-profit institution, the State aid and de minimis aid regulations must be taken into account.

The Principal Investigator:

1. must have an updated public profile in the Estonian Research Information System (ETIS) by the submission deadline;
2. must hold a doctoral degree or an equivalent qualification. The degree must be awarded by the submission deadline of the grant application at the latest;
3. must have published at least three articles that comply with the requirements of Clause 1.1 of the ETIS classification of publications, or at least five articles that comply with the requirements of Clauses 1.1, 1.2, 2.1 or 3.1, within the last five calendar years prior to the proposal submission deadline. 1 International patents are equalled with publications specified under Clause 1.1. A monograph (ETIS Clause 2.1) is equalled with three publications specified in Clause 1.1 if the number of authors is three or fewer. If the applicant has been on pregnancy and maternity or parental leave or performed compulsory service in the Defence Forces, or has another good reason, they can request the publication period requirement to be extended by the relevant period of time.

If the Principal Investigator has received the PhD degree outside Estonia, its correspondence to an Estonian doctoral degree must be recognised by either the Estonian ENIC-NARIC Center or the Host Institution in accordance with the Regulation of the Government of the Republic of April 6, 2006, No. 89 "Evaluation and academic recognition of documents proving foreign education and the name of the qualification awarded in the foreign education system terms and conditions of use". The Funding Organisation may ask for a relevant Evaluation Report.

If several Estonian institutions participate in a proposal, all institutions must have a Principal Investigator who meets the national eligibility requirements.

If human research or animal testing are intended in the project, a positive resolution by the Human Research Ethics Committee or the Authorisation Committee for Animal Experiments must be submitted to the Funding Organisation by the start of the relevant activities.

Direct costs:

1. Personnel costs are monthly salaries (along with all state taxes, contributions, and compensations arising from law) of the project participants, calculated according to their commitment and in proportion to their total workload at their Host Institution.
 2. Other direct costs are:
-

-
- travel costs that may cover expenses for transport, accommodation, daily allowances and travel Insurance only for travels abroad;
 - where the project is funded from the European Regional Development Fund (Mobilitas 3.0) resources, travel and accommodation costs are eligible only for travels abroad;
 - consumables and minor equipment directly and fully related to the project;
 - publication and dissemination of project results;
 - organising meetings, seminars or conferences (e.g room rent, catering, equipment rental and related costs);
 - fees for participating in scientific forums, conferences and other events directly and fully related to the project;
 - patent costs;
 - all other costs that are identifiable as clearly required for carrying out the project (e.g. translation, copy editing, webpage hosting, etc.) and are directly and fully related to the project.

3. Indirect costs (overhead) are costs that cannot be identified as specific costs directly linked to the performance of the action and/or should cover the general expenses of the Host Institution related to the management of the grant. Office consumables and costs for equipment and services intended for general use (e.g., phone bills, copy service, printer) should be covered from the indirect costs. Indirect costs are 15% of the personnel costs.

4. Subcontracting costs are direct costs. Subcontracting costs should cover only additional or complementary research related tasks (e.g. analyses, conducting surveys, building a prototype, etc.) performed by third parties. Subcontracting costs should not be included in the overhead calculation. The activities and budget should be described in the proposal. Core project tasks should not be subcontracted. Subcontracting costs may not exceed 15% of the total costs.

5. Double funding of activities is not acceptable.

6. If several Estonian institutions participate in one proposal, the sum of their requested budgets may not exceed the maximum contribution of the respective national Funding Organisation indicated in the call documents.

EU Regulations on State aid and de minimis aid must be taken into account when requesting funding.

Eligibility criteria: https://etag.ee/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Vastavusnouded-RV-uhiskonkurssidel_2024.pdf

Open Access to Publications and Research Data

ETAG does not require publication in open access journals regarding its funded research projects. Each researcher is free to choose the place of publication and, if desired, the publication fee can be paid from the grant.

ETAG does not require that data created as a result of funded research projects be stored in a repository or published as open data. Correct management of research data and submission of a data management plan are required.

Finland - AKA

Research Council of Finland
Hakaniemenranta 6, 00530 Helsinki, Finland
<http://www.aka.fi/>
[REDACTED]

Katrine Mahlamäki
Science adviser
[REDACTED]

Funding Criteria and Regulations

General

Finnish applicants are recommended to contact the Research Council of Finland before proposal submission for the purpose of checking national funding terms and conditions (e.g., national eligibility criteria).

Applicant

In addition to their doctorate, the PI must have other significant scientific merits. Usually, they are a professor or docent-level researcher. In addition, the applicant must have a close connection with Finland to support the implementation of a multi-year project. A PI requesting funding from the Research Council of Finland (coordinator or partner) may not participate in more than two proposals.

Funding

The Scientific Council for Natural Sciences and Engineering plans to grant a maximum of 450,000 euros per partner (150,000 euros per year). In general, the conditions and restrictions on Academy Projects apply to the funding. The Research Council applies the full cost model in its funding, and the Research Council's funding contribution for a project can come to no more than 70% of the total project costs. Funding can be granted to research teams for the purposes of hiring scientific staff, for the acquisition of equipment and supplies, and for other expenses arising, for instance, from researcher mobility and networking activities. The costs of making publications open access are included in the overheads of the sites of research and thus form part of the costs of the basic facilities they provide. The PI's salary costs must not be significant in relation to the project's total costs. For example, a three-year research project must not include more than 4.5 months of the PI's effective working hours. This is equivalent to about 1.5 months a year. Research Council funding cannot be used for economic activity. Economic activity is defined as all activity where goods or services are offered on an open market regardless of whether profits are pursued or generated. When an organisation is also engaged in economic activities, separate accounts must be kept of the funding and costs of and the revenue generated by such activities. Finnish partners of projects that have been selected for funding will be invited to submit national application forms through the Research Council's online system.

The Research Council of Finland advises that funding recipients as soon as possible after the funding decision has been made agree in writing between all project partners on the rights of ownership and use of the project's research results. At the launch of the project, the partners should also agree on the rights of ownership and use of the materials and data to be used by the project.

More information on the Research Council's general conditions and guidelines for funding:
<https://www.aka.fi/en/research-funding/apply-for-funding/how-to-use-funding/>

Policies and guidelines for research project funding granted by the Scientific Council for Natural Sciences and Engineering: <https://www.aka.fi/en/about-us/decision-making-bodies/research-councils/research-council-for-natural-sciences-and-engineering/>

Open Access to Publications and Research Data Policy

We require that the scientific publications on the results of research projects funded by the Research Council of Finland are open access, and that the research data produced by the projects are made widely available. The degrees of data openness may justifiably vary, ranging from fully open to strictly confidential. More information is provided here: <https://www.aka.fi/en/research-funding/responsible-science/open-science/>

France - ANR

Agence Nationale de la Recherche
86 rue Regnault
75013 Paris

Eugenio Echagüe
Project manager

Funding Criteria and Regulations

The specific appendix for applicants from France is available at <https://anr.fr/CHR4-2025>

Open Access to Publications and Research Data Policy

The projects supported by ANR commit to deposit the full text of the scientific publications in the HAL archive no later than the time of publication (version accepted for publication or editor's version) and to mention the ANR reference of the research project. They must provide a Data Management Plan by 6 months after the project start date. Please refer to the appendix for applicants from France mentioned above for additional guidelines.

Luxembourg - FNR

FNR

Luxembourg National Research Fund,
2, Place de l'Université, 4365 Esch-sur-Alzette
L-1017 Luxembourg
<https://www.fnr.lu/>

Dr. Helena Burg
Head of International Relations



Lucia Navarro
Administrative Assistant



Funding Criteria and Regulations

Project duration: The maximum amount of requested funding per project is 350.000 EUR for a total period of three years. If the project involves the recruitment of a PhD student, the PhD candidate could be supported for up to four years (see [FNR INTER guidelines](#)).

Eligibility of the proposal and applying candidates: All eligibility rules and criteria can be found in the [FNR INTER guidelines](#). As a specific rule for this CHIST-ERA call, Luxembourg PIs are limited to submit one proposal per Luxembourg PI.

Forms to be submitted

Proposals must be submitted by the coordinating institutions' administrations (not by the PI) in electronic format to the online submission system ([FNR Grant Management System](#)) the latest 7 days after the deadline as the consortium application is submitted. Please select the "INTER" – "CHIST-ERA" funding instrument when creating the administrative application. The [FNR INTER guidelines](#) provide details about the basic administrative data and the documents to be provided.

General rules and regulations of FNR apply: <https://www.fnr.lu/fnr-beneficiaries/how-we-fund-research/>

Open Access to Publications and Research Data

The FNR attaches great importance to the impact of research outputs on science, industry, policy making and society in general. To maximise the possibilities for impact of research outputs, results from FNR-(co)funded research are expected to be disseminated via high-quality, peer-reviewed publications that are made freely available ([FNR Policy on Open Access](#) to Scientific Publications).

All FNR (co)–funded grants, for which an Open Access Policy applies, that publish a scientific article must submit their manuscript through ChronosHub to have their eligible amount of APCs directly paid by the FNR.

Slovakia - SAS

Slovak Academy of Sciences
Štefánikova 49
814 38 Bratislava
Slovakia
http://www.sav.sk/?&lang_change=en

Zuzana Panisová
Programme Officer
International Cooperation Department



Funding Criteria and Regulations

Eligibility criteria

Only research Institutes of Slovak Academy of Sciences are eligible organisations for funding (up to 100%). Participation of early career researchers is strongly recommended. Applicants from other organisations or industrial partners can be self-funded consortium members and cannot coordinate the project consortium.

For further details on criteria and SAS procedures see https://oms.sav.sk/wp-content/uploads/Pravidla-pre-schvalovanie-vyskumnych-projektov-MVTS-financovanych-zo-zdrojov-SAV_11-Nov-2021-1.pdf

Funding and project duration

The maximum amount of requested funding per project is **up to 120.000 EUR for a 36 months duration**.

Detailed SAS financial rules are available at <https://oms.sav.sk/wp-content/uploads/Financne-pravidla-na-udelovanie-grantov-SAV-na-medzinarodne-vyskumne-projekty-platne-na-vyzvy-zverejnene-od-1.12.2023.pdf>

Parallel/Additional application submission

SAS participants are requested to submit the document “Declaration to Participate in CHIST ERA Call” within the deadline for submission of the project proposals. For more details, please contact panisova@up.upsav.sk
The template may be provided upon request.

Researchers that are partners in projects recommended for funding will be requested to submit an application (MVTS Form A). The SAS Presidium makes the final funding decision. The funded projects are requested to submit consortium agreement and annual financial and scientific reports.

Open Access to Publications and Research Data

SAS does not have specific policies concerning OA/OD and DMP. The costs related to the publication of the results and the data are eligible project costs.

Switzerland - SNSF

Swiss National Science Foundation
Unit Mathematical, Natural and Engineering Sciences
Wildhainweg 3
P.O. Box 8232
CH-3001 Berne
<http://www.snf.ch>

Dr. Ahmad Zein Assi
Scientific Officer



Funding Criteria and Regulations

Projects must comply with the SNSF Project Funding [regulations and practices](#).

In particular, all Swiss applicants and co-applicants must be eligible for Project Funding, see also the [Regulations on project funding](#). Swiss applicants who have not previously obtained a Project Funding grant of the SNSF are encouraged to contact the National Contact Point.

Partners of the international project consortium applying for funding at other funding agencies than the SNSF cannot be declared as project partners in the sense of article 11.2 of the SNSF Funding Regulations. They should be declared as consortium partners instead and apply for their funding at their respective research funding organisation. In case a consortium includes industrial or commercial partners (outside Switzerland), a confirmation of non-commercial goals must be provided in case the project is approved as a condition for the release of funds.

Article 17, cl. a, of the SNSF Funding Regulations applies in the sense that proposals with overlapping funding periods are only approved if the research projects pursue different goals in the context of this European programme than any ongoing projects by the same applicant.

Article 6.3 of the Regulations on project funding applies. Swiss applicants may participate in at most one CHIST-ERA proposal.

Article 13 of the Regulations on project funding applies. In particular, Swiss applicants may receive a maximum of three grants from the SNSF for the same funding period, except for the instruments highlighted [here](#).

Article 7, cl. f applies only in case the Swiss applicant is coordinating the project consortium.

Grants will be managed according to [standard SNSF rules](#); reporting requirements duplicating those of CHIST-ERA will not be enforced. Follow-up applications may not be submitted.

Forms to be submitted

Applicants must provide basic administrative data by submitting an administrative application in [mySNF](#) for the same deadline as the consortium application is submitted. Please select the "Programmes/ERA-NET". Prior contact with the National Contact Person is highly recommended if the applicant has never been supported by project funding of the SNSF.

Open Access to Publications and Research Data

Since October 2018, any publication based on research funded by the SNSF must be published in Open Access, with the possibility of adopting the Green Road (maximum embargo of 6 months for articles and 12 months for books/book chapters). The SNSF covers the costs for publishing in Open Access through a dedicated platform. Further details can be found at <https://www.snf.ch/en/VyUvGzptStOEPUoC/topic/open-access-publications>.

Since 2017 all funded proposals need to submit a DMP before the start of the project. In particular, research data is expected to be archived on FAIR data repositories. No funds will be transferred without submitting a consistent DMP. Further details can be found at <https://www.snf.ch/en/dMILj9t4LNk8NwyR/topic/open-research-data>.

Taiwan - NSTC

National Science and Technology Council
106, Sec. 2, Heping E. Rd.
Taipei 10622
Taiwan
R. O. C
<https://www.nstc.gov.tw/?l=ch>

Ching-Mei, Tang
Program Director
Department of International Cooperation and Science Education


Funding Criteria and Regulations

Eligibility Criteria

In compliance with the NSTC's regulation 'Operation Guidelines for NSTC Research Grants':

- ☐ **Applicant institutions** (i.e., research conducting institutions) shall be approved by NSTC to be eligible recipients of subsidisation in accordance with the 'Operation Guidelines for Institutions Applying for NSTC Grants'. The eligible institutions are classified into three categories as follows:
 1. Taiwanese public/private colleges and universities.
 2. Taiwanese public/private research institutions.
 3. Taiwanese Medical institutions.
- ☐ **Principal Investigator(s)** must meet several qualifications. For more information about the qualifications please refer to:
<https://www.nstc.gov.tw/folksonomy/list/f6d5c23c-b3ce-438e-911b-12a705dbac5a?l=ch>
- ☐ **In principle**, the NSTC (Taiwan) does not directly subsidise the industry.

Funding Criteria

Taiwanese project partners shall submit a proposal to the NSTC for national financing after the project has been selected and approved for funding through the CHIST-ERA evaluation and selection process. The proposals are required to be submitted to NSTC for funding as soon as possible as the internal process of the NSTC generally takes 6 months. The max. amount per year per project is €90,000.00, depending on the change of course. The decision regarding the exact amount is subject to the result of the NSTC's internal reviews. For more about the budget requirements of the project based on which applicants can apply to NSTC for funding, please refer to:


<https://www.nstc.gov.tw/folksonomy/list/f6d5c23c-b3ce-438e-911b-12a705dbac5a?l=ch>

Open Access to Publications and Research Data

NSTC does not have any specific policies concerning OA/OD. Therefore, the decision whether to choose open access over copyright should be made by the beneficiaries themselves. The costs directly related to the project including the publications can be reimbursed by the conducting institutions. Taiwanese PIs are encouraged to follow CHIST-ERA's policy on open access to publications and research data at every stage.

United Kingdom - UKRI

United Kingdom Research and Innovation
Polaris House
North Star Avenue
Swindon SN2 1ET
<https://www.epsrc.ukri.org>

Stephanie Russin
Portfolio Manager for Information and Communication
Technologies


Funding Criteria and Regulations

For UK applicants, the standard UKRI eligibility criteria apply. See the Funding guide on the EPSRC website: <https://www.ukri.org/councils/epsrc/guidance-for-applicants/check-if-you-are-eligible-for-funding/>

Only Research organisations that can apply to UKRI (excluding Innovate UK), are eligible to apply.

The maximum amount that can be requested from the UK on one project is €350.000. This is the 80% value that can be requested from EPSRC and should be included as 'requested funding'.

PhD studentships cannot be included.

Open Access to Publications and Research Data

Open Access

The UKRI Policy on Open Access aims to achieve immediate, unrestricted, on-line access to peer-reviewed and published research papers, free of any access charge. Our vision is for all users to be able to read published research papers in an electronic format and to search for and re-use (including download) the content of published research papers, both manually and using automated tools (such as those for text and data mining), provided that any such re-use is subject to full and proper attribution.

From 1st April 2013 the payment of Access Publication Charges and other publication charges related to Research Council-funded research are supported through UKRI Open access block grants provided to eligible research organisations. APCs and other publication charges relating to peer-reviewed research papers can no longer be included within research grant applications. The policy applies to:

- peer-reviewed research articles submitted for publication on or after 1 April 2022
- monographs, book chapters and edited collections published on or after 1 January 2024.

See <https://www.ukri.org/manage-your-award/publishing-your-research-findings/making-your-research-publications-open-access/> for a summary, <https://www.ukri.org/manage-your-award/good-research-resource-hub/open-research/> and <https://www.ukri.org/publications/ukri-open-access-policy/> for full details.

Open Data

UKRI is strongly committed to opening up research data for scrutiny and reuse, to enable high-quality research, drive innovation and increase public trust in research.

UKRI supports the principles in the Concordat on Open Research Data (<https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/UKRI-020920-ConcordatonOpenResearchData.pdf>) that recognise that research data should wherever possible be made openly available for use by others in a manner consistent with relevant legal, ethical, disciplinary and regulatory frameworks and norms, and with due regard to the cost involved.

The Concordat was developed by a UK multi-stakeholder group to provide expectations of best practice reflecting the needs of the research community.

Please see here for our policy on research data [Making your research data open – UKRI](#) and here for additional information around making this data open access <https://www.ukri.org/manage-your-award/publishing-your-research-findings/making-your-research-data-open/>.



Procedures of the Call 2025 for Research Proposals

Supporting the topic of

Science in your Own Language (SOL)

(internal document on the call governance structures, evaluation/selection procedures and projects follow up)

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Administrative Structures	3
Call Steering Committee	3
Evaluation Panel.....	3
Call Secretariat.....	3
National/Regional Contact Points of Funding Organisations	3
Tentative Timeline of the Call.....	4
Publication of the Call	5
Formation of the Evaluation Panel.....	6
Evaluation Scores and Quality Threshold.....	7
Eligibility Check.....	8
Evaluation and Selection Procedure	9
Assignment of Panellists and External Experts to Proposals	9
Proposal Evaluation Reports and Panel Discussion.....	10
Selection of Full Proposals and Feedback to Applicants	11
Projects Follow-up	12
National/Regional Negotiation Phase	12
Collection of Project Consortium Agreements.....	13
Collection and validation of Data Management Plans.....	13
Yearly Project Activity Reporting (incl. Update of Project Data Management Plan).....	13
Yearly Projects Seminar	13
Management of Project Modifications	14
Management of The Projects Toolbox at www.chistera.eu	14
Collection of Project Exploitation Reports.....	15
Annex: Confidentiality & Conflict of Interest Definitions	16

Administrative Structures

Call Steering Committee

The Call Steering Committee (CSC) is the highest decision-making body of the CHIST-ERA call, being composed of representatives of all CHIST-ERA national/regional funding organisations participating in the call.

The CSC steers all activities of the call. In particular, the CSC nominates the members of the Evaluation Panel, approves the composition of the Evaluation Panel and establishes the final list of projects recommended for funding to the funding organisations taking into consideration the ranking list provided by the Evaluation Panel. The CSC takes all decisions concerning the call implementation, e.g. management of confidentiality and conflicts of interests (see Annex).

Evaluation Panel

The Evaluation Panel (EP), composed of scientific experts in the domain of the call topic, is the scientific evaluation body of the CHIST-ERA call.

The EP evaluates the proposals. In particular, it establishes a ranking list of projects based on the criteria decided by the CSC and set out in the Call Announcement, which serves as basis for the CSC funding recommendation.

Call Secretariat

The Call Secretariat (CS) is co-hosted by ANR (FR) and AEI (ES).

The CS assists the CSC, the EP and the CHIST-ERA funding organisations in charge of the call management with the implementation of the evaluation and selection process. The CS also acts as a central helpdesk to the applicants assisted by the CSC members' national/regional contact points. The main tasks of the CS are:

- Facilitate the implementation of the evaluation and selection by developing a supporting IT environment (submission system, monitoring tools, etc...)
- Organise the EP meetings (draft agenda and minutes, logistics, travel arrangements etc.)
- Manage the information flows (instruction for panel members, feedback to the CSC etc.)
- Communicate with the applicants, the EP, the CSC and the national/regional contact points.

National/Regional Contact Points of Funding Organisations

The Contact Points (CP) are specified by each national/regional funding organisation and listed in the Call Announcement.

The CP acts as point of contact for applicants at the national/regional level and is also the interface between the CS and each national/regional funding organisation to keep her/his funding organisation informed about the call implementation.

Tentative Timeline of the Call

Late January 2025	Publication of the Call Pre-announcement
February 2025	Suggestion of experts to compose the EP
17 February 2025	Publication of the Call Announcement
Late February 2025	Call Webinar
February - April 2025	Formation of the EP
15 April 2025	Deadline for proposals submission
Mid to Late April 2025	Finalisation of the EP
May 2025	National and CHIST-ERA eligibility check remote meeting
Early May 2025	1st EP meeting: Proposals allocation
May 2025	CSC approval of evaluation assignments
Late June 2025	Deadline for evaluation reports (first external reviews with quality check and then in panel)
8 July 2025	EP online meeting: Discussion of proposals, compilation of ranking list
17 July 2025	CSC online meeting: Select proposals recommended for funding
Late July- Early September 2025	Evaluation feedback sent to applicants (CSC decision, consensus reports)
September-October 2025	Contracting of selected projects
From November 2025	Tentative start date for funded projects
2025 – 2028/2029	Follow-up of the projects

Publication of the Call

Date	Action
22 January 2025	Publication of the Call pre-announcement
17 February 2025	Publication of the Call Announcement
15 April 2025	Deadline for proposals submission

The Call Pre-announcement and the Call Announcement are advertised on the common website at www.chistera.eu. The website gathers all call information and documents.

The Pre-announcement and the Announcement are advertised on behalf of the participating national/regional funding organisations by ANR. The funding organisations separately advertise the call, in accordance with their national procedures and practices.

A common communication plan is elaborated to promote and coordinate the advertisement.

A communication toolkit (call flyer/poster, press release, PPT presentation and web text for translation purpose) is compiled, equipping the participating funding organisations with communication tools to disseminate the call information toward the national/regional networks and at the transnational level via targeted mailings, use of social media, publication of news items on relevant websites and promotion of the call at scientific events.

Formation of the Evaluation Panel

Date	Action
February 2025	Suggestion of experts to compose the EP
February - April 2025	Formation of the EP
Mid to Late April 2025	Finalisation of the EP

An Evaluation Panel, composed of high-level experts from different fields within the call topic, is set up to evaluate the submitted proposals and rank them. Any participant to a proposal cannot be member of the EP.

The EP is formed as follows:

1. CSC members and Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) members suggest experts (around 5). They are encouraged to:
 - Include a significant number of members from non-CHIST-ERA countries and also overseas scientists to achieve a broad range of knowledge and expertise;
 - Involve excellent young experts;
 - Bear in mind the gender balance: Women should form 50% of the panel member suggestions;
 - Propose experts knowledgeable about the call topic, in this case, Science in Your Own Language

In practice, CSC members are invited to pre-check the availability and interest of experts to participate in the evaluation process in order to ease the administrative burden for the CS.

2. The CS prioritises, in consultation with the experts in the call topic of the CSC, the list composed of the suggested experts. The CS proposes the ordered list to the CSC for approval.
3. The EP is formed by inviting the experts in the list by order of priority. The EP members must be available to attend all EP meetings. In general, the EP comprises 10 to 20 members (depending on the number of proposals).
4. The CS can propose to the CSC adjustments to the EP so as to ensure:
 - Appropriate thematic coverage of the proposals
 - Balanced geographical representation of the countries in the call¹;
 - Significant representation of countries outside the call (in Europe and overseas);
 - Involvement of excellent young experts;
 - Gender balance.

The CSC selects the EP chairperson and a vice-chairperson. Preferably, the EP chairperson should have limited connections with the call countries (e. g. working outside of the countries participating in the call, different nationality). If needed, a separate vote is organised to support this selection.

¹ Depending on numbers of funders and proposals, and on potential national/regional requirement to have a country representative, typically each country will not be represented by more than 1 or 2 experts.

The functioning of the Evaluation Panel is detailed in the 'Evaluation Panel Functioning' document, in particular, all EP members enter into a confidentiality agreement, and for all EP members, conflict of interest rules apply (see Annex).

EP members are remunerated for proposal evaluation and more generally for their efforts during the evaluation procedure.

The EP composition is published on the CHIST-ERA website after the selection results have been communicated to the applicants, except for those EP members who disagree. The review assignments remain confidential.

Evaluation Scores and Quality Threshold

Each criterion is scored between 0.0 and 5.0. Half marks can be given.

The scores indicate the following with respect to the criterion under examination (definition of scores taken from the Horizon Europe guidelines to applicants):

0. The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information
1. Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
2. Fair. The proposal broadly addresses the criterion; but there are significant weaknesses.
3. Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.
4. Very good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
5. Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion; any shortcomings are minor.

The proposals recommended by the EP are those that reach at least 4.0 in *Relevance to the Topic*, 3.5 in *S/T Quality*, 3.5 in *Impact* and 3.0 in *Implementation*.

Eligibility Check

Date	Action
Late April - May 2025	National and CHIST-ERA eligibility check remote meeting

An eligibility check is performed as follows:

- Following the submission of the proposals, the CS checks whether the general requirements on the proposal are fulfilled (3-3 rule etc.);
- In parallel, the national/regional funding organisations check partner compliance with the respective national/regional rules.

In case of eligibility issue, the concerned PI (the coordinator in case it concerns the general requirements on the proposal) is contacted by the Call Secretariat to discuss if corrections are possible. The PI is given two weeks to respond, e.g. by answering in detail open questions addressed and by proposing corrective actions.

How and if problems can be resolved may depend on the respective national/regional rules.

The coordinator is requested to formulate a short statement (max. 2 pages), explaining to which degree the planned research can still be carried out and how the project work plan would be affected, also within two weeks. This statement by the coordinator should be available as soon as possible to the CSC, at the latest for the EP meeting.

The eligibility of the proposal is subject to approval of the CSC.

The eligibility check and the evaluation are performed in parallel, i.e., all proposals are discussed by the EP.

Evaluation and Selection Procedure

The evaluation of the proposals follows a joint one-stage procedure. The respective evaluation criteria for the proposals are listed in the Call Announcement.

The joint evaluation principle is central. Potential parallel national/regional scientific evaluations should be limited. If any, it must be clear for the CS, the CSC and the applicants of the respective proposal(s) and explicitly mentioned in the national/regional annex of the Call Announcement, and the outcomes known at the earliest stage and at the latest by the selection meeting of the CSC.

Assignment of Panellists

Date	Action
Early May 2025	1st EP meeting: Proposals allocation
May 2025	CSC approval of evaluation assignments

Based on the number of proposals received, the CS will propose to the Evaluation Panel chair and then to the CSC to distribute each proposal to a rapporteur and at least two co-rapporteurs.

The remote meeting brings together the EP members assisted with the CS.

The EP performs a first screening of the proposals and assign to each proposal a rapporteur and a single or two co-rapporteurs, according to the evaluation scenario to be applied.

The assignments shall respect the conflict of interest management rules.

The CSC can veto against the assignments, if a CSC member has justified doubts concerning the reliability of the scientific expertise, the level of experience necessary for such a task, or to apply national/regional research funding organisation specific conflict of interest rules.

Proposal Evaluation Reports and Panel Discussion

Date	Action
Late June 2025	Deadline for evaluation reports
8 July 2025	2nd EP meeting: Discussion of proposals, compilation of ranking list

The evaluation proceeds as follows:

1. The rapporteur and co-rapporteur(s), compile, each, a written evaluation report according to the criteria published in the Call Announcement. For each criterion, scores from 0.0 to 5.0 are awarded. It is important that the written statements are sufficiently detailed and that they are in line with the scores.
2. Prior to the 2nd EP meeting, the rapporteur compiles a draft for the consensus report, based on at least three written reports (co-rapporteurs, and her/his own).
3. At the 2nd EP meeting, the rapporteur shortly summarises the content of the proposal and presents the results of the evaluations as well as the draft consensus report. The outcome of the discussion is composed of the evaluation criteria's scores agreed upon by the EP and of the updated consensus report. The scores of the consensus report are not just the average of all scores of the proposal evaluation reports, but have to be discussed by the EP.
4. Starting from the scores, the EP creates a ranking list of the proposals. The ranking is only discussed for full proposals that are above the quality threshold (see previous sections). The ranking list is established in an iterative process, starting with the marks agreed upon in the consensus report. Only half marks are allowed in the final ranking list.
5. Finally, the rapporteurs work with their respective co-rapporteurs to finalise the consensus reports.

The results of the evaluation of the proposals are thus:

- A consensus report for each proposal, including scores for each criterion;
- A ranking list for all proposals above the quality threshold.

Selection of Proposals and Feedback to Applicants

Date	Action
17 July 2025	CSC meeting: Select proposals recommended for funding
Late July 2025 – Early September 2025	Evaluation feedback sent to applicants (CSC decision, consensus reports)

The CSC meets to select the projects to be recommended for funding to the national/regional funding organisations. To select the projects, the CSC follows the ranking list compiled by the EP starting from rank 1 and proceeds as described below.

If at a given rank N in the ranking list not all ex-aequo projects can be funded because some CSC member(s) lack budget, the following options (or a combination thereof) will be considered:

- Priority 1: The budget of the CSC member(s) in question can be increased;
- Priority 2: The funding requested to the CSC member(s) in question is reduced. Based on common experience, a reduction in funding of up to 10% is usually manageable for the applicants;
- Some project(s) cannot be funded.

If budget is insufficient to fund all projects among rank N, the following criteria will be considered to select the projects among rank N:

- The output of the call, i.e. the overall funding, should be maximised (e.g. by prioritising the projects with high presence of under-represented countries and vice-versa);
- If possible, each funding organisation, funds at least one project;
- The projects involving partners from the Widening Countries should be prioritised.

If budget is insufficient to fund all projects among rank N, the CSC may decide either to end the selection at rank N or to pursue it by selecting additional projects in the ranks N+1 and following. If the CSC decides to select additional projects, the same selection procedure as presented above will be applied.

The availability of national/regional budget is of course the limiting factor. CSC members should be informed before the CSC meeting if there is any flexibility regarding the budget.

The CS informs the project coordinators about the CSC decision and the outcome of the evaluation. The CS proofreads the evaluation reports assisted with national/regional contact points, to ensure confidentiality of evaluators, avoid any offensive wording and check consistency of comments with scores. Then the consensus reports with scores are sent to the coordinators, who in turn are invited to distribute them to all partners.

Projects Follow-up

Date	Action
September-October 2025	Contracting of selected projects
From November 2025	Tentative start date for funded projects
2025 – 2028/2029	Follow-up of the projects

While the administrative and financial management of funding is overseen by the respective national/regional funding organisations, the follow-up of the projects aims at ensuring the collaborative dimension of the funded projects throughout their lifetime by defining joint follow-up actions and information channels and coordination mechanisms among the funding organisations.

They are important for bringing the projects to a successful completion, maximise their impact, facilitate the assessment and shaping the CHIST-ERA programme in the long term.

Assisted by the CHIST-ERA call secretariat, the national/regional funding organisations ensure smooth and coordinated implementation of the selected projects funding and follow-up, in particular regarding time-to-grant and the management of project modifications during their lifetime. They inform the call secretariat of any difficulty encountered.

The follow-up comprises the following components:

1. Contracting of selected projects
2. Collection of project consortium agreements
3. Collection and validation of project Data Management Plans
4. Yearly project activity reporting (incl. update of project Data Management Plan)
5. Yearly Projects Seminar
6. Management of project modifications
7. Management of the projects' toolbox at www.chistera.eu
8. Collection of project Exploitation Reports

National/Regional Negotiation Phase

For projects recommended for funding, each partner of the consortium contacts the respective national/regional funding organisation for further instructions regarding national/regional application. The application and negotiation phase is handled following the usual rules for each funding organisation.

Funding organisations' contact points outline the timing of their internal procedures to ensure that all partners of one project can begin with the research project at the same point in time and as soon as possible after the Call Steering Committee selection decision.

The national/regional funding organisations are encouraged to incorporate the CHIST-ERA follow-up process and requirements (i.e. joint activity report, participation to the Projects Seminar...) into their agreements with funded project partners in order to:

- Unify and simplify the processes of national/regional funding organisations and CHIST-ERA;
- Have it grounded legally;

- Lighten administrative burden (i.e. by avoiding double reporting duties).

Collection of Project Consortium Agreements

A consortium agreement has to be signed by all project partners (by partner organisations or Principal Investigators, as appropriate) and sent to CHIST-ERA. As some funding organisations require that the consortium agreement be signed before the grant agreement can be finalised, it has to be signed as soon as possible, but no later than three months after the start of a project.

The signed consortium agreements are collected by the call secretariat. They are made available to the funding organisations on the CHIST-ERA intranet at www.chistera.eu.

Collection and validation of Data Management Plans

A Data Management Plan must be submitted online via the OpenAIRE tool [ARGOS](#) by the project Open Science Coordinator no later than three months after the beginning of the project. It is checked by CHIST-ERA. The Data Management Plan template is based on a template developed by Science Europe.

Yearly Project Activity Reporting (incl. Update of Project Data Management Plan)

The coordinators of funded projects have to submit a scientific report on each 12-month period of the project. For practicality, each periodic report covers the whole project duration since project start. The report for the final period constitutes the project final report. The template of the periodic activity report to be used is the one used the previous year (available on the intranet of CHIST-ERA), possibly refined with the recommendations/decisions of the Call Steering Committee. Typically, the template is forwarded to the project coordinators a few months before the Projects Seminar (see below), allowing collection of the reports in advance of the Projects Seminar.

Simultaneously, the project Open Science coordinators have to update their Data Management Plan via the [OpenAIRE](#) platform. A link to the project's Data Management Plan must be provided within the yearly report.

In order to inform the funding organisations, a review of the projects scientific work is performed by scientific experts. Each project periodic report is allocated to one or two external reviewers, who fill in a short review form. The template of the review form to be used is the one used the previous year (available on the intranet of CHIST-ERA), possibly refined with the recommendations/decisions of the Call Steering Committee. Potential conflicts of interests are taken into account while assigning experts to the projects. The review reports are forwarded to the funding organisations. They also receive a summary identifying outstanding projects and potential issues. Moreover, the review reports (anonymised) are sent to the respective project coordinators. To consolidate their analysis, the review experts can attend the Projects Seminar and finalise their reports afterwards.

Yearly Projects Seminar

The yearly projects seminar brings together all the projects and the funding organisations. The main objective is to promote exchanges between the projects and to facilitate the follow-up of the projects by the funding organisations, namely:

- Share the broader CHIST-ERA picture with the projects (incl. the follow-up process)
- Meet in person, monitor the projects' progress, listen to the projects and exchange impressions about the projects
- Strengthen the interdisciplinary scientific communities of the call topic

The programme of the Seminar combines project presentations with workshops aimed at supporting the short to long-term objectives of the projects and their representatives:

- Support their communication, the exploitation of their research results, community building
- Promote Open Science and Responsible Research and Innovation
- Engage into long-term strategic thinking, identify potential follow-up actions to the calls

In addition to the coordinators, all project partners are encouraged to attend the seminar, as well as funding organisation representatives. Review experts, some with specific competencies in Open Science and/or technology transfer will be invited to join.

The organisation of such events is subject to the validation of the funding organisations involved in CHIST-ERA.

Management of Project Modifications

Parallel national/regional funding of a same project may lead to unexpected project configurations potentially hindering the capacity of the consortium to collaborate. This may even indirectly promote dissociation between the project funding and its objectives. To mitigate this risk, the funding organisations coordinate the implementations of project modification (incl. extension) requests.

Should the request emanate from a single partner, to ensure agreement of the whole consortium, the coordinator must formulate the request to the call secretariat, which will coordinate with the funding organisations in the project to reach a common position across the funders. The request should comprise the background information (rationale), motivations, proposed modifications to the work plan and the agreement of the consortium. The modification based on mutual agreement between concerned national/regional funding organisations would be implemented afterwards.

Management of The Projects Toolbox at www.chistera.eu

With the aim to raise visibility of CHIST-ERA and streamline the exchanges between the projects and the funding organisations and across the funding organisations a toolbox is continuously developed at www.chistera.eu. Among others, the toolbox comprises:

- Information for projects and funding organisations about the follow-up process or guidelines for conducting research
- Interfaces to forward the project consortium agreement or request a project modification
- Project presentations highlighting project results/events/news and providing access to project publications/data

All national/regional funding organisations can relay information and share the news through their communication channels and networks.

Collection of Project Exploitation Reports

In order to enhance and monitor the exploitation of CHIST-ERA project results, the coordinator is asked to submit an Exploitation Report after the project is implemented. The report contains information on the main exploitable project outcomes, actions already taken to ensure their exploitation and next steps planned.

Annex: Confidentiality & Conflict of Interest Definitions

Confidentiality Agreement

I commit to use the confidential information transmitted to me by the Call Secretariat (ANR and AEI) only for the necessary tasks assigned to me during the call process, and I commit not to communicate this information to a third party or disseminate this information. I commit not to reproduce this information in any form, except with written authorisation by the ANR or AEI who will have made sure that the project coordinator gives the permission.

I understand that the word “information” has a broad definition. For instance, confidential information can imply technical, scientific, commercial, or industrial information.

I shall take all necessary measures to preserve the confidential character of the information and documents and prevent any data leaks. As such, I undertake not to deposit all or part(s) of this data in AI tools (in particular ChatGPT) or tools using AI (such as DeepL) to conduct the evaluation and/or to write my evaluation report.

I commit not to request industrial property, intellectual property, copyright or any other right on information related to the projects before it becomes public (through patents, publications or similar).

As reviewer, I will have to read and accept the Code of Ethics (via the ANR online evaluation system).

I commit to inform the Call Secretariat (ANR and AEI) each time that I have a conflict of interest.

Exceptions: The above does not apply to information for which I can prove that:

- I owned this information before the ANR or AEI transmitted it to me;
- This information was in the public domain before the ANR or AEI transmitted it to me or it entered the public domain independently of my involvement;
- I received this information free of any obligations from a third party authorised to distribute it.

Duration: The confidentiality agreement will apply during the whole length of the present agreement and until all the information is released into the public domain.

Management of Conflicts of Interest

I commit to inform the Call Secretariat (ANR and AEI) or the Evaluation Panel chairperson each time that I have a conflict of interest (see definition below). I understand that not making any declaration will be understood as an absence of conflict of interest. In case of doubt, I shall describe the situation to the Call Secretariat (ANR and AEI) as early as possible. I understand that if some information needed to help decide if there is a conflict of interest is confidential, I can provide it to the Call Secretariat who will treat it in strict confidence.

Definition: There is a conflict of interest if you stand to profit professionally, financially or personally from approval or rejection of the application. You are also not allowed to provide a review if:

- *In the past five years you have published with, cooperated with or worked at the same research institution as the applicant or any of the project's personnel and collaborators;*
- *If you have plans to collaborate with them in the immediate future;*
- *If you have close links with the applicant or any of the co-workers, either professional or private.*

Conversely, scientific contacts at conferences or workshops do not constitute per se a conflict of interest.

Name: Claire Giry

Date:

Signature: