

D. Types of action: specific provisions and funding rates^{1,2}

Public Procurement of Innovative Solutions (PPI) actions

Description: The objective of PPI actions is to enable groups of procurers to share the risks of acting as early adopters of innovative solutions, whilst opening market opportunities for industry. It provides EU funding for a group of procurers ('buyers group') to undertake together under the coordination of the 'lead procurer'³ one joint or several coordinated⁴ PPI procurements based on common tender specifications that are defined jointly by all procurers in the buyers group.⁵ Each PPI focuses on one concrete unmet need that is shared by the participating procurers and requires the deployment of innovative solutions that are to a significant extent similar across countries and are therefore proposed to be procured in collaboration. This means that the innovative solutions procured by all procurers in the buyers group must have the same core functionality and performance characteristics (described in the common specifications for the joint calls for tenders), but may have additional 'local' functionality due to differences in the local context of each individual procurer (if framework contracts/agreements are used, this can be reflected in the specific contracts for procuring specific quantities of goods/services for each procurer).

Funded activities: Preparation and implementation of the PPI (as described in General Annex E). Eligible costs include the price of the innovative solutions procured via the PPI and the costs of the eligible coordination and networking activities and may include in-kind contributions of third parties linked to grant beneficiaries. Cost for procurement of R&D are not eligible.

Eligible participants: the same as for PCP actions described above.

Funding rate: The EU contribution will be governed by the Rules for Participation, unless otherwise specified in the relevant call conditions.

¹ Eligible costs for all types of action are in accordance with the Financial Regulation No 966/2012 and the Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation Regulation No 1290/2013. In addition, as training researchers on gender issues serves the policy objectives of Horizon 2020 and is necessary for the implementation of R&I actions, applicants may include in their proposal such activity and the following corresponding estimated costs that may be eligible for EU funding:

- (a) Costs of delivering the training (personnel costs if the trainers are employees of the beneficiary or subcontracting if the training is outsourced);
- (b) Accessory direct costs such as travel and subsistence costs, if the training is delivered outside the beneficiary's premises;
- (c) Remuneration costs for the researchers attending the training, in proportion to the actual hours spent on the training (as personnel costs).

² Participants may ask for a lower rate.

³ The lead procurer is a public procurer and is the beneficiary appointed by the buyers group to coordinate and lead the PCP or PPI. It can be either one of the procurers in the buyers group or another beneficiary in the action that is established or designated by the procurers in the buyer group to act as lead procurer.

⁴ For joint procurement there is one joint PPI call for tender launched by the lead procurer and one joint evaluation of offers. It is possible that the lead procurer only does the procurement/tendering or also the contracting for the public procurement of innovative solutions. For coordinated procurement there are several separate PPI procurements carried out individually by the different procurers in the buyers group.

⁵ No matter whether the lead procurer only does the procurement/tendering or also the contracting for the public procurement of innovative, in any case the evaluation of all tenders must be carried out based on common specifications and common evaluation criteria defined jointly by all procurers in the buyers group.

The eligible costs of coordination and networking activities may not exceed 50% of the total estimated eligible costs set up in the budget of the action at the signature of the grant agreement.

Indirect eligible costs are calculated as a flat rate of 25% of direct eligible costs, excluding direct eligible costs for subcontracting (e.g. the price of the PPI procurement) and the costs of resources made available by third parties (e.g. test equipment) which are not used on the premises of the beneficiary.