

Science with and for Society calls for proposals – Work Programme 2014-2015

Frequently Asked Questions

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Questions related to the topic GERI.1.2014

Question 1

In the scope, it is stated that "Activities shall cover at least 14 countries." Could you please clarify this statement for me? Does it mean that partners out of 14 countries should be in a project consortium? Or do we have to offer some actions in 14 countries?

Answer 1

"Activities shall cover at least 14 countries" means that the activities have to be implemented in at least 14 countries and not that you need partners from 14 different countries.

Question 2

GERI.1.2014 mentions that "activities will be carried out in the umbrella of the campaign 'Science: it's a girl thing'." Does this mean that we can use the campaign's website to communicate our project activities?

Answer 2

The website can of course be used to disseminate the activities of the project. We need to see how to coordinate this according to the activities the consortium will implement. The Facebook page and the newsletter can also help promoting the activities of the project.

Question 3

GERI.1.2014 mentions that "activities will be carried out in the umbrella of the campaign 'Science: it's a girl thing'." Will the campaign promotion materials be available for our project activities?

Answer 3

The European Commission will be able to provide the successful project with the existing files of the promo material of the campaign. The successful project can of course produce any new material

which would be suitable with the scope of the project. As the printing costs will be directly linked to the activities of the project, they should be considered as eligible costs.

Question 4

GERI.1.2014 mentions that "activities will be carried out in the umbrella of the campaign 'Science: it's a girl thing'." How will the articulation between the campaign and the approved project(s) be ensured?

Answer 4

The articulation between the campaign and the approved project(s) will be ensured through coordination with the EC project officer in charge of the campaign (through meetings, email exchanges...).

Questions related to the topic GERI.2.2014

Question 1

In the description of the scope it says that "The proposals shall develop concepts and methodologies for the evaluation of the impacts of gender diversity in research teams and organisations on research quality and productivity, as well as on innovation; apply the concepts and methodologies developed to a selected range of sectors using a comparative approach across countries." Does this refer to research teams and research organisations? Or could the evaluation include organisations (e.g. enterprises) involved in research and innovation?

Answer 1

The topic refers to research teams and organisations which could be public or private but should be considered for their research and innovation activities.

Questions related to the topic GERI.4.2014

Question 1

We would like to clarify, if the research institution already has to have gender equality plan and this proposal is only for the implementation of this plan or the proposal could include the preparation of the gender equality plan and later the implementation?

Answer 1

The scope of GERI 4 says that "The RPOs, including Higher Education Institutions, and RFOs involved in the consortium shall be at a starting stage in the setting-up of gender equality plans" and the Expected impact indicates that: "The activities will increase the number of RPOs and RFOs implementing gender equality plans pursuing the three objectives mentioned in the challenge."

According to scope of the topic, “the action provides support to RPOs and RFOs to set up and implement Gender Equality Plans (GEPs).”

The provisions of the Call provide for a clear definition and characteristics for the requested actions, that is the designing, implementation and monitoring of the GEP within the participating institutions.

All the RFO and RPO partners should set up and implement their own GEP.

In the proposal, each RPO and RFO partner should explain in the proposal their “starting stage” and the new actions they foresee within the project to implement a proper GEP.

Question 2

In the call text states: "The RPOs, including Higher Education Institutions, and RFOs involved in the consortium **shall be at a starting stage** in the setting-up of gender equality plans and shall ensure the support from their highest management level." Is that mean that all consortium partners **must be at starting stage**? Is it possible to have a "more advanced" partner in consortium used as tutor or a model for "less advanced" partners in the consortium? If not, would be eligible to plan some workshops with participating experts from "advanced" organisations?

Answer 2

The topic's expected impact is that “The activities will increase the number of RPOs and RFOs implementing gender equality plans pursuing the three objectives mentioned in the challenge.”

Since not many countries have developed initiatives to promote gender equality in research, it is important to concentrate the bulk of the limited funding in order to support systemic institutional changes (management, culture, organisational and other issues) for RPOs and RFOs which are at a starting / initial stage of setting up gender equality plans (GEPs), so to multiply the number of committed stakeholders and reach a critical mass of institutions implementing these plans

However, this doesn't exclude that some organisations – or parts of them - may be more experienced than others, i.e. the steps taken towards setting up a Gender Equality Plan will probably be different from partner to partner and this might reflect a different degree of experience among them.

Each RPO and RFO partner should explain their “starting stage” and the new actions they foresee to implement a proper GEP.

However organizing workshops with some external experts can be part of the proposal and partners in charge of the work-packages should explain the added-value brought to the actions of the Consortium by participating experts.

Furthermore the text of the topic mentions also other types of partners such as professional associations and a specific partner for the monitoring and assessment of the progress made. These partners could also act as advisers to set up GEPs and share their expertise.

Question 3

With regard to the topic GERI-4-2014, we understand that it targets RPOs and RFOs that will be implementing gender equality plans within their organisations.

We would like to, however, ask if there are any formal limitations to the participation of a partner specialised in administrative and financial management of grant funded projects in the role of administrative and financial coordinator, supporting the project coordinator.

This partner is neither a RPO nor a RFO and will not implement a gender equality plan within its organisation, but will support the entire consortium in the management of the project.

Answer 3

The topic GERI-4-2014 targets RPOs and RFOs indeed, in order to increase the number of RPOs and RFOs implementing Gender Equality Plans (GEPs) pursuing the three objectives mentioned in the challenge. If the consortium includes other types of organisations, which do not implement GEPs, their role should be clearly explained in the proposal both in terms of relevance and added-value of their planned activities within the project, in relation with the text and requirements of the topic.

Furthermore the text of the topic mentions also other types of partners such as professional associations and a specific partner for the monitoring and assessment of the progress made. These partners could also act as advisers to set up GEPs and share their expertise.

Question 4

In the Topic text "participation of professional associations in the consortium is recommended". Could you help me clarify which kind of professional associations this recommendation refers to? Can you give some examples? Should this organisation be established on national level, European level or are both levels relevant?

Answer 4

There is not an exhaustive list of types of professional associations. Professional associations (society/academy/institute/other denominations) are usually non-profit organisations which may have various roles such as representing the views and interests of the specific profession, being involved in the design, implementation and/or dissemination of research developing and/or monitoring professional educational programs promoting science and scientific careers, providing information to policy makers and the general public.

At the stage of the submission of the proposal, the role of the professional association(s) in the project should be clearly explained both in terms of relevance and added-value of their planned activities within the project.

As other potential partners, professional associations should comply with the rules in force regarding the participation of a legal entity in H2020 and with the specific provisions set in the WP Science with and for Society.

Question 5

The text of the topic invites "Member States, research performing organisations (RPOs), including Higher Education Institutions, as well as research funding organisations (RFOs) to take action to promote gender equality in R&I" but it is not clear whether you expect that a single project will involve both RPOs and RFOs in the consortium. Is it possible to focalize the proposed action just on RPOs or is it expected/suggested that both RPOs and RFOs will be part of the consortium as partners?"

Answer 5

Our aim is to provide funding to organizations at a starting stage in designing and developing GEP's .

Each partner should explain their "starting stage" and the new actions they foresee to implement a proper GEP.

The targeted organizations are RPO's including Universities and RFO's ; a Consortium including only RPO's can be considered as part of the targeted organizations.