Does EC comment or advise on my proposal to ICT-36?

STARTS proposals will be evaluated by independent external experts. Therefore, the Commission is not in the position to advice or to comment on merits of specific proposals. We do, however, answer general questions and comment on certain aspects of proposals, particularly regarding whether they are broadly in the scope of the Call. The current FAQ is an attempt to answer some of the most common questions. For help in elaborating proposals there is the network of National Contact Points:
ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/national_contact_points.html

What is the budget for CSAs and how many projects will be funded in STARTS ICT - 36b?

The overall budget of ICT 36b is 5MEUR. It is expected that proposals will request (up to) 4ME for the point 1 ('brokerage') and (up to) 1MEUR for the point 2 (STARTS prize). The objective is to fund one CSA for point 1 and one CSA for point 2. Can CSAs in ICT36b on point 1 'brokerage' and point 2 (STARTS prize) be combined in one CSA? It is expected to have two CSAs, one for each point.

What is the ultimate goal of STARTS?

The ambition of STARTS is to impact innovation in H2020. One concrete goal is to have artists involved in future (or even running) H2020 projects as catalysts of innovation. Therefore, the STARTS CSAs are supposed to prepare a community of artists, technologists and academics engaging with each other in future (and running) H2020 projects. STARTS CSAs are thus considered 'seed funding' for STARTS activities in H2020.

What are the players that should be involved in STARTS?

Inclusion of pertinent players from industry, technology, academia and the art world is of the essence. A STARTS CSA must be rooted in proven practice and experience of partners helping establish links between art and innovation. In this respect, players linking art and industry/technology/innovation will be crucial for the success of STARTS. This is important for both CSAs, the one on brokerage (point 1) and the one on STARTS prize (point 2).

Who are the beneficiaries of the CSA grant?

STARTS CSAs are considered seed funding for STARTS activities in H2020. The budget of the CSA should be used to help create and support a community. As such the partners in a project are not the main beneficiaries but those who will distribute money in a focussed and open manner to the emerging STARTS community.

How many partners should the CSA involve?

There are no formal constraints. Important is that the proposal addresses all stakeholders (in industry, art world, technology…). Whether this is done by having all stakeholder groups involved via respective partners or by addressing them with targeted activities is up to consortium.

Given that STARTS addresses the Arts, can artists apply?

The call is addressed to institutions, not individuals. This is why artists cannot apply directly. It is, however, clear that institutions applying are expected to use the available budget to a large extent to fund artists and collaborations between artists and engineers/business etc. This could happen in the form of funding residencies, events that bring together artists with innovation stakeholders etc. The STARTS CSA funds should be largely used to attract and support artists and help technologists willing to engage with the Arts for purposes of enhancing innovation to link with artists.

How can I find a partner and/or become partner in a planned consortium?

By adding your background and potential contributions to a project to the present blog, you can address the STARTS community. The EC cannot bring you in touch with potential consortia as we do not have knowledge of all consortia planned. Remark: It would be helpful for the EC services if interested project coordinators would identify themselves.

Should/could STARTS CSA in ICT36b focus on a specific (industry) sector?

No. The main idea of STARTS is to address innovation catalysed by the Arts across all (relevant) industry sectors. This does not exclude that certain activities are focussing on a specific sector (e.g. a call for artist residencies in, say, 3D printing industry).

What is an artist?

By "artist" we mean a graduate of an arts school and/or anyone recognised as such or earning their living from the arts; This definition has the advantage of being operational but is not meant to be dogmatic or overly restrictive. In general, whatever/whoever furthers the main goal of STARTS to bring in the creative forces of the art world to innovation for society, business and technology in Europe qualifies as partner.

How is STARTS linked to other H2020 activities and H2020 projects?

One goal of STARTS is to prepare for a stronger inclusion of artistic practices in H2020 projects and in H2020 strategy. This is why one activity in STARTS CSA on 'brokerage' should consist in facilitating inclusion of artists in running (and new) H2020 projects (funding e.g. project residencies in H2020 projects.

Is there a preferential distribution of budget across different activities? Who will be the beneficiaries?

The activities mentioned are for illustration and only give the most obvious activities -like residences or annual conference, online presence for matching artists and technologists (see also next question). It is up to proposers to suggest the best use of the budget to further the goals of STARTS. The budget is considered as seed funding to promote the idea of art-triggered innovation in technology. It is, however, clear that the budget must be spent across a wide range of stakeholders in an open and transparent way (via e.g. call for residencies etc.) so as to demonstrably maximise the potential impact and benefit of STARTs.

Given the generous funding of the CSAs, spending should be well argued and justified. It is not acceptable that the budget is spent on activities amongst the consortium partners only. The CSAs should create a burgeoning and active network of STARTS related activities and players. The value-added of the partners and their relevance for STARTS must be well argued.

What activities should be proposed in the CSA ICT36b (point (1)?

There are three activities listed:
- short-term residencies/fellowships
- online platform to match partners from the ICT and the Arts
- Organise an annual high visible STARTS event

We consider these activities as important; however, we do not exclude that proposers come up with well-argued alternative ideas that are more fit.

Also, it is up to proposer to decide how he/she considers to implement activities such as residencies (or any other activity that will enhance the link between art and technology world).

Can there be education activities?

STARTS in LEIT is about interaction of the art world with industry/technology. Education can certainly be part of a proposal but not its main focus. Given the importance of education we reflect on a STARTS education module in future Work programmes.

How to claim cost for residences?

Regarding point 1 of ICT36B: The best way to claim eligible cost for residences is to claim costs for travel and subsistence of external experts (residents) under other direct costs (Art 6.2.D MGA). In accordance with the AGA (p. 75-76) this budget category **covers** the travel costs and related subsistence allowances spent for the action. Travel and subsistence costs may relate to the personnel of the beneficiaries as well as to external experts (residents) that participate in the action on an ad hoc basis *(i.e all cost related to residencies for participants that need not be part of any of the institutions participating in the action).* The experts' participation must be foreseen in the proposal, i.e. foreseen in the proposal that residencies are to be held and a procedure put in place to choose residents and institutions; it could also be envisaged to name (some) of the residents or institutions already at proposal stage. In particular (some of the) residences could be foreseen to take place at the beneficiaries' institutions.