

Horizon Europe

Call for a prize — Rules of Contest

CASSINI Prize for digital space applications

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CALL FOR APPLICATIONS – RULES OF CONTEST

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0. Introduction

This document presents the Rules of Contest for the EIC Horizon and CASSINI Prize in the field of digital space applications under the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2021-2022, Cluster 4, “Digital, Industry and Space”¹. This Prize will be managed by the EU Agency for the Space Programme (EUSPA), pursuant to the contribution agreement concluded with the Commission and delegated to EUSPA, Section Prizes - 1. EIC and CASSINI Prize for digital space applications”², and under the EUSPA 2021-2022 Horizon Europe Work Plan³.

The regulatory framework for this EU Funding Programme is set out in:

- Regulation 2018/1046 ([EU Financial Regulation](#))
- Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013

You are invited to read the **call documentation** on the Funding & Tenders Portal Topic page carefully, and in particular these Rules of Contest and the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal Online Manual \(sections 1 and 2\)](#).

These documents provide clarifications and answers to questions you may have when preparing your application:

- The Rules of Contest outline:
 - background, objectives, scope, activities that can be funded and the expected results (sections 1 and 2)
 - available budget and timetable (sections 3 and 4)
 - admissibility, eligibility and criteria for exclusion (sections 5, 6 and 7)
 - evaluation and award procedure (section 8)
 - award criteria (section 9)
 - other conditions (section 10)
 - how to submit an application (section 11)
- the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal Online Manual \('Manual'\) \(sections 1 and 2 of the Manual\)](#) outlines the procedures to register and submit applications online via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal ('Portal').

1. Background

¹ European Commission Decision C(2022)2975 of 10 May 2022

² European Commission Decision C(2021)6096 of 23 August 2021.

³ 21-09-15 Horizon Europe AWP of 15/09/2021.

Almost 26 million tonnes of plastic waste are generated in Europe every year and around 80% of marine litter is plastic. It causes one of the most pressing environmental problems, posing threats on aquatic life, ecosystems, and human health due to contamination of food and drinking water. It has also important economic impacts on coastal communities, tourism and fisheries.

More than 1000 rivers account for nearly 80 % of global riverine plastic emissions into the oceans:⁴ broken down into micro-fragments by weathering and biofouling, micro plastics – particles smaller than five millimetres – are entering the global food chain, with unknown long-term consequences for animal life and human health.

Monitoring plastic pollution in rivers and marine environments from the Earth's surface is difficult, as plastic cannot be detected, tracked and monitored at a large scale, and for longer time intervals.

Space-based remote sensing technologies and data, however, can play a significant role in detecting, tracking and mapping concentrations of plastics, identifying hotspots and sources of the litter, detecting proxies (e.g. water quality indicators) of potential plastic pollution, and can contribute to the effective deployment of clean-up solutions. But the uptake of the required technologies is still in its infancy stage. Defining observational requirements for plastic marine litter is complex, and only the combination of data from different sensing technologies (and observational platforms) together with scientific processing/modelling may provide a successful remote detection and monitoring of marine litter.

With the CASSINI Prize for digital space applications (“the Prize”), the EU intends to incentivise high-technology space-based solutions to detect, monitor and track plastic pollution in rivers, lakes, shores and coastal zones and to support its removal. The Prize award Europe's leading SME innovators developing deep technologies and break-through solutions.

The Prize will contribute to the implementation of the European Green Deal⁵, the EU Plastics strategy⁶, and the EU Water policy⁷, and shall support the international efforts to tackle plastics in maritime environments. Furthermore, the applications will create significant benefits, to identified target groups, by solving problems or meeting customer needs, as defined in the challenge, related to the detection and monitoring of ocean pollution, monitoring and forecasting of marine and coastal environments, marine resources, and offshore activities in the EU.

The Prize builds on exploitation of the EU Space Programme which consists of several flagship programmes:

- Copernicus is Europe's Earth observation programme. Through its land, marine, atmosphere, climate change, emergency management, and security services, Copernicus supports a wide range of applications including environmental protection, management of urban areas, regional and local planning, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, health, transport, climate change, sustainable development, civil protection, and tourism.
- Galileo is EU's Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS), providing improved positioning and timing information with significant positive implications for many European services and users.

⁴ *Science Advances* 30 Apr 2021: Vol. 7, no. 18.

⁵ *COM(2019) 640 final*

⁶ Plastics (europa.eu)

⁷ Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Water Framework Directive, Bathing Water Directive, etc.

It allows users to know their exact position with greater precision than other available systems and supports emergency response and Search & Rescue. Galileo also enhances European innovation, contributing to the creation of new products, services and jobs.

- EGNOS, the European Geostationary Navigation Overlay Service, is EU's regional satellite-based augmentation system (SBAS). It is used to improve the performance of global navigation satellite systems, such as GPS and Galileo. It has been deployed to provide safety of life navigation services to aviation, maritime and land-based users over Europe.

2. Objectives — Activities - Expected results

Objectives

EUSPA is launching the present Rules of Contest for the CASSINI Prize for digital space applications.

The objectives of this Prize are:

- to stimulate the development of innovative solutions using EU Space Programme data;
- to solve problems or meet customer needs related to the detection, monitoring and tracking of plastic pollution, such as microplastics, plastic litter as well as of larger plastic items, in rivers, shores and coastal zones and to support its removal in order to support the prevention of ocean pollution;
- to attract dynamic innovators, to mobilise private investment.

Expected results

The presented solution:

- shall be a data-driven marine or maritime digital application, which uses Copernicus data and/or Galileo/EGNOS signals in combination with other data sources;
- shall be able to detect, monitor and/or track plastic pollution in rivers, lakes, shores and coastal zones and to support its removal in order to support the prevention of ocean pollution by using EU Space Programme data and services, such as Copernicus Sentinel satellite data, Copernicus information services and Galileo/EGNOS signals at the core;
- shall be able to withstand a demonstration in an operational environment.

Applicants are otherwise free in their choice of technical solutions and can use various approaches, including (but not limited to):

- a combination of satellite data, with EGNSS powered drones, aircrafts, balloons, vessels, buoys, imagery from installed cameras at land, as well as other non-space relevant data and technologies;
- the integration of very high resolution satellite data or other space data from commercial providers, preferably European, and other useful data and services, as they see fit to solve the challenge;

- the use of suitable technologies such as UAVs or piloted aircraft empowered by EGNSS⁸, for example equipped with specific sensors such as high-resolution and hyperspectral cameras to gather data on the presence of plastics, identifying concentration hotspots;
- passive and active remote sensing technologies (e.g. optical spectroradiometry, high spatial resolution imaging, microwave radiometry, altimetry) as well as active technologies (e.g. LIDAR and radar);
- new remote sensing data processing techniques/algorithms, modelling and experimental techniques.
- digital service, data processing and/or analytics tools, and/or systems or subsystems, making use of innovative technologies, such as (but not limited to) artificial intelligence;

The use of artificial intelligence, high performing computing, big data processing and management, and other relevant technologies are encouraged as fit to solve the challenge, also for what concerns prediction and modelling.

Applications are invited to take into account research results generated by relevant ESA projects⁹ as well as Horizon 2020 projects¹⁰, and to refer to knowledge resources from international working groups¹¹.

3. Available budget

The prize budget is 2.85 Mio EUR. The first three ranked winners will receive the same prize of value 0.95 Mio EUR.

4. Timetable and deadlines

timetable and deadlines	
<u>Call opening</u>	29 June 2022
<u>Deadline for submission</u>	3 May 2023 - 17:00:00 CET (Brussels)
<u>Evaluation</u>	May – September 2023
<u>Information on evaluation results/ award</u>	October-November 2023

⁸ EGNSS including their differentiators such as OSNMA, HAS and provision of integrity play a relevant role to ensure that the images/data are collected at the right time along the required trajectory and height.

⁹ E.g. [Discovery marine litter results.pdf \(esa.int\)](#); [EO Science for Society](#); [Plastic-less society](#);

¹⁰ E.g. [Template Fact Sheet RTD \(bluemed-initiative.eu\)](#)

¹¹ E.g. IOCCG Task Force on Remote Sensing of Marine Litter and Debris: <https://ioccg.org/group/marine-litter-debris/>


5. Admissibility and documents

Applications must be submitted before the **call deadline** (see *timetable section 4*).

Applications:

- must be submitted **electronically** via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System (accessible via the Topic page in the [Search Funding & Tenders](#) section). Paper submissions are NOT possible.
- must be submitted using the forms provided *inside* the Submission System (including annexes and supporting documents). (⚠ NOT the documents available on the Topic page — they are only for information).
- must be **complete** and contain all the requested information and all required annexes and supporting documents:
 - Application Form Part A which contains administrative information about the applicant organisations (*to be filled in directly online*)
 - Application Form Part B which contains the technical description of the application (*to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed and then assembled and re-uploaded as PDF in the system*).
- mandatory annex and supporting documents (*to be uploaded as ZIP file*): If the proposed solution is a software, the applications must include Annex with the docker container, including the instructions on how to run it, as part of the application. The docker container¹² submitted by the deadline must be working, as only what has been submitted and available in the Portal itself by the submission deadline will be evaluated. Software developed after the submission deadline or stored in external portals will be considered inadmissible.
- are limited to **50 pages** (Part B). Evaluators will not consider any additional pages
- must be **readable, accessible, printable**.

Applicants may be asked at a later stage for further documents (*for legal entity validation, bank account validation, ethics review, declaration of honour, etc.*)

 For more information about the submission process (including IT aspects), consult the [Online Manual](#).

6. Eligibility

Eligible participants (eligible countries)

In order to be eligible, the applicants must be:

- small and medium-sized enterprise (SME)^{13 14}.
- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
 - EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs))

¹² A container is a standard unit of software that packages up code and all its dependencies so the application runs quickly and reliably from one computing environment to another. A Docker container image is a lightweight, standalone, executable package of software that includes everything needed to run an application: code, runtime, system tools, system libraries and settings. (<https://www.docker.com/resources/what-container/>)

¹³ SME definition | Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (europa.eu)

- non-EU countries:
 - countries associated to the Horizon Europe ([associated countries](#)) or countries which are in ongoing negotiations for an association agreement and where the agreement applies before the award

Joint applications by a group of participants are eligible. Please refer to the section 13, on page 17 .

All applicants must register in the [Participant Register](#) — before the call deadline — and will have to be validated by the Central Validation Service. For the validation, you will be requested to upload documents showing legal status and origin.

Specific cases

Countries currently negotiating association agreements — Applicants from countries with ongoing negotiations (*see above*) may participate in the call and can receive a prize if the negotiations are concluded and the association agreement applies before the award.

EU restrictive measures — Special rules apply for certain entities (*e.g. entities subject to [EU restrictive measures](#) under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)¹⁵ and entities covered by Commission Guidelines No [2013/C 205/05](#)¹⁶*). Such entities are not eligible to participate in any capacity.

 For more information, see [Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment](#).

Eligible activities

Eligible activities are the ones set out in section 2 above.

Ethics and values

Activities must comply with the highest ethical standards and the applicable EU, international and national law on ethical principles. Moreover, they must respect basic EU values (such as respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and human rights, including the rights of minorities) and applicable international, EU and national law.

The activities must comply with:

- ethical principles (including the highest standards of research integrity) and
- applicable international, EU and national law

and may not:

- aim at human cloning for reproductive purposes

¹⁵ Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the [EU Sanctions Map](#).

¹⁶ Commission guidelines No [2013/C 205/05](#) on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards (OJEU C 205 of 19.07.2013, pp. 9-11).

- intend to modify the genetic heritage of human beings which could make such changes heritable (with the exception of research relating to cancer treatment of the gonads, which may be financed), or
- intend to create human embryos solely for the purpose of research or for the purpose of stem cell procurement, including by means of somatic cell nuclear transfer.

Moreover activities must have an exclusive focus on civil applications and no prize can be awarded for activities carried out outside the EU, if they are prohibited in all Member States.

Applications involving ethics issues will have to undergo an ethics review to authorise funding. Applications that did not respect the above ethical principles and standards cannot be awarded a prize.

Security

Applications involving EU classified information must comply with Decision [2015/444 and its implementing rules](#). Applications that are too security-sensitive cannot be awarded a prize.

7. Exclusion

Applicants which are subject to an **EU exclusion decision** or in one of the following **exclusion situations** that bar them from receiving EU funding can NOT participate¹⁷:

- bankruptcy, winding up, affairs administered by the courts, arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or other similar procedures (including procedures for persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- in breach of social security or tax obligations (including if done by persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- guilty of grave professional misconduct¹⁸ (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the prize)
- committed fraud, corruption, links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the prize)
- shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the prize)
- guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No [2988/95](#) (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the prize)

¹⁷ See Articles 136 and 141 EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

¹⁸ Professional misconduct includes: violation of ethical standards of the profession, wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility, false declarations/misrepresentation of information, participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition, violation of IPR, attempting to influence decision-making processes or obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain advantage.

- created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin or created another entity with this purpose (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the prize).

Applicants will also be refused if it turns out that¹⁹:

- during the award procedure they misrepresented information required as a condition for participating or failed to supply that information
- they were previously involved in the preparation of the call and this entails a distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise (conflict of interest).

8. Evaluation and award procedure

Applications will be subject to a formal evaluation by the evaluation committee .

All applications will be invited to a hearing with the evaluation committee and to demonstrate their solution. The applicants will demonstrate the solution that was submitted in the docker container in the application. The hearing and demonstration will take place in Brussels or Prague, or by way of virtual means, according to the pandemic situation at the time of the evaluation. The applicants will be informed accordingly in reasonable time in order to plan their travels, should the venue be Brussels or Prague.

For applications with the same score, the evaluation committee will determine a priority order according to the following approach: The score for the criterion No 3 will be given a weight of 2 and the score for criterion No 2 will be given a weight of 1.5. If two or more applications still tie for any rank or category, the prize will be equally divided and awarded to all applications with the same score.

The Prize will be awarded, after closure of evaluation (and after the mandatory checks: ethics review, security scrutiny, legal entity validation, non-exclusion, double funding and plagiarism, etc), to three applicants who, in the opinion of the evaluation committee, demonstrate a solution that best fulfil the award criteria.

All applicants will be informed about the evaluation result (evaluation result letter). Successful applications will be awarded the prize; the not successful ones will be rejected. The successful applications will be invited to award ceremony (if it can be held). The applicants will be informed accordingly in reasonable time in order to plan their travels, should the venue be Brussels or Prague.

Applicants who believe that the evaluation procedure was flawed, can submit a **complaint** (following the deadlines and procedures set out in the evaluation result letter). Please note that notifications are deemed to have been accessed (and received) 10 days after sending and that deadlines will be counted from then (*see also Funding & Tenders Portal Terms and Conditions*).

9. Award criteria

If admissible and eligible, the applications will be evaluated and ranked against the following award criteria. The prize will be awarded, to the applicants who in the opinion of the evaluation committee demonstrate a solution which is at least a system prototype demonstrated in an operational environment that best addresses the following cumulative criteria:

¹⁹ See Article 141(1) EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

Award criterion 1: Excellence

This criterion will evaluate

- the clarity and pertinence the solution has in order to meet the objectives of the Prize
- the extent to which the application uses Copernicus and/or Galileo/EGNOS data in combination with other data sources
- the extent to which the solution is ambitious and goes beyond the state of the art, demonstrates innovation potential, novel concepts and approaches, new services
- the feasibility and capability of the solution to reliably and consistently detect, monitor and track plastic pollution in rivers, lakes, shores and coastal zones
- the level of consideration of the customers requirements and targeted market

Award criterion 2: Impact

This criterion will evaluate

- to which extend the application creates significant benefits, in support of the objectives of the Green Deal. Specifically, to which extent the solution contributes to the support of the removal of plastic pollution in rivers, lakes, shores and coastal zones
- the level of impact on users and target group/regions
- level to which the solution solves problems or meets customer needs related to the detection, monitoring and tracking of plastic pollution
- important environmental impact, and long-term effects to the marine environment and human health
- the extent to which the solution is replicable in other regions and areas and usable on a broader scale
- the capacity to create new market opportunities.

Award criterion 3: Business model & Demonstration

This criterion will evaluate

- a) Business model:
 - to what extend the business model makes a viable and sustainable business proposition for users or customers amongst companies, authorities, organisations or individuals
 - the cost efficiency of the solution
 - market potential of the solution
- b) Demonstration:
 - whether the solution is well demonstrated and functional

Award criteria	Minimum pass score	Maximum score
Award criterion 1: Excellence	30	50
Award criterion 2: Impact	30	50
Award criterion 3: Business model & demonstration	30	50

Overall pass scores	90	150
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Maximum points: 150 points.

Individual thresholds per award criterion: 30 points.

Overall threshold: 90 points.

Applications must pass both the individual (i.e. per award criterion) AND the overall threshold. The prize will be awarded to the three applications with the best scores. Other applications will be rejected.

10. Other conditions

Payment arrangements

The prize money will be paid to the three prize winners after the award ceremony or after the notification of the outcome of the contest (if the award ceremony cannot be held), provided all the requested documents have been submitted. In case of a group of winners, the payment will be made to the lead applicant.

Communication — Dissemination — Visibility of funding

Prize winners must promote the prize and its results, by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public) in a strategic and effective manner.

Communication activities related to the prize (*including media interviews, press statements, presentations, etc., in electronic form, via traditional or social media, etc.*), must acknowledge EU support and display the European flag (emblem) and funding statement (translated into local languages, where appropriate):



Funded by the
European Union



The emblem must remain distinct and separate and cannot be modified by adding other visual marks, brands or text.

Apart from the emblem, no other visual identity or logo may be used to highlight the EU support.

When displayed in association with other logos (*e.g. of winners or sponsors*), the emblem must be displayed at least as prominently and visibly as the other logos.

For the purposes of these obligations, the winners may use the emblem without first obtaining approval from the awarding authority. This does not, however, give them the right to exclusive use. Moreover, they may not appropriate the emblem or any similar trademark or logo, either by registration or by any other means.

Any communication or dissemination activity related to the prize must use factually accurate information.

Moreover, it must indicate the following disclaimer (translated into local languages where appropriate):

“Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the EUSPA. Neither the European Union nor the awarding authority can be held responsible for them.”

Publicity by the European Commission and the EUSPA

The Commission and the EUSPA may use, for their communication and publicising activities, information relating to the action, as well as photos or audio-visual material that they receive from the participants (including in electronic form), and photos and videos taken either in preparation of the award ceremony or during the award ceremony.

The Commission and the EUSPA will publish the name of both the finalist/s and the winner/s, their origin, the amount of the prize and its nature and purpose.

IPR — Rights of use

The awarding authority does not obtain ownership of the results produced in the context of the prize.

The awarding authority has the right to use non-sensitive information relating to the prize and materials and documents received from the winners (*such as pictures or audio-visual material, in paper or electronic form*) for information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes.

Photos and videos taken by the awarding authority either in preparation of the award ceremony or during the award ceremony are the sole property of the awarding authority.

Checks, audits and investigations

The awarding authority, the European Commission, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), the European Public Prosecutor’s Office (EPPO) and the European Court of Auditors (ECA) may carry out checks, audits and investigations in relation to the prize.²⁰

²⁰ For the powers of OLAF, EPPO and ECA, see Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 883/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 September 2013 concerning investigations conducted by the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and repealing Regulation (EC) No 1073/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (Euratom) No 1074/1999 (OJ L 248, 18/09/2013, p. 1), Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/1996 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the Commission in order to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities (OJ L 292, 15/11/1996, p. 2), Council Regulation (EU) 2017/1939 of 12 October 2017 implementing enhanced cooperation on the establishment of the European Public Prosecutor’s Office (‘the EPPO’) and Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) and Article 257 of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

Withdrawal of the prize — Recovery of undue amounts

The awarding authority may withdraw the prize after its award and recover all payments made, if it finds out that:

- false information, fraud or corruption was used to obtain it
- the prize winners were not eligible or should have been excluded or
- the prize winners are in serious breach of their obligations under these Rules of Contest.

11. How to submit an application

All applications must be submitted directly online via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System. Paper applications are NOT accepted.

You can access the Portal [here](#), or by clicking 'Apply now' on the official prize webpage.

Submission is a 2-step process:

a) create a user account and register your organisation

To use the Submission System (the only way to apply), all participants need to [create an EULogin user account](#).

Once you have an EULogin account, you can [register your organisation](#) in the Participant Register. When your registration is finalised, you will receive a 9-digit participant identification code (PIC).

b) submit the application

Access the Electronic Submission System via the Topic page in the [Search Funding & Tenders](#) section.

Submit your application in 3 parts, as follows:

- Part A includes administrative information about the applicant organisations . Fill it in directly online
- Part B (description of the action) covers the technical content of the application. Download the mandatory word template from the Submission System, fill it in and upload it as a PDF file
- Annexes (if any; *see section 5*). Upload them as ZIP files.

The application must keep to the **page limits** (*see section 5*); excess pages will be disregarded.

Documents must be uploaded to the **right category** in the Submission System otherwise the application might be considered incomplete and thus inadmissible.

The application must be submitted **before the call deadline** (*see section 4*). After this deadline, the system is closed and applications can no longer be submitted.

Once the application is submitted, you will receive a **confirmation e-mail** (with date and time of your application). If you do not receive this confirmation e-mail, it means your application has NOT been submitted. If you believe this is due to a fault in the Submission System, you should immediately file a complaint via the [IT Helpdesk webform](#), explaining the circumstances and attaching a copy of the application (and, if possible, screenshots to show what happened).

Details on processes and procedures are described in the [Online Manual](#). The Online Manual also contains the links to FAQs and detailed instructions regarding the Portal Electronic Exchange System.

12. Help

Additional information can be found:

- [Online Manual](#)
- prize website
- FAQs on the Topic page (for call-specific questions in open calls; not applicable for actions by invitation)
- [Portal FAQ](#) (for general questions).

Please also consult the Topic page regularly, since we will use it to publish call updates.

Contact

For individual questions on the Portal Submission System, please contact the [IT Helpdesk](#).

Non-IT related questions should be sent to the following email address: [Research Enquiry Service](#).

Please indicate clearly the reference of the call and topic to which your question relates (*see cover page*).

13. Important



IMPORTANT

- **Don't wait until the end** — Complete your application sufficiently in advance of the deadline to avoid any last minute **technical problems**. Problems due to last minute submissions (*e.g. congestion, etc.*) will be entirely at your risk. Call deadlines can NOT be extended.
- **Consult** the Portal Topic page regularly. We will use it to publish updates and additional information on the call (call updates).
- **Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Exchange System** — By submitting the application, all applicants **accept** to use the electronic exchange system in accordance with the [Portal Terms & Conditions](#).
- **Registration** — Before submitting the application, all applicants must be registered in the [Participant Register](#). The participant identification code (PIC) (one per applicant) is mandatory for the Application Form.
- **Joint applications** — Joint applications by a group of applicants are admitted. In this case, you must appoint a lead applicant (coordinator) to submit the application and represent you towards the awarding authority. All applicants will be jointly responsible and must all fulfil and respect the conditions set out in these Rules of Contest.
- **No double funding** — There is a strict prohibition of double funding from the EU budget. Applications that have already received an EU prize cannot receive a second prize for the same activities.
- **Resubmission** — Applications may be changed and re-submitted until the deadline for submission. For first past the post prizes with cut-off dates, applications can be changed and re-submitted until the cut-off date; the re-submission may however let you use your position as first in place.
- **Rejection** — By submitting the application, all applicants accept the call conditions set out in these Rules of Contest (and the documents they refer to). Applications that do not comply with all the call conditions will be **rejected**. This applies also to applicants: All applicants need to fulfil the criteria; if any one of them doesn't, they must be replaced or the entire application will be rejected.
- **Cancellation** — The awarding authority may cancel the contest or decide not to award the prize — without any obligation to compensate participants (*e.g. no applications, evaluation committee cannot determine winner, winner is not eligible or must be excluded, objectives have already been achieved, etc*). In this case, you will be informed via a call update.
- **Language** — You can submit your application in any official EU language. However, for reasons of efficiency, we strongly advise you to use English. If you need the call documentation in another official EU language, please submit a request within 10 days after call publication (for the contact information, see *section 12*).

- **Transparency** — In accordance with Article 38 of the [EU Financial Regulation](#), information about EU prizes awarded and the winners (name, address and amount awarded) is published each year on the [EUSPA website](#).

The publication can exceptionally be waived (on reasoned and duly substantiated request), if there is a risk that the disclosure could jeopardise your rights and freedoms under the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights or harm your commercial interests.

- **Data protection** — Any processing of personal data in the context of this prize will be done in accordance with Regulation [2018/1725](#). It will be processed solely for the purpose of evaluating your application (and subsequent management of your prize and, if needed, programme monitoring, evaluation and communication). Details are explained in the [Funding & Tenders Portal Privacy Statement](#).

By submitting the application, all applicants accept that the awarding authority will publish information on the finalists and winners.