

# **EUROSTAT** Call for proposals

# **EUROSTAT GRANTS 2020**

#### ESTAT-2020-PA2-C-EPSAS

B5463-2020-EPSAS-Modernisation of public sector accounting on an accruals basis in support of European Public Sector Accounting Standards

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# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

0.	INTRODUCTION	3
1.	BACKGROUND	3
2.	OBJECTIVES — THEMES & PRIORITIES — ACTIVITIES THAT CAN BE FUNDE EXPECTED IMPACT	
3.	TIME-TABLE & AVAILABLE BUDGET	6
4.	ADMISSIBILITY CONDITIONS	7
5.	ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS	7
6.	AWARD CRITERIA	8
7.	OTHER CONDITIONS	8
8.	EVALUATION & AWARD PROCEDURE	11
9.	LEGAL & FINANCIAL SET-UP OF THE GRANTS	12
10.	HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION?	14

#### 0. Introduction

We invite you to read the call documentation carefully, i.e. this **call document** and the **Guide for applicants**. These documents provide clarifications and answers to questions you may have when preparing your application:

- the call document outlines the:
  - o background, objectives, scope, activities that can be funded and the expected impacts of the call (sections 1 and 2)
  - o timetable and available budget (section 3)
  - o admissibility, eligibility, and other conditions (sections 4, 5 and 7)
  - o award criteria (section 6)
  - evaluation procedure (section 8)
  - o legal and financial set-up and submission procedure (section 9 and 10)
- the <u>Guide for applicants</u> outlines the:
  - o procedures to register and submit proposals online
  - o recommendations for the preparation of the proposal
  - o explanation on the application form (Proposal Template (Part A and B)), which describes the project
  - o overview of the cost eligibility criteria.

#### 1. BACKGROUND

This is an EU call for grants in the area of economic governance, for projects to be funded under the European statistical programme.

Fiscal transparency, i.e. the regular reporting by Member States (MS) and public sector entities of complete, reliable and accurate fiscal data is crucial to the proper functioning of the EU multilateral and budgetary surveillance framework and to the functioning of the single market. Macro (statistical) data and fiscal coordination at EU level are already based on accruals data, but government accounting practices vary widely both across and within the MS, and there are also MS and government entities therein that still operate on a cash-only basis.

Accruals accounting is the only generally accepted information system that provides a complete and reliable picture of the financial and economic position and performance of a government entity, by capturing in full its assets and liabilities as well as its revenue and expenses, over the period covered by the accounts and at the moment they are closed.

Following the Commission report to the Council and the European Parliament on the suitability of IPSAS for the MS<sup>1</sup> (hereinafter 'the IPSAS report'), as requested by Council Directive 2011/85/EU, a project was launched in 2013 aimed at harmonising public sector accounting standards across the Union in order to increase financial transparency and ensure the

Towards implementing harmonised public sector accounting standards in Member States: The suitability of IPSAS for the Member States, (COM(2013) 114 final.

comparability of primary accounting data. The IPSAS report was endorsed by the College on 6 March 2013 and made the case for developing European Public Sector Accounting Standards (EPSAS). It concluded that: "The Commission will further develop the strategy outlined in this report, taking into account resource constraints, in line with its responsibilities under the Treaties".

To take forward the conclusions of the IPSAS report, the services of the Commission have been following a two-phase approach to EPSAS:

- Phase 1: Increase fiscal transparency in the Member States in the short to medium term by promoting accruals accounting and, in parallel, develop the EPSAS framework (covering governance, accounting principles and standards):
- Phase 2: Address comparability within and between Member States by implementing EPSAS.

On 5 June 2019, an EPSAS Progress Report<sup>2</sup> in the form of a staff working document was issued by the Commission. The report describes how the Eurostat has taken forward the EPSAS initiative by summarising the work carried out in the last 5 years and the results achieved in phase 1. An Impact Assessment by the Commission is foreseen before entering Phase 2.

In its annual conclusions on EU Statistics adopted in 2013 and 2014, the ECOFIN Council encouraged the Commission to continue its work on the EPSAS project while in 2017 and 2018 acknowledged the progress made and called for an impact assessment to support the initiative respecting subsidiarity and national competences and the proportionality between potential costs and benefits. In 2016, the European Parliament also noted the ongoing efforts to enhance transparency and comparability of public accounts by developing EPSAS<sup>3</sup>. More recently, in the 2019 conclusions, the Council "TAKES NOTE of the ongoing technical work on the European Public Sector Accounting Standards (EPSAS), and RECOGNISES the progress made in this area, reported in the Commission Staff Working Document".

Detailed information on progress to date on the EPSAS initiative can be found on the CIRCABC EPSAS Interest Group<sup>4</sup>.

# 2. OBJECTIVES — THEMES & PRIORITIES — ACTIVITIES THAT CAN BE FUNDED — EXPECTED IMPACT

This call for proposals aims at providing financial support for MS to carry out work linked to the modernisation of their public sector financial accounting systems under the accruals basis of accounting with a view to the eventual implementation of EPSAS.

#### **Priorities**

The call for proposals is aimed at beneficiaries, as defined under section 5, in the MS:

- That do not as yet apply accruals accounting across public sector but are planning to do so;
- that are already in transition from the cash basis of financial accounting and working towards introducing internationally accepted accruals-based accounting standards, or equivalent national accruals accounting standards
- that are already using accruals, which are moving towards harmonised financial accounting systems across government, or are preparing for such a reform.

In addition, proposals for actions that will be of general benefit to either government accounting

https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/9101903/9823491/EPSAS\_Progress\_Report\_2019.pdf

<sup>4 &</sup>lt;u>https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/8b9f731d-4826-4708-9069-5f65a9edc9bf</u>

as a whole or bring benefits to a range of government entities will have priority over ones, which may bring benefit for a single entity or small number of entities.

#### Activities that can be funded

Any proposal should fall under one or more of the activities specified below.

# Activity A: Stock taking of current financial accounting system with a view to scoping of modernisation needs

Document the universe of entities that would need to modernize their financial accounting systems and which fall within the scope of the objectives of this call for proposals. Perform a gap analysis of the modernisation needs by comparing the actual state of the financial accounting system against the future accruals-based state of the system. Assess data collection needs and procedures in view of producing the opening balance sheet. Analyse the necessary re-organisation needs of the IT environment, considering also innovative solutions, to support implementation of accruals-based financial accounting, including identifying system requirements, the structure and ownership of the proposed systems, and necessary control and interfaces requirements. Analyse the needs for expert staff and its professional development.

# Activity B: Developing the organisation of the project to implement changes

Develop the organisation of the project to plan, manage, coordinate and deliver the project and to provide technical support and advice to the preparers of accounts, including for example setting up steering and oversight bodies, advisory bodies and project teams.

#### Activity C: Developing an approach to implementation

Develop an implementation ('change management') strategy, including the different steps involved in implementing the project (e.g. move all the subsectors to accruals at the same time or by stages). Prepare a roadmap with the project plan identifying the main obstacles, timetable, staffing and training needs, legislative requirements and expected costs. Explain why the selected approach would be efficient and effective. Applicants may consider identifying possible experience from other MSs' government entities that have already implemented accruals accounting.

# Activity D: Developing a stakeholder communication plan

Develop a communication plan addressed to all stakeholders involved in the project, including both internal and external stakeholders, taking into consideration that the transition to accruals accounting is a major project for most governments.

#### Activity E Exchanging knowledge and best practices

Arrange up to five visits to Member States including maximum five participants per visit, in order to exchange knowledge and best practices concerning in particular change management.

#### **Activity F: Building on existing analyses**

Take steps to implement or improve accruals-based financial accounting systems across public sector.

#### **Activity G: Develop exploitation strategies**

Develop a plan how to integrate the information produced by the accrual-based financial accounting and reporting system into the decision-making processes at reporting entity level and at political level (e.g. Parliaments). This can include the linking of the accounting system with other reporting systems that are already in use for decision-making in the public sector e.g. statistics and budgeting.

#### Communication on the activity(s)

In order to present the projects of beneficiaries, on-going work, possible results and exchange experiences with colleagues working on similar projects Eurostat may organise two working group meetings per year. The working group meeting among others is also a platform to facilitate the modernisation of public sector accounting on an accruals basis in support of European Public Sector Accounting Standards in the EU Member States by sharing of knowledge. The working group meetings are planned to be held at Eurostat in Luxembourg or in one of the EU Member States. A representative of the beneficiary of the grants is expected to participate in a working group meeting and to present the work that is being carried out under the grant agreement. Travel and subsistence costs for one participant for one working group with two-day duration should be included in the estimated budget, if necessary.

#### Expected impact

Increase fiscal transparency in the Member States in the short to medium term by promoting accruals accounting.

## Indicators for the evaluation of the action

Successful achievement of the activities will be measured according to the following indicators:

- Timely transmission of the deliverables.
- Content of the work done and results achieved.
- Relevance of the work done with respect to the scope and activities of the action.
- The clarity and accuracy of reports.

## 3. TIME-TABLE & AVAILABLE BUDGET

## *Time-table*

Timing (planned)		
Call publication	03/03/2019	
Deadline for applications	14/05/2020 – 17:00 CET	
Evaluation	May – June 2020	
Information on evaluation result	June – August 2020	
Grant agreement signature	September – October 2020	
Indicative starting date	The first day of the month following the date the Agreement enters into force.	

# <u>Budget</u>

The estimated available call budget is EUR 1,200,000.00.

#### The maximum co-financing rate for this action is 70%.

The EU reserves the right not to award all available funds and, depending on the quality of the proposals received, to either decrease, or, in case of available budgetary resources, to increase the total budget for this action.

## 4. ADMISSIBILITY CONDITIONS

## **Admissibility**

Applications must be sent before the call deadline (see timetable section 3).

Applications must be submitted electronically via the Participant Portal Electronic Submission System accessible via the Call Topic Page in the <u>Search Funding & Tenders</u> section. Paper submissions are no longer possible.

Applications (including annexes & supporting document) must be submitted using the forms provided inside the Electronic Submission System not the documents available on the Call Topic Page – they are only for information.

Your application must be readable, accessible and printable and contain all the requested information and all required annexes and supporting documents (see section 10).

#### 5. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

### **Participants**

In order to be eligible for a grant, the applicants must:

- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.: EU Member States
- a non-profit organisation (private or public); or
- a public authority (national, regional, local).

Moreover, eligible beneficiaries must be Member States' public sector accounting regulators, in particular public sector standard-setting authorities and/ or those public entities which have a responsibility for leading, advising or coordinating the implementation of public sector accounting standards across or within general government sub-sectors. In line with ESA2010, general government comprises central, state and local governments, and social security funds.

To prove eligibility, all applicants must register in the <u>Participant Register</u> — before the call deadline — and will be requested to upload the necessary documents showing legal status and origin later on.

Linked third parties (i.e. affiliated entities<sup>5</sup> that participate in the project and receive funding, but do not become beneficiaries) are allowed.

#### For UK applicants:

Please be aware that following the entry into force of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement<sup>6</sup> on 1 February 2020 and in particular Articles 127(6), 137 and 138, the references to entities, bodies and natural or legal persons residing or established in a Member State of the European Union are to be understood as including entities, bodies and natural or legal persons residing or established in the United Kingdom. UK residents and entities are therefore eligible to participate under this call.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> See Article 187 of the Financial Regulation.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community (OJ L 29, 31.1.2020, p. 7).

#### Activities

Eligible activities are the ones set out in section 2 above. Financial support to third parties (grants or prizes) is not allowed.

#### 6. AWARD CRITERIA

Admissible and eligible applications will be evaluated and ranked against of the following award criteria:

Criteria	Mark (maximum points)
a) Relevance of application in relation to the objectives of the call and the priorities of the annual work programme	(50 points)
b) Quality of the proposal, on the basis of the following criteria:	(50 points)
Presentation of expected results; Clarity of practical application in terms of how the project's goals and outputs are to be achieve; Expected impact and sustainability of the action	
Time schedule of the action (work plan); Management arrangements	
Level of detail of description of the work; Organisation of methods;	
Technical methodology; Efficiency and effectiveness of approach	
Coherence, relevance and proportionality of the estimated budget in relation with the proposed action	
Maximum total score	100 points

Overall threshold: 60 %

Specific threshold per each of the award criteria: 50%

Applications that pass the specific threshold AND the overall threshold will be considered for funding.

Funding decisions, i.e. co-financing rate, will be made in line with the objectives of the action and within the limits of the available budget.

Other applications will be rejected.

The evaluation procedure is explained further in section 8.

## 7. OTHER CONDITIONS

# Financial capacity

All project participants must have stable and sufficient resources to successfully implement the project and contribute their share. Organisations participating in several projects must have sufficient capacity to implement several projects.

The financial capacity check will be done by us on the basis of the documents you will be requested to upload in the <u>Participant Register</u> (profit and loss account and balance sheet for the two closed financial year, or for newly created entities possibly the business plan; for applicants

requesting more than EUR 750 000: audit report produced by an approved external auditor, certifying the accounts for the last closed financial year).

The analysis will take into account elements such as dependency on EU funding and deficit and revenue in previous years).

It will normally be done for all applicants, except:

- public bodies (national, regional or local authorities) or international organisations
- if the requested grant amount is not more than EUR 60 000 (low-value grant).

If needed, it may also be done for linked third parties.

If we consider that your financial capacity is not satisfactory, we may require:

- further information
- an enhanced financial responsibility regime, i.e. full joint and several responsibility for all applicants (see below, section 9)
- pre-financing paid in instalments
- (one or more) pre-financing guarantees (see below, section 9)

Or we may:

- propose no pre-financing
- reject your participation or, if needed, the entire application.

For more information, see <u>Rules on Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial</u> Capacity Assessment.

#### *Operational capacity*

All participants must have the know-how and qualifications to successfully implement the project (including sufficient experience in EU/trans-national projects of comparable size).

This capacity will be assessed on the basis of the experience of the applicants and their staff.

Applicants will have to show this via the following information in the Proposal Form (Part B):

- general profiles(qualifications and experiences) of the staff responsible for managing and implementing the project
- a description of the consortium participants in the context of the project
- the applicants' activity reports of last year
- a list of EU funded actions/projects for the last 4 years.

Public bodies, Member State organisations and international organisations are exempted from the operational capacity check.

#### Exclusion

Applicants that are subject to an administrative sanction (i.e. exclusion or financial penalty decision)<sup>7</sup> or in one of the following situations<sup>8</sup> are excluded from receiving EU grants and can therefore not participate:

See Articles 136(1) of the Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

See Articles 136(1) and 141(1) of the Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

- 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 misconduct<sup>9</sup> (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or natural persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- 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, decisionmaking or control, beneficial owners or natural persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement or grant decision (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or natural persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No <u>2988/95</u> (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or natural persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- 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 natural persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant).

Applicants will also be refused if it turns out during the grant award procedure that they<sup>10</sup>:

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

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.

See Article 141(1) EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

# **▲** IMPORTANT

- Coordinator & consortium The coordinator represents the consortium towards the EU. You must have agreement of the other members and their mandate to act on their behalf and will have to confirm this in your application. Moreover, you will have to declare that the information in the proposal is correct and complete and that all participants comply with the conditions for receiving funding (especially, eligibility, financial and operational capacity, no exclusion, etc.) and have agreed to participate. Before signing the grant agreement, each participant will have to confirm this again by signing a declaration of honour (DoH). Proposals without full support will be rejected.
- Linked third parties Applicants may participate with linked third parties (i.e. affiliated entities<sup>11</sup>) that receive funding. Linked third parties must comply with all conditions set out in this call (just like applicants), but they do not sign the grant agreement and do not count towards the minimum criteria for consortium composition.
- **Subcontractors** Subcontracting is allowed.
- **Registration** All applicants must register in the <u>Participant Register</u> before the call deadline and upload the necessary documents showing legal status and origin. Linked third parties can register later (during grant preparation).
- Completed/ongoing projects Applications for projects that have already been completed will be rejected; applications for projects that have already started will be assessed on a case-by-case basis (in this case, no costs can be reimbursed for activities that took place before proposal submission).
- Balanced project budget Applicants must ensure a balanced project budget and sufficient other resources to implement the project successfully (e.g. own contributions, income generated by the action, financial contributions from third parties). You may be requested to lower the estimated costs in the detailed budget table, if they are ineligible or excessive.
- **No-profit rule** Grants may NOT give a profit (i.e. surplus of receipts + EU grant over costs). This will be checked by us at the end of the projects.
- **Double funding** Any given project may receive only one grant from the EU budget. The project must therefore NOT receive any financial support under any **other EU funding** programme (including EU funding managed by authorities in EU Member States or other funding bodies, *e.g. Regional Funds*, *Agricultural Funds*, *EIB loans*, *etc.*). Cost items may NOT be declared twice under different EU actions.
- **Multiple applications** Applicants may submit more than one application for *different* projects under the same call (and be awarded a grant for them).

Organisations may participate in several applications.

BUT: if are several applications for the *same/very similar* project, only one application will be accepted and evaluated; the applicants will be asked to withdraw one of them (or it will be rejected).

- Language Applications must be drafted in English.
- 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 does not, they must be replaced or the entire proposal will be rejected.

#### 8. EVALUATION & AWARD PROCEDURE

This call is subject to the standard submission and evaluation procedure (one-stage submission + one-step evaluation).

Applications will be checked for formal requirements (admissibility and eligibility) and will be evaluated by an evaluation committee against the operational capacity, the financial capacity (if applicable) and award criteria and then listed in a ranked list according to their quality score.

Unsuccessful applications will be informed about their evaluation result (see time-table section 3).

Successful applications will be invited for grant preparation.

See Article 187 of the Financial Regulation.

# **⚠** IMPORTANT

- No commitment for funding Invitation to grant preparation does NOT constitute a formal commitment for funding. We will still need to make several legal checks before grant award: legal entity validation, financial capacity, exclusion check etc.
- Grant preparation will involve a dialogue in order to fine-tune technical or financial aspects of the
  project and may require extra information from your side. It may also include adjustments to the
  proposal to address recommendations of the evaluation committee or other concerns. Compliance will
  be a pre-condition for receiving the grant.

#### 9. LEGAL & FINANCIAL SET-UP OF THE GRANTS

If your project is selected for funding, you will be asked to sign a grant agreement (available on Portal Reference Documents).

This grant agreement will set the framework for your grant and its terms and conditions, in particular provisions on deliverables, reporting and payments.

# Starting date & project duration

The project starting date and duration will be fixed in Article 3 of your grant agreement. Normally the starting date will be after grant signature. Retroactive application can be granted exceptionally for duly justified reasons — but never earlier than the proposal submission date.

**Estimated project duration**: 24 months. (extensions will be possible only exceptionally, for duly justified reasons and with our agreement)

# Maximum grant amount, reimbursement of eligible costs & funding rate

All grant parameters (maximum grant amount, funding rate, total eligible costs etc.) will be fixed in Article 5 of your grant agreement.

The costs will be reimbursed at the funding rate fixed in the grant agreement.

EU grants may not produce a profit. If there is a profit (i.e. surplus of receipts over costs), we will deduct it from your final grant amount. This rule is not applicable for grants below 60 000 EUR.

# Cost eligibility rules

For the cost eligibility rules, see model grant agreement (art. 6) and the Guide for applicants.

#### **Special cost eligibility rules** for this call:

- Indirect costs will be reimbursed with a flat rate of 7% of total eligible costs. However, for entities registered in the list pursuant to Article 5 of Regulation 223/2009 the flat rate for indirect costs will be 30% of total eligible staff costs.
- Non-deductible VAT is eligible for this call.

## **Deliverables**

Standard deliverables will be listed in the grant agreement (art. 14). The project-specific deliverables will be listed in Annex 1.

Standard deliverables for this call: none.

# **Specific deliverables** for this call:

Deliverable 1: A **report on the action**. This should be a brief report on the results of the action (up to around ten pages) including as a minimum:

- 1) Objectives of the project;
- 2) Description of the activities undertaken;
- 3) Outputs of the project;
- 4) Sustainability of the project's achievements.

Deliverable 2: In order to enhance the visibility of the projects as well as to facilitate the knowledge sharing between Member States, the beneficiaries are expected to deliver a short **article/summary description** on the substance of the action and achieved results. Eurostat will make these articles publicly available.

Deliverable 3: **Power point, or equivalent**, **presentation** describing the action and results at the working group meeting.

All reports and documentation should be provided in English.

All deliverables have to be provided no later than the closing date of the action.

#### Reporting & payment arrangements

The reporting and payment arrangements will be fixed in Article 15 and 16 of the grant agreement.

The pre-financing is not proposed for this call.

At the end of the project, you will be invited to submit a report and we will calculate your final grant amount.

#### **Special provisions**

IPR<sup>12</sup> rules: see model grant agreement (art. 19)

Special conditions for certain project activities: see model grant agreement (art.18a)

Promotion & visibility of EU funding: see model grant agreement (art. 22)

# Cost rejection, grant reduction, recovery, suspension & termination

The grant agreement (chapter 6) provides for the measures we may take in case of breach of contract (and other violations of law).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Intellectual and industrial property rights.

# Liability regime for recoveries

The liability regime for recoveries will be set out in Article 28 of your grant agreement either:

- limited joint and several liability with individual ceilings up to the beneficiaries' maximum grant amounts in Annex 2
- unconditional joint and several liability up to the maximum grant amount for the action set out in Article 5.1
- individual financial responsibility each beneficiary only for its debt.

#### 10. How to submit an application?

All applications must be submitted electronically via the Participant Portal Electronic Submission System accessible via the Call Topic Page in the <u>Search Funding & Tenders</u> section. Paper submissions are no longer possible.

The application will have 3 parts:

- **Part A** (to be filled in directly online) contains administrative information about the applicant organisations (future coordinator and beneficiaries) and the summarised budget for the proposal
- **Part B** (to be filled out as word template and uploaded as PDF file) contains the description of the action which covers the technical content of the proposal
- Annexes & supporting documents (to be uploaded as PDF files).

Mandatory **annexes & supporting documents** (directly available in the Submission System) for this call:

- Detailed budget.
- Unit costs declaration.
  - Curriculum vitae of the people primarily responsible for managing and implementing the operation (accompanied where appropriate, like in the field of research and education, by a list of relevant publications), illustrating their competence, expertise, leadership quality and authority required by the action task.
- For applicants requesting more than EUR 750 000: audit report by an approved external auditor, certifying the accounts for the last closed financial year.

The **submission process** is explained in the <u>Online Manual</u> (together with detailed instructions for the IT tool).

## **Contact**

For questions on the Participant Portal Submission System, please contact the IT Helpdesk.

Non-IT related questions should be sent to the following email address: <a href="mailto:estat-financial-cell-dir-c-d@ec.europa.eu">estat-financial-cell-dir-c-d@ec.europa.eu</a>

For general questions on UNIT COSTS, please contact: estat-unit-costs@ec.europa.eu

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

#### **IMPORTANT**

- Consult the Call Topic Page regularly. We will use it to publish updates and additional information on the call (call updates).
- Don't wait until the end.

Questions received later than 7 days before the call deadline cannot be answered.

We strongly advise you to complete your proposal sufficiently in advance of the deadline, to avoid any last minute technical problems. Any problems due to last minute submissions (e.g. congestion, etc.) will be at your risk. The call deadline will NOT be extended.

- Before submitting a proposal, all applicants must be **registered** in the <u>Participant Register</u> and obtain a participant identification code (PIC) (one for each applicant).
- By submitting their proposal, all applicants **accept**:
- the terms and conditions of this call (as described in this call document and the documents it refers to)
- To use the electronic exchange system in accordance with the Portal Terms & Conditions.
- After the call deadline, the proposal is locked and can no longer be changed.
- You may be contacted later on if there is a need to **clarify** certain aspects of your **proposal** or for the correction of clerical mistakes.
- You may be asked to submit **additional documents** later on (e.g. for the legal entity validation, LEAR appointment and financial capacity check).
- Transparency Each year, information about EU grants awarded is published on the <u>Europa website</u>. This includes:
  - o the beneficiaries' names
  - o the beneficiaries' addresses
  - o the purpose for which the grant was awarded
  - o the maximum amount awarded.

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

- **Data privacy** The submission of an application under this call involves the collection, use and processing of personal data (such as name, address and CV). This data will be processed in accordance with Regulation 2018/1725. It will be processed solely for the purpose of evaluating your proposal (and subsequent management of your grant and, if needed, programme monitoring, evaluation and communication). Details are explained in the Portal Privacy Statement.
- Cancellation There may be circumstances which may require the cancellation of the call. In this case, you will be informed via a call update. Please note that cancellations are without entitlement to compensation.

HISTORY OF CHANGES					
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE			
1.0	27.02.2020	Initial version			