Questions & Answers

Call for proposals 2018
H2020-S2RJU-2018

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Questions & Answers

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<td>1</td>
<td>When I accessed the latest S2R call, I noted that the specific challenge for the topic below is contained in the annual work plan for JU members. Does this mean only JU members are eligible to apply? Research into optimized and future railway infrastructure</td>
<td>According to the eligibility criteria listed in the Shift2Rail Annual Work Plan 2018 (section 2.3.4 Standard eligibility conditions), only JU members (founding and associated) and their affiliates can be beneficiaries in the topic that are labelled as &quot;CFM&quot; (Calls for members) in the S2R call 2018. In the case of Members in the form of consortia or groupings of legal entities, the individual constituent entities of these consortia or groupings, and the affiliated entities of these individual constituent entities, are eligible to participate in the restricted call topics for JU Members. Therefore, a non-JU member cannot participate directly or as part of the consortium submitting a proposal to the call which requires JU's membership as eligibility criteria.</td>
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I received a message from a member where he stated that Shift2Rail’s associate members are not allowed to take part in consortia for the upcoming call.
However, I remember it was mentioned in a previous conversation that if a member were to participate in IP4, they would be entitled to receive funding.

How can both statements be reconciled?
Is a company actually limited to building a consortium dedicated to ‘Passenger Experience’ with non-associate members only?
If a member could be convinced to take part in IP4, through which channel would they get funding?

In the topics labelled as "OC" (Open Call) in the S2R call for for proposal 2018, the participation of non-S2R JU member is limited to build a consortium only with other non-S2R JU members and under the other special eligibility conditions per topic.
According to the eligibility criteria listed in the Shift2Rail Annual Work Plan 2018 (section 2.3.4 Standard eligibility conditions), topics labelled OC are open only to entities that are not:
1) Members of the S2R JU (founding or associated),
2) nor constituent entities of Members in the form of consortia or groupings,
3) nor affiliated entities either to the S2R JU Members or to the constituent entities of Members in the form of consortia or groupings.
Please consider that if a Member of the JU happen to be a beneficiary of the consortium replying to a topic labelled “OC”, the full consortium will be considered not eligible and therefore excluded from the next steps of the evaluation.
Subject to the conditions of Article 13 and Article 18 of the Grant Agreement, there are no elements which would question the selection of a S2R Member/its affiliated entities and/or linked third as a subcontractor by a beneficiary of an Open Call grant.
Please note that the selection of consultant, organisation, institutes, entities, etc. that will perform action tasks as subcontractors - as per Art. 13 of the Grant Agreement - shall be selected respecting the best value for money principle. All relevant documents regarding the recruitment/selection process should be kept in order to demonstrate that this principle has been ensured (see Art. 18 GA).
For more information about the selection of subcontractor, please refer to the H2020 Annotated Grant Agreement pp 137-140:
Additionally different opportunities are open to non-S2R JU members to participate in research and innovation activities realised by the JU Members (topics labelled as CFM), e.g.:
- be a third party with a legal link with the beneficiary,
- be a subcontractor.
In both cases, the provisions of H2020 Rules of Participations on subcontracting and on linked third parties should be complied with.
Finally please note that S2R JU member can participate in CFM topics (and get funding) which linked to the same Innovation Programme where OC topics are launched. Often those topics are marked in the call text as "complementary; this imply a collaboration between S2R JU Members and non-JU Members during the two or more parallel projects execution.

3 Would it be possible (and would make sense) for a JU-member to apply for a call for tender? In particular, the one related to “Study on railway bridge dynamics” of the AWP 2018.

The answer is yes. Under the amended S2R 2018 Work Plan participation in Open Call for tenders (relevant within the IP2 and IP3 scopes and within the framework of the S2R JU MAAP) is also open to any Shift2Rail JU Founding or Associated member, including the constituent entities of members in the form of consortia or groupings, or affiliated entities either to the Shift2Rail JU members or to the constituent entities of members in the form of consortia or groupings. Nevertheless, in accordance with the Shift2Rail JU’s statutes (article 17- Allocation of the Union contribution) if a Shift2Rail JU Founding or Associated member is awarded with the contract, as an EU contribution, the amount received by the Founding Member or the Associated Member under this contract, and during its whole duration, should be counted against the S2R contribution planned to be received in accordance with their respective Membership Agreement and taking into consideration the maximum co-funding expected to be received in accordance with the S2R Regulation.