

COMMON RESEARCH FRAMEWORK ON INFORMATION INTEGRITY

DIGITAL-2026-BESTUSE-
AWARENESS

DIGITAL
EUROPE
PROGRAMME



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#DigitalEUProgramme

28 April 2026



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Agenda

- 1. Welcome and Introduction***
- 2. Presentation of the call***
- 3. Information on Application Process & Evaluation***
- 4. Q&A***



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Basic information

Topic ID	DIGITAL-2026-BESTUSE-AWARENESS
Topic Title	Common Research Framework on Information Integrity
Indicative budget	€ 6 Million
Type of action	Grant for Financial Support
Nr. of projects expected	One
Indicative duration of the action	24 – 30 months
Funding rate	100% (Consortium), 50% (FSTP)
Call opening	21 April 2026
Call closing	1 October 2026
Additional Information	At least 60% of the budget must be spent on FSTP (Financial Support to Third Parties)



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Objectives – Main Objective

Main Objective

Creating a common research framework with the necessary infrastructure to enable advanced research and analysis on information integrity in the EU.



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Specific Objectives

Specific Objective

1. Securing or setting up necessary technological infrastructure, comprising both hardware and software capacities, needed for advanced research on information integrity
2. Supporting, acquiring, or creating a set of dedicated tools to facilitate research on information integrity and the analysis of information manipulation

Scope

- Overcoming technology and capacity related hurdles
 - e.g. through development of dedicated tools for research on information integrity, acquisition of computational capacity, etc.
- Can be delivered by consortium, third party grants, or a mix of both



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Specific Objectives

Specific Objective

3. Making the infrastructure, dedicated tools and computational capacity accessible to researchers and civil society, where needed through a transparent and effective access mechanism, and promoting its solutions to the relevant communities

Scope

- Seeks to ensure that the funded consortium gives access to the solutions developed under Specific Objectives 1 and 2 to relevant stakeholders, and actively promotes its solutions.
- Proposals should explain their intended onboarding and selection processes, and foresee intended links with EDMO, European Network of Fact-Checkers and European Centre for Democratic Resilience.



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Specific Objectives

Specific Objective

4. Leveraging the tools and mechanisms for research that are provided by legislation, such as Article 40 of the Digital Services Act; by increasing the capacity of the research community and civil society to carry out high impact research on the basis of online platforms' data

Scope

- Based on needs analysis, propose activities that improve understanding of opportunities provided by Articles 40 (12) and 40 (4) of the DSA
- Focus in particular on
 - Security, confidentiality and privacy aspects
 - Identification and dissemination of best practices on conducting research on the basis of platforms' data



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Specific Objectives

Specific Objective

5. Set up and implement a grant structure to distribute funds to third parties from the research and civil society communities, with the aim of implementing two sets of eligible activities under the call:
 - a) Third party tools or capabilities that support the delivery of Specific Objectives 1 and 2
 - b) Research projects that utilise the outputs established under Specific Objectives 1, 2 and 4

Scope

- Describe how the intended sub-granting mechanism will function; ensuring transparency, fairness and geographical balance in selection of grant applications.
- Lay out vision and strategy for sub-granting.



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Financial Support to Third Parties

Activities that help overcome technological and capacity related hurdles to research on information integrity:

- Supported activities should have clear link with central consortium's facilitator role and fit into a larger strategy.
- Can support the attainment of Specific Objectives 1 & 2.

Relevant research activities on the information environment

- should advance practical knowledge and data related to the information environment and contribute to situational awareness
- should use the consortium's outputs developed under Specific Objectives 1, 2 and 4.
- should fit into a larger strategy, creating synergies and fostering cooperation, using standardised approaches where possible



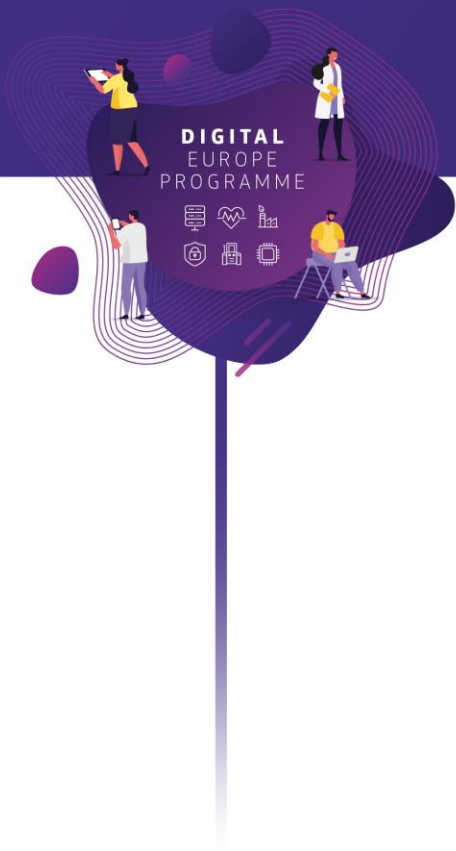
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Deliverables

Project applications will formulate their own deliverables in accordance with their needs analyses and proposed means to address them.

At the minimum, deliverables should include:

- A suite or network of solutions capable of addressing Specific Objectives 1 and 2
- A methodology and dissemination plan for creating access to the created resources
- A sub-granting methodology in line with the scope set forth in the section above
- A final report detailing lessons learnt and identifying clear paths for future actions



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Implementation Designs – Some Examples

Awarded Consortium

The project can achieve the delivery of the Specific Objectives in different ways, including...

Technological Infrastructure (SO1)

Analysis Tools (SO2)

Dissemination & Access Mechanism (SO3)

Leveraging tools & mechanisms from legislation (SO4)

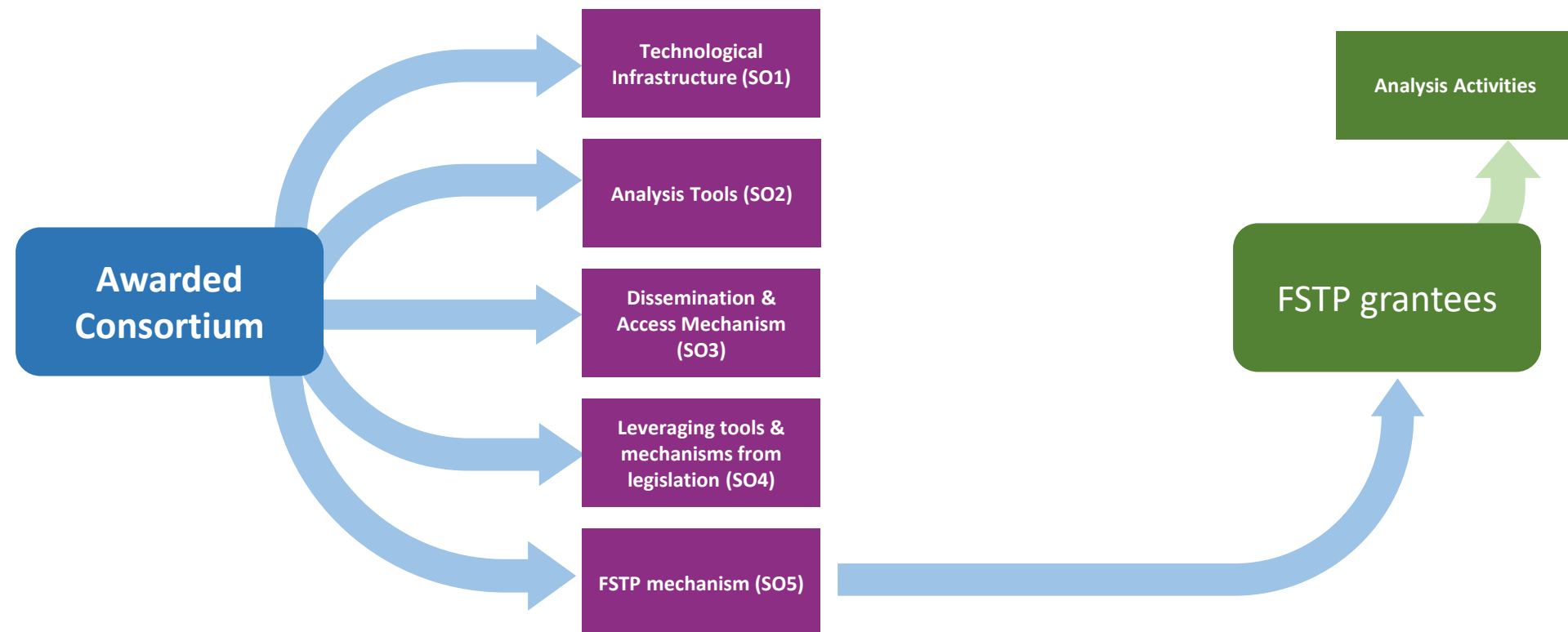
FSTP mechanism (SO5)

FSTP grantees



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Implementation Designs – Some Examples



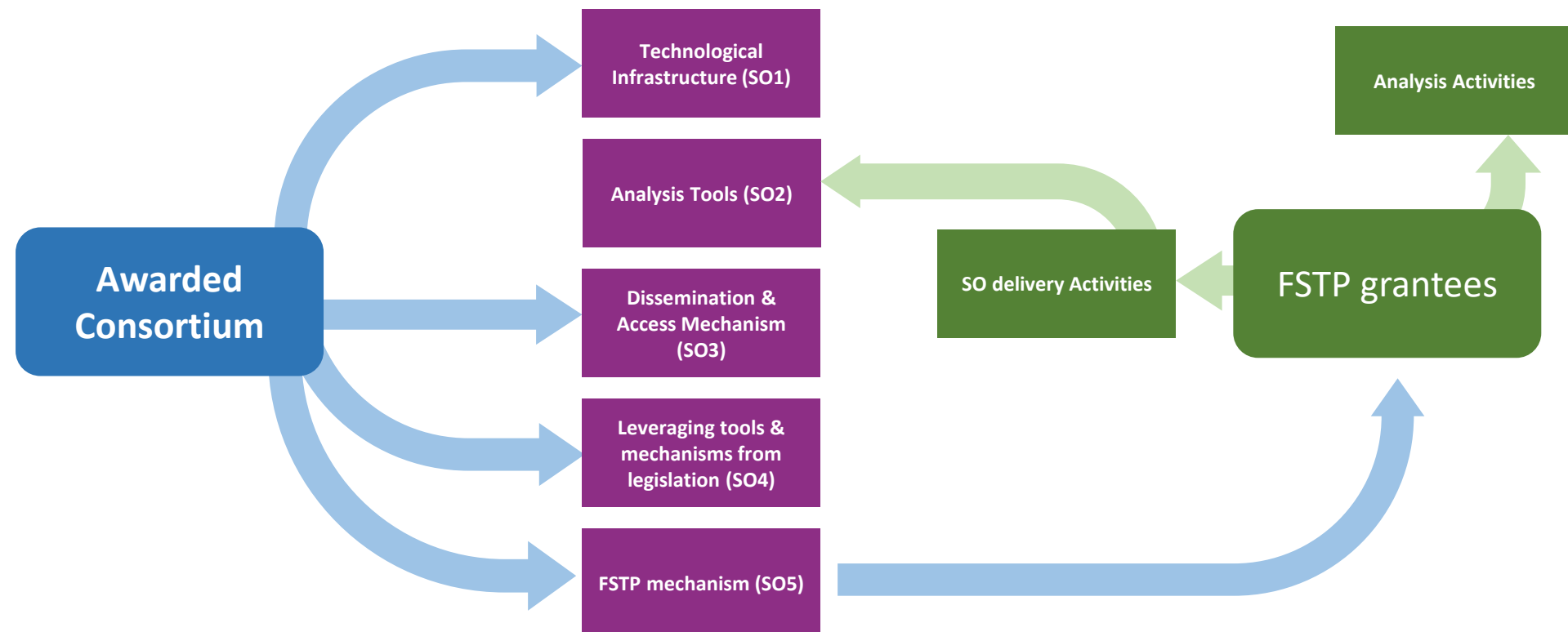
The project can achieve the delivery of the Specific Objectives in different ways, including...

...implementing SO's 1,2 and 4 via consortium activities, and subgranting only for activities that utilise the outputs



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Implementation Designs – Some Examples



The project can achieve the delivery of the Specific Objectives in different ways, including...

...implementing SO's 1,2 and 4 via a mix and match of consortium actions and FSTP activities



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DO's and DONT's

Proposal DO's

- Propose activities based on a strong needs analysis and own understanding of the field
- Demonstrate an ambitious, strategic, inclusive vision for research on the information environment in the EU
- Focus on quality over quantity
- Plan activities with an emphasis on a future outlook (transferability, sustainability, etc.)

Proposal DON'Ts

- Replications of the call text or its non-mandatory examples without logical link to own needs analysis
- Propose simple scale-ups/expansions of consortium partner activities without consideration on how buy-in from the wider community could be ensured or how supported research can fit into a bigger picture
- Lack of geographical balance or diversity of expertise in conducted activities



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Consortium Composition

A minimum of four independent applicants (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities) from four different eligible countries

Consortia should be geographically balanced and include a diversity of perspectives and expertise

Types of stakeholders

- Research Organisations
- Civil Society Organisations
- Fact-Checking Organisations
- Technology Providers

Eligibility

Must be legal entities from EU, listed EEA, or DEP associated country

Natural persons and international organisations are not eligible



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EU Funding & Tenders Portal

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[Home](#) > [Guidance & documents](#) > [How to participate](#)

How to participate

- [Funding](#)
- [Procurement](#)
- [Experts](#)

Step 1

Find grants procedures

The European Commission and its funding bodies publish calls for proposals on the Funding & Tenders Portal.

1. You may start your search from the home page by entering different keywords that characterize best your field of interest, and then refine the results with the help of further filters.
2. You may start your search by selecting one of the EU programmes listed on the home page, and then navigate via the quick links to the calls for proposals of a specific programme.
3. Calls are divided into topics, implemented by different type of actions. Select a topic to read more about the identified opportunity: the topic-related documents, guidance and other instructions are available on a topic page.
4. The site offers a search on calls for proposals and tenders of the European institutions.

[View more details](#)

Step 2

Find partners (optional)

Read the topic conditions to assess the partnership and other eligibility requirements of a call.
To publish your partner search request or offer, select a topic on the Search Funding and Tenders page. Further help is available in the [IT HOW TO](#).

Use the Partner Search offered in this site to select an organisation based on their profile or their previous participation.

[View more details](#)

Step 3

Create an EU Login account

Each user has to have an EU Login account to log in on the Portal. If you already have such an account, you can use it for any interactions supported on this site from proposal submission to reporting. If you do not have an account yet, you need to create it by clicking on the REGISTER button. Otherwise you get access only to the public services of the site (eg. searching funding opportunities, reading guidance, etc.)

[Register an EU login account](#)

[View more details](#)

Step 4

Register an organisation

If you want to participate in a call for proposal, your organisation needs to be registered and to obtain a 9-digit Participant Identification Code (PIC). This unique identifier will have a 'declared' status and can be used for your proposal submission and in any interactions with the European Union.

[Check if your organisation is already registered, or register it](#)

[View more details](#)

Step 5

Submit your grant proposal

How to access the submission system?

Select your topic and go to the Submission Service section of the topic page. Make sure that you select the correct type of action before you start drafting a proposal. The link to the submission system is available, if the status of the call is 'open'. A login with your EU Login account is required.

[View more details](#)



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European
Commission

EU Funding & Tenders Portal

Online Manual

Search by keywords



Online Manual

My Area — User account and roles

Participant Register — Register your

Grants

Applying for funding

Search funding opportunities —

Projects that can be funded —

Apply with partners or as indivi

Submit a proposal — Elector

Get prepared

Electronic proposal submissi

Complaints about failed submis

Selection — From evaluation to g

Grant management

Procurement

Prizes

Financial instruments

Working as an Expert

Help

/ Online Manual / Grants / Applying for funding

Submit a proposal — Electronic Submission System

Find a call

Conditions for funding

Find partners

Submit a proposal

Complaints about failed submission

Submit a proposal

Get prepared

Electronic proposal submission

HOW TO

Proposal submission

Proposals must be submitted electronically using the **Portal Submission System**.

Where? Access to the Submission System is available through the Topic page on the Portal> Start Submission.

Who? Proposals must be created and submitted by a contact person of the coordinating organisation. Exceptions exist for some programmes/types of action which are fully focused on individuals (e.g. the *Principal Investigator in Horizon Europe ERC grants* or the *Fellow in Horizon Europe MSCA grants*).

How? The **Submission wizard** will guide you step-by-step through the process. You will need to use the online forms and templates available in the Submission System. The application form is described below.

Submission process

Get prepared: **Finding your topic** > **Find partners** > **Plan your work and budget**

Electronic proposal submission: **Get an EU Login account** > **Get a PIC number (Participant Register)** > **Launch Submission wizard** > **Pre-register your draft proposal** > **List participants, contact persons** > **Fill in Administrative Forms (Part A)** > **Upload Technical Description (Part B)** > **Submit your proposal** > **Acknowledgement of receipt**

Application form (Part A and B)

Proposals are submitted using the application forms available in the Submission System. The **application form** is structured in into two parts, Parts A and B:

- **Part A:** contains the structured Administrative Forms with data on the participants, legal declarations and contact persons (retrieved from the Submission System screens). It may also include some programme-specific questions.
- **Part B (the narrative part):** Technical Description of the project with the planned activities, work packages, costs, etc. (must be uploaded as PDF).

However, in order to plan the evaluation process (*organise translations, evaluation capacities, evaluators with specialist knowledge, etc.*) we will ask you for permission to access to certain information already before:

- call title and topic for which the proposal is submitted
- title of your application, proposal abstract, keywords
- PICs of the participating organisations
- relevant panel (for proposals submitted to specific panels, e.g. *Horizon Europe MSCA, UCPM*).

⚠ A warning will inform you that the Granting Authority will be accessing this information and will give you the opportunity to refuse access.

Links

- [Proposal Submission Service: User Manual](#)

FAQ

- [FAQ on Proposal submission and evaluation](#)



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EU Funding & Tenders Portal

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Search... Q

Home > Funding > Calls for proposals > Research Support Framework for Situational Awareness on information integrity

Research Support Framework for Situational Awareness on information integrity

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Topic Call for proposal

Internal navigation

- General information
- Topic description
- Topic updates
- Conditions and documents
- Budget overview
- Partner search announcements
- Start submission
- Topic Q&As
- Get support

General information

Programme
Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL)

Call
Accelerating the Best Use of Technologies (DIGITAL-2026-BESTUSE-RSF-10)

Type of action DIGITAL-GFS DIGITAL Grants for Financial Support	Type of MGA DIGITAL Action Grant Budget-Based [DIGITAL-AG]	Open For Submission
Deadline model single-stage	Opening date 21 April 2026	Deadline date 01 October 2026 17:00:00 Brussels time

Topic description

Expected Outcome:

At a general level, the project should achieve a strong, visible and recognised impact in scaling, facilitating and accelerating research and analytical efforts focussing on the information environment and information integrity.

Topic conditions and documents

Conditions

1. Admissibility conditions: Proposal page limit and layout

described in section 5 of the [call document](#) [2](#) [3](#) ...

[Show more](#)



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The Proposals must be:

- submitted before the call deadlines (advised not to start the final submission on the last day to avoid (technical) surprises)
- submitted electronically
- readable, accessible and printable
- complete

Check the Call Document for:

- Admissibility and Eligibility
- Consortium composition
- Page limits, templates
- etc



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Application form

- Part A of the Application Form must be filled out directly in the Portal Submission System screens.
 - This includes, for example, beneficiary data, budget table, ethic and security questionnaires
- Part B of the Application Form must be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed and then assembled and re-uploaded as PDF on the system.
 - Follow the instructions
 - Pay attention to the award criteria – the structure of the application form is adapted to award criteria
 - Fill in all the information and declarations



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Evaluation Criteria for the evaluators of your proposal

1. RELEVANCE



2. IMPLEMENTATION



3. IMPACT



The proposal should be clear, measurable, realistic and achievable within the duration of the project, with well-defined concepts and convincing arguments.



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Relevance



- Alignment with the objectives and activities
- Contribution to long-term policy objectives, relevant policies and strategies, and synergies with activities at European and national level
- Extent to which the project would reinforce and secure the digital technology supply chain in the EU



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Implementation

- 
- Maturity of the proposed action
 - Soundness of the implementation plan and efficient use of resources
 - Capacity of the applicants, and when applicable the consortium as a whole, to carry out the proposed work



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Impact



- Extent to which the project will achieve the expected outcomes and deliverables referred to in the call for proposals and, where relevant, the plans to disseminate and communicate project achievements
- Extent to which the project will strengthen competitiveness and bring important benefits for society



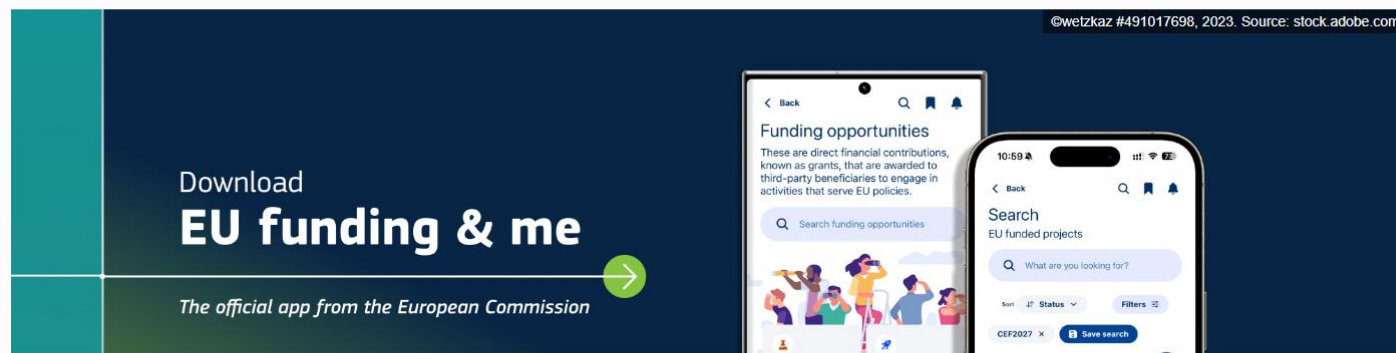
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“EU Funding and Me” mobile app

Home > EU funding & me

EU funding & me

The official app from the European Commission is your gateway to EU funding opportunities on the go.



Synchronised with the EU Funding & Tenders Portal, this app is designed to be **simple and accessible**, offering **on-the-go access to funding opportunities, programmes, project results**, as well as the **latest news and events**.

The new mobile application allows you to:

- Browse EU funding opportunities for a breadth of topics and EU funding programmes;
- Explore and learn more about the results from EU funded projects;
- Set personalised alerts based on your fields of interest;
- Stay up to date through access to real-time notifications;
- Read about EU funding news;
- Discover events to be one step closer to managing your project.

Check it out:
“EU Funding & me”



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Q&A