



# Digital Europe Programme

## Call 9: Advanced Digital Skills

- **ELEVATE: European League of Advanced Digital Skills Academies**
- **European Advanced Digital Skills Competitions**



**Info Day for potential applicants**

**1 December 2025**

[#DigitalEuropeProgramme](https://twitter.com/DigitalEuropeProgramme)



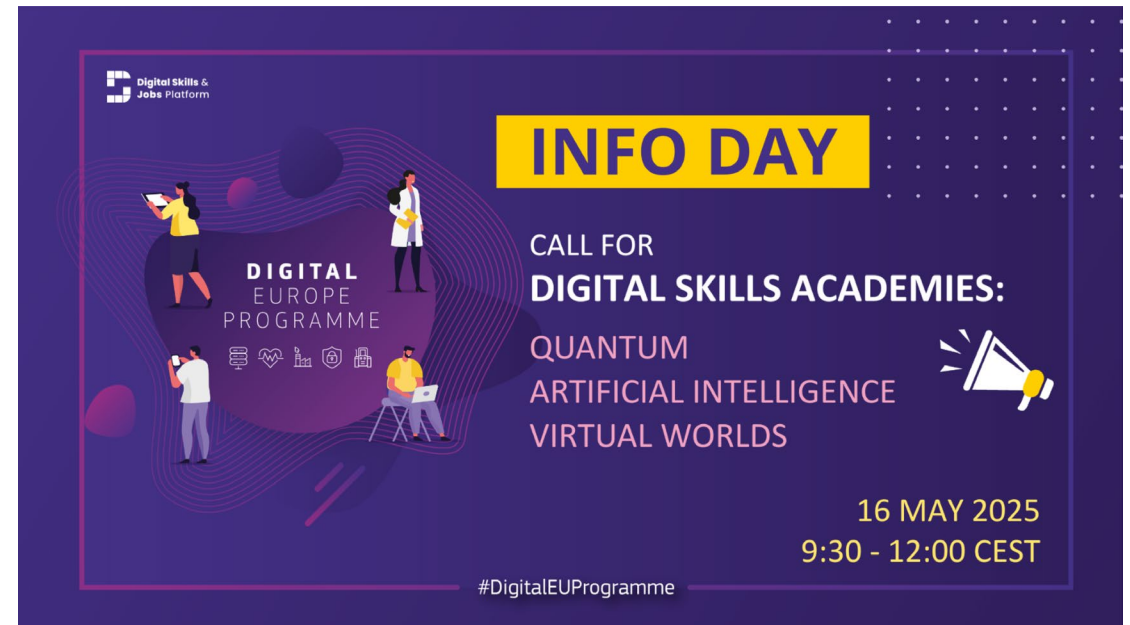
# Agenda

Time	Session
10:00 – 10:10	<b>Welcome and introduction, agenda and procedure for questions</b> (Digital Skills and Jobs Platform)
10:10 – 10:30	<b>9th Digital Europe Call for Advanced Digital Skills - Call Introduction</b> KERNCHEN Nadja (DG CNECT)
10:30 - 10:50	<b>DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09-LEAGUE-OF-ACADEMIES + Q&amp;A</b> ELEVATE: European League of Advanced Digital Skills Academies Vitis FAURE TILGAARD(DG CNECT)
10:50 - 11:10	<b>DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09-COMPETITIONS + Q&amp;A</b> European Advanced Digital Skills Competitions Maria Rosaria Coduti (DG CNECT)
11:10 - 11:30	<b>Registering your organisation, legal validation and financial capacity assessment</b> Mariadomenica CUGNIDORO & Florin PUIU (REA)
11:30 - 12:00	<b>How to submit your application, evaluation and award criteria</b> SAARELA Maria (HaDEA)
12:00 - 12:10	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
12:10 – 12:15	<b>Closing remarks</b> (Digital Skills and Jobs Platform)






## ✓ Objectives

- To raise awareness on DIGITAL Europe Programme and the 9th Open Call for proposals on advanced digital skills
- To provide an information session with live Q&A, to feed into the relevant FAQ section on the Funding & Tenders Portal
- To encourage interested participants to submit their proposals, find project partners, and remain engaged with the services provided by the Platform, such as the “Partner for Digital Skills Networking Group”





# Don't forget to:

-  Your **microphone and camera** will be disabled by default.
-  Use the **Microsoft Teams Chat function to ask questions**, the moderator will address the question during the Q&A sessions or during the following days.
-  Provide your **name and email, together with your question**.

# Joint Matchmaking Event:

## DEP 9th Call for Advanced Digital Skills

 9 December 2025  15:00 CET  Online

Register here





# Call Introduction

DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09

*Nadja KERNCHEN (DG CNECT G2)*



# Digital Europe Programme

The Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL) : focused on bringing digital technology to businesses, citizens and public administrations.

Provides funding for projects in key capacity areas

(Specific objectives, SO):

- High Performance Computing
- Cloud, data and artificial intelligence
- Cybersecurity
- **Advanced Digital Skills → EUR 400.5 Million**
- Accelerating best use of technologies

## Digital Decade targets for skills

**ICT Specialists:** 20 millions +  
more women in ICT

**Basic Digital Skills:** min 80% of  
population

In Europe in 2030

# Intervening along the continuum



Primary and secondary  
education

Tertiary education

Professional upskilling and  
reskilling

Knowledge & Community Building

Bringing Academia, Training, Research & Industry together

More Girls & Women in ICT

Skills Intelligence



# Policy Background



## Skills Package (March 2025)

### Union of Skills - STEM Education Strategic Plan - Basic Skills Action Plan

→ development of quality, inclusive and adaptable education and training systems

- ❖ Four new high performing **Digital Skills Academies** in Quantum, AI, Virtual Worlds and Semiconductors
- ❖ European **Advanced Digital Skills Competitions** in cutting-edge digital technologies
- ❖ Leverage digital academies and other projects to **attract more girls and women to STEM.**
- ❖ Skills Intelligence Observatory, Skills High-Level Board
- ❖ Attracting talent, fostering skills portability

### Vertical CNECT Strategies:

- ❖ AI Continent Action Plan
- ❖ Apply AI Strategy
- ❖ Quantum Europe Strategy
- ❖ EU initiative on Web 4.0 and virtual worlds (2023)

### International Cooperation:

- ❖ pilot European Legal Gateway Office in India, starting with ICT sector

# Project Overview DEP 2021-2027



SPECIALISED EDUCATION PROGRAMMES 2021	SPECIALISED EDUCATION PROGRAMMES 2022	SPECIALISED EDUCATION PROGRAMMES 2023	SPECIALISED EDUCATION PROGRAMMES 2024	SHORT-TERM TRAINING COURSES	CYBERSECURITY SKILLS ACADEMY	REINFORCING SKILLS IN SEMICONDUCTORS	COORDINATION AND SUPPORT ACTIONS/MISC	Digital Skills Academies
EU Contribution €53M	EU Contribution €62M	EU Contribution €33M	EU Contribution €55M	EU Contribution €24M	EU Contribution €12M	EU Contribution €9M	EU Contribution €29M	EU Contribution €27M
8 PROJECTS	12 PROJECTS	5 PROJECTS	9 PROJECTS	12 PROJECTS	5 PROJECTS	2 PROJECTS	9 PROJECTS	3 PROJECTS
		<p>ACHIEVE</p> <p>AI4GOV-X</p> <p>EU-Inspire</p> <p>PANORAIMA</p> <p>SUSA</p>	<p>3DP STeF</p> <p>AI4GreenDeal</p> <p>3D-CIRCULAR</p> <p>VIC PHORTIFY</p> <p>ARISE</p> <p>GreenShift</p> <p>AI-SECRET</p> <p>UPRAISE</p>		<p>AKADIMOS</p> <p>CADMUS</p> <p>CYBERPRO TRAIN</p> <p>CyberSec40</p> <p>T</p> <p>CYCERONE</p>	<p>HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING</p> <p>TOTAL BUDGET €2M</p> <p>1 PROJECT</p>	<p>WIDCON</p> <p>C4DD</p>	<p>Quantum AI Virtual Worlds</p> <p>→ Under evaluation</p>

Projects  
Brochure



# European League of Advanced Digital Skills Academies (ELEVATE)

DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09-LEAGUE-OF-ACADEMIES — ELEVATE

*Vitis FAURE TILGAARD (DG CNECT G2)*



# ELEVATE – Context and Purpose

## Context

- DEP-funded advanced digital skills initiatives (Advanced Digital Skills Academies, specialised education and training programmes, CSAs)
- Strong outputs but fragmented governance, visibility and collaboration

## Purpose

- Build a connected and coherent European ecosystem for advanced digital skills
- Ensure structured cooperation between the academies and related DEP-funded projects
- Centralise visibility and engagement through the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform



# ELEVATE – Objectives and Structure

**Objective:** Build a coherent European ecosystem for advanced digital skills by federating existing and upcoming initiatives

## 4 pillars

### 1. Coordination and Collaboration

- Multi-stakeholder governance
- Structured links between academies, EU-funded projects and sectoral initiatives

### 2. Capacity Building

- European Seal of Quality for ICT education
- European certification mechanism for modular credentials
- Mentoring (incl. women), fellowships, alumni network, EU virtual job fair

### 3. Communication

- Visibility and outreach via DSJP
- Promotion of academies, sectoral initiatives and ADS Competitions

### 4. Market Intelligence

- Analysis of training offer and labor market needs
- Repository of advanced digital skills needs on DSJP



# ELEVATE – Outcomes and Deliverables

## Expected outcomes

- Governance structure and stakeholder engagement plan
- Shared quality and certification frameworks
- Mentoring, fellowships and Europe-wide alumni network
- Annual EU virtual job and career fair
- Market analysis and repository of skills-needs intelligence (DSJP)
- Communication and outreach strategy for the ecosystem

## Key Deliverables

- Seal of Quality framework
- Certification mechanism blueprint
- Mentoring programme + fellowship blueprint
- Alumni network model
- Market analysis + repository
- Communication plan covering all pillars



# ELEVATE – Consortium Composition

## Minimum requirements

- $\geq 3$  entities from  $\geq 3$  eligible countries (MS/associated countries)
- Multi-beneficiary application mandatory

**Recommended consortium composition:** Higher education institutions, VET and training providers, Research institutes and centres of excellence, Public administrations and governmental bodies, Industry partners and SMEs, HR/employment organisations, alliances, social partners, NGOs

## What evaluators will look for

- Proven EU-level coordination capacity
- Ability to engage the full advanced digital skills ecosystem
- Operational and communication capability
- Credible plan for sustainability and stakeholder engagement



# European Advanced Digital Skills Competitions

DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09-COMPETITIONS

*Maria Rosaria CODUTI (DG CNECT G2)*





# COMPETITIONS – Context and Purpose

## Context

- DEP-funded advanced digital skills initiatives (Advanced Digital Skills Academies, specialised education and training programmes, CSAs)
- Digital Decade target of 20 million ICT specialists by 2030

## Purpose

- Nurture advanced digital skills talent in the EU
- Ensure cooperation with ELEVATE and other relevant DEP-funded projects
- Centralise visibility and engagement through the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform



# COMPETITIONS – Objectives and Structure

## Objective:

- Addressing highly relevant European or local societal, technological and/or industry relevant challenges by engaging young European people in cutting edge digital technologies.

## Structure:

- Six competitions: AI, Virtual Worlds, quantum, semiconductors, Destination Earth initiative, an additional area chosen by the consortium.
- Minimum three challenges per each competition.
- Competing teams: students from tertiary education institutions or equivalent, from at least 4 different education and training institutions from 4 different Member States or countries associated with the DIGITAL.



# COMPETITIONS – Outcomes and Deliverables

## Outcomes:

- Implementation and roll-out of 6 distinct competitions in the 6 digital areas
- An award ceremony organised in Brussels
- Involvement of industry stakeholders

## Deliverables:

- Well defined, up to date and relevant challenges for the Competitions
- Competitions rule book for participants and jury
- Competitions implementation roadmap
- Implementation and roll-out of the six competitions
- Sustainability plans for the proposed competitions after the end of the project



# COMPETITION – Consortium Composition

## **Recommended consortium composition:**

higher education institutions, vocational education and training institutions, other education and training providers, industry partners, research institutes, centres of excellence, public administrations and/or governmental bodies, IT professionals.

## **What evaluators will look for:**

- Number of challenges per competition
- Number of teams per competition
- Number of participants per competition
- Number of Member States and DIGITAL associated countries represented in each competition
- Number of people reached through the communication campaign(s)
- Number of events organised (online and physical)
- Gender target



# REA Central Validation Service

## Legal Validation & Financial Capacity Assessment

**Mariadomenica CUGNIDORO** – REA D.4  
**Florin PUIU** – REA D.4

# Presentation Outline

REA Central Validation  
Service

Registration of  
Participants

Legal validation and LEAR

Communication

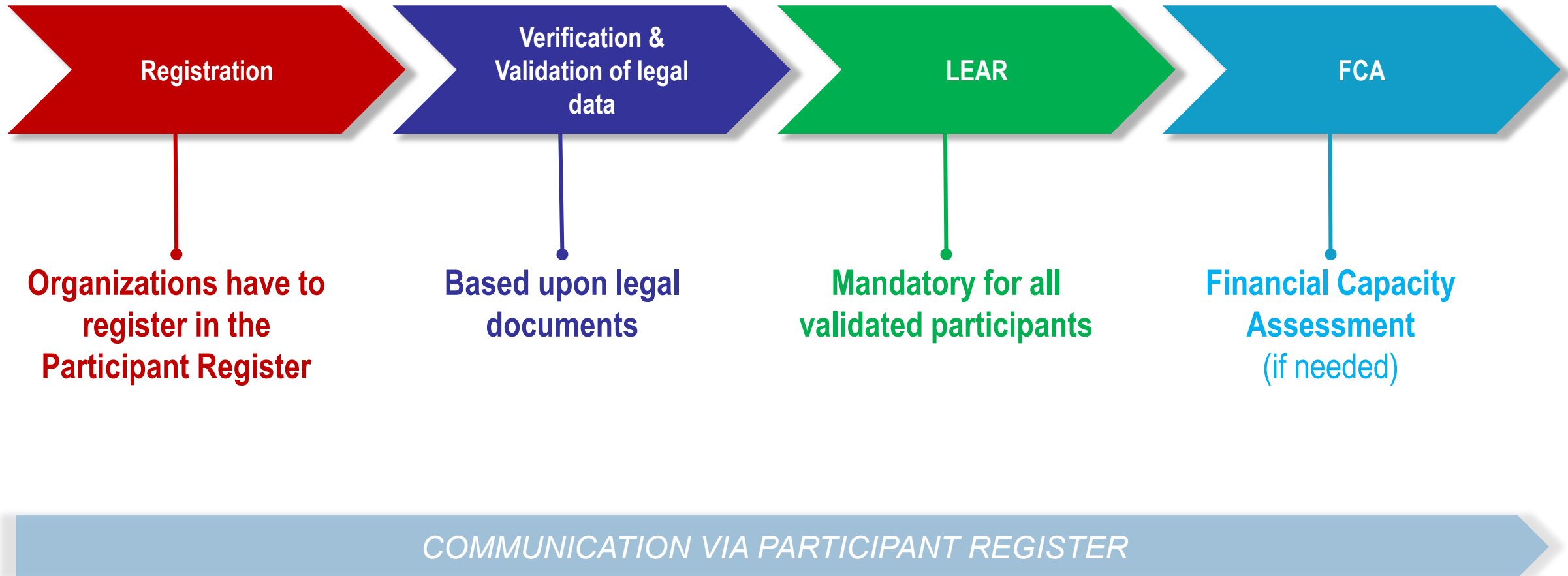
Financial capacity  
assessment

# REA Central Validation Service

## (REA CVS)

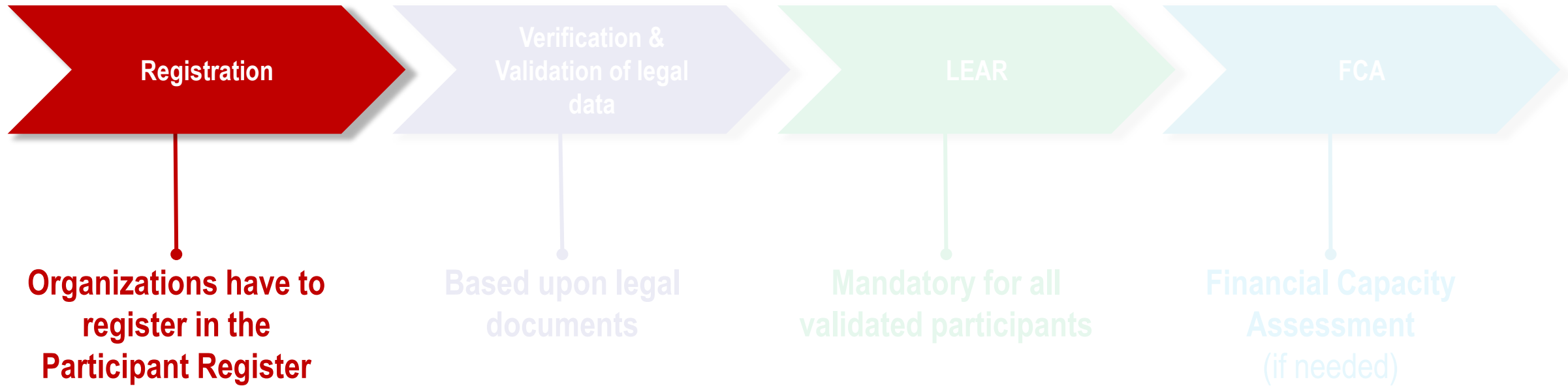
- Verifies **legal existence and legal statuses** of entities
- Validates the appointment of **Legal Entity Appointed Representatives (LEARs)**
- Validates **legal changes** of validated entities
- Assesses **universal takeovers (UTROs)** of validated entities
- Encoding **Bank Account requests**
- Prepares the **Financial Capacity Assessment**
- Performs **ownership control assessments** for specific programmes
- Performs ex-post status verifications (e.g. **SME & MID cap status checks**)

# Validation Process Overview





# Validation Process Overview



# Registration of an organisation (at proposal stage)



European  
Commission

## EU Funding & Tenders Portal

[Home](#)[Funding ▼](#)[Procurement ▼](#)[Projects & results ▼](#)[News & events ▼](#)[Work as an expert](#)[Guidance & documents ▼](#)

[Home](#) > [Funding](#) > [Participant Register](#)

## Participant Register



The participant register is now multilingual! Select your preferred language from the top right corner of the Portal.

If you want to participate in a call for proposals or in a call for tenders with eSubmission, your organisation needs to be registered and have a 9-digit Participant Identification Code (PIC). Please quote your PIC in all correspondence with the Commission.

The register contains all participants of EU programmes.

Registration

Validation & Verification of  
Legal Data

LEAR

FCA

# Registration of an organisation (at proposal stage)

## Is your organisation already registered? PIC search


Please check whether your organisation has already been registered. If so, no need to register it again.

 Find a registered organisation

## Register your organisation

To register your organisation or as a natural person, you need to login into the Portal or, if you are a new user, create your account.

Check what information you need to register in the Online Manual - and keep it to hand during the registration procedure. To start registration, click on the button below.

 Register your organisation

You can suspend the registration process at any time: the data entered can be saved as draft and you can continue your registration later. To return to your registration, please log in and get into My Organisation(s) in the My Area section. Incomplete, draft registrations are automatically deleted after one year.

Additionally, for actions where the SME status is an eligibility criterion (like, e.g. the EIC Accelerator) you must also carry out the SME self-assessment.

Should your project or tender be successfully evaluated, the registered data will be verified by the Central Validation Service team before the signature of the Grant Agreement or of the Framework Contract.

Registration

Validation & Verification of  
Legal Data

LEAR

FCA

# How to register in the Participant Register

Participant's Register Need help?

1 2 3 4 5 6

Identification Organisation Data Legal Information Authorised Users Summary Success

Identification

Legal name \*  240

Registration country \*  50

Registration number  20

VAT number \*  500 ☐ not applicable

[Review the Form](#) [Next](#)

**Registration completed**

New Participant Identification Code (PIC) in a  
“declared” status

**Identification**

(e.g. Legal name, VAT number)

**Organisation data**

**Legal information**

**Authorised users**

(e.g. Name, e-mail address of the self-registrant and the back-up)

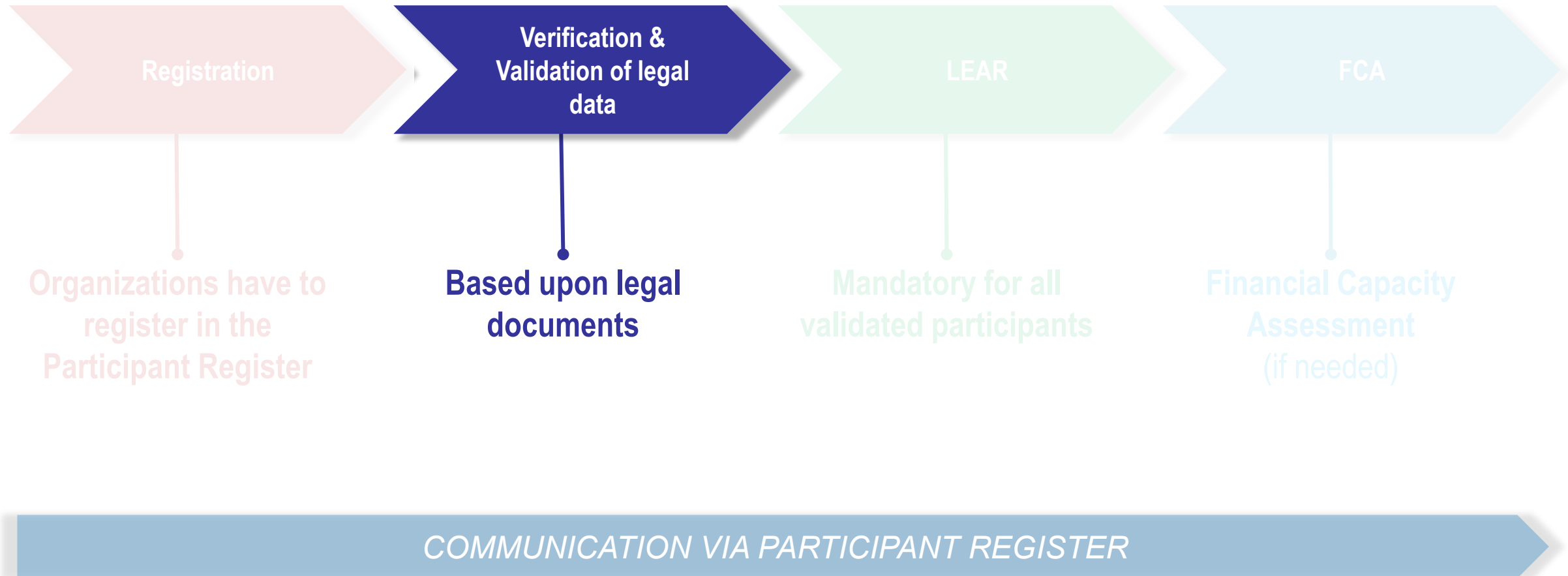
Registration

Validation & Verification of  
Legal Data

LEAR

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# Validation Process Overview



# Legal validation

- Project PROPOSALS can be submitted with a DECLARED (*NON-VALID*) PIC
- Validation of the PIC: registration data is verified by the REA Central Validation Service *before* the signature of the first grant agreement or contract
- The legal validation of a participant is *done once*: a valid PIC is *reused* for future EU-funded project participations



Validation is based on legal supporting documents, in accordance with the EU Financial Regulation and the [Rules on Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment](#)

Registration

Validation & Verification of  
Legal Data

LEAR

FCA

# Legal validation documents

- ✓ **Registration extract** (< 1 year) – for private law bodies
- ✓ **VAT extract** (< 1 year)
  - ✓ *If not registered for VAT – proof of VAT exemption*
- ✓ **Law/decreree/decision** – for public law bodies
- ✓ **Treaty** – for international organisations
- ✓ **Statutes** – for non-profit organisations

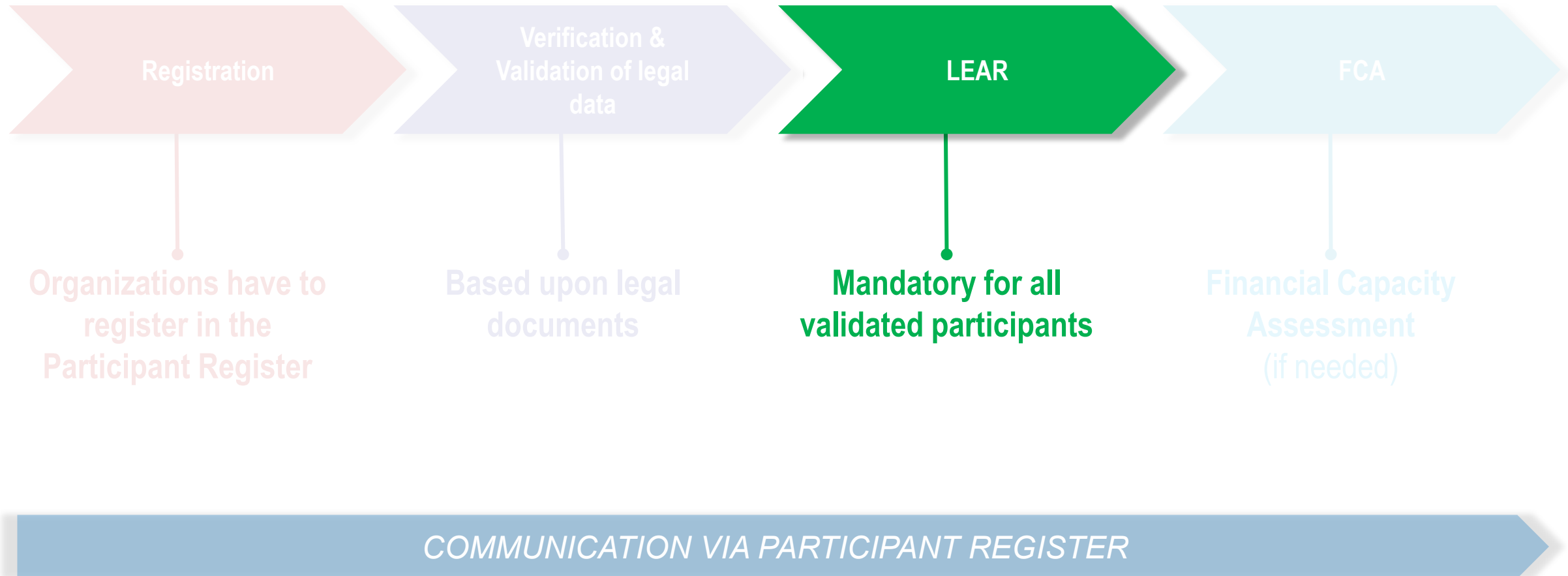
Registration

Validation & Verification of  
Legal Data

LEAR

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# Validation Process Overview





# LEAR roles and duties

The *Legal Entity Appointed Representative* (LEAR):

- Notifies the EU of changes in legal data/status
- Submits legal and financial documents if required
- Manages access rights of persons in the organisation (but *not* at the project level)
- Nominates 'Account Administrators' and individuals authorised to sign:
  - ✓ Contracts/grant agreements and their amendments (Legal signatories, i.e. **LSIGN**)
  - ✓ Financial statements (Financial signatories, i.e. **FSIGN**)

Registration

Validation & Verification of  
Legal Data

LEAR

FCA

# LEAR appointment documents

1. LEAR appointment letter (duly signed by both the legal representative and the LEAR)
2. Official proof of identity (ID-card/passport with photo and signature) of the legal representative and the LEAR
3. Proof of empowerment of the legal representative

**Scanned version** of these documents shall be uploaded in the Participant Register.  
**Original of 1** must be kept in the entity's premises.

Registration

Validation & Verification of  
Legal Data

LEAR

FCA

# Communication

(e.g. request to submit legal documents or to appoint a LEAR)

**All communication is exclusively managed through the Participant Register**

European Commission <EC-NO-REPLY-GRANT-MANAGEMENT@nomail.ec.europa.eu>

to me ▼

## Europa / Funding & Tenders Portal notification

Dear User,

You have been granted the role of **Self Registrant** for the organisation arquicios.

In order to access your organisation data on the Funding & Tenders Portal/Supplier portal, you need to log in on the F&T Portal/Supplier Portal. If you did not have an EU Login yet, it was launched automatically for a separate e-mail with a hyperlink to finalise your account.

For more information on the Funding & Tenders Portal roles, please refer to the [Online Manual](#) if you participate in the [programmes managed on the Funding & Tenders Portal](#).

For more information on the roles for e-Procurement, please refer to the [e-Procurement wiki page](#), if you participate in a tender call.

With kind regards,

EU Single Electronic Data Interchange Area - F&T Portal team

This email has been auto-generated. Please do not reply to this account. Your email will not be read. For any inquiries please contact the Grants Procurement Systems Support +32 (2) 29 71063 or [EC-FUNDING-TENDER-SERVICE-DESK@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EC-FUNDING-TENDER-SERVICE-DESK@ec.europa.eu).

**Messages are notified via e-mail** to the contact person  
(i.e. self-registrant or the appointed LEAR)

# Access lost to a declared or valid PIC

## Declared PIC

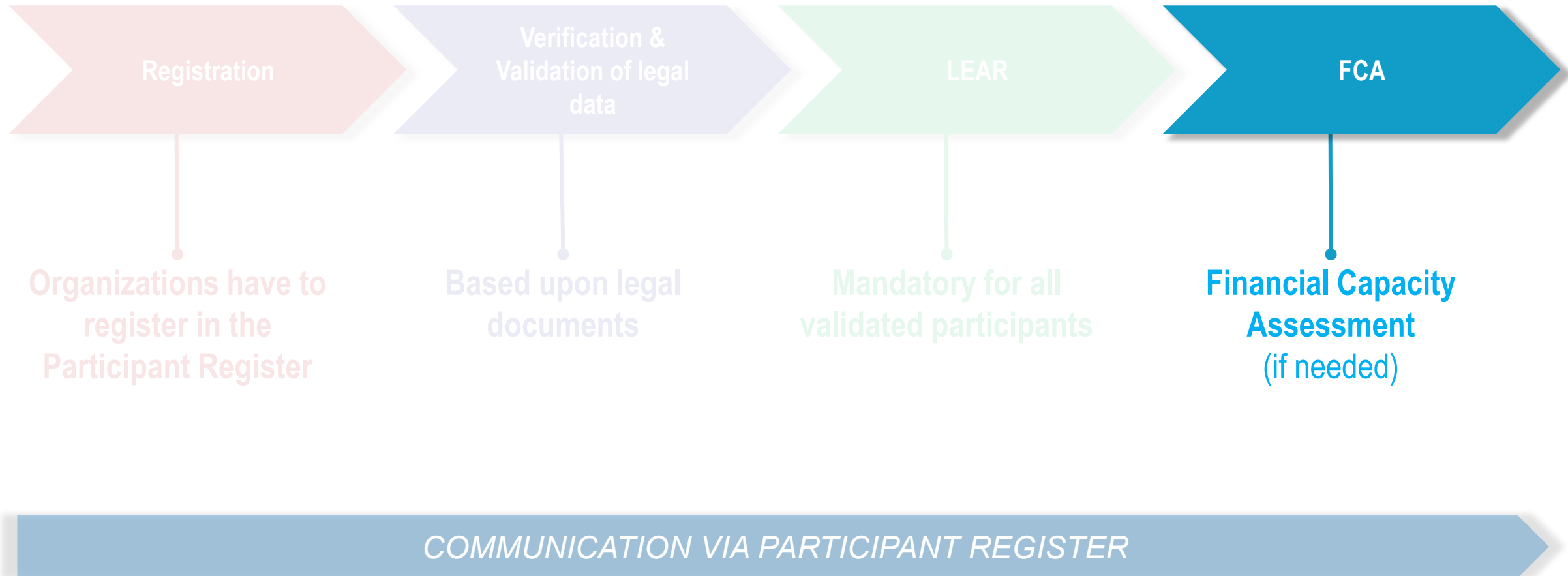
- In case the self-registrant left the organisation, and no one has access to a declared PIC – a new PIC needs to be created, and REA CVS informed

## Valid PIC

- If the LEAR is not available anymore, and there are no Account Administrators, a new LEAR needs to be appointed – LEAR recovery procedure

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/urf/lear-recovery/request/>

# Validation Process Overview



# Financial Capacity Assessment (FCA)

## Legal basis



**Financial Regulation (2024)**  
(articles 199 and 201)



**Rules on Legal Entity Validation,  
LEAR Appointment and Financial  
Capacity Assessment for EU Grants  
and Tenders.**



**Call for Proposals**  
("7. Financial & operational  
capacity and exclusion")

Registration

Validation & Verification of  
Legal Data

LEAR

FCA

# Financial Capacity Assessment (FCA)

## When is the FCA needed?

✓ **all beneficiaries**, except for:

**public bodies** (including local, regional or national authorities)

individual grant requests of **less than 60,000 EUR**

✓ **may be requested** for other beneficiaries/ affiliated entities

Registration

Validation & Verification of  
Legal Data

LEAR

FCA

# FCA supporting documents

(via Participant Register)

✓ Balance sheet

## Balance Sheet

- ASSETS
- LIABILITIES
- EQUITY

Registration

Validation & Verification of  
Legal Data

LEAR

FCA



# FCA supporting documents

(via Participant Register)

✓ Balance sheet

✓ Profit and loss account

**Balance Sheet**

**Profit & Loss  
account**

- REVENUES
  - EXPENSES
- 
- Net result

Registration

Validation & Verification of  
Legal Data

LEAR

FCA

# FCA supporting documents

(via Participant Register)

- ✓ Balance sheet
- ✓ Profit and loss account
- ✓ Explanatory notes and/or annexes (if available)

**Balance Sheet**

**Profit & Loss  
account**

**Explanatory  
notes**

**Annexes  
to the FS**

Details on accounts

Breakdown on items

Additional explanations

Registration

Validation & Verification of  
Legal Data

LEAR

FCA

# FCA supporting documents

(via Participant Register)

✓ Balance sheet

✓ Profit and loss account

✓ Explanatory notes and/or annexes (if available)

✓ Financial audit report

if the requested EU-contribution exceeds  
EUR 750.000 (art. 199 FR2024)

## Financial Audit report

### Opinion

- Unqualified
- Qualified
- Adverse
- Disclaimer

## Balance Sheet

## Profit & Loss account

## Explanatory notes

## Annexes to the FS

Registration

Validation & Verification of  
Legal Data

LEAR

FCA

# FCA supporting documents (via Participant Register)

✓ Balance sheet

✓ Profit and loss account

✓ Explanatory notes and/or annexes (if available)

✓ Financial audit report

*...or Self Declaration on the accounts*

if the requested EU-contribution exceeds  
EUR 750.000 (art. 199 FR2024)

## Financial Audit report

### Opinion

- Unqualified
- Qualified
- Adverse
- Disclaimer

## Self Declaration on the accounts

I, the undersigned  
declare that the  
accounts are:

- VALID
- no audit required

Signed

## Balance Sheet Profit & Loss account

## Explanatory notes

## Annexes to the FS

Registration

Validation & Verification of  
Legal Data

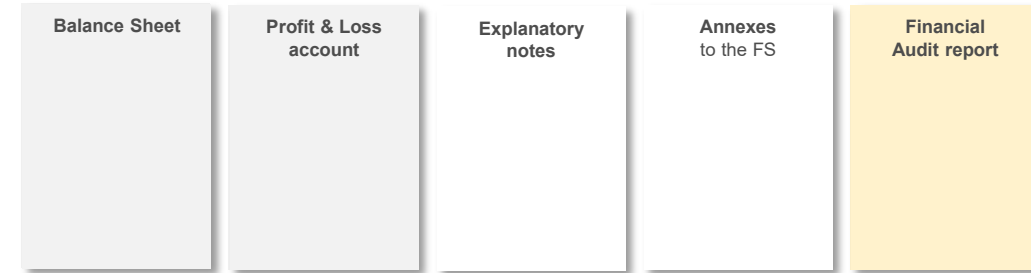
LEAR

FCA

# FCA supporting documents

(via Participant Register)

- ✓ Balance sheet
- ✓ Profit and loss account
- ✓ Explanatory notes and/or annexes (if available)
- ✓ Financial audit report



Registration

Validation & Verification of  
Legal Data

LEAR

FCA

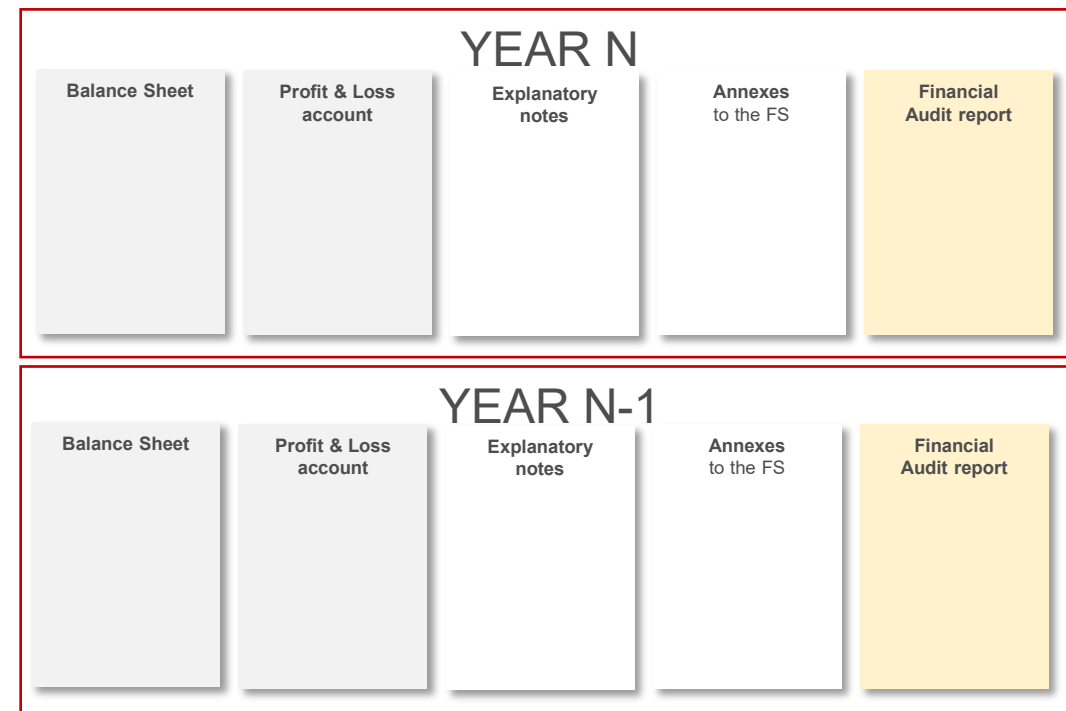
# FCA supporting documents (via Participant Register)

✓ Balance sheet

✓ Profit and loss account

✓ Explanatory notes and/or annexes (if available)

✓ Financial audit report



## For the 2 most recent closed and approved financial years

- official language (for EU languages)
- unofficial translation (for non-EU languages)
- dated
- signed

Registration

Validation & Verification of  
Legal Data

LEAR

FCA

# FCA supporting documents (via Participant Register)

✓ Balance sheet

✓ Profit and loss account

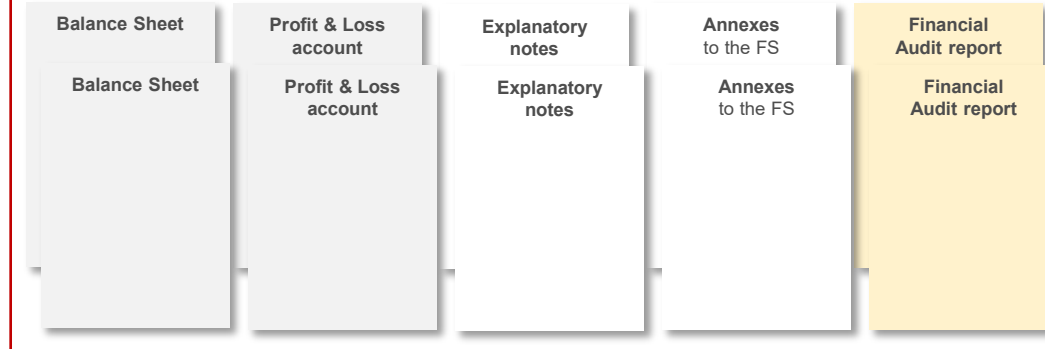
✓ Explanatory notes and/or annexes (if available)

✓ Financial audit report

## Newly established entities

✓ Business plan

## YEAR N and YEAR N-1



## For the 2 most recent closed and approved financial years

- official language (for EU languages)
- unofficial translation (for non-EU languages)
- dated
- signed

## Business plan

Forecasts on:

- Sales
- Expenses
- Investments
- Financing

Registration

Validation & Verification of  
Legal Data

sources  
LEAR  
- .....

FCA

# FCA supporting documents (via Participant Register)

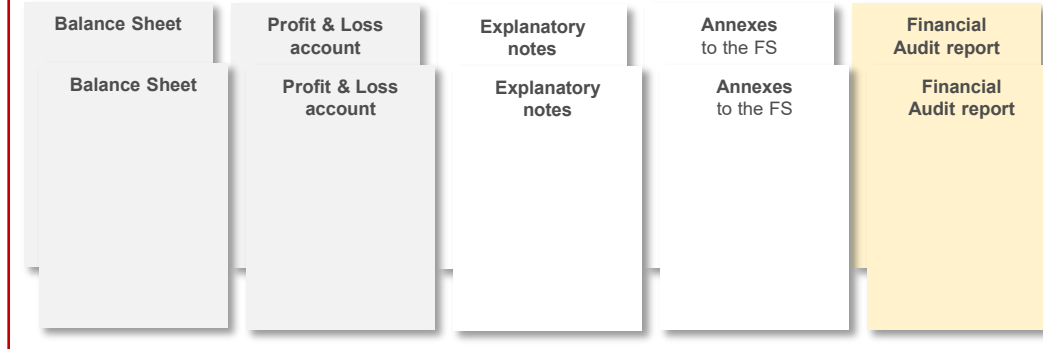
✓ Balance sheet

✓ Profit and loss account

✓ Explanatory notes and/or annexes (if available)

✓ Financial audit report

## YEAR N and YEAR N-1



**For the 2 most recent closed and approved financial years**

- official language (for EU languages)
- unofficial translation (for non-EU languages)
- dated
- signed

Business plan

Newly established entities

✓ Business plan

Once completed, the assessment is valid for **18 months**  
from the closing date

Registration

Validation & Verification of  
Legal Data

LEAR


FCA




# Financial Capacity Assessment:

## Requests in Participant Register

PIC 890116427

Organisation Data	Legal Information	Authorised users / LEAR	Bank Accounts	<b>Financial capacity</b> 	Messages <b>1</b>	Documents	SME
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You might be requested to provide additional financial information. In this case you are asked to upload your financial statements containing the balance sheet, the profit & loss account, the corresponding explanatory notes and, under certain conditions, an audit report issued by a certified external auditor or a self-declaration on the validity of the accounts, signed by your legal representative, the template for which is available [here](#).

The financial statements must cover the last two most recent closed years. Note that, once uploaded, the financial statements for an accounting year with a closure date on or before 30 June will be displayed by the IT systems as related to the prior calendar year. [Find out more](#).

Closing date	Status	Actions
	Data Required	<b>Provide necessary financial information</b>

Registration

Validation & Verification of  
Legal Data

LEAR

FCA

# Financial Capacity Assessment:

## Requests in Participant Register


PIC 890116427

[Organisation Data](#) [Legal Information](#) [Authorised users / LEAR](#) [Bank Accounts](#) [Financial capacity](#) [Messages <sup>1</sup>](#) [Documents](#) [SME](#)

[+ New message](#)

### Messages

Read messages of your organisation and send messages to the EC ValidationServices.

Subject ↕	Message	Context ↕	Date ↕	Actions
 * Financial capacity assessment - Request for documents	Dear Participant, Following your recent a...	Financial capacity assessment	06/07/2021	<a href="#">View</a>

[⏮](#) [⏪](#) [1](#) [⏩](#) [⏭](#)

Registration

Validation & Verification of  
Legal Data

LEAR

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# Guidance documents



## **Rules on Legal validation, LEAR appointment and financial capacity assessment**

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/rules-lev-lear-fca\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/rules-lev-lear-fca_en.pdf)



## **How to register in the Participant Register**

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/funding-tenders-opportunities/display/OM/Online+Manual>



## **Online Manual, IT How to, RES Helpdesk, specific FAQs on the Tenders Portal**

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/support>



## **Legal notice on the Funding and Tenders Portal**

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/legalnotice>

# Questions, please...





Call 9: Advanced Digital Skills  
Info Day for potential applicants

*01 December 2025*

#DigitalEuropeProgramme



# Call 9: Advanced Digital Skills

Information Day for potential applicants

1st of December 2025

*Maria SAARELA*

*HaDEA B2*



# Digital Call 9 – 2 topics

Call	DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09	Type of Action	Funding Rate	Available budget
Topic	DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09-LEAGUE-OF-ACADEMIES <b>ELEVATE – European League of Advanced Digital Skills Academies</b>	Coordination and Support Actions (CSA)	100%	EUR 7 200 000
Topic	DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09-COMPETITIONS <b>European Advanced Digital Skills Competitions</b>	Coordination and Support Actions (CSA)	100%	EUR 7 000 000

🔗 Link to the Call page on the Funding and Tenders Portal: [Advanced Digital Skills](#)



# Digital Call 9 – Timeline

Phases	Dates
<b>Call opening</b>	04 November 2025
<b>Deadline for submission</b>	<b>03 March 2026 @17:00 CET (Brussels)</b>
<b>Evaluation</b>	April – May 2026
<b>Information on evaluation results</b>	June 2026
<b>Grant Agreement Signature</b>	by September 2026





# Submitting a proposal via the Funding & Tenders Portal



# Where to find the Call document

## Funding and Tenders Portal

European Commission | EU Funding & Tenders Portal

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Search...

Discover the funding & tenders opportunities

Find out how to participate by following these key steps.

- Find calls for proposals**  
Explore the available EU funding opportunities by searching for calls for proposals within your topics of interest, find partners and submit a proposal.
- Find calls for tenders**  
Find business opportunities in the calls for tenders managed by EU institutions, bodies and agencies.
- View projects and results**  
Browse through EU funded projects and learn about the results. Invest in opportunities and get inspired by the highlights and success stories.
- Work as an expert**  
Proposals and projects need evaluations, monitoring and domain-specific knowledge advice from experts.

Report fraud



# Where to find the Call document

## Calls for proposals

Calls for proposals are funding opportunities issued by the European Union institutions, agencies and bodies. These are direct financial contributions, known as grants, that are awarded to third-party beneficiaries (e.g., research organisations, public entities, non-governmental organisations, and private companies) to engage in activities that serve EU policies.

[More details](#)

### Filters

#### Quick search

Programming period

Digital Europe Programme (...)

DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09

Submission status

All filters

### GRANTS RECOMMENDED FOR YOU

Do you want to receive personalised recommendations? [Log in to your F&T profile to activate them](#), or [register an account](#)

2 item(s) found

Programme Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL)

#### [European Advanced Digital Skills Competitions](#)

DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09-COMPETITIONS | Calls for proposals

Opening date: 04 November 2025 | Deadline date: 03 March 2026

Programme: Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL) | Type of action: Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL)

#### [ELEVATE: European League of Advanced Digital Skills Academies](#)

DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09-LEAGUE-OF-ACADEMIES | Calls for proposals

Opening date: 04 November 2025 | Deadline date: 03 March 2026 | Single-stage

Programme: Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL) | Type of action: DIGITAL Coordination and Support Actions

### Search by Call ID:

*DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09*

### Search by topic name:

*European Advanced Digital Skills Competitions*

*ELEVATE: European League of Advanced Digital Skills Academies*

### Filter by programme:

*DIGITAL EUROPE PROGRAMME (DIGITAL)*



# Where to find the Call document

Call page: [EU Funding & Tenders Portal \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/en/pagetoportal/32407/initiative-digital-europe-programme)



EU Funding & Tenders Portal

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Home > Funding > Calls for proposals > European Advanced Digital Skills Competitions

## European Advanced Digital Skills Competitions

DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09-COMPETITIONS

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

Advanced Digital Skills (DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09)

##### Type of action

DIGITAL-CSA DIGITAL Coordination and Support Actions

##### Type of MGA

DIGITAL Action Grant Budget-Based [DIGITAL-AG]

Open For Submission

##### Deadline model

single-stage

##### Opening date

04 November 2025

##### Deadline date

03 March 2026 17:00:00 Brussels time

#### Topic description

Expected Outcome:

Deliverables:

- Well defined, up to date and relevant challenges that will serve as the challenges for the European Advanced Digital Skills Competitions...

Show more



# Where to find the Call document



[Call page](#) >  
**Conditions and documents**



[CALL DOCUMENT](#)



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[Home](#) > [Funding](#) > [Calls for proposals](#) > [European Advanced Digital Skills Competitions](#)

European Advanced Digital Skills Competitions  
DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09-COMPETITIONS

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](#)

Click / scroll down to section “Conditions and documents”

[Topic conditions and documents](#)

**Conditions**

**1. Admissibility Conditions: Proposal page limit and layout**

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

**Proposal page limits and layout:** described in Part B of the Application Form available in the Submission System.

**2. Eligible Countries**

described in section 6 of the [call document](#).

**3. Other Eligible Conditions**

described in section 6 of the [call document](#).

**4. Financial and operational capacity and exclusion**





# Outline of the Call document



**CALL DOCUMENT**

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

0. Introduction .....	5
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Eligible participants (eligible countries) .....	17
Consortium composition .....	18
Eligible activities .....	18
Security .....	19
7. Financial and operational capacity and exclusion .....	20
Financial capacity .....	20



## Section 2 – Topic specific:

- Objectives (see also [DEP Work Programme](#))
- Scope
- Outcomes and deliverables
- KPIs to measure outcomes and deliverables
- Targeted stakeholders
- Type of action and funding rate
- Specific topic conditions

## Section 3-10 → Relevant for both two Topics

Budget, timetable, **Admissibility & Eligibility criteria**, Consortium composition, Award criteria...



# How to submit a successful proposal



# Topic page – Start submission

Call page: [EU Funding & Tenders Portal \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu)



EU Funding & Tenders Portal

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- Guidance & documents

Search...



Home > Funding > Calls for proposals > European Advanced Digital Skills Competitions

## European Advanced Digital Skills Competitions

DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09-COMPETITIONS



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



### Start submission

To access the Electronic Submission Service, please click on the submission-button next to the **type of action** and the **type of model grant agreement** that corresponds to your proposal. You will then be linked to the correct entry point. Your selection cannot be changed in the submission system. Upon confirmation, you will be linked to the correct entry point.

To access existing drafts

Please select the type of action and model grant agreement

☒ DIGITAL Coordination and Support Actions [DIGITAL-CSA]

Start submission

### Topic Q&As

0 item(s) found

Get support

### Please confirm your choice



You selected this topic: **European Advanced Digital Skills Competitions - DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09-COMPETITIONS**

You selected this type of action and model grant agreement: **DIGITAL Coordination and Support Actions [DIGITAL-CSA], DIGITAL Action Grant Budget-Based [DIGITAL-AG]**

Related Call: **Advanced Digital Skills**



Your selection cannot be changed subsequently in the submission system.

Cancel

OK

General FAQ







# Submission Service – Create a proposal



Funding: Submission Service

Welcome  
SAARELA Maria SM

**'Metro line'**



Login



Topic selection



Create proposal



Participants



Proposal forms



Submit

## Create proposal

**Deadline**



### Deadline

03 March 2026 17:00:00 Brussels Local Time

99 days left until closure



Please submit your proposal at the latest **48 hours before the deadline** (to avoid system congestion or system incompatibility issues). Late proposals will not be accepted. Don't wait until the end because you are worried about confidentiality – we will not open the proposals before the deadline.

You can submit the proposal as many times as you wish up until the deadline. Each new submitted version will replace the previous one.

**Correct topic?**

### Call data

Call: DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09

Topic: DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09-COMPETITIONS

Type of action: DIGITAL-CSA

Type of MGA: DIGITAL-AG



Topic and type of action can only be changed by creating a new proposal.

### Download Part B templates



Download part B templates

**Need help?**

### Support & Helpdesk

Online Manual

IT How To

### Find your organisation

PIC \*

Short name \*

Search

Organisations you have been previously associated with. (Click to select)

**Insert a PIC (9-digit Participant Identification Code)**

After inserting the first PIC number, the Part A Administrative Online Forms become available

**Download mandatory Part B template:**



Tpl\_Application Form (Part B) (DEP).rtf



# Part A & Part B

## Application forms

Call:  
0  
Topic:  
Type of Action:  
0  
Proposal number:  
Proposal acronym:  
Type of Model Grant Agreement:

### Table of contents

Section	Title	Action
1	General information	
2	Participants	
3	Budget	
4	Other questions	

#### How to fill in the forms

The forms must be filled in for each proposal using the templates available in the submission system. Some data fields in the forms are pre-filled based on the data in the submission wizard.

Call:  (insert call identifier) —  (insert call name)

EU Grants: Application form (DEP): V2.0 – 01.06.2022

## TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION (PART B)

### COVER PAGE

Part B of the Application Form must be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed and then assembled and re-uploaded as PDF in the system. Page 1 with the grey IMPORTANT NOTICE box should be deleted before uploading.

Note: Please read carefully the conditions set out in the Call document (for open calls published on the Portal). Pay particular attention to the award criteria; they explain how the application will be evaluated.

PROJECT	
Project name:	<input type="text"/> (project title)
Project acronym:	<input type="text"/> (acronym)
Coordinator contact:	<input type="text"/> (name NAME) <input type="text"/> (organisation name)

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

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TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION (PART B)	4
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1.4 Financial obstacles	5
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# Part A of the proposal – Admin forms

Fill in all **Part A forms** directly in the **Submission System**

Part A – administrative forms	
Section 1 – General information	Call, Topic, Type of Action, Type of Model Grant Agreement, Proposal number, <b>Acronym, Title, Project duration, Keywords</b> , Declarations
Section 2 – Participants	Information on the <b>partners</b> (Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities, Associated Partners)
Section 3 – Budget	<b>Budget</b> per cost category and per partner
Section 4 – Other Questions	<b>Security issues</b> table - <u>must be completed</u>

Security issues table

1. EU Classified Information (EUCI) <sup>2</sup>		Page
Does this activity involve information and/or materials requiring protection against unauthorised disclosure (EUCI)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Does this activity involve non-EU countries which need to have access to EUCI?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
2. Misuse		Page
Does this activity have the potential for misuse of results?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
3. Other Security Issues		Page
Does this activity involve information and/or materials subject to national security restrictions? If yes, please specify: (Maximum number of characters allowed: 1000)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Are there any other security issues that should be taken into consideration? If yes, please specify: (Maximum number of characters allowed: 1000)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	



# Part B of the proposal – Technical part

Use **Part B template** and upload it as a pdf to the Submission System

Part B – technical description	
<b>Section 1 – Relevance</b> In line with Award Criteria 1	1.1 Objectives and activities 1.2 Contribution to long-term policy objectives, policies and strategies — Synergies <i>1.3 Digital technology supply chain - not applicable in this call</i> <i>1.4 Financial obstacles - not applicable in this call</i>
<b>Section 2 – Implementation</b> In line with Award Criteria 2	2.1 Maturity 2.2 Implementation plan and efficient use of resources 2.3 Capacity to carry out the proposed work
<b>Section 3 – Impact</b> In line with Award Criteria 3	3.1 Expected outcomes and deliverables – dissemination and communication 3.2 Competitiveness and benefits for society <i>3.3 Environmental sustainability and contribution to European Green Deal goals - not applicable in this call</i>



# Part B of the proposal – Technical part

Use **Part B template** and upload it as a pdf to the Submission System

Part B – technical description	
<b>Section 4 – WORK PLAN</b>	Work plan, Work Packages, Staff effort, Subcontracting, Purchases and equipment, Other cost categories, Timing (Gantt)
<b>Section 5 – OTHER</b>	Ethics, Security – <b>leave Ethics and Security empty in Part B; fill in the Security table in Part A.</b>
<b>Section 6 – DECLARATIONS</b>	Information concerning other EU grants – <b>must be completed</b> Financial support to third parties – <b>eligible for COMPETITIONS only</b>
<b>ANNEXES</b>	List of previous projects (annex 4 to Part B) – <b>mandatory</b>



Part B Page limit: **50 pages.**

Annexes (i.e. List of previous projects) do not count towards the page limit.

## 5.1 Ethics


<p><b>Ethics</b></p> <p>If the Call document contains a section on ethics, the ethics issues and measures you intend to take to solve/avoid them must be described in Part A.</p> <p>See Application Form Part A]</p>
#SETH-ICS-EI\$# #SEC-URI-SU@#


## 5.2 Security

<p><b>Security</b></p> <p>The security issues and the measures you intend to take to solve/avoid them must be described in Part A.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Beneficiaries must ensure that their projects are not subject to national/third country security requirements that could affect the implementation or put into question the award of the grant (e.g. technology restrictions, national security classification, etc).</p> <p>See Application Form Part A.</p>
#SEC-URI-SU\$# #DEC-LAR-DL@#



# Submission service – Part B and Annexes

 **Funding: Submission Service**

Welcome   
Maria SAARELA

✓  
Login

✓  
Topic selection

✓  
Create proposal


✓  
Participants

✎  
Proposal forms

▲


○  
Submit

Part B and Annexes


In this section you may upload the technical annex of the proposal (in PDF format only) and any other requested attachments. 

Part B \*

**Part B – Mandatory (upload as pdf)**




Upload




List of previous projects

**Annex 4 to Part B – Mandatory (upload as pdf)**




Upload




Other annexes

N/A - Will not be taken into account during evaluations



Upload



< BACK TO PARTICIPANTS LIST

VALIDATE

SUBMIT

18



# Submission service – Validate

## Validating and Warnings:

European Commission | Funding: Submission Service

Welcome Maria SAARELA

Call data

Proposal data

Acronym: test

Draft ID: SEP-211038585

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Support & Helpdesk

Online Manual

IT Helpdesk

Service Desk:

EC-FUNDING-TENDER-SERVICE-DESK@ec.europa.eu

+32 2 29 92222

Validations

Your proposal cannot be submitted until the errors below are corrected

Part A Form

Collapse all Expand all

Budget 1 error

Declaration 1 error

General Information 1 error

JANITOM Tomasz Janisz 1 error

Part B and annexes

This mandatory attachment is missing: Part B

The following warnings will not block the submission of your proposal, but may affect its admissibility and eligibility during evaluation

Part A Form

Collapse all Expand all

Budget 1 warning

Declaration 4 warnings

General Information 3 warnings

BACK TO PARTICIPANTS LIST

VALIDATE

SUBMIT

Before submitting the application **Validate** and **address warnings !!!**



# Award criteria





# Award criteria



See Call document - Section 9 – *Award Criteria*, for detailed information.

1. RELEVANCE	2. IMPLEMENTATION	3. IMPACT
<p>1.1 Alignment with the objectives and activities as described in section 2</p> <p>1.2 Contribution to long-term policy objectives, relevant policies and strategies, and synergies with activities at European and national level</p> <p><i>1.3 Extent to which the project would reinforce and secure the digital technology supply chain in the EU*</i></p> <p><i>1.4 Extent to which the project can overcome financial obstacles such as the lack of market finance*</i></p>	<p>2.1 Maturity of the project</p> <p>2.2 Soundness of the implementation plan and efficient use of resources</p> <p>2.3 Capacity of the applicants, and when applicable the consortium as a whole, to carry out the proposed work</p>	<p>3.1 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</p> <p>3.2 Extent to which the project will strengthen competitiveness and bring important benefits for society</p> <p><i>3.3 Extent to which the project addresses environmental sustainability and the European Green Deal goals, in terms of direct effects and/or in awareness of environmental effects*</i></p>



Sub-criteria 1.3, 1.4 and 3.3 are **NOT APPLICABLE** in this Call. See Call document - Section 2 – *Specific topic conditions*



# Award criteria and thresholds

Award criteria	Minimum pass score per criterion	Minimum pass score per proposal	Maximum score per criterion	Maximum score per proposal
Relevance	3	10	5	15
Implementation	3		5	
Impact	3		5	

For a proposal to be considered for funding, it **MUST**:

Obtain at least **score 3** in **all three criteria** **AND** Obtain an **overall score** of or above **10**

- Proposals *below* individual or overall score → *rejected*.
- Proposals *above* individual and overall thresholds and within the limits of the *available call budget* → *can be funded*.
- For further details, please refer to the Call Document Section 9 – Award Criteria.



# Topic specific Questions and Answers

Submitting questions  
Guidance & Manuals



# Topic related Question & Answers, Get support

## European Advanced Digital Skills Competitions

DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09-COMPETITIONS

[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**

### Topic Q&As

0 item(s) found

[General FAQ](#)



Filter...

### Get support

Please read carefully all provisions below before the preparation of your application.

For help related to this call, please contact us via [Write to us](#) form.


[Funding & Tenders Portal FAQ – Submission of proposals](#).

[IT Helpdesk](#) – Contact the IT helpdesk for questions such as forgotten passwords, access rights and roles, technical aspects of submission of proposals, etc.

[Online Manual](#) – Step-by-step online guide through the Portal processes from proposal preparation and evaluation to reporting on your ongoing project. Valid for all 2021-2027 programmes.



# Get support – How to submit a question

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Type your enquiry below – in any [official EU language](#). You can also use Ukrainian and Russian. Please be as detailed as possible and be sure to include your correct contact details.

You will usually receive an **answer within 3 working days** (more complex enquiries may take longer).

Contact form

First name\*

Last name\*

Email address\*

name@example.com

?

Nationality\*

Please select

?

Country of residence\*

Please select

?

Preferred contact language\*

Please select

?

Alternative contact language

Please select

?

Enquiry\*

0 / 3000

?

☐ I authorise the European Commission to add my e-mail to the Europe Direct mailing list

☐ I have read and agree with the [data protection terms](#)

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[Write to us](#)





# Guidance and documents



## Guidance & documents

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Find out how to participate by following these key steps.

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Explore the available EU funding opportunities by searching for calls for proposals within your topics of interest, find partners and submit a proposal.

#### View projects and results

Browse through EU funded projects and learn about the results. Invest in opportunities and get inspired by the highlights and success stories.

#### Find calls for tenders

Find business opportunities in the calls for tenders managed by EU institutions, bodies and agencies.

#### Work as an expert

Proposals and projects need evaluations, monitoring and domain-specific knowledge advice from experts.



# Guidance and documents

 Online Manual

 [Submit a proposal](#)

*Description of the process*


 IT How To

 [Create a proposal](#)


 [Submit a proposal](#)

*Detailed instructions with screenshots*

## Support & Helpdesk

 Online Manual

 IT How To

 IT Helpdesk

 FAQ

### Service Desk:



[EC-FUNDING-TENDER-SERVICE-DESK@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EC-FUNDING-TENDER-SERVICE-DESK@ec.europa.eu)



[+32 2 29 92222](tel:+3222992222)



# Final tips for applicants



- **Admissibility requirements:**

- Application form **is readable** – before uploading Part B to the submission system, check that it has been correctly converted to PDF and that there are no missing parts or missing tables.
- Always use the **standard template Part B** downloaded from the Submission System (not an old copy or own format).
- **Do not modify** the template
- **List of previous projects** – mandatory Annex (see template for it in Part B)

- **Eligibility requirement:**

- **Consortium composition compliance is a must** – Read carefully Section 6 of the call document and the section *Targeted Stakeholders* for each topic.





# Final tips for applicants



- **Security issues tables in Part A:**
  - Security: Applicable (fill in the Security table in Part A)
  - Mark with great attention the **relevant Security issues** when applicable
  - When marking any security issues, include the corresponding **proposal Part B page** in the Security table
- **Award Criteria:**
  - Take into account the **award criteria** as detailed in the Call document and follow that logic in your application to provide all necessary information.
    - *Call document Section 2 – Scope*
    - *Call document Section 9 – Award criteria*



# Final tips for applicants



- **Part B page Limit:**
  - **50 pages (CSA).** Any additional pages will not be taken into account.
- **Deadline:**
  - **Do not submit your proposal on the last day** to avoid last minute or technical problems! Resubmission before the deadline is possible.
- **Overlaps/double funding risk:**
  - The system detects similarities between proposals. This has serious legal implications.
  - Reply relevant questions in Part A carefully.
- **Updates to the Call/Topics and Q&As:**
  - Regularly check **possible updates** to the call or topics and new **Topic specific Q&As**.



# Thank you for your attention

**For any questions after today's session please submit them through the form in the F&T Portal:**

[Write to us](#)



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