SNS Call for Proposals 2024 – Information Day
Call Conditions

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Introduction

IMPORTANT DATES

Call 3 Opening date: 16 January 2024

Proposal submission deadline: 18 April 2024 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)

MUST READ

R&I Work Programme 2024 approved on 23 November 2023, see:
SNS R&I WP 2024 - SNS JU (europa.eu)
Funding & tenders (europa.eu)
See in particular Appendix 1: Additional Conditions of the SNS 2024 Call, detailing all **SNS Call 3 specific conditions**

IMPORTANT BACKGROUND READING

FAQ's: regularly updated list of "Frequently Asked Questions", https://smart-networks.europa.eu/faq-3/

Topics at a glance

Streams / Topics	Call 2024 Topic Budget (in M€)
HORIZON-JU-SNS-2024-STREAM-B (RIA)	
01-01: System Architecture	16.0
01-02: Wireless Communication Technologies and Signal Processing	16.0
01-03: Communication Infrastructure Technologies and Devices	16.0
01-04: Reliable Services and Smart Security	16.0
01-05: International Collaboration – EU-JP	3.0
01-06: International Collaboration – EU-ROK	3.0
01-07: Sustainability Lighthouse	13.0
01-08: Reliable AI for Reliable Communications Systems and Services	6.0
HORIZON-JU-SNS-2024-STREAM-C (RIA)	
01-01: SNS Microelectronics Lighthouse	10.0
HORIZON-JU-SNS-2024-STREAM-D (IA)	
01-01: SNS Large Scale Trials and Pilots (LST&Ps) with Verticals (IA)	25.0
HORIZON-JU-SNS-2024-STREAM-CSA (CSA)	
01-01: SNS Operations and Output optimisation	4.0
HORIZON-ER-JU-2024-FA2-SNS	
EU-RAIL – SNS SYNERGY: Digital & Automated testing and operational validation of the next EU rail communication system	1.0
Total (M€)	**129**

Funding rate:

RIA & CSA:

- **100% for non-for-profit organisations,**
- **90% for profit organisations,**

IA:

- **100% for non-for-profit organisations,**
- **70% for profit organisations**

To be implemented by EU-Rail JU, Call opening on 25th January

For RIAs/CSAs the maximum funding rate in the budget table is set to 100%. We kindly ask all for-profit organizations to make a manual calculation and request only 90% of the budget.

Call Conditions

Call Conditions are based on the General Annexes for Horizon Europe call conditions 2023-2024

List of participating countries: list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf (europa.eu) (all latest updates e.g. UK association to HE)

➔ **Some of the provisions of the General Annexes have been amended to cover the specificities of the SNS Joint Undertaking.**

➔ **Specific SNS Conditions cover:**

- Admissibility, Eligibility, Generation of “IKOP” (In Kind Contribution to Operational Activities), SME participation, Security (streams B, C and D), Collaboration between projects

Admissibility

Relates mainly to maximum page number of the Proposal;

Flexible approach retained:

The limit for a full proposal is **100 pages for RIAs** submitted under Stream B, C, a**nd for IAs** submitted under Stream D. Applicants are encouraged to modulate the page number of their proposals, from an indicative 70 pages for proposals with low number of partners and very specific focus up to maximum 100 pages for complex proposals covering multiple technological dimensions and with large number of partners.

The limit for a full application is **50 pages for submission of CSAs.**

IKOP - In-Kind contributions to Operational Activities

In Kind Contribution to Operational Activities (IKOP) are legally defined (SBA) as follows: "in-kind contributions to operational activities means contributions by private members, constituent entities or the affiliated entities of either, by international organisations and by contributing partners, consisting of the eligible costs incurred by them in implementing indirect actions less the contribution of that joint undertaking and of the participating states of that joint undertaking to those costs."

- In Kind Contribution to Operational Activities is an important tool to **stimulate private investments** in addition to public investments as requested by the JU implementation
- IKOP can only be generated by entities belonging to the « Member other than the Union » signatory to the JU. **In SNS JU case, it is the 6G Smart Networks and Services Industry Association.**
- Private entities belonging to the 6G-IA will naturally generate IKOP due to the reduced funding Rate (90% RIA/CSA, 70% IA)

IKOP - In-Kind contributions to Operational Activities

Streams / Topics	Indicative IKOP level as % of project budget to reach the objective.
HORIZON-JU-SNS-2024-STREAM-B (RIA)	
01-01: System Architecture	**2,6%**
01-02: Wireless Communication Technologies and Signal Processing	
01-03: Communication Infrastructure Technologies and Devices	
01-04: Reliable Services and Smart Security	
01-05: International Collaboration – EU-JP	
01-06: International Collaboration – EU-ROK	
01-07: Sustainability Lighthouse	**3,6%**
01-08: Reliable AI for 6G Communications Systems and Services	
HORIZON-JU-SNS-2024-STREAM-C (RIA)	
01-01: SNS Microelectronics Lighthouse	**3,6%**
HORIZON-JU-SNS-2024-STREAM-D (IA)	
01-01: SNS Large Scale Trials and Pilots (LST&Ps) with Verticals (IA)	**19,50%**
HORIZON-JU-SNS-2024-STREAM-CSA (CSA)	
01-01: SNS Operations and Output optimisation	**2,6%**

IKOP target at Programme level: Minimum EUR 8 million (6%)

- **Not an eligibility criterion but an award criterion:** specific impact sub-criterion in Streams B, C and D
- IKOP level, **tool to break the ties** between equally marked proposals
- Applicants have to fill a **mandatory IKOP declaration table** in the Application Form Technical Description (Part B)
- Table considers past average participation per type of beneficiary (profit & not-for-profit members -or non-members- of 6G-IA)

Eligibility

Actions	Restriction
HORIZON-JU-SNS-2024-STREAM-B-01-07 & HORIZON-JU-SNS-2024-STREAM-B-01-08	At least **half of the budget** should be implemented by the SNS JU member (other than the Union) and their constituent or affiliated entities.
HORIZON-JU-SNS-2024-STREAM-C-01-01	At least **half of the budget** should be implemented by the SNS JU member (other than the Union) and their constituent or affiliated entities.
HORIZON-JU-SNS-2024-STREAM-D-01-01	At least **70% of the budget** should be implemented by the SNS JU member (other than the Union) and their constituent or affiliated entities.

- intended to support **IKOP generation and partners' long-term commitment** and collaboration with new players, communities & verticals
- Applicants have to fill the **mandatory table of compliance at proposal stage** in the Application Form Technical Description (Part B), **otherwise will be considered ineligible**
- **All other Topics are fully open (IKOP incentive applies)**

IKOP declaration table – Table of compliance

PIC	Legal Name	6G-IA Membership (Yes/No/Affiliate)	IKOP (€)	Legal Name of the Member Legal Entity (for Affiliate 6G-IA Members ONLY)	PIC of the Member Legal Entity (for Affiliate 6G-IA Members ONLY)
Total IKOP costs: (€)					
Total IKOP contribution in percentage of the overall eligible costs: %					

- **Table 3.1k** in Application Form Part B (IKOP & 6G-IA Membership table)
- It has to be filled for **ALL participants in ALL Topics** (even if IKOP is zero)
- For Streams **HORIZON-JU-SNS-2024-STREAM-B-01-07, HORIZON-JU-SNS-2024-STREAM-B-01-08, HORIZON-JU-SNS-2024-STREAM-C-01-01 and HORIZON-JU-SNS-2024-STREAM-D-01-01**, **the table will be considered for the eligibility assessment**

Small and Medium Enterprises

- **Target for SME participation is at 20% at programme level.** Similar to previous programmes
- **SME specific Impact sub-criterion** : *SME Participation and opportunities to leverage project results.*
- **SME and ranking at evaluation:** *When two RIA proposals are equally ranked and that it has not been possible to separate them using first the coverage criterion, second the excellence criterion, and third the generic Impact criterion,* ***the level of SME participation will be taken as the next criterion to sort out the ties and if still un-conclusive, the level of IKOP*** *will be considered as appropriate*

Security – context and background

- The **5G cybersecurity toolbox** foresees strategic measures to foster a sustainable 5G supply and value chain in order to avoid long-term dependency. The recent **Commission Communication on the implementation of the 5G cybersecurity toolbox (C(2023) 4049 final)** mentions that, consistent with certain Member States' application of the 5G Toolbox in the context of the cyber security of 5G networks, certain network suppliers represent higher risks than other 5G suppliers.
- **"the Commission also intends to reflect this decision, in accordance with its competences under the respective governance rules, in all relevant EU funding programmes and instruments."**
- **Article 170 of the Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085** establishing the Smart Networks and Services Joint Undertaking: actions involving network elements deployed for large-scale experimentation or piloting may have to follow security scrutiny assessments.
- Commission recently adopted its **strategy to enhance European Economic Security referring to a broader set of risks**, including: (1) resilience of supply chains; (2) physical and cyber security of critical infrastructure; (3) technology security and technology leakage; and (4) weaponisation of economic dependencies or economic coercion. **5G/6G security is explicitly mentioned in this context of economic security.**

Security Approach

New Implementation Approach compared to previous SNS Calls

- For every proposal (streams B, C, D and CSA), proposers have to fill the **Security Issues Table** by the Applicant **(Security Self-assessment** for all HE proposals);
- **All Streams B, C and D** proposals have to submit a **mandatory security declaration (Annexed form to the proposal),** consisting of an analysis demonstrating that
  - i) the economic security risks (e.g. technology leakage and supply chain risks) have been identified and addressed
  - ii) the management of project results, technologies and equipment (including software and services) in the proposed project comply with relevant security requirements
- Security/**sovereignty issues will be addressed in the evaluation of the impact:** Introduction in the **impact section of a sub criterion** assessing the proposal contribution to the reinforcement of an EU added value, with particular attention to EU economic security objectives as well as economic security risks (including technology leakage risks) and the role of certain suppliers, as mentioned in the Commission Communication C(2023) 4049, in R&I activities. **If this sub criterion is not addressed in a sufficiently effective way, this shall be considered as a significant weakness.**
- **Security scrutiny:** Based on this security declaration by the applicant, as well as the evaluation carried out by independent experts, the funding body may require security measures to be implemented in the project and/or carry out a security scrutiny focusing on the exchange of project information, documents and results considered as security-sensitive information among project partners.

Other Conditions

- **Project Collaboration:**

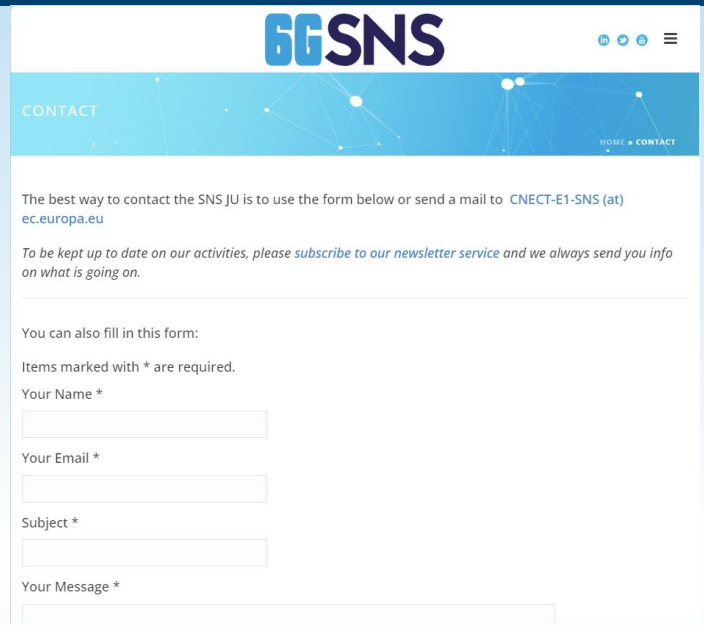
Participants of selected projects will be requested to cooperate in the SNS Programme for topics of common interests by signing the collaboration agreement referred in the specific provisions of the Model Grant Agreement (MGA).

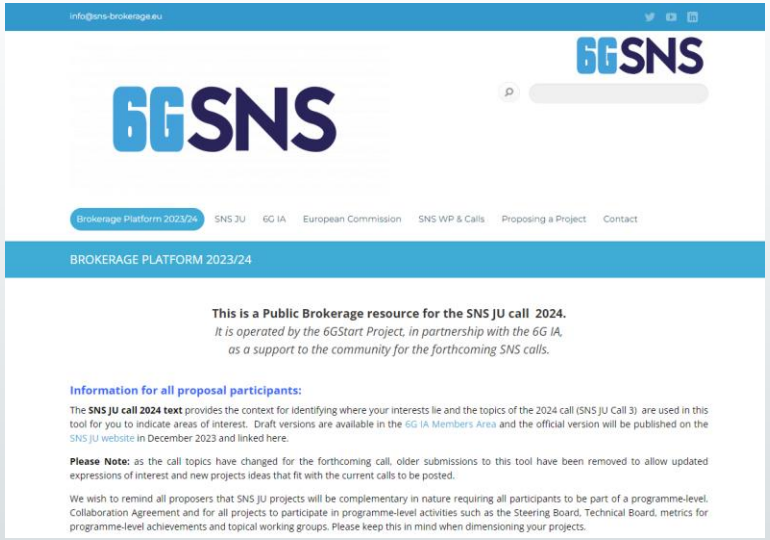
- **EU-RAIL & SNS synergy Call** Joint call "HORIZON-ER-JU-2024-FA2-SNS: EU-RAIL – SNS SYNERGY: Digital & Automated testing and operational validation of the next EU rail communication system" will be implemented by EU-Rail JU

- Contribution of up to EUR 1 000 000 from the SNS JU budget.
- Selection criteria and call conditions can be found in the EU-Rail JU Work Programme "Europe's Rail Work Programme 2023-2024"
- Submission of proposals should be done through the EU-Rail JU Call

Support & Brokerage platform

- **JU SNS FAQ** - find the answers to most frequently asked questions on the JU SNS call.
- **Funding & Tenders Portal FAQ** – find the answers to most frequently asked questions on submission of proposals, evaluation and grant management.
- **Research Enquiry Service** – ask questions about any aspect of European research in general and the EU Research Framework Programmes in particular.
- **National Contact Points (NCPs)** – get guidance, practical information and assistance on participation in Horizon Europe. There are also NCPs in many non-EU and non-associated countries ('third-countries').
- **CEN-CENELEC Research Helpdesk and ETSI Research Helpdesk** – the European Standards Organisations advise you how to tackle standardisation in your project proposal.
- **SNS Brokerage Platform** - To assist everyone to find projects and participants, we are offering an online Brokerage service where you can present you profile and interests and/or present your project Ideas for potential participants to see.
- **For Newcomers in EU grants:** For information about the "Registration of participants", refer to this presentation from the Central Validation Service or check this video.





SNS JU Brokerage Event

Agenda and registration link available:

https://smart-networks.europa.eu/event/sns-ju-brokerage-event-jan-25-2024/

Deadline for presentations/pitches is TODAY!

6GSNS

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Contact us: smart-networks.europa.eu