



2 SNS JU Calls for Proposals

Streams B and C



Stream D







665NS Introduction

IMPORTANT DATES

Stream B, C:

Opening date: 22 May 2025

Stream D:

Opening date: 18 June 2025 (indicative)

Proposal submission deadline for ALL Streams: 18 September 2025 17:00:00 (Brussels local time) – Do not wait

until the end to avoid any last-minute technical problems!

MUST READ

SNS JU R&I Work Programme 2025 initially approved on 22 November 2024, 2 amendments followed.

Funding & tenders portal Streams B, C and Funding & tenders portal Stream D

See in particular <u>Appendix 1: SNS 2025 Calls overview and General Call Conditions</u>, detailing all <u>SNS 2025 Calls specificities</u>

IMPORTANT BACKGROUND READING

FAQ's: regularly updated "Frequently Asked Questions", SNS JU 2025 Calls - Frequently Asked Questions - SNS JU







Topics at a glance

Call: HORIZON-JU-SNS-2025-01

Streams / Topics	Indicative Topic Budget	
	(in M€)	
HORIZON-JU-SNS-2025-01-STREAM-B (RIA)		
01-01: Advanced Architectures Systems and Technologies	15.0	
01-02: Advanced IoT and Device Technologies	9.0	
02: Wireless Communication Technologies and Signal Processing	21.0	
03-01: 6G NTN-TN Unification/Integration	8.0	
03-02: Higher Speed Optical Access Networks and future end-to-end Packet Optical Network Architecture in 6G	8.0	
04-01: Smart Security / Security Services	8.0	
04-02: Reliable Services Operation	8.0	
05: Microelectronic – Front-End Module (FEM)	12.0	
HORIZON-JU-SNS-2025-01-STREAM-C (RIA)		
01: 6G Telco Cloud and Service Provision enablers	15.0	
Total (M€)	104	

Call: HORIZON-JU-SNS-2025-02

Streams / Topics	Indicative Topic Budget (in M€)
HORIZON-JU-SNS-2025-02-STREAM-D (IA)	()
01: SNS Trials and Pilots (T&Ps) with Verticals	24.0
Total (M€)	24

Funding rate:

RIA:

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

IA:

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





For RIAs 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 are based on the **General Annexes for Horizon Europe call**

conditions 2023-2025

List of participating countries: list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-

euratom en.pdf (europa.eu) (all latest updates e.g. CH 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 (including Restrictions on participation in accordance with HE Article 22(5)), Generation of "IKOP" (In Kind Contribution to Operational Activities), SME participation, Collaboration between projects



General Annex A applies (readable, accessible and printable application, all forms and mandatory Annexes, mandatory plan for the exploitation and dissemination of results including communication activities etc.)

Derogation to maximum page number of the Proposal:

The limit for a full proposal is 70 pages for RIAs submitted under Streams

B, C, and for IAs submitted under Stream D.





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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-2025-01-STREAM-B (RIA)	
01-01: Advanced Architectures Systems and Technologies	
01-02: Advanced IoT and Device Technologies	
02: Wireless Communication Technologies and Signal	
Processing	
03-01: 6G NTN-TN Unification/Integration	2,4%
03-02: Higher Speed Optical Access Networks and future	
end-to-end Packet Optical Network Architecture in 6G	
04-01: Smart Security / Security Services	
04-02: Reliable Services Operation	
05: Microelectronic – Front-End Module (FEM)	3,6%
HORIZON-JU-SNS-2025-01-STREAM-C (RIA)	
01: 6G Telco Cloud and Service Provision enablers	3,6%
HORIZON-JU-SNS-2025-02-STREAM-D (IA)	
01: SNS Trials and Pilots (T&Ps) with Verticals	19,50%

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

- Not an eligibility criterion but an award criterion: specific impact subcriterion in all Topics
- 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)
- IKOP target Table considers past average participation per type of beneficiary (profit & not-for-profit members -or non-members- of 6G-IA)





Eligibility (Restrictions on participation – Legal Basis)

HE Regulation (Reg 2021/695) - Art. 22(5)

For actions related to Union strategic assets, interests, autonomy or security, the work programme may provide that the participation can be limited to legal entities established only in Member States or to legal entities established in specified associated or other third countries in addition to Member States.

For duly justified and exceptional reasons, in order to guarantee the protection of the strategic interests of the Union and its Member States, the work programme may also exclude the participation of legal entities established in the Union or in associated countries directly or indirectly controlled by non-associated third countries or by legal entities of non-associated third countries from individual calls for proposals, or make their participation subject to conditions set out in the work programme.

New Eligibility criteria and implementation compared to previous SNS Calls





Eligibility (Restrictions on participation - Context)

Restrictions on participation in accordance with Article 22(5) of the Horizon Europe Regulation

In order to achieve the expected outcomes, and safeguard the Union's strategic assets, interests, autonomy, and security, it is important to avoid a situation of technological dependency on a non-EU source, in a global context that requires the EU to take action to build on its strengths, and to carefully assess and address any strategic weaknesses, vulnerabilities and high-risk dependencies which put at risk the attainment of its ambitions.

Restrictions for the protection of European communication networks

In accordance with General Annex B of the General Annexes of the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2025:

Entities that are assessed as high-risk suppliers of mobile network communication equipment within the meaning of 'restrictions for the protection of European communication networks' (or entities they fully or partially own or control) are not eligible to participate as beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners.

Entities assessed as "high-risk suppliers", are currently set out in the Related Commission Communication on the implementation of the 5G cybersecurity toolbox of 2023.





Eligibility (Restrictions on participation – 2 cases)

- Both **Part 1** (legal establishment) and **Part 2** (ownership) of **Art 22(5)** apply.
- Streams B & C (up to TRL 5) Eligible countries: Member States, Associated Countries, OECD and **Mercosur Countries**
- Stream D (up to TRL 7) Eligible countries: Member States, Iceland, Norway and the following additional Associated Countries (Canada, Israel, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Switzerland and the United Kingdom)
- For all Streams: Entities established in an eligible country, but which are directly or indirectly controlled by a non-eligible country or by a non-eligible country entity, may not participate in the action unless it can be demonstrated, by means of guarantees positively assessed by their eligible country of establishment (only if Member State or Associated Country), that their participation to the action would not negatively impact the Union's strategic, assets, interests, autonomy, or security.
- **Entities assessed as High-Risk Suppliers of mobile network communication equipment** within the meaning of 'restrictions for the protection of European communication networks' cannot submit guarantees.







Eligibility (Restrictions on participation – implementation)

- Participants (Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities & Associated Partners) must fill in the **ownership control declaration, annexed to the application form.** This declaration must be signed by a person empowered to represent the legal entity. The coordinator must combine all declarations into one single document and submit it with the proposal (signed originals should be kept on file by the participants).
- Proposals missing this annex for any of their participants may be declared inadmissible.
- The participants will undergo an **ownership control assessment to determine whether they are eligible or not.** Public bodies are exempted from this obligation; they will automatically be considered as controlled by their country.
- **Guarantees (where applicable)** must be signed by the participant, they will be requested and assessed by SNS JU services & national Authorities during grant preparation. If ineligible country control is already known at proposal submission, you are strongly advised to already prepare the guarantees as part of your proposal.
- More information on restricted calls can be found here
- Ownership Control Declaration & Guarantee template







Eligibility (Minimum participation of 6G-IA)

Actions	Restriction		
HORIZON-JU-SNS-2025-01-STREAM-B-05	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-2025-01-STREAM-C-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-2025-02-STREAM-D-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 and other activities e.g. HE Cluster 4
- 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**
- If above conditions are not fulfilled, the proposal will be ineligible and will not be evaluated.
- 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)	Legal Entity (for Affiliate 6G-IA	
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-2025-01-STREAM-B-05, HORIZON-JU-SNS-2025-01-STREAM-C-01 and HORIZON-JU-SNS-2025-02-STREAM-D-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 SNS JU Calls
- 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



Specific Ranking Procedures

- SNS-2025-STREAM-B-01-01 & SNS-2025-STREAM-B-01-02: To ensure a balanced portfolio grants will be awarded to proposals not only in order of ranking but at least also to one project that is the highest ranked within each of the Topic areas/priorities (5 priorities for B-01-01 and 3 priorities for B-01-02), provided that the proposals attain all thresholds (and subject to available budget). Proposals may want to address several of the proposed priorities in each Stream, but they should indicate clearly what is the centre of gravity of their proposal (i.e. the main covered priority).
- Stream D: To ensure a balanced portfolio within Stream D and to guarantee that the approved projects will have different centre of gravity from the identified vertical priorities (i.e., Industry/Manufacturing, Media, Transportation/Logistics, Emergency and Safety Services and Health), grants will be awarded to proposals not only in order of ranking but at least also to one project that is the highest ranked within each of the above vertical priorities, provided that the proposals attain all thresholds (and subject to available budget). Only the centre of gravity vertical area will be considered in terms of topic coverage during the evaluation process.



Other Conditions

Project Collaboration:

Participants of selected projects will be requested to cooperate in the SNS Programme for topics of common interests by signing a written agreement (called "collaboration agreement") referred in the specific provisions of the Model Grant Agreement (Annex 5 of the MGA).

AI/ML training data sets for Stream B

Further to Open science provisions set out in the General Annex G of the General Annexes to the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2025, in all SNS topics under Stream B, AI/ML training data sets, which will be created and used in the context of the selected projects, have to be made available through a common repository that will be openly accessed and may be used by other SNS projects over the programme lifecycle.



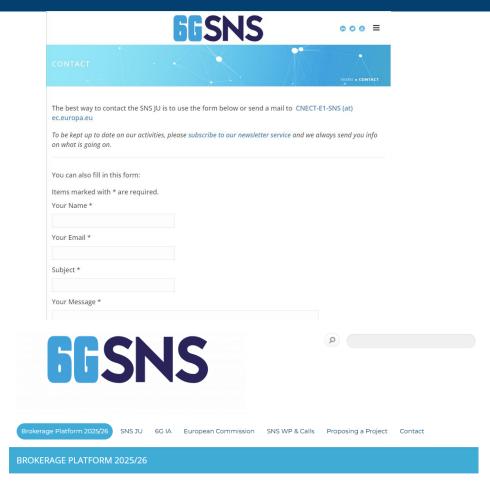


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Support & Brokerage platform

- SNS JU contact email and form to send any questions related to the Calls
- JU SNS FAQ find the answers to most frequently asked questions on the JU SNS call.
- <u>Funding & Tenders Portal FAQ</u> find the answers to most frequently asked questions on submission of proposals, evaluation and grant management.
- <u>Research Enquiry Service</u> ask questions about any aspect of European research in general and the EU Research Framework Programmes in particular.
- <u>National Contact Points (NCPs)</u> 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').
- <u>CEN-CENELEC Research Helpdesk</u> and <u>ETSI Research Helpdesk</u> the European Standards Organisations advise you how to tackle standardisation in your project proposal.
- <u>SNS Brokerage Platform</u> 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 <u>this presentation</u> from the Central Validation Service or check this video.





This is a Public Brokerage resource for the SNS JU call 2025.

It is operated by the SNS CO OP Project, in partnership with the 6G IA, as a support to the community for the forthcoming SNS calls.

Information for all proposal participants:

Smart Networks and Services Joint Undertaking (SNS JU) has opened its 2025 Calls in May for submission in September.

The SNS JU 2025 call text provides the context for identifying where your interests lie and the topics of the 2025 calls are used in this tool for you to indicate areas of interest.

 Those interested in submitting a project proposal can find more details about the 2025 open SNS Calls and various Topics on the EU Funding and Tenders Portal.



...and for new Experts!

HIGHLIGHTED NEWS



CALL FOR EXPERTS – SNS JU IS LOOKING FOR EVALUATORS FOR ITS EU RESEARCH PROJECTS

The Smart Networks and Services Joint Undertaking (SNS JU) is looking to expand its pool of experts to evaluate project proposals and monitor ongoing projects in the field of beyond 5G, 6G technology and smart networks and services. This is your opportunity to contribute to shaping Europe's digital future and advancing next-generation connectivity solutions.

The SNS JU is committed to promoting diversity and encourages applications from all qualified experts. We uphold a strict policy regarding conflicts of interest.

Apply now!

Call for Experts - SNS JU is looking for evaluators for its EU research projects - SNS JU







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