



SNS JU Calls for Proposals 2026 – Info Day & Brokerage Event

Call Overview and Conditions

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IMPORTANT DATES

Call 6 Opening date: 29 January 2026

Proposal submission deadline : 29 April 2026 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)



Do not wait until the deadline to avoid any last-minute technical problems!

MUST READ

Funding & tenders portal HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026

SNS JU R&I Work Programme 2026 approved on 18 December 2025.

See in particular Appendix 1: SNS 2025 Calls overview and General Call Conditions, detailing all SNS 2026 Calls specificities

IMPORTANT BACKGROUND READING

FAQ's: regularly updated “Frequently Asked Questions”, **FAQ Call 6 – Frequently Asked Questions - SNS JU**



Call: HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026

| Streams / Topics | Indicative Topic Budget (in M€) |
|---|------------------------------------|
| HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026-STREAM-B (IA) | |
| 01: Collection, Generation and Validation of Datasets suitable for training AI Models for 6G Networks and for AlaaS | 8.00 |
| HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026-STREAM-C (RIA) | |
| 01: SNS experimental infrastructure | 8.00 |
| HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026-STREAM-CSA (CSA) | |
| 01: SNS Operations and Output optimisation | 3.0 |
| 02: 6G Devices | 2.0 |
| 03: EU-IND International Collaboration | 1.0 |
| Total (M€) | 22.00 |

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**

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 are based on the [General Annexes for Horizon Europe call conditions](#)

[2026-2027](#)

List of participating countries: [list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf](#)
[\(europa.eu\)](#) (all latest updates e.g. RoK 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, Financial Support to Third Parties



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 and IAs submitted under Stream B, C, and 50 pages for CSAs submitted under CSA Stream.



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)



| Streams / Topics | Indicative IKOP level as % of project budget to reach the objective. |
|---|--|
| HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026-STREAM-B (IA) 01: Collection, Generation and Validation of Datasets suitable for training AI Models for 6G Networks and for Alaas | 13,9% |
| HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026-STREAM-C (RIA) 01: SNS experimental infrastructure | 3,6% |
| HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026-STREAM-CSA (CSA) 01: SNS Operations and Output optimisation 02: 6G Devices 03: EU-India International Collaboration | 2,4% |

IKOP target at Programme level: Minimum EUR 1.5 million (6.7%)

- **Not an eligibility criterion but an award criterion:** specific impact sub-criterion in RIA & IA 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)

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.**

Eligibility criteria and implementation applied for the first time in SNS 2025 Calls



- 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 2026-2027:

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' ((and any entities they 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.

Both **Part 1** (legal establishment) and **Part 2** (ownership) of **Art 22(5)** apply to 4 out of 5 Topics:

- **Topics B-01 (IA), CSA-01 & CSA-02** Eligible countries: Member States and Associated Countries.
- **Topic CSA-03** Eligible countries: Member States, Associated Countries, OECD and Mercosur countries, and India.
- **Topic C-01 (RIA): NO Restrictions on participation in accordance with Article 22(5) apply**

Restrictions related to High-Risk Suppliers apply for all Topics

For B-01 (IA), CSA-01 & CSA-02 : 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 in so far this is a 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' (or entities fully or partially owned or controlled by a high-risk supplier) **cannot submit guarantees**.



- Participants in Topics **B-01, CSA-01, CSA-02 and CSA-03** (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 (for B-01, CSA-01 & CSA-02, 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 in the EU Grants guidance document [here](#)
- 2 templates as of 2026: [Ownership Control Declaration template](#), [Ownership Control Guarantee](#)



| | | Eligibility | Security Conditions |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| Stream CSA Coordination and Support Actions towards Consolidation & visibility of SNS JU Results, International collaboration & Future roadmaps | CSA-01. SNS Operations and Output optimisation | EU/EEA and all ACs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art 22(5) restrictions: Part 1 (legal establishment) and Part 2 (ownership) • High-risk supplier restrictions • Guarantees possible |
| | CSA-02. 6G Devices | EU/EEA and all ACs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art 22(5) restrictions: Part 1 (legal establishment) and Part 2 (ownership). • High-risk supplier restrictions • Guarantees possible |
| | CSA-03. EU-India International Collaboration | EU/EEA, ACs, OECD, Mercosur and India | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art 22(5) restrictions: Part 1 (legal establishment) and Part 2 (ownership) • High-risk supplier restrictions • No guarantees possible |
| Stream B  Research for revolutionary and evolutionary 6G Technology and systems | B-01. Collection, Generation and Validation of Datasets suitable for training AI Models for 6G Networks and for AlaaS | EU/EEA and all ACs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art 22(5) restrictions: Part 1 (legal establishment) and Part 2 (ownership) • High-risk supplier restrictions • Guarantees possible |
| Stream C  Smart Network & Services experimental infrastructure | C-01. SNS experimental infrastructure | NO Art 22(5) restriction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-risk supplier restrictions |

| Actions | Restriction |
|---------------------------------|--|
| HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026-STREAM-B-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-2026-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. |

- Intended to support **IKOP generation and partners' long-term commitment to develop the EU-wide SNS experimentation infrastructure that spans the programme lifetime** and collaboration with new players from **AI and Data science**.
- 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)**

| 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 Topics **HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026-STREAM-B-01** and **HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026-STREAM-C-01**, the table will be considered for the eligibility assessment

- **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 or CSA 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*

- **HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026-STREAM-C-01: Up to 20% of the budget of proposals** submitted under this topic will be reserved for Third Party Financing for **SMEs and academia**.
- Beneficiaries may provide financial support to third parties **in the form of grants**. The **maximum amount to be granted to each third party is of 50 K EUR** for Grants to support:
 - a) executing technological validation experiments, with some activities to maintain and expand the tool offered to the community;
 - b) Validation of new 6G network technologies in E2E setups potentially covering the European ecosystem
 - c) The integration efforts of key technologies developed in previous SNS JU Calls;
- FSTP will be provided **only to developers from current running SNS-JU projects** as a support to integrate their technologies into the platform to expand its 6G capabilities. **Experimenters** who are interested in using the platform to run technological 6G experiments **are not eligible for funding**.
- SNS JU projects in Phase 3 are expected to include integration and experimentation resources with the new infrastructure in their Grant Agreements. **Solutions from SNS JU Call 2027 projects are not eligible for funding**.
- It is recommended that the beneficiary providing third party financing is an entity eligible for 100% of reimbursement of the eligible costs



- **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 Streams B and C**

Further to Open science provisions set out in the General Annex G of the General Annexes to the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026-2027, in the SNS topics under Streams B and C, 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..



- [**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.
- [**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 your 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](#).

This is a Public Brokerage resource for the SNS JU Call 2026.
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) will open its 2026 Call on 29 January 2026, and the deadline for submissions is 29 April 2026 at 17:00 CET.
An Info Day & Brokerage Event on the SNS sixth call will take place on **Monday, 2 February 2026, from 11:00 CET**.
The [SNS JU 2026 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 2026 SNS JU open call soon.

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!](#)

A new Call for Experts will be published shortly!

6GSNS

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



Contact us: smart-networks.europa.eu

