SNS R&I Work Programme 2026

This Annex II is attached to the comprehensive Bi-Annual Work Programme 2026-2027 of the Smart Networks and Services Joint Undertaking (SNS JU) and it details the planned SNS R&I Work Programme for the year 2026.

Context and Objectives

The Smart Network and Services (SNS) JU is moving towards the end of the second phase of its implementation. The Research and Innovation Work Programme 2026 (R&I WP 2026) will act as a bridge between the previous SNS R&I Work Programmes and the final SNS Work Programme in 2027, facilitating a smooth transition from SNS phase two to the third and final phase of the SNS JU Programme. In this context, a number of recent and relevant developments are to be considered, notably:

Strategic Plan for Horizon Europe covering the 2025-2027 period

The SNS JU R&I WP 2026, despite its limited scope, directly supports the research and innovation priorities outlined in the Horizon Europe strategic plan for 2025-2027, with a focus around Smart Networks and Services. In the context of 6G networks and services, its actions are expected to contribute to the three key overarching and interlinked EU strategic orientations: 1) the green transition; 2) the digital transition, and 3) a more resilient, competitive, inclusive and democratic Europe. More specifically, the Coordination and Support Actions on International Cooperation and on Devices have a clear focus on the competitiveness of the EU supply side for 6G devices and on promoting Europe as a lead player worldwide for advanced smart network and services. Furthermore, the Research & Innovation Actions of the SNS JU R&I WP 2026 will offer key contributions towards the digital transition in two ways: i) by ensuring the availability of data sets needed to train AI models in AI-native 6G systems. ii) by offering an EU-wide technology experimentation platforms that can test and incorporate candidate 6G technologies in an end-to-end way for their further validation.

Industrial and business aspects

While the rollout of 5G matures globally, research and development (R&D) in 6G is accelerating across industries, academia, and governments. Although 6G is expected to be commercially deployed from around 2030, R&D activities are already shaping its technological foundation and economic vision and International standardisation has already been launched. These efforts are deeply rooted in industrial competitiveness, strategic public initiatives, and long-term business planning. A globally accepted 6G standard is a key priority. In addition, for EU stakeholders, technological sovereignty, together with reliable and resilient supply chains, are increasingly becoming important from the perspective of the private and the public side.

A key development considered by this WP is the acceleration of the 6G standardisation work already initiated at the level of the 3rd Generation Partnership Project- (3GPP). Whilst 3GPP's work is currently

focusing on studies, the actual early normative work is expected to start in 2026. In that context, several 6G requirements are currently under discussion globally and are expected to be agreed upon in the first half of 2026. However, some clear trends have already appeared in 3GPP (e.g., a simplified architecture compared to 5G, AI as a foundational enabler for 6G, need for a global standard with limited deployment options, further workon reduced-capability devices (e.g., RedCap, energy/network co-design, NTN and ambient IoT integration). The activities proposed in this Work Programme address the aforementioned industrial 6G trends in the following way:

i. The proposed work on AI is directly linked to the 3GPP's views that AI will play a major role in 6G and be implemented at every layer of the architecture to radically improve network performances and to support advanced use case deployments (AI as a Service – AIaaS). Whilst an AI native architecture is targeted, significant issues remain open such as the overall framework for AI/ML deployment and the specifics of network functionalities to drive AI models that are actually well adapted to the functioning of core network functions. This notion of AI (AI for networks) models needed to correctly represent network environments was also identified at the Mobile World Congress 2025 in Barcelona. Training data availability and modelling play a critical role in that respect and the proposed work targets significant inroads into this domain. This issue is also fully in line with the objectives of the second pillar of the EU continent and apply AI strategies, aiming at developing EU data spaces for AI.

ii. The development of 6G requires global partnerships at multiple levels which is targeted by the proposed CSA for cooperation with India. In the wake of SNS JU activities initiated with the US, Japan and the Republic of Korea, India emerges as an important actor and European partner from several perspectives. Whilst the ultimate goals should be the development of a single global standard and a global ecosystem to boost market take-up, India's 6G initiative is backed by e.g., the Bharat 6G Alliance, which brings together industry, academia, research institutions, and standards bodies. With respect to the geography and distribution of population India has specific requirements on future systems, which should be understood at an early stage. This provides a very relevant platform for Europe to exchange views and objectives on 6G, including at technological, priority use cases, opportunities for joint experimentation and policy levels.

iii. As 6G is expected to provide connectivity to a myriad of diverse connected devices (e.g. drones, cranes, glasses, vehicles…) European sovereignty and competitiveness in the networked domain may eventually depend on its positioning on the device market, which potentially represents large volumes. This is an opportunity for the European microelectronics industry, and for associated software ecosystems. At 3GPP level, the device discussion is driven by the need to define specific IoT functionalities, classes of devices and by the fact that devices in industrial domains may follow a completely different life cycle than consumer smart phones. The proposed CSA in the device domains is expected to provide a European approach with an industrial roadmap helping Europe to regain ground on this market, also considering that with flexible and agile computing platforms, the hard boundaries between terminals and networks experienced with previous generations is expected to blur.

iv. Current 3GPP orientations point towards a system shaped not by complexity but by a focused, intentional architecture that streamlines deployment, optimises efficiency and enables monetisation and new value across industries. This calls for a simplified architecture as well as for simple migration and deployment. This is however a challenge considering the additional service capabilities that 6G is expected to serve with the introduction of a multiplicity of advanced technologies such as AI, ISAC, NTN, quantum level security, MRSS and many more. The proposed work on experimental platform precisely addresses this industry need, namely to deploy and test the most promising advanced new 6G technologies in close to operational scenarios, for their faster validation and derisking by industrial actors.

v. Strengthened synergies between the Smart Networks and Services and microelectronics communities, notably through closer alignment with the Chips Joint Undertaking and its upcoming Calls, drive an updated approach to the work on "Front End Module" (FEM). This Topic will combine digital, RF and advanced packaging technologies to deliver reconfigurable, multi-frequency 6G front ends, supporting prioritized spectrum, interference mitigation and

future transfer towards Chips JU pilot lines. The spectrum focus reflects the latest Radio Spectrum Policy Group recommendations on the upper 6 GHz band (6.425–7.125 GHz) and increased regulatory emphasis on spectrum sharing, including demonstrators with incumbent users. The Topic also integrates recent 3GPP developments such as full duplex and sub-band full duplex operations, as well as the growing impact of AI/ML-driven uplink traffic and edge intelligence, while supporting the EU Apply AI strategy and edge AI capacities. Moreover, expected strong industrial cooperation between telecom and microelectronics actors will stimulate a European 6G ecosystem, leveraging the Chips Joint Undertaking, its emerging relevant pilot lines (following the successful launch of e.g. the FAMES and NanoIC), and enhanced design tool capabilities (Electronic Design Automation-EDA, Process Design Kits-PDK).

As preparatory steps for the SNS JU Work Programmes beyond WP2025, the 6G Smart Networks and Services Industry Association (6G-IA) has been working to provide the main industrial and business aspects in a series of documents openly available[1]. As outlined above, this Work Programme is focusing on technical areas like AI to be applied in 6G networks for performance improvements, specialized devices for IoT applications and an experimentation platform. The Strands on AI and devices are particularly relevant for the European industry to improve technological sovereignty, as these areas are today dominated by other regions. The international cooperation with India is relevant in the context of ongoing negotiations between the EU and India on a trade agreement and with respect to the preparation of globally accepted standards for 6G. The Strand on the experimentation platform is an offer to stakeholders to trial different priority technologies, their feasibility and performance in the context of standardisation.

The current orientations for this transition are to be considered as a step towards the further development of 6G and beyond which covers a broader focus on the R&D activities for critical infrastructures, with an enlarged portfolio from R&D to experimental platforms and deployment of operational solutions for technologies identified also in the Draghi report on EU competitiveness[2], and notably:

1. **Networks as the infrastructure foundational pillar** and the stronghold that Europe can leverage to stimulate technological leadership in related domains (Draghi report annex, section 3.1).
2. **Cloud, AI, and quantum** as related technologies to contribute to the emergence of advanced, sustainable and secure network and service platforms (Draghi report annex, section 3.2).
3. **Microelectronics**, as the enabling pillar of a multiplicity of network functions, from baseband processing to RF, as needed to reach a level of sovereignty for the overall connectivity platforms (Draghi report annex, section 3.3).

Policy Objectives

Digital connectivity plays a pivotal role to deliver on the key goals of the Competitiveness Compass[3] that the European Commission adopted in January 2025, namely competitiveness, sustainability and security.

The profound digital transformation of our economy and society is driven by radical developments in AI, IoT and supercomputing, which multiply exponentially the volume of data being processed, stored, and also transmitted. This is only possible with advanced connectivity capabilities, enabling more efficient, flexible, reliable, secure, and sustainable communications.

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[1] https://6g-ia.eu/plans-papers/

[2] https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/draghi-report_en

[3] https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/10017eb1-4722-4333-add2-e0ed18105a34_en?filename=Communication_1.pdf

As stressed in the European Commission's February 2024 White Paper[4], digital connectivity technology and market is in turn experiencing profound transformations, prompted by virtualization of communications, software-defined networking, and cloudification, leading to telco-edge-cloud convergence, while enabling to optimise network operations and enhance service delivery.

Enabling such transformation of the digital connectivity landscape requires, as for other key digital technology domains, to have the right policy and legal framework in place. The European Commission will seek to provide it in particular in the upcoming Digital Networks Act[5], Cloud and AI Development Act[6], the Apply AI strategy[7] and the AI Continent Action Plan[8]. It also requires substantial and sustained investments at all levels of the value-chain, starting with research and innovation. Those investments must certainly come from industry, but also from the public sector in view of the public policy goals at stake, as stressed in the Competitiveness Compass. Consequently, countries leading the digital race worldwide are investing heavily in research and innovation in digital connectivity technologies.

The EU has been at the forefront of research and innovation on wireless communications, focusing on 5G and 6G in recent years, notably through EU funding from the Horizon Europe Programme.

The Smart Networks and Services Joint Undertaking (SNS JU) has been instrumental to this effort, delivering on a successful collaborative EU public-private partnership that has led to significant research outcomes, fostering innovation and decisively contributing to Europe remaining competitive in next-generation network technologies.

It is necessary to keep this momentum for the remaining of the Horizon Europe programme and the SNS JU under the current EU Multi-annual Financial Framework, and onto the next one, so that EU-made digital communication technology continues contributing to a more resilient, green, and digitally sovereign Europe.

Protection of European Communication Networks as EU policy objective

The General Annexes of Horizon Europe's 2025 work programme reiterate that the protection of European communication networks has been identified as an important security interest of the Union and its Member States[9]. Entities assessed as "high-risk suppliers" are currently set out in the second report on Member States' progress in implementing the EU toolbox on 5G cybersecurity of 202310 and the related Communication on the implementation of the 5G cybersecurity toolbox of 202311. In order to protect the specific policy interests of the Union and/or its Member States, it is therefore appropriate that for proposals under topics identified as "subject to restrictions on participation in accordance with Article 22(5) of the Horizon Europe Regulation" (in the specific conditions for eligibility), 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 provide/submit guarantees.

SNS technological Roadmaps and Synergies

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[4] https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/white-paper-how-master-europes-digital-infrastructure-needs

[5] https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14709-Digital-Networks-Act_en

[6] https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14628-AI-Continent-new-cloud-and-AI-development-act_en

[7] https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/apply-ai

[8] https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/ai-continent-action-plan

[9] European Council conclusions of 1 and 2 October 2020 (EUCO 13/20), point 11; Council Conclusions on the significance of 5G to the European Economy and the need to mitigate security risks linked to 5G, 14517/19.

[10] NIS Cooperation Group, Second report on Member States' progress in implementing the EU Toolbox on 5G Cybersecurity, June 2023.

[11] https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/communication-commission-implementation-5g-cybersecurity-toolbox

From October 2023 to May 2025, 6G-IA organized various workshops on the following topics: Microelectronics, Photonics, NTN, AI, Security, Wireless and Cloud/Service Provision, Media, PPDR, Smart factories, etc. The purpose of these workshops was to identify future strategic directions for the SNS JU for the following years, starting with the NetworldEurope SRIA as the basis of 6G related technological topics.

The SNS JU R&I WP 2026 focuses on a limited number of actions, which offer for potential collaboration in several aspects:

1. Collaboration between multiple technological domains and stakeholders. As smart networks and services become more complex, technology deployment in a domain has impact in other domains. This requires a transverse approach to technologies, with different communities (e.g. clouds, satcoms, terrestrial coms, microelectronics) called upon to work in a collaborative mode. For the specifics of this Work Programme, the device CSA is expected to bring together leading European actors from at least 3 domains; telecoms, microelectronics, and use cases (verticals). The experimental facility platform will also provide opportunities to get communities like AI, software, mobile coms, security to work together. Furthermore, the cooperation between the key European microelectronics and telecom industrial players in the Microelectronics FEM field will contribute to the implementation of a related ecosystem in the field, paving the way towards further industrialisation by the European lead actors through European 6G offers.
2. International collaboration with India, following past calls with the USA, Japan, and the Republic of Korea, is identified as a key target in achieving global standards and understanding the needs of other markets where European solutions play a significant role.
3. AI data action is a domain that remains much exploratory at this stage. It calls for collaborative work between networking specialists, AI experts, modelling and simulation experts, at both industrial and academic levels.

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International Cooperation

International cooperation in the SNS JU R&I WP 2026 targets early visibility of global 6G activities and the preparation of international consensus on technologies and systems. It is in line with the International Digital Strategy for the EU[12] and focusses on boosting the EU's technological competitiveness through economic and business cooperation, promoting a high level of security for the EU and its partners, and shaping global digital governance and standards with a network of partners.

Considering the recent policy developments between the EU and India on 6G under the EU-India Trade and Technology Council (TTC)[13] promoting cooperation on 6G between R&I funding agencies and the links established by 6G-IA with the Bharat 6G Alliance towards secured and trusted telecommunications and resilient supply chains, EU-India cooperation will be reinforced with a dedicated coordination and support action (CSA).

Work Programme 2026 framework and structure

The SNS JU R&I WP 2026 marks a critical transitional year for the SNS JU and the broader European 6G agenda. It comes at a time when the SNS JU Programme is moving from Phase 2 into Phase 3, consolidating the foundation laid in 2024–2025 and preparing for the final major call, under Horizon Europe, to be launched in 2027.

Compared to previous Work Programmes, the SNS JU R&I WP 2026 is smaller and more targeted. This focused approach enables the SNS JU to sustain momentum and ensure high-impact

[12] https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/joint-communication-international-digital-strategy-eu

[13] https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/key-outcomes-second-eu-india-trade-and-technology-council

investments, while strategically preparing for a broader and more ambitious R&I Work Programme in 2027.

Importantly, the next 18 months will be pivotal for the global standardisation of 6G, as international bodies such as ITU and 3GPP move from framework definitions into early technical specifications. The SNS JU, in collaboration with the 6G-IA and its partners, must play a central role in shaping European contributions and securing technological sovereignty and industrial leadership in this process.

Finally, discussions will soon begin on the next European Framework Programme for Research & Innovation ("FP10"). The SNS JU R&I WP 2026 therefore also serves as a strategic bridge to future R&I policy in advanced connectivity and digital infrastructures.

Within this context, the 2026 R&I Work Programme builds on these efforts by reinforcing three strategic pillars:

1. Consolidation and visibility of the SNS JU results.
2. Groundwork of future industrial capabilities (e.g. devices, FEM, AI, testbeds).
3. Global positioning and strategic partnerships (e.g. with India, standards bodies).

The SNS JU R&I WP 2026 is designed to support (i) the completion of the SNS JU mandate, (ii) the early shaping of the "FP10" in advanced connectivity, and (iii) the strengthening of Europe's global 6G standing at a decisive moment in international standardisation. By building on the foundations laid in 2025, (particularly in device integration, AI, experimentation, vertical engagement, and international cooperation) the 2026 R&I Work Programme provides both continuity and strategic foresight.

Against the above background, the scope of the SNS JU R&I WP 2026 focusses on critical topics on 6G. It includes the following three streams:[14]

Stream B: it covers research for revolutionary and evolutionary technology advancements. In preparation for 6G and more specifically in the AI domain, the SNS JU R&I WP 2026 Stream B targets a Topic with high-level TRL leveraging also previous SNS programmatic results with the objective of delivering innovative solutions towards real-life networks in a short-term period. The target is to further explore the role of AI in network platforms, as a tool for 6G network optimisation and by ensuring the availability, curation and validation of high-quality real and synthetic data sets needed to train AI models in AI-native 6G systems. Development of data sets for AI solutions for 6G services and applications for verticals (AIaaS) are also included. Furthermore, a dedicated strategic Topic on the design, development and testing of a Front-End Module (FEM) is also included.

Stream C: it focuses on further development of experimental infrastructure(s), in support of the various phases of the SNS JU. Stream C developments in the SNS JU R&I WP 2026 have a particular focus on the availability of an evolvable experimental infrastructure to engage the 6G community to run experimentations, by continue offering of EU-wide technology experimentation platforms to innovators (SMEs, start-ups, Researchers etc.) that can test and incorporate candidate 6G technologies in an E2E way for their further validation.

Coordination & support actions (CSA): it targets an operational and output-optimisation CSA to facilitate the activities of the European SNS JU community and undertake various activities to maximise the impact of the SNS JU programme. Furthermore, the second CSA will support EU deep bilateral cooperation with India, towards identification of potential synergies and alignment of European and India's standardisation agendas. Lastly, the third CSA will continue the previous SNS

[14] Stream A of the Phase 1 SNS WP (2021-2022) is not supported in any of the subsequent SNS phases), being too late to further influence 5G Advanced and 6G standardisation.

developments on massive IoT and device integration, targeting a shared European roadmap and a strategy for a renewed European industrial capability around simplified, lower-cost 6G-enabled devices, and ultimately rebuild European industrial capabilities in this critical sector.

The updated SNS roadmap (Figure 1) illustrates the phases of the Streams.

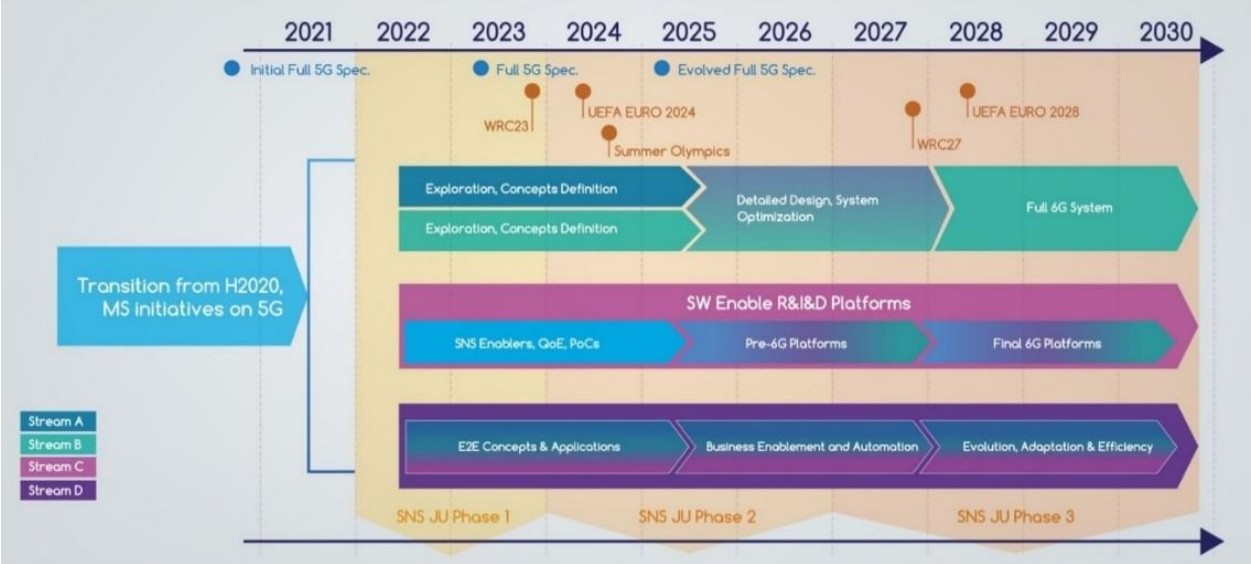

Figure 1: SNS Roadmap

Figure 2 presents how the outcome of each Stream is combined with other Streams activities and results during the following SNS Phases. Thus, it is envisioned that complementary results from the Streams may be re-used in subsequent Phases.

The arrows in Figure 2 illustrate how the outcomes of projects in Phase 1 are used in Phase 2, and then could be used from Phase 2 to Phase 3. More specifically,

- Stream C Experimental Infrastructure technologies are expected to serve as the basis for subsequent phase Stream D Vertical Pilot projects.
- 6G solutions and potential PoCs, developed in Streams A (only in WP2021-22) and B are expected to contribute to the Experimental Infrastructure projects (Stream C) and Vertical Pilot projects (Stream D) of subsequent SNS JU phases.
- Experimental Infrastructure projects (Stream C) and especially Vertical Pilot projects (Stream D) are expected to provide new requirements (e.g., KVIs, KPIs) to Stream B projects of latest SNS JU Work Programmes. The further development of Stream C projects is expected to follow a spiral evolutional approach, subject to the successful delivery of selected projects.
- The further development of Stream D projects is expected to follow a spiral evolutional approach, subject to the successful delivery of selected projects.

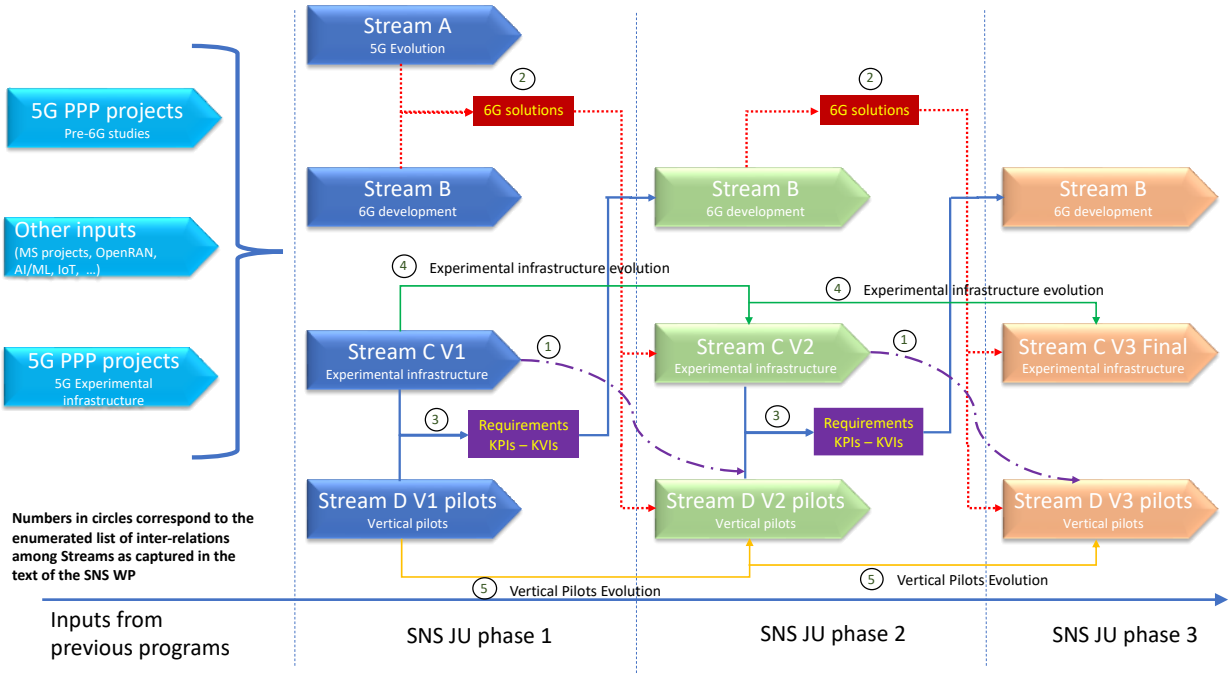

Figure 2: Interlinking of Streams into Phases

The R&I work of the Streams is expected to validate feasibility of a well-defined set of 6G KPIs emerging from the international agreements on 6G KPIs as available at the time of the start of the new projects, possibly complemented with ad-hoc KPIs not reflected in international settings like ITU, e.g., considered in the NetworldEurope SRIA KPIs, 6G KPIs produced by other projects, etc. In addition, definition and validation of KVIs will show how the SNS projects contribute to societal impact, to vertical sector applications and to the European industrial competitiveness. Applicants are invited to get familiar with the European background work on KPIs and KVIs[15].

By the time of the implementation of the SNS JU R&I WP 2026, multiple initiatives have already been launched and progressed in several Member States (MSs) or Associated Countries. These are expected to develop related operational and important results. Where applicable, applicants are encouraged to use results from such initiatives, to maximise the efficiency of public investments in Europe, which allow for synergies among different funding instruments and thus, create positive multiplier effects. Several actions are developed in SNS context to develop synergies with MSs 6G Programmes (see e.g. SNS JU SRG activities, SNS ICE and SNS CO-OP CSA projects and also 6G-IA signed MoUs).

It is also important to note that retained projects of the various Streams will have to cooperate in the SNS JU Programme for issues of common interests with arrangements set out in the written Collaboration Agreement in order to ensure a programmatic approach and achieve the SNS JU objectives.

HORIZON-JU-SNS-STREAM CSA, Coordination and Support Actions

HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026-STREAM-CSA-01: SNS Operations and Output optimisation

Specific Challenges and Objectives

This Coordination and Support Action (CSA) will support interaction and synergies between SNS projects, as well with other relevant stakeholders, building on results, tools and lessons from Phases 1 and 2, while linking with activities in Phase 3. This will notably include structured collaboration

[15] https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308596124000752

among projects, operation of thematic working groups and diffusion of knowledge. More specifically, it will organise the EuCNC & 6G Summit conferences in 2027 and 2028. All these activities will be carried out in close coordination with the SNS JU Office and SNS JU members (the Commission and the 6G-IA). The CSA should take into account and build as possible on publicly available outcomes of previous SNS CSA projects, in view to ensure continuity of community-support activities and avoid duplication of efforts.

Call: HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026 (see Appendix 1)	
Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The SNS JU estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 3 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 3 million.
Type of Action	Coordination and Support Action
Eligibility Conditions	Subject to restrictions on participation in accordance with Article 22(5) of the Horizon Europe Regulation (see General call conditions: section 3.B(i) of Appendix 1 to this R&I Work Programme). The participants directly subject to this eligibility condition are not only beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners but also subcontractors. Their participation is therefore subject to an ex-ante ownership control assessment by the EC and, if relevant, the EC acceptance of a guarantee approved by an eligible country.
Technology Readiness Level	Not applicable
Funding rate	100% no-for-profit organisations, 90% for profit organisations

Expected Outcome

The key expected outcomes are:

- Contribute to continuity across SNS JU Phases 1, 2 and 3, supporting the synergies and coherence of SNS R&I activities at programme level.
- Support structured collection and analysis of data from SNS JU projects, to assess progress against programme-level Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), including 6G KPIs and Key Value Indicators (KVIs).
- Promote awareness and visibility of the SNS JU programme and its results in Europe and globally, by preparing communication and dissemination material, including inputs for publications, including the organisation of the EuCNC & 6G Summit conferences (2027, 2028) as part of its dissemination and community-building activities.
- Support the SNS JU Office and the SNS JU members in facilitating engagement with national, European and international stakeholders, including vertical sectors, in alignment with SNS JU and EU policy priorities.
- Support the activities of the SNS JU Policy WG on standardisation, identify standardisation opportunities linked to project outcomes and facilitate stakeholders contributing to international

standards bodies (3GPP, ITU, IEEE, etc.). Support visibility of European technical contributions, in coordination with SNS JU members (the Commission and the 6G-IA).

Scope

The project should contribute to the effective implementation of the SNS JU Programme, in close coordination with the SNS JU Office and SNS JU members (the Commission and the 6G-IA), following the research priorities of NetworldEurope SRIA and providing input to the SNS JU SRIA, around three core objectives: supporting programme delivery, animating the SNS community, and ensuring that results are exploited and translated into impact through dissemination and standardisation. In this context, the project will support the SNS JU in the following activities:

- Facilitate community-level collaboration across Phases 1, 2 and 3, thereby contributing to the coherence of R&I activities at programme level, taking into consideration dissemination tools developed during Phases 1 and 2. This includes facilitating coordination and exchanges across the SNS JU project community, and supporting activities foreseen in the cross-project collaboration agreement.
- Facilitate the operation of working groups of the SNS JU interest, especially on topics of common interest, providing support for knowledge exchange. This will include support to flexible cooperation between projects, and reaching out to SMEs.
- Monitor outcomes against SNS JU Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) plus the 6G KPIs and Key Value Indicators (KVIs) mapping to the 6G indicators of the other global regions, contributing to programme-level evaluation and impact assessment.
- Support the SNS JU in fostering international cooperation, promoting alignment and supporting cooperation with national authorities, vertical sectors, and relevant European bodies and initiatives.
- Further develop and update the Europe-wide cartography of relevant initiatives and identify interlinkages with national and EU-level programmes.
- Communicate and promote results across technical, industrial, and policy communities, in alignment with the SNS JU Communication policy and priorities.
- Support the organisation of EuCNC & 6G Summit (EuCNC & 6G Summit) conferences 2027 and 2028.
- Support the translation of research outputs into standardisation activities. Identify SNS JU related European policy priorities and technical developments from European players that should be reflected in global standards, thereby reinforcing Europe’s influence in shaping the future 6G landscape.

Overall, this CSA will support the SNS JU to operate as an integrated, impactful, and globally visible programme, so that investments in 6G research and innovation deliver long-term strategic value for Europe.

NB: Considering the expected outcomes and the scope of this CSA, a project duration of 2 years is expected.

HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026-STREAM-CSA-02: 6G Devices

Specific challenges and objectives

The smartphone industry has developed significantly, serving today about 5 billion users worldwide, with a yearly market of about 1 billion units globally sold, though with limited EU industrial presence in this domain, in spite of some technological supply capabilities. There are also device market opportunities, beyond smartphones as 5G and 6G, designed to serve a wider set of user equipment devices than high end smartphones only. As the digital society becomes more and more interconnected, it covers various use cases such as automotive, industry, health, and public safety. Connectivity extends to a plethora of objects, inter alia drones, robots, cranes, cars, medical devices, representing a huge device market potential, worth tens of billions globally.

Each use-case has its own set of requirements which, compared to regular 5G NR devices, may be less demanding in terms of data rates and latency, yet more stringent when it comes to device cost/complexity and power consumption. This has prompted 3GPP to develop a standard for this multiplicity of usages, known as RedCap (Reduced capabilities compared to 5G NR), also known as "NR Light". The standard is designed for reduced requirements, for instance for latency (100 to 500 ms, Data rates (150 Mb/s DL, 50 Mb/s UL), battery life (2 years typical), spectrum use (20 MHz blocks). In that context, the simplest implementation is expected to reduce modem complexity by a factor of 65% at FR1 range and 50% at FR2 range, whilst maintaining compatibility with a huge set of IoT use cases. This may represent an opportunity for the EU industrial ecosystem. Against this background, the challenge is to define a European roadmap towards 6G ready devices together with a companion implementation strategy, widely shared by the sector actors and essential application verticals, with the objective of stimulating a European industrial supply side in particular for a "long tail" of devices serving a multiplicity of application domains.

Such a new generation of devices should be based on microelectronics components that may still be adapted to address a "long tail" market composed of a multiplicity of IoT use cases rather than the bulk smartphone market used for apps and Internet access. The expected evolution in 6G will provide an opportunity to both support 5G-NR uptake, and to favourably position Europe for the 6G devices opportunities.

Call: HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026 (see Appendix 1)	
Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The SNS JU estimates that an EU contribution of EUR 2 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 2 million.
Type of Action	Coordination and Support Action
Eligibility conditions	Subject to restrictions on participation in accordance with Article 22(5) of the Horizon Europe Regulation (see General call conditions: section 3.B(i) of Appendix 1 to this R&I Work Programme). The participants directly subject to this eligibility condition are not only beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners but also subcontractors. Their participation is therefore subject to an ex-ante

	ownership control assessment by the EC and, if relevant, the EC acceptance of a guarantee approved by an eligible country.
Technology Readiness Level	Not Applicable
Funding rate	100% non-for-profit organisations, 90% for profit organisations

Expected Outcome

The primary outcome of this work is a widely endorsed European roadmap outlining options based on device complexity, target markets, and connectivity capabilities, accompanied by a strategy to revitalize European industrial capabilities in 5G/6G devices, which:

- Address in priority part of the end device market, notably that related to vertical specific use-cases with the objective of generating huge downstream production volumes, beyond the sole infrastructure segment.
- Support the telecom industry, through evidence-based recommendations and requirements, towards the provision of end-to-end capabilities serving key vertical markets with comprehensive EU offers across the value chain.
- Support to the SNS JU and the EC to define and implement measures aiming at strengthening the position of Europe's industry in the global 6G devices value chain.
- Support the microelectronics industry through evidence-based recommendations and requirements on how to achieve the volumes it needs from an economic perspective.
- Support the emergence of a complete European device-network ecosystem fuelling the deployment of 5G SA solutions towards 6G, as examples like 5G Redcap come with SA connectivity requirements.
- Identify key and priority vertical use cases which could be early adopters of such device capabilities, in particular looking into novel 6G potential markets. These use-cases will have to be characterized in terms of key device requirements (storage, processing, connectivity, intelligence).
- Federate European relevant actors around a device initiative that could be implemented during the next R&I framework programme in the context of the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) of the European Union (EU).
- Identify the main/critical issues and milestones for success such as technology, experimental facilities, open technology test platforms, integration in vertical business models as a function of the target device, connectivity options and use cases requirements.
- Structure the ecosystem of main players, telecom, microelectronics, key use cases/verticals, public actors.
- Assess the readiness of the European technological supply side and analyse its strengths and weaknesses.
- Identify links with key national initiatives and propose areas for cooperation.
- Identify potential links with the Chips JU and programmatic elements that may be relevant to address in the Chips JU context.

Scope

The scope covers:

- A structured dialogue between the main actors of the European telecom and microelectronics industries, duly complemented with representative verticals as well as institutional players (e.g. for security of public service type of applications) defining the requirements for lower complexity "RedCap" like devices, and its potential evolutions in the context of the technology development towards 6G.
- Identification of the key/priority use-cases and the associated industries that may be used as lead market for early adoption and take up, including core requirements to be served in terms of storage, computing, intelligence, connectivity.
- Analysis of opportunities and threats for the EU's technological basis, technological competitiveness, and access to leading-edge technology vis-à-vis international competition in the area of 6G devices.
- Identification of key technologies (notably in the microelectronics domain) to develop simplified classes of devices, their mapping with European industrial capabilities the identification of potential gaps in the supply chain, and proposals to "close the gaps", either from a pure European perspective or with strategic partnerships worldwide. Identification of potential linkages with the Chips JU and the tools developed like the pilot lines is particularly relevant.
- Identification of key technologies and industrial know how requirements, to be mapped with EU capabilities covering 3 basic scenarios: i) TN only devices, with capabilities corresponding with startegic verticals; ii) TN and NTN compatible devices, with integrated electronics making interoperability possible between the two connectivity environments. Integration of WiFi may also be considered as appropriate (indoor scenarios); iii) high end smartphone like devices, to be considered as benchmark scenarios to map technological and industrial capabilities and identify EU gaps.
- Definition of an option dependent roadmap (see previous bullet point) for the exploratory development of such devices covering the core technologies, the experimental facilities, and the use-cases for early deployment scenarios of novel advanced systems. The chosen model for device should preferably be based on open technologies like RISC V where applicable.
- Within the key technologies contributing to the realization of such devices, the role of AI at edge is particularly relevant. The work should hence cover edge distributed AI, functionalities implemented in the device or in the edge, type of model to be used and related complexity.
- Identification of technological approaches enabling eco-friendly device design from a construction/deconstruction perspective.
- Definition of the software development ecosystem needed to support the use of these devices in various applications domains (e.g. applications for professional use or entertainment).
- Identification of relevant national initiatives and the development of a cooperation strategy to leverage national efforts at EU level.

Altogether, the scope of the CSA should cover the full definition of a European industrial programme to relaunch a device capability in Europe, which may be implemented either at EU level or/and at national level.

<u>NB</u>: Considering the timing constraints to follow up with a potential European device initiative under the next MFF, a project duration of up to 2 years is expected.

HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026-STREAM-CSA-03: EU-India International Collaboration

Specific challenges and objectives

Both the EU and the India address the challenges of 6G advanced research focusing on technologies such as wireless, optic, services, platforms, capitalizing on existing testbeds and projects, to reach further connectivity frontiers. India has released a national 6G vision[16] which defines an extensive industrial policy and associated technologies. This SNS JU International Cooperation activity targets a closer collaboration with India, including Indian SDO (e.g. TSDSI), Indian Government institutions and Indian stakeholders (including Bharat 6G). It builds on the interactions developed between EU stakeholders and the key associations and stakeholders in India. The goal of this CSA is to establish in-depth working relationships to assess further industrial cooperation opportunities and divergences to be taken into account from an EU perspective. This includes guiding the SNS JU and the EC on research collaborations and policy measures while providing factual insights into emerging technologies and supply chains in 6G.

Call: HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026 (see Appendix 1)	
Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The SNS JU estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 1.0 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 1.0 million.
Type of Action	Coordination and Support Action
Eligibility conditions	Subject to restrictions on participation in accordance with Article 22(5) of the Horizon Europe Regulation (see General call conditions: section 3.B(i) of Appendix 1 to this R&I Work Programme). The participants directly subject to this eligibility condition are not only beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners but also subcontractors. Their participation is therefore subject to an ex-ante ownership control assessment by the EC and, if relevant, the EC acceptance of a guarantee approved by an eligible country.
Technology Readiness Level	Not Applicable
Funding rate	100% non-for-profit organizations, 90% for profit organizations

Expected Outcome

- In depth analysis of the 6G Indian vision, including Indian SDO (e.g. TSDSI), Indian Government institutions and Indian stakeholders (including Bharat 6G), with commonalities and differences between the European and Indian perspectives, including downstream industrial opportunities and risks. A comprehensive priority list supported by factual elements (e.g. mapping supply chains in

[16] https://bharat6galliance.com/bharat6G/Home/content/Bharat-6G-Mission-Task-Force-Reports/Bharat-6G-Mission-Task-Force-Reports

both the EU and India, analyses of state-of the-art technologies, economic, policy and legal landscape etc.) for cooperation opportunities is expected.

- A comprehensive analysis of the industrial ecosystems in India and EU in relation to 6G, including supply chain cooperation opportunities.
- Support to the SNS JU, EC and 6G-IA to define and implement measures aiming at strengthening the position of Europe's industry in the Indian 6G value chain.
- A detailed analysis of specific requirements on 6G in India and the EU and the potential impact on 6G specifications.
- Support future cooperation opportunities on 6G Vision, including relevant enabling technologies, platforms and testbeds for experimental research. Cooperation opportunities on societal and economic aspects of 6G should also be supported.
- Identification of commonalities, differences, and lessons learnt from the realization of trials and pilots in EU and India and proposals for future cooperation in 6G trials & pilots.
- Identification of potential synergies, areas of common research interests, and complementarities towards 6G systems design.
- Identification of common approaches towards the sustainability of 6G networks.
- Engaging with vertical industries to shape and promote 6G use-cases and business cases of common interest.
- Bridging EU and Indian 6G research communities (including Bharat 6G) and support the SNS JU in implementing actions related to research cooperation.
- Alignment of views on future exploitation in international standardisation as well as contributions to standardisation bodies and fora, supporting global views on open standards and interoperability, with particular focus on developments in ITU-T, ITU-R, 3GPP and other related standardization organizations.
- Factual elements (e.g. mapping supply chains in both regions, analyses of state-of the-art and emerging technologies in 6G) that help the SNS JU in assessing potential areas of cooperation.

Scope

The goal of this CSA is to facilitate structured cooperation and exchanges between EU and Indian stakeholders in the field of advanced connectivity research. The scope covers the following topics:

- Analytical assessment of the industrial policies and approaches in India and the EU in the 6G context, including opportunities and risks.
- Comprehensive analysis of the industrial ecosystems in both regions focusing on 6G-related requirements, complementarities, and long-term areas where cooperation can support future research or address technological dependencies (e.g. supply-chain considerations).
- Identification of priority domains of 6G technological cooperation that can be in the short term stimulated by cooperative R&D and would result in tangible benefits for Europe.
- Joint exploratory EU-India work on 6G Vision, its relevant technologies, platform or testbeds for experimental research and societal and economic aspects of 6G.
- Preparation of research-oriented roadmaps for possible future collaborations (such as in the development of tools for experimentation, open-source software tools and repositories, prototyping and evaluation, tools for probing and data analytics, emulation, management and technology trials and pilots), workshops and scientific exchanges.

- Applicants are invited to describe how the EU-India cooperation will be organised within the project and the approach they will use to engage with Indian stakeholders. The selected project is expected to interact with relevant Indian organisations, including standardisation bodies (e.g. TSDSI), Indian institutions and other Indian stakeholders (including Bharat 6G). Proposals should include description of specific cooperation activities to be carried out such as exchange of information and results, sharing of data, sharing of methodologies, researcher exchanges and visits, joint workshops, joint testbeds etc. A strong and demonstrated innovation and industrial understanding of the 6G ecosystem of India is expected.

HORIZON-JU-SNS-Stream B - Research for revolutionary and evolutionary 6G Technology and systems

HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026-STREAM-B-01: Collection, Generation and Validation of Datasets suitable for training AI Models for 6G Networks and for AIaaS

Specific challenges and objectives

The development of AI models for 6G networks requires access to high-quality, representative datasets that capture the complexity and diversity of next-generation communication environments. Such datasets are essential not only for enabling intelligent network automation, optimisation, and resilience, but also for empowering networks to provide AI-as-a-Service (AIaaS) to vertical industries and applications. By leveraging these datasets, 6G networks can support advanced use-cases such as immersive communications, autonomous systems, and mission-critical services, where robust and trustworthy AI models are a prerequisite for performance and reliability.

To achieve this, strong industrial participation is indispensable. The datasets must be validated and enriched by stakeholders with proven experience in operating real networks and delivering services across different vertical domains. Involving key players from telecommunications operators, technology providers, and vertical industries ensures that the data reflects real-world conditions, operational constraints, and application-specific requirements. This collaboration not only enhances the credibility and usability of the datasets but also accelerates the adoption of AI-driven solutions in practical deployments, aligning research outputs with the needs of industry and society.

Call: HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026 (see Appendix 1)	
Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The SNS JU estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 8 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 8 million.
Type of Action	Innovation Action

Eligibility conditions	Subject to restrictions on participation in accordance with Article 22(5) of the Horizon Europe Regulation (see General call conditions: section 3.B(i) of Appendix 1 to this R&I Work Programme). The participants directly subject to this eligibility condition are not only beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners but also subcontractors. Their participation is therefore subject to an ex-ante ownership control assessment by the EC and, if relevant, the EC acceptance of a guarantee approved by an eligible country. Subject to additional conditions (see General call conditions: section 3.B(iii) of Appendix 1 to this R&I Work Programme, including the conditions set out in Table App 5); This topic constitutes a duly justified case under Recital 21 and Article 5.2.(a) of the Council regulation (EU) 2021/2085.
Technology Readiness Level	Activities are expected to reach TRL 7 by the end of the project. For specific project outcomes (e.g. production of data sets for very advanced 6G features) TRL-5 and TRL-6 is also acceptable by the end of the project
Funding rate	100% non-for-profit organizations, 70% for profit organizations

Expected Outcome

The target outcomes include:

- A curated collection of high-quality real-world datasets, that have enough quality to train AI models that can run in operations, capturing realistic deployment scenarios—including user density, mobility patterns, network conditions, and realistic data traffic patterns from various applications, including vertical applications (non-exhaustive list). The collection could be obtained by any means or tools indicatively including but not limited to operational networks (real data) and/or network digital twins or advanced (high TRL) experimental platforms (emulators) or trials, gen AI (augmenting field measurements), and be significant in scale and broad representativeness (in terms of technologies, use-cases and verticals) designed to ensure scalability, providing a robust foundation for the training and validation of AI models for 6G networks and for AIaaS.
- An open-source simulator to create synthetic data sets (correlated between different network layers, and across different network points) of high quality capturing realistic deployment scenarios—including user density, mobility patterns, network conditions, anomalies and network attacks and realistic data traffic patterns from various applications, including vertical applications, etc.
- A modular framework and related methodology for generating and processing (e.g., cleaning, preprocessing) high quality realistic synthetic datasets to train AI models usable by 6G systems.
- A data space of appropriate scale to manage the datasets foreseen in the first expected outcome, covering the full data lifecycle for managing datasets, produced by SNS JU projects, for different reference use-cases at different scales. The data space should follow a framework that supports data/metadata sharing and governance within the SNS JU ecosystem, facilitating collaboration and interoperability, ensuring data sovereignty, privacy, security and compliance with EU regulations. Existing solutions for managing SNS produced data sets including repositories should be considered to avoid duplication with existing initiatives.
- A framework to audit any synthetic data sets that the project will create so as to ensure the validity/credibility of produced datasets.
- Activities that will encourage widespread use of the dataset (e.g., the integration with CAMARA / Network APIs / agents as a means to expose / enrich / monetise datasets, or the design of new

control plane functions) and the overall framework by the SNS community, other EC initiatives and eventually by standardization bodies.

The produced datasets are targeted to be used by the SNS community to train AI models that will improve the performance of 6G networks or serve to develop AI solutions for 6G services and applications (AIaaS) for SNS JU verticals.

Scope

The focus is on:

- Collecting, and making available in an operationally effective way, high-quality real-world datasets from advanced (e.g., 5G Advanced, 6G) operational networks (real data) or network digital twins and/or advanced (high TRL), gen AI tools, experimental platforms (emulators) or trials, capturing realistic deployment scenarios—including user density, mobility patterns, network conditions, and realistic data traffic patterns from various applications, including verticals. Proponents should not consider datasets that have limitations in terms of, for example, coverage, capacity, number of devices, or where data and metadata do not have enough quality to train AI models. The datasets should originate from actors that have significant experience from operational networks and network components as well as service providers (including verticals), so that there is strong level of confidence that the datasets are useful for training AI models to be used by 6G networks. For the real-world datasets from advanced (e.g., beyond 5G, 6G) operational networks and/or advanced (high TRL) experimental platforms or trials and datasets produced by SNS JU projects this project should ensure the provision the presence of Metadata definition (to have a common descriptor for the data), methods to verify that the data is valuable for the training of realistic AI models, and ensure data reusability.
- Development of full protocol stack, end-to-end implementations enabling high-fidelity, system-level simulations of 6G networks building upon and enhancing existing open-source simulators for producing correlated reference datasets at different network layers, and across different network points. These simulations will span from the physical layer to the application layer and will include:
  - Support for multi-radio access technologies, including e.g., cellular, Wi-Fi, and non-terrestrial systems.
  - Disaggregated RAN architectures, enabling flexible and scalable deployment models.
  - Multi-band operation with accurate propagation and channel modelling across various frequency ranges (e.g., FR3, mmWave, cmWave, sub-THz), incorporating ray tracing-based channel models for enhanced realism.
  - Realistic traffic patterns that reflect anticipated data flows in future network scenarios.
  - Anomalies and network attacks that can be eventually used to test the resilience of AI solutions in 6G networks
- Design of an open-source framework and toolset for generating high quality realistic synthetic data, tailored to diverse environmental scenarios (e.g., urban, suburban, rural, indoor, industrial), user densities, security threats, mobility patterns, and node behaviour - including memory, CPU, storage, and energy consumption - as well as traffic profiles from a variety of vertical applications. These datasets should be produced following existing calibration directives from standardization bodies (e.g., 3GPP) and expected traffic patterns from European and international organizations (e.g., 5GAA, 5G-ACIA, etc.). The datasets should be validated from proponents that have significant experience from operational networks and network components as well as service providers (including verticals), so that there is strong level of confidence that the datasets are useful for training AI models to be used by 6G networks and for AIaaS. Optionally the tool may consider the use of reliable LLM solutions to enable a user-friendly interface for users and/or to calibrate the simulator and/or create the desired datasets.

- Creation of large-scale, open-source high quality synthetic datasets, following well established reference use-cases, containing measurements, channel and network indicators, and performance metrics across multiple protocol layers (RF, physical, MAC, network, transport, and application). These datasets will cover a broad range of network scenarios, architectures, technologies, and system configurations related to smart networks and services.
- Validation, quality assessment of the existing SNS JU project datasets, verifying the data's accuracy, consistency, and completeness ensuring their alignment with the specific use case and performance requirements of the 6G network.
- For the real-world datasets from advanced (e.g., 5G Advanced, 6G) operational networks and/or advanced (high TRL) experimental platforms or trials and datasets produced by SNS JU project, this project should ensure the provision the presence of: Metadata definition (to have a common descriptor for the data), methods to verify that the data is valuable for the training of realistic AI models and ensure data reusability.
- Engagement with standardization bodies and relevant open-source communities to promote the adoption of the framework, the associated simulation tools, and open datasets enabling industry-wide collaboration on shared software platforms and data resource.
- Creation of tutorials and implementation of dissemination activities to encourage widespread use of the framework, its synthetic datasets, and the underlying simulation tools including the development of APIs, new intelligence control plane function, etc.

This Topic expects proposals with strong industrial participation with demonstrated AI and operational expertise to ensure credibility, usability, and engagement with standardisation bodies. Academic institutions and RTOs will complement consortia where their expertise adds clear value.

HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026-FEM-STREAM-B-02: Microelectronic – Front-End Module (FEM)

Front End Module (FEM) represents a key building block of an advanced 6G radio system and drives the overall competitiveness and market readiness of future 6G commercial systems. It is therefore imperative that the European 6G supply ecosystem masters this technology and the various microelectronics building blocks needed for its realisation. The strategic dimension of 6G FEM was confirmed during several stakeholder workshops, notably in 2023 and 2025[17], which also led Chips JU to launch a dedicated FEM-focused action under its Work Programme 2026[18]. Because of the very large investments required to develop an advanced 6G FEM that includes all the flexibility requirements in terms of spectrum coverage, energy consumption, and multiplicity of use cases whilst being implemented with heterogeneous technologies featuring a very high level of integration at low cost, the topic is covered by several interrelated calls with the objective of realising a critical mass investment in a key domain to secure European leadership in the radio communication domain. This SNS phase is expected to cover the FEM system design, technological trade-offs and validation through a limited set of use cases and PoC's for selected critical building blocks. It complements the Chips JU calls that address the key constituent technologies of the FEM, their integration and packaging and transfer to relevant Pilot Lines of the Chips JU, whilst eventual OTA full implementation and testing in a quasi-operational environment is targeted as a final phase of this FEM multi-year workplan[19]. The outcome of these investments is expected to lead to industrial exploitation of the investigated technologies by European companies and in that respect, have a clear link for exploitation in the context of the Chips JU Pilot lines.

[17] https://6g-ia.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/elec-6g-ia-workshop-2-report-final-website-clean.pdf and 6g-ia-position-paper_microelectronics-final.pdf

[18] GB_2025.125_Appendix7_2026_ECSv2.pdf

[19] This final phase is currently under consideration as a possible topic for the last SNS call under Horizon Europe.

Specific challenges and objectives

Whilst the development of 5G has focused on frequency ranges below 6Ghz (FR1) and on the so called “mmwave” bands (FR2) between 24,25 GHz and 52,6 GHz, the industry priority in the 6G context is focused on the “FR3” band, which mainly covers the 7 to 15 GHz range with possible extensions in some regions. This band is expected to offer versatile capabilities to serve a multiplicity of use cases and scenarios, such as cellular coverage (currently under FR1 in 5G), FWA (currently under FR2 in 5G), opening prospects for totally new use cases like ISAC[20]. Notably, the recent European Commission’s Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG) recommendation to give priority to mobile networks for the usage of the upper 6 GHz band (6.425–7.125 GHz), creates a new priority for R&D activities, as these frequencies are adjacent to the lower part of FR3. For Europe, establishing a global leadership in the domain is of paramount importance, as operations in these bands will drive a complete connectivity ecosystem

However, the realisation of a commercially viable FEM at the FR3 frequency range requires addressing multiple challenges and notably:

i) **Spectrum and frequency issues:** the FR3 range is heavily regulated in Europe and is subject to primary use by other incumbent services, such as FSS or military services. Operating mobile or fixed radio services within this range may hence be constrained to the lower part of the band unless powerful interference mitigation techniques are developed, in line with the spectrum-sharing approach favoured by European regulatory bodies like the RSPG and the CEPT. In addition, the exact FR3 operational range acceptable by regulators may be region-dependent[21]. In that context, the challenge is to design a low-cost FR3 module that offers the widest possible spectrum-sharing capabilities while being versatile enough to cover, without significant adaptation, the actual FR3 range that may vary across ITU regions to address a global market.

ii) **Technological issues:** FR3 FEM implementation requires addressing a multiplicity of technological challenges, as it should enable extreme massive MIMO antenna array systems (AAS) in a compact form factor. The number of antenna elements expected to be integrated at the same size as the current 3.5 GHz massive MIMO AAS used in current 5G networks may go beyond 1000 antenna elements as needed to boost the antenna gain and to compensate for increased path loss enabling the reuse of existing 5G cell sites. Such a huge increase in antenna elements requires critical disruptions of the chipsets that constitute the front-end radio, as the RF processing capability requires a dramatic increase compared to actual commercial implementations in lower bands, whilst the complexity of the processing for enhanced capacity should also increase significantly. These drive new requirements towards advanced chipset building blocks covering a multiplicity of functions including base band and data conversion (including RF DAC and RF ADC), beam forming ICs, analog front-end ICs (Mixers/PA/LNA/TRX-Switch), and require integration in a SiP with multiple integrated technologies calling for advanced packaging requirements whilst guaranteeing low cost, low energy consumption.

iii) **Use case issues:** In addition, the front-end IC should also be designed to support 6G use cases, such as sensing and various full-duplex modes, with specifications that may differ significantly from the traditional cellular broadband TDD mode operation. FR3-specific challenges require to simultaneously address communication, sensing, and full duplex requirements covering in particular: i) low cost/low energy implementation of Sub-Band Full Duplex (SBFD), together with Integrated Sensing and Communication (ISAC) transceiver, This calls for a highly reconfigurable front-end solution with in band cancelling techniques for SBFD mixed with ICAS, requiring integration of heterogeneous technologies, very wideband transceivers (>5GHz at Baseband) with combined use of the same waveform (e.g. OFDM for the two applications) imposing different requirements on the underlying transceivers and hence extra complexity; ii) support for wideband digitization, fast and accurate channel-select filtering, and hybrid beamforming (HBF) for TDD systems. Early applications of AI/ML generating massive traffic (XR, smart glasses)

[20] ISAC : Integrated Communication and Sensing

[21] In the sense of ITU regions: Region 2, Americas; Region 1, Europe, EMEA; Region 3, Asia.

between device and edge have also demonstrated a significant increase in uplink capacity needs, with also “signalling storms” experienced for some applications and high risks of network congestion. This in turn calls for a reappraisal of uplink vs downlink capacity, which requires innovative approaches towards uplink spectrum and bandwidth.

iv) **Industrial issues**: the challenge is to stimulate European know-how in microelectronics components and systems for communication technologies in line with the broader objectives of the Chips Act. Today, European capabilities in microelectronics for telecoms are limited, and European suppliers’ market share is low. Considering the strategic nature of telecom infrastructures, it is highly desirable to develop strong European capabilities in this domain. FEM design is based on multiple IC technologies and their integration, where the European industry has different capabilities and know-how. The challenges are to leverage European know-how and capabilities across a number of domains (e.g., analogue technologies, RF) to stimulate the development of related knowledge in other domains, such as digital technologies or packaging, as typical examples. In addition, the recent operational launch of Chips JU Pilot Lines like FAMES (January 2026) and NanoIC (February 2026), to be followed by the broader deployment of 5 Pilot Lines (notably on packaging), are making possible open access for near-industrial validation of semiconductor technologies for European suppliers and offer an opportunity to progress on sovereignty in the domain of microelectronics for telecom applications.

The objective of the call is consequently to address the design of a low cost and energy efficient FR3 FEM for 6G that addresses the above technological, operational and use case challenges whilst paving the way towards the creation of a European ecosystem in the field of microelectronics for telecom capable of consolidating the European supply side for advanced radio systems and clearly contributing to increase the European sovereignty in this domain.

Call: HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026-FEM (see Appendix 1)	
Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The SNS JU estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 14 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 14 million.
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Action
Eligibility conditions	Subject to restrictions on participation in accordance with Article 22(5) of the Horizon Europe Regulation (see General call conditions: section 3.B(i) of Appendix 1 to this R&I Work Programme). The participants directly subject to this eligibility condition are not only beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners but also subcontractors. Their participation is therefore subject to an ex-ante ownership control assessment by the EC and, if relevant, the EC acceptance of a guarantee approved by an eligible country. Subject to additional conditions (see General call conditions: section 3.B(iii) of Appendix 1 to this R&I Work Programme, including the conditions set out in Table App 5); This topic constitutes a duly justified case under Recital 21 and Article 5.2.(a) of the Council regulation (EU) 2021/2085.

Technology Readiness Level	Activities are expected to achieve TRL up to 5 by the end of the project
Funding rate	100% non-for-profit organizations, 90% for profit organizations

Expected Outcome

The targeted outcomes reflect the above challenges and cover a comprehensive Front End module design which:

- Covers the FR3 range as defined by the relevant Agenda Item of WRC 27 (7 to 15 GHz range) with possible extension up to 24 GHz if required by some regional implementations, with inherent tuning capabilities to accommodate potential regional variations.
- Mitigates interferences with incumbent FR3 band users and maximises sharing capabilities across the band in line with the European regulatory approach on spectrum sharing.
- Enables integration of a large number of antenna elements beyond the State of the Art and support massive MIMO implementation with compensation of increased path loss compared to 5G FR1 implementations.
- Enables at least an order-of-magnitude increase in RF processing compared to 5G FR1 implementations.
- Enables 5G cell site reuse and minimises deployment complexity on top of 5G sites deployment.
- Enables low-cost and low energy implementation of the elementary constituent modules, efficient packaging and is mainly based on the integration of microelectronics heterogeneous technologies where European industry has strong expertise and know-how.
- Addresses new 6G requirements for greater uplink capacity as required by new classes of traffic/use cases.
- Enables concurrent and efficient implementation of Sub Band Full Duplex (SBFD) and Integrated Sensing and Communications (ISAC), whilst minimising the waveform differences between the communication and the sensing function, with maximisation of common functional blocks as appropriate.
- Addresses ITU requirements for IMT 2030 especially for what concerns increased carrier rate, user rate and latency.
- Enables support of both cellular (FR1-like) and FWA (FR2-like) use case scenarios.
- It is based on a strong and lasting cooperation between European lead suppliers of telecom systems and technologies and lead suppliers of European microelectronics systems and technologies, in view of stimulating a telecom components ecosystem in Europe and to clearly increase European sovereignty in the domain.
- Is supported by advanced higher TRL design tools, e.g. EDA, PDK.
- Establishes a clear pathway towards downstream industrialisation in Europe and use of the relevant pilot lines from the Chips JU as a function of the eventual technology selection for implementation (to be covered in the Chips JU call)
- Contribute to the Apply AI Strategy policy of the Union

Scope

The scope of this topic focuses on the following areas:

- A FEM design that covers the FR3 frequency range, also taking into account the upper part of the 6Ghz band, potentially usable for Mobile Services (6.425- 7.125 GHz). This does not preclude addressing higher sub-bands of the FR3 spectrum to cater for regional regulatory variations and to include ISAC capabilities. The design includes the characterisation and specification of the FEM constituent elements, such as the power amplifiers, LNB, filters, multiplexers/multipliers, ADC and DAC stages, beamformers, and antenna arrays. It also covers the specification of the digital functionalities to be implemented in the FEM, such as DPD, beam steering, channel selection and adaptation as typical examples. This detailed specification part is expected to be subject to tight links with the project selected under the Chips JU Work Programme 2026, as the two projects should complement each other.

- The design of a complete FEM, including a Digital Front End, a Radio Front End, antenna elements with the needed conversion stages and capable of handling at least 200 MHz channels and compatible with 400 MHz channels. It enables high-throughput/capacity fronthaul with performance capabilities close to those defined by the ITU 2030 Framework (ITU-R Recommendation M.2160-0) for peak data rates, user data rates and spectrum efficiency whilst enabling 50% energy savings of the transmission for a comparable bit rate conveyed by a 5G system.

- The FEM design should cater for innovative approaches for uplink spectrum management with more balanced downlink/uplink capacity compared to 5G, and addressing uplink requirements originating from new classes of AI/ML-generated traffic.

- The FEM design should take into account the operational requirements of use cases that would most appropriately benefit from FR3 operations in the wireless domain, for both cellular use cases and FWA use cases, and the comparison of their performance against implementations used at FR1 or FR2 spectrum ranges, respectively. It includes capabilities to realise Sub Band Full Duplex Operations at least at the level specified under 3GPP release 19 for 5G advanced and also in support of ISAC operations. This requires addressing the needed self-interference cancellation functions over a wide spectrum block. It also covers Integrated Communication and Sensing application and includes secure ICAS-specific functions at the digital or RF level. It covers the implementation aspects of a combined Rx/Tx chain for JCAS with high node integration and maximisation of functional blocks between the communication and sensing Tx/Rx chains.

- For the considered FR3 sub-bands that the FEM is designed to cover, spectrum sharing capabilities with incumbent services is addressed by design in view of maximising sharing opportunities and is reflected in the FEM design. Satellite and military applications are particularly relevant in that context. It also covers adaptation and tuning capabilities such that the FEM design and implementation remain compatible with specific regional implementations of the relevant FR3 range. Sharing validation through demonstration is in scope.

- Analysis and trade off of the best technologies and their mix, taking into account the characteristics of various microelectronics technologies namely, i) computing (e.g. CMOS, FDSOI); ii) RF (e.g. RF CMOS, RF SOI, FD-SOI, GaN-on-SiC, GaN-on-Si, InP, InP on Si, SiGeBiCMOS, SiGebipolar); iii) power generation technologies (e.g. GaN-on-SiC, GaN-on-Si, BCD, LDMOS). Depending on the antenna fan-out and needed output power level, a combination of CMOS technology and GaN/Si may be envisaged, though other technologies might also be contemplated with cost-performance trade-off driving the eventual FEM SoC. This analysis should also critically take into account i) the capabilities of European industry to industrialise the resulting FEM module; ii) the opportunity to use the Chips JU pilot lines for downstream integration and pre-industrialisation; iii) the packaging constraints and feasibility when assembling multiple heterogeneous technologies. The selected constituent technologies of the FEM should demonstrate smart integration feasibility of a multiplicity of heterogeneous technologies and modules with low loss characteristics at RF, digital, power levels and related packaging, leveraging Chip JU developments, as appropriate. Particular attention is needed for ultra-high transmit power/system core technologies needed to develop high power/ high gain/low noise transceivers and their coupling with CMOS/digital technology, and enabling

SoC implementation. Optical technologies may be in scope if compatible with an efficient FEM design and implementation, and further transfer towards Chip JU Pilot lines. This work is expected to deliver a comparative assessment of various technologies as possible contenders to implement and industrialise a FEM. The final architecture/technology selection, including the selection of the relevant pilot lines is though expected to be delivered through the detailed design and implementation work addressed by the Chips JU call.

- AI/ML application is in scope, in view of contributing to network management efficiency and radio system performances in line with the Apply AI strategy[22]. As AI/ML technology allows generating new classes of traffic and hence new spectrum requirements towards spectrum management (see uplink considerations above), the FEM design has to reflect the requirements imposed by these new traffic types. Also, AI/ML is a potential enabler of important FEM functionalities management and control, such as: i) optimisation of channel behaviour prediction and analysis of Channel State Information (CSI) together with its implementation capability in the context of an industrialised FEM; ii) optimisation of spectrum usage prediction and interference mitigation; iii) optimisation of FEM functional performances and non-functional properties like energy consumption. This list is not exhaustive, and relevant functionalities will be considered as a function of a cost/performance/complexity trade off. If appropriate, the full integration of AI/ML functions into the FEM or its implementation outside of the FEM through the provision of a dedicated open interface (similar to the RIC interface in the ORAN model) is left to the industry as a function of their strategic roadmap, however, a justification must be provided. Therefore, the FEM design may also consider interaction with external AI-driven functions at network management level, in view of supporting emerging AI-based applications, without prescribing specific implementations.

- The activity will consider linkages with the FEM topic under the Chips JU WP26. The linkages will be explained in the proposal workplan, which will address the desired interfaces between this action at the system level and the expected Chips JU actions that will focus on specific design and technologies of the elementary FEM components and their larger scale integration. A particular attention will be paid to: i) an identification of a downstream high level of node integration for further transfer to Pilot Lines. A plan for development and for such transfer, as a function of the eventual technological choice and of the Pilot Line readiness, to the relevant Pilot Line(s) is in scope and will be coordinated with the Chips JU FEM actions; ii) the needed evolution of the design tools to support the downstream FEM development, like EDA, PDK. The design tools offered by the design platform of the Chips JU should preferably be considered, but this is not mandatory.

In summary, the work is expected to cover mainly the system aspects of a 6G FEM with some PoCs at TRL 4/5 for specific integrated and critical subsystems, whilst the Chips JU work targets the detailed design and the technology choices of the FEM constituents. This compounded work is expected to lead to industrialisation of FEM in later European 6G offers. The full integration at the chip level of a FEM prototype is not in scope for this call.

The work must consequently be backed with a very solid combination of European industrial leaders in the radio communication and microelectronic domains with demonstrated track record and capabilities to industrialise and market the solution in Europe and at a global level, and with adequate support from relevant academics and RTO's, notably for what concerns the linkages to the pilot lines. The work may also consider existing FEM initiatives in Member States, which should hence be compatible with wider industrial exposure in an EU collaborative environment.

The work should contribute to the sovereignty of the European supply chain in the domain of microelectronics for telecom and networked services platforms. In that context, it targets the control of FEM design, implementation and packaging with European solutions up to the prototyping level, and guarantees the absence of backdoor implementation through firmware, as well as the full security of the final solution.

[22]Apply AI Strategy, doc COM (2025) 723 final, stating: *" promote EU capacities in edge AI devices by providing dedicated support under the Smart Networks and Services Joint Undertaking and the Chips Joint Undertaking."*

Applicants should clearly identify the areas/priorities they address in case they only cover a subset of the above scope.

HORIZON-JU-SNS - Stream C – Smart Network & Services experimental infrastructure

Specific Challenges and Objectives

SNS Stream C and Stream D phase 1 projects have been developing Platforms and Trials and Pilots (T&Ps) and a number of them have engaged Open Call Experimenters to address specific additional use-cases and verticals T&Ps. However, technologies developed in the context of SNS Stream B projects or more widely in non-SNS projects (e.g. at National level) could not be integrable/tested in the Stream C/D projects at scale as not initially planned in the project tasks and resources or not selected in the Open Calls respectively. This project intends to provide testing/validation opportunities for new 6G technologies more systematically and also to aggregate the technologies into experimental platforms.

Going beyond Lab validation, e.g. as done in Stream B projects, live experimental infrastructure is needed to run more realistic experiments on E2E telecom systems (e.g. full E2E chains, not standalone proof of concept). These E2E systems are very costly and rare across Europe. It is impossible to get technologies right from the start. In that respect, it is expected that the experimental platform provides a representative infrastructure of a 6G network including representation of device, RAN, transport and core networks, including the needed applications/services to demonstrate the operation of a complete network. Many organizations will benefit from the SNS experimental platforms to validate technologies for 6G and SNS Phase 3 will enable the further inclusion of wider community members who will be able to accelerate their development cycle. The scope of the project will focus on executing technological validation experiments mostly using available platforms developed by past SNS JU projects and not creating/developing new platforms.

As the SNS JU and other 6G programs are maturing towards 2030, candidate 6G technologies will start appearing in SMEs, start-ups, spin offs as well as inside bigger companies. The open experimental platform will therefore be both a technology validation central facility and a technology accelerator for the ecosystem.

The platform will target two types of users, which can be combined as the user sees fits: (1) technology developers who will integrate their technology into the platform to expand its 6G capabilities. These technology developers are expected to bring solutions from past SNS projects in the experimental platforms and (2) experimenters who are interested in using the platform to run technological 6G experiments.

The challenge is twofold:

- To validate and reduce the introduction risk of candidate 6G technologies, components and architectures at system or sub-system level, in view of their adoption or validation at standardisation and at market level.
- To show the applicability of such technologies to efficiently support advanced application and use-cases not supported by current 5G systems and to be available and mature for implementation in upcoming Stream D projects.

The main objectives of this call are hence:

- To offer an EU-wide technology experimentation platform that can test and incorporate candidate 6G technologies in an E2E way for their further validation.
- To make such an experimentation platform capable of hosting advanced pilot “6G” use-cases during the SNS Phase 2 and Phase 3 implementation.

- To run technical experimentation showcasing technological results and to run pre-announced thematic experimentation campaigns (e.g. ISAC/JCAS, NTN, RIS…), with low barrier of entry for SNS JU developments. It is structured such that experiments with low TRL can be supported to allow broad participation, from SNS JU participants, and the wider connectivity community, including projects from National Initiatives.
- To enable the incorporation of SNS JU technology (and other third parties) in the platform to augment the platform capabilities and demonstrate the overall outcomes of the SNS JU program. These new technologies can then more easily be incorporated in Stream D projects to be demonstrated in a vertical context.

As in previous Stream C calls, related objectives include:

a) Technological experimentations with pre-announced thematic experimentation campaigns (e.g. ISAC/JCAS, NTN, RIS…), with low barrier of entry for SNS JU developments.

b) Reusability and evolvability of the experimental platforms over the lifetime of the SNS JU Programme: Platforms or specific components will be (i) further extended with SNS JU contribution/funding (at minimum) to ensure a continuous integration of the most promising 6G technologies and (ii) capable of supporting Stream D projects where appropriate. Technologies validated by experimentations may be further integrated into the E2E platform for capabilities expansion.

c) Accessibility and openness: Use of the platform in SNS Phases by any consortium, requires using a modular implementation methodology and, open-source solutions with well-defined and documented technological and business interfaces.

d) Directionality and optimisation of previous and related investments in Europe: 6G experimental platforms leveraging previous investments in Europe may be considered including other technology-oriented initiatives on open ecosystems (e.g., Open RAN). Leveraging 6G investments by Member States or Associated countries is also relevant in this context. Although it is not a mandate to reuse the results from previous investments, the proposal should clearly identify how it will extend these platforms to support 6G features and capabilities.

e) End-to-end: The target experimental facility should preferably demonstrate E2E service capabilities and include entire value chain including IoT devices, connectivity, and service provision. Provision of representation of device, RAN, transport, core and Layer 3 capabilities in 6G context is expected.

A well-designed integration of existing components (i.e. PoCs) to further develop the experimental platform will allow a constant improvement on services and technologies to be tested in the SNS JU. This integration will allow the test of complete systems that will become the basis of 6G networks and thus, create new knowledge and ideas.

HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026-STREAM-C-01: SNS experimental infrastructure

Call: HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026 (see Appendix 1)	
Specific conditions. For all other call conditions, see Appendix I	
Expected EU contribution per project	The SNS JU estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 8 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.

Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 8 million.
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions
Eligibility conditions	Subject to additional conditions (see General call conditions: section 3.B(iii) of Appendix 1 to this R&I Work Programme, including the conditions set out in Table App 5); This topic constitutes a duly justified case under Recital 21 and Article 5.2.(a) of the Council regulation (EU) 2021/2085.
Technology Readiness Level	Experimental activities are expected to bring the technologies under test from TRL 4 up to 5 or 6 by the end of the experimentation cycle. Technology added to the platform needs to have a TRL 5 as a minimum. Experimental platforms are expected to have a TRL 6. For more information on TRL, please see General Annex B.
Legal and Financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	For SME and academia, the project will allocate up to 20% of the proposal budget on the FSTP mechanism in the form of up to 50 K€ grants (see General call conditions: section 3.G of Appendix 1 to this R&I Work Programme)The granting authority may, up to 4 years after the end of the action, object to a transfer of ownership or to the exclusive licensing of results, as set out in the specific provision of the Model Grant Agreement Annex 5
Funding rate	100% non-for-profit organizations, 90% for profit organizations

Expected Outcome

The main outcome will be (1) the availability of an evolvable experimental infrastructure representative of a 6G system for the Phase 3 of the SNS JU Programme with the ability to engage the 6G community to run experimentations and (2) the validation of key 6G technologies with demonstrated performance characteristics through experiments carried out using the experimental infrastructure. Such reference platform in the SNS JU will be used to demonstrate 6G technologies including those developed by SNS Stream B projects. Proponents should select a clear and limited number of technologies from Stream B projects. It will provide platform users with standardized and supported methods for affordable-cost integration of new technologies in the end-to-end environment as well to follow a common SNS approach to KPI measurement and data definition-storage-exposition. This SNS reference platform can be also offered by SNS to other communities to support broader collaboration and technology diffusion (e.g. 3GPP, AI RAN Alliance, ESA, ETSI and others). It targets:

- Validation of new 6G network technologies in E2E setups potentially covering the European ecosystem. Within SNS, this project will further support Stream D projects that focus on supporting trials for validation of vertical use cases. It will integrate, test and benchmark the various connectivity technologies to be used in future Stream D vertical evaluations.
- Validation capabilities covering as examples the 6 technological areas identified for SNS technological developments, namely: (1) AI Driven architecture, programmability and control, (2) Radio and signal processing, new waveforms and spectrum, ISAC capabilities, (3) Optical networking, flexible and green high capacity transport and backhaul, (4) Ubiquitous computing, edge cloud continuum service and management, (5) Security for network and services, security as a service and (6) NTN, technologies for TN/NTN unification.

- Experiments with network technologies following two schemes: (1) on demand, any topic and time experimentation, mainly from SNS community and (2) specific technologies open to the community, Platform will be open for experimenters outside of the consortium but with no budget for them. Proponents are requested to detail their plan for engaging such experimenters.
- Integration and validation of Stream B technologies coming from previous calls in the SNS in order to keep them as part of the new infrastructure until the end of SNS JU.
- Provision to SNS participants of a framework to mature their new technologies for exploitation, in order to accelerate potential start-ups, taking advance of the testing and experimentation tools and expertise from the project partners.
- Alignment with standards development by ensuring the platform follows standards evolutions and ensuring Impactful contributions to international standardization.

In view of ensuring maximum impact of previous investment, proposals should include a significant representation of European players with strong demonstrated impact at development and operation of 5G/6G experimental platforms and tools and strong potential of reutilization of existing platforms and solutions including open-source solutions. Proposals should also demonstrate the validity of the platform and related technology developments/validation in industrial context, towards maximised industrial take up.

Scope

The project will leverage existing SNS JU Stream C and D project results, as well as results from European National Initiatives, aggregating testbed sites that can offer combined capabilities across Europe. The project should focus on integration, evaluation and validation beyond PoC of Stream B type of technologies for 6G KPIs and KVIs in a system context. The project should not engage in activities of interconnecting or federation, as these issues have been addressed in previous projects. The core of the activities is to run experiments, with some activities to maintain and expand the tool offered to the community.

The scope of this strand hence focuses on the following aspects:

- Accommodating a wide range of technologies towards 6G like RIS, ISAC/JCAS, NTN/5G, security, privacy, core evolution, AI, RAN evolution, network disaggregation, and any other relevant 6G subject as part of E2E setups for experimentation, see coverage of the 6 technological areas mentioned in the expected outcome, as example.
- Hosting advanced pilot “6G” use-cases not feasible during implementation lifecycle of ongoing Stream D projects due to the lack of maturity of the technology.
- Offering a well-defined catalogue of experimentation and KPI reporting tools that ensure repeatability, high level of automation, and comparison of results that provide valuable feedback to the developers and experimenters on potential shortcomings of the current prototype to facilitate technology maturation based on the experimental results.
- Offering users a low-barrier entry to an experimental facility enabling SNS-JU technologies, to run experiments.
- Providing trial facilities to enable hands on experience for engineer as part of their continuous learning and education.
- Integrating contributions from participants to expand the capabilities of the platforms with new features and capabilities.
- Ensuring security provisions for remote connectivity to the infrastructure for the experimenters.
- Providing plans on how to address the requirements for reusability and evolvability of the experimental platform over the lifetime of the SNS JU Programme.

The efforts are centralized around integration of technologies and execution of experimentation. Additional development will be strictly limited to maintenance and minimal integration effort of new technologies and prototypes, as the integration effort will be pushed on the experimenters. Platform upgrades and activities related to the integration of new technologies are also in scope as long as the running of experiments remains the core activity.

The platform will be open to any participant interested in running an experiment. There is no funding offered to the experimenters, who will propose to join according to their interest. The project will, however, include FSTP (Financial Support to Third Parties) to developers from SNS-JU projects as a support to integrate their technologies into the platform. SNS projects in Phase 3 are expected to include integration and experimentation resources with the new infrastructure in their Grant Agreements. For SME and academia, the project will allocate up to 20% of the proposal budget on the FSTP mechanism in the form of up to 50 K€ grants to support the integration efforts of key technologies developed in previous SNS JU calls until Call 2025. Solutions from SNS JU Call 2027 projects are not eligible for FSTP and should include the effort to integrate into their project, as explained in the legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements.

Experimenters get full insight from the results to improve their solution. If an experimenter wishes so, they can also leave a version of the technology solution inside the platform for their own use or for reference/use of the SNS community. This is a way to showcase the experimenter technology, but also for them to run additional trials without needing to visit the platform (remote connectivity). Leaving the technology is an in-kind contribution on loan preferably for the remainder of the project transforming the platform to be a showroom for these 6G candidate technologies.

Appendix 1: SNS 2026 Calls overview and General call conditions

Notes:

i. An overview of the two SNS 2026 calls is provided at Sections 1, 2 of this Annex II to the SNS Joint Undertaking Bi-Annual Work Programme 2026-2027.
ii. The SNS 2026 general call conditions are based on the "General Annexes for Horizon Europe call conditions 2026-2027[23], with some exceptions and clarification that are specific to SNS and outlined in this Appendix to the Annex II to the SNS Joint Undertaking Bi-Annual Work Programme 2026-2027.
iii. Support to Stakeholders and applicants for those calls will be provided through a regularly updated list of "Frequently Asked Questions", FAQ's, made available on the SNS JU website (link will be also available on the F&T portal).

1. 1st SNS 2026 Call

Call identifier: HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026

Overview of the call

Type of call: single stage call

Opening date: 29 January 2026

Submission of Proposals deadline: 29 April 2026 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)

Proposals are invited against the Streams and topics set out at **Table App 2** below.

Overall indicative budget: EUR 22 million

General conditions relating to this call: see part 3 of this Appendix 1.

Estimated value of the In-Kind contributions to Operational Activities (IKOP) by the members other than the Union or their constituent entities: Minimum EUR 1.5 million. A minimum programme level IKOP contribution of 6.7 % is targeted and proposals are expected to significantly contribute to this target (see section 3.D for related evaluation sub-criterion).

Note: For proposals submitted under the various Streams of this work programme and considering past average participation per type of beneficiary (profit & not-for-profit members -or non-members- of 6G-IA) the table below outlines how the IKOP target at Programme level is converted in minimum values[24]:

Table App 1

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 AIaaS	**13,9%**

[23] https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/horizon-europe-work-programmes_en

[24] All current IKOP values consider a target budget of 22 MEuros.

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	**2,4%**
02: 6G Devices	
03: EU-India International Collaboration	

In Kind Contribution to Operational Activities (IKOP) are defined in Article 2 (8) of the Council regulation (EU) 2021/2085 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe[25] as follows:

"*in-kind contributions to operational activities mean 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;"*

For all SNS streams under this Call applicants will be invited to fill a mandatory IKOP declaration table in the Application Form Technical Description (Part B).

Target for SME participation is at 20% at programme level. Proposals are expected to contribute to this target as appropriate, see section 3.D for related evaluation sub criterion.

Table App 2

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 AIaaS	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**

2. 2nd SNS 2026 Call

Call identifier: HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026-FEM

Overview of the call

Type of call: single stage call

[25] http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/2085/oj

Opening date: April 2026

Submission of Proposals deadline: beginning September 2026 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)

Proposals are invited against the Stream and topic set out at **Table App 4** below.

Overall indicative budget: EUR 14 million

General conditions relating to this call: see part 3 of this Appendix 1.

Estimated value of the In-Kind contributions to Operational Activities (IKOP) by the members other than the Union or their constituent entities: A minimum programme level IKOP contribution of EUR 0.5 million is targeted and proposals are expected to significantly contribute to this target (see section 3.D for related evaluation sub-criterion).

Note: For proposals submitted under Stream B of this Call the table below outlines how the IKOP target at Programme level is converted in minimum values[26]:

Table App 3

Streams / Topics	Indicative IKOP level as % of project budget to reach the objective.
HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026-FEM-STREAM-B (RIA)	
02: Microelectronic – Front-End Module (FEM)	**3,6%**

In Kind Contribution to Operational Activities (IKOP) are defined in Article 2 (8) of the Council regulation (EU) 2021/2085 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe[27] as follows:

"*in-kind contributions to operational activities mean 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;"*

For this Call, applicants will be invited to fill a mandatory IKOP declaration table in the Application Form Technical Description (Part B).

Target for SME participation is at 20% at programme level. Proposals are expected to contribute to this target as appropriate, see section 3.D for related evaluation sub criterion.

Table App 4

Streams / Topics	Indicative Topic Budget (in M€)
HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026-FEM-STREAM-B (RIA)	
02: Microelectronic – Front-End Module (FEM)	14.00
Total (M€)	**14.00**

[26] The current IKOP value considers a target budget of 14 MEuros.

[27] http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/2085/oj

3. General call conditions

The SNS JU operates under the Horizon Europe Rules for Participation, set out in Regulation (EU) (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 laying down the rules for participation and dissemination in "*Horizon Europe - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027)*" and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013 (EC) and (EU) No 1291/2013.

The general conditions outlined in this Section are complementary to the basic conditions outlined in the table provided in the definition of each funded topic of the SNS 2026 calls. Further, if a topic deviates from the general conditions or includes additional conditions, this is explicitly stated under the specific conditions for the topic.

A. Admissibility

General Annex A of the General Annexes to the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026-2027[28] shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the SNS call 2026 covered by this Work Programme, with the following derogations to page limits:

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.

B. Eligibility

General Annex B of the General Annexes to the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026-2027 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the SNS call 2026 covered by this Work Programme, with the following exceptions or amendments:

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

Topic: HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026-STREAM-CSA-03

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. For this reason, for proposals under topics identified as "subject to restrictions on participation in accordance with Article 22(5) of the Horizon Europe Regulation" (in the specific conditions for eligibility), participation is limited to legal entities established in Member States, Associated Countries, OECD and Mercosur countries, and India.

For the duly justified and exceptional reasons listed in the paragraph above, in order to guarantee the protection of the strategic interests of the Union and its Member States, entities established in an eligible country listed above, but which are directly or indirectly controlled by a non-eligible country or by a non-eligible country entity, may not participate.

[28] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2026-2027/wp-15-general-annexes_horizon-2026-2027_en.pdf

Topics: HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026-STREAM-CSA-01, HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026-STREAM-CSA-02, and HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026-STREAM-B-01

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. For this reason, for proposals under topics identified as "subject to restrictions on participation in accordance with Article 22(5) of the Horizon Europe Regulation" (in the specific conditions for eligibility), participation is limited to legal entities established in Member States and Associated Countries.

For the duly justified and exceptional reasons listed in the paragraph above, in order to guarantee the protection of the strategic interests of the Union and its Member States, entities established in an eligible country listed above, 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.

The guarantees shall in particular substantiate that, for the purpose of the action, measures are in place to ensure that:

a. control over the applicant legal entity is not exercised in a manner that retrains or restricts its ability to carry out the action and to deliver results, that imposes restrictions concerning its infrastructure, facilities, assets, resources, intellectual property or know-how needed for the purpose of the action, or that undermines its capabilities and standards necessary to carry out the action;

b. access by a non-eligible country or by a non-eligible country entity to sensitive information relating to the action is prevented; and the employees or other persons involved in the action have a national security clearance issued by an eligible country, where appropriate;

c. ownership of the intellectual property arising from, and the results of, the action remain within the recipient during and after completion of the action, are not subject to control or restrictions by non-eligible countries or non-eligible country entity, and are not exported outside the eligible countries, nor is access to them from outside the eligible countries granted, without the approval of the eligible country in which the legal entity is established.

The participants directly subject to this eligibility condition are not only beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners but also subcontractors. Their participation is therefore subject to an ex-ante ownership control assessment by the EC and, if relevant, the EC acceptance of a guarantee approved by an eligible country.

Topic: HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026-FEM-STREAM-B-02

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. For this reason, for proposals under topics identified as "subject to restrictions on participation in accordance with Article 22(5) of the Horizon Europe Regulation" (in the specific conditions for eligibility), participation is limited to legal entities established in Member States, Associated Countries, OECD and Mercosur countries.

For the duly justified and exceptional reasons listed in the paragraph above, in order to guarantee the protection of the strategic interests of the Union and its Member States, entities established in an

eligible country listed above, 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.

The guarantees shall in particular substantiate that, for the purpose of the action, measures are in place to ensure that:

a. control over the applicant legal entity is not exercised in a manner that restrains or restricts its ability to carry out the action and to deliver results, that imposes restrictions concerning its infrastructure, facilities, assets, resources, intellectual property or know-how needed for the purpose of the action, or that undermines its capabilities and standards necessary to carry out the action;

b. access by a non-eligible country or by a non-eligible country entity to sensitive information relating to the action is prevented; and the employees or other persons involved in the action have a national security clearance issued by an eligible country, where appropriate;

c. ownership of the intellectual property arising from, and the results of, the action remain within the recipient during and after completion of the action, are not subject to control or restrictions by non-eligible countries or non-eligible country entity, and are not exported outside the eligible countries, nor is access to them from outside the eligible countries granted, without the approval of the eligible country in which the legal entity is established.

The participants directly subject to this eligibility condition are not only beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners but also subcontractors. Their participation is therefore subject to an ex-ante ownership control assessment by the EC and, if relevant, the EC acceptance of a guarantee approved by an eligible country.

ii) Restrictions for the protection of European communication networks

These restrictions apply 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 .*

iii) Minimum participation of SNS JU member (other than the Union) in the below Streams, mainly intended to support IKOP generation:

Table App 5

Topics	Restriction	Justification	Note
HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026-STREAM-B-01	At least half of the budget must be implemented by the SNS JU member (other than the	In line with Recital 21 and Article 5.2.(a) of the Council regulation (EU) 2021/2085 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe.	

Topics	Restriction	Justification	Note
	Union)[29] and their constituent or affiliated entities.	IKOP generation with long term commitment of partners and JU members other than the Union, but also of new players from Artificial Intelligence and Data science. In particular, the goals for high-quality SNS datasets to train AI models for 6G networks and for AIaaS require to be established and steered with long term commitment of partners and from the JU members other than the Union.	
HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026-STREAM-C-01	At least half of the budget must be implemented by the SNS JU member (other than the Union) and their constituent or affiliated entities.	In line with Recital 21 and Article 5.2.(a) of the Council regulation (EU) 2021/2085 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe. IKOP generation with long term commitment and required stability as needed to develop the EU-wide SNS experimentation infrastructure that spans the programme lifetime. It requires to be established and steered with long term commitment of partners and of JU member other than the Union. This is needed to	

[29] The SNS JU member other than the Union is the 6G Smart Networks and Services Industry Association (6G-IA) https://6g-ia.eu/

Topics	Restriction	Justification	Note
		enable the incorporation of SNS JU technology and solutions in the platform and test them in future SNS trials with sufficient stability.	
HORIZON-JU-SNS-2026-FEM-STREAM-B-02	At least half of the budget must be implemented by the SNS JU member (other than the Union) and their constituent or affiliated entities.	In line with Recital 21 and Article 5.2.(a) of the Council regulation (EU) 2021/2085 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe. IKOP generation with long term commitment of partners and JU members other than the Union, including players from the microelectronics sector. It requires to be established and steered with long term commitment of partners and of JU member other than the Union. The activities are also supporting the objectives of the Chips Act, the IPCEI ME/CT and targets cooperation between SNS and Chips Joint Undertakings towards microelectronics for 6G.	Up to half of the budget fully open

For the above Topics (Table App 5), applicants will be invited to fill a **mandatory table of compliance** at proposal stage in the **Application Form Technical Description (Part B).**

The conditions set out in Table App 5 constitute eligibility conditions of the call. Proposals that do not comply with these conditions at the time of the proposal submission, shall be considered ineligible and shall not be evaluated.

For these conditions, the budget share shall be calculated on the basis of the total eligible costs of the action as declared in the proposal. Beneficiaries shall ensure that compliance with these conditions is maintained throughout the duration of the action. Any changes affecting this compliance may require an amendment to the grant agreement.

iv) Gender equality plans and gender dimension of R&I:

According to the General Annexes, provision of a gender equality plan for public bodies, research organisations or higher education establishments (including private research organisations and higher education establishments) applies as per Part B of the General Annexes to the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026-2027.

Additional gender issues (related to award sub-criterion consideration of the gender dimension in research and innovation content) shall be addressed as appropriate in case research results are expected to differ when applied to different gender populations of users.

v) Legal entities established in Russia, Belarus, or in non-government-controlled territories of Ukraine

Given the illegal invasion of Ukraine by Russia and the involvement of Belarus, there is currently no appropriate context allowing the implementation of the actions foreseen in this programme with legal entities established in Russia, Belarus, or in non-government-controlled territories of Ukraine. Therefore, even where such entities are not subject to EU restrictive measures, such legal entities are not eligible to participate in any capacity. This includes participation as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any). Exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis for justified reasons. With specific regard to measures addressed to Russia, following the adoption of the Council Regulation (EU) 2024/1745 of 24 June 2024 (amending Council Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 of 31 July 2014), legal entities established outside Russia but whose proprietary rights are directly or indirectly owned for more than 50% by legal persons established in Russia are also not eligible to participate in any capacity.

C. Financial and operational capacity and exclusion

General Annex C of the General Annexes to the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026-2027 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the SNS calls 2026 covered by this Work Programme.

D. Award criteria

General Annex D of the General Annexes to the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026-2027 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the SNS calls 2026 covered by this Work Programme with the following complements:

For RIAs and IAs under Stream B and RIAs under Stream C, the award criteria table is complemented as follows:

- Introduction in the impact section of a sub-criterion assessing the proposal contribution to the overall SME objective as appropriate;

- Introduction in the impact section of a sub-criterion assessing the proposal contribution to the IKOP objectives;

Table App 6

	Excellence (The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the	**Impact**	**Quality and efficiency of the implementation**

	description in the work programme)		
Research and innovation actions (RIA) **Innovation actions (IA)**	- Clarity and pertinence of the project's objectives, and the extent to which the proposed work is ambitious and goes beyond the state of the art. - Soundness of the proposed methodology, including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, inter-disciplinary approaches, appropriate consideration of the gender dimension in research *where relevant* and innovation content, and the quality of open science practices, including sharing and management of research outputs and engagement of citizens, civil society and end-users where appropriate.	- Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the work programme, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions from the project. - Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities. - Extent to which the members of the proposed consortium contribute to the expected level of in-kind contribution to operational activities to help reaching the target additional investments - SME Participation and opportunities to leverage project results.	- Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall. - Capacity and role of each participant, and the extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.
Coordination and support actions (CSA)	- Clarity and pertinence of the project's objectives. - Quality of the proposed coordination and/or support measures, including soundness of methodology.	- Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the work programme, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions from the project. - Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including	- Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall. - Capacity and role of each participant, and the extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.

		communication activities.	

E. Documents

General Annex E of the General Annexes to the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026-2027 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the SNS calls 2026 covered by this Work Programme.

F. Procedures

General Annex F of the General Annexes to the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026-2027 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the SNS calls 2026 covered by this Work Programme with the following amendments related to the procedure to rank proposals:

i) Generic Case:

- 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 (i.e., after step 2 of the procedure outlined in part F of the General Annex), 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. If still inconclusive, the procedure outlined in part F of the General Annex will be resumed from step 3 onwards.

- When two **IA** proposals are equally ranked and that it has not been possible to separate them using first the coverage criterion, second the impact criterion, and third the excellence criterion (i.e., after step 2 of the procedure outlined in part F of the General Annex), 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. If still inconclusive, the procedure outlined in part F of the General Annex will be resumed from step 3 onwards.

G. Legal and financial set-up of the grant agreements

General Annex G of the General Annexes to the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026-2027 shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the SNS calls 2026 covered by this Work Programme. In addition:

Participants of selected projects will be requested to cooperate in the SNS JU Programme for topics of common interests by signing a written agreement (called “collaboration agreement”[30]) referred in the specific provisions of the Model Grant Agreement (Annex 5 of the MGA[31]).

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.

Financial Support to Third Parties

Financial support to third parties (FSTP) is planned for the following topic under the SNS 2026 calls: 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.

[30] Collaboration Agreement - SNS JU

[31] general-mga_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

For these actions, the third-party financing contractual clause **the AGA 32 will apply (**Articles 6.2.D.1 and 9.4).

The generic conditions are described in the AGA with the following complementary points that are specific to SNS JU:

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;

Proposals should provide a description of the use of the financial support to third parties, addressing:

- the targeted objectives and results;

- the different types of activities that qualify for financial support;

- the criteria for giving financial support

It is recommended that the beneficiary providing third party financing is an entity eligible for 100% of reimbursement of the eligible costs.

H. Specific conditions for actions implementing pre-commercial procurement or procurement of innovative solutions

General Annex H of the General Annexes to the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026-2027 is not applicable to the SNS calls 2026 covered by this Work Programme.

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[32] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/aga_en.pdf