

Intelligent Cities Challenge Training activities: "How to read an EU call" (ENG) Luc Baardman

12 May 2022



Today

- Be informed on the background on the Digital Europe funding Programme
- Be advised on DEP's funding mechanism and bid procedure
- Practice with the EU Funding Tender Portal





Focus and etiquette

- Today will be an informal session, dedicated to providing an update on the Digital Europe Programme relevant to SERN, giving advise on the funding mechanism and bid procedure and facilitating pitches among SERN cities
- For questions please interrupt active participation is encouraged
- Slides are to be shared after the meeting
- It's okay to have fun





Context

- The European Commission has recently published the <u>Digital</u> <u>Europe Programme</u>, focused on bringing digital technology to businesses, citizens and public administrations.
- The Digital Europe Programme has an overall budget of €7.5 billion for the period 2021-2027 and offers several funding opportunities for cities, including around smart communities and data spaces (Call 1 ending February 2022 and Call 2 deployment- starting from February).
- This session aims to explain the DEP programme and its components and will present you an overview of the funding portal and the general project timeline of a tender procedure
- The follow up of the session is your own responsibility



SERN is 1
out of 100
cities in the
ICC
programme

MENTOR

CORE

CITIES







Digital Europe Work Programme 2021-2022

Part 1











#DigitalEuropeProgramme



Digital Europe Programme

recap the main objectives

Strategic autonomy



Compete globally

Other regions of the world invest huge amount of public capital in advanced technologies. For example, the US and China spend € 10-20 billion annually on AI alone



Better address Europe's economic and societal challenges

E.g. climate, health, mobility and public services



Achieve scale through collective co-investments

Given the size of investments needed, scale required and risks involved Europe needs to pool the resources together



Ensure broad take-up of digital technologies across all regions of EU

In deploying latest technologies to offer best services to citizens and business



Regain control over Europe's value chains

and ensure Europe's technological sovereignty

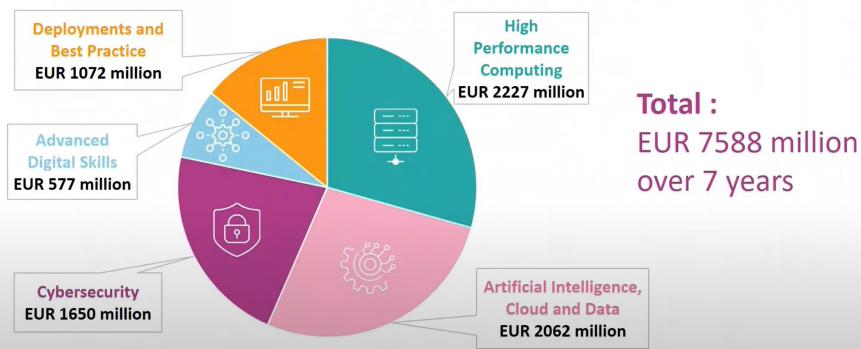


Support SMEs to acquire or access the latest technologies and skills

More than 400,000 EU vacancies in these fields



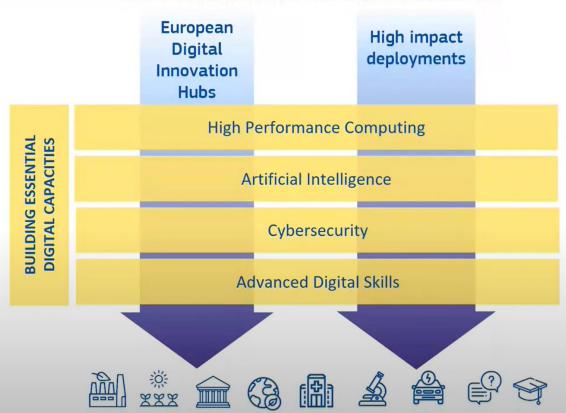
Budget as in Regulation





Digital Europe programme structure

ACCELERATING THE BEST USE OF DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES





Digital Europe is complementary to other programmes with investments in digital

EU-wide collective effort					National regional and local			Financial instrument
Horizon Europe	Digital Europe	CEF	Creative Europe	Health	Cohesion	Agriculture Funds	⊖ RRF	InvestEU
Research Innovation	Strategic capacities: computing, data, testbeds, etc. Advanced digital skills EU-Wide deployment	Broadband and 5G roll out Connecting Communities	Creative industry Media	Telemedicine eHDSI	Digital connectivity in white and grey areas Support to enterprises in line with Smart specialisation Digital skills for all citizens	Making use of Big Data for CAP monitoring Broadband rollout in rural areas	Connect Scale-up Modernise Reskill and Upskill 20% digital	Leverage private capital for investments in SMEs, research, digital, infrastructure, skills



Some specific features

- Funding schemes: Similar but not exactly the same to Horizon Europe, e.g.
 - Grants with cost reimbursement 50% for everybody or with 75% for SMEs
 - CSA at 100%
 - · Wider use of procurement
- Focus is on <u>delivery actual results</u>. It will make use of the most recent research results, but <u>it will not support research</u>. For example, the programmes will support:
 - The acquisition of HPC machines
 - The set-up of sectorial data spaces, eg manufacturing
 - The building or reinforcing of Testing and Experimentation Facilities
 - The set up and delivery of Master courses in key advanced digital technologies
 - The set-up, interoperability, operations and maintenance of a number of services in the eGov area
- The Call text will specify the detailed information needed to submit a proposal
- The programme has specific restrictions to participation of entities not in the EU or in the EEA. These restrictions are specified in the wp and in its annexes.



Overall planning

- First Orientations July 2019: public consultation until October 2019
- MFF Negotiation concluded in December 2020
- DEP Regulation adopted in March-April 2021 with an approx. budget of EUR 7.5 billion over 7 years
- 1st Work programmes content discussed with the Member States Expert Group / Programme Committee
- Work programme adopted by Commission on 10 November 2021
- First call opened on 17 November 2021

- Second call indicatively will open in Q1 2022
- Third call indicatively will open in Q3 2022



Digital Europe work programmes 2021-22

- Four work programmes :
 - High Performance Computing → managed by the EuroHPC JU and not part of the package to be adopted by the Commission
 - Cybersecurity → managed by the ECCC and, ad interim, by DG CNECT
 - European Digital Innovation Hubs → managed by DG CNECT
 - "Main" work programme → managed by DG CNECT, EA HaDEA and making use
 of Indirect management for some actions



In summary

High-performance computing

- · Independent annual work programme
- Adopted by the EuroHPC JU Governing Board
- Adoption of 2021 work programme expected in the next days

Cybersecurity

- · Independent work programme
- It will be managed by ECCC, but for the moment is with DG CNECT

Execption

 Quantum communication infrastructure – QCI which is covered in the "main" work programme

European digital innovation hubs

- Independent work programme covering three years
- Managed by DG CNECT



- In the "main" work programme, covering two years
- Adopted and managed by the Commission
- Adoption of 2021-22 work programme expected in the next days

Advanced digital skills

- In the "main" work programme, covering two years
- Adoption by Commission of 2021-22 work programme expected in the next days
- Managed by HaDEA

Deployments

- In the "main" work programme, covering two years
- Adopted by the Commission
- Mainly managed by HaDEA
- Adoption of 2021-22 work programme expected in the next days



1. Combination of funding – DIGITAL + ERDF

- Common principles (Common Provisions Regulation and directly managed programmes)
 - Prohibit double funding of the same costs and prohibit funding beyond 100% of eligible costs
 - Promote cumulative / complementary funding to develop synergies with other funds / programmes
- CPR additional constraint (Article 63 (9) Eligibility):
 - Expenditure declared in a payment application for one of the Funds shall not be declared for support from another Fund or Union instrument



2. Combination of funding – DIGITAL + RRF

- Reform and investment projects may receive support from other Union programmes,
 except to cover mandatory national co-financing under these other programmes
 and on the condition that the same costs are not covered twice.
- Digital Europe Programme regulation enables the combination of funds, "including for the joint funding of actions". Funding of the same action from the RRF and Digital Europe is possible provided:
 - 1. It is justified in light of the relevant provisions applying to both programmes, and
 - 2. avoidance of double funding is ensured. Appropriate coordination is needed.



Principles

- Ex-ante coordination is necessary to encourage synergies between programmes. Cost eligibility is aligned as far as possible. The funding rate needs to be coordinated to ensure that the limit of covering 100% of estimated eligible costs is not breached.
- The relevant provisions of the respective legal bases need to be complied with.
- For shared management programmes only: For directly managed grants, once the beneficiary has submitted a copy of the declaration of costs to the MA, they would need to comply with the technical requirements in order to receive a payment from the directly managed programme, including the encoding of required data on implementation of the action.
- Selection under one programme cannot imply any obligation under another programme. Selection rules for all funds/programmes must be complied with in the normal way. No fund or programme can be obliged by the choice of another granting authority.



Main tasks for applicants for synergy grants

- 1. Apply for funding in the different funding programmes for an activity according to the rules and requirements of each programme.
- Declare in the proposal of the directly managed fund the use of other EU funds for the action, explain and justify.
- 3. Sign the grants including the synergy grant provision.
- 4. Follow the rules for reporting for each funding programme and additionally *(for shared management programmes only)* that they must firstly declare the expenditure to the managing authority.
- 5. Insert the costs into the system for directly managed funds in the usual way.



Work Programme and Call document

Two key documents

Work Programme

Call document



Call document

- Complements the Work Programme
- Provides guidance on important aspects of the topics in a call
- For each topic:
 - Objectives
 - Scope
 - Outcome and Deliverables
 - KPIs
 - Targeted stakeholders

- Type of action
- Specific topic conditions
- Budget



Call document - Support to proposers

- Details on admissibility and eligibility
- Information for applicants on financial and operational capacity
- Exclusion criteria
- Evaluation procedure
- Guarantees, obligatory milestones and deliverables, certificates and any many other description on legal conditions to participate in grants
- Financial support to third party schemes and conditions
- All the mandatory annexes needed for the call (e.g. ethic issues, security issues)
- Type of action description
- Other important legal and operational provisions
- Help for applicants and how to reach out to the commission

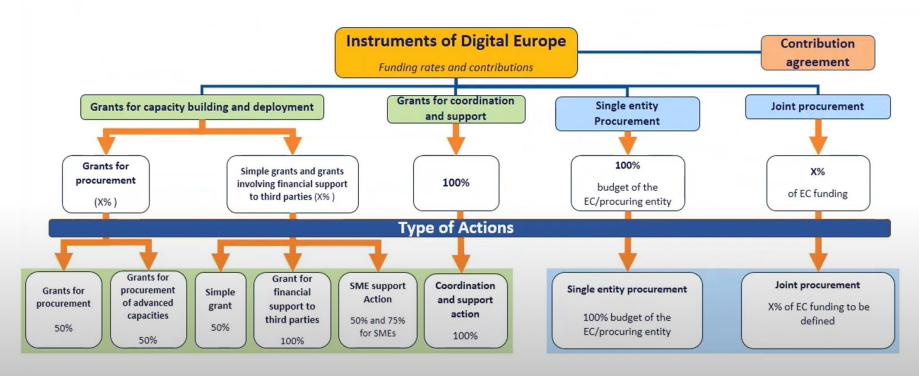


Programme structure

Specific Objectives Implementing bodies • Joint Undertaking EuroHPC SO1 - High Performance Computing European Commission (mainly) SO2 - Artificial Intelligence Health and Digital Executive Agency European Cybersecurity Industrial, Technology & SO3 - Cybersecurity & Trust Research Competence Centre European Commission SO4 - Advanced Digital Skills • Health and Digital Executive Agency (mainly) • Health and Digital Executive Agency • European Commission notably for areas of public SO5 - Deployment, best use & interoperability interest and European Digital Innovation Hubs



Instruments and types of actions





Who can participate

In order to be eligible, participants must be



legal entities public or private body

and



established in a **EU member state** (including overseas territories) or an **eligible non-EU country**

Call documents will further specify and may add other eligibility conditions, for example in case of restrictions regarding security and strategic autonomy



Different ways to participate

Recipients of Beneficiary Signs the grant financial support agreement Receive funding from the Has all rights and beneficiary obligations Affiliated entity Third parties With a legal or capital link giving in-kind with the beneficiary Does not work just give · Does work and may declare in-kind contributions costs **Associated** Subcontractor Does work and invoices the partner beneficiary Does work but can NOT The beneficiary may declare declare costs

the invoice



Article 12.5/.6 DEP: restriction based on security

Some topics may restrict the participation to entities established in MS and controlled by MS or its legal entities

- Non-eligible country controlled entities cannot participate under 12.5, whereas 12.6 allows for their participation provided they comply with certain conditions established in the Work Programme
- The activation of these security restrictions requires a security justification



Article 12.5/.6: Restriction based on security

Article 12.5

- applicable to Cybersecurity (SO3) topics
- no conditions regarding entities participation unless specified otherwise in the Work Programme

Article 12.6

- applicable to HPC (SO1) and AI (SO2) topics
- legal entities established in the EU but controlled from third countries and legal entities established in Associated Countries may participate if they comply with certain conditions included in the Work Programme and certified by the MS/AC where they are established



Article 18.2: Third countries participation

- Legal entities from third countries not associated to the programme can participate in specific actions ONLY where their participation is necessary
- The participation of legal entities from third countries will not receive funding, unless specified otherwise in the Work Programme



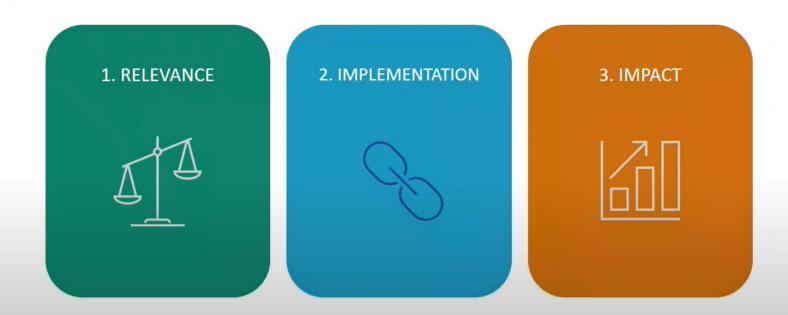
Article 18.4: Restriction based on strategic autonomy

Some topics may restrict the participation to entities established in MS and Associated Countries

- Legal entities established in third countries cannot participate on topics under 18.4 (this includes e.g. subcontractors)
- Article 18.2 will not apply in those cases



Award criteria





Award criteria: 1. Relevance



- Alignment with the objectives and activities
- Contribution to long-term policy and strategic objectives
- Reinforcement of the Union's digital technology supply chain*
- Resilience to financial obstacles*

* call document sets applicability



Award criteria: 2. Implementation



- Maturity of the proposed action
- Soundness and efficiency of the implementation plan
- Capacity of the applicants or consortium to carry out the proposed work



Award criteria: 3. Impact



- Achievement of the expected outcomes and deliverables, as well as communication and dissemination
- Competitiveness strengthen and contribution to society
- Environmental sustainability*

* call document sets applicability



What is the Grant Agreement?

The Grant Agreement is the contractual document signed with a 'granting authority' (e.g. the EC or one of its executive agencies) defining



YOUR RIGHTS

- To receive EU funding, under the terms and conditions defined in the grant agreement, to help you to accomplish your project
- To own the results of the project that you have generated
- To ask for amendments of the grant agreement (if something needs to be changed)



YOUR OBLIGATIONS

- To Implement the project as planned in the description of the action (Annex 1 to the grant agreement)
- Submit reports at the time and for the periods defined in the grant agreement
- Display the EU emblem and reference to DIGITAL funding (e.g.information material, equipment funded by the grant, major results);



HOW MUCH MONEY YOU CAN GET

Overall, the granting authority can never pay:

- more than the maximum grant amount fixed in the grant agreement.
- But it may pay less; e.g. if the project costs at the end are less than budgeted



Model Grant Agreement (MGA)



e-GRANT

The DIGITAL Grant Agreement and its management are fully electronic



CORPORATE STRUCTURE

Commission-wide model 'Corporate' Model Grant Agreement including corporate annexes



ANNEX 5 (NON-CORPORATE)

Important specifications for DIGITAL:

- . Confidentiality and security
- Ethics
- IPR
- Communication, Dissemination,
- Specific rules for carrying out the action



Corporate structure of the MGA

Datasheet

Summary of the grant agreement

- 1. General Data
- 2. Participant
- 3. Grant
- 4. Reporting, payment and recoveries
- 5. Consequences of non-compliance, applicable law and dispute settlement forum
- 6. Specific rules Annex 5 & standard time-limits after project end

Articles

Grouped in six chapters

Chapter 1 – General (Articles 1-2)

Chapter 2 - Action (Articles 3-4)

Chapter 3 - Grant (Articles 5-6)

Chapter 4 – Grant Implementation (Articles 7-26)

Chapter 5 – Consequences of non-compliance

(Articles 27-35)

Chapter 6 – Final provisions (Articles 36-44)



Eligible costs









INDIRECT COSTS

A. PERSONNEL COSTS

- A.1 Employees
- A.2 Natural persons under direct contract
- A.3 Seconded persons
- A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries

B. SUBCONTRACTING C. PURCHASE COSTS COSTS

- C.1 Travel and subsistence
- C.2 Equipment
- C.3 Other goods, works and services



D. OTHER COST

CATEGORIES

- D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services
- [D.5 PAC procurement cost]



Project monitoring



During its life cycle, the project will be monitored regularly



The **reporting** and **payment** arrangements are fixed in the Grant Agreement

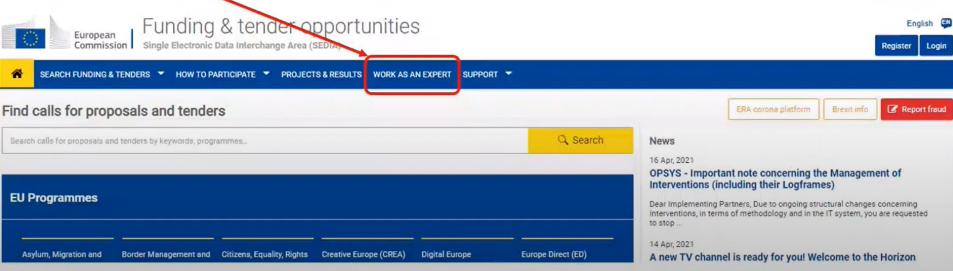


Experts

Experts are essential for project evaluation and monitoring



Register in the Funding & tender portal and experience "how it all works"!





Useful links

Digital Europe Programme website

https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/activities/digital-programme

Digital Europe Programme Regulation

https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R0694&qid=1621344635377

Funding & tender opportunities portal

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/digital



Advise on DEP's funding mechanism and bid procedure

Part 2





Digital Europe Programme

The Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL) is part of 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) of the European Union, a programme focused on building the strategic digital capacities of the Union (as well as Countries Associated to the programme) and on facilitating the wide deployment of digital technologies and its applications. In strategic terms, it is aligned with the Commission vision for the Digital Decade and should therefore contribute to delivering the digital targets for 2030. Digital Europe is complementary to other programmes with investments in digital

EU-wide collective effort					National regional and local			Financial instrument
Horizon Europe	Digital Europe	CEF	Creative Europe	Health	Conesion	Agriculture Funds	RRF	◯ InvestEU 🤤
Research Innovation	Strategic capacities: computing, data, testbeds, etc. Advanced digital skills EU-Wide deployment	Broadband and 5G roll out Connecting Communities	Creative industry Media	Telemedicine eHDSI	Digital connectivity in white and grey areas Support to enterprises in line with Smart specialisation Digital skills for all citizens	Making use of Big Data for CAP monitoring Broadband rollout in rural areas	Connect Scale-up Modernise Reskill and Upskill 20% digital	Leverage private capital for investments in SMEs, research, digital, infrastructure, skills

Budget as in Regulation

The Digital Europe Programme will provide strategic funding in five interrelated specific objectives (SOs), as foreseen in the Regulation:

SO1: High Performance Computing (approximately €2,227 million)

SO2: Artificial intelligence, data and cloud (approximately €2,062 million)

SO3: Cybersecurity and trust (approximately €1,650 million)

SO4: Advanced digital skills (approximately €577 million)

SO5: Deployment, best use of digital capacity and interoperability (approximately €1,072 million)

With a planned overall budget of €7,588 million, it will shape and support the digital transformation of Europe's society and economy. The DIGITAL programme Regulation (EU Regulation 2021/694) was adopted on 21 April 2021 and sets the scene for the programme implementation over the duration of the MFF 2021-2027.

Five interrelated specific objectives (SOs)

Deployments: emphasis on

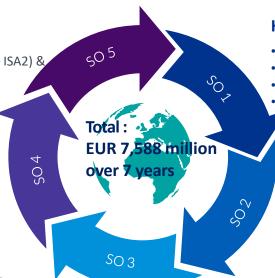
- Destination Farth
- Actions in support to Green Deal
- New Digital Identity and further investments (CEF ISA2) & Interoperability
- Blockchain

European digital innovation hubs

• At least one per MS or associated country

Advanced digital skills

- Master courses
- Short term trainings
- Job placements
- Platform for Skills and Jobs



High-performance computing

- Procure exascale machines
- Upgrade existing supercomputers
- Quantum computing
 - Widen the access to and use of supercomputing

Artificial intelligence, data and cloud

- Data4EU: common Data Spaces, clouds, platforms and infrastructure
- Large Testing and Experimentation Facilities for Agriculture, health, mobility, manufacturing and AI edge HW
- Al-on-demand platform

Cybersecurity & trust

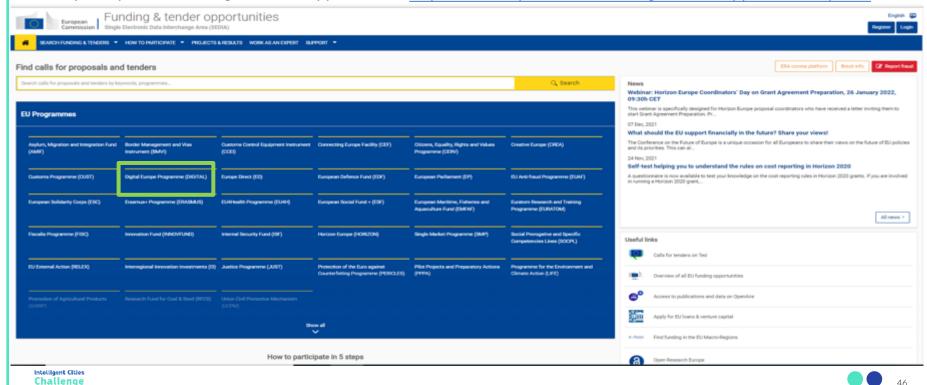
- Deploy competence centers network
- Cybersecurity shield, quantum communication infrastructure - QCI
- Certification schemes
- Cybersecurity tools



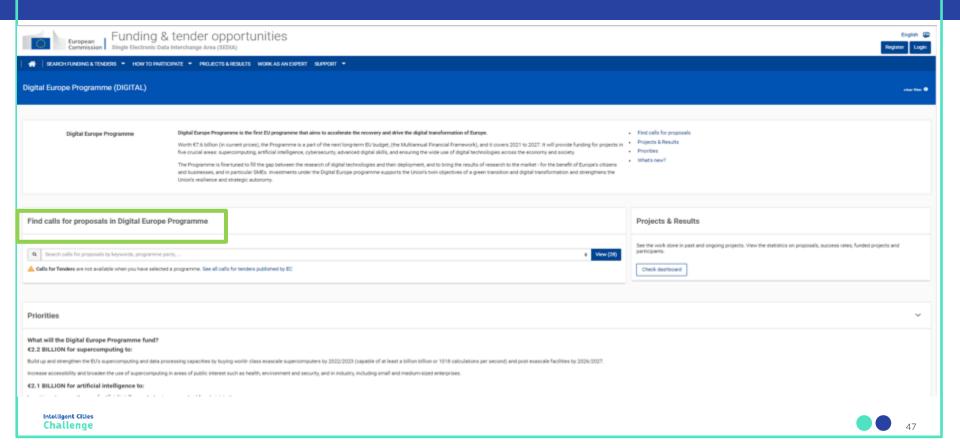


DEP - How to find call topics 1/3

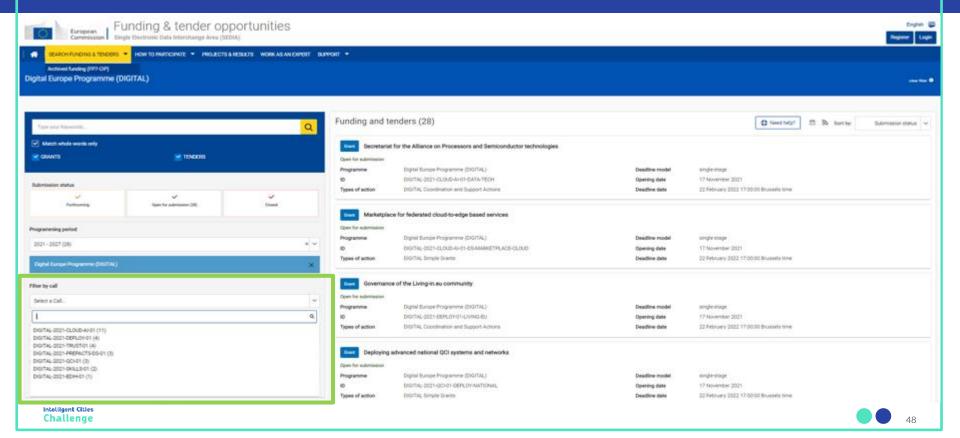
Participants portal - Funding & tender opportunities https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal



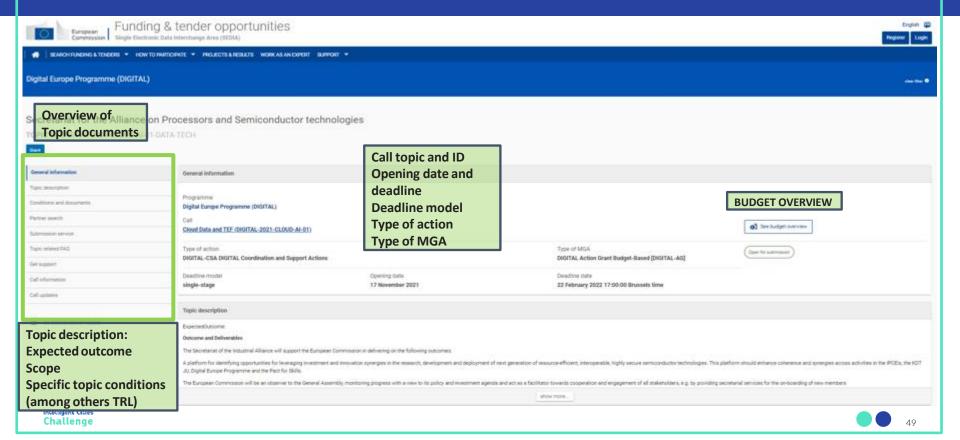
DEP - How to find call topics 2/3



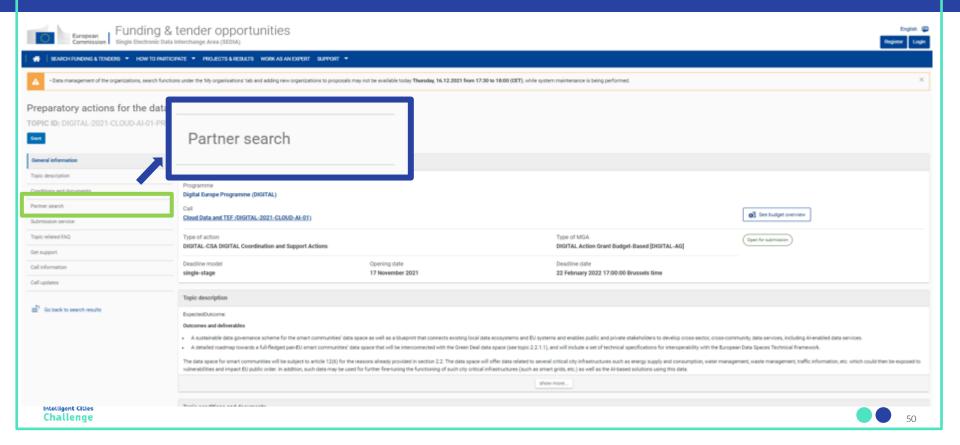
DEP - How to find call topics 3/3



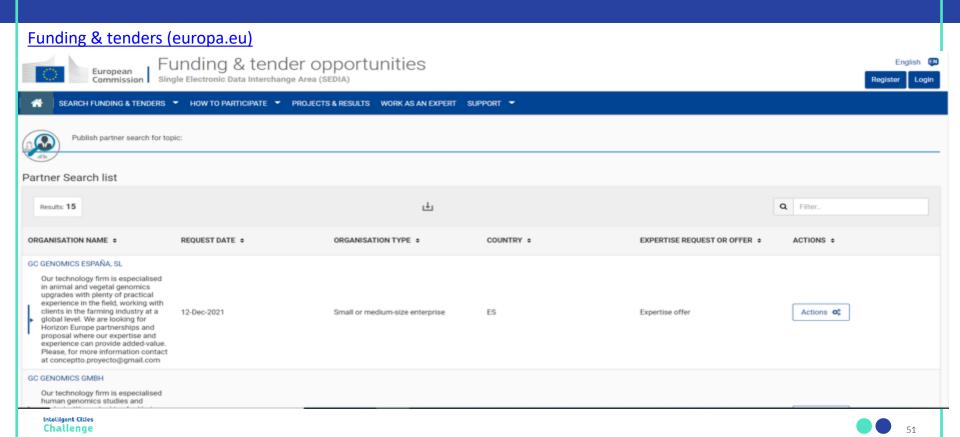
DEP - All info related to a call topic



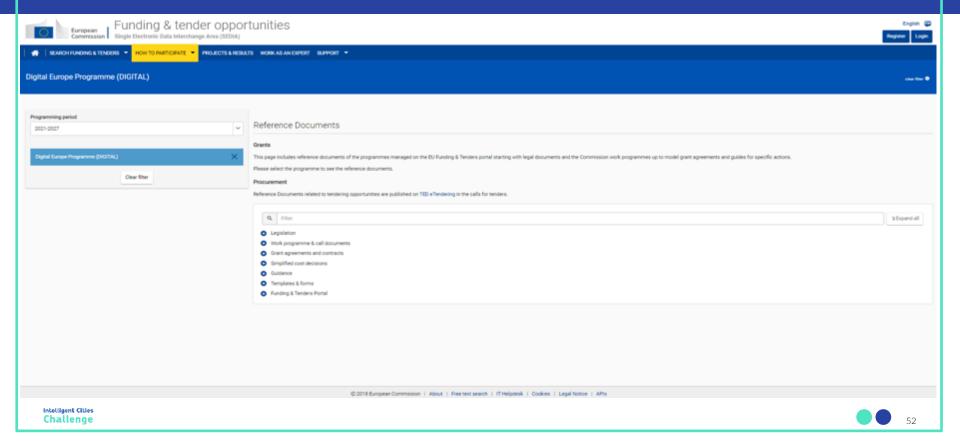
DEP - How to find partners 1/2



DEP - How to find partners 2/2



DEP - Reference documents



Open calls

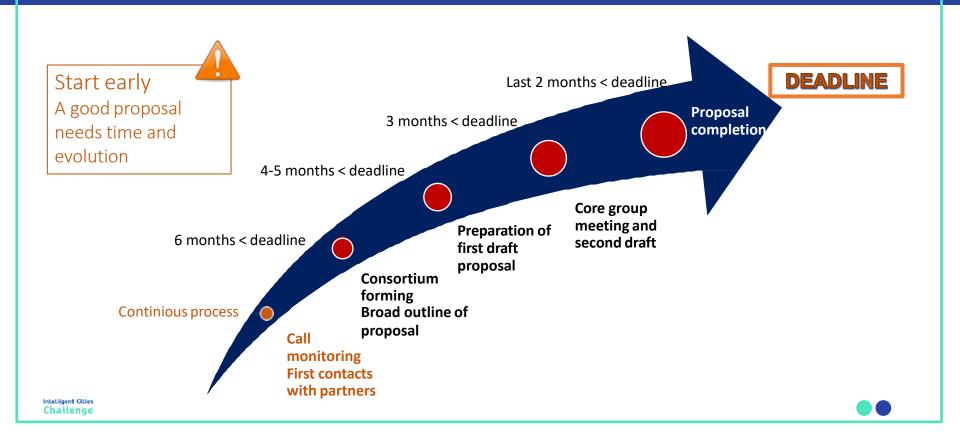
As of 17 November 2021, this is the complete list of the Digital Europe program calls for proposals.

19 calls with their closing dates and descriptions:

- •Blockchain Standardisation
- •Data space for security and law enforcement
- •Testing and Experimentation Facility for Agri-Food
- •Support to cybersecurity in the health sector
- •Federated European infrastructure for cancer images data
- •Testing and Experimentation Facility for Health
- •Short term training courses in key capacity areas
- •Public Sector Open Data for Al and Open Data Platform
- •Testing and Experimentation Facility for Manufacturing
- •Promoting European innovation in education

- •Testing and experimentation Facility for smart cities and communities
- •EBSI Deployment of services
- •Data space for cultural heritage (deployment)
- •Deploying The Network Of National Coordination Centres With Member States
- •Support to the implementation of the European Digital Identity Framework and the implementation of the Once Only System under the Single Digital Gateway Regulation
- •Security (law enforcement): AI-based pilot
- GovTech Incubator
- •National Competence Centres for High Performance Computing
- •Networking and coordination of national HPC Competence Centres and Centres of Excellence
- •The deadline for submission of proposals is 17 May 2022 (17:00 Brussels local time).

Planning your proposals



General guidance - Common mishaps

- > Proposal does not sufficiently cover what is in the call text
- ➤ Hard to read, unclear and over complex language
- ➤ Insufficient detail provided not concrete enough
- ➤ Inconsistencies between the sections
- ➤ Impact section is described in rather vague and general terms
- Exploitation and dissemination plan is neglected
- > Confusing work plan lacking in detail
- Overlapping expertise of partners
- ➤ Poorly defined and justified resources
- ➤ Lack of evidence to support stated claims

General guidance - How to write a good proposal in a nutshell

- Plan ahead
- Choose consortium partners based on the project needs
- ➤ Read carefully the topic description/ call text > every word counts
- Address thoroughly the evaluation criteria
- ► Be concrete, be specific
- Prepare your proposal from the point of view of the evaluator
- ➤ Where possible & meaningful -> quantify!
- Ensure consistency of the different parts of your proposal
- Visualize and structure by using (stand-alone) diagrams, tables and graphs
- Ask for support!

The application process 1/2

Step 1: Submit your proposal

If you wish to respond to a call, you must submit a proposal before 17:00 Brussels time on the day of the indicated call deadline. Please note that this deadline and specific time are strict and must be respected. The European Commission strongly advises to submit your proposal in good time and not to wait until the last moment. All proposals need to be submitted online.

Step 2: Find your partners

If you need help to identify a potential partner with particular competences, facilities or experience, use the partner search options.

Step 3: Evaluation

Once the deadline has passed, all proposals are evaluated against the criteria published in the Work Programme, resulting in a list of proposals in priority order. Independent experts specialised in the relevant fields may be involved in the evaluation.

The application process 2/2

Step 4: Grant agreement

Challenge

When the evaluation is over, applicants are informed on the outcome. The European Commission will draw up a grant agreement with each of the successful participants within the limits of the allocated budget. The grant agreement describes the activities to be undertaken, in line with the objectives of the call, the project's duration, budget, rates and costs, as well as the European Commission's contribution, the rights and obligations and other specificities linked to the topic covering the specific grant agreement.





Pitching session

Luc Baardman, Capgemini

Part 3





Intelligent Cities
Challenge



Pitches

Recommended set-up of a pitch

5 minute pitch + 5 minute Q&A

Include the following elements in your pitch

Topic of the presentation

City name

Speaker name & contact details

3-5 talking points

The more concise a pitch is, the better. Do not forget a call-to-action!



The European Commission's Intelligent Cities Challenge

