

DECISION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

N°5/2023

Approving the ranked lists of innovation actions selected for funding and the list of rejected proposals under the Europe's Rail JU call for proposals HORIZON-ER-JU-2022-02

THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE EUROPE'S RAIL JOINT UNDERTAKING,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) No 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe and repealing Regulations (EC) No 219/2007, (EU) No 557/2014, (EU) No 558/2014, (EU) No 559/2014, (EU) No 560/2014, (EU) No 561/2014 and (EU) No 642/2014¹, and in particular point of Article 17(2)(u).

Whereas:

- (1) On 8 September 2022, the Governing Board of the Europe's Rail (Decision N°10/2022) adopted the amended Europe's Rail Work Programme and Budget 2022-2024 ("WP 2022-2024"). This amended WP 2022-2024 was the basis for the launch of the call for proposals HORIZON-ER-JU-2022-02, which was published on the Horizon Europe Funding and Tenders Portal on 13 September 2022 with a deadline of 14 December 2022 at 17:00:00 Brussels time.
- (2) The call for proposals HORIZON-ER-JU-2022-02 comprised a total of 10 topics open to entities eligible under the general rules of Horizon Europe Work Programme. Each of those topics had its own dedicated budget line. Hence, projects do not compete against each other for the same budget insofar as they come under different topics.
- (3) In return to its 2022-02 Call for Proposals, the Europe's Rail received 16 proposals for a total estimated value of € 418,756,306.81 and a funding request of € 418,756,306.81.
- (4) The proposals were verified for their compliance with the admissibility requirements and eligibility conditions of the call. During the verification, it was concluded that 13 proposals were admissible. During the first-line eligibility check, it was concluded that 13 were eligible. 3 proposals were found inadmissible. Those 3 proposals were also found ineligible). The list and the detailed reasons for inadmissibility and ineligibility of proposals is provided in Annex 4. As a result, 13 proposals were declared admissible and eligible by the Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking.

¹ OJ L 427, 30.11.2021, p. 17.

- (5) The proposals submitted were evaluated by an evaluation committee composed of independent experts, as set out in Horizon Europe Work Programme (General Annexes - Annex F) and in accordance with the evaluation rules set out in the WP 2022-2024 (Annex VIII). On the basis of this evaluation, amongst the 13 proposals considered eligible, the experts established a ranking list per topic (Annex 1), providing a recommended priority order of proposals having equalled or passed all the award criteria thresholds (i.e.: “excellence”, “impact” and “quality and efficiency of the implementation”), as well as a list of proposals not retained for funding (Annex 2) since they did not meet the overall thresholds and/or one or more of the individual thresholds.
- (6) In accordance with the procedures laid down in the Guide on the procedures from proposal submission to managing grants under Horizon Europe (Online Manual), one independent observer was appointed by the Europe’s Rail to observe and offer independent advice on the conduct and fairness of all phases of the evaluation process, on how evaluators apply award criteria and on how to improve processes. The report of the independent observer (Annex 3) finds that the evaluation was impartial, fair, conducted in full compliance with all Horizon Europe rules, and constituted an example of international best practices. As concluded by the independent observer, proposals were evaluated and ranked in accordance with their merits in an efficient, fair, reliable, and transparent manner, with high-quality feedback to applicants as the final result.
- (7) The Governing Board took note and acknowledged the Report of the Executive Director on the outcome of the call for proposals HORIZON-ER-JU-2022-02, which includes the Call Evaluation Report with its annexes, as well as the individual evaluation summary reports which will be attached to the individual notification letters to be sent to the applicants. Nevertheless, Annexes 8, 10, 11 and 12 of the report were not disclosed to the private Founding Members of the Governing Board due to the risk of Conflict of Interest.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS

Article 1

The ranked lists pertaining to the call for proposals HORIZON-ER-JU-2022-02 including the lists of actions selected for funding and the reserve list (Annex 1), the list of proposals that do not meet the applicable thresholds for funding (Annex 2) as well as the list of inadmissible and ineligible proposals (Annex 4), are approved.

Article 2

The Executive Director shall inform the applicants of the results of the evaluation and shall communicate simultaneously to each of them the relevant individual evaluation summary reports, as an attachment to the notification letter. For the actions selected for funding, the notification letter sent by the Executive Director shall invite applicants to start the grant preparation.

Article 3

This Decision shall enter into force on the day following that of its adoption.

Done at Brussels, on 15 March 2023

For the Governing Board,



Henrik HOLOLEI
The Chairperson

- Annex 1: Ranked lists pertaining to the call for proposals HORIZON-ER-JU-2022-02 including the lists of actions selected for funding and the reserve list.
- Annex 2: List of below threshold proposals pertaining to the call for proposals HORIZON-ER-JU-2022-02.
- Annex 3: Independent Observer's Report.
- Annex 4: List of inadmissible and ineligible proposals.