

## Questions & Answers

Call for proposals 2023  
HORIZON-ER-JU-2023

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Q 1	For Innovation Actions, what is the funding rate for profit organizations?	<p>As stated in the <a href="#">Amended EU-Rail Work Programme 2023-2024</a> (section 2.3.8.1 Conditions of the calls and calls management rules), “the EU-Rail 2023 Call will follow the rules of the European Union’s Horizon Europe framework programme and in particular the Horizon Europe rules for participation as well as the General Annexes to the HE Work Programme 2023-2024, which apply, <u>unless specified otherwise</u>, to EU-Rail calls for proposals”. According to the <a href="#">Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2024 General Annexes</a>, page 30, the maximum Horizon Europe funding rates for an Innovation action for profit organizations is up to 70% and for non-profit legal entities up to 100%.</p> <p>In particular - as stated in the Amended EU-Rail Work Programme 2023-2024 -, for the sole Innovation Action for the EU-Rail call for proposals 2023 “EU-Rail SESAR Synergy: Integrated air and rail network backbone for a sustainable and energy efficient multimodal transport system” (section 2.3.8) the funding rate for profit</p>
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		<p>organizations has been set-up at maximum 70% funding rate.</p> <p>In the specific conditions under each of the topics in the EU-Rail call 2023 there is no lower funding rate applied.</p>
Q 2	<p>1. What about Swiss partners participating as Associated Partner in a project/call through a Consortial Agreement?</p> <p>2. If so, can we receive a copy of the respective Grant Agreement including Annexes for our Swiss funding authorities?</p>	<p>1. In accordance with Article 22(1) of the <a href="#">HE Regulation</a>, <i>“any legal entity, regardless of its place of establishment, including legal entities from non-associated third countries or international organizations, is eligible to participate (whether it is eligible for funding or not), provided that the conditions laid down in the Horizon Europe Regulation are met, along with any other conditions laid down in the specific call topic”</i>.</p> <p>Nevertheless, all exploratory talks regarding the association of Switzerland to the next generation of EU programmes are currently on hold. In the meantime, Switzerland cannot be considered a candidate associated country in Horizon Europe. It should be considered a non-associated third country. As a matter of consequences, legal entities established in Switzerland are not eligible for funding, except if provided for in the specific call conditions, or if their participation is considered essential for implementing the action by the granting authority.</p> <p>The EU-Rail call for proposals included in Amended EU-Rail Work Programme 2023-2024 does not foresee any specific call conditions for legal entities established in Switzerland. Therefore legal entities established in Switzerland could participate in the EU-Rail call for proposals 2023 as “associated partners” (in the meaning of Articles 2 and 9.1 of the Model Grant Agreement - Lump Sum Grants) without the right to charge costs or claim contributions: they may not charge contributions to the action (no lump sum contributions) and the costs for their tasks are not eligible (may not be included in the estimated budget in Annex 2).</p> <p>More information about the participation of Swiss entities in Horizon Europe can be found in the Founding and Tender Portal under <a href="#">FAQ</a>.</p> <p>2. The Grant Agreement templates are already present in the F&amp;T Portal under the section "Topic Conditions and Documents" in each topic of this call: <a href="#">Funding &amp; tenders</a>. Regarding the draft Grant Agreement and Annexes, please be informed that these will be available to the Project Partners during the Grant Agreement Preparation</p>

		Phase (GAP) if the proposal is successful and selected for funding.
Q 3	How and under which conditions can partners/members from the JU consortium participate in a proposal or collaborate to a project? Does this reduce their already allocated budget in the JU? What is the funding rate?	<p>We confirm that in accordance with the <a href="#">Amended Europe's Rail Work Programme 2023-2024</a> and the call conditions (section 2.3.8-Type of call: Open), the EU-Rail calls for proposals 2023 are open to all eligible entities according to Horizon Europe rules for participation. There are no restrictions apart from those laid down in Horizon Europe Work Programme General Annex B.</p> <p>Please note that there is no EU budget allocated to the members of the JU, although EU-Rail Private Members have committed a minimum in-kind (i.e., in-kind contributions for operational activities and in-kind contributions for additional activities) and cash contribution to the JU</p> <p>As indicated in the <a href="#">Amended Europe's Rail Work Programme 2023-2024</a> (under Conditions for the Call-Specific Conditions-Indicative budget) for each call topic, <i>"applicant Private Members (as defined in Article 2(5) of Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085) of the EU-Rail part of consortia responding to this topic should provide in-kind contributions to additional activities to be declared via the template model available on the F&amp;T Portal. The amount of total in-kind contributions (i.e., in-kind contributions for operational activities and in-kind contributions for additional activities) should be no less than 1.26352 times the funding request, in aggregate, of these applicant Private Members. Any discrepancy shall be well and duly justified.</i></p> <p><i>In this respect, the grant agreements will set, in principle, annual deliverable on in-kind contributions for the projects selected under this topic, as well as mandatory reporting requirements, for those applicants who are Private Members of EU-Rail".</i></p> <p>Regarding your question on the funding rates, as stated in the Amended EU-Rail Work Programme 2023-2024 (section 2.3.8.1 Conditions of the calls and calls management rules), <i>"the EU-Rail 2023 Call will follow the rules of the European Union's Horizon Europe framework programme and in particular the Horizon Europe rules for participation as well as the General Annexes to the HE Work Programme 2023-2024, which apply, unless specified otherwise, to EU-Rail calls for proposals".</i> As in the specific conditions under each of the topics in the EU-</p>

		Rail call 2023 there is no lower funding rate applied, the EU-Rail call for proposals 2023 does not put a lower limit to the maximum Horizon Europe funding rates (see “Form of grant, funding rate and maximum grant amount” of Annex G of the HE Work Programme 2023-2024).
Q 4	Are proposals that include members of the JU awarded higher scoring by the evaluators due to the additional financial resources they will bring to the project?	<p>Please note that the EU indicative budget defined for each of the topics referred in the Amended EU-Rail Work Programme 2023-2024 (under Annex VII – Call for proposals 2023 - Conditions for the Call - Specific Conditions - Indicative budget) has been set by EU-Rail to be sufficient to cover the activities requested in the topic text. The independent external evaluators will be asked to evaluate the proposal against the call text requirements. The indicative EU budget for each topic is also indicated on the Funding and Tenders portal in the section “budget overview” (under the link <a href="#">Funding &amp; tenders</a>).</p> <p>If additional financial resources are brought to perform activities beyond the call text requirements, those are not part of the call for proposals award criteria announced in the Amended EU-Rail Work Programme 2023-2024 (Annex VIII – 2023 Call for proposals – Evaluation Criteria) and therefore are not in principle taken into consideration for the scoring in accordance with Part D of the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2024 General Annexes (award criteria, scores and weighting).</p>
Q 5	Is there a connection between the calls and CNOSSOS-EU?	<p>In accordance with the Amended EU-Rail Work Programme 2023-2024 (Annex VII – Call for proposals 2023 - HORIZON-ER-JU-2023-EXPLR-01: NOISE AND VIBRATIONS - Scope section of the topic - Noise in curves) is expected that the applicant will conduct research activities, aiming at addressing the prediction and noise reduction around in urban areas, to improve the EU-CNOSSOS curve noise factor.</p> <p>You will find further information on the Funding &amp; Tender Opportunities Portal (under the link <a href="#">Funding &amp; tenders</a>).</p>
Q 6	I have a question regarding in-kind contribution and the definition of Private Members. If I understand it well, the reporting of 1,26 times more work is basically equals to the 70% support rate? In the last presentation it was the number	Please be informed that for 1€ of JU contribution, the EU-Rail Private Member shall contribute in addition of 1.263€ (this is an aggregate multiplier for the Founding Members, comprising in-kind contributions for operational activities and in-kind contributions for additional activities). This independently on the funding rate on the eligible costs.

	ADDITIONAL 1,26 EUR to every EUR EU contribution, is that correct? In my understanding it should be 1,26	For more details about the contribution of an EU-Rail Private Member please refer to Q n°3.
Q 7	Can Swiss Partners also lead a project?	<p>For the status of Switzerland and legal entities established in Switzerland in the Horizon Europe Programme please refer to answer to Q2 and the Founding and Tender Portal under <a href="#">FAQ</a>.</p> <p>As regards the question on Swiss Partners, in accordance with Articles 2 and 9.1 of the Model Grant Agreement - Lump Sum Grants), associated partners (such as legal entities established in Switzerland) do not become party to the Grant Agreement (GA), do not sign the GA and do not receive EU funding (i.e.: they may not charge contributions to the action (no lump sum contributions) and the costs for their tasks are not eligible (may not be included in the estimated budget in Annex 2). Therefore, associated partners cannot lead the project (as "consortium coordinator").</p> <p>Nevertheless, associated partners are mentioned in the GA and can implement important parts of the action, as they perform action tasks directly. They can become work package leaders in collaborative projects and must implement the action tasks attributed to them in Annex 1 (in accordance with Article 11 of the GA.) The GA names them and defines their role (rights and obligations). More information on "associated partners" is provided in the <a href="#">HE Annotated Grant Agreement (AGA)</a>.</p>
Q 8	<p>It seems, that some topics in the call have similarities to topics which are already addressed in the ongoing calls of the FP projects, e.g., FP 4.</p> <p>How will a collaboration between the topics be granted and controlled, to be sure that there will be no duplication of work but a good cooperation and complement the topics? And if yes how official interfaces between the projects planned for this?</p>	<p>As specified in section 2.3.8.1 of the Amended EU-Rail Work Programme 2023-2024, in order to facilitate the contribution to the achievement of the EU-Rail objectives, the options regarding 'linked actions' of the EU-Rail Model Grant Agreement and the provisions therein, is enabled in the corresponding EU-Rail Grant Agreements.</p> <p>In accordance with <a href="#">the amended Work Programme 2023-2024</a>, the information regarding complementarities is specified in the "Linked Projects" section in each of the Call topics. E.g., the action that is expected to be funded under the HORIZON-ER-JU-2023-EXPLR-02: FUTURE METRO SYSTEMS will be complementary to the following actions:</p> <p>-FP1 - MOTIONAL (GA 101101973)</p>

		<p>-FP2 - R2DATO (GA 101102001) -FP3 - IAM4RAIL (GA 101101966)</p> <p>Note that this obligation does not entail a specific legal agreement to be put in place and that the list is non-exhaustive, as additional Linked Projects may follow at a later stage of the programme implementation to complement the activity.</p> <p>Please refer to the Funding &amp; Tender Portal for further information (<a href="#">Funding &amp; tenders</a>).</p>
Q 9	<p>For the call '<b>HORIZON-ER-JU-2023-EXPLR-04 Disruptive Asset Management Solutions including urban use cases</b>', the call wording states: 'Activities are expected to be at TRL 4/5, higher TRL are possible'.</p> <p>Please clarify which of the following this means: 1) the project must reach TRL 4/5 by the end of the project, or 2) the project technology should start at TRL 4/5 and be increased to a higher TRL during the project.</p>	<p>Please be informed that in the time-frame consideration of the project duration, the applicants should consider the expectations stemming from the call conditions to achieve a Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 4/5, or higher by the end of the JU-funded project. For more detailed information see Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023 - 2024 - General Annexes - Annex B - Technology Readiness Levels - for a guide to the TRL definitions and criteria to be used.</p>
Q 10	<p>Maybe I have wrongly read the information anyway it seems to me that the budget for the call mentioned in the subject (rail and aviation synergy call) in the press release is said to be 7 million Euro, while in the text of the call is indicated 5 million Euro. Could you explain?</p>	<p>The budget for topic HORIZON-ER-JU-2023-FA1-SESAR can be found on the <a href="#">Funding and Tenders portal</a> in the section "budget overview".</p> <p>The information relative to the budget can also be found in the Amended EU-Rail Work Programme 2023-2024 (Annex VII- Call for proposals 2023) (page 154) under "Indicative budget" as follows: <i>The total indicative EU budget for this specific topic is EUR 5 million.</i></p> <p>7.1 million euros is the expected potential total project costs, as this topic is defined an Innovation Action with up to 70% funding on the eligible costs. This is also indicated in the <a href="#">AWP 2023-2024</a> (section 2.3.8 Calls for proposals) on page 57.</p>
Q 11	<p>I am contacting you as I couldn't attend yesterday's info day on the rail-related calls for proposals but would be interested in knowing</p>	<p>Please be informed that the Call for Proposals 2023 is published on Europe Rail's website (<a href="#">Europe's Rail Call for Proposals 2023 is open for submissions - Europe's Rail</a>).</p>

	<p>more about it. Is there the possibility for you to share with me the presentation you delivered, or any video you may have made regarding the info day?</p> <p>Also, I would really appreciate if you could provide the link to the eligibility criteria to participate.</p>	<p>In the EU-Rail web site you can also find the <a href="#">Europe's Rail Info Day 2023</a> that took place on 4 October 2023 where you can find the presentation and recording of the session.</p> <p>Information about the admissibility and eligibility criteria can be found on the Funding &amp; Tenders Portal (<a href="#">Funding &amp; tenders</a>).</p>
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