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EUROPEAN CYBERSECURITY
COMPETENCE CENTRE

Writing a DEP Cybersecurity proposal

Tips & Tricks

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#DigitalEU

Overview

- Horizon Europe vs. Digital Europe (Cyber) calls and criteria for evaluation
- DEP Cybersecurity
 - General comments
 - Criterion 1. RELEVANCE
 - Criterion 2. IMPLEMENTATION
 - Criterion 3. IMPACT
 - Projects at tie
- Questions?

Horizon vs. Digital Europe Cyber calls (non exhaustive list)

Proposal Item	Horizon	DEP
Objective	Research / Innovation	Uptake and Deployment
Main Type of action (funding rate)	RIA (100%) IA (70% / 100%) CSA (100%)	Simple (50%) SME support action (50%/75%) CSA (100%) FSTP (up to 100%)
Pre-financing rate	variable	Usually 80%
Consortium composition	Minim 3 beneficiaries from 3 eligible countries	Mono-beneficiaries allowed
Geographic coverage		Security restrictions apply
Evaluation criteria	Excellence / Impact / Quality and efficiency of Implementation	Relevance / Implementation / Impact
Exploitation plan	Yes (IA action)	Yes

DEP Cybersecurity - General:

Check the specific requirements of the call and of the topic

- Subject in scope of the Call & Topic
- Eligibility of participants (country, type of beneficiary)
- Security restrictions (Article 12(5))
 - Ownership Control Declaration – mandatory;
 - Facility security clearance (depending on the type of activity);
 - Country restrictions for subcontracting;
 - Country restrictions for eligible costs
 - IPR restrictions
- Page limit for part B (70 pages except 50 pages for CSA)
- Costs of equipment (depreciation, full cost)
- Mandatory requirements for deliverables (ex. communication, dissemination & exploitation – month 6)
- Annexes

Do not repeat ad-litteram what is contained in the Call document.

Criterion 1. RELEVANCE

Aspects to be taken into account (Items 3 and 4 may not be applicable to all topics - see call document):

1. Alignment with the objectives and activities as described in the Call document:

- Proposal in line with the call objectives
- Proposal's objectives - clearly defined, justified/demonstrated, aligned with the objectives of the specific topic, with relevant measurable KPIs and target values

3. Extent to which the project would reinforce and secure the digital technology supply chain in the EU

- Sufficiently described
- Not checked for all topics

2. Contribution to long-term policy objectives, relevant policies and strategies, and synergies with activities at European and national level:

- Sufficiently explained and substantiated
- Provide clear references to specific initiatives in terms of synergies and don't stay general

4. Extent to which the project can overcome financial obstacles such as the lack of market finance

- Not checked for all topics

Criterion 2. IMPLEMENTATION (1/2)

Aspects to be taken into account:

1 - Maturity of the project

- Ensure the right maturity of the proposal with respect to the requirements of the call; maturity can touch upon tools, technology, and services, the experience of partners, standards, etc.
- Provide details on the involvement of the beneficiaries in the actions, the advancement compared to the current state of the art, and the topics to be addressed

3 - Capacity of the applicants, and when applicable the consortium as a whole, to carry out the proposed work

- Description of the consortium participants
- Sufficient information on the background and specific expertise of team members
- Adequate experience to be sufficiently demonstrated (e.g. List of previous projects relevant to the topic)
- By the time of the submission, all entities participating in a proposal should be fully operational

Criterion 2. IMPLEMENTATION (2/2)

2 - Soundness of the implementation plan and efficient use of resources

- Implementation plan – clearly define the expected scope of the work and its connection to the objectives
- Work plan – provide sufficient explanation about
 - the rationale of each WP,
 - the work to be performed within each WP,
 - the connection between the different WPs,
 - how the activities outlined in the WPs will contribute to achieving the proposal's goal
- Tasks
 - if addressing testing and deployment – provide info on where deployment will take place, with appropriate verification of functionality by representative system users
 - Proposals including FSTP activities should define a concrete and feasible timeline from the opening the calls, to the selection of third parties and to the signature of the contracts with third parties.
- KPIs – relevant, well defined (including the baseline, connection to the objectives), including a progress evaluation methodology and quality assurance; best KPIs are quantitative and measurable.
- Milestones - scheduled over the duration of the project (and not at the end), with enough time for evaluation and corrective measures; avoid setting too many / too specific.
- Deliverables – provide detailed descriptions and always pay attention to potential requirements in the Call document
- Use of resources – realistic and detailed allocation per WP per partner, both in terms of workload but also of competencies required
- Make sure the Gantt chart provides a proper and logical sequencing of activities.
- Risks – describe impact and likelihood; provide clear mitigation strategies

Criterion 3. IMPACT

Aspects to be taken into account:

1 - Extent to which the project will achieve the expected outcomes and deliverables referred to in the call for proposals and, where relevant, the plans to disseminate and communicate project achievements

- elaborate clearly the scale and significance, make clear how the project intends to improve with respect to current baselines.
- KPIs well defined (clear baseline, aligned to the project goals, ambitious)
- target audience, key messages, communication channels - well identified and defined; tailored to identified wider audience; credible and ambitious dissemination strategy

2 - Extent to which the project will strengthen competitiveness and bring important benefits for society

- provide concrete examples and sufficient details



IMPACT criterion will be considered in case of ties after RELEVANCE

Projects at tie

The priority order will be given by (in this succession – check call text):

1. Focus on a **theme** that is not otherwise covered by higher ranked proposals (check the Scope area per topic)
2. **Score** on Relevance, then on Impact, and after on Implementation
3. The overall proposal **portfolio** and the creation of positive **synergies** between proposals
4. The balanced spread of **geographical** and **thematic coverage**

Questions?

Your NCC

Funding and Tender portal: General FAQ [[link](#)];

The screenshot shows the 'EU F&T Portal' with a navigation menu, a language selector set to 'EN', and a 'Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)' section. Below the title is a note: 'For questions related to specific calls or topics, please refer to the Topic Q&A section on the topic pages (search for the appropriate topic)'. A 'Filters' section includes a 'Quick search' box with a 'Select...' dropdown and a search icon, a checked 'Match whole words only' option, and four filter buttons: 'Type', 'Programming period', 'Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL)', and 'Active', each with a dropdown arrow.

Funding and Tender portal: Topic Q&A [[example link](#)]

The screenshot shows the 'Topic Q&As' page with a search bar containing 'General FAQ' and a search icon, and a filter box with 'Filter...'. Below the search bar, it indicates '7 item(s) found'. The page lists four questions, each with a speech bubble icon and a truncated answer:

- Question:** We are interested in applying as a consortium with a privately owned company registered in another EU country. Could you elaborate if this fulfils the eligibility criteria for the call **DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06**?
Answer: As indicated in the Digital Europe Cybersecurity Work Programme 2023 - 2024, if justified for securi...
- Question:** Is the budget fixed for proposals to **DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06**? What is the maximum allowable budget?
Answer: Please refer to the call document, and more specifically to the allocated budget to each topic (p. 22...
- Question:** Could you explain the funding model in more details for Grants for Support to Third Parties for the topic **DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-STRENGTHENCR**?
Answer: Grants for Financial Support (GFS) type of actions have a particular focus on cascading grants. It m...
- Question:** Are there any restrictions on the composition of the consortium under topic **DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-06-STRENGTHENCR**?
Answer: Although no specific restrictions are in place regarding the Consortium compositions, it is mentione...

In summary

Proposals should be

Admissible Eligible Original

Aligned Clear Explained References

Maturity Added-value State-of-the-art
Experience

Logic Interlinked Balanced Controllable
Measurable Complete

Scale Audience Impact

Eligible

Clear

Convincing

Complete

ECCC – Ongoing & Upcoming calls

TOPIC	Title	Open Date	Deadline	Budget
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-NCC-06	DEPLOYING THE NETWORK OF NATIONAL COORDINATION CENTRES WITH THE MEMBER STATES	29.02.2024	29.05.2024 <u>21.11.2024</u>	65 M EUR
HORIZON-CL3-2024-CS-01	HORIZON EUROPE CLUSTER 3 (CYBERSECURITY) 2024 call 01 (2 topics)	27.06.2024	20.11.2024	60,5 M EUR
DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-07	DIGITAL EUROPE (CYBERSECURITY) 2024 call 07 (6 topics)	4.07.2024	21.01.2025	102,8 M EUR

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