

Frequently Asked Questions

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I. Consortium composition

1. What are the requirements regarding the consortium composition?

Each consortium is made up of:

- **At least three legal entities.**
- Each of the three must be established in a different EU Member State or Euratom Program associated country (only Ukraine).
- All three legal entities must be independent of each other.
- At least one of the three is an external entity (non-PIANOFORTE Beneficiary or non-Affiliated Entity) to the current PIANOFORTE consortium.
- Please note that United Kingdom is not an EU member state and is not associated to EURATOM Program!

Each consortium must nominate a **project coordinator** among the project's principal investigators. For practical administrative reasons it is recommended that the coordinator belongs to a PIANOFORTE Beneficiary organization or one of their Affiliated Entities. However, an associated partner or a third party can be coordinator of a project. The project coordinator will represent the consortium externally and towards the Call Secretariat of PIANOFORTE and PIANOFORTE coordination and will be responsible for its internal scientific management (such as controlling, reporting, intellectual property rights (IPR) issues and contact with the Call Secretariat or the PIANOFORTE coordination).

Each project partner will be represented by one **principal investigator** only. Within a joint proposal, each project partner's principal investigator will be the contact person.

Each principal investigator can submit only one proposal as project coordinator.

Only transnational projects will be funded.

The number of participants and their research contribution should be appropriate for the aims of the transnational research project and reasonably balanced in terms of international participation. Each transnational collaborative project should represent the critical mass to achieve ambitious scientific goals and should clearly demonstrate an added value from working together.

2. Can an affiliated entity or a third party participate in an open call project without its own Beneficiary participating in such project?

Yes. In this case, the beneficiary does not participate in the action (contrary to the affiliated entity or/and the third party) and has only a "management" role.

Nota bene: such Beneficiary does not participate in the action (it is not considered as a "participant" of the project) but it is a *signatory* of the funding agreement.

3. **Is it possible to add new affiliated entity?**

Yes, please cf. page 20 of the call text 2024.

4. **What are the requirements for becoming an affiliated entity?**

Affiliated Entities are entities with a legal link to the beneficiaries which implement parts of the action and are allowed to charge costs directly to the grant.

In such a case, the beneficiary linked to this participant shall communicate to the Call Secretariat of PIANOFORTE all the appropriate documents necessary to prove the status of Affiliated Entity before the proposals submission set for July 23, 2024.

The Call Secretariat of PIANOFORTE will transmit the document to IRSN as PIANOFORTE Coordinator which will transfer it to the European Commission.

The decision regarding the status of Affiliated Entity is taken by the European Commission. If an entity is considered as an Affiliated Entity, said entity will be listed in article 8 of the PIANOFORTE Grant Agreement.

WARNING: If the status of Affiliated Entity is rejected by the European Commission, the participant will be considered as another kind of participant with the financial consequences attached.

5. **How to include in the proposal a participant who is not yet an affiliated entity?**

If the participant can be considered, in your opinion, as an affiliated entity and you intend to provide the relevant documents to PIANOFORTE, this entity must be presented in your proposal as a new affiliated entity.

6. **Is it possible to add a new beneficiary?**

Yes. In justified cases, an external entity may ask to be added as a beneficiary of Pianoforte.

In such situation, the beneficiaries may request this addition (Article 40 of GA).

For this purpose, the coordinator must submit a request for amendment in accordance with Article 39 of GA.

It must include an accession form (see Annex 3 of GA) signed by the new beneficiary directly in the Portal Amendment tool.

New beneficiaries will assume the rights and obligations under the GA with effect from the date of their accession specified in the accession form (see Annex 3 of GA).

Additions are also possible in mono-beneficiary grants.

7. Is it possible for international partners (outside of EU) to participate?

Yes. Non-EU entities can participate in a consortium in the same way as EU entities if their country is associated to the Programme Horizon Europe (so-called 'associated country' of programme HE).

Nota bene: Non-EU participants are not a separate category of participants, but simply participants (e.g. beneficiary, affiliated entity, associated partner, subcontractor) that are not legally established in one of the EU Member States.

8. Who can be coordinator?

Any participant including beneficiaries, affiliated entities or third parties.

9. Is it possible for one legal entity, to participate twice (or more) in the call - i.e. to take part in two (or more) different project consortiums, on the same or different research topics?

Yes.

10. Is it possible for the same researcher to participate in two different projects?

Yes.

11. Can the same institution coordinate more than one project?

Yes, however it is not possible for the same principal investigator to coordinate two projects of one given call at the same time.

II. Budget aspects

12. What costs need to be declared in my budget during the proposal phase?

Whether it participates in the action or whether it has only a “management” role, each beneficiary is supposed to declare on the EC portal, the following **eligible** costs*:

- Its own costs, meaning:
 - Management costs if the beneficiary has only a “management” role.
 - Costs of action if the beneficiary performs action.
- Costs of action of its Affiliated entity(ies).

*personnel costs, subcontracting costs, purchase costs, other costs categories (indirect costs added).

To help you, an “Auxiliary Financial Excel Sheet” is accessible on [PIANOFORTE Website](#).

13. What is the funding rate?

PIANOFORTE will reimburse **63%** of the eligible costs declared and validated by the EC.

Regarding “financial support to third parties” (FSTP): The maximum amount of eligible costs to be declared and granted by Beneficiary as FSTP, for each recipient of FSTP, is:

- EUR 300 000 for actions justifying the establishment of a Ph.D. or post doc contract or
- EUR 100 000 in other cases of activities for the implementation of the roadmap for research in radiation protection.

The ceiling mentioned hereinabove is global ceiling for all the calls organized in the frame of PIANOFORTE.

14. Financial flows: How it works?

Step 1: When eligible costs are validated by the EC, the latter pays the PF coordinator (IRSN).

Step 2: The PF coordinator (IRSN) transfers the funds received to each Beneficiary concerned.

The sum transferred by IRSN to a given Beneficiary includes:

- The sums due to this Beneficiary;
- The sums due to each of this Beneficiary’s Affiliated Entities (AE) if any and the Subcontractor(s), Contributor(s) in-kind and Recipient(s) of financial support to third parties of each of these AE;
- The sums due the Subcontractor(s), Contributor(s) in-kind and Recipient(s) of financial support to third parties of this Beneficiary.

Step 3: Each Beneficiary transfers the funds due to its AE (if any)

15. **Who can be financed or not?**

Only entities established in EU Member States or in *Euratom* associated countries are eligible for receiving financial support.

Persons, groups and entities subject to EU sanctions cannot participate and cannot be funded.

“Associated partners” can participate but cannot be funded by PIANOFORTE.

16. **Financial support to third parties: Who does support the 37% not financed by PIANOFORTE?**

Regarding “Financial support to third parties”, the funding of the 37% not financed by PIANOFORTE shall be supported by the Beneficiary or the Affiliated Entity on its **own** funds.

17. **What is the minimum and maximum budget of a project consortium?**

The total budget of each consortium must be from 1.0 M€ up to 1.5 M€.

If the budget is lower or higher the project will be refused.

The total budget must include the costs of all the participants including the participants which will not receive any funding (e.g. associated partners).

III. Miscellaneous

18. **Does the PIANOFORTE have any active system to search for partners in order to create a consortium?"**

There is no system specific to Pianoforte.

However, an active system to search for partners is available by following [this EC link](#).

19. **Is a beneficiary liable for the action of its affiliated entities or third parties?**

Yes, in accordance with the PF grant agreement.

20. **Where can I find information regarding PIANOFORTE or the calls?**

All useful information is on [PIANOFORTE website](#).

You will find the Infoday's presentations on the [PIANOFORTE website](#).

21. **Who can help me regarding EU rules?**

The network of National Contact Points (NCPs) is the main structure to provide guidance, practical information and assistance on all aspects of participation in Horizon Europe. NCPs are also established in many non-EU and non-associated countries ("third countries").

You may find the following link to find your NCP [Funding & tenders \(europa.eu\)](#).

22. **What is the submission deadline?**

Electronic proposal submission deadline is 23rd of July 2024 CEST (Brussels local time).

Link to electronic proposal submission: [PT-Outline \(ptoutline.eu\)](#).