

CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2022/CFP/RIU/01

Frontex Research Grants Programme - Novel Technologies for Border Management (Open Theme)

Frequently Asked Questions - FAQs

Background information

As explained in the Call for Proposals - section 15.1, questions regarding this Call for Proposals, indicating its reference number (2022/CFP/RIU/01), can be sent by email to the functional mailbox address:

researchgrants@frontex.europa.eu.

In section 3 of the Call for Proposals, the “Deadline for submitting requests for clarifications” is clearly stated (**27 February 2023 12:00 CET**). Frontex will reply to requests for clarifications submitted by that deadline as soon as possible by sending a message directly to the email address from which the inquiry was sent.

If relevant to other applicants, the questions and answers will be anonymously published, by the “Last day of publication of the clarifications” indicated in section 3 of the Call for Proposals (**02 March 2023 12:00 CET**), on the Frontex webpage: <https://frontex.europa.eu/about-frontex/grants/> under the relevant section dedicated to this Call for Proposals, where this file named “Frequently asked questions - FAQs” is made available for download containing all such questions and answers.

This document is updated regularly.

Frequently asked questions

Last update: 24.02.2023

Question 1

The call document makes 2 mentions of budget: first saying that the budget available is 250,000 EUR and later saying that the grant amount has a ceiling of 60,000 EUR. Can I say that the total call is worth 250,000 EUR and one single proposal can request up to 60,000?

Answer:

In the Call for Proposals:

- In section 4 it is indicated that: “*The total budget earmarked for the co-financing of projects under this Call for Proposals is estimated at 250,000 EUR. Frontex reserves the right not to distribute all the funds available*”. This means that the amount of grants that Frontex can fund in total under this call (i.e. summing up the grants to all the projects awarded under the call) is estimated at 250,000 EUR.
- In section 11.1.1 it is indicated that “*Grant ceiling: The contribution requested to Frontex in a proposal (grant amount) cannot exceed 60,000 EUR*”. This indeed means that, in a single application, the applicant(s) cannot request a contribution to Frontex higher than 60,000 EUR. In addition to this, please also consider that this amount (i.e. the contribution requested to Frontex) shall not exceed 90% of the eligible costs (based again on what is indicated in the Call for Proposals section 11.1.1).

To further clarify the last point, two purely explanatory examples are reported below, where the above 2 conditions (the 60 000 EUR ceiling and the 90% maximum co-financing rate) are met:

To further clarify the last point, two purely explanatory examples are reported below, where the above 2 conditions (the 60 000 EUR ceiling and the 90% maximum co-financing rate) are met:

- a) a project with eligible costs amounting to 66,000 EUR, requesting a contribution to Frontex of 59,400 EUR. In this case both conditions are respected because the contribution requested to Frontex is:
 - 59,400 - therefore does not exceed the 60,000 EUR ceiling;
 - 90% of the eligible costs - therefore does not exceed 90% of the eligible costs;
- b) a project with eligible costs amounting to 100,000 EUR requesting a contribution to Frontex of 60,000 EUR. Both conditions are respected because the contribution requested to Frontex is:
 - 60,000 EUR - therefore does not exceed the 60,000 EUR ceiling;
 - 60% of the eligible costs - therefore does not exceed 90% of the eligible costs.

Question 2

We are a non-profit public company governed by private law, and we are uncertain about our eligibility for the grant. In case we are not eligible, can we still participate contributing in-kind to a project led by a University (which would apply to receive a grant for its project)?

Answer:

You can provide in-kind contribution to a project proposal submitted by the University; however, please consider that:

- you would **not be eligible for receiving any funding** under this call and **you cannot be delegated by the applicants to conduct the tasks indicated in the proposal** (see Call for Proposals, section 6.1);
- in-kind contributions **would not be eligible costs** (see Call for Proposals, section 11.3); therefore, the University receiving the in-kind contribution cannot include this among their eligible costs;
- in-kind contributions **cannot be included in the co-financing of the action** (see Call for Proposals, section 11.4);
- in-kind contributions shall be **presented separately in the estimated budget** to reflect the total resources allocated to the action (see for example file “Annex3-3_MGA_Single_Annex_III_Estimated_Budget.xlsx” - sheet “Estimated Budget” - Table 2 section 3 and Table 3 section 4).

Question 3

Our Institution has already provided Frontex with the Legal Entity Form and the Financial Identification Form in the frame of a previous initiative. For our application under this Call for Proposals, could we re-use the forms provided previously, or would we have to fill-in these forms again?

Answer:

It is recommended **not to re-use forms** already provided to Frontex in the frame of previous initiatives.

The templates for the Grant Application Forms and all its Annexes are available for download on the webpage <https://frontex.europa.eu/about-frontex/grants/> under the relevant section (Reference n.: 2022/CFP/RIU/01).

Only these templates must be used by the applicant(s) to prepare the application. No other templates are allowed to be used, and the structure of the templates cannot be altered or manipulated by the applicant (they must contain all their parts).

Be aware that the assessment of the content and validity of any documents provided with the applications is carried out by the Evaluation Committee during the formal evaluation process of the official applications received. In the interest of equal treatment of applicants, Frontex cannot issue an official prior opinion on the validity of application documents.

Question 4

27th of February is the deadline for asking clarifications. Can we ask to clarify only some exact questions till this date, or also the draft of the application could be sent to you for a quick check?

Answer:

As indicated in the Call for Proposals (paragraph 15.1), the “Deadline for submitting requests for clarifications” refers to **questions regarding the Call for Proposals**. In the interest of equal treatment of applicants, **Frontex cannot issue a prior opinion or perform a preliminary check on applications**.

Question 5

In our project proposal there would be the need for conducting a certain task. We are planning to hire a number of experts through a specific contract to perform this task. The results of the work of the experts will belong to the beneficiary of the grant. Those experts are workers of a different national authority. Can we include this cost among the direct personnel costs?

Answer:

In order to properly assess the eligibility of the described cost as direct cost (in the category of Costs of Personnel), please carefully read the Call for Proposals - paragraph **11.2.1 (11.2.1. Eligible direct costs) - sub (a)** and **Appendix B**. It is suggested that you focus your attention on the following conditions related to the eligibility of costs of personnel, to be carefully considered according to your specific circumstances:

- (a) the costs of personnel working under an **employment contract with the beneficiary or an equivalent appointing act and assigned to the action, provided that these costs are in line with the beneficiary’s usual policy on remuneration**.

Those costs include actual salaries plus social security contributions and other statutory costs included in the remuneration. They may also comprise additional remunerations, including payments on the basis of supplementary contracts regardless of the nature of those contracts, provided that they are paid in a consistent manner whenever the same kind of work or expertise is required, independently from the source of funding used;

The costs of natural persons working under a contract with the beneficiary other than an employment contract or who are seconded to the beneficiary by a third party against payment may also be included under such personnel costs, provided that the following conditions are fulfilled:

- (i) the person works under conditions similar to those of an employee (in particular regarding the way the work is organised, the tasks that are performed and the premises where they are performed);
- (ii) the result of the work belongs to the beneficiary (unless exceptionally agreed otherwise); and
- (iii) the costs are not significantly different from the costs of staff performing similar tasks under an employment contract with the beneficiary;

The recommended methods for the calculation of direct personnel costs are provided in **Appendix B**.

Be aware that the assessment of the eligibility of the activities and of the costs included in the Estimated Budget of a proposed action is carried out by the Evaluation Committee during the formal evaluation process of the official applications received. In the interest of equal treatment of applicants, **Frontex cannot issue an official prior opinion on the eligibility of specific activities and/or costs**.

Question 6

Does the limit of 90% for the reimbursement rate apply to each single category/subcategory of direct eligible costs in TABLE 1 of annex 1.4 (file Annex1-4_Estimated_Budget_Single.xlsx) or there is the possibility of requesting, for some categories/subcategories of the direct eligible costs, a reimbursement rate of 100%, provided that the total reimbursement rate for the project does not exceed 90%?

Answer:

- as indicated in the Call for Proposals - paragraph 11.1.1, “*the grant will be defined by applying a maximum co-financing rate of 90 % to the eligible costs (...)*”. This refers to **each of the eligible costs**;
- also, in Annex1-4_Estimated_Budget_Single.xlsx, worksheet “Estimated budget”, TABLE 1 (Estimated eligible costs of the action and EU contribution), column M (Reimbursement rate⁽²⁾), in footnote (2) it is recommended to “*Please specify the % of the estimated eligible costs declared on the basis of lump sums for which the EU contribution is requested. Remember that this percentage cannot exceed 90%*”. This clearly **refers to the % values to input (separately) in Column M for each of the budget lines (direct eligible costs subcategories) in sections 1 to 6 of the same TABLE 1**;
- in conclusion, **it is not possible to request a reimbursement rate higher than 90 % for any of the categories/subcategories of the direct eligible costs.**