



GENDER-NET Plus

Promoting gender equality in H2020 and the ERA

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Deadline for submission of Pre-proposals: Thursday, 1 March 2018, 17:00 (Central European Time – CET).

Please note that this document will be up-dated regularly. If your question is not answered here, please contact the GENDER-NET Plus Call Secretariat gendernet@research.ie. For questions about national eligibility issues, please contact the national contact persons listed in the [Funding Organisation Rules](#).

Questions that have been added to this document since the last version was published are coloured blue.

Applicant Eligibility

Is this call open to participants beyond the 13 countries participating in the call?

Partners from other countries can participate in-kind as associate partners, i.e. associate partnership is open to everyone.

However only applicants from the following countries can apply for funding by GENDER-NET Plus: Austria, Belgium (Wallonia-Brussels Federation), Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Norway, Spain or Sweden. The Project Coordinator (main applicant) should also be from one of the 13 listed countries.

Can non-academic partners such as NGOs or private companies apply for funding in the call?

The eligibility of researchers and institutions are subject to the national /regional regulations and legal frameworks applicable to each individual party. For information on partner eligibility, please see the Funding Organisation rules for your particular country or funding agency at the following link: <http://gender-net-plus.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/GENDER-NET-Plus-Funding-Organisation-Rules-2.pdf>

I cannot find a Funding Organisation from my country in the call document. Does this mean that my team cannot apply?

Only applicants from the following countries can apply for funding by GENDER-NET Plus: Austria, Belgium (Wallonia-Brussels Federation), Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Norway, Spain or Sweden. The Project Coordinator (main applicant) should also be from one of the 13 listed countries.

Partners from any other country can participate in proposed projects in-kind as associate partners - associate partnership is open to everyone.

Who is eligible as a Principal Investigator (IP) in this call? Can for example a person who has a temporary contract with a Research Centre apply as a PI?

To confirm a specific person's eligibility, we advise you to contact your country's funding organisation's contact points, since the principles may differ between organisations. Please find the contacts in <http://gender-net-plus.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/GENDER-NET-Plus-Funding-Organisation-Rules-1.pdf>



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How come the eligible topics, budgets, applicants and other requirements differ from country to country to such a great extent?

Each of the funding organisations under GENDERNET PLUS are mandated to fund different types of research across a variety of disciplines, institutions and applicants. They have also set specific budgets for the successful applicants under their remit. Applicants are asked to consult the Funding Organisation rules or to contact the relevant funding organisation for guidance.

Who can I consult with regarding researchers' questions about topic compatibility?

General information on call topics is available in the Announcement of Opportunity on the GENDERNET PLUS website: <http://gender-net-plus.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/GENDER-NET-Plus-Announcement-of-Opportunity-Topics-4.pdf>. Applicants can also contact the appropriate [Funding Organisation Contact Point](#) for further information. However, it is ultimately the responsibility of the researcher to determine the most suitable topic(s) for their proposal and to convince the scientific evaluators that their research proposal falls under one or several of the call's topics.

Since the call only speaks – for Belgium – about FRS-FNRS (francophone Belgium), we were wondering if Flemish universities can apply as well?

The only Belgian funding organisation that participates as funder in this call is FRS-FNRS that funds applicants from francophone Belgium, so the Principal Investigator from Belgium who applies for funding should be from there. Teams from other universities can participate as associate partners.

I want to know if I can apply to GENDER. NET Plus (Promoting gender equality in H2020 and the ERA) to obtain funding for my doctoral studies in gender studies.

This call is not designed to support individual PhD projects. PhD students can rather participate as team members in projects led by senior researchers – the projects being, transnational and including at least three countries from among the following: Austria, Belgium (Wallonia-Brussels Federation), Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Norway, Spain or Sweden. Please see more at <http://gender-net-plus.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/GENDER-NET-Plus-General-Eligibility-1.pdf>

Partners

How many partners can a consortium have? Is there a minimum and maximum?

Only the minimum number of consortium partners is set, namely three eligible partners from at least three eligible countries (Austria, French-speaking Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Norway, Spain or Sweden).

There is no maximum number of partners prescribed. However, in practice limits will be put by the maximum budget that is allowed for the proposed project as a whole (1 million euro). Please see more on this in <http://gender-net-plus.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/GENDER-NET-Plus-General-Eligibility-1.pdf>.

How can I connect with potential collaborators in order to submit a grant to GENDER-NET?

Please note that in the page of the GENDER-NET Plus website dedicated to the Cofunded Call 2017 a partnering tool is accessible at <http://gender-net-plus.eu/joint-call/partnering/>

Should you have any question, please contact the Call Secretariat at gendernet@research.ie.

Should each partner organisation have a PI? Or is it that each national team should have a PI?



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Each partner to a proposal should have a PI.

Can there be two PIs from one country (in addition to two separate PIs from 2 other countries)?

In general yes, there can be two (or more) PIs from one country provided that there are a minimum of three PIs from three different countries in the consortium overall. However, there are some stipulations, depending on the rules of the relevant funding organisation. Please consult the funding organisation rules for your country for any additional eligibility criteria for PIs.

The application form asks us to include team members. Should this be done for each country by the country PI? Do all team members need to be listed?

Yes. Each PI can add as many team members as they are aware of at pre-proposal stage.

It may be useful to add as specific information as possible at this stage, as it may strengthen the project proposal and support the information provided in the budget.

It may be the case that team members will only be recruited if the project secures funding – such plans can be described in the ‘Detailed Project Description’ (pdf). Please consult the specific Funding Organisation’s Contact Points for country specific information

Should all the team members be registered on the web platform, even if they only work part-time on the project and not full-time? Are there any limits on the number of team members, as long as we do not exceed the budget?

There is no limitation on team members and you may include information on part-time team members. Each PI can add as many team members as they wish provided that they don’t exceed the budget. Further detail on the team can be included in the ‘Detailed Project Description’, which should outline how the composition of the team would add value to the proposal.

Can one and the same institution participate in several applications?

There are no limits placed on the number of applications per institution.

On the web platform we have to create a ‘List of project partners’. These partners are PIs. But under each PI, there is also a possibility to include other team members. Should these team members also be PIs? Should we only mention the APs in the project description document, and not register their names on the web platform?

In terms of this call, a ‘PI’ is the leader of each partner team. There may be ‘teams’ that consist only of one person, i.e. one PI, but often there will be partners/teams that consist of several people, one of them being the PI. From each partner team, one person – the team leader i.e. the PI is invited to EPSS in order to provide information about their team.

Usually in projects proposed in ERA-NET calls, one country is represented by one PI and thus one team. However, it is possible to have several PIs, and thus several participant teams from one country. This normally presupposes that they represent separate institutions. However, if two researchers from one and the same institution participate, one of them should normally take the role of the PI and the other one of the team member. The particular funding organisations can have specific rules on this aspect.

As for APs, they are not expected to be registered and access the EPSS at all, as they are not



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requesting any funding. The right place to describe their contribution is in the 'Detailed Project Description'. You are also asked to submit a Letter of Commitment by them. And you are invited to mention their in-kind in comments to your budget within the EPSS. NB: APs are not team members – in terms of this call, APs are whole teams or institutions (or perhaps sometimes also individuals) who participate in the project with their own funding, i.e. who are not affiliated with PIs or teams who request funding.

I am wondering from the GENDER-NET Plus Joint Call on Gender and UN SDGs if there an institution can have "co-PI"s ? Further, if one PI holds an independent academic title, is it necessary for the other co-PI to be an independent researcher as well or can they be a research staff member (eg Research Associate)?

In answer to your question, each team should have one PI, considered eligible for funding by a GENDER-NET Plus funding organisation in that country. For more information on the team member eligibility, please see the Funding Organisation Rules relevant to you at the following link: <http://gender-net-plus.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/GENDER-NET-Plus-Funding-Organisation-Rules-3.pdf>.

Associate Partners

Is it possible that we can associate a partner if they pay their way? We would like to work with a researcher in a country which is not participating in the call but who has expressed an interest in coming on as an associate partner in a funding arrangement such as Gender NET plus enables...

Yes, associated partners who participate in-kind can be from any country. However, they cannot apply for funding under the call.

We wanted to confirm if it is a requirement to include an Associated Partner with an application and if that Associated Partner has to be from one of the 17 Co-funding countries?

Associated Partners are not compulsory but if they are included, they can be from any country.

Do we need letters of commitment from all partners, or only Associate Partners?

A letter of commitment is not required from the partners is *at this pre-proposal stage*, as the partners demonstrate their consent to participate by submitting their data within the EPSS.

That is to say, the Call Secretariat will only check - at the pre-proposal stage - that Letters of Commitment are provided by the APs. It may however be that some funding organisations ask separate/additional documents from IPs from their country. Please consult the specific Funding Organisation Rules for clarification.

Budget

What is the minimum and maximum budget of a project

The total budget requested from the GENDER-NET Plus must not exceed 1 Million EURO across all participating partners in the CRP. For information on specific budget limits and eligible costs applicable to your country, see <http://gender-net-plus.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/GENDER-NET-Plus-General-Eligibility-1.pdf>

What is the maximum buy-out time allowed for a co-ordinator?

Please consult the specific funding organisation rules for information on personnel stipulations: <http://gender-net-plus.eu/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/GENDER-NET-Plus-Funding-Organisation-Rules.pdf>

Does the project coordinator administer the full consortium budget or is every partner paid



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directly from their national funding organisation?

Every partner team will be paid directly from their national funding organisation if the project proves successful, i.e. they will have separate funding agreements with their own funding organisations later.

Should we include the Madrid workshop budget in Year 1 or 2 of the project?

It should be included in year two.

1. How many budget documents do we need to submit, that is one per county or one merged for the participating countries ?
2. Is a budget detail document required ? if yes, one per country ? or one for the four partner countries ?
3. Are appendices (besides 5 scientific papers from respective PIs) allowed at this letter of intent stage such as list of collaborators per country and letters of collaboration ?

Project proposals can only be submitted via **the Electronic Proposal Submission System (EPSS)** in case of this call: <https://proposals.etag.ee/gendernetplus/log-in>

Each partner needs to submit their own budget (which should be in agreement with each respective Funding Organisation requirements). It may differ from Funding Organisation to Funding Organisation, which budget details exactly are requested. Please ask your partners to consult the “**Funding Organisation Rules**” for their country (find the document at <http://gender-net-plus.eu/joint-call/cofunded-call/>) and confirm details with their Funding Organisation Contact Points.

For each partner, the budget details (as well as **all other required details**) **need to be entered** separately **in the Electronic Proposal Submission System (EPSS)**. The EPSS will then calculate the total budget, requested in your proposal, automatically. (Each partner is expected to enter their budget details themselves, as each partner should take responsibility for their own budget. However, the coordinator (main applicant) is able to do this within the EPSS also.)

In addition to details entered directly into the EPSS, the coordinator (main applicant) is also asked to upload a “Detailed project description” as a .pdf document. This document includes a small table that should replicate the total budget numbers as calculated by the EPSS.

The “**Detailed project description**” (a word document that you are asked to fill in before saving it as .pdf and that can also be found here: <http://gender-net-plus.eu/joint-call/cofunded-call/>) is the only .pdf document that you are expected to upload at this stage. You will not be able to upload any scientific papers – only list them as part of your partners’ CVs.

Normally, no commitment letters are expected from those partners who request funding via the EPSS (exceptions may be certain funding organisations who request this separately) - as a rule, commitment letters are only asked from Associate Partners.

Please find further details on these issues and other questions that you refer to, in the “**General Eligibility**” document and “**Pre-proposal submission guidelines**” documents (at <http://gender-net-plus.eu/joint-call/cofunded-call/>).



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Project Duration

What is the minimum and maximum duration of a project?

CRPs can have up to 36 months in duration. CRPs must start by March 1st, 2019 and finish by December 31st, 2021 at the latest.

The call conditions say that the proposed projects, if successful, must have started by March 1, 2019, and ended by December 31, 2021. This leaves only 34 months as a project duration. How come?

Projects must start by 1st March 2019 at the latest and all CRPs must finish on 31st December 2021. However, projects can start earlier than that (from January 2019) and these projects can be 36 months in duration.

Application Process

While most of the 13 countries/regions participating in the call have only one funding organisation per country, in Spain and Canada there are two. Do the Spanish and Canadian applicants have to indicate to which of the two institutions they are applying to?

The Canadian applicants are asked to indicate to which of the two funding organisations they are applying to, while the Spanish applicants are not asked to do this. The two Spanish funding organisations will decide this themselves based on which topics the proposal addresses.

Does each applicant need to apply to the funding organisation of his/her own country?

Each partner should follow his/her own country's funding organisation rules.

The application process itself is centralised: the applying takes place via the Electronic Proposal Submission System (<https://proposals.etag.ee/gendernetplus/>) and should be initiated by the Project Coordinator (the main applicant) who should be from one of the 13 listed countries.

In addition to this, some funding organisations require that applicants should submit additional documents to the relevant Funding Organisation(s). Please see the *General Eligibility Requirements* and *Funding Organisation Rules* for detailed instructions.

In the document 'GENDER-NET Plus Pre-proposal Detailed Project Description TEMPLATE', there is a question about 'Added value of international cooperation'. But where on the web platform should this text be included?

The 'GENDER-NET Plus Pre-proposal Detailed Project Description TEMPLATE' is a document that is to be filled in in addition to the information entered directly into the EPSS : you are asked to enter only one part of the information about your project directly on the web platform. In addition to that, we kindly ask you to fill in the word template, save it as .pdf and upload it on the EPSS.

Part of the information is to be repeated in both (e.g., the abstract). But partly the information differs. Describing added value of international cooperation is an example of information that you are asked to include only in the .pdf document. On the web platform you are only asked to indicate your agreement with the general principle.

Is there a template for the CVs?

There is no template as such for CVs but there is guidance on what should be included in a CV in the pre-proposal detailed project template which is available on the website here: <http://gender-net-plus.eu/joint-call/cofunded-call/>



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CVs are only required from PIs, not APs? Inclusion of CVs by APs is optional, but not for PIs?

Yes, this is correct.

I am interested in submitting a pre-proposal for the Gender-Net Plus ERA-NET Cofund. I realize the deadline for submission is March 1. But, is there a deadline for registration in the platform (EPSS)?

There is no separate deadline for registration in the platform (creating the account), however filling in the requested information takes time (including from project partners), so we would strongly advise you to do this as soon as possible.

Research Topics

Must the international collaboration touch on issues in each respective country, or can be tested in one of the countries involved?

The distribution of tasks between partners should be scientifically well-founded and convincing for the scientific reviewers. All partners should make a 'real' scientific contribution to the project – a partner should not be included in a proposal simply to meet the “minimum of three partners” requirement. The issues and problems tackled in the project should be 'real' and scientifically convincing.

Does the research have to be geographically focused in the European region only? Or can it also look at the situation in the Developing countries? Or only in developing countries but by a consortium based in Europe?

The research is specified by the call topics' description, i.e. the call text and topic description here: <http://gender-net-plus.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/GENDER-NET-Plus-Announcement-of-Opportunity-Topics-4.pdf>

However, it may be helpful to consult your Funding Organisation Rules, and contact the Funding Organisation contact point, to make sure your project is eligible with your Funding Organisation.

In your project you may attempt to convince the scientific evaluators that your approach is relevant to the ideas expressed, and to the UNO SDG's that are referred to, in the call documents. The evaluators will be the ones who will ultimately decide on the (scientific) relevance of the proposals. They will get the same information about the call's scope as specified in the call documents. Please note that research proposals should demonstrate European added value (including Canada) as per the evaluation criteria. See <http://gender-net-plus.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/GENDER-NET-Plus-Evaluation-procedure-and-timeline-of-call-3.pdf>.

Other

Is there likely to be a call for this again in the coming years with different specific topics under the SDGs?

There are no such decisions made at the moment, but it is possible that one or several other calls will follow.

Can we recommend reviewers for the proposal?

No, but you will be able to mention potential reviewers whom you do not want to review your proposal (however only as suggestions for the Call Secretariat).