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# PES Horizon Europe – Support for Project Establishment and Positioning

PUBLISHED 27 JAN 2023 | LAST UPDATED 23 SEP 2024

Financial scheme: Coordination and Support Activity

Application deadline: Open-ended

Relevant thematic areas for this call: Internationalisation

Target groups: Public sector, Industry, Research organisations

Funding scale: maximum NOK 1 000 000

Amount of funding presumed available for this call for proposals: up to NOK 123 000 000. The funds for 2024 will be distributed between applications for framework grants and individual applications for funding.

Project duration: 1-12 months

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The call closes on Friday 6 December at 13:00. A similar call will be available during the first quarter of 2025.

ⓘ PES applications that should have been submitted during this period due to the 4-week deadline must be re-created on the basis of a new call.

Read more about how you can copy a previous application on the website [Learn more about the application form](#)

## Last updates

06 SEP  
2024

● We have updated the information about de minimis aid and uploaded a new declaration form.

## Purpose

The PES scheme aims to ensure that applications to Horizon Europe with Norwegian participants are of high quality, to realise the potential of Norwegian research to the fullest possible extent.

This call for proposal is intended to increase the success rate of Norwegian applications for Horizon Europe.

### SHORTCUTS

#### ↓ **About the call**

↓ Who is eligible to apply?

↓ Who can participate in the project?

↓ What can you seek funding for?

↓ Reports and disbursement of funding

#### ↓ **Relevant thematic areas**

↓ Internationalisation

## ↓ **Practical information**

↓ Requirements for this funding scheme

↓ Assessment criteria

↓ Administrative procedures

## About the call for proposals

The project establishment and positioning funding aims to ensure that applications for Horizon Europe with Norwegian participants are of high quality. The PES support is directed towards calls for proposals from Horizon Europe and the European Defence Fund (EDF).

We only grant support for travel if the travel is included in the EU application. We do not cover calls from other programmes such as Digital Europe, COSME and Invest EU.

ENOVA has its own [PES scheme](#) for the EU's Innovation Fund.

### Application submission deadlines

With the exception of applications for the Accelerator, WomenTech-EU and the European Defense Fund (EDF), which have their own rules, you must apply for support as early as possible - preferably as soon as a project proposal begins to take shape - and no later than four weeks before the EU deadline.

You must apply for funding as soon as the project proposal begins to take shape and no later than four weeks before the EU application submission deadline. If you are going to be a coordinator for a collaboration project, you should reach out to a National Contact Person (NCP) no later than 12 weeks before the EU deadline. This is important to ensure that there is enough time for the applicants to receive guidance from the relevant NCP and EU advisers.

The Norwegian-language call for proposals is the legally binding version.

Who is eligible to apply?

All Norwegian actors who have a formal role in an EU project proposal are eligible to apply for funding. Approved Norwegian research organisations, companies, public sector bodies, the non-profit sector and groups of such entities may apply.

If the application for a framework grant is approved, individual applications cannot be submitted to this call, with the exception of applications directed to the European Defence Fund (EDF). See the separate call for framework grants: [PES Horisont Europa rammebevilgning for 2023 og 2024 \(in Norwegian only\)](#)

Research organisations without a framework grant can receive a maximum of NOK 500.000 in support from this scheme per year. If multiple Norwegian applicants are collaborating on the same project proposal, those applicants that do not have a framework grant must submit a single, joint application for project establishment funding.

Who can participate in the project?

### Requirements relating to the Project Owner

The organisation listed as the Project Owner in the application form must have approved the submission of the grant application.

The Project Owner must satisfy the formal requirements for participating in an EU project proposal.

If the application is a collaboration between several organisations, the Project Owner submits the application on behalf of all the partners.

### Requirements relating to the project manager

The project manager's scientific expertise and suitability to manage the project will be assessed. There are no formal requirements for the project manager's qualifications.

What can you seek funding for?

The amount of funding awarded from PES will be based on the type of project, the applicant's role in and the budget for the planned EU project. The amount granted also depends on the number of Norwegian actors seeking funding.

See 'Relevant thematic areas' for a more detailed description of the funding rates and terms and conditions for funding for different EU calls.

The funding can cover costs relating to travel, participation in virtual and physical events for positioning your project, hours and purchasing services to prepare project proposals. All funding amounts constitute the maximum amount awarded. Funding to be awarded to each PES application will be determined on an individual basis. The pledged funding will be disbursed if the submitted EU project proposal achieves a score equivalent to threshold or better in the given call.

For EU project proposals that are made in two stages, PES support will only be paid if the EU application exceeds the threshold after stage two. Support is therefore not given for step one. Separate rules apply for EIC Accelerator applications (read more under 'Relevant thematic areas' below).

You will find detailed information concerning [what the budget should contain](#) on the website.

### Resubmission of proposals

Only applications aimed at Women TechEU can receive support for a second submission if the first EU application was assessed above threshold or better.

### Conditions for funding

Support for a research organisation goes to the organisation's non-financial activity. It therefore does not constitute state aid. The Research Council requires a clear separation of accounts for the organisation's economic and noneconomic activities.

#### De minimis aid

Support will be awarded to undertakings as *de minimis aid*. This means that an undertaking may receive maximum EUR 300,000 in *de minimis aid* over a period of three years.

Before the disbursement of *de minimis aid*, we will request written confirmation and an overview of all other *de minimis aid* the undertaking has received during the last three fiscal years. For undertakings that are part of a group of companies, the maximum limit generally applies to the group as a whole. For more information on *de minimis aid*, see the Commission Regulation (EU) No 2023/2831.

Read [more about de minimis aid](#) here.

The state aid regulations make special requirements of undertakings that receive project funding from co-funded programmes, for instance Eurostars. Undertakings defined as 'an undertaking in difficulty' cannot expect to receive funding to write Eurostars applications.

The Research Council's prerequisites for granting and paying support for the first year, and any commitments and payments for subsequent years, are set out in our general terms and conditions for R&D projects, which you can find in full on our [information page](#) on contracts.

If your project is approved, the following must be in place before you enter into a contract with us: From 2022, all grant recipients that are research organisations or public sector bodies (Project Owners and partners) must have a [gender equality plan \(GEP\)](#) available on their websites. The requirement does not apply to the industry sector, special interest organisations or the non-profit sector.

#### Reports and disbursement of funding

Funding will be disbursed when we have received the final report and an electronic invoice from the Project Owner. The final report will be available on My RCN Web, and when submitted must contain the Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) or equivalent application assessment. With the exception of EIC Accelerator, the conditions for payment of the PES support is that the submitted EU application achieves a score equivalent to threshold or better. Exceptions to the absolute threshold value requirement can be considered if the applicant is a first-time applicant to Horizon Europe or Horizon 2020.

If the EU application receives a score that is equal to the threshold or better in the given call, you must send an -invoice without VAT electronically to the Research Council.

[Sending invoices electronically to the Research Council \(forskningsradet.no\)](#)

We pay the support as a lump sum. If necessary, we can ask for a specification of costs for the PES project.

## Relevant thematic areas for this call

Please select which of the Horizon Europe calls you are seeking project establishment funding for under 'Placement' in the application form.

### Internationalisation

### **EIC Accelerator**

EIC Accelerator targets undertakings with market-creating innovation projects with a big potential for international growth. There is a two-step application process (step 1 or Plug-In and step 2). Read more about EIC Accelerator and our consultancy services on Innovation Norway's services webpage: [EIC Accelerator \(innovasjon Norge.no\)](https://www.innovasjon Norge.no) (in Norwegian only). We encourage applicants who are considering applying for step 1 to contact the EU adviser in their region for guidance. The advisers can help with step 1, Plug-In and step 2 of the application process. If you proceed to step 2, you can apply for Project Establishment Support to cover the costs of preparing the application. Project establishment funding is not granted for Plug-In or step 1 since this is a simplified and brief application. We urge you to contact the EU adviser early on about the EIC Accelerator application for valuable advice and support.

You should submit the project establishment funding application as soon as you have received confirmation that you will progress to step 2. The applications will be administratively processed by EU advisers in Innovation Norway and the Research Council.

### **Who is eligible to apply?**

Small and medium-sized Norwegian enterprises qualified through Plug-In or step 1 to proceed to step 2.

Maximum funding amount: NOK 100,000

The appendices below are mandatory if you apply for funding to write an EIC Accelerator application. Please note that you are not required to fill in the template for project description for proposals to EIC Accelerator. You can upload the Evaluation Summary Report for Step 1 under "Project Description", or a confirmation showing that the company is eligible for Plug-In.

- Evaluation Summary Report for step 1, or a confirmation showing that the company is eligible for Plug-In.
- A de minimis aid self-declaration (available for download at the bottom of the call)

### **EIC Accelerator deadlines in 2025**

- 12 March 2025
- 1 October 2025

### **Women TechEU**

Through the PES call, we can grant NOK 50,000 to applicants for writing applications aimed at a Women TechEU call. The score must be 10 points or better for the application to qualify for support from PES and to be considered for funding in the EU. Should that not be the case, the grant will be withdrawn. We can also grant NOK 25,000 in support for a new submission (re-submission) if the score achieved in the first round is above the threshold. The EU calls for WomenTechEU will appear on the EU's website. PES applications cannot be submitted until the EU-call has been published.

Applications can be submitted to the Research Council up to the actual call deadline. However, we strongly advice proposers to apply as soon as possible.

### **Mandatory attachments**

1. A project description (using the template at the end of the call)
2. A de minimis aid self-declaration (applies to undertakings, use the template at the end of the call)

### **Deadlines in 2024**

- 20 May 2024
- 30 September 2024



### **Contact**

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## Collaborative projects in Horizon Europe

The amounts below apply to calls published by Horizon Europe, including partnerships. If the planned EU application includes several Norwegian organisations, one single application must be submitted on behalf of all the partners, except organisations that have received an annual framework grant.

Contact persons can be found under our overview of [our national contact persons for Horizon Europe \(NCPs\)](#).

Project type	Role in the project	Maximum funding amounts for Horizon Europe applications that achieve a score equal to the threshold or better
Research & Innovation Action (RIA) Innovation Action (IA)	Coordinator	Up to NOK 400 000 for coordinating an EU project with a total budget above 10 million Euro.  Up to NOK 300 000 for coordinating an EU project with a total budget between 5-10 million Euro.  Up to NOK 200 000 for coordinating an EU project with a total budget up to 5 million Euro.  In some cases, an increased amount of funding may be considered for large projects involving many participants.
	Work-package leader	NOK 70 000
	Participant	NOK 50 000
Coordination & Support Action (CSA) Public Procurement of Innovative Solutions (PPI) Pre-Commercial procurement (PCP)	Coordinator	NOK 200 000
	Work-package leader	NOK 70 000
	Participant	NOK 50 000
COST (creating a new network)	Coordinator	NOK 100 000
Eurostars	Coordinator:	NOK 100 000  Total amount of support for each project coordinated from Norway, including other Norwegian participants, in NOK 100 000.  Threshold requirements to receive funds from PES for Eurostars  1) Score above the minimum requirement of 3.6 for each of the three criteria (Quality, Impact, Excellence)  2) The Eurostars application must be approved in terms of the Legal and Financial Viability Check  To qualify for support from PES, applicants must meet the Eurostars <a href="#">criteria for support</a> .

## ERC og Marie Slodowska Curie Actions▼

Funding rates if you apply for support for ERC and Marie Slodowska Curie Actions:

Project type	Role in the project	Maximum funding amounts once the Horizon Europe application has been evaluated as "eligible"
MSCA Doctoral Networks (DN)	Coordinator	NOK 200 000
	"Beneficiary"	NOK 100 000
MSCA Staff Exchanges (SE)	Coordinator	NOK 75 000
	"Beneficiary"	NOK 35 000
MSCA Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes (COFUND)	Coordinator	NOK 200 000
MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)	One applicant	NOK 20 000
ERC Synergy Grant (SyG)** ERC Starting Grant ERC Consolidator Grant ERC Advanced Grant	The applicant must be the coordinating organisation	NOK 75 000
<p>*)ERC : minimum score to disburse the PES support is score A or B in Step 1.</p> <p>MSCA: minimum score to disburse the PES support is 70 points.</p> <p>**) If there are more than two Norwegian applicants for the ERC Synergy Grant (SyG), a maximum of NOK 200 000 will be awarded as funding from PES.</p>		

### ✉ Contacts

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## Applications targeting the European Defence Fund (EDF)▼

Norwegian actors with a formal role in an application targeting an EDF call can apply for funding under this call. This also applies to Norwegian organisations with a framework grant from PES Horizon Europe.

Unless otherwise agreed with the contact person in the Ministry of Defence, the deadline for applying for PES funds is four weeks before the application deadline in EDF.

The applications will be assessed by the National Focal Point for EDF. The PES funding will be disbursed when we have received the evaluation report. The minimum requirement to receive PES funding is that the EDF application you have submitted is awarded points equal to the threshold or better.

	Role in the	Maximum funding amount when the EDF application achieve a score equal to the
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Project type	project	threshold or better
Research Action	Coordinator	NOK 500,000
Development Action	Work package manager	NOK 200,000
	Participant	NOK 75,000

#### Mandatory attachments

1. A project description (using the template at the end of the call)
2. A de minimis aid self-declaration (applies to undertakings, use the template at the end of the call)



#### Contact

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## Practical information

#### Requirements for this funding scheme

This is an open-ended call for proposals, and you can submit your application once. You should therefore not press the "send" button before the application is completely finished and ready to be submitted.

#### General requirements

- The applicant/Project Owner must come from an eligible category of institutions.
- The application must lie within the scope/satisfy the objectives of this call. The funding amount sought, expenses to be covered and any own financing to be provided must be in keeping with the framework of the call.
- The budget must be formulated correctly so that it clearly indicates what the funding will cover.
- The application form must be completed in full.
- The required attachments must be included using the dedicated templates.
- The application and all attachments must be written in Norwegian or English.
- All attachments must be uploaded in the PDF format.

#### Mandatory attachments

- Project description: Use the standard template that can be downloaded at the bottom of the call. This template has to be completed and enclosed if you apply for a collaborative project in Horizon Europe or EDF, or if your application is for ERC, Women TechEU or MSCA.
- A de minimis aid self-declaration: This document is mandatory for undertakings. You can download the template at the end of the call.
- For coordinators for a Horizon Europe collaboration project: The results of the Financial Viability Self-Check. Link: [Financial viability self-check - H2020 Online Manual](#). This document is not required for Eurostars applications.
- Eurostars applications: Undertakings (SMEs) coordinating and participating in an Eurostars application must upload documentation certifying that the SME has at least NOK 500 000 in equity at the time when the application is submitted to Eurostars. (Documentation requirements: Publicly approved annual accounts. Alternatively, in the event of a capital increase, there must be a declaration from the auditor, lawyer, financial institution/bank or accountant).
- Accelerator: application assessment for step 1.

Applications that do not meet the requirements listed above will be rejected.

Attachments other than the mandatory attachments specified above, as well as any links to websites in the grant application, will not be included in the application review process.

All attachments to grant applications must be submitted together with the application form. We do not accept attachments submitted after the application submission deadline unless we have requested additional documentation.

#### Assessment criteria

Grant applications will be assessed in the light of the objective of the call and on the following criteria:

##### Excellence

###### Originality/Novelty

- The extent to which the concept is sound, credible and novel.

###### Solidity

- The extent to which the project objectives are clear and relevant.
- The quality of the proposed deliverables from the project.

##### Impact

###### Potential

- The extent to which the expected effects are specified.
- The extent to which expected impacts on the system and societal levels are specified.

###### Knowledge sharing and exploitation

- The quality of the proposed communication and dissemination activities.
- The extent to which it is credible that the proposed outputs will contribute to the specified effects and impact.

##### Implementation

###### Project Manager and project group

- The extent to which the Project Manager and project group are qualified and have the necessary expertise and are positioned to implement the project.
- The extent to which management structures and procedures are appropriate.

###### Plans and management

- The extent to which the work plan is clear and understandable, and the time table realistic
- The extent to which objectives and measures are coherent.
- The extent to which the project has the support of the leadership of the Project Owner and any partners, and the allocation of roles in the project is clear.
- The extent to which the budget is realistic and appropriate, and resources are allocated so that each of the partners can fulfil their role.
- The extent to which potential risks have been discussed.

###### Administrative procedures

Applications will be reviewed in an administrative reviewing process. The Research Council normally sends out a reply no later than four weeks after the application has been received.

The project establishment funding for Horizon Europe is intended to help to lower the threshold for Norwegian applicants interested in taking part in a Horizon Europe project proposal. Requirements for obtaining EU funding are difficult to satisfy. The Research Council therefore **cannot** provide support to applicants that do not have the necessary foundation to obtain EU funding or implementing the planned project in a satisfactory manner. Applicants that do not satisfy the minimum requirements or that have not shown a positive development despite repeated attempts to obtain funding can therefore not expect to be awarded funding.

## Download templates



Mal for prosjektbeskrivelse - PES Horisont Europa.docx



Template for Project Description - PES Horizon Europe.docx




Egenerklæringsskjema for bagatellmessig støtte.docx







★ MANDATORY ATTACHMENT

Download all templates 

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