



Call for proposals

VP/2019/006

Cross-border partnerships and support to cooperation on intra-EU mobility for EEA countries and social partners

European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation

("EaSI" – EURES Axis)

2014-2020

This text is available in English, French and German. The English version is the original.
Any question should be sent by email to EMPL-VP-2019-006@ec.europa.eu To ensure a rapid response to requests for information, applicants are invited to send their queries in English.

Applicants are invited to read the present document in conjunction with the Financial Guidelines for applicants and the model Grant Agreements published with this call as well as the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union and their rules of application:
http://ec.europa.eu/budget/biblio/documents/regulations/regulations_en.cfm

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1 Introduction - Background

1.1 Programme/Legal base

This call for proposals is financed under the **European Programme for Employment and Social Innovation "EaSI" 2014-2020**¹. EaSI is a European-level financing instrument managed directly by the European Commission to contribute to the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy, by providing financial support for the Union's objectives in terms of promoting a high level of quality and sustainable employment, guaranteeing adequate and decent social protection, combating social exclusion and poverty and improving working conditions.

The EaSI Programme shall, in all its axes and actions:

- (a) pay particular attention to vulnerable groups, such as young people;
- (b) promote equality between women and men,
- (c) combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation;
- (d) promote a high-level of quality and sustainable employment, guarantee adequate and decent social protection, combat long-term unemployment and fight against poverty and social exclusion.

Hence, in designing, implementing and reporting on the activity, beneficiaries/contractors must address the issues noted above and will be required to provide detail, in the final activity report, on the steps and achievements made towards addressing those aims.

The 2019 EaSI work programme², acting as financing decision, was adopted by the Commission on 25 October 2018.

The EURES axis: promoting workers' geographical mobility and boosting employment opportunities

The EURES axis of the EaSI programme has the following general objectives:

- Transparency of job vacancies, applications and any related information for jobseekers, workers and employers;
- Development of services for the recruitment and placing of workers in employment;
- Cross-border partnerships.

The EURES axis may be used to finance actions to promote voluntary mobility of individuals in the Union, on a fair basis, and to remove mobility obstacles.

The EURES axis under the EaSI programme contributes to the implementation of the objectives of EURES, as laid down in the EURES Regulation³. Consequently, this call for proposals will support the development of the EURES network and its activities in line with the standards and procedures established in this Regulation.

Recital 17 of the EaSI Regulation sets out as follows: "...EURES ... should promote the better functioning of the labour markets by facilitating the voluntary transnational cross-border geographical mobility of workers, providing greater transparency on the labour market, ensuring the clearance of vacancies and applications for employment and supporting activities in the areas of placement, recruitment, advice and guidance services at national and cross-border level, thereby contributing to the objectives of Europe 2020. Member States should be encouraged to integrate EURES services, making them available in a "one-stop shop", where appropriate".

¹ Regulation (EU) No 1296/2013 of the European Parliament and the Council of 11 December 2013 on a European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI)

² Commission implementing decision C(2018)6891 final

³ Regulation (EU) No 2016/589 of the European Parliament and the Council of 13 April 2016 on a European network of employment services (EURES), workers' access to mobility services and the further integration of labour markets and amending Regulations (EU) No 492/2011 and (EU) No 1296/2013

1.2 Policy and economic background

The network of European employment services, EURES, was launched in 1994 as a network for cooperation between employment services of the Member States, their partners and the Commission to exchange information concerning vacancies and applications for employment, information on the state and trends of the labour market as well as information concerning living and working conditions. Its purpose is to facilitate the exercise of the free movement of workers in accordance with Article 45 TFEU.

The legal base for EURES are:

- EU rules on the freedom to work and look for a job in another EU Member State: Regulation (EU) No 492/2011 of the European Parliament and the Council of 15 April 2011 on freedom of movement for workers within the Union (codification (OJ L 141 of 27.05.2011, p. 1);⁴
- An EU framework for cooperation in this area: Regulation (EU) No 2016/589 of the European Parliament and the Council on a European network of employment services (EURES), workers' access to mobility services and the further integration of labour markets (hereafter the EURES Regulation) and amending Regulations (EU) No 492/2011 and (EU) No 1296/2013.⁵

The EURES Regulation builds on the results of the EURES reform and provides a comprehensive regulatory framework replacing Chapter II of Regulation 492/2011, Commission Decision 2012/733/EU and the 2013 EURES Charter. It lays down provisions aiming to improve information, guidance and assistance to employers and job seekers including for frontier workers in cross-border regions, to increase transparency of labour market information at EU level and to expand the exchange of information between Member States (resulting in better programming of EURES activities).

The two pillars of EURES are the [European Job Mobility Portal](#) and the human network of EURES staff. The composition of the EURES network is:

- The **European Coordination Office** (ECO, managed by the European Commission) that undertakes horizontal activities in support of the network, oversees compliance with the EURES Regulation, organises the work of the EURES coordination group, monitors and evaluates EURES activity and analyses geographic and occupational mobility;
- The **National Coordination Offices** (NCOs) that organise the work of the EURES network in the respective Member State and cooperate with the other National Coordination Offices and the European Coordination Office;
- The **EURES members**:
 - i) service providers in the field of employment admitted by the Member States which provide the three categories of tasks, namely contribution to the pool of job vacancies, contribution to the pool of job applications and CV's and support services to workers and employers involving information, guidance and assistance⁶;
 - ii) The public employment services relevant for EURES activities that are appointed by Member States without admission procedure;
- The **EURES partners** admitted by the Member States, which provide one of the three tasks mentioned, for instance support services to workers and employers⁷.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1461745909195&uri=CELEX:32011R0492>

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L:2016:107:TOC>

⁶ Pursuing article 11 of regulation (EU) 2016/589 Member States shall have a system of admission in place by 13 May 2018 at the latest. According to Article 40 of the regulation, organisations that under the former legal base were active in the network as "EURES partners" and "EURES associated partners", may participate as EURES member or EURES partners until the admission system is in place provided that they undertake to fulfil the obligations under the EURES regulation and notify the National Coordination Office of the tasks that they will perform under article 11(4) of the regulation.

⁷ See footnote 4

Under the multiannual financial framework 2014-2020, the EURES activities are funded as follows:

- **National activities are funded through the national budgets**, the European Social Fund or a combination of both;
- **Horizontal activities** such as coordination of the network, training programmes for EURES managers and advisors, the portal and its self-service tools, information and communication activities, are funded through **the EURES axis of the EaSI programme**.
- **Specific services** such as customised assistance under targeted mobility schemes like “Your first EURES Job” and support for cross-border partnerships are also funded through **the EURES axis of the EaSI programme**.

2 Objective(s) - Priorities - Types of Activity - Expected results

2.1 Objectives - Priorities

The overall objectives of the call are to promote workers' intra-EU labour mobility, to boost employment opportunities as well as to support the implementation of the EURES Regulation.

The call consists of four strands in line with the 2019 annual work programme for grants and procurement for EaSI:

- i. The first strand supports fair mobility for frontier workers in **cross-border regions**;
- ii. The second strand supports the **development of new cross-border partnerships** or the implementation of activities new to the partnership or in areas/sectors new to them
- iii. The third strand supports **intra-EU labour mobility in the EEA countries**;
- iv. The fourth strand supports **coordination of activities of the European social partners** in the EURES network.

Measures to be financed under this call have to be concrete, action-oriented and should provide a clear added value.

Moreover, whenever appropriate, applicants must commit to fulfilling the requirements set forth in Regulation (EU) No 492/2011 of the EP and of the Council of 5 April 2011 on freedom of movement for workers within the Union and of Regulation (EU) No 2016/589 of the European Parliament and the Council on a European network of employment services (EURES), workers' access to mobility services and the further integration of labour markets and amending Regulations (EU) No 492/2011 and (EU) No 1296/2013.⁸

This means that the applicants must comply with the rules, standards and procedures established in these documents, such as the principle to provide free services to job seekers, to provide job vacancies and CV's in accordance with the uniform system for the EURES portal and to provide information to the National Coordination Office for the programming and reporting cycle.

⁸ ...and replacing Commission Decision 2017/733/EU.

2.2 Description of the activities to be funded

This call has four different strands. The type of activities that may be funded under a given strand is indicated in the description of this strand below.

Each application must be dedicated to only one of the strands presented below. Applicants that wish to apply for more than one strand need to present separate applications for each strand.

2.2.1 Strand 1 "Cross-border partnerships"

This strand shall support existing cross-border partnerships to implement the objectives as laid down in the EURES Regulation, improving the functioning, cohesion and integration of the cross-border labour markets and promoting voluntary geographical and occupational mobility in such regions. The cross-border partnership must be established **based on actual needs** in terms of mobility flows, economic activity, in particular, it should address skills mismatches in the border region.

While cross-border partnerships are free under the EURES Regulation to define a number of specific tasks (as indicated in Article 27(2)), the purpose of this call is to ensure that cross border partnerships co-financed by EaSI should provide a minimum number services. This includes information and guidance to frontier workers and employers in the concerned cross-border region and the analysis of data and evidence relating to flows in that region.⁹

Cross-border partnerships under this strand must support activities in at least five of the categories of activities listed below. The application must specify for each activity proposed to which category from the list it belongs. **It is mandatory to include activities from categories 1, 2, 3, 4.** In addition, **at least one activity from either category 5, 6 or 7 needs to be included.**

Categories of activities:

1) **To gather and analyse evidence on cross-border mobility in the cross-border region** by assembling concrete, up-to-date information involving:

a) **Data or other indications¹⁰ relating to the current state of play**

- **The direction of current** mobility flows,
- The **economic relevance** of mobility flows in the cross-border region
- **The current** sectors and occupations with higher mobility rates (**by participating region**)
- The categories of employers looking for workers (by participating region)
- The **number and profile of current frontier workers** in the cross-border region, i.e. their occupation, level of skills, education, age, and gender (by participating region)
- **The obstacles** to mobility in this specific cross-border region

and

b) **Data, other indications and assessments relating to the future potential**

- The **sectors and occupations** with a lack of qualified staff (by participating region)
- The **profiles of job seekers** who experience difficulties in finding a job in their region of the partnership, by occupation, qualification level and contract duration (by participating region)
- The categories and **number of potential employers** which may be interested in recruiting frontier workers in the future (by participating region)

⁹ In accordance with the EURES Regulation, a frontier worker is defined as a worker pursuing an activity as an employed person in a Member State and who resides in another Member State to which that worker returns as a rule daily or at least once a week (Article 3 (6) of the EURES regulation).

¹⁰ Indications in this context mean estimates of data, and other means of identifying and reusing information from sources such as surveys, focus groups, studies, reports, project reports.

- 2) **To offer services to** actual and potential **frontier workers** through the staff of the organisations participating in the partnership. Staff typically provides information and guidance on the following topics:
 - Identifying suitable job vacancies
 - Preparing CV's and job applications
 - Living and working conditions in this area
 - social security, taxation and labour law
 - other information related to the labour market.

- 3) **To offer services to** actual and potential **employers**, through staff of the organisations participating in the partnership. Staff typically provides information and guidance on:
 - recruiting (frontier) workers from the bordering Member State(s)
 - tapping into the potential skills pool in the cross-border region.
 - drafting and advertising job vacancies for the cross-border labour market.

- 4) **To facilitate the job matching, placement and recruitment process with the goal to markedly increase the number of matchings** on the cross-border labour market.¹¹

- 5) **To develop and implement an action plan for publishing** a maximum number of **job offers for apprenticeships and traineeships** on the EURES portal and to provide information, guidance and assistance to candidates interested in applying for such offers across the border.

- 6) **To develop and implement an action plan** for minimizing specific obstacles to cross-border employment **in the cross border region to provide one-stop-shops (online and/or on-site) or joint helpdesks** which integrate the respective client services in each country of the cross-border region. These centres should facilitate access for clients to the services in question. Moreover, their services should be offered in all languages **relevant for the cross-border region**.

- 7) To contribute to the **implementation of Directive 2014/54/EU** that establishes the creation of "effective bodies with appropriate expertise in each Member State with competence to promote equal treatment, to analyse the problems faced by Union workers and members of their family, to study possible solutions and to provide specific assistance to them. The competence of those bodies should include, inter alia, the provision to Union workers and members of their family of independent legal and/or other assistance, such as the provision of legal advice on the application to them of the relevant Union and national rules on free movement of workers, of information about complaint procedures, and of help to protect the rights of workers and members of their family. It may also include assistance in legal proceedings"¹².

Each individual activity must be linked with a results indicator *and* a specific target to be achieved during the action. Indicators have to be specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound.

The proposal in general must provide information on the following:

- how the implementation of the proposal will **contribute to the overall objectives** of EURES
- the **complementarity** with other initiatives in the cross-border region
- the **added value** to the EURES activities undertaken at national level
- **a communication and dissemination plan** that is in line with the objectives of the EURES communications strategy 2015-2020¹³
- the person/organization in charge of **reporting** on the activities
- the person/organization in charge of **monitoring** the activities.

¹¹ This requirement is applicable only to those partners in the network that can legally perform such activities according to the rules of their country.

¹² **Recital 17 of Directive 2014/54/EU of the European Parliament** and of the Council of 16 April 2014 on measures facilitating the exercise of rights conferred on workers in the context of freedom of movement for workers.

¹³ The communications strategy is available on the EURES extranet.

2.2.2 Strand 2 "Support to the development of new cross-border partnerships"

This strand 2 shall support projects that either:

- target cooperation in border regions that are not yet covered by EURES cross-border partnerships¹⁴ with a view to becoming such partnerships in the future
or
- expand the scope of existing EURES cross-border partnerships with pilot actions in areas/sectors new to them
or
- enrich existing EURES cross-border partnerships with new activities

The types of activities must fall **into at least one** of the categories A, B or C below:

- a) **To test the feasibility of a new cross border partnership** on the basis of an analysis of the flows and the need for client services and to set-up a pilot action
- b) **To expand the scope of existing cross border partnerships by at least one of the following activities**
 1. by developing client services for which there is a demonstrated need in the cross-border region and which are not available so far
 2. by promoting **vacancies in a specific sector**, for which there is a need on one side of the border(s), but not on **the other, and by developing measures in the cross border region as a whole to fill these vacancies**
 3. **through specific placement projects** for the benefit of and in cooperation with SMEs
 4. by **adding new organizations to the one-stop shop client service**, such as municipalities or specialised public authorities, to complement initiatives by Member States in application of Article 26¹⁵ of the EURES Regulation.
- c) **To enrich the existing cross border partnership** with at least one of the following activities
 1. by improving cooperation between the national competent authorities responsible for taxation, social security rights and application of labour legislation of the countries concerned in the cross-border region (for instance by establishing new referral mechanisms which will provide more efficient or better integrated client services in application of Article 26 of the EURES Regulation)
 2. by testing **the use of** the EURES portal or other EURES tools for client services relating to placement and matching in apprenticeship and traineeship schemes across borders
 3. by supporting employers and employers' organisations to develop new ways of sharing information with the goal of maximising the potential of the cross-border labour market (through digitisation, the creation of mixed cross-border teams offering multilingual services, or else.);

The application must specify for each activity proposed to which category from the list above it belongs.

The proposal in general must provide information on the following:

- how the implementation of the proposal will contribute to the overall objectives of EURES
- the **complementarity** with other initiatives in the cross-border region
- the **added value** to the EURES activities undertaken at national level
- **a communication and dissemination plan** that is in line with the objectives of the EURES communications strategy 2015-2020¹⁶
- the person/organization in charge of reporting on the activities
- the person/organization in charge of **monitoring** the activities.

¹⁴ For the list of the cross-border partnerships currently financed under the EaSI programme see: https://ec.europa.eu/eures/public/en/eures-in-cross-border-regions?lang=en&app=0.7.1p2-build-0&pageCode=cross_border#/list

¹⁵ <https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/a311abfd-0857-11e6-b713-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

¹⁶ The communications strategy is available on the EURES extranet

The final report of projects financed under this strand **needs to contain an assessment of the viability and potential of the project for long-term development**. Moreover, it needs to specify the **lessons learnt** during its implementation and **give recommendations for future action**, if this is deemed useful.

2.2.3 Strand 3 "Support to cooperation on intra-EU mobility in the EEA countries"

This strand shall support the implementation of Union law on **facilitating intra-EU labour mobility in the EEA countries** and shall support the work of the EURES network in the EEA countries. Proposals must support activities that fall in the following categories:

1. **To facilitate the job matching and placement from and to EEA countries;** to produce and implement a national information campaign to inform jobseekers, workers and employers on the opportunities offered by European labour markets. **To cooperate with other EURES countries** in joint projects such as recruitment events;
2. To produce and implement **a national information campaign** to inform jobseekers, workers and employers on the opportunities offered by European labour markets.
3. **To cooperate with other EURES countries** in joint projects such as recruitment events;
4. **To offer information and advice** to actual and potential mobile jobseekers and their employers, through the EURES advisers and other staff of the EEA employment services. These services shall consist in **providing and exchanging information and advice on job applications and vacancies as well as on living and working conditions**. **Also** other relevant information related to the labour market in the EU and EEA countries, such as social security, taxation and labour law should be provided.
5. **To provide new and specialised services** that are not or only partially available so far, thus contributing to filling the possible gaps of services provided in the region (**e.g. post-recruitment support, cross-border projects, combination of training and placement, specific services for the placement of long-term unemployed, etc.**);
6. To **coordinate EURES activities at national level** and participate in the coordination meetings of the EURES network;
7. To **support the implementation of the EURES regulation** and, in particular, to contribute to the EURES programming cycle and the exchange of information between Member States;
8. **To improve the visibility and awareness of EURES in the EEA countries;**
9. To implement the **EURES activity plan 2019/2020**.

The application must support activities in at least five of the nine categories of activities listed above and must include at least one activity in category 1 (facilitating job matching and placement) and at least one activity in category 4 (offering services to mobile jobseekers and their employers).

Each individual activity must be linked with a results indicator *and* a specific target to be achieved during the action. Indicators have to be specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound.

The proposal in general must provide information on the following:

- how the implementation of the proposal will contribute to the overall objectives of EURES
- the complementarity with other labour market initiatives in the intra-EU/EEA area
- the **added value** to other labour market initiatives in the intra-EU/EEA area
- **a communication and dissemination plan** that is in line with the objectives of the EURES communication strategy 2015-2020¹⁷
- the person/organization in charge of **reporting** on the activities
- the person/organization in charge of **monitoring** the activities

¹⁷ The communications strategy is available on the EURES extranet

2.2.4 Strand 4 "Support to cooperation on intra-EU mobility for social partners"

This strand shall support European social partner organisations observers in the Advisory Committee on Free Movement of Workers to inform about, coordinate and to promote intraEU labour mobility among their member organisations and to ensure that those member organisations, which are also part of the EURES network, are well aligned to the objectives of EURES.

Proposals must support at least three of the categories of activities listed below:

1. **To ensure exchange of information** by direct and regular contacts between social partner organisations at local, regional, national and European level on matters related to EURES;
2. **To plan and implement a communication campaign to the general public, jobseekers and employers,, relating to intra-EU labour mobility** by providing information on Union law and its instruments such as EURES, in accordance with the EURES communications strategy 2015-2020¹⁸.
3. **To plan and implement a communication campaign targeted at their members**, promoting cross-border labour mobility in general and EURES in particular. The campaign should have the clear goal to increase the use of the services offered by the EURES portal and network.
4. **To organise stakeholder events relating to intra-EU labour mobility, EURES, cross-border partnerships and cooperation in this area**, bringing together representatives of employers' organisations, trade unions, public and private employment services and public authorities, with a view to reporting to the Commission on data, findings and recommendations.
5. **To improve client services provided by social partner organisations to mobile and frontier workers**, bearing in mind good practices and the developments relating to admission systems for EURES Members and Partners
6. **To support exchange of best practices and mutual learning** on the development of new or better services for jobseekers and employers, to be provided by social partners or other organisations in the context of chapter V of the EURES Regulation.

The participation in the coordination meetings of the EURES network is regarded as an eligible activity. However, this activity does not count towards the three minimum activities.

Not eligible under this strand are training activities for EURES advisers and other staff of social partners, which can be covered by the EURES training programme.

Each individual activity must be linked with a results indicator *and* a specific target to be achieved during the action. Indicators have to be specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound.

The proposal in general must provide information on the following:

- how the implementation of the proposal will contribute to the overall objectives of EURES
- the complementarity with other labour market initiatives of social partners
- the **added value** to other labour market initiatives
- the system and person/organization in charge of **reporting** on the activities
- the system and person/organization in charge of **monitoring** the activities

Moreover, the proposal needs to contain a communication and dissemination plan that is in line with the objectives of the EURES communication strategy 2015-2020¹⁹

¹⁸ The communications strategy is available on the EURES extranet

¹⁹ The communications strategy is available on the EURES extranet

2.3 Monitoring

The beneficiaries of the projects or, if applicable, the single applicant of the project, shall monitor the action and make data available.

The European Commission will monitor the action at two different levels:

- a) **For the EaSI programme** through the information provided in the specific Annex to the Grant Agreement. The reporting template is published on the respective call page *on the EaSI call page* <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=629&langId=en>.

The Commission, with the support of an external contractor, will monitor regularly the EaSI Programme. Therefore, beneficiaries/contractors will have to transmit qualitative and quantitative monitoring data on the results of the activities. These will include the extent to which the principles of equality between women and men has been applied, as well as how anti-discrimination considerations, including accessibility issues, have been addressed through the activities. Related templates are attached or will be provided.

- b) **For EURES** through the new EURES performance measurement system. Data will be collected through the respective data collection tool, adapted for EURES cross-border partnerships. The reporting template (excel sheet) is published on the call page. It will also be annexed to the Grant Agreement. The reporting of the co-financed activities must contribute, wherever appropriate, to the exchange of information between Member States and to the EURES programming cycle in accordance with chapter V of the EURES Regulation²⁰.

For events, it is important to get from participants their specific consent by a statement or by a clear affirmative action for processing and transferring their personal data including to an external contractor responsible for the monitoring of the EaSI programme. Beneficiaries/contractors should therefore inform all participants via a Privacy Statement that is not only published online, but is also provided individually to each participant (e.g. as part of the email where the beneficiary/contractor first contacts the individual concerned) that the Commission/external contractor would be processing their personal data. Beneficiaries/contractors shall be able to demonstrate that consent was obtained subject to conditions of Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data (i.e. keep a record that shows how the consent was obtained and whether it was valid) and Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data.

A model privacy statement is available on the Europa website of the EaSI programme <https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1081&langId=en&furtherCalls=yes&callType=2>.

In setting up the action, beneficiaries must foresee the necessary funding for monitoring and reporting to the Commission.

²⁰ <https://publications.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/a311abfd-0857-11e6-b713-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

3 Timetable

Submission deadline: 06 June 2019	
Stages	Date or indicative period
Publication of the call	mid March 2019
Deadline for questions and requests for clarifications	22 May 2019
Deadline for submitting applications	06 June 2019 Swim, Courier and Post : 24:00 Brussels' time (CET) Hand deliveries 16:00 Brussels' time (CET)
Evaluation period (indicative)	July/August 2019
Information to applicants (indicative)	September 2019
Signature of Grant Agreement (indicative)	October/November 2019
Starting date	1 January 2020
End date of all actions	31 December 2021

3.1 Starting date and duration of projects

The actual starting date of the action will either be the first day following the date when the last of the two parties signs the Grant Agreement, the first day of the month following the date when the last of the two parties signs or a date agreed upon between the parties.

Applicants should note that if their action is selected, they may receive the Grant Agreement after the start date of the action that they have indicatively set in the application form. It is therefore advisable to number the months in the work programme instead of indicating the name of the months.

Any expenditure incurred before the signature of the Grant Agreement will be at the applicant's risk. An action grant may be awarded for an action which has already begun only where the applicant can demonstrate in the grant application the need to start the action before the grant agreement is signed. **No expenditure can be incurred before the date of submission of the application.**

The action shall **start at the latest from 1 January 2020**. The project duration should indicatively be **24 months with the activities ending by the latest on 31 December 2021**.

4 Available Budget and Co-Financing Rate

4.1 Available budget

Following the adoption of the 2019 Financing Decision for the EaSI programme, the total budget earmarked for the EU co-financing of projects under this call is estimated at EUR 9,653,761

The budget is to be allocated, indicatively, depending on the quality of the proposals, as follows:

For **strand 1** "Cross-border partnerships" EUR 8.4 million

For **strand 2** "Support to the development of new cross-border partnerships", EUR 600.000

For **strand 3** "Support to cooperation on intra-EU mobility in the EEA countries" EUR 353.761

For **strand 4** "Support to cooperation on intra-EU mobility for social partners" EUR 300.000

The Commission reserves the right not to distribute all the funds available or to increase the amount of funds available and distribute them to proposals admitted in the reserve list, if one is established. This top-up is limited to 20% of the initial budget of the call.

4.2 Co-financing rate applicable

Under this call for proposals, the EU grant may not exceed 80% of the total eligible costs of the action. The applicants must guarantee their co-financing of the remaining amount covered by the applicants' own resources or from other sources other than the European Union budget.²¹

5 Admissibility requirements

5.1 Admissibility criteria

Applications must be sent no later than the deadline for submitting applications referred to in section 3.

Applications (application form including budget and description of the action including work plan) must be submitted using the electronic submission system available at <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/swim> and by sending a signed, printed version of the application form and the other aforementioned documents by post or courier service (one original dossier and one copy; see also section 12).

Failure to comply with those requirements may lead to the rejection of the application.

Applicants are encouraged to submit their project proposal in English, French or German in order to facilitate the treatment of the proposals and speed up the evaluation process. However, proposals in all official languages of the EU will be accepted. In this case, applications should be accompanied by an executive summary in English (please refer to the checklist in annex I to this document).

²¹ Letters of commitment are required from any third party providing financial contributions to the eligible costs of the action (see annex I, checklist point 13).

6 Eligibility Criteria

6.1 Eligibility of the applicants (lead and co-applicants) and affiliated entities²²

6.1.1 Place of establishment - all strands

For British Applicants: please be aware that the project has to comply with the eligibility criteria for the entire duration of the grant agreement. If the United Kingdom withdraws from the EU during the grant period without concluding an agreement with the EU, ensuring in particular that British applicants continue to be eligible, British beneficiaries will cease to receive EU funding (while continuing, where possible, to participate) or be required to leave the project on the basis of Article II.7.2.1(a) for mono-beneficiary and Article II.17.3.1(a) for multi-beneficiary Grant Agreements.

Legal entities properly established and registered in the following countries are eligible as lead applicant and/or co-applicants (see the particular requirements for each strand in 6.1.3):

- EU Member States
- Iceland and Norway in accordance with the EEA Agreement.²³

Organisations of social partners without legal personality under the applicable national law of above-mentioned countries are also eligible, provided that the conditions of the Financial Regulation related thereto are met (Art. 131 2 (b) of the Financial Regulation)²⁴.

6.1.2 Type of entities

a) Types of entities - strand 1

To be eligible, **lead applicants** must be:

- the relevant National EURES Coordination Office(s) as designated in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/589²⁵ **or**
- the EURES member(s) or partner(s) of the regions involved with the endorsement of its National Coordination Office (see footnote 5)

To be eligible, **co-applicants** must fall in one of the categories listed below:

- EURES members or partners
- Social partner organisations at European²⁶, national or regional level
- Public or private employment services
- Third sector organisations²⁷
- other relevant actors active on the EU/EEA labour market, including European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation

²² See section 2 of the Financial Guidelines for definitions.

²³ The Helvetic Confederation participates at its own cost particularly in certain EURES activities. Swiss organisations cannot submit proposals under the EaSI EURES calls but may participate as associate organisations

²⁴ *For organisations without legal personality, a signed letter of the legal representative certifying their capacity to undertake legal obligations on behalf of the organisation must be submitted (see section 15, checklist point 8).*

²⁵ and as laid down previously in Commission implementing Decision 2012/733/EU

²⁶ These include the European social partner organisations which are consulted in accordance with Article 154 TFEU (an up-to-date list of these organisations can be found under "List of consulted organisations" on webpage <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=329&langId=en>), as well as other European-level social partner organisations that are not included in this list, but who are for example involved in the preparation and launch of European social dialogue at sector level.

²⁷ In the context of our call for proposals, third sector organisations include the following range of not for profit and non-governmental social organisations: voluntary and community organisations (both registered charities and other organisations such as associations, self-help groups and community groups), social enterprises, mutual, co-operatives, ...

b) Type of entities - strand 2

To be eligible, applicants (lead and co-applicants) must fall in one of the categories listed below:

- the National EURES Coordination Office(s) as designated in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/589²⁸
- the EURES member(s)/partners(s) of the regions involved with the endorsement of the National Coordination Office (see footnote 5)
- social partner organisations at European, national or regional level (in application of Article 131 of the Financial Regulation, social partner organisations without legal personality are also eligible provided that the conditions of the Financial Regulation related thereto are met);
- public or private employment services
- third sector organisations
- other relevant actors active on the EU/EEA labour market including European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation

c) Types of entities - strand 3

To be eligible, **lead applicants or single applicants** must be the National EURES Coordination Offices of Norway or Iceland respectively.

To be eligible, **co-applicants** must fall in one of the categories listed below:

- EURES member(s)/partners(s) from Norway or Iceland respectively
- social partner organisations at European, national or regional level (in application of Article 131 of the Financial Regulation, social partner organisations without legal personality are also eligible provided that the conditions of the Financial Regulation related thereto are met);
- public or private employment services
- third sector organisations
- other relevant actors active on the EU/EEA labour market including European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation

d) Types of entities - strand 4

Applicants (single, lead and co-applicants) must be social partners, established at European level and represented in the Advisory Committee on Free Movement of Workers, i.e.:

- The European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)
- The Confederation of European Business (BUSINESSEUROPE)
- European Association of Craft, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEUnited)
- European Centre of Employers and Enterprises providing Public Services and Services of general interest (CEEP)

²⁸ and as laid down previously in Commission implementing Decision 2012/733/EU

6.1.3 Consortia²⁹

For all strands

The roles of the individual participants have to be clearly identified in the description of the action (see section 14.1).

a) Consortia - strand 1

Proposals under strand 1 must be submitted by a consortium of several applicants (lead and co-applicant(s)) (Please also refer to types of entities for strand 1 above)

To be eligible, applications must as a minimum:

Represent entities established in at least two neighbouring Member States, i.e. proposals must have the involvement of the lead applicant and at least one EURES member or partner established in a neighbouring Member State as co-applicant.

If the lead applicant is not considered to be eligible, the application will be rejected.

If a co-applicant is considered not to be eligible, this organisation will be removed from the consortium and the eligibility of the modified consortium will be re-evaluated. In addition, the costs that are allocated to a non-eligible co-applicant will be removed from the budget. If the modified consortium is still eligible, the application will be evaluated on that basis. If the application is accepted for funding, the work plan will have to be adapted as appropriate.

b) Consortia - strand 2

Proposals under strand 1 must be submitted by a consortium of several applicants (lead and co-applicant(s)). Please also refer to types of entities for strand 2 above.

To be eligible, applications must as a minimum:

- Represent entities established in at least two neighbouring Member States, i.e. proposals must have the involvement of the lead applicant and at least one EURES member or partner established in a neighbouring Member State as co-applicant.

If the lead applicant is not considered to be eligible, the application will be rejected.

If a co-applicant is considered not to be eligible, this organisation will be removed from the consortium and the eligibility of the modified consortium will be re-evaluated. In addition, the costs that are allocated to a non-eligible co-applicant will be removed from the budget. If the modified consortium is still eligible, the application will be evaluated on that basis. If the application is accepted for funding, the work plan will have to be adapted as appropriate.

c) Consortia - strand 3

Proposals under strand 3 may be submitted either by one single applicant or by a consortium of several applicants (lead and co-applicant(s)). Please also refer to types of entities for strand 3 above.

To be eligible applications must:

- Have the involvement of the National EURES Coordination Office of Norway or Iceland as the single applicant or, in the case of a consortium, as lead applicant;

If the single or the lead applicant is not considered to be eligible, the application will be rejected.

²⁹ Letters of mandate, authorising the lead applicant to submit the proposal and to sign any Grant Agreement on their behalf must be submitted from each co-applicant (see Annex I, checklist, point 5).

If the proposal is submitted by a consortium, if a co-applicant is considered not to be eligible, this organisation will be removed from the consortium, the costs that are allocated to that non-eligible co-applicant will be removed from the budget and the application will be evaluated on that basis. If the application is accepted for funding, the work plan will have to be adapted as appropriate.

d) **Consortia - strand 4**

Proposals under strand 4 may be submitted either by one single applicant or by a consortium of several applicants (lead and co-applicant(s)). Please also refer to types of entities for strand 4 above.

If the single or the lead applicant is not considered to be eligible, the application will be rejected.

If the proposal is submitted by a consortium, if a co-applicant is considered not to be eligible, this organisation will be removed from the consortium, the costs that are allocated to that non-eligible co-applicant will be removed from the budget and the application will be evaluated on that basis. If the application is accepted for funding, the work plan will have to be adapted as appropriate.

6.1.4 Affiliated entities - all strands

Legal entities having a legal or capital link with applicants, which is neither limited to the action nor established for the sole purpose of its implementation and which satisfy the eligibility criteria, may take part in the action as affiliated entities, and may declare eligible costs. For that purpose, applicants shall identify such affiliated entities in the application form.

6.1.5 Associate organisations - all strands

Organisation which participates on a no-cost basis and makes no financial contribution may take part in the action as associate organisations.

The roles of all entities have to be properly identified in the description of the action (see section 14.1) and in the application form.

6.2 Eligible activities (all strands)

a) Geographical Coverage

To be eligible, actions must be fully carried out in eligible participating EaSI-EURES countries (see section 6.1).

b) Types of activities

The grant will finance the activities indicated in section 2.2.

c) Core activities

The following activities are considered to be core activities and may not be subcontracted:

- **Project coordination and management**
- **Monitoring of the action**

6.3 Ineligible activities

Financial support to third parties as defined in point 3 of the Financial Guidelines is not eligible under this call.

7 Exclusion criteria

7.1 Exclusion

Applicants (single applicant, lead applicant and each co-applicant) must sign a **declaration on their honour certifying that they are not in one of the situations referred to in article 136 and 141 of the Financial Regulation** concerning exclusion and rejection from the procedure respectively, **using the relevant form attached to the application form** available at <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/swim/external/displayWelcome.do>.

The same exclusion criteria apply to any affiliated entities.

Only proposals which comply with the requirements of the above eligibility and exclusion criteria will be considered for further evaluation.

7.2 Rejection from the call for proposals

The Commission shall not award a grant to an applicant organisation which:

- a) is in an exclusion situation established in accordance with Article 136; or;
- b) has misrepresented the information required as a condition for participating in the procedure or has failed to supply this information; or
- c) was previously involved in the preparation of documents used in the award procedure where this entails breach of the principle of equality of treatment including a distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise.

The same exclusion criteria apply to any affiliated entities which must, therefore, be included in the above-mentioned declaration(s).

Administrative sanctions may be imposed on applicants, or affiliated entities where applicable, who are found guilty of misrepresentation, if any of the declarations or information provided as a condition for participating in this procedure prove to be false.

8 Selection Criteria

The applicants (single applicant, lead applicant and each co-applicant) must have the financial and operational capacity to complete the activity for which funding is requested. Only organisations with the necessary financial and operational capacity may be considered for a grant.

8.1 Financial capacity

Applicants (single applicant, lead applicant and each co-applicant) must have access to solid and adequate funding to maintain their activities for the period of the action and to help finance it as necessary.

The applicants' (single, lead and co-applicants), financial capacity will be assessed on the basis of the supporting documents below, to be submitted with the application.

The verification of financial capacity will not apply to public bodies.

For all other applicants, the following documents have to be provided:

Declaration on honour (including financial capacity to carry out the activity) (see annex I, checklist point 4);

- **Annual balance sheets and profit and loss accounts** for the last financial year available (see annex I, checklist point 14);
- **Summary balance sheet and profit and loss accounts** using the template provided in SWIM and signed by the legal representative (see annex I, checklist point 15).
- **information on the financial capacity** provided by the applicant and in particular the information provided in section "Financial Resources" of the SWIM application form

- For grants of EUR 750.000 or more per beneficiary or affiliated entity, **an audit report** produced by an approved external auditor certifying the accounts for the last financial year available where such an audit report is available or whenever a statutory audit report is required by Union or national law. If the audit report is not available AND a statutory report is not required by law: a self-declaration signed by the applicant's authorized representative certifying the validity of its accounts for the last financial year available. (see section 14, checklist point 18).

In the event of an application grouping several applicants (consortium), the above thresholds apply to each applicant, not to the consortium as a whole.

The ratio between the total assets in the applicant's (single, lead and co-applicant(s)) balance sheet and the total budget of the project or the part of the project budget for which that organisation is responsible according to the budget in the application form would be considered strong, if it is equal or greater than 0.65.

If the single applicant or lead applicant is considered not to have strong financial capacity, the application as a whole will be rejected.

If a co-applicant or several co-applicants are considered not to have a strong financial capacity, the Commission will also take into account any other relevant information on the financial capacity provided by the applicant and in particular the information provided in section "Financial Resources" of the SWIM application form.

After this further analysis, the Commission will take various proportional measures depending on the level of weaknesses identified, which may be to:

- 1) reject the whole application;
- 2) remove the co-applicant from the consortium and re-evaluate the proposal without this co-applicant;
- 3) propose a Grant Agreement without pre-financing;
- 4) propose a Grant Agreement with a pre-financing paid in several instalments;
- 5) propose a Grant Agreement with pre-financing payment(s) covered by (a) financial guarantee(s);
- 6) propose a Grant Agreement with joint financial liability of 2 or more applicants/co-applicants,
- 7) propose a Grant Agreement with a mix of the measures 4, 5 and 6.

In the case of mitigating measure 5, the Commission may request a pre-financing guarantee for up to the same amount as the pre-financing in order to limit the financial risks linked to the pre-financing payment.

The financial guarantee, in euros, shall be provided by an approved bank or financial institution established in one of the EU Member States. When the beneficiary is established in a third country, the Commission may agree that a bank or financial institution established in that third country may provide the guarantee if it considers that the bank or financial institution offers equivalent security and characteristics as those offered by a bank or financial institution established in a Member State. Amounts blocked in bank accounts shall not be accepted as financial guarantees.

The guarantee shall be released as the pre-financing is cleared against the payment of the balance, in accordance with the conditions laid down in the grant agreement.

8.2 Operational capacity

Applicants (single applicant, lead applicant and each co-applicant) must have the professional competencies as well as appropriate qualifications necessary to complete the proposed action. In particular, applicants must have:

- demonstrable experience of having carried out projects relating to the subject of the present call or
- The necessary operational resources (technical, management) to carry out the action

The operational capacity of the applicant (single, applicant, lead applicant and each co-applicant) to complete the proposed action must be confirmed by the submission in the proposal of the following:

- A **list of the main projects (if any)** relating to the subject of the call carried out in the last three years. - see annex I, checklist point 17).
- The **CVs of the proposed project coordinator and of the persons who will perform the main tasks**, showing all their relevant professional experience (see annex I, checklist point 16). The project coordinator should have experience in the management of projects with numerous partners and should master the languages most spoken in the cross-border region.
- A **declaration on honour signed by the legal representative** (including operational capacity to carry out the activity) (see section 14, checklist point 4)

If the single or lead applicant is considered not to have the required operational capacity, the application as a whole will be rejected. If a co-applicant is considered not to have the required financial or operational capacity, this co-applicant will be removed from the consortium and the application will be evaluated without this co-applicant³⁰. In addition, the costs that are allocated to the non-selected co-applicant will be removed from the budget. If the application is accepted, the work programme will have to be adapted as appropriate.

Only proposals which comply with the requirements of the above operational selection criteria will be considered for further evaluation.

³⁰ This includes a re-evaluation of the eligibility of the modified consortium.

9 Award criteria

Proposals which fulfil the eligibility and operational selection criteria indicated above will be assessed according to the following award criteria, with a maximum score of 100 points in total:

- 1) **Quality of the methodology and of the activities proposed (max. 15 points)**
The extent to which the activities proposed correspond in number and content to the categories requested under the given strand.
The clear and comprehensive ***description of the tasks and responsibilities*** of each applicant organisation and the ***distribution of work*** among co-applicants in case of a consortium. In case of sole applicants, the adequacy of the overall allocation of time and resources to the activities and to each individual activity, and clear specification of the roles, activities and responsibilities of the involved staff members.
- 2) **The cost-efficiency of the operation (max. 20 points)**
The degree to which the proposed activities and their expected impact are proportional to the amount of the requested grant and the coherence of the overall budget breakdown.
- 3) **Expected impact of the proposed activities (max. 35 points)**
The extent to which the proposal is expected contribute directly or indirectly to an **increase in the number of placements across the border** in the short to mid-term.
- 4) **Visibility of the proposed activities (max. 15 points)**
The degree to which the **communication plan**, which has to be submitted together with the proposal, is tailored to the target groups identified. The adequacy of the proposed channels to reach these target groups and the extent to which a multiplier effect can be expected.
- 5) **Sustainability of the actions (max. 15 points)**
The extent to which the proposal foresees the **sustainability of the actions after the end of the Grant Agreement**.

Applications will be ranked according to the total score awarded. Taking into account the available budget, the proposals with the highest total scores will be recommended for award, **on condition that the total score reaches at least 70% of the maximum possible mark (100 points)**.

10 Legal Commitments

In the event of a grant being awarded by the Commission, a Grant Agreement, drawn up in Euro and detailing the conditions and level of funding, will be sent to the beneficiary, or to the coordinator in the case of multi-beneficiary Grant Agreements.

The 2 copies of the original agreement must be signed by the beneficiary, or the coordinator in the case of multi-beneficiary Grant Agreements, and returned to the Commission immediately. The Commission will sign it last.

The Grant Agreement may include corrections and deletion of ineligible costs or activities, made by the Commission - therefore the applicant should carefully read the whole agreement and the budget and work programme sections in particular, before signing and returning the copies to the Commission.

The applicable model Grant Agreements are published on the Europa website under the relevant call <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=629&langId=en>.

There is no alternative to these models in the context of this call. In specific cases, international agreements conditions may apply.

The award of a grant does not establish an entitlement for subsequent calls.

10.1 Sources of Funding

In addition to the obligations with regard to visibility of Union funding foreseen in the General conditions to the Grant Agreement, beneficiaries must acknowledge in writing that the project has been supported by the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation ("EaSI") 2014-2020. In practice, all products (publications, brochures, press releases, videos, CDs, posters and banners, and especially those associated with conferences, seminars and information campaigns) must state the following:

This (publication, conference, video etc.) has received financial support from the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Innovation "EaSI" (2014-2020). For further information please consult: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/easi>

The European emblem must appear on every publication or other material produced. Please see:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/communication/services/visual_identity/pdf/use-emblem_en.pdf

Every publication must include the following: "*The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the official position of the European Commission.*"

11 Data Protection

11.1 Before the grant agreement's signature:

The reply to any call for proposals involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as name, address and CV). Such data will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/1725. Unless indicated otherwise, the applicant's replies to the questions and any personal data requested that are required to evaluate the application in accordance with the call for proposal, will be processed solely for that purpose by the Head of Unit F.4 – Programme Management and Implementation, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. Details concerning the processing of your personal data are available on the privacy statement at :

https://ec.europa.eu/info/data-protection-public-procurement-procedures_en

Personal data may be registered in the Early Detection and Exclusion System by the Commission, should the beneficiary be in one of the situations mentioned in Articles 136 and 141 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/104631. For more information see the Privacy Statement on: http://ec.europa.eu/budget/library/explained/management/protecting/privacy_statement_edes_en.pdf

11.2 Once the grant agreement is signed:

Beneficiaries must process personal data in compliance with the applicable EU and national law on data protection in accordance with the Regulation (EU) 2016/67932

Any personal data included in the Agreement must be processed by the Commission in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 2018/172533

Such data must be processed by the data controller identified in Article I.7.1 solely for implementing, managing and monitoring the Agreement or to protect the financial interests of the EU, including checks, audits and investigations in accordance with Article II.27.

Please refer to Article II.7 of the General Conditions of the model grant agreements.

³¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32018R1046>

³² Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC, OJ L 119, 4.5.2016, p. 1, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2016.119.01.0001.01.ENG

³³ Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC

12 Financial Provisions

Details on financial provisions are laid out in the Financial Guidelines for Applicants and the model Grant Agreement, both published on the Europa website under the relevant call: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=629&langId=en>.

a) Specific procurement procedures

Where the value of a foreseen procurement contract for subcontracting external expertise exceeds EUR 60 000, in addition to the rules indicated in the Financial Guidelines for applicants, the following shall apply:

- the applicant must provide with the grant application a copy of the draft tender specifications. To assist applicants, a model for tender specifications is included in Annex to this call. Applicants are encouraged to submit their draft tender specifications in English, French or German in order to facilitate the treatment of the proposal and speed up the evaluation process. However, draft tender specifications in all official languages of the EU will be accepted.

This requirement does not apply to public authorities which are already governed by a system of public procurement rules.

b) Meetings

After the signature of the Grant Agreements the project coordinators of the beneficiaries will be invited to an information meeting either in Brussels or at the premises of a beneficiary. Applicants willing to host such a meeting must indicate it in the description of the action and include the relevant costs (venue, catering) in the budget of the action. A second meeting may be scheduled at the end of the activity in preparation of the final reports. Applicants should include the travel expenses for these two meetings in their budget for the action.

13 Procedure for the Submission of Proposals

The procedure to submit proposals electronically is explained in point 14 of the "Financial Guidelines for Applicants". Before starting, please read carefully the SWIM user manual:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/calls/pdf/swim_manual_en.pdf

Once the application form is filled in, applicants must submit it both electronically and in hard copy, before the deadline set in section 3 above.

The SWIM electronic application form is available until midnight on the day of the submission deadline. Since the applicants must first submit the form electronically, and then print, sign and send it by post service or hand delivery by the submission deadline, it is the **applicant's responsibility to ensure that the appropriate postal or courier services are locally available on the day of the deadline.** It is recommended to upload/send the complete application well before deadline, to ensure submission on time.

The hard copy of the proposal must be duly signed and sent in duplicate (one marked "original" and one marked "copy"), including all documents listed in annex I by the deadline (the postmark or the express courier receipt date serving as proof) either by registered post, express courier service or hand delivery.

Address for registered post or express courier service:

(NOT TO BE OPENED BY CENTRAL MAIL SERVICES)

European Commission
Call for proposals VP/2019/006
DG EMPL
CAD J-27 00/120

B-1049 Brussels
BELGIUM

The hard copy of the proposal may either be sent by:

registered post (evidence: postmark)

or

express courier service (evidence: deposit slip of express courier service)

Proof of posting or express courier receipt should be kept as it could be requested by the European Commission in cases of doubt regarding the date of submission.

Hand-delivered proposals must be received by the European Commission by 4 p.m. on the date of the deadline for submission as indicated in section 3 at the following address:

(NOT TO BE OPENED BY CENTRAL MAIL SERVICES)

European Commission
Call for proposals VP/2019/006
DG EMPL.D.1
Service central de réception du courrier
Avenue du Bourget, 1
B-1140 Evere
BELGIUM

At that time the European Commission's Mail Service will provide a signed and dated receipt which should be kept as proof of delivery.

If an applicant submits more than one proposal, **each proposal must be submitted separately.**

Additional documents sent by post, by fax or by electronic mail after the deadlines mentioned above will not be considered for evaluation unless requested by the European Commission (see section 13).

The applicant's attention is also drawn to the fact that incomplete or unsigned forms, handwritten forms and those sent by fax or e-mail will not be taken into consideration.

14 Communication

Before the final date for submission of proposals

The information contained in the present call document together with the Financial Guidelines for Applicants provides all the information you require to submit an application. Please read it carefully before doing so, paying particular attention to the priorities of the present call.

At the request of the applicant, the Commission may provide additional information solely for the purpose of clarifying the nature of the call.

All enquiries must be made by e-mail only to empl-vp-2019-006@ec.europa.eu

For any technical problems please contact: empl-swim-support@ec.europa.eu

Questions may be sent to the above address **no later than 10 days before the deadline for the submission of proposals**. Replies will be given no later than 5 days before the deadline for submission of proposals. The Commission has no obligation to reply to requests for additional information received after the deadline for questions and clarifications set in Section 3.

To ensure equal treatment of applicants, the Commission will not give a prior opinion on the eligibility of applicants, or affiliated entity(ies), an actions or specific activities.

No individual replies to questions will be sent but all questions together with the answers and other important notices will be published (FAQ in EN) at regular intervals on the Europa website under the relevant call <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=629&langId=en>.

The Commission may, on its own initiative, inform interested parties of any error, inaccuracy, omission or clerical error in the text of the call for proposals on the mentioned Europa website. It is the applicant's responsibility to check for updates and modifications regularly during the submission period.

After the deadline for submission of proposals

No modification to the proposal is allowed once the deadline for submission has elapsed. If there is a need to clarify certain aspects or to correct obvious clerical mistakes, the Commission may contact the applicant by e-mail for this purpose during the evaluation process, provided the terms of the proposal are not modified as a result.

It is the applicant's responsibility to provide a valid email address and contact details and to check this email address regularly. In case of any change of contact details, please send an e-mail with the application VP reference and the new contact details to EMPL-VP-2019-006@ec.europa.eu

In the case of consortia, all communication regarding an application will be done with the lead applicant only, unless there are specific reasons to do otherwise.

Applicants will be informed in writing about the results of the selection process. Unsuccessful applicants will be informed of the reasons for rejection. No information regarding the award procedure will be disclosed until the notification letters have been sent to the beneficiaries.

15 Instructions for the presentation of the application. Required Documents

15.1 Instructions for the presentation of the application

The application comprises an application form including the budget, a description of the action and work plan plus a series of other required documents (see section 14.2).

The description of the action must be written using the template available in SWIM. All the information related to the description of the action must be presented in one single document. ***The budget must be presented using the application form in SWIM.***

Proposals should include inter alia the mandatory activities indicated in section 2.2 above in the description of the action/work plan and foresee the corresponding expenditure in the budget estimate.

The role of all applicants, any affiliated entities and any associate organisations must also be clearly explained in the description of the action.

In case of subcontracting any tasks comprising part of the action (see the Financial Guidelines), the description of the action must provide details on the tasks to be subcontracted and the reasons for doing so and these tasks must be clearly identified in the budget. Core activities as defined in section 6.2(c) of the call cannot be subcontracted.

15.2 Required documents

The table in annex I includes the documents that should be provided in addition to the documents mentioned in 14.1 Except for **items 7, 10 and 11³⁴ which must be submitted at a later stage, only for applications ranked for award**, please note that all other documents are necessary either for the admissibility (see section 5) or for the analysis of the eligibility (see section 6) or selection criteria (see section 8). It also indicates where originals are required. We recommend that applicants use the table as a **checklist** in order to verify compliance with all requirements.

While some information must be supplied using the templates available in the SWIM, other documents may need to be completed and/or attached electronically, usually either administrative documents or free format text descriptions. The SWIM application indicates in each section where SWIM templates should be used as well as which and where free format documents can be uploaded electronically.

Copies of the signed originals will be accepted for most of the documents to be submitted by the co-applicants. However, the lead applicant shall keep the original signed versions for its records, because **originals** may have to be submitted for certain documents at a later stage. **If the lead applicant fails to submit these original documents within the deadline given by the Commission, the proposal will be rejected for lack of administrative compliance.**

Regarding the compilation of the application file, it is recommended to:

- 1) follow the order of documents as listed in the checklist (and attach a ticked checklist as below to the proposal);
- 2) print the documents double-sided;
- 3) use 2-hole folders (do not bind or glue; stapling is acceptable).

³⁴ Legal entity form, VAT certificate, Financial Identification form

ANNEX I: Checklist of documents to be submitted at application stage.³⁵

The table below includes the documents that must be provided and where originals are required. We strongly recommend using the table as a checklist in order to verify compliance with all requirements. **Notes:** highlighted documents do not need to be provided by public entities. Documents marked with * are obligatorily to be attached online in SWIM as well.

No.	Document	Specification and content	The document must be provided by each				Originally signed?	Checkbox
			Lead applicant	Co-applicant	Affiliated entity	third party		
1	Letter from the EURES NCO (for strands 1 & 2)	This letter of support to your application must bear the original signature of the Head of the relevant National Coordination Office.	✓	--	--	--	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	Executive summary (if necessary)	Executive summary in EN (maximum 2 pages) – free format	✓	--	--	--	--	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Signed SWIM application form submitted online + hard copies	The SWIM application form submitted online must be printed and dated and signed by the authorised legal representative and send by hard copies as foreseen in Section 12. <i>Note: the online form must be electronically submitted before printing. After electronic submission, no further changes to the application are permitted.</i>	✓	--	--	--	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	Declaration on honour*	The template is available in SWIM and must be written on the official letterhead of the organisation, bearing the original signature of the authorised legal representative.	✓	✓	--	--	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Letter of mandate*	The template is available in SWIM and must be written on the official letterhead of the organisation, dated and signed by the original signature of the authorised legal representative.	--	✓	--	--	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	Legal/capital link with lead or co-applicant*	Affiliated entities are required to provide proof of the legal and/or capital link with the lead or co-applicant.	--	--	✓	--	--	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Legal entity form	The template is available in SWIM and online (http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/legal_entities/legal_entities_en.cfm) and must be duly signed by the legal representative. (document to be submitted at a later stage only for applications ranked for award)	✓	✓	--	--	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	Proof of registration ³⁶	A certificate of official registration or other official document attesting the establishment of the entity (for public bodies: the law, decree, decision etc. establishing the entity). Exclusively in the case of social partner organisations without legal personality: a signed letter of the legal representative certifying his/her capacity to undertake legal obligations on behalf of the organisation	✓	✓	--	--	--	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Statutes ³⁷	The articles of association/statutes or equivalent proving the eligibility of the organisation.	✓	✓	--	--	--	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	VAT certificate	A document showing the identification number for tax purposes or the VAT number, if applicable. (document to be submitted at a later stage only for applications ranked for award)	✓	✓	--	--	--	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Financial identification form	The template is available in SWIM and online (http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/financial_id/financial_id_en.cfm) and must be duly signed and dated by the <u>account holder</u> and bearing the bank stamp and signature of the bank representative (or a copy of recent bank statement attached). (document to be submitted at a later stage only for applications ranked for award)	✓	--	--	--	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	Description of the action*	The template is available in SWIM which must be duly completed and submitted electronically together with the online submission form and on paper as well. Applicants are encouraged to submit the document in English, French or German. See Section V.	✓	--	--	--	--	<input type="checkbox"/>
13	Letters of commitment*	The template is available in SWIM and must specify the amount of any funding provided. The letter must be written on the official letterhead of the organisation and bear the original signature of the legal representative.	--	--	--	✓	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
14	Balance sheet & profit and loss accounts	The most recent balance sheet and profit & loss accounts, including assets and liabilities, specifying the currency used.	✓	✓	--	--	--	<input type="checkbox"/>
15	Simplified balance sheet & profit and loss accounts	The template is available in SWIM and must be signed by the authorised legal representative	✓	✓	--	--	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>
16	Curricula vitae of key staff	CVs of the person responsible for managing the action (named in section A.3 of the online application form) and the persons who will perform the main tasks . The CVs should indicate clearly the current employer.	✓	✓	✓	--	--	<input type="checkbox"/>
17	List of main projects	A list of the main projects carried out, if any, in the last three years relating to the subject of the call other than those already indicated in the SWIM online application form.	✓	✓	✓	--	--	<input type="checkbox"/>
18	Audit report	For grant requests of EUR 750,000 or more per beneficiary or affiliated entity: an external audit report produced by an approved auditor, certifying the accounts for the last financial year available where such an audit report is available or whenever a statutory audit report is required by Union or national law. If the audit report is not available AND a statutory report is not required by law, a self-declaration signed by the applicant's authorized representative certifying the validity of its accounts for the last financial year available. The threshold applies to each co-applicant in line with their share of the action budget. Applicants are encouraged to submit the report in English, French or German. See Section V.	✓	✓	--	--	--	<input type="checkbox"/>

³⁵ Documents for items 7, 10 and 11 must only be submitted for applications ranked for award, at a later stage, if applicable.

³⁶ If the applicant (lead or co-applicant) has signed a grant agreement with DG EMPL within 12 months prior to submitting the application and there has been no modification of their legal status in the meantime, they may provide the grant agreement reference number in the "Description of the Action" template instead (e.g. VS/2018/XXXX)

³⁷ Idem

19	Draft tender specifications	In case of subcontracting for external expertise where the value of the contracts exceeds EUR 60 000, a copy of the draft tender specifications must be submitted. A model is included in Annex III of this call. Applicants are encouraged to submit the draft tender specifications in English, French or German. See Section V.	✓					
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Several documents, which are marked in the above checklist, must be provided as originally signed papers. However, these documents may exceptionally be submitted as copies of the signed original, provided that they only concern co-applicants, affiliated entities. The originals must nevertheless be forwarded to the Commission without any delay upon request. **Please note that documents to be provided by the lead applicant must in any case be provided in their original version.**

ANNEX II: Financial guidelines for applicants

FINANCIAL GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

The financial guidelines to the call are available on the call website:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=629&langId=en>

ANNEX III: Model for Tender Specifications for subcontracting external expertise

Tender Specifications -.....

- 1. Background
- 2. Purpose of the Contract
- 3. Tasks to be performed by the Contractor
 - 3.1. Description of tasks
 - 3.2. Guidance and indications on tasks execution and methodology
- 4. Expertise required
- 5. Time schedule and reporting
- 6. Payments and standard contract
- 7. Price
- 8. Selection criteria
- 9. Award criteria

The contract will be awarded to the tenderer whose offer represents the best value for money - taking into account the following criteria:

It should be noted that the contract will not be awarded to a tenderer who receives less than 70% on the Award Criteria.

- 10. Content and presentation of the bids
 - 10.1 Content of the bids
 - 10.2 Presentation of the bids]