



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for M-ERA.NET Call 2021

Version 1.2
30 September 2021



Scope of the Call

Q 1: *What types of proposals are expected?*

A 1: The call is open for innovative transnational R&D projects in materials research and innovation related to materials and battery technologies to support the European Green Deal. The M-ERA.NET Call 2021 covers the following topics:

- 1. Modelling for materials engineering, processing, properties and durability**
- 2. Innovative surfaces, coatings and interfaces**
- 3. High performance composites**
- 4. Functional materials**
- 5. New strategies for advanced material-based technologies health applications**
- 6. Materials for additive manufacturing**

There may be restrictions regarding the thematic scope of participating national/regional funding organisations.

For detailed information all applicants are requested to contact their respective national/regional funding organisations (see: <https://www.m-era.net/joint-calls/joint-call-2021/participating-countries-regions-call-2021>) **in order to clarify additional national/regional regulations and requirements.**

Q 2: *Is it possible to select several topics for my proposal?*

A 2: No, for 1 proposal only 1 topic can be selected. Please choose the most appropriate topic.

Q 3: *Is an explicit batteries-orientation required in project proposals? Does the proposal related to batteries, receives any priority in evaluation?*

A 3: In general, the thematic scope is not restricted to batteries-orientation. Please refer to the topic descriptions. However, please make sure to contact your national/regional funding organisation to clarify potential restrictions.

Q 4: *Is there a dedicated budget per topic? Can it happen that no projects are funded under a certain topic?*

A 4: Budgets are not allocated per topic. Available global funding will be provided to proposals according to quality until national/regional budgets are exhausted.

Eligibility

Q 5: *Who can apply?*

A 5: The eligibility of applicants depends on the respective national/regional funding programmes. SMEs, large companies, academic research groups, universities, research organisations or other research organisations can apply according to their regional/national regulations. Prospective applicants are requested to discuss eligibility with their national/regional funding organisations. The funding organisations participating in the call are listed at <https://www.m-era.net/joint-calls/joint-call-2021/participating-countries-regions-call-2021> and in the Guide for Proposers. **Only applicants from these listed countries/regions are eligible.**



Q 6: *Should the coordinator be an industrial or an academic partner?*

A 6: In general, there is no preference. Please make sure that all consortium members are eligible according to the published M-ERA.NET as well as national/regional criteria and that they have a valid role and the necessary expertise.

Q 7: *Can an applicant in this call also register as an expert to evaluate research proposals in this call?*

A 7: Applicants can register but due to a potential conflict of interest they will not be appointed for the evaluation.

Q 8: *What is the minimum size of the consortium?*

A 8: Minimum requirement: Project consortia must consist of at least 3 partners (all requesting funding from a funding organisation listed in Annex 3 of the Guide for Proposers) from at least 2 different countries (at least 2 EU member states or associated countries¹) participating in the M-ERA.NET Call 2021. In addition to the minimum consortium, the participation of further partners is possible, provided that these partners are from countries/regions participating in the Call 2021.

Q9: *Are there any limitations concerning the work balance and country balance of the consortium?*

A9: Yes, the criteria are as follows. The total effort of one single applicants cannot exceed 60% of the total project efforts (measured in person months) in the proposal. The total effort of applicants from one country cannot exceed 70% of the total project efforts (measured in person months) in the proposal.

Hereby, for calculating the person months (PM), M-ERA.NET is following the EC definition on calculating PM: <https://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/just/items/643967>

Q 10: *Can partners not asking for funding participate in the M-ERA.NET Call 2021?*

A 10: Yes, partner not asking for funding can participate in addition to the minimum consortia of 3 partners from two different countries but consortia cannot include partners from countries/regions not participating in the Call 2021.

The project coordinator must request funding (from a funding organisation listed in the Guide for Proposers).

Q 11: *Can partners from other countries/regions than those participating in the M-ERA.NET Call 2021 join the consortium?*

A 11: No. Consortia cannot include partners from countries/regions not participating in the Call 2021.

Q 12: *Can applicants be involved in more than one project?*

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/3cpart/h2020-hi-list-ac_en.pdf



A 12: This depends on the respective national/regional programme regulations; it is possible to participate in more than one project if this complies with the respective national/regional programme regulations.

Q 13: *How can I find potential partners?*

A 13: M-ERA.NET recommends the following databases:

Partner Search Facility (former: NMPTeAm) (<https://www.nmp-partnersearch.eu>)

EEN network (<https://een.ec.europa.eu/>)

Application Process

Q 14: *Where do I find my national/regional funding organisation?*

A 14: The funding organisations can be found via the following link: <https://www.m-era.net/joint-calls/joint-call-2021/participating-countries-regions-call-2021> .

Please select your country by clicking on the map or in the Guide for Proposers in Annex 3.

Q 15: *Does every applicant have to submit a proposal?*

A 15: No, **only the project coordinator** must submit the M-ERA.NET Call 2021 Pre-Proposal form (stage 1) and Full-Proposal form & Annex 1 (stage 2) using the electronic submission tool. In addition, **each applicant has to apply for funding** to their respective national/regional funding organisation. **Please note that it may be necessary to submit additional information for each partner already at the Pre-Proposal stage to the national/regional funding programme!**

Q 16: *Where can I find all the necessary forms for submitting a proposal? How do I submit a proposal?*

A 16: It is mandatory to use the M-ERA.NET proposal forms. All call documents are available for download on the M-ERA.NET Call 2021 homepage: <https://www.m-era.net/joint-calls/joint-call-2021>

For proposal submission, the M-ERA.NET Call 2021 uses an online tool. Access to the electronic submission system (and its user manual) is provided via the link on the M-ERA.NET Call 2021 homepage. Applicants acting as coordinators of a proposal must register on the website prior to gaining access to the online submission system. A "Guide for Proposers" is available.

→ **Proposals can be saved as draft, revised and re-submitted again before the deadline.** ←

Please note that it may be necessary to submit additional information to respective national/regional funding organisations!

Q 17: *Can I re-submit a proposal which was already submitted to a previous M-ERA.NET call but not funded?*

A 17: In general this is possible. However, please check that the scope still fits the call topics and that all partners are still eligible for funding in the participating countries or regions.

Q18: *Can I submit more than one proposal?*



A18: Yes, in general it is possible that an organisation submit more than one proposal. But there may be some national/regional limitations. Therefore, please check with your national/regional funding agencies.

If you submit a second proposal, you need to register with a new account.

Q 19: *Can I request an extension of the M-ERA.NET Call 2021 deadline to submit either a Pre-Proposal or a Full-Proposal?*

A 19: No. The M-ERA.NET Call 2021 deadlines for Pre-Proposals and Full-Proposals are fixed. Please contact your national/regional funding organisation to confirm national/regional deadlines.

Q 20: *Can I submit a Full-Proposal without submitting a Pre-Proposal?*

A 20: No.

Q 21: *Is it acceptable to submit a proposal in a national language?*

A 21: The M-ERA.NET Call 2021 Pre-Proposals and Full-Proposals can **only be submitted in English**. The language of national/regional funding applications depends on the rules of the respective national/regional funding programmes. **All applicants must contact their respective national/regional funding organisation for national/regional programme details.**

Q 22: *Is it possible to change the layout and the headings of the proposal templates?*

A 22: The layout of the template cannot be changed. Please fill in the Pre- and Full-Proposal form as requested.

Q 23: *Is there a page limit for the Pre- and Full-Proposals?*

A 23: Yes.

1) For Pre-Proposals, the entire document cannot exceed 22 pages, including all tables, the mandatory Pre-Proposal form has to be used.

2) For Full-Proposals, there are two mandatory documents: the main document (Full-Proposal form) for the whole project description and the Annex 1 to Full-Proposal form for partner profiles, CVs and Letters of Intent (LoI) (if applicable). The main document cannot exceed 40 pages. CVs and LoIs have to be submitted in a separate mandatory document (Annex1 to the Full-Proposal) without page limitation.

Please note that also proposals below the maximum page limit will be accepted.

Q 24: *Are there any formatting conditions?*

A 24: Yes.

The following formatting conditions apply:

The minimum font size should be 11 points. Standard character spacing and a minimum of single line spacing is to be used. Text elements other than the body text, such as headers, foot/end notes, captions, formulas, may deviate, but must be legible. The page size is A4, and all margins (top, bottom, left, right) should be at least 15 mm (not including any footers or headers).

Q 25: *What is a Participant Identification Code (PIC)?*



A 25: The PIC is a 9-digit number serving as a unique identifier for organisations (legal entities) participating in EU funding programmes / procurements. Please refer to the website: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/funding-tenders-opportunities/display/OM/Registration+and+validation+of+your+organisation>

Q 26: *How can I find and/or apply the PIC of my organisation and the consortium members?*

A 26: Please check on the following website: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register>. The website provides a search tool to find out, if a organisation has been registered and has a PIC. In addition, the website provides the information how to apply for a PIC by registering your organisation.

Q 27: *Does my organisation need a validated PIC for proposal submission?*

A 27: No, you can submit a proposal with a temporary PIC.

Q 28: *After proposal submission, will I receive confirmation of receipt?*

A 28: Yes, the coordinator will receive a confirmation of receipt.

Q 29: *Are any changes from Pre-Proposal to Full-Proposal and beyond allowed?*

A 29: **Only in exceptional cases changes from Pre-Proposal to Full-Proposal are allowed.** Please refer to the details in the Guide for Proposers.

Q 30: *Is it necessary to provide a Consortium Agreement with the proposal?*

A 30: **At the time of full proposal submission it is recommended to provide the principles ruling the consortium agreement (CA) but not the CA itself.** A duly signed and stamped consortium agreement (CA) between the project partners is recommended for funded projects based on national/regional funding rules, including agreements on intellectual property rights (IPR) and agreements on scientific publications. At the time of full proposal submission it is recommended to provide the principles ruling the CA but not the CA itself.

Examples for consortium agreements can be found on the website of DESCA (Development of a Simplified Consortium Agreement): <https://www.desca-agreement.eu/what-is-desca/> . Support can also be found on the website of the European IP helpdesk: https://intellectual-property-helpdesk.ec.europa.eu/index_en. It also provide examples for MoU (Memorandum of Understanding), Non-Disclosure Agreements: https://intellectual-property-helpdesk.ec.europa.eu/regional-helpdesks/european-ip-helpdesk/europe-useful-documents_en

Evaluation

Q 31: *Is there any evaluation of pre-proposals? Will all Pre-Proposals be invited to Full-Proposal submission?*

A 31: Pre-Proposals will be evaluated with respect to eligibility and relevance to the respective national/regional funding programmes. Additional national/regional programme conditions apply.

Q 32: *Can it happen that the same Pre-Proposal is evaluated differently by the involved national/regional funding organisations?*



A 32: Pre-Proposals will only be invited for Full-Proposal submission if consensus is found among all involved funding organisations.

Q 33: In stage 2, will I receive the 3 individual assessment reports of evaluated Full-Proposals and the global ranking of my proposal?

A 33: The coordinator will receive the compiled Peer Review Report for download. All applicants will receive feedback provided by the involved funding organisations.

Costs & Funding

Q 34: Who is funding this call?

A 34: Projects are funded by the participating national/regional funding organisations. All applicants are requested to contact their respective national/regional funding organisations.

Q 35: What types of costs will be funded?

A 35: The level of funding and the costs covered depend on the rules of the relevant national/regional programmes. Proposers must discuss financial details with the respective funding organisations (see Guide for Proposers).

Q 36: What are direct costs and indirect costs?

A 36: **Direct costs** are identifiable as specific costs directly linked to the project. They can be differentiated as personnel costs, costs for equipment, consumables, travels and for subcontracting. Other direct costs can be costs for seminars or for renting rooms.

Indirect costs are general administrative costs – overhead costs incurred in connection with the direct costs of the action. Examples for indirect costs are costs for renting rooms or buildings, costs for electricity, heating, telephone, mailings, room cleaning as well as structural costs (for technical or administrative staff).

Q 37: Is it necessary to define the different budget concepts (personnel, goods, etc.)?

A 37: In the Pre-Proposal stage, indications of person months, total budget and funding are requested (see budget table). Details on cost categories (personnel cost, equipment, consumables, travel, subcontracting, other costs, indirect costs) are requested in the Full-Proposal phase.

Please check with your respective national / regional funding organisation if additional information is required at the Pre-Proposal phase as well as at the Full-Proposal phase.

Q 38: Should partners not requesting funding provide the person months and project costs ?

A 38: Yes, If the partner is not subcontracted but a partner supporting the project through R&D activities.

Q 39: Are there any M-ERA.NET guidelines regarding limits of use of subcontractors from other countries?

A 39: M-ERA.NET has not defined any limits of use of subcontractors from other countries. National/regional funding rules apply.



Project Implementation

Q 40: *How long does it take before projects recommended for funding actually start?*

A 40: It is expected that final funding decisions will not be made before February 2022. Contract negotiations are expected to start in March 2022.

Q 41: *Can a project start before the final decision by the national/regional funding organisation is made?*

A 41: It is recommended that the project should only start after the funding decisions have been made. Earlier starts are at the risk of the proposers.

Q 42: *Can project partners have different project starting dates?*

A 42: Only in exceptional cases. It is highly recommended that the project start and end dates are the same for all project parties

Q 43: *Can the project duration be extended?*

A 43: Only in exceptional cases under the condition that all involved project partners, funding organisations and the M-ERA.NET call secretariat agree and confirm the extension. It is highly recommended that all project partner have the same project start and project end date.

Q 44: *What happens, if a partner leaves the consortium after the project start?*

A 44: This issue should be covered by the Consortium Agreement. In addition, the call secretariat and all funding organisations involved in the project should be informed and will deal with it according to M-ERA.NET and national/regional rules.

Q 45: *Do I need to submit a report to M-ERA.NET?*

A 45: Yes, in addition to national/regional reporting procedures, a mid-term and a final project report must be submitted by the project coordinator to M-ERA.NET using the M-ERA.NET reporting templates. The reporting templates we will available on the [Call 2021 web page](#).