



# **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for M-ERA.NET Call 2020**

Version 1  
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### **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, including materials for low carbon energy technologies and related production technologies.

The M-ERA.NET Call 2020 supports the following topics:

- 1. Modelling for materials engineering and processing**
- 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 differences regarding the thematic focus of participating national/regional funding organisations.

**For detailed information all applicants are requested to contact their respective national/regional funding organisations** (see: <https://m-era.net/joint-calls/joint-call-2020/participating-countries-regions-call-2020>) **in order to clarify additional national/regional regulations and requirements.**

### **Eligibility**

**Q 2:** *Who can apply?*

**A 2:** 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://m-era.net/joint-calls/joint-call-2019/participating-countries-regions-call-2020> and in the Guide for Proposers. Only applicants from these listed countries/regions are eligible.

Applicants not eligible for proposal submission are: M-ERA.NET steering board members, potential evaluations of the Call 2020

**Q 3: What is the minimum size of the consortium?**

**A 3:** 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 1 EU member state or associated country<sup>1</sup>) participating in the M-ERA.NET Call 2020. In addition to the minimum consortium the participation of further partners is possible.

**Q 4: Can partners not asking for funding participate in the M-ERA.NET Call 2020?**

**A 4:** Partner not asking for funding can participate in addition to the minimum consortia of 3 partners from two different countries (see Q 3).

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

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants\\_manual/hi/3cp/h2020-hi-list-ac\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/3cp/h2020-hi-list-ac_en.pdf)



**Q 5:** *Can partners from other countries/regions than those participating in the M-ERA.NET Call 2020 join the consortium?*

**A 5:** Yes, if they do not ask for funding and if they can provide their own source of funding. Applicants from these countries cannot be coordinators of proposals submitted to the call (see Q4).

**Q 6:** *Can applicants be involved in more than one project?*

**A 6:** Yes, it is possible to participate in more than one project if this is foreseen by the national/regional funding programme.

## **Application Process**

**Q7:** Where do I find my national/regional funding organisation?

**A7:** The funding organisations can be found via the following link: <https://www.m-era.net/joint-calls/joint-call-2020/participating-countries-regions-call-2020>

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

**Q 8:** *How can I find potential partners?*

**A 8:** Please contact your national/regional funding organisation for partner search information. In addition, it may be helpful to search the following databases:

NMPTeAm (<http://www.nmpteam.com/>)

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

**Q 9:** *How do I submit a proposal? Where can I find all the necessary forms for submitting a proposal?*

**A 9:** The M-ERA.NET Call 2020 follows a 2-step-procedure. It is mandatory to use the M-ERA.NET proposal forms. All call documents are available for download on the M-ERA.NET Call 2020 homepage: <https://m-era.net/joint-calls/joint-call-2020>.

For proposal submission, the M-ERA.NET Call 2020 uses an on-line tool. Access to the electronic submission system (and its user manual) is provided via the link on the M-ERA.NET Call 2020 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. **Please note that it may be necessary to submit additional information for each partner at the Pre-Proposal stage to the national/regional funding organisations!**

**Q 10:** *Is there a page limit for the Pre- and Full-Proposals?*

**A 10:** Yes.

For Pre-Proposals, the entire document cannot exceed 22 pages, including all tables, the mandatory pre-proposal form has to be used. The minimum font size is 11 points. The page size is A4.

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 and CVs. The main document cannot exceed 40 pages. The minimum font size is 11 points. The page size is A4. CVs have to be submitted in a separate mandatory document (Annex1 to the Full-Proposal) without page limitation.

**Q 11:** *Does every applicant have to submit a proposal?*



**A 11:** No, only the project coordinator must submit the M-ERA.NET Call 2019 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 12:** *Can I submit a Full-Proposal without submitting a Pre-Proposal?*

**A 12:** No.

**Q 13:** *Is it acceptable to submit a proposal in a national language?*

**A 13:** The M-ERA.NET Call 2020 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 14:** *Can I request an extension of the M-ERA.NET Call 2020 deadline to submit either a Pre-Proposal or a Full-Proposal?*

**A 14:** No. The M-ERA.NET Call 2020 deadlines for Pre-Proposals and Full-Proposals are fixed. Please contact your national/regional funding organisation to confirm national/regional deadlines.

**Q 15:** *After proposal submission, will I receive confirmation of receipt?*

**A 15:** Yes, the coordinator will receive a confirmation of receipt.

**Q 16:** *Is it necessary to provide a Consortium Agreement with the proposal?*

**A 16:** **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 the European IPR helpdesk: <http://www.iprhelpdesk.eu/services>

**Q 17:** Are any changes from Pre-Proposal to Full-Proposal and beyond allowed?

**A 17:** **Only in exceptional cases changes from Pre-Proposal to Full-Proposal and beyond are allowed.**

Project objectives stated in the Pre-Proposal cannot be changed. Other changes from Pre- to Full-Proposal and beyond should be avoided. In any case, changes from Pre- to Full-Proposal stage and beyond have to be coordinated with all involved funding organisations by the consortium leader! It is not possible to add new countries to the consortium after the Pre-Proposal stage, i.e. if new partners need to be added, they must originate from countries already participating in the proposal. This means that changes regarding partners, content, costs, funding or consortium have to be communicated to all involved funding organisations. The consortium leader is responsible to coordinate and ensure the acceptance of these changes by the involved funding organisations.



### ***Funding***

**Q 18:** *Who is funding this call?*

**A 18:** Projects are funded by the participating national/regional funding organisations.

**All applicants are requested to contact their respective national/regional funding organisations** (see: <https://m-era.net/joint-calls/joint-call-2020/participating-countries-regions-call-2020> in order to clarify additional national/regional funding rules.

**Q 19:** *What types of costs will be funded?*

**A 19:** 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 20:** *What are direct costs and indirect costs?*

**A 20:** **Direct costs** are identifiable as specific costs directly linked to the project. They can be differentiated as personnel costs, costs for equipments, 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).

### ***Project Implementation***

**Q 21:** *How long does it take before projects recommended for funding actually start?*

**A 21:** It is expected that final funding decisions will not be made before February 2021. Contract negotiations are expected to start in February 2021.

**Q 22:** *Can a project start before the final decision by the national/regional funding organisation is made?*

**A 22:** 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 23:** *What happens, if a partner leaves the consortium after the project start?*

**A 23:** This issue should be covered by the Consortium Agreement. In addition, all funding organisations involved in the project should be informed and will deal with it according to national/regional rules.