



13 May 2021

Funding Newsletter Issue | 2

Themes:

- Open calls for tenders
- Funding team role
- Informative events coming

Dear Members,

As many of you are already aware, we are putting in place a service to monitor open calls for tenders. Due to specific request from some of you, we have widened our research bracket to include tenders as well as calls for proposals which could be of general interest to you, and in some way or another are linked to your day-to-day business. Furthermore, also as per your requests, in the coming future this linkage will be expanded to inform members about Council decisions which may directly or indirectly affect your current and future business drive.

We have started by the announcement of the BMWI Funding Competition followed by the IPCEI calls for the Italian members. These announcements were a pretty success from the feedback we got from the members that gently wished to provide us their opinions about our present service. For calls like these, which are more coherent with GAIA-X overall mission we will acknowledge consortia and elaborate more on our support. For more general calls, like the following, we will also provide information and contacts for support in case you feel interested in any of the calls.

General open calls for tenders

1. EUHubs4Data – 1st Open Call for DIHs

Project full name: European Federation of Data Driven Innovation Hubs

Deadline: 15 June 2021 at 17:00 (CET - Brussels time)

GAIA-X European Association for Data and Cloud
c/o Fraunhofer EU Office, Rue Royale 94, 1000 Bruxelles

Expected duration of participation: From September 2021 until December 2023

Total EU funding available:

Total budget: €1 080 000

Total fixed budget: €300 000 (€11 000 – €22 000 per DIH)

Total variable budget: €780 000 (support to experiments)

Submission & evaluation process: <https://euhubs4data.eu/call-for-dihs/>

Further information: opencall-dih@euhubs4data.eu / <https://euhubs4data.eu/>

Task description: European Federation of Data Driven Innovation Hubs (EUHubs4Data) is an EU funded project that aims to serve as reference to the establishment of the Common European Data Spaces. The federation is composed of 12 DIHs, covering 10 countries and 12 different regions, and plans to increase the geographical coverage by incorporating other relevant initiatives to be the part of the federation of Data Driven Innovation Hubs. The project has allocated a total of €1 080 000 to support financially 18 new DIHs in different activities: integrate data driven services in the federated catalogue, support the experiments that select those services, and contribute to the impact and dissemination of the activities of the project.

Additional information:

The project joins forces with the Big Data Value Association (BDVA) and combines in a single open call: (1) BDVA i-Spaces call for labels 2021 and (2) EUHubs4Data call for DIHs. The current open call includes the BDVA i-Spaces call for labels 2021 as the way to assess the quality and relevance of candidates. Validated BDVA i-Spaces with the highest rank and additional regional coverage of the federation will be recognized for funding.

The objective is to incorporate 18 new DIHs to the project that will receive technical and financial support to contribute to some of the activities of the project, enrich the catalogue of the federation and enlarge its geographical coverage.

2. REACH 1st Open Call for Data Providers

Project full name: EuRopEAn incubator for trusted and secure data value CHains

Project grant agreement number: 951981

Deadline: 16 June 2021 at 17:00 (Brussels time)

Expected duration of participation: 11 months through a 4-phase incubation process, expected to take place in Q4 2021.

Total EU funding available: not applicable

Submission & evaluation process: The call will be in the form of an Expression of Interest and the application process will be the following:

GAIA-X European Association for Data and Cloud
c/o Fraunhofer EU Office, Rue Royale 94, 1000 Bruxelles

Send an expression of interest email – opencall@reach-incubator.eu

REACH Partners will contact you to set up a call and explain the details.

Confirmation of interest before 16 June 2021.

Further information: Have a look at the Open Call Data Providers section on the <https://www.reach-incubator.eu/> or drop an email to opencall@reach-incubator.eu

Task description:

REACH is a second-generation Big Data incubator, building on the successful efforts of EDI – European Data Incubator to accelerate data-driven innovation in Europe.

REACH is an EU funded incubator that a collaboration between data-driven startups & SMEs and Large corporations.

Through an 11-month incubation programme, REACH facilitates cross-sector, data-driven experimentation the development of trusted and secure innovative solutions based on data provided by large corporations.

With the first incubation round in progress, it is time to set new challenges for the second open call, expected to take place in Q4 2021.

These large corporations act as Data Providers and will propose their business challenges and offer secure and controlled access to their proprietary data sets for start-ups & SMEs to use when targeting these challenges. Data Providers engagement drives and validates the creation of new data value chains and solutions. This opens horizons for new partnerships and creation of new data value chains across diverse cross-sector data and solution providers.

The REACH Incubator provides Data Providers the following benefits:

- Shape your corporate challenges
- Partner with cutting edge startups & SMES and tap into open innovation
- Get insights into the value potential of your data
- Explore new business models made possible to your data assets
- Long-term partnerships
- Achieve visibility and positioning in the Big-Data ecosystem
- Foster innovation culture around data value chains

3. **DIGIFED – Third Open Call – Application experiment call and Digital challenge call**

Project full name: Digital Innovation Hubs (DIH) federation for large scale adoption of digital technologies by European SMEs

Deadline: 8 June 2021, 17:00 (Brussels time)

Expected duration of participation: 12 months

Financial Support funding available for the 3rd call: €1 000 000

GAIA-X European Association for Data and Cloud
c/o Fraunhofer EU Office, Rue Royale 94, 1000 Bruxelles

Submission process: One-step submission, 1 PDF document (application description) and 1 pitch video (business plan description)

Evaluation process: One-step standard evaluation based on Excellence, Impact, Quality, and business plan, following EC requests of fairness, transparency and equity

Further information: info@digifed.org / <https://digifed.org/open-calls/application-experiment/open-call-3/>

Task description:

DigiFed offers grants of up to €50 000 as well as technical and business support for the development of smart applications in Europe.

The EU funded project “Digital Innovation Hubs Federation for Large Scale adoption of digital technologies by European SMEs” has just open its third call for applications.

Operating within the framework of the Smart Anything Everywhere Initiative, DigiFed seeks to boost the adoption of advanced digital technologies, or cyber-physical systems (CPS), by EU SMEs with a focus on non-digital businesses.

It will help applicants implement business plans for the sustainability of the federation of Digital Innovation Hubs designated by the European Commission, while providing key support mechanisms for both individual companies and groups of SMEs to foster the introduction of digital technologies in their product-and-service offerings.

Application Experiments (AEs) are the core activity of DigiFed. This pathway directly supports SMEs and Midcaps with different levels of digital maturity:

For SMEs with low digital maturity, it offers the capacity for SMEs to catch up and upgrade their skills and existing products with dedicated services, tools and solutions.

For SMEs with higher digital maturity, it offers further innovative technology integration as well as access to potential customers including larger industrial stakeholders.

The third open call presents three types of Application Experiment:

- Single AE: involves one European SME and one DigiFed Technical partner which provides support and expertise.
- Twin AE: involves two European SMEs with complementary expertise and legally based in two different countries (cross-border condition).
- Twin AE with one low-digitalized company: involves two SMEs cooperating cross-border, of which at least one with a low digital maturity level. In this configuration, Twin applicants can request the additional optional support of a DigiFed Technical partner.

Application Experiments have been proven successful by several projects especially in I4MS and SAE initiatives (on which DigiFed is built). DigiFed continues such successful practices and amplifies their potential.

Visit the Open Calls section on the DigiFed website for more information!

4. European City Facility - Second Call for Applications

Call title: Second Call for Applications: Support local authorities in developing investment concepts for sustainable energy

Project full name: European City Facility

Deadline: 31 May 2021 at 17:00 (Brussels time)

Expected duration of participation: 6 to 12 months

Total EU funding available in the 2nd Call for proposals: €4 140 000

Maximum grant amount (lump-sum): €60 000

Submission & evaluation process:

The EUCF funding is open to municipalities/local authorities, groupings of municipalities/local authorities and local public entities aggregating municipalities/local authorities from all EU Member States, the EEA-EFTA States of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, and the United Kingdom.

The EUCF submission process comprises two steps:

- Eligibility check
- Full application

The eligibility check verifies whether applicants are eligible to apply for EUCF support.

After successfully passing the eligibility check, applicants are invited to register, create a user profile and complete the full application form, prepare the required supporting documents and submit them via the EUCF website user zone (access through the website).

Applications are evaluated by an evaluation team, during a 2-months period.

Applications are evaluated based on five evaluation criteria:

- Investment size;
- Energy savings;
- Governance structure;
- Stakeholder engagement;
- Alignment with EUCF objectives.

The evaluators also verify if all supporting documents have been submitted.

Within the limit of the available budget, the best-scored applications are selected to receive EUCF support. Full details on the selection process are published on <https://www.eucityfacility.eu/apply-for-eucf-support/application-process.html>.

Further information:

Web address for further information (eligibility check/full application form/full call text/proposal guidelines/templates): <https://www.eucityfacility.eu/apply-for-eucf-support/application-process.html>

Helpdesk: <https://fmp.eucityfacility.eu/iss/NewTicket/>

GAIA-X European Association for Data and Cloud
c/o Fraunhofer EU Office, Rue Royale 94, 1000 Bruxelles

Task description:

The objective of the EUCF is to build a substantial pipeline of sustainable energy investment projects across municipalities/local authorities (or their groupings) in Europe, by providing support to the development of investment concepts. The investment concepts will represent an initial step towards fully-fledged business and financial plans and facilitate the subsequent mobilization of (local) investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

The types of activities that qualify for receiving financial support are activities which are necessary for the development of investment concepts, such as feasibility studies, engineering analyses, legal analyses, social studies, market studies, financial analyses, and further supporting tasks.

The grant amount can be used for in-house staff, for external experts/sub-contractors or for other expenses that are required for the investment concept development.

5. TRINITY OPEN CALL #2 for AGILE MANUFACTURING

Project full name: Digital Technologies, Advanced Robotics, and increased Cyber-security for Agile Production in Future European Manufacturing Ecosystems

Deadline: 1 June 2021, at 17:00 (Brussels time)

Expected duration of participation: 10 months

Total EU funding available: €3 500 000, max. €200 000 per demonstrator

Submission and evaluation process: The call is managed through the F6S platform (<https://www.f6s.com/trinitydih/about>). All the documentation is provided at the indicated link.

Further information:

TRINITY website: <https://trinityrobotics.eu/>

Open Call information and FAQs: <https://trinityrobotics.eu/open-calls/>

Queries: opencall@trinityrobotics.eu

Additional information:

TRINITY is a network of multidisciplinary and synergistic local digital innovation hubs (DIHs) composed of research centers, companies, and university groups that cover a wide range of topics that can contribute to agile production: advanced robotics as the driving force and digital tools, data privacy and cyber security technologies to support the introduction of advanced robotic systems in the production processes.

The open call is managed through the F6S platform and all the documentation and information regarding eligibility criteria and requirements are available directly on the F6S space or on TRINITY website.

6. NGI Zero Discovery (15th call)

Project full name: NGI Zero Discovery

Deadline: 1 June 2021

Expected duration of participation: 1-12 months

Maximum amount of financial support for each third party: €50 000

Submission language: English

Complete overview of the call text and proposal guidelines: <https://nlnet.nl/discovery/>

Email address for further information: NGI0-Discovery@nlnet.nl

More information about Next Generation Internet: <https://ngi.eu/>

Additional information:

NGI0 Discovery, co-funded from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 825322, foresees as an eligible activity the provision of financial support to third parties, as a means to achieve the objectives of the Next Generation Internet initiative and to contribute to a resilient, trustworthy and sustainably open internet.

Discovery and identification technologies allow us to search and access large heterogeneous data sources and services. This not just includes sifting through documents and multi-media content, make rich structured information available but also the ability to conjure up real-time information from embedded sensors on devices. In order to cope with the resulting wealth of information, users can be supported by means like contextual querying and personalised information retrieval. Search, discovery and discoverability are basic infrastructural needs for the daily lives of humans of all ages, and we would like to put powerful new technology in the hands of future generations as building blocks for a fair and democratic society and an open economy that benefits all. If the internet is the equivalent of a global brain, we need creativity and diversity in the pathways across that brain to unlock its true potential.

The following types of activities qualify for financial support, provided they are cost effective and have a clear link to the topics directly relevant to NGI0 Discovery - technologies related to search and discovery - and the objectives set out in the call:

- scientific research
- design and development of open-source software and open hardware
- validation or constructive inquiry into existing or novel technical solutions
- software engineering aimed at adapting to new usage areas or improving software quality
- formal security proofs, security audits, setup and design of software testing and continuous integration
- documentation for researchers, developers and end users
- standardisation activities, including membership fees of standards bodies
- understanding user requirements and improving usability/inclusive design
- necessary measures in support of (broad)er deployability, e.g. packaging
- participation in technical, developer and community events like hackathons, IETF, W3C, RIPE meetings, FOSDEM, etc. (admission fee, travel and subsistence costs)

- other activities that are relevant to adhering to robust software development and deployment practices
- project management
- out-of-pocket costs for infrastructure essential to achieving the above

Project proposals should be in line with the NGI vision and the topic (search and discovery). They should have research and development as their primary objective and should be complete and concise (no longer than two pages for the main application). Proposals should have a clear European dimension.

7. INTERFACE Open Call

Project full name: TSO-DSO-Consumer INTERFACE architecture to provide innovative grid services for an efficient power system

Project INTERFACE, co-funded from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 824330, foresees as an eligible activity the provision of financial support to third parties, as a means to incorporate developers of innovative services in order to achieve its own objectives.

Financial support will be provided to public or private bodies, research organisations, non-profit organisations, small and medium enterprises, international organisations of EU interest, established in an EU Member State or in an Associated Country (as stated in Article 7 of the Horizon 2020 Regulation), to any legal entity possessing a validated Participant Identification Code (PIC).

INTERFACE Open Call is looking for up to 7 Third Parties to develop and/or extend different infrastructures and state-of-the-art technologies of INTERFACE architecture and data management services to be implemented and validated by INTERFACE's pilots.

Participants are asked to address solutions that promote and enable flexibility of end-users. More specifically, the proposed functionalities aim to increase flexibility awareness and flexibility needs along the grids, attracting more flexibility players into the marketplaces. Among the solutions are requested:

Utilisation of Existing ENTSO-E Transparency Platform Data

Development of an application that will serve as a Data Provider for IEGSA

Aggregators and Local Energy Communities Intelligence services for congestion management

An advanced tech base to manage/operate a local energy community

Flexibility Service Providers, including aggregators with demand response and distributed energy resources as a grid service providers

Development of an open-access generic forecasting methodology for the determination congestion management requirements in power systems

Deadline: 30 June 2021 at 17:00 CEST (Brussels time)

Expected duration of participation: up to 6 months

GAIA-X European Association for Data and Cloud
c/o Fraunhofer EU Office, Rue Royale 94, 1000 Bruxelles

Maximum amount of financial support for each third party: €60 000

Web link for further information (full call text/proposal guidelines/call results) on your official project web site: <https://opencall-interrface.cintechsolutions.eu/>

Email address for further information: opencall@interrface.eu

8. Block.IS Cluster Missions Open Call

Project full name: Blockchain Innovation Spaces

Deadline: 22 October 2021 (deadline for the final mission: 22 October 2021 at 17:00 (Brussels time))

Expected duration of participation: 2-3 days per cluster mission

Total EU funding available: €90 000 (up to €750 per participant)

Submission & evaluation process:

For every one out of 15 planned cluster missions a jury panel of 3 Block.IS team members will evaluate applications (a member of the coordinator's team, a hosting cluster representative and a representative of another cluster partner in the consortium). The final mark for each application is the arithmetic mean of assessments given by each jury member.

Apply: <https://blockis.eu/>

Further information: Details available at <https://blockis.eu/apply-now/cluster-missions/>

Task description: Block.IS Cluster Missions include a roadshow of short-term brainstorming sessions, organised by clusters and for clusters across Europe. Missions aim to bring clusters together, to inspire them to learn more about the Block.IS ecosystem and to understand better how their members can benefit from the funding, business and technical support Block.IS is offering. The cluster missions roadshow will foster cross-border and cross-sectoral collaboration between clusters in Europe.

9. Elise 1st Open Call

Project full name: European Learning and Intelligent Systems Excellence

Deadline: 1 July 2021 at 13:00 CEST

Expected duration of participation: 6 months

Total EU funding available: 16 x €60 000 = €960 000

Submission & evaluation process: Detailed information about the 1st Elise Open Call submission and evaluation process can be found on the <https://elise.fundingbox.com>

Website for further information: <https://elise.fundingbox.com>

General information: <https://www.elise-ai.eu/work/industry>

GAIA-X European Association for Data and Cloud
c/o Fraunhofer EU Office, Rue Royale 94, 1000 Bruxelles

Email address for further information: info.elise@fundingbox.com

Task description:

ELISE is a network of artificial intelligence research hubs. Based on the highest level research, it spreads its knowledge and methods in academia, industry and society.

ELISE will select 16 SMEs and startups that develop novel AI-based services or applications to address one of the ELISE focus areas. The ideal project is the use case of machine learning technologies. This project can be supported by the Scientific Advisor, who will create the linkage between industry and academia.

Who can apply?

SMEs (including startups)

Applicants, at the moment of applying, must be registered legal entities established in:

- The Member States of the European Union and its Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) or
- Associated Countries to H2020 or
- The United Kingdom.

The ELISE partners can NOT be involved in the projects (or their affiliates or employees).

What kind of project are they looking for?

ELISE is looking for projects based on AI applications that address the development and implementation of technology and systems applicable to the following focus areas:

- Geometric Deep Learning: graph, group and gauge convolutions
- Robust Machine Learning
- Interactive Learning and Interventional Representations
- Machine Learning and Computer Vision
- Robot Learning: Closing the Reality Gap
- Human-centric Machine Learning
- Theory, Algorithms and Computations of Modern Learning Systems
- Quantum and physics based Machine Learning
- Natural Intelligence
- Health
- Machine Learning in Earth and Climate Sciences
- Natural Language Processing (NLP)
- Multimedia / multimodal information
- Information retrieval
- Explainability and Fairness in Data Mining
- Other

Who is a Scientific Advisor?

The Scientific Advisor is a researcher invited by the applicant, who agreed to advise the SME (startup) in developing the AI application or service. The Advisor must have a PhD in a field that is

GAIA-X European Association for Data and Cloud
c/o Fraunhofer EU Office, Rue Royale 94, 1000 Bruxelles

relevant to the project. It is highly recommended to have the Scientific Advisor from ELLIS/ELISE community (<https://ellis.eu/members>), but this is not mandatory.

Apply here: <https://elise.fundingbox.com/> - where you additionally can find all the necessary information and the application form.

ELISE website: <https://www.elise-ai.eu/work/industry> for general information about the program.

10. Enterprise Europe Network

Deadline dates

11 August 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time

02 December 2021 17:00:00 Brussels time

27 April 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time

Scope of the call

The scope of this call is to set up and ensure the upgraded functioning of Enterprise Europe Network in the period 1 January 2022 until 30 June 2025 by selecting the consortia that will make up the Network.

To this end, applicants are invited to submit proposals:

- Defining the strategic approach and explaining how the objectives and requirements laid down in the present call will be addressed, taking account of the challenges faced by SMEs in the target region(s) and the specific strengths of businesses and the business environment; and
- Suggesting specific activities translating that strategic approach into action.

Objectives

The Network should contribute to the objectives of the SMP by improving the competitiveness and sustainability of SMEs in Europe and promoting entrepreneurship. It should do so notably by:

- Assisting them to become more economically, environmentally and socially sustainable;
- **Supporting their digitalisation and greater resilience to shocks;**
- Supporting their innovation and innovation processes;
- Facilitating their access to the Single Market and third country markets;
- Helping them to cooperate and where appropriate integrate with local, regional, national and European clusters and industrial ecosystems and global value chains.

The Network should be recognised by SMEs and stakeholders as the indispensable “European arm” of regional and national business support systems, leveraging the work those support systems and wider national and regional policies. It should provide clear European added value and providing

services that are ever more highly valued by clients and help them to grow and become more competitive.

The Network will play a crucial role in helping all types of SMEs in their transition to more sustainable business models, through dedicated Sustainability Advisors and other sustainability services. It will also support SMEs' digitalisation by helping them to adapt their business processes, use digital technologies and develop new products and services using digital means – it will do so by collaborating with other relevant networks at European level. And above all, the new Network will help SMEs to become more resilient, helping them to fully recover from the COVID-19 crisis and emerge even stronger than before.

Expected results

- Increased number of SMEs linked with other entities across Europe and beyond for cross-border business cooperation, technology and knowledge transfer and technology and innovation partnerships;
- Increased number of SMEs aware of sustainability challenges and opportunities and integrating them in their business processes;
- Increased number of SMEs integrating digitalisation to improve the business processes and developing new business opportunities;
- Higher rate of European SMEs exporting within the Single Market and outside the EU;
- Higher rate of European SMEs participating in EU programmes;
- Better understanding by European SMEs of EU legislation and of opportunities offered by EU programmes and EU access to finance;
- Increased number of companies reporting a successful impact on their business in terms of market share, turnover, optimised costs or realised savings in international activities, job creation or maintenance, improved quality of products, services or processes, introduced product or service innovations related to international activities;
- Better visibility of the Network by promoting success stories;
- Better knowledge in EU institutions of SMEs' opinions, difficulties and expectations.

More information on the link to call for tender: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/smp-cosme-2021-ee-01;callCode=null;freeTextSearchKeyword=SMP-COSME-2021>

We will be informing about other calls for tenders in the coming days in the Funding Newsletter Issue | 3. Please feel free to send any feedback and suggestions about your expectations and what you may further wish the Funding Team to improve.

Funding Team Role

The information about tender calls that we are presently providing is one of the benefits that our members have as being members of GAIA-X. I take the occasion to explicitly explain the current procedure using five key words:

Sensing – meaning that through our antennas and connections, at national, European, and international levels, we are always looking for tender calls that would be of interest to our members.

GAIA-X European Association for Data and Cloud
c/o Fraunhofer EU Office, Rue Royale 94, 1000 Bruxelles

Some of the tenders communicated will be of general interest as requested by some members, while others will be more directly related to GAIA-X mission.

Analyzing – meaning we do our internal analysis on the best fit of tenders to our members.

Communicating - we communicate all the required information about the chosen tenders to all our members in the same way.

Proposing – we propose solutions especially to those that require consortia refinement, by for example proposing advice on partnering with other member companies which have the means to develop something for a particular tender but lack partners or expertise in the overall proposal set-up. As soon as members show us that they are interested in a particular tender but are limping in any part of the tender proposal, we always try to propose solutions as per their requirements.

Supporting - we will give the necessary support and information to all interested members and make them in contact with the support team of that tender to acquire the best information possible about the tender requirements and evaluation process. For the tenders that are directly related to GAIA-X principles, we acknowledge consortia as we did for example for the BMWI proposals.

The GAIA-X Funding team is at initial stages and will widen its services in the coming months as soon as we engage more people within this team. As explained above, the intention is to expand the services with EU Policy monitoring since as some of you are aware, funding and policy discussed and implemented at EU level are amalgamated together as happened for example with the Green Deal Programme and the Covid repercussions through which the focus on digitalization has been prioritized for every country within the EU. Policy and regulation at EU level in relation to data infrastructure and cloud would be of general interest to many of you to update you on what is being discussed at EU level and how this would affect your companies in the future.

Informative events coming

- 2021 Joint EuCNC & 6G Summit 8-11 June
- R&I Days 23-24 June
- 23-25 November - EU Open Data Days - Shaping our future with open data (prize fund of 99,000EUR)

Whilst thanking all of you for your continuous support, do not hesitate to come to us for any inquiry and to provide us suggestions and feedback.

My warmest regards,

Jeanette Fava

CFO | GAIA-X

Email: jeanette.fava@gaia-x.eu