Frequently Asked Questions

3rd Open Call for Collaborative Projects

Submission starts on **14th August 2025 at 9:00** (Brussels Time),

with deadline on **14th October 2025 at 15:00** (Brussels Time)

Version 1

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dAIEDGE has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme, under Grant Agreement No. 101120726.

Executive Summary

Welcome to the dAIEDGE Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). The following information is intended to provide you with additional information about the dAIEDGE 3rd Open Call for Collaborative Projects. Please remember that this is a complementary document for the Guide for Applicants that you should read first.

The FAQ will be updated regularly based on the questions we receive during the Open Call application period.

If you cannot find the answer to your question here, you can submit your question(s) to our helpdesk: dAIEDGE.help@fundingbox.com

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1. What is a conflict of interest?

Conflict of interest may occur if there are capital or personal connections between two or more entities (Applicant, Consortium partner or any person involved in the selection process), in particular, it should be understood as:

• **any ownership relations** - ownership of shares, financial links and economic connections – like joint venture, holding, joint participation, silent partner. E.g. Applicant's entity owns shares in the Consortium partner company or Consortium partner company own shares in the Applicants company (it also refers to the Applicant partner/linked enterprises). As economic connection we can understand exclusive license, sale agreements if they concern product or solution covered by your application;

• **family and personal relationships** - in particular: with marriage, kinship, a relationship of affinity to the second degree in a straight line or lateral line, adoption, custody or guardianship or actual life and other close personal ties binding the Applicant and Consortium partner or any person involved in the selection process (it refers also to employees, shareholders, members of the management body, members of the board, managers, subcontractors etc.) – e.g. person representing the Consortium partner company has family/personal relationship with any person representing the Applicant company;

• **the existence of material, especially financial relationships** (such as the receipt by a person involved in the selection process from Applicant any significant gifts, donations, future contracts or employment, etc;

• **relationships based on employment,** cooperation or existing civil contract between the Consortium partners and people involved in the Applicant structure, including managerial or supervisory functions, position in managing or supervising bodies. E.g. Director of the Consortium partner is in involved in the management bodies of an Applicant company; the Applicant employees involved in the Project are employed or contracted by the Consortium partner company;

• **remaining in a legal or factual relationship** that may give rise to justified doubts as to the impartiality of the people involved in the selection process (expert/evaluator/employee/member of the management bodies of any of the Consortium partners).

The reasons set forth above may result in a conflict of interest if they occur at the time of an action or have occurred in the past (during the last 3 years before the action starts). Time limits do not apply to family and personal relationships.

Remember that the concept of conflict of interest should be understood widely, so if you have any doubts about the conflict of interest please consult it with our team.

2. Can I apply if I or my company is associated with the partners of dAIEDGE?

No, Applicants cannot be affiliated (directly or indirectly, for example through board members or third parties) to any of the consortium partners. They can't be consortium partners' employees or board members.

If detected, the potential conflict of interest should be reported to the dAIEDGE team, will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and **will be assessed case by case by the Selection Committee**.

3. Can I apply if I have received FSTP grants from other projects before?

Yes, it is possible to apply if you received funding from other EU projects before.

The key point that you should pay attention to if you are selected (funded) for multiple EU projects is the "no double funding" rule. "Double funding" means the situation where the same costs for the same activity are funded twice through the use of public funds. It is not allowed under any circumstances. That means that you have to be able to confirm that funding received from the dAIEDGE project will not cover the same costs/tasks that were already funded by other EU projects (if you have received any).

Beneficiaries from the dAIEDGE 1st or 2nd Open Call cannot be beneficiaries of the 3rd OC (neither team members nor any legal entities can be funded twice by dAIEDGE).

4. What is TRL?

TRL - Technology Readiness Level - Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) are indicators of the maturity level of particular technologies. This measurement system provides a common understanding of technology status and addresses the entire innovation chain.

There are nine technology readiness levels; TRL 1 is the lowest and TRL 9 the highest. In our project we refer to Annex B of the General Annexes for Horizon Europe Work Programme 2021-2022 for a full description of TRLs.

5. What countries are eligible?

As described in Section 3 of the Guide for Applicants, in this Open Call, the entities applying must be registered in one of the following eligible countries:

- EU Member States and its Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT), or
- Horizon Europe Associated Countries.

Applicants subject to EU restrictive measures under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)[1] are not eligible to participate in this Open Call.

Associated Countries as of 12.12.2024 are: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Türkiye, Tunisia, United Kingdom, Ukraine. For the most up-to-date list please visit this link. For the avoidance of doubt, **New Zealand and Switzerland are not eligible** in this open call.

6. Do you provide help finding a partner to form a consortium?

No. There is no matchmaking service available in this open call.

7. What is the definition of Academia?

The dAIEDGE project follows the official definition about Academia provided by the European Commission in relation to Horizon programmes (H2020)

The specific definition provided by the official website of the European Commission states that:

"Academic sector: Specific term for the H2020 Programme, consists of:

- *public or private higher education institutions awarding academic degrees*
- *public or private non-profit research organisations whose primary mission is to pursue research*
- *international European interest organisations."*

8. Can you help us decide which challenge we should apply for?

No, the consortium cannot advise on the matching of the proposal's scope to a challenge.

9. What is the predicted success rate?

We are expecting a high volume of applicants. The success rate will be between 2% and 10 %.

10. If one partner is from the list of eligible countries, but another one is from a non-eligible country or a large company, can they apply with no funding?

No, both consortium partners must be eligible, even willing to execute without funding.

[1] Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the EU Sanctions Map

11. Can you help us to determine our TRL level?

No. The Guide for Applicants and FAQs document provide links to documents which can help you identify your TRL level.

12. How does the funding have to be distributed between partners in a consortium?

The budget distribution should correspond to involvement and workload of each partner. The total can exceed €60k, but the maximum funding awarded will be up to €60k.

Cost Categories, according to the Horizon Europe Programme, are: Personnel Costs, Purchase costs (travel/ equipment/ other goods, work or services), Subcontracting Cost (below 15% of total costs), Overheads (25% of the sum of personnel and purchase costs - do not include subcontracting to calculate overheads amount).

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