**Funding Application - PN-IV-PRO-CoEx-2024-1**

*The document, including CVs, is in A4 format, uses Times New Roman font, 11 - point font size, 1.15 line spacing and 2 cm margins. Any modification to these parameters is forbidden. It is permitted to use 9-point font size for the figures and their captions. For each section the text marking the information (explanatory text) and the mandatory sections of the application must be maintained.*

*The funding applications that do not comply with these rules will be declared ineligible and will be disqualified from the evaluation process.*

*This document must be uploaded imperatively as an unprotected PDF file (document generated from a word processor file to a PDF, no scanned document allowed) on the submission platform.*

**The section B** will be uploaded into the platform as a single document!

**B. Project description**

The explanatory text must be maintained.

Maximum 40 pages, using 11- point font size, 1.15 line spacing and 2 cm margins, will be at the applicant's disposal to address the following aspects:

**B.1 Excellence**

* Describe the project research objectives related to the main and secondary (if applicable) societal impact zone(s);
* Describe the initial common research agenda reflecting the needs, competences and resources identified at national and international level;
* Provide the strategy for addressing the challenges associated to the selected research domain / main/secondary societal impact zone(s) that will have an impact on international/national research themes and/or research methods;
* Describe how the proposed research will lead to an advance in research in the chosen main/secondary impact zone(s) compared to the current “state of the art” by referring to:
  + its dimension of novelty and originality;
  + novel and sound concepts and approaches;
  + novel and rigorous methodology to achieve the scientific goals of the Centre;
  + added value compared to state of the art;
  + interdisciplinary character;
  + potential for groundbreaking results.

- Describe the existing research infrastructure (the link to the platform[*https://eertis.eu/*](https://eertis.eu/) will be

indicated) which will support addressing the research objectives.

**B.2 Performance of the research groups**

**B.2.1 Centre Director**

* Describe the ability of the Centre Director to conduct ground-breaking research;
* Describe the expertise and capacity of the Centre Director to successfully lead the Centre, including the leading of large research and innovation projects;
* Describe the sound leadership of the Centre Director in training and mentoring of young scientists.

**B.2.2 Responsible persons from the partners (Group Leaders) and Key Members**

* Describe the ability of the responsible persons (Group Leaders) from the partner/Key Membersto conduct ground-breaking research;
* Describe the scientific expertise and capacity of the responsible persons from the partnerin coordination and implementation of national and international competitive research projects.

**B.2.3 Collaboration Networks**

* Describe how the previous collaborations among research group partners (projects, patents, co- authored publications etc) establish a creative and dynamic partnership.

**B.2.4. High - level Mentor**

* Attach a letter of commitment (upload).

**B.3 Implementation**

**B.3.1 Centre organization**

* Describe how the Centre will be organized, the management structures and governance (including the scientific advisory board);
* Describe the competencies/capacities of the organizations involved in the implementation, including the roles of each partner and how they complement each other; what is it achieved through this collaboration;
* Describe if the Centre plans to attract international researchers;
* Describe how the Centre will build a creative environment capable to attract and train new research talents (the PhD candidates or postdoctoral researchers).

**B.3.2 Work plan and schedule**

* Describe the work plan and responsibilities of the persons involved including the necessary new staff positions/duration;
* A Gantt diagram or timeline related to the research agenda, deliverables and milestones;
* Describe the complementarity of the existing research infrastructure with the proposed equipment to be procured and justification of their use;
* Describe how the research agenda will be updated based on public consultation with industry, NGOs, citizens and public authorities as potential users of the research results;
* Describe how open science practices (e.g. Open Access to publications[[1]](#footnote-1), research data management, citizen science, and other[[2]](#footnote-2)) are implemented and show how their implementation is adapted to the nature of work, therefore increasing the chances of the project to deliver on its objectives. *If applicants believe that none of the open science practices apply to their project, please provide a justification*;
* Describe the practices for research data management (RDM)[[3]](#footnote-3) used in the project in line with FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable). Should the proposal be funded, a plan for data management (DMP - Data Management Plan) will be developed in the consortium within the first 6 months of implementation;
* Describe how the gender equality, inclusion and diversity is to be implemented within the project. Please indicate the web link to the Gender Equality Plan of the partners’ institutions.

**B.3.3 Budget**

The size of the requested budget must take into consideration the real specific costs of the research activities, according to the scientific domain.

The types of expenses on which the budget is distributed are: personnel expenses, logistics expenses, travel expenses and indirect expenses (overheads).

The following aspects will be presented in detail:

(1) distribution of the budget by types of expenses and by project years must be indicated and justified; For the personnel expenses the total number of PM (Person Months) for each personnel category (senior researchers, PhD students, postdoctoral researchers etc) must be detailed.

(2) justification of the purchase of major equipments by referring to the already existing research infrastructure and project objectives/activities;

(3) workload of the Centre Director (min. 4 h/day), Group Leaders (min. 4h/day) and Key Persons (min.2 h/day) must be specified;

(4) the total budget of the Coordinator must be at least 40% of the total project budget.

Pre-calculation estimate (in lei, per calendar year):

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Budget chapter** | **Year 1**  **(lei)** | **Year 2**  **(lei)** | **Year 3**  **(lei)** | **Year 4**  **(lei)** | **Year 5**  **(lei)** | **Total budget**  **(lei)** |
| **Personnel expenses** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Logistics expenses** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| out of which the value for the equipment expenses |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Travel expenses** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Indirect expenses** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total** |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Pre-calculation estimate (in Euro, at the project level):

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Budget chapter** | **Total budget**  **(euro)** |
| **Personnel expenses** |  |
| **Logistics expenses** |  |
| Out of which the value for the equipment expenses |  |
| **Travel expenses** |  |
| **Indirect expenses** |  |
| **Total** |  |

**B.4 Impact**

* Describe the expected research results and their anticipated scientific impacts and potential for scientific breakthroughs and identify the indicators according with SNCISI;
* Describe the expected impact of the research on long and medium term;
* Describe the potential areas of utilization and application of the research results beyond the scientific community;
* Describe how the Centre will contribute to the development of an internationally leading research environment in Romania;
* Describe the quality and scope of dissemination, communication and engagement activities with different target stakeholders.

**B.5 Research ethics**

If the project involves ethical issues, briefly describe how they are planned to be addressed in line with Law no. 206/2004 regarding the good conduct in scientific research, technological development and innovation, with subsequent amendments and additions, the European Code of Conduct for Integrity in Research from ALLEA[[4]](#footnote-4), as well as other legislative ethics regulations specific to the research field of the project.

**B.6 Bibliography**

**B.7 Our Peers**

The Centre Director must indicate 3 - 5 internationally recognized research groups in the domain(s) of the Centre, and the most relevant scientific journals/publishers (max.10).

1. <https://uefiscdi.gov.ro/news-cartea-alba-a-tranzitiei-catre-stiinta-deschisa-2023-2030> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.unesco.org/en/open-science/toolkit> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://scienceeurope.org/our-priorities/research-data/research-data-management/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://www.alleageneralassembly.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/European-Code-of-Conduct-Revised-Edition-2023.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)