

## Questions and Answers within the Call for Proposals: Transformation and Innovation Consortia

Q: We would like to ask you how many non-Slovakian partners can participate in a proposal consortium? Is it only one? Or more? Is there a specific limit or rate according to the number of the Slovakian partners participating?

A: There is no limit on the number of non-Slovakian partners. Each consortium should have at least one Slovak research organization / university, one Slovak company and one foreign partner.

Q: VAT: is VAT eligible for foreign entities?

A: No, VAT is not eligible for foreign entities.

Q: Audit Expenses: in the section “Eligible direct expenditure by foreign entities” is mentioned that the following expenses are eligible: “Other goods and services (including audit expenses) (...).” We did not find any reference in the call documents regarding the need to carry out some financial audits. Could you please clarify if we, as a foreign partner, will need to provide any audit certificate during the project? How many?

A: A financial audit is not mandatory, but may be requested in case of financial control. This item is an eligible expense for foreign entities that do not fall under the state aid scheme.

Q: Travel Costs: in the section “Eligible direct expenditure by foreign entities” is mentioned that the following expenses are eligible: “Other goods and services (including audit expenses) excluding travel allowances”. Our doubt is related to the travel costs, as it is also mentioned the following, in the detailed section related to the “Other goods and services”: “other services related to the communication and dissemination of the results of the project implementation”. Therefore, we assume that there are some eligible expenses associated with travels. Could you please clarify what are the eligible and non-eligible travel expenses in this funding?

A: Travel expenses should be included in the indirect costs which are set at 7% of the direct costs. Therefore, travel expenses are not included within the eligible direct costs.

Q: Travel – country: in case some travel expenses are eligible for funding, we find the following information in the supporting documents related to the “project location condition”: “For this call, the eligible territory is the entire territory of the Slovak Republic and the territory of the country in which the foreign partner implements the activities or part of the activities of the project, except for the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus.”. Therefore, only the expenses incurred in Slovakia or Portugal will be considered eligible for us (as we are a Portuguese entity)?

A: Yes, correct.

Q: Wage expenditures: we noticed that this cost category “is subject to the simplified cost reporting regime and is set out in the form of unit personnel costs of eligible entities (...), and that for foreign entities there are specific databases to consult. As this procedure is not clear for us, could you please inform us the unit personnel cost we need to consider a Portuguese higher public institution? Is this amount applicable to all employees, such as Professors, junior researchers, senior researchers?

A: The unit personal cost for Portugal can be calculated as follows: At <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/horizon/lump-sum/dashboard> you will find the median value for Portugal for both H2020 and Horizon Europe, which currently stands at 3920€. You will increase this amount by 19% to get 4664,80€ which is the person month rate for Portugal you can use in your budget.

Q: Funding: as we are a public institution, may we consider that we are under “basic researcher” (Budget Excel file provided in the call – column “Activity per the Scheme”) and that we will be funded at 100%?

A: You have to fill in the state aid self-assessment form, which is an annex of the Call for Proposals, to determine if you fall under the state aid scheme or not.