

DIGITAL-2025-BESTUSE-08

How to submit your application, evaluation and award criteria



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#DigitalEuropeProgramme



DIGITAL-2025-BESTUSE-08: Overview & Timeline

CALL: DIGITAL-2025-BESTUSE-08 - Accelerating the Best Use of Technologies	Type of Action	Co-Funding Rate	Available budget
TOPIC 1: DIGITAL-2025-BESTUSE-08-FACTCHECKERS - European Network of Fact-Checkers	Grants for financial support	100% for consortium and 50% for the supported third party	5 000 000 EUR
TOPIC 2: DIGITAL-2025-BESTUSE-08-NETWORKSICs - Network of Safer Internet Centres (SICs)	Simple Grants	50%	42 000 000 EUR



Timeline

CALL OPENING

15 April 2024

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

02 September 2025 17:00:00 CEST **EVALUATION**

September – October 2025 INFORMATION ON EVALUATION RESULTS
November 2025

GRANT AGREEMENT SIGNATURE

February 2026

65% PREFINANCING

paid 30 days from the entry into force of the Grant Agreement



Funding and Tenders Portal & Call Document



Funding & Tenders Portal

PORTAL: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home



Discover the funding & tenders opportunities

Find out how to participate by following these key steps.

Find calls for proposals

Explore the available EU funding opportunities by searching for calls for proposals within your topics of interest, find partners and submit a proposal.

View projects and results

Browse through EU funded projects and learn about the results. Invest in opportunities and get inspired by the highlights and success stories.

Find calls for tenders

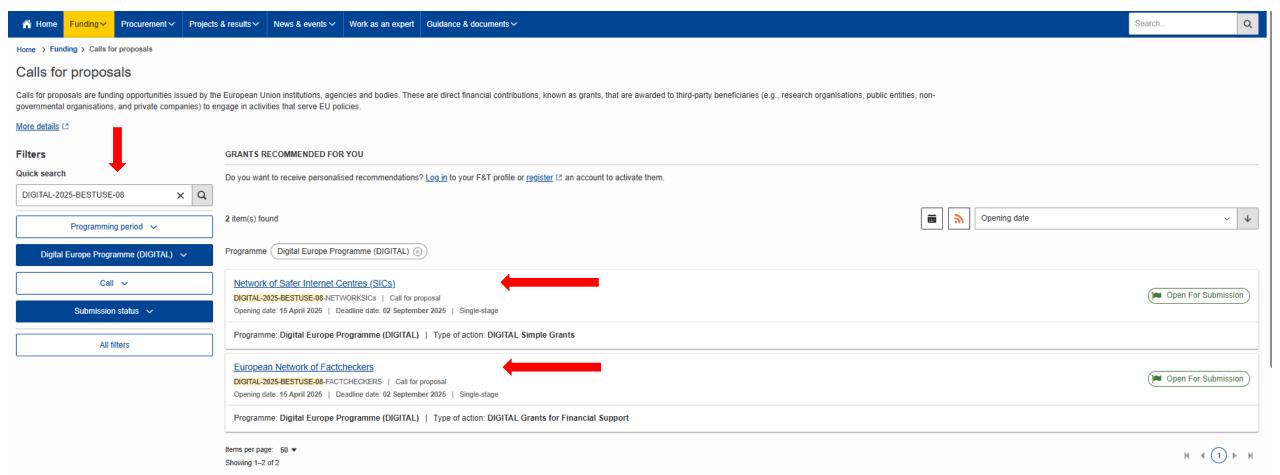
Find business opportunities in the calls for tenders managed by EU institutions, bodies and agencies.

Work as an expert

Proposals and projects need evaluations, monitoring and domain-specific knowledge advice from experts.



Searching the Call and Topics





Topic Page



EU Funding & Tenders Portal

Topic updates



↑ Home | Funding ∨ | Procurement ∨ | Projects & results ∨ | News & events ∨ | Work as an expert | Guidance & documents ∨

Search...

Home > Funding > Calls for proposals > European Network of Factcheckers

European Network of Factcheckers DIGITAL-2025-BESTUSE-08-FACTCHECKERS

Topic Call for proposal

Internal navigation General information Topic description Topic updates Mission Destination Conditions and documents **Budget overview** Partner search announcements Start submission Topic Q&As Get support Call information Call updates

General information		
Programme Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL) Call Accelerating the Best Use of Technologies (DIGITAL-2025-BESTUSE-08)		
Type of action DIGITAL-GFS DIGITAL Grants for Financial Support	Type of MGA DIGITAL Action Grant Budget-Based [DIGITAL-AG]	(per Open For Submission)
Deadline model single-stage	Opening date 15 April 2025	Deadline date 02 September 2025 17:00:00 Brussels time
Topic description		
Expected Outcome: The Network will support activities aiming at increasing fact-checking capacity and coverage actheir work	ross the EU. Such activities will include targeted support for fact-checkers, including collaboration	activities, peer-to peer support as well as relevant technical infrastructure and tools to support
	→ Show more	



Topic conditions and Call document

Internal navigation General information Topic description Topic updates Mission Destination Conditions and documents Budget overview Partner search announcements Start submission Topic Q&As Get support Call information Call updates

Topic conditions and documents

Conditions

1. Admissibility Conditions: Proposal page limit and layout

described in section 5 of the call document.

Proposal page limits and layout: described in Part B of the Application Form available in the Submission System.

2. Eligible Countries

described in section 6 of the call document.

3. Other Eligible Conditions

described in section 6 of the call document.

4. Financial and operational capacity and exclusion

described in section 7 of the call document.

5a. Evaluation and award: Submission and evaluation processes

described section 8 of the call document and the Online Manual 12.

5b. Evaluation and award: Award criteria, ecoring and thresholds

described in section 9 of the call document.

5c. Evaluation and award: Indicative timeline for evaluation and grant agreement

described in section 4 of the call document.

6. Legal and financial set-up of the grants

described in section 10 of the call document.

Call document and annexes:

CALL DOCUMENT @



Application form templates

Standard application form (DEP) L3 — the application form specific to this call is available in the Submission System

Model Grant Agreements (MGA)

DEP MGA Lª

Additional documents:

DEP Work Programmes Ľ

DEP Regulation 2021/964 [2

EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509 [2]

Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment L3

EU Grants AGA - Annotated Model Grant Agreement L3

Funding & Tenders Portal Online Manual L[®]

Funding & Tenders Portal Terms and Conditions E

Funding & Tenders Portal Privacy Statement La



Outline of the call document



Outline of the Call Document





Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL)

Call for proposals

Accelerating the Best Use of Technologies DIGITAL-2025-BESTUSE-08

> Version 1.0 01 April 2025

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

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4.	Timetable and deadlines2	0		
5.	Admissibility and documents2	0		
6.	Eligibility	1		
	Eligible participants (eligible countries)	1		
	Consortium composition	3		
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	Ethics	4		
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7.	Financial and operational capacity and exclusion2	5		
	Financial capacity	5		
	Operational capacity	6		
	Evelucion 2	c		



Call Document & topic specific information

Call: DIGITAL-2025-BESTUSE-08 - Accelerating the Best Use of Technologies

EU Grants: Call document (DEP): V1.0 - 28.03.2025

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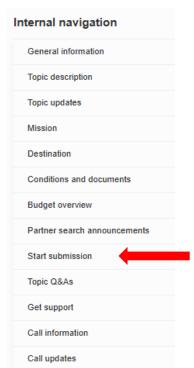


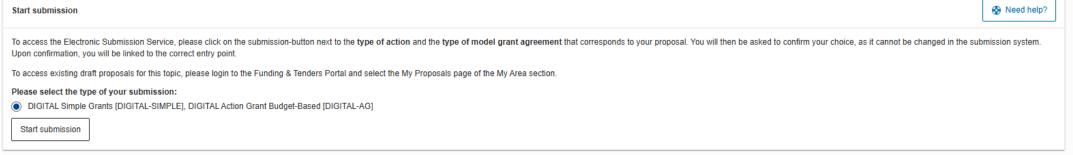


How to submit a successful proposal?



Start Submission





TOPIC 1

European Network of Factcheckers

DIGITAL-2025-BESTUSE-08-FACTCHECKERS

TOPIC 2

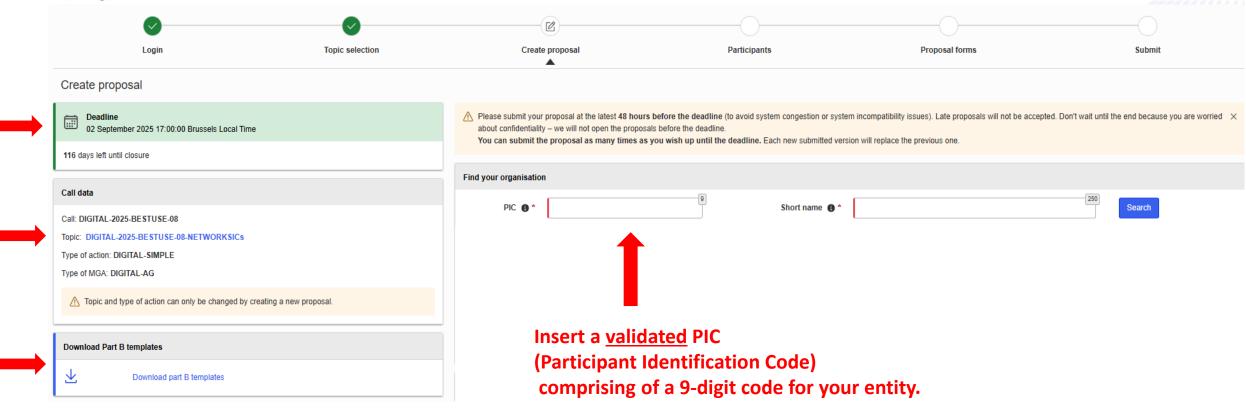
Network of Safer Internet Centres (SICs)

DIGITAL-2025-BESTUSE-08-NETWORKSICs



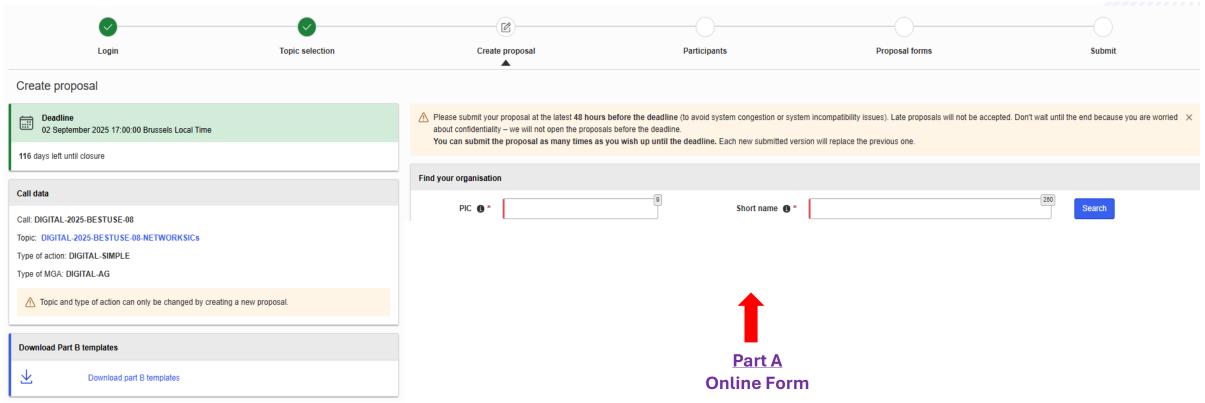


Creating a proposal





Part A & Part B



Part B - Zip File - Word document comprising of:

Tpl_Application Form (Part B) (DEP).rtf



Part A & Part B

Part A ONLINE FORM



Part B WORD DOC to be Converted into PDF, uploaded and Submitted

Call: [insert call identifier] — [insert call name]

EU Grants: Application form (DEP): V2.0 - 01.06.2022

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION (PART B)

COVER PAGE

Part B of the Application Form must be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed and then assembled and re-uploaded as PDF in the system. Page 1 with the grey IMPORTANT NOTICE box should be deleted before uploading.

Note: Please read carefully the conditions set out in the Call document (for open calls: published on the Portal). Pay particular attention to the award criteria; they explain how the application will be evaluated.

PROJECT	
Project name:	[project title]
Project acronym:	[acronym]
Coordinator contact:	[name NAME], [organisation name]

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Submitting a complete proposal

Part A & Part B



PART A of the Application

Administrative part of the application

Section 1 - General information	Call, Topic, Type of Action, Proposal number, Proposal acronym, Type of Model Grant Agreement
Section 2 – Participants	Information on the applicants and consortium partners
Section 3 - Budget	Budget allocation per costs category

Section 4 – Other Questions

Ethics and Security issues tables must be completed for both topics.



Security issues table			?
1. EU Classified Information (EUCI) ²			Page
Does this activity involve information and/or materials requiring protection against unauthorised disclosure (EUCI)?	Yes	○ No	
Is the activity going to use classified information as background ³ information?	○ Yes	No	
Is the activity going to generate EU classified foreground ⁴ information as result?	○ Yes	No	
Does this activity involve non-EU countries which need to have access to EUCI?	○ Yes	No	
2. Misuse			Page
Does this activity have the potential for misuse of results?	○ Yes	No	
3. Other Security Issues			Page
Does this activity involve information and/or materials subject to national security restrictions? If yes, please specify: (Maximum number of characters allowed: 1000)	○ Yes	No	
Are there any other security issues that should be taken into consideration? If yes, please specify: (Maximum number of characters allowed: 1000)	○ Yes	No	





PART B of the Application

Part B - Technical part of the application

Section 1 - Relevance In line with Award Criteria 1	 1.1 Objectives and activities 1.2 Contribution to long-term policy objectives, policies and strategies — Synergies 1.3 Digital technology supply chain* 1.4 Financial obstacles*
Section 2 - Implementation In line with Award Criteria 2	2.1 Maturity2.2 Implementation plan and efficient use of resources2.3 Capacity to carry out the proposed work
Section 3 - Impact In line with Award Criteria 3	3.1 Expected outcomes and deliverables 3.2 Competitiveness and benefits for society 3.3 Environmental sustainability and contribution to European Green Deal goals*

Section 4 - Work plan, Work packages, timing and subcontracting

*Sub-criteria 1.3, 1.4 and 3.3 NOT APPLICABLE for both topic



Attention: PART B - Page limit of **70 pages**



Evaluation & Award criteria

RELEVANCE

- Alignment with the objectives and activities as described in section 2
- Contribution to long-term policy objectives, relevant policies and strategies, and synergies with activities at European and national level
- Extent to which the project would reinforce and secure the digital technology **supply chain** in the EU*
- Extent to which the project can overcome **financial obstacles** such as the lack of market finance*

IMPLEMENTATION

- Maturity of the project
- Soundness of the implementation plan and efficient use of resources
- Capacity of the applicants, and when applicable the consortium as a whole, to carry out the proposed work

IMPACT

- Extent to which the project will achieve the expected outcomes and deliverables referred to in the call for proposals and, where relevant, the plans to disseminate and communicate project achievements
- Extent to which the project will strengthen competitiveness and bring important benefits for society
- Extent to which the project addresses environmental sustainability and the **European Green Deal goals**, in terms of direct effects and/or in awareness of environmental effects *

^{*} **NOT APPLICABLE** for both topic



Scoring during evaluation

Award criteria	Minimum pass score	Maximum score
Relevance	3	5
Implementation	3	5
Impact	3	5

- Maximum threshold per individual criterion: score of 5/5.
- Maximum points per proposals: 15 points.
- For a proposal to be considered for funding, it **MUST**:
 - 1. Pass the individual award criteria threshold that is: minimum <u>3 scores per criteria</u> *AND*
 - 2. Overall scoring threshold of **10 points**, within the limits of the available call budget.
- Proposals that <u>do not</u> achieve this threshold will be rejected.

For further details, refer to the Call Document Section 9 – Award Criteria



DIGITAL-2025-BESTUSE-08-FACTCHECKERS: Financial support to third party

Financial support to third party is applicable for the topic: Network of Factcheckers ONLY (!)



Funding rate: 100% for the consortium, co-funding of 50% for the supported third party.

- > Proposals should foresee at least a minimum of 60% of the project's total costs for third parties.
- The <u>maximum</u> amount of EU co-funding <u>per third party is EUR 350.000</u>
- > A third party can be awarded more than once, however not exceed EUR 350,000 per third party over the project duration, whilst ensuring that no double funding occurs.
- > The recipients of financial support to third parties are required to co-finance a minimum of 50% of the total costs of the activity.



Financial support to third party: Part A of the proposal

Whilst completing the proposal **ensure** to:

Include the overall budget for the financial support to 3rd party:

Application forms

Proposal ID

Acronym test

3 - Budget



I	No.	Name of beneficiary	Country	Role	Personnel costs - without volunteers/EUR	Subcontracting costs/EUR	Purchase costs - Travel and subsistence/ EUR	Purchase costs - Equipment/EUR	Purchase costs - Other goods, works and services/EUR	Financial support to third parties/ EUR	Internally invoiced goods and servicesEUR	Indirect costs/EUR	Total eligible costs/EUR	Ineligible costs/ EUR	Total estimated project costs and contributions/EUR
	1				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
				Total	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00

Financial support to third party: In Part B of the proposal

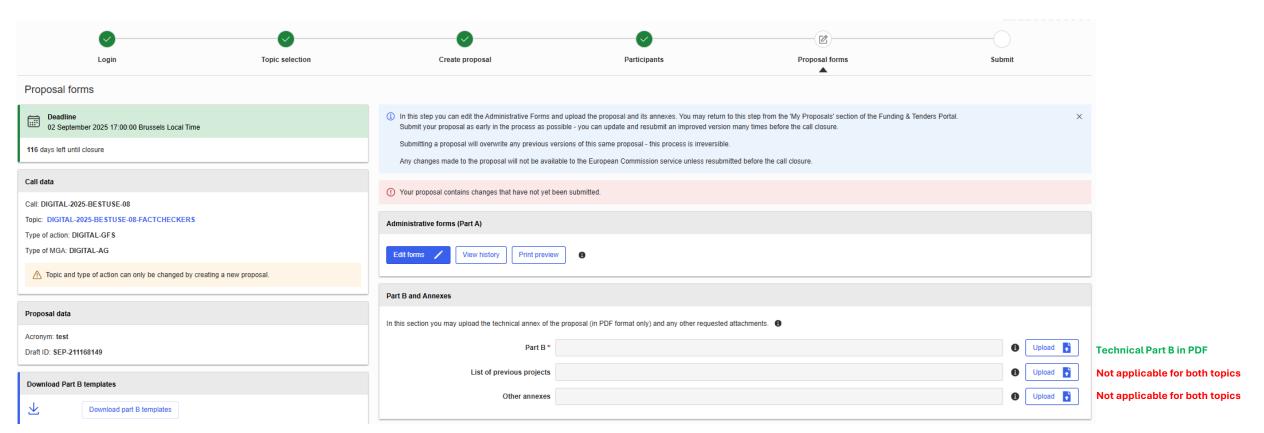
Detail *activities to be carried out* by **3rd parties** under the relevant Work Packages & *distribution of the budget* must be detailed under:

Estimated budget — Resources												
Dorticinant						(Costs					
Participant	A. Personnel		B. Subcontra cting	C.1 Travel and subsistenc e	C.2 Equipmen t	C.3 Other goods, works and services	D.1 Financial support to third parties		D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services	D.3 PAC procuremen t costs (for PAC Grants for Procurement)	E. Indirect costs	Total costs
[name]	X person months	X EUR	X EUR	X EUR	X EUR	X EUR	X grants	X EUR	X EUR	X EUR	X EUR	X EUR
[name]	X person months	X EUR	X EUR	X EUR	X EUR	X EUR	X prizes	X EUR	X EUR	X EUR	X EUR	X EUR

Other cost categories (financial support to third parties, internally invoiced goods and services, etc)						
Complete the table below for each participant that would like to declare costs under other costs categories (e.g. financial support and internally invoiced goods and services), irrespective of the percentage of personnel costs.						
Participant 1:	[name]					
Cost category	Explanations	Costs (EUR)				
Financial support to third parties	[insert comment]	[insert amount]				
Internally invoiced goods and services						

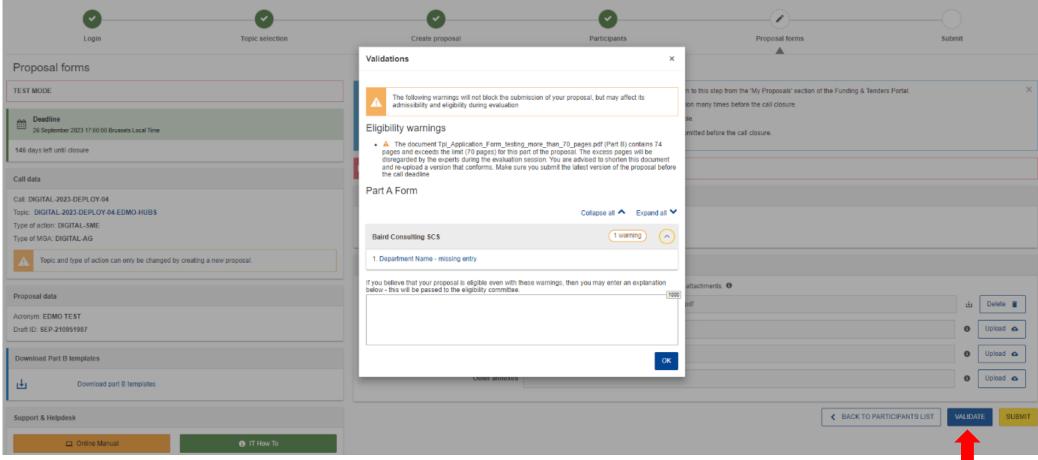


Submitting Part A & Part B





Validating and Warnings



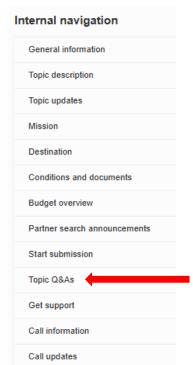
Before submitting the application Validate and address warnings!!!

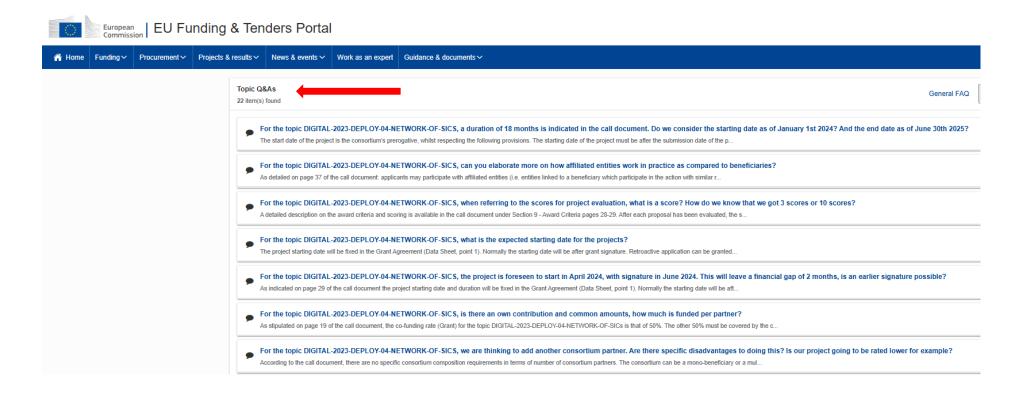


Guidance & Manuals Submitting questions



Topic Q&As & Submitting questions







Online Form to submit questions

https://european-union.europa.eu/contact-eu/write-us en

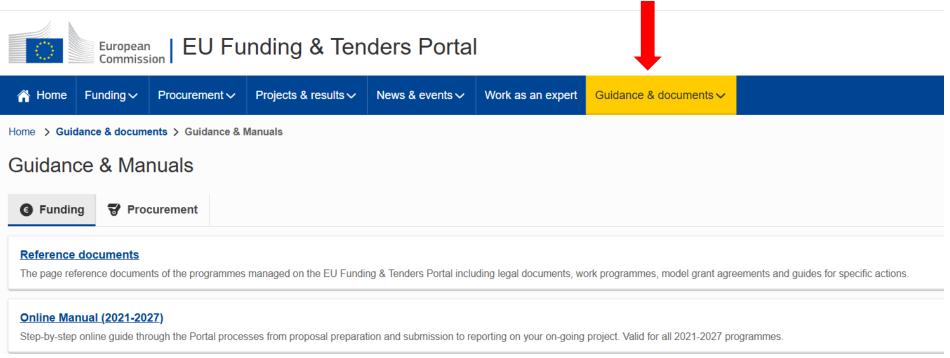
ernal navigation	Commiss	ion EU Fur	naing & i	enders Porta		
General information	★ Home Funding >	Procurement >	Projects & result	News & events >	Work as an expert	Guidance & documents >
opic description			Get	support		
Topic updates					ions below before the	the preparation of your application.
Mission				help related to this call, planting & Tenders Portal FAC		•
Destination			IT F	lelpdesk ☑ – Contact the I	T helpdesk for question	stions such as forgotten passwords, access rights and roles, technical aspects of submission of proposals, etc.
Conditions and documents			Onl	ine Manual 🗗 – Step-by-st	ep online guide throug	ough the Portal processes from proposal preparation and evaluation to reporting on your ongoing project. Valid for all 2021-2027 prog
Budget overview						
Partner search announcements						
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Topic Q&As						
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Send us your question		
First name*		
First name		
Last name*		
Last name		
Email address*		
name@example.com		0
Nationality*		
Please select	ф	0
Country of residence*		
Please select	ф	0
Preferred contact language*		
Please select	¢	0
Alternative contact language		
Please select	\$	0
Your question*		
Your question		
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	1.	
	0 / 3000	
I authorise the European Commission to a the Europe Direct mailing list (Optional)	dd my e-mail t	0
I have read and agree with the <u>data protect</u> (Mandatory)	tion terms	
Submit		



Guidance, Manuals & Step-by-step videos

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/manuals



IT how to

IT support guide with step-by-step walkthroughs and videos.



Final tips for applicants



Final tips for applicants - Part 1

Admissibility requirements:

- Application form is readable before uploading form B check that it has been converted correctly to PDF and that
 there are no missing parts or missing tables
- Always use the standard template Form B never use your own

Eligibility requirement:

Consortium composition compliance is a must – Read carefully Section 6 of the call document

for topic DIGITAL-2025-BESTUSE-08-FACTCHECKERS:

- A minimum of three independent applicants (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities) from at least three different eligible countries
- The coordinator must be based in an EU Member State

For complementary information refer to section 2 – Targeted stakeholders

for topic **DIGITAL-2025-BESTUSE-08-NETWORKSICs**:

Funding will be limited to one Safer Internet Centre per eligible country.



Final tips for applicants - Part 2

Ethics and Security issues table:

- Applicable for both topics.
- Mark with great attention the relevant criteria when applicable.
- When marking any ethical or security issues, include the corresponding **proposal page reference** in the respective form B.
- Elaborate on compliance with ethical principles and relevant legislation for any issues marked in the ethics form.

Award Criteria:

 Take into account the award criteria as detailed in the call document and follow that logic in your application to provide all necessary information.

Page Limit:

70 pages, any additional pages will be blanked out.

Deadline:

• Submit your proposals before the deadline. Do not submit your proposal on the last day, to avoid disappointment !!!



Thanks for your attention

For any questions after today's session please submit them through the functionality in the F&T Portal

https://european-union.europa.eu/contact-eu/write-us en

