

Seed Grant

Guidelines



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Guidelines for STARS EU seed grant for research and innovation project proposals

Purpose of the seed grants

For the STARS EU alliance to be successful and sustainable it is important to actively search for and apply for external funding. Identifying well suited calls across this vast research funding landscape, building a consortium and writing the application requires significant resources.

The STARS EU Alliance proposes a joint procedure for preparation of the proposals to stimulate research collaboration among nine partner universities. Researchers from STARS EU universities can submit proposals for seed funding to develop collaborative Horizon and FP10 projects.

The topic of the proposals should be linked with the STARS EU Priority Areas. The proposals should clearly explain these links and multi-and cross-disciplinary research projects are preferred.

Funding requirements

Applicants can apply for financial support per STARS EU partner involved in the project. In practice, each university will finance the expenses of its participating researchers. For RIA, IA and Cofund actions the seed grant amount per partner is 3000 EUR. For CSA calls the amount is 2000 EUR per partner.

In case the project includes external partners to the Alliance partner/s they should be requested to contribute to the preparation of the proposal and if it is well motivated in the application the consortium can pay for travel expenses for these external partners.

The STARS EU seed grants can cover costs associated with:

Costs related to international consortium meetings/writing sessions including travel expenses for external partners.

External consultancy services including:

Writing research proposal

‘An extra pair of eyes’ in the final stages of preparation of a funding application

Proof reading of the proposal

Support to improve the visual quality of applications, such as design of tables and infographics.

In the case the external consultant will be engaged in the proposal’s preparation, a declaration of confidentiality is required to ensure the confidentiality of the proposal that the information will not be disclosed to any third parties.

Eligibility of Applicants

Representatives (researchers/early-stage researchers/PhD students/etc.) of the STARS EU partners can submit a proposal for a seed grant. The envisaged project must have a clear link with the STARS EU strategy and STARS EU Priority Areas.

In order to be eligible, the application must include at least three STARS EU partners and be submitted at least three months before the deadline of submission of the envisaged Horizon Europe or FP10 call.

Assessment Criteria

All submitted applications will be evaluated by the Funding Expert Group before decision is made by the Steering Committee. The assessment criteria’s include:

Clarity of the project idea and how the envisaged project addresses the objectives of the relevant call

Relevance of the envisaged project for the overall STARS EU strategy and Priority Areas (see more: www.starseu.org)

The feasibility of completing the proposal before the submission deadline

Maturity and relevance of the consortium (including a description of relevance of each partner in the project)

Multi partner consortium (more than three partners) will have priority

Multi- and cross-disciplinary projects will have priority

Track record of the project coordinator with leading international projects

Application Procedure

The seed grant application should not exceed four pages, including the budget, use appointed application template and budget format. Submissions must be in PDF format, in one single document.

This is a continuous call. The applicant should send the completed application form by email to starseu@org.hanze.nl

Proposals will be processed in the order in which they were received and, in a confidentiality, approved process.

The applicants shall be informed about the decision of the assessment committee asap, but ultimately within three weeks after submission.

Terms and Conditions: Financial Procedure

A concise final report is expected within 3 weeks after submission, including:

financial justification of the expenses claimed (with a budget breakdown, based on actual costs),

proof of the submission to the Horizon or FP10 portal,

a copy of the submitted funding application.

Payment of the funding will only take place after the actual submission of the Horizon or FP10 application. The part of the granted subsidy that has not been used lapses.

The applicant will be responsible for assembling all claims relevant to the grant and for payment of any eligible cost statements from consortium members. The cost summary and request for payment is due within three weeks after the submission deadline of the funding scheme.

Do you need other support in preparing an EU project proposal? Please contact STARS EU Funding Expert Group starseu@hv.se.