



**interoperable solutions
connecting smart homes,
buildings and grids**

WP8 – Fostering innovation through Bottom-Up Projects

D8.1. Prototypes Open Call Package of Documents 1



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document contains all the relevant documents for the launch of the **Prototypes Open Call** of the InterConnect Project. The scope of this Open Call is Development and testing of novel interoperable-by-design applications or services for smart homes and grids.

The Documents included here are:

- **Open Call Announcement (Annex I):** An overview on key data such as the identification of the project and the call, the activities eligible for financial support, total available funding, key dates, participation duration and further information and contact points that was be published on [the EC Competitive Calls website](#).
- **Guide for Applicants (Annex II):** A step-by-step guide with detailed information on the application process. It includes a detailed description of the scope of the Open Call and other relevant information.
- **Frequently Asked Questions (or FAQ) (Annex III):** A list of the most popular questions, available in a form of a repository of knowledge, to support the Applicants during the application process.
- **Application form (Annex IV):** a draft which will be included in the FBOX platform where all application process will be performed.

The Application Form can be found at: <https://interconnect-1-oc.fundingbox.com/>

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Annex I. OPEN CALL ANNOUNCEMENT

CALL ANNOUNCEMENT

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN OPEN CALL FOR RECIPIENTS OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT

CALL ANNOUNCEMENT	
Call title:	InterConnect Interoperable-by-Design Prototypes Open Call
Full name of the EU funded project:	Interoperable Solutions Connecting Smart Homes, Buildings and Grids
Project acronym:	InterConnect
Grant agreement number:	857237
Call publication date:	23 rd May 2022
Call deadline:	26 th July 2022. 17.00 Brussels time
Expected duration of participation (i.e., Support programme):	7 months support programme
Maximum amount of financial support for each third party:	150.000 €
Submission & evaluation process:	<p>Submission through the application form available on: https://interconnect-1-oc.fundingbox.com/</p> <p>The selection of the open call proposals will be carried out in a four-step process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step one will check the proposals against eligibility criteria. • Step two will involve external evaluation to assess the proposal according to the criteria. • Step three will be a Consensus Meeting by InterConnect's Evaluation Committee to prepare a Ranking list of the proposals based on the external

	<p>evaluation results and the objectives of the InterConnect project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step Four will be a Jury Day where the ‘Selection Committee’ will decide by consensus on the ‘List of Finalists’. <p>For further information see the Guide of Applicants available in the link above, section “Read First”.</p>
Further information:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OC website: https://interconnect-1-oc.fundingbox.com/ • OC helpdesk: https://spaces.fundingbox.com/spaces/interconnect-open-calls-helpdesk • Project website: https://interconnectproject.eu/
Applicants and eligibility:	<p>Applicants should be SMEs (including Start-ups) registered in one of the following countries:</p> <p>The Member States of the European Union and its Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) or Associated Countries to H2020 or United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland</p>

ABOUT InterConnect

Interoperable Solutions Connecting Smart Homes, Buildings and Grids or for short “InterConnect” is an EU funded innovation project gathering [50 European entities](#), such as R&D Consultancy, Manufacturers, IoT and ICT Providers, DSOs, Retailers and End-Users, to develop and **demonstrate advanced solutions for connecting and converging digital homes and buildings with the electricity sector**.

These solutions will allow a digitalisation of homes, buildings and electric grids based on an Internet of Things architecture. And by including digital technologies (Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, Cloud and Big Data) based on open standards, such as [SAREF](#), **it will guarantee interoperability** between equipment, systems and privacy/cybersecurity of user data.

By means of Cascade Funding Open Calls, InterConnect will expand the ecosystem by allowing small and innovative ICT players (SMEs and start-ups) to develop novel interoperable services/applications, with a clear societal and economic value, leveraging the interoperable framework.

In this Interoperable by Design Prototypes Open Call, InterConnect is looking for up to 14 **Bottom-up projects that will develop and test novel Interoperable applications or services for smart homes and grids**, with a clear societal and economic value, on top of the InterConnect’s Interoperability Framework.

Annex II. GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

interconnect

interoperable solutions
connecting smart homes,
buildings and grids

Interoperable-by-design Prototypes Open Call

Guide for Applicants

Open date for proposals: 23rd of May 2022 at 00:00 (Brussels Time)

Deadline: 26th of July 2022 at 17.00 (Brussels Time)

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

IoT	Internet of Things
R&D	Research and Development
DSO	Distribution System Operators
DSF	Demand Side Flexibility
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
OC	Open Call
P2P	Peer-to-peer
GfA	Guide for Applicants

1. BASIC INFO ABOUT INTERCONNECT

[InterConnect](#) is an EU funded project (under grant agreement No. 857237) that gathers [50 European entities](#), such as R&D Consultancy, Manufacturers, IoT and ICT Providers, DSOs, Retailers and End-Users, to develop and **demonstrate advanced solutions for connecting and converging digital homes and buildings with the electricity sector**.

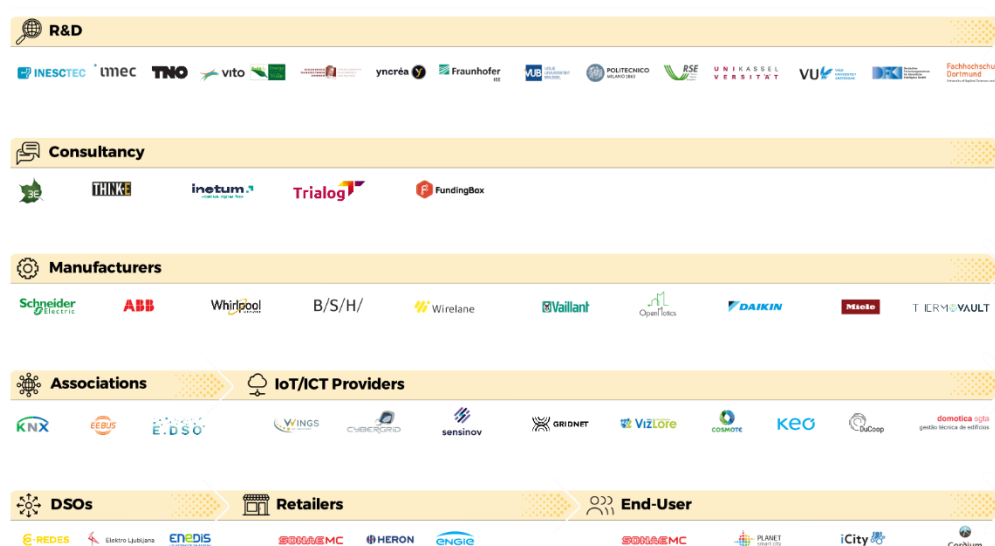


FIGURE A1.1: INTERCONNECT CONSORTIUM

InterConnect seeks to foster the digitalisation of homes, buildings and electric grids based on an Internet of Things architecture. By including digital technologies (Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, Cloud and Big Data) based on open standards, such as [SAREF](#), it will **guarantee the interoperability** between equipment, systems, and privacy/cybersecurity of user data.

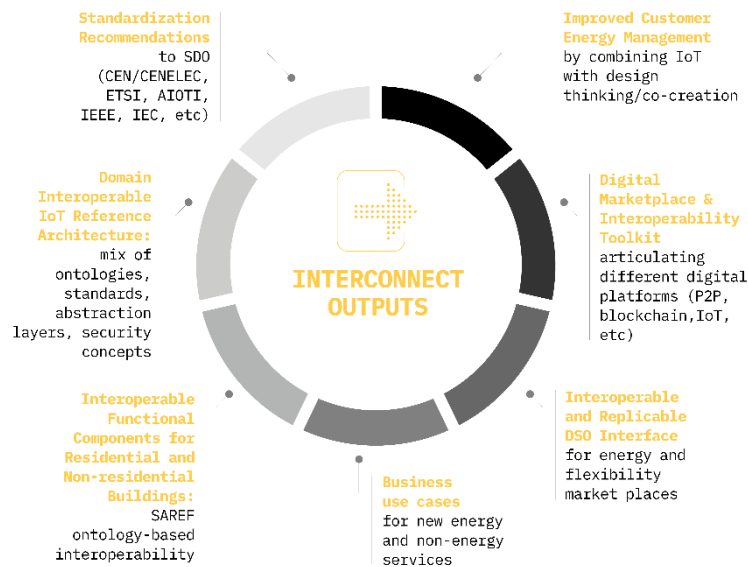


FIGURE A1.2: INTERCONNECT OUTPUTS

In order to achieve this goal, the project has launched an **OPEN CALL FOR INTEROPERABLE-BY-DESIGN PROTOTYPES** through which it will select up to **14 Bottom-up projects** that will develop and test novel **Interoperable applications or services for smart homes and grids** with a clear societal and economic value that will help to expand the InterConnect ecosystem.

Ideal application should:

- Be developed by small and innovative players (**SMEs including Start-up's**)
- Leverage the **interoperability framework** developed by InterConnect project, demonstrating semantic interoperability with the ecosystems of project's pilots.
- Support the project's validation of the **SAREF's semantic interoperability approach**, seeking its adoption by a wider ecosystem of stakeholders, hence ensuring easier integration of new devices and services as well as helping market acceptance.
- Aim to build a more comfortable and healthier living space at lower costs and enable their active participation in the energy system and market.
- **Be tested** in alignment with the available interoperable services **at one of 7 [InterConnect Large-Scale Pilots](#)**.
- **Address at least one of the challenges described in specific subsection below.**

2. WHAT DO WE OFFER?

The selected **bottom-up projects (up to 14)** will receive:

- Financial support grant of up to **150.000€**
- **7 months of customised Support Programme**, with a set of technical and business mentoring services to ensure the proper implementation and successful integration of applications within one of the [InterConnect Large-Scale Pilots](#).

- Access to pilot facilities to test the application with the assigned pilot.

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

We will check the eligibility of all proposals submitted before the deadline (July 26th, 2022, 17.00 Brussels Time) via our online [application form](#). **All the eligibility criteria are listed in this Section of the Guide for Applicants.** The projects that do not comply with those criteria will be excluded and marked as ineligible. We will check the eligibility criteria based on the information provided in your application during the whole evaluation process.

3.1. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

We are looking for single (individual) **SME's (including Start-ups)** registered in one of the following **countries**:

- [The Member States of the European Union and its Overseas Countries and Territories \(OCT\)](#) or
- [Associated Countries to H2020](#)
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

3.2. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

3.2.1. The proposal should explain how it will make use of the InterConnect Interoperability Framework in the prototype development.

The technical documentation of the interoperability framework components is available at the project's **Gitlab wiki page**: <https://gitlab.inescotec.pt/groups/interconnect-public/-/wikis/home>

In general terms, during the Prototype development the following methodology should be used:

- Get familiar with the project ontology (SAREF based)².
- Get familiar with the semantic interoperability layer based on Knowledge Engine technology³.
- Create account on and get familiar with the InterConnect Service Store⁴.
- Get familiar with the SAREFisation process and perform service SAREFisation and build service specific adapter⁵.
- Onboard your service(s) on the InterConnect Service Store⁶.

¹ An SME will be considered as such if it complies with the European Commission's Recommendation 2003/361/EC. As a summary, the criteria defining an SME are: • Headcount in Annual Work Unit (AWU) less than 250; • Annual turnover less or equal to €50 million OR annual balance sheet total less or equal to €43 million. Note that the figures of partners and linked enterprises should also be considered as stated in the SME user guide. For detailed information check EU recommendation: https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/smedefinition_en

² <https://gitlab.inescotec.pt/groups/interconnect-public/-/wikis/home#interconnect-ontology>

³ <https://gitlab.inescotec.pt/groups/interconnect-public/-/wikis/home#service-specific-adapters>

⁴ <https://store.interconnectproject.eu/ServiceStore/#/dashboard/home>

⁵ <https://gitlab.inescotec.pt/groups/interconnect-public/-/wikis/home#service-specific-adapters>

⁶ <https://gitlab.inescotec.pt/interconnect-public/service-store-frontend/-/wikis/1-User-Guide>

- Deploy Generic Adapter(s) for your services⁷.
- Work on integration with project pilot ecosystems according to the selected challenge(s). This will also include alignment with the project pilot's security and privacy protection plan.
- Optionally – utilize InterConnect P2P marketplace enablers based on DLT⁸.

The proposal should address implementation and successful integration of applications within one of the 7 [InterConnect Large-Scale Pilots](#).

TRL level⁹: Technology supported through the Interconnect Programme should reach the Technology Readiness Level 8 (System Complete and Qualified). In order to prove that it's feasible, proposals should address the technology at the current minimum level of TRL (5-7) and plan tasks for project execution that will allow reaching this goal.

3.3. CHALLENGES

The proposal should address at least one of the following challenges:

Challenge A - Semantic Interoperability for smart homes and buildings: Solutions focused on building semantically interoperable services and ecosystems between different energy and non-energy systems within a building.

- Smart appliances.
- Services and resources for commercial buildings.
- Energy storage and generation on a building level.
- Interoperable EMS systems and services.
- Interoperable non-energy services – implementing innovative non-energy services targeting smart homes and end users' comfort and convenience.
- Data driven services (data analysis and AI) for smart homes/buildings.
- Services exploring cross-domain exploitation.

Challenge B - Interoperable services for Demand Side Flexibility: Solutions focused on demand side flexibility and its cross-domain dimensions.

- Demand side flexibility – commercial, residential, and social housing use cases for flexible resource aggregation and management.
- Seamless switching to a different service/device (e.g., a different weather forecaster, a different PV forecaster, a different BEMS service, a different white-good appliance from a different appliance manufacturer, etc.) without requiring service/device specific API knowledge, solely relying on the defined ontologies and semantic knowledge.
- Services exploring cross-domain exploitation.
- Data driven services (data analysis and AI) for Demand Side Flexibility (DSF).

⁷ <https://gitlab.inesctec.pt/groups/interconnect-public/-/wikis/home#generic-adapter>

⁸ <https://gitlab.inesctec.pt/groups/interconnect-public/-/wikis/home#p2p-marketplace-enablers>

⁹ https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/wp/2018-2020/annexes/h2020-wp1820-annex-q-trl_en.pdf

Challenge C - Semantically Interoperable services for Smart grids and energy communities: Solutions focused more towards wider energy systems and energy communities.

- Increase the sources of information for active grid management throughout data obtained from distributed appliances and devices, integrating the DSO interface system.
- Provisioning of flexibility services to the DSO in a bilateral mechanism through the DSO interface, by aggregating controlled distributed resources which may help with a better management of the grid.
- Development and integration of SAREF-compatible resource prequalification module for the DSO interface.
- Aggregation on community level.
- Interoperable energy communities – implementing innovative services and applications for energy community challenges leveraging the semantic interoperability and project ontology.
- Services exploring cross-domain exploitation.
- Data driven services (data analysis and AI) for smart grid and energy communities.
- Interoperable EMS systems.
- Cross-border interoperability – integrate services and resources from stakeholders from different countries into new value-added applications.

Challenge D: Semantically interoperable services for electric mobility: Solutions focused on EVs and charging stations.

- EV charging – interoperable charging solutions and EV as a flexible resource.
- Services exploring cross-domain exploitation.
- Data driven services (data analysis and AI) for electric mobility.
- Cross-border interoperability – integrate services and resources from stakeholders from different countries into new value-added applications.

Challenge E: Semantically Interoperable services for energy marketplaces and incentive mechanisms: Solutions focused on the business dimension of the energy and cross-domain challenges.

- P2P marketplaces.
- Aggregation services towards the market.
- Gamification for energy efficiency.
- Incentive and reward systems.
- Data driven services (data analysis and AI) for energy market, pricing, orders etc.
- Cross-border interoperability – integrate services and resources from stakeholders from different countries into new value-added applications.

3.4. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Applying to an Open Call takes time and dedication and we are grateful you take up the challenge of applying to the InterConnect Open Call. Because we care, we would like to make

sure you understand what are some of the eligibility requirements with which you have to comply.

- **Have a European dimension:** Your proposal should have a clear *European* dimension meaning that InterConnect envisages to contribute for the democratization of efficient energy management, through a flexible and interoperable ecosystem where demand side flexibility can be soundly integrated with effective benefits to European end-users.
- **Be on time:** Make sure you submit your proposal through the [online form](#) before the **deadline (July 26th, 2022, 17.00 Brussels Time)**. If you submit the form correctly, the system will send you a confirmation of your submission. Get in touch with us if it is not the case. It is important for you to know that we will not be evaluating any proposal sent after the deadline and submitted outside the dedicated form.
- **Be exhaustive:** Have you answered all the sections of the form? It won't be possible to add any information after the deadline. However, you will be able to modify the form as much as you like even *after* the proposal is submitted, **as long as it is done before the deadline**.
- **Less is more:** If more than one proposal is identified, only the last proposal which has been submitted will be evaluated.¹⁰ So, no point multiplying your chances this way, it is better to submit only one proposal and make it shine.
- **We only understand the language of Shakespeare:** Your proposal must be written in **English** in all mandatory parts in order to be eligible. Only parts written in English will be evaluated.
- **Every question deserves your attention:** All mandatory sections of your proposal - generally marked with an asterisk - must be filled in. Make sure that the data provided is true and complete. This is crucial for us to properly assess your proposal. Conversely, any additional material that is not specifically requested in the online application form will not be considered for the evaluation so no point overdoing it.
- **Conflicts of interest:** We will take into consideration the existence of potential **conflict of interest** between you and one or more [InterConnect Consortium partners](#). Consortium partners, their affiliated entities, employees, and permanent collaborators cannot take part in the InterConnect Programme. All cases of potential conflict of interest will be assessed case by case.
- **Healthy finances and a clean sheet are a must:** We won't accept entities that are under liquidation or enterprises in difficulty according to the Commission Regulation No 651/2014, art. 2.18. Neither will we accept proposals from entities that are excluded from the possibility of obtaining EU funding under the provisions of both national and EU law, or by a decision of both national or EU authority.
- **It is *your* proposal:** Your project should be based on your original work. If not, that's okay, just make sure your right to use the IPR is 100% certain. Going forward, any foreseen developments must be free from third-party rights and if not, these third-party rights must be clearly stated.

¹⁰ Please note that only the application's last edit will be considered

4. TYPE OF ACTIVITIES FUNDED

This Interoperable-by-design Prototypes Open Call aims to select companies that will foster the development of novel interoperable applications or services for smart homes and grids that address at least one of the pre-defined challenges, by using the Interoperable Framework of InterConnect¹¹, and finally testing these applications in one of the 7 Project Pilots.

4.1. EXAMPLE OF AN IDEAL PROJECT

This is an example of a Bottom-up project that could be considered ideal for this Open Call:

Proposal: Developing a new interoperable application for managing EV charging

A start-up, specialized in interoperable solutions, submits a proposal to the Prototypes Open Call, that will develop a new application for managing EV charging for supermarket customers so they can offer new deals for electrical mobility (e.g., offer EV charging minutes if the customers spend more than 20€ in the supermarket).

Hence, the example above would reply to 2 main requirements regarding:

- Challenges: it could address issues contained in challenges A and/or E.
- Pilot testing: it could be tested in the infrastructures available at the [Portuguese pilot](#).

The start-up, if selected, will receive (along 7 months) financial and technical support to develop the new application, based on the interoperable framework, which will be tested with end-users in InterConnect related Pilots to get a final stable version (TRL 8).

5. HOW WILL WE EVALUATE YOUR PROPOSAL?

Our evaluation process is transparent, fair, and equal to all our participants.

Having said that, note that we will be evaluating your project in 4 phases. We expect a high number of applications so if you want to stand out, quality is the way to go. What does it mean? In short, provide as many details as possible while being extremely clear and structured. Also remember that a picture is worth 1,000 words. If you have the opportunity to include a video, a graph or any visual material that supports your explanation, go ahead.

This will help us to identify properly the key points of your application and see how it fits within the overall InterConnect scope.

¹¹ <https://gitlab.inesctec.pt/groups/interconnect-public/-/wikis/home>

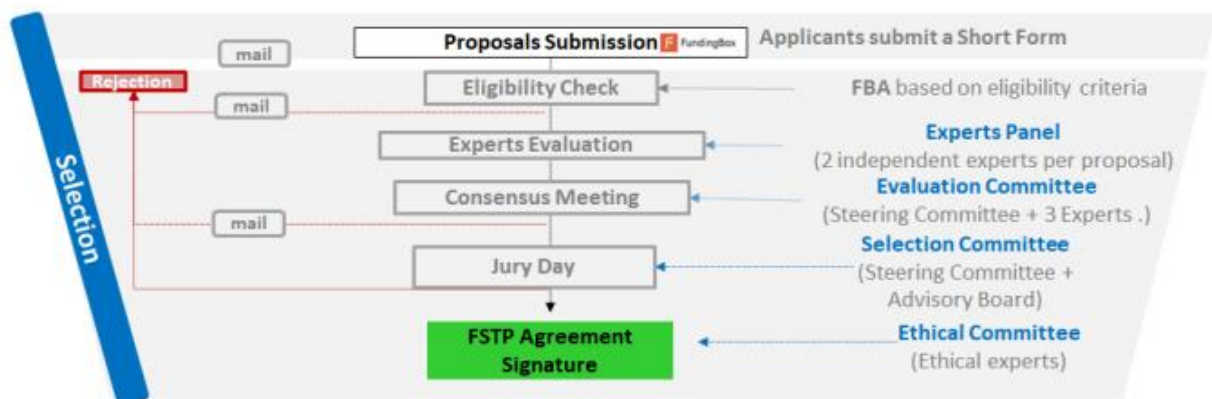


FIGURE A1.3: INTERCONNECT EVALUATION PROCESS

5.1. STEP 1: FIRST AUTOMATIC ELIGIBILITY CHECK

The first evaluation step is about verifying some basic requirements based on the statements from your proposal. Your proposal will be admissible for the next phase if it:

- Is **complete, readable and in English** in all mandatory sections.
- Has been submitted via the [online form](#) within the **deadline**.
- **The proposal fulfils the eligibility criteria specified in section 3**
- You won't be multiplying your chances by applying several times, it is only the last application that you submitted that we will be evaluating in case there is more than one.
- Includes the properly filled declaration of honour. Read carefully the **Declaration of Honour** template included in the application form, as we will check the related submitted statements. You will not be able to change them after the deadline.

The proposals that do not comply with these criteria will be excluded. We will inform you about the results of this first eligibility check soon after the deadline.

5.2. STEP 2: EXTERNAL EVALUATION

You have reached the external evaluation phase: bravo! And if not, be persistent: there may be other open calls for this project and other funding opportunities may suit - even better - your proposal.

For those who have been selected: from now on, each project will be evaluated by 2 **external and independent** evaluators specialised in the energy / ICT fields.

These are the criteria they will consider to complete the evaluation:

EXCELLENCE will evaluate:

- Objectives and clarity of challenges and TRL addressed: The applicant should explain the technology behind the project and how it will address the challenges and TRL selected with its main outcomes.

- Ambition and use of the InterConnect Interoperability Framework: The applicants should demonstrate how they plan to make use of the InterConnect Interoperability Framework in the prototype development and what is their ambition to develop the application with the InterConnect support.
- Innovation: The Applicants should provide information about the level of innovation within their market, degree of differentiation that this project will bring and to what extent the solution will go beyond the State of Art.
- Soundness of the approach

IMPACT will analyse:

- Market opportunity: The applicants have to demonstrate a clear idea of what they want to do and whether the new/improved product has market potential, e.g., because it solves a problem for a specific target customer.
- Competition: The applicants have to provide information about the degree of competition for their particular product/service and if the idea is disruptive and breaks the market. i.e., the products/services to be brought to market can be clearly differentiated from the competition.
- Commercial Strategy and Scalability: The applicants have to demonstrate the level of scalability of the new/improved product meaning by that they are not to solve a specific problem but able to be commercialised to solve a given problem in the Energy and Home/Building Domain (i.e., contributing to increasing the use of renewable energy and/or increasing energy efficiency).
- Social and Economic Impacts: applicants should describe potential impact on aspects like environment and low carbon economy contribution, equal opportunities, social impacts.

IMPLEMENTATION will consider:

- Team: The team involved in project execution have to demonstrate their management and leadership qualities, their ability to take a concept from ideas to market, their capacity to carry through their ideas and understand the dynamics of the market they are trying to tap into. The team should be balanced and cross-functional, with a strong background and skill base.
- Resources: Demonstrate the quality and effectiveness of the resources assigned to get the objectives/deliverables proposed.
- KPIs: applicants should confirm that KPIs they want to achieve are feasible with the work plan and that they are ambitious.
- Selected Pilot (select the top 3 pilots preferred for testing)*:
 - Greek pilot: Implementation of advanced Demand Response scenarios in residential setups.
 - French pilot: Contribute to efficient and environmentally friendly energy management.
 - Portuguese pilot: Smart grid infrastructure as an enabler of new business demand to integrate DSF in e-markets.

- [Netherlands pilot](#): (Re)developed domestic and multi-tenant buildings boosting IoT consumer centred services. Belgium.
- [Belgian pilot](#): Enabling energy communities.
- [German pilot](#): Demand Side Flexibility services for supporting the grid and local energy optimization.
- [Italian pilot](#): Residential social housing.
- Reasons for selection: applicants have to justify the reason on why the Pilot was selected and indicate the facilities needed to test their applications or services to ensure that InterConnect Project can provide them with the most suitable Project Pilot.

* Bear in mind that these preferences will be taken into account, but another pilot might be assigned to the beneficiary if a better technical fit is considered.

The evaluators will score each criterion on a scale from 0 to 5:

- 0 = The proposal fails to address the criteria, or it cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
- 1 = Poor – The criterion is inadequately addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
- 2 = Fair – The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
- 3 = Good – The proposal addresses the criterion well but there are a certain number of shortcomings.
- 4 = Very good – There are a small number of shortcomings but overall, the proposal addresses the criterion very well.
- 5 = Excellent – The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion with no or minor shortcomings.

Each evaluator will produce an **Individual Evaluation Report**. Your final score will be calculated as an average of the individual assessments provided by the Evaluators.

The threshold for individual criteria will be 3. The overall threshold, applying to the sum of the three individual scores, will be 10. And the criterion Impact is given a weight of 1.5 to determine the final ranking.

If scores on a project show significant divergence between the two reviewers (2 points in more than 2 criteria), a third reviewer will be involved to provide an additional independent assessment of this proposal.

Ties will be solved using the following criteria, in order:

- Impact score,
- Implementation score,
- Date of submission: earlier submitted proposals go first.

A 'Ranking List' will be elaborated and all proposals obtaining a score above the threshold will move on to the next stage. Do note that the evaluation phase takes time as it implies a more personal, qualitative, and thus non-automated approach. But eventually, your patience will be rewarded!

5.3. STEP 3: CONSENSUS MEETING

Following the external evaluation, an **Evaluation Committee**¹², coordinated by FBA and composed by the InterConnect Steering Committee plus three External Evaluators, will decide by Consensus (minimum $\frac{2}{3}$ of the votes) on the 'List of applicants' to move on to the next phase. The decision will be based on the ranking obtained as a result of the External Evaluation.

Bear in mind that even if it is normally the best-marked proposals that are selected for funding, the Evaluation Committee may have fair reasons for objecting to the selection of a specific candidate. These reasons can relate to:

- Alignment with InterConnect goals and scope.
- The ability to achieve the strongest possible impact.
- Commercial competition.
- The existence of significant ethical concerns.
- The existence of a potential conflict of interest.
- Balance between Large Scale Pilots testing¹³

Interconnect aims to select at least 1 proposal per challenge, but the final decision on the number of proposals selected per challenge will be made based on the quality and potential of the submitted applications.

In case a top-ranked application is rejected, we will consider selecting the next best-ranked proposal. Finally, the exact number of proposals approved will be decided based on the overall **quality** of the proposals.

5.4. STEP 4: JURY DAY

If your proposal has been selected during the Consensus Meeting, you will be invited to a **Jury Day** (please be aware that in case the physical meeting is possible, the Jury Day will be organized online) during which you will have the opportunity to pitch your project in front of the InterConnect Selection Committee¹⁴.

Each SME invited to Jury Day will be requested some basic legal information to confirm that the entity engaged in the proposal exists.

After the Jury Day, the **InterConnect Selection Committee** will undertake the **final evaluation** taking into account the following criteria:

- The Team's capabilities / skills.
- Potential to contribute to the adoption of Interoperability Solutions in smart homes/buildings and grid services in Europe.
- Potential to develop secure, cost-effective, and sustainable business models.
- Contribution to increasing the use of renewable energy and increased energy efficiency.

¹² Coordinated by FBA and composed by the InterConnect Steering Committee plus three External Evaluators.

¹³ During the whole project, Interconnect aims to test supported applications in 7 InterConnect Large-Scale Pilots (minimum 4 in this open call).

¹⁴ Coordinated by FBA and composed by the Steering Committee and some strategic members of the Advisory Board.

The 'Selection Committee' will decide by majority vote of 2/3 on the 'List of Finalists' as well as the 'Reserve List'.

The exact number of proposals approved will be decided based on the overall **quality** of the proposals. The Selection Committee may have fair reasons for objecting to the selection of a specific candidate in case the balance of selected proposals between Pilots or Challenges is not achieved.

The list of proposals selected during the Jury Day and the 'Reserve List' will be sent to the European Commission for validation before the Formal Check process begins.

5.5. WHAT'S NEXT? SUBGRANT AGREEMENT PREPARATION AND SIGNATURE

You made it! You are part of the final applications preselected for the InterConnect Open Call. It has been a long journey. Or has it actually just started?

In any case, before you get started with the InterConnect Programme, you need to sign the Subgrant Agreement with the InterConnect Consortium. (For details, please check our Frequently Asked Questions and read a Draft Subgrant Agreement [here](#)).

Before signing the Subgrant Agreement, you should provide documents regarding your formal status. The InterConnect Consortium will proceed to a **verification of these documents** to make sure you are eligible.

Be extremely vigilant with respect to:

1.The nature of the documents we request.

If the documents you provide us with do not prove your eligibility, the adventure will end **here**.

2.The deadlines that we will give you to hand us these documents.

If you do not deliver the requested documents on time, without a clear and reasonable justification, we will have to exclude you from the further formal assessment. Another applicant from the Reserve list will then replace you.

6. SUPPORT PROGRAMME AND PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Once your eligibility has been confirmed following the formal check and the Subgrant Agreement signed, you become an official beneficiary of the InterConnect Programme. It is now that the adventure begins, and it is now high time to understand how the funding is going to be distributed.

Support Programme:

- A Welcome Event will be organised at the beginning of the support programme where the Technical and Business Mentors will be allocated to each Project.

- After that, the Bottom-up Projects -together with its Mentors- will define an 'Individual Mentoring Plan', establishing the KPIs and Deliverables to evaluate the Bottom-Up Projects' performance.

The implementation of the projects will go through a 7-months support programme split in 3 stages:

- A 1st stage to define the Proof Of Concept;
- A 2nd stage to develop the Prototypes and Business Model;
- And a 3rd stage to test the Minimum Viable Products in market conditions through the InterConnect related Pilots, defining the Exploitation Plan.

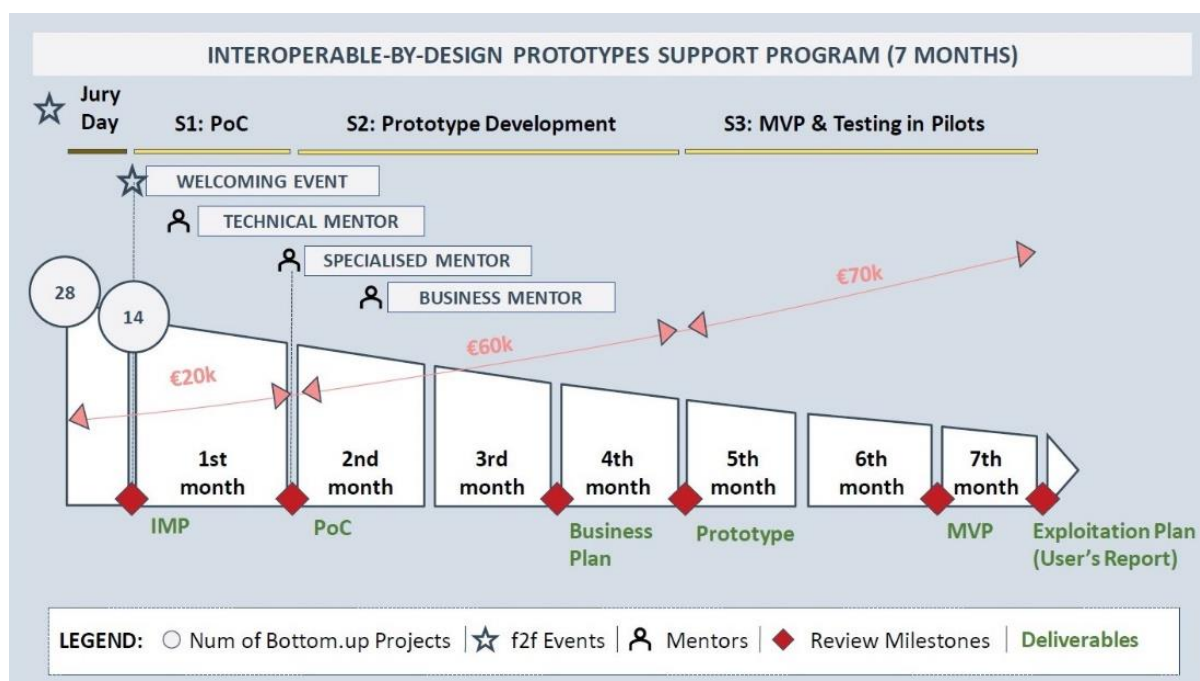


FIGURE A1.4:INTERCONNECT SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Funding:

As a beneficiary, you will receive a fixed lump sum¹⁵ of up to 150.000€ to be paid in three stages:

- Stage 1 (after month 1) – up to 20.000€
- Stage 2 (after month 4) – up to 60.000€
- Stage 3 (after month 7) – up to 70.000€

The **payment of each tranche depends on the approval**, by the 'Mentoring Committee' and ultimately 'Selection Committee, **of the related deliverables per milestone**.

¹⁵ A lump sum is a simplified method of settling expenses in projects financed with Horizon 2020 funds. It means that you are not required to present accounting documents to prove the investment-related costs incurred (e.g., invoices). However, you are obliged to demonstrate that the implementation of the project is in line with the milestones set for it.

These milestones, deliverables, KPIs and ethical recommendations will be defined and calendarized in the 'Individual Mentoring Plan' elaborated at the beginning of the Programme.

Bear in mind that the lump sum does not release you from the obligation to collect documentation to confirm the costs under fiscal regulation.

7. CONTACT US

If you have questions regarding the Open Call, you can:

- Post your question in the Open Call [Helpdesk](#)
- Read all supportive documents in the [Read First](#) section
- Join one of our Open Call webinars

If, after receiving the results of one of the evaluation phases (when foreseen), you consider that a mistake has been made you can send us your complaint. To do so please send us your complaint in English by email to interconnect.help@fundingbox.com including the following information:

- Your contact details (including email address),
- The subject of the complaint,
- Information and evidence regarding the alleged breach.

You have **3 calendar days to submit your complaint** starting the day after the communication about the results of the eligibility criteria evaluation was sent. We will review your complaint within no more than seven calendar days from its reception. If we need more time to assess your complaint, we will inform you by email about the extension.

We will not review anonymous complaints as well as complaints with incomplete information. Please take into account that the evaluation is run by experts in the industry, and we do not interfere with their assessment, therefore we will not evaluate complaints related to the results of the evaluation other than related to the mistakes in the evaluation of the eligibility criteria.

8. LAST BUT NOT LEAST - FINAL PROVISIONS

Any matters not covered by this Guide will be governed by Polish law and rules related to the Horizon 2020 Programme and European Union grants regulations.

We do our best to keep all the applicant data confidential. However, to avoid any doubts, you are entirely responsible to indicate what information is confidential.

Your IPR will remain your property.

For the selected beneficiaries, the agreement will include the set of obligations towards the European Commission (for example: promoting the project and giving visibility to the EU funding, maintaining confidentiality, understanding potential controls by the EC/ECA and OLAF).

The InterConnect Consortium might cancel the call at any time, change its provisions or extend it. In such a case we will inform all applicants about such change. Signature of the agreement

is an initial condition to establish any obligations among applicants and any Consortium partners (with respect to the obligation of confidentiality of the application).

You didn't find what you were looking for? You may want to check our Frequently Asked Questions document [here](#).

9. EXTRA HINTS BEFORE YOU SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL

A proposal takes time and effort, and we know it. Here a few crucial points you should read before hitting the "Submit" button to maximise your chances of success:

- Is your project in line with what InterConnect is looking for? Not 100% sure? You can consult Sections 3 and 4.
- Did you present your project in a way that will convince evaluators? Go back to Section 5 if you have any doubt.
- Is your project fulfilling all the eligibility requirements described in the Guide for Applicants? Check again Section 3.
- Are you able to cope with our signature agreement process and payment arrangements for the selected proposals? You may want to go over Section 6.
- Did you check our Agreement Template? Check it [here](#).
- Do you need extra help? [Get in touch!](#)

And as a bonus: You can read our [R.E.C.I.P.E. for an outstanding European Funding Opportunity application](#) for additional advice. Good luck!

Annex III. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

interconnect

interoperable solutions
connecting smart homes,
buildings and grids

Interoperable-by-design Prototypes Open Call

Frequently Asked Questions*

**This is a live document to be updated as needed up until the Open Call deadline*

Open date for proposals: 23rd of May 2022 at 00:00 CET (Brussels Time)

Deadline: 26th of July 2022 at 17.00 (Brussels Time)

DISCLAIMER:

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1. GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT INTERCONNECT

1.1. WHAT IS INTERCONNECT?

InterConnect is an EU funded project that gathers 50 European entities, such as R&D Consultancy, Manufacturers, IoT and ICT Providers, DSOs, Retailers and End-Users, to develop and **demonstrate advanced solutions for connecting and converging digital homes and buildings with the electricity sector**.

These solutions will allow a digitalisation of homes, buildings and electric grids based on an Internet of Things architecture. By including digital technologies (Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, Cloud and Big Data) based on open standards, such as SAREF, it will guarantee the interoperability between equipment, systems, and privacy/cybersecurity of user data.

See the InterConnect objectives here: <https://interconnectproject.eu/about/> or check out our booklet for more information: https://interconnectproject.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/AF-Interconnect_Booklet.pdf

1.2. WHAT ORGANIZATIONS TAKE PART IN INTERCONNECT PROJECT?

See the InterConnect Consortium here: <https://interconnectproject.eu/consortium/> or check out our leaflet: https://interconnectproject.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/AF-Interconnect_Leaflet_compressed.pdf to understand their position in the IoT & energy value chain.

1.3. WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT?

Join the InterConnect Community at <https://spaces.fundingbox.com/c/interconnect> to be updated and receive all the information (activate notifications).

Read our booklet: https://interconnectproject.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/AF-Interconnect_Booklet.pdf

Or visit the following links:

- Website: <https://interconnectproject.eu/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/interconnectpri>
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/interconnect-project/>

Open Calls Website: <https://interconnect-opencalls.fundingbox.com/>

1.4. WHAT ARE THE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE WITH INTERCONNECT?

Hereunder you can find a table with the funding available through the InterConnect project and the timeline and main characteristics of the Open Calls foreseen:


	Interoperable-by-design Prototypes Open Call	Interoperable-by-adoption Demonstrators 1st Open Call	Interoperable-by-adoption Demonstrators 2nd Open Call
			
WHEN?	Q2 2022	Q1 2023	Q2 2023
WHO CAN APPLY?	SMEs and StartUps	SMEs and StartUps	SMEs and StartUps
SCOPE	Development and testing of novel interoperable applications or services for smart homes and grids	Adapting and testing non-native interoperable applications and services in smart homes and grids domains by running small demonstrators	Adapting and testing non-native interoperable applications and services in smart homes and grids domains by running small demonstrators
N° SELECTED PER CALL	14	14	14
FUNDING	up to 150.000 €	up to 51.000 €	up to 51.000 €
DURATION OF SUPPORT	Up to 7 months	Up to 4 months	Up to 4 months

FIGURE A2.1: INTERCONNECT CALLS

For this first Interoperable-by-Design Prototypes Open Call a total of €2,100,000 can be distributed, with a maximum of €150,000 for each of the up to 14 beneficiaries to be selected.

2. QUESTIONS RELATED TO INTERCONNECT PROTOTYPES OPEN CALL

2.1. HOW DO I SUBMIT MY APPLICATION TO THE OPEN CALL?

Online through the InterConnect microsite for this Open Call at FundingBox Platform:
<https://interconnect-1-oc.fundingbox.com/>

2.2. HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO FILL IN THE APPLICATION?

To successfully fill in the application form, you will probably need 1 day. You can split the proposal writing between your team members. You will be able to add contributors to your application so that each team member can complete their section.

Specific character limits have been established in each section of the online application form. We encourage you to keep your proposal focused on the requested information. We

recommend you start the submission process well before the deadline to avoid last-minute circumstances.

2.3. HOW DO I ADD CONTRIBUTORS TO THE APPLICATION FORM?

You can add contributors by entering the application form and clicking Add Contributor bottom.

This application was NOT submitted
Fill in all the required form sections to submit your application.

Status: Draft
Started a few seconds ago by @ines.arias

Show history

+ Add a contributor

★ 1 BASIC INFORMATION*

Fill

FIGURE A2.2: INTERCONNECT OPEN CALL APPLICATION

The invited person (contributor) has to register into the FBOX platform (<https://fundingbox.com/>) Once registered, he/she should go to the Open Call website: <https://interconnect-1-oc.fundingbox.com/> and click the "Apply now" button. The started application will be there ready to be edited.

2.4. WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE APPLICATION FORM?

The applications submitted to the first Open Call will include the following sections:

1. Basic information
2. Legal information
3. (Scored) EXCELLENCE
4. (Scored) IMPACT
5. (Scored) IMPLEMENTATION
6. Declaration of Honour – confirmation of the exclusion criteria and absence of conflict of interest to be accepted by the Applicants
7. Processing of personal data – legal requirements related to the processing of the personal data of the Applicants (following the General Data Protection Regulation, EU 2016/679)

2.5. WHAT HAPPENS IF I DO NOT SUBMIT MY APPLICATION WITHIN THE DEADLINE?

We do not accept applications after the deadline. We strongly encourage you not to wait until the last minute to submit your proposal. Failure of meeting the submission deadline for any reason, including extenuating circumstances, will result in the rejection of the proposal.

2.6. WILL I BE ABLE TO MODIFY MY PROPOSAL AFTER SUBMISSION?

Yes, but always before the deadline: 26th of July 2022 at 17.00 CEST (Brussels Time).

2.7. CAN I APPLY IF I HAVE RECEIVED FSTP GRANTS FROM OTHER PROJECTS BEFORE?

You should be able to confirm that funding received from InterConnect will not cover the same costs/tasks which were already funded by other EU projects (double funding rule).

2.8. WHAT IS TRL?

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 being the lowest and TRL 9 the highest. In our project we refer to Annex G of the General Annexes to the Work Programme 2016/17 for a full description of TRLs.

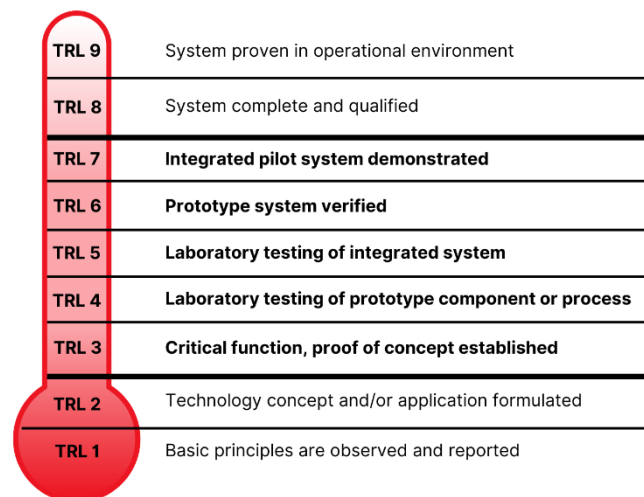


FIGURE A2.3: TRL CLASSIFICATION

2.9. WHAT IS AN SME?

An SME will be considered as such if it complies with the European Commission's Recommendation 2003/361/EC. As a summary, the criteria defining an SME are:

- Headcount in Annual Work Unit (AWU) less than 250.
- Annual turnover less or equal to €50 million.
- OR annual balance sheet total less or equal to €43 million.

Note that the figures of partners and linked enterprises should also be considered as stated in the SME user guide (see next question 2.10).

For detailed information check EU recommendation:

https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition_en
https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition_en

2.10. ARE WE AN SME IF OUR COMPANY IS A SUBSIDIARY OF A BIGGER COMPANY?

When defining your SME status, first you have to determine whether your enterprise is autonomous or belongs to a group of enterprises - it has a partner or linked enterprises.

Remember that the connection between enterprises does not have to be official.

Participation in the group should be assessed on the actual economic and organizational connections, that's why the analysis of share structure and participation in management bodies are so important.

For more on this and useful definition of linked/partner entities check the User guide to the SME definition:

<https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/42921><https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/42921><https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/42921><https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/42921>

2.11. 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 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 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 2 years before the action starts). Time limits do not apply to family and personal relationships. Remember that the concept of the conflict of interest should be understood widely, so if you have any doubts about the Conflict of Interest, please consult it with our team.

All cases of conflict of interest will be assessed case by case.

2.12. ARE APPLICANTS REQUIRED TO INCLUDE THE BUDGET PLAN IN THE APPLICATION?

Details about the budget are not required on the application level.

The detailed budget planned for execution will be requested from the selected applicants at the beginning of the Support Programme in the “Individual Mentoring Plan”.

3. QUESTIONS RELATED TO INTERCONNECT'S EVALUATION PROCESS

3.1. WHAT HAPPENS AFTER MY APPLICATION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED?

After the Open Call deadline, applications will be subjected to the evaluation process

3.2. WHAT IS THE EVALUATION PROCESS LIKE?

The Selection process has 5 Steps:

- **Step 1: Automatic Eligibility Check** The eligibility check will determine whether applicants meet the eligibility criteria listed in Section 3 of Guide for Applicants.
- **Step 2: External Evaluation** In this phase, 2 external expert evaluators will score proposals according to the Excellence, Impact, and Implementation sections of the application form. Proposals that will achieve the minimum threshold will be selected for the next step.
- **Step 3: Consensus Meeting** Based on the ranking obtained as a result of the External Evaluation, the ‘Evaluation’ Committee will decide by the majority ($\frac{2}{3}$ votes) the List of applicants that pass to the final step.
- **Step 4: Jury Day** The ‘Selection Committee’ will decide by consensus (at least $\frac{2}{3}$ of the votes) on the ‘List of Finalists’ as well as the ‘Reserve List’.
- **Step 5: Sub Grant Agreement Preparation and Signature** Before signing the Agreement, each selected applicant will need to pass the standard ethical check and provide documents regarding your formal status that you indicated in section 2 of the Application

3.3. WHO ARE THE EXTERNAL EVALUATORS?

Evaluators are external, independent experts with proven experience in energy & ICT domains. The panel of external experts is selected and invited by the InterConnect consortium. Each evaluator signs a Code of Conduct and Confidentiality clause before they start the evaluation of the proposals.

3.4. WHAT IS THE MINIMUM SCORE TO PASS THE EXTERNAL EVALUATION PHASE?

Thresholds needed to pass to the next stage are:

- For each criterion, the minimum threshold is 3 out of 5 points.
- For a total sum of scores, the minimum threshold is 10 out of 15 points.

3.5. WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE JURY DAY?

The Provisional List of up to 14 proposals selected during the Jury Day and the Reserve List will be sent to the European Commission for validation before the Formal Check process begins. After official EC validation, the InterConnect team will send you instructions for a Formal Check.

3.6. WHAT DOCUMENTS WILL BE REQUIRED DURING THE FORMAL CHECK?

A formal check is conducted to verify that selected applicants fulfil legal requirements. To do so, each applicant will need to provide documents regarding the SME formal status:

Official, valid and current registration document of the Applicant enterprise. An extract from the current official registration document (or its equivalent: Company Register, Official Journal) indicating the name of your organisation, the address of the head office, its registration number, authorised representatives.

The enterprise **registration document** is a written statement from the Government or other authority which confirms that the company legally exists and confirms its data.

Document showing the holding structure of the Applicant enterprise - shareholders and the percentage of shares that they own in applicant enterprise. The document must be signed by the authorised representatives.

VAT Registration - copy of an official and valid document proving your VAT registration. To confirm VAT number, you can also provide the confirmation from the VAT Information Exchange System (VIES) - http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/vies/vatRequest.html.

Bank Identification form – the Bank Identification form- To confirm your bank account data, you will be asked to provide the Bank Identification form. It helps us to know the banking coordinates, necessary to the authorisation of payments from the EU.

Information about staff headcount - you will be asked to provide the information about staff headcount of the last 3 years (if your history is shorter, provide data starting from your set up date).

The Staff headcount corresponds to the number of annual work units (AWU), i.e., the number of persons who worked full-time within the enterprise in question or on its behalf during the entire reference year under consideration. The work of persons who have not worked the full year, the work of those who have worked part-time, regardless of duration, and the work of seasonal workers are counted as fractions of AWU.

The staff consists of:

- a) employees.
 - b) persons working for the enterprise being subordinated to it and deemed to be employees under national law.
 - c) owner-managers.
 - d) partners engaging in a regular activity in the enterprise and benefiting from financial advantages from the enterprise.
- Apprentices or students engaged in vocational training with an apprenticeship or vocational training contract are not included as staff. The duration of maternity or parental leaves is not counted.

To confirm staff Headcount please provide enterprise **statistic reports/annual report/financial statement or any other supporting documents which demonstrate staff headcount**. It can be an official and signed declaration indicating the number of employees expressed in Annual Working Units.

Remember that the above documents should have been established recently and in any case, no more than 6 months ago.

Additional applicant documentation – e.g., certificate of being SME issued by your country authorities; official and signed declaration on the staff headcount expressed in Annual Working Unit, Information about changes in the company owner structure in last 3 years.

In case of having partner/linked enterprises, you will be asked to provide additional documentation of this partner and/or linked enterprises. It will be a:

- Document showing the holding structure of a partner/linked enterprise, e.g., official extract of shareholders (from the Chamber of Commerce or any other Official Register) or instead we can accept an official and signed declaration indicating shareholders and the percentage of shares that they own in the company.
- Statistic reports/annual report/financial statement indicating the number of declared employees of a partner/linked enterprise. If the number of employees is not clearly indicated in the above-mentioned documents, we can accept other supporting documents such as an official and signed declaration on the staff headcount expressed in Annual Working Units.

4. QUESTION RELATED TO INTERCONNECT SUPPORT PROGRAMME

4.1. WHAT DOES THE SUPPORT PROGRAMME CONSIST OF?

Besides the FSTP, the project offers additional technical and business support to Bottom-up Projects, directly provided by partners, which is one relevant added value of the project.

The consortium has defined a standard pack of services to be provided to each Bottom-up Project, during the seven months of the Support Programme. Below you can find an outline of the Programme.

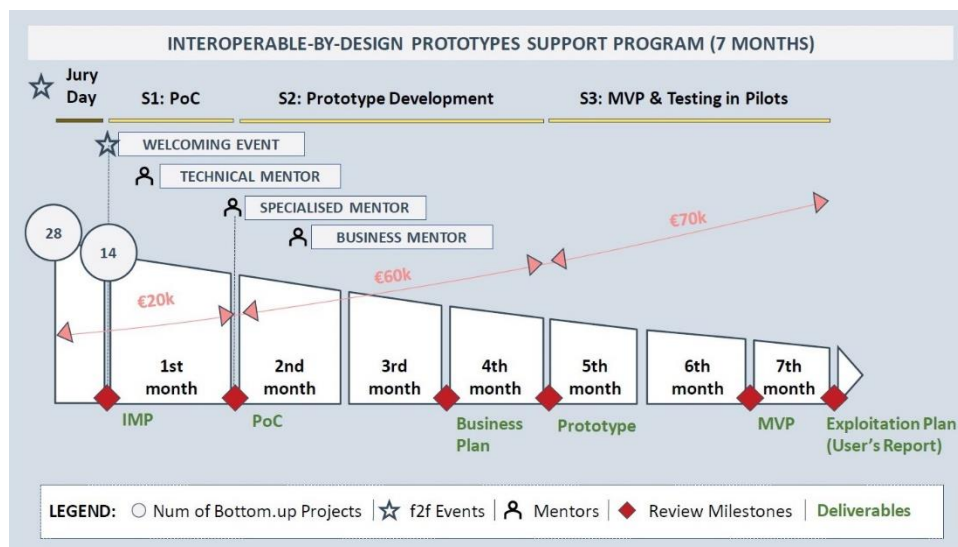


FIGURE A2.4: INTERCONNECT SUPPORT PROGRAMME

4.2. MILESTONES AND PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS

In each Milestone review (see figure from previous section), the following criteria will be scored:

- Deliverable quality (30%).
- Performance indicators (60%).
- Deadline Compliance (10%).

According to this final score:

- Beneficiaries over the threshold (7 points) will successfully receive the next payment and be candidates to continue in the Programme.
- Beneficiaries under the threshold. The beneficiaries who haven't reached the threshold will be the subject of the final Selection Committee decision and the possible ending of the Programme.

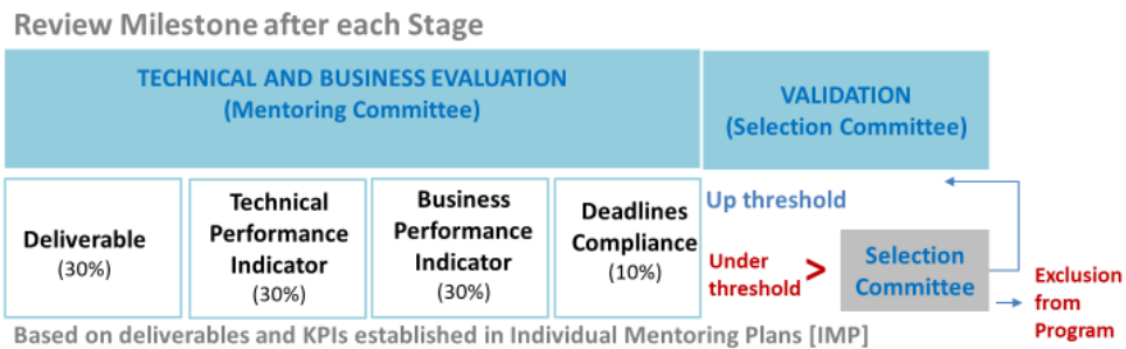


FIGURE A2.5: INTERCONNECT BOTTOM-UP PROJECTS REVIEW PROCESS

In short, we will carefully assess your progress and the quality of your work during Interim Reviews, but we will not review your accountancy.

Bear in mind that the lump sum does not release you from the obligation to collect documentation to confirm the costs under fiscal regulation.

4.3. PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Regarding the payments, and taking into account that the conditions described in previous sections and established in the GfA are met, they will follow the arrangements described hereunder:

STAGE	AMOUNT	TRANCHES	CONDITIONS/TERMS
Stage 1: Proof of Concept (Duration: 1 month)	Fixed lump sum of € 20 000,00 per Prototype	1st tranche: 13,3% (amount to be paid up to € 20 000,00) paid in Month 1 (M1)	Submission and validation of Individual Mentoring Plan
			Reception and validation of the Deliverable established (i.e., Proof of Concept [PoC])
Stage 2: Prototype Development (Duration: 3 months)	Fixed lump sum of € 60,000 per Prototype	2nd tranche: 40% (amount to be paid up to € 60 000,00) paid in Month 4 (M4)	Reception of the Deliverable established for M3 (i.e., 'Business Model')
			Reception and validation of the Deliverable established for M4 (i.e., 'Prototype')
Stage 3: Minimum Viable Product and testing in Pilots (Duration: 3 months)	Fixed lump sum of € 70,000 per Prototype	3rd tranche: 46,6% (amount to be paid up to € 70 000,00) paid in Month 7 (M7)	Reception and validation of the Deliverable established for M6 (i.e., 'MVP')
			Reception and validation of the Deliverable established for M7 (i.e., 'Exploitation Plan' including Users' Report)

4.4. CAN BENEFICIARIES SUBCONTRACT ANY OF THE TASKS?

Subcontracting may cover only a limited part of 15% of the total cost budget dedicated to action.

4.5. WHICH COSTS ARE ELIGIBLE?

Eligible costs must correspond to the lump sum amount and the budget set out in the Individual Mentoring Plan (IMP).

The costs are eligible as long as the corresponding tasks or parts of the project have been properly implemented, following the Individual Mentoring Plan and Milestones.

The TYPE of eligible costs are:

- Direct personnel costs: cost hours of the staff of the beneficiary dedicated to actual work under the project.
- Other direct costs: further direct incurred costs directly related to the implementation of the project can be claimed for travel costs for project team meetings, equipment, consumables etc. Only the part of equipment costs used for the project, and the usual depreciation rules of the company have to be applied. Costs of other goods and services may also be included, e.g., protection of results, costs related to intellectual property rights, plan for the exploitation and dissemination of results.
- Indirect costs: costs incurred within the context of a project that cannot be attributed directly to the project, e.g., room rent, energy costs or general administration costs. A flat rate of 25% of the direct eligible costs shall be applied.
- Subcontracting costs such as expert services by Research Technology Organization (RTO), Universities, Research Institutes, living labs and similar, but could also be a public research centre or other, large companies, other specialized SMEs and similar. Those costs are the services/products carried out by a provider-subcontractor via a legal agreement between them, which set out the rights and obligations of both parties for the sake of the project completion
Subcontracting may cover only a limited part of the action (max 15% of the total cost budget). If the subcontracting budget is higher, the beneficiary must and should justify it properly.

Only costs generated during the lifetime of the project can be eligible. Period of costs' eligibility is from the contract signature date until the end of the project. Costs described in the submitted budget must be determined in accordance with the usual accounting and management principles and practices of the beneficiary (e.g., subcontracting must be awarded using the beneficiary's usual purchasing practices — provided these ensure subcontracts with best value for money (or if appropriate the lowest price) and that there is no conflict of interest).

4.6. WHAT ARE THE ETHICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SELECTED PROJECTS?

Each selected project will be evaluated by the Ethics Committee to confirm the compliance with the H2020 standards on Ethics and according to the Ethics Appraisal rules set up by the European Commission in the standard Ethics assessments conducted in all H2020 calls and programmes.

As a result of the ethics assessment performed by the Ethics Committee, the Ethics Individual Report (EIR) is produced for each selected project.

Each project is obliged to follow the recommendation and/or provide additional documents requested to confirm compliance with the ethical review. Main aspects evaluated during the ethical review are:

- Human embryos / Foetuses / Human cells / Tissues / Humans
- Personal Data
- Animals
- Non-EU countries (Third Countries)
- Environment and Health safety
- Exclusive focus on civil application
- Misuse

5. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

5.1. WILL YOU VERIFY THE ORIGINALITY OF MY PROJECT?

The applicants must base their proposals on original work and any foreseen developments are free from third-party rights, otherwise, those third-party rights must be clearly stated.

The Interconnect consortium is not obliged to verify the authenticity of the ownership of the future products and services and any issues arising from third party claims regarding ownership are the sole responsibility of the sub-granted parties.

5.2. WHO WILL OWN THE IP RIGHTS OF MY PROJECT'S RESULTS?

The ownership of all IPR created by the parties, via the InterConnect funding, will remain with the parties. Results are owned by the Party that generates them.

A sub-grant agreement will introduce provisions concerning joint ownership of the results of the sub-granted projects. It will be assessed and negotiated case by case.

5.3. DO I HAVE ANY IPR OBLIGATIONS?

There are no IPR obligations toward the European Commission.

However, any communication or publication of the Beneficiaries shall indicate that the project has received funding from the European Union and the Interconnect programme, therefore

displaying the EU and InterConnect logo on all printed and digital material, including websites and press releases.

Moreover, Beneficiaries will agree that certain information regarding the projects selected for funding, can be used by InterConnect for communication purposes.

6. TECHNICAL QUESTIONS

6.1. WHERE CAN I FIND TECHNICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT?

For further information on the technical requirements and characteristics of the InterConnect Interoperability Framework, check out the **project's Gitlab wiki**:

<https://gitlab.inesctec.pt/groups/interconnect-public/-/wikis/home>

For specific topics and links please read section 3.2 of the Guide for Applicants.

If you still have doubts, ask your questions in the Helpdesk space of the [InterConnect Community](#) or send us an email to interconnect.help@fundingbox.com.

7. QUESTIONS RECEIVED DURING THE OPEN CALL

To be updated as needed

Annex IV. APPLICATION FORM

This application was NOT submitted

Fill in all the required form sections to submit your application.

Status: Draft

Started a few seconds ago by @drua

[Show history](#)

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★ 1	BASIC INFORMATION*	Fill
★ 2	LEGAL INFORMATION*	Fill
★ 3	EXCELLENCE*	Fill
★ 4	IMPACT*	Fill
★ 5	IMPLEMENTATION*	Fill
★ 6	DECLARATION OF HONOUR*	Fill
★ 7	PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA*	Fill

★ Required sections. Fill in all marked sections to submit the application.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant agreement No 857237

BASIC INFORMATION

Welcome to the InterConnect Interoperable-by-design Prototypes Open Call
The Deadline for this Open Call is 26th July 2022 17.00 (Brussels Time)

We strongly recommend you to read carefully the [Guide for Applicants and FAQs section](#), before starting to fill in the Form and ask your questions at the [Helpdesk](#)

[Read First Section](#)

Remember that you can EDIT your application as many times as you wish up until the deadline.

Questions marked with (*) are mandatory

The following information will enable us to contact you.

Name of the contact person *	<input type="text" value="Enter your complete name (first name and last name)"/>
Title/Position of the contact person *	<input type="text" value="Enter your position within your organization."/>
Company *	<input type="text" value="Please enter the name of the institution leading the project. (It must be an SME)"/>
Email *	<input type="text" value="Please enter the email address (mail@mail.com format)"/>
Contact person phone number *	<input type="text" value="Please add the country code as well"/>
Project Name *	<input type="text" value="Your project will be identified by this name"/>
Tagline *	<input type="text" value="Describe your project in one sentence (max. 140 characters)."/>
How did you hear about Interconnect Open Call? *	<div><input type="radio"/> InterConnect Social Media <input type="radio"/> InterConnect WebPage <input type="radio"/> InterConnect Newsletter <input type="radio"/> InterConnect Community <input type="radio"/> FundingBox Social Media <input type="radio"/> FundingBox Newsletter <input type="radio"/> FundingBox Communities <input type="radio"/> Other</div>

Required fields *

LEGAL INFORMATION

The following information will enable us to verify your eligibility and some of the legal requirements. Note that only companies that fulfill the limits of SMEs definition are eligible (see GfA section 3). At the end of the selection process each selected company will be requested to provide the necessary documents to confirm legal status eligibility.

Name *

The legal name in the country where the company is incorporated

City *

Country. Take note that only countries indicated in Section 3.1. of the GfA are eligible to apply. *

SME status: Please mark questions below to confirm that you fulfill SMEs limits for organization size and turnover. Please note that only SMEs are eligible for this call.

Organisation size. Number of people employed in the organisation. Please remember that by the official EC definition, for a company to qualify as SME, it must have less than 250 employees (see Section 3.1 of the Guide for Applicants). *

☐ 1-2 employees
☐ 3-10 employees
☐ 11-49 employees
☐ 50-249 employees

Turnover: Annual turnover total the organisation does not exceed. *

☐ less or equal to 50 million EUR
☐ less or equal to 10 million EUR
☐ up to or equal to 2 million EUR

Conflict of Interest. Does your entity or any natural person related to your entity have or might have any potential conflict of interest with one or more of the Interconnect project partners? *

☐ Yes
☐ No

Required fields *

EXCELLENCE

In this section you should provide a functional and technical description of your project. Evaluators will pay special attention to the ambition and differentiation of it.

TECHNOLOGY STATUS

Technology Readiness Level. Which of the following best describes the current status of the project at a technological level? Technology supported through the Interconnect programme should reach TRL 8 (System Complete and Qualified). In order to prove that it's feasible, proposals should address the technology at the current minimum level of TRL 5-7 and plan tasks for project execution that will allow reaching this goal. *


- ☐ TRL 5. Component and/or breadboard validation in relevant environment
- ☐ TRL 6. System/subsystem model or prototype demonstration in a relevant environment
- ☐ TRL 7. System prototype demonstration in an operational environment
- ☐ TRL 8. System Complete and Qualified
- ☐ NONE of above

Experiment description *

What is the technology behind your project? Please justify the TRL status selected.

Technology Description graphic (optional). Here you can include the visual explanation of your project (Max. 10MB)

Click to upload

Upload 

Innovation *

To what extent your innovation advances the technological performance frontier more significantly than the existing technological path and/or constitutes a major transformation of existing products and services?

TECHNOLOGY AMBITION

Challenges. Please select all areas that your project is addressing - at least one must be selected *

- ☐ Challenge A: Semantic Interoperability for smart homes and buildings
- ☐ Challenge B: Interoperable services for Demand Side Flexibility
- ☐ Challenge C: Semantically Interoperable services for Smart grids and energy communities
- ☐ Challenge D: Semantically interoperable services for electric mobility
- ☐ Challenge E: Semantically Interoperable services for energy marketplaces and incentive mechanisms

Objectives. Please explain how will you address the challenges selected *

How will you address the challenges selected? What will be the main outcome of your project?

Ambition *

To what extent your solution will become beyond the State Of Art? Describe the innovative approach behind it (e.g., ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches, new products, services or business and organisational models.

Soundness of the approach *

Provide concrete and verifiable arguments, and/or evidences that demonstrate the soundness of your approach and credibility of methodology that will be used in the project

Do you plan to use the Interconnect Interoperability Toolkit in the prototype development? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Please explain how you plan to make use of the InterConnect Interoperability Framework in the prototype development. *

IMPACT

In this section, you should show the market potential, the business model and commercial strategy. You should also describe cross-sectoral potential and the social impact of your project.

Market opportunity *

Present the market potential of your solution. Explain how it solves a problem for a specific challenge, market segment or customer group.

Competition. Please explain the degree of competition and how the idea is disruptive. *

Provide information about the degree of competition for your particular product/process and explain if the idea is disruptive and breaks the market. i.e. the products/ process to be brought to market can be clearly differentiated from the competition.

Commercial Strategy. Please explain your initial business model for commercialisation. *

What is your initial business model for commercialising your technology solution/product? How will you reach out to a critical mass of End Users/Clients that might adopt the resulting solution?

Scalability and European dimension. Please explain the level of scalability of the new/improved product. *

Could your project outcome be applied in other industries/potential end-users processes? How could it be scaled across a wide range of customers or other sectors/industries? How do you aim to exploit the experiment results to help Interconnect to solve a given problem in the Energy and Home/Building Domain (i.e., contributing to increasing the use of renewable energy and/or increasing energy efficiency)?

Social and Economic impact (optional). Please mark the possible impacts that this experiment might bring.

- ☐ Environment and low carbon economy contribution
- ☐ Equal opportunities
- ☐ Social impact (like job creation in Europe, No Poverty, Responsible consumption and production)

Please explain social and economic impact selected (optional)

Required fields *

IMPLEMENTATION

In this section, to demonstrate your technical competencies, your ability to take a concept from ideas to market, your capacity to carry through your ideas and understand the dynamics of the market you are trying to tap into. The team should be balanced and cross-functional, with a strong background and skill set.

TEAM

Team. Provide a short profile of main staff members (existing or to be hired) who will be undertaking the work and their commitment expressed as a percentage of the full-time equivalent. *

The team involved in project execution have to demonstrate their management and leadership qualities, their ability to take a concept from ideas to market, their capacity to carry through their ideas and understand the dynamics of the market they are trying to tap into.

Resources. Demonstrate the quality and effectiveness of the resources assigned in order to get the objectives/deliverables proposed. *

Describe the resources needed in order to get the objectives proposed. Are these resources enough (quality and quantity) to carry out the project?

Please indicate main Key Performance Indicators which will be used to measure the progress and success of the proposal. *

The applicant should explain what KPIs they want to achieve, which should be feasible, in line with the work plan and ambitious.

Preferred Pilot. Please select the top 3 pilots preferred for testing. Bear in mind that these preferences will be taken into account, but another pilot might be assigned to the beneficiary if a better technical fit is considered. *

- ☐ Greek pilot: Implementation of advanced Demand Response scenarios in residential setups
- ☐ French pilot: Contribute to efficient and environmentally friendly energy management
- ☐ Portuguese pilot: Smart grid infrastructure as an enabler of new business demand to integrate DSF in e-markets
- ☐ Netherlands pilot: (Re)developed domestic and multi-tenant buildings boosting IoT consumer centred services
- ☐ Belgian pilot: Enabling energy communities
- ☐ German pilot: Demand Side Flexibility services for supporting the grid and local energy optimization
- ☐ Italian pilot: Residential social housing

Reason for selection *

Based on the Pilots' description provided on the Interconnect website, please indicate the facilities needed to test your applications or services in the project.

ETHICS

Ethical Issues *

Are there any relevant issues on ethics, data protection, and privacy? If yes, please describe the issue(s) and suggest how you propose to mitigate these or manage them. We recommend each applicant to review the EC ethical self assessment in order to identify any issues which might arise.

DECLARATION OF HONOUR

Please read carefully the statements below. You will not be able to change the statements after the deadline.

By ticking the boxes below, I confirm that:

I have read and understood the information about the project, as provided in the Guide for Applicants (GfA) *

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

I have been given the opportunity to ask questions about the project and my participation via helpdesk address <https://spaces.fundingbox.com/spaces/interconnect-open-calls-helpdesk> *

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

I voluntarily agree to participate in the InterConnect project *

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

I understand I can withdraw at any time without giving reasons and that I will not be penalised for withdrawing nor will I be questioned on why I have withdrawn *

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

I acknowledge that the evaluators and the European Commission and its bodies and agencies may have access to the data collected under the open call *

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

The data provided in the application form are true and up-to-date *

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

The entity I represent meets the eligibility conditions described in the GfA, in particular is an SME *

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

There is no conflict of interest between the company I represent and any of the consortium partners *

- ☐ True
☐ False

is/are not a bankrupt or being wound up, is not having its affairs administered by the courts, has not entered into an arrangement with creditors, has not suspended business activities, is not the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or is not in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations *

☐ True

☐ False

has/have not been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of res judicata *

☐ True

☐ False

has/have not been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify, including by decisions of the European Investment Bank and international organisations *

☐ True

☐ False

is/are in compliance with its obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which it is established or with those of the country of the contracting authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed *

☐ True

☐ False

has/have not been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation or any other illegal activity, where such illegal activity is detrimental to the Union's financial interests *

☐ True

☐ False

is/are not subject to an administrative penalty for being guilty of misrepresenting the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in a grant award procedure or another procurement procedure or failing to supply this information, or has/ have not been declared to be in serious breach of its obligations under contracts or grants covered by the Union's budget *

☐ True

☐ False

I did not make false declarations in supplying the information required, as a condition of participation in the Open Call or do not fail to supply this information *

☐ True

☐ False

COMMUNITY

I voluntarily agree to be registered at the InterConnect Community at <https://spaces.fundingbox.com/c/interconnect> and I understand that I can delete my profile from the above-mentioned Community by informing the InterConnect Team via interconnect.help@fundingbox.com *

☐ Yes

☐ No

PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

You can read the GDPR (processing of personal data) information clause for this open call [here](#).

I confirm that I read and understood the information clause concerning processing of the personal data provided above. *

☐ Yes

I confirm that I have legal basis for processing personal data of the team members listed in the application form. *

☐ Yes

I will pass the information clause provided above to all team members mentioned in the application form. *

☐ Yes

Required fields *