



GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS - OPEN CALL #3



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More information available at <https://euhubs4data.eu/>

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1 INTRODUCTION

This document provides a full set of information regarding the third open call for proposals for the European Federation of Data Driven Innovation Hubs (EUHubs4Data – <https://euhubs4data.eu/>). Be aware that resubmission is allowed in the third open call if the applicants were not accepted in the previous calls.

In addition to these guidelines, the applicants are invited to get acquainted with the Sub-Grant Agreement template, where it is defined the framework of rights and obligations of the Contracting Parties for the development of the financed Experiment. The Sub-Grant Agreement will be signed by the EUHubs4Data coordinator and the beneficiary. The Sub-Grant Agreement template is available [here](#).

The Coordinator of the EUHubs4Data Project is responsible for the distribution of the funds, in accordance with the terms of the Grant Agreement and of the Consortium Agreement.

1.1 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

EUHubs4Data is an Innovation Action project co-funded by the European Union. The project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme (call DT-ICT-05-2020 Big Data Innovation Hubs) under Grant Agreement No 951771.

EUHubs4Data was launched in September 2020, to create the European reference for Big Data experimentation and innovation, leveraging the achievements of relevant European initiatives on Big Data, linking all of them in a single ecosystem, composing a whole catalogue of data sources and datasets, services, and models, and providing a one-stop-shop that ensures that European companies at any level could easily access the economic opportunities offered by Big Data.

1.1.1 Main goal: European federation of Big Data Digital Innovation Hubs

A Digital Innovation Hub (DIH) is a support facility that helps companies to become more competitive by improving their business/production processes as well as products and services by means of digital technology. According to the DIHs Catalogue of the European Commission, there are around 240 DIHs in Europe (out of around 400) specialized in Data mining, Big Data, and database management. These initiatives bring together different stakeholders and services to foster data driven innovation at local and regional level, providing all needed elements to accompany industry on the journey towards data driven digitalization.

The main aim of the EUHubs4Data is to set a European federation of Big Data DIHs, which based on the premise “global catalogue, local offer”, will ensure access to SMEs (including start-ups) in their respective regional ecosystems to a global catalogue of data sources and federated data driven services, making accessible the latest developments on Data Analytics and advanced assets on Big Data to companies all across Europe, and establishing as the reference on innovation and experimentation on Big Data.

1.1.2 Main outcome: catalogue of federated data driven services

The main outcome of EUHubs4Data will be a global catalogue of federated data driven services that will aggregate the individual offers, and that will be made accessible at regional and local levels by the corresponding DIHs. This catalogue will also include relevant European datasets coming from different data sources, with different level of information depending on the availability and accessibility of the data.

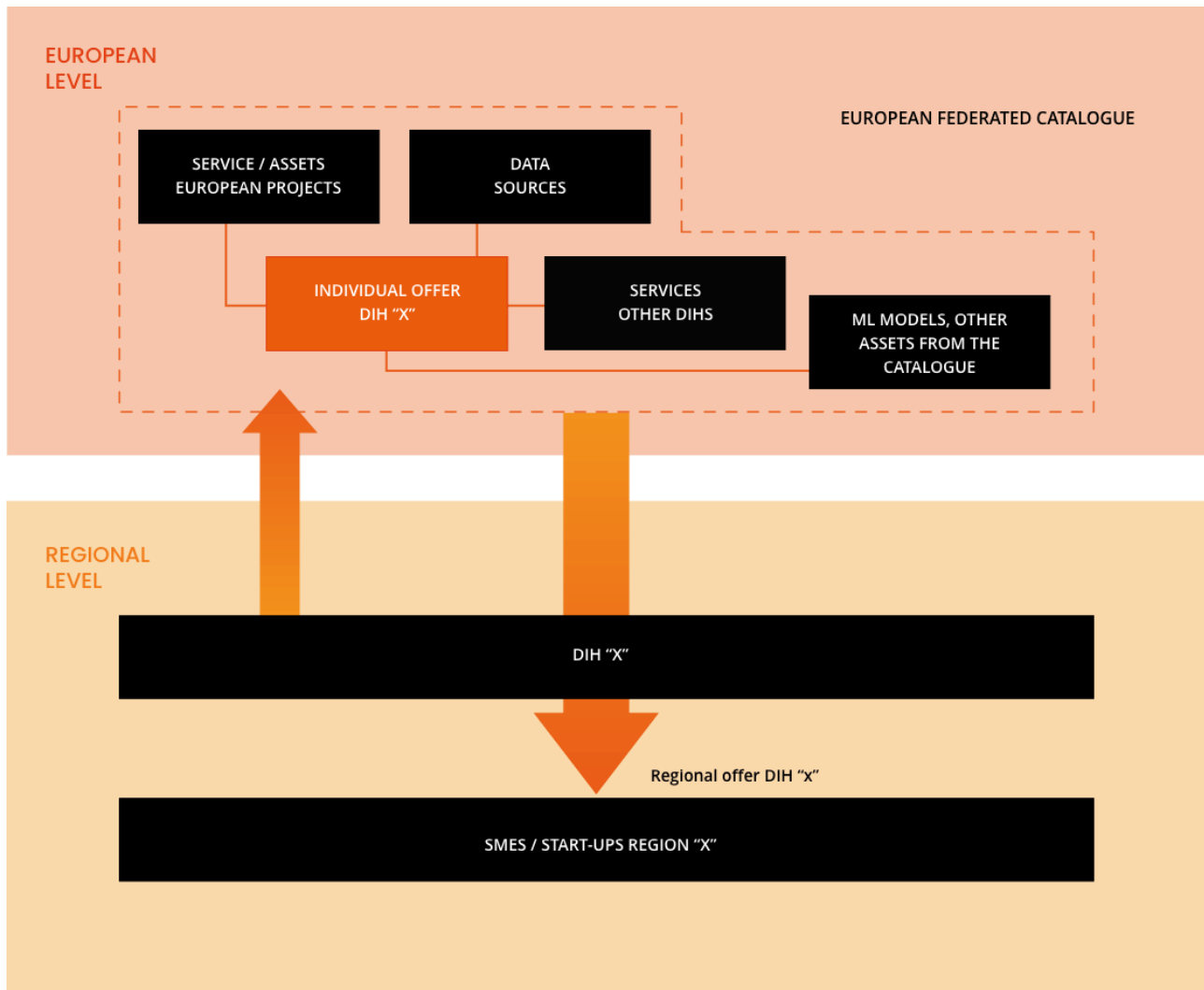


Figure 1. EUHubs4Data Concept for the European Federated Catalogue

1.2 EUHUBS4DATA METHODOLOGY AND CALL APPROACH

The overarching objective of EUHubs4Data is to create the reference federation in Europe for Big Data cross-border experimentation and innovation based on IDSA interoperability standard [1] and future Gaia-X compliance [2], providing a complete pan-European catalogue of data sources and services to foster data driven innovation at local and regional level.

To achieve this objective, EUHubs4Data is structured around four phases that work in an iterative way: (1) The setting up of the federation; (2) The definition and refinement of the catalogue of data driven services and federated data sources to be offered; (3) The Involvement of SMEs through open calls to define experiments and be end users of the federated catalogue; (4) The definition of models for growth and sustainability of the federation once the project is finished.

Within the third phase, EUHubs4Data aims to launch three open calls to attract European companies to use the services of the federation and

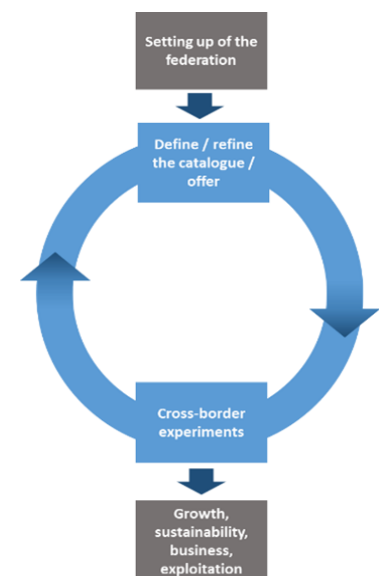


Figure 2. EUHubs4Data methodology based on 4 iterative phases.



propose a set of cross-border experiments. The experiments should have a three-fold objective:

1. testing the service delivery and provisioning model.
2. showing and creating awareness among the companies about the benefits of using the federated catalogue of services.
3. using the exploitation of the results from the experiments as a model to define a plan aimed at attracting end users beyond the cascade funding phase.

EUHubs4Data will support up to 42 experiments through three open calls, distributing a total amount of €2.52M among the beneficiaries, for a total of €6.26M including support to the experiments from DIHs and other services that directly benefit the involved companies (see sections 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 for more information).

1.2.1 Call approach

Following the objectives of the project, providing a complete pan-European catalogue of data sets and services, EUHubs4Data has considered an open call approach for funding third parties interested in using the catalogue of data driven services and for promoting and validating the Big Data cross-border experimentation.

The open calls are **published in the EUHubs4Data website** [3]. The specific page for the Open Call #3 is already available [4]. The applicants of the open calls should **propose experiments that make use of the services listed as “Open Calls services” in the federated catalogue for the development of innovative products or advanced services**. The provision of the services selected for the experiments will be subject to the terms and conditions the provider DIH may establish. Applicable terms and conditions will be published in the catalogue at EUHubs4Data’s website. Selecting a certain service from the catalogue for its experiment entails the SME acknowledges and accepts the terms and conditions which the provision of such services is subject to.

The **beneficiaries** of the open calls will be SMEs (including start-ups) from any member state or associated country, or groups of web entrepreneurs (see section 3.1 for more information). The maximum duration of the experiments will be 9 months, and the grant for each experiment and for each beneficiary will be €60,000, as is further explained in Section 1.2.2.

Figure 3 defines the call concept, where three open calls have been defined: (1) call 1 opened for submissions in December 2020; (2) call 2 was opened in December 2021; (3) call 3 is opening in September 7th, 2022. The budget for each open call has been defined considering that the offer (catalogue of federated data driven services) will increase as the project progresses.

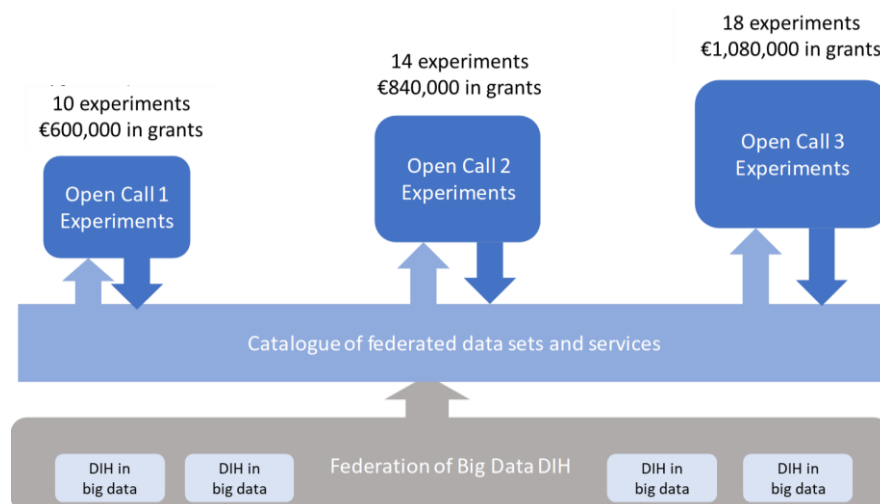


Figure 3. Open calls concept.



All selected experiments will sign a sub-grantee agreement between the coordinator of EUHubs4Data and the beneficiaries. Only one proposal per applicant will be accepted for evaluation (the last one submitted through the online submission platform).

1.2.2 DIH involvement on Open Calls: role, restrictions, maximum support and dimensioning

1.2.2.1 DIH role and their offer (data-driven services and datasets)

Each experiment granted through the open calls will count with the participation of a beneficiary (1 SME or 1 Group of web entrepreneurs) and different DIHs providing technical support (see section 2.1.7). The technical support provided by the DIHs refers to the services and datasets selected by the applicant from the EUHubs4Data federated catalogue of data-driven services [5] and datasets [6].

Besides, DIHs will be involved also in the follow up and evaluation of the experiment, reviewing the accomplishment of the expected milestones selected for the justification stage (see section 2.4.2).

1.2.2.2 Restrictions in the involvement of the EUHubs4Data offer in the experiments

As explained in section 2.4.1.2 “eligibility Criteria”, each experiment should consider the following restrictions while involving DIHs in their experiment:

- Restrictions for selecting data-driven services: each experiment should involve a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 5 data-driven services from a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 3 different DIHs.

NOTE: Be aware that **not all services from the EUHubs4Data catalogue of services are available for the Open Call #3**. There is a filter “Open Call Services” in the webpage of the EUHubs4Data catalogue to see the eligible list of services for the Open Call #3 [7].

- Restrictions for selecting datasets: involve at least an identified dataset at the beginning of the experiment. The dataset involved in the experiment could be from the EUHubs4Data catalogue of datasets or external to the catalogue.
- Restrictions for selecting DIHs: to comply with the concept of “cross-border experiment”, each experiment should involve, at least, a DIH from a different country than the applicant.

NOTE: e.g.: a Spanish applicant involving services from two different DIHs from Spain will not be eligible.

1.2.2.3 Maximum support of DIHs in an experiment

The DIHs participating in each experiment will provide technical support to the beneficiary depending on the type of the experiment and the involved services. The technical support provided by the DIHs in each experiment could be valued at a maximum of €70,000.

NOTE: be aware that the €70,000 in which the technical support is valued are independent of the €60,000 of financial support for the beneficiary (see the funding principle at section 2.1.7).

1.2.2.4 The importance of dimensioning the DIH offer

Although the applicant is restricted to select from 2 to 5 data-driven services (see eligibility criteria in section 2.4.1.2), some eligible combinations of services may not fit within the maximum technical support that DIHs can devote for each experiment (valued in €70,000 maximum).

Therefore, applicants are encouraged to contact the DIHs owning the services of interest during the proposal preparation to let them have a better idea of a correct dimensioning of the offer in terms of maximum support of DIHs. Please see section 3.3.3 “Appropriate dimensioning of the demand of services from the EUHubs4Data catalogue” for more information.



2 CALL CONDITIONS AND GENERAL PROCEDURE

The following information regards to the call conditions and general procedure that apply to the three open calls to be opened during EUHubs4Data project implementation.

2.1 GENERAL INFORMATION

2.1.1 Means of Submission

The **online submission platform** [8] will be the entry point for all proposals (accessible at <https://euh4d.digitalsme.eu/>). Submissions received by any other channel will be automatically discarded.

Documents required in execution and justification phase will be submitted via dedicated channel, which will be indicated by EUHubs4Data consortium during the sub-granted experiments execution.

2.1.2 Language

English is the official language for EUHubs4Data open calls. Submissions done in any other language will not be evaluated. English is also the only official language during the whole execution of the experiments. This means any requested submission of deliverables will be done in English in order to be eligible.

2.1.3 Documentation Formats

Documents requested in any of the phases (submission, evaluation, execution and justification) must be submitted electronically according to the requested format **without restrictions for printing**.

2.1.4 Origin of the Funds

Selected beneficiaries will sign a dedicated Sub-Grant Agreement with the EUHubs4Data project coordinator. The funds attached to the Sub-Grant Agreement come directly from the funds of the European Project EUHubs4Data, and the EUHubs4Data coordinator is managing the funds according to the Grant Agreement N° 951771 signed with the European Commission.

As can be seen in the Sub-Grant Agreement template [9], this relation between the beneficiaries and the European Commission through EUHubs4Data project carries a set of obligations to the sub-grantees with the European Commission and the coordinator. It is the task of the beneficiaries to accomplish them, and of the EUHubs4Data consortium partners to inform about them.

Besides, the provision of services from the DIHs to the beneficiaries may also imply specific IPR obligations for the beneficiaries, as well as specific access conditions and additional requirements. In this way, the catalogue of services and datasets already include access conditions and requirements that should be considered by applicants when including them in the experiment description. However, all the specific IPR conditions and obligations regarding the provision of services and datasets by the DIHs will be determined by the nature of the experiment. Therefore, it will be described in detail in the Annex 6 of the subgrant agreement (see a template in [9]) that will be signed only by the beneficiary and the coordinator. However, if for any specific reason, a dedicated agreement between the DIHs and the beneficiary is needed, it will be prepared and included ad-hoc to the subgrant agreement.

2.1.5 Use of the financial contribution and recovery

Each beneficiary commits to a proper use of the funding received, for the purposes of carrying out the experiment in compliance with the defined milestones and expected deliverables.

While no financial reporting will be requested within the experiment, teams must ensure that funds are properly spent. See section 4.4. of the Sub-Grant Agreement for further details.



2.1.6 Number of Proposals per Applicant

Only one proposal can be accepted for funding per SME or team of individuals and per call. A beneficiary of a previous call will be eligible for future calls if the previous experiment succeeds on the evaluation of expected milestones (see evaluation process on section 2.4.2.1). If a beneficiary with two selected experiments in two different calls fails to justify the expected results of the first funded experiment, the funding for the second experiment will be automatically cancelled.

Given the fact this call is a competitive one, and the teams will focus on specific data services from the federated catalogue to develop an experiment, **only one proposal per applicant will be accepted for evaluation.** However, this proposal could be submitted as many times as needed until the deadline, for example for correcting errors or improving the proposal. In the case of multiple resubmissions of a proposal by a SME or team, the last version submitted through the online submission platform (timestamp of the system) will enter our evaluation process.

If an SME is detected creating different accounts in the online submission platform to submit different proposals under the same SME, all proposals will be declared as non-eligible.

Resubmission from a previous EUHubs4Data open call is allowed if the proposal was not selected for funding.

In the case of group of web entrepreneurs (individuals):

- The same individuals forming a team will be selected for funding only once, as in the case of an SME.
- Only one submitted proposal by the same individuals forming a team will be evaluated, as in the case of an SME.
- If an individual is detected participating in several teams, all the proposals where this individual participates, will be declared non-eligible.

2.1.7 Funding Principle

The beneficiaries of the selected experiments will receive financial support and technical support.

- **Financial support:** the grant for each experiment (and beneficiary) will be up to **60.000 Euros**.

NOTE: part of the financial support must be used to cover travel costs and attend, at least, an EUHubs4Data event to promote the experiments financed through the open call #3 and the beneficiary companies.

The payment of the financial support will be broken down into two evaluation periods:

- Intermediate review: up to 30.000 Euros. *[M05 after starting the experiments]*.
- Final evaluation once the experiment is finished: final payment up to 60.000 Euros. *[M10 after starting the experiment]*.

Each experiment selected for funding will receive the funds at each evaluation period after properly justifying (with at least one deliverable) and in proportion to the accomplishment of the expected results, including a set of expected milestones that will help to monitor the progress of the experiment. The beneficiary will prepare the technical justification, while the DIHs involved in the experiment will support and review it. A positive assessment of DIHs is needed for the payment in each period.

For more information about the definition of the milestones for monitoring the success of the experiment see section 2.4.2.2.



- **Technical support:** the DIHs from the consortium participating in the experiments will provide technical support for the beneficiaries in the use of the services and datasets from the federated catalogue. This support will be valued with a maximum of 70.000 Euros per experiment among the DIHs involved in the experiment.

Part of this support will be for one of the DIHs ***who will act as coach*** of the beneficiary (its local/regional DIH). However, in the case that the beneficiary belongs to a region not covered by a DIH of the EUHubs4Data federation, the beneficiary may be required to involve the participation of a regional DIH that supports him through the experiment execution and acts as coach and link with the DIHs of the federation included in the experiment as data-service providers. In these cases, the cost of the regional DIH that is external to the federation should be covered by the beneficiary through their financial support included in the EUHubs4Data grant.

As introduced in section 1.2.2 and further explained in section 3.3.3, the appropriate dimensioning of the demand of services from the list of services available for the Open Call #3 [7] will be part of the experiments evaluation. The evaluation of the appropriate dimensioning of the demand of services will **seek the following 3 objectives**:

1. The selected services (supporting the experiment) from different DIHs complement each other to benefit from a more advanced service not available in the individual offer of the DIHs.
2. The selected services (supporting the experiment) fit the experiment execution and demonstrate a relevant contribution to the experiment goals and results.
3. The selected services (supporting the experiment) are feasible to be offered within the maximum resources allocated for this technical support (€70.000 per experiment).

2.2 BENEFICIARIES

2.2.1 Types of Beneficiaries

The accepted applicants for EUHubs4Data open calls are SME:

- **SMEs** according to the EC commission definition: Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC, published in the Official Journal of the European Union L 124, p. 36 of 20 May 2003 from any member state or associated country.
- **Groups of web entrepreneurs:** group of minimum 2 and maximum 4 web entrepreneurs can participate, but with a written commitment to have set up a legally registered SME if reaching “Experiment” phase. The company should be legally established in an eligible country according to section 2.2.3.

2.2.2 Definition of SME

A SME will be considered as such if accomplishing with the Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC [10] and the user guide to the SME definition [11]. As a summary, the criteria which define a 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: start-ups qualify under the SME definition, so they are eligible for the EUHubs4Data Open Calls.



2.2.3 Eligible Countries

Only applicants legally established, and working, in the case of the individuals, in any of the following countries will be eligible:

- The Member States (MS) of the European Union (EU), including their outermost regions.
- The Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) linked to the Member States. Entities from OCTs are eligible for funding under the same conditions as entities from the Member States to which the OCT in question is linked.
- H2020 Associated countries: according to the updated list published by the EC [12].
- The UK applicants are eligible under the conditions set by the EC for H2020 participation at the time of the deadline of the call.

NOTE: In accordance with the statement of the European Commission [13], web entrepreneurs with residency in Russia and SMEs established in Russia are not eligible. EUHubs4Data reserves the right to adjust these conditions according to changes in EU laws/directives/regulations.

2.3 SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

The submission will be done through the official online submission platform [8], which is directly linked from the EUHubs4Data website [3].

Only applications received directly through the online submission platform will be considered eligible.

However, we provide applicants with an editable template of the application form [14] to let applicants prepare the application offline before introducing the information in the form available at the online submission platform. **Please do not upload or send this template filled. It will not be eligible.**

As stated in section 2.1.6, only one proposal per applicant will be accepted for evaluation. However, if the applicant discovers an error in a submitted proposal or aims to improve the proposal, and provided the call deadline has not passed, the applicant may submit a new version. For this purpose, the applicant must enter the form, make the corresponding changes and submit the form again. Applicants will be able to modify all questions of the application form as times as needed until the deadline. Please be aware that once opened, the applicants should send again the form, or it will not be evaluated. Once resubmitted, only the last version received before the call deadline will be considered in the evaluation.

It is strongly recommended not to wait until the last minute to submit the proposal. Failure of the proposal to arrive in time for any reason, including communications delays, automatically leads to rejection of the submission. The time of receipt of the message as recorded by the submission system will be definitive.

EUHubs4Data offers a dedicated support channel available for proposers at opencall@euhubs4data.eu. Requests or inquiries about the submission system or the call itself, received AFTER the closure time of the call will neither be considered nor answered.

2.3.1 The online submission platform

The platform requires the proposers to **register a profile in the platform to be able to submit a proposal.**

The **platform is hosted by the EUHubs4Data partner DIGITAL SME ALLIANCE and is compliant with the Regulation (EU) 2016/679** of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (hereinafter referred to as “GDPR”).

Inquiries and proposals submitted by the applicants through the submission platform may include personal data. We hereby inform that the data controller of such data will be INSTITUTO TECNOLÓGICO DE INFORMÁTICA (VAT number G96278734), who will only make use of it for the purpose of answering the



inquiries and evaluating the proposals. INSTITUTO TECNOLÓGICO DE INFORMÁTICA will only share this information with the DIHs your inquiries and/or proposal may concern and with the external evaluators in charge of selecting the experiments which participate in the EUHubs4Data project. The data subjects may exercise their right to access, rectify, erase, data portability, restrict processing, object, withdraw consent regarding their personal data by sending an e-mail to the following address: dpo@iti.es; or by sending a letter to the following address: Camino de Vera s/n, CPI-UPV, Ed. 8G, Acc. B, 4ª Pl., 46022 Valencia (Spain). Data subjects will also be entitled to file a complaint before the competent supervisory authority regarding the processing of their personal data.

2.3.2 Documents to be submitted

The documents that will be submitted will be: (1) Proposal Form, (2) Declaration of Honour, and (3) Ethics Self-Assessment.

1. **Proposal form.** An online form divided in different sections: (i) Administration Information; (ii) Excellence; (iii) Impact; (iv) Implementation; and (v) Ethics.

The experiment proposals must strictly adhere to the forms provided by EUHubs4Data consortium via the online platform [8], which defines sections and the overall length. Participants are requested to carefully read and follow the instructions in the form. Evaluators will be instructed not to consider extra material in the evaluation.

2. **Declaration of Honour** [15]. A tick box clicked by the SME or the individuals confirming they have read the conditions and agree with the conditions defined in this document. Applicant SMEs must be in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
3. **Ethics self-assessment** [16]. A yes/no questionnaire where SME or the individuals declare the ethics compliance of the experiment. Further information might be required to be provided as part of the Ethics self-assessment to prove ethics compliance according to national or European law or H2020 funding rules.

Note 1: be aware that if your experiment reaches the funds, you will be asked to provide a Data Management Plan (DMP) for describing the data management life cycle for the data to be collected, processed and generated during the experiment execution. The DMP must be based on the last version of the European Commission's Guidelines on FAIR Data Management and should be provided before the sub-grant agreement signature (see section 2.4.1.9). Changes to the DMP during the project are possible but need to be approved by the Data Manager and/or the Coordinator of the EUHubs4Data project.

Note 2: If a Declaration of Honour or an Ethics Self-Assessment document proves to be dishonest or necessary documentation cannot be provided to the Coordinator of the EUHubs4Data project at request within one week at any stage of the Project, the concerning SME will be excluded from the Project and the Coordinator will be entitled to immediately terminate its sub-grant agreement.

2.3.3 Personal data

2.3.3.1 Purposes and scope of Personal Data processing

The purpose of the data processing carried out by the Joint Data Controllers is to manage the applications submitted by the SMEs which apply to participate in the EUHubs4Data Project within the second and third open calls and to answer the inquiries inquirers submit regarding the EUHubs4Data Project (hereinafter the "Purpose").

The Personal Data processing capacity of each of the Joint Data Controllers is limited to the minimum necessary to accomplish with the Purpose and it must be done in accordance with the obligations assumed within the Grant Agreement and the Consortium Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the "Project") and it will subject to the rules established by this agreement and to the applicable law.



The Personal Data may be disclosed only to the external evaluators who evaluate the SMEs' proposals, to the European Commission and, if granted, to the concerning DIHs whose services are selected by the SMEs for the implementation of their experiments. Also, anonymized statistical data on the selected services, national origin of applications, number of applications, etc., is shared among the EUHubs4Data's consortium members.

The personal data will be kept for as long as it is necessary to process the SME's application and its participation in the EUHubs4Data Project.

The different types of Personal Data that the Joint Data Controllers are going to process for the implementation of the Project are the following:

- a. Name, surname, and contact details, such as telephone number and postal or e-mail address.
- b. Information regarding the company or the entity in which the data subject works or of which the data subject is a representative.
- c. Commercial information.
- d. Information about the elaboration or involvement of the data subject's company in applications for the open calls organized in EUHubs4Data project.
- e. Other personal information that may be included in the data subjects' inquiries or in the SMEs' applications.

2.3.3.2 Data Controllers

The personal data provided by the data subjects which act on representation of the SMEs' which participate in the Open Call will be processed by the data controllers of the EUHubs4Data Open Call #3.

All the parties acting as data controllers have appointed a Data Protection Officer or, in the case this does not compulsory apply for them, a person responsible for personal data protection issues. The data subjects may contact the Data Controller in case of having any question regarding their personal data processing and/or to exercise their personal-data-protection related rights.

The contact details regarding the Data Protection Officers (or the people responsible for personal data protection) are as follows:

ENTITY	NAME OF THE DPO	E-MAIL ADDRESS OF THE DPO
INSTITUTO TECNOLÓGICO DE INFORMÁTICA	Nieves Ruiz	dpo@iti.es
DIGITAL SME ALLIANCE	Sebastiano Toffaletti	s.toffaletti@digitalsme.eu
KNOW-CENTER CMBH RESEARCH CENTER FOR DATADRIVEN BUSINESS & BIG DATA ANALYTICS	Prof. Dr. Matthias Wendland, LL.M.	dpo@know-center.at
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2.4 EVALUATION PROCESS

2.4.1 Proposal Stage

2.4.1.1 Proposal Reception

Submissions will be done ONLY through the online submission platform [8]. A full list of applicants will be drafted containing their basic information for statistical purposes and clarity (which will be shared with EC for transparency).

The application reception will close at 17:00 CET on 9th November 2022. There will not be deadline extensions unless a major problem, caused by EUHubs4Data and not by the applicants, makes the system unavailable.

2.4.1.2 Eligibility Criteria

An automatic filtering to discard non-eligible proposals will follow the shortlist below. Eligibility criteria check will verify:

- a. The existence of a legal SME in an eligible country, or, in the case of a group of individuals, their legal residence in an eligible country. See the definition of SME in section 2.2.2 and the eligible countries in section 2.2.3.
- b. The uniqueness of the proposal and its expected results. Experiments are expected to be close-to-market, so all experiments should envisage at least a Key Exploitable Result to be eligible.
- c. The use in the experiment of a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 5 data-driven services (from the list of available services for the Open Call #3 [7] from the EUHubs4Data federated catalogue), provided, at least, by a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 3 different DIHs. If the experiment does not include the use of federated services in the proposed way, it will not be eligible.
- d. The use in the experiment of, at least, one dataset. The dataset used could be from the EUHubs4Data catalogue of datasets or external to the catalogue.
- e. The compliance of the “cross-border experiment” concept. To this end, the experiment should involve, at least, one DIH from a different country than the country of the beneficiary.
- f. The correct fulfilment of the submission form on the online submission platform, including all required documents.
- g. The issues of multiple participation described in section 2.1.6.
- h. The existence of a financed experiment in a previous open call of EUHubs4Data that failed in the execution (according to the expected milestones).

Proposals marked as non-eligible will get a rejection letter including the reasons (a to h) for being declared as non-eligible. No further feedback on the process will be given.

2.4.1.3 Remote Evaluation

For the selection of the beneficiaries an evaluation process will consider the following requirements:

- **Evaluation Criteria.** Three main criteria will be considered for the selection of the best beneficiaries in each call: 1. Excellence, 2. Impact, and 2. Implementation. The three criteria will have the same weighting in the evaluation. Each of the three criteria will include, among others, the next concepts into account:

1. Excellence:

- Technical scope and maturity of the experiment (closeness to market).

- Contribution to the challenges of the European Data Spaces or contribution to the data-driven challenge identified in the targeted sector of the experiment (different than current Data Spaces sectors) *[see section 3.1.1 for more detail]*.
- Appropriate dimensioning of the demand of services from the offer available in the EUHubs4Data catalogue of services *[see section 3.3.3 for more detail]*.
- Innovation of the experiment referred to the expected results (product/service) and maturity of the proposed innovation (closeness to market).
- Generation of datasets resulting from the experiment that will be available to be included in the EUHubs4Data catalogue of datasets.
- Excellence of the experiment: overall impression of the technical criteria.

2. Impact:

- Valuable Key Exploitable Results that will improve the performance (technical, business, etc.) of beneficiaries by carrying out the experiment and/or will increase the revenues of the organization as result from the experiment.
- Customers or paying-users already exist. Outstanding Unique Selling Points and alignment of new solutions or services with user needs.
- Fitness to market and appropriate analysis of competitors.
- Impact of the experiment to the KPIs of the EUHubs4Data project: clear, achievable, ambitious and measurable contributions to the EUHubs4Data KPIs referred in section 3.1.2.
- Overall impression of the impact.

3. Implementation:

- Team capabilities: data skills in the team, resources, complementary profiles (technical, marketing, business, etc.).
 - Quality of implementation: (a) clear and achievable working plan; (b) results easy to be monitored through specific milestones; (c) clarity and applicability of deliverables.
 - Viability of the implementation: has the company/main profiles the necessary experience/expertise? has the company carried out previous projects related to the proposed experiment? Having developed related projects will enable the project team to take advantage of good practices and lessons learnt.
 - Overall impression of the implementation.
- **Evaluators.** Evaluation will be carried out by experts in the big data and business sectors that are external to the consortium partners. Every proposal will be assessed by at least 3 different evaluators that will have to sign a declaration that they have no conflict of interest.
 - **Scoring.** Reviewers will evaluate the proposals considering the 3 main criteria. Each criterion (excellence, impact and implementation) will have a score from 0 to 5. Decimal scores may be given. For each criterion under examination, score values will indicate the following assessments:
 - 0 Fail. The proposal fails to address the criterion under examination or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information.
 - 1 Very poor. The criterion is addressed in an unsatisfactory manner.
 - 2 Poor. There are serious inherent weaknesses.



- 3 Fair. While the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses that would need correcting.
- 4 Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well, although certain improvements are possible.
- 5 Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor.

2.4.1.4 Selection criteria

For the selection of the beneficiaries, EUHubs4Data will verify that:

- **Minimum score to be eligible.** A minimum score of 3 for each criterion and an overall score of 12 will be needed as a minimum threshold. Only proposals reaching both criteria will be eligible for accessing the grant.

In the case that eligible proposals accessing the grant exceed the available funds for each call, the proposals with higher rank will be selected for funding until the funds are completed. The rest will be ordered (by evaluation score) in a reserve list.

- **Maximum number of experiments supported by each DIH.** To guarantee proportionate geographical coverage of DIHs within the three open calls, each DIH will have a maximum number of experiments supported at each call.

If a selected experiment (according to the experts' evaluation) requires the support of a DIH that has exceeded its maximum number of experiments supported for this call, the experiment will enter a process of negotiation with representatives of the EUHubs4Data federation. If the service provided by the DIH that has exceeded their maximum support can be replaced by an equivalent service provided by another DIH of the EUHubs4Data federation that has not exceeded their maximum support in this call, the replacement of the DIH service will be proposed to the beneficiary to keep the eligibility criteria. If an agreement is achieved, the experiment will be proposed for funding. If not, it will be declared as non-eligible and will be replaced by the experiment with higher rank from the reserve list that accomplishes with the selection criteria.

2.4.1.5 Draw Resolution

In the case of a draw in the final scoring, the following criteria will be used in the following order of priority:

- Higher score for impact criterion.
- Higher score for implementation criterion.
- Date of submission: earlier submitted proposals go first.

2.4.1.6 Communication

Every applicant will receive via e-mail:

- An Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) containing the information on the evaluation. ESR will be sent to applicants after being approved by EUHubs4Data consortium and the evaluators.
- An evaluation letter informing of rejection decision, invitation to negotiation and following steps or being part of the reserve list.

2.4.1.7 Ethics assessment

All the experiments will go through an ethics monitoring process that starts on the proposal preparation and follows during the subgrant signature and the experiment execution (if granted).



- Proposal preparation

During the proposal preparation, besides uploading the Ethics Self-Assessment document (see section 2.3.2), applicants must mark the following checkboxes in the application form (see the template at [14]) to indicate that they are aware of the future requirements that they could have regarding the ethics compliance:

- ☒ The applicant declares to be aware of the ethics requirements that must be fulfilled in case any ethics issue is indicated in the Ethics Self-Assessment or if it is raised during the experiment execution.
- ☒ The applicant declares to have read and understood the Ethics FAQs.

The information regarding both checks is available at the ethics section [17] of the EUHubs4Data webpage.

- Subgrant signature

Once the beneficiaries are selected by the external experts, before the signature of the sub-grant agreement (see Figure 4), the Ethics Monitoring Group of the EUHubs4Data project will review the Ethics Self-Assessment document of the selected beneficiaries. If an ethics issue (e.g. data management) is raised, the Ethics Monitoring group will ask the beneficiaries to accomplish with the required actions.

- Experiment execution

Finally, during the experiment execution, the beneficiary should prepare deliverables for both justification periods, the intermediate review at month 5 and the final review at month 10 (see section 2.4.2). The documentation provided by the applicants in each justification period will be reviewed by the Ethics Monitoring Group of the EUHubs4Data project to see if any ethical concern that was not expected in the Ethics Self-Assessment is raised. If an ethics issue is raised, the Ethics Monitoring group will ask the beneficiaries to accomplish with the required actions.

2.4.1.8 Appeal procedure

If the applicant considers that there has been a shortcoming in the way the proposal has been evaluated that may affect the final decision on whether to fund it or not; or if the applicant believes the results of the eligibility checks are incorrect and have failed to comply with the rules of the Open Call; and that her/his interests have been prejudiced as a result, the following appeal procedure is available.

If there is clear evidence of a shortcoming that could affect the eventual funding decision, it is possible that all or part of the proposal will be re-evaluated.

Please note:

- This procedure is concerned with the evaluation and/or eligibility checking process. The consortium will not call into question the scientific or technical judgement of appropriately qualified experts.
- A re-evaluation will only be carried out if there is evidence of a shortcoming that affects the final decision on whether to fund it or not. This means, for example, that a problem relating to one evaluation criterion will not lead to a re-evaluation if a proposal has failed anyway on other criteria.
- Only one appeal request per proposal will be considered by the consortium. The evaluation score following any re-evaluation will be regarded as definitive. It may be lower than the original score.

A complaint should be drawn up in English and submitted by email to: opencall@euhubs4data.eu. Any complaint made should include: (i) contact details, (ii) the subject of the complaint, and (iii) information and evidence regarding the alleged breach. Anonymous complaints or those not providing the mentioned information will not be considered.



Complaints should be made within five (calendar) days since the evaluation results are sent to applicants.

As a rule, the EUHubs4Data Team will investigate the complaints with a view to arriving at a decision to issue a formal notice or to close the case within no more than twenty days from the date of reception of the complaint, provided that all required information has been submitted by the complainant. Where this time limit is exceeded, the EUHubs4Data Team will inform the complainant by email.

If a definitive response cannot be given at that stage, this reply will indicate when a definitive response will be provided. The EUHubs4Data consortium does not undertake to engage in any further discussion about the evaluation of your proposal beyond the definitive response.

Finally, the consortium counts on your cooperation not to send in speculative requests for re-evaluation. Unless there is clear evidence of a shortcoming, there will be no follow-up or re-evaluation.

2.4.1.9 Preparation and Signature of the Sub-Grant Agreement

The following actions must be carried out to enter into the Sub-Grant Agreement:

- **Status information of the beneficiaries:**
 - a. **SMEs.** If the applicant has been fully validated as an SME on the Beneficiary Register of the H2020 Participant Portal, the PIC number must be provided. The following documents will be required to prove the status as an SME if the applicant has not been fully validated as an SME on the Participant Portal:
 - SMEs check list: signed and stamped. Template available at [18]. In the event they declare being non-autonomous: the balance sheet and profit and loss account (with annexes) for the last period for upstream and downstream organizations. If you are an SME already validated (only registered is not enough) by the participant Portal of the European Commission (the Open Call management team will check it), this document will not be required.
 - Status Information Form. It includes the headcount (AWU), balance, profit & loss accounts of the latest closed financial year and the relation, upstream and downstream, of any linked or partner company.
 - Legal existence. Company Register, Official Journal and so forth, showing the name of the organization, the legal address and registration number and, if applicable, a copy of a document proving VAT registration (in case the VAT number does not show on the registration extract or its equivalent).
 - Supporting documents. In cases where either the number of employees or the ownership is not clearly identified: any other supporting documents which demonstrate headcount and ownership such as payroll details, annual reports, national regional, association records, etc.
 - b. **Group of individuals:** When there is not a constituted SME, the applicants could be a group between 2 to 4 individuals. It will be required:
 - A copy of the ID-card or passport of every participant in the experiment team.
 - A proof for every participant in the project that (s)he is legally established and working in an eligible country (see section 2.2.3).
 - A written commitment to set up a legal SME if reaching the funds (see Annex 3 of the sub-grant agreement template [9]).



- **Bank account information:** the beneficiary must provide a completed and signed Financial Identification Form (see Annex 5 of the sub-grant agreement template [9]) and a certificate issued and duly signed/stamped by the Bank, which confirms the ownership of the bank account identified in the Financial Identification Form.

The Financial Identification Form will be used to identify the beneficiary's account to which the funds will be transferred. This account must be owned by the person which signs the Sub-Grant Agreement or on behalf of which it is signed, whether it is the SME or, in case the beneficiary is a group of individuals, all the individuals which belong to it or only the coordinator of such group (if granted with powers of representation for this purpose by the rest of the individuals of the group).

- **Data Management Plan (DMP):** The beneficiary must provide a DMP for describing the data management life cycle for the data to be collected, processed, and generated during the experiment execution. The DMP must be based on the last version of the European Commission's Guidelines on FAIR Data Management. If any personal or anonymized data is processed as part of the experiment the DMP needs to be signed off by the responsible data protection officer of the SME to confirm the effectiveness of the DMP. If the SME has no data protection officer a qualified external advisor can be named for the experiment. Only data contained in the DMP can be collected, processed, and generated as part of the experiment. Revisions of the DMP during the experiment need to be agreed to by the coordinator, the involved DIHs and are subject to the same rules as the original document.
- **Sub-Grant Agreement:** Signed between the coordinator of EUHubs4Data and the beneficiary/ies.
- **[optional] Dedicated Agreements with DIHs:** Some services of the EUHubs4Data catalogue include specific terms and conditions to access the service. In these cases, the beneficiary of the open call accessing the service will have to accept these terms and conditions in a Dedicated Agreement (signed contract) that will be included ad-hoc to the Sub-Grant Agreement.

If an SME selects for the implementation of its Experiment the services of a DIH which requires the signature of a Dedicated Agreement, it is presumed such SME has reviewed the terms and conditions and that it agrees with its content.

If an SME refuses to sign a Dedicated Agreement for a given service whose terms and conditions were available at the EUHubs4Data's website, it will be excluded from the Open Call and the EUHubs4Data coordinator will be entitled to terminate the Sub-Grant Agreement.

- **[optional] Data Processing Agreement on personal data:** If the SME and the DIHs involved in an Experiment plan to exchange or acquire from the data subjects personal data they must sign data controlling and/or data processing agreements in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation).

The request, by EUHubs4Data consortium, of the documentation will be made including deadlines. Failing to meet the deadlines requested will directly end up the negotiation process and experiments under the reserve list will substitute the failing applicants.

2.4.2 Justification Stage

2.4.2.1 Evaluation

The funding is not under a traditional administrative and economic justification system, but results driven. This means that funding will depend on the accomplishment of specific metrics of success (milestones) rather than justifying invoices, hourly dedication, or high administrative/writing workload, which are not so



effective.

The selected experiments will be funded up to 60,000.00 € and in proportion to the accomplished milestones (see section 2.4.2.2).

The results-driven evaluation will be led by the DIHs providing the federated services for the experiment execution. A positive assessment of the expected results by the DIHs will be required for the payment. In this sense, each experiment selected for funding will be evaluated according to the involvement of the beneficiary within the EUHubs4Data ecosystem for experimentation and the evidence of the achievement of the expected results (the expected milestones signed in the grant agreement for monitoring the progress of the experiment). The evidence of the achievement of the expected milestones should be presented through, at least, a deliverable at each justification period.

2.4.2.2 Definition of Milestones for the evaluation and Deliverable(s) for justification.

The payment of the grant will require a positive assessment of the DIHs supervising the accomplishment of the expected milestones. Therefore, at least one deliverable justifying the achievement of the selected milestones is needed at each justification and payment period (see section 2.4.2.3).

- **Milestones:** applicants are required to propose (through the application form) the expected milestones that they think will be appropriate to evaluate the success of the experiment. Within the application form, they will be able to propose up to 5 milestones, from which:
 - **Milestones 1, 2 and 3:** applicants must define 3 technical milestones. It is mandatory that applicants propose 3 technical milestones.
 - **Milestone 4:** this milestone is already fixed by default and refers to the assistance of, at least, to an event promoted by the EUHubs4Data consortium. This compliance of this milestone is mandatory to receive the grant. Further information about the event to attend will be given to beneficiaries before signing the sub-grant agreement.
 - **Milestone 5:** this is an optional milestone for applicants. This milestone does not have to be technical. For example, Table 1 provides an example of a non-technical milestone definition in Milestone 5.

Each milestone proposed by the applicant should be filled with concrete values that quantify the milestone for each justification period.

If the experiment is granted, the applicant's proposal of milestones will be revised by the DIHs involved in the experiment before the signature of the grant agreement. After revising the experiment description and the proposal of milestones, the DIHs will have the power to define changes on the milestones or their expected values. Potential modifications of milestones and expected values will be notified to the beneficiary and reflected on the subgrant agreement.

For the sake of clarity, some examples of potential milestones and expected values are given. Be aware that these are only a set of potential examples to which the milestones are not limited to.

MILESTONE DEFINITION	UNIT OF MESUREMENT	EXPECTED VALUE AT MONTH 5 (Intermediate review)	EXPECTED VALUE AT MONTH 10 (Final review)
TECHNICAL MILESTONE 1 <i>(mandatory)</i> "Actions" performed per time. The system shall be able to carry out 1 new "action" every N seconds.	Seconds	10	5



TECHNICAL MILESTONE 2 <i>(mandatory)</i> Volume of processed data (input + output)	GB	50	100
TECHNICAL MILESTONE 3 <i>(mandatory)</i> Integrate new datasets to solve a given “problem”.	Number of datasets	5	7
MILESTONE 4 <i>(Fixed and mandatory)</i> Assistance to an EUHubs4Data event to present and promote the experiment and the beneficiary company.	Number of events	-	1
MILESTONE 5 <i>(Optional)</i> Contacts with interested entities.	Nº of letters of Interest	2	5

Table 1. Examples of expected milestones and values.

- **Deliverable(s):** applicants are required to send, at least, one deliverable per justification period to justify the achievement of the values expected for each milestone. Justification periods are at Month 5 and Month 10 after the start of the experiment (see section 2.4.2.3). Deliverable(s) should be submitted by email to opencall@euhubs4data.eu.

The deliverables will be the only official document to justify the accomplishment of the expected milestones that will be reviewed by DIHs before the leverage of the funding (see figure summarising the process in section 2.4.3). Therefore, it is highly recommended that they show, as far as possible, all the possible evidence of the activity carried out to achieve any kind of expected result. The justification of results may include (but it is not limited to) schemes of design/architectures, images of achieved results, link to repositories of open-source codes and/or links to mock-ups, prototypes, or demos.

Be aware that the insufficient justification of expected milestones through the Deliverable(s) may block the payment of the funds at each justification period.

2.4.2.3 Payments

The payment of the grant will be segmented in two parts: (1) intermediate payment, and (2) final payment. Both payments will be released after a revision of the deliverables justifying the expected milestones.

- **Intermediate payment.** At month 5 of the experiment, an intermediate review will be carried out by the DIHs partners of EUHubs4Data consortium involved in the experiments.

In the case of a positive assessment, 30.000 Euros will be transferred to the beneficiary. If DIHs consider that the experiment has not reached the expected results (according to the defined milestones), the intermediate payment may be retained, but the experiment will not be cancelled.

In the case of a negative assessment during the intermediate justification period, a proportionate quantity of the intermediate payment can be retained and released after a positive assessment at the final justification period (month 10).

- **Final payment.** At month 10, just after the end of the experiment, DIHs will perform the final assessment, and after a positive assessment of DIHs, a final payment will be executed up to 60.000 Euros.

NOTE: remember that in the final assessment at month 10, besides the milestones proposed by the applicant, there is an additional mandatory milestone (Milestone 4) related to the assistance to an EUHubs4data event that should be also fulfilled to receive the grant.

2.4.3 Summary of the evaluation and payment process

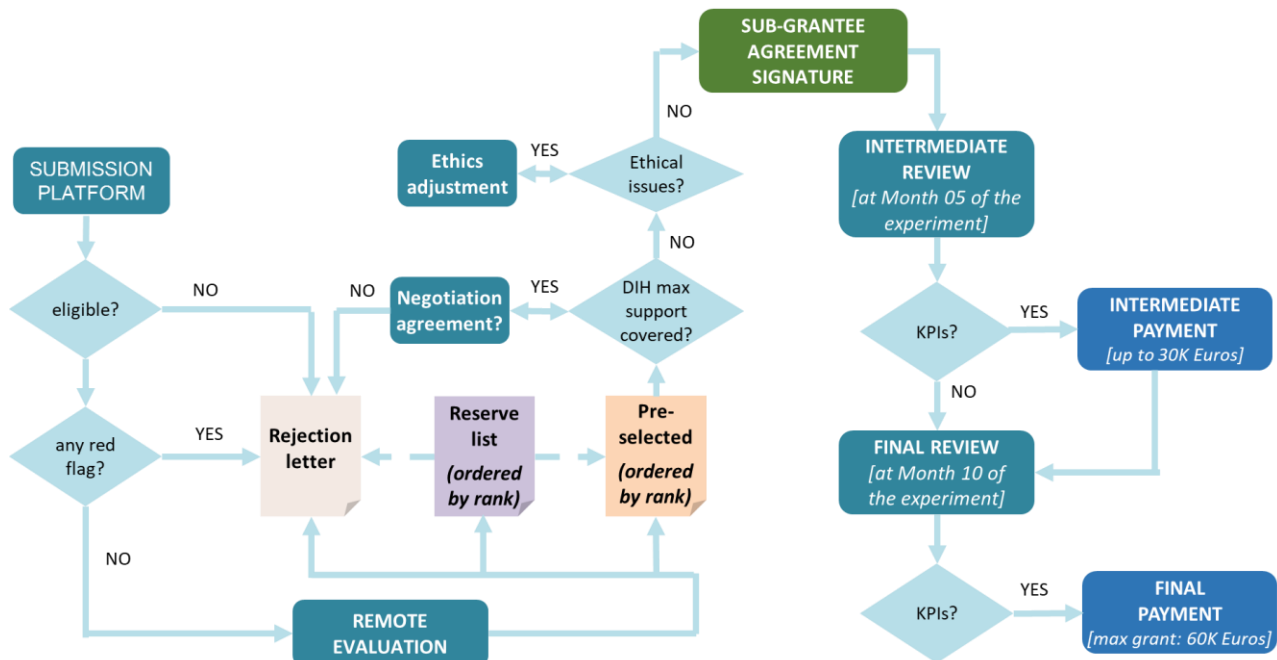


Figure 4. Summary of the evaluation and payment process

2.5 DISSEMINATION

Beneficiaries will be asked to provide experiment's information for dissemination purposes in the framework of the EUHubs4Data project (the information requested will always be from a marketing perspective that helps to promote the SME, the experiment, and the support of the project). Information regarding the experiment for dissemination will be asked in three different periods:

- **Month 1 of the experiment.** After the sub-grant signature and during the first month of the experiment execution, the applicant will be asked to fill and send a dissemination template with general information about the experiment that will be published in the "Experiments" section of the EUHubs4Data website [19] and social media channels.
- **Month 5 of the experiment.** During the first justification period, the applicant will be asked to update the progress dissemination template with information of the results of the experiment that could be disseminated in the EUHubs4Data website and social media channels.
- **Month 10 of the experiment.** During the final justification period, the applicant will be asked to update the dissemination template with the final information regarding results finally obtained in the experiment, but from a marketing point of view. Again, this information will be disseminated in the EUHubs4Data website, social media channels, and possibly through visual tools such as a video with the main achievements.



2.6 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

The following background and foreground statements are a reference applicable to all experiments granted through the open calls of the EUHubs4Data Project. However, specific particularities may apply to individual experiments due to the nature of the experiment and/or the proposed use of the EUHubs4Data catalogue offer. In these cases, all the specific IPR conditions and obligations will be described in detail in the Annex 6 of the subgrant agreement (see a template in [9]) that will be signed only by the beneficiary and the coordinator. However, if for any specific reason, a dedicated agreement between the DIHs and the beneficiary is needed, it will be prepared and included ad-hoc to the subgrant agreement.

2.6.1 Background

- All the participants will confirm and declare that they are the sole creators of the software or products they will develop and that it is free from third party rights. Combinations of their own software plus open-source existing ones will be permitted and fostered (i.e. making available a full-stack of Big Data tools ready to use).
- The SMEs may be using data with certain restrictive licenses (data owned by the DIHs acting as Data Service Providers) combined with Open Data, other sources of data or whatever combination that might be needed. It will be the obligation of the SMEs to clearly state the kind of agreement that applies to these data. Data included from the providers in the consortium will be identified in the sub-grantee agreement and use access will be granted for SMEs.
- The control of the data provided by the DIHs will be always from the partner providing the data. Unless otherwise agreed, the transfer of property or extension of the use of the data, needs to be agreed between the data provider and the party(ies) interested in such exploitation through a bilateral agreement.
- By default, the right to make use of the data provided by DIHs, as well as the use of other services from the DIHs included in the experiment, finalises for the SME once their participation in the experiment is finished.
- In the case of use of personal data, the management and processing of this data will be done according to the guidelines included in the Data Management Plan of the EUHubs4Data (deliverable D10.3 and successive versions) and under supervision of the Ethics Monitoring Group of EUHubs4Data. Besides, beneficiaries will have to ensure that this handling of personal data will be done according to European (General Data Protection Regulation) and specific national legislations.

2.6.2 Foreground

The property of the software or products developed by sub-granted SMEs, within the framework of the EUHubs4Data open calls, will be entirely owned by them. It will be their decision to determine if any part of the software will have an open-source license or not. The beneficiaries agree on not to commercialize those results during the duration of the experiment.

If the experiment results in the generation of data, the control of the generated data will be always from the Party generating the data, unless the Beneficiary and the DIHs agree any particular specification in the corresponding Annex of the sub-grant agreement.

Moreover, given the fact that the developments by the beneficiaries may make use of third-party data (DIHs acting as Data Service Providers) and data driven services, the core consortium will create the communication framework to **facilitate agreements between beneficiaries and DIHs** to find a common workaround for the continuity of the sub-granted actions beyond the programme. However, it will be a decision of the DIHs and the beneficiaries to come to a collaboration agreement out of the EUHubs4Data scope.



3 OPEN CALL #3

3.1 CALL DESCRIPTION

The objective of the experiments is to **make use of the services included in the federated catalogue, proposing combinations of them for the development of innovative products or advanced services**. To achieve the main aim, it is expected that experiments should:

- Involve a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 5 data-driven services from the federated catalogue (see section 3.3.1.1), provided by a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 3 different DIHs, where at least one DIH comes from a different country than the one of the applicants. It is expected that the experiment proposes the use of a combination of services (coming from different DIHs) that complement each other, to benefit from a more advanced service not available in the individual offer of the DIHs.

NOTE: Be aware that **not all services from the EUHubs4Data catalogue of services are available for the Open Call #3**. There is a filter “Open Call Services” in the webpage of the EUHubs4Data catalogue to see the eligible list of services for the Open Call #3 [7].

- Apply the combination of services from the federated catalogue to solve specific problems, overcome barriers or achieve challenges that cannot be attained (or at least in a much more difficult way) without the use of those services. See the subsection 3.1.1 (“scope and challenge”) for more information.
- Make use of at least one dataset (from the catalogue or external), and, if possible, generate additional ones during the execution of the experiment.
- Achieve Key Exploitable Results (KER) that could be delivered to market in the form of innovative data driven product or service.
- Contribute to the KPIs of the EUHubs4Data project. See the subsection 3.1.2 (“Expected Impacts”) for more information.

3.1.1 Scope and challenge

The experiments applying to the EUHubs4Data Open Calls must identify the sector on which their experiment is framed and determine the data-driven challenge associated to this sector to which the experiment is contributing to.

In February 2020, within the framework of the European Data Strategy [20], the European Commission committed to promote the development of common European data spaces in strategic economic sectors and domains of public interest. These sectors or domains are those where the use of data will have systemic impact on the entire ecosystem, but also on citizens (see section 3.1.1.3).

In this context, applicants can select one of this Data Spaces (and its associated data-driven challenge) as the sector of the experiment (see section 3.1.1.1). However, applications are not restricted by sector and experiments can focus on any other relevant sector to the European economy (see section 3.1.1.2).

3.1.1.1 Data Spaces

The Data Spaces and its associated challenges are:

1. **A Common European industrial (manufacturing) data space**, to support the competitiveness and performance of the EU’s industry, allowing to capture the potential value of use of non-personal data in manufacturing.
2. **A Common European Green Deal data space**, to use the major potential of data in support of the Green Deal priority actions on climate change, circular economy, zero-pollution, biodiversity,



deforestation and compliance assurance. The “GreenData4All” and ‘Destination Earth’ (digital twin of the Earth) initiatives will cover concrete actions.

3. **A Common European mobility data space**, to position Europe at the forefront of the development of an intelligent transport system, including connected cars as well as other modes of transport. Such data space will facilitate access, pooling and sharing of data from existing and future transport and mobility databases.
4. **A Common European health data space**, which is essential for advances in preventing, detecting and curing diseases as well as for informed, evidence-based decisions to improve the accessibility, effectiveness and sustainability of the healthcare systems.
5. **A Common European financial data space**, to stimulate, through enhanced data sharing, innovation, market transparency, sustainable finance, as well as access to finance for European businesses and a more integrated market.
6. **A Common European energy data space**, to promote a stronger availability and cross-sector sharing of data, in a customer-centric, secure and trustworthy manner, as this would facilitate innovative solutions and support the decarbonisation of the energy system.
7. **A Common European agriculture data space**, to enhance the sustainability performance and competitiveness of the agricultural sector through the processing and analysis of production and other data, allowing for precise and tailored application of production approaches at farm level.
8. **Common European data spaces for public administration**, to improve transparency and accountability of public spending and spending quality, fighting corruption, both at EU and national level, and to address law enforcement needs and support the effective application of EU law and enable innovative ‘gov tech’, ‘reg tech’ and ‘legal tech’ applications supporting practitioners as well as other services of public interest
9. **A Common European skills data space**, to reduce the skills mismatches between the education and training system on the one hand and the labour market needs on the other.

3.1.1.2 Other sectors not yet included as a Data Space

Although applicants are encouraged to take the aforementioned Data Spaces and corresponding challenges as a reference to focus and describe their experiments, applications are not restricted by sector and experiments can focus on any other relevant sector to the European economy, where the applicant may identify specific data-driven challenge(s) to contribute to.

For example, Tourism, Aerospace, Construction, Pharma, Food, Entertainment or Media are sectors that are not included as such in any of the current Data Spaces and data-driven solutions may be relevant to address specific challenges of these sectors. Therefore, if a given proposal is focused on any sector not included in the Data Spaces, the applicant should specify it in Question 14 of the application form and indicate the specific data-driven challenge of the sector to which the experiment is contributing to.

3.1.1.3 Data sharing, data sovereignty and IDSA technology

With regards to the topic of data spaces, the EUHubs4Data project is interested in supporting experiments leveraging data sharing, data sovereignty and IDSA technology in their specific scenario, for example using existing standard for data sharing as the IDSA framework for data sovereignty in the EUHubs4Data context [21].

To this end, if the applicant is interested in leveraging data sharing, data sovereignty and IDSA technology in their experiments, it could be mentioned in question 29 of the application form.

NOTE: this aspect is not evaluable. EUHubs4Data is interested in seeing more experiments including this dimension, but its inclusion will not be a plus neither a shortcoming in the evaluation.



3.1.1.4 Citizen Engagement of EUHubs4Data project

On the top of the main sector of the experiment, the EUHubs4Data is interested in supporting experiments that actively engage citizens through co-design, user testing, or other participatory action that give citizens a stake in their development.

Therefore, regardless the sector selected/specified in Question 14, Question 28 of the application form is devoted to let applicants explain the relation and/or contribution of the experiment (if relevant) to citizen engagement.

NOTE: this question is not evaluable (see the evaluation criteria in section 2.4.1.3). EUHubs4Data is interested on this question, but the response will not be a plus neither a shortcoming in the evaluation.

3.1.2 Expected impacts

Experiment results are expected to impact the SME developing the experiment but also to some of the 15 KPIs of the EUHubs4Data project.

Although a complete list of the 15 KPIs of the EUHubs4Data project are available at the project website [21], the experiments are expected to contribute to, at least, 4 of the 6 KPIs listed below:

EUHUBS4DATA PROJECT KPIs		EXPECTED IMPACT PROVIDED BY THE EXPERIMENT
KPI01	Annual increase of catalogue datasets shared / re-used / traded	The experiment makes use of datasets from the EUHubs4Data catalogue.
KPI02	Number of datasets resulting from cross-border experiments	The experiments generate datasets that can be integrated into the EUHubs4Data catalogue.
KPI05	Revenues of directly involved SMEs	The KERs obtained during the experiment provide revenues to the SME beneficiary of the Open Call.
KPI08	All new solutions and data-driven business concepts aligned with targeted users' needs and satisfaction drivers	Then KERs obtained during the experiment are aligned with the user's needs.
KPI09	Produce a fair amount of significant data driven innovations resulting from the different activities of the project	The experiment results into different KERs that provide a clear innovation for the market.
KPI15	New job profiles created in companies engaged in the different activities of EUHubs4Data	The implementation of the experiment contributes to the creation of employment and new job profiles related to the Data sector.

Table 2. List of EUHubs4Data KPIs to which experiments may contribute and the expected impact for each KPI.

3.2 DIGITAL INNOVATION HUBS

The following table provides the of DIHs providing data-driven services that can be selected for offering technical support for the experiment (see section 3.3).

N.	DIGITAL INNOVATION HUB	PROJECT PARTNER (SHORT NAME)	COUNTRY
1	4PDIH	Univerza V Ljubljani (UL)	Slovenia
2	Algebra Lab	Third party of the project	Croatia
3	Aragon DIH	Instituto Tecnológico De Aragon (ITAINNOVA)	Spain
4	Belgrade Data Innovation Hub	Third party of the project	Serbia
5	CeADAR - Ireland's Centre for Applied AI	University College Dublin, National University of Ireland (NUID UCD)	Ireland
6	CIH - Cybersecurity Hub, Z.S.	Third party of the project	Czech Republic
7	Cineca Consorzio Interuniversitario	Cineca Consorzio Interuniversitario (CINECA)	Italy



N.	DIGITAL INNOVATION HUB	PROJECT PARTNER (SHORT NAME)	COUNTRY
8	DIH4AISEC	Third party of the project	Germany
9	DIH TECHNICOM	Third party of the project	Slovakia
10	ECIPA - Società di Formazione e Servizi delle CNA del Veneto	Third party of the project	Italy
11	EGI Federation	Stichting Egi (EGI)	Netherlands
12	EPCC - Edinburgh Parallel Computing Centre	Third party of the project	Scotland
13	Gemini	Third party of the project	Norway
14	ICE by RISE	Rise Research Institutes of Sweden Ab (RISE)	Sweden
15	Know-Center	Know-Center Gmbh Research Center For Data-Driven Business & Big Data Analytics (KNOW)	Austria
16	Latvian IT Cluster DIH	Third party of the project	Latvia
17	LCM - Linz Center of Mechatronics	Third party of the project	Austria
18	Plan4All	Third party of the project	Czech Republic
19	Produtech DIH	Third party of the project	Portugal
20	SDIL Smart Data Innovation Lab	Karlsruhe Institute for Technology (KIT)	Germany
21	Smart Connected Supplier Network (SCSN)	Third party of the project	Netherlands
22	Teralab	IMT Transfert (IMT)	France
23	The Data Cycle Hub	Instituto Tecnológico de Informática (ITI)	Spain

Table 3. List of DIHs providing data services.

3.3 OFFERING

Under the paradigm “**European catalogue, regional offer**”, the federation has a two-fold objective: on the one hand, the creation of an interoperable federated catalogue based on existing standards that combines data driven services and data sources coming from the individual offers of the DIHs, enriched with solutions and assets coming from past and existing European projects, and other marketplaces and catalogues in Europe. On the other, to make it accessible by DIHs at regional and local level to small and medium size actors, so they can benefit from the latest European advances on Big Data and AI.

3.3.1 Federated catalogue

The EUHubs4Data consortium have published a federated catalogue provided by the different DIHs of the EUHubs4Data federation. The federated catalogue is divided in two different catalogues:

1. EUHubs4Data federated catalogue of data-driven services.
2. EUHubs4Data federated catalogue of open datasets

3.3.1.1 EUHubs4Data federated catalogue of data-driven services

The service catalogue is available at the EUHubs4Data webpage [5]. Currently, this catalogue contains 247 services, from which 172 services are eligible to the Open Call #3 [7].

To see the services eligible for the Open Call #3, you can go directly to [7], or go to the whole EUHubs4Data catalogue of services [5] and activate the filter called “Open Call Services”. See image below.



The screenshot shows the EUH4D website's 'Services' section. The header includes the EUH4D logo and navigation links: THE FEDERATION, THE CATALOGUE, THE COMMUNITY, EXPERIMENTS, OPEN CALLS, NEWS & EVENTS, and THE PROJECT. Below the header, the breadcrumb 'Home > The Catalogue > Services' is visible. The main heading is 'OPEN CALL SERVICES', followed by the text 'Discover all the services the EUHubs4Data members can offer to your organization.' Below this, there are two buttons: 'ALL SERVICES' and 'OPEN CALL SERVICES'. The 'OPEN CALL SERVICES' button is highlighted with a red box. Below the buttons, a table displays service entries. The table has columns for SERVICE NAME, CATEGORY, DESCRIPTION, KEYWORDS, and MEMBER. The first entry is 'Access and support to Big Data-AI stack environment' under the category 'Big Data Platforms (PaaS)'. The table also includes a 'FILTERS' sidebar on the left with options for 'TYPE OF SERVICE' and 'MEMBERS'. A 'Showing 1 to 20 of 148 entries' indicator is present at the top right of the table.

SERVICE NAME	CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	KEYWORDS	MEMBER
Access and support to Big Data-AI stack environment	Big Data Platforms (PaaS)	Access and support to a ready-to-use Big Data and AI experimental...	analytics, artificial intelligence, HDFS, notebooks, Python libra...	The Data Cycle Hub

Figure 5. Filter “Open Call Services” highlighted with a red box

The catalogue is organized in a tier-based structure. The first filtering layer corresponds to the **type of service** (tier 1) while the second corresponds to **a different category** within each type of service (tier 2). Keywords, which are free labels available for each service, allow for a more user-friendly search.

NOTE 1: remember that to be eligible (see section 2.4.1.2), applicants should propose an experiment that use **a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 5 services** provided **by a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 3 different DIHs**. It is expected that the experiment uses a combination of services (coming from different DIHs) that:

1. Complement each other, to benefit from a more advanced service not available in the individual offer of the DIHs.
2. Fits the experiment execution and demonstrate a relevant contribution to the experiment goals and results.
3. Is feasible to be offered within the maximum resources allocated for this technical support (€70.000 per experiment). See section 3.3.3 for more information.

NOTE 2: be aware that, due to the description of the experiment, some incompatibilities from a technical or DIH points of view may arise regarding the combination of services. In this case, during the negotiation of the sub-grant agreement, the required modifications (e.g. replacement of equivalent services) will be suggested to the beneficiary by the EUHubs4Data team. In the case of replacement of services, suggestions would be based on the second filtering layer of the EUHubs4Data catalogue of services, which lists equivalent services by different DIHs for any given category.

NOTE 3: the technical interoperability provided by the DIHs for data sharing and services access is based on IDSA standard for interoperability and data sovereignty and aims at GAIA-X compliance in the near future. It is not expected from the applicants to implement the standard themselves. Nevertheless, it is an excellent opportunity to learn about the concepts and the technology and prepare their digital transformation with data sharing.

NOTE 4: be aware that some services of the EUHubs4Data catalogue include specific terms and conditions to access the service. In these cases, the beneficiary of the open call accessing the service will have to accept



these terms and conditions in a Dedicated Agreement (signed contract) that will be included ad-hoc to the Sub-Grant Agreement. See section 2.4.1.9 for more information.

3.3.1.2 EUHubs4Data federated catalogue of open datasets.

It is available at the EUHubs4Data webpage [6]. This catalogue provides a list of 229 open datasets that can be filtered by different features as the sector domain, the language, the accessibility, the region of coverage or the type of format.

NOTE 1: Please be aware that private/proprietary datasets are considered within the catalogue of data-driven services under the Data, AI & Technology category.

NOTE 2: remember that to be eligible (see section 2.4.1.2), applicants should propose an experiment that involve, at least a dataset. It is not mandatory to involve open datasets from the federated catalogue, an experiment could involve an external dataset and it would be still eligible. However, the use of datasets from the EUHubs4Data catalogue is one of the options to contribute to the expected impacts (see Table 2).

3.3.2 Support from DIHs

Each experiment will be supported by the DIHs whose services are included in the experiment.

The main goal is to provide guidance and support on the application and use of the selected services. The specific level and scope of this support will depend on the nature and type of the involved services.

One of these DIH will act as coach DIH, who will be the main contact point for the beneficiaries with respect to the other DIHs involved in the experiment. The coach DIH will be responsible of monitoring their metrics, to follow them up regularly.

3.3.3 Appropriate dimensioning of the demand of services from the EUHubs4Data catalogue

As part of the evaluation criteria (see section 2.4.1.3), the experiments are expected to make a good dimensioning of the selected data-driven services from the offer available in the EUHubs4Data catalogue.

NOTE: be aware that this section does not apply to the demand of datasets from the EUHubs4Data catalogue.

3.3.3.1 What is considered a good dimensioning?

Although the EUHubs4Data project promote experiments that apply a combination of services from the EUHubs4Data federated catalogue, it does not mean that involving 5 services (upper limit of services to be combined) in the experiment is necessarily better than involving 2 services (lower limit of services to be combined). The appropriate dimensioning is not directly related with the number of services combined, but depends on the type of the services selected, the complementarity of those services and the relevance of the selected services for the implementation of the experiment.

In this context, the EUHubs4Data project considers that an appropriate dimensioning of the offer implies a trade-off between 3 different requirements:

1. **Complementarity of the offer:** it is expected that the experiment proposes the use of a combination of services (coming from different DIHs) that complement each other, to benefit from a more advanced service not available in the individual offer of the DIHs.

The involvement of services to carry out isolated tasks of the experiment will compromise the appropriate dimensioning of the experiment.

2. **The offer fit the demand:** it is expected that the selected services fit the experiment execution and demonstrate a relevant contribution to the experiment goals and results.



The involvement of services that are not clearly contributing to a clear technical gap will compromise the appropriate dimensioning of the experiment.

- 3. The demand fit the available resources:** it is expected that an applicant demands a set of services (from 2 to 5) that require a technical support from the corresponding DIHs valued at a maximum of €70.000 for all services together. Therefore, experiments should consider at the proposal stage that the selected services require a technical support for the corresponding DIHs that is feasible to be offered with the maximum available resources (€70.000 for each experiment).

The oversized demand for services that involves an effort that clearly exceeds the available resources (valued in €70.000 per experiment) will compromise the appropriate dimensioning of the experiment.

3.3.3.2 How to achieve a good dimensioning of the offer?

In order to achieve a good trade-off between the 3 requirements stated above, it is recommended to:

- 1. Revise the offer.** There are 172 services from the EUHubs4Data catalogue of services that are eligible for the Open Call #3 [7]. Services are organised in a two-tier structure. Therefore, applicants can search for a specific service through a first filtering layer that corresponds to 4 types of service (1. *Data, AI & Technology*; 2. *Business Development & Ecosystem Building*; 3. *Infrastructure Access*; 4. *Technology Consultancy and Training*), or more concretely through the second filtering layer that corresponds to the different category for each type of service.

For example, for the type 3 “Infrastructure Access” of services, the catalogue groups the services in the following categories: (i) *Big Data Platforms (PaaS)*, (ii) *Computing and Storage Infrastructure (IaaS)*, (iii) *Data Management*.

Besides, each service has a dedicated webpage with the following information: (i) name of the DIH owning the service; (ii) a description of the service including main features, (iii) special access conditions, if any; (iv) Prerequisites, if any; (v) case examples; (vi) a form for asking more information from this service.

- 2. Contact DIHs in advance.** If after revising the catalogue of services you still have doubts regarding the exact features of a certain service, the complementarity of different services or the feasibility of a certain combination of services to fit the maximum available resources (€70.000), please contact in advance the DIHs owning the services in which you are interested in. To contact DIHs you can use the form included in the dedicated webpage for each service or directly send an email to the reference contacts of the corresponding DIH included in Table 4.

NOTE 1: you can contact them individually or contact several DIHs regarding a combination of services in the same email to explain them the idea of your experiment and how you aim to involve these services. Be aware that DIHs may provide feedback to you regarding the dimensioning of the experiment, but they are not the evaluators of the proposals. Proposals are evaluated by external experts.

NOTE 2: be aware that it is expected that DIHs will receive a high number of contacts during the days before the call deadline. Please be aware that if you do not contact DIHs with enough time, you may not receive a response.

N.	DIH	COUNTRY	CONTACT
1	4PDIH	Slovenia	Drobnič, Franc <Franc.Drobnic@fe.uni-lj.si>
2	Algebra Lab	Croatia	Leo Mršić <leo.mrsic@algebra.hr> Monika Rohlik Tunjic <Monika.RohlikTunjic@algebra.hr>
3	Aragon DIH	Spain	Sergio Mayo <smayo@itainnova.es>



N.	DIH	COUNTRY	CONTACT
4	Belgrade Data Innovation Hub	Serbia	Drazen Draskovic <drazen.draskovic@etf.bg.ac.rs>
5	CeADAR - Ireland's Centre for Applied AI	Ireland	Ricardo Simon <ricardo.simoncarbajo@ucd.ie> Andres Suarez <andres.suarez-cetrulo@ucd.ie> Aditya Grover <aditya.grover@ucd.ie>
6	CIH - Cybersecurity Hub, Z.S.	Czech Republic	Tomáš Sapák <sapak@fi.muni.cz> Tomáš Pitner <tomp@fi.muni.cz> Veronika Bumbálková <bumbalkova@fi.muni.cz>
7	Cineca Consorzio Interuniversitario	Italy	Claudio Arlandini <c.arlandini@cenea.it> Roberta Turra <r.turra@cenea.it>
8	DIH4AISEC	Germany	Daniel Kudenko <kudenko@l3shann.onmicrosoft.com>
9	DIH TECHNICOM	Slovakia	Miroslav Janák <dih@uvptechnicom.sk>
10	ECIPA - Società di Formazione e Servizi delle CNA del Veneto	Italy	Simona Aceto <europa@ecipa.eu> Laura Castellan <cte@ecipa.eu>
11	EGI Federation	Netherlands	Andrea Manzi <andrea.manzi@egi.eu>
12	EPCC - Edinburgh Parallel Computing Centre	Scotland	Mark Parsons <m.parsons@epcc.ed.ac.uk> Thomas Blyth <t.blyth@epcc.ed.ac.uk> Julien Sindt <J.Sindt@ed.ac.uk>
13	Gemini	Norway	Arne J. Berre <Arne.J.Berre@sintef.no>
14	ICE by RISE	Sweden	Christoffer Andersen <christoffer.andresen@ri.se>
15	Know-Center	Austria	Angelika Riedl <ariedl@know-center.at>
16	Latvian IT Cluster DIH	Latvia	Aiga Irmeja <aiga.irmeja@itbaltic.com> Ilze Raudiņa <ilze.raudina@itbaltic.com>
17	LCM - Linz Center of Mechatronics	Austria	Johannes Klinglmayr <johannes.klinglmayr@lcmgmbh.onmicrosoft.com> christian.pecksteiner <christian.pecksteiner@lcm.at>
18	Plan4All	Czech Republic	Karel Charvat <mildorf@plan4all.eu> Tomas Mildorf <charvat@plan4all.eu>
19	Produtech DIH	Portugal	Luis Almeida <Luis.Almeida@cgc.pt>
20	SDIL Smart Data Innovation Lab	Germany	Till Riedel <till.riedel@kit.edu>
21	Smart Connected Supplier Network (SCSN)	Netherlands	Mike de Roode <mike.deroode@smart-connected.eu>
22	Teralab	France	Luis Pineda <luis.pineda@imt.fr>
23	The Data Cycle Hub	Spain	Guillermo Amat <gamat@iti.es>

Table 4. Reference contact for each DIH



3.4 CALENDAR

The calendar for the Open Call #3 (proposal and execution stages) is depicted in the following figure:

	sep-22	oct-22	nov-22	dic-22	ene-23	feb-23	mar-23	abr-23	may-23	jun-23	jul-23	ago-23	sep-23	oct-23	nov-23
Publication of the open call															
Submission period															
Evaluation and selection															
Signature of agreements with beneficiaris															
Execution of experiments															
1st check - Follow up															
Execution of experiments															
Final check - Final follow up															

3.4.1 Proposals

- Call opening: 07/09/2022.
- Deadline for submission: 09/11/2022, 17.00 CET.

3.4.2 Communication of results and subgrant signature

- Communication of results: during January 2023.
- Preparation and Signature of Sub-Grant Agreements (by sub-grantees, ITI, and involved DIHs if needed): during January 2023.

Dates are an initial estimation and might slightly change if agreed by EUHubs4Data consortium for the benefit of the sub-grantees.

3.4.3 Execution and justification

- Execution from 01/02/2023 to 31/10/2023.
- Intermediate evaluation (06/2023) and final evaluation (11/2023) carried out by the DIHs involved in each experiment to monitor the accomplishment of the expected milestones.

Dates are an initial estimation and might slightly change if agreed by EUHubs4Data consortium for the benefit of the sub-grantees.



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