EUROPEAN LANGUAGE EQUALITY 2

D2.1

Open Call setup and results

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Dissemination level	Public
Date	30-06-2023

About this document

Project	European Language Equality 2 (ELE2)
Grant agreement no.	LC-01884166 – 101075356 ELE2
Coordinator	Prof. Dr. Andy Way (DCU)
Co-coordinator	Prof. Dr. Georg Rehm (DFKI)
Start date, duration	01-07-2022, 12 months
Deliverable number	D2.1
Deliverable title	Open Call setup and results
Type	Report
Number of pages	121
Status and version	Final
Dissemination level	Public
Date of delivery	30-06-2023
Work package	WP2: SRIA: Open Call for Contribution Projects (FSTP)
Task	Task 2.3 Contracting, overseeing and evaluation of completed pilot projects
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6	European Federation of National Institutes for Language	EFNIL	LU
7	European Language Equality Network	ELEN	FR

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List of Acronyms

ADA	Audio Data Augmentation
ASR	Automatic Speech Recognition
BLARK	Basic LAnguage Resource Kit
DLE	Digital Language Equality
E2E	end-to-end
ELE	European Language Equality
ELE1	European Language Equality (preceding project)
ELE2	European Language Equality *(this project)*
ELE Programme	European Language Equality Programme *(the long-term, large-scale funding programme specified by the ELE project)*
ELEN	European Language Equality Network
ELG	European Language Grid (EU project, 2019-2022)
ELT Newsletter	European Language Technology Newsletter
EU	European Union
FSTP	Financial Support to Third Parties
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
HPC	High Performance Computing
LT	Language Technology/Technologies
LR	Language Resources
LLM	Large Language Models
META-NET	EU Network of Excellence to foster META
NGT	Sign Language of the Netherlands
NLP	Natural Language Processing
SLU	Spoken Language Understanding
SRIA	Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda

Abstract

To bring in external ideas and expertise to SRIA in a substantial way, the ELE2 consortium organized an open call for SRIA Contribution Projects using the FSTP mechanism, with an allocated budget of €185,000. The open call was published at the end of September 2022 which allowed for a two months submission period. Out of the 36 proposals accepted for evaluation, the FTSP Project Board selected nine projects for funding. By the end of May 2023 all supported projects delivered their results within three months as stipulated in the call. Each project describes various use cases and examples of best-practice in LR development and implementation in the relevant industry sectors and areas of life that can be used not only for improving the strategic agenda, but also for other communication and dissemination purposes. In this document we provide a comprehensive description of the open call set-up, and the submission and evaluation procedures. We will briefly describe the selected projects, with a focus on their goals and objectives, summarise their implementation, the results delivered and feedback provided, to the whole ELE initiative.

1 Introduction

To allow members of the wider European LT and multilingual Europe community to join and contribute to the ELE2 project, as well as to contribute to its specific aims (most importantly, to help with additional input to the strategic agenda), we have used the FSTP mechanism in accordance with the Call for Proposals document "Developing a strategic research, innovation and implementation agenda and a roadmap for achieving full digital language equality in Europe by 2030", and the ELE2 Grant Agreement to organize an open call for SRIA Contribution Projects. In total, we have provided €185,000 to the selected projects, with a maximum amount of eligible costs for each project set at €25,000.

To set up the open call, we established a straightforward submission procedure and a transparent internal evaluation process. In addition, the FSTP Project Board together with the broader ELE consortium pinpointed crucial areas where the SRIA needed to be extended or updated. Next, ten thematic areas were selected from which the FSTP project applicants could choose from for their proposals. During the evaluation process the key selection criterion was a rigorous assessment of whether the proposed SRIA Contribution Project would contribute, in a significant way, to the overall success and uptake of the strategic agenda.

The call was open from September 29 to November 29, 2022. A total of 36 proposals from 24 different applicants were formally accepted for evaluation. After a careful selection process, nine projects were selected for financial support. By the end of May 2023 all nine projects had successfully delivered all of their results, namely reports, datasets, survey analyses, and other planned outcomes which has allowed the ELE2 consortium to significantly enrich the SRIA and promote the policy of digital language equality. These results have also been showcased at the META-FORUM 2023 conference held on June 27, 2023 in Brussels, so as to share the results, such as the various best practices and lessons learned, with the whole LT community.

2 Organization of the Open Call for SRIA Contribution Projects

The whole process required meticulous planning because there was only one year available in the ELE2 project to design and organize the open call, select projects, implement them, and integrate their results into the SRIA.

The organization of the open call commenced with the establishment of the call's management structure. Alongside the FSTP management team, an FSTP Project Board was established and a timeline was set up. Immediately after that the process of drafting the call documentation and related documents for the applicants started, as well as the creation of a platform for the submissions.

One important part of the preparation phase was the selection of suitable topic areas to which applicants could submit their proposals. These were selected with regard to the ultimate goal, i.e., the FSTP project results should contribute to the SRIA by providing defined use cases and feasibility studies in terms of providing scenarios for future application.

During the whole process, effective communication with stakeholders was crucial so as to ensure the widespread dissemination of information about the SRIA and the SRIA Contribution Projects. It included regular updates of the ELE2 open call website and promoting the open call as part of the normal communication and dissemination activities provided by the ELE2 consortium members.

2.1 Management Structure and Organization

The organization of the open call was a complex procedure which required the close collaboration of the FSTP Project Board, the FSTP management team, and the technical team.

2.1.1 FSTP Project Board

The FSTP Project Board was set up to supervise the open call including evaluating the submitted project proposals and providing a forum for discussion on the progress of the selected projects,feedback and results.

At the beginning of the project, the ELE2 Steering Committee approved the FSTP Project Board operational procedures (see Appendix A) drafted by the FSTP management team. Afterwards, seven FSTP Project Board members were nominated and approved by the Steering Committee: the WP2 lead (responsible for organizing the open call), the Coordinator and Co-coordinator and another four members, so that each consortium partner is represented by one board member.

The operational procedures defined the main responsibilities of the FSTP Project Board as follows:

- approval of the call for SRIA contribution project proposals and related documentation;

- selection process of the SRIA contribution projects, including (but not limited to) the
    - evaluation of the project proposals submitted to the open call; each submitted project proposal had to be evaluated independently by at least two FSTP Project Board members;
    - ranking of all submitted projects and approval for financing;

- supervision of the selected projects in their execution, including (but not limited to) the
    - monitoring of project progress and evaluation of the project results,
    - approval of the payments to awardees.

For decision-making, the following voting procedures were established:

- The FSTP Project Board shall not deliberate and make valid decisions unless 50% of its members are present or represented (quorum).

- Decisions shall be taken by a majority of two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast.

2.1.2 FSTP Management Team

The FSTP management team has been responsible for the organisation of the whole process in line with the description in the Grant Agreement and Call for Proposals document "Developing a strategic research, innovation and implementation agenda and a roadmap for achieving full digital language equality in Europe by 2030." The team have prepared and set up all prerequisites and procedures – the call management structure, the submission procedure, the ELE2 Open Call Platform, materials for prospective applicants, forms, contract templates,reporting forms and templates, and project results evaluation.

2.1.3 Technical Team

Based on CUNI's previous experience with FSTP calls in the ELG project, it has been decided to use an in-house developed ELE Open Call Platform for the submission of proposals, evaluation, and projects' results review, running on a sub-domain of the ELE website. This allowed us to flexibly and efficiently customize the whole process according to our needs and to ensure its smooth progress.

The technical team was responsible for developing the platform and for technical support during each phase of the open-call organization.

2.2 Timeline

The duration of the ELE2 project was only for one year (from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023), therefore organizing the open call within such a short period was challenging for the FSTP management team. Immediately after the ELE2 project began, the preparation of the Open Call started to meet all prerequisites so that the call could be opened on September 29, 2022, with a two-month long submission period. After the submission deadline on November 29, 2022, the FTSP Project Board started to evaluate the submitted project proposals.

In January, the results of the open call were announced and the successful applicants started on their project work. By the end of May, all nine supported projects delivered their results so that they could be incorporated into the SRIA before the end of the ELE2 project.

2.3 Open Call Topics

Before the open call was launched, a survey was distributed to the ELE1 consortium partners to detect crucial parts of the SRIA which would need to be extended or revised. Based on the survey results, the ELE2 consortium partners selected the ten most called-for topics (out of the 23 suggested topics) to which applicants of the open call could submit their proposals (You can find a detailed description of the topics in Appendix B – Call Documentation). These were:

1. Data sets for more robust speech technology

2. Study of language coverage for text mining and natural language understanding in key European industrial sectors

3. Legal Assessment (Desk Research)

4. General NLP/LT/AI Landscaping (Desk Research)

5. General NLP/LT Domains (Desk Research)

6. Analysis of AI and LT in European news media

7. Computing facilities for LT (Desk Research)

8. Demonstrably Greener Models of MT

9. Survey of the use of LT in the hospital sector

10. Basic Language Resource Kit (BLARK) (Desk Research)

2.4 Communication with Stakeholders

Potential applicants to the open call have been targeted through various channels – the open call website, the ELT Newsletter, and other communication and dissemination activities carried out by all consortium members.

3 Submission Process

After the open call was announced and applicants started submitting their project proposals, a continuous need for applicant support emerged, mainly to answer participants' questions. The open call was published on the ELE website and disseminated widely though numerous mailing lists by all consortium members.

3.1 Call Documentation and Submission Platform

A thoroughly prepared call documentation provided all the necessary, well-structured information for applicants. A user-friendly submission platform was created to support the participants from submission to execution and final review.

3.1.1 Call Documentation and Related Documents

To keep the submission and evaluation process straightforward, the call documentation was made easy to understand as far as possible. The full version of the call documentation is included in Appendix B – the Call documentation itself and its annexes: the Guide for Applicants, Third Party Agreement, Project Proposal Template, and Evaluation Criteria are attached in Appendices C to F.

The documentation starts with a summary of key parameters followed by an introduction of the SRIA and the Open Call. Furthermore, the role of the FSTP Project Board is explained regarding its supervision of the SRIA contribution projects.

Next, the basic parameters of the call were introduced including the ten topics to which applicants could submit their proposals, the maximum amount of eligible costs per project (set at €25,000), and the relevant legal references and other rules. The funding rate was set at 90% of the project's eligible costs. The maximum amount of financial support was thus €22,500 (90% of the maximum amount of eligible costs) per project. The financial support was provided in the form of a lump sum and the payment was made only after all project activities had been completed and on the delivery of all project results.

In the next chapter all of the eligibility criteria were listed (type of activities, type of beneficiaries, eligible countries, and the definition of a conflict of interest). In accordance with the Call for Proposals[1], only the following types of activities were eligible for funding:

- desk research, consultations, surveys, studies, analyses, mapping projects;

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[1] The document "Developing a strategic research, innovation and implementation agenda and a roadmap for achieving full digital language equality in Europe by 2030".

- research activities;

- awareness and dissemination actions;

- compiling best practice examples, preparation and publishing of ready-to-use guide-lines.

Cost categories eligible for funding were the following:

(a) Personnel costs;

(b) Subcontracting costs;

(c) Travel and subsistence;

(d) Equipment;

(e) Other goods, works and services;

(f) Indirect costs.

The following chapter, Preparation and Submission of the Proposal, points to the Guide for Applicants (Appendix C) with detailed instructions on how to submit a proposal via the submission platform, as well as to the Proposal Template (Appendix F). The subsection "Communication with the ELE2 Consortium" provides an email address for the communication of applicants with the FSTP management team (open-call@european-language-equality.eu), and finally the subsection "Language" establishes that project proposals and all related documents should be written in English, and that all communication will be held in English as well.

The evaluation process is described in the chapter "Summary of the evaluation process." A link is provided to the evaluation criteria (Appendix E), defining eligibility and evaluation criteria including the rating used, followed by the description of the evaluation process and a procedure for dealing with complaints.

In the chapter "SRIA Contribution Projects Execution," the role of the project coach–a member of the FSTP Project Board responsible for project supervision–is defined and the evaluation of final projects' results is described.

The last chapters ("Obligations of Beneficiaries" and "Intellectual Property Rights") point to the Third Party Agreement (Appendix D), which shall be concluded between the applicant and the member of the project consortium responsible for the open calls' (i. e., CUNI) administration before work on the selected project starts. The contract defines the conditions under which the project is to be delivered, including the ownership of results, as well as dissemination, confidentiality and liability requirements.

3.1.2 Submission Platform

Based on the previous experience of the CUNI team with organizing open calls using the FSTP mechanism, it was decided to develop a custom submission platform, using the open-source Content Management System "Drupal" as the basis for the development. The main reason for this is that the CUNI technical team has a rich experience with Drupal, and it would be possible to formulate all the requirements for the features of the platform without any issues, efficiently and swiftly, including any changes or bug fixes. The goal was to fit into the available timeframe, to keep the submission and evaluation process easy and straightforward for the applicants, as well as keeping the process manageable for the call organizers. This solution also allowed for the technical team members in critical moments (e. ,g., opening

the submissions, assigning proposals to the evaluators, etc.,) to react quickly if unexpected technical problems occurred.

The platform runs under the ELE domain (https://opencalls.european-language-equality. eu), while being deployed at the technical team site to ensure quick reactions to any technical problems.

3.2 Execution of the Submission Process

3.2.1 Open Call Announcement

The Call was opened on September 29, 2022, and closed on November 29, 2022 (23:59 CEST). All relevant documentation was published on the ELE website, i. e., the call documentation including all annexes described in the previous section, and a link to the submission platform. The call was widely announced by all consortium members through various communication channels (e-mails to numerous stakeholders' mailing lists, social networks, etc.).

3.2.2 Support for Applicants

Support for applicants was provided during the whole submission process. The "Guide for Applicants" was conceived as a step-by-step manual, including, among others, illustrative screenshots on how to submit a project proposal via the ELE Open Call Platform. An e-mail address open-call@european-language-equality.eu was also set up for communicating with the applicants, mainly to answer their questions about the call and the submission process.

4 Evaluation Process

The most important part of the preparation of the evaluation process was the selection and specification of evaluation criteria that match the objectives of the call. The key selection criterion was whether the proposed project would be able to contribute in *a significant way* to the overall success and uptake of the strategic agenda.

The submitted proposals were evaluated by the FSTP Project Board members in compliance with the call documentation and evaluation criteria.

4.1 Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria are defined and described in detail in Appendix E, and they are part of the call documentation.

Firstly, the submitted proposal had to fulfil formal requirements (language, submission date, declaration of honour, legal status, eligible country, number of submitted proposals per applicant and no conflict of interest) which was checked by the FSTP management team before any further evaluation took place.

Then two independent evaluators from the FSTP Project Board were assigned to check the eligibility criteria–uniqueness and relevance for the SRIA. These criteria were set up as a binary (yes/no) question. For all projects, the evaluators evaluated the proposals according to the following (graded/ranked) evaluation criteria:

objective fit,

feasibility,

innovativeness,

impact,

budget adequacy.

For each of these graded criteria, the evaluators would assign points according to the following scoring scheme:

- 0 points – Not at all. The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.

- 3 points – Limited. The criterion is inadequately addressed or there are significant weaknesses.

- 7 points – Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well, but some shortcomings are present.

- 10 points – Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion; any shortcomings are minor.

The points assigned are multiplied by the criterion weight. Objective fit: $5 \times$ (max.) 10 points; feasibility: $2 \times$ (max.) 10 points; innovativeness: $2 \times$ (max.) 10 points; impact: $3 \times$ (max.) 10 points; budget adequacy $1 \times$ (max.) 10 points, from each evaluator.

All project proposals were evaluated independently by two FSTP Project Board members (evaluators). The points from both evaluators were then added up. The maximum overall score for a proposal after the evaluation by the two FSTP Project Board members was 260 points.

The FSTP Project Board was able to adjust the total number of points assigned to a proposal in the range of 40 points at most (up or down) of all the points the proposal received from the evaluators. The total overall score of an individual proposal was thus 300 points: a maximum of 260 points from the evaluators and a maximum of 40 points from the FSTP Project Board. After assigning points to all of the proposals, the FSTP Project Board selected from each of the ten topics one proposal with the highest score from all proposals submitted to the given topic. If there were no proposals submitted to the given topic, or the proposal with the most points in a given topic received less than 182 points, no proposal was selected for that given topic.

Next, the FSTP Project Board ranked these selected "primary" proposals in descending order across all topics and decided how many projects would be accepted for funding. If all of these selected proposals were accepted for funding and there was still some remaining budget, other proposals (ranked in descending order) could be selected for funding.

4.2 Evaluation of Submitted Project Proposals

The detailed description of the evaluation process is presented in the call documentation (Appendix B, Appendix E).

4.2.1 Formal Check and the Assignment of Project Proposals to Evaluators

After the open call was closed, 37 proposals were submitted through the ELE Open Call Platform. One proposal was rejected for not fulfilling the formal criteria (the applicant organization was not established in an EU Member State), therefore 36 proposals were accepted for evaluation.

The FSTP management team assigned each proposal two FSTP Project Board members. These two Project Board members, after checking for any possible conflict of interest, evaluated the proposal independently based on the evaluation criteria described in the previous section.

To support the evaluators, the FSTP management team prepared a Guide for Evaluators with detailed instructions on how to register on ELE Open Call Platform, how to log in and manage an account, how to accept or decline a proposal for evaluation, and how to evaluate the proposal (see Appendix G–Guide for Evaluators).

4.2.2 Evaluation by FSTP Project Board Members

After an evaluator accepted a project proposal for evaluation on the ELE Open Call Platform, they started to prepare the evaluation report by filling out a web-based form on the submission platform. The template for this form is available in Appendix G Guide for evaluators, sec. 7 "Evaluation report template." The evaluation report includes numerical scores for the graded evaluation criteria and Yes/No answers to the binary eligibility criteria. Each decision had to be justified in a short paragraph of text. Finally, the evaluator had to justify whether they recommend the project for financing and execution or not and whether they suggest a budget reduction.

4.2.3 Proposals Ranking and Final Selection

The final ranking and selection was completed during the FSTP Project Board meeting after all project proposals were independently evaluated. This meeting was held on December 14, 2022.

In several cases the FSTP Project Board suggested a change in the total number of points assigned to a proposal by evaluators (40 points at most, in accordance with the evaluation criteria). After that the proposals were ranked following the evaluation criteria taking into account that the aim was to select at least one project proposal per each topic. However, because of a small number of proposals submitted to certain topic areas it was not possible to cover all topics. Based on the process explained in the previous section, after all the successful proposals (per topic) had been selected, additional projects were selected in some of topics, ensuring the maximum available support (€185,000) was not exceeded.

This resulted in eight projects being selected for financial support. However, during the process of signing contracts with these selected projects, the organization "KPMG Malta" which had gained approval for financial support for two projects, withdrew their proposals after they were found to not comply with the FSTP rules. This brought the number of approved projects down to six, with a corresponding portion of the FSTP funding unassigned to projects. Therefore, on January 27, 2023, a second FSTP Project Board meeting had to be organized, which finally selected and approved three additional projects from the ranked list of evaluated proposals, bringing the total to nine projects.

The list of selected projects containing project title, organization name and country, and awarded funding was published on the ELE website.

5 Results of the Open Call for SRIA Contribution Projects

During the two months of the submission period, applicants were submitting their proposals to the Open Call for SRIA Contribution Projects. Each applicant could submit proposals to several topics, but only one proposal per topic at most.
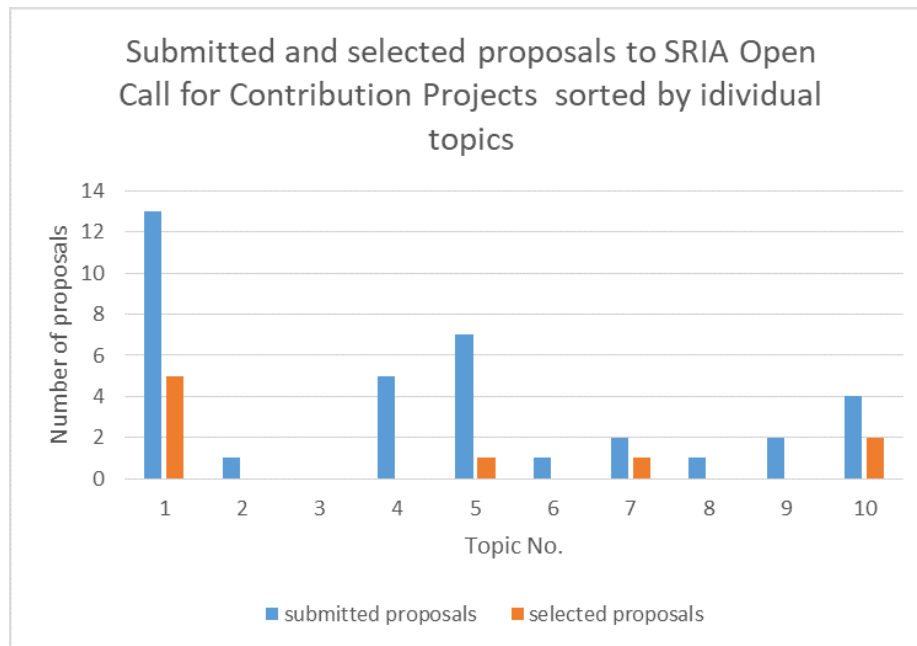
Figure 1: Distribution of submitted proposals and selected projects to open call topic areas.

5.1 Analysis of the Results of the Open Call for SRIA Contribution Projects

24 different applicant organizations (11 research organizations and 13 companies) from 15 different EU Member-States submitted 36 proposals which were accepted for evaluation. Project proposals were submitted on nine different topics. Following the evaluation process described in the previous chapter, the FSTP Project Board selected nine projects from four different topics for financial support. Four of the selected projects were led by members of ELE1 consortium (two projects by University of Zagreb, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, one project by Pangeanic and one project by Institut for Bulgarian Language Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin). The distribution by individual topics is shown in Figure 1.

Approximately one third of proposals were submitted for topic 1 ("Data sets for more robust speech technology"). Given the lack of high quality project proposals in some topics, eventually, five projects from this topic were selected for funding. This is not surprising as datasets for speech technology continue to be in strong demand in the current state of the research. For many languages there is a lack of datasets and in the existing datasets, many types of voices are usually not represented, while at the same time some are overrepresented. Therefore, many research organizations and companies are very active in research in the field of acquiring data for speech technology.

No project proposal was submitted for topic 3 ("Legal Assessment"). This may reflect the fact that the legal aspects of using language data provided by, e. g., national language institutes or libraries or other legally sensitive data sources for developing language models, is really complex and difficult to manage.

For the remaining topics several proposals for each topic were submitted. Due to lack of quality of some proposals it was not possible to cover all topics. Since the offered topic areas were quite broad, we consider covering almost half of them as a success. Two projects have contributed to topic 10 ("Basic LAnguage Resource Kit (BLARK)"), one project to topic 5 ("General NLP/LT Domains (Desk Research)"), and one to topic 7 ("Computing facilities for LT

(Desk Research)"). All of these projects have significantly contributed to mapping the NLP/LT area, HPC computing facilities and Basic LAnguage Resource Kits for minority languages.

5.2 Execution of the Projects

Once the projects were selected for funding, contracts with applicants were signed and the projects started on their three-month work. Six projects started their work in January, two in mid-February and one project at the beginning of March 2023. For each project one FSTP Project Board member (called the "Project Coach") was assigned to guide the project's team. The task of the Project Coach was to answer questions coming from the team for the duration of the project and to collect reports and project results.

The FSTP management team also organized two meetings with the FSTP Project Board and selected projects. One introductory meeting on January 18, 2023, where representatives of project teams introduced their projects to the FSTP Project Board. At the same time the project teams were presented with the project delivery guidelines. During the second meeting with the FSTP Project Board and selected projects which took place on March 7, 2023, the project teams presented the progress on their projects which were followed by discussions with the board members. At the end of the meeting, the FSTP management team members reviewed information regarding delivering project results, payments and dissemination activities. The projects were also invited to contribute to the META-FORUM 2023 conference.

After the projects delivered their results, the FSTP Project Board reviewed them and approved the payment of the awarded amount to the project.

6 Selected SRIA Contribution Projects and Results Achieved

All projects selected for financial support are listed in Table 1. The following section is arranged by each projects' topics. Individual projects are introduced in detail including all delivered results.

6.1 Topic 1. Data sets for more robust speech technology (five projects)

6.1.1 Project NGT-Dutch Hotel Review Corpus

Project's goals

The goal of this project is to create a multimodal parallel corpus of Dutch and Sign Language of the Netherlands (NGT). The corpus will contain hotel reviews written in Dutch and their translation into NGT (videos) provided by deaf translators.

With this corpus, the project aims to provide good quality data for the development of sign language technology, which, all to often is not considered when discussing the development of language technology. Sign language resources are extremely limited and much less than what is usually available for spoken languages which are considered low-resourced. A similar parallel corpus supports further advances towards the inclusion of sign languages into the Language Technology's mainstream.

Project's results

As planned in the project proposal, this project created a multimodal parallel corpus of Dutch and Sign Language of the Netherlands (NGT). The corpus contains hotel reviews written in Dutch and their translation into NGT (videos) provided by deaf translators.

The parallel corpus is available at the ELG platform https://live.european-language-grid. eu/catalogue/corpus/21566 and consists of 283 reviews in both written Dutch and the corresponding NGT videos. The total amount of words contained in the corpus is 21,825; the

Topic	Project Name	Organization, Country	Grant amount
1	NGT-Dutch Hotel Review Corpus	Tilburg University, Netherlands	EUR 20,752
1	Building E2E spoken-language understanding systems for virtual assistants in low-resources scenarios	Balidea, Spain	EUR 25,000
1	Multilingual and Mixed Language Data for Inclusive Speech Technology	Universiteit Gent, Belgium	EUR 8,203
1	Generation of a large speech corpus for Spain languages using Data Augmentation	Pangeanic, Spain	EUR 19,749
1	Underrepresented speech dataset from open data: case study on the Romanian language	Research Institute for Artificial Intelligence, Romanian Academy, Romania	EUR 20,794
5	European LT Domains 2023	University of Zagreb, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Croatia	EUR 21,500
7	Computing facilities for LT	University of Zagreb, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Croatia	EUR 21,500
10	A BLARK for minority languages in the era of deep learning: expertise from academia and industry	Factoría de Software e Multimedia, S.L. (imaxin|software), Spain	EUR 24,402
10	Artificial Intelligence Data Kit 2030	Institut for Bulgarian Language Prof. Lyubomir Andreychin, Bulgaria	EUR 23,100

Table 1: Projects selected for financial support in the open call for SRIA contribution projects.

NGT translations consist of almost four hours of videos (213.18 minutes). The duration of the NGT videos ranged from around 10 seconds to around four minutes. The reviews have been translated by six deaf professional NGT sign language translators.

You can find more information about the corpus and its creation in the project report https://european-language-equality.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/ELE2_Project_Report_NGT_HoReCo.pdf.

The availability of such a corpus supports research focusing on more inclusive language technology, and in particular contributes to the efforts towards making sign language technology part of the mainstream.

The main benefits of the project and its results for the ELE Programme and SRIA

The project provides good quality data for the development of sign language technology. Similar data is generally very limited and their availability can support further advances in sign language technology and help to make sign languages more visible in the Language Technology area.

6.1.2 Project Building E2E spoken-language understanding systems for virtual assistants in low-resources scenarios

Project's goals

This project aims to contribute to the SRIA by presenting guidance for designing and collecting datasets for end-to-end (E2E) spoken language understanding (SLU) systems, establishing guidelines on how to approach an E2E SLU project in a low-resource scenario, and taking advantage from Balidea's experience in e-Health virtual assistants.

Creating more efficient E2E SLU architectures is a popular topic in research due to the growing demand for speech interfaces. However, these systems require huge amounts of speech data for training (which may not be available and are expensive to obtain), and they are difficult to adapt to new domains (in that specific data has to be generated).

Project's results

Based on the lessons learnt from bilingual assistants, the project team has carried out a study on the minimum design features of a SLU dataset for low-resource scenarios (considering that Galician is less-resourced than Spanish), and with a high presence of linguistic variety. They have proposed quality measures, regardless of the language of application, to determine the complexity of the designed dataset, in order to be able to establish minimum requirements in the design and collection of data.

Finally, an ambitious campaign was designed and executed to collect voices in Galician which has been an unprecedented milestone for the language, achieving more than 250 hours of recordings, more than 11,000 participants and covering 98% of the territory of Galicia. This has been the main task of the project, involving the development and updating of the voice collection tool, dashboards with real-time data, and the creation of digital content on the internet, among many other activities.

Furthermore, the project team has presented the lessons learned and the results of the data collection campaigns and the methods of validation of the collected data, as well as a series of quality measurements of the final dataset.

One of the main outcomes of the project are the lessons learned for the creation of voice campaigns outlined in the project report https://european-language-equality.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/ELE2_Project_Report_BEST_Assistants.pdf.

To the best of our knowledge, the project team has collected the largest SLU dataset to date. This is an unprecedented milestone that demonstrates the success of the campaign. The main characteristics of the dataset obtained are:

- Number of hours: 250

- Number of recordings: 245,000

- Participants: 11,300

- Municipalities participating: 98.7%

- Female / Male ratio: 61% – 39%

- Participants over 50 years: 2,500

- Hours from participants over 50 years: 54.15

Real-time data from the campaign (which is still active), can be viewed at:
https://falai.balidea.com/datos-tempo-real/public/dashboard/c2d965e3-287d-4187-a95e-482fbe82578f/
The recording tool is accessible via: https://falai.balidea.com/
Some examples of the content created for the campaigns:

• https://youtu.be/gE8E-yHMveE

• https://youtu.be/wJtKf-xR43A

• https://www.instagram.com/reel/Cp93hJ5riSp/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

• https://www.instagram.com/reel/CpFTwdeoF56/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link

The designed dataset is in the database in the json format. A xlsx format with the dataset information can be found at:
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1zmwCB7XzWkKsv7Ej_fYIthrTn79YRWif/edit?usp=sharing&ouid

The main benefits of the project and its results for the ELE Programme and SRIA

The project shows that good datasets for low-resourced languages can be created in a consistent and reliable manner with a relatively modest investment of time and money. The development of similar datasets for other languages following the recommendations of the project could be one of the important suggestions for a strand in a research and development programme of the EU.

6.1.3 Project Multilingual and Mixed Language Data for Inclusive Speech Technology

Project's goals

Current speech and language technologies are built with monolingual assumptions ignoring the variation (e. g., social, linguistic and cultural) among different types of speakers/users which creates language inequalities. There is lack of multilingual and mixed language data to build these technologies in Europe.

Focusing on the younger members of an underrepresented immigrant community in Belgium, the project aims to collect multilingual speech data (Turkish-Dutch-English) based on natural conversations and transcribe them by developing its own guidelines which will be shared with the community to serve as an example for future studies.

Project's results

As promised in the project proposal this project was focused on multilingual and spoken data collection in Belgium focusing on Turkish-Dutch bilinguals who also made use of English words and/or phrases in some parts of the conversations. The data was collected through an audio recorder and it involves natural conversations between bilingual speakers in pairs. In total, there are 10 recordings (approx. one hour each) between 20 participants between the ages of 18-35.

A brief survey about the background characteristics of the participants and transcription guidelines was designed specifically for this project. The survey reached out to the participants who provided data for this study and raised awareness about the project in the community.

The metadata were published in the ELG catalogue: https://live.european-language-grid.eu/catalogue/corpus/22950.

The main benefits of the project and its results for the ELE Programme and SRIA

The metadata has been provided, and the project publicised at the UniDive Cost Action meeting (March 2023) and at EACL23 (May 2023). Further project outputs are envisaged.

The project supports the SRIA of the ELE project, by demonstrating how new datasets for low-resource scenarios can be gathered.

6.1.4 Project Generation of a large speech corpus for Spain's languages using Data Augmentation

Project's goals

To contribute to the ELE2 strategic agenda, this project creates a guideline for building an extensive speech dataset with transcriptions of languages spoken in Spain through audio data augmentation (ADA) techniques. By incorporating ADA techniques such as noisy backgrounds, time masking, and speed variation, the aim is to expand a standard dataset into a much larger speech dataset, by a factor of at least 20. This approach provides a better representation of various speech and sound types, as it simulates real-life environments.

Project's results

The project focused on collecting audio data in four different languages spoken in Spain by recruiting participants to record their voices. To increase the size of the dataset, Audio Data Augmentation techniques were applied. The project team also developed a methodology for conducting an audio project with augmentation and created a set of guidelines outlining the necessary steps. The dataset was made available and consists of approximately 60,000 audio files along with their metadata. Furthermore, the corresponding code was provided and audio data augmentation was applied to a subset of the data. The whole process is described in detail in the project report.

https://european-language-equality.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/ELE2_Project_Report_SpeechCorpus.pdf.

The project created 63,271 audio files with metadata, which amounts to approximately 180 hours of content. For each language, they have collected the following number of text segments and audio files, along with their corresponding metadata:

- Euskera with metadata: 12,231 (equivalent to approximately 37 hours of content)

- Catalan with metadata: 20,277 (equivalent to approximately 56 hours of content)

- Asturian with metadata: 8,459 (equivalent to approximately 25 hours of content)

- Galician with metadata: 22,304 (equivalent to approximately 62 hours of content)

In addition, they have provided a sample of 8,459 audio files of Asturian that they applied ADA to.

All the datasets created are available on the ELG platform:

- Speech and transcription corpus in Catalan https://live.european-language-grid.eu/catalogue/corpus/21545

- Speech and transcription corpus in Euskera https://live.european-language-grid.eu/catalogue/corpus/21546

- Speech and transcription corpus in Asturian https://live.european-language-grid.eu/catalogue/corpus/21534

- Speech and transcription corpus in Galician https://live.european-language-grid.eu/catalogue/corpus/21547

- Speech and Transcription Corpus with Augmented Audio Data in the Asturian Language https://live.european-language-grid.eu/catalogue/corpus/21548

The main benefits of the project and its results for the ELE Programme and SRIA

The concrete results consist of: 1) audio data in four different languages spoken in Spain, 2) Audio Data Augmentation (ADA) techniques, together with a methodology/guidelines for conducting an audio project with data augmentation, 3) ADA software code available for re-use through GitHub.

By incorporating ADA techniques (noisy backgrounds, time masking, and speed variation) standard datasets can be expanded into much larger speech datasets by a factor of at least 20, thus providing better representations of different speech and sound types simulating real-life environments. The guidelines presented by the project offer a structured approach that can be applied to other EU languages and different scenarios.

6.1.5 Project Underrepresented speech dataset from open data: case study on the Romanian language

Project's goals

The project aims to study the usability of open data for building speech datasets for types of voices that are usually missing or underrepresented in existing speech datasets. It identifies existing multimedia open data, including platforms, types of media, percentages of usable voices in a data sample, types of open licenses, types of underrepresented voices (including children, young people, older people, women, etc.), and percentages of underrepresented voices. In the second step, a case study was conducted on the Romanian language, with the possibility of applying the same methodology to any other language.

Project's results

The project conducted four activities:

Activity 1. Identification of multimedia platforms with open content: The project team identified multimedia platforms offering content under open licenses (especially Creative Commons licenses).

Activity 2. Gathering a sample of open multimedia content: The project team downloaded relevant samples and annotated them with metadata, including number of speakers, age, gender and speech quality. Searching was performed based on specific keyphrases and then filtered based on license.

Activity 3. Manual annotation of retrieved samples: The multimedia files, producing text aligned with the speech have been transcribed.

Activity 4. Report and dataset release: The report was created (it will be published on the ELE2 website), including the revised version of the annotation guidelines, based on the project's team experience during the project. The annotated files were assembled into a dataset, including the metadata. The audio files were segmented, producing speech files with the corresponding text transcription. The dataset was released on Zenodo, the European Language Grid, and the RELATE platform:

- https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7898232

- https://live.european-language-grid.eu/catalogue/corpus/21567

- https://relate.racai.ro/repository/uspdatro

Key characteristics of the dataset are the following: single archive (zip file), total speech duration 4h18m55s, total segments 2637, associated text tokens: 48530, sentences: 6652.

The project website is available at https://www.racai.ro/p/uspdatro/

The project github with scripts produced and used for the project: https://github.com/racai-ai/USPDATRO

The annotation guidelines (useful for building similar datasets in other languages) are available as an Annex in the project report.

The main benefits of the project and its results for the ELE Programme and SRIA

The report generated as part of this project and the guidelines allow other language resource providers to build speech datasets from open data. This will, in turn, allow covering under-resourced types of voices, such as children's voices, young people, old people, women, foreign accents, etc. Even though the project focused on Romanian language data, the methodology can be applied to other languages lacking resources for certain voice types. The data output of this project, a sample dataset of Romanian speech covering currently unavailable or underrepresented voice types, will allow testing current ASR systems on these types of voices.

Alternatively, the dataset can be used alongside other resources to train improved ASR systems for the Romanian language. With regard to the SRIA, the most valuable part is the methodology and the guidelines; the dataset is relatively small, but as mentioned above, this should act to complement larger, more general transcriptions for underrepresented voice types.

6.2 Topic 5. General NLP/LT Domains (Desk Research) (one project)

6.2.1 Project European LT Domains 2023

Project's goals

The objective of the project is to provide a snapshot illustrating how NLP/LT are utilised in various sectors and to report on the fields that make frequent use of NLP/LT. The fundamental fragmentation that exists among the LT community in Europe favours some domains over others. The essential action to help the underdeveloped or non-developed NLP/LT domains can be taken with a better insight into the existing highly desired domains.

An overview of all the actively explored NLP areas leads to a better understanding of underdeveloped domain-specific characteristics. The study will identify domains that employ active NLP/LT techniques and domains that require special and additional attention.

Project's results

The main outcome of this project is the compilation and analysis of collected data about domains, NLP/LT tasks and languages. Mutual relationships between members of these three sets were presented in the project report https://european-language-equality.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/ELE2_Project_Report_EuLTDom2023.pdf which represents an overview of the usage of LT by different domains regarding a language set composed of 39 European languages as defined in the first ELE project.

In the first part of this study, the project presented a separate overview regarding each dimension of the study (languages, domains, and NLP tasks), and, in the second part, for each language, heat-maps that detail the usage of the selected NLP tasks by the different domains were generated. This language-specific examination was completed with a general overview of the distribution of LT by domain.

The extracted data per language (CSV files) and the graphs in the SVG format are also available in the digital material accompanying the project report: https://github.com/dfvalio/EuLTDom2023.

The main benefits of the project and its results for the ELE Programme and SRIA

By applying a dictionary-based approach based on precise lists of terms related to languages, domains, and NLP tasks, the project was able to present an overview of each of these dimensions, and to provide language-specific results mapping the usage of NLP tasks by the different domains. The tangible results produced by this FSTP project are a software code and the heat maps with the visualisations in terms of papers published in the ACL Anthology and how they relate to the triplet of <language, application, domain>. These heat maps are very useful and can be directly used for ELE purposes via copy & paste from the project report. For example, with regard to language-specific or domain- specific presentations, publications, or for the next version of the ELE strategic recommendations. Furthermore, the software code implemented for the project can be re-used since it's available via GitHub. One obvious way of extending the code would be to implement a higher quality information extraction approach that produces higher recall. The current approach has limitations because it's based on the dictionary-approach and, thus, requires direct matches.

6.3 Topic 7. Computing facilities for LT (Desk Research) (one project)

6.3.1 Project Computing facilities for LT

Project's goals
This project aims to provide feasibility analysis of existing HPC services in Europe in terms of their current support for Language Technology. The objective of the project is to evaluate the HPC, and particularly, GPU's capacity for both small and large trials, the available access protocols and their compatibility, the GPU's capacity for training large neural models, etc. The project focuses on the analysis of various HPC configurations and the enumeration of details regarding various user-important aspects. These include the performance of the HPC, the number of GPUs, access for various user types, access modes, etc.

Project's results
The project objectives are tied to a feasibility analysis of existing HPC services in terms of their current support for Language Technology and during the project the subsequent activities were carried out:

- A compilation of various HPC systems in the Europe based on the information from relevant websites such as EuroHPC, PRACE, and top500.org.

- Each HPC and its hosting entity were manually examined for the various hardware, access, and metadata characteristics.

- The information was compiled into a table and visualised for comprehension.

- In addition, a survey to determine the Language Technology researcher's real-world use case was planned.

- The questionnaire was created, revised, and subsequently distributed via various mailing lists (In-atala, MT List, etc.) and the ELE newsletter.

- The survey responses were analysed and represented visually.

The results of the project are listed as follows:

- A detailed list of 56 manually curated HPC systems in Europe containing data for the previously described aspects.

- A total of 26 responses were obtained from the survey conducted to investigate the aspects of real-world HPC usage and needs.

- A video that summarises the findings of desk research and a survey.

- A report
   https://european-language-equality.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/ELE2_Project_Report_ComFac4LT.pdf outlining the summary of the overall study.

The main benefits of the project and its results for the ELE Programme and SRIA

The project focuses on whether existing HPC facilities and access policies in Europe are adequate for current LT research. This aspect was not properly covered in the initial ELE1 project and its resulting SRIA.

6.4 Topic 10. Basic LAnguage Resource Kit (BLARK) (Desk Research) (two projects)

6.4.1 Project A BLARK for minority languages in the era of deep learning: expertise from academia and industry

Project's goals

This project created a BLARK that allows for the recognition and analysis of what key resources and tools are necessary to develop state-of-the-art language technologies. In order to develop this project, the project focused on Galician taking two perspectives: industry (imaxin|software) and academia (Nós Project).

Combining the research experience of the Nós Project in the collection of data for Galician and the creation of models with the experience of imaxin|software in the development of tools for minority languages for end users, the case of Galician acts as an example for any language and, in particular, for those presented in the SRIA.

Project's results

By taking other existing BLARKs as a starting point, such as those for Dutch (D. Binnenpoorte et al., 2002) or Faroese (Annika Simonsen et al., 2022), the project team have developed an analytical method in order to determine the basic requirements and tools for any language to get closer to the state of the art in language technologies.

To do so, the methodology used had three main steps: first, previous BLARK proposals were analyzed in depth and identified which of the previously proposed criteria were still prevailing in the deep learning era and which were outdated.

Secondly, available resources were surveyed for different European languages in order to ascertain the minimum requirements.

Thirdly, the project team deployed its own BLARK using its knowledge from Galician in order to test its capacity to appropriately produce a realistic and informative panorama of its degree of development.

This project comprised desk-research in which a BLARK matrix for minority languages was elaborated. With this tool, the project provides LT researchers and experts with a wide-ranging and flexible BLARK to evaluate the development of minority languages. So, in the corresponding project report https://european-language-equality.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/ELE2_Project_Report_BLARK.pdf, the project team presents a general BLARK matrix and also the one developed for the Galician language (GL-BLARK).

The main benefits of the project and its results for the ELE Programme and SRIA

The project gives a detailed illustration of the lack of LT provision for a less resourced language such as Galician and has built a matrix comprising various indicators so that we are able to measure, with input from minoritised language NLP specialists, LT provision for other less-resourced languages.

The benefits for the SRIA and the digital language equality programme is that the matrix proposed provides a template enabling researchers to gather more detail on where each

language is lacking in its LT provision. In turn, this will provide more detailed evidence in the long-term objective of achieving digital language equality, and satisfies the criteria set out for the ELE2 project.

The project also supports the ELE2 objective of defining "a prioritized list of missing language resources and/or tools for each language covered" set out as an objective in the grant application.

6.4.2 Project Artificial Intelligence Data Kit 2030

Project's goals

The main objective of the project is to specify the data kit (corpora, models, datasets, etc.) required to develop computer applications classified as artificial intelligence. In the modern conditions of: a) rapid technological development; b) varying degrees of technological support for different European languages, it is not viable to suggest a single static universal kit of text, audio, image, and video data.

Based on the existing studies and their in-depth analysis, the project proposed to create an AI data kit for language understanding, generation, and transformation, as well as a set of criteria to which the data kit would be adapted depending on technological advancement and the specific technological support for different languages.

Project's results

The report "FSTP Project Report AID 2030 – Artificial Intelligence Data Kit 2030" (40 pp.) is published on the ELE website and includes a survey of the most recent and notable large language models (LLMs), demonstrating trends and advancements; surveys on the most significant datasets and benchmarks currently available for LLMs training and evaluation; and an overall analysis and specification of the Artificial Intelligence Data Kit. A set of criteria to which the data kit should be adapted depending on technological advancement and the specific technological support for different languages is proposed: quantity, diversity, quality, flexibility, linking, and standardisation.

The team compiled a database of over 200 AI companies from across Europe and approached them with a brief questionnaire on their involvement in the development, adaptation, and use of AI applications. The survey findings are included in the report as Appendix 2, and the survey is available at https://s.surveyplanet.com/p2l65zu1.

A 3-minute presentation of the project is available at https://we.tl/t-Z06sAIvEcQ.

The main benefits of the project and its results for the ELE Programme and SRIA

The report includes:

- a survey of the most recent and notable large language models (LLMs);

- surveys on the most significant datasets and benchmarks currently available for LLMs training and evaluation;

- an overall analysis and specification of the Artificial Intelligence Data Kit.

7 Evaluation of Project Results

The first 6 FSTP projects were completed and delivered their results by March 31st 2023. Each project delivered a project report and c. three minute long video presentation introducing projects' results. The projects which have contributed to Topic 1 and which aimed to create a dataset during project's execution, published the datasets or metadata (in cases where publishing of the dataset was not possible, e. g., due to GDPR reasons) on the ELG platform.

After delivering the project results, the projects' leaders were asked to fill in a self-assessment form on the ELE Open Call Platform where they described key activities carried out during

the project, outputs and results achieved, and they self-assessed how satisfied they were with the project execution. Furthermore, to receive feedback applicable towards the future ELE programme, they were asked what are their expectations regarding the ELE Programme and its future developments, as defined in the SRIA, i. e., whether they have any recommendations or suggestions regarding its activities and whether they see a possible engagement of themselves and/or their organizations in the ELE initiative in the future. The full version of the self-assessment report template is in the Appendix H – Evaluation Template – Final Review.

Once the project leader submitted their self-assessment report, the responsible project coach evaluated the project results and filled in their evaluation report on the ELE Open Call Platform (for the evaluation report template, see Appendix H – Evaluation Template – Final Review). The project coaches evaluated whether the self-assessment done by the project team was appropriate and adequate, whether all activities, goals and outcomes planned in the project proposal were successfully achieved, and how satisfied they were with the project's progress and with the communication of the project team. Furthermore, the project coaches justified whether they recommend approval of the project's results and payment. They also stated how satisfied they were with the project's execution and its results. They also described the main benefits of the project and its results for the ELE Programme and SRIA, lessons learnt, and recommendations to the ELE2 consortium.

After the project coaches of all six finished projects submitted their evaluation reports, the FSTP Project Board evaluation meeting took place on April 12, 2023. The results of each project were introduced by the project coach, they also suggested whether to approve the payment or not. After a discussion, the FSTP Project Board voted on the approval of the project's results and payment. During the meeting, results and thus payments of all six projects were approved. The FSTP Project Board was "highly satisfied" with the execution and results of five projects and "satisfied" with the execution and results of one project [2]. The results of the evaluations were announced to project leaders by e-mail and also some feedback from the FSTP Board review meeting was made available to the individual projects via the ELE Open Call Platform (see part FSTP PROJECT BOARD MEETING of Appendix H – Evaluation Template – Final Review). Payments to the projects were then processed.

The last three FSTP projects finished their execution phase and delivered their results in May 2023. The same evaluation process was followed as for the previous six projects. The second FSTP Project Board review meeting took place on June 9, 2023 and the results and payments of all three projects were approved. The FSTP Project Board was "highly satisfied" with the execution and results of one project and "satisfied" with the execution and results of two projects [3] The feedback to project leaders was published through the ELE Open Call Platform and the payments were subsequently processed.

8 Lessons Learnt and Recommendations for SRIA

8.1 Feedback from the FSTP Projects

After all FSTP projects been completed, feedback regarding the ELE initiative was gathered from the project teams by asking them to answer two sets of questions in the project self-assessment report:

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[2] The project Computing facilities for LT conducted survey to determine the Language Technology researcher's real-world use case and FSTP Project Board stated that the number of delivered responses (26) could have been higher.

[3] The project Multilingual and Mixed Language Data for Inclusive Speech Technology made sufficient progress, the project Artificial Intelligence Data Kit 2030 presented many useful results including a data visualisation method similar to the ELG dashboard, which, the Board determined, could lead to some confusion).

- What are your expectations regarding the ELE Programme and its future developments, as defined in the SRIA? Do you have any recommendations or suggestions regarding its activities?

- Do you see possible engagement of you and/or your company/institution in the ELE initiative in the future? If so, in which direction and under which conditions?

In general, the projects find the ELE initiative essential, they pledged continued support in the future and some of them are aiming to maintain a close relationship with the initiative. Many projects expect that the proposed ELE Programme will help to create opportunities to achieve full digital language equality. Three organizations were part of the ELE1 consortium and were very interested in supporting the initiative in the future.

The projects also expressed a hope that ELE will continue to launch projects in the future as interesting and necessary as those carried out during the ELE open call. They suggested, e. g., to establish an activity or workflow that promotes direct collaboration among participants, thus enabling them to work more closely together. Another suggestion was to generate instances of collaboration between similar projects or to promote private-public Collaboration.

8.2 Feedback from the FSTP Management Team

From the management point of view, although the open call for SRIA Contribution Projects was successfully organized and many interesting and useful results were achieved, it is demanding to organize the whole open call process (preparing all the documentation, announcing the call, evaluating proposals, selecting projects, signing contracts, starting and monitoring a project's execution, evaluating results, processing the payments, and still ensuring enough time to include the results into the SRIA) within one year. We thus suggest, even for small 3-month projects, to plan more time for such a task.

Also, although the grants were small (below 25000 EUR) all administrative requirements had to be fulfilled. A Third Party Agreement had to be thoroughly prepared; projects accepted for evaluation had to go through the administrative processes of their organizations (e. g., revision of the Third Party Agreement by a legal department, in some cases approval by the ethical committee, or following other types of internal policies) which was sometimes very time consuming for project leaders and the FSTP management team members. In the case of KPMG Malta company, it has eventually led to their proposals' withdrawal. Therefore, it raises the question as to what extent are the full rules for FSTP financing for really small projects appropriate given the administrative load and complexity associated with it.

9 Conclusion

The ELE2 consortium successfully organized, using the FSTP mechanism, an Open Call for SRIA Contribution Projects. The main objective, i. e., to bring substantial external expertise and ideas to SRIA, was achieved. Nine projects selected for financial support delivered numerous, interesting results in different areas of the SRIA. The projects' reports were published on the ELE website, some have created datasets and metadata that were published on the ELG platform. The projects also presented their results at the META-FORUM 2023 conference, promptly sharing the results, such as the implemented use cases and best-practice examples, with the community and stakeholders.

References

Appendix

A FSTP Project Board Operational Procedures (document)

**EUROPEAN
LANGUAGE
EQUALITY**

FSTP Project Board: Operational Procedures

August, 23, 2022 – Version 1.0

Responsible: Jan Hajič (hajic@ufal.mff.cuni.cz)

Authors: Jan Hajič, Jana Hamrlová, Jane Dunne, Andy Way, Georg Rehm

Preamble

The primary goal of the ELE 2 project is to revise, extend and further promote the strategic research, innovation and implementation agenda (SRIA) and roadmap. This agenda specifies strategic recommendations that, in their totality, can be conceptualised as the European Language Equality Programme, i.e., as a scientifically, economically, socially and politically relevant strategic plan, ideally jointly endorsed by the EU and the Member States eventually, towards the realisation of digital language equality in Europe by 2030.

ELE 2 will organise one open call for SRIA contribution projects, which will be financially supported by the ELE 2 project through the Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) mechanism. We expect a total number of 8-12 such projects to produce, among others, clearly defined and potentially also implemented use-cases and best-practice examples of language resource development and language technology implementations in relevant industry sectors and areas. These projects should, include feasibility studies, cost estimates, the validation of KPIs and guidelines for concrete implementations to motivate and facilitate the buy-in and take-up from the funding agencies and implementing parties.

1   FSTP Project Board Members

1.1   Members and Chairing

The FSTP Project Board shall consist of the Work Package 2 (WP2) Lead, the Coordinator, the co-Coordinator and four other members, so that each consortium partner will be represented by one FSTP Project Board member, nominated by the Steering Committee of the project.

The WP2 Lead shall chair all meetings of the FSTP Project Board, unless decided otherwise in a meeting of the FSTP Project Board.

1.2   Representation in Meetings

Any party which is a member of the FSTP Project Board (hereinafter referred to as "member"):

● should be present or represented at any meeting;

● may appoint a substitute or proxy to attend and vote at any meeting;

and shall participate in a cooperative manner in the meetings.

2   FSTP Project Board Responsibility

Work Package (WP) 2 takes care of the overall organisation of the open call including the selection and handling of the projects. The overall responsibility of the FSTP Project Board is the general supervision

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of the open call for SRIA contribution projects: the FSTP Project Board evaluates project proposals submitted to the open call and provides a forum for discussion on the progress of the selected projects, their intermediate feedback and results. Particularly, the FSTP Project Board is mainly responsible for the:

- approval of the call for SRIA contribution project proposals and related documentation;
- selection process of the SRIA contribution projects, including (but not limited to) the
    - evaluation of the project proposals submitted to the open call; each submitted project proposal should be evaluated independently by at least two FSTP Project Board members;
    - ranking of all submitted projects and approval for financing;
- supervision of the selected projects in their execution, including (but not limited to) the
    - monitoring of project progress and evaluation of the project results,
    - approval of the payments to awardees.

The FSTP Project Board is supported by the WP 2 Lead (by organising the meetings, providing supporting documents etc.).

3   Organisation of Meetings

3.1   Convening Meetings

The chairperson of the FSTP Project Board shall convene the meetings. Meetings of the FSTP Project Board may also be held by teleconference or other telecommunication means.

	Ordinary meeting	Extraordinary meeting
FSTP Project Board	At least every 4 months	At any time upon written request of any member of the FSTP Project Board

3.2   Notice of a Meeting

The chairperson of the FSTP Project Board shall give notice in writing of a meeting to each member of the FSTP Project Board as soon as possible and no later than the minimum number of days preceding the meeting as indicated below.

	Ordinary meeting	Extraordinary meeting
FSTP Project Board	14 calendar days	1 calendar day

3.3   Agenda

The chairperson of the FSTP Project Board shall prepare and send each member of the FSTP Project Board a written agenda no later than three calendar days preceding the meeting.

3.3.1   Adding Agenda Items

Any agenda item requiring a decision by the FSTP Project Board must be identified as such on the agenda.

Any member of the FSTP Project Board may add an item to the agenda by written notification to all of the other members of the Project Board up to one day preceding the meeting.

During a meeting the members of the FSTP Project Board present or represented can unanimously agree to add a new item to the original agenda.

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3.4 Meeting

3.4.1 Decisions

Decisions will only be binding once the relevant part of the minutes has been accepted according to Section 3.5.2.

Any decision may also be taken without a meeting if the chairperson circulates to all members of the FSTP Project Board a written document, which is then agreed by the defined majority (see Section 3.5) of all members of the FSTP Project Board. Such a document shall include the deadline for responses.

Decisions taken without a meeting shall be considered as accepted if, within the period set out in Section 3.5.2, no member has sent an objection in writing to the chairperson. The decisions will be binding after the chairperson sends to all members of the FSTP Project Board a written notification of this acceptance.

3.5 Voting Rules and Quorum

The FSTP Project Board shall not deliberate and decide validly unless 50% of its members are present or represented (quorum). If the quorum is not reached, the chairperson of the FSTP Project Board shall convene another ordinary meeting within 15 calendar days. If in this meeting the quorum is not reached either, the chairperson shall convene an extraordinary meeting which shall be entitled to decide even if less than the quorum of members are present or represented.

Each member of the FSTP Project Board present or represented in the meeting shall have one vote.

3.5.1 Majority

Decisions shall be taken by a majority of two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast.

3.5.2 Minutes of Meetings

3.5.2.1

The chairperson of the FSTP Project Board shall produce written minutes of each meeting which shall be the formal record of all decisions taken. The chairperson shall send the draft minutes to all members within ten calendar days of the meeting.

3.5.2.2

The minutes shall be considered as accepted if, within ten calendar days from sending, no member has sent an objection in writing to the chairperson with respect to the accuracy of the draft minutes.

3.5.2.3

The chairperson shall send the accepted minutes to all the members of the FSTP Project Board and to the Coordinator, who shall safeguard them. If requested the Coordinator shall provide authenticated duplicates to parties.

3

B Call Documentation (document)

EUROPEAN
LANGUAGE
EQUALITY

ELE 2 – European Language Equality 2

Grant Agreement No. LC- 01884166/ 101075356 ELE 2

Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions (PPPA)

FSTP – SRIA Contribution Projects Open Call

Call Documentation

Author:	**ELE 2 Consortium**
Date:	29-09-2022

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Document history

Date	Short Description of Changes
29 September 2022	Call documentation created and published.

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1 Summary – Key Parameters

SRIA Contribution Project Topics	1. Data sets for more robust speech technology 2. Study of language coverage for text mining and natural language understanding in key European industrial sectors 3. Legal Assessment (Desk Research) 4. General NLP/LT/AI Landscaping (Desk Research) 5. General NLP/LT Domains (Desk Research) 6. Analysis of AI and LT in European news media 7. Computing facilities for LT (Desk Research) 8. Demonstrably Greener Models of MT 9. Survey of the use of LT in the hospital sector 10. Basic LAnguage Resource Kit (BLARK) (Desk Research)
Budget Allocation	€25,000 (maximum amount of eligible costs per single project) €185,000 allocated for the call
Eligibility	• research organisations, NGOs, incorporated associations, companies • EU Member States • One organisation per project only (i.e. no collaborative multi-party projects) • 10 proposals per applicant (only one per topic) will be accepted for evaluation
Proposals	• Short proposal (approx. 5 pages, incl. formalities) • Lightweight submission and evaluation procedure
Evaluation criteria	• Objective fit • Feasibility • Innovativeness • Impact • Budget adequacy
Schedule	• published: end of September 2022 • project submission period: end of September – November 2022 • project start: December 2022/January 2023 • project duration: 2 – 3 months
Funding Principle	• funding rate 90% • financial support will be provided in form of lump sum after completing all project activities
Contact	e-mail: open-call@european-language-equality.eu Website: https://european-language-equality.eu/open-call/

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2 Introduction

Open Call for SRIA Contribution Projects

ELE 2 consortium will organise one open call for SRIA (Strategic research, innovation and implementation agenda for achieving full digital language equality in Europe by 2030) contribution projects. The call will be opened at the end of September 2022 and closed at the end of November 2022.

The SRIA contrbution projects are meant to provide meaningful, so far missing, convincing, compelling input for the strategic agenda and roadmap for achieving full digital language equality in Europe by 2030. These projects will not only directly contribute to the SRIA but they will also produce tangible outcomes in the form of project reports and potentially also software, studies and analyses that will be used, primarily, for the strategic agenda but maybe also for other communication and dissemination purposes, depending on the nature of the proposed work. The aim of this open call is to bring in external expertise and ideas in a substantial way.

The maximum amount of eligible costs will be up to 25,000€ per single project with a funding rate of 90%, the duration of the projects is expected to be in the 2-3 months range.

Research organisations, NGOs, incorporated associations and companies are allowed to apply in individual projects.

Outcome of the SRIA Contribution Projects

The SRIA contribution projects will produce, among others, clearly defined and potentially also implemented use cases and best-practice examples of language resource development and language technology implementations in relevant industry sectors and areas of life, including feasibility studies, cost estimates, the validation of KPIs and guidelines for concrete implementations to motivate and facilitate the buy in and take-up from the funding agencies and implementing parties.

FSTP Project Board

The FSTP Project Board consists of ELE 2 consortium members and is set up for the supervision of the SRIA contribution projects. The overall responsibility of the FSTP Project Board is the general supervision of the open call for SRIA contribution projects: the FSTP Project Board evaluates project proposals submitted to the open call and provides a forum for discussion on the progress of the selected projects, their intermediate feedback and results.

About the Strategic Research, Innovation and Implementation Agenda (SRIA)

The primary goal of the ELE 2 project is to revise, extend and further promote the strategic research, innovation and implementation agenda and roadmap for achieving full digital language equality in Europe by 2030 (SRIA). This agenda specifies strategic recommendations that, in their totality, can be conceptualised as the Eu-

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ropean Language Equality Programme, i.e., as a scientifically, economically, socially and politically relevant strategic plan jointly endorsed by the EU and the Member States towards the realisation of digital language equality in Europe by 2030.

Within the original ELE project, the strategic agenda and, hence, the ELE Programme, were jointly prepared with the whole European Language Technology, Computational Linguistics and language-centric AI community. In addition to this, representatives of many relevant initiatives and associations, language communities and regional and minority language groups that were either partners of the ELE 1 consortium or that the ELE 1 consortium has reached out to are included in the initiative, through external consultation sessions and providing incentives to stakeholders in relevant user industries and social constituencies.

Find out more about the European Language Equality Programme at ELE's website.

The ELE 2 project coordinator is Dublin City University (Dublin, Ireland). Charles University (Prague, Czech Republic) is responsible for the open call administration.

3   SRIA Contribution Projects Open Call

3.1   Basic Description

The objective of the open call is to provide defined use cases and feasibility studies for concrete application scenarios in following topics:

1. **Data sets for more robust speech technology**
   For many languages there is a lack of datasets for speech technology. In the existing sets, many types of voices are usually not represented and some are overrepresented. There is a lack of datasets reflecting the voices of children and young people, older people and people with foreign accents or regional variation.
   The project should analyse current strategies used to develop a broader coverage of speakers and investigate the possibility of developing a European strategic data collection effort with a basic broad coverage for all languages.

2. **Study of language coverage for text mining and natural lanaguage understanding in key European industrial sectors**
   This topic aims at producing a measurable understanding of the level of coverage available in terms of both existing language technologies and resources for the different European Languages and sectors of economic interest, like e.g. health, finance, insurance, media, defense, science, and retail. The study would produce the cartography of such coverage along three main dimensions: language, industrial sector, and text mining and understanding functionality. The goal is to identify strategic gaps that would encourage a quick reaction to the SRIA. Of particular interest would be the identification of gaps related to benchmarks required to measure performance of real-life industrial projects in such sectors involving text mining and natural language technologies in a common, standardized manner.

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3. **Legal Assessment (Desk Research)**

   The of data in general from various resources is often linked with legal aspects and conditions depending on resource type and purpose for the data usage. The aim of this topic is to explore the legal aspects of using language data provided by national language institutes or libraries, or other legally sensitive data sources, for developing language models. The study should detect and specify related challenges and isuues and propose possible solutions for emerging problematic aspects in this area.

4. **General NLP/LT/AI Landscaping (Desk Research)**

   Continuous mapping of general NLP/LT/AI landscape is obviously one of the crucial steps for achieving digital language equality in the near future. We are expecting that the proposed research will continue with the progress already made, particularly with the ELG project. The proposed project should fulfil following tasks:

   - Prepare list of 1. all European LT developing companies, 2. all European LT developing research organisations, 3. all European AI companies and startups in the NLP/LT/language-centric AI area (using the current list available in ELG as seed) with relevant indicators such as area, size (in terms of employees), revenue etc.
   - Prepare an easy way to update this list on a regular basis

   These tasks should result in up-to-date list of all relevant stakeholders so that we're finally able to indicate the size of the whole European LT community.

5. **General NLP/LT Domains (Desk Research)**

   The goal of this topic is complementary to the previous topic (No. 4). The aim of the proposed projects is to map usage of NLP/LT in various domains. In which domains is NLP/LT used a lot and in which rarely or not at all? The proposed project should identify the most relevant domains and make recommendations on how to approach the other domains for participation in the ELE programme. The expected output of the project is list of domains which are relevant for ELE/NLP/LT. This topic is expected to go to breadth rather than depth, especially not in the media and healthcare domains (which are subject to topics 6 and 9).

6. **Analysis of AI and LT in European news media**

   News media have traditionally been considered data providers, but are increasingly becoming aware of the power of their resources. However, they seem to be looking mainly at AI and not so much at LT. There seems to be interest in text-based technologies but also in speech recognition for instance the transcriptions of interviews etc.

   The expected output of the project proposed for this topic is a survey of the use of AI and LT in the main European news media, what initiatives could improve knowledge sharing among them, and what could motivate them to share data more openly. Furthermore, the survey should focus on what kind of technology news media will use in the future.

7. **Computing facilities for LT (Desk Research)**

Nowadays, there are many initiatives offering high-performance computing (HPC): EuroHPC JU, PRACE, LUMI, national consortia, etc. The project proposed for this topic should map to which extent they can support current LT. It should for example, assess GPU capacity for small and large experiments, offered access protocols and their compatibility, capacity for current large neural models etc. The research should involve language diversity, different domains, tasks and modalities and detect prioritised disciplines. The project should also survey the access modes for those HPCs, with focus on access provided to SMEs. Also, proper sensitive data handling should be inspected.

8. **Demonstrably Greener Models of MT**

The project proposed for this topic aims to demonstrate on using data from companies what efficiencies can be gained by training/running smaller models for MT with relatively little (undetectable by human ex-perts) degradation in performance.

A huge dichotomy has emerged between the massive multi-national companies and what even well-resourced SMEs/university groups can do. Demonstrating real gains in efficiency and communicating the savings in terms of energy costs and lower CO_2 emissions will influence other companies to change their current behaviour, save money for their clients, and benefit the planet. The solution developed for MT can be potentially adopted to other areas of NLP.

9. **Survey of the use of LT in the hospital sector**

Technological support for the healthcare sector is undoubtedly the one of the top priorities in our society and LT is very important part of this effort. Speech recognition is used in some areas, but does not seem to gain much traction. There is a constant lack of personnel in this sector and the demands for documentation are increasing which leads to reduction in time for the actual work with patients. The expected output of the project proposed for this topic is for a survey of use of LT in the hospital sector with focus on increasing efficiency in healthcare.

10. **Basic LAnguage Resource Kit (BLARK) (Desk Research)**

The aim of this topic is to define BLARK for the new deep learnig era. The project proposed to this topic should propose how to bulid it for a particular language (specifically the endangered ones), define which Euroepan languages and which quality criteria should this new BLARK cover. For instance, if we include a MT model for language X to English and viceversa which should be the required BLEU, METEOR, etc. to be considered sufficiently good? Monolingual BLARKs or Multilingual BLARKs?

The Maximum Amount of Financial Support

The maximum amount of eligible costs is €25,000 per project. The funding rate is 90% of the project's eligible costs. The maximum amout of financial support is thus €22,500 (90% of the maximum amount of eligible costs per project).

The financial support will be provided in form of a lump sum and the payment will be made after finishing all project activities have been completed and on the delvery of all project results.

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When the projects have been completed, a presentation will be required from project's team to show and discuss the results. The payment has to be separately approved by the FSTP Project Board based on the Awardee's performance.

Criteria for Calculating the Exact Amount of the Financial Support

Submitted project proposals need to set their own requirements for financial support, including the budget structure. The initial proposal evaluation procedure will make sure that these requests for funding are in line with the criteria set out in this document, in sum as well as in the structure. No financial reporting is required, but documentation should be retained in case of an EC audit, as per the FSTP rules.

3.2 Timeline

Publication time of the call:	29 September 2022
Submission deadline:	29 November 2022 (23:59 CET)
Evaluation and selection of projects:	December 2022
Contract signing and project start:	December 2022 – January 2023
Project duration:	2 – 3 months

After the selection of the winning proposals, the ELE 2 consortium will publish the outcome of the call, including a description of the third party (Awardee), the date of the award, duration, and the legal name of the Awardee and its country.

3.3 Applicable Law

Any matters not covered by this document will be governed by Czech law, in particular the provisions of the Civil Code, and any other applicable legislation in the European Union.

4 Eligibility Criteria

4.1 Types of Activities and Funding Conditions

List of Activities that Qualify for Financial Support

Only the following types of activities are eligible for funding:

- desk research, consultations, surveys, studies, analyses, mapping projects;
- research activities;
- awareness and dissemination actions;
- putting together best practice examples, preparation and publishing of ready-to-use guidelines;

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Only the following cost categories are eligible for funding;

    (a) Personnel costs;

    (b) Subcontracting costs;

    (c) Travel and subsistence;

    (d) Equipment;

    (e) Other goods, works and services;

    (f) Indirect costs;

Indirect costs will be reimbursed at the flat-rate of 7% of the eligible direct costs (categories (a)-(e)) from which are excluded: direct costs of subcontracting (category (b)).

Specific eligibility conditions for each budget category are defined in Appendix 2 – Excerpts from the Grant Agreement – principal Terms and Conditions of Third Party Agreement (ARTICLE 6 — ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS).

It is mandatory to justify the part of budget related to personnel costs by the corresponding number of Person-Months.

4.2 Type of Beneficiaries

Definition of Persons or Categories of Persons that May Receive Financial Support

Research organisations (including but not limited to higher education organisations and independent research organisations), NGOs, incorporated associations and companies eligible for EU funding are allowed to apply for individual projects (**one organisation per project only**).

Partners of the ELE 2 consortium are not eligible to apply for funding.

Up to 10 proposals per applicant will be accepted for evaluation, with a maximum of one for each topic (the last proposal submitted for each topic will be evaluated). Proposals in addition to this will be discarded. No double funding is allowed between the project ELE 2 and/or any other incubator or similar scheme for Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP).

4.3 Countries

Only beneficiaries legally established in EU Members States will be eligible to apply for the SRIA contribution projects.

4.4 Conflict of Interest

No conflict of interest is allowed to exist between the applicant and any member of the ELE 2 project's consortium. This is confirmed by the Declaration on Honour signed by the applicant.

The FSTP Project Board members evaluating proposals shall not have a conflict of interest with the project proposal that they are evaluating. In case of such a conflict, they shall excuse themselves from the evaluation of such a project.

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5 Preparation and submission of the proposals

5.1 Proposal submission

Proposals are to be submitted via the ELE 2 project website. For more information on the proposal submission see Annex 1 – Guide for Applicants.

5.2 Proposal Template

See Annex 3 – Proposal Template.

5.3 Communication with ELE 2 consortium

All relevant questions and communication with applicants will be published on the ELE 2 website. For any queries please contact us at open-call@european-language-equality.eu.

5.4 Language

Project proposals and all related documents should be written and all communication will be held in English.

6 Summary of the evaluation process

6.1 Eligibility Check

See Annex 4 – Evaluation Criteria.

6.2 Evaluation

Financial support will be awarded to the selected applicants following an open, transparent and experted evaluation process. The key selection criterion will be central to a rigorous assessment of whether the proposed SRIA Contribution Project will be able to contribute in a significant way to the overall success and uptake of the strategic agenda. Innovativeness, impact, reasonability and appropriateness of the budget will also be evaluated.

Evaluation: Two members from the FSTP Project Board, will evaluate each proposal against the following criteria:

(a) Objective fit
(b) Feasibility
(c) Innovativeness
(d) Impact
(e) Budget adequacy

The criteria descriptions, points awarded, and weights of the individual criteria are specified in detail in Annex 4 – Evaluation Criteria.

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For each topic 1-10 the FSTP Project Board will select one proposal with the highest score from all proposals submitted to this given topic (if there is no proposal submitted to the given topic or the proposal with the most points in given topic received less than 182 points, no proposal will be selected for this topic). The FSTP Project Board will then rank these (maximum 10) selected proposals in descending order and decide how many projects will be accepted for funding. If all of these selected proposals are accepted for funding other proposals (ranked in descending order) can be selected for funding up to the remaining budget.

It is expected that 8-12 projects will be selected, up to the maximum amout of funding available.

Budget. The requested budget for the projects might be reduced based on the evaluation results, item (e) "Budget Adequacy". If changes are proposed by the evaluators and accepted by the FSTP Project Board, they will be communicated to the applicant, who can accept or reject them. Rejecting the recommended reduction of the requested budget by the applicant means that the project will be rejected. Based on the ranking, the first non-funded project might be accepted for funding.

Final Selection and Contracting. Selected projects will be publicly listed on the project website and full proposals and evaluations will be provided to the European Commission. Awardees will be invited to sign the contract within a given, short period of time after the awards are announced. All Awardees will sign a sub-grantee agreement (see Annex 2) between them and the ELE 2 consortium (represented by Charles University). The Awardees are obligated to allow the European Commission, the European Anti-fraud Office (OLAF) and the Court of Auditors to exercise their powers of control on documents, information, stored on electronic media, or on the final recipient's premises.

6.3   Complaint Procedure

If, at any stage of the evaluation process, the applicant considers that a mistake has been made or that the evaluators have acted unfairly or have failed to comply with the rules of this ELE 2 Open Call, and that her/his interests have been prejudiced as a result, the following appeal procedures are available.

A complaint should be drawn up in English and submitted by e-mail to the ELE 2 Coordinator Andy Way (andy.way@adaptcentre.ie). Any complaint made should include:

- contact details (including postal and e-mail address)
- the subject of the complaint
- information and evidence regarding the alleged complaint

Anonymous complaints will not be reviewed. Complaints should be made within five (calendar) days after the evaluation results have been presented to the Applicants.

As a general rule, the ELE 2 Coordinator (DCU) 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 seven days from the date of reception of the complaint, provided that all required information has been submitted by the complainant.

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7   SRIA Contribution Projects Execution

Selected projects will be offered guidance and supervision throughout the lifecycle of the project once the contract is in place and the project has started.

Each selected project will be supervised by one member of the FSTP Project Board ("Project Coach") appointed by the FSTP Project Board. The Project Coach will be responsible for guiding the project's team, collecting and answering questions from the team during the execution of the project and collecting reports and project results. After the projects have finished, a presentation will be required from project's team to show and discuss the results.

Evaluation of the final results

The final evaluation of a project will be performed after finishing all project activities and delivering the project's results to the ELE 2 consortium. The Project Coach will then prepare a short report (to be made public) and recommend to the FSTP Project Board to approve (or not) the payment of the awarded financial support to the project Awardee.

8   Obligations of Beneficiaries

Obligations of Awardees are specified in Annex 2 – Third Party Agreement.

9   Intellectual property rights

Intellectual property rights are specified in Annex 2 – Third Party Agreement.

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10   Annex 1 Guide for Applicants

This annex is available at ELE 2 website:

https://www.european-language-equality.eu/open-call/

11   Annex 2 Third Party Agreement

This annex is available at ELE 2 website:

https://www.european-language-equality.eu/open-call/

12   Annex 3 Project Proposal Template

This annex is available at ELE 2 website:

https://www.european-language-equality.eu/open-call/

13   Annex 4 Evaluation Criteria

This annex is available at ELE 2 website:

https://www.european-language-equality.eu/open-call/

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C Guide for Applicants (document)

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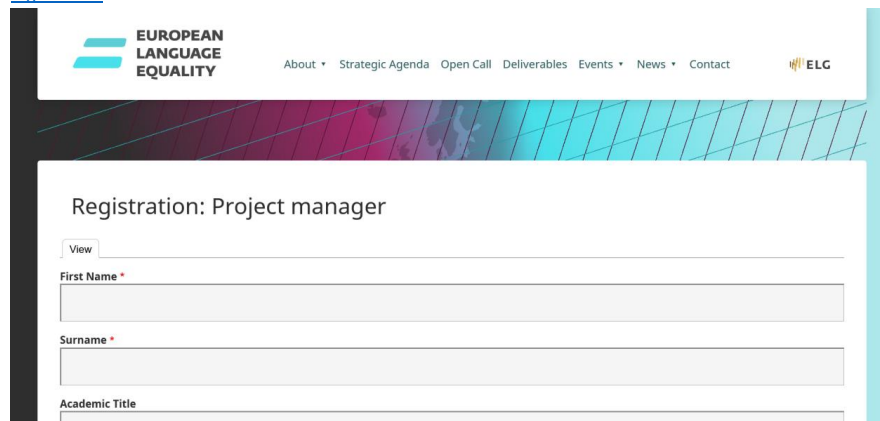
1. How to submit a project proposal

Proposals are to be submitted via the ELE Open Call platform. Firstly, you need to create your own account. Then you can add new project proposal or more proposals. You can finalise and submit your proposal by 29 November 2022, 23.59 CET.

2. How to create an account

You can create your account here: https://opencall.european-language-equality.eu/form/project-manager-registration

After you do the project manager registration, you will receive an e-mail. You will be asked to finish the project manager registration. Click on the unique link and set your own password.

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3. How to login and manage your account

You can login here: https://opencall.european-language-equality.eu/user/login

After login, you will be able to change your password by clicking "Change Password".

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You can change information about the project manager by clicking "PM registration".
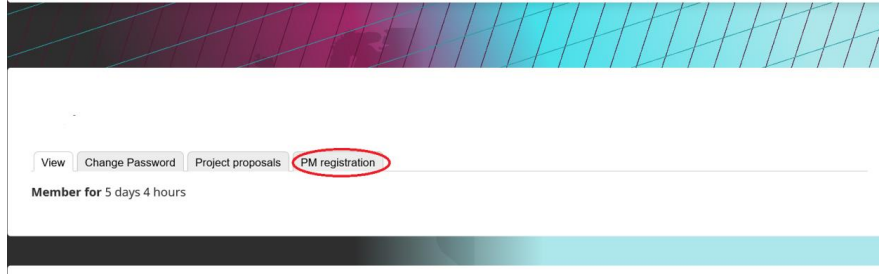
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You can log out by clicking on your login name on the top of the site.

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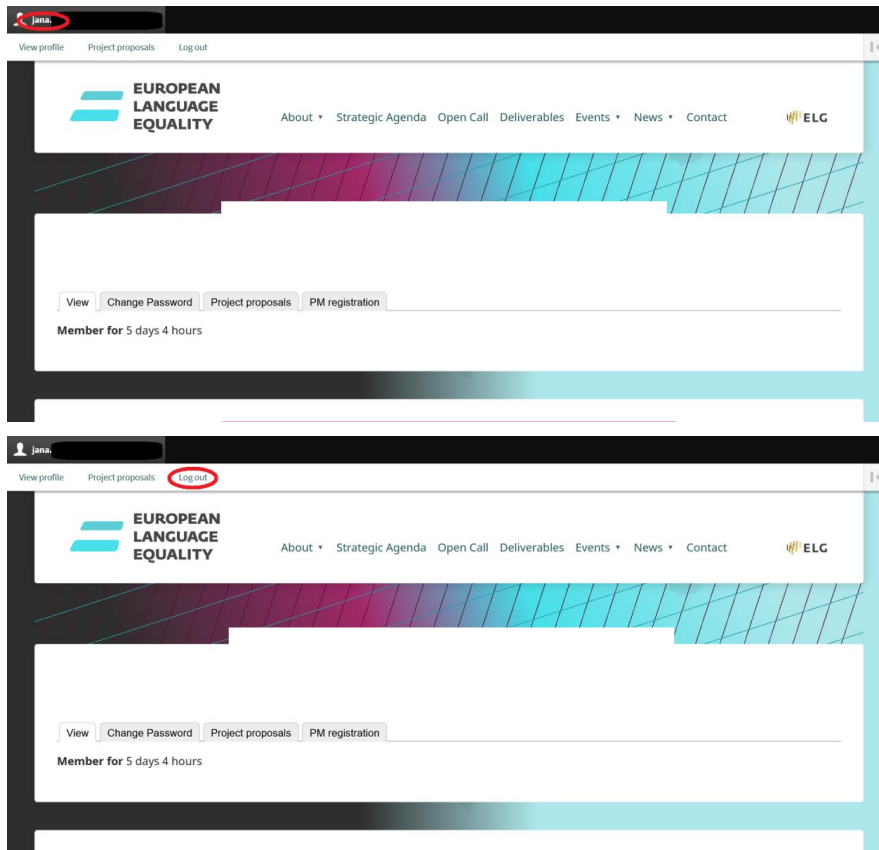
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You can always get back to this start page by clicking "view profile".
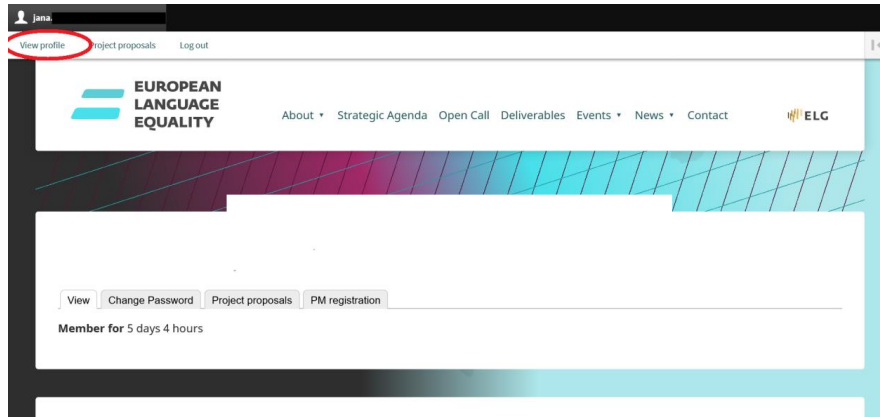
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4. How to add new project proposal

Click on "Project proposals".

View | Change Password | Project proposals | PM registration
Member for 5 days 4 hours

Then click on "Add a new project proposal".

My submissions

View | Change Password | Project proposals | PM registration
+ Add a new project proposal

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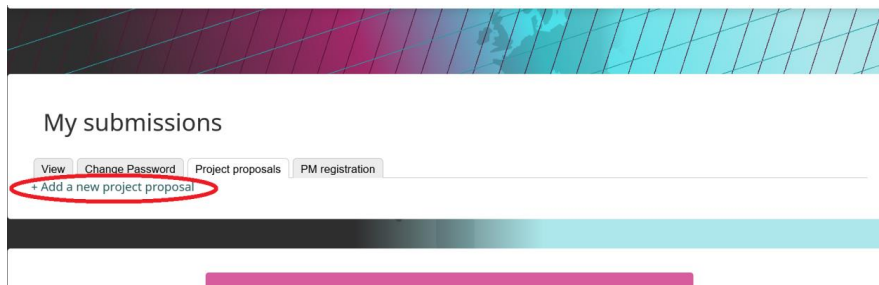
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5. How to fill in the project proposal template

You can start preparation of the project proposal. You can save your work anytime by clicking "Save Draft".

Project Name *

Project Acronym *

16 character(s) remaining

Project Abstract *

800 character(s) remaining

Total Budget ⓘ
EUR 0
Computed automatically from the Budget section of the form.

Total Financial Support Requested ⓘ
EUR 0
Computed automatically from the Budget section of the form (90% of Total Budget).

Proposal Submission Date ⓘ
Will be provided by the ELE 2 consortium.

Save Draft   Next Page >

You can move to other sections of the proposal template by clicking "Next Page" or "Previous Page" at the bottom.

DESCRIPTION OF THE APPLICANT *

Description of the Applicant ⓘ *

Experience relevant for the fulfilment of project outputs, other info (if needed) for evaluators possibly available on the applicant's website – please provide a link.

1800 character(s) remaining

Save Draft   < Previous Page   Next Page >

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You can also move to other sections using the Navigation Pane.

Project proposal

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Identificati... | Identification | Description | | | Process | on Honour
| | | | | Personal Data

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PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Name of the Organisation *

Project Name *

Project Acronym *

16 character(s) remaining

Fields that are marked with red star must be filled in.
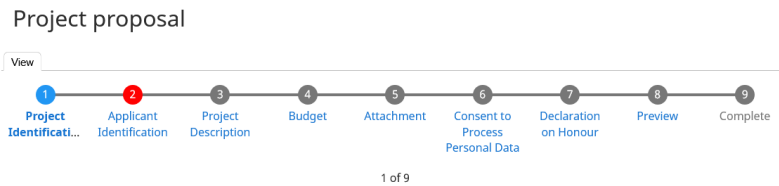
Project proposal

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Project | Applicant | Project | Budget | Attachment | Consent to | Declaration | Preview | Complete
Identificati... | Identification | Description | | | Process | on Honour
| | | | | Personal Data

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PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Name of the Organisation *

Project Name *

Project Acronym *

16 character(s) remaining

Project Abstract *

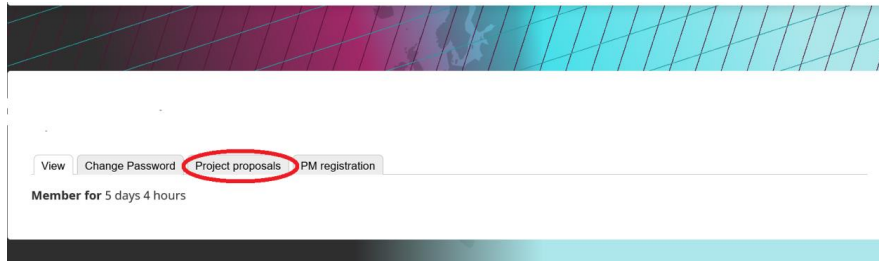ELE 2   9/16

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6. How to edit your project proposal

You can see all your project proposals by clicking "View profile" and then "Project proposals", or "Project proposals" directly.
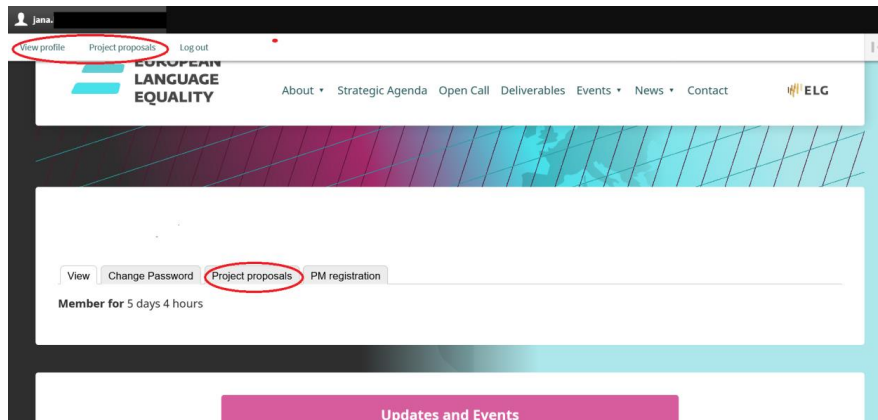
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You can start editing your draft version of the project proposal by clicking "edit".

My submissions

	View	Change Password	Project proposals	PM registration						

Project Name	Is draft	Created	Completed	PDF	Edit	Duplicate	Share	Feedback	Final re-port
My Project Number 2	submit-ted	September 26, 2022	September 26, 2022 – 21:15	PDF	n/a	duplicate	n/a	n/a	
My Project Number 1	draft	September 26, 2022		PDF	edit	duplicate	share	n/a	

+ Add a new project proposal

You can download your draft version of the project proposal or submitted proposal by clicking on the PDF file.

My submissions

	View	Change Password	Project proposals	PM registration						

Project Name	Is draft	Created	Completed	PDF	Edit	Duplicate	Share	Feedback	Final re-port
My Project Number 2	submit-ted	September 26, 2022	September 26, 2022 – 21:15	PDF	n/a	duplicate	n/a	n/a	
My Project Number 1	draft	September 26, 2022		PDF	edit	duplicate	share	n/a	

+ Add a new project proposal

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7. How to submit your project proposal

After filling in all the sections and obligatory fields, you can submit your project by clicking "SUBMIT PROJECT" in the "Preview" section. You can submit your project by 29 November 2022, 23.59 CET.

Project proposal: Preview

View

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Project Identificat... | Applicant Identificat... | Project Description | Budget | Attachment | Consent to Process Personal Data | Declaration on Honour | **Preview** | Complete

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∨ Project Identification

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Name of the Organisation

CONSENT TO PROCESS PERSONAL DATA

Consent to Process Personal Data
Yes

∨ Declaration on Honour

DECLARATION ON HONOUR

We hereby declare and confirm the above mentioned
Yes

Save Draft   < Previous   SUBMIT PROJECT

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Once the project is submitted, it cannot be reopened, edited or deleted. You can check the status of the project proposal in "Project proposals".

My submissions

| View | Change Password | Project proposals | PM registration |

Project Name	Is draft	Created	Completed	PDF	Edit	Duplicate	Share	Feedback	Final re-port
My Project Number 2	submitted	September 26, 2022	September 26, 2022 – 21:15	PDF	n/a	duplicate	n/a	n/a	
My Project Number 1	draft	September 26, 2022		PDF	edit	duplicate	share	n/a	

+ Add a new project proposal

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If you need to edit the project that has been submitted, you can duplicate the project. This new duplicated project is draft that must be saved while work in progress. Once the editing is done, you should submit the project proposal.

Note the submission deadline 29 November 2022, 23.59. Also, see the Call documentation, section 4.2: "*Up to 10 proposals per applicant will be accepted for evaluation, maximum one for each topic (the last proposal submitted for each topic will be evaluated).*" If you want to withdraw your submitted project, please send us e-mail to open-call@european-language-equality.eu.

My submissions

| View | Change Password | Project proposals | PM registration |

Project Name	Is draft	Created	Completed	PDF	Edit	Duplicate	Share	Feedback	Final re-port
My Project Number 2	submit-ted	September 26, 2022	September 26, 2022 – 21:15	PDF	n/a	duplicate	n/a	n/a	
My Project Number 1	draft	September 26, 2022		PDF	edit	duplicate	share	n/a	

+ Add a new project proposal

8. How to share the access to the project proposal

If you want to share the access to one of your project proposals, you can get the link by clicking "share". The project proposal can be edited by using this link, there is no need to create new account (register as a new project manager).

Please keep this link safe and share it only with trusted persons. Beware that anyone in the possession of the secret token can edit or delete your draft.

My submissions

| | | | View | Change Password | Project proposals | PM registration | | | | | | |

Project Name	Is draft	Created	Completed	PDF	Edit	Duplicate	Share	Feedback	Final report
My Project Number 2	submitted	September 26, 2022	September 26, 2022 – 21:15	PDF	n/a	duplicate	n/a	n/a	
My Project Number 1	draft	September 26, 2022		PDF	edit	duplicate	share	n/a	

+ Add a new project proposal

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9. What to do if you have any questions

- Go through the call documentation and its annexes.
- Check the webpage related to this open call at https://www.european-language-equality.eu/open-call/
- If you have not found the correct answer, contact us at open-call@european-language-equality.eu

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D Third Party Agreement (document)

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THIRD PARTY AGREEMENT

for Provision of Financial Resources from the ELE 2 project to third party

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This Third Party Agreement, hereinafter the "Third Party Agreement", shall be valid from <mark>1 December 2022</mark> ("Effective Date").

BETWEEN:

Univerzita Karlova
Matematicko-fyzikální fakulta
IČ: 00216208
se sídlem: Ke Karlovu 2027/3, 121 16 Praha 2
(Charles University, (Constituent part) Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, a Czech Republic Company number 00216208, having its address at Ke Karlovu 2027/3, 12116 Praha 2, Czech Republic)
Represented by Assoc. Prof. Mirko Rokyta, CSc., acting as Dean

(hereinafter referred to as "Charles University");

and

<mark>Name, Seat, Registration no., Bank Account (IBAN)</mark>

hereinafter referred to as "Third Party";

Hereinafter all contracting parties of this Agreement jointly or individually, referred to as "Parties" or "Party";

WHEREAS:

Together with other Beneficiaries, Charles University has been awarded a Grant Agreement by the European Commission (Funding Authority) agreement number LC-01884166 - project 101075356 entitled »ELE 2«, hereinafter referred to as the "Grant Agreement". From this Grant Agreement including its Annexes certain rights and obligations result between the Funding Authority, Charles University and the other ELE 2 project consortium members. The Grant Agreement states that third parties will be selected and financially supported for executing SRIA contribution projects.

Charles University is acting on behalf of the ELE 2 consortium. Charles University will provide financial support to the Third Party according to the provisions of the Grant Agreement for the Financial Support to Third Parties. Under the Grant Agreement, the ELE 2 Beneficiaries are required to ensure that the ELE 2 Project is implemented in compliance with the provisions of the Grant Agreement; and the Parties shall comply with this in the implementation of their tasks. The ELE 2 Beneficiaries furthermore are entering into a Consortium Agreement by which they have obligations towards each other. The Third Party shall not do anything or omit to do anything which renders Charles University or the other ELE 2 project consortium members in breach of the Grant Agreement or the Consortium Agreement.

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NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

1 Definitions

Words beginning with a capital letter shall have the meaning defined either herein orr in the Grant Agreement or Consortium Agreement, including their respective Appendixes.

2 Subject

2.1 The Third Party will perform the work as defined in this Third Party Agreement, the Grant Agreement, the Call Documentation (attached to this Third Party Agreement as Appendix 3) and Third Party's project proposal as finally agreed with the ELE 2 Consortium. The project proposal of the Third Party is attached to this Third Party Agreement as Appendix 1.

2.2 The Third Party shall be responsible for ensuring that the work is carried out and complies with accepted technical, scientific and professional standards, is undertaken by appropriate personnel and carried out in accordance with the schedule laid down in Article 3 and the financial provisions laid down in Article 4.

2.3 The Third Party assumes all responsibility towards Charles University and the ELE 2 Consortium for all tasks contracted to it by this Third Party Agreement and shall indemnify and hold harmless Charles University and the ELE 2 Consortium in case of breach of its obligations.

2.4 Additionally, the Third Party recognizes that Charles University and the other members of the ELE 2 project consortium are bound by certain obligations arising out of the Grant Agreement and the ELE 2 Consortium Agreement. Herewith, the Third Party agrees to comply with all obligations arising out of the Grant Agreement and the ELE 2 Consortium Agreement to the extent which can be justly demanded of the Third Party considering that the Third Party gets/got acquainted with the said agreements when concluding this Agreement.

2.5 The Third Party accepts the Terms and Conditions of the Grant Agreement and of the ELE 2 Consortium Agreement insofar as they relate to the tasks which are contracted to it hereby. The principal Terms and Conditions of the Grant Agreement are attached as Appendix 2 to this Third Party Agreement.

3 Duration

3.1 The ELE 2 Project started on 1 July 2022 with a duration of 12 months. This Third Party Agreement will be effective from the Effective Date first mentioned above and will be valid as long as the Grant Agreement. Should the period of validity of the Grant Agreement be amended, this Third Party Agreement shall be deemed automatically changed accordingly.

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3.2 The Third Party(ies) shall commence to perform their activities according to Annex 1 on 1 December 2022 and shall have completed it no longer than after 3 months except as otherwise agreed in writing by the Parties. By that date, all results and reports shall have been delivered to Charles University.

3.3 The Third Party shall notify Charles University in writing without undue delay if it becomes apparent that it might be unable to keep the schedule.

3.4 Charles University can terminate this Agreement with immediate effect through written notice to the Third Party:

- if the Third Party is in breach of any of its material obligations under this Third Party Agreement, which breach is not remediable, or, if remediable, has not been remedied within thirty (30) days after written notice to that effect from Charles University,

- if, to the extent permitted by law, the Third Party is declared bankrupt, is being wound up, is having its affairs administered by the courts, has entered into an arrangement with its creditors, has suspended business activities, or is the subject of any other similar proceeding concerning those matters, or

- if the Third Party is subject to an event of Force Majeure (in accordance with how that term is defined under Article 51 of the Grant Agreement), which prevents the Third Party from correct performance of its obligations hereunder and such circumstances have lasted, or can reasonably be expected to last more than six (6) weeks.

4 Financial Provisions

4.1 The maximum grant amount is EUR XXXX and is set as a lump sum. The funding rate for costs is 90% of the eligible costs.

The financial support will be paid to the Third Party after completing all activities according to Appendix 1 and approval of the final report.

This payment will be made only if the project is executed accordingly and properly to the project proposal.

At the time a payment request is submitted, written documentation must be provided to Charles University for the completion and proper implementation of the project's corresponding deliverable and/or progress report as specified in Call Documentation and Project proposal.

4.2 Charles University is entitled to withhold any payments due to a Third Party

(a) identified by the members of the ELE 2 project consortium to be in breach of its obligations under this Agreement and its Appendices, or

(b) who has not yet signed this Third Party Agreement.

Charles University is entitled to recover any payments already paid to a defaulting Third Party.

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Charles University is equally entitled to withhold payments to a Third Party when this is suggested by or agreed with the Funding Authority or if Charles University itself does not receive payment from the Funding Authority.

5 Organisation and Performance of the Work

5.1 Technical and Financial Responsibility

The Third Party shall provide all personnel, facilities, equipment and materials necessary for the proper performance of this Third Party Agreement and shall assume the technical and financial responsibility for the work specified in Appendix 1. The Third Party undertakes to indemnify Charles University and/or other members of ELE 2 project consortium against any failure on its part to discharge its aforementioned responsibilities.

5.2 Technical and Financial Control, Verification, Audits

The Third Party undertakes to supply Charles University and/or other members of the ELE 2 project consortium without delay with any information which the latter may justifiably request concerning the implementation of this Third Party Agreement. In particular, upon request the Third Party shall make available to Charles University, the other members of the ELE 2 project consortium and to their auditors the technical and financial documents verifying the costs and that the work is being or has been carried out. The Third Party acknowledges and accepts the rights of the Funding Authority relating to controls and audits laid down in Articles 25 and 26 of the Grant Agreement , as attached.

The Third Party undertakes to give the representatives of Charles University during standard business hours and upon prior notice reasonable access to the premises where the work is being carried out and to all documents concerning the work programme and/or necessary to verify the compliance with the obligations arising from this Third Party Agreement and of the Grant Agreement including its Annexes. Additionally, the Third Party acknowledges and accepts the rights of the EC, the European Anti-fraud Office (OLAF) and the Court of Auditors to exercise their powers of control on documents, information, even stored on electronic media, or on the Third Party's premises.

5.3 The Third Party fully accepts the provisions of Articles 12, 13, 17 and 33 of the Grant Agreement, as attached.

6 Results

6.1 Ownership of Results

Results are owned by the Party that generates them. Result(s) of the project are specified in the Project Proposal.

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6.2 Joint ownership

Where Results are generated from work carried out jointly by the Parties to this Third Party Agreement or by the Third Party and ELE 2 project consortium member(s) and it is not possible to separate such joint invention, design or work for the purpose of applying for, obtaining and/or maintaining the relevant patent protection or any other intellectual property right, the Parties or the Third Party and the ELE 2 project consortium member(s) shall have joint ownership of this work. The joint owners shall, within a six (6) months period as from the date of the generation of such Results, establish a written separate joint ownership agreement regarding the allocation of ownership and terms of exercising, protecting, the division of related costs and exploiting such jointly owned Results on a case by case basis. However, until the time a joint ownership agreement has been concluded and as long as such rights are in force, such Results shall be jointly owned in shares according to their share of contribution (such share to be determined by taking into account in particular, but not limited to, the contribution of a joint owner to an inventive step, the person months or costs spent on the respective work etc.) to the Results by the joint owners concerned.

Unless otherwise agreed:

- each of the joint owners shall be entitled to use their jointly owned Results for non-commercial research activities on a royalty-free basis,

 and

- each of the joint owners shall be entitled to otherwise exploit the jointly owned Results and to grant non-exclusive licenses to third parties (without any right to sub-license), if the other joint owners are given:

(a) at least 45 calendar days advance notice; and

(b) compensation under Fair and Reasonable conditions.

The joint owners shall agree on all protection measures and the division of related cost in advance.

6.3 The Third Party shall use all reasonable endeavours to ensure the accuracy of all information and data provided by it to Charles University and/or the other members of the ELE 2 project consortium under this Third Party Agreement, whether they are Third Party Results or not and whether they are protected by intellectual property rights or not, and warrants its right to disclose such information. In the event of any error or omission in the Third Party Results being brought to the attention of the Third Party by Charles University or the other members of the ELE 2 project consortium, the Third Party undertakes to correct such error or rectify such omission promptly, during which time Charles University shall be entitled to withhold payment of any sums due to the Third Party.

The Third Party declares that it will take all necessary actions to ensure that the Results and any information provided by it under this Third Party Agreement shall not infringe the intellectual property rights of any third party.

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7   Dissemination

The Third Party agrees that any dissemination activity by the Third Party (including publications, presentations etc.) other than specified in the project proposal is subject to the prior written approval of Charles University and the other members of the ELE 2 project consortium.

Charles University and the other members of the ELE 2 project consortium are entitled to include the main issues and information regarding the Third Party's work in their reporting towards the European Commission.

8   Confidentiality

All information in whatever form or mode of communication, which is disclosed by a Party (the "Disclosing Party") to any other Party (the "Recipient") in connection with this Third Party Agreement and the tasks of the Third Party and which has been explicitly marked as "confidential" at the time of disclosure, or when disclosed orally has been identified as confidential at the time of disclosure and has been confirmed and designated in writing within 15 calendar days from oral disclosure at the latest as confidential information by the Disclosing Party, is "Confidential Information".

The Recipients hereby undertake for a period of 4 years after the termination of this Third Party Agreement:

- not to use Confidential Information otherwise than for the purpose for which it was disclosed;

- not to disclose Confidential Information without the prior written consent by the Disclosing Party;

- to ensure that internal distribution of Confidential Information by a Recipient shall take place on a strict need-to-know basis; and

- to return to the Disclosing Party, or destroy, on request all Confidential Information that has been disclosed to the Recipients including all copies thereof and to delete all information stored in a machine readable form to the extent practically possible. The Recipients may keep a copy to the extent it is required to keep, archive or store such Confidential Information because of compliance with applicable laws and regulations or for the proof of on-going obligations provided that the Recipient comply with the confidentiality obligations herein contained with respect to such copy for as long as the copy is retained.

The Recipients shall be responsible for the fulfilment of the above obligations on the part of their employees or third parties involved in implementing the tasks and shall ensure that they remain so obliged, as far as legally possible, during and after the end of this Third Party Agreement and/or after the termination of the contractual relationship with the employee or third party.

The above shall not apply for disclosure or use of Confidential Information, if and in so far as the Recipient can show that:

- the Confidential Information has become or becomes publicly available by means other than a breach of the Recipient's confidentiality obligations;

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- the Disclosing Party subsequently informs the Recipient that the Confidential Information is no longer confidential;

- the Confidential Information is communicated to the Recipient without any obligation of confidentiality by a third party who is to the best knowledge of the Recipient in lawful possession thereof and under no obligation of confidentiality to the Disclosing Party;

- the disclosure or communication of the Confidential Information is foreseen by provisions of the Grant Agreement;

- the Confidential Information, at any time, was developed by the Recipient completely independently of any such disclosure by the Disclosing Party;

- the Confidential Information was already known to the Recipient prior to disclosure, or

- the Recipient is required to disclose the Confidential Information in order to comply with applicable laws or regulations or with a court or administrative order. If a Party becomes aware that it will be required, or is likely to be required, to disclose Confidential Information in order to comply with applicable laws or regulations or with a court or administrative order, it shall, to the extent it is lawfully able to do so, prior to any such disclosure notify the Disclosing Party, and comply with the Disclosing Party's reasonable instructions to protect the confidentiality of the information.

The Recipient shall apply the same degree of care with regard to the disclosed Confidential Information as with its own confidential and/or proprietary information, but in no case less than reasonable care.

Each Party shall promptly advise the other Party in writing of any unauthorised disclosure, misappropriation or misuse of Confidential Information after it becomes aware of such unauthorised disclosure, misappropriation or misuse.

The same obligations on confidentiality apply to the Third Party which is receiving Confidential Information by the other members of the ELG project consortium.

9 Reports and Deliverables

9.1 The Third Party agrees to submit final report to Charles University as specified in Call Documentation.

9.2 The contents and format of the final report required will be defined by Charles University.

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10   Liability

10.1 Charles University´s liability

The contractual liability of Charles University under this Third Party Agreement shall in any case be limited to the amount of the financial support provided or to be provided to the Third Party hereunder. Charles University shall not in any case be liable for any indirect or consequential damages such as:

- loss of profits, interest, savings, shelf-space, production and business opportunities;

- lost contracts, goodwill, and anticipated savings;

- loss of or damage to reputation or to data;

- costs of recall of products; or

- any other type of indirect, incidental, punitive, special or consequential loss or damage.

This limitation of liability shall not apply in cases of wilful act or gross negligence.

10.2 Liability between Third Party, Charles University and the other members of the ELE 2 project consortium

The Third Party shall fully and exclusively bear the risks in connection with the work provided by it and for which financial support is granted and forwarded by Charles University, in cases of wilful act or gross negligence. In such cases the Third Party shall indemnify Charles University and the other members of the ELE2 project consortium for all damages, penalties, costs and expenses which Charles University or the other members of the ELE2 project consortium as a result thereof would incur or have to pay to the European Commission or to any third parties with respect to the Third Party's work financially supported and/or for any damage in general which Charles University or the other members of the ELE 2 project consortium would incur as a result thereof.

In addition, should the European Commission have a right of recovery against Charles University regarding the financial support granted under this Third Party Agreement, the Third Party shall pay the sums in question in the terms and the date specified by Charles University.

Moreover, the Third Party shall indemnify and hold Charles University and the other members of the ELE 2 project consortium, their respective officers, directors, employees and agents harmless from and against all repayments, loss, liability, costs, charges, claims or damages that would result from or arise out of / resulting or arising out of *(v tomto druhém případě bez předešlého that)* any such recovery action by the European Commission.

11   Miscellaneous

11.1 Attachments, inconsistencies and severability

In case the terms of this Agreement are in conflict with the terms of the Grant Agreement, the terms of the latter shall prevail.

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Should any provision of this Agreement become invalid, illegal or unenforceable, it shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this Agreement. In such a case, the Parties concerned shall be entitled to request that a valid and practicable provision be negotiated which fulfils the purpose of the original provision.

The Clauses 6, 7, 9, 11 remain valid also after expiration or termination of this Third Party Agreement.

11.2 No representation, partnership or agency

No Party shall be entitled to act or to make legally binding declarations on behalf of any other Party. Furthermore, a Third Party shall not be entitled to act or to make legally binding declarations on behalf of any of the ELE 2 project consortium members. Nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed to constitute a joint venture, agency, partnership, interest grouping or any other kind of formal business grouping or entity between the Parties.

11.3 Mandatory national law

Nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed to require a Party to breach any mandatory statutory law under which the Party is operating.

11.4 Language

This Agreement is drawn up in English, which language shall govern all documents, notices, meetings, arbitral proceedings and processes relative thereto.

11.5 Applicable law and settlement of disputes

Any matters not covered by this document will be governed by Czech law, in particular the provisions of the Civil Code, and any other applicable legislation in the European Union.

The Parties shall endeavour to settle their disputes amicably, if the Parties mutually agree, by mediation. If a amicably solution is not possible, then any and all disputes, claims or controversies arising under, out of or relating to this Agreement, shall be submitted exclusively to the competent court at the seat of Charles University unless the Grant Agreement or the Funding Authority provides otherwise.

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Signatures

AS WITNESS:

The Parties have caused this Agreement to be duly signed by the undersigned authorised representatives.

Charles University on behalf of ELE 2 Project Consortium

Signature(s)

Name   Assoc. Prof. Mirko Rokyta, CSc.

Title   Dean of Faculty of Mathematics and Physics

Date

Third Party

Signature(s)

Name

Title

Date

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12   Appendix 1 – Project proposal of the Third Party

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13   Appendix 2 – Excerpts from the Grant Agreement – principal Terms and Conditions

In the following the relevant excerpts from the Grant Agreement are quoted.

ARTICLE 6 — ELIGIBLE AND INELIGIBLE COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

In order to be eligible, costs and contributions must meet the **eligibility** conditions set out in this Article.

6.1 General eligibility conditions

The **general eligibility conditions** are the following:

(a) for actual costs:

(i) they must be actually incurred by the beneficiary

(ii) they must be incurred in the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of costs relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be incurred afterwards; see Article 21)

(iii) they must be declared under one of the budget categories set out in Article 6.2 and Annex 2

(iv) they must be incurred in connection with the action as described in Annex 1 and necessary for its implementation

(v) they must be identifiable and verifiable, in particular recorded in the beneficiary's accounts in accordance with the accounting standards applicable in the country where the beneficiary is established and with the beneficiary's usual cost accounting practices

(vi) they must comply with the applicable national law on taxes, labour and social security and

(vii) they must be reasonable, justified and must comply with the principle of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency

(b) for unit costs or contributions (if any):

(i) they must be declared under one of the budget categories set out in Article 6.2 and Annex 2

(ii) the units must:

- be actually used or produced by the beneficiary in the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of units relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be used or produced afterwards; see Article 21)

- be necessary for the implementation of the action and

(iii) the number of units must be identifiable and verifiable, in particular supported by records and documentation (see Article 20)

(c) for flat-rate costs or contributions (if any):

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(i) they must be declared under one of the budget categories set out in Article 6.2 and Annex 2

(ii) the costs or contributions to which the flat-rate is applied must:

- be eligible

- relate to the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of costs or contributions relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be incurred afterwards; see Article 21)

(d) for lump sum costs or contributions (if any):

(i) they must be declared under one of the budget categories set out in Article 6.2 and Annex 2

(ii) the work must be properly implemented by the beneficiary in accordance with Annex 1

(iii) the deliverables/outputs must be achieved in the period set out in Article 4 (with the exception of deliverables/outputs relating to the submission of the final periodic report, which may be achieved afterwards; see Article 21)

(e) for unit, flat-rate or lump sum costs or contributions according to usual cost accounting practices (if any):

(i) they must fulfil the general eligibility conditions for the type of cost concerned

(ii) the cost accounting practices must be applied in a consistent manner, based on objective criteria, regardless of the source of funding

(f) for financing not linked to costs (if any): the results must be achieved or the conditions must be fulfilled as described in Annex 1.

In addition, for direct cost categories (e.g. personnel, travel & subsistence, subcontracting and other direct costs) only costs that are *directly* linked to the action implementation and can therefore be attributed to it *directly* are eligible. They must not include any *indirect* costs (i.e. costs that are only indirectly linked to the action, e.g. via cost drivers).

6.2 Specific eligibility conditions for each budget category

For each budget category, the **specific eligibility conditions** are as follows:

Direct costs

A. Personnel costs

A.1 Costs for employees (or equivalent) are eligible as personnel costs, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are related to personnel working for the beneficiary under an employment contract (or equivalent appointing act) and assigned to the action.

They must be limited to salaries, social security contributions, taxes and other costs linked to the remuneration, if they arise from national law or the employment contract (or equivalent appointing act) and be calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred, in accordance with the following method:

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{daily rate for the person

multiplied by

number of day-equivalents worked on the action (rounded up or down to the nearest half-day)}.

The daily rate must be calculated as:

{annual personnel costs for the person

divided by

215}

The number of day-equivalents declared for a person must be identifiable and verifiable (see Article 20).

The total number of day-equivalents declared in EU grants, for a person for a year, cannot be higher than 215.

The personnel costs may also include supplementary payments for personnel assigned to the action (including payments on the basis of supplementary contracts regardless of their nature), if:

- it is part of the beneficiary's usual remuneration practices and is paid in a consistent manner whenever the same kind of work or expertise is required

- the criteria used to calculate the supplementary payments are objective and generally applied by the beneficiary, regardless of the source of funding used.

A.2 and **A.3 Costs for natural persons working under a direct contract** other than an employment contract and costs for **seconded persons by a third party against payment** are also eligible as personnel costs, if they are assigned to the action, fulfil the general eligibility conditions and:

(a) work under conditions similar to those of an employee (in particular regarding the way the work is organised, the tasks that are performed and the premises where they are performed) and

(b) the result of the work belongs to the beneficiary (unless agreed otherwise).

They must be calculated on the basis of a rate which corresponds to the costs actually incurred for the direct contract or secondment and must not be significantly different from those for personnel performing similar tasks under an employment contract with the beneficiary.

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A.4 The work of **SME owners** for the action (i.e. owners of beneficiaries that are small and medium-sized enterprises[1] not receiving a salary) or **natural person beneficiaries** (i.e. beneficiaries that are natural persons not receiving a salary) may be declared as personnel costs, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are calculated as unit costs in accordance with the method set out in Annex 2a.

B. Subcontracting costs

Subcontracting costs for the action (including related duties, taxes and charges, such as non-deductible or non-refundable value added tax (VAT)) are eligible, if they are calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred, fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are 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 interests (see Article 12).

Beneficiaries that are 'contracting authorities/entities' within the meaning of the EU Directives on public procurement must also comply with the applicable national law on public procurement.

Subcontracting may cover only a limited part of the action.

The tasks to be subcontracted and the estimated cost for each subcontract must be set out in Annex 1 and the total estimated costs of subcontracting per beneficiary must be set out in Annex 2 (or may be approved ex post in the periodic report, if the use of subcontracting does not entail changes to the Agreement which would call into question the decision awarding the grant or breach the principle of equal treatment of applicants; 'simplified approval procedure').

C. Purchase costs

Purchase costs for the action (including related duties, taxes and charges, such as non-deductible or non-refundable value added tax (VAT)) are eligible, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions and are bought using the beneficiary's usual purchasing practices — provided these ensure purchases with best value for money (or if appropriate the lowest price) and that there is no conflict of interests (see Article 12).

Beneficiaries that are 'contracting authorities/entities' within the meaning of the EU Directives on public procurement must also comply with the applicable national law on public procurement.

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[1] For the definition, see Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC: micro, small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) are enterprises-- engaged in an economic activity, irrespective of their legal form (including, in particular, self- employed persons and family businesses engaged in craft or other activities, and partnerships or associations regularly engaged in an economic activity) and

- employing fewer than 250 persons (expressed in 'annual working units' as defined in Article 5 of the Recommendation) and which have an annual turnover not exceeding EUR 50 million, and/or an annual balan-ce sheet total not exceeding EUR 43 million.

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C.1 Travel and subsistence

Purchases for **travel, accommodation** and **subsistence** must be calculated as follows:

- travel: as unit costs in accordance with the method set out in Annex 2a if covered by Decision C(2021)35 or otherwise as costs actually incurred and in line with the beneficiary's usual practices on travel

- accommodation: as unit costs in accordance with the method set out in Annex 2a if covered by Decision C(2021)35 or otherwise as costs actually incurred and in line with the beneficiary's usual practices on travel

- subsistence: as unit costs in accordance with the method set out in Annex 2a if covered by Decision C(2021)35 or otherwise as costs actually incurred and in line with the beneficiary's usual practices on travel.

C.2 Equipment

Purchases of **equipment, infrastructure or other assets** used for the action must be declared as depreciation costs, calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred and written off in accordance with international accounting standards and the beneficiary's usual accounting practices.

Only the portion of the costs that corresponds to the rate of actual use for the action during the action duration can be taken into account.

Costs for **renting or leasing** equipment, infrastructure or other assets are also eligible, if they do not exceed the depreciation costs of similar equipment, infrastructure or assets and do not include any financing fees.

C.3 Other goods, works and services

Purchases of **other goods, works and services** must be calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred.

Such goods, works and services include, for instance, consumables and supplies, promotion, dissemination, protection of results, translations, publications, certificates and financial guarantees, if required under the Agreement.

D. Other cost categories

D.1 Financial support to third parties

Costs for providing financial support to third parties (in the form of **grants, prizes** or similar forms of support; if any) are eligible, if and as declared eligible in the call conditions, if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions, are calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred and the support is implemented in accordance with the conditions set out in Annex 1.

These conditions must ensure objective and transparent selection procedures and include at least the following:

(a) for grants (or similar):

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(i) the maximum amount of financial support for each third party ('recipient'); this amount may not exceed the amount set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 3) or otherwise agreed with the granting authority

(ii) the criteria for calculating the exact amount of the financial support

(iii) the different types of activity that qualify for financial support, on the basis of a closed list

(iv) the persons or categories of persons that will be supported and

(v) the criteria and procedures for giving financial support

(b) for prizes (or similar):

(i) the eligibility and award criteria

(ii) the amount of the prize and

(iii) the payment arrangements.

Indirect costs

E. Indirect costs

Indirect costs will be reimbursed at the flat-rate of 7% of the eligible direct costs (categories A-D, except volunteers costs and exempted specific cost categories, if any).

Contributions

Not applicable

6.3 Ineligible costs and contributions

The following costs or contributions are **ineligible**:

(a) costs or contributions that do not comply with the conditions set out above (Article 6.1 and 6.2), in particular:

(i) costs related to return on capital and dividends paid by a beneficiary

(ii) debt and debt service charges

(iii) provisions for future losses or debts

(iv) interest owed

(v) currency exchange losses

(vi) bank costs charged by the beneficiary's bank for transfers from the granting authority

(vii) excessive or reckless expenditure

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(viii) deductible or refundable VAT (including VAT paid by public bodies acting as public authority)

(ix) costs incurred or contributions for activities implemented during grant agreement suspension (see Article 31)

(x) in-kind contributions by third parties

(b) costs or contributions declared under other EU grants (or grants awarded by an EU Member State, non-EU country or other body implementing the EU budget), except for the following cases:

(i) Synergy actions: not applicable

(ii) if the action grant is combined with an operating grant running during the same period and the beneficiary can demonstrate that the operating grant does not cover any (direct or indirect) costs of the action grant

(c) costs or contributions for staff of a national (or regional/local) administration, for activities that are part of the administration's normal activities (i.e. not undertaken only because of the grant)

(d) costs or contributions (especially travel and subsistence) for staff or representatives of EU institutions, bodies or agencies

(e) other:

(i) country restrictions for eligible costs: not applicable

(ii) costs or contributions declared specifically ineligible in the call conditions.

6.4 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary declares costs or contributions that are ineligible, they will be rejected (see Article 27).

This may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 12 — CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

12.1 Conflict of interests

The beneficiaries must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the Agreement could be compromised for reasons involving family, emotional life, political or national affinity, economic interest or any other direct or indirect interest ('conflict of interests').

They must formally notify the granting authority without delay of any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interests and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation.

The granting authority may verify that the measures taken are appropriate and may require additional measures to be taken by a specified deadline.

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12.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28) and the grant or the beneficiary may be terminated (see Article 32[2]).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 13 — CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECURITY

13.1 Sensitive information

The parties must keep confidential any data, documents or other material (in any form) that is identified as sensitive in writing ('sensitive information') — during the implementation of the action and for at least until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6).

If a beneficiary requests, the granting authority may agree to keep such information confidential for a longer period.

Unless otherwise agreed between the parties, they may use sensitive information only to implement the Agreement.

The beneficiaries may disclose sensitive information to their personnel or other participants involved in the action only if they:

(a) need to know it in order to implement the Agreement and

(b) are bound by an obligation of confidentiality.

The granting authority may disclose sensitive information to its staff and to other EU institutions and bodies.

It may moreover disclose sensitive information to third parties, if:

(a) this is necessary to implement the Agreement or safeguard the EU financial interests and

(b) the recipients of the information are bound by an obligation of confidentiality.

The confidentiality obligations no longer apply if:

(a) the disclosing party agrees to release the other party

(b) the information becomes publicly available, without breaching any confidentiality obligation

(c) the disclosure of the sensitive information is required by EU, international or national law.

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[2] Can be viewed in the full text of the Grant Agreement.

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Specific confidentiality rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

13.2 Classified information

The parties must handle classified information in accordance with the applicable EU, international or national law on classified information (in particular, Decision 2015/44418 and its implementing rules).

18 Commission Decision 2015/444/EC, Euratom of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53).

Deliverables which contain classified information must be submitted according to special procedures agreed with the granting authority.

Action tasks involving classified information may be subcontracted only after explicit approval (in writing) from the granting authority.

Classified information may not be disclosed to any third party (including participants involved in the action implementation) without prior explicit written approval from the granting authority.

Specific security rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

13.3 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5[3].

ARTICLE 17 — COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND VISIBILITY

17.1 Communication — Dissemination — Promoting the action

Unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority, the beneficiaries must promote the action and its results by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public), in accordance with Annex 1 and in a strategic, coherent and effective manner.

Before engaging in a communication or dissemination activity expected to have a major media impact, the beneficiaries must inform the granting authority.

17.2 Visibility — European flag and funding statement

Unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority, communication activities of the beneficiaries related to the action (including media relations, conferences, seminars, information material, such as brochures, leaflets, posters, presentations, etc., in electronic form, via traditional or social media, etc.), dissemination activities and any infrastructure, equipment, vehicles, supplies or major result funded by the grant must acknowledge EU

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[3] Can be viewed in the full text of the Grant Agreement.

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support and display the European flag (emblem) and funding statement (translated into local languages, where appropriate):

The emblem must remain distinct and separate and cannot be modified by adding other visual marks, brands or text.

Apart from the emblem, no other visual identity or logo may be used to highlight the EU support.

When displayed in association with other logos (e.g. of beneficiaries or sponsors), the emblem must be displayed at least as prominently and visibly as the other logos.

For the purposes of their obligations under this Article, the beneficiaries may use the emblem without first obtaining approval from the granting authority. This does not, however, give them the right to exclusive use. Moreover, they may not appropriate the emblem or any similar trademark or logo, either by registration or by any other means.

17.3 Quality of information — Disclaimer

Any communication or dissemination activity related to the action must use factually accurate information.

Moreover, it must indicate the following disclaimer (translated into local languages where appropriate):

"Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or [name of the granting authority]. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them."

17.4 Specific communication, dissemination and visibility rules

Specific communication, dissemination and visibility rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5.

17.5 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 25 — CHECKS, REVIEWS, AUDITS AND INVESTIGATIONS — EXTENSION OF FINDINGS

25.1 Granting authority checks, reviews and audits

25.1.1 Internal checks

The granting authority may — during the action or afterwards — check the proper implementation of the action and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement, including assessing costs and contributions, deliverables and reports.

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25.1.2 Project reviews

The granting authority may carry out reviews on the proper implementation of the action and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement (general project reviews or specific issues reviews).

Such project reviews may be started during the implementation of the action and until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6). They will be formally notified to the coordinator or beneficiary concerned and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

If needed, the granting authority may be assisted by independent, outside experts. If it uses outside experts, the coordinator or beneficiary concerned will be informed and have the right to object on grounds of commercial confidentiality or conflict of interest.

The coordinator or beneficiary concerned must cooperate diligently and provide — within the deadline requested — any information and data in addition to deliverables and reports already submitted (including information on the use of resources). The granting authority may request beneficiaries to provide such information to it directly. Sensitive information and documents will be treated in accordance with Article 13.

The coordinator or beneficiary concerned may be requested to participate in meetings, including with the outside experts.

For **on-the-spot** visits, the beneficiary concerned must allow access to sites and premises (including to the outside experts) and must ensure that information requested is readily available.

Information provided must be accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested, including electronic format.

On the basis of the review findings, a **project review report** will be drawn up.

The granting authority will formally notify the project review report to the coordinator or beneficiary concerned, which has 30 days from receiving notification to make observations.

Project reviews (including project review reports) will be in the language of the Agreement.

25.1.3 Audits

The granting authority may carry out audits on the proper implementation of the action and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement.

Such audits may be started during the implementation of the action and until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6). They will be formally notified to the beneficiary concerned and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

The granting authority may use its own audit service, delegate audits to a centralised service or use external audit firms. If it uses an external firm, the beneficiary concerned will be informed and have the right to object on grounds of commercial confidentiality or conflict of interest.

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The beneficiary concerned must cooperate diligently and provide — within the deadline requested — any information (including complete accounts, individual salary statements or other personal data) to verify compliance with the Agreement. Sensitive information and documents will be treated in accordance with Article 13.

For **on-the-spot** visits, the beneficiary concerned must allow access to sites and premises (including for the external audit firm) and must ensure that information requested is readily available.

Information provided must be accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested, including electronic format.

On the basis of the audit findings, a **draft audit report** will be drawn up.

The auditors will formally notify the draft audit report to the beneficiary concerned, which has 30 days from receiving notification to make observations (contradictory audit procedure).

The **final audit report** will take into account observations by the beneficiary concerned and will be formally notified to them.

Audits (including audit reports) will be in the language of the Agreement.

25.2 European Commission checks, reviews and audits in grants of other granting authorities

Where the granting authority is not the European Commission, the latter has the same rights of checks, reviews and audits as the granting authority.

25.3 Access to records for assessing simplified forms of funding

The beneficiaries must give the European Commission access to their statutory records for the periodic assessment of simplified forms of funding which are used in EU programmes.

25.4 OLAF, EPPO and ECA audits and investigations

The following bodies may also carry out checks, reviews, audits and investigations — during the action or afterwards:

- the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) under Regulations No 883/2013 and No 2185/96

- the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) under Regulation 2017/1939

- the European Court of Auditors (ECA) under Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) and Article 257 of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

If requested by these bodies, the beneficiary concerned must provide full, accurate and complete information in the format requested (including complete accounts, individual salary statements or other personal data, including in electronic format) and allow access to sites and premises for on-the-spot visits or inspections — as provided for under these Regulations.

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To this end, the beneficiary concerned must keep all relevant information relating to the action, at least until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (Point 6) and, in any case, until any ongoing checks, reviews, audits, investigations, litigation or other pursuits of claims have been concluded.

25.5 Consequences of checks, reviews, audits and investigations — Extension of findings

25.5.1 Consequences of checks, reviews, audits and investigations in this grant

Findings in checks, reviews, audits or investigations carried out in the context of this grant may lead to rejections (see Article 27), grant reduction (see Article 28) or other measures described in Chapter 5.

Rejections or grant reductions after the final payment will lead to a revised final grant amount (see Article 22).

Findings in checks, reviews, audits or investigations during the action implementation may lead to a request for amendment (see Article 39), to change the description of the action set out in Annex 1.

Checks, reviews, audits or investigations that find systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or breach of obligations in any EU grant may also lead to consequences in other EU grants awarded under similar conditions ('extension to other grants').

Moreover, findings arising from an OLAF or EPPO investigation may lead to criminal prosecution under national law.

25.5.2 Extension from other grants

Findings of checks, reviews, audits or investigations in other grants may be extended to this grant, if:

(a) the beneficiary concerned is found, in other EU grants awarded under similar conditions, to have committed systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant and

(b) those findings are formally notified to the beneficiary concerned — together with the list of grants affected by the findings — within the time-limit for audits set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6).

The granting authority will formally notify the beneficiary concerned of the intention to extend the findings and the list of grants affected.

If the extension concerns **rejections of costs or contributions**: the notification will include:

(a) an invitation to submit observations on the list of grants affected by the findings

(b) the request to submit revised financial statements for all grants affected

(c) the correction rate for extrapolation, established on the basis of the systemic or recurrent errors, to calculate the amounts to be rejected, if the beneficiary concerned:

(i) considers that the submission of revised financial statements is not possible or practicable or

(ii) does not submit revised financial statements.

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If the extension concerns **grant reductions**: the notification will include:

(a) an invitation to submit observations on the list of grants affected by the findings and

(b) the **correction rate for extrapolation**, established on the basis of the systemic or recurrent errors and the principle of proportionality.

The beneficiary concerned has **60 days** from receiving notification to submit observations, revised financial statements or to propose a duly substantiated **alternative correction method/rate**.

On the basis of this, the granting authority will analyse the impact and decide on the implementation (i.e. start rejection or grant reduction procedures, either on the basis of the revised financial statements or the announced/alternative method/rate or a mix of those; see Articles 27 and 28).

25.6 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, costs or contributions insufficiently substantiated will be ineligible (see Article 6) and will be rejected (see Article 27), and the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5.

ARTICLE 26 — IMPACT EVALUATIONS

26.1 Impact evaluation

The granting authority may carry out impact evaluations of the action, measured against the objectives and indicators of the EU programme funding the grant.

Such evaluations may be started during implementation of the action and until the time-limit set out in the Data Sheet (see Point 6). They will be formally notified to the coordinator or beneficiaries and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

If needed, the granting authority may be assisted by independent outside experts.

The coordinator or beneficiaries must provide any information relevant to evaluate the impact of the action, including information in electronic format.

26.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the granting authority may apply the measures described in Chapter 5.

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ARTICLE 33 — DAMAGES

33.1 Liability of the granting authority

The granting authority cannot be held liable for any damage caused to the beneficiaries or to third parties as a consequence of the implementation of the Agreement, including for gross negligence.

The granting authority cannot be held liable for any damage caused by any of the beneficiaries or other participants involved in the action, as a consequence of the implementation of the Agreement.

33.2 Liability of the beneficiaries

The beneficiaries must compensate the granting authority for any damage it sustains as a result of the implementation of the action or because the action was not implemented in full compliance with the Agreement, if it was caused by gross negligence or wilful act.

The liability does not extend to indirect or consequential losses or similar damage (such as loss of profit, loss of revenue or loss of contracts), provided such damage was not caused by wilful act or by a breach of confidentiality.

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14   Appendix 3 – Call Documentation

Available at ELE 2 website: https://european-language-equality.eu/open-call/

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E Evaluation Criteria (document)

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Call Documentation – Annex 4 – Evaluation Criteria

Eligibility Criteria

Formal Requirements

Criterion	Evaluation	
Language	Proposal is in English in all required parts.	Yes / No
Submission	Proposal delivered on time.	Yes / No
Declaration on Honour	Declaration on Honour is signed.	Yes / No
Legal Status	Applicant is a research organisation or NGO or incorporated association or company.	Yes / No
Country	Applicant is legally established in EU Member State.	Yes / No
Number of Proposals	Maximum of 10 proposals per applicant, maximum one for each topic 1-10.	Yes / No
Conflict of Interest	No conflict of interest.	Yes / No

Formal requirements check is the first step in the evaluation process. It will be checked prior to further evaluation. If one of the formal requirements is not fulfilled, the proposal is rejected. Formal requirements are described in full detail in the call documentation.

Eligibility criteria

Criterion	Evaluation	
Uniqueness	No similar project or technology exists.	Yes / No
Relevance for SRIA	Match of the actual proposal to the selected topic 1-10.	Yes / No

Eligibility criteria are checked by two evaluators. If the evaluation of these criteria differ, the FSTP Project Board will decide. If one of the eligibility criteria is not fulfilled, the proposal is rejected.

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Evaluation Criteria

Criterion	Evaluation	Weight	Points
Objective fit	Will the project contribute in a significant way to the overall success and uptake of the strategic agenda?	5	0 / 3 / 7 / 10 points
Feasibility	Are the planned activities feasible and will they lead to the fulfilment of the project outputs?	2	0 / 3 / 7 / 10 points
Innovativeness	Is the proposed technical approach innovative (for projects based on innovative technical solutions) or is the proposed contribution to the SRIA innovative (for projects based on innovative approach to the SRIA)?	2	0 / 3 / 7 / 10 points
Impact	Is the desired impact and benefit of the project relevant for ELE 2 project objectives?	3	0 / 3 / 7 / 10 points
Budget adequacy[1]	Does the budget correspond to all planned activities and outputs?[2] Is the budget well explained and justified?	1	0 / 3 / 7 / 10 points

Rating Scale – Criteria fulfilment	
0 points	**Not at all** The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
3 points	**Limited** The criterion is inadequately addressed or there are significant weaknesses.
7 points	**Good** The proposal addresses the criterion well, but some shortcomings are present.
10 points	**Excellent** The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion, any shortcomings are minor.

All project proposals are evaluated independently by two FSTP Project Board members (evaluators). Each evaluator will evaluate all individual criteria and assign points. The points from both evaluators are then summed up by criterion. Points by criterion are then multiplied by the criterion's weight and summed up in order to get the proposal's overall score.

Example: Proposal XY gets from each evaluator full points in all criteria (10 * 2 = 20 points per criterion). The points by criteria are then multiplied by the criterion's weight (objective fit: 20 points * 5, feasibility: 20 points * 2, innovativeness: 20 points * 2, impact: 20 points * 3, budget adequacy: 20 points * 1,). The overall score of proposal XY after the evaluation from experts is 260 points.

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[1] The FSTP Project Board will separately check if the budget fulfils all the budget requirements set out in the Call documentation.
[2] Evaluators can propose budget changes.

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The FSTP Project Board can change the total number of points assigned to a proposal in the range of at most 40 points (up or down) of all the points the proposal received from the evaluators.

The total overall score of an individual proposal is 300 points: maximum 260 points from evaluators + maximum 40 points from FSTP Project Board.

For each topic 1-10 the FSTP Project Board will select one proposal which scores the most points from all proposals submitted to this given topic (if there is no proposal submitted to the given topic or the proposal with the most points in given topic received less than 182 points, no proposal will be selected for this topic). The FSTP Project Board will then rank these (maximum 10) selected proposals in descending order and decide how many projects will be accepted for funding. If all of these selected proposals are accepted for funding other proposals (ranked in descending order) can be selected for funding up to the remaining budget.

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F Proposal Template (document)

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Call Documentation – Annex 3 – Project Proposal Template

Please note that the actual project proposals must be submitted via the SRIA Contribution Projects Open Call platform. This template is for information purposes only. Please see Annex 1 – Guide for Applicants.

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION	
Project Identification Number	Will be provided by the ELE 2 consortium.
Name of the Organisation	Text (max. 100 characters)
Project Name	Text (max. 100 characters)
Project Acronym	Text (max. 16 characters)
Project Abstract	Text (max. 800 characters)
Total Budget	Total budget allocated for the project (in EUR) (max. EUR 25,000)
Total Financial Support	90% of Total Budget (max. EUR 22,500)
Proposal Submission Date	Date and time (Will be provided by the ELE 2 consortium.)

APPLICANT IDENTIFICATION	
Organisation	(= Name of the organisation in Project Identification section)
National VAT Number	Text (max. 100 characters)
Year of Foundation	Text (max. 100 characters)
Number of Employees	Text (max. 100 characters)
Legal Form	Selection Entry (Research Organisation, NGO, incorporated association, company)
Website	Text (max. 100 characters)

REGISTERED SEAT

Address	Text (max. 100 characters)
City/Town	Text (max. 100 characters)
Postal Code	Text (max. 100 characters)
Country	Selection Entry (EU Member States)

CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Text (max. 100 characters)
E-mail	Text (max. 100 characters)
Phone	Text (max. 100 characters)
Contact Address	Text (max. 100 characters) (fill in if different from registered seat)

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APPLICANT IDENTIFICATION	
City/Town	Text (max. 100 characters) (fill in if different from registered seat)
Postal Code	Text (max. 100 characters) (fill in if different from registered seat)
Country	Selection Entry (fill in if different from registered seat)

DESCRIPTION OF THE APPLICANT

Description of the Applicant	Text (max. 1,800 characters)
	Experience relevant for the fulfilment of project outputs, other info (if needed) for evaluators possibly available on the applicant's website – please provide a link.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Project type	Selection Entry 1-10
	1. Data sets for more robust speech technology
	2. Study of language coverage for text mining and natural language under-standing in key European industrial sectors.
	3. Legal Assessment (Desk Research)
	4. General NLP/LT/AI Landscaping (Desk Research)
	5. General NLP/LT Domains (Desk Research)
	6. Analysis of AI and LT in European news media
	7. Computing facilities for LT (Desk Research)
	8. Demonstrably Greener Models of MT
	9. Survey of the use of LT in the hospital sector
	10. Basic LAnguage Resource Kit (BLARK) (Desk Research)
What do you want to do?	Text (max. 1,800 characters)
	What are your project goals? What do you want to achieve? What are the project's outputs and outcomes?
	How will the project contribute to the overall success and uptake of the strategic agenda?
	(Evaluation Criterions: Objective Fit and Innovativeness)
Impact	Text (max. 1,800 characters)
	What are the desired impacts and benefits of the project?
	(Evaluation Criterion: Impact)

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
How are you going to do it?	Text (max. 1,800 characters) How are you going to achieve the project goals? What are the methods and activities? **(Evaluation Criterions: Feasibility and Innovativeness)**
Project Keywords	Text (max. 100 characters)

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BUDGET	
Budget	Number Entry
	1. Compulsory budget categories:
	▪ Direct costs
	o Personnel costs
	o Travel
	o Equipment (the depreciation costs over the life of the project or cost of renting or leasing equipment)- only for topics 1 and 8
	o Other goods and services
	▪ Subcontracting
	▪ Indirect costs (7% of Direct costs)
Comment	Text (max. 1,800 characters)
	Explain and justify your budget (for each budget category separately). For personnel costs, indicate the number of person months, and link such personnel effort to the contents (tasks, goals) of the proposal. If you use subcontracting, justify it, and specify the role of subcontractor.
	(Evaluation Criterion: Budget Adequacy)

CONSENT TO PROCESS PERSONAL DATA

We hereby grant permission to Charles University, residing in Ovocný trh 560/5, 116 36 Prague 1, company: VAT Number: CZ00216208 (hereinafter "CUNI"), acting as a controller of personal data of all faculties and other parts of CUNI, to process the personal data filled in this submission form for the purpose of selecting SRIA contribution projects and providing the financial support for the selected projects within the EU project LC- 01884166/ 101075356 ELE 2 / European Language Equality 2.

We grant consent for the period of 6 years.

We can withdraw the consent via email sent to the following e-mail address ele-open-call@ufal.mff.cuni.cz or in person in the seat of the data controller.

We also have the following rights:

- To require information on what personal data is processed about us
- To require correction of false or outdated personal data
- To require our personal data not to be processed till the legitimacy of the two above mentioned points has been settled
- To require that our personal data will be transferred to another data controller
- To file a complaint to the supervisory authority

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If we make any inquiry or if we exercise our rights we can contact the Data Protection Officer (DPO) on the following e-mail address: **gdpr@cuni.cz**.

☐ Consent to Process Personal Data

DECLARATION ON HONOUR

We hereby declare and confirm the following:

- We have read and understood the open call details and requirements.
- We have had the opportunity to ask questions about ELE 2 project and the open call during the proposal preparation phase by sending an email to: open-call@european-language-equality.eu
- We can withdraw the proposal at any time, and we will not be penalised for withdrawing.
- The information provided in the proposal is true, correct and complete.
- We have or will have the necessary stable and sufficient resources to implement the project.
- Our organisation is not in any situation, which would exclude us from receiving financial support.
- Our organisation is not subject to a conflict of interest in connection with the financial support.
- Our organisation has the financial capacity to carry out the proposed action.

☐ We hereby declare and confirm the above mentioned

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G Guide for Evaluators (document)

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Guide for evaluators

Table of Contents

Document history

Date	Short Description of Changes
23 November 2022	Document created.

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1. How to register to the ELE open call submission platform

You can create your account here: https://opencall.european-language-equality.eu/form/board-member-registration
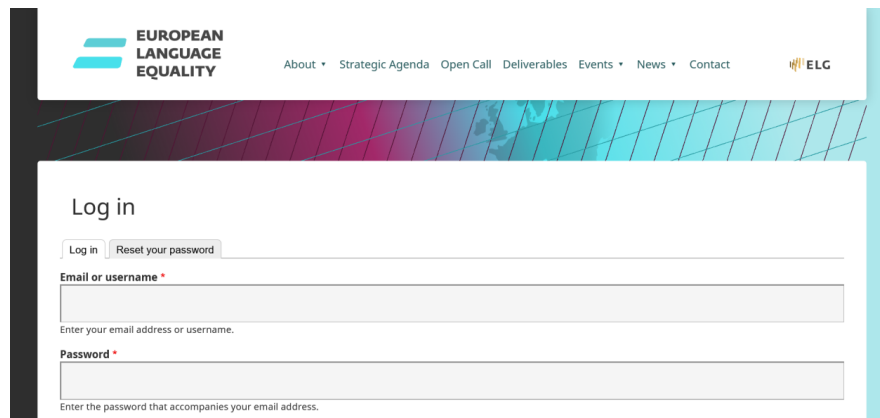
After you submit the board manager registration, you will receive an e-mail. You will be asked to finish the project manager registration. Click on the unique link and set your own password.

2. How to log in and manage your account

You can log in here: https://opencall.european-language-equality.eu/user/login

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After login, you will be able to change your password by clicking "Change Password".
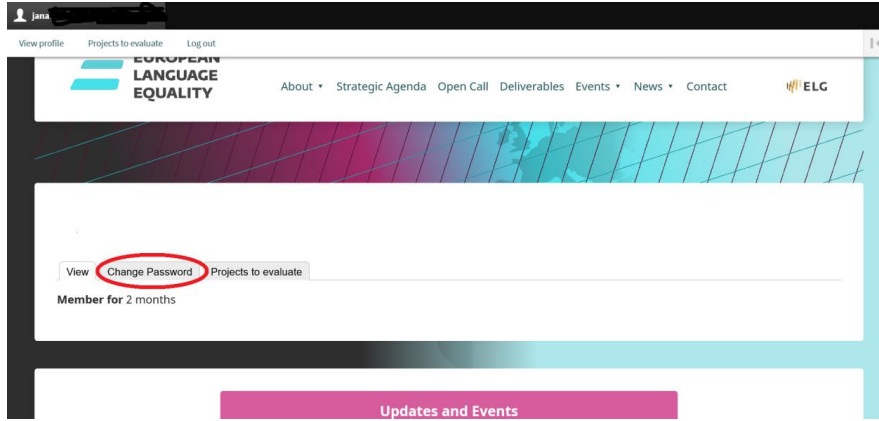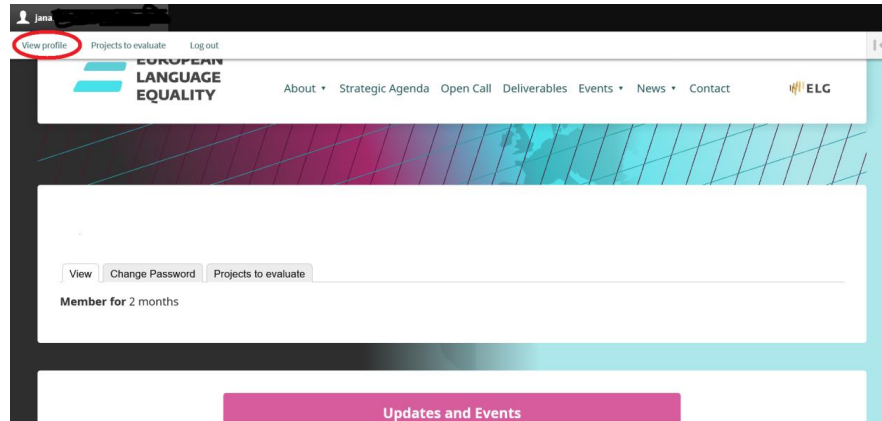

You can log out by clicking on your login name on the top of the site.

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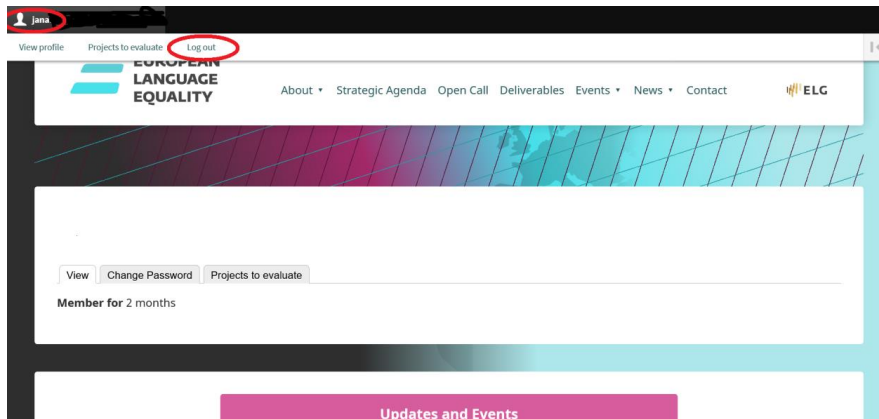
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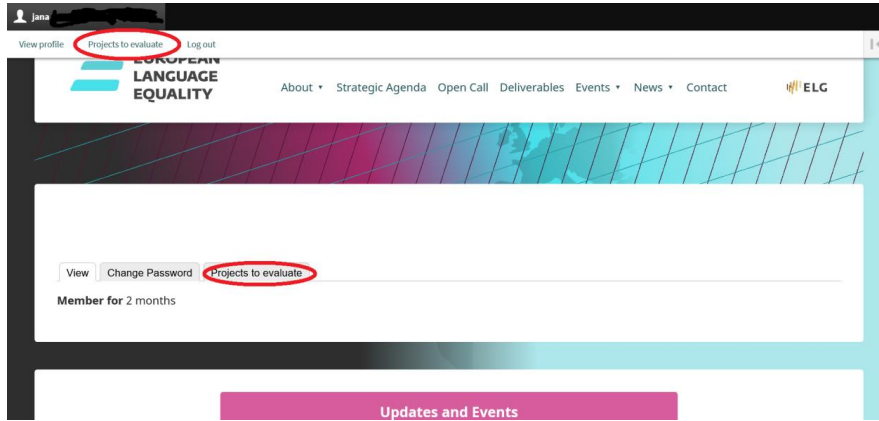You can always get back to this start page by clicking "view profile".

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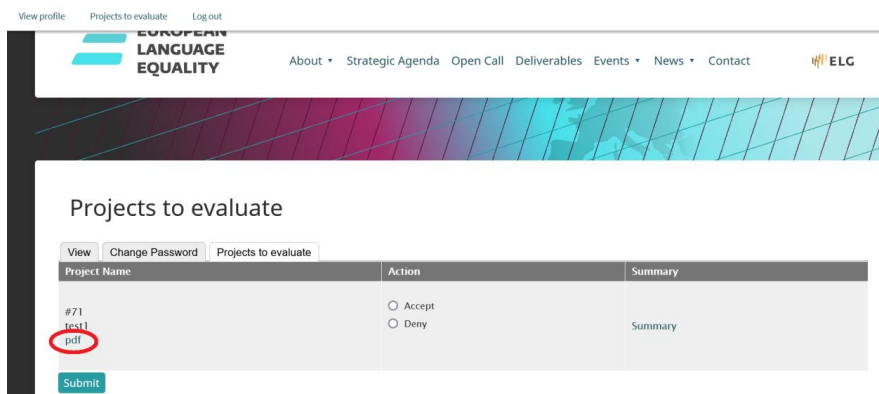FSTP – Open Call – Guide for evaluators

3. How to accept or decline project proposal for evaluation

Click on "Projects to evaluate".

Open the project proposal (in pdf) and check the proposal, its content and the institution which submitted the project.

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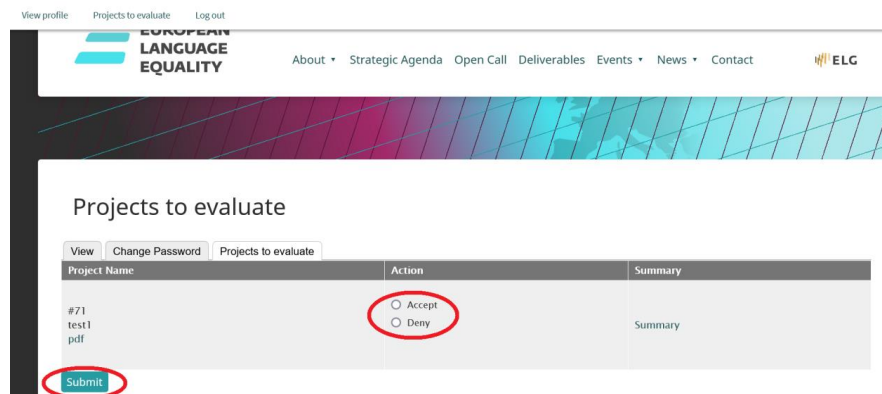
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After checking the conflict of interest and your expertise you either accept or decline the evaluation. Click on "Accept" or "Deny" for that particular project or for more projects assigned to you.
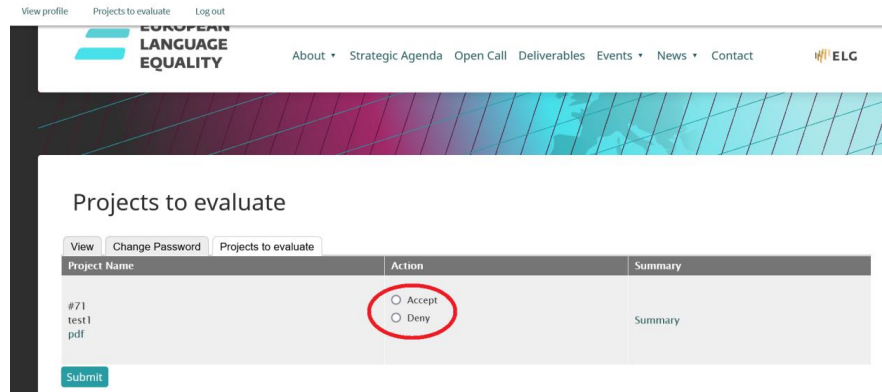
If you are done with all project proposals and have chosen "Accept" or "Deny" for all of them, click "Submit". After submission, you will not be able to edit your decision anymore. However, if you need to recall your choice, contact us at ele-open-call@ufal.mff.cuni.cz.

Project proposals with declined evaluation will be re-assigned to new evaluators. In case you will be assigned to some more project proposals, you will be notified via e-mail.
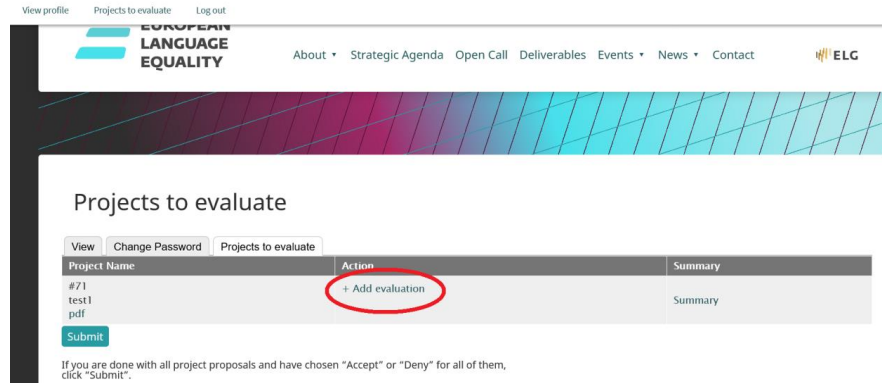

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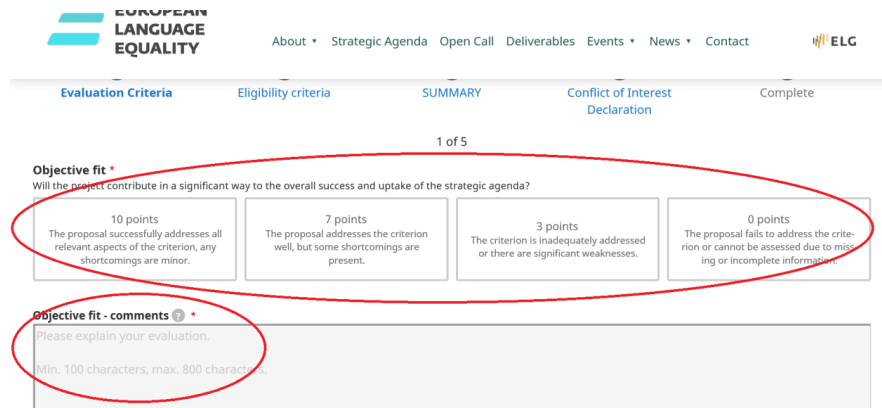FSTP – Open Call – Guide for evaluators

4. How to evaluate a project proposal

Once you accept a project proposal for evaluation, you can start to fill in the evaluation report. Click on "Add evaluation".

You should answer every evaluation question by awarding points for every evaluation criterion or answering yes/no for every eligibility criterion. You must accompany it with commentary explaining your evaluation. There is also a minimum and maximum length of your comments set up.

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You can move to other sections of the evaluation report by clicking "Next Page" or "Previous Page" at the bottom.
You can start evaluating the project proposal. You can save your work anytime by clicking "Save Draft".

Budget reduction - comments
If suggested budget reduction, please explain.

Max. 800 characters.

800 character(s) remaining

Save Draft   < Previous Page   Next Page >

You can also move to other sections using the Navigation Panel.

1 — Evaluation Criteria   2 — Eligibility criteria   3 — SUMMARY   4 — Conflict of Interest Declaration   5 — Complete

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Information for evaluators
Eligibility criteria are checked by two evaluators. If the evaluation of these criteria differ, the FSTP Project Board decides. If one of the eligibility criteria is not fulfilled, the proposal is rejected.

Uniqueness *
No similar project or technology exists.

○ Yes   ○ No

Uniqueness - comments *
Please explain your evaluation

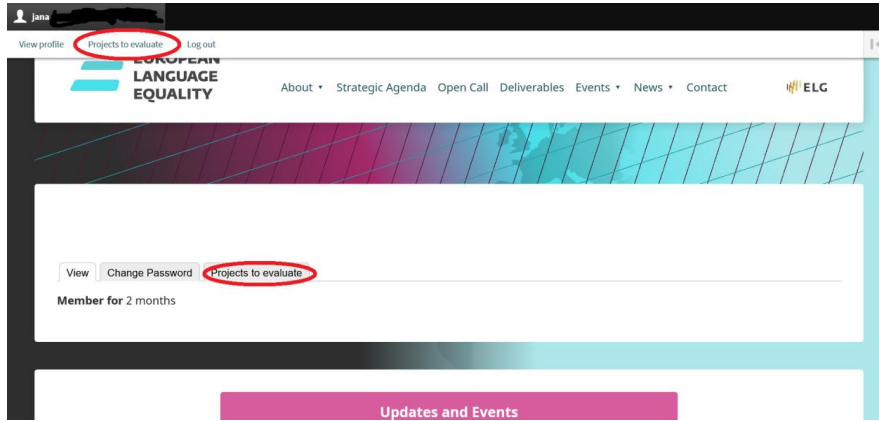All fields (marked with red star) must be filled in.

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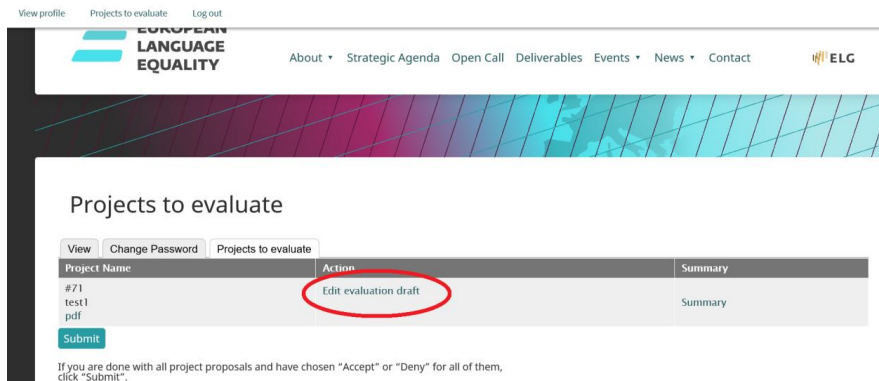FSTP – Open Call – Guide for evaluators

5. How to edit your evaluations

You can see all your evaluations by clicking "Projects to evaluate".

You can edit your draft version of evaluation by clicking "Edit evaluation draft".

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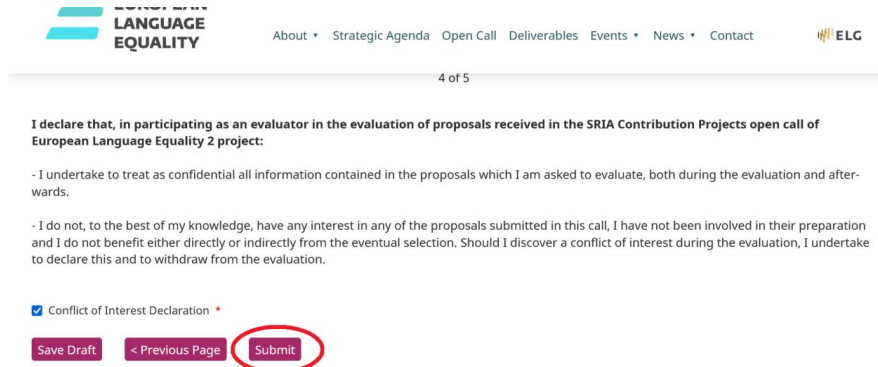
European Language Equality 2
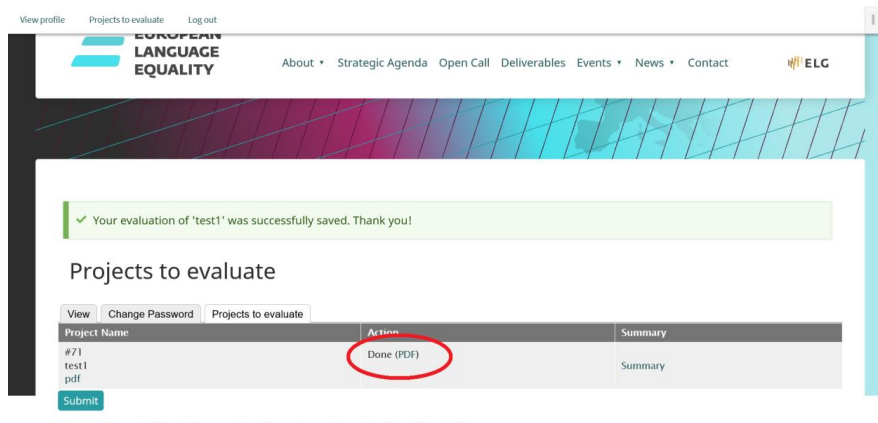FSTP – Open Call – Guide for evaluators

6. How to submit your evaluation

After filling in all the sections and obligatory fields, including Conflict of Interest Declaration, you can submit your evaluation by clicking "Submit".

Once your evaluation is submitted, it cannot be reopened, edited, or deleted. In urgent cases if you need to amend your submitted evaluation, please get in touch with us at ele-open-call@ufal.mff.cuni.cz.

You will be able to see the status of your evaluation in the "Projects to evaluate" dashboard. You can also view your evaluation in pdf or download it.

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7. Evaluation report template

Please note that the **actual evaluation reports are to be submitted via the ELE Open Call submission platform**. This template has information purpose only.

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Evaluation Criteria

Criterion	Evaluation	Weight	Points	Comments
Objective fit	Will the project contribute in a significant way to the overall success and uptake of the strategic agenda?	5	0 / 3 / 7 / 10 points	Please explain your evaluation. Min. 100 characters, max. 800 characters.
Feasibility	Are the planned activities feasible and will they lead to the fulfilment of the project outputs?	2	0 / 3 / 7 / 10 points	Please explain your evaluation. Min. 100 characters, max. 800 characters.
Innovativeness	Is the proposed technical approach innovative (for projects based on innovative technical solutions) or is the proposed contribution to the SRIA innovative (for projects based on innovative approach to the SRIA)?	2	0 / 3 / 7 / 10 points	Please explain your evaluation. Min. 100 characters, max. 800 characters.
Impact	Is the desired impact and benefit of the project relevant for ELE 2 project objectives?	3	0 / 3 / 7 / 10 points	Please explain your evaluation. Min. 100 characters, max. 800 characters.
Budget adequacy[1]	Does the budget correspond to all planned activities and outputs? Do you suggest budget reduction? Why?	1	0 / 3 / 7 / 10 points	Please explain your evaluation. Min. 100 characters, max. 800 characters.

[1] The FSTP Project Board will separately check if the budget fulfils all the budget requirements set out in the Call documentation.
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Eligibility criteria

Criterion	Evaluation		Comments
Uniqueness	No similar project or technology exists.	Yes / No	Please explain your evaluation. Min. 60 characters, max. 800 characters.
Relevance for SRIA	Match of the actual proposal to the selected topic 1-10.	Yes / No	Please explain your evaluation. Min. 60 characters, max. 800 characters.

Eligibility criteria are checked by two evaluators. If the evaluation of these criteria differ, the FSTP Project Board decides. If one of the eligibility criteria is not fulfilled, the proposal is rejected.

SUMMARY

Criterion	Evaluation		Comments
SUMMARY	**Do you recommend this project proposal for financing and execution?**	**YES / NO**	Please explain your evaluation. Min. 100 characters, max. 800 characters.
Budget reduction	**Do you suggest budget reduction?**	**YES / NO**	If suggested budget reduction, please explain. Max. 800 characters.

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Rating Scale – Criteria fulfilment	
0 points	**Not at all** The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
3 points	**Limited** The criterion is inadequately addressed or there are significant weaknesses.
7 points	**Good** The proposal addresses the criterion well, but some shortcomings are present.
10 points	**Excellent** The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion, any shortcomings are minor.

All project proposals are evaluated independently by two FSTP Project Board members (evaluators). Each evaluator will evaluate all individual criteria and assign points. The points from both evaluators are then summed up by criterion. Points by criterion are then multiplied by the criterion's weight and summed up in order to get the proposal's overall score.

*Example: Proposal XY gets from each evaluator full points in all criteria (10 * 2 = 20 points per criterion). The points by criteria are then multiplied by the criterion's weight (objective fit: 20 points * 5, feasibility: 20 points * 2, innovativeness: 20 points * 2, impact: 20 points * 3, budget adequacy: 20 points * 1,). The overall score of proposal XY after the evaluation from experts is 260 points.*

The FSTP Project Board can change the total number of points assigned to a proposal in the range of at most 40 points (up or down) of all the points the proposal received from the evaluators.

The total overall score of an individual proposal is 300 points: maximum 260 points from evaluators + maximum 40 points from FSTP Project Board.

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For each topic 1-10 the FSTP Project Board will select one proposal which scores the most points from all proposals submitted to this given topic (if there is no proposal submitted to the given topic or the proposal with the most points in given topic received less than 182 points, no proposal will be selected for this topic). The FSTP Project Board will then rank these (maximum 10) selected proposals in descending order and decide how many projects will be accepted for funding. If all of these selected proposals are accepted for funding other proposals (ranked in descending order) can be selected for funding up to the remaining budget.

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H Evaluation Template – Final Review (document)

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Evaluation Template – Final Review

PROJECT SELF-ASSESSMENT	
Describe the goals of the project.	Text (min. 300 - max. 1000 characters)
Describe the key activities carried out during the project.	Text (min. 500 - max. 1500 characters)
Describe the outcomes achieved, including links to the relevant outputs (e.g., datasets, interactive websites, dissemination materials, etc.). Provide measurable performance indicators (e.g., size of the dataset, audience reached by survey etc.).	Text (min. 600 - max. 1800 characters)
What are your expectations regarding the ELE Programme and its future developments, as defined in the SRIA? Do you have any recommendations or suggestions regarding its activities?	Text (min. 300 - max. 1800 characters)
Do you see possible engagement of you and/or your company/institution in the ELE initiative in the future? If so, in which direction and under which conditions?	Text (min. 300 - max. 1800 characters)
Any other comments	Text (max. 1800 characters)
How satisfied are you with the project's execution and the achieved results?	Rating scale 1 - 3 (1 – highly satisfied, 2 – satisfied, 3 – unsatisfied)

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EVALUATION BY PROJECT COACH (FSTP PROJECT BOARD MEMBER)	
Is the self-assessment done by the project team appropriate and adequate?	Yes / Partially / No answer Text (max. 500 characters)
Were all activities, goals and outcomes planned in the project proposal successfully achieved?	Yes / Partially / No answer Text (min. 50 - max. 1000 characters)
Are you satisfied with the project's progress and with the communication of the project team?	Yes / Partially / No answer Text (min. 50 - max. 1000 characters)
Do you recommend approval of the project's results and the payment?	Yes / No answer Text (min. 50 - max. 1500 characters)
Please describe the main benefits of the project and its results for the ˷ELE Programme and SRIA.	Text (max. 1500 characters)
Lessons learnt and recommendations to the ELE2 consortium.	Text (max. 1500 characters)
How satisfied are you with the project's execution and its results?	Rating scale 1 - 3 (1 – highly satisfied, 2 – satisfied, 3 – unsatisfied)

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FSTP PROJECT BOARD MEETING	
At the FSTP Project Board meeting, the FSTP Project Board will approve the project's results and payment based on a (3 min. max) video presentation of the project results and the evaluation report provided by the Project Coach.	
Approval of the project's results and approval of the payment	Yes / No Text – justification of the decision, summary of the discussion
How satisfied are you with the project's execution and its results?	Rating scale 1 - 3 (1 – highly satisfied, 2 – satisfied, 3 – unsatisfied)

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