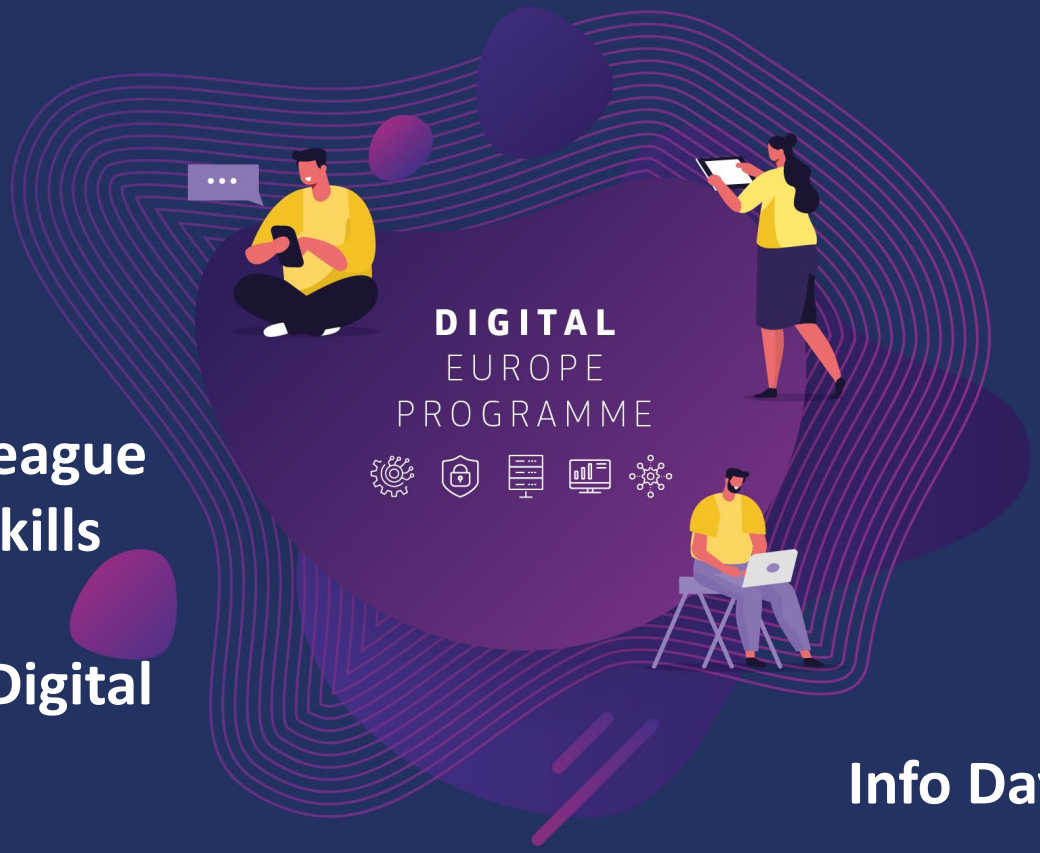
Digital Europe Programme

Call 9: Advanced Digital Skills

- ELEVATE: European League of Advanced Digital Skills Academies
- European Advanced Digital Skills Competitions



#DigitalEuropeProgramme

Info Day for potential applicants

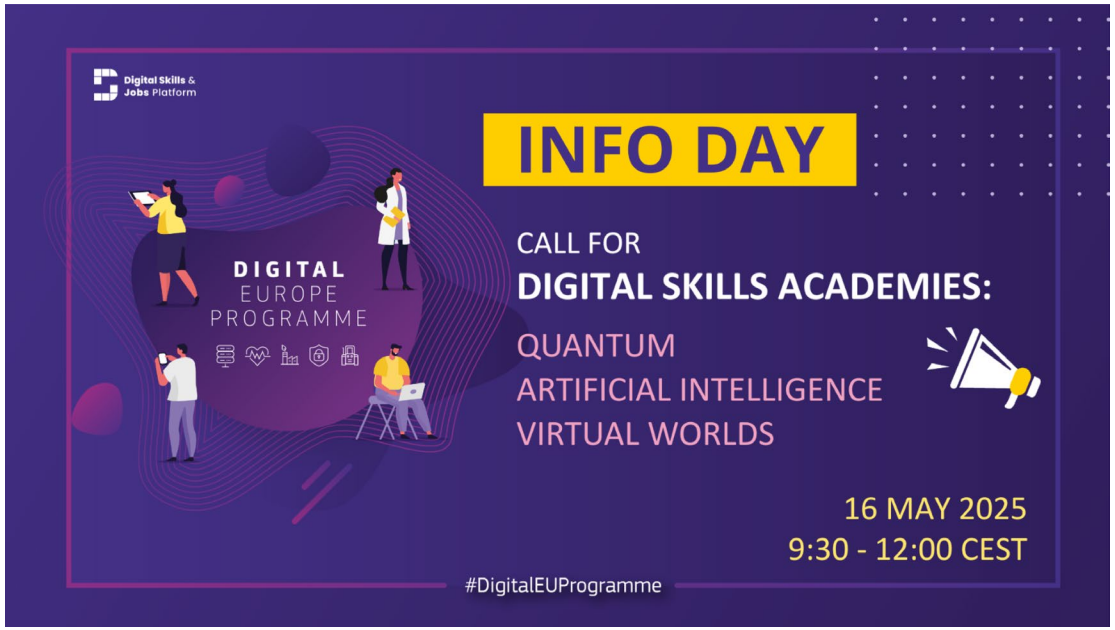
1 December 2025

Agenda

Time	Session
10:00 – 10:10	**Welcome and introduction, agenda and procedure for questions** (Digital Skills and Jobs Platform)
10:10 – 10:30	**9th Digital Europe Call for Advanced Digital Skills - Call Introduction** KERNCHEN Nadja (DG CNECT)
10:30 - 10:50	**DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09-LEAGUE-OF-ACADEMIES + Q&A** ELEVATE: European League of Advanced Digital Skills Academies Vitis FAURE TILGAARD(DG CNECT)
10:50 - 11:10	**DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09-COMPETITIONS + Q&A** European Advanced Digital Skills Competitions Maria Rosaria Coduti (DG CNECT)
11:10 - 11:30	**Registering your organisation, legal validation and financial capacity assessment** Mariadomenica CUGNIDORO & Florin PUIU (REA)
11:30 - 12:00	**How to submit your application, evaluation and award criteria** SAARELA Maria (HaDEA)
12:00 - 12:10	**Q&A**
12:10 – 12:15	**Closing remarks** (Digital Skills and Jobs Platform)

✅ Objectives

- To raise awareness on DIGITAL Europe Programme and the 9th Open Call for proposals on advanced digital skills
- To provide an information session with live Q&A, to feed into the relevant FAQ section on the Funding & Tenders Portal
- To encourage interested participants to submit their proposals, find project partners, and remain engaged with the services provided by the Platform, such as the “Partner for Digital Skills Networking Group”



Don’t forget to:

📌 Your **microphone and camera** will be disabled by default.

📌 Use the **Microsoft Teams Chat function to ask questions**, the moderator will address the question during the Q&A sessions or during the following days.

📌 Provide your **name and email, together with your question**.

Digital Skills & Jobs Platform

THE HOME OF DIGITAL SKILLS IN EUROPE

Joint Matchmaking Event:

DEP 9th Call for Advanced Digital Skills

🗓️ 9 December 2025 ⏰ 15:00 CET 💻 Online

Register here

Call Introduction

DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09

Nadja KERNCHEN (DG CNECT G2)

Digital Europe Programme

The Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL) : focused on bringing digital technology to businesses, citizens and public administrations.

Provides funding for projects **in key capacity areas**

(Specific objectives, SO):

- High Performance Computing
- Cloud, data and artificial intelligence
- Cybersecurity
- **Advanced Digital Skills → EUR 400.5 Million**
- Accelerating best use of technologies

Digital Decade targets for skills

ICT Specialists: 20 millions + more women in ICT

Basic Digital Skills: min 80% of population

In Europe in 2030

European Commission

Intervening along the continuum

Primary and secondary education	Tertiary education	Professional upskilling and reskilling

Knowledge & Community Building

Bringing Academia, Training, Research & Industry together

More Girls & Women in ICT

Skills Intelligence

Policy Background

Skills Package (March 2025)

Union of Skills - STEM Education Strategic Plan - Basic Skills Action Plan

→ **development of quality, inclusive and adaptable education and training systems**

- Four new high performing **Digital Skills Academies** in Quantum, AI, Virtual Worlds and Semiconductors
- European **Advanced Digital Skills Competitions** in cutting-edge digital technologies
- Leverage digital academies and other projects to **attract more girls and women to STEM**.
- Skills Intelligence Observatory, Skills High-Level Board
- Attracting talent, fostering skills portability

Vertical CNECT Strategies:

- AI Continent Action Plan
- Apply AI Strategy
- Quantum Europe Strategy
- EU initiative on Web 4.0 and virtual worlds (2023)

International Cooperation:

- pilot European Legal Gateway Office in India, starting with ICT sector

Project Overview DEP 2021-2027

DIGITAL EUROPE PROGRAMME

SPECIALISED EDUCATION PROGRAMMES 2021

EU Contribution
€53M

8 PROJECTS

AI & Health
DIGITAL TWINS
Digital Business
Digi
DS4HEALTH
ManagiDiTH
MERIT

SPECIALISED EDUCATION PROGRAMMES 2022

EU Contribution
€62M

12 PROJECTS

EM AI 4EU
Edu4Chip
CYBERACTIONING
SPECTRO
GreenChips-EDU
DIGIWIND
Digital4Security
DIGI-ME
EURIDICE
SKILLS4DECA
AI4CI
AGRITECH EU

SPECIALISED EDUCATION PROGRAMMES 2023

EU Contribution
€33M

5 PROJECTS

ACHIEVE
AI4GOV-X
EU-Inspire
PANORAIMA
SUSA

SPECIALISED EDUCATION PROGRAMMES 2024

EU Contribution
€55M

9 PROJECTS

3DP STeF
AI4GreenDeal
3D-CIRCULAR
VIC
PHORTIFY
ARISE
GreenShift
AI-SECRETT
UPRAISE

SHORT-TERM TRAINING COURSES

EU Contribution
€24M

12 PROJECTS

TRUST FOOD
Level Up
TECH TIME 2 SKILL
SME4DD
CloudCamp 4SMEs
CYRUS enhanced cybersecurity skills
REBOOT SKILLS
QTIndu
DIS4SME
EAGLE DIGITAL SKILLS TRAINING

CYBERSECURITY SKILLS ACADEMY

EU Contribution
€12M

5 PROJECTS

AKADIMOS
CADMUS
CYBERPRO TRAIN
CyberSec4OT
CYCERONE

REINFORCING SKILLS IN SEMICONDUCTORS

EU Contribution
€9M

2 PROJECTS

CHIPS of Europe
RESCHIP4EU

HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING

TOTAL BUDGET
€2M

1 PROJECT

HPC SPECTRA

COORDINATION AND SUPPORT ACTIONS/MISC

EU Contribution
€29M

9 PROJECTS

LEADS2030
Digital Skills & Jobs Platform
CodeWeek
DS4Skills
EMPOWERED EDTECH ECOSYSTEM FOR BETTER LEARNING

WIDCON
C4DD

Digital Skills Academies

EU Contribution
€27M

3 PROJECTS

Quantum
AI
Virtual Worlds

→ Under evaluation

Projects Brochure

European Commission

European League of Advanced Digital Skills Academies (ELEVATE)

DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09-LEAGUE-OF-ACADEMIES — ELEVATE

Vitis FAURE TILGAARD (DG CNECT G2)

ELEVATE – Context and Purpose

Context

- DEP-funded advanced digital skills initiatives (Advanced Digital Skills Academies, specialised education and training programmes, CSAs)
- Strong outputs but fragmented governance, visibility and collaboration

Purpose

- Build a connected and coherent European ecosystem for advanced digital skills
- Ensure structured cooperation between the academies and related DEP-funded projects
- Centralise visibility and engagement though the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform

ELEVATE – Objectives and Structure

Objective: Build a coherent European ecosystem for advanced digital skills by federating existing and upcoming initiatives

4 pillars

1. Coordination and Collaboration

- Multi-stakeholder governance
- Structured links between academies, EU-funded projects and sectoral initiatives

2. Capacity Building

- European Seal of Quality for ICT education
- European certification mechanism for modular credentials
- Mentoring (incl. women), fellowships, alumni network, EU virtual job fair

3. Communication

- Visibility and outreach via DSJP
- Promotion of academies, sectoral initiatives and ADS Competitions

4. Market Intelligence

- Analysis of training offer and labor market needs
- Repository of advanced digital skills needs on DSJP

ELEVATE – Outcomes and Deliverables

Expected outcomes

- Governance structure and stakeholder engagement plan
- Shared quality and certification frameworks
- Mentoring, fellowships and Europe-wide alumni network
- Annual EU virtual job and career fair
- Market analysis and repository of skills-needs intelligence (DSJP)
- Communication and outreach strategy for the ecosystem

Key Deliverables

- Seal of Quality framework
- Certification mechanism blueprint
- Mentoring programme + fellowship blueprint
- Alumni network model
- Market analysis + repository
- Communication plan covering all pillars

ELEVATE – Consortium Composition

Minimum requirements

- ≥ 3 entities from ≥ 3 eligible countries (MS/associated countries)
- Multi-beneficiary application mandatory

Recommended consortium composition: Higher education institutions, VET and training providers, Research institutes and centres of excellence, Public administrations and governmental bodies, Industry partners and SMEs, HR/employment organisations, alliances, social partners, NGOs

What evaluators will look for

- Proven EU-level coordination capacity
- Ability to engage the full advanced digital skills ecosystem
- Operational and communication capability
- Credible plan for sustainability and stakeholder engagement

European Advanced Digital Skills Competitions

DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09-COMPETITIONS

Maria Rosaria CODUTI (DG CNECT G2)

COMPETITIONS – Context and Purpose

Context

- DEP-funded advanced digital skills initiatives (Advanced Digital Skills Academies, specialised education and training programmes, CSAs)
- Digital Decade target of 20 million ICT specialists by 2030

Purpose

- Nurture advanced digital skills talent in the EU
- Ensure cooperation with ELEVATE and other relevant DEP-funded projects
- Centralise visibility and engagement though the Digital Skills and Jobs Platform

COMPETITIONS – Objectives and Structure

Objective:

- Addressing highly relevant European or local societal, technological and/or industry relevant challenges by engaging young European people in cutting edge digital technologies.

Structure:

- Six competitions: AI, Virtual Worlds, quantum, semiconductors, Destination Earth initiative, an additional area chosen by the consortium.
- Minimum three challenges per each competition.
- Competing teams: students from tertiary education institutions or equivalent, from at least 4 different education and training institutions from 4 different Member States or countries associated with the DIGITAL.

COMPETITIONS – Outcomes and Deliverables

Outcomes:

- Implementation and roll-out of 6 distinct competitions in the 6 digital areas
- An award ceremony organised in Brussels
- Involvement of industry stakeholders

Deliverables:

- Well defined, up to date and relevant challenges for the Competitions
- Competitions rule book for participants and jury
- Competitions implementation roadmap
- Implementation and roll-out of the six competitions
- Sustainability plans for the proposed competitions after the end of the project

COMPETITION – Consortium Composition

Recommended consortium composition:

higher education institutions, vocational education and training institutions, other education and training providers, industry partners, research institutes, centres of excellence, public administrations and/or governmental bodies, IT professionals.

What evaluators will look for:

- Number of challenges per competition
- Number of teams per competition
- Number of participants per competition
- Number of Member States and DIGITAL associated countries represented in each competition
- Number of people reached through the communication campaign(s)
- Number of events organised (online and physical)
- Gender target

REA Central Validation Service

Legal Validation & Financial Capacity Assessment

Mariadomenica CUGNIDORO – REA D.4
Florin PUIU – REA D.4

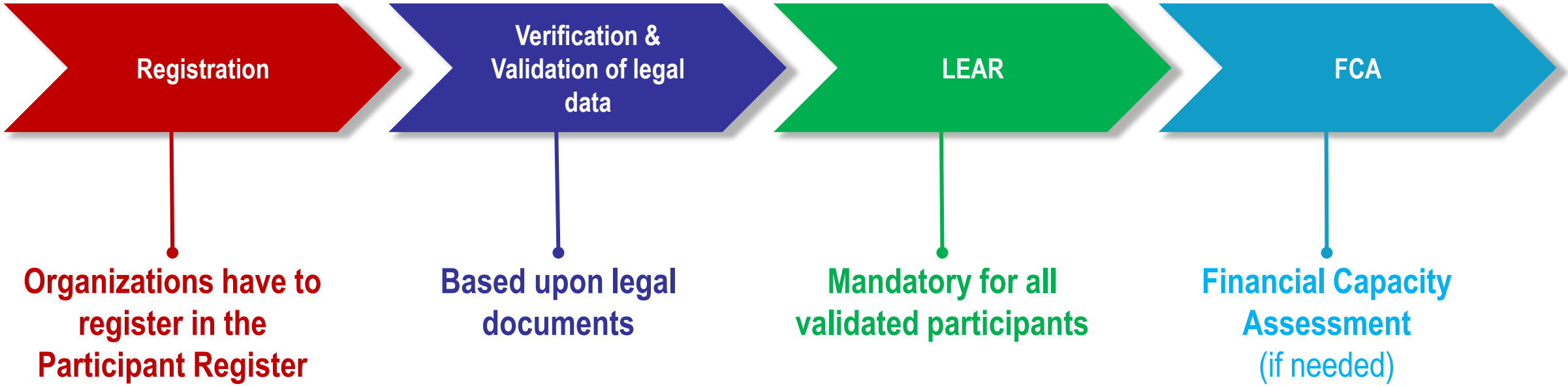
Presentation Outline

- REA Central Validation Service
- Registration of Participants
- Legal validation and LEAR
- Communication
- Financial capacity assessment

REA Central Validation Service
(REA CVS)

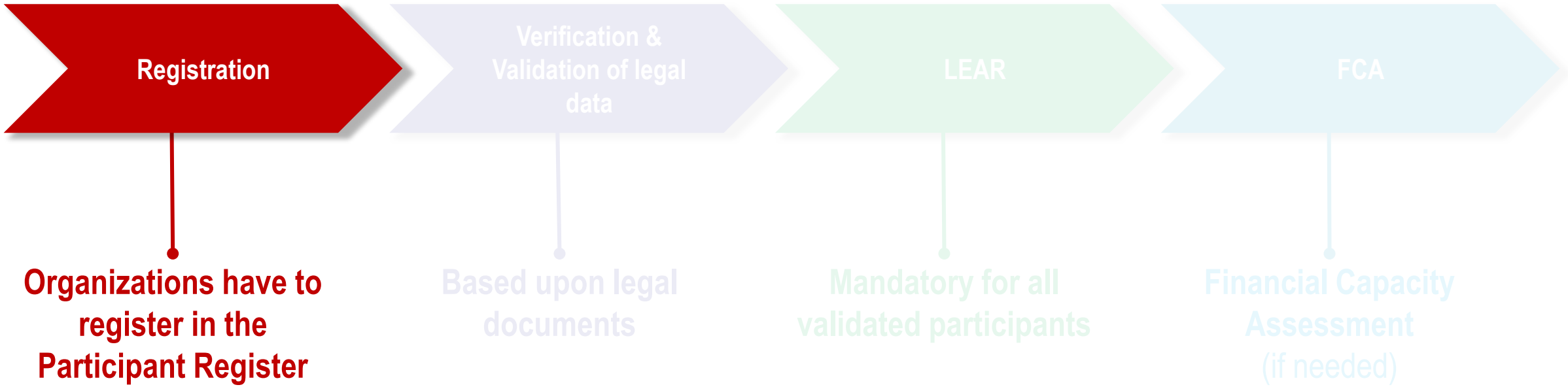
- Verifies **legal existence and legal statuses** of entities
- Validates the appointment of **Legal Entity Appointed Representatives (LEARs)**
- Validates **legal changes** of validated entities
- Assesses **universal takeovers (UTROs)** of validated entities
- Encoding **Bank Account requests**
- Prepares the **Financial Capacity Assessment**
- Performs **ownership control assessments** for specific programmes
- Performs ex-post status verifications (e.g. **SME & MID cap status checks**)

Validation Process Overview

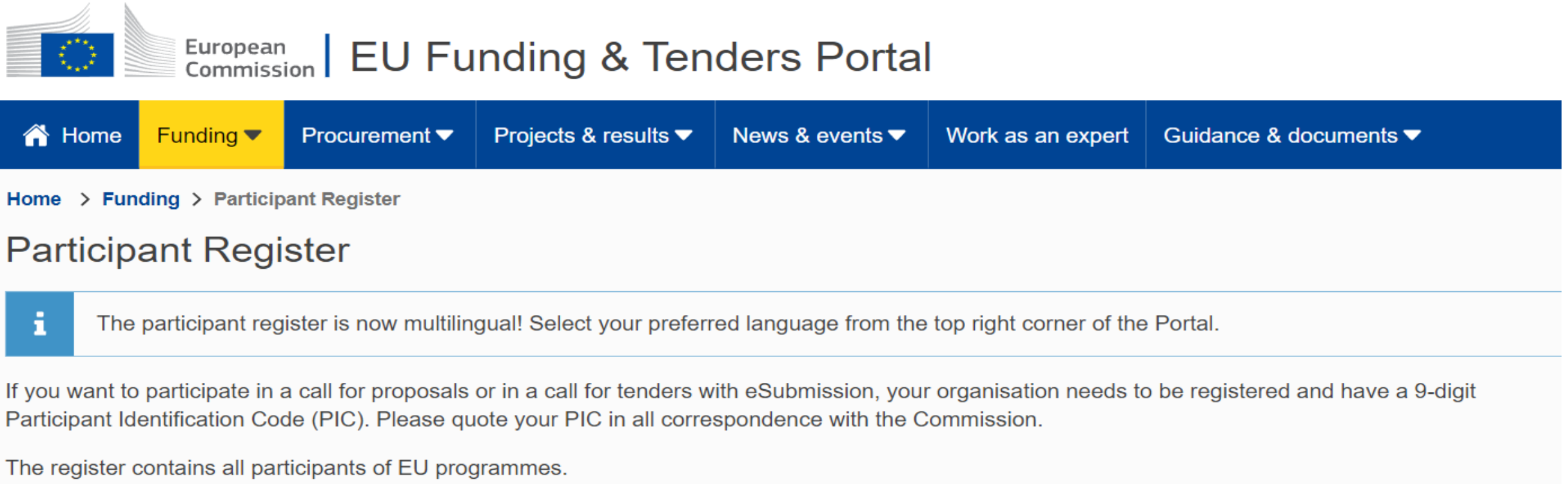


COMMUNICATION VIA PARTICIPANT REGISTER

Validation Process Overview

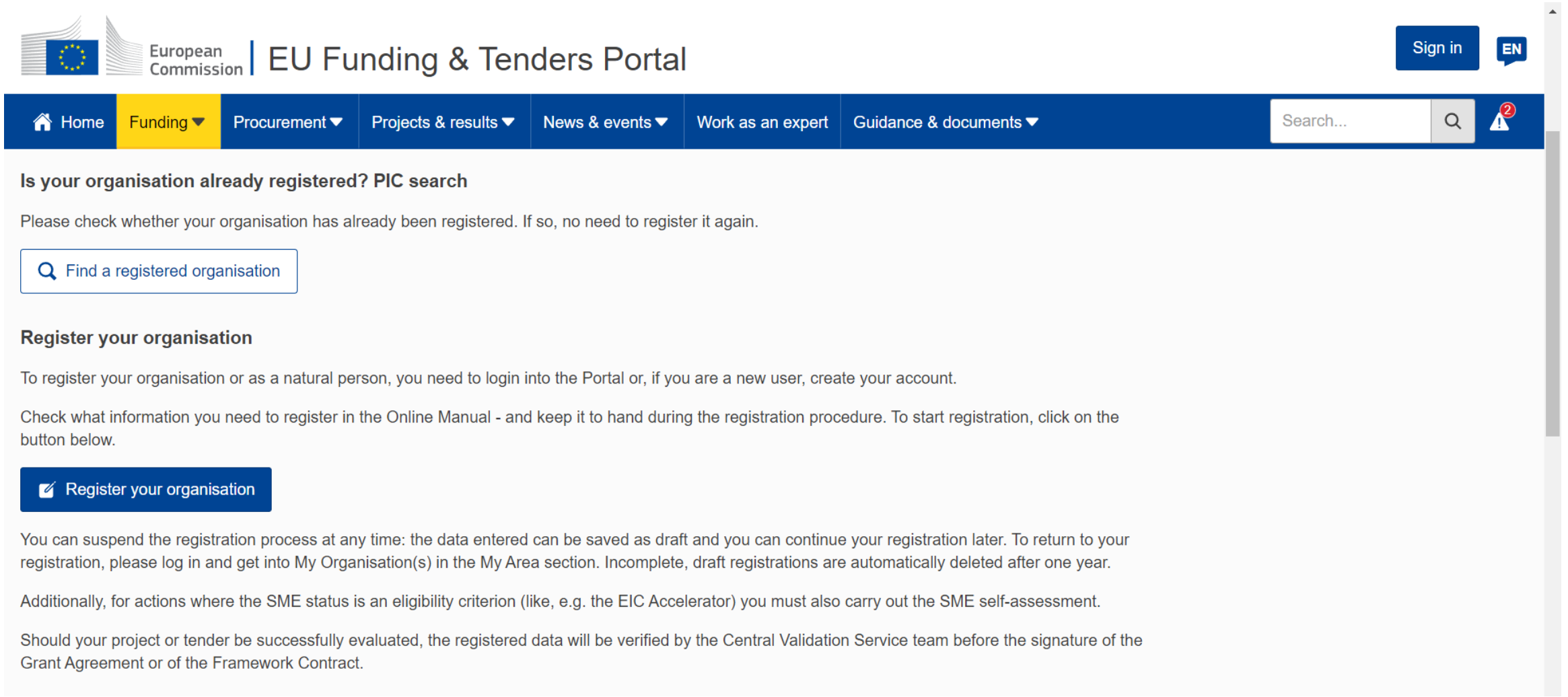


Registration of an organisation
(at proposal stage)

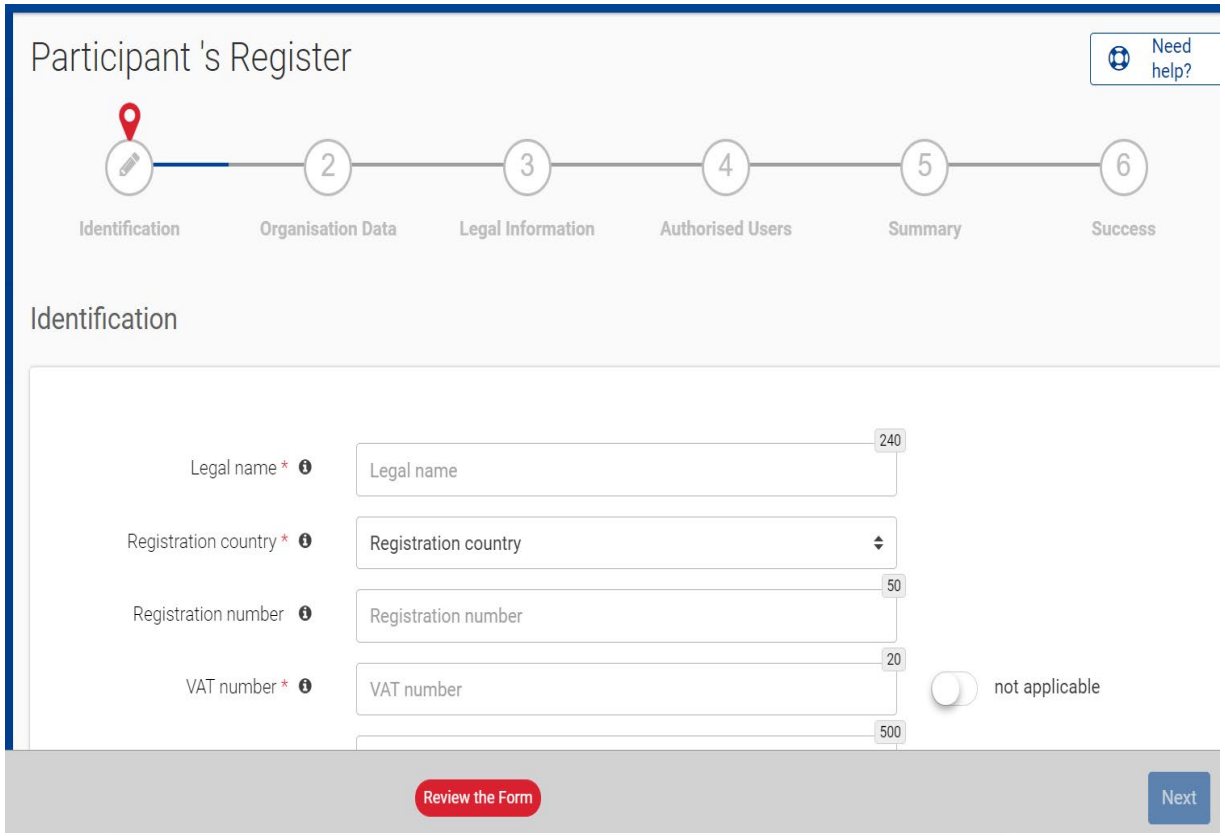


Registration | Validation & Verification of Legal Data | LEAR | FCA

Registration of an organisation
(at proposal stage)



How to register in the Participant Register



Identification

(e.g. Legal name, VAT number)

Organisation data

Legal information

Authorised users

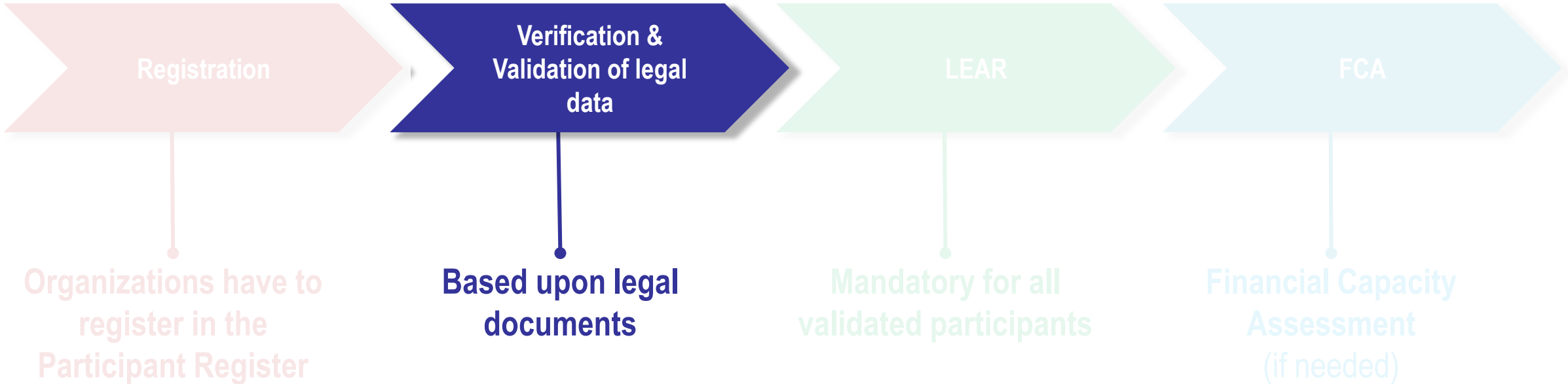
(e.g. Name, e-mail address of the self-registrant and the back-up)

Registration completed

New Participant Identification Code (PIC) in a "declared" status

Registration → Validation & Verification of Legal Data → LEAR → FCA

Validation Process Overview



COMMUNICATION VIA PARTICIPANT REGISTER

Legal validation

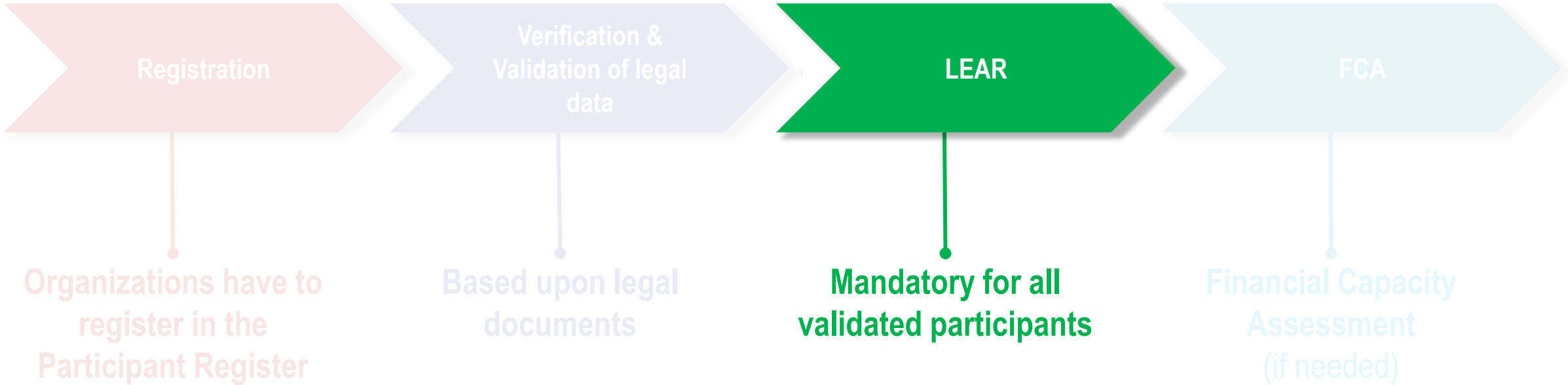
- Project PROPOSALS can be submitted with a DECLARED (*NON-VALID)* PIC
- Validation of the PIC: registration data is verified by the REA Central Validation Service *before* the signature of the first grant agreement or contract
- The legal validation of a participant is *done once:* a valid PIC is *reused* for future EU-funded project participations

Validation is based on legal supporting documents, in accordance with the EU Financial Regulation and the Rules on Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment

Legal validation documents

- ✓ **Registration extract** (< 1 year) – for private law bodies
- ✓ **VAT extract** (< 1 year)
  - ✓ *If not registered for VAT – proof of VAT exemption*
- ✓ **Law/decree/decision** – for public law bodies
- ✓ **Treaty** – for international organisations
- ✓ **Statutes** – for non-profit organisations

Validation Process Overview



COMMUNICATION VIA PARTICIPANT REGISTER

LEAR roles and duties

The *Legal Entity Appointed Representative* (LEAR):

- Notifies the EU of changes in legal data/status
- Submits legal and financial documents if required
- Manages access rights of persons in the organisation (but *not* at the project level)
- Nominates 'Account Administrators' and individuals authorised to sign:
  - ✓ Contracts/grant agreements and their amendments (Legal signatories, i.e. **LSIGN**)
  - ✓ Financial statements (Financial signatories, i.e. **FSIGN**)

LEAR appointment documents

1. LEAR appointment letter (duly signed by both the legal representative and the LEAR)

2. Official proof of identity (ID-card/passport with photo and signature) of the legal representative and the LEAR

3. Proof of empowerment of the legal representative

Scanned version *of these documents shall be uploaded in the Participant Register.*
Original of 1 *must be kept in the entity's premises.*

Communication

(e.g. request to submit legal documents or to appoint a LEAR)

All communication is exclusively managed **through the Participant Register**

European Commission <EC-NO-REPLY-GRANT-MANAGEMENT@nomail.ec.europa.eu>
to me

Europa / Funding & Tenders Portal notification

Dear User,

You have been granted the role of **Self Registrant** for the organisation arquicios.

In order to access your organisation data on the Funding & Tenders Portal/Supplier portal, you need to log in on the F&T Portal/Supplier Portal. If you did not have an EU Login yet, it was launched automatically for a separate e-mail with a hyperlink to finalise your account.

For more information on the Funding & Tenders Portal roles, please refer to the Online Manual if you participate in the programmes managed on the Funding & Tenders Portal.
For more information on the roles for e-Procurement, please refer to the e-Procurement wiki page, if you participate in a tender call.

With kind regards,
EU Single Electronic Data Interchange Area - F&T Portal team

This email has been auto-generated. Please do not reply to this account. Your email will not be read. For any inquiries please contact the Grants Procurement Systems Support +32 (2) 29 71063 or EC-FUNDING-TENDER-SERVICE-DESK@ec.europa.eu.

Messages are notified via e-mail to the contact person
(i.e. self-registrant or the appointed LEAR)

European Commission

Access lost to a declared or valid PIC

Declared PIC

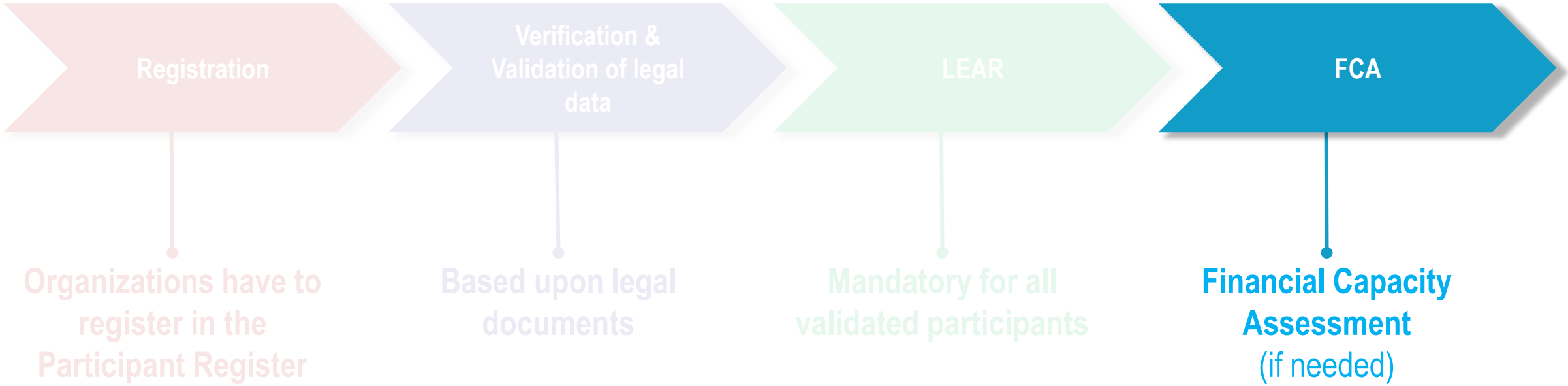
- In case the self-registrant left the organisation, and no one has access to a declared PIC – a new PIC needs to be created, and REA CVS informed

Valid PIC

- If the LEAR is not available anymore, and there are no Account Administrators, a new LEAR needs to be appointed – LEAR recovery procedure

https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/urf/lear-recovery/request/

Validation Process Overview



COMMUNICATION VIA PARTICIPANT REGISTER

Financial Capacity Assessment (FCA)

Legal basis

Financial Regulation (2024)
(articles 199 and 201)

Rules on Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment for EU Grants and Tenders.

Call for Proposals
("7. Financial & operational capacity and exclusion")

Registration → Validation & Verification of Legal Data → LEAR → FCA

Financial Capacity Assessment (FCA)

When is the FCA needed?

- ✓ **all beneficiaries,** except for:
  - **public bodies** (including local, regional or national authorities)
  - individual grant requests of **less than 60,000 EUR**
- ✓ **may be requested** for other beneficiaries/ affiliated entities

FCA supporting documents
(via Participant Register)

- ✓ Balance sheet

Balance Sheet

- ASSETS
- LIABILITIES
- EQUITY

FCA supporting documents
(via Participant Register)

- ✓ Balance sheet
- ✓ Profit and loss account

Balance Sheet

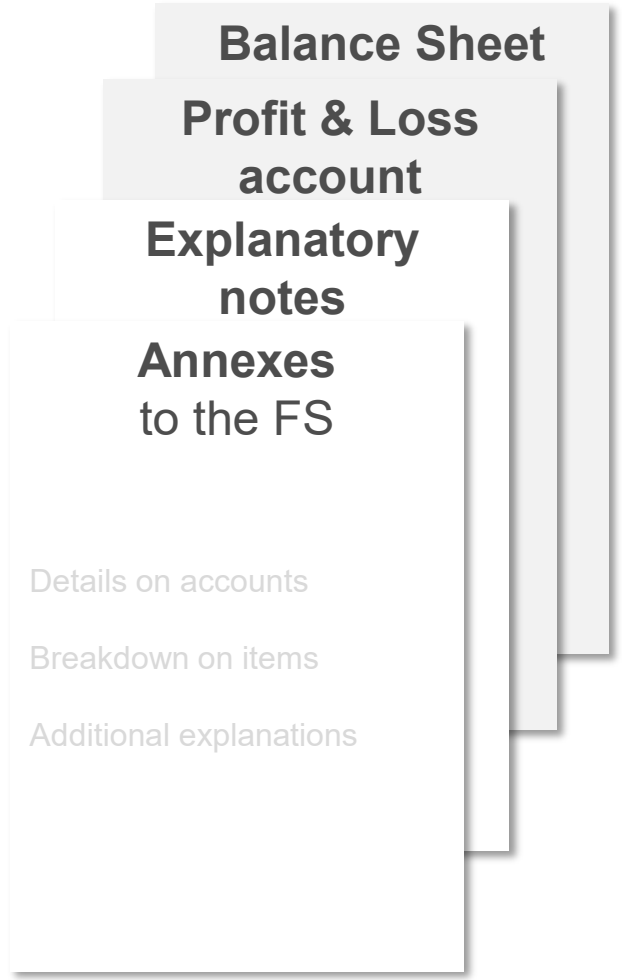
Profit & Loss account

- REVENUES
- EXPENSES

- Net result

FCA supporting documents
(via Participant Register)

- ✓ Balance sheet
- ✓ Profit and loss account
- ✓ Explanatory notes and/or annexes (if available)



FCA supporting documents
(via Participant Register)

- ✓ Balance sheet
- ✓ Profit and loss account
- ✓ Explanatory notes and/or annexes (if available)
- ✓ Financial audit report

if the requested EU-contribution exceeds EUR 750.000 (art. 199 FR2024)

Financial Audit report

Opinion
- Unqualified
- Qualified
- Adverse
- Disclaimer

Balance Sheet

Profit & Loss account

Explanatory notes

Annexes to the FS

FCA supporting documents
(via Participant Register)

- ✓ Balance sheet
- ✓ Profit and loss account
- ✓ Explanatory notes and/or annexes (if available)
- ✓ Financial audit report

…or Self Declaration on the accounts

if the requested EU-contribution exceeds EUR 750.000 (art. 199 FR2024)

Financial Audit report

Opinion
- Unqualified
- Qualified
- Adverse
- Disclaimer

Self Declaration
on the accounts

I, the undersigned declare that the accounts are:
- VALID
- no audit required

Signed

Balance Sheet

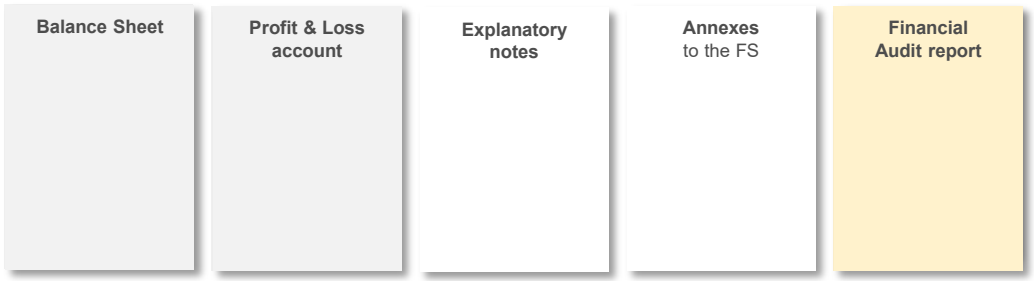
Profit & Loss account

Explanatory notes

Annexes
to the FS

Registration | Validation & Verification of Legal Data | LEAR | FCA

FCA supporting documents
(via Participant Register)



- ✓ Balance sheet
- ✓ Profit and loss account
- ✓ Explanatory notes and/or annexes (if available)
- ✓ Financial audit report

FCA supporting documents
(via Participant Register)

- ✓ Balance sheet
- ✓ Profit and loss account
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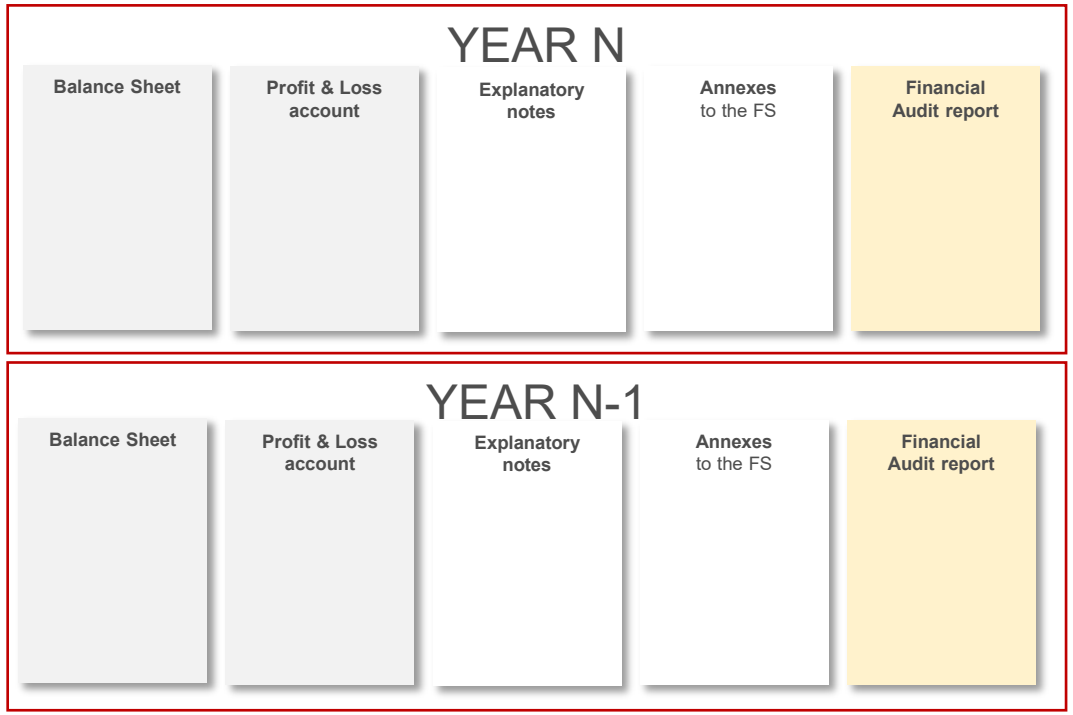
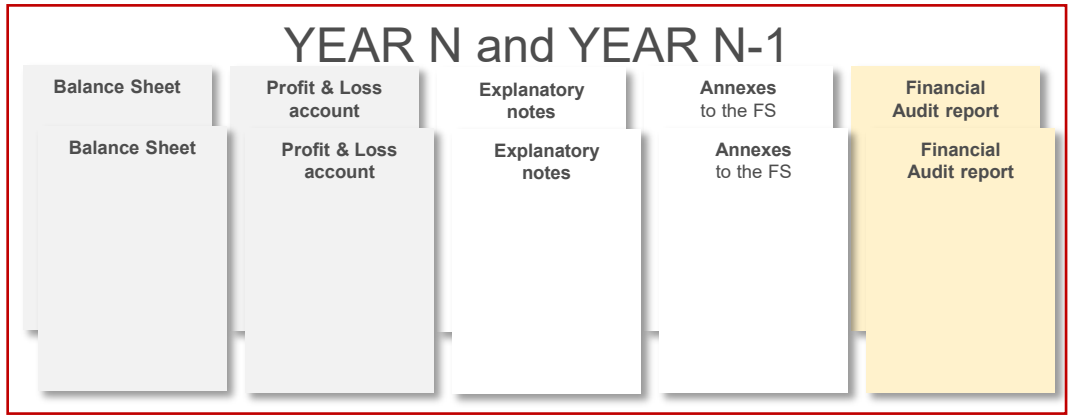


For the 2 most recent closed and approved financial years

- official language (for EU languages)
- unofficial translation (for non-EU languages)
- dated
- signed

FCA supporting documents
(via Participant Register)



- ✓ Balance sheet
- ✓ Profit and loss account
- ✓ Explanatory notes and/or annexes (if available)
- ✓ Financial audit report

For the 2 most recent closed and approved financial years

- official language (for EU languages)
- unofficial translation (for non-EU languages)
- dated
- signed

Newly established entities

- ✓ Business plan

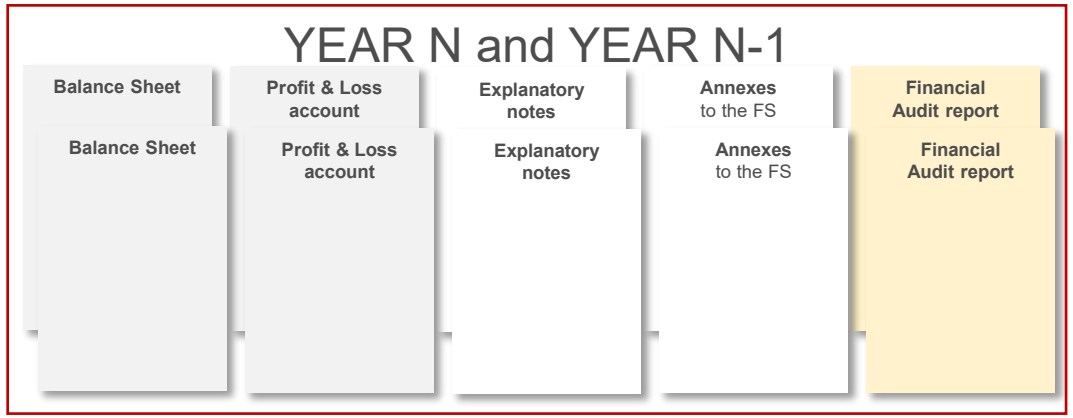
Business plan

Forecasts on:
- Sales
- Expenses

- Investments
- Financing sources
- ……

Registration → Validation & Verification of Legal Data → LEAR → FCA

FCA supporting documents
(via Participant Register)



- ✓ Balance sheet
- ✓ Profit and loss account
- ✓ Explanatory notes and/or annexes (if available)
- ✓ Financial audit report

For the 2 most recent closed and approved financial years

- official language (for EU languages
- unofficial translation (for non-EU languages)
- dated
- signed

Newly established entities

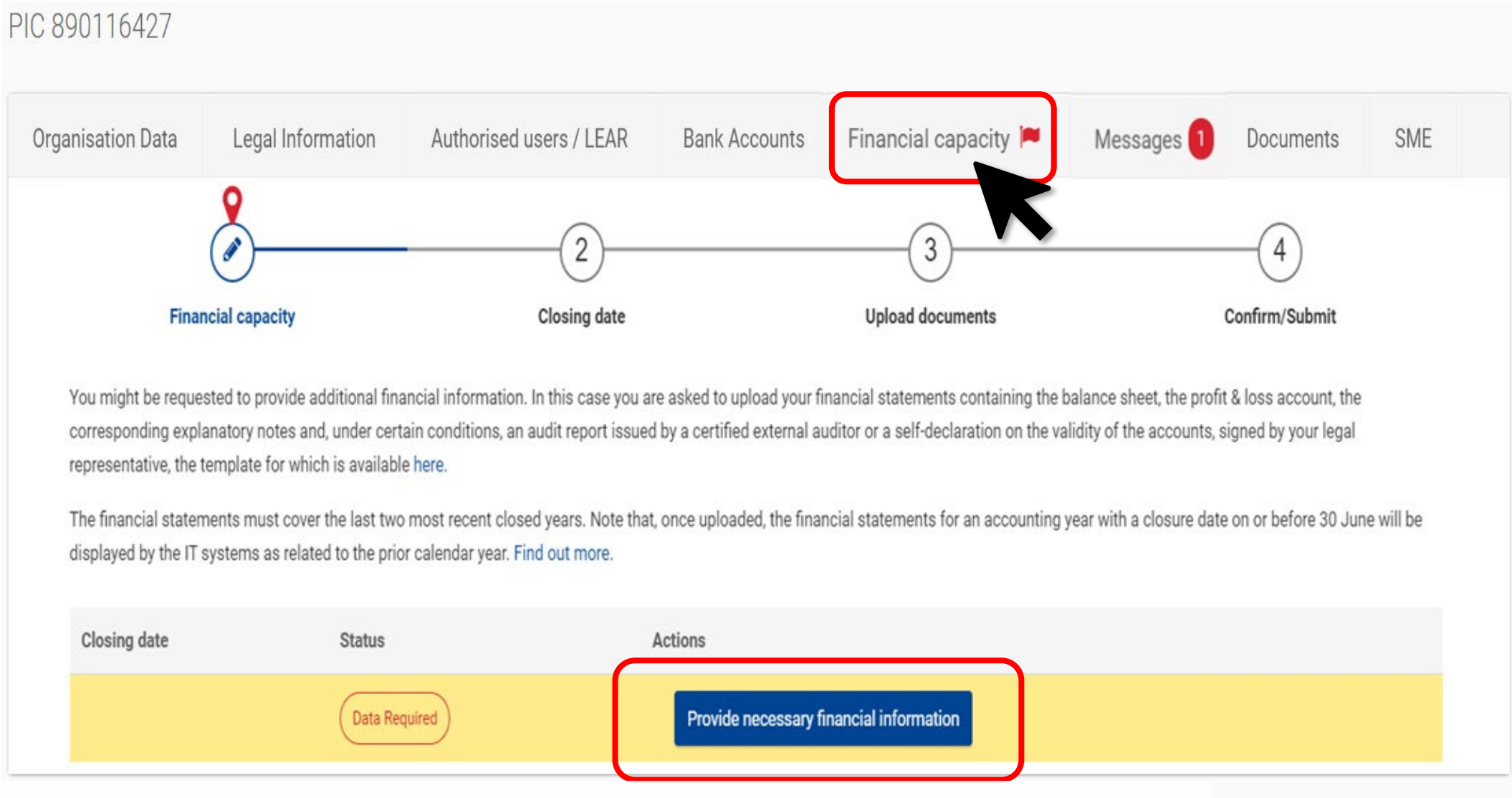
Business plan

- ✓ Business plan

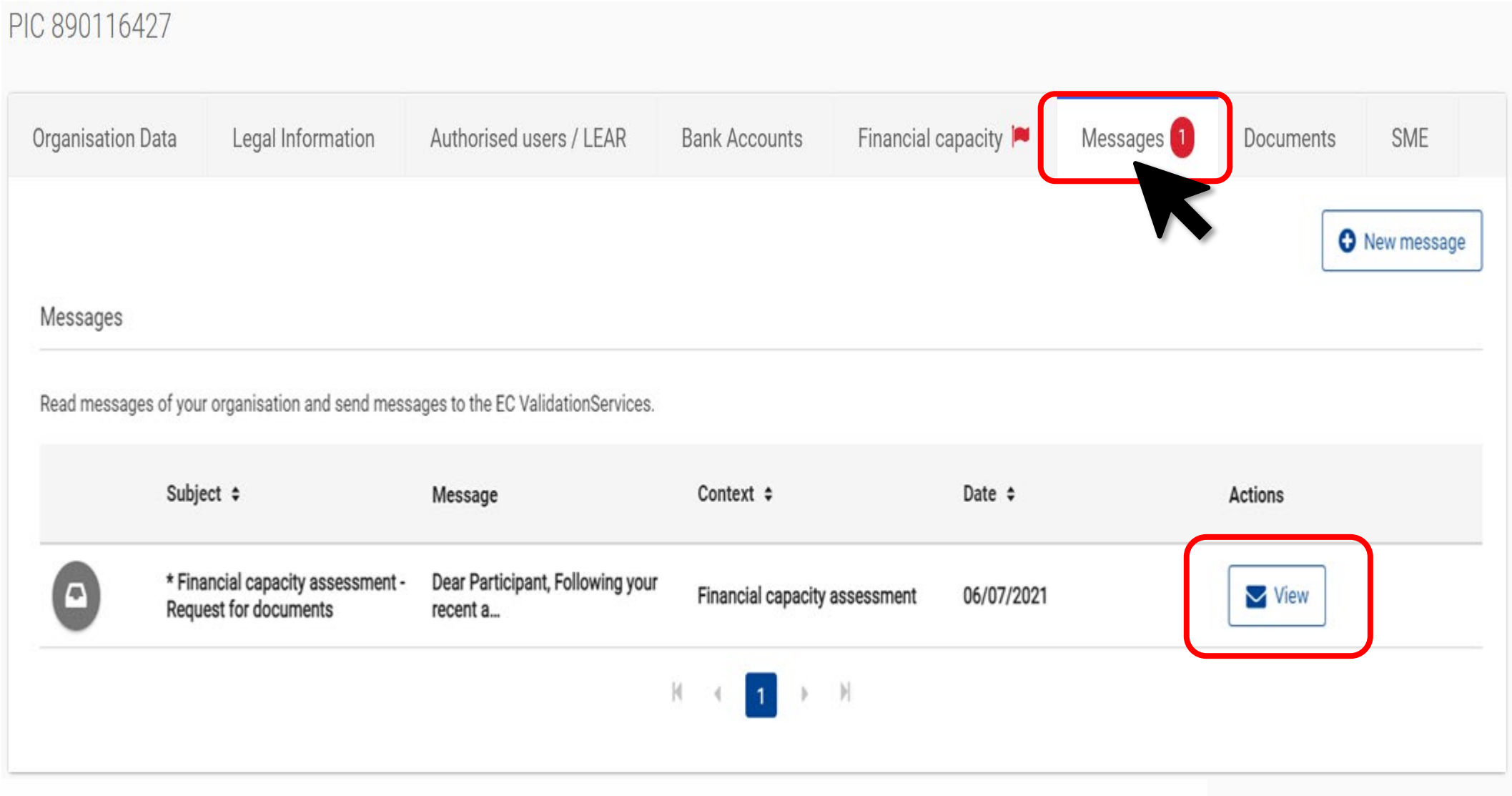
Once completed, the assessment is valid for 18 months from the closing date

Registration → Validation & Verification of Legal Data → LEAR → FCA

Financial Capacity Assessment:
Requests in Participant Register



Financial Capacity Assessment:
Requests in Participant Register



Guidance documents

Rules on Legal validation, LEAR appointment and financial capacity assessment
https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/rules-lev-lear-fca_en.pdf

How to register in the Participant Register
https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/funding-tenders-opportunities/display/OM/Online+Manual

Online Manual, IT How to, RES Helpdesk, specific FAQs on the Tenders Portal
https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/support

Legal notice on the Funding and Tenders Portal
https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/legalnotice

Questions, please…

#DigitalEuropeProgramme

Call 9: Advanced Digital Skills

Info Day for potential applicants

01 December 2025

Call 9: Advanced Digital Skills

Information Day for potential applicants

1st of December 2025

Maria SAARELA

HaDEA B2

Digital Call 9 - 2 topics

Call	DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09	Type of Action	Funding Rate	Available budget
Topic	DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09-LEAGUE-OF-ACADEMIES **ELEVATE – European League of Advanced Digital Skills Academies**	Coordination and Support Actions (CSA)	100%	EUR 7 200 000
Topic	DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09-COMPETITIONS **European Advanced Digital Skills Competitions**	Coordination and Support Actions (CSA)	100%	EUR 7 000 000

Link to the Call page on the Funding and Tenders Portal: Advanced Digital Skills

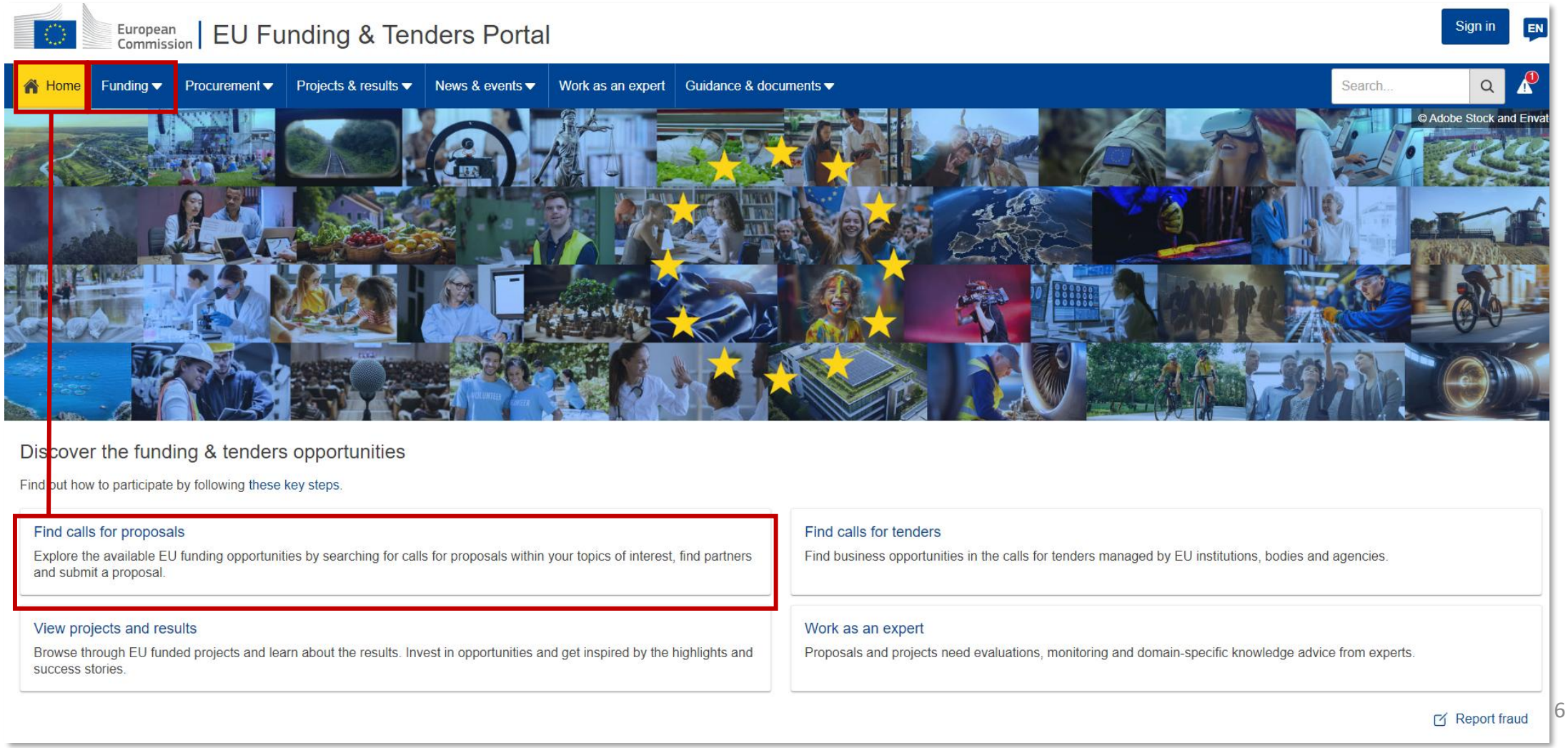
Digital Call 9 – Timeline

Phases	Dates
Call opening	04 November 2025
Deadline for submission	**03 March 2026 @17:00 CET (Brussels)**
Evaluation	April – May 2026
Information on evaluation results	June 2026
Grant Agreement Signature	by September 2026

Submitting a proposal via the Funding & Tenders Portal

Where to find the Call document

Funding and Tenders Portal



Where to find the Call document

Home | Funding | Procurement | Projects & results | News & events | Work as an expert | Guidance & documents | Search...

Calls for proposals

Calls for proposals are funding opportunities issued by the European Union institutions, agencies and bodies. These are direct financial contributions, known as grants, that are awarded to third-party beneficiaries (e.g., research organisations, public entities, non-governmental organisations, and private companies) to engage in activities that serve EU policies.

More details

Search by Call ID:
DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09

Search by topic name:
European Advanced Digital Skills Competitions
ELEVATE: European League of Advanced Digital Skills Academies

Filter by programme:
DIGITAL EUROPE PROGRAMME (DIGITAL)

Filters

Quick search

Select...

Programming period

Digital Europe Programme (...

DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09

Submission status

All filters

GRANTS RECOMMENDED FOR YOU

Do you want to receive personalised recommendations? Log in to your F&T profile to activate them, or register an account

2 item(s) found

Opening date

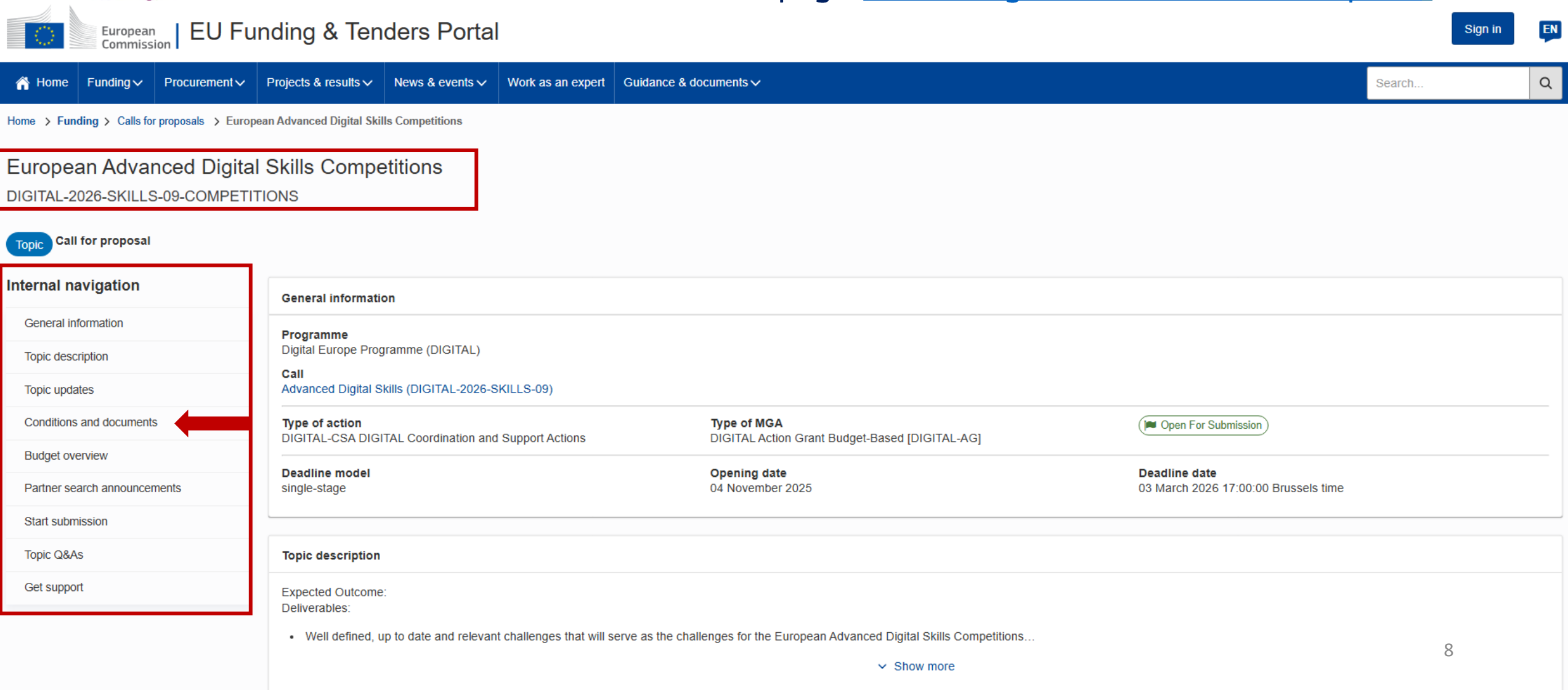
Programme: Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL)

European Advanced Digital Skills Competitions
DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09-COMPETITIONS | Calls for proposals
Opening date: **04 November 2025** | Deadline date: **03 March 2026**
Open For Submission
Programme: **Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL)** | Type

ELEVATE: European League of Advanced Digital Skills Academies
DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09-LEAGUE-OF-ACADEMIES | Calls for proposals
Opening date: **04 November 2025** | Deadline date: **03 March 2026** | Single-stage
Open For Submission
Programme: **Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL)** | Type of action: **DIGITAL Coordination and Support Actions**

Where to find the Call document

Call page: [EU Funding & Tenders Portal (europa.eu)]



Where to find the Call document

Call page > Conditions and documents

CALL DOCUMENT

Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL)

Call for proposals

Advanced Digital Skills
(DIGITAL-2025-SKILLS-08)

Version 1.0
01 April 2025

European Commission | EU Funding & Tenders Portal

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

Home > Funding > Calls for proposals > European Advanced Digital Skills Competitions

European Advanced Digital Skills Competitions

DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09-COMPETITIONS

Topic **Call for proposal**

Internal navigation

- General information
- Topic description
- Topic updates
- Conditions and documents
- Budget overview
- Partner search announcements
- Start submission
- Topic Q&As
- Get support

Click / scroll down to section “Conditions and documents”

Topic conditions and documents

Conditions

1. Admissibility Conditions: Proposal page limit and layout

described in section 5 of the call document.

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

2. Eligible Countries

described in section 6 of the call document.

3. Other Eligible Conditions

described in section 6 of the call document.

4. Financial and operational capacity and exclusion

Outline of the Call document

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

0. Introduction 5
1. Background 6
2. Objectives — Scope — Outcomes and deliverables — KPIs to measure outcomes and deliverables — Targeted stakeholders — Type of action and funding rate — Specific topic conditions 6
DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09-LEAGUE-OF-ACADEMIES — ELEVATE: European League of Advanced Digital Skills Academies 6
Objectives 6
Scope 7
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KPIs to measure outcomes and deliverables 10
Targeted stakeholders 11
Type of action and funding rate 11
Specific topic conditions 11
DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09-COMPETITIONS — European Advanced Digital Skills Competitions 11
Objectives 11
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Type of Action and Funding Rate 15
Specific topic conditions 15
3. Available budget 15
4. Timetable and deadlines 15
5. Admissibility and documents 16
6. Eligibility 17
Eligible participants (eligible countries) 17
Consortium composition 18
Eligible activities 18
Security 19
7. Financial and operational capacity and exclusion 20
Financial capacity 20

CALL DOCUMENT

Section 2 – Topic specific:

- Objectives (see also DEP Work Programme)
- Scope
- Outcomes and deliverables
- KPIs to measure outcomes and deliverables
- Targeted stakeholders
- Type of action and funding rate
- Specific topic conditions

Section 3-10 → Relevant for both two Topics

Budget, timetable, Admissibility & Eligibility criteria, Consortium composition, Award criteria…

How to submit a successful proposal

Topic page – Start submission

Call page: [EU Funding & Tenders Portal (europa.eu)]

European Commission | EU Funding & Tenders Portal

Sign in | EN

Home | Funding | Procurement | Projects & results | News & events | Work as an expert | Guidance & documents | Search...

Home > Funding > Calls for proposals > European Advanced Digital Skills Competitions

European Advanced Digital Skills Competitions
DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09-COMPETITIONS

Topic **Call for proposal**

Internal navigation

- General information
- Topic description
- Topic updates
- Conditions and documents
- Budget overview
- Partner search announcements
- Start submission
- Topic Q&As
- Get support

Start submission

To access the Electronic Submission Service, please click on the submission-button next to the **type of action** and the **type of model grant agreement** that corresponds to your proposal. You will then b
cannot be changed in the submission system. Upon confirmation, you will be linked to the correct entry point.

To access existing d

Please select the ty

DIGITAL Coord

Start submission

Topic Q&As
0 item(s) found

General FAQ

Get support

12

Please confirm your choice

You selected this topic: **European Advanced Digital Skills Competitions - DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-09-COMPETITIONS**

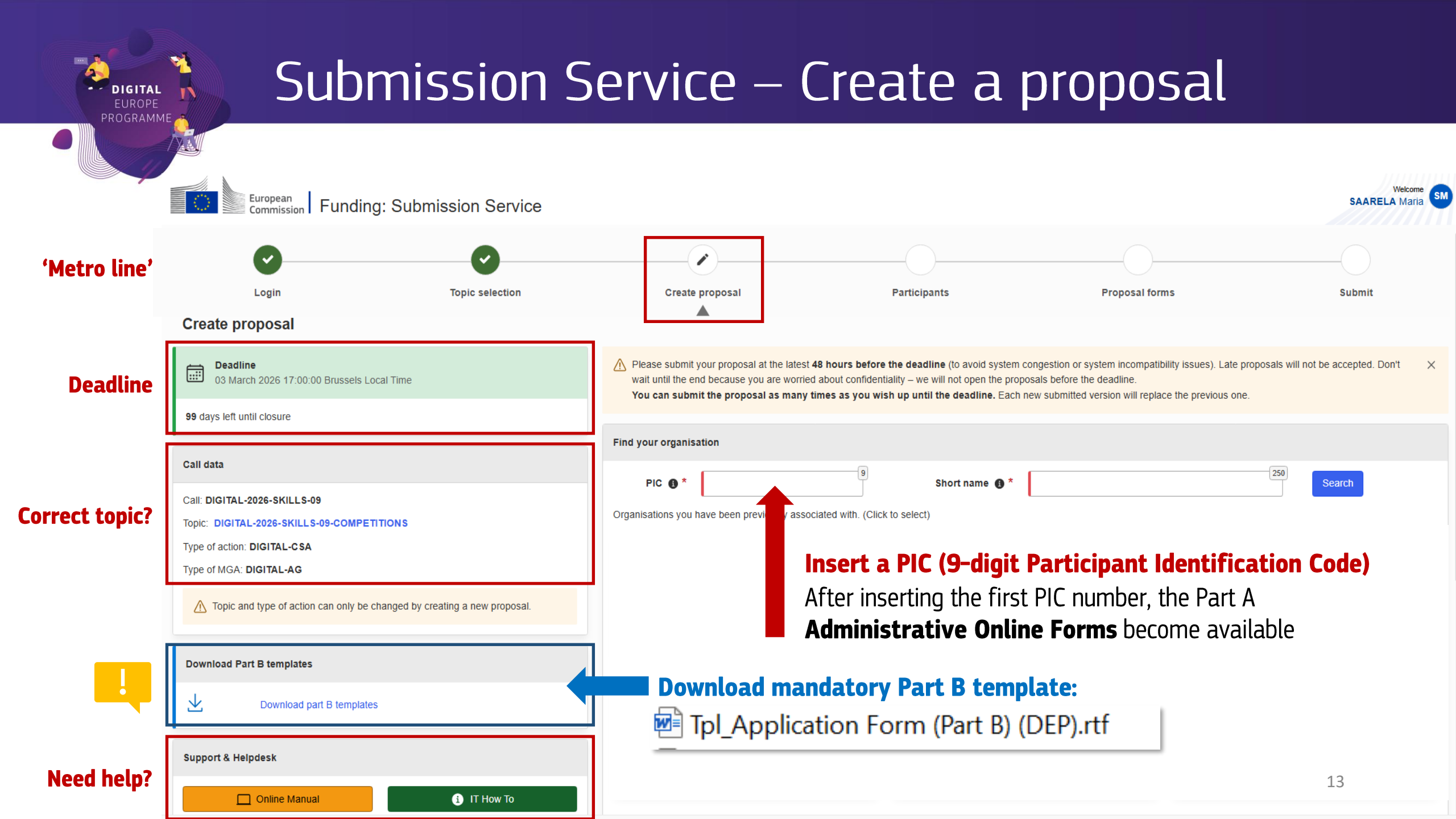
You selected this type of action and model grant agreement: **DIGITAL Coordination and Support Actions [DIGITAL-CSA], DIGITAL Action Grant Budget-Based [DIGITAL-AG]**

Related Call: **Advanced Digital Skills**

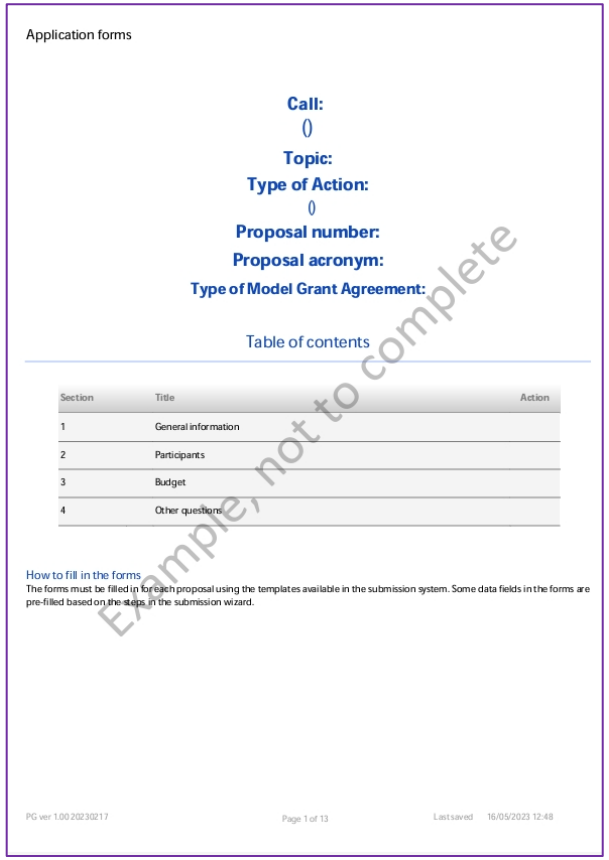
Your selection cannot be changed subsequently in the submission system.

Cancel | OK

Submission Service – Create a proposal



Part A & Part B



Application forms

Call:
()
Topic:
Type of Action:
()
Proposal number:
Proposal acronym:
Type of Model Grant Agreement:

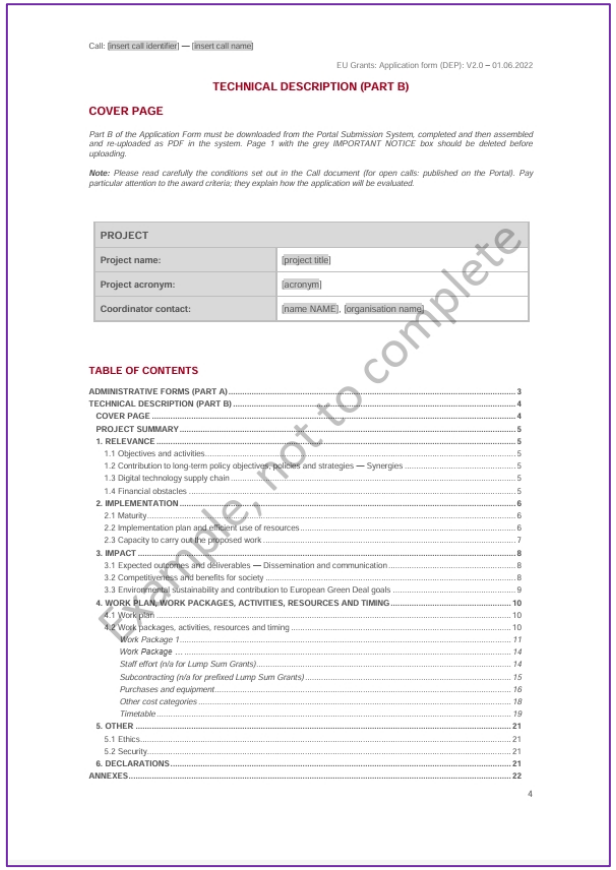
Table of contents

Section	Title	Action
1	General information	
2	Participants	
3	Budget	
4	Other questions	

How to fill in the forms
The forms must be filled in for each proposal using the templates available in the submission system. Some data fields in the forms are pre-filled based on the steps in the submission wizard.

Example, not to complete

PG ver 1.00 20230217 Page 1 of 13 Last saved 16/05/2023 12:48



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

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

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION (PART B)

COVER PAGE

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

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

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION (PART B) 4
COVER PAGE 4
PROJECT SUMMARY 5
1. RELEVANCE 5
1.1 Objectives and activities 5
1.2 Contribution to long-term policy objectives, policies and strategies — Synergies 5
1.3 Digital technology supply chain 5
1.4 Financial obstacles 5
2. IMPLEMENTATION 6
2.1 Maturity 6
2.2 Implementation plan and efficient use of resources 6
2.3 Capacity to carry out the proposed work 7
3. IMPACT 8
3.1 Expected outcomes and deliverables — Dissemination and communication 8
3.2 Competitiveness and benefits for society 8
3.3 Environmental sustainability and contribution to European Green Deal goals 9
4. WORK PLAN, WORK PACKAGES, ACTIVITIES, RESOURCES AND TIMING 10
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4.2 Work packages, activities, resources and timing 10
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Subcontracting (n/a for prefixed Lump Sum Grants) 15
Purchases and equipment 16
Other cost categories 18
Timetable 19
5. OTHER 21
5.1 Ethics 21
5.2 Security 21
6. DECLARATIONS 21
ANNEXES 22

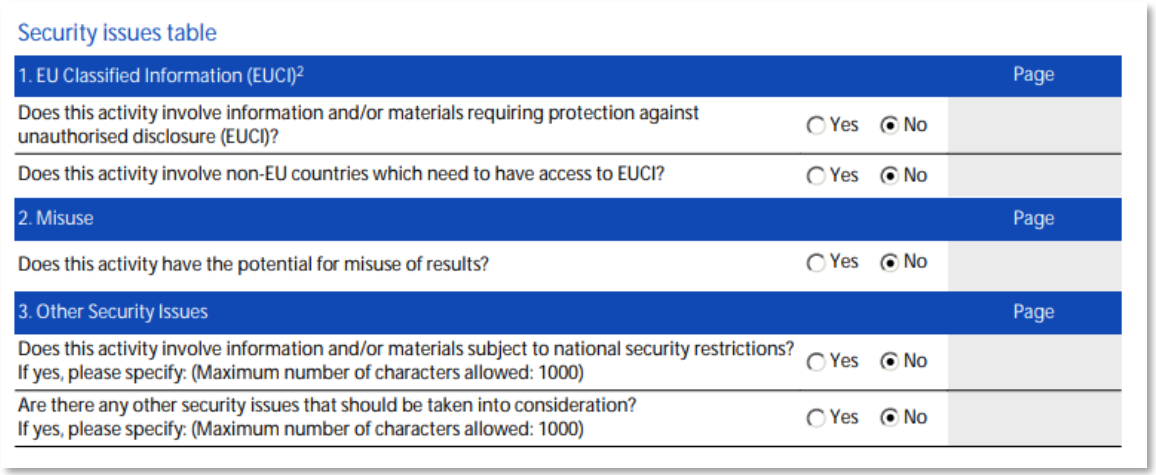
4

Example, not to complete

Part A of the proposal – Admin forms

*Fill in all **Part A forms** directly in the **Submission System***

Part A – administrative forms	
Section 1 – General information	Call, Topic, Type of Action, Type of Model Grant Agreement, Proposal number, **Acronym, Title, Project duration, Keywords**, Declarations
Section 2 – Participants	Information on the **partners** (Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities, Associated Partners)
Section 3 – Budget	**Budget** per cost category and per partner
Section 4 – Other Questions	**Security issues** table - must be completed



Security issues table

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

Part B of the proposal – Technical part

*Use **Part B template** and upload it as a pdf to the Submission System*

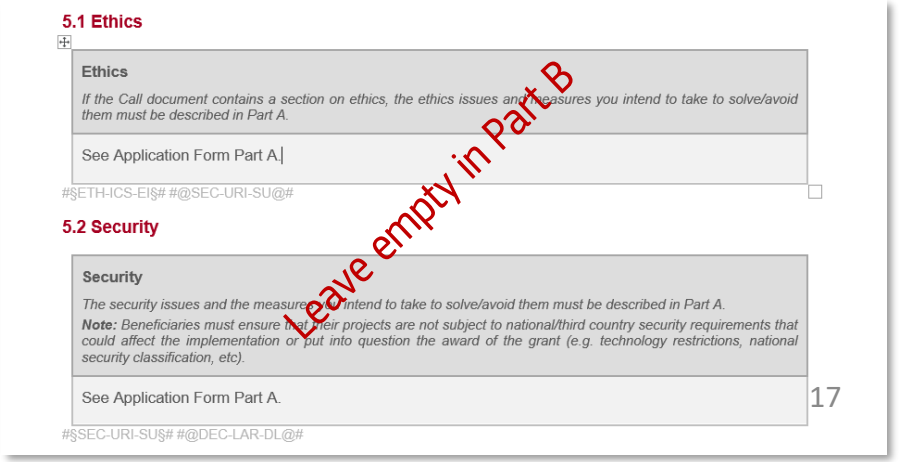
Part B – technical description	
Section 1 – Relevance In line with Award Criteria 1	1.1 Objectives and activities 1.2 Contribution to long-term policy objectives, policies and strategies — Synergies *1.3 Digital technology supply chain - not applicable in this call* *1.4 Financial obstacles - not applicable in this call*
Section 2 – Implementation In line with Award Criteria 2	2.1 Maturity 2.2 Implementation plan and efficient use of resources 2.3 Capacity to carry out the proposed work
Section 3 – Impact In line with Award Criteria 3	3.1 Expected outcomes and deliverables – dissemination and communication 3.2 Competitiveness and benefits for society *3.3 Environmental sustainability and contribution to European Green Deal goals - not applicable in this call*

Part B of the proposal – Technical part

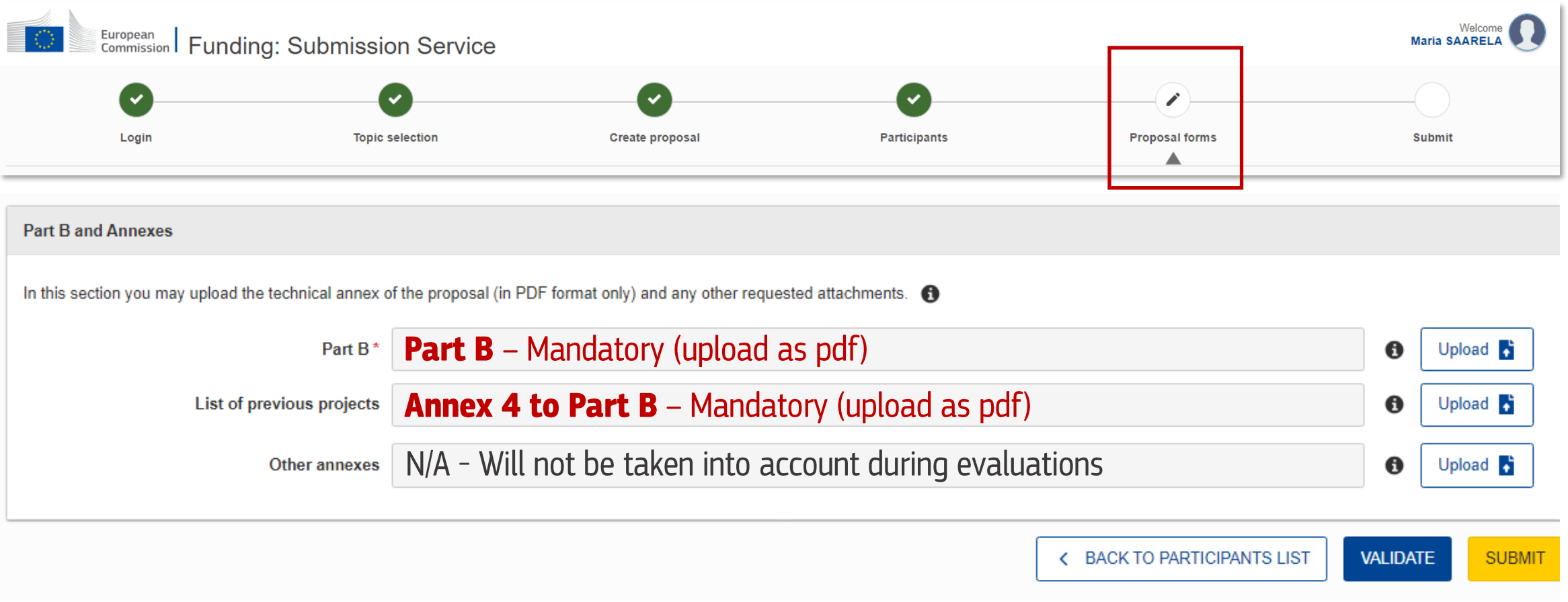
*Use **Part B template** and upload it as a pdf to the Submission System*

Part B – technical description	
Section 4 – WORK PLAN	Work plan, Work Packages, Staff effort, Subcontracting, Purchases and equipment, Other cost categories, Timing (Gantt)
Section 5 - OTHER	Ethics, Security – leave Ethics and Security empty in Part B; fill in the Security table in Part A.
Section 6 - DECLARATIONS	Information concerning other EU grants – must be completed Financial support to third parties – eligible for COMPETITIONS only
ANNEXES	List of previous projects (annex 4 to Part B) – mandatory

Part B Page limit: **50 pages**.
Annexes (i.e. List of previous projects) do not count towards the page limit.

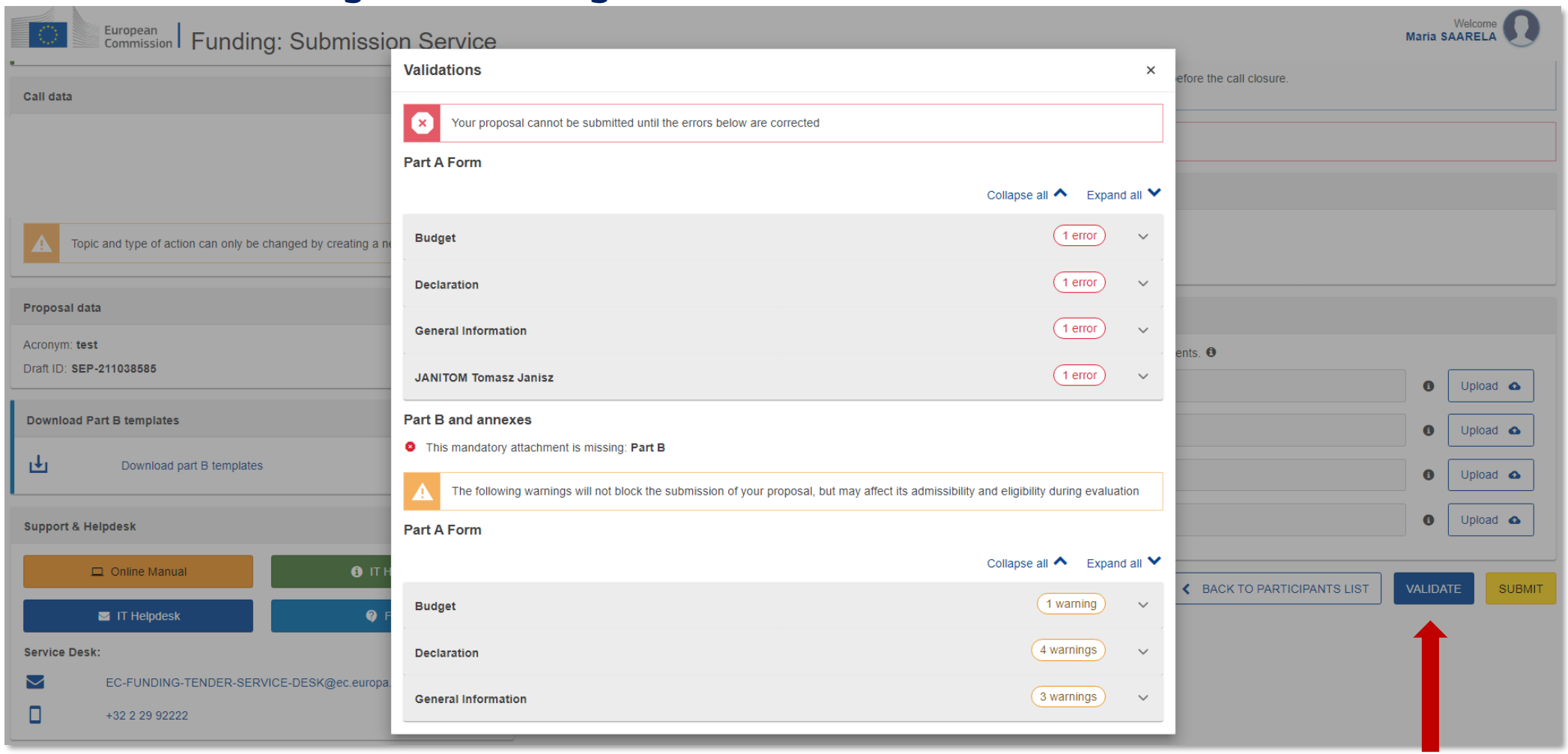


Submission service – Part B and Annexes



Submission service – Validate

Validating and Warnings:



Before submitting the application **Validate** and ***address warnings*** **!!!**

Award criteria

Award criteria

See Call document - Section 9 – *Award Criteria*, for detailed information.

1. RELEVANCE	2. IMPLEMENTATION	3. IMPACT
1.1 Alignment with the objectives and activities as described in section 2 1.2 Contribution to long-term policy objectives, relevant policies and strategies, and synergies with activities at European and national level *1.3 Extent to which the project would reinforce and secure the digital technology supply chain in the EU** *1.4 Extent to which the project can overcome financial obstacles such as the lack of market finance**	2.1 Maturity of the project 2.2 Soundness of the implementation plan and efficient use of resources 2.3 Capacity of the applicants, and when applicable the consortium as a whole, to carry out the proposed work	3.1 Extent to which the project will achieve the expected outcomes and deliverables referred to in the call for proposals and, where relevant, the plans to disseminate and communicate project achievements 3.2 Extent to which the project will strengthen competitiveness and bring important benefits for society *3.3 Extent to which the project addresses environmental sustainability and the European Green Deal goals, in terms of direct effects and/or in awareness of environmental effects**

Sub-criteria 1.3, 1.4 and 3.3 are **NOT APPLICABLE** in this Call. See Call document - Section 2 - *Specific topic conditions*

Award criteria and thresholds

Award criteria	Minimum pass score per criterion	Minimum pass score per proposal	Maximum score per criterion	Maximum score per proposal
Relevance	3	10	5	15
Implementation	3		5	
Impact	3		5	

For a proposal to be considered for funding, it **MUST**:
Obtain at least **score 3** in **all three criteria AND** Obtain an **overall score** of or above **10**

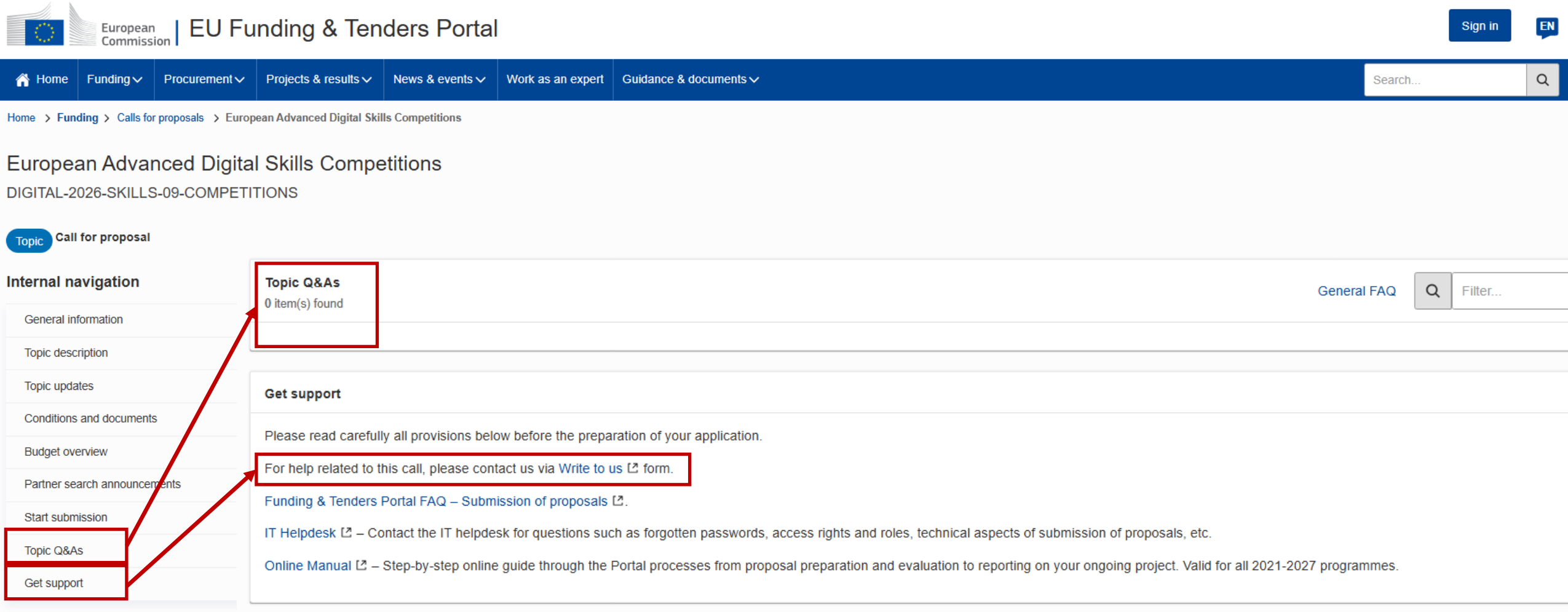
- Proposals *below* individual or overall score → *rejected.*
- Proposals *above* individual and overall thresholds and within the limits of the *available call budget* → *can be funded.*
- For further details, please refer to the Call Document Section 9 – *Award Criteria.*

Topic specific Questions and Answers

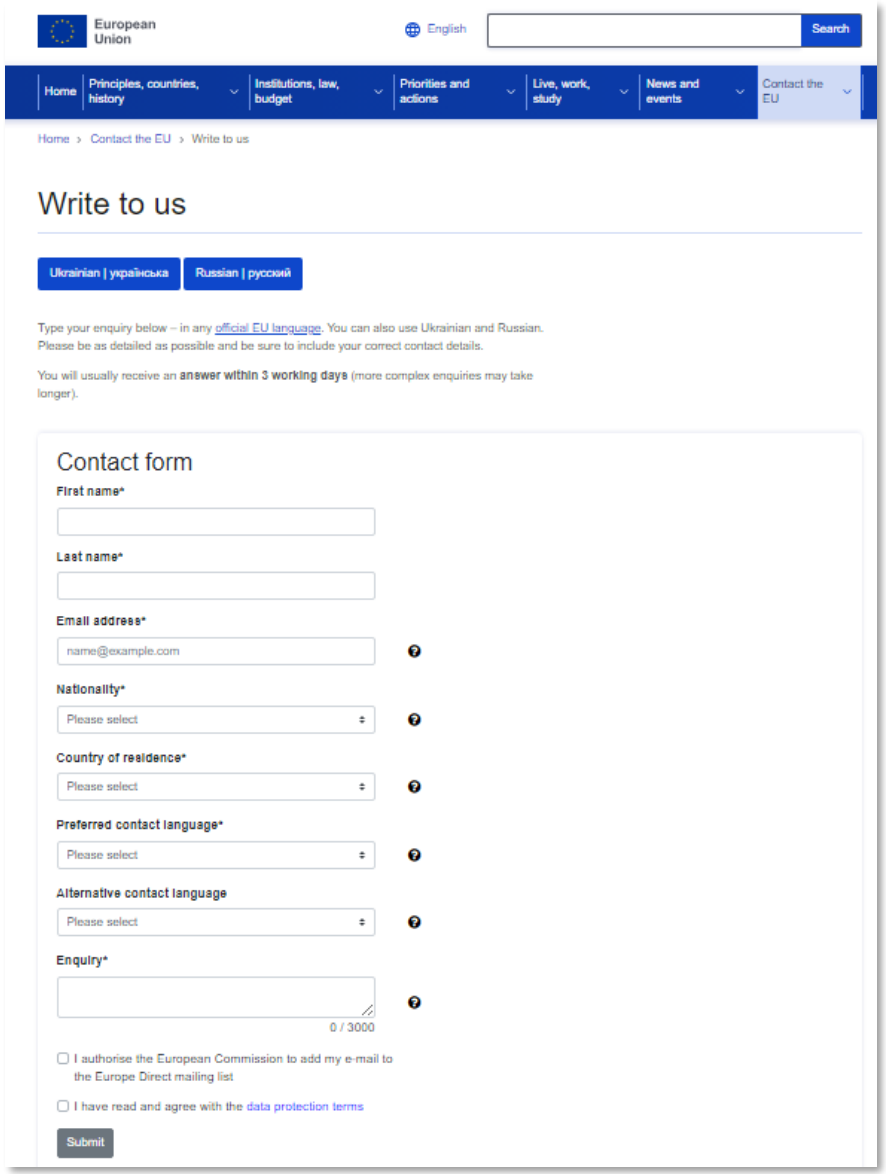
Submitting questions

Guidance & Manuals

Topic related Question & Answers, Get support



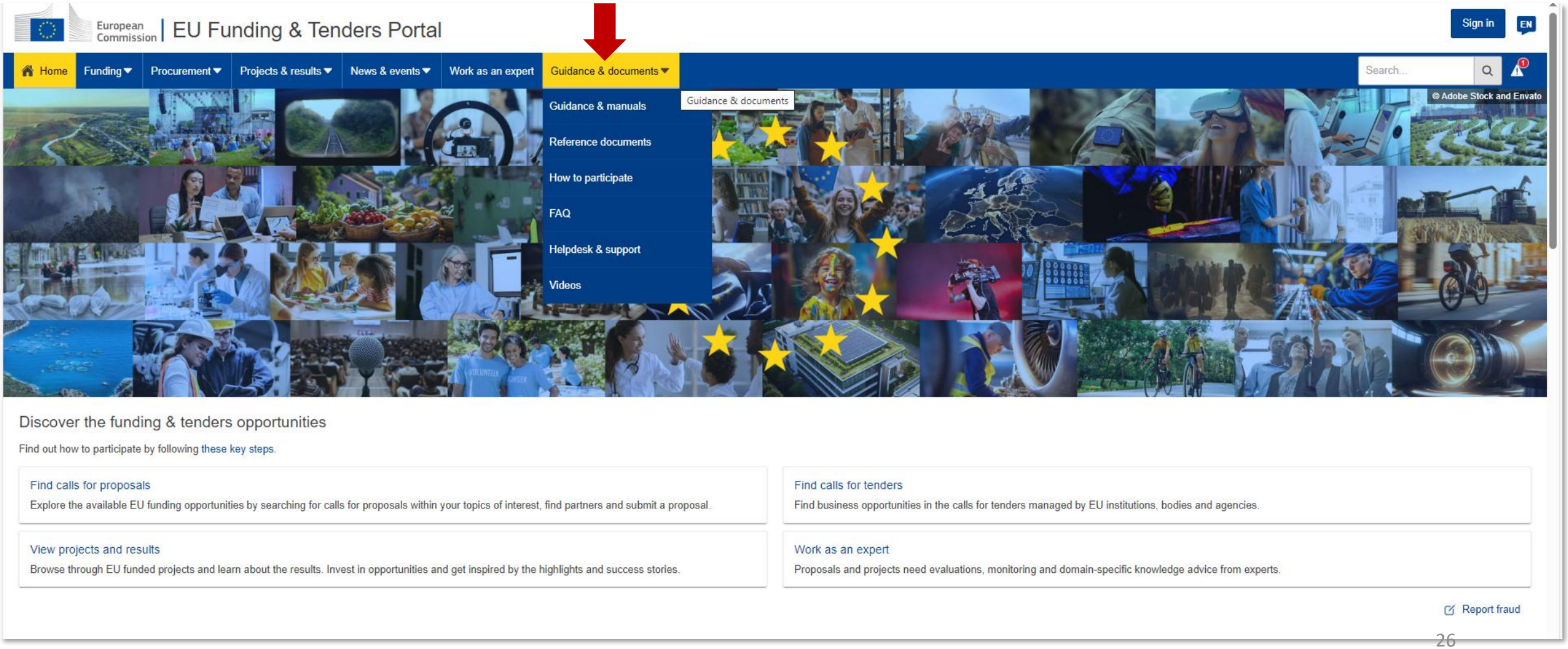
Get support – How to submit a question



- Write to us

Guidance and documents

Guidance & documents



Guidance and documents

Online Manual

Submit a proposal

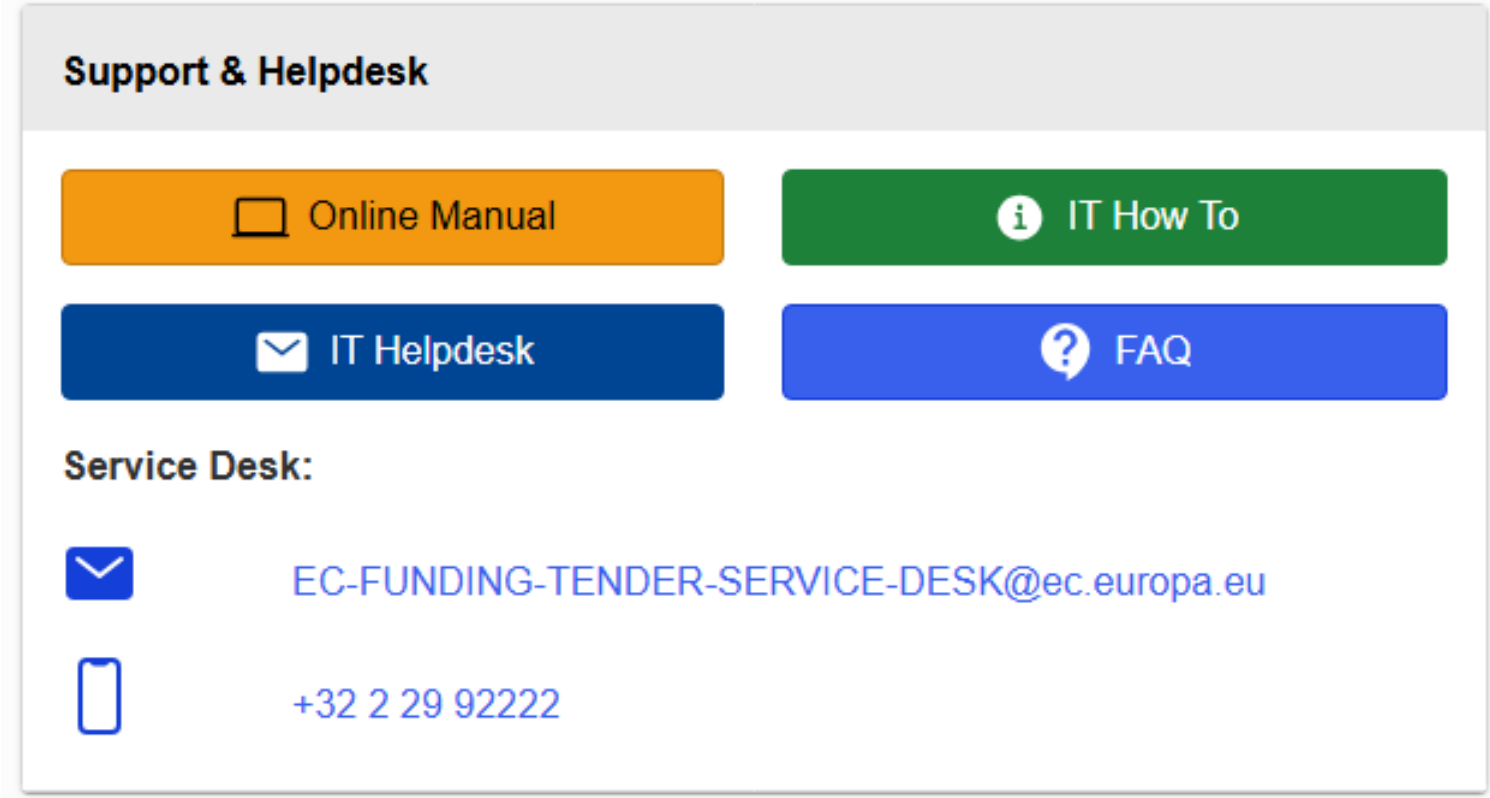
Description of the process

IT How To

Create a proposal

Submit a proposal

Detailed instructions with screenshots



Final tips for applicants

- **Admissibility requirements:**
  - Application form **is readable** – before uploading Part B to the submission system, check that it has been correctly converted to PDF and that there are no missing parts or missing tables.
  - Always use the **standard template Part B** downloaded from the Submission System (not an old copy or own format).
  - **Do not modify** the template
  - **List of previous projects** – mandatory Annex (see template for it in Part B)

- **Eligibility requirement:**
  - **Consortium composition compliance is a must** – Read carefully Section 6 of the call document and the section *Targeted Stakeholders* for each topic.

Final tips for applicants

- **Security issues tables in Part A:**
  - Security: Applicable (fill in the Security table in Part A)
  - Mark with great attention the **relevant Security issues** when applicable
  - When marking any security issues, include the corresponding **proposal Part B page** in the Security table

- **Award Criteria:**
  - Take into account the **award criteria** as detailed in the Call document and follow that logic in your application to provide all necessary information.
    - *Call document Section 2 – Scope*
    - *Call document Section 9 – Award criteria*

Final tips for applicants

- **Part B page Limit:**
  - **50 pages (CSA)**. Any additional pages will not be taken into account.

- **Deadline:**
  - **Do not submit your proposal on the last day** to avoid last minute or technical problems! Resubmission before the deadline is possible.

- **Overlaps/double funding risk:**
  - The system detects similarities between proposals. This has serious legal implications.
  - Reply relevant questions in Part A carefully.

- **Updates to the Call/Topics and Q&As:**
  - Regularly check **possible updates** to the call or topics and new **Topic specific Q&As**.

Thank you for your attention

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

Write to us

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