FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Crisis – Perspectives from the Humanities

Please note that this document will be up-dated regularly. If your question is not answered here, please contact the Call Secretariat at crisis@ncn.gov.pl. For questions about national eligibility issues, please contact the national contact persons listed at the end of the Call announcement.

1. Who is the call organiser?

The *Crisis* call is a joint initiative of the HERA network and the CHANSE programme.

HERA, The Humanities in the European Research Area, is a network of 26 national funding agencies committed to leading and developing funding opportunities for humanities researchers in Europe. More information can be found on the HERA website at: https://heranet.info/.

CHANSE, Collaboration of Humanities and Social Sciences in Europe, is a programme supporting research in the area of Humanities and Social Sciences implemented by 27 research funding institutions from 24 European countries and coordinated by the NCN. More information can be found on CHANSE website at: www.chanse.org.

2. Which countries are participating in the *Crisis* Call?

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

3. Not all of the European countries are in the list of possible participants, why?

All funding organisations representing European Member States had been invited to join the preparation and funding of the *Crisis* call. In order to participate they need to contribute their share into *Crisis* Call budget for the funding of transnational collaborative research projects. Funding organisations in the countries listed above did formally make that financial commitment. Other countries were unable to make such a commitment. This was mostly due to financial reasons (no funding available) or legal reasons, thus preventing them from participating in this Call.

4. Can a partner from a country/region that is not represented by a funding organisation in this Call participate in a consortium?

Researchers from countries or regions not participating in the *Crisis* Call are invited to participate in the projects as Cooperation Partners (CP). Cooperation Partners cannot apply for funding directly from the *Crisis* programme, although some funding organisations allow for costs to be applied for through other partners in a project team depending on national or regional regulations. Please check funding possibilities in the national/regional annexes of the various funding organisations. The applicants

invited to submit a Full Proposal will be asked to demonstrate the (re)sources from which the participation of the CP will be funded. Contributions by external partners can be either in cash or in kind.

5. How many national partners (Principal Investigators) should participate in a project? Will projects with a high number of partners be given preference?

At least four national research teams and maximum of six, each coordinated by a Principal Investigator (PI), based in four or more different countries eligible for funding in the *Crisis* call should take part. The eligibility of national teams is subject to national/regional eligibility rules. The composition of a project team should be determined by the research question and project design. There is no optimum number of PIs, and applicants should not add partners for the sake of it. All PIs should have a significant role in the research. The added value resulting from transnational cooperation must be addressed in the proposal and will be assessed.

Please keep in mind that HERA and CHANSE aim at promoting diversity in research. Applying consortia are therefore strongly encouraged to take into account the following aspects in the composition of their research teams:

- Gender diversity, that is, considering the under-represented gender, and further addressing the following dimensions: i) gender balance among the Principal Investigators, and ii) gender balance in the overall project teams as a whole.

- Academic age balance, that is, heterogeneous teams, including post-doctoral and PhD students as participants in the project, thus allowing for inter-generation transfer of knowledge, skills, etc.

- Geographical diversity, that is, geographically balanced consortia. In order to strengthen the European Research Area, overcome the fragmentation of research in the ERA, a wide inclusion of research teams from countries/regions participating in the call is encouraged, with a particular attention to research teams from the Widening Countries participating in the call:

  Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia

  and outermost regions: French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, Reunion Island and Saint-Martin (France), Azores and Madeira (Portugal) and the Canary Islands (Spain).

The inclusion of Ukrainian researchers is encouraged, applicants should review the guidance within the National/Regional Eligibility Requirements.

6. Can a partner from beyond academia participate in a consortium?

Stakeholders not performing research, for example partners from the public sector, policy makers, and the creative and cultural sectors, are invited to participate in the projects as Associate Partners (AP). Associate Partners cannot apply for funding directly from the *Crisis* Call, although some funding organisations allow for costs to be applied for through other partners in a project team depending on

national or regional regulations. Please check funding possibilities in the national/regional annexes of the various funding organisations.

The inclusion of at least one Associate Partner per proposal in *Crisis* call is compulsory. We believe that knowledge transfer occurs best in partnerships between researchers and non-academic organisations in the community. Non-academic APs are considered part of a project and will be assessed as such at both the Outline and Full Proposal stage. A formal letter of commitment on the part of non-academic APs should be signed (electronically or using a hand-written signature) and appended to the application explaining their interest and role in the project.

7. What is the role of the Project Leader (PL)?

The Project Leader (PL) is responsible for carrying out and managing the project, in addition to their project related research. The PL is a researcher with solid experience of managing collaborative research projects. The PL will be the contact point for the Call Secretariat throughout the application and running phase and is responsible for communication with the other partners of the project. The PL is responsible for the intellectual agenda and coherence of the project, as well as the management of the complete research project including the reporting duties for the overall collaborative project. In addition, the Project Leader is responsible for leading the project activities at their own institution.

8. What is the role of the Principal Investigator (PI)?

Each Principal Investigator (PI) is responsible for leading research activities at their institution. Other researchers (senior researchers, post-doctoral researchers, Ph.D. students) can be part of the PI's project team and should be referred to as Project Team Members. Please consult the National Eligibility Requirements for full information. Some PIs will have additional reporting duties to their national agency regarding administrative and financial matters. See national eligibility and funding conditions for more details. If appropriate and allowed under national funding regulations, the PI can collaborate with co-investigators and make subcontracts with other institutions from the same country.

9. Can I act as Principal Investigator (PI) or Project Leader (PL) in more than one project submitted under the *Crisis* Call?

No, one person can serve as Principal Investigator or Project Leader in a single *Crisis* proposal only.

10. Can I submit the proposal for both *Crisis* and *Well-being* calls?

One person cannot serve as Principal Investigator or Project Leader in more than one proposal submitted under both *Crisis* and the *Well-being* call. In addition, the same proposal cannot be submitted under both calls.

11. Is there a limit on the number of applications that can be submitted by one institution?

No, there is no limit on the number of applications which can be submitted by one institution. However, please keep in mind that one researcher can act PI or PL in one proposal only.

12. Which are the research topics that my project idea must fit within?

The detailed description of the Call theme "Crisis – Perspectives from the Humanities" is included in the *Call announcement* which can be downloaded on the CHANSE and HERA websites: https://chanse.org/announcement-of-the-call-crisis-perspectives-from-the-humanities/.

Proposals may involve investigating a variety of perspectives from one or several of the following sub-themes:

- Different understandings of crises
- Crises and the human response
- The representation of crises

13. Are the *Crisis* proposals similar to EU Horizon 2020 applications?

No, the *Crisis* call is a different programme. It has its own application procedure. However, the management of the *Crisis* call is co-funded by the European Commission under the CHANSE programme.

14. Is the *Crisis* Call co-funded by the EU?

The organisation of *Crisis* call is financed from the CHANSE management budget and reported to the EC within the CHANSE additional activities, but there is no EC top-up for funded projects.

15. Do I have to include a Knowledge Exchange component in my project?

Yes, a knowledge exchange perspective should be included in the application and we encourage applicants to explore, from the outset and throughout the life of your project and beyond, who could potentially benefit from your research and what you can do to help make this happen. Proposals should therefore include concrete plans for collaboration and knowledge exchange, demonstrating potential audiences, how these activities will add significant value to the research, and how your knowledge exchange activities will be monitored and evaluated throughout and beyond the project.

The inclusion of at least one Associate Partner per proposal is compulsory. There should be active inclusion of non-academic partners from the preparation phase of the project and we recognise that it takes time to build these partnerships. Please refer to the national eligibility annex, for guidance about how Knowledge Exchange partners time can be costed as this depends on national funding rules.

A guide to Knowledge Exchange is available at: Public Engagement, Knowledge Exchange and Impact: A Toolkit for HERA Projects (heranet.info)

16. Do I have to have an agreement with my national funding organisation before I can submit a *Crisis* Call proposal?

All partners in a collaborative research project should consult their eligibility and the eligibility of their requested budget items with their national funding organisations before submitting a proposal. You will find the contact details for the participating national funding organisations here: https://chanse.org/announcement-of-the-call-crisis-perspectives-from-the-humanities/

17. What are *Crisis* Call Outline and Full Proposals?

The project selection of the Call is divided in two phases: I) The Outline Proposal phase of submission and selection of Outline Proposals, and II) the Full Proposal phase for Full Proposals submission and selection. Applicants of the successful Outline Proposals are invited to submit Full Proposals. Outline Proposals provide the general ideas for a collaborative research project by specifying the scope of the project, the description of the methodology and an indication of the requested budget of the project. Detailed requirements as to the format of Outline Proposals are provided in the Call. Detailed requirements for Full Proposals and instructions on how to complete the application forms will be made available once Full Proposals are being invited.

18. How do I submit a proposal?

Both Outline and Full Proposals must be submitted online via EPSS system. This is the only way to submit a *Crisis* call proposal. The online application form for Outline Proposals will be available on the website https://proposals.etag.ee/chanse-2023/ as from 26th May 2023. Applicants should follow the proposal structure in the Outline Proposal template available on the CHANSE website at: https://chanse.org/announcement-of-the-call-crisis-perspectives-from-the-humanities/.

Make sure your application is submitted by the deadline of 21st September 2023.

For questions regarding technical issues related to the EPSS system, please contact the technical help: epss.chanse@g.etag.ee

19. When applying to the CHANSE call via the EPSS system, should I also submit a national form to my national/regional funding organization?

The Project Leader should submit an application on behalf of all Principal Investigators via the central Electronic Proposal Submission System (EPSS). However, some national/regional Funding Organisations require that their applicants also submit national/regional forms (please check National/Regional Eligibility Requirements of the respective Funding Organisation).

20. What is the budget for the Call?

The budget available is set at a maximum of ca. € 15.5 million.

21. What is the available funding per project?

An individual transnational project can receive a maximum funding of $1,500,000$ € across all participating partners. Some funding organisations have a maximum national amount per project regulation, based on national or regional regulations. Please check National Eligibility Requirements for more information regarding national budget caps.

22. What currency should I use when describing the budgets?

The estimated budget must be given in **Euros only** and be tabulated according to the application template provided. Please refer also to National/Regional Eligibility Requirement, if submission of national/regional form including budget in a national currency is required.

23. What are eligible costs?

All costs must be eligible according to the national or regional eligibility rules specified in the *Crisis* Call National Eligibility Requirements, which may be specified per budget item. Each research team may request funding for personnel costs, consumables, travel costs, equipment, subcontracting and overhead in accordance with these National/Regional Eligibility Requirements. Applicants should consult their respective National/Regional Eligibility Requirements before submitting a proposal. If in doubt, applicants should consult their national/regional Funding Organisation

24. What budget eligibility criteria should be met?

Project financial plan is composed of national budgets of PIs (inc. PL), which must be eligible according to National/Regional Eligibility Requirements.

25. How will *Crisis* call Outline Proposals be assessed?

Applications will be evaluated according to a set of criteria in a two-stage procedure. Proposal evaluation will be carried out by the international, independent Call Review Panel (RP). The members of the RP are leading humanities scholars, appointed by the *Crisis* Call Board composed of the funding organisations participating in the Call. The composition of the Review Panels will be published on the CHANSE www.chanse.org and HERA https://heranet.info/ websites after the conclusion of the *Crisis* Call.

26. What are the assessment criteria for Outline Proposals?

In the Outline Proposal phase, the Review Panel will identify proposals with potential for research excellence, by applying the following criteria:

- Relevance to the theme "Crisis" and evidence of humanities-led approach (30%)- threshold 3/5;

- Potential for research excellence (40%)- threshold 3/5;

- Potential impact of the proposed research (15%)- threshold 3/5;

- Quality of the implementation and management (15%)- threshold 3/5.

Based on the input of the international Review Panel, the *Crisis* Call funding organisations will choose the consortia which will be invited to submit a Full Proposal.

27. Should Outline Proposals be submitted to each individual funding organisation?

The EPSS system, hosted at the Estonian Research Council (ETAG) is the submission and review portal for the *Crisis* Call. It can be accessed at https://proposals.etag.ee/chanse-2023/. This is the only way to submit a *Crisis* call proposal; applications sent via other channels will not be eligible and will not be evaluated. However, please do check the national/regional eligibility requirements whether additional submission to national/regional funding organisations is mandatory or not.

28. In what language(s) should the proposal be submitted?

All applications must be in English.

29. Will we receive confirmation that a proposal has been received?

Yes, the Project Leader will receive an automatic confirmation of submitting the application from the EPSS system via e-mail.

30. Can I submit a Full Proposal if I have not submitted an Outline Proposal?

No, if you did not submit an Outline Proposal you cannot submit a Full Proposal. Full Proposals can only be submitted by project teams who have been invited to do so.

31. When can projects start?

The earliest starting date for successful projects is December 2024. It is expected that projects start by the end March, 2025 at the latest. All national research teams within a given project will be expected to start their projects at the same time.

32. What duration must a *Crisis* Call project have?

Each project must be between 24 and 36 months in duration. Please check also your National Eligibility Requirements in this regard. Proposals for projects lasting less than 24 months or more than 36 months will be declared ineligible

33. If we have 5 Principal Investigators and one is ineligible but the min. number of 4 PIs is met, is the application sent to the merit-based evaluation stage?

The *Crisis* Call Secretariat will verify the eligibility of the proposals according to the transnational eligibility criteria, while the participating funding organisations will each verify the suitability for national/regional funding according to their respective eligibility criteria. Both transnational and funding organisations' eligibility criteria must be met. If one of the research partners in a consortium is not eligible, then the whole consortium is not eligible and the proposal will not be evaluated.

34. If there are ethical issues present, is approval required before submitting a proposal?

No, unless stated otherwise in national/regional eligibility requirements, where specific ethical approvals may be required under national/regional arrangements, these do not need to be obtained before submitting a proposal. However, they must be obtained before work starts on the project and should be explained in the application.

35. Is it possible that no ethical issue will arise in my project?

In case of proposals focused on theoretical questions, it can happen that no ethical issues will arise. If research involves human participants, conducting surveys or interviews, ethical issues must be addressed.

36. Is there a page limit for the CV of PI/PL required in the application?

A short CVs of the Project Leader and the Principal Investigators should be no longer than one page at the Outline Proposal stage.

Please remember that CVs of Team Members and Cooperation Partners are not allowed.

37. Which relevant publications should be cited in the CVs?

CVs of the Project Leader and the Principal Investigators may cite a maximum of **five** relevant publications. Only include manuscripts which have been accepted for publication or which have already been published. Therefore, publications that are currently being written, under review, etc. should not be included.

38. I am a researcher seeking to apply for funding from the UK. What should I take into consideration regarding the current negotiations related to the UK's exit from the European Union?

The participation of the UK in *Crisis* Call is not affected by the UK's exit from the European Union..

39. Can researchers from areas other than Humanities participate in *Crisis* projects?

The *Crisis* call invites Humanities-led proposals, however, researchers representing other research areas can also participate in the projects.

40. Are mobility and/or training activities allowed in funded projects?

Yes, they are allowed but must be justified in the project description. Please check your National/Regional Eligibility Requirements to confirm eligibility of such costs by respected Funding Organisations.

41. What does the "threshold 3/5" mean?

It means that only projects which receive at least 3 out of 5 points in each criterion can be recommended to the Full Proposal stage.

42. How is gender balance defined?

Gender diversity, that is, considering the under-represented gender, and further addressing the following dimensions: I) gender balance among the Principal Investigators, and II) gender balance in the overall project teams as a whole.

Please refer to the EC REA definition on Gender balance: *"the balance between women and men in research teams who will implement a project. Horizon Europe projects should aim to have an even, 50/50 participation rate of both men and women amongst teams and leading roles. In Horizon Europe, gender balance among researchers is a ranking criterion for proposals with the same evaluation scores."* [Tackling gender equality in Research and Innovation (europa.eu)](https://europa.eu)

43. Does the institution of the PI have to provide co-funding?

Potential financial contribution of the institution of the PI depends on National/Regional Eligibility Requirements. Please consult this document in this regard.

44. What changes in the proposal can be made between the Outline and Full Proposal stage?

Teams that are invited to the Full Proposal stage will be informed that changes in the proposal are only allowed if they increase value of the planned research and strengthen the project and/or are recommended by the Review Panel. Such changes might include a budget change, change in project team, addition of AP/CPs or an addition of a PI.

45. What are Widening countries? Should I include a researcher from a Widening country in my project team?

In order to strengthen the European Research Area, overcome the fragmentation of research in the ERA, a wide inclusion of research teams from countries/regions participating in the call is encouraged, with a particular attention to research teams from the Widening countries participating in the call:

> Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia
>
> and outermost regions: French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, Reunion Island and Saint-Martin (France), Azores and Madeira (Portugal) and the Canary Islands (Spain).

The projects involving partners from the Widening countries and/or projects demonstrating gender balance in the composition of Principal Investigators should be prioritised in the case of ex aequo proposals on the final ranking list.