

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### *Enhancing Well-being for the Future*

Please note that this document will be up-dated regularly. If your question is not answered here, please contact the Call Secretariat at [wellbeing@ncn.gov.pl](mailto:wellbeing@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 *Well-being* call is a joint initiative of the NORFACE network and the CHANSE programme.

NORFACE, New Opportunities for Research Funding Agency Cooperation in Europe, is a partnership of national research funding agencies in Europe dedicated to leading and developing opportunities for scientists in the area of social and behavioural sciences. More information can be found on NORFACE website at: <https://www.norface.net/>.

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](http://www.chanse.org).

#### **2. Which countries are participating in the *Well-being* Call?**

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, France, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Poland, Romania, 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 had been invited to join the preparation and funding of the *Well-being* call. In order to participate they need to contribute their share into *Well-being* 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 *Well-being* Call are invited to participate in the projects as Cooperation Partners (CP). Cooperation Partners cannot apply for funding directly from the *Well-being* 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

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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 *Well-being* 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 NORFACE and CHANCE 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 equality in terms of considering under-represented gender, and further addressing the following dimensions: i) gender balance among the applicants, and ii) gender balance in the overall project teams.
- Academic age balance, that is, heterogeneous teams. Each project team should strive to include researchers early in their careers, including post-doctoral and PhD students, as participants in the project.
- 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.

**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 *Well-being* 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. 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 and making explicit the way in which they are committed to the projects activities (financially and/or in kind).

**7. Can Associate Partners come from a country not participating in the call?**

Yes, Associate Partners can come from countries not participating in the call, except from Russia and Belarus. Potential costs of involving these partners depend on National Eligibility Requirements.

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**8. Is it obligatory to have Associate Partners in a project team?**

Including Associate Partner in project team is optional, but we encourage each project to involve them to support Knowledge Exchange activities.

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

The Project Leaders will be researchers responsible for carrying out and managing the project. They will be the contact point for the Call Secretariat on behalf of all the applicants for scientific, knowledge exchange and communication matters. The responsibilities of a PL for the administrative and financial management of a funded project may differ per country or funding agency. In addition, the PL is responsible for leading the project activities at her/his own institution. The PL must be based at an institution eligible to the funding of a Funding Organisation participating in this Call. The role of PL is not limited to researchers at any specific career stage, though national or regional eligibility rules may apply.

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

Principal Investigators are responsible for leading the project activities at their own institutions. They will be responsible for the administrative and financial management in case a project is funded and may differ per country or funding agency. The role of PI is not limited to researchers at any specific career stage, though national or regional eligibility rules may apply. Each PI should be based at an institution eligible for funding by a participating funding organisation.

There may be more than one PI from one country but only one PI per university or research institution. If there is more than one applicant from a particular country, one of them needs to be identified as the national contact point.

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

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

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

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

**13. 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.

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

The detailed description of the Call theme "Enhancing Well-Being for the Future" is included in the *Call announcement* which can be downloaded on the CHANSE: <https://chanse.org/announcement-of-the->

[call-enhancing-well-being-for-the-future](#) and NORFACE: <https://www.norface.net/> websites. Proposals may involve investigating a variety of perspectives from one or several of the following sub-themes:

- *Crises, challenges, and well-being*
- *Environmental challenges and well-being*
- *Well-being and mental health*
- *Well-being, economy, and politics*

**15. Are the *Well-being* proposals similar to EU Horizon 2020 applications?**

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

**16. Is the *Well-being* Call co-funded by the EU?**

The organisation of *Well-being* 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.

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

Funded projects will be encouraged to engage in joint programme activities and in knowledge exchange activities regarding the outcomes of the project, and engage stakeholders as early on in their project and project development as possible. Costs for these activities that fall within the funding period may be included in the requested funding in addition to the costs for research.

**18. Do I have to have an agreement with my national funding organisation before I can submit a *Well-being* 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-enhancing-well-being-for-the-future/> .

**19. What are *Well-being* 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.

**20. How do I submit a proposal?**

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Both Outline and Full Proposals must be submitted online via EPSS system. This is the only way to submit a *Well-being* call proposal. The online application form for Outline Proposals will be available on the website <https://proposals.etag.ee/chanse-2023/> as from 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023. Applicants should follow the proposal structure in the Outline Proposal template available on the CHANSE website at: [www.chanse.org](http://www.chanse.org).

Make sure your application is submitted by the deadline of 21<sup>st</sup> September 2023.

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

**21. 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).

**22. What is the budget for the Call?**

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

**23. 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.

**24. 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.

**25. What are eligible costs?**

All costs must be eligible according to the national or regional eligibility rules specified in the *Well-being* 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

**26. What budget eligibility criteria should be met?**

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

### **27. How will Outline Proposals be assessed?**

Eligible Outline Proposals will be reviewed by an international independent Review Panel, consisting of experts nominated by the *Well-being* Call Board. The composition of the Review Panel will be available on the NORFACE and CHANSE websites after the evaluation of the Full Proposals is finished. Expertise in the panel aims to widely cover the disciplinary fields targeted in the call. The Review Panel assesses the Outline Proposals comparatively, using the programme's assessment criteria (please question 26) and subsequently prioritises these according to likelihood of funding. The Review Panel will recommend to the *Well-being* Call Board a shortlist of applicants to be invited to submit Full Proposals.

### **28. What are the assessment criteria for Outline Proposals?**

At the outline stage, four sets of criteria are used. (1) scientific excellence, (2) quality and efficiency of the implementation and the management, (3) potential impact and (4) relevance to the theme of the call. All four sets of criteria will be taken into consideration and will be given equal weight. Each criterion will be scored on a scale from zero to five, with a minimum threshold of three on each criterion being necessary for the application to be considered for funding.

### **29. 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 *Well-being* call. It can be accessed at <https://proposals.etag.ee/chanse-2023/>. This is the only way to submit a *Well-being* 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.

### **30. In what language(s) should the proposal be submitted?**

All applications must be in English.

### **31. 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.

### **32. 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.

### **33. 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.

**34. What duration must a *Well-being* 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

**35. 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 *Well-being* 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.

**36. 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.

**37. 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.

**38. 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.

**39. 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.

**40. 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 *Well-being* call is not affected by the UK's exit from the European Union..

**41. Can researchers from areas other than Social Science participate in *Well-being* projects?**

The *Well-being* call invites Social Science-led proposals, however, researchers representing other research areas can also participate in the projects.

**42. 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.

**43. 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.

**44. How is gender balance defined?**

Gender balance is defined in terms of considering under-represented gender, and further addressing the following dimensions: i) gender balance among the applicants, and ii) gender balance in the overall project teams.

**45. 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.

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

Teams that have submitted an Outline Proposal invited to the Full Proposal stage are not allowed to make changes to the core of the proposal and therefore to the project team. However, in case of force majeure, changes in the consortium are allowed in case that (a) a Project Leader or Principal Investigator changed their national affiliation and after consultation with the Call Secretariat, (b) a Project Leader or Principal Investigator is on sick or parental leave and after consultation with the Call Secretariat, or (c) following an explicit recommendation by the Review Panel and in line with (national/regional) eligibility requirements. Applicants are advised to consult Call Secretariat and representatives of their national/regional funding agencies in case of doubts relating to this matter. Adding Cooperation partners and team members to the Full Proposal is allowed. The eligibility of all participants in a project team will again be checked in the Full Proposal phase by the Call Secretariat and the national/regional funding agencies.



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**Update: 25.07.2023**

**47. Can one proposal cover one or more than one of the four Call themes?**

The proposal can address one or more themes included in the Call theme description.

**48. Does "interdisciplinary" refer only to different perspectives of the social sciences or does interdisciplinary strictly mean collaboration between researchers from different disciplines?**

Proposals involving different disciplines within social sciences are expected; however, collaboration with other ideas can be also planned.

**49. Can the research questions included in the application go beyond the themes that are listed in the call?**

The research proposed should be relevant to the call topic, as included in the criterion: Relevance to the theme of the call. This criterion will be evaluated by the expert panel. However, please note that the Call text can be treated as a starting point for the application and can be discussed with different questions.

**50. Can the project investigate the impact of pre-existing social policy interventions?**

Please note that the call excludes proposals primarily focusing on the development and/or evaluation of interventions. It is possible to develop interventions, but the project should be focused on basic research. Testing pre-existing interventions cannot be funded by this Call.

**51. Who submits the proposal via the online submission system?**

On behalf of all national PIs, the Project Leader submits one proposal via the online EPSS system.

**52. Should the PIs submit their own documents in EPSS system?**

The PIs fill out information about their national teams and budgets in the system and can preview all parts of the proposal. Other parts of the proposals are completed by the PL.

**53. Can a team member participate in two proposals (and be PI in only one)?**

Individual researchers and stakeholders may participate in one proposal only.

**54. Can an early career researcher take the role of the PI?**

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There are no general restrictions regarding the career stage of the PI, although their CV will be assessed by the review panel. However, there can be restrictions at the national level, so please consult your national/regional eligibility requirements.

**55. If one PI has a dual affiliation, which one should they choose?**

This issue should be consulted with the national/regional contact points.

**56. Should you be a national of one of countries participating in the call or employed in such country?**

Principal Investigators can have a different nationality from the countries listed in the call announcement, but all PIs must be affiliated in countries participating in the Call and be eligible for funding.

**57. Can the team members be named in the proposal?**

The CVs of team members are not required in the application. However, they can be named in the project description. Please note that some countries have additional requirements regarding hiring team members, e.g. they should be selected in an open competition. For more information please consult your national/regional eligibility requirements.

**58. If there are 5-6 PIs from different countries in an applying consortium, but one of them is ineligible, can the proposal be sent for merit-based evaluation?**

No, even if only one proposal is ineligible, the whole proposal is rejected.

**59. Is diversity among PIs (gender, stage of scientific career, geographical diversity) a criterion in the call?**

Diversity is important in the construction of the entire team. We encourage both gender and academic diversity to be considered. Balance among team members is one of the criteria included in the Quality and efficiency of the implementation and management (i.e. Quality of the consortium as a whole (including complementarity, as well as a balance in terms of gender, academic age and geographical diversity).