

A decorative graphic on the left side of the page, consisting of several overlapping diamond shapes. The diamonds are filled with a dark blue background and contain glowing green and cyan binary code (0s and 1s) and light trails, suggesting a digital or data theme. The diamonds are arranged in a pattern that tapers towards the right.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS *EXCHANGE SCHEMES*

oc1-2024-TES-01

*ENFIELD: EUROPEAN LIGHTHOUSE TO MANIFEST
TRUSTWORTHY AND GREEN AI*



Co-funded by
the European Union

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1. INTRODUCTION

This is the first out of four open calls for individual researchers exchange under the ENFIELD¹ (European Lighthouse to Manifest Trustworthy and Green AI) project, co-funded by the European Union. Through the ENFIELD Exchange Scheme open calls and the Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) mechanism, the project aims to attract top-level researchers to conduct foundational research activities related to specific scientific/technological challenges in artificial intelligence, contributing to ENFIELD network creation and expansion to European AI labs.

2. BACKGROUND

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming every aspect of modern society offering the potential for inclusive economic growth, societal benefits, and innovative solutions to global challenges. Nonetheless, AI tools can be error-prone, giving rise to concerns about legal liability and the preservation of fundamental human rights. Global leaders have discussed the need to address AI challenges and maximize its benefits and as a result, the European Commission launched important initiatives like HUMANE², TAYLOR³, and ELISE⁴ to ensure AI becomes more human-centric, safe, transparent, and to reinforce Europe's position in AI and Machine Learning (ML). However, there are certain AI perspectives and application areas that have not been tackled with sufficient attention by the funded Networks of Excellence, despite being of paramount importance to Europe in the present geopolitical and climate change circumstances. Thus, the ENFIELD project is dedicated to developing, maintaining, scaling-up and sustaining a vibrant European network on AI composed of 30 consortium members from 18 countries, including top-level education and research organisations, large scale businesses, SMEs, and public sector representatives jointly addressing critical issues of research and innovation frontiers in this new topic of the European AI Lighthouse.

3. OBJECTIVES AND CHALLENGES

Objectives

ENFIELD aims to create a unique European Centre of Excellence that excels in fundamental research in the areas of **Adaptive, Green, Human-Centric, and Trustworthy AI**. These pillars are strategic and of paramount importance to successful AI development, deployment, and acceptance in Europe and will further advance the research within verticals of **Healthcare, Energy, Manufacturing, and Space** (Figure 1). By attracting the best talents, technologies, and resources from worldclass research and industry players in Europe, and by carrying out top-level research activities in synchronisation with industry challenges, the ENFIELD project will contribute to reinforce a competitive EU position in AI and create significant socio-economic impact for the benefit of European citizens and businesses.

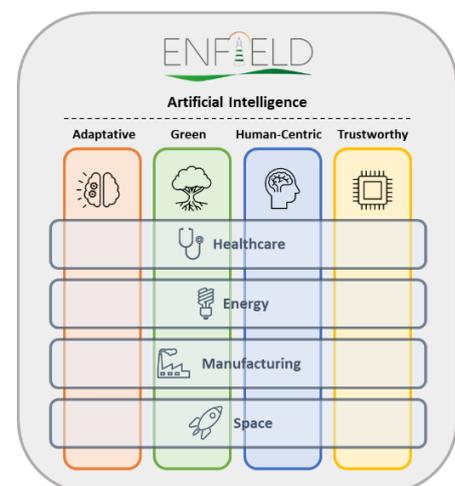


Figure 1 - Conceptual view of ENFIELD.

¹ Grant Agreement n° 101120657, funded by the European Union.

² <https://www.humane-ai.eu/about-project/>

³ <https://tailor-network.eu/>

⁴ <https://www.elise-ai.eu/>

Challenges

The researchers to be funded under ENFIELD project will need to conduct foundational research activities related to specific scientific/technological challenges in at least one of the following areas:

PILLARS			
Challenge	Pillar	Title	Possible Hosting Institutions
G-AI.1	Green-AI	Advancing Green AI on the Edge: Innovations for Sustainable, Efficient, and Continual Learning in Edge Computing	IMT, KNOW, POLIMI, SINTEF, TU/e
G-AI.2	Green-AI	Optimizing Green AI in the Edge-to-Cloud Continuum	IMT, KNOW, SINTEF
G-AI.3	Green-AI	Green AI Metrics Initiative	IMT, TELENOR, SINTEF
A-AI.1	Adaptive-AI	Approaches to incremental learning robustness and trustworthiness	IMT, UPB, TU/e
A-AI.2	Adaptive-AI	Advancing Adaptive AI on the Edge: Innovations for Sustainable, Efficient, and Continual Learning in Edge Computing	BME, IMT, NRS, SINTEF, TU/e
A-AI.3	Adaptive-AI	Neuroscience Inspired Adaptive AI Methods	IMT, TU/e
HC-AI.1	Human-Centric AI	Evolving symbolic models for decision-making	INESC TEC, TU/e
HC-AI.2	Human-Centric AI	Novel explainable AI methods for decision making	INESC TEC, TU/e, UPB
HC-AI.3	Human-Centric AI	Interpretable data-driven decision support systems	TUC, TU/e, UPB
T-AI.1	Trustworthy AI	Modelling trust in distributed AI system architectures	ICCS, NTNU, TUC
T-AI.2	Trustworthy AI	Detection of AI generated content	BME, NTNU, UoN
T-AI.3	Trustworthy AI	Secure Voice Biometrics with Fake Voice Detection	BME, ICCS, NTNU, UoN
VERTICALS			
Challenge	Vertical	Title	Possible Hosting Institutions
VE.1	Energy	Methods of explainable machine learning applied to LiDAR scan analysis	EDP CNET, EDP LABELEC
VE.2	Energy	Coordinated edge control of electric vehicles charging at low voltage grid (or microgrids)	INESC TEC
VS.1	Space	Fast and accurate atmospheric RT simulations for satellite microwave instruments	CHALMERS
VS.2	Space	Generative models for 3D cloud fields	CHALMERS
VS.3	Space	Cost-effective precipitation retrievals	CHALMERS
VM.1	Manufacturing	Automatic identification of batch production patterns	POLIMI, PREDICT
VM.2	Manufacturing	Self-X Integration in manufacturing domain	POLIMI

Refer to [oc1-2024-TE5-01 Catalogue of Challenges](#) for details about each challenge, including the proposed scientific challenges, research activities and expected results.

4. TIMETABLE

The indicative schedule for the different stages of the selection procedure is as follows:

TIMETABLE	
Call opening	1 February 2024
Deadline for submission	31 March 2024 - 17:00 (CET) – Brussels time
Evaluation	1 April - 19 April 2024
Information on evaluation results	23 April 2024
Contract signature	30 April 2024
Project execution timeframe	1 May 2024 - 31 April 2025

Three other ENFIELD call for proposals are foreseen for summer 2024, spring 2025 and summer 2025.

5. AVAILABLE BUDGET

A total budget of 1.100.000€ is allocated by ENFIELD for funding the participation of at least 76 researchers/groups of researchers in Exchange Schemes. This first call is expected to select 19 researchers/groups of researchers⁵.

Successful applicants will receive a **mobility allowance of 2.400€/month**. The maximum grant allocated to a researcher will be 14.400€ (corresponding to 6 month).

All payments will be subject to tax and other reductions according to the laws of all involved countries. **Tax and other reductions are the responsibility of the applicant.**

6. ADMISSIBILITY AND DOCUMENTS

Proposals must be submitted electronically via <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/oc1-2024-TESE-01> (see section 12. How to submit an application). Paper or email submissions are NOT admissible.

Proposals must include a 2-minute video from the applicant presenting themselves (or the group of researchers), submitted in English.

Proposals must be submitted in English using the Application Form provided on the submission page.

Proposals must be complete and contain all the requested information in the Application Form.

Additional supporting documents (e.g., bank account validation, etc) will be requested only from selected applicants.

Multiple applications are possible under this call. In these cases, applicants need to submit one application form per project proposal. However, only one proposal can be awarded per applicant.

⁵ The consortium reserves the right not to award all available funds or to redistribute them between the open calls planned within the project, depending on the applications received and the results of the evaluation.

7. ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible, proposals must be presented by an individual researcher (or a group of researchers) meeting the following criteria:

1. Researchers must be based in EU Member States or Horizon Europe associated countries.
2. Researchers must be employed at academic or research organizations, which are not part of the ENFIELD consortium⁶. Researchers from ENFIELD partner organizations are not eligible.
3. Applications need to be submitted by the deadline of the call. Late applications will not be admitted.
4. Applications must be submitted in English. Applications submitted in any other language will not be eligible.
5. All applications must include a 2-minute video from the applicant presenting themselves (or the group of researchers), to be submitted in English. Applications submitted without the video or with a video in any other language will not be eligible.
6. Project duration is limited to a minimum of 3 months and a maximum of 6 months.
7. PhD candidates need to demonstrate their enrolment in a PhD programme.
8. Post-docs or senior researchers need to demonstrate their employment at a university, research centre, or business entity.
9. In case of a group of researchers applying, the team needs to be composed by one senior researcher + one (or two) PhD candidate(s).

8. SELECTION CRITERIA

Eligible applications will be evaluated according to four criteria:

1. **Advanced state of the art:** applicants shall demonstrate to what extent their exchange application is beyond the state-of-the-art and describe the unique approach behind it (e.g., novel concepts and methodologies, development between or across disciplines, novel methods and algorithms addressing societal challenges).
2. **Scientific approach:** applicants must demonstrate the feasibility of the proposed research methodology and working arrangements.
3. **Dissemination and communication:** applicants must present a credible plan for dissemination and communication activities, which must include methods (e.g., publications, presentations, workshops and/or webinars) and the targeted audiences.
4. **Technical and creative capacities:** competences and skills of the researcher involved in the proposal; capacity to carry out the activities for the proposed exchange scheme. Track-record in scientific publications and similar projects/domain. In case of applications submitted by a group, a statement on the complementarity of researchers is required.

Each criterion will be scored from 0 to 5, following the rationale below:

0	Fail	The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be judged due to incomplete or missing information.
1	Poor	The criterion is inadequately addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
2	Fair	The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
3	Good	The proposal addresses the criterion well, but several shortcomings are present.

⁶ <https://www.enfield-project.eu/node/4>

4	Very Good	The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
5	Excellent	The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

The following thresholds will be considered as criteria:

- Minimum score per criterion: Proposals scoring less than 3 for any criterion will be considered of insufficient quality and rejected.

Proposals that pass the criterion thresholds will be considered for funding. Other proposals will be rejected.

9. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Project Timeframe: Three to six months period, varying according to the submitted proposal.

Payment Schedule: One-month advance payment (2.400€) with grant signature and then periodic payments, every month, up to 6 months in total, and according to the duration of the submitted proposal. The maximum grant allocated to a researcher will be 14.400€ (corresponding to 6 month).

Contract: Sub-grant agreement will be signed between the selected researcher/leader of group of researchers and the ENFIELD consortium, represented by its coordinator (NTNU), the Open Call Manager (INOVA+) and the Host Organization (depending on the selected application). A model template for the contract can be found here https://www.enfield-project.eu/open_calls.

10. VISIBILITY

Beneficiaries must clearly acknowledge the European Union's contribution in all publications or activities. In this respect, beneficiaries are required to give prominence to the name and emblem of the European Commission on all their publications and activities realised under the co-financed action. Where appropriate, they should also use the ENFIELD emblem and visuals. Guidelines will be provided to the successful applicants.

11. PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

The reply to any call for proposals involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as name, e-mail, and address). Such data will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons regarding the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data. Unless indicated otherwise, the questions and any personal data requested that are required to evaluate the application in accordance with the call for proposal will be processed solely for that purpose by the consortium.

12. HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

Project proposals must be submitted by **31 March 2024 at 17:00 (CET)** by completing the application online, here: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/oc1-2024-TES-01>.

Complete the Application Form and Project Proposal. Applicants can find the template for the Project Proposal here https://www.enfield-project.eu/open_calls. The template needs to be downloaded,

completed, and uploaded in PDF format. The application needs to include a 2-minute video from the applicant presenting him/her (or the group of researchers).

Applicants should submit one Application Form per project proposal. Multiple proposals are allowed but only one project can be awarded per beneficiary. If the beneficiary is a group of researchers, the group representative needs to be a senior researcher.

Applicants must rank their preferences from a list of entities available to host grantees in each challenge.

Once the proposal is submitted, you will receive a confirmation e-mail. If you do not receive this confirmation e-mail, it means your proposal has NOT been submitted. If you believe this is due to a fault in the submission system, you should immediately contact enfield.opencall@inova.business, explaining the circumstances and attaching a copy of the proposal (and, if possible, screenshots to show what happened).

Queries about applications can be sent by email to enfield.opencall@inova.business before 25 March 2024. We cannot guarantee that emails will be answered after this date. A FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) section will be posted on the ENFIELD project website and updated regularly.

All applicants will be notified via email of the results of the evaluation process by 23 April 2024 (indicative date). The results of the funded applications will subsequently be announced via the ENFIELD project's information channels.