ENFIELD

EXCHANGE SCHEMES
ENFIELD FIRST CALL FOR PROPOSALS
OC1-2024-TES-01

OPEN CALL REPORT
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1. INTRODUCTION TO THE OPEN CALL

ENFIELD project has **1.1M€** to provide support to a total of **76 researchers** to answer specific ENFIELD challenges through four rounds of exchange open calls. This was the first out of four open calls for individual researchers to exchange under the ENFIELD[1] (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.

ENFIELD Exchange Schemes Open Calls grants employed researchers (PhDs, postdocs, senior researchers) with a **mobility allowance of 2.400€/month** (up to 14.400€ in total) for them to carry out research activities in ENFIELD partner organizations for **3-6 months**.

2. OPEN CALL PUBLICATION

All the documents that provided information to the potential applicants or templates that must be provided as part of the application process for oc1-2024-TES-01 can be found in "D5.1 – Open Call Documents".

The ENFIELD website, as one of the key tools of the project, was the main point of information for future applicants for the oc1-2024-TES-01 (https://www.enfield-project.eu/1st_open_call), including relevant documents and links for the submission process (**Figure 1**). Also, following the requirements of the European Commission, the ENFIELD Open Call has been published on the Cascade Funding page of the Funding & Tenders Portal (link here). The ENFIELD Open Call oc1-2024-TES-01 was launched

Figure 1. oc1-2024-TES-01 dedicated tab in ENFIELD webpage.

using the platform EU Survey on 1st February 2024 and the deadline for submission of applications was 31st March 2024. However, due to the low number of applications by the deadline, ENFIELD decided to extend it until the 15th of April 2024. To promote the open call several posts were published in the ENFIELD LinkedIn page and X account (**Figure 2**).
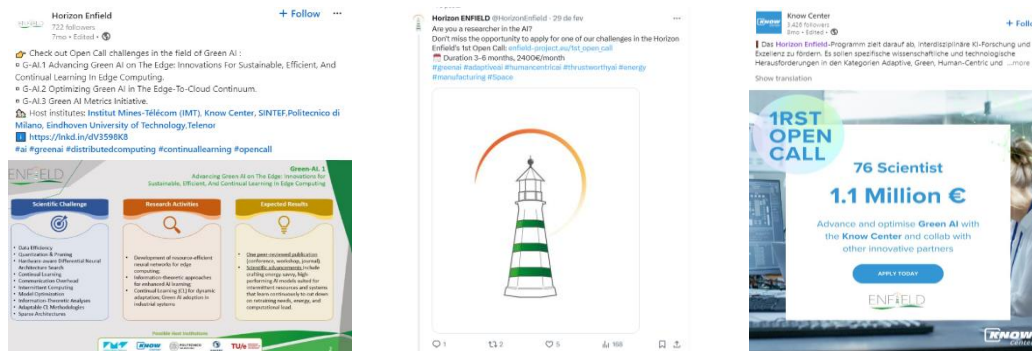

Figure 2. Examples of posts published on social media to advertise oc1-2024-TES-01.

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[1] Grant Agreement nº 101120657, funded by the European Union.

To generate more interest in the open call, clarify doubts and provide useful information to potential applicants, particularly those with limited experience in applying for funding, INOVA+ organized a dedicated webinar on the 27th of February at 12H30 CET. The webinar had **73 participants** and was later made available on the project's website for wider access (https://www.enfield-project.eu/1st_open_call) (**Figure 3**). Also, applicants were encouraged to contact the ENFIELD support team for additional information and guidance via enfield.opencall@inova.business.
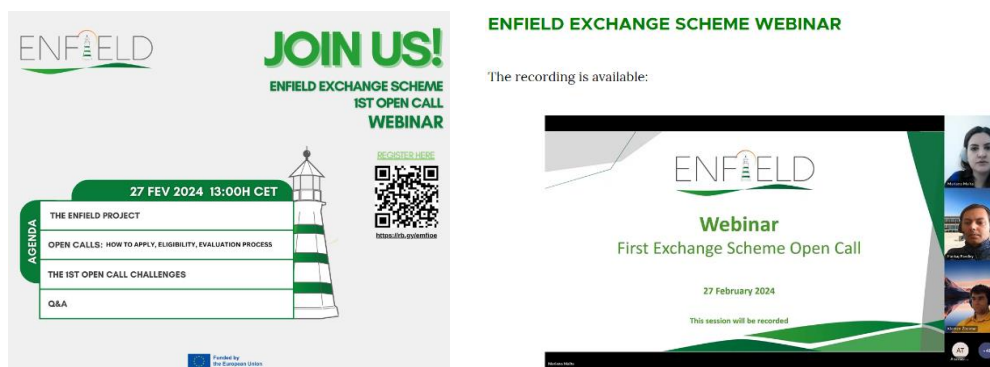

Figure 3. ENFIELD 1st Exchange Scheme Webinar available at the website.

3. OPEN CALL RESULTS AND STATISTICS

ENFIELD Open Call oc1-2024-TES-01 received a **total of 24 applications**. The distribution of applications received across the challenges proposed by the various pillars/verticals is presented in Table 1.

Table 1 – Distribution of applications received.

PILLARS			
Challenge	**Pillar**	**Title**	**Applications**
G-AI.1	Green-AI	Advancing Green AI on the Edge: Innovations for Sustainable, Efficient, and Continual Learning in Edge Computing	3
G-AI.2		Optimizing Green AI in the Edge-to-Cloud Continuum	1
G-AI.3		Green AI Metrics Initiative	2
A-AI.1	Adaptative-AI	Approaches to incremental learning robustness and trustworthiness	1
A-AI.2		Advancing Adaptive AI on the Edge: Innovations for Sustainable, Efficient, and Continual Learning in Edge Computing	1
A-AI.3		Neuroscience Inspired Adaptive AI Methods	0
HC-AI.1	Human-Centric AI	Evolving symbolic models for decision-making	2
HC-AI.2		Novel explainable AI methods for decision making	0
HC-AI.3		Interpretable data-driven decision support systems	1
T-AI.1	Trustworthy AI	Modelling trust in distributed AI system architectures	2
T-AI.2		Detection of AI generated content	4
T-AI.3		Secure Voice Biometrics with Fake Voice Detection	0
VERTICALS			
Challenge	**Vertical**	**Title**	**Applications**
VE.1	Energy	Methods of explainable machine learning applied to LiDAR scan analysis	1
VE.2		Coordinated edge control of electric vehicles charging at low voltage grid (or microgrids)	5
VS.1	Space	Fast and accurate atmospheric RT simulations for satellite microwave instruments	0
VS.2		Generative models for 3D cloud fields	0
VS.3		Cost-effective precipitation retrievals	0
VM.1	Manufacturing	Automatic identification of batch production patterns	1
VM.2		Self-X Integration in manufacturing domain	0

The majority of applications were received for the pillars Trustworthy AI and Green AI and vertical Energy, with 6 applications each. Additionally, 3 applications were submitted under Pillar Human-Centric AI, and 2 under Pillar Adaptative AI. Only 1 application was received for Vertical Manufacturing and no applications were received for Vertical Space. Of the 24 applications, 19 were from single applicants while 5 came from a group of researchers (2 groups of 3 researchers and 3 groups of 2 researchers).

The career stage distribution among the received applications shows that the majority of applicants were PhD students (15), followed by senior researchers (11), and post-doctoral researchers (5) (**Figure 4**). When broken down by the type of application, individual applicants were primarily PhD students (9) and senior researchers (7), and group applications were also more prevalent between PhD students (6) and senior researchers (4).
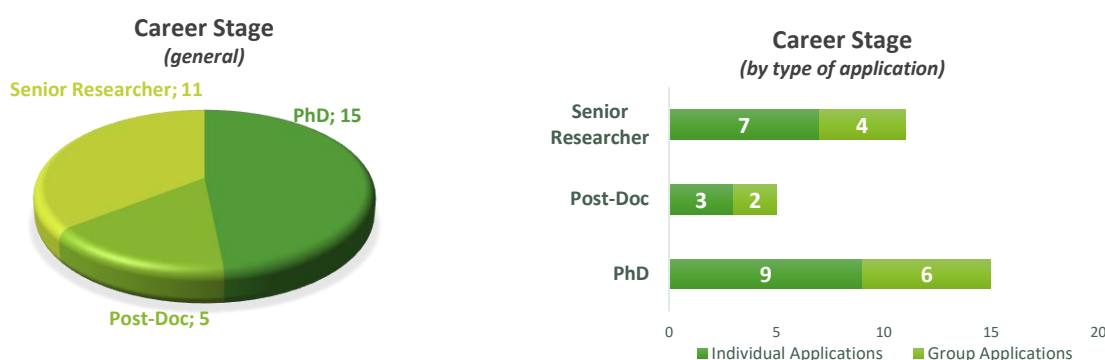

Figure 4. Career Stage Distribution among all the received applications. Left panel in the overall open call. Right Panel depending on the type of application (individual or group).

Regarding gender, most applicants identified as men (20), with women making up 10 of the applicants, and one individual preferred not to disclose their gender (**Figure 5**). Applications from men were also more preponderant in group applications (9). Furthermore, when broken down by pillar/vertical applications from men were more preponderant except in the Green-AI Pillar for which a preponderance of women applications was found (**Figure 6**). While ENFIELD does not specifically encourage applications from women, the selection process prioritizes gender balance when proposals are tied, with preference given to those led by women or with teams closer to a 50/50 gender distribution, as outlined in the ranking rules.
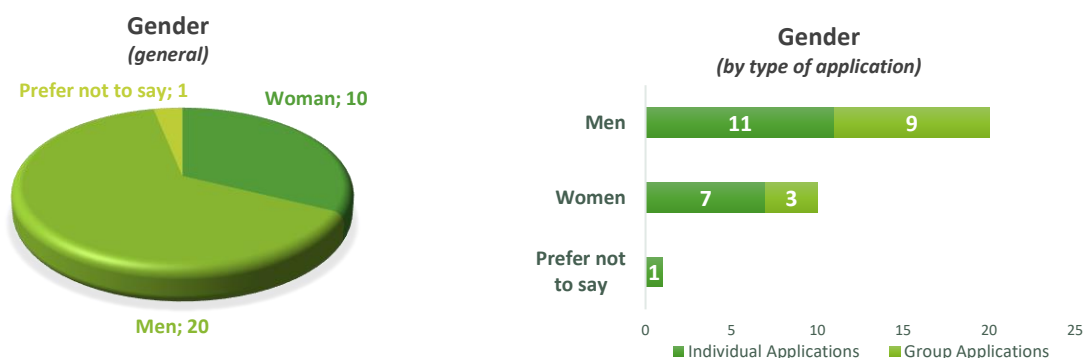

Figure 5. Gender Distribution among all the received applications. Left panel in the overall open call. Right Panel depending on the type of application (individual or group).
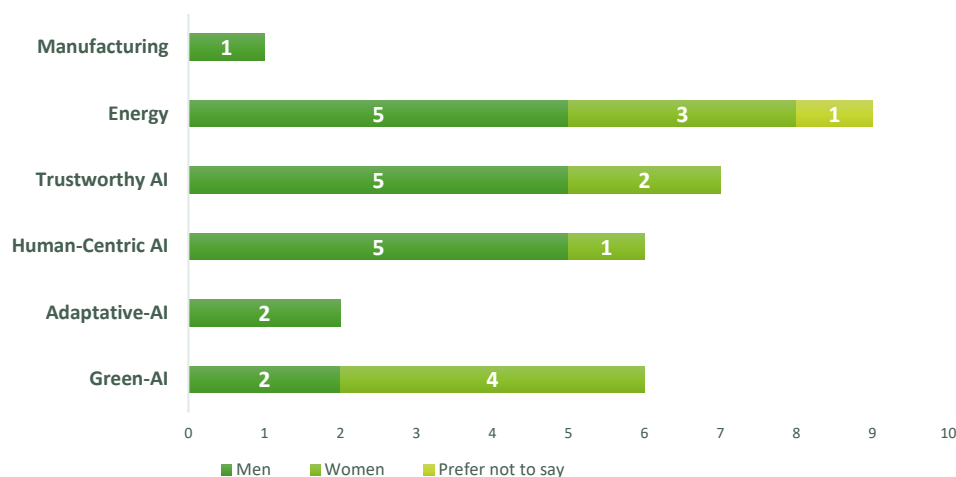
Figure 6. Gender Distribution among the received applications across pillars and verticals.

The applicants' age distribution reveals a concentration in the [30-39] age group (15), followed by the [20-29] group (7), [40-49] group (8), and only 1 applicant over 50 years old (**Figure 6**). Geographically, the applicants come from a diverse range of 14 different countries (**Figure 7**), with Italy, Portugal, Spain and United Kingdom each with 3 applicants, followed by Sweden and Germany with 2. Additionally, there is 1 applicant from Finland, Greece, Romania, Slovenia, Tunisia, Turkey, Australia, and Austria each.
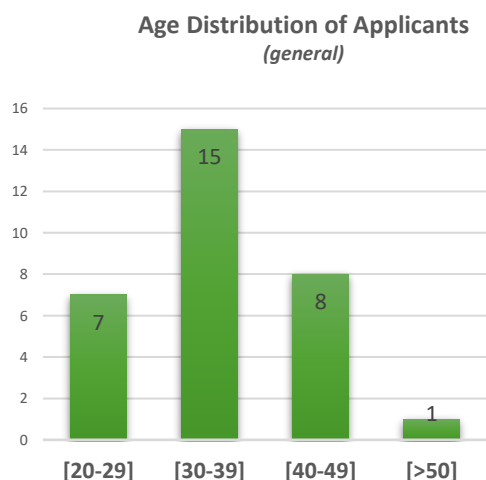
Figure 6. Age distribution of the applicants among all the received applications.
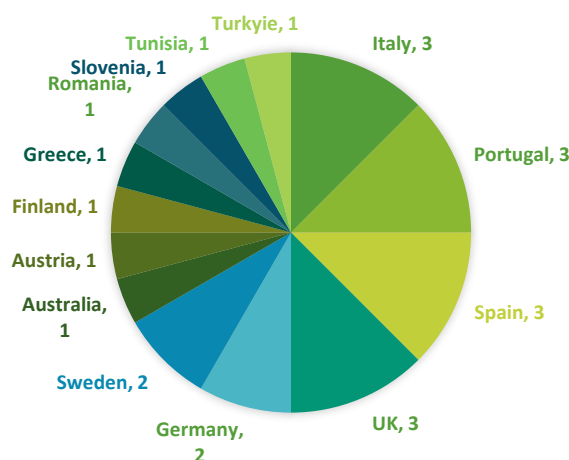

Figure 7. Applicants' country of living among all the received applications.

4. EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

4.1. ELIGIBILITY CHECK

INOVA+ conducted the eligibility check for all 24 proposals, verifying them based on the following criteria:

- Researcher is a PhD, Postdoc, or Senior;
- Researcher is based in an EU or EU-associated country;

- No conflict of interest;
- Technical Annex included in the proposal form;
- Presentation video link is provided in the proposal form.

Based on the above-mentioned criteria, three (3) applications were automatically rejected:

- *oc1-2024-TES-01-07*: Duplicate of application oc1-2024-TES-01-06; therefore, only the latest was considered.
- *oc1-2024-TES-01-10*: Applicants were based in a country not belonging to the EU or an EU-associated country.
- *oc1-2024-TES-01-24*: Missing the technical annex and the presentation video.

From the 24 received applications, 21 applications were validated to move for the evaluation process.

4.2. ALLOCATION OF EVALUATORS

Evaluators from the following entities were selected for the evaluation of each application:

Table 2 – Allocated Evaluators to each proposal.

Pillar/ Vertical	Applicant ID	ENTITY		
		Evaluator 1	Evaluator 2	Evaluator 3
T-AI	oc1-2024-TES-01-01	NTNU	BME	UON
G-AI	oc1-2024-TES-01-02	SINTEF	IMT	TELENOR
T-AI	oc1-2024-TES-01-03	NTNU	BME	UON
G-AI	oc1-2024-TES-01-04	SINTEF	KNOW	POLIMI
VE	oc1-2024-TES-01-05	INESC TEC	EDPCNET	PREDICT
VE	oc1-2024-TES-01-06	INESC TEC	EDPCNET	PREDICT
G-AI	oc1-2024-TES-01-08	SINTEF	IMT *	POLIMI
A-AI	oc1-2024-TES-01-09	IMT	TU/e	NRS
G-AI	oc1-2024-TES-01-11	SINTEF	TU/e	POLIMI
T-AI	oc1-2024-TES-01-12	NTNU	TUC	ICCS
A-AI	oc1-2024-TES-01-13	IMT	TU/e	UPB
VE	oc1-2024-TES-01-14	INESC TEC	EDPCNET *	PREDICT
T-AI	oc1-2024-TES-01-15	NTNU	TUC	ICCS
HC-AI	oc1-2024-TES-01-16	TU/e	INESC TEC	UPB
T-AI	oc1-2024-TES-01-17	NTNU	BME	UON
G-AI	oc1-2024-TES-01-18	SINTEF	KNOW	POLIMI
HC-AI	oc1-2024-TES-01-19	TU/e	UPB	BME
HC-AI	oc1-2024-TES-01-20	TU/e	INESC TEC	UPB
VE	oc1-2024-TES-01-21	INESC TEC	EDPCNET	PREDICT
VM	oc1-2024-TES-01-22	POLIMI	PREDICT	UPB
T-AI	oc1-2024-TES-01-23	NTNU	BME	UON

Notes:

- *oc1-2024-TES-01-08*: after submitting their evaluation, the evaluator from IMT notified INOVA+ of the lack of competences to assess the application. This evaluator was substituted by one from KNOW
- *oc1-2024-TES-01-14*: The EDP evaluator notified INOVA+ of a conflict of interest. This evaluator was substituted by one from TALTECH.

All the selected evaluators were proposed by each ENFIELD partner entity involved in the evaluation process. When analysing the gender distribution of evaluators most of them identified as men (20), with women making up 4 of the evaluators pool (**Figure 8**).
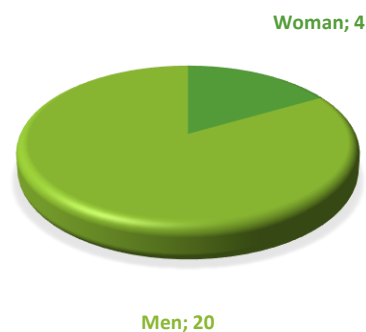

Woman; 4

Men; 20

Figure 8. Gender Distribution among evaluators.

4.3. EVALUATION PERIOD AND CONSENSUS MEETING

Each evaluator, upon signing the NDA, was granted access to the folder containing all documents related to the application for evaluation. The individual evaluation phase took place from the 30th of April to the 13th of May of 2024.

After receiving all individual evaluation reports, INOVA+ calculated the average score for each application from the three evaluators' individual scores. These averages were then used to create the final ranking of applications. Following this process, INOVA+ organized a Consensus Meeting with all evaluators to discuss the final scores and proceed with the selection of applicants. The details about the consensus meetings (including which applications they were related to, which criteria and the outcome regarding the marks in question) will be made available to the European Commission upon request.

Following the Consensus Meeting held on the 22nd of May 2024, all evaluators successfully aligned their scores. Subsequently, the process advanced to generating the Evaluation Summary Reports (ESR), which were sent to the applicants on the 24th of May 2024. No request for redress was received.

The average of the three individual evaluations gave us the final evaluation.

- Three (3) applications were automatically rejected because they ranked below the threshold (three (3) for each criterion and/or twelve (12) for the overall score): oc1-2024-TES-01-03, *oc1-2024-TES-01-12*, *oc1-2024-TES-01-20*.

- *oc1-2024-TES-01-21* and *oc1-2024-TES-01-22* were from the same applicant and had the same grade thus it was decided to reject *oc1-2024-TES-01-21.* This decision was based on the rule that, while researchers could submit multiple proposals, only one could be selected for funding.

4.4. SELECTED APPLICATIONS

All other sixteen (16) applications were selected with the following ranking:

Table 3 – List of selected applications.

Final Score	Proposal Identifier	Application	Challenge	Exchange Duration	Total Grant Amount
19	oc1-2024-TES-01-02	Individual	G-AI.3	6M	€14,400
19	oc1-2024-TES-01-11	Individual	G-AI.1	6M	€14,400
19	oc1-2024-TES-01-18*	Individual	G-AI.1	6M	€14,400
18	oc1-2024-TES-01-04	Individual	G-AI.1	3M	€7,200
18	oc1-2024-TES-01-08	Individual	G-AI.2	3M	€7,200
18	oc1-2024-TES-01-16	Group (3)	HC-AI.1	6M	€43,200
18	oc1-2024-TES-01-17	Individual	T-AI.2	6M	€14,400
18	oc1-2024-TES-01-19	Group (2)	HC-AI.3	3M	€14,400

17	oc1-2024-TES-01-13	Individual	A-AI.1	6M	€14,400
17	oc1-2024-TES-01-14	Group (2)	VE.1	6M	€28,800
17	oc1-2024-TES-01-15	Individual	T-AI.1	5M	€12,000
16	oc1-2024-TES-01-01	Individual	T-AI.2	6M	€14,400
16	oc1-2024-TES-01-05	Individual	VE.2	6M	€14,400
16	oc1-2024-TES-01-23	Individual	T-AI.2	6M	€14,400
15	oc1-2024-TES-01-09	Individual	A-AI.2	6M	€14,400
15	oc1-2024-TES-01-22	Individual	VM.1	6M	€14,400

oc1-2024-TES-01-18 was excluded due to a lack of response to the email announcing the results.

4.5. STATISTICS OF THE SELECTED APPLICATIONS

Of the 15 selected applications, 12 were from single applicants while 3 came from a group of researchers (1 groups of 3 researchers and 2 groups of 2 researchers). The majority of selected applications were under the pillar Green AI (5), followed by pillar Trustworthy AI (4) (**Figure 9**) Additionally, 2 applications were selected under pillars Human-Centric AI and Adaptative AI and vertical Energy. One application was selected under vertical Manufacturing.
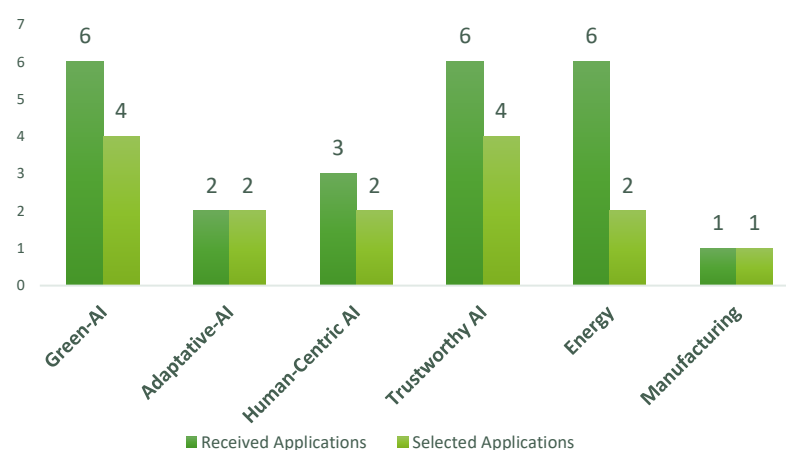

Figure 9. Distribution of received and selected applications across pillars and verticals.

The career stage distribution among the selected applications shows that the majority of applicants are senior researchers (8), followed by PhD students (7) and post-doctoral researchers (4) (**Figure 10**). Regarding gender, most selected applicants identified as men (12), with women making up 6 of the selected applicants, and one individual preferred not to disclose their gender (**Figure 11**).
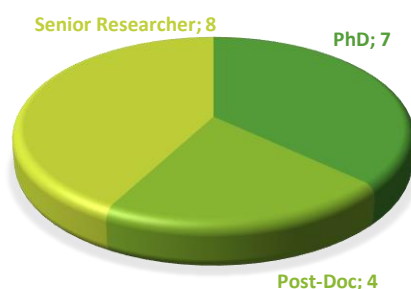

Figure 10. Career Stage Distribution among all the selected applications.
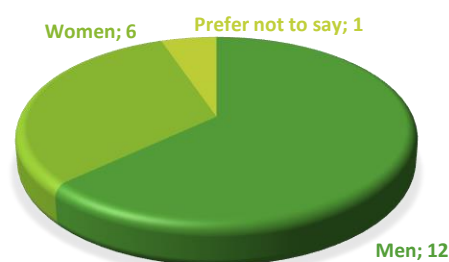

Figure 11. Gender Distribution among all the selected applications.

The selected applicants' age distribution reveals a concentration in the [30-39] age group (9), followed by the [40-49] group (5), [20-29] group (4), and only 1 applicant over 50 years old (**Figure 12**).

Geographically, the selected applicants come from 11 different countries (**Figure 13**). Three living in Greece, two each are living in Portugal, Romania, Spain and United Kingdom, Germany and Sweden. Additionally, there is one selected applicant living in Finland, Italy, Slovenia and Turkey each. Regarding nationality, from the 19 selected applicants 2 each are from Greece, Italy, Portugal, Romania and Sweden (**Figure 14**). Also, there is one selected applicant with nationality from the following countries: Armenia, China, Germany, Finland, Slovenia, Thailand, Turkey, UK and Uzbekistan.
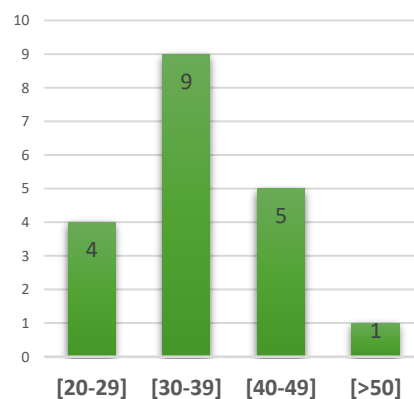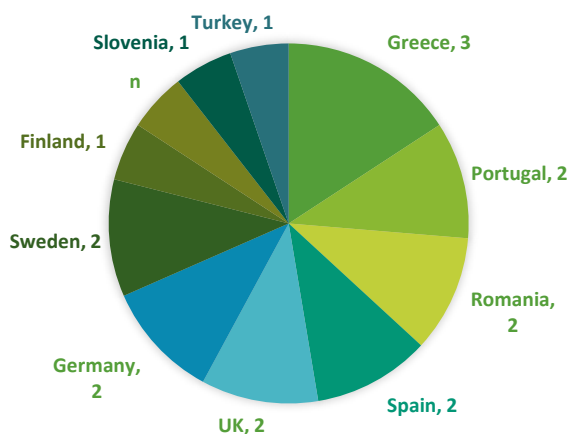

Figure 12. Age distribution of the selected.

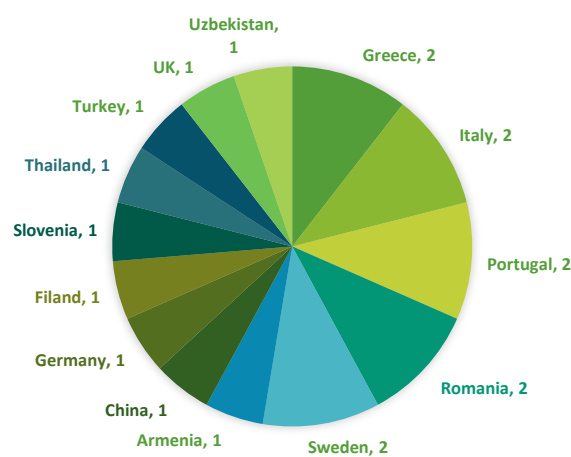**Figure 13.** Selected applicants' country of living.

Figure 14. Selected applicants' nationality.

A total of **fifteen (15) projects** were selected out of twenty-four (24) in the first ENFIELD Exchange Open Call. The average duration of exchange is 5.7 months. Out of the €1.1M allocated by the ENFIELD project to support a total of 76 researchers, **€242,400[2]** is allocated to the oc1-2024-TES-01 round to support **19 selected researchers.**

5. ETHICS DIMENSION

All the selected applications signed a sub-grant agreement ensuring that the projects will be carried out in line with the highest ethical standards and the applicable EU, international and national law on ethical principles (article 7 SGA). Naturally all unforeseen ethical issues that may rise during project implementation will be monitored by ENFIELD consortium on the one side, and the projects have a duty to report any issues on the other. Furthermore, the work carried out in this Open Call oc1-2024-TES-01 followed the ethical standards set by the ENFIELD Grant Agreement article 14 (Ethics and Values), specific ethics rules are set out in Annex 5.

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[2] This is an estimated number, as some projects may request an extension of the implementation period, which could result in an increase in the funding allocated to this first open call.

6. GENDER EQUALITY DIMENSION

Gender considerations were thoroughly incorporated throughout the development and selection processes of this Open Call oc1-2024-TES-01, aligning with best practices for promoting diversity in AI research. While ENFIELD does not specifically encourage applications from women, the selection process prioritizes gender balance when proposals are tied, with preference given to those led by women or with teams closer to a 50/50 gender distribution, as outlined in the ranking rules. This approach ensured that gender equality standards were upheld consistently, guiding decision-making, and aligning with best practices.