



OC1-2025-TIS-01

CALL FOR EXTERNAL EVALUATORS

This document provides the relevant information regarding the **Call for Evaluators** for the 2nd Innovation Scheme Open Call promoted by the ENFIELD project.

This is a Call for External Evaluators under the ENFIELD project, co-funded by the European Union, **to attract external experts to be evaluators of proposals received by the project in response to the 2nd Innovation Scheme Open Call.**

Ultimately, the ENFIELD consortium is seeking an experienced pool reflecting a balanced and diverse group of individuals. Applicants must be available and committed to evaluating proposals within the timeline of the 2nd Innovation Scheme Open Call.

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1. ENFIELD PROJECT

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 HUMANE¹, TAYLOR², and ELISE³ 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, which have not been tackled with a 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. ENFIELD will create a unique European Centre of Excellence that excels the fundamental research in the pillars of Adaptive, Green, Human-Centric, and Trustworthy AI that are new, 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 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 to reinforce a competitive EU position in AI and create significant socio-economic impact for the benefit of European citizens and businesses.

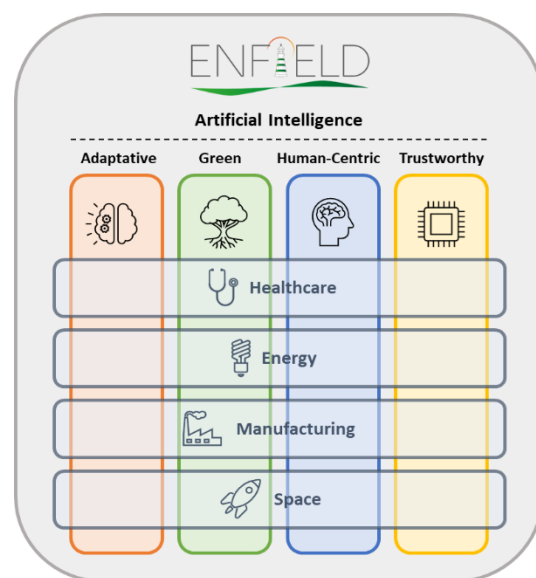


Figure 1 - Conceptual view of ENFIELD.

¹ <https://www.humane-ai.eu/about-project/>

² <https://tailor-network.eu/>

³ <https://www.elise-ai.eu/>

2. ENFIELD INNOVATION SCHEME OPEN CALL

The ENFIELD – Innovation Scheme Open Call aims to attract R&D entities to conduct applied research in relation to specific sectors, namely **energy, healthcare, manufacturing, and space**, and to network and disseminate the latest knowledge in Europe. The challenges/use cases proposed by the ENFIELD industry partners would potentially lead to the development and (future) adoption of AI technologies to boost the business and overall EU competitiveness in these sectors and address societally important challenges, e.g., actively contributing to securing the energy affordability and supply in Europe.

3. EVALUATORS REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENT

3.1 Requirements

To be part of the evaluators' pool, candidates must:

- Present a solid knowledge and experience in AI and/or within the Energy, Healthcare, Manufacturing, and/or Space sectors.
- Be European/EU nationals from the Member States (MS) of the European Union (EU), including their outermost regions, as well as nationals of Horizon Europe Associated Countries (according to the [updated list published by the EC](#)).
- Possess a good level of English (minimum B2 level);
- Have the ability to use IT tools required for the evaluation procedure;
- Show prior experience in the evaluation of funded projects, at the national or European level.

The selection procedure to identify the evaluators to engage in the Open Call will be done based on selection criteria such as professional expertise and experience concerning the call topic, language skills, geographical and business-sector balance, gender balance⁴, and absence of conflict of interest. The procedure will follow the principles of non-discrimination and equal treatment.

3.2 Assignment

The assignment within the evaluation process will consist of:

- 1) a short online briefing with the ENFIELD consortium;
- 2) an initial individual evaluation, carried out individually and remotely by each expert of the evaluation panel, based on the evaluation criteria set down in Table 1. Evaluations must be performed in English;

⁴ Following the Horizon Europe [guidelines](#) to encourage gender balance and equal opportunities for women and men, the ENFIELD team will seek to include both men and women in the evaluation panel, with participation as close as possible to 50/50 between women and men.

- 3) an online consensus meeting, where experts reach an agreement on the final list of projects recommended for funding.

After the submission deadline, INOVA+ will match the eligible applications to potential evaluators. For each project proposal, the evaluator will receive an email confirming the work and inviting them to access the project documentation and accept or reject the application/s assigned to him/her. The deadline to accept or reject the assignments is communicated in the invitation email. If the evaluator accepts the assignment(s), this must be performed within a set deadline.

The ENFIELD team expects to be able to confirm if an evaluator is selected or not by the end of June, as decisions are heavily dependent on the submitted proposals.

The general volume of a single application is around 5 pages A4. This second ENFIELD Innovation Scheme open call foresees the selection of 10 proposals.

3.3 Contracting and Financial Compensation

If selected, the evaluator will sign a contract with the details related to the respective assignment (e.g. tasks and working arrangements, remuneration and payment arrangements).

Each evaluator is entitled to financial compensation for their efforts and will receive a payment of €100 (VAT included) for each application reviewed. The number of applications assigned to each evaluator will depend on various factors, including the evaluator's availability, the volume of submitted applications, and the total number of evaluators selected during the open call.

The ENFIELD consortium reserves the right to refuse payment in case of non-performance or poor performance, or breach of any substantial obligation, including the obligation of confidentiality.

4. HOW TO APPLY

If you are interested in becoming an evaluator, please submit your expression of interest along with your CV in PDF format through this form:

https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/ENFIELD_EIO_ExtEvaluators

You will be asked to sign a Conflict of Interest (COI) and Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) form, which must be uploaded in the form above when submitting your expression of interest.

The deadline for submission of the expression of interest is the **23rd of May 2025**.

5. OPEN CALL SELECTION PROCESS

Proposals submitted to the ENFIELD – Innovation Scheme Open Call are submitted in a single stage and evaluated in two steps, as presented in Figure 1.

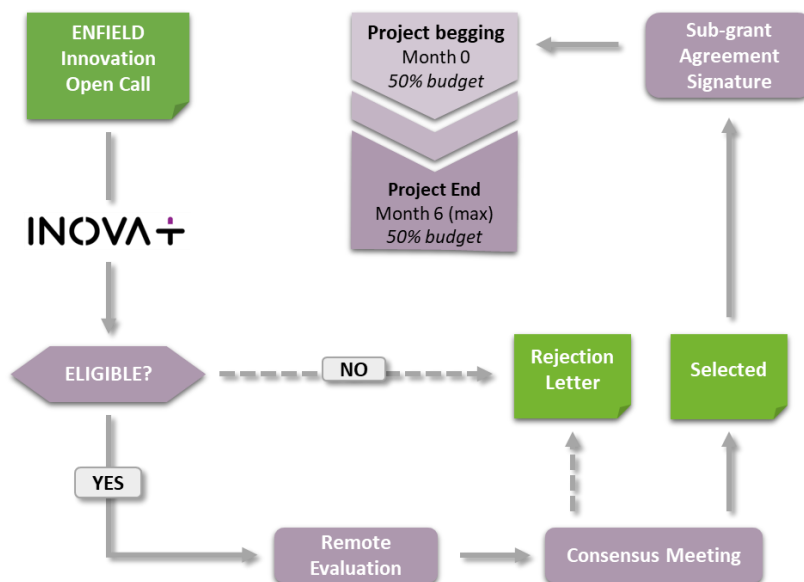


Figure 2 - ENFIELD - Innovation Open Call submission and evaluation process.

Step 1: Eligibility verification

An initial eligibility verification will be done by INOVA+, the Open Call Manager, to filter out and discard non-eligible proposals. Proposals marked as non-eligible (for not meeting one or more of the eligibility criteria) will get a rejection letter with a justification. No additional feedback on the process will be given.

Step 2: Individual Evaluation Report

Proposals considered eligible will move on to the evaluation phase. The evaluation of each proposal will be done remotely by a **panel of three evaluators**, including one senior researcher from ENFIELD partners' scientific organisations and two independent external evaluators. The proposals will be scored based on the criteria below (Table 1).

Table 1 - ENFIELD - Innovation Scheme Open Call evaluation criteria

Evaluation Criteria (EC)	Description
EC1. Advanced state of the art	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent to which the proposal is beyond the state-of-the-art and presents an innovative approach behind it (e.g., novel concepts and approaches) linked to the industrial use cases in energy, healthcare, manufacturing, or space.
EC2. Soundness of the technical approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Credibility of the proposed methodology for the implementation of the project.

EC3. Dissemination and communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effectiveness of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results which must include methods (publications, presentations, workshops and/or webinars) and targeted audiences.
EC4. Technical, creative, and business capacities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of competences and skills of the project team and its capacity to carry out the activities of the proposal. • Quality and effectiveness of the resources assigned to the proposal. • Track-record of the team in similar projects. In case of an application submitted by a consortium, complementarity of partners.

Each criterion will be scored between 0 and 5. Half point scores are not given. For each criterion under examination, score values will indicate the following rationale:

Table 2 - ENFIELD - Innovation Scheme Open Call scoring rationale

Score	Rationale
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.
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 final score (including each criterion) is the average of the three individual evaluations. The threshold for each criterion is three (3), therefore the **overall score threshold is 12**. This indicates that if a proposal scores less than 3 in any criterion or an overall score less than 12, the proposal is automatically rejected. Any proposal scoring less than 3 on any criterion will automatically be disqualified. Advanced state-of-the-art criterion is given a weight of 1.5 to determine the final ranking.

Evaluators are expected to use their technical and business expertise within their specialist field to provide objective assessments consisting of scores and justifications. Each evaluator will record their assessment of each proposal using an Individual Evaluation Report (IER) form available online.

Each evaluator is responsible for evaluating its assigned proposals, namely:

- Assess the proposal based on the evaluation criteria set down in Table 1: Advanced state of the art, Soundness of the technical approach, Dissemination and communication, and Technical, creative, and business capacities.

- Provide comments for each criterion and score them on a scale from 0 to 5 (half-point scores are not given) according to Table 2.
- Provide a final recommendation: Recommended or Not recommended.
- Submit the individual evaluation report by **11 July 2025**.
- Participate in the online consensus meeting (estimated to be held in the 3rd week of July) involving the evaluators assigned to the proposals and agree on the final list of selected applicants and one reserve list.

Step 3: Ranking of proposals

At the end of the individual evaluation process, all proposals will be ranked by INOVA+ in lists. The criteria for the ranking of the proposals will be semi-automatic following the rules below:

- **Rule 1:** Proposals will be ranked based on their overall score (sum of scores for criteria 1 to 4).
- **Rule 2:** After applying Rule 1 and if there are proposals in the same position, priority will be given to proposals that have the highest score on **EC1. Advanced state of the art**.
- **Rule 3:** After applying Rule 2 and if there are proposals in the same position, priority will be given to proposals that have the highest score on **EC4. Technical, creative, and business capacities**.
- **Rule 4:** After applying Rule 3 and if there are proposals in the same position, priority will be given to proposals that have **applications with relevant social and environmental impact**.
- **Rule 5:** After applying Rule 4 and if there are proposals in the same position, priority will be given to those led by women or with a share of women and men in the team that is closer to 50/50⁵.

Step 4: Consensus meeting

Evaluators will hold an online consensus meeting to prepare a single Consensus Evaluation Report, representing opinions and scores on which the evaluators agree and which they will sign. The decision on the ranking list and the selected applicants shall be sought by consensus, and whenever not feasible, by a majority vote of 2/3.

Step 5: Proposals selection

Within the current ENFIELD – Innovation Scheme Open about 10 proposals will be selected.

The evaluators during the consensus meeting will prepare two lists:

⁵ In accordance with the Horizon Europe guidelines to encourage gender balance and equal opportunities for women and men, consortia applying to the open call should seek to include both men and women in the teams, with a participation as close as possible to 50/50 women and men. Further information: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/ffc06c3-200a-11ec-bd8e-01aa75ed71a1>

- List of the selected projects: identification of the applications selected for funding.
- Reserve list: identification of the applications to be selected for funding, if any of those listed is unable to proceed to the implementation.

6. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Evaluators must inform INOVA+ and ENFIELD Coordinator immediately when recognizing the potential conflict of interest in the assessment of assigned proposals, in particular, if:

- The evaluator has been involved in the preparation of an application.
- The evaluator benefits either directly or indirectly from the eventual selection of an application.
- The evaluator has a close family or personal relationship with any person representing the applicant.
- The evaluator is employed or contracted by one of the applicant's legal entities or any named subcontractors.

Should a conflict of interest during the evaluation be discovered and confirmed by the Contractor, the evaluator will be withdrawn from the evaluation process.

7. CONFIDENTIALITY

Evaluators must treat information contained within applications with the strictest confidentiality and, must also declare any potential conflict of interest. Evaluators are responsible for ensuring and maintaining the confidentiality of any data, documents, or other material related to the evaluation process, during and after the completion of the evaluation.

8. DATA PROTECTION AND ETHICS

The personal data of evaluators 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 with regard to the processing of personal data and the free movement of such data. Unless indicated otherwise, the questions and any personal data requested from selected evaluators will be processed by the consortium solely for the purpose of the evaluation process for which he/she has been selected.

The work carried out in this Open Call [oc1-2025-TIS-01] follows the ethical standards set by the ENFIELD Grant Agreement (GA) in Article 14 (Ethics and Values) and the specific ethics rules set out in Annex 5 of the GA.

9. Commitment to equal opportunities and non-discrimination

ENFIELD is committed to promoting diversity, equality and inclusion. We strongly encourage applications from individuals with diverse backgrounds. The selection of evaluators is based on the principles of equal treatment and non-discrimination, regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, cultural background or other characteristics.

Do you have a question on the call for evaluators? Contact us!

ENFIELD Open Call Manager | enfield.opencall@inova.business