



**FIDAL
OPEN CALL #2**

**9th September 2024
10 December 2024**

SCOPE AND TERMS OF THE OPEN CALL

GENERAL OBJECTIVES

The project FIDAL, funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe program launches a second Open Call for the involvement and engagement of "third parties" to run 5G evolved field trials.

FIDAL is inviting SMEs, start-ups, research institutes, groups of entrepreneurs, app developers and infrastructure owners to undertake a set of beyond 5G trials in a multitude of domains compatible to the FIDAL ones.

The overall goal of FIDAL Open Call is to reach two main added values of the project:

- Involving key actors committed to perform beyond 5G trials in diversified and heterogeneous vertical use cases covering key industrial and societal sectors.
- Ensuring the support of the needed infrastructure to deploy the proposed field trials.

The Open Call maximizes the impact and accelerate adoption of FIDAL demonstrating flexibility, user acceptance and technology transfer.

Through the Open Call, FIDAL ensures wide acceptance and achieve sustainability of its results and fosters the further take-up by inviting innovative use cases belonging to the project verticals or compatible, to tune up the FIDAL experimentation framework and associated products as well as the testbeds and large-scale trial facilities.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL

FIDAL is giving the opportunity to the applicants of the Open Call two options:

1. Submit single beneficiary proposal for new use case and related field trials using FIDAL experimentation framework, toolkits and NetApps supported by the existing infrastructures, coming from FIDAL initial Consortium.



2. Submit proposals from groups of collaborating and complementary partners to produce new use cases and perform trials using additional services and testing facilities.

Under option 2 the applicant may propose the integration of external testbeds implementing new services, besides using FIDAL ones, only if it provides a clear value to the project e.g. access to a large number of users participating in the proposed trial(s). The integration of the testbed will be performed by the applicant and has to be clearly described in the proposed implementation plan.

FIDAL consortium believes that large projects involving the inclusion of large number of trial users, usage of a significant amount of new datasets, FIDAL services, onboarding of external infrastructure, etc. will provide significant evaluation means.

FIDAL needs to be open to rapid changes and elicitation of new requirements stemming from the new Use Cases.

The sub-projects selected during the Open Call will be requested in the contract to provide the following deliverables:

- Use case requirements
- Architecture
- 5G evolved features
- Key Performance Indicators, including measures data
- Key Value Indicators, including data and applied metrics
- Lessons learnt

We will be able to freely use these deliverables within and outside the project.

All experiments should gain high levels of exposure and visibility.

GRANTS OFFERED BY THE OPEN CALL

FIDAL allocates around € 6,000,000 to provide financial support to the selected applicants divided in two different Open Calls.

FIDAL allocates for this second Open Call around € 2,000,000.

Each of them will run indicatively for a period of 9 months (this indicative period may be changed during the contracting phase) and receive a funding up to €150.000 (under option 1) or €250.000 (under option 2).

Proposers' organizations can submit multiple proposals; however, only one proposal per organization might be selected for funding in this Open Call.

3 additional prizes of 10.000€ will be awarded to the best Open Call contractors rewarding excellence of trials performance, adoption of the FIDAL framework and KPIs & KVI's production.

A specific Helpdesk opencall@fidal-he.eu is active to support the applicants.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The call for applications is accessible to legal entities located in eligible countries. These entities must be established in the Member States of the European Union or associated countries, following the rules of Horizon Europe. Following the Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506, as of 16th December 2022, no legal commitments can be signed with Hungarian public interest trusts established under Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity they maintain.

Applicants must maintain complete independence from project partners, their affiliated entities, and any controlled companies. Institutions, organizations, or other legal entities funded by or affiliated with a FIDAL partner are ineligible.

FIDAL reserves the right to reject a selected application if any of the aforementioned conditions are not met.

EXCLUSION

Grants will not be awarded in the event of:

- Bankruptcy, winding up, court-administered affairs, creditor arrangements, suspended business activities, or other comparable procedures (including procedures that involve persons who have unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- Noncompliance with social security or tax obligations (including if such noncompliance is committed by persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- Commission of grave professional misconduct (including if such misconduct is committed by persons who possess powers of representation, decision-making, or control, beneficial owners, or those who are crucial for the award or implementation of the grant)



PROJECT OVERVIEW

FIDAL MOTIVATION AND APPROACH

FIDAL, contributes to Europe's technological leadership in communication technologies and in future emerging enabling technologies, by strengthening European capacities in key parts of future services.

FIDAL proposes technological innovations towards real-life services in the communication area, to enable Europe to achieve a leading position in the standardization process (e.g., 3GPP, ETSI) thus securing a leading position for Europe in the global ICT market over the coming years.

What is being referred to as Beyond 5G, is set to boast ultra-high speeds, ultra-high capacity, ultra-low latency, ultra-multi-terminal connections and ultra-low power consumption. Combined with an expansion of connectivity would have the power to transform society. This future eco-system is on course to be more collaborative and inclusive than previous generations of network, and FIDAL aims to lead the way by promoting open architectures, large experimentation sites and taking a multi-stakeholder approach.

FIDAL TESTBEDS

FIDAL utilizes 3 different 5G evolved test networks.
[LINK](#) to FIDAL Sites Description

HOW TO APPLY

This section outlines the procedures for the submission of applications to the FIDAL Open Call.

Applications should be submitted electronically via the Funding Box tenders portal electronic submission system (Accessible via <https://fidal.fundingbox.com/>). Paper submissions are not possible.

Applications should be submitted using the forms provided inside the Funding Box electronic submission system. For the description of the proposed trial, this form should be completed: [TEMPLATE](#)

The structure and presentation should correspond to the instructions given in the forms.

Applications will be discharged if not complete and if they don't contain all parts and mandatory Annexes and supporting documents.

Applications should be written in English, be readable, accessible, and printable. The text limits, and sections subject to limits, are clearly



Contact:

All communication, questions, or request for information in relation to the Open Call must be directed to opencall@fidal-he.eu

shown in the application templates in the Funding Box Tenders Portal electronic submission system.

After the call deadline, excess text will be automatically made invisible, and will not be taken into consideration by the evaluators. Incomplete proposals will not be evaluated.

The evaluation is limited to 40 eligible proposals; **the priority is given by the time stamp of the completion and submission of the proposal. Pay attention that the time stamp is related to the LAST submission;** previous submissions will be discharged, and their time stamp will be not taken in consideration.

APPLICATION FORM

The Application Form is online, available here and requires filling in information regarding the following aspects (Sections):

- Legal and contact information
- Description of the proposed use case(s) and related trials including proposed additional datasets and users, Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and Key Value Indicators (KVI) data: applicants should use the [FOLLOWING TEMPLATE](#)
- Proposers Experience
- Proposers' plans
- Expected impact
- Proposers' capabilities
- Resource/budget allocation using [THIS TEMPLATE](#)

The applicant shall indicate the estimated allocation of resources (person-months) and costs, specifying a budgetary breakdown per direct cost item (staff, travel and subsistence). A 25% (calculated on direct costs) flat rate as overhead costs may be added.

The total costs allocated for the application must be below the ceiling of 150.000 euros for Option 1; 250.000 euros for Option 2;

The cost reduction towards the ceiling will not be considered as a preferential criterion for the evaluation of the application.

All fields are mandatory to be filled in.

The previous categories are broken down into specific questions in the application form, which can be found and submitted here: <https://fidal-fundingbox.com>

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

The online Application Form shall be completed any time after the launch of the Open Call (9 September 2024) until 10 December 2024 (05:00:00 PM CEST).

The form will be deactivated on 10 December 2024 at 05:00:00 PM CEST.

Any applications received after the specified deadline will be automatically rejected. It is highly advised that applicants submit their applications well in advance of the deadline to account for any potential technical or connectivity issues and ensure timely delivery.

As described above the evaluation is limited to 40 eligible proposals. We expect a high number of proposals. You are advised to submit the proposal as soon as possible: the priority is given by the time stamp of the completion and submission of the proposal. Pay attention that the time stamp is related to the LAST submission; previous submissions will be discharged, and their time stamp will be not taken in consideration.

Upon receipt of the application, FIDAL will send a confirmation receipt to the provided email address. This confirmation serves as acknowledgment that the email was received on time but does not certify that the application is complete and suitable for evaluation. Incomplete proposals will be rejected.

FURTHER INFORMATION FOR THE APPLICANTS



Applicants are invited to visit the FIDAL Open Call page regularly order to get the latest news about the project: <https://fidal-he.eu/open-calls/>, where the technical details of FIDAL architecture and the available components are described.

In case of specific queries on the call, applicants may write an e-mail to opencall@fidal-he.eu with the subject “Support” to receive help from the FIDAL Applicant Helpdesk team.

In case of Option 1 proposals, **the applicants may contact, but it is not compulsory, the FIDAL consortium and share their intentions to verify the feasibility of the proposals** to be implemented in the scope of the project. In this case a short description of the planned experiment (max 1 page) may be sent to opencall@fidal-he.eu. The proposers may include here goals, objectives, identify the preferred FIDAL testbed(s) and outline what they want to do and outline the experiments elements of your proposal. Please refer to the description of the available FIDAL testbeds, that are published in the project website, and ensure that the required resources are within the description of the available testbeds. In the e-mail subject line or first line of the e-mail text, the short name of the proposal and FIDAL facilities planned to be used in the experiment/implementation must be mentioned. This check request could be submitted before the 8 of November 2024. After this date we don't guarantee the answer.

OTHER HELPFUL MATERIAL

The applicants may refer to the FIDAL website to get more familiar with the project concept, approach and testbeds, as well as with the project outcomes so far, and to be informed about upcoming webinars. Downloadable material is at the disposal of the applicants, while the

most useful ones would be the project deliverables – as they are continuously published on the FIDAL website in the relative Section. Open Access has been ensured for all related project deliverable.

FROM APPLICATION TO EXPERIMENTATION

Eligibility status

After closing the application phase, all received applications will be first filtered according to their eligibility status; for all non-eligible applications, no further evaluation will take place. Extra information may be requested by the applicants to validate their legal entity status characterization.

As regards eligibility rules for participation and funding in the Open Calls, the General Annexes to Horizon Europe for the Work Programme 2023-2024 apply.

Implementing the Decision (EU) 2022/2506 on measures for the protection of the Union budget against breaches of the principles of the rule of law in Hungary, that took effect on 16 December 2022, the Hungarian entities are not eligible for funding. UK applicants are allowed to participate to the call.

Proposers' organizations can submit multiple proposals; however, only one proposal per organization might be selected for funding in this Open Call.

Beneficiaries of the FIDAL project are not eligible to participate in this open call.

Third party agreement

Once a proposal is selected, the proposer's organization will be contracted by the project as a third party receiving financial support.

Further remarks

Before awarding any grants to a third party, **it will be checked whether the third party is a legal entity with a history of at least three years of operations** and has not been declared insolvent. If the leading applicants has less than 3 years of operations, the application will be automatically discharged. This condition is not applied to the other non-leading applicants (in case of small consortia).

Any third-party funding agreement will contain a clause ensuring that the European Commission and the Court of Auditors can exercise their powers of control, concerning documents premises and information, including those stored on electronic media.

The final number of contracts will be a function of:

- a) the amount of request grants
- b) testbed availability/capability constraints for proposal following Option 1: if the proposal requests unavailable resources from FIDAL testbeds ([TESTBED DESCRIPTION](#)), the proposal will be rejected.

Limitation of evaluated proposals

In case the number of applications is higher than 40, the proposal latest submitted proposals will be discharged, and the first 40 will be evaluated.

This process will indicatively take 60 working days from the closure of the submission phase; at the end of this the selected applicants will be informed via email.

CONTRACTING TIME

The successful applicants will be informed by the contracting party, and they will be put in contact with the suitable testbed.

Granted applicants will be asked to sign an appropriate Non-Disclosure Agreement.

The [DECLARATION OF HONOUR](#) is needed only in case of successful evaluation. The applicants are not requested to sign it before the evaluation results assessment.

The selected applications will start the contracting phase, which should end within the official kick-off of activities (indicative planned date: April 2025). A different contractual period may be agreed during the contracting phase.

REPORTING

The experimentation cycle ends with the creation of a report describing the activities and the results that have been achieved during the validation phase.

In case the produced outputs of the experiments lead to scientific publications or if they are presented in presentations or webpages, they should include an acknowledgement to FIDAL, the SNS program and the European Commission with the respective logos.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The following aspects will be considered and evaluated. The criteria that will be evaluated are presented in bullet form:

- Capacity of the proposer to perform the field trial (Weight 2).
- Relevance for FIDAL and for 5G evolve (Weight 2)
- Industrial and/or scientific innovation (Weight 1).
- Clarity and methodology (Weight 1)
- Impact for market and society (Weight 1)
- Technology expertise, security practices and quality (Weight 1)

Each criterion is scored on a scale from 0 to 5 as follows:

0 – The proposal fails to address the criterion under examination or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information.

1 – Poor. The criterion is addressed in an inadequate manner, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.

2 – Fair. While the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses.

3 – Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well, although improvements would be necessary.

4 – Very good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, although certain improvements are still possible.

5 – Excellent. The proposal addresses successfully all aspects of the criterion.

EVALUATION PROCESS

All submitted proposals will be evaluated using criteria similar to Horizon Europe.

Each proposal will be assigned to at least two external expert evaluators: independent experts not belonging or involved in the FIDAL consortium.

Each proposal will have a score that will be the average of the mentioned individual evaluations.

After the individual evaluations, the experts will have a consensus telco, together with a project's representative, to rank and short list the proposals.

The proposals received under option 1 will undergo an internal feasibility assessment before the distribution to the external evaluators.

LEGAL DISCLAIMER

The information and views set out in this document are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the European Union. The information in this document is provided “as is”, and no guarantee or warranty is given that the information is fit for any specific purpose. Neither the European Union institutions and bodies nor any person acting on their behalf may be held responsible for the use which may be made of the information contained therein. The FIDAL Consortium members shall have no liability for damages of any kind including without limitation direct, special, indirect, or consequential damages that may result from the use of these materials subject to any liability which is mandatory due to applicable law.

ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

Attendance at the meetings listed below is required. It is therefore recommended to budget these in the proposal.

- General meeting with the project's representatives.
- At least 2 technical meeting to be held by the chosen testbed: TBD case by case
- Trials results will undergo a formal review by the project. The formal review is required for obtaining full payment of the selected applicants.

ACCEPTABLE COSTS



As the experimenter will be linked to the FIDAL consortium as Third Party receiving financial support, specific arrangements are given by the EC with respect to financial costs and payment schemes.

As a 3rd Party, the proposing party needs to include an overview of the estimated costs in its proposal at the time of submission. Costs consist of personnel costs, direct costs (such as travel, consumables, etc.) and indirect costs.

The project contribution to the third parties will be 100% of the declared costs, in accordance with the corresponding rules for participation in the SNS JU programme.

The costs incurred by a third party must adhere to the regulations and principles outlined in the Horizon Europe program and must be properly documented in the third party's financial records. This means that the rules pertaining to cost eligibility, identification of direct and indirect costs, upper funding limits, as well as controls and audits, must be followed.

The costs of a Third Party have to comply with the rules and the principles mentioned in the Horizon Europe AGA — Annotated Model Grant Agreement (see https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga_horizon- Euratom_en.pdf), in the same way as the beneficiaries, and must be recorded in the accounts of the 3rd Party. In other words, the rules relating to eligibility of costs, identification of direct and indirect costs and upper funding limits apply. Equally those concerning controls and audits of the European Commission.

PAYMENT'S SCHEDULE

The payment is scheduled in three parts, subject to the submission of deliverables, the accomplishment of KPIs and the acceptance of the results of the action as reflected in the description of the trial:

- 20% of the assigned Grant after 1 month from the Grant signature against presentation of a detailed plan of activities
- 65% at competition of the contracted activities
- 15% when the EC will accept the projects final results

AUDITS

The selected Third Parties should ensure that, as recipient of EU financial support, allow the Commission, the European Anti-fraud Office (OLAF) and the Court of Auditors to exercise their powers of control on documents, information, even stored on electronic media, or on the final recipient's premises.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Regarding intellectual property rights (IPR), we outline the principles that will govern the management of IPR within the third-party project. The grant awarded to the chosen applicants will not impact the ownership of any pre-existing intellectual property, including

background technologies, designs, works, inventions, software, data, techniques, know-how, or materials. The third-party that contributes with FIDAL will retain ownership of their pre-existing intellectual property. The results of the trials should be freely used by the project for internal or external dissemination activity.

ETHICS REQUIREMENTS

The selected beneficiaries must adhere to the recommendations outlined in the project's Ethics Requirements that will be provided during the contracting phase.

Furthermore, the beneficiary must follow the instructions and comply with the published project Data Management Plan.

If applicable, the beneficiary is responsible for obtaining all necessary ethical and regulatory approvals from the relevant committee(s) before engaging in any project activities that require such approvals. Additionally, if involving human subjects or their legal guardians in the project, the beneficiary must obtain properly signed informed consent and acknowledgement forms.

Failure to comply with the ethical obligations outlined above will be considered a serious violation of the contract, resulting in its premature termination.