EURAD-2 Frequently Asked Questions, Public document

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This document gathers all questions received by the Core Group. It will be updated regularly. New questions will be added at the top of the document to facilitate the reading. The file is located on EURAD and PREDIS web pages.

If you have any remaining questions, please forward them to the Core Group coordinator: louise.theodon@andra.fr

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New questions (since 29.09.2023)

F-3 What if we see something is wrong in the proposal (plan or budget) ? What if we need to change something about our WP participation plan (effort, scope, persons of contact, including withdrawal from a task or a WP?

Please send the information to the Coordinator email (secretariat@ejp-eurad.eu), and CC the relevant WP leader. Correction of errors and all other modifications will be done in an Amendment after the start of the partnership.

F-4 What if we need to change something about organisation information?

Please send the information to the Coordinator email

C-15 When can we know if we got or are getting budget for KM?

See the proposal Excel budget submission. Other budget will be allocated after the start of the programme.

C-16 My organisation is not in the Consortium and wants to join the EURAD-2 Consortium?

Interested parties can be in the End User Group or Stakeholder Group. They should join their respective Colleges to be kept informed of future (wave 2) funding preparations within EURAD-2.

C-17 What if I know someone who wants to be an End-uSer Group or Stakeholder Group member?

This information will be collected by the Coordinator at the start of the programme (autumn 2024).

C-18 What if we know someone else internationally who is interested to be a potential Associated Partner?

Communicate this to the WP leader and keep Coordinator in CC. Such additions will be handled at the time of the Grant Agreement and/or first General Assembly in 2024.

C-19 When do we need to have the legal document about our Affiliation declaration (for Affiliated Entities only)?

This is not known yet from the EC, but anticipated at the time of the Grant Agreement negotiation/signing before summer 2024. Clarifications will be provided by Coordinator in Spring.

C-20 When do we need to show our co-financing commitment?

This is not currently required. It is up to each organization to secure their own co-financing for the 50% direct cost coverage of R&D costs in certain WPs.

E-7 Can we start doing things for EURAD-2?

No, you won't be able to charge costs so please hold off until the official start in October 2024.

F-5 When do we start getting money?

The EC allocated pre-financing at the start of the programme.

F-6 Where do I give feedback about the whole or part of the EURAD-2 preparation process?

Via your College leaders (slide 26), preferably by the end of 2023.

F-7 I have not seen or received the final proposal (plan, budget), where can I get it or download it?

Please ask your institute main contact for EURAD-2. If you don't know who that is, ask from the Coordinator. The file is not public to be downloaded from the EURAD/PREDIS web pages or ProjectPlace.

F-8 Can I share the proposal (project plan and/or budget, Template #3) to others who are interested?

No, it is a confidential proposal, only to be shared among the members listed in the proposal (Beneficiaries, Associated Partners and Affiliated entities).

F-9 Will the KM work be financed at 100 %

In the proposal submitted to the European Commission (under evaluation) Knowledge Management activities are funded at 100 %. Nevertheless, until the proposal is accepted by the EC, nothing can be guaranteed.

C-21 Will the Associated Partners need to sign the Declaration of Honour (DoH) appendix of the Consortium Agreement?

No, the Associated Partners will not sign the Declarations of Honour. Some specific bilateral contracts will be issued.

D-22 When does the Consortium Agreement has to be signed?

In principle the Consortium Agreement should be signed before signing the Accession Form to accede to the Grant Agreement.

B-4 Is it possible to find a compilation of information about the final proposal content?

Yes, an overview is available on EURAD website.

A – Introduction

A-1 - Will there be the same system of EURAD-1 with Mandated Actors and Linked Third Parties (called Affiliated Entities in EURAD-2 draft call)?

This can only be answered after the EC call publication, and will be described by the Core Group governance protocols by April 2023. Mandates would be needed by the National Programme Owners, following a prescribed template from the Core Group.

A-2 How and from who can I get a mandate? From who? When?

The Core Group will provide a template to solicit from your national Programme Owner a mandate to participate in EURAD-2 as a beneficiary. Signed letters are needed around April 2023. If you do not know the contact point, the EURAD and PREDIS coordinators can assist you.

A-3 What happens to potential partners from Switzerland and UK?

This is defined by the EC (https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/aga_en.pdf). In general, these parties can be providing "in-kind" contributions, and further info to be provided by the Core Group in spring 2023.

A-4 How can I participate if I am outside of Europe?

These parties are most welcome, with "in-kind" contributions having added value to the WP.

A-5 Thank you for your presentation on the SRA Valéry. You indicated that additions from the KM WPs were screened and added in Step 4 of the SRA update. Please can you clarify how recommendations from the SS WPs have been factored into the update? I am thinking of recommendations feeding in from e.g., the ROUTES cross-WP workshop held in early December 2022. Was this done at the same time as integrating recommendations from KM WPs?

The input from ROUTES was considered end of December 2022 in the draft SRA (based on the outcomes of the workshop you refer to). The consideration of the UMAN input is still ongoing. The work to finalize the integration of these ROUTES and UMAN inputs is thus still not finished (will be finalized in the next version foreseen in February 2023). In particular we are still trying to consolidate further the SRA topics, without losing the input received for instance from ROUTES and other SS / KM WPs.

A-6 How do I get info on EURAD-2?

We invite you to check the communications from Core Group and to follow EURAD-PREDIS web pages for future communications.

A-7 My organisation has a mandate to be in EURAD project. What about other research entities from my country, can they join on their own or through my organisation as a third party (without financing)?

The mandate issued for EURAD-1 will have to be renewed for EURAD-2. A template will be provided by the Core Group (see Q&A-A-2). Any organisations that are not mandated will have to show a legal link with a Mandated Actor.

A-8 Does each organization need to be formally registered in one of the 3 Colleges to be part of EURAD-2?

The mandate issued for EURAD-1 will have to be renewed for EURAD-2. A template will be provided by the Core Group (see Q&A-A-2). Any organisations that are not mandated will have to show a legal link with a Mandated Actor. Mandated actors need to be part of a Colleges by October 2024 (start date of EURAD-2) because they vote in General Assemblies. Each Affiliated Entity is encouraged to be a member of a College to have access to information.

B- Scope

B-1 How many WPs are there going to be? How many partners and size?

We anticipate about 20-25 WPs total, over the 5 years duration. We expect in the order of about 65% of budget towards R&D, which is about 16 WPs total over 5 years, at a total budget of 5 M€ each (EC contribution 50%). Strategic Studies could be approximately 12% of the budget, which is about 4 WPs total over 5 years at a budget of 1-2 M€ each. Another 12% of the budget will be towards Knowledge Management, and 10% towards management. It is anticipated that not all WPs will commence from the start (2 wave principle).

B-2 Who will pay for me and how much will I get?

EURAD-2 is a programme based on co-financing. We anticipate that the EC budget covers 60% of the total programme. The Core Group recommends rates so that R&D WPs will require 50% co-financing (direct costs*) to be arranged by the partner themselves and have commitment prior to the programme starting (autumn 2024). Strategic Studies, Knowledge Management and Programme Management are recommended to be funded at 100% (direct costs*). The budgets will be approved by the Colleges (summer 2023). Reminder that a typical R&D WP may have a budget of 5 M€ and roughly 20-30 partners.

*Reminder: EC contribution= % of direct costs + indirect costs (flat rate of 25% calculated on direct costs, excl. subcontracting)

B-3 What if the WP topic I want to pursue is not in the SRA?

All WPs need to show linkage to the EURAD-1 SRA and Drivers. The SRA update has been ongoing via the Colleges for all of 2022, and the final version will be ready by end of January 2023.

C- Participation

C-1 What if I am not selected to contribute to a WP? (due to scope and budget focusing cuts)

Participation will be based on qualification criteria, defined by the EC requirements and Core Group guidance. Selection is based on "value-for-money" principle supporting the WP goals. If

not selected to be in a WP, it is always possible to follow EURAD-2 via the Stakeholder group. There will be the option for new WPs in the wave 2, to which everyone is again eligible.

C-2 Can I join later? What if I cannot get in at the start?

Yes, EURAD-2 strives to continuously engage new potential contributions. New partners can come in during wave 2.

C-3 What if I just want to follow the project but not contribute work?

Welcome to register to a Stakeholder community for access to public events, newsletters and discussion groups.

C-4 In the participation rules it was stated that all Beneficiaries need to be part of a College. How do you (as an organization) become part of a college?

All interested parties should be in contact with the College Representatives (see slide of contact information in Summary Conclusions). See also December 2022 Core Group Communication Q&A list (slides #72 and 73), and Q&A D3 (on slide #82).

C-5 Can/Should affiliated entities join the Colleges? What if the affiliated entity is better aligned with one College different for the College of its reference Mandated Actor?

Yes. Every participant is encouraged to be in a College, even if their Mandated Actor is a member of a different College.

C-6 Is it possible that a small enterprise (SME) doing research activities can participate? In this case, should it be considered a RE? What should it do to become an affiliated entity?

Yes. Research providers, including companies of any size, are typically a member of the RE College. Guidance about becoming an Affiliated Entity will be described via the Colleges in April 2023.

C-7 Concerning the Affiliated entity: ...must be pre-existing and must longer than the duration of EURAD-2. The agreements, collaboration agreements can't be longer than 4 years, then how can be demonstrated that one of them started, i.e in 2023 will last beyond 2027?

Guidance will come from the Core Group about how to arrange Affiliations for interested parties who do not yet have a pre-existing link or for durations that span the whole EURAD-2 duration. This guidance will come in April 2023.

We recognize that not all organisations have such pre-existing links, but EURAD-2 strives to have inclusiveness for all. As long as the organisations can demonstrate the recurrence over time of the collaboration, then this has been accepted by EURAD-1 and the EC. The final approval about the Affiliation is decided by the EC office.

C-8 What about the overall structure: Bureau/ PMO, EAB, GA... will this be similar to EURAD1? What about role of regulators? End-users? What is the role of end users in the process? link to national programmes ?

This question on Governance structure and roles cannot be answered until official publication of the EC call text (expected February 2023).

In April 2023 the Core Group will then make a recommendation to the Colleges regarding the Governance structure, after having the official EC call text and considering feedback received in Position Papers from Stakeholders (developed in the Colleges during Quarter 4 of 2022).

C-9 Can you help me to find out or give me the contact of the coordinator member in my country?

We will provide guidance about getting Affiliations from the National Governments (contact point) only after we have the EC Call open and we have the template ready for solicitation. This is expected in April 2023. We do not want to burden the Member State contact points with a flood of emails now, before the Call and EURAD-2 Governance plan is ready.

C-10 Is Norway an Associated Partner like the UK and Switzerland?

Norway only signed an association agreement for the Horizon Europe programme but not for the Euratom programme. So far, neither the UK nor Switzerland are associated to Euratom. Therefore, Norway is for now considered as an Associated Partner.

C-11 Can a LTP participate to a given WP despite its mandate institution does not participate to that specific WP?

YES. The distribution of work inside the WP is not linked to the Mandated Actor but is based on the partners' competences and best value for money.

C-12 Who do I contact to go forward for being involved?

The single-entry point are the College representatives (see table above). All participants voice their views via the Colleges, who communicate to the Core Group.

C-13 As a regulator, I believe that EURAD SRA Themes are in line with my organisation's needs and actions plan. My organisation would like to be part of EURAD-2 Programme through our national research funding programme. Can you please guide us how we can initiate this?

Regulators can be affiliated to the SITEX.Network, which facilitates the views of the TSO College in EURAD and is comprised of Technical Support Organizations, Regulators and Civil Society organizations. We invite you to contact the TSO College for further information. Regulators are welcome to register to the Stakeholder community for access to public events, newsletters and discussion groups. Guidance about becoming a Stakeholder or End User Group member will be given at the start of the partnership (2024).

C-14 How should the contribution of Associated Partner be presented in the template, in order to calculate the limit of 30 % of the total budget?
The data that will be included in the final proposal will be euro value but in order to calculate the % of contribution in the WP, it is preferable to indicate the number of person.months.

D – Timeline

D-1 Who will decide the first WPs (wave 1)?

The Colleges make the decisions. The CG will make a suggested grouping based on the first ideas from the Colleges. This will then be iterated by the Colleges, to reach consensus on which WPs go forward. This will be an important topic for the Focus Funnel (FF) event in Cyprus March 16 afternoon-March 17. Final decision of the wave 1 WPs by June 2023.

D-2 Who will decide the WP partners and budgets?

The overall amount of WPs and budget per WP category is approved by the Colleges. Each WP will have a WP Preparation Team (with 1 appointed representative from each college) for planning. The Preparation Team will solicit ideas for contribution, assess added value, plan tasks and deliverables and distribution of budget per tasks and partners. The Core Group will provide support and guidance to the WP Preparation Teams for this process. The WP Preparation Teams will make a recommendation of the WP for approval of the Colleges.

D-3 Even if I am not leading a WP, how do I make sure that I can contribute?

Be sure to follow the development of the WP topics within the College, where you have clear value proposition of what you would like to contribute. Once the WPs are selected (June 2023), be in contact with the WP Preparation Teams.

D-4 Can Associated Partners submit proposals, or only Mandated Actors?

Anyone, via the Colleges, can submit WP idea proposals using Template #1.

D-5 Is there a limit on the number of proposals that one organization can submit in different areas of activity (R&D, StS, KM WPs)?

In principle, no limit. But we recommend being realistic within the College discussions, as each College need to prioritise topics put forward by 28.2.2023 to the Core Group.

D-6 What are the deadlines for the submission of the template #1 to the different colleges?

Each College has its own schedule for when WP Template #1 should be submitted, sometime in February. Be in contact with your College representatives to know the detailed schedule. The College leadership submits their top ideas to the Core Group by 28.2.2023.

D-7 I hope I've not misunderstood anything but from what I gather we need to reference the SRA (published end Feb) in the WP template (end Feb too). Will there be a space of time to review the final SRA before submitting, or do we work from draft?

The SRA Themes are the same ones as the Roadmap. Please refer to the EURAD Roadmap, as the publication of the SRA will be slightly delayed, target March 2023 to be available on the EURAD and PREDIS web pages.

D-8 Looking at the Themes and Roadmap Domains listed in the draft SRA update, it is clear that many require a multidisciplinary approach. So is it correct to assume that also more social science and humanities oriented ideas for WPs can be proposed for EURAD 2?

We are welcoming of any types of WP ideas. The Colleges will decide on the prioritization based on the fulfillment of the EC Call objectives and founding documents of EURAD-2.

D-9 Is it possible that a WP include a "mix" of both R&D activities and strategic studies for instance? Meaning that part of the WP would be co-funded at a 50% (for R&D part) and the other part funded at a 100% (for the SS part)? or should we separate these activites into different specific WPs?

When the final WPs are selected (by the Colleges), each individual WP will be allocated as either R&D (50% direct costs co-fund) or Strategic Studies (100% co fund target). During the early stage of WP suggestion (Template #1) it is OK if it is not known yet as either one so that further discussion in and between the Colleges will decide. Interaction between various WPs is highly encouraged.

D-10 To be eligible as a SS for EURAD-2 it has to have as output identification of R&D needs on the topic addressed?

The Core Group will give descriptions of expected impact and outcomes from both R&D and Strategic Studies (StSt) in the WP Template #2 guidance (April 2023). The definition and clarification between R&D activities compared to Strategic Studies is in the founding documents Deployment Plan of EURAD-1. (see https://www.ejp-eurad.eu/deployment-plan)

D-11 To show our interest in knowledge management we have to my understanding to present a two pages proposal, showing also the links to the SRA drivers. Does this procedure also comply if we want to show our interest in the strategic research studies?

Knowledge Management work package(s) (WP) preparation will be done by a KM Committee appointed by the Colleges (later in Spring 2023). At this point we are not soliciting contributing parties/institutes to the KM efforts. We are focused on developing the technical R&D and Strategic Studies activities. If new actions/tasks that would fall under KM are suggested, then the WP template can be filled. WP Template #1 is focused on collecting ideas on WHAT needs to be done and not on WHO contributes to the activities. The differences between technical R&D, Strategic Studies and KM are defined by the EURAD-1 founding documents, see https://www.ejp-eurad.eu/deployment-plan

D-12 What is the connection between the template #1 and the Excel file that TSO received from Valéry Detilleux where we should include ideas for WPs?

There is no connection. Interested parties should propose WP template #1 to the College. Note that each College has their own method of collecting and sharing WP ideas among their members. The TSO College (SITEX.Network, coordinator Valéry Detilleux) has issued an Excel for the TSO group members.

D-13 How do we disseminate WP-proposals between Colleges (e.g. some of the WMOs may want to support or participate in a WP-proposal from the REs, but are currently unaware of it)?

The first stage is that an institute's WP proposal is supported and prioritized by its own College. The College then makes a listing by 28.2.2023 to the Core Group. The Core Group facilitates the sharing of WP ideas via the Focus Funnel event (with active participation from all Colleges) and establishment of the WP Preparation Teams (with a representative from each College). The Core Group intends to share a list of the three Colleges' recommendations of the WPs in March (before the Focus Funnel).

D-14 Are there any plans to try to ensure that the work package topics that make up EURAD-2 are well distributed across the broader EURAD-2 scope (e.g. all waste types and disposal solutions) and in some way linked. A step back and look at the programme as a whole now might help the future integration of the WPs.

YES. The Core Group will provide guidance (April 2023) with the Work Package Template #2 about the eligibility and criteria for WP selections, which includes diversity of the work in accordance with the EC call. The Core Group will make recommendations of the WP grouping, and the Colleges evaluate and approve the final selection of the WPs, also respecting the targeted diversity of EURAD-2.

D-16 What is the maximum total budget for KM WPs?

Knowledge Management (KM) will have a committee facilitated by the Core Group to plan the scope. The total KM budget is anticipated to be 12% of the partnership budget (target 7-8 M€) over the 5 years. (see Q&A B-1)

D-17 Is the cost of associated partners included in the 5M€uros, or can it be counted on top of this "limit"?

Associated Partners (such as from UK and Switzerland) will need to define the budget and effort contribution to the WP. They are not eligible for EC funding (i.e. reimbursed costs from EURAD-2 effort). For the final programme submission, costs of Associated Partners are added "on top" of the EURAD-2 budget. No information about budgeting is required for WP ideas on Template #1. Note that the budget(s) per WP will be decided in summer 2023. The Core Group suggestion of 5 M€ budget per technical WP is only a rough recommendation. The actual budget allocation per WP will be decided by the Colleges based on the proposal criteria.

D-19 Should all of the R&D WPs start in the first wave, so that they can be 5 years in length?

No, WPs of varying length and duration are encouraged. Also, it is anticipated that not all WPs will start from the onset of the programme in Autumn 2023, see the two-wave principle (see Q&A B-1), similar to EURAD-1. The split of wave 1 and wave 2 budgeting will be decided in spring-summer 2023

D-20 EURAD-2 could fund half of a post doc or PhD position?

Yes. It will be possible to fund post-doc or PhD positions in EURAD-2. The effort per partner is decided within the WP committees in Summer 2023. Involvement of next generation staff is highly encouraged

D-21 When does it start? How long does it go?

The process of defining EURAD-2 is ongoing, with the WP selection expected in spring 2023 (see Core Group communication October 2022 for more detailed information and time schedule). EURAD-2 programme will start in autumn 2024 and will be running for 5 years.

E – Implementation of WP

E-1 When are we going to hear more?

Each month the Core Group meets and publishes a communication with a week. These are distributed to EURAD and PREDIS partners. Additional communications are occasionally made public via the project web pages.

E-2 Will it be possible to use funding from EURAD WPs to pay for the Colleges' fee? The Universities pay platforms fees but not Colleges.

EURAD-2 eligible costs of partners are for work provided to the WPs and described in the Grant Agreement. Colleges organisations (WMOs via IGD-TP, TSOs via SITEX.Network, REs via EURAD-Science) are set up as independent registered associations, and their individual internal funding models of these 3 College organisations is up to their own organisational charter. It is not yet decided by the Governance plan of EURAD-2 about funding allocation from the Project Management Office (PMO) to College activities that support the partnership implementation, such as in the Bureau roles.

E-3 Can you please explain, how the "focus funnel" works?

The public Focus Funnel (Cyprus, March 16-17, 2023) will start with an overview from the Core Group, followed by parallel rooms for technical pitching/discussion. The rooms are arranged according to the EURAD-1 Roadmap themes. The Core Group will invite the presentations in early March based on groups of the suggested future Work Packages (supplied by the Colleges to the

Core Group by 28 February 2023). All College representatives will have the opportunity to share about the WP idea, and then the audience will have the opportunity to raise comments and ideas. More information about the Focus Funnel event will be provided to the Colleges within the next 2 weeks (by 1 February 2023). Registration is already open. See slide and chat in the Conclusion portion of the webinar for the registration link.

E-4 What is the time schedule for the Focus Funnel ? Would it possible for anyone to attend this meeting?

The EURAD-2 Focus Funnel is open to everyone. It is anticipated to start at 3.30 pm on Thursday 16 and to end at 2 pm on Friday 17 March, 2023.

E-5 Where do I send my WP idea to?

WP ideas are collected separately by the 3 Colleges (see contact details in the table on the previous page) in January-February 2023. The template and instructions are provided in this communication. It is important to talk with your other College members to gain sufficient support of ideas.

E-6 How detailed a plan do we need for the WP idea now due in February 2023 to the Colleges?

The template and instructions are provided in this communication, targeting 1-2 pages max. More detailed WP descriptions will be developed for the top ideas in spring/summer 2023.

F- Other

F-1 What if I have extra questions later?

If you have questions you want the Core Group to address in the 19 January 2023 public webinar, we invite you to send them to the Core Group Coordinator (louise.theodon@andra.fr) by January 13, 2023. After the webinar, you can also email any Core Group member or your College representatives for clarifications. All questions will be added to the FAQ list, to be addressed in future Core Group communications.

F-2 Will there be a presentation on Knowledge Management during the Focus Funnel (FF, Larnaca, Cyprus – March 2023)?

Yes, the Core Group will explain how the Knowledge Management WP(s) development will be done at the Focus Funnel, on Thursday 16 March. The priority in the FF is on R&D and Strategic Studies (StSt) work package development. There is already an allocated budget and WP(s) for KM, which will be further developed in late spring and summer 2023. Any ideas that have been submitted to the Colleges already regarding KM issues will be transferred to the KM committee. At this point in time, it is not necessary for institutes or Colleges to give KM suggestions, as a route for such feedback will be established later this spring.

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