

CEF TELECOM – 2020-2 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

eArchiving – version date 31 July 2020

All information in blue has been added or updated since the previous version.

Commonly used abbreviations in this FAQ

SIP	Submission Information Package
AIP	Archival Information Package
DIP	Dissemination Information Package

1. Could National Archives apply to this eArchiving call despite the fact that the call specifies that "The objective of this call is to foster the adoption of eArchiving solutions and standards beyond National Archives"?

Yes, in principle, National Archives could apply to this call. However, applicants must ensure compliance with the requirements set out in the Call text, in particular in sections 2.1 and 6.1.

2. Would digitisation activities be covered by this eArchiving Call?

No, digitisation or scanning activities will not be covered.

Also, the following activities will **not** be funded:

- Archive hosting physically outside the EU and EEA;
- Software development for anything beyond the eArchiving specifications.

3. Is it mandatory to use the eArchiving software?

No, the use of the eArchiving sample software¹ is not mandatory. However, as eArchiving software is already compliant with the eArchiving specifications, this may help your Archive to become also compliant.

4. Is there a web page to test the compliance of an information package?

A website is being developed to test SIPs and DIPs online. As of now, this can be fully done offline by downloading the specifications and SIP XML schema.

5. Could an institution that is partially compliant with eArchiving specifications apply to be fully compliant?

Yes, they could apply although this is not the main objective: it would depend on what partially compliant means. For example, if your Archive is able to ingest SIPs and then use a different format of storage for AIPs, the finalisation of this adaptation could be foreseen within the application to this call.

¹ <https://ec.europa.eu/cefdigital/wiki/display/CEFDIGITAL/Sample+Software+Portfolio>

6. Will there be any other requirements to demonstrate the compliance with the eArchiving Core Service Platform (CSP)? Any milestones and/or deliverables?

Compliance with the eArchiving CSP must be demonstrated by the end of the Action. In order to provide some evidence of compliance with the eArchiving specifications, a proposal should foresee one or more mid-term milestones, that could include, where relevant:

- Validation of SIP samples against the SIP XML Schema. There should be at least one of each type of content, format, year, language, etc.
- A full migration plan.
- A first complete version of a digital archiving plan, built on the draft provided in the project proposal.

Furthermore, by the end of the Action, one or more relevant milestones contributing to demonstrating compliance could include:

- Evidences of all SIP packages ingested and migration finished.
- A list of errors and how they were solved.
- Evidence that the Archive is using the eArchiving AIP specifications: statistics, reports, software use, etc.
- DIP samples validated against the SIP XML Schema, adding all relevant provenance and preservation metadata. There should be at least one DIP of each type of content, format, year, language, etc.
- An updated version of the digital archiving plan created through the mid-term milestone.

7. Will the projects have to demonstrate compliance with the eArchiving DSI?

Yes, at the end of the action, compliance of the E-ARK specifications (SIP, AIP, DIP) will be tested with the eArchiving Core Service Platform against the latest available version for all three specifications, which at the time of publication of this call is v2.0x.

8. Is it expected that proposals join the E-ARK consortium or that they follow what was already produced by E-ARK in terms of solutions and technologies?

No, this eArchiving call is not for joining the E-ARK consortium, but to support the use of what is already produced by E-ARK.

9. What is the motivation behind requiring eArchiving AIP compliance? SIP level support seems sufficient for a project to demonstrate pan-European relevance.

Producing SIPs is not enough as this would demonstrate the capacity of generating files and not the full use of eArchiving. Proposals must demonstrate compliance with all three requirements specified in section 2.1 of the call text: SIP (via XML Schema validation), AIP (see also Q.10) and DIP (again, via XML Schema validation).

10. Is it sufficient if a system is "capable of exporting eArchiving AIPs" but does not implement this specific model internally?

The compliance with eArchiving AIP is open in order to allow any archival system or software to implement eArchiving in its own way. So yes, such a system can implement its own model internally. However, this archival system should be able to produce evidence of the preservation of the information for the purpose of both AIP compliance and for the archivists in charge. As specified in section 2.1 of the call text, the exported AIPs (called DIPs) have to be compliant with the eArchiving DIP and pass the XML Schema validation.

11. What will the call fund (software, hardware)?

The call is funding hardware (activity 2) and software (activity 1), either via licences or for developing new software, as long as it is directly related to the eArchiving adaptation of an existing archive.

12. What is expected in terms of project size, co-financing?

The call does not prescribe the project size; however, the requested funding must be proportionate with the objectives and scope of activities addressed by the proposal.

. As specified in section 11.1.1 of the call text, the maximum co-financing rate is 75% of the eligible costs.

13. Can one MS apply or must there be a consortium?

Section 6.1 of the call text requires that proposals be submitted by a consortium composed of at least three entities (public or private), based in at least three Member States and/or EEA countries participating in the CEF Telecom programme.

14. Is the digital archiving plan expected as part of the proposal or to be developed during implementation?

Section 2.1 of the call text requires that the proposal foresee a first draft of the digital archiving plan compliant with the national legislation applicable to the collections and their retention, and the purpose of future further migrations, including as many details as possible. This document is expected to be further developed during the action and its updated version delivered at the end of the action, to provide further evidence of compliance with the eArchiving specifications.