

# CEF TELECOM – 2020-1 CALLS FOR PROPOSALS

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Europeana – 16 April 2020 version

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

#### Commonly used abbreviations in this FAQ

<b>CSP</b>	Core Service Platform
<b>DSI</b>	Digital Service Infrastructure
<b>CHIs</b>	Cultural heritage institutions
<b>AI</b>	Artificial Intelligence

#### **1. What is the difference between this call and the previous Europeana calls?**

Compared with previous Europeana calls, the 2020-1 call aims to attract high quality curated content with focus on the aggregation of new material and on the development of highly curated editorial formats while using innovative technological approaches and tools. Examples<sup>1</sup> include: automation of tasks using AI, language processing, machine learning, big data-processing, automatic metadata enrichment tools, tools for regularly translated digital content and its application to cultural heritage. Furthermore, it aims to support CHIs to make best use of Europeana in fulfilling their public activities and missions. The call pays special attention and encourages applicants to aggregate accurate 3D models (e.g. monuments, buildings and museum objects), release their editorial outputs in several languages and as much as possible make contributed content for free reuse.

Lastly, the indicative duration of the proposed action has been modified and is now 18 to 24 months.

#### **2. What does accurate 3D models mean?**

For the purpose of this call, accuracy is defined by the realism it invokes. The 3D models should be the representation – as realistic as possible – of a three-dimensional object. Applicants should strike a balance between quality/accuracy/size of the 3D model and improved user experience. Accuracy should be suitable for the general visualisation purposes and allow for seamless quality online experience of the 3D model.

#### **3. Is the scope of the call limited to aggregation of 3D models?**

No. The call does not preclude applicants from choosing to aggregate media formats other than 3D, such as text, images, video, etc. However, applicants are encouraged to focus on aggregation and curation of 3D models that can also mean combination of 3D with other formats.

#### **4. Concerning the eligibility of applicants – is it possible to have a single applicant (a state cultural institution) or are international consortia with at least three participating EU Member States mandatory for this call?**

Please refer to section 6 of the call text, which indicates that proposed actions must comply with eligibility criterion regarding consortium composition, which must have a **minimum of three public and/or private entities based in three different Member States and/or EEA**

<sup>1</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/connecting-europe-facility/cef-telecom/projects-by-dsi/europeana>

**countries.** Thus, actions proposed by a single applicant or by three applicants based in the same Member State/ EEA country are not eligible for this call.

Moreover, this call strongly encourages the participation of applicants who have not yet benefitted from EC funding in the field of Europeana and/or do not have their content available on Europeana.

***5. Does our consortium have to include the Europeana Foundation?***

No. The consortium requirements for this call are listed in section 6.1 of the call text, where you will see that having the Europeana Core Service Platform operator as part of your consortium is not mandatory for the call. Any possible form/level of cooperation with the Europeana Core Service Platform operator in your proposed Action is up to you as applicant to decide, in view of the scope and aims of your proposed Action as a whole.

***6. For creating the consortium we would like to cooperate with experts/partners who are already successfully working with Europeana. Do you have any ideas on where to find this information?***

Creating the required consortia as indicated in section 6 of the call text is the applicants' responsibility. The list of successful beneficiaries of the Europeana calls is available on the INEA website

(<https://ec.europa.eu/inea/connecting-europe-facility/cef-telecom/projects-by-dsi>). However, in the meantime you may wish to consult INEA's LinkedIn page (<https://www.linkedin.com/company/innovation-and-networks-executive-agency>) for possible contacts. On the Europeana.eu website, there is also a list of institutions which have contributed their content to the Europeana Collections, see <http://www.europeana.eu/portal/en/explore/sources.html> which could be a possible first point of contact and potential information.

However, please note that selection and delivery of thematic, high-quality cultural content to Europeana may require broader geographical and thematic coverage. Therefore, you may consider engaging with new content provider, including those from smaller cultural heritage institutions.

***7. Should we only use new content or can we also use content already available via Europeana?***

The focus of the proposed actions must be on aggregation, curation and possible digitisation of new content. Limited use of existing Europeana content may be proposed including – if necessary - activities aiming at increasing the quality of existing content and metadata.

***8. We are aware of the consortium composition requirements in section 6 of the call text, which indicate that consortia must have a minimum of three public and/or private entities based in three different Member States and/or EEA countries. Does this mean that our consortium could only consist of private entities?***

Yes, you could have a consortium consisting of only private sector entities. There is no further requirement concerning a minimum number of public or private applicants in the make-up of your consortium itself.

***9. What is the average funding size of a proposal in this call? As there is €3 million available, will multiple projects be supported?***

There are no specific guidelines regarding the size of the proposals. Note that the size of the proposal and the requested CEF Telecom funding must be commensurate to the activities of the proposed Action and will be assessed under the 'Quality and efficiency of the implementation' criterion during the evaluation.

More than one Action is expected to be supported under this call, but this will ultimately depend on the overall size - and score - of the successful proposal(s) submitted.

**10. We are a research institution and would like to participate in the call. Does it cover research activities?**

Research institutions may apply for the 2020 CEF Telecom call, as long as they comply with the eligibility criteria laid down in section 6 of the call text. Research activities *per se*, however, are not funded under the CEF programme. As indicated in section 2.2 of the Work Programme, "CEF focuses on providing operational services which are ready to be deployed and which will be sustainable and maintained over time."

This does not prevent your organisation, as a research institute from participating in the call. The priorities and objectives of the Europeana call for proposals are defined in section 2 of the call text and include use innovative technological approaches and tools.

**11. We are looking for at least one more participant from a different Member State to create an eligible consortium for this call. Are there any resources or "matchmaking" services available for this purpose?**

As Q7 above states, it is up to the consortium to find its own members. Q4 also indicates that INEA's LinkedIn page, as well as the list of contributors to Europeana could be one starting point for finding potential consortium partners. In addition, you may wish to contact the list of members of the Europeana Network Association (<https://pro.europeana.eu/network-association/network-members>) or the various Cultural Heritage Institution networks in Europe. Please note that this information and the content published on INEA's LinkedIn page contains general information about INEA activities and should not be treated as legal advice. Neither the Agency nor any person acting on its behalf may be held responsible for the use which may be made of the information provided by third parties in the INEA's LinkedIn page.

**12. If the cultural content is still paper-based, are there any recommendations about its digitisation (OCR, raster, etc.)?**

Please read through the Europeana Publishing Framework<sup>2</sup> Europeana Publishing Guide<sup>3</sup> and Europeana Data Model<sup>4</sup> for more information on requirements for digital objects to be published on Europeana. Note that the Core Services are integrating the International Image Interoperability Framework (IIIF), with which new digitised materials should be compliant. Please note that the call covers targeted digitisation of content that can be made available for free re-use. Such content shall be made available for free reuse (Tier 4) as outlined in the Europeana Publishing Framework.

**13. Since this call requires a thematic approach, is it possible to elaborate on the meaning of topics with European significance of the call?**

Applicants are expected to aggregate and curate editorial formats around one or several themes/topics of European significance. Such topics should be appealing to end-users, build narratives with a European perspective across cultural and national borders and have the potential to attract significant attention, increase visibility and audience engagement. Selection of relevant topics is left up to applicants.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://pro.europeana.eu/publication/publishing-framework>

<sup>3</sup> <https://pro.europeana.eu/post/publication-policy>

<sup>4</sup> <http://pro.europeana.eu/page/edm-documentation>

**14. For the creation of the editorial formats such as exhibitions, galleries, and blogsetc., should proposals focus on aggregation of new thematic content and metadata, or can they propose using existing Europeana content?**

Please refer to reply to Q8.

**15. Where can I find further information about Europeana Data Model, Licensing and Publishing Frameworks, as well as the Europeana Available Rights Statements?**

The Europeana Publishing Guide is a comprehensive guide that outlines the metadata and content requirements for data partners publishing their collections in Europeana. The Europeana Publishing Guide brings all the existing information in one place and outlines the criteria for submission of metadata to Europeana and can be downloaded at the following link <https://pro.europeana.eu/post/publication-policy>

For more information, please also check the Europeana Pro website that describes the purpose and functioning of Europeana (<http://pro.europeana.eu>).

**16. What is required in terms of 'high quality' content and metadata?**

The standards of quality and how the content can be used are outlined in the Europeana Publishing Framework (<https://pro.europeana.eu/post/publishing-framework>). The framework has four Tiers of criteria relating to the quality of the content and three Tiers relating to object metadata. Proposals must foresee content that is at least Tier 2 (or 4 for content that is digitised within project) and metadata that is at least Tier B of the Europeana Publishing Framework. For minimum requirements and technical criteria applicable to particular Tiers and for different types of digital objects (image, text, audio, video), please refer also to the Europeana Publishing Guide, accessible via <https://pro.europeana.eu/post/publishing-framework>.

**17. Can my proposal include high-quality content that is under copyright?**

Yes. According to the Europeana Publishing Framework Tier 2 licensing criteria allow application of any of the available right statements, including the ones to be used with objects that are subject to copyright.

However, please note that providing content available for free reuse is encouraged. Moreover, if the proposal aims at digitisation of new content, this content must be at Tier 4 that allows free re-use.

Please note that under the Europeana Data Exchange Agreement (DEA) (<https://pro.europeana.eu/page/the-data-exchange-agreement>), all metadata must be submitted under the Creative Commons Zero Public Domain Dedication (CC0).

**18. Are communication activities to increase awareness and usage of Europeana relevant in this call?**

Yes. Communication activities aiming to increase the awareness and use of Europeana across Europe, especially activities that engage the general public, are important and mandatory. In particular, the proposal shall include a **plan for communicating** the results of the proposed action to target users and clearly define target users and their specific needs. Moreover, proposals shall describe how they will raise awareness around Europeana and the benefits of sharing high quality digital heritage content available for reuse among CHIs, professionals and the general public, while encouraging its use across Europe.

**19. We would like to include in our proposal advanced ICT technology to enable innovative automatic improvement of metadata, specifically its multilingualism. Would such action be eligible for funding?**

Yes, the use of various innovative approaches and technologies for automation of metadata (e.g. its automatic enrichment and refinement, translation, augmentation, completion, and correction), including the automation of metadata generation/extraction, is in the scope of this call provided that it would be an additional action to one of the main activities (please refer to first paragraph of Q2.1). Moreover, proposed technologies should be ready for operational use at the end of the project at the latest.

**20. Do we need to foresee budget for the data support and any arrangements that need to be made by and with the Europeana CSP operator itself?**

It depends on the situation: if the integration of the outcomes of the project with the Europeana Core Service Platform requires work and resources, it should be clearly mentioned in the proposal.

**21. Is there an obligation to make arrangements with the Europeana Core Service Platform (CSP) operator regarding the creation of curated content, exhibitions, blogs etc. and the proposed technological solution?**

No, there is no obligation at the application stage. However, if the proposal is retained for funding, beneficiaries must demonstrate that they have consulted and/or kept informed the CSP operator regarding the proposed creation of curated content, exhibitions, blogs and the integration of technological solution(s) with the CSP in the course of the action implementation.

The consultation of the CSP operator is important to ensure that:

- a. The integration of the proposed architectural developments is aligned with the Europeana CSP strategy.
- b. The proposed development of curated and editorial formats is aligned as much as possible with the current themes of the CSP and its editorial planning.

**22. Can an International association which does not have a VAT number participate in the CEF-TC-2020-1 Europeana call (objective 2)?**

Yes, it can. VAT number is not admissibility and eligibility criterion for participation in CEF calls.

**23. How can we deliver curated editorials, taking into account the updated Europeana strategy on thematic collections, exhibitions galleries and blogs?**

Applicants should build their editorial features, e.g. exhibitions in consultation with the Core Services operator. For example, the Europeana Exhibition Coordinator should be aware and consulted on upcoming exhibitions. Agreement is mandatory on many aspects, e.g. deadlines, quality, licencing, etc. Applicants need to read carefully the relevant documentation that can be found at this page:

Everything You Need to Publish in Europeana, including: Europeana Publishing Guide; Europeana Publishing Framework; Europeana Data Model Mapping Guidelines.

**24. How can editorial formats be published on Europeana after being created within the project?**

Beneficiaries should consult the CSP operator on the proposed creation of curated formats, the alignment with editorial requirements and planning. For more details regarding publication of editorials, please consult questions 21 and 23 above as well as the following: Europeana Publishing Guide; Europeana Publishing Framework; Europeana Data Model Mapping Guidelines.

**25. What are the licencing requirements to be met for Tier 2 content?**

Digital content published under Tier 2 can be published using any rights statements from the Europeana licencing Framework. However, if the proposal aims to digitise content, then this content needs to be published under Tier 4, using rights statements from the Europeana licencing Framework that allow free reuse.

**26. Under the CEF-TC-2020-1 Europeana call, is it possible to submit a project that foresees the introduction of interactive technological solutions and a virtual network of museums, as well as the connection to technological solutions to be applied in museum spaces (an App )? Or can we only submit proposals that fall within the type of solutions already available?**

Proposals are required to address both objectives of the Europeana call: aggregation of high quality curated content and use of innovative technological approaches and tools. Applicants are free to propose technological solutions to be used. Examples of such solutions include, but are not limited to automation of tasks using Artificial Intelligence (AI), language processing, machine learning, big data-processing, automatic metadata enrichment tools, tools for regularly translated digital content and its application to cultural heritage etc. Any technological solution proposed needs to be coupled with provision of high quality curated content. Moreover, proposed technologies need to be ready for operational use at the end of the project, at the latest.

**27. We are going to build services on Europeana by connecting the digital and physical museums world. The aim of our project is to increase the awareness and use of Europeana across Europe. We developed a solution to strengthen the connection between museums and society by making culture accessible for everyone and deepening the interaction between visitors and exhibitors. Based on the answer provided to question 18 above, could you please confirm that building innovative services exploiting Europeana fall into the frame of the call?**

Yes, building innovative services exploiting Europeana may be covered by the call, but not on a standalone alone basis. Please be reminded that proposals are required to address both objectives of the Europeana call, in particular:

- the aggregation of high quality curated content; and
- the use of innovative technological approaches and tools.

For more information, please see Q26 above.