JOINT CALL 2026

PROJECT DESCRIPTION TEMPLATE
PRE-PROPOSAL (version as of 05-06-2026)

Instructions to applicants (to be deleted before submission)
Upload the project description as a single PDF document.
Maximum length: 10 pages including figures, tables, references and footnotes.
Use margins of minimum 1.27 cm.
Use Arial 11 pt and single spacing. Figures, tables, citations and footnotes may use Arial 10 pt or larger.
Hyperlinks are allowed only when linked to bibliographic material.
Delete all instructional text in italics before submission.

Proposal code	*Recall from the online submission system.*
Project Acronym	
Project Title	
Coordinator name	
Email	
Organisation	

The proposal should clearly address the aim and expected impacts of the chosen Call and Call Module. Provide quantified information where meaningful and explain assumptions, benchmarks and indicators used.
Depending on the chosen Call Module and project approach, not all aspects listed below will be equally relevant. Applicants should address the aspects most relevant to their proposed work and the objectives of the chosen Call Module. See Table 1.2 and Table 2.2 of the Call text for an overview of technological and systemic challenges addressed by the different Call Modules.
Detailed implementation aspects and subcriteria marked with an asterisk (*) in the Call text will be assessed at Stage 2.

1. EXCELLENCE

The aspects under this criterion relate primarily to the quality, ambition and credibility of the proposed research and innovation activities.

1.1. Objectives

Briefly describe the project objectives, their relevance to the Call and chosen Call Module, and the expected outcomes. Where relevant, indicate stakeholder needs addressed, and expected operational or system-level benefits.
Projects focusing on enabling technologies should briefly explain the expected technological advancement and performance improvement.
Projects focusing on system integration should briefly explain the expected contribution, such as integration, interoperability, operational learning, or socio-technical innovation.

1.2. Ambition and relation to the state-of-the-art

Briefly describe how the project advances beyond the current state-of-the-art. Address, where relevant, scientific, technological, organisational or market-related innovation, such as novel concepts, integration approaches, or links to relevant initiatives, infrastructures or standards.
Where applicable, indicate the starting and target TRLs and the intended validation, pilot or demonstration environment.
Projects focusing on enabling technologies should briefly describe the novelty and expected advantages compared to existing solutions.
Projects focusing on system integration should briefly explain how the proposed approach advances current integration practices through activities such as demonstration, validation, interoperability, coordination or operational experience.

1.3. Methodology

Briefly describe the overall methodology and how it supports achievement of the project objectives. Address, where relevant, underlying concepts and assumptions, interdisciplinary or cross-sectoral approaches, research and innovation methods, and stakeholder engagement approaches.
Projects focusing on enabling technologies should also briefly describe relevant approaches, such as testing, benchmarking, validation or interoperability approaches.
Projects focusing on system integration should also briefly describe relevant aspects, such as integration, interoperability, operational, organisational, governance or regulatory aspects.

2. IMPACT

The project should contribute to the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the Call and chosen Call Module beyond the duration of the project.
Where meaningful, provide quantified estimates, indicators, assumptions and expected timelines.

2.1. Pathways towards impact

Briefly explain how the project's activities and results are expected to contribute to the intended outcomes and impacts. Describe target groups and expected benefits.
Projects focusing on enabling technologies should briefly describe pathways to technical uptake, industrial application or commercialisation.
Projects focusing on system integration should briefly describe pathways to operational implementation, such as replication, scaling or integration into existing systems and governance structures.

2.2. Project contributions (scale and significance)

'Scale' refers to how widespread the outcomes and impacts are likely to be. 'Significance' refers to the importance or value of the outcomes and impacts.
Briefly describe the expected scale and significance of the project's contributions. Briefly explain involvement of end users and relevant stakeholders.
Projects focusing on enabling technologies should briefly describe expected benefits, such as performance improvements, competitiveness or industrial value creation.
Projects focusing on system integration should briefly describe expected benefits, such as system-level, cross-sectoral or operational benefits.

2.3. Added value of the transnational collaboration

Briefly describe the added value of the transnational collaboration, including complementarities among partners, knowledge exchange, access to infrastructures or expertise, and benefits compared to national approaches.

2.4. Measures to maximise impact – Dissemination, exploitation and communication

Briefly describe the planned dissemination, exploitation and communication measures, including target audiences, exploitation pathways and communication activities.
Projects starting at TRL 4 or above should briefly describe pathways towards demonstration and deployment, and relevant considerations, such as market or regulatory aspects.
Projects focusing on enabling technologies should briefly describe pathways towards industrialisation, such as market uptake, or standardisation, where relevant.
Projects focusing on system integration should briefly describe approaches to long-term uptake, such as replication, ecosystem development, stakeholder coordination, or long-term implementation.

3. Quality and efficiency of the implementation

Detailed implementation aspects, including risk assessment, effort allocation and detailed resource planning, will be assessed at Stage 2.

3.1. Work plan and implementation approach

Briefly describe the overall structure and coherence of the work plan, including the main work packages and their objectives, and the Reporting and Knowledge Community work package.
Where relevant, describe activities such as testing, validation, demonstration, integration, interoperability, or operational activities.
Projects focusing on enabling technologies should briefly describe relevant development, validation, or

prototyping stages.
Projects focusing on system integration should describe relevant demonstration environments, operational interfaces, coordination mechanisms, or deployment conditions.

3.2. Participants and Project Consortium as a whole

Briefly describe the consortium and how it brings together the expertise and capacities needed to achieve the project objectives. Address the role and contribution of main partners, complementarities within the consortium, and relevant industrial, commercial or stakeholder involvement.
Projects focusing on enabling technologies should briefly describe relevant technological, industrial, or commercial competences.
Projects focusing on system integration should briefly describe relevant system, operational, governance, regulatory, innovation, or user-oriented competences.