

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Crisis – Perspectives from the Humanities

Please note that this document will be up-dated regularly. If your question is not answered here, please contact the Call Secretariat at crisis@ncn.gov.pl. For questions about national eligibility issues, please contact the national contact persons listed at the end of the Call announcement.

1. Who is the call organiser?

The *Crisis* call is a joint initiative of the HERA network and the CHANSE programme.

HERA, The Humanities in the European Research Area, is a network of 26 national funding agencies committed to leading and developing funding opportunities for humanities researchers in Europe. More information can be found on the HERA website at: <https://heranet.info/>.

CHANSE, Collaboration of Humanities and Social Sciences in Europe, is a programme supporting research in the area of Humanities and Social Sciences implemented by 27 research funding institutions from 24 European countries and coordinated by the NCN. More information can be found on CHANSE website at: www.chanse.org.

2. Which countries are participating in the *Crisis* Call?

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

3. Not all of the European countries are in the list of possible participants, why?

All funding organisations representing European Member States had been invited to join the preparation and funding of the *Crisis* call. In order to participate they need to contribute their share into *Crisis* Call budget for the funding of transnational collaborative research projects. Funding organisations in the countries listed above did formally make that financial commitment. Other countries were unable to make such a commitment. This was mostly due to financial reasons (no funding available) or legal reasons, thus preventing them from participating in this Call.

4. Can a partner from a country/region that is not represented by a funding organisation in this Call participate in a consortium?

Researchers from countries or regions not participating in the *Crisis* Call are invited to participate in the projects as Cooperation Partners (CP). Cooperation Partners cannot apply for funding directly from the *Crisis* programme, although some funding organisations allow for costs to be applied for through other partners in a project team depending on national or regional regulations. Please check funding possibilities in the national/regional annexes of the various funding organisations. The applicants

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invited to submit a Full Proposal will be asked to demonstrate the (re)sources from which the participation of the CP will be funded. Contributions by external partners can be either in cash or in kind.

5. How many national partners (Principal Investigators) should participate in a project? Will projects with a high number of partners be given preference?

At least four national research teams and maximum of six, each coordinated by a Principal Investigator (PI), based in four or more different countries eligible for funding in the *Crisis* call should take part. The eligibility of national teams is subject to national/regional eligibility rules. The composition of a project team should be determined by the research question and project design. There is no optimum number of PIs, and applicants should not add partners for the sake of it. All PIs should have a significant role in the research. The added value resulting from transnational cooperation must be addressed in the proposal and will be assessed.

Please keep in mind that HERA and CHANSE aim at promoting diversity in research. Applying consortia are therefore strongly encouraged to take into account the following aspects in the composition of their research teams:

- Gender diversity, that is, considering the under-represented gender, and further addressing the following dimensions: i) gender balance among the Principal Investigators, and ii) gender balance in the overall project teams as a whole.
- Academic age balance, that is, heterogeneous teams, including post-doctoral and PhD students as participants in the project, thus allowing for inter-generation transfer of knowledge, skills, etc.
- Geographical diversity, that is, geographically balanced consortia. In order to strengthen the European Research Area, overcome the fragmentation of research in the ERA, a wide inclusion of research teams from countries/regions participating in the call is encouraged, with a particular attention to research teams from the Widening Countries participating in the call:

Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia

and outermost regions: French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, Reunion Island and Saint-Martin (France), Azores and Madeira (Portugal) and the Canary Islands (Spain).

The inclusion of Ukrainian researchers is encouraged, applicants should review the guidance within the National/Regional Eligibility Requirements.

6. Can a partner from beyond academia participate in a consortium?

Stakeholders not performing research, for example partners from the public sector, policy makers, and the creative and cultural sectors, are invited to participate in the projects as Associate Partners (AP). Associate Partners cannot apply for funding directly from the *Crisis* Call, although some funding organisations allow for costs to be applied for through other partners in a project team depending on

national or regional regulations. Please check funding possibilities in the national/regional annexes of the various funding organisations.

The inclusion of at least one Associate Partner per proposal in *Crisis* call is compulsory. We believe that knowledge transfer occurs best in partnerships between researchers and non-academic organisations in the community. Non-academic APs are considered part of a project and will be assessed as such at both the Outline and Full Proposal stage. A formal letter of commitment on the part of non-academic APs should be signed (electronically or using a hand-written signature) and appended to the application explaining their interest and role in the project.

7. What is the role of the Project Leader (PL)?

The Project Leader (PL) is responsible for carrying out and managing the project, in addition to their project related research. The PL is a researcher with solid experience of managing collaborative research projects. The PL will be the contact point for the Call Secretariat throughout the application and running phase and is responsible for communication with the other partners of the project. The PL is responsible for the intellectual agenda and coherence of the project, as well as the management of the complete research project including the reporting duties for the overall collaborative project. In addition, the Project Leader is responsible for leading the project activities at their own institution.

8. What is the role of the Principal Investigator (PI)?

Each Principal Investigator (PI) is responsible for leading research activities at their institution. Other researchers (senior researchers, post-doctoral researchers, Ph.D. students) can be part of the PI's project team and should be referred to as Project Team Members. Please consult the National Eligibility Requirements for full information. Some PIs will have additional reporting duties to their national agency regarding administrative and financial matters. See national eligibility and funding conditions for more details. If appropriate and allowed under national funding regulations, the PI can collaborate with co-investigators and make subcontracts with other institutions from the same country.

9. Can I act as Principal Investigator (PI) or Project Leader (PL) in more than one project submitted under the *Crisis* Call?

No, one person can serve as Principal Investigator or Project Leader in a single *Crisis* proposal only.

10. Can I submit the proposal for both *Crisis* and *Well-being* calls?

One person cannot serve as Principal Investigator or Project Leader in more than one proposal submitted under both *Crisis* and the *Well-being* call. In addition, the same proposal cannot be submitted under both calls.

11. Is there a limit on the number of applications that can be submitted by one institution?

No, there is no limit on the number of applications which can be submitted by one institution. However, please keep in mind that one researcher can act PI or PL in one proposal only.

12. Which are the research topics that my project idea must fit within?

The detailed description of the Call theme “Crisis – Perspectives from the Humanities” is included in the *Call announcement* which can be downloaded on the CHANSE and HERA websites:
<https://chanse.org/announcement-of-the-call-crisis-perspectives-from-the-humanities/>.

Proposals may involve investigating a variety of perspectives from one or several of the following sub-themes:

- Different understandings of crises
- Crises and the human response
- The representation of crises

13. Are the *Crisis* proposals similar to EU Horizon 2020 applications?

No, the *Crisis* call is a different programme. It has its own application procedure. However, the management of the *Crisis* call is co-funded by the European Commission under the CHANSE programme.

14. Is the *Crisis* Call co-funded by the EU?

The organisation of *Crisis* call is financed from the CHANSE management budget and reported to the EC within the CHANSE additional activities, but there is no EC top-up for funded projects.

15. Do I have to include a Knowledge Exchange component in my project?

Yes, a knowledge exchange perspective should be included in the application and we encourage applicants to explore, from the outset and throughout the life of your project and beyond, who could potentially benefit from your research and what you can do to help make this happen. Proposals should therefore include concrete plans for collaboration and knowledge exchange, demonstrating potential audiences, how these activities will add significant value to the research, and how your knowledge exchange activities will be monitored and evaluated throughout and beyond the project.

The inclusion of at least one Associate Partner per proposal is compulsory. There should be active inclusion of non-academic partners from the preparation phase of the project and we recognise that it takes time to build these partnerships. Please refer to the national eligibility annex, for guidance about how Knowledge Exchange partners time can be costed as this depends on national funding rules.

A guide to Knowledge Exchange is available at: [Public Engagement, Knowledge Exchange and Impact: A Toolkit for HERA Projects \(heranet.info\)](https://heranet.info/public-engagement-knowledge-exchange-and-impact-a-toolkit-for-hera-projects)

16. Do I have to have an agreement with my national funding organisation before I can submit a *Crisis* Call proposal?

All partners in a collaborative research project should consult their eligibility and the eligibility of their requested budget items with their national funding organisations before submitting a proposal. You will find the contact details for the participating national funding organisations here:
<https://chanse.org/announcement-of-the-call-crisis-perspectives-from-the-humanities/>

17. What are *Crisis* Call Outline and Full Proposals?

The project selection of the Call is divided in two phases: I) The Outline Proposal phase of submission and selection of Outline Proposals, and II) the Full Proposal phase for Full Proposals submission and selection. Applicants of the successful Outline Proposals are invited to submit Full Proposals. Outline Proposals provide the general ideas for a collaborative research project by specifying the scope of the project, the description of the methodology and an indication of the requested budget of the project. Detailed requirements as to the format of Outline Proposals are provided in the Call. Detailed requirements for Full Proposals and instructions on how to complete the application forms will be made available once Full Proposals are being invited.

18. How do I submit a proposal?

Both Outline and Full Proposals must be submitted online via EPSS system. This is the only way to submit a Crisis call proposal. The online application form for Outline Proposals will be available on the website <https://proposals.etag.ee/chanse-2023/> as from 26th May 2023. Applicants should follow the proposal structure in the Outline Proposal template available on the CHANSE website at: <https://chanse.org/announcement-of-the-call-crisis-perspectives-from-the-humanities/>.

Make sure your application is submitted by the deadline of 21st September 2023.

For questions regarding technical issues related to the EPSS system, please contact the technical help: epss.chanse@g.etag.ee

19. When applying to the CHANSE call via the EPSS system, should I also submit a national form to my national/regional funding organization?

The Project Leader should submit an application on behalf of all Principal Investigators via the central Electronic Proposal Submission System (EPSS). However, some national/regional Funding Organisations require that their applicants also submit national/regional forms (please check National/Regional Eligibility Requirements of the respective Funding Organisation).

20. What is the budget for the Call?

The budget available is set at a maximum of ca. € 15.5 million.

21. What is the available funding per project?

An individual transnational project can receive a maximum funding of 1, 500, 000 € across all participating partners. Some funding organisations have a maximum national amount per project regulation, based on national or regional regulations. Please check National Eligibility Requirements for more information regarding national budget caps.

22. What currency should I use when describing the budgets?

The estimated budget must be given in **Euros only** and be tabulated according to the application template provided. Please refer also to National/Regional Eligibility Requirement, if submission of national/regional form including budget in a national currency is required.

23. What are eligible costs?

All costs must be eligible according to the national or regional eligibility rules specified in the *Crisis Call National Eligibility Requirements*, which may be specified per budget item. Each research team may request funding for personnel costs, consumables, travel costs, equipment, subcontracting and overhead in accordance with these National/Regional Eligibility Requirements. Applicants should consult their respective National/Regional Eligibility Requirements before submitting a proposal. If in doubt, applicants should consult their national/regional Funding Organisation

24. What budget eligibility criteria should be met?

Project financial plan is composed of national budgets of PIs (inc. PL), which must be eligible according to National/Regional Eligibility Requirements.

25. How will *Crisis call Outline Proposals* be assessed?

Applications will be evaluated according to a set of criteria in a two-stage procedure. Proposal evaluation will be carried out by the international, independent Call Review Panel (RP). The members of the RP are leading humanities scholars, appointed by the *Crisis Call Board* composed of the funding organisations participating in the Call. The composition of the Review Panels will be published on the CHANSE www.chanse.org and HERA <https://heranet.info/> websites after the conclusion of the *Crisis Call*.

26. What are the assessment criteria for Outline Proposals?

In the Outline Proposal phase, the Review Panel will identify proposals with potential for research excellence, by applying the following criteria:

- Relevance to the theme “Crisis” and evidence of humanities-led approach (30%)- threshold 3/5;
- Potential for research excellence (40%)- threshold 3/5;
- Potential impact of the proposed research (15%)- threshold 3/5;
- Quality of the implementation and management (15%)- threshold 3/5.

Based on the input of the international Review Panel, the *Crisis Call* funding organisations will choose the consortia which will be invited to submit a Full Proposal.

27. Should Outline Proposals be submitted to each individual funding organisation?

The EPSS system, hosted at the Estonian Research Council (ETAG) is the submission and review portal for the *Crisis Call*. It can be accessed at <https://proposals.etag.ee/chanse-2023/>. This is the only way to submit a *Crisis call* proposal; applications sent via other channels will not be eligible and will not be evaluated. However, please do check the national/regional eligibility requirements whether additional submission to national/regional funding organisations is mandatory or not.

28. In what language(s) should the proposal be submitted?

All applications must be in English.

29. Will we receive confirmation that a proposal has been received?

Yes, the Project Leader will receive an automatic confirmation of submitting the application from the EPSS system via e-mail.

30. Can I submit a Full Proposal if I have not submitted an Outline Proposal?

No, if you did not submit an Outline Proposal you cannot submit a Full Proposal. Full Proposals can only be submitted by project teams who have been invited to do so.

31. When can projects start?

The earliest starting date for successful projects is December 2024. It is expected that projects start by the end March, 2025 at the latest. All national research teams within a given project will be expected to start their projects at the same time.

32. What duration must a *Crisis Call* project have?

Each project must be between 24 and 36 months in duration. Please check also your National Eligibility Requirements in this regard. Proposals for projects lasting less than 24 months or more than 36 months will be declared ineligible

33. If we have 5 Principal Investigators and one is ineligible but the min. number of 4 PIs is met, is the application sent to the merit-based evaluation stage?

The *Crisis Call* Secretariat will verify the eligibility of the proposals according to the transnational eligibility criteria, while the participating funding organisations will each verify the suitability for national/regional funding according to their respective eligibility criteria. Both transnational and funding organisations' eligibility criteria must be met. If one of the research partners in a consortium is not eligible, then the whole consortium is not eligible and the proposal will not be evaluated.

34. If there are ethical issues present, is approval required before submitting a proposal?

No, unless stated otherwise in national/regional eligibility requirements, where specific ethical approvals may be required under national/regional arrangements, these do not need to be obtained before submitting a proposal. However, they must be obtained before work starts on the project and should be explained in the application.

35. Is it possible that no ethical issue will arise in my project?

In case of proposals focused on theoretical questions, it can happen that no ethical issues will arise. If research involves human participants, conducting surveys or interviews, ethical issues must be addressed.

36. Is there a page limit for the CV of PI/PL required in the application?

A short CVs of the Project Leader and the Principal Investigators should be no longer than one page at the Outline Proposal stage.

Please remember that CVs of Team Members and Cooperation Partners are not allowed.

37. Which relevant publications should be cited in the CVs?

CVs of the Project Leader and the Principal Investigators may cite a maximum of **five** relevant publications. Only include manuscripts which have been accepted for publication or which have already been published. Therefore, publications that are currently being written, under review, etc. should not be included.

38. I am a researcher seeking to apply for funding from the UK. What should I take into consideration regarding the current negotiations related to the UK's exit from the European Union?

The participation of the UK in *Crisis Call* is not affected by the UK's exit from the European Union..

39. Can researchers from areas other than Humanities participate in *Crisis* projects?

The *Crisis* call invites Humanities-led proposals, however, researchers representing other research areas can also participate in the projects.

40. Are mobility and/or training activities allowed in funded projects?

Yes, they are allowed but must be justified in the project description. Please check your National/Regional Eligibility Requirements to confirm eligibility of such costs by respected Funding Organisations.

41. What does the "threshold 3/5" mean?

It means that only projects which receive at least 3 out of 5 points in each criterion can be recommended to the Full Proposal stage.

42. How is gender balance defined?

Gender diversity, that is, considering the under-represented gender, and further addressing the following dimensions: I) gender balance among the Principal Investigators, and II) gender balance in the overall project teams as a whole.

Please refer to the EC REA definition on Gender balance: *"the balance between women and men in research teams who will implement a project. Horizon Europe projects should aim to have an even, 50/50 participation rate of both men and women amongst teams and leading roles. In Horizon Europe, gender balance among researchers is a ranking criterion for proposals with the same evaluation scores."* [Tackling gender equality in Research and Innovation \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/research-and-innovation/en/tackling-gender-equality-in-research-and-innovation)

43. Does the institution of the PI have to provide co-funding?

Potential financial contribution of the institution of the PI depends on National/Regional Eligibility Requirements. Please consult this document in this regard.

44. What changes in the proposal can be made between the Outline and Full Proposal stage?

Teams that are invited to the Full Proposal stage will be informed that changes in the proposal are only allowed if they increase value of the planned research and strengthen the project and/or are recommended by the Review Panel. Such changes might include a budget change, change in project team, addition of AP/CPs or an addition of a PI.

45. What are Widening countries? Should I include a researcher from a Widening country in my project team?

In order to strengthen the European Research Area, overcome the fragmentation of research in the ERA, a wide inclusion of research teams from countries/regions participating in the call is encouraged, with a particular attention to research teams from the Widening countries participating in the call:

Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia

and outermost regions: French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, Reunion Island and Saint-Martin (France), Azores and Madeira (Portugal) and the Canary Islands (Spain).

The projects involving partners from the Widening countries and/or projects demonstrating gender balance in the composition of Principal Investigators should be prioritised in the case of ex aequo proposals on the final ranking list.

Update: 25.07.2023

46. Does the Associate Partner count as one of the 4 to 6 Principal Investigators that must be included in the applying consortium?

An Associate Partner does not count towards the number of Principal Investigators. Each applying consortium should comprise a min. 4 and max. 6 Principal Investigators from a min. 4 countries participating in the call, and at least one Associate Partner.

47. Can a person representing the Associate Partner have an academic background?

Yes; however, they must represent a non-academic organisation and bring a non-academic perspective to the project.

48. How important is it to plan events such as workshops in the proposal?

Dissemination and communication activities can be put forward in the proposal and include workshops and travel costs, but these costs must be justified in the proposal. Please also consult national/regional eligibility requirements in order to check eligibility of costs for national/regional teams.

49. Can teaching buyouts be included in the project budget?

It depends on national/regional eligibility requirements. Please consult this document or contact your National Contact Point.

50. Are all project consortia required to include junior researcher(s)? Is there a preference for (a) named junior candidates or (b) posts selected in open competitions?

The call strongly encourages academic age balance to be taken into consideration when building project teams and involve researchers starting their career in project consortia. The structure of project consortia will be assessed by the Review Panel. Please check national/regional eligibility requirements for employing junior researchers (students, PhD students, post-doc) as they may differ between countries.

51. Are PhD students involved in the project required to complete their thesis within the project duration?

The call announcement does not pose such a requirement; however, please check national/regional eligibility requirements as additional provisions may apply on a national/regional level.

52. What is meant by “significance” of the research question?

The chosen research question presented in the proposal shall have a potential impact on the discipline.

53. Should the proposal embrace all the four topics included in the call theme or can it focus on just one?

Proposals can embrace one of the topics presented in the call announcement or more.

54. How is “humanities” defined in the call?

Broadly defined, “humanities” includes those disciplines that focus on the dynamics and legacies of human culture and history. Traditionally, this includes (but is not limited to) literary studies, languages, linguistics, history, philosophy, archaeology, comparative religion, art history, heritage studies, musicology, ethnology, film studies, media studies and digital humanities. It sometimes also includes disciplines like sociology, economics, geography, anthropology, psychology and law that overlap with the social sciences, particularly in cases where such disciplines employ humanities methodologies. For more information please check: <https://heranet.info/about-us/who-we-are/hera-vision-2018-2022/>.

55. Does a humanities focus mean that the person leading the application must have a degree in one of disciplines on the list provided in the HERA vision (listed above in question 54)?

Project Leaders or Principal Investigators, as well as members of the project team, don't have to have a degree in humanities. The Calls theme can be approached from a variety of perspectives, but it must be primarily focused on humanities methodology. The research question should be relevant to humanities.

56. Can the empirical cases analysed in the proposal be outside the countries participating in the call?

Yes, the proposal can include empirical cases from countries not participating in the call.

The research question/idea must stay relevant to the Call's topic as this is one of the criteria for evaluation of proposals by Review Panel.

57. How can we include non-academic partners in the project? Can they receive funding from the project and what types of costs can be covered?

Associate Partners cannot apply for funding directly from the Crisis call, although some funding organisations allow for costs to be applied for through partners in a project team. Please check national/regional eligibility requirements for detailed information on funding AP in different countries.

58. Can Cooperation Partners come only from countries not participating in the call?

Cooperation Partners can be from countries participating in the call but from organisations not eligible for funding in the Call, as well as from countries not participating in the call, including non-European countries.

59. What costs of Cooperation Partners can be covered from the project budget?

Cooperation Partners cannot receive funding directly from the Crisis call, but some funding organisations allow certain costs of Cooperation Partners to be covered from the project budget, e.g. travel and subsistence costs for attending project-related events as well as subcontracting. Please check national/regional eligibility requirements for more information: <https://chance.org/announcement-of-the-call-crisis-perspectives-from-the-humanities/>.

60. How important is it that the Project Leader has prior experience with project management or is it more important that the consortium as a whole has appropriate experience?

Who can be a PL?

The Project Leader should have solid experience of managing collaborative research projects. The implementation and management of the project along with the structure of the project consortium will be assessed by the Review Panel.

Project Leader is also one of Principal Investigators for their national team; therefore, please check national/regional eligibility requirements for more information on the requirements for the PI.

61. What is the definition of a "Ukrainian researcher"?

The Call encourages the involvement of Ukrainian researchers, especially those affiliated with a Ukrainian research institution or in exile in other countries. Some funding organisations (UK and Poland) offer special funding opportunities for Ukrainian researchers; please check national/regional eligibility requirements for more information.

62. Is it mandatory to include Ukrainian researchers in the proposal?

No, it is not mandatory to include Ukrainian researchers.

63. If in one application we have two PIs from different universities but from the same country, do they count as 1 PI or 2 PIs?

There can be only one PI per University/institution eligible for funding in one proposal but there can be more than one PI per country. For specific rules regarding participation of more than one PI per country in one proposal, please consult national/regional eligibility requirements.

64. In there a limit on the number of proposals submitted by one organisation?

There is no limit for applications per organisation.

65. Who completes the financial plan in the proposal – the PL or each PI?

Each PI, including the PL, should complete the financial plan for their national team in the EPSS system.

66. Will the CVs of Cooperation Partners be part of the assessment by the Review Panel?

CVs of Cooperation Partners are not required in the proposal. Applicants must, however, attach the letters of commitment from Cooperation Partners. The contribution of Associate Partners will be assessed by the Review Panel members.

67. The budget cap for submitted projects is EUR 1.5 million. Does the same cap apply to both 24- and 36-month projects?

The maximum budget of €1.5m is the same for 24-month and 36-month projects.

68. What is the smallest number of participants in a team led by one PI?

Each national team should include at least one PI. However, the call strongly encourages the involvement of researchers at different stages of their careers in national teams.

69. Will applicants know the exact reasons why the proposal was rejected after the outline proposal phase?

Yes, each Project Leader will receive a consensus report summarising the assessment of the proposal by the Review Panel, including the reasons for rejection in the case of rejected proposals.

70. Is every consortium expected to include at least one AP and one CP?

In each transnational consortium there must be at least one Associate Partner. The inclusion of Cooperation Partners is not mandatory.

71. Can Associate Partners come from a country not participating in the call?

Associate Partners can come from countries participating in the call, as well as from countries not participating in the call, including non-European countries. Please note, that no collaboration between the project consortium and Russian and/or Belarusian institutions is allowed

72. Can an organisation participating in a proposal as a PI also participate in the same proposal as an Associate Partner, if they also undertake knowledge exchange or public outreach activities?

No, if one organisation already has the role of PI in the application, it cannot also participate as Associate Partner in the same proposal.

73. Can you say more about the expected outcomes of the project?

The expected results include research outputs, such as articles, monographs, etc. In addition Knowledge Exchange outputs, such as exhibitions, concerts, policy briefs popular science articles or any activities co-created with non-academic stakeholders are also possible.,

74. Does the exclusion of “Russian entities” extend to proven dissidents? Does it extend to those in exile?

By Russian and Belarusian entities we consider those related to the Russian and Belarusian states. Russian and Belarusian dissidents can be included in the project team.