



NOSTRADAMUS

NOSTRADAMUS - Open Call #1

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)_V1.0



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NOSTRADAMUS Open Call #1: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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1. General Questions & Call Scope

What is the NOSTRADAMUS project?

Nostradamus (Data Cube and Copernicus data for Food Security and European Independence) is a EU-funded project under Horizon Europe (Grant Agreement No. 101134888). It aims to enhance the sustainability, competitiveness, and resilience of the European agricultural sector - specifically focusing on cereal-based systems and food security - by developing scalable, real-time Data Cube ecosystems and data-driven digital tools.

What is offered under Open Call #1?

Open Call #1 offers selected third-party innovators funding, technical onboarding, mentorship, and pilot testing infrastructure to develop, test, and validate open-source digital applications for farm decision-making. Up to 5 sub-projects will be funded with a fixed grant of **up to €50,000 per project**. Selected projects will participate in a structured **12-month, 4-Sprint Programme**.

What types of projects are expected?

Projects must develop, test, and validate multi-functional, open-source digital applications (utilizing cloud, edge, or hybrid edge-to-cloud architectures) that provide data-informed decision-support tools for farmers, advisors, cooperatives, and agri-industrial actors.

2. Eligibility & Participation Rules

Who can apply for Open Call #1?

Applications can be submitted by either an **individual legal entity** or a **consortium of a maximum of two (2) legal entities**. Eligible entity types include:

- **SMEs / Startups:** Fewer than 250 employees AND an annual turnover $\leq$ €50M (or balance sheet total $\leq$ €43M) (*as a sole applicant or as a Lead Beneficiary in a consortium of maximum two entities*).
- **Small Mid-caps:** Fewer than 499 employees AND an annual turnover $\leq$ €100M (or balance sheet total $\leq$ €86M) (*as a sole applicant or as a Lead Beneficiary in a consortium of maximum two entities*).



- **Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs) / Academia** (*as consortium partner only*).
- **Sectoral / End-users' Representation Organisations** (e.g., Farmers' Associations, Cooperatives, NGOs) (*as consortium partner only*).

Note: Natural persons (individuals), unincorporated startups, larger mid-caps (500–3,000 employees), and large enterprises/big corporates are strictly **ineligible**.

Can I apply as a single entity?

Yes, but if a single legal entity applies alone, **it must be a business entity** (Startup, SME, or Small Mid-cap) responsible for both providing and validating the technical solution.

How must a two-entity consortium be structured?

In a consortium application:

- The **Lead Beneficiary** must be a business entity (Startup, SME, or Small Mid-cap) responsible for the technical development.
- The **Second Partner** must be a research organization (RTO/University) or an end-user/sectoral representation organization (e.g., Farmers' Association, Cooperative) responsible for testing and validating the technology.

Which countries are eligible to receive funding?

Legal entities legally established in:

1. **EU Member States.**
2. **Horizon Europe Associated Countries** (as per the official EC updated list).

Entities must possess a valid VAT number (where required by national legislation) and a Participant Identification Code (PIC). Entities subject to EU restrictive measures (sanctions) are ineligible.

Can my organisation submit more than one application?

No. A legal entity may submit or participate in **only one proposal** in Open Call #1. If an organisation participates in multiple submissions (either as a sole applicant or as a consortium partner across parallel submissions), **all proposals involving that entity will be automatically disqualified**.



What is the required starting and target maturity level (TRL)?

Your proposed solution must enter the programme at a minimum maturity of **TRL 4 (Technology validated in lab)**. By the end of the 12-month programme (Sprint 4), the solution must achieve **TRL 7 (System prototype demonstration in operational environment)** at one of Nostradamus' pilot sites.

Are entities previously funded under sister Horizon Europe projects (e.g., OpenAgri, AGRARIAN) eligible?

Yes. Previous recipients of FSTP grants under sister projects are eligible. However, in accordance with EU Financial Regulations, **double funding for the same activities is strictly prohibited**. Pre-selected applicants will undergo a strict verification check during contracting to prove that the proposed activities and deliverables under Nostradamus are distinct and non-overlapping with previously funded work.

Am I eligible if I have a conflict of interest with the Nostradamus Consortium?

No. Applications will not be accepted from organisations or persons who are partners in the NOSTRADAMUS consortium or formally linked/affiliated with them. Applicants must formally declare the absence of actual or potential conflicts of interest.

3. Topics & Technical Requirements

What thematic topics are supported under Open Call #1?

Applicants must select **exactly one** of the following five pre-defined topics:

- **Topic 1 (T1):** Sustainable crop production and optimisation of cereal-based systems under changing climate and soil conditions (*Linked to Module 2: Crop Suitability*).
- **Topic 2 (T2):** Nutrient and soil health management, integrating soil fertility indicators, organic matter dynamics, and precision fertilisation models (*Linked to Module 3: Soil and Nutrition*).
- **Topic 3 (T3):** Water resource efficiency and drought resilience, using Early Warning System outputs and IoT soil moisture monitoring (*Linked to Module 1: Drought Monitoring*).
- **Topic 4 (T4):** Smart and predictive pest and disease management to reduce pesticide dependency (*Linked to Module 4: Pest Management*).



- **Topic 5 (T5 - Open Topic):** Integrated, cross-domain decision-support applications combining **at least two** of the topics T1–T4 (*Linked to a combination of corresponding core modules*).

How do I choose my Primary Demonstration Site and Replication Context?

When filling in your proposal, first you choose your Topic (T1-T5). Then you must select **ONE Primary Demonstration Site** from the country options assigned to your chosen topic:

- **T1:** Select Serbia OR Slovenia.
- **T2:** Select Slovenia OR Serbia.
- **T3:** Select Germany OR Switzerland.
- **T4:** Select Cyprus OR Germany.
- **T5:** Select ONE Primary Country among those available for your combined topics.

Your physical trials, field activities, and on-site demo events/workshops will take place **only** at this Primary Demonstration Site. The remaining country in the pair will automatically serve as your **Secondary Regional Context**, where you must conduct desktop/digital replication and transferability evaluations (no physical travel required).

What open-source and programming standards must my application follow?

- **Open Source:** Source code developed within the funded activities must be deposited in a public version-controlled repository (e.g., GitHub/GitLab) under an OSI-approved open-source license (e.g., MIT, Apache 2.0) following the principle "as open as possible, as closed as necessary" (Annex 1.1, REQ-POS-01 to REQ-POS-06). Repositories must include deployment/installation documentation, API documentation and requirements files. Credentials, access tokens, security keys, and confidential information and personal data must be excluded. Any legitimate restrictions (e.g., pre-existing IPR, security-sensitive information) must be justified.
- **Language & Runtime:** Applications interacting with the IoT Observatory must use the IoT Python SDK (Python 3.9+, MIT License), except for software/firmware running on constrained IoT devices. Data Cube integrations must use Applications using Nostradamus Data Cube data shall be developed in Python 3 inside within the reference Cube-in-a-Box container environment. (CiaB) environment (public container image ghcr.io/livingearthlab/cube-in-a-box, via the Nostradamus JupyterHub/JupyterLab service), using the standard Open Data Cube Python API



(e.g., dc.load). Solutions should remain portable across the execution options described in Annex 1.1, Section 3.3.2.

- **Interoperability:** Applications must adhere to the FAIR data principles, expose/consume data via documented REST APIs, and use relevant OGC/ISO standards. Indicative formats include GeoTIFF/Cloud Optimized GeoTIFF and NetCDF for EO data; GeoPackage and other standard geospatial formats (e.g., GeoJSON); CSV, JSON and XML for IoT and tabular data; and HDF5, TFRecord and ONNX for AI model outputs. Metadata shall, where applicable, comply with the INSPIRE Directive and use controlled vocabularies such as AGROVOC and GEMET. EO data discovery shall use the Nostradamus STAC-compliant catalogue. standard geospatial/EO formats (Cloud Optimized GeoTIFFs, NetCDF, GeoJSON) and metadata standards (STAC, INSPIRE, AGROVOC).

4. Funding & Eligible Costs

How much financial support can my project receive?

The maximum grant amount is **€50,000 lump sum per awarded project** (reimbursement rate of 100% of eligible costs).

What types of costs are eligible?

Eligible direct cost categories include:

- **Personnel costs.**
- **Travel & subsistence** (mandatory for attending demo events and site visits).
- **Equipment depreciation** (pro-rated for actual project use over the 12 months).
- **Software licenses, hardware, and data.**
- **Other direct costs** (consumables, workshop catering, C&D materials).
- **Indirect costs:** Applied as a flat rate of **25%** on total direct eligible costs.

Note: Subcontracting is strictly **NOT** eligible in Open Call #1.

How and when will payments be disbursed?

Funding is disbursed in **4 lump sum tranches** at the end of each Sprint upon formal review and approval of required deliverables/milestones:



1. **Sprint 1 (Training - Month 2):** 10% of grant.
2. **Sprint 2 (Design - Month 4):** 25% of grant.
3. **Sprint 3 (Development & Validation - Month 10):** 40% of grant.
4. **Sprint 4 (Demonstration & Assessment - Month 12):** 25% of grant.

5. Application & Submission Process

Where and how do I submit my proposal?

Proposals must be submitted **exclusively online** via the **F6S platform portal**: <https://www.f6s.com/nostradamus-open-call-1/apply>. Submissions sent by email, paper, or any other means will be automatically rejected.

What is the submission deadline?

The deadline for submitting applications is **02 December 2026 at 17:00 CET (Brussels time)**.

I missed the submission deadline. Can I still submit late via email or any other form?

No. Late submissions will not be accepted.

What documents must I submit?

During the application phase, you must submit:

1. **Online F6S Application Form (Annex 2.1 model):** Filled directly on the platform.
2. **Technical Proposal (Annex 2 template):** Completed, converted to **PDF format**, and uploaded to the F6S platform.

(Administrative documents like the Declaration of Honour, SME Declaration, etc. are only required if your project is selected for funding during the contracting phase).

Do I have to use the official Proposal Template (Annex 2)?

Yes. All applicants must use the official Proposal Template available on <https://nostradamus-project.eu/open-call-1/>. Proposals submitted outside the official template, or documents submitted in place of the required proposal template, will be considered ineligible and will not be evaluated.



Is there a page limit for the Technical Proposal (Annex 2)?

Yes. The maximum length for the Technical Proposal (Annex 2) is **20 pages**. Excess pages beyond the 20-page limit will be disregarded by evaluators.

Can I edit or resubmit my application after submitting?

You can save draft versions and update your application on F6S at any time prior to the deadline. Once submitted through the Open Calls Portal applications are **final**.

If you need to re-open a submitted application, you must request it at least **2 business days before the deadline** by emailing opencall@nostradamus-project.eu with the subject line *"RESUBMISSION REQUEST"*. However, a resubmission is not guaranteed so the applicants are strongly advised to carefully follow all instructions and submit only when the proposal is checked and finalized. In case of proposal being reopened by the support team on the platform upon explicit request (as described above) the resubmission within the Open Call deadline remains in the sole responsibility of the applicant.

Can I submit the proposal in a language other than English?

No. Proposals must be written in English to a full extent. If any part of the proposal is written in any language other than English, the entire proposal will be rejected. English is the only official language during the whole procedure of the NOSTRADAMUS Open Calls. Any requested deliverables and/or reports shall be submitted only in English, otherwise not accepted.

6. Evaluation, Selection & Contracting

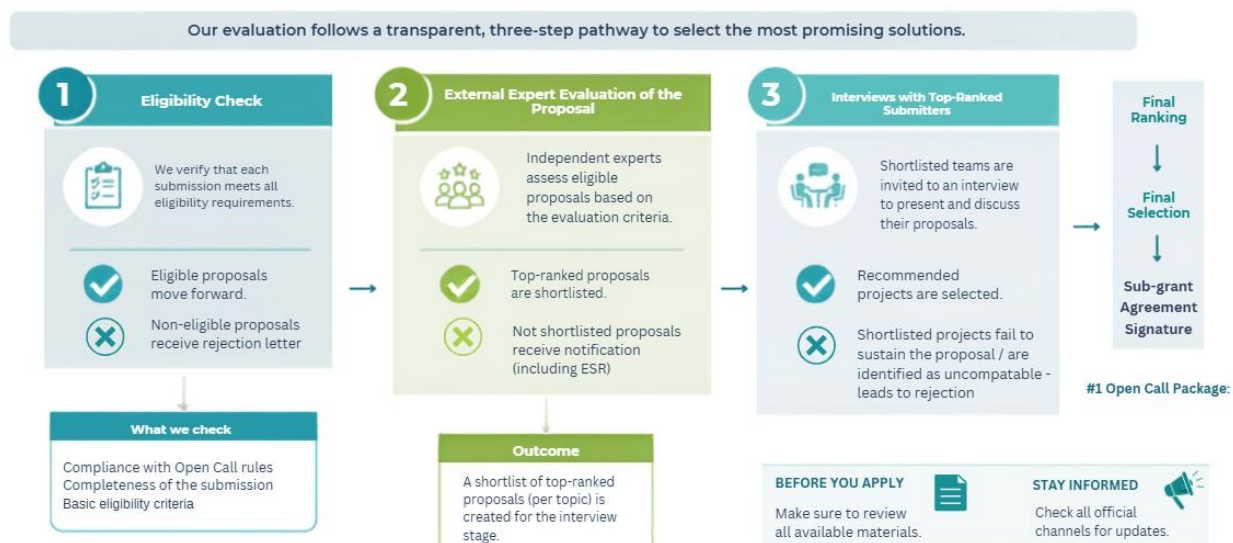
How will proposals be evaluated?

Evaluation follows a 3-step competitive pathway:

1. **Admissibility & Eligibility Check:** Administrative screening by the Open Call Team against call requirements.
2. **External Remote Evaluation:** Independent evaluation by two expert reviewers based on 4 criteria scored 0 to 5: **Alignment, Excellence, Impact, and Implementation**.
3. **Online Interviews:** Top-ranked applicants (top 3 per topic) are invited to pitch their project and answer technical questions from the evaluators and technical consortium partners.



NOSTRADAMUS Open Call #1 – NOSTRADAMUS OPEN CALL #1 SUBMISSION AND EVALUATION PROCESS



What are the evaluation score thresholds?

To be eligible for funding, a proposal must achieve a minimum score of **3 out of 5 for each individual criterion** and an **overall score threshold of at least 12 out of 20**.

How are ties broken during ranking?

In the case of equal scores, tie-breakers are applied in the following priority order:

1. Score in **Impact**.
2. Score in **Alignment**.
3. Score in **Excellence**.
4. Score in **Implementation**.
5. Gender balance within the project team closest to a 50/50 ratio.

How is budget allocated across topics?

Open Call #1 aims at the selection and funding of **at least 1 top-ranked proposal in EACH of the 5 pre-defined topics (T1–T5)**. Any unallocated budget from proposals requesting under €50,000 will be pooled into a Residual Call Budget and allocated sequentially to top



reserve-list proposals under **Topic 5**, and subsequently to the global reserve list across T1–T4 (upon the condition that the funds available are sufficient to cover the requested budget).

Can I appeal the evaluation decision?

Yes. Applicants may submit a formal request for review within **3 working days** of receiving an eligibility rejection letter or Evaluation Summary Report (ESR). Appeals must be sent to opencall@nostradamus-project.eu and must focus on procedural irregularities or factual errors, not on the technical judgment of expert evaluators.

What happens after my project is selected for funding?

Selected applicants will enter a **contracting phase**. You will undergo Know Your Customer (KYC) identity checks, submit administrative proof of legal existence and SME status (Annexes 3.1, 3.2, 4), submit bank account details, and sign the official **Sub-Grant Agreement (Annex 5)** with the Project Coordinator (ECoE).

7. The 12-Month Implementation Programme & Support

What is expected during the 12-Month Sprint Programme?

Sub-projects execute their work across 4 sequential Sprints:

- **Sprint 1: Training & Onboarding (Months 1–2 / Project M33–M34):** Mandatory completion of ≥ 10 hours of technical training on Data Cubes, IoT Observatory, and architectures, etc. delivering a Use Case Brief.
- **Sprint 2: Design & User Specification (Months 3–4 / Project M35–M36):** Co-creation with Multi-Actor Platforms (MAPs) to finalize functional specs and deployment strategy.
- **Sprint 3: Development & Validation (Months 5–10 / Project M37–M42):** Core development and prototype testing integrated with Data Cubes/IoTO.
- **Sprint 4: Demonstration & Assessment (Months 11–12 / Project M43–M44):** On-site demonstration event (min. 10 participants), third-party-led training, delivering an EIP-AGRI Practice Abstract and Exploitation Plan.

What mentorship and technical helpdesk support will be provided?

Each sub-project is assigned a **Primary Domain Mentor** based on their topic:

- **T1: BioSense Institute (BIOS)**



- **T2:** Innovation Technology Cluster (ITC)
- **T3:** German Aerospace Center (DLR)
- **T4:** ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence (ECoE)
- **T5:** Assigned based on combined domains

Additionally, sub-projects have on-demand access to the Nostradamus **Technical Helpdesk Pool** (AUTH for Software Architecture & AGE, UNIGE for Data Cubes, Terradue for EO Services, AgFutura/HSG for market/socio-economic models, and F6S for C&D&E and administrative reporting).

What communication and visibility rules must sub-projects follow?

Beneficiaries must:

- Display the **EU emblem** and official funding statement on all materials and software interfaces.
- Publish at least **one (1) social media post per month** using #NostradamusProject.
- Participate in **1 guest appearance on the official NOSTRADAMUS Podcast Series**.
- Produce **1 promotional/demonstration video** showcasing the operational application.
- Author at least **1 Practice Abstract in EIP-AGRI common format** for publication on EU-FarmBook.

8. Contacts & Support

Where can I ask questions about the Open Call?

Questions must be posted directly in the **Discussion board** of the Open Call F6S Platform [here](#) or sent via email to: opencall@nostradamus-project.eu].

The Open Call Team aims to respond within **48 hours (working days)**. Please note that complex or highly technical inquiries requiring alignment with consortium partners may take additional time to address.

Please be informed that questions posted on the discussion board or submitted via email during the **final two days** of the submission period may not be considered or answered. For



Open Call #1, the deadline to submit questions with a guaranteed response is **30 November 2026** at 17:00 CET.

- **Official Website:** <https://nostradamus-project.eu/>
- **Open Call Email Support:** opencall@nostradamus-project.eu
- **Application Portal:** [F6S Nostradamus Programme Page](#)
- **F6S Technical Platform Support:** support@f6s.com