NOSTRADAMUS

NOSTRADAMUS Open Call #1

Annex 1 - Guidelines for Applicants, v_1.0

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1. What is Nostradamus?

Nostradamus is an ambitious EU-funded project aimed at enhancing the sustainability and competitiveness of the agricultural sector. Fully aligned with the EU's Farm to Fork strategy, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), and the European strategy for data, our mission is to revolutionise agriculture through advanced data-driven solutions, while guarding EU Food Security.

To achieve this, Nostradamus is developing a scalable, real-time one-stop-shop that automates the collection, processing, and analysis of valuable agricultural data. By seamlessly integrating satellite and Internet of Things (IoT) data streams across European and national datasets, the project facilitates the creation of innovative digital tools and geospatial insights. Ultimately, these solutions empower farmers with actionable intelligence to optimise yields, reduce resource consumption, and significantly improve environmental outcomes.

A relevant portion of the Nostradamus project budget has been allocated to Financial Support for Third Parties (FSTP). Through two Open Calls, the project envisions the **integration of digital applications for farm decision-making and agribusiness** in Open Call #1, aiming to accelerate the adoption of solutions that enhance operational efficiency. Additionally, Open Call #2 will support digital applications for policy creation and evaluation, fostering advancements that streamline and improve policymaking processes. These Open Calls will further involve the community, generating additional metrics and outcomes to support the project's goals.

Nostradamus TEAM / Partners

FIGURE 1. NOTRADAMUS PARTNERS

The NOSTRADAMUS project is driven by a dynamic consortium of 16 expert partners spanning 10 European countries, united in their commitment to transforming the agricultural sector through cutting-edge digital solutions. Leveraging extensive experience in managing and executing EU Horizon projects, this diverse group of innovators provides the foundational expertise required for the project's successful implementation. A visual overview of the participating organisations is provided below, and further details regarding each partner's specific role and background can be found on the NOSTRADAMUS Consortium page.

2. What is the NOSTRADAMUS Open Call #1 Offer?

The **Nostradamus Open Call #1** is the competitive process by which eligible applicants apply to have access to the NOSTRADAMUS Programme. The Open Call goal is to enable the extension of

the Nostradamus' technology offer beyond consortium partners, by engaging Third Parties towards the integration of their solutions.

The Open Call # 1 aims to engage different systems actors / innovators, including small mid-caps, SMEs, start-ups, research and technology organisations (RTOs), etc. for the **development, testing and validation of 5 (five) open-source digital applications (in the form of edge/cloud/mixed architecture)** with capacity to support decision making and make these available for testing and validating new services/applications supporting additional use cases scenarios.

As such, the Nostradamus Open Call #1 will fund **5 (five) Third-Parties projects (solutions)** that support the design, development, and delivery of open-source digital applications enhancing sustainable and efficient agricultural production systems, with a specific focus on cereal-based systems and food security.

The selected Third Parties from the Open Call #1 are expected to develop **digital applications for farm decision making** applying data-based solutions in agricultural production. Using data-based solutions, farmers will optimise inputs such as water, fertiliser, and pesticides, improving the energy balance of agricultural production. See *Annex 1.1 Technical specification* for technical details on the components.

The Nostradamus Programme is organised in **4 sprints** with a total duration of **12 months**: Sprint 1 Training (M1-2), Sprint 2 Design (M3-4), Sprint 3 Development and Validation (M5-10) and Sprint 4 Demonstration and Assessment (M11-12).

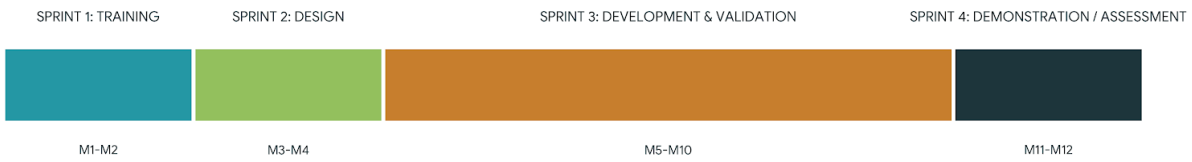

FIGURE 2. NOSTRADAMUS PROGRAMME, 12 MONTHS TIMELINE

During these phases, beneficiaries will receive mentor's support and guidance. The assigned mentor/s will also monitor the selected projects progress and facilitate communication with technical partners.

The Open Call #1 will select **5 (five) applications**, each addressing one of the topics defined in Section 3.1.3, providing a maximum contribution of **50.000€ per project,** to be paid in form of lump sums at the end of each sprint (10% + 25% + 40% + 25%).

Benefits to Third Parties

The selected projects in the NOSTRADAMUS Open Call #1 will have early access to:

- infrastructure, tools and resources;
- training activities, tutorials, mentors, and webinars;
- mentorship, experts and key ecosystem stakeholders;
- use-cases to pilot their solutions;
- other use-cases (sharing knowledge and experience).

Call Governance and Focal Points:

The Nostradamus Open Call #1 is organized and implemented by the Nostradamus Consortium under the authority of the European Research Executive Agency (REA).

- **Project Coordinator (ECoE):** The ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence (ECoE) is the overall Project Coordinator responsible for grant administration and the signature of Sub-Grant Agreements with pre-selected beneficiaries.
- **Open Call Manager (F6S):** F6S Network Ireland Limited (F6S) leads Work Package 6 (WP6) and acts as the Open Call Manager. F6S operates the electronic submission portal (*https://www.f6s.com/nostradamus-project*), manages applicant communications, and oversees the evaluation and selection process.
- **Monitoring Committee (MC):** A dedicated committee comprising technical, business, and domain experts from the Nostradamus Consortium to oversee selection criteria and ensure evaluation quality and transparency.

Relevant Links and Contacts

- Project website: https://nostradamus-project.eu/
- Open call application form: *https://www.f6s.com/nostradamus-open-call-1/apply*
- Applications to the Open Call will be accepted from **29 September 2026** until **02 December 2026, 17:00 CET (Brussels time)**. After the selection is completed, selected applicants will be invited to sign the Sub-grant Agreement and enter the NOSTRADAMUS Programme.
- Contact us: ***opencall@nostradamus-project.eu***

3. Who Can Apply and How?

All applicants and consortia must meet all the requirements described in this section to be eligible for the Nostradamus Open Call #1

3.1 Eligibility Criteria

3.1.1. Eligible Applicants

3.1.1.1. Type of Applicants

Applicants can submit their applications as either an **individual organisation/entity** or **as a consortium comprising a maximum of two (2) entities**.

Eligible applicants for the NOSTRADAMUS Open Call #1 are:

- Individual legal entities or consortia of maximum 2 (two) legal entities, which can be systems actors/innovators (**small mid-caps, SMEs and start-ups**), **research organisations** (RTOs or academia) or **sectoral / end-users' representation organisations**.
- In case of one legal entity applying **alone**, it needs to be a business entity (**small mid-caps, SME or start-up**): providing and validating the proposed solution. All applicants in this case must fall into one of the following two categories, based on standard European Commission criteria:
    - **SME / Start-up**: Fewer than 250 employees AND an annual turnover not exceeding €50 million (or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding €43 million).
    - **Small Mid-cap**: Fewer than 499 employees AND an annual turnover not exceeding €100 million (or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding €86 million).

Important information and relevant notes:

- *Please consult the EU SME Definition for details on what constitutes an SME.*
- *A signed version of the Declaration of Honour and the SME Declaration will be requested during the contract preparation phase.*

- ***Note:*** *Unincorporated startups are not eligible. All entities participating in the Open Call must be registered with a verifiable VAT (if required by legislation).*
- ***Note:*** *Proposals submitted by larger mid-caps (500 to 3,000 employees), large enterprises/big corporates, or natural persons are not eligible and will be automatically rejected.*

3.1.1.2. Consortium Eligibility

In case of a consortium application, the Lead Beneficiary must be a business entity providing the proposed solution (**small mid-caps, SME or start-up**), while the second partner can be: **research organisation** or a **sectoral representation organisation -** legal entity representing the potential end-users' groups (e.g. Farmers' association, Agricultural cooperatives, etc.).

In case of consortium application of two legal entities, the partners must appoint one partner as the **Lead Beneficiary.** In this case, the Lead Beneficiary will be responsible for the technical developments, while the second consortium partner will need to be a research organization or (representative of) end-users' group/sectoral representation organization, responsible to test and/or validate the technical developments.

In this case, the signed *Annex 3.2: Consortium Declaration on Honour (template)* is a mandatory document that the selected Lead Beneficiary must submit during **the contracting phase** to finalize the Sub-grant Agreement. Actual submission is only required if your proposal is selected for funding.

3.1.1.3. SME Eligibility

A SME following the EU definition by the Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC and in the SME user guide.

Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are considered eligible ONLY if complying with the European Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC and the SME user guide. In summary, the criteria which define an SME are:

a. The headcount in the Annual Work Unit (AWU) is less than 250.
b. Annual turnover less or equal to €50 million OR annual balance sheet total less or equal to €43 million.

Startups that do not have yet annual turnover or balance sheets are also considered eligible given that they fulfil the criteria (a) and (b) at submission time.

In addition, the following conditions apply:

- The applying SMEs should not:
  - have convictions for fraudulent behaviour, other financial irregularities, or unethical or illegal business practices.
  - have been declared bankrupt or have initiated bankruptcy procedures.
  - Be under liquidation or an enterprise under difficulty according to the Commission Regulation No 651/2014, art. 2.18.
  - Be excluded from the possibility of obtaining EU funding under the provisions of both national and EU law, or by a decision of both national or EU authority.
- Proposals must ensure that there is no risk of double funding. The fundamental principle underpinning the rules for public expenditure in the EU states that no costs for the same activity can be funded twice from the EU budget, as defined in Article 111 of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation.

3.1.2. Eligible Locations of Applicants

Eligible countries that may receive funding through this Open Call are legal entities from:

- European Union Member States[1], with a valid VAT and PIC number (if applicable).
- Horizon Europe associated countries (those that have signed an agreement with the EU as identified in the *HE Programme Guide*) according to the updated list published by the European Commission.

The NOSTRADAMUS Open Call #1 follows the rules applied by the EC for the R&D Programme Horizon Europe in terms of geographical coverage, eligibility, and exclusions, which take precedence.

3.1.3. Types of Projects to be Funded

The NOSTRADAMUS Open Call #1 aims to fund innovative projects that develop digital applications supporting data-based and sustainable decision making in agricultural production.

The Open Call is structured in **5 (five)** pre-defined **topics** that are representing different thematic domains according to the project focus and priorities. The applications must **directly address** one of the designated technical topics/domains.

Therefore, the applicants are required to **select one of the topics** presented in TABLE 1 and further detailed in *Annex 1.1 Technical specification.*

TABLE 1. TOPICS OF THE NOSTRADAMUS OPEN CALL #1

TOPIC NAME (thematic domain)	
T1	Sustainable crop production and optimisation of cereal-based systems under changing climate and soil conditions.
T2	Nutrient and soil health management, integrating soil fertility indicators, organic matter dynamics, and precision fertilisation models
T3	Water resource efficiency and drought resilience, using the Early Warning System outputs and IoT-based soil moisture monitoring.
T4	Smart and predictive pest and disease management to support the EU objective of reducing pesticide dependency and enhancing sustainability.
T5	**Open topic**: Integrated, cross-domain decision-support applications combining multiple topics *(an open proposal from the applicants for an application that combines at least 2 of the previous topics T1-T4)*

The NOSTRADAMUS Open Call #1 will look to ensure a balanced distribution of applications among topics. The consortium will strive to select **(minimum) one application** in each topic. More applications in a certain domain can be selected if the available budget allows for it. Specific rules are defined in Section 4.

In addition, proposals must plan to develop, test, and validate a digital application utilizing the NOSTRADAMUS platform architecture within a Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 4–7 window.

Applicants are **mandatorily required** to consult and align their proposals with *Annex 1.1 Technical specification* for the: OC#1 objectives, exhaustive list of topics, detailed requirements and expectations (incl. starting and achieved during the Programme TRL level), the full 12-month programme activities, and the list of available support services.

[1] https://european-union.europa.eu/principles-countries-history/eu-countries_en#header_countries_list

3.1.4. Multiple Submissions

The NOSTRADAMUS Open Call #1 will accept a maximum of **one application** per applicant in this call. A legal entity may submit (or participate as a partner in consortium) in only one proposal per open call.

If an entity submits multiple proposals as a sole applicant or participates in different consortia across parallel submissions within this call, all proposals involving that entity will be **automatically disqualified**.

Resubmission is possible provided the call deadline has not passed but is only guaranteed if requested at least 2 business days before the deadline as explained in point 3.3.3. below.

The project concept must be **completely unique** to the Nostradamus scope. Reworking a product/service that is already receiving active EU funding elsewhere is also ineligible for this call (Double Funding risk). If such information becomes available during the evaluation phase (or during the follow-up phases like KYC check, contracting, onboarding, etc.), the proposal will be automatically disqualified.

3.1.5. Conflict of Interest

IMPORTANT: To avoid conflicts of interest, applications will not be accepted from persons or organisations who are partners in the NOSTRADAMUS consortium or who are formally linked in any way to partners of the consortium. Please check the list of partners at *https://nostradamus-project.eu/* .

Applicants must not have any actual and/or potential conflict of interest with the NOSTRADAMUS selection process and during the project implementation. All cases of conflict of interest will be assessed case by case. More details on this matter are provided in section 7.2 below.

3.1.6. Eligibility Checklist

The following eligibility criteria will apply during the admissibility and eligibility check step of the evaluation of the received proposals:

TABLE 2. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA APPLYING FOR THE NOSTRADAMUS OPEN CALL #1

#	ELIGIBILITY CRITERION	REQUIREMENT DETAILS in NOSTRADAMUS Open Call #1	CHECKLIST
1	**Submission Platform**	Proposals must be submitted ONLY through the designated F6S platform.	YES/NO
2	**Submission deadline**	The proposal must be submitted before the official deadline: **02.12.2026 at 17:00 CET** (Brussels time).	YES/NO
3	**Language**	The entire proposal, including all required documentation, must be submitted ONLY in English.	YES/NO
4	**Official Template**	The proposal must strictly follow the provided official Technical Proposal Template (Annex 2.1)	YES/NO
5	**Completeness**	The application must be complete, including all requested administrative data, obligatory supporting documents requested in the F6S platform, as well as all the required information filled in throughout the sections of the proposal template.	YES/NO
6	**Thematic Alignment**	The proposed project must be clearly aligned with NOSTRADAMUS Open Call #1 goals and directly contribute to one of the pre-defined **topics** (thematic domains).	YES/NO
7	**Legal Status and Country**	The applicant entity(ies) must be legally established in an EU Member State (MS) or an Associated Country to	YES/NO

		Horizon Europe (check the list *here*) with a valid VAT number (where applicable).	
8	**Exclusion from Funding**	The applicant/s must not be a big corporate or a larger mid-cap (i.e., not qualifying as an SME or small mid-caps).	YES/NO
9	**Multiple submissions**	One proposal per involved organisation (applicant) is envisaged (an applying legal entity is involved in only one proposal submitted in the NOSTRADAMUS Open Call #1).	YES/NO
10	**Conflict of Interest**	Applicants must not have any conflict of interest with the NOSTRADAMUS Consortium, and/or the selection process. Please read section 7.2. Conflict of Interest.	YES/NO
11	**EU Sanctions**	Entities subject to EU restrictive measures (sanctions) under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) are ineligible to participate as recipients of FSTP funding.	YES/NO
12	**Budget limit**	Max grant is €50,000 per project.	YES/NO
13.1	**Type of applicants and number of participants limitation**	Applicants can be legal entities like **small mid-caps, SMEs, start-ups** or **research organisations** or **sectoral / end-users' representation organisations.** Application is submitted by a single entity or by a consortium of **max. 2 entities**. *Individuals (natural persons), larger mid-caps and big corporates/large enterprises are not eligible applicants in this call.*	YES/NO YES/NO
13.2	**SME involvement, consortium composition and obligatory role assignment**	In case of one legal entity applying alone, it must be a business entity (**small mid-caps, SME or start-up**). In case of a consortium application, the Lead Beneficiary must be a business entity providing the proposed solution (**small mid-caps, SME or start-up**), while the second partner could be: **research organisation** or a **sectoral representation organisations -** legal entity representing the potential end-users' groups.	YES/NO YES/NO
14	**Maturity (TRL)**	The proposed solution must demonstrate a starting Technology Readiness Level of at least TRL 4.	YES/NO
15	**Fixed grant duration**	The proposal has a fixed duration of 12 months.	YES/NO

3.2. Funding Conditions

3.2.1. General Rules

Any entity, applying individually or as part of a consortium, will only be considered for funding **once**.

Each application may receive a maximum of up to **€50.000 (fifty thousand Euros)**. Any application exceeding this amount will be automatically considered ineligible at the eligibility check stage.

The total amount requested (not exceeding the amount specified above) must represent 100% of the project costs (including indirect costs). All applications will be required to provide a justification of the planned costs and resources of the project.

Funding is foreseen to support the following categories of costs:

- Project management;
- Research and technical development;
- Testing and piloting;
- Communication, promotion, and exploitation;
- Travel (as required).

The type of costs that may be reported include human resources, other direct costs (such as travel, consumables, equipment), and indirect costs (25% of personnel and other direct costs). Subcontracting **is not** eligible in this open call.

Funds will be disbursed in lump sums at the end of each of the four sprints ((10% + 25% + 40% + 25%) and pending the achievement of agreed milestones and deliverables (see *Section 6.2 Funds, Reporting and Payment*).

In compliance with the principles of open competition, transparency, and sound financial management, entities that have previously received or are currently receiving Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) under sister Horizon Europe projects (such as **OpenAgri**[2] or **AGRARIAN**[3]) are **fully eligible** to apply for and receive funding under the Nostradamus Open Calls.

However, in accordance with EU Financial Regulations, **the same action or activity cannot receive double funding** from the EU budget. Applicants who have been awarded grants under sister projects (or any other EU/national funding scheme) must explicitly declare this funding in their application form.

Should an applicant previously funded by OpenAgri, AGRARIAN, or similar initiatives be selected for funding under Nostradamus, the Nostradamus Consortium will conduct a verification check prior to the signature of the Sub-Grant Agreement. The pre-selected applicant will be required to provide supporting evidence (such as the project scope, technical specifications, or Description of Action of the previously funded project) demonstrating that the activities, deliverables, and products proposed under Nostradamus are **distinct, complementary, and non-overlapping** with previously funded work. Failure to demonstrate the distinct nature of the proposed activities will lead to the rejection of the proposal or cancellation of the grant award.

3.2.2. Eligible Costs

FSTP (Financial Support to Third Parties) costs will be awarded under a **'lump sum model'**. Eligible costs will include:

- **Personnel costs**
- **Other goods, works and services**. Purchases of other goods, works and services must be calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred. Such goods, works and services include, for instance, consumables and supplies, promotion, dissemination, protection of results, translations, publications, certificates and financial guarantees, if required under the Agreement.
- **Travel costs** are eligible for funding only when they are explicitly necessary and justified for the successful execution and required dissemination of the project. These costs must be tied to:
    - Specific project activities defined in the proposal (e.g., travel for community engagement, co-creation workshops, training, dissemination events or solution deployment/testing).

[2] **OPEN AGRI:** Democratising digital farming through tailored open source and open hardware solutions; project website: https://horizon-openagri.eu/

[3] **AGRARIAN:** SpAce-AIr-Ground Last Mile InfRastructure & Dynamic PrOgrAmmable DistRibuted EnvIronment For Edge FArmiNg; project website: https://agrarian-project.eu/

- Mandatory engagement activities, such as attending stakeholder meetings essential for the project's success. Applicants **must consult the specific *Annex 1.1 Technical specification*** to identify all mandatory travel activities and allocate funds accordingly:
  i. Mandatory Events: The budget must include costs for attendance at the NOSTRADAMUS events/visits/training at demo-sites.
  ii. Sprint-Specific Requirements: Applicants are directed to carefully check the communication and attendance requirements detailed within each Sprint of the specific *Annex 1.1 Technical specification*. Ensure your budget reflects travel expenses for all mandatory events and activities outlined in that Annex.

- **Equipment.** Purchases of equipment, infrastructure or other assets used for the action must be declared as depreciation costs, calculated on the basis of the costs actually incurred and written off in accordance with international accounting standards and the beneficiary's usual accounting practices. Only the portion of the costs that corresponds to the rate of actual use for the action during the action duration can be taken into account. Costs for renting or leasing equipment, infrastructure or other assets are also eligible, if they do not exceed the depreciation costs of similar equipment, infrastructure or assets and do not include any financing fees.
- **Software, hardware and data** justified for the needs of the project implementation.
- Access to and use of **infrastructure** justified for the needs of the project.
- **Audio/visual products** and other communication activities related to the project
- **Indirect costs** are limited to a flat rate of 25% of the total eligible direct costs for the action.

Subcontracting **is not** eligible in this Open Call.

Checking the consistency between these costs and the expected work of the Third-party project will be part of the evaluation process.

The total grant requested by the Third Party /Third-party Consortium will represent up to **100%** of the total costs of the project.

3.3. Application Process and Timeline

3.3.1 Open Call Documents

The **F6S platform** will be the **single-entry point** for all applications to the NOSTRADAMUS Open Call #1. Applicants are required to register a profile at F6S (***www.f6s.com***) to submit a proposal.

All Open Call #1 documents are available (for download) on the project website *HERE*: https://nostradamus-project.eu/open-call-1/. These are:

TABLE 3. LIST OF OC #1 DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD

NOSTRADAMUS OPEN CALL #1
Documents MANDATORY to READ to design a proposal
Annex 1 Guidelines for applicants_v1.0
Annex 1.1A Technical specification_v1.0
Documents MANDATORY to SUBMIT during the application phase (deadline: 02.12.2026 17:00 CET Brussels time)

Annex 2 Technical Proposal (template)_v1.0
Annex 2.1 Application form at the F6S Platform (model)_v1.0 ***(The form is extracted as a document for reference purpose only. The application form should be directly filled at the F6S platform.)***
Documents REQUIRED for contracting phase with the selected projects
Annex 3.1: Declaration of Honour - Non-Individuals (template)_v1.0
Annex 3.2: Consortium Declaration on Honour (template)_v1.0 (if applicable – two organisations apply)
Annex 4: SME Declaration (template)_v1.0 (when applicable – SME applies)
Annex 5: Sub-grant Agreement (template)_v1.0

Proposals must strictly follow the F6S application form, which defines the exact sections, and required Annexes; failure to **read and meticulously answer all questions** within the F6S platform will render the submission ineligible.

3.3.2 Timeline

The submission date for applications is **final**. All other relevant timings for the application process are provided in **Error! Reference source not found.**4 but are subject to change.

TABLE 4. APPLICATION PROCESS AND TIMELINE

Phase	Description	Timeline
Application	Fill in and submit application including: • Application form on F6S [*link*]. • Technical Proposal (template), Annex 2 [*link*]	**Launch date:** 29 September 2026 **Submission deadline**: 02 December 2026 (17h00 CET)
Eligibility & Technical check	The NOSTRADAMUS Consortium performs internal checks to verify the eligibility criteria of the applications.	By 31 December 2026
Application evaluation	An evaluation board reviews the received applications, scoring them based on the evaluation criteria. The evaluators rank the applications and select the top-ranked projects in online interviews.	By 31 January 2027
Online interviews	Applicants (top-ranked) pitch the project to the evaluators, and the evaluators ask questions about elements they want to clarify regarding the application.	By 26 February 2027
Announcement of the results	All applicants receive a written letter about approval or rejection of their project.	By 31 March 2027
Contracting and onboarding of the selected projects	The successful projects start the onboarding phase in the NOSTRADAMUS Programme.	April 2027

While we are committed to adhering to the published schedule, applicants should be aware that certain timelines and specifications may be subject to necessary revision. Any such change will be handled transparently and formally announced.

Possible **reasons for timeline adjustments** include but are not limited to:

- **Volume of Applications Received:** If the number of submitted applications significantly exceeds initial projections, additional time may be required to guarantee a thorough and equitable administrative check and evaluation process.
- **Evaluation Logistics:** Unexpected circumstances that necessitate adjusting the required effort or capacity needed for the evaluation phase, such as the scheduling availability of specialized technical reviewers.
- **Expert Availability:** Unforeseen withdrawal or unavailability of key experts from the evaluation pool, requiring additional time for training, onboarding, or securing suitable replacements.
- **Unforeseen Circumstances:** External events or technical issues.

Applicants are **solely responsible** for staying informed of all official updates. Any changes to deadlines will be communicated through the project official website: https://nostradamus-project.eu

3.3.3. Other Application Requirements and Considerations

- **Submission**: Applications must be submitted via this form *https://www.f6s.com/nostradamus-open-call-1/apply*. Any other submission method will not be accepted.
- **Complete application:** All mandatory questions must be answered, and all requested documents must be uploaded. Incomplete applications will be disqualified. Applicants are responsible for ensuring the documents they upload are correct and readable. A technical proposal with a total number of pages beyond the defined limit (20 pages) may disqualify the sections under evaluation falling outside of the limit. Any change to a document requiring a resubmission must be done within the defined deadline as indicated below. Any unreadable/corrupt documents will be disqualified.
- **Accept terms:** Applicants must agree to the Open Call's terms and conditions.
- **English language:** All applications and programme communication must be in English.
- **Document format**: Unless otherwise agreed, all documents in all phases must be submitted electronically in PDF format without printing restrictions.
- **Document naming**: All required documents, including the technical proposal, should include the project acronym. Documents must not include any special characters (e.g. #!+<>^|*) as these may make it unreadable/corrupt. In such cases, the application may be disqualified, and resubmission will not be accepted after the call closure.
- **Deadline:**
    - Be on time: Make sure you submit your proposal through the F6S platform before the deadline of **02 December 2026, 17:00 CET**. If you submit the form correctly, the system will send you a confirmation of your submission (please check your SPAM folder as well).
    - Failure to submit the application by the submission deadline, regardless of cause (e.g., network issues, multiple browsers or windows), is not acceptable as an extenuating circumstance. It is recommended to apply well before the deadline.
    - **Resubmissions** are possible provided the call deadline has not passed but are only guaranteed if requested at least 2 business days before the deadline. For this purpose, please contact **opencall@nostradamus-project.eu** with a message titled: RESUBMISSION REQUEST.
    - The deadline may be extended only in case of unforeseen F6S platform technical issues or administrative necessity. All applicants will be notified of the new deadline.
- **Review future documents:** Applicants are encouraged to get familiar with the documents that will be required in the contracting phase (see Section 5 "What happens after selection?"What Happens After Selection?).
- **Notifications:** Applicants are encouraged to enable F6S notifications for the programme in their profile settings to ensure communications regarding their application are received.

- **Applicants list:** A full list of applicants containing their basic information will be created for statistical and transparency purposes and shared with the European Commission.
- **Binding information**: In the unlikely occurrence of a contradiction between the information provided via the OC channels (e-mail, webinars or other means) and the information included in the Guidelines for Applicants, the latter is binding.
- **F6S application:** The F6S platform allows you to work flexibly on the content, which is automatically saved once you progress filling out the form. You may save your application as a draft and return to it at any time before the submission deadline. Applications can be edited and updated until they are finally submitted. All members of your team can have access to the application form and contribute to the work.
- **Be exhaustive:** Have you answered all the sections of the form and uploaded all required Annexes? It will not be possible to add any information after you submit your application or reach the submission deadline.

4. How Will Applications be Evaluated and Selected?

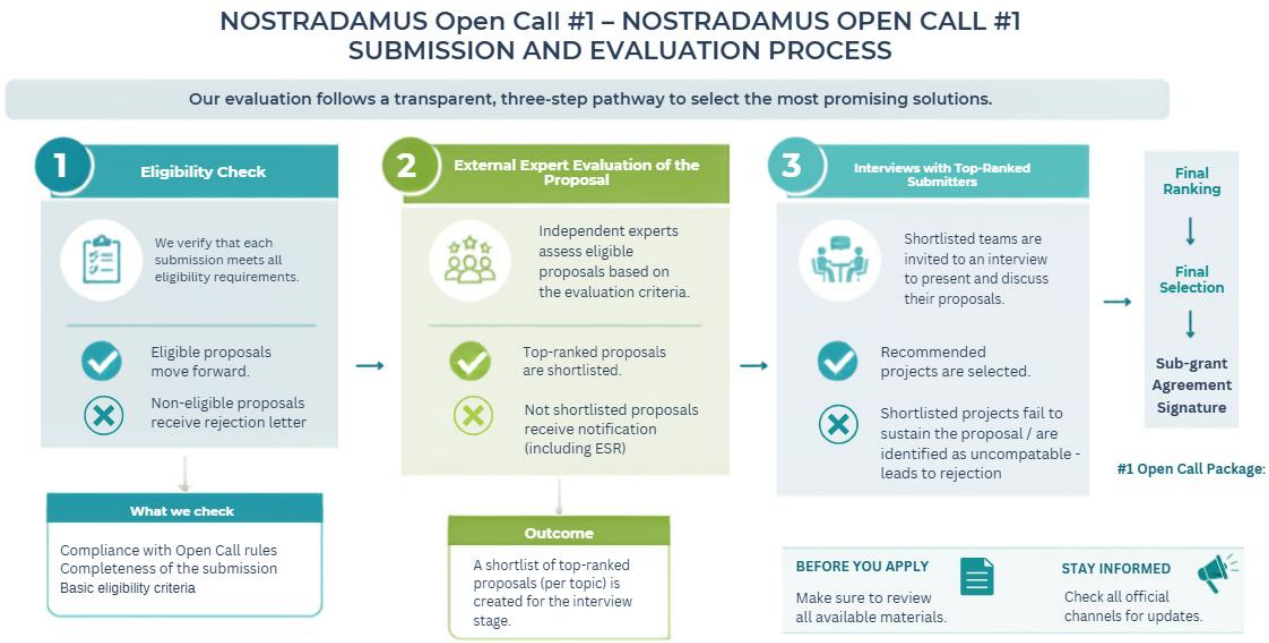

FIGURE 3. NOSTRADAMUS OPEN CALL #1 SUBMISSION AND EVALUATION PROCESS

FIGURE 3. NOSTRADAMUS OPEN CALL #1 SUBMISSION AND EVALUATION PROCESSsummarises the evaluation and selection process.

4.1. Admissibility & Eligibility Check

An initial eligibility verification will be done to filter out and discard non-eligible applications. An application is only considered eligible if it meets **all the eligibility criteria and requirements** listed in Section 3, related to type of applicant(s), consortium, countries, funding, language, documentation, etc.

Step 1: Eligibility check

Eligibility to participate in the funding programme is initially verified against several eligibility criteria. This process is carried out by the NOSTRADAMUS Open Call Team. A proposal may be declared ineligible or inadmissible at any stage. The check will verify:

- Proposals reception: via F6S platform and by the defined deadline.
- Eligibility filter: according to TABLE 2. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA APPLYING FOR THE NOSTRADAMUS OPEN CALL #1.

The eligibility check enables the establishment of a shortlist of applications to be evaluated in the next step of the evaluation process. Applications marked as non-eligible (for not meeting one or more of the eligibility criteria) will receive a rejection letter with a justification by email. No additional feedback will be given.

NOSTRADAMUS Open Call Team reserves the right to request at any moment of the process additional information and/or documentation to clarify any doubts regarding the eligibility of the applicant(s) and/or the application.

4.2. External Evaluation

Step 2: Remote expert evaluation

Proposals considered eligible will move on to the **expert evaluation** step. The external evaluation will be carried out remotely by expert evaluators. They will act as independent reviewers to establish the initial shortlist based on written merits, using the criteria as defined below in **Error! Reference source not found.** (Alignment, Excellence, Impact, Implementation).

The expert evaluation panel is a collective body composed of individual members with relevant experience in the NOSTRADAMUS topics and domains. The evaluators for the panel will be selected from a pool of experts established through a call for expressions of interest. The experts will be individuals from the fields of agriculture, science, industry and/or with experience in the field of innovation, with the highest level of knowledge, who are recognised authorities in the relevant specialist area. Experts will be evaluated based on their expertise in the topics/domains addressed by the NOSTRADAMUS Open Call #1, as well as their experience in proposal evaluations. The top-ranked experts will be invited to evaluate proposals.

A balance of nationalities, gender and expertise will be sought, making sure that the expert evaluation panel represents an international group of qualified experts. This will ensure impartiality during the evaluation of the applications.

The evaluators will perform evaluations on an individual basis, not as representatives of their employer, their country, or any other entity. They are required to be independent, impartial, and objective. All evaluators will sign a contract, which includes a declaration of confidentiality and the confirmation of the absence of conflicts of interest. Any known conflict of interest will be immediately communicated to the NOSTRADAMUS Open Call Team. Evaluators will also be bound by strict confidentiality throughout the full evaluation process.

4.2.1. Evaluation Criteria & Scoring

Two external evaluators will evaluate each proposal (forming together the External Evaluators Panel). The proposals successfully passed the eligibility check will be distributed and assigned to external evaluators considering their topics/domains of expertise and, whenever possible, country of origin. **Error! Reference source not found.** indicates the NOSTRADAMUS Open Call #1 evaluation criteria and items to be evaluated.

TABLE 5. NOSTRADAMUS OPEN CALL #1 EVALUATION CRITERIA

Criteria	Assessment dimensions	Description
1. Alignment *Applicants must align with the objectives and challenges of the Open Call.*	Strategic fit with the Open Call Contribution to the Nostradamus ecosystem and agricultural sector	• Alignment of the proposal with the overall and specific objectives of the project, the goal of Open Call #1 and the selected Open Call topic. • Relevance of the identified problem or challenge to the priorities and expected contributions of the Open Call. • Clarity of the needs addressed by the proposed solution, • Appropriateness of the proposed solution for the specific agricultural, technological or operational challenge addressed. • Consistency of the proposed starting and target TRLs, and the anticipated TRL progression. (TRL4-7) • Added value of the proposed project to the agricultural sector and ecosystem.
2. Excellence *Application must demonstrate a clear set of objectives aligned with the definition of the goals and with the general objectives of the project.*	Innovation and technical excellence Methodological quality Technological maturity (TRL) Responsible and inclusive solution design	• Clarity, relevance and measurability of the proposed objectives. • Degree of innovation and advancement beyond currently available or commonly deployed solutions. • Quality and credibility of the proposed technical and methodological approach. • Feasibility of the proposed development, integration, testing, validation or demonstration activities. • Consistency between the identified challenge, proposed solution, methodology and expected technical results. • Appropriateness of the technologies, data, digital tools, models, platforms or services to be used. • Technical ambition and credible justification of the proposed project, taking into account the project duration, available resources and target TRL. • Consideration of relevant technical requirements and/or limitations. • Appropriateness of consideration of principles of responsible innovation, including the principles of Trustworthy AI (where applicable), gender-sensitive and inclusive design, accessibility, and mitigation of unintended bias. • Gender balance of the proposed team.
3. Impact *Applicants must define their ambition and a clear set of expectations aligned with the objectives of the Call. Proposals*	Expected benefits for target users Expected impacts Adoption and exploitation potential	• Credibility and significance of the expected technical, economic, environmental, societal and/or sectoral benefits. • Contribution of the proposed solution to agricultural transformation, resilience, sustainability, resource efficiency and digitalisation. • Potential for adoption, exploitation and continued use of the solution after the end of the funded project.

must demonstrate the impact of the project and its contribution.	Communication and Dissemination Planning	• Market potential and, where relevant, the credibility of the proposed business or exploitation pathway. • Potential for scalability, replication and transfer of the solution beyond the initial pilot or demonstration context. • Identification of barriers to uptake, including technical, market, regulatory, organisational, financial or user-related barriers, and the measures proposed to address them. • Quality and feasibility of the proposed dissemination, communication and exploitation measures.
4. Implementation Applicants must *provide credible evidence that the project team is committed and have the necessary skills, competence, and expertise to deliver the project.*	Applicant capacity Work plan and implementation Resources and budget Risk management	• Experience, track record, expertise, skills and operational capacity of the proposed team and applicant management and coordination structures (including funds management capacity). • (if consortium) Clarity of the roles, responsibilities and contributions of each consortium member. • Realism of the proposed work plan, including activities, tasks, deliverables, milestones and timeline. • Clear linkage and consistency between the proposed project tasks, achievement of the corresponding milestones and KPIs and the expected results and impact. • Quality, transparency and realism of the proposed budget, including the justification of costs and demonstration of value for money. • Identification of implementation risks and the credibility of the proposed mitigation measures.

Each criterion will be scored **between 0 and 5**. Half point scores are not given. **Error! Reference source not found.**6 **Error! Reference source not found.**details the scoring rationale applied to each criterion.

TABLE 6. NOSTRADAMUS - OPEN CALL #1 SCORING RATIONALE

Score	Rationale
0 / FAIL	The application fails to address the criterion under examination or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information.
1 / VERY POOR	The criterion is addressed in an unsatisfactory manner.
2 / POOR	There are serious inherent weaknesses.
3 / GOOD	While the application broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses that would need correcting.
4 / VERY GOOD	The application addresses the criterion well, although certain improvements are possible.
5 / EXCELLENT	The application successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor.

The final score (including for each criterion) is calculated based on the average of the scores provided by the evaluators. Therefore, final scores may be decimal. The minimum threshold for each criterion will be ***3 (three) out of 5 (five),*** while the overall score threshold will be ***12 (twelve) out of 20 (twenty).***

Applications that do not meet the minimum thresholds (per criteria or overall score) will be excluded from the programme.

Each evaluator will record their individual assessment of each proposal using an Individual Evaluation Report.

4.2.2. Consensus

After the individual scoring by the External Evaluators Panel, the NOSTRADAMUS Open Call Team will:

- Check for large differences (in general over 2 points per criterion) between evaluators.
- If differences exist, evaluators will be invited to form a consensus group to discuss and agree on a common position on comments and scores.

In detail one of the 2 expert-evaluators will be asked to prepare a draft Consensus Report, starting from the Individual Evaluation Reports for each proposal, taking into account the strengths and weaknesses of the different reports and highlighting contradictory comments for further discussion. Based on the draft, the independent experts will be invited by the NOSTRADAMUS Open Call Team for a discussion round to go over contradicting opinions and views, and to come to a consensus on the final evaluation. The consensus discussion will be done remotely. In case a consensus is difficult to reach, the NOSTRADAMUS Open Call Team will suggest video conferencing to continue the remote discussion in real-time mode. One member of the NOSTRADAMUS Open Call Team will be present to organise the meeting and to observe and support if requested. The NOSTRADAMUS Open Call Team member is impartial, therefore under no circumstances he/she will give an opinion about the proposal. Once consensus is reached on the final set of comments, the evaluators will provide their final scores matching with the comments in the Report.

A single Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) will be prepared by the NOSTRADAMUS Open Call Team with the support of the evaluators' panel, representing opinions and scores on which the evaluators agree.

The Nostradamus consortium ensures the fairness of the process, in line with the principles outlined in the EC's rules on proposal submission and evaluation (e.g. excellence, transparency, fairness and impartiality, confidentiality).

4.2.3. Ranking & Selection

The process begins by calculating the overall scores, followed by a tie-break procedure to finalise the selection lists.

Overall score calculation

The NOSTRADAMUS Open Call Team will prepare the ranking lists for each of the 5 (five) NOSTRADAMUS topics (thematic domains) based on the overall scores as a result of the external evaluation.

Tie-break procedures

If multiple applications have the same overall score, the following tie-breaking criteria will be applied in this order:

- Criterion 1. Impact
- Criterion 2. Alignment
- Criterion 3. Excellence
- Criterion 4. Implementation

After applying these tie-break rules, if there are still proposals in the same position, priority will be given to those with a share of women and men in the consortium that is closer to 50/50, following European guidelines on gender equality[4].

At the end of the process the consortium will obtain 5 (five) lists of ranked applications - one for each topic.

4.3. Interviews

Step 3: Online interviews

The top 3 ranked applications per topic from the remote evaluation stage will be invited to a 30-minute **online interview**. The **Interview Committee** comprises the independent External Evaluators Panel alongside technical and operational representatives from the NOSTRADAMUS Consortium (e.g., technical leads, Work Package leaders, and pilot site leads). The **NOSTRADAMUS Open Call Team** (represented by the F6S as an Open Call Manager, and ECoE as the Project Coordinator) will facilitate the meeting without contributing to the evaluation.

The interviews aim to explore deeper and/or verify the project concept, team skills and competence, capacity and willingness to exploit the results. It is also an opportunity for the evaluators to cover any doubts that they may have about the written application as well as about the commitment and engagement of applicants towards participating. The interviews will be used to get further information to clarify the proposals and help the external evaluators panel establish its final ranking list and scores. They may not serve to change proposals or add missing information.

Dual Purpose & Scope of the Interview:

1. **External Evaluators (Scoring Adjustment & Verification):** External evaluators evaluate proposals against the **same four core criteria** used during the written phase (*Alignment, Excellence, Impact, Implementation*). The interview allows evaluators to verify the applicants' technical competence, clarify uncertainties in the written proposal, and confirm or adjust their preliminary scores based on the pitch and Q&A. No new evaluation criteria are introduced.
2. **Consortium Representatives (Feasibility, IPR & Strategic Fit Assessment):** Consortium representatives participate as a corrective validation mechanism (final barrier) to verify that top-ranked candidate projects are fully executable within the NOSTRADAMUS framework. Rather than evaluating proposal merits under the general award criteria, consortium members complete a structured post-interview evaluation survey incorporating qualitative ratings, technical feasibility checks, and free-text narrative feedback. This assessment focuses on:
    - **Technical & Architectural Compatibility:** Verifying seamless integration capabilities with the NOSTRADAMUS Data Cubes, IoT Observatory, and Application Generation Engine.
    - **Operational Alignment:** Assessing compatibility with demonstration site infrastructures, equipment, and agro-climatic site constraints.
    - **IPR & Commercial Protection:** Identifying potential direct commercial competition or conflicts with consortium partners' background or foreground IPR.
    - **Ethical & Strategic Fit:** Flagging unmitigated ethical issues or topic imbalance across the call.

If the consortium assessment identifies critical, unresolvable technical incompatibilities, severe demo-site limitations, or direct IPR conflicts, these findings serve as objective grounds for non-selection under Section 4.5, allowing the selection to pass to the next-ranked application.

[4] https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/ffcb06c3-200a-11ec-bd8e-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-232129669

Evaluation & Scoring Workflow:

The interview format, evaluation and scoring process is as follows:

- **Format:** Top-ranked applicants present a short pitch followed by a Q&A session with the committee. Failure to attend or uphold the original application contents leads to rejection.
- **Consensus Meeting:** Following the interview, applicants will leave the session. External evaluators will share, compare, and revise (if necessary) their individual scores to reach a consensus on the final evaluation score and Evaluation Summary Report (ESR).
- **Facilitation:** The NOSTRADAMUS Open Call Team attends and facilitates the consensus meeting without scoring.
- **Consortium Representatives** fill in a post-interview evaluation survey and flag any issues identified during the interviews. The identified cases are discussed by the OC Monitoring Committee that takes decisions according to Section 4.5.

4.4. Final Ranking of Applications:

Following the completion of consensus meetings, the external evaluators provide the NOSTRADAMUS Open Call Team with the final agreed scores and ESRs for each interviewed application. Proposals are then ranked in descending order of their final consensus evaluation score. Five separate ranking lists will be established for the 5 (five) NOSTRADAMUS topics, with the primary objective of selecting and funding at least 1 (one) top-ranked application in each topic.

4.5. Final Selection

Based on the final consensus scores from external evaluators, the Consortium will, by default, select the highest-scoring application in each of the 5 (five) call topics.

Objective Grounds for Non-Selection:

In accordance with Section 4.3, the Consortium is not obliged to select the highest-scoring application if the post-interview consortium evaluation survey flags critical, unresolvable technical or operational barriers, which are formally validated by the Open Call Monitoring Committee. Objective grounds for passing over a higher-ranked application to the next-ranked proposal include:

- Technical & Architectural Incompatibility: Severe technical misalignment or incompatibility of the proposed application with the NOSTRADAMUS system architecture, Data Cubes, IoT Observatory, or core platform modules.
- Operational & Demo-Site Limitations: Critical physical, equipment, or operational constraints at the designated primary demonstration site that cannot be overcome or mitigated during project execution.
- IPR & Commercial Competition Conflicts: Direct commercial competition or unresolvable conflicts between the proposed solution and the background/foreground Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) of NOSTRADAMUS consortium partners]
- Strategic Fit & Topic Balance: Strategic issues requiring the rebalancing of experiments across platforms, topics, or biogeographical regions to prevent overlap and ensure optimal thematic coverage across Open Call #1.
- Unmitigated Ethical, Data Protection, or Safety Risks: Unresolved ethical concerns, non-compliance with EU GDPR/data privacy standards, or safety/security risks identified during the interview and survey phase.

Any decision to pass over a higher-ranked proposal based on these objective grounds will be fully documented in the evaluation records shared with the European Commission and communicated transparently to the applicant.

Mandatory Baseline Allocation Across All 5 Topics

To ensure complete thematic coverage and foster systemic innovation, Nostradamus Open Call #1 strictly guarantees the selection and funding of at least **1 (one) top-ranked proposal** in **EACH of the five call topics** (Topics T1, T2, T3, T4, and T5). The top-ranked applications in each of the 5 (five) Nostradamus topics will be invited to the contracting phase. An additional set of two (2) applications will be kept on a reserve list.

Selection under this baseline requirement is subject to the application fulfilling all formal administrative eligibility criteria and achieving the minimum technical quality score threshold established in Section 4.2.

Residual Budget Pooling

The maximum allowable sub-grant per awarded project is **€50,000**. However, applicants are required to present a transparent, realistic budget that reflects their actual necessary implementation costs.

Whenever selected top-ranked proposals request less than the maximum €50,000 ceiling, or if the overall Open Call #1 budget is not fully exhausted after fulfilling the baseline selection of 5 proposals across T1–T5 (1 per topic), the remaining unallocated funds will be combined into a **Residual Call Budget**.

Reallocation Rules for Additional Proposals:

If the accumulated Residual Call Budget is sufficient to fund additional proposals beyond the baseline selected projects, the Consortium will allocate the remaining funds according to the following strict order of priority:

1. **Primary Priority – Topic 5 (Open Topic):** Remaining funds will be allocated **first to the highest-scoring eligible proposal(s)** on the reserve list under **Topic 5** (Integrated, Cross-Domain Decision-Support Applications). Additional proposals under Topic 5 will be funded sequentially based on their evaluation scores until the Residual Call Budget is no longer sufficient to cover a full requested grant.
2. **Secondary Priority – Consolidated Global Reserve List (Topics T1–T4):** Only if the Topic 5 reserve list is fully exhausted (or if no further eligible proposals remain under Topic 5), any remaining Residual Call Budget will cascade to the next highest-scoring eligible proposal(s) on the consolidated Open Call #1 reserve list across Topics T1–T4 list (irrespective of topic), ranked strictly by evaluation score, until the call budget is fully committed.

1. **Partial Funding Option:** If the remaining Residual Call Budget is less than the total budget requested by the next eligible ranked proposal (under Topic 5 or subsequently the Global Reserve List), the Consortium reserves the right to offer the applicant **partial funding** equal to the remaining balance. The applicant may either:
    - **Accept** the partial grant and adjust the work plan/deliverables in agreement with the Monitoring Committee; or
    - **Decline** the partial grant, in which case the offer will pass to the next ranked proposal on the reserve list.

The consortium may conclude that there are **not enough applications** with an adequate quality (indicated by their evaluation scores meeting or exceeding the pre-defined thresholds). In such cases the consortium will make no selection or select fewer applications than the cascaded funding budget allows in one or more of the NOSTRADAMUS topics. This conclusion is obligatory if not enough applications score above the thresholds defined in section 4.2.1. In the event of the target number of projects not being achieved, the consortium may decide to re-open the call at a later date.

Successful proposals will be notified within one week of the evaluation final selection and the process of contract definition and execution will begin immediately after that.

All applicants at all stages of the evaluation will be informed about the result of their evaluation along with an Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) via email.

4.6. Appeals

Within 3 (three) working days of receiving (1) a rejection letter informing the application as non-eligible or (2) an ESR of non-acceptance, an applicant may submit a request for an appeal if they believe the results of the eligibility checks have not been correctly applied, or if they feel that there has been a shortcoming in the way their application has been evaluated.

All requests for appeal must be sent to **opencall@nostradamus-project.eu** and must:

- Focus on aspects concerning the evaluation of the application (e.g. admissibility or eligibility checks, evaluation procedure, etc), not their merits.
- Clearly describe the complaint.
- Be received within the time limit (3 working days) from the reception of a rejection letter considering the application as non-eligible or the ESR information letter delivered.
- Sent by the entities' legal representative that has also submitted the application.

Only one request for review per proposal will be considered. Review requests will not always necessarily also lead to a re-evaluation of a proposal (a new technical evaluation with a new group of evaluators). The administrative review procedure will re-examine each case; however, a re-evaluation will only be decided if the submitted complaint demonstrates that there is a procedural irregularity, factual error, manifest error of assessment or abuse of powers affects the decision on whether to fund the proposal. Thus, for example, a problem relating to one of the evaluation criteria will not lead to a re-evaluation if, even by adding with the maximum points awarded under this criterion, the final score of the proposal would still remain below the funding threshold for funding.

Re-evaluations will be conducted based on the proposal as it was originally submitted; no additional information will be admitted. Re-evaluations may be partial (limited to the criterion affected by the error) or full (when the whole entire evaluation has been recognized as flawed). Applicants should be aware that the score following a re-evaluation is not guaranteed to improve and **may be lower than the original score**. Additionally, all requests for review will be treated as strictly confidential.

Note that the evaluation is carried out by highly qualified experts. NOSTRADAMUS will neither question nor interfere with their original evaluation. Mere repetitions of the content of the application or disagreements with the result or reasoning of the technical evaluation will not be considered.

5. What Happens After Selection?

Selected applicants will be invited to the contracting phase, where administrative and financial details and documents are verified and validated.

Furthermore, to carry out mandatory Know Your Customer (KYC) checks, proof of residency and proof of ID from one or more members of the organisation(s) is required.

The steps of this phase are as follows:

1. The Project Coordinator prepares the final Sub-grant Agreement. Inclusion of comments, conditions and/or recommendations (if any) provided in the Evaluation Summary Report as part of the Sub-grant Agreement (contract).
2. Validation of the entities based on the provision of the following documentation (KYC check):
    - Formal proof of the entity's legal existence and tax activity.

- Proof of residency and proof of ID from one or more members of the organisation(s).
- Declaration of Honour, for all participating entities, signed by the legal representative of the entity (Annex 3.1).
- Consortium Declaration of Honour, signed by the legal representative of each consortium partner (Annex 3.2).
- Proof of the SME status, including the SME Declaration Form (Annex 4).
- Bank Account Information.

3. Signing of the Sub-grant Agreement between NOSTRADAMUS Consortium represented by its Coordinator (ECoE), and the (Lead) Beneficiary.

Additional considerations:

- A valid VAT is mandatory (unless not required by legislation).
- In principle, the Sub-grant Agreement (contract) is final and cannot be altered. However mutually agreed minor modifications are allowed in the contracting phase in the following cases:
  - minor adjustments based on unforeseen aspects and/or correcting typos and minor errors;
  - incorporating improvements/adjustments to the application that bring value to the project and the consortium if these are described in the ESR or during the online interview, as well as communicated/negotiated and agreed with the Third Parties during the contracting phase.

  In any case these modifications can never lead to decreasing of the proposed parameters in the application (e.g. KPIs or other qualitative and quantitative expected results), or to compromising the application and/or the decision for the proposal selection.
- Electronic digital signatures are required for signed documents (unless otherwise agreed).
- Deadlines for document submission will be provided and will normally be concluded within two weeks.

Failure to complete the negotiation and/or provide the requested documents needed for the Sub-grant Agreement preparation or ensure signatures by the legal representative/s of the selected applicants/consortium in time will result in rejection. In such cases the next ranked proposal in the respective topic will be invited to start the contracting phase.

6. What is the NOSTRADAMUS Open Call #1 Programme and Its Requirements?

6.1. Programme Sprints

6.1.1. Overview of the 12-Month Sprint Program

The NOSTRADAMUS **12-Month Sprint Program** provides a structured, milestone-driven framework designed to guide and support funded Third Parties (sub-grantees) in developing, validating, and demonstrating high-impact, open-source digital applications.

To ensure technical robustness, end-user alignment, and seamless integration with the NOSTRADAMUS ecosystem (including Data Cubes, the IoT Observatory, EO data pipelines, and the Application Generation Engine), sub-projects operate under a staged implementation workflow structured into **4 (four) sequential Sprints** over a 12-month period.

The NOSTRADAMUS Programme **4 sprints** are presented in **Error! Reference source not found.**below:

TABLE 7. NOSTRADAMUS OPEN CALL #1: PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT (12 MONTHS)

PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT 12-Months				
Name	**SPRINT 1**	**SPRINT 2**	**SPRINT 3**	**SPRINT 4**
	Training	***Design***	***Development & Validation***	***Demonstration / Assessment***
Programme months	M1-M2	M3-M4	M5-M10	M11-M12
Duration	2 months	2 months	6 months	2 months
Project months	M33-M34	M35-M36	M37-M42	M43-M44
Payment	10% (after timely submission of contracted results)	25% (after timely sub mission of contracted results)	40% (after timely sub mission of contracted results)	25% (after timely sub mission of contracted results

(Note: Program months M1–M12 correspond to project execution months M33–M44 of the overarching NOSTRADAMUS Grant Agreement).

6.1.2. Objectives and Structure of the Four Sprints

Sprint 1: Training & Technical Onboarding (Months 1–2 / Project M33–M34)

Mandatory 2-month phase to acquire Nostradamus competences.

Focuses on onboarding Third Parties into the NOSTRADAMUS digital infrastructure. Sub-grantees undergo mandatory training sessions (minimum 10 hours synchronous guided learning plus practical implementation) covering data governance, Data Cubes, cloud–edge–mixed architectures, and stakeholder co-creation methodologies.

Sprint 2: Design & User Specification (Months 3–4 / Project M35–M36)

Co-creation with stakeholders from MAPs.

Translates validated end-user needs - derived from regional Multi-Actor Platforms (MAPs) and demonstration site requirements - into concrete functional specifications, system architectures, and deployment strategies adapted to local connectivity constraints.

Sprint 3: Development & Technical Validation (Months 5–10 / Project M37–M42)

Integrating with Data Cubes and prototype testing.

The core technical implementation phase during which Third Parties build, test, and integrate their functional open-source prototypes with NOSTRADAMUS data pipelines and core modules. Technical metrics and preliminary user feedback are collected to validate performance, usability, and scalability.

Sprint 4: Demonstration, Assessment & Knowledge Transfer (Months 11–12 / Project M43–M44)

On-site demo events and impact evaluation

Focuses on real-world demonstration across designated pilot sites, end-user training delivery, socio-economic and environmental impact assessment, and the finalization of practice abstracts (EIP-AGRI format) and post-project exploitation plans.

More details on the Programme sprints, their goals, expected impact, milestones and deliverables (including expected KPIs) are available in *Annex 1.1 Technical specification*.

6.2. Funds, Reporting and Payment

6.2.1. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Staged Payments

Third party applicants will receive funding upon the execution of specific activities/deliverables outlined in *Annex 1.1 Technical specification* and *Annex 2: Technical Proposal (template).*

Implementation progress is continuously tracked through a staged **review process** managed by the NOSTRADAMUS Consortium and assigned domain mentors:

- **Milestone and Deliverable Verification:** At the conclusion of each Sprint, sub-grantees must submit contractual deliverables and demonstrate the achievement of predefined Milestones.
- **Independent Performance Reviews:** Deliverables undergo formal review by designated consortium evaluators (Reviewer 1 & Reviewer 2) and online review meetings to assess technical quality and milestone completion.
- **Performance-Based Funding:** Sub-grant funding (€50,000 maximum per third party) is released in four tranches upon the formal approval of results at the end of each Sprint:
  - Sprint 1 Completion: 10%
  - Sprint 2 Completion: 25%
  - Sprint 3 Completion: 40%
  - Sprint 4 Completion: 25%
- **Non-Performance and Corrective Measures:** Approval of deliverables and milestones is a mandatory prerequisite for payment. Failure to achieve required milestones, poor technical quality, or failure to meet contractual deadlines may result in a request for revision, payment suspension, budget reduction, or termination of the Sub-Grant Agreement in accordance with the terms set forth in the agreement.

6.2.2. Review Summary and Payment Workflow

Each funded project will undergo **4 (four) formal performance reviews**, each marking the completion of an implementation sprint:

TABLE 8. REVIEW AND PAYMENTS OF THE OC #1 SUB-PROJECTS

Stage	Item	Description
Sprint 1	Requirement	- Submission of **Implementation Report 1**. - **Implementation Report 1** must include all results, evidence of achieved milestones, deliverables and outputs as described *in Annex 1.1, 5. NOSTRADAMUS Implementation Framework (The 12-Month Programme)*
	Result	Payment of 10% of the grant.

	Timeline	End of month 2.
Sprint 2	Requirement	- Submission of **Implementation Report 2** - **Implementation Report 2** must include all results, evidence of achieved milestones, deliverables and outputs as described *in Annex 1.1, 5. NOSTRADAMUS Implementation Framework (The 12-Month Programme)*
	Result	Payment of 25% of the grant.
	Timeline	End of month 4.
Sprint 3	Requirement	- Submission of **Implementation Report 3** - **Implementation Report 3** must include all results, evidence of achieved milestones, deliverables and outputs as described *in Annex 1.1, 5. NOSTRADAMUS Implementation Framework (The 12-Month Programme)*
	Result	Payment of 40% of the grant.
	Timeline	End of month 10.
Sprint 4	Requirement	- Submission of **Implementation Report 4** - **Implementation Report 4** must include all results, evidence of achieved milestones, deliverables and outputs as described *in Annex 1.1, 5. NOSTRADAMUS Implementation Framework (The 12-Month Programme)*
	Result	Payment of 25% of the grant.
	Timeline	End of month 12.

Reports must be submitted within one week after the end of the last month of the sprint, so that the reviewers will have enough time to prepare. A review of submitted reports will be held with the beneficiaries within 30 calendar days of the end month of the Sprint. During the review, representatives of the beneficiary should present their work and progress. The objective of the review is to present the implemented sprint and provide answers to questions from the mentors/coaches/ reviewers and/or Nostradamus consortium.

If at any of the project stages the quality of work demonstrated and/or reported does not correspond to what has been agreed, the NOSTRADAMUS Coordinator may agree to a resubmission of a report and respective reassessment. If significant improvements are not delivered after the reassessment, the follow-up actions and consequences as described in the Sub-grant agreement will apply.

After each successful review and within 5 (five) working days, the beneficiary should send the relevant payment request document.

7. What else is important to know?

Successful applicants will be required to comply with the ethical, data protection, intellectual property, confidentiality and other legal obligations. This section provides an overview of the main requirements.

7.1. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

Solutions developed and results achieved by the Third Parties belong to the Third Parties. Applicants will remain the sole owners of their respective IPRs and retain the IPR for their solutions.

Regarding the evaluation and the review processes, each evaluator will sign an Agreement including confidentiality clauses before receiving access to the applications database to protect the applicants' intellectual property and sensitive non-disclosed information.

7.2. On Conflicts of Interest

IMPORTANT: To avoid conflicts of interest, applications will not be accepted from persons or organisations who are partners in the NOSTRADAMUS consortium or who are formally linked in any way to partners of the consortium. Please check the list of partners at *https://nostradamus-project.eu/about/#:~:text=all%20ethical%20standards.-,Consortium,-Meet%20the%20Nostradamus* .

Applicants shall not have any actual or/and potential conflict of interest with the NOSTRADAMUS Open Call #1 selection process and during the whole project. The applicants will be required to declare that they know of **no such potential conflicts** of interest by signing Annex 3.1-3.2 (Beneficiary/ Consortium) Declaration of Honour during the contracting phase.

All suspected cases of conflict of interest will be assessed case by case. In particular, applicants must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the project is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest ('conflict of interests').

7.3. Ethical Issues

NOSTRADAMUS complies with the fundamental ethical issues particularly those outlined in the "European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity".

- All applicants must submit a self-assessment ethics questionnaire, available in the Proposal Template.
- Applicants should apply principles of and consider relevant ethical aspects related to data-driven digital applications and AI technologies, including transparency, responsible data use, gender-sensitive and inclusive design, accessibility, mitigation of unintended bias (particularly in AI-related solutions) and potential technological, practical, environmental, economic and/or societal impacts for diverse stakeholder groups and end-users.
- If the applicant confirms the existence of potential ethical issues, they must contact the NOSTRADAMUS Open Call Team for guidance, as required.
- The NOSTRADAMUS will verify the declaration's consistency with the application contents and may contact applicants to resolve any ethical issues.
- Applications that fail to properly address ethical issues or inadequately deal with privacy aspects will be rejected.

7.4. Data Protection

To process and evaluate applications, and manage project implementation, the NOSTRADAMUS Consortium will need to collect Personal and Industrial Data.

- F6S Network Ireland Limited will act as Data Controller for data submitted through the F6S platform for these purposes. Please see our privacy policy here.
- A Data Protection Officer (DPO) has been appointed by F6S generally, to ensure compliance with data protection regulations, such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and that personal data is collected, processed, and stored in a secure manner.
- The F6S platform's system design and operational procedures ensure that data is managed in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR).
- Each applicant will accept the F6S terms to ensure compliance. Please refer to https://www.f6s.com/privacy-policy to review the F6S platform's privacy policy and data security policy.

- Apart from the F6S platform, data will also be stored in the F6S Google Drive, and in the project repository on SharePoint managed by the Project Coordinator ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence (ECoE).
- Note that the NOSTRADAMUS Consortium must retain generated data until five years after the balance of the NOSTRADAMUS project is paid or longer if there are ongoing procedures (such as audits, investigations or litigation). In this case, the data must be kept until their conclusion.

7.5. Confidentiality

Confidentiality obligations:

- Selected applicants are required to maintain the confidentiality of all project data, documents, invoices and other materials (in any form) during the implementation of the activities and for 5 years after project completion.
- This confidentiality period can be extended by agreement with the EC and the NOSTRADAMUS Consortium.
- Information shared during the project, whether written or spoken, is only considered confidential if the NOSTRADAMUS Consortium agrees and confirms it in writing within 15 days.
- Confidential information must only be used for project implementation, unless otherwise agreed upon.
- Any information shared during the application stage will be treated as confidential.

7.6. Promotion of the Action and Ensuring Visibility of the EU Funding

The beneficiary must promote the NOSTRADAMUS project and its results, by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public) in a strategic and effective manner and to highlight the financial support of the EC, including on the official Third-Party website. The NOSTRADAMUS Open Call and Communication Teams will guide and support these communication activities to selected beneficiaries.

7.7. Checks and Reviews

The EC may, at any time during the implementation of the sub-project and up to five years after the end of the sub-project, arrange for a check and review activity to be carried out, by external auditors, or by the EC services themselves, including the European Anti-Fraud office (OLAF). The procedure shall be deemed to be initiated on the date of receipt of the relevant letter sent by the EC.

There will be no financial checks, reviews, or audits to check costs, since beneficiaries have no obligation to document the costs incurred for the action. Checks, reviews, and audits will focus on the technical implementation of the action.

8. Relevant Links and Contacts

The NOSTRADAMUS Consortium will provide information to the applicants via the F6S page, so that all information (questions and answers) is visible to all participants.

- Project website: https://nostradamus-project.eu/
- Open call application form: *https://www.f6s.com/nostradamus-open-call-1/apply*
- Contact us: opencall@nostradamus-project.eu
- Online Q&A/ discussion board: *https://www.f6s.com/nostradamus-open-call-1/discuss* (*Please note that applicants should create their F6S account at least 2 days before they need to post a question on the discussion board)*
- F6S platform support team: support@f6s.com

(For issues with the submission, resubmission, access to the platform, etc.)

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

The Open Call Team aims to respond within 48 hours (during 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.

9. Relevant Open Call Definitions

This section describes the relevant acronyms and terms that are used in the Open Call documentation. Unless otherwise stated, the definition of a term is the one stated in this section.

TABLE 9. ACRONYMS & MEANING

ACRONYM	MEANING
DPO	Data Protection Officer
DSS	Digital Signature Services
EC	European Commission
ESR	Evaluation Summary Report
EU	European Union
FSTP	Financial Support for Third Parties
GA	Grant Agreement
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
HE	Horizon Europe
IP	Internet Protocol
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
KVI	Key Value Indicator
MS	Member State
OC	Open Call
OLAF	European Anti-Fraud Office
PIC	Participant Identification Code
R&D	Research and Development
RTO	Research and Training Organisation
SME	Small and Medium-size Enterprises

TRL	Technology Readiness Level
VAT	Value Added Tax

TABLE 10. TERMS & DEFINITIONS

TERM	DEFINITION
Applicant(s)	The legal entity or group of legal entities that intend(s) to submit or that submitted an application to the Open Call.
Application Eligibility Criteria	Criteria used to assess if an application can be considered for the open call. Possible values (Yes/No).
Application Eligible or Non-Eligible	Application that is or is not compliant with eligibility criteria.
Application Timestamp	Timestamp of the final submission of an application. If the application is reopened and resubmitted the last date will be considered.
Bank Account Information	Document(s) where the beneficiary provides information of the bank account to which payments will be made during the project implementation. Template will be provided to the selected Third Parties during the contractual phase.
Beneficiary or Third/3rd Party (TP)	An entity or a consortium that submitted an application to the Open Call that was accepted to be funded, and have signed, or are in the process of signing, a Sub-grant Agreement.
Conflict of interest	Definition & Scope: A situation where the impartial and objective evaluation or implementation of a proposal under Nostradamus - Open Call #1 is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties, or any other shared interest. By submitting an application, the Applicant formally declares that it is not in any situation of actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest in relation to the Open Call evaluation and selection procedure. The Applicant further undertakes to immediately disclose any relationship, interest, or circumstance - including any familial, professional, financial, or organizational link - between the Applicant (or, where the Applicant is a legal entity, its shareholders, Ultimate Beneficial Owners (UBOs), directors, or controlling persons) and any director, officer, shareholder, UBO, or controlling person of any of the Nostradamus Project Partners (consortium beneficiaries), which could reasonably give rise to, or be perceived as giving rise to, a conflict of interest. All declared or suspected cases will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Nostradamus Consortium.
Consortium Declaration of Honour (CDoH)	Declaration where the applicants/beneficiaries, participating as a consortium, declare they accept all conditions of the Open Call & the Programme; and agree - if applicable - on budget share. One CDoH is required for each sub-granted project at the contractual phase.

Contract Deadline	Date and time until when the selected entities need to provide contractual information and/or sign the Sub-grant Agreement.
Declaration of Honour (DoH)	Declaration where the applicant/beneficiary declares they accept all conditions of the Open Call & the Programme. One DoH is required for each applicant/ beneficiary.
External Evaluator	Expert hired by the consortium to assist in the evaluation of the Open Call. External evaluators cannot have conflicts of interest and are bound by a confidentiality agreement.
F6S Application Form	Application form available in F6S Platform (contents is extracted and provided for information and as a model only in *Annex 2.1 F6S Application form for Nostradamus OC #1*).
F6S Platform	Platform provided by F6S.
FSTP	Financial support to Third Parties. Payments made to entities that are not members of the Consortium.
FSTP – Lump Sum	Payment made to the Third Party based on the achievement of a milestone.
Internal evaluation / review committee	Group of appropriately qualified persons of the consortium partners that are assigned the responsibility of performing evaluations or reviews at any stage of the Open Call implementation or Programme.
Mentor	Person from the consortium that works closely with the beneficiary to foster communication with the Consortium and assess progress of the project. The mentor may be part of an evaluation/review committee.
Open Call	Competitive process to access a Programme.
Open Call and Programme deadlines	The project has planned the programme carefully, but unexpected things can happen. The application deadline is fixed, and will only change if something unforeseen occurs. Other dates, including of the Programme, are flexible and may be adjusted as needed, and communicated to all applicants.
Open Call close date	Date and time when applications close.
Open Call Manager / Open Call Lead (F6S IE)	F6S Network Ireland Limited (F6S), a beneficiary of the Nostradamus project and leader of Work Package 6 (WP6). F6S is responsible for managing the Open Call publication, handling the submission system via the F6S platform, conducting administrative eligibility checks, and overseeing the evaluation workflow.
Open Call selection prioritisation	Rules used to order applications.
[NOSTRADAMUS] Project Consortium	Set of legal entities that are cumulatively responsible to implement the NOSTRADAMUS project as defined in the Grant Agreement No. 101134888 signed with the European Commission.
[NOSTRADAMUS] Project Coordinator	ERATOSTHENES Centre of Excellence (ECoE), Cyprus
Proof of Legal Existence	Company/ organisation register, official journal or other official document per country showing the name of the organisation, the legal

	address and registration number and a copy of a document proving VAT registration (in case the VAT number does not show on the registration extract or its equivalent).
Proof of SME Status	Proof of the SME condition is required: • If the applicant has been fully validated as an SME on the Beneficiary Register of the EC Participant Portal, the PIC number must be provided. • Provision of the signed (with a valid e-signature) **SME Declaration** (Annex 4): in the event the beneficiary declares being non-autonomous, the balance sheet and profit and loss account (with annexes) for the last period for upstream and downstream organisations is required. A Status Information Form may be requested, which includes the headcount (AWU), balance, profit & loss accounts of the latest closed financial year and the relation, upstream and downstream, of any linked or partner company. • Supporting documents: In cases where either the number of employees or the ownership is not clearly identified: any other supporting documents which demonstrate headcount and ownership such as payroll details, annual reports, national regional, association records, etc.
Reserve List	Eligible applications that were not selected for funding which can be invited in case selected applications do not provide contractual data or refuse to sign the Sub-grant Agreement with the Consortium or other circumstances lead to the selected projects disqualification.
Schedule for payments to Beneficiaries	All payments to beneficiaries are dependent on the successful review of deliverables/reports at the end of each sprint, and reception by the Consortium of the corresponding payment request. All payments will be made with undue delay preferably no later than 30 calendar days after the reception of the financial statement.
Score, Per Committee	When the evaluation is made by a panel of more than one external evaluator, the average score of each criterion is rounded to the nearest point or half point (1, 1.5, 2, ..., 4, 4.5, 5), before computing the overall score.
Selected application	Application that was selected to participate in the Open Call #1 Implementation.
SME	An incorporated enterprise that complies with the rules defined by the European Commission to be qualified as an SME[5]
SME – Autonomous Enterprise	An autonomous enterprise is not a partner with or linked to another enterprise
SME – Linked Enterprise	Linked enterprises are those that form a group through the direct or indirect control of the majority of voting rights of an enterprise by another or through the ability to exercise a dominant influence on an enterprise.

[5] https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/smes/sme-fundamentals/sme-definition_en

SME – Partner Enterprise	The enterprise holds a minimum of 25% (Capital or voting rights in another enterprise, or 25% (Capital or voting rights) are owned by another enterprise.
SME Declaration Form	Declaration where the SME status is assessed (Annex 4).
Sub-grant Agreement	Signed between the Project Consortium, represented by its Coordinator and the beneficiary. The Sub-grant Agreement will also include the comments and recommendations (if any) of the application's ESR to the work plan or other minor adjustment subject to mutual agreement reached during the interview or contracting phase.
TRL / Technology Readiness Level	Horizon Europe definition as stated in the Work program 2023-2025 available at: *https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2023-2024/wp-13-general-annexes_horizon-2023-2024_en.pdf* (page 14)

TABLE 11. DEFINITIONS OF THE FUNDING PROGRAMME

Term	Definition
Nostradamus Funding Programme	Programme under which the present Open Call is run. It is defined by the documents and templates provided by the NOSTRADAMUS Consortium as defined in section 6. The funding programme considers two parts: 1. Open Call for proposals, evaluation, contract preparation and signing. 2. Implementation with sprints (for selected beneficiaries).
Proposal Phase	Period when applicants can submit proposals to the Open Call. Each Open Call has a fixed deadline that is automatically enforced.
Evaluation Phase	Period when the consortium evaluates and ranks the applications. At the end of the phase, all proposals are notified of the results of the evaluation.
Contract Preparation & Signing Phase	Period when the selected proposals and the consortium complete the administrative procedures to sign the Sub-grant Agreement and prepare administrative documents.
Implementation Phase	Successive period of 2 (two) or 4 (four) months, varying according to the Open Call sprints, when the work is performed by the beneficiary. At the end of each sprint, the project is subject to a formal evaluation made by an internal evaluation team to assess if the project is meeting its objectives.

10. Check-list of Open Call #1 Documents:

Document title	Purpose	Format	To be submitted by applicant	To be explored by the applicants
Annex 1: Guidelines for applicants	For information	Pdf	No	Yes
Annex 1.1: Technical specification	For information	Pdf	No	Yes

Annex 2: Technical Proposal (template)	For filling in and submission (as pdf file) - upload to the F6S Application form	Word	Yes, after completion to be saved as Pdf and uploaded on F6S application form	NA
Annex 2.1: F6S Application form for Nostradamus OC #1 (template / model)	The Pdf file is only for visualisation of the contents in the online-based Application form. For filling in – register and access the online Application form at the F6S platform.	Pdf (online form/web)	Annex 2.1 is only extracted from the online-based F6S application form – file not to be submitted; submit only online form.	Yes
Annex 3.1: Declaration of Honour - Non-Individuals (template) Annex 3.2: Consortium Declaration on Honour (template)	For information (to be submitted only by selected applicants in the contracting phase)	Pdf	No	Yes
Annex 4: SME Declaration (template)	For information (to be filled in and submitted only by selected applicants in the contracting phase)	Pdf	No	Yes
Annex 5: Sub-grant Agreement (template)	For information (to be signed between the PC and the selected for funding third parties)	Pdf	No	Yes