

ELG – Pilot Projects Open Call 2

Q&A session at webinar for applicants

This document sums up a discussion held during the webinar for applicants of the European Language Grid second open call for pilot projects. This webinar took place on 12 November 2020. Questions in this document were placed by participants of the webinar (via group chat), some of the answers were already provided at the webinar. Questions were grouped by the topic and sometimes rephrased or merged for better understanding. Call documentation and other information related to second ELG open call for pilot project is available [here](#).

Questions related to open call

Budget

- 1. You mentioned "There are explanations for the requirements on budget split into Experiment / Integration / Dissemination phase in the call documentation" --> Can you provide a link to this document / section?**

You can find it in the "Budget" section of the project proposal template (in ELG Open Calls platform or in Annex 3 to Call documentation).

- 2. Do the indirect costs in the budget need to be justified too?**

No, indirect costs need no explanation.

- 3. Who can be considered as personnel and so be counted within the personnel cost? The personnel members do not have to be necessarily partners or employees? Can they also be external providers?**

Personnel are the team members that have labour contract with the applicant. External providers do not fall into this category, these are subcontractors.

- 4. Is there a recommended min-max number of team members to be presented as part of the project?**

No, there is no such limitation.

- 5. How many subcontractors are allowed?**

There is no limitation to number of subcontractors. Subcontracting must be justified, and it is limited to 25 % of the overall budget.

- 6. Given the relatively small budget for this call, would you potentially prefer to fund (more) smaller budget proposals?**

We do not have any preferences. There is € 585,000 left for the second call. We expect that 3-6 projects to be selected in Call 2, up to the maximum funding available.

Evaluation

7. Only Type B projects involving SMEs will get 30 bonus points, not Type A projects?

Yes, that is correct. Proposals that choose project type “(b) develop applications using language technologies available in the grid” will get 30 bonus points in case the applicant is an SME. See the Call documentation, Annex 4 Evaluation Criteria.

8. Is there a bonus for projects submitted as licensing-rights-free?

No, there is not such a bonus.

9. Are there any variations in the evaluation process for a (improved) resubmission - as the template appears to ask if you submitted to the first call? Is evaluation of resubmissions from call 1 evaluated as new application?

Project proposals resubmitted from call 1 are considered as new application and will be evaluated again by three independent evaluators. For information and statistical purposes, we ask the applicants to indicate it in case they resubmit their project proposals.

10. What is the maximum evaluation rating (score in points) that project can get in evaluation?

The total overall score of an individual proposal is 375 points: maximum 300 points from evaluators + maximum 45 points from Pilot Board + 30 points if the applicant is an SME in project type (b). See the Call documentation, Annex 4 Evaluation Criteria.

Open Call Priorities

11. Are any languages prioritized?

There are no priorities. We want to select the best projects based on the evaluation of three independent experts and the Pilot Board.

12. Apart from multiple languages, are projects focusing on specific domains also given same priority? E.g., scholarly articles in English.

There are no priorities. We want to select the best projects based on the evaluation of three independent experts and the Pilot Board.

Other

13. Can you provide 1 or 2 example projects from call 1? To get a better understanding of the breadth and depth of projects you are looking for? Besides the list of the approved projects in the first call, will we be able to have more information about them, at least before the META-FORUM?

Pilot projects selected in first open call are list at [ELG website](#). Information about the projects is available in the [ELG Grid platform](#) (Section Community, then you can select browse Project pages or browse Organizations). Information about all selected projects should be available in the upcoming days.

14. Can a project be both A & B type at the same time? Is it a strict requirement that the project must belong to A or B category?

You must select either A or B type of project. Sometimes there is no sharp line between the two. We recommend describing and explaining your project idea well in your proposal. The categorization of your project might be changed during the evaluation process. This does not have any impact on the chance of acceptance. Please see the Call Documentation for more information.

15. Where can we see the subcontracting terms?

You can find a Third Party Agreement (Call documentation, Annex 2) at [ELG website](#).

16. "Experiment phase" for a software basically means the development phase, right?

Yes, that is correct.

17. Could you specify the definition of the integration phase?

As defined by the Call documentation (page 7), integration phase means *"Integration of results into the ELG (objective A) or to the application catalogue (objective B)"*.

18. Do we need to provide the CV in Europass standard, or we can use LinkedIn or other format?

You do not need to provide the CV in Europass format. We prefer basic description of team (project leader, key members, their roles, responsibilities, and experience) in the project proposal. Other information about team (if needed) for evaluators could be possibly made available online (e.g. on the applicant's website – please provide a link).

19. Is a start of the pilot project later than March 2021 also possible?

We expect the selected pilot projects to start in February or March 2021. All projects should last 9-12 months. Also, all projects must finish no later than March 2022. Thus, pilot project can start later than March 2021, given it is at least 9 months long and ends by March 2022.

20. Can a company submit 2 proposals?

Yes. Up to two proposals per applicant will be accepted for evaluation, one for objective A and one for objective B (see Call Documentation). Others will be discarded. If the project proposal is not accepted in the first call, resubmission to the second call is allowed.

Please check within your organization so that you coordinate with other teams that might be interested in this call.

Questions related to ELG Grid Platform

Licensing

21. What's the license for these datasets? Where can I find the usage-license for the resources?

Each dataset available in the catalogue has its own license. You must check in the metadata of the resources, which sometimes might reside outside of the ELG, but we only list resources which do have a clear license. Most of them are publicly available but might require commercial (re)licensing to be negotiated with the owner.

22. How do we license our products if we are validated as a provider?

Results created with ELG funding must be available for research and academic use permanently, without fee. Otherwise you are free to put a license on them (but there *must* be some license). We encourage open licenses, but it is clear this might not be possible in all cases.

23. Are we getting tools/services from ELG or the original author?

Yes, you are getting / will get the license from the authors. Most are external, but some are developed in ELG and the Call 29a projects. ELG is happy to connect you (all the information is also available from the catalogue). Many licenses are Open Source for tools and some type of Creative Commons for data, so in fact no written contract is necessary (but again, check the license in the metadata in the catalogue for each dataset).

Project results

24. If an A-type project gets financed, must the output product (resources etc) be distributed ONLY via ELG? Or can it be distributed ALSO via other websites/networks?

Results of (a) projects must be integrated into and included in ELG offerings, but you can use them outside of ELG as well. You still own the copyright (in case of software and data developed by you, or together with any partners before you worked on the Pilot project).

25. How should type B-type projects (applications) integrated into the ELG platform? Is there any example of that?

For type B projects (developing an application using the existing ELG resources, tools or services), the resulting application must be described in the ELG catalogue, pointing to a place where it is available (e.g., a company website), and which acknowledges the ELG Open Call funding. The integration of the resulting service into ELG is also possible. A service level agreement negotiated during the execution of the project will be signed between the Third Party and ELG. Also, you might want to check the [ELG user manual](#).

26. What kind of results other than tools/resources would be required for submission? For examples, results from scientific evaluation methods related to respective NLP method used in the project.

Valid results are data, tools (as software packages or services). Any other data are welcome but not essential. Scientific papers, if they acknowledge the ELG funding and the pilot project, might count as dissemination, which is an integral and necessary part of the pilot projects anyway.

27. In case of project type B where one proposes services, the service will be hosted only by ELG?

If a B type project results in a web service with an API etc., a proper integration into ELG is necessary, with proper Terms of Service. However, as with A-type project results, the organization running the project might use the result as part of their own business as well (with proper acknowledgement of public funding support by ELG).

Other

28. Are the "official languages" Part A a complete list of languages? Sign Languages are missing, which is since 1988 official language

Yes, it is included, and there are resources (and more are welcome). The classes A, B, C on the slides are just to divide the groups, there are no pre-set priorities.

29. Is this an opensource product?

Not as a whole, but Open Source is encouraged in terms of what resources, tools and services are being ingested into ELG and made available.

30. What do you mean for "non-functional content"?

This is content that cannot be "actioned upon" automatically through ELG, i.e. everything but the "live" services available through the ELG APIs.

31. Are historical languages of interest to the ELG?

ELG has the objective to help the Digital Single Market by breaking the language barriers between member states and help the economy to include more human-oriented services using natural language in spoken and written (and sign) form. Historical language per se are of a lower importance in this respect. However, if Language Technology applied to such languages can help current education system(s), creative industries etc., then it is of course welcome.

32. Research Fields (Category) targeted

All projects must be in the Language Technology area. But they can combine technologies, e.g. from AI, and that is welcome, especially for B type projects.

33. What type of applications are supported in Type B?

Any applications that use Language Technology alone or in connection with AI or similar technologies. However, most probably, innovative uses of LT which form a non-trivial part of the application will be better viewed by the evaluators than their marginal or trivial use, given the ELG goals and objectives.

34. How important is the integration component for projects proposing new datasets? Other than making it available through the ELG platform?

New datasets might be results as such. However, it is important to check them for uniqueness (even outside of the current ELG catalogue) and suggest only significant resources. For example, a small POS dataset (even if contains a few extra POS tags) for a language already included in the UD collection will not do well in the

evaluation, and will very probably fail the uniqueness criterion; a small dataset for a dead language will not get the highest points, either.

35. What do you think about communication project related accessibility and picture communication technologies?

Accessibility is an important and welcome topic. In any case, however, the project will be evaluated on all the relevant criteria by the external experts, so this objective alone might not be enough to get high scores.

36. Could you explain more, what you plan in the ELG regarding billing? Is it planned to kind of resell third party proprietary services? Or offer paid cloud resources for open source services? What is the goal?

After the ELG project ends in 2022, there is a sustainability plan under consideration to make it permanent by incorporating an organization that will, on a commercial basis, take care of the ELG platform. The basic idea is that every LT provider will be able to integrate their tools, data or service into the ELG platform, and the platform will provide the matchmaking and billing, while collecting fees for using the platform by (possibly) both users and providers. More will be announced towards the end of the ELG project.

37. You said currently the functional LT must fall into some broad categories: IE, TC, MT, etc. What about POS tagging, parsing (basic processing tools)?

Basic tools (“BLARK”) are certainly welcome. However, if proposed by a pilot project, they must be unique, i.e. not exist on the ELG platform or elsewhere. This might be difficult for this type of basic tools, since ELG already contains a BLARK set (with the exception of NER and lemmatization, for some languages) for 130+ languages. Please check the ELG service and tool catalogue (and any other sources of such tools) before you start proposing such a project.

38. How to integrate services that have different/incompatible APIs than ELG supports. Provide them as downloadable SW somehow?

There are no preconditions. Integration will have to be done in some way or the other, and the technical team of ELG will assist you to make your APIs accessible from ELG APIs and vice versa.

39. If the author has more languages than in catalogue can we use it?

Your applications can use any source for getting what they need, but the pilot project budget can only be used for integrating ELG services listed in one of its catalogues (data, tools, services) at the time of project execution. For a clearer picture and better understanding of the evaluators, you might want to limit yourself to the languages available in ELG Catalogues now, but state that this is a prototype extensible by other languages which you will integrate later (for example). You are of course free to expand your application in any way after the pilot project ends.