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Resilient Cultural Heritage

Joint Transnational Call for Proposals (2027) for

Foundations for climate-resilient cultural heritage: Assessing and managing impact and risk, dealing with damage and loss *(RCH Grant 101304744)*

Guidance for Applicants

Important Deadlines

Submission of Pre-Proposals: January 11th 2027 at 14:00 (CET)
Submission of Full Proposals: June 16th 2027 at 14:00 (CEST)

For further information, please visit our website: European Partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage | Heritage Research Hub

or contact the RCH Joint Call Secretariat (JCS)
rch@anr.fr
French National Research Agency (ANR)
Agencia Estatal de Investigación (AEI)

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1. Preamble

Please read the JTC 2027 Call Text carefully including the relevant transnational eligibility criteria (section 5 of the Call Text) and budgetary requirements (section 2 and Annex I of the Call Text) before starting your proposal, in order to check if you will fulfil the call's general requirements.

Partners are strongly advised to read the eligibility requirements of their respective funding organisations (see Annex I of the Call Text) and other requirements, and to contact their respective funding organisation prior to submitting the application (see Annex II of the Call Text).

2. Building your proposals

2.1. Project idea

The project idea should clearly address the objectives of the call and be aligned with the research priorities and knowledge gaps described in the Call Text (section 4 of the Call Text). Applicants should explain why the chosen approach is appropriate for addressing the selected sub-theme(s), and how the proposal contributes to the overall RCH goals.

Proposals should demonstrate scientific excellence and ambition, and ensuring significant advancements in knowledge (section 7 of the Call Text). Leveraging synergies with non-academic partners sharing the consortium's objectives will strengthen the achievement of RCH's strategic priorities. Therefore, it is recommended to ensure that the project approach is relevant to the non-academic partners, including at the policy level.

At the same time, it is important to anticipate future needs, considering the relevant policy and regulatory contexts, to guarantee the project's relevance. In parallel, changes in the mindset and behaviour of non-academic partners and users will support the uptake of new approaches. It might be useful to also consider other relevant activities or change processes that are planned, in progress, or already implemented. This includes international and national levels as well as the regional and local levels.

Public engagement and mobilization of research outputs, open access, gender equality, science education, ethics and good governance should be considered.

Please visit:

- The Responsible Research and Innovation site of the European Commission: RRI Tools - Responsible Research - CaixaResearch

- EU-Report “Promoting gender equality and institutional changes through EU-funded research” (2026) Promoting gender equality and institutional changes through Eu-funded research - Publications Office of the EU
- EC-Guide “How to complete your ethics self-assessment”: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/how-to-complete-your-ethics-self-assessment_en.pdf
- FAIR Data Management Plan - Annex 1: http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/oa_pilot/h2020-hi-oa-data-mgt_en.pdf.
  Fostering knowledge valorisation through the arts and cultural institutions - Publications Office of the EU.

2.2. Consortium

Partners within the consortium should have complementary expertise in order to best understand and act on the challenges addressed.

Partnering options: The partnering tool The Heritage Research Community | Heritage Research Hub provides a platform for interested users to search for partners. Researchers are required to create an account on the Heritage Research Hub to access the international register of researchers.

Joint research proposals may be submitted by applicants belonging to one of the following categories (according to national/regional regulations; certain categories may not be eligible for funding by a specific funding organisation, see JTC 2027 Call Text Annex I):

- **Non-profit organisations and legal entities which have research missions:** research organisations, higher education organisations, scientific cooperation foundations;
- **Other non-profit legal entities:** public bodies, NGOs, other non-profit private associations;
- **Private companies**.

Non-academic partners:

To ensure the project results succeed in contributing to a resilient cultural heritage, it is important to actively endeavour long-term collaborations with partners in the consortium. By aligning the project’s activities with non-academic partners who share the same aims, the chances of reaching the outputs of the funded activities are increased. Policymakers and other stakeholders play a crucial role and can contribute to implementing the project outcomes.

If non-academic partners are actively integrated into the project's objectives, applicants are strongly encouraged to establish a reference group, or an advisory board, or another formal structure (steering committee, focus groups). This structure should be clearly described in the proposal, including its role, composition, and planned activities to enhance the project's impact and sustainability.

By demonstrating the practical implications and benefits of the research findings, projects can support decision-makers in addressing current challenges. The dissemination of research results could play a crucial role in that sense. The active involvement of non-academic partners and/or stakeholders is a critical success factor for ensuring the relevance, acceptability, and long-term sustainability of developed solutions, fully aligning with Horizon Europe's principles of user-centred innovation and co-creation.

2.3. Impact

The workplan of the proposals must embrace the development of comprehensive sustainability strategies. These plans should reflect a clear strategy ensuring that the project's reach and impact are maximized and aims to redefine the climate change challenges impacting cultural heritage.

To maximise the project's impact, it is essential to allocate dedicated resources from the outset to:

- Co-develop collaborative approaches
- Co-design synergistic actions
- Anticipate the exploitation of results

2.4. Use of AI

According to Horizon Europe guidelines[1], the use of generative AI must be conducted in a responsible manner.

Applicants should:

1. Remain ultimately responsible for the scientific output
2. Use generative AI transparently

[1] This section draws on the *Living Guidelines for the Responsible Use of Generative AI in Research*, specifically the "Recommendations for Researchers" (pp. 7–9), to ensure compliance with Horizon Europe's principles for ethical and transparent AI use in research projects: Living guidelines on the responsible use of generative AI in research | Research and innovation (May 2026).

3. Pay particular attention to issues related to privacy, confidentiality and intellectual property rights when sharing sensitive or protective information with AI tools.

2.5. European Infrastructures for Research on Cultural Heritage and Climate Change

Projects are encouraged to align[2] with relevant European research infrastructures[3] (SSH and Climate Sciences) for this action and to enhance their scientific excellence, impact, and sustainability.

- **E-RIHS (European Research Infrastructure for Heritage Science)** offers access to advanced tools, methodologies, and expertise for heritage research. Alignment may include adopting FAIR data principles, leveraging its transnational platforms, or integrating its analytical standards to ensure high-quality, reproducible results: Homepage - E-rihs.
- **ECHOES (European Cultural Heritage Skills Academy)** supports capacity-building and innovation in heritage preservation. Projects can benefit from its training programmes, best practices for digital and green transitions, and networks to strengthen skills development and knowledge exchange: Echoes – Eccch – European Cloud for Heritage OpEn Science
- **IRISCC (Integrated Research Infrastructure Services for Climate Change Risks)** recognises the climate change urgency and acts as a collaborative force, bringing together the expertise and resources of numerous research infrastructures. About - IRISCC
- **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change** IPCC — Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- **Cultural and Creative Industries** Cultural and Creative Industries
- **Galleries Libraries Archives Museums (GLAMs)** Resilient, sustainable and participatory practices: Towards the GLAMs of the commons | HORIZON | CORDIS | European Commission

3. Practical resources for applicants

Please take note of the references below that could be helpful during the writing of your proposal:

[2] Over the lifetime of the Partnership, more guidance will be given about how greater integration can be encouraged and please review national annexes for specific guidance.
[3] https://rea.ec.europa.eu/publications/research-infrastructures-climate-resilience_en

- Equality and non-discrimination, ethics, inclusiveness, Open Science education, and good governance should be considered. Please visit:
  - The Responsible Research and Innovation Guidelines: https://www.era-learn.eu/support-for-partnerships/governance-administration-legal-base/responsible-research-innovation
  - SSH CENTRE (Social Sciences and Humanities for Climate, Energy and Transport Research Excellence): About – SSH CENTRE
  - The Societal Readiness Thinking Tool – Guide for the steps of including RRI in a project: https://thinkingtool.eu/
- Publication of scientific outcomes of the project are subject to open access and budget should be allocated for this in the proposal budget plan.
- Helpdesk for Intellectual Property Rights issues: https://www.iprhelpdesk.eu/
- Support for the development of a Data Management Plan4 (DMP):

  Proposals should explain how data gathered through their project would be available (FAIR principles: findable, accessible, interoperable and re-usable) to the wider research community, even after the end of the project. RCH expects funded projects to develop Data Management Plans (DMPs) according to international state-of-the-art standards for data security (following the FAIR principles[5], the General Data Protection Regulation[6] and in accordance with ethical principles[7] for data management). Compliance to the DMP must be reported in the scientific project progress reports.

- Other examples for Guidelines:

  - **EU's Open science policy:**

    https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-research-and-innovation/our-digital-future/open-science_en

  - **Science Europe**:

    se_rdm_practical_guide_extended_final.pdf
    Horizon Europe guidance on gender equality plans - Publications Office of the EU

[4] DMP template available at Data management - H2020 Online Manual
[5] http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/oa_pilot/h2020-hi-oa-data-mgt_en.pdf
[6] https://gdpr-info.eu/
[7] http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/ethics/h2020_hi_ethics-self-assess_en.pdf
http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/ethics/h2020_hi_ethics-data- protection_en.pdf

- **Horizon 2020 FAIR Data Management Plan - Annex 1:** http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/oa_pilot/h2020- hi-oa-data-mgt_en.pdf

4. Inclusion of sex, gender analysis/research and underrepresented populations

Consortia should take into account gender equality issues and (where possible) ensure balanced representation in their composition.

Applicants are also strongly encouraged to integrate sex and gender considerations, as well as underrepresented populations (e.g., ethnic minorities) and underrepresented groups, along with social components (e.g., diverse economic and educational backgrounds) into their proposals[8].

5. Registration

Research project consortia who intend to submit a transnational proposal should register at http://proposals.etag.ee/rch/ and follow the further instructions.

Every partner in the consortium, including associated partner(s)[9], must already have or create a Participant Identification Code[10] (PIC) from the EC to be included

[8] See reference document (chapter 9): programme-guide_horizon_en.pdf

[9] *Entities that do not request funding or are not eligible for funding may participate in this Call as associated partners, for example out of interest in contributing to the objectives of the action, gaining visibility, or participating due to ongoing (R&D) cooperation with a beneficiary* (cf. AGA – Annotated Grant Agreement aga_en.pdf, p.14, paragraph 6).
EU restrictive measures: Entities subject to EU restrictive measures under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU https://www.sanctionsmap.eu/#/main) as well as Article 75 TFEU https://www.sanctionsmap.eu/#/main, are not eligible to participate in any capacity, including as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any).
Special rules also apply to entities covered by Commission Guidelines No 2013/C 205/05 Commission guidelines No 2013/C 205/05 LexUriServ.do on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards (OJEU C 205 of 19.07.2013, pp. 9-11).

[10] All partners can create a PIC. Please check first whether your institution has already a PIC. The PIC of your institution will be the same unless your institution has legally changed.

in the submission. Partners are strongly advised to ensure they have a valid PIC well in advance of submission.

6. Submissions

The call is organised in a **two-stage procedure** with one pre-proposal and one full proposal document.

Both the pre- and full proposal (in English) shall be prepared by the partners of a joint transnational consortium, and must be submitted by the Lead Principal Investigator (Lead PI) electronically through the Electronic Proposal Submission System (EPSS):

https://epss.proposals.ee/rch/..

Please use the proposal templates provided on the RCH website: European Partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage | Heritage Research Hub[11]

These templates are indicative models of pre-proposal and full proposal application forms. Please keep in mind that the templates provide indications for the online section limits. The different sections of the proposal should not exceed the prescribed maximum space (any exceeding characters will be redacted).

Content should be filled online with the exception of the annexes that need to be uploaded as a single PDF on the EPSS.

Incomplete proposals that do not adhere to the transnational eligibility criteria (see section 5 of the Call Text) or to the national/regional eligibility requirements (see Annex I of the Call Text) will be rejected and will not be evaluated. Any documents other than those requested as part of the proposal will not be forwarded to the Peer-Review Panel members.

Deadline to submit pre-proposal: January 11th 2027 at 14:00 (CET)

Deadline to submit full-proposals: June 16th 2027 at 14:00 (CEST)

To submit a proposal on EPSS, the Lead PI creates an account on the EPSS https://epss.proposals.ee/rch/.

The Lead PI can enter, edit, and save the electronic forms, add partners and associated partners[12] to the consortium, upload the annexes as a single PDF, fill the required budget for each partner and submit the proposal.

[11] European Partnership for Resilient Cultural Heritage | Heritage Research Hub
[12] See footnote N°9

Partners can enter and edit their own data only. Each partner and associated partner[13] must log into the EPSS before the submission deadline, to validate its participation with the project consortium.

Links and hyperlinks are not allowed.

Information entered or uploaded on the platform can be updated until the submission deadline.

For applicants from some countries/regions it may be required to submit the proposal or other information, before the deadline of this call, directly to their relevant national/regional funding organisations. Therefore, applicants are strongly advised to verify the respective country/regional-specific funding organisation regulations and other specific information (see Annex I of the "*Call Text*").

Resubmission policy: Unselected pre-proposals or full-proposals from one call may be resubmitted to a subsequent RCH call. Applicants are strongly encouraged to incorporate Peer-Review Panel feedback to improve their resubmitted proposal. Applicants should verify that their proposal aligns with the call's theme and sub-themes.

7. General Data Protection Regulation

By applying to this call, applicants consent to the use, processing and retention of their data, in line with the above notice [article 6.1 (e) and (c) of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (2016/679)] and for the purposes of:

- processing and evaluating the application where processing shall be lawful – only if and to the extent that – processing is necessary for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the controller;
- administering any subsequent funding award;
- managing the funding organisation's relationship with them;
- analysing and evaluating the call;
- reporting to the European Commission/ European Research Executive Agency (REA) on the call;
- providing aggregate data to national/regional and European surveys and analyses;
- complying with audits that may be initiated by the funding organisations.

The members of the RCH consortium may share an applicant's data with third parties (some of which may be based outside the European Economic Area) in

[13] See footnote N°9

relation to the above activities including evaluators, auditors and the European Commission (or its agencies).

8. Scientific Data Open Access Policy

Applicants must clearly describe all tools, technologies, and digital supports to be used in the project, as well as the methodological approach. In addition, descriptions should be included of how data from different sources (such as different organisations) will be combined, how different data streams will be merged and how the primary outcomes will be meaningful across different organisations.

Proposals should explain how the data, tools, code or algorithms gathered, developed or used through the project will be maintained after the project end and would be available (findable, accessible, interoperable and re-usable) or communicated to the wider research community, during and after the end of the project period.

In addition, RCH requires proposals to include DMPs according to international state-of-the-art standards for data security [following the FAIR principles, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and in accordance with Ethical principles for data management][14]. The DMP represents an essential document for the implementation of the research, as it helps to define the responsibilities of research data management ahead of the start of the project. The consortia of projects selected for funding must submit a detailed DMP.

The Lead PI is responsible for sending the complete DMP to the Joint Call Secretariat, no later than three (3) months after the official start of the project and an updated DMP at the end of the project together with the final scientific report. Compliance with or updates of the DMP, must be reported in each scientific project progress report.

The DMP must include a section on digital sustainability, specifically addressing how digital outputs and websites will be archived to ensure long-term accessibility and preservation. Please note that regional and national funding organisations' regulations concerning the requirement for a DMP may apply.

[14] Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable (FAIR): http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/oa_pilot/h2020-hi-oa-data-mgt_en.pdf
GDPR: General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) – Legal Text

9. Eligible annexes in the pre- and full proposal stage

The following annexes will be included. All must be in English:

Pre-proposal stage

- Annex 1 – List of references (max. 1 page);
- Annex 2 – One (1) single-page visual summary that can include diagrams, figures, and key visuals to support the pre-proposal description;
- Annex 3 – Ethical self-assessment (see section 7.3. of the Call Text on Ethical clearance and Annex III);
- Annex 4 – If the consortium includes partner(s) requesting funding from AHRC/UKRI, then the finance form of AHRC/UKRI must be downloaded from EPSS, completed and uploaded to the EPSS on pdf document.

Full proposal stage

- Annex 1 – List of references (max. 1 page);
- Annex 2 – Diagram which includes the general work plan, the project description, the interactions between the Work Packages, the timeline and milestones (max. 2 pages). (i.e. time plan, Gantt and/or PERT or similar);
- Annex 3 – Letters of Commitment for an associated partner (if any, mandatory). Please remember that each associated partner must precisely describe the resources that it will dedicate to the project (personnel, material, in kind/in cash, etc.) and the origin of these resources in a letter of intent. The letter of commitment has to be signed by the director of the organisation (NOT by the researcher herself/himself).
- Annex 4 – If the consortium includes partner(s) requesting funding from AHRC/UKRI, then the finance form of AHRC/UKRI must be downloaded from EPSS, completed and uploaded to the EPSS on pdf document.