



Framework Partnership Agreement concerning the European Topic Centre on Human Health and the Environment 2022-2026

Reference: Open call for proposals OCP/EEA/CAS/21/005-ETC HE

Closing date: 29.4.2021

Terms of reference's purposes:

1. Specify what actions the EEA is to finance under the framework partnership agreement resulting from this call for proposals (technical specifications)
2. Announce the criteria which the EEA will apply to determine the successful consortium among the applications received (evaluation of applications)
3. Provide information on how to apply, and the expected timeline

These terms of reference will form Annex I to the framework partnership agreement resulting from this call for proposals and will be binding during the agreement implantation.

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1 Technical Specifications

1.1 Background information

1.1.1 The European Environment Agency and the European Environment Information and Observation Network

The European Environment Agency (EEA¹) is a main source of information of the European Union and its Member States (MS) in developing, implementing, and evaluating European environment policies. The EEA aims to support sustainable development and to help achieve significant and measurable improvement in Europe's environment through the provision of timely, targeted, relevant, and reliable information to policy-making agents and the public.

Institutionally, the EEA is one of the Agencies of the European Union and is the hub of the European Environment Information and Observation Network (Eionet²), a network of around 350 organisations across Europe through which environmental-related data and information are collected and disseminated. The functioning of the EEA and Eionet are described in the EEA regulation³. The Agency has 32 member countries. These are the 27 EU Member States (MS), Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey.

The EEA Regulation identifies three elements of Eionet: main component elements of national networks, National Focal Points (NFPs), and European Topic Centres (ETCs). The Regulation⁴ sets out that ETCs are formed with institutions (within the Network) who conclude agreements with the Agency. They are designated by the Management Board and entrusted to cooperate with the Agency on specific tasks, set out in the multiannual work programme. These partnerships, implemented through multi-annual framework partnership agreements, are also foreseen to be an important element of the modernisation of Eionet that will be a key on-going process for the coming years.

European Topic Centres (ETCs) are consortia of organisations in EEA member countries with expertise in specific environmental areas, contracted by the EEA through framework agreements to carry out specific tasks to support the implementation of EEA and Copernicus work programmes. Each ETC consists of a coordinator organisation and specialist partner organisations from the environmental research and information community, which combine their resources in their areas of expertise.

This call for proposals aims to identify a new ETC that will take up the work in the following topic area from 1 January 2022: Human health and the environment.

¹ <https://eea.europa.eu>

² <http://www.eionet.europa.eu>

³ (EC) Regulation No. 401/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on the EEA and Eionet (codified version, OJ L126 of 21 May 2009, p13, see: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32009R0401:EN:NOT>

⁴ (i.a articles 4 and 5).

1.1.2 The EEA-Eionet strategy 2030⁵

The EEA-Eionet common vision for 2030 is to “...together constitute the leading network for policy-relevant environment and climate knowledge at European Union and country levels...” The Strategy – Delivering data and knowledge to achieve Europe's environment and climate ambitions clarifies how the network intends to achieve this vision and sets out the strategic directions for the network during the next decade, articulated in five Strategic Objectives (SO):

- SO1 Produce evidence-based knowledge to support policy implementation and development of new initiatives to accelerate and scale up the transition to sustainability;
- SO2 Deliver targeted inputs to inform policy and public discussions, by organising and communicating knowledge on responses, including innovative solutions to societal challenges;
- SO3 Strengthen our network through more active engagement at the country level and work with other leading organisations in order to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and expertise;
- SO4 Embrace digitalisation, including new technologies, big data, artificial intelligence and earth observation that will complement and potentially replace established information sources to better support decision making; and
- SO5 Develop structures, expertise and capacity across our network to meet evolving knowledge needs, securing and diversifying the resources needed to achieve our joint vision.

The EEA-Eionet Strategy 2030 outlines five areas of work that strongly relate to European policy priorities and form the overall structure for the broad division of ETC support roles. The five areas of work identified in the strategy are:

1. Biodiversity and ecosystems;
2. Climate change mitigation and adaptation;
3. Human health and the environment;
4. Circular economy and resource use; and
5. Sustainability trends, prospects and responses.

Europe's production sectors (including agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and industry) as well as consumption and production systems (energy, mobility, food, and buildings) will be addressed through the five interlinked work areas.

The EEA-Eionet Strategy underlines the role of data and understanding for the pivotal decade to come. It sets out how EEA and Eionet will work together with other knowledge providers at European level and with Eionet countries in support of Europe's environment and climate ambitions.

1.1.3 Role of European Topic Centres

⁵ [EEA-Eionet Strategy 2021-2030: delivering data and knowledge to achieve Europe's climate and environment ambitions — European Environment Agency \(europa.eu\)](#)

Under the overall leadership of EEA, ETCs provide expertise and capacity to support the EEA and its member countries with implementing the EEA-Eionet Strategy. ETCs, working together with Eionet countries, facilitate the provision of data and information from the countries and deliver assessments, reports and other services to the EEA and Eionet. ETCs are extensively involved in acquiring, processing and quality assuring data for EEA. However, the nature of the data, the sources and challenges vary significantly between topics of work.

ETC work on indicator analysis and assessments involves both the development of new indicators in response to policy requirements as well as the regular processing and updating of indicators which requires networking with experts in member countries.

The role of ETCs in supporting implementation of EU legislation and policies is also a key element of EEA activities towards Member States and the European Commission. ETCs gather expertise to cover the knowledge needs for EU policies, to handle and analyse data, to assess the European state and trends of the environment occurring in EEA member countries.

In addition to expertise on specific topics, ETCs have, to differing extents, competency in digitalisation, social sciences, systemic analysis, modelling literacy, knowledge of prospective tools, co-creation methods and capacity-building in order to fulfil their roles.

Despite the different areas of expertise, ETCs need to cooperate extensively with each other and it is expected that cross-cutting cooperation will be reinforced and an important element of all ETC work for the coming years. ETCs cooperate to both respond to cross-cutting policy requirements and in relation to dependencies in their work to other ETCs.

In the past the Monitoring, Data, Information, Assessments, Knowledge (MDIAK) chain was the core EEA business model. The new EEA-Eionet Strategy sees MDIAK as a value adding chain within a wider set of business models. This change reflects an appreciation by EEA and its stakeholders that EEA can frequently add value in individual components, for example, only managing data or, instead by only providing expert assessment on data or information provided directly to EEA. This change in emphasis means that ETCs in different topic areas may work in more focused ways, or even exclusively on certain parts of the chain.

Integration across traditional topic domains to respond to specific environmental challenges is becoming a key feature of the European environmental policy support landscape. Integration and associated cross-cutting cooperation are intrinsic features in EEA work such as on SOER, indicators, LULUCF, Copernicus, Urban/city sustainability, etc. In order to achieve the necessary level of integration, good practice, including on data, within and across topics is needed.

1.1.4 Agreements

ETC activities are based on framework partnership agreements (FPAs) and specific agreements (SAs) concluded with the EEA to implement the former. Specific (usually annual) action plans (APs) agreed between the EEA and the consortium will form the basis for the SAs.

The organisation and commissioning of work will be based on an annual budget allocation cycle (grants). All grants are subject to co-financing by the consortium concerned (minimum 10% of the

total eligible costs⁶). Action plans will be jointly agreed, based on proposals from the ETC in response to EEA requirements.

The FPA will be concluded for a maximum period of up to 60 months starting from the date of signature and not exceeding 31 December 2026. The FPA will be signed between the EEA and the appointed coordinator of the consortium to whom the other consortium partners confer powers of attorney (see annex 7) for the purposes of submission of the proposal and signature of the FPA and SAs in case the proposal is selected. For further details, reference is made to the draft FPA and draft SA attached as annex 5.

1.1.5 Estimated value (Budget)

The total annual budget for SAs to be concluded based on the FPA will be subject to available funds from the General Budget of the EU and priorities set in the EEA Single Programming Document (SPD). During the period 2022 – 2026, the indicative total budget allocated to ETC HE is 7,5M⁷ Euros excluding contributions from assigned revenues and other contracts.

1.2 Future demands on EEA work in the area of human health and the environment 2022-2026

1.2.1 General policy context

In December 2019, shortly before the corona virus crisis struck Europe, the EEA presented its report *The European Environment – State and Outlook 2020 (SOER)* which detailed the unprecedented scale and urgency of Europe’s current environmental, climate and sustainability challenges.

Many persistent challenges rooted back in the past are coupled and amplified by emerging and systemic issues, associated with uncertainty, ambiguity and conflicts of interests. Issues range from exceeding planetary boundaries and tipping points, through global drivers of change, the functioning of complex systems of production and consumption and establishing fair, society-wide transformational outcomes.

The European Green Deal⁸, proposed by the new European Commission in December 2019, endorsed in Council and European Parliament conclusions, is the European response to these systemic challenges. It provides a framework for ambitious actions and measures to position Europe firmly onto a path towards sustainability. It places the EU as a world leader in the implementation of the UN Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals, demonstrating that sustainability and prosperity could be achieved together.

The European Green Deal proposal acknowledges the work of the EEA in highlighting the extent and urgency of the challenges and sets out a roadmap of around 50 key policies and measures needed

⁶ The 10%-rule of minimum co-financing is applied towards the ETC as a whole. To what extent partners contribute to this co-financing is an internal ETC matter.

⁷ This figure may vary depending on actual budgets allocated to EEA and inflation.

⁸ The European Green Deal COM(2019) 640 final.

to address the challenges. It sets out several long-term strategic objectives transforming the EU's economy for a sustainable future:

- Increasing the EU's Climate ambition for 2030 and 2050;
- Supplying clean, affordable and secure energy;
- Mobilizing industry for a clean and circular economy;
- Building and renovating in an energy and resource efficient way;
- A zero-pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment;
- Preserving and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity;
- From Farm to Fork: a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system;
- Accelerating the shift to sustainable and smart mobility.

Amongst the measures proposed, the European Green Deal also proposed the adoption of an 8th Environment Action Programme in 2020. This is to help ensure implementation, enforcement and effective delivery of environmental and climate policies and legislation and also introduces a new monitoring framework.

As set out in the EEA-Eionet Strategy, EEA and the Eionet will play a key role in supporting actions under the European Green Deal, the implementation of the proposed 8th Environment Action Programme, as well as Europe's global commitments.

1.2.2 Topic-specific policy context

There is a substantial body of existing EU legislation addressing the protection of human health from exposure to contaminants in environmental media (air, water and soil), as well as via drinking water, food and consumer products. Over recent years, a number of these instruments have undergone an evaluation via the European Commission 'fitness check' procedure, including the EU Air Quality Directives, the Environmental Noise Directive, and the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register, as well as the fitness check of chemicals legislation. These evaluations, while in general confirming the overall legislation remains fit for purpose, have often identified areas where changes could help improve implementation and which hence might affect future EEA/ETC activities, such as strengthened provisions on monitoring and reporting, and the need to better support national and local authorities on mitigation measures and sharing of best practices. New legislation has been introduced in the form of a revised National Emission Ceilings Directive for air pollutants (2016), the Mercury Regulation (2017), and a directive on Medium Combustion Plants (2015).

Apart from the legislation linked to environmental obligations, the INSPIRE Directive (2007) and Regulation 2019/1010 on the alignment of reporting obligations in the field of legislation related to the environment impact on the reporting of environmental dataflows, with the EEA adapting reporting mechanisms and supporting countries to ensure compliance.

In addition to EU policies addressing health-related dimensions emerging from the EU, the policy landscape also includes initiatives at other regional levels and at global level, such as the European Environment and Health Process led by the World Health Organization, the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution led by United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and various multi-lateral agreements on chemicals.

Looking ahead, future directions across relevant thematic policy areas will be significantly shaped by the recently announced elements of the European Green Deal (2019) including the and the anticipated 8th Environmental Action Programme.

The European Green Deal provides a vision of progress towards greater environmental, climate and socio-economic sustainability in Europe. It recognises that good health is closely connected to the state of our environment and aims to protect the health and well-being of citizens from environment-related risks and impacts. One key component is the framing of a zero pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment across the EU. Expected in 2021, the zero pollution strategy will comprise an action plan for air, water and soil pollution, with a view to protect citizens' health from environmental degradation. In terms of action on air quality, the Commission is expected to propose to revise air quality standards to align them more closely with the World Health Organization recommendations.

Another component, the Farm to Fork Strategy, aims to deliver a sustainable food system that will yield both environment and health benefits. The recent EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 highlights the importance of nature for mental and physical wellbeing, as well as for social resilience, and identifies the urgent need to protect and restore nature in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The need to reduce the environmental impacts of production and consumption is recognised by the Circular Economy Action Plan, which aims to prevent waste and promote circularity in production processes, while ensuring the delivery of safe and sustainable products to European consumers. Finally, the recently published Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability, is again framed to better protect citizens (and the environment) from the impacts of hazardous chemicals. The chemicals strategy recognises the need for the regulatory framework to better respond to evidence on the risk posed by chemicals such as endocrine disruptors, hazardous chemicals in products, mixtures and very persistent chemicals. Addressing emerging scientific evidence on chemicals in a policy relevant and systemic framing will be important dimension of future EEA/ETC activities.

1.2.3 EEA role in support of policy⁹

EEA supports the policy agenda on human health and the environment through a number of activities.

This includes supporting the timely reporting and dissemination of thematic data and information reported under EU legislation by Eionet member and cooperating countries. This includes support to reporting under the EU Air Quality Directives, the Environmental Noise Directive, the EU Industrial Emissions Register and European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register, the National Emission Ceilings Directive for air pollutants, the Mercury Regulation, and the directive on Medium Combustion Plants.

EEA also evaluates the implementation of existing policies, measuring progress towards policy objectives for the mitigation of emissions and towards environmental quality objectives regarding the presence of pollutants in air, water and soil. This includes assessing the contribution of the energy, mobility, food and industry sectors that contribute to pressures on human health, and work

⁹ Within the scope of this FPA.

to identify potential solutions for transforming those sectors, and hence reducing downstream impacts.

The need to support a new, robust monitoring framework for the zero-pollution strategy under the EGD and for the upcoming 8th Environmental Action Programme will be a priority in coming years and is an area where ETC support is anticipated.

Regarding the impacts of pollution, EEA work assesses the impacts of pollution on both human health and on ecosystems (the latter addressed through the activities of the ETC on Biodiversity and Ecosystems). EEA work assessing human exposure to environmental risks includes assessing to what extent Europe's population is exposed to environmental pollution and climate change stressors and estimating the resulting burden of disease in Europe. This work ensures a better understanding of the health impacts caused by exposure to air and water pollution, environmental noise and chemicals, as well as the impacts of climate change. By assessing trends over time in the burden of disease linked to specific stressors, EEA provides evidence of the benefits to health that are delivered by measures introduced to mitigate pollution.

Regarding chemicals, EEA is engaged in dialogue with Eionet partners in discussions on how to better assess and manage the risks of chemicals. In terms of upstream measures to reduce exposure to chemicals, EEA work is focussed on approaches to regulating groups of chemicals and integrating the principle of safe and sustainable by design into product development. Since 2017 EEA has also been a partner in the European Human Biomonitoring Initiative (HBM4EU), a project focused on the production of coherent European datasets on human exposure to chemicals. Due for publication in early 2022, the resulting data are expected to provide insights into human exposure to chemicals of concern in Europe and their impacts on health.

Regarding the impacts of climate change on health, EEA gathers evidence regarding the health impacts of extreme weather events such as heatwaves, extreme cold and floods in Europe, as well as the long term impacts of shifting distribution patterns for vector-borne and water- and food-borne disease. This includes work to assess social vulnerability to the impacts of climate change both across Europe and within countries.

Another focus falls on the exposure to multiple environmental stressors and subsequent on health. Urban populations are particularly exposed to multiple stressors leading to combined effects, with both exposure and susceptibility to impacts mediated by social status and individual behaviours. EEA is exploring methods for assessing the combined impacts of exposure to more than one environmental stressor on health, such as noise and air pollution, while avoiding double counting.

In terms of how nature supports health, the EEA reviews the benefits that access to high quality environments delivers for health and well-being. This includes working with the Eionet network to document the uptake, implementation, effectiveness and cost efficiency of green solutions at local and national level. Such measures can include, for example, the provision of access to high quality green and blue space in urban areas, as well as the development of green infrastructure to mitigate environmental risks, such as extreme heat and flooding, in urban areas.

In building knowledge on environmental, health and well-being in support of this policy agenda, the EEA takes a systemic perspective that recognises the complex dynamic between the environment, health and well-being. As such, we explore how an individual's health is influenced by where they live, work or go to school, their income and social status, their behaviours and consumer choices. The role that socio-economic, demographic and behavioural factors play in influencing exposure, sensitivity and vulnerability to environmental risks is also a focus of activities.

Finally, EEA also supports activities assessing emerging risks to health, as well as risks that are presently poorly understood or subject to change. This includes topics such as human exposure to emerging chemicals, such as per- and poly-fluorinated chemicals, emerging air pollutants such as black carbon and ultrafine particles, how the changing climate influences the distribution of disease vectors, consumption of pharmaceutical and veterinary products as a driver of antimicrobial resistance, and indoor air quality. Efforts are also focussed on better understanding the potential for novel pathways of human exposure to chemicals of concern through increased recycling and the closing of material flows under a circular economy.

In order to produce and disseminate evidence in the environment, health and well-being nexus, EEA works with a number of key partner organisations. This includes the European Commission services DG Environment, DG SANTE, DG RTD and DG CLIMA, as well as the JRC. and the other EU agencies working on health-related and social issues, including the European Chemicals Agency, the European Food Safety Authority and Eurofond, as well as the World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe and the United Nations Commission for Europe (UNECE). In particular, the EEA is an observer to the European Environment and Health Process led by WHO Europe Regional Office.

1.3 Specific tasks of the European Topic Centre on Human Health and the Environment (ETC HE)

The European Topic Centre on Human Health and the Environment (ETC HE) shall support the work of the EEA in the period 2022-2026, The EEA Single Programming Document will serve as the basis for the identification of priorities and work packages set out in the ETC annual action plans.

Four key features of EEA and ETC work in 2022 – 2026 will be:

1. Supporting EEA member countries and the European Commission with reporting of data and information under legislative requirements.
2. Providing support for monitoring for the implementation of the 8th EAP and the European Green Deal, in particular the zero pollution monitoring framework.
3. Supporting development of the EEA State and Outlook of the Environment report 2025.
4. Much greater focus on systemic challenges. The European Green Deal is the European approach to addressing sustainability challenges from a systemic perspective. As such, the demand for knowledge on sustainability, both for monitoring progress and designing solutions will grow.

Activities to be performed by the ETC will be described in action plans. In order to ensure the best allocation of available resources, the expected work is divided into 4 work packages:

1.3.1 Work package 1 – Environmental pressures on health

This work package will consist of the following tasks:

- Supporting the timely reporting of data and information reported under EU legislation by Eionet member and cooperating countries, including data on emissions from industry and for national air pollutant emission inventories, and data and information on air quality and environmental noise (see section 1.2.3)
- Evaluating the implementation of policies and measures to mitigate emissions to air, water and soil, as well as to reduce population exposure to noise, including the assessment of progress towards targets where relevant.
- Work with other ETCs to understand the health-related environmental pressures contributed to by the energy, mobility, industrial production and food systems. This includes assessing the overall coherence of policies to mitigate upstream drivers of environmental pressures, such as air pollution and greenhouse gases.
- Assessing progress towards EU standards and health-based environmental quality objectives regarding the presence of pollutants in air, surface waters, groundwater, drinking water, bathing water and soil, as well as for human exposure to environmental noise.
- Support to the establishment of a robust monitoring framework to establish a baseline for measuring progress under the zero-pollution strategy and for the upcoming 8th Environmental Action Programme.
- Investigating new and emerging environmental pressures on health that result from large-scale trends, such as the widespread adoption of new technologies, changes in patterns of consumption and behaviour, shifting demographics and urbanisation.

1.3.2 Work package 2 – Environmental and climate impacts on health and well-being

This work package will consist of the following tasks:

- Assessing how exposure of the European population to air and water pollution, environmental noise, chemicals and the impacts of a changing climate in Europe impacts on health and well-being. This includes working with international partners, such as the WHO, to estimate the resulting burden of disease in Europe in terms of both mortality and morbidity.
- Assessing exposure to and the impacts of multiple environmental stressors on health, and investigating how socio-economic status, demographics and behaviour mediate exposure to environmental risks.
- Investigating trends over time in the burden of disease linked to specific stressors, such as air pollution, in order to gather evidence of the benefits to health and well-being that are delivered by measures introduced to mitigate pollution.
- Supporting EEA in developing online tools to present data and information relevant to the environmental impacts on health and well-being in a visual and accessible manner, such as map viewers and dashboards.

- In particular with regards to chemicals, making use of evidence on human exposure to chemicals in Europe and the associated risks to health to better qualify and track trends in the impacts of chemicals on the health of the European population.
- Reviewing the benefits that access to high quality environments delivers for health and well-being, including work to document examples of green solutions at local and national level across our Eionet partners.
- Investigating emerging risks to health, such as antimicrobial resistance and electromagnetic fields, as well as known risks, such as emerging chemicals and indoor air pollution, that are poorly understood or subject to change.

1.3.3 Work package 3 – Data management and reporting

- In close cooperation with the ETC on data integration and digitalization (ETC DI), manage the data flows under the respective regular data reporting cycles. This includes the collection and quality assurance of reported data, representing the EEA in relevant working groups, communication of technical requirements, helpdesk function and Member State support. As the EEA is transitioning all reporting data flows to ReportNet 3.0, the ETC will need to support this transition with optimization of workflows, including organizing the submission or harvesting of data.
- Dataflows, indicators and assessments will need to consider an increased uptake and integration of alternative data sources, in particularly Copernicus products. Whereas Copernicus data management is coordinated by the ETC DI, the ETC HE needs to facilitate the uptake and integration of Copernicus services products such as the Copernicus Land Monitoring Services (CLMS), Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS) and Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S).
- Furthermore, the EEA is increasingly investigating novel, alternative data sources, artificial intelligence, advanced data mining or automation. The ETC HE needs to be proactively promoting such developments and integrate them into the regular data flows, where possible.

1.3.4 Work package 4 – ETC management, networking and outreach

This work package includes the activities and tasks necessary for the management of the ETC, outreach and capacity building. The work package includes the following tasks:

ETC Management

- ETC consortium designates a manager who is the primary contact in the ETC for the EEA, NFPs from member countries and other relevant organizations.

The manager:

- Represents the interests of those planning and delivering ETC tasks across the consortium. They assume overall accountability for ETC deliverables and services provided, including adherence to EEA corporate standards.
- Sets up and maintains procedures for quality assurance undertaken with reference to EEA standards, including documentation and language-checking of all its deliverables.
- Ensures the ETC is in compliance with legal requirements, such as in relation to data protection.
- Reports to EEA on overall progress of ETC activities against the objectives of the annual action and communication plans as well as on risks.
- Ensures that structured work plans are prepared in sufficient time by project managers within the consortia.
- Maintains oversight on state of preparation of deliverables, including critical dependencies leading to potential delays, where needed escalating needs for preventative measures or corrective actions.
- Manages change request process in relation to deliverables agreed by ETC and EEA.
- Maintains financial records in accordance with requirements.
- May be supported by core management team that may include a deputy and administrative manager.

ETC Networking and Outreach

Under the supervision, guidance, and agreement of EEA, the ETC shall support the modernisation of Eionet and maintain close links with the Eionet (EEA member countries and other ETCs) as well as support dissemination of EEA and ETC products. Main tasks are to:

- Support EEA in organizing Eionet workshops and seminars to discuss the outcomes of work and plan future activities with the member countries; build upon the discussion results of relevant Eionet groups (i.e. National Reference Centres).
- Support EEA in dialogue with countries to identify barriers to optimally performing their tasks (e.g. monitoring and reporting capacities, flows of data, knowledge gaps, indicator development, responsiveness), developing proposals for improvements to solve any issues that emerge.
- Engage in communication efforts with the countries, including networking and country visits within defined processes.
- Contribute to Eionet modernisation initiatives.
- Provide training and capacity building in the countries in response to identified and agreed priorities and needs, including where relevant on solutions to support meeting EU policy targets.
- Engage actively in co-operation with other ETCs to strengthen the coherence of data and information, based on priorities of EEA work programme.
- Undertake publishing and outreach, including through social media, in alignment with EEA communication framework and based on agreed annual priorities.
- Maintain and regularly update the consortium website (including brief description of ETC consortia, list of members of the consortia, overview of work plans) as well as an inventory and

access point to ETC knowledge products (indicating any relation between the ETC product and supported EEA products).

- Make use of ETC graphical design elements and guidance on products.
- Where possible, publish deliverables and results of ETC work, accepted by EEA, in open access repositories with a public copyright license, such as creative commons.

1.4 General guidance on the organisation of European Topic Centres

The present and earlier ETCs are consortia, typically comprised of government organisations, private non-profit organisations, and commercial firms. Based upon EEA experience some general guidance can be given for a successful ETC.

The ETC shall comprise one coordinating organisation and several partners. The organisation and functioning of this grouping shall be documented in a consortium agreement. The following points shall be considered when establishing the consortium:

- EEA member country coverage is 32 countries. The consortium should be constructed in a way that gives access to partners with experience in EU and regional level work, international networks etc. without necessarily representing all EEA member countries.
- It is important that some leadership roles within the consortium are from organisations which either have experience in participating in Eionet or in working closely with and supporting EU Institutions and that their organisations are actively engaged in the policy area. The number of partners shall be balanced against the need to cover the required field of expertise and to ensure good geographical coverage.
- The consortium needs the following administrative functions:
 - a coordinator (ETC manager), having appropriate management and networking capabilities;
 - administrative support, able to work in English and organise European meetings and consultations; and,
 - accounting support, in order to ensure proper financial management and reporting.
- Effective practice has been that at least the manager and some of a designated core team work for the ETC 100%, with a group of key experts, working mainly for the ETC (ie>50%) supported by a broader group of experts available to provide specific expertise or work on specific tasks.

1.5 Mandatory requirements

In order to deliver high quality products and services, ETCs shall comply with the following mandatory requirements:

1.5.1 General requirements

- The ETC shall report to the EEA, the primary contact points being the ETC manager and the assigned EEA lead for the ETC.
- The ETC coordinator shall put in place and maintain an agreed internal ETC management structure that ensures delivery of outputs and services requested as well as efficient communication and coordination with all partners.
- The ETC shall be structured in a way which ensures proper linkages with other ETCs in order to respond to cross-sectoral and cross-thematic cooperation and integration needs and to avoid duplication or disintegration of tasks across partners.
- The ETC needs to be structured in a way to ensure flexibility to be able to adapt to changing needs and to be able to provide experts for specific projects.
- The ETC needs the capability to network and communicate with stakeholders in national or regional environmental administrations, European wide environmental networks, and international organisations, including regional cooperation bodies and conferences. The ETC needs to have proven links to wider European knowledge and expertise.
- The working language of the FPA and SAs is English. More particularly, the ETC is expected to deliver management documents and results ready for use or publication in English.
- ETC management must have in place procedures for quality assurance undertaken with reference to EEA standards, including documentation and language-checking of its deliverables.
- Subject to guidance from the EEA, the ETC coordinator shall ensure coherence and integration of ETC work with the work carried out by the EEA.
- ETCs shall, unless otherwise agreed with the EEA, publish the results of ETC work, accepted by EEA, in open access repositories with a public copyright license, such as creative commons.
- As a contribution to the overall EEA continuous improvement framework, ETC management shall, support EEA by identifying opportunities for innovation and improvements in specific working areas and in agreement with EEA, support their implementation.
- The EEA operates an environmental management system framed around minimizing its environmental footprint and is EMAS certified¹⁰. EEA offsets travel related greenhouse gas emissions, procures green energy and aims to reduce its electricity consumption as well as being active in waste minimisation. The environmental performance of contractors and partners is nested within EEA's environmental performance, which is part of the overall EEA continuous improvement framework. Thus, it is a requirement that the ETC has, or develops specific environmental policies and can document and report on steps taken to reduce environmental impact during the life of the FPA.

1.5.2 Technical and scientific expertise requirements

¹⁰ <https://www.eea.europa.eu/about-us/emas>.

The consortium is expected to have demonstrated excellent technical and scientific knowledge, expertise and experience to be able to fulfil the tasks set out in the work packages mentioned in 1.3 above and to provide the necessary science-policy support as follows:

- Knowledge and understanding of relevant international, EU and national/urban policy developments setting environmental quality standards for air, water soil and exposure to environmental noise and mitigating environmental pollution and the impacts of climate change.
- Handling of large data sets that include spatial data, to include database development and management, and the development and implementation of protocols for electronic data processing, QA/QC and data extraction and dissemination. This should include experience working with air pollutant emission inventories, including emissions from industrial sources covering releases to air, water, waste generation, etc., and knowledge of the associated guidance documents. In addition, experience is required working with large air quality datasets and noise measurement and modelling data. The future contractor should have experience working in cloud infrastructure.
- Ability to link environmental risks to health to the upstream pressures and drivers, in terms of urban settlements, industry, and the transport, energy and agricultural sectors. This should include expertise in conducting integrated assessments along the Driver-Pressure-State-Impact-Response (DPSIR) cause-effect conceptual chain, both within and across different policy areas. Experience in undertaking forward-looking analysis, such as horizon scanning and scenario building, in order to produce projections and support ex-ante policy effectiveness evaluations.
- Analytical skills to assess the health and wellbeing impacts of exposure to a broad range of environmental stressors, including ambient and indoor air pollution, water pollution (including via bathing water and drinking water) and soil pollution, noise, electromagnetic fields and radon, as well as chemicals in products and in food and feed. This includes knowledge of the mechanisms leading to increased exposure and/or sensitivity of vulnerable groups, due to demographic, socio-economic or behavioural factors.
- Experience conducting social science research to investigate the role of behaviour, demography and socio-economic status in influencing the environmental impact and consumer choices of population groups.
- Experience assessing the impacts of climate change on health, including the immediate impacts of extreme temperatures (heat and cold), drought and floods and the long terms impacts of climatic change on health and ecosystem services, such as shifts in the distribution of vector-borne and water- and food-borne disease and impacts on agricultural production.
- Ability to work with epidemiological evidence in order to better understand causality in the relationship between exposure to specific environmental stressors and impacts on health and

wellbeing. Understanding and experience applying methodologies and approaches used to quantify the health impacts to pollution exposure, including:

- calculation of number of people affected by specific health outcomes due to pollution exposure; and
 - calculation of the environmental burden of disease in terms of the number of premature deaths, or as a summary measure of population health, such as the disability-adjusted life year (DALYs).
- Experience calculating the health impacts/benefits of proposed policy measures and/or infrastructure development to mitigate environmental risks, including of approaches that monetize these costs and benefits.
 - Experience with the application of methods to assess risks to health of combined exposure to multiple stressors, in particular in urban areas. This should include experience developing spatial mapping approaches that combine multiple layers to provide a composite picture of environmental exposure, including experience of applying various spatial and statistical analysis methods in development of combined spatial indices. In addition, demonstrated knowledge of the exposome concept to assess combined exposures along the life cycle.
 - knowledge of green solutions and best practice in the field of environment, health and wellbeing, including mitigation measures, and on green infrastructure and urban mobility, such as promoting active transport. This should include experience of assessing effectiveness and cost efficiency of such solutions.
 - Expertise and experience in indicator development, maintenance and updating, as well as analysing trends in support of policy, including distance to target analysis).
 - Expertise to deliver capacity building activities with Eionet countries, potentially including in-country visits, and increased 'helpdesk' functions. Such support can be envisaged across the dimensions ETCs are active in, by supporting countries to increase their capacities on e.g. data reporting and processing technologies, development of national action plans and measures, assessment techniques to inform national studies (such as how to perform health impact assessments etc.).
 - Capacities for networking and communicating with relevant national, EU and international policy and scientific working groups and conferences. Experience in preparing, facilitating and documenting workshops and meetings through using participatory processes.
 - Experience communicating on complex technical issues, such as the environmental burden of disease.

- Adhere to EEA corporate standards in relation to the processing of data flows, in particular use the EEA common workspace as central infrastructure for data management and data analytics and coordinate with EEA data stewards and data custodians. Manage technical documentation in a central collaborative environment.
- Knowledge and experience for spatial data handling and analysis, requirements laid down by the INSPIRE Directive (2007/2/EC) and its implementing rules as well as sufficient expertise on Copernicus services and uptake of their products. This includes the requirement to secure transparent use of approved EEA reference data sets from the EEA spatial data infrastructure and centralised data cubes applications.

2 Evaluation of proposals

2.1 Participation in the award procedure

2.1.1 Eligibility

Consortia consisting of at least two partners (natural/legal persons, private or public), these partners being established in different EEA member countries¹¹ (the 27 EU Member States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey), are eligible to submit proposals, subject to 2.1.2 and 2.2.1 below. Consortia must identify one of their partners as the coordinator who will interface with the EEA.

Entities which do not have legal personality under the applicable national law of one of the EEA member countries are also eligible under the same conditions, provided that their representatives have and can prove their capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf and assume financial liability.

Partners not established in one of the EEA member countries referred to above may exceptionally participate in a consortium, provided that the other eligibility requirement is respected, and they complied with exclusion and selection criteria listed under sections 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 below. A maximum of two partners from non-EEA member countries may be involved in a consortium submitting a proposal under this call for proposals.

¹¹ The call for proposals will be updated with regard to the participation of economic operators established in the United Kingdom based on the eventual outcome of the negotiations between the EU and UK.

With a view to assess the fulfilment of the eligibility criteria, the consortium's coordinator is required to submit a proposal submission form (see annex 1) duly filled out, dated and signed.

2.1.2 Ne bis in idem

No partner may participate in **more than one** consortium aiming at the FPA **concerning this ETC**, i.e. the ETC on Human health and the Environment. Similarly, it is prohibited for proposed staff to sign letters of intent to participate in more than one consortium aiming at the FPA concerning the ETC on Human health and the Environment. Disregard of these rules will lead to exclusion of all consortia concerned.

2.2 Criteria

2.2.1 Exclusion criteria

Apart from the situations under 2.1.2, consortia shall be excluded from participation in this procedure if any of its partners is in one of the situations referred to in Articles 136 and 141 of the Financial Rules applicable to the general budget of the European Union¹².

When submitting their application, each partner of the consortium must provide (including any subcontractor) a declaration on their honour in accordance with the form attached as annex 2, duly signed and dated, stating that they are not in any of the situations specified in the above-mentioned provisions.

The initial verification of non-exclusion of partners will be done based on the submitted declarations and consultation of the [European Union's Early Detection and Exclusion System](#). The partners of the consortium with whom the EEA will enter into an FPA will be required, prior to the signature of the agreement, to provide the evidence specified in the penultimate paragraph of the declaration of honour mentioned above (see paragraph VI of annex 2).

2.2.2 Selection criteria

The selection criteria will be assessed as a first step by the evaluation committee. Failure to comply with these criteria will result in the proposal not being evaluated further by the evaluation committee. Applicants may be asked to provide additional proof, or to clarify the supporting documents, related to the selection criteria within a specific time frame.

2.2.2.1 Legal capacity

¹² Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18.7.2018, OJEU L 193/1 of 30.7.2018.

- **Requirement:**

Any consortium is required to prove that all its members are authorised to perform the FPA under national law.

- **Evidence to be provided:**

Each consortium partner shall submit a legal entity form (see annex 3 for the link to the form and instructions) dully filled out and signed, accompanied by either a copy of inscription in a trade register and/or VAT register, or a sworn declaration, or a certificate, or membership of a specific organisation, or express authorisation, or any other statutory document allowing verification of the partner's legal status.

2.2.2.2 Economic and financial capacity

- **Requirements:**

- The consortium must be in a stable financial position and have the economic and financial capacity to perform the FPA.
- In accordance with Article 190 of the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the European Union, implementation of the FPA shall involve co-financing from the consortium.

- **Evidence to be provided:**

- The partner assuming the role of coordinator of the consortium shall provide a financial identification form (see annex 4 for link to the form and instructions) duly filled out and signed;
- Each consortium partner shall provide a duly completed and signed simplified Financial Statement in accordance with the template provided as annex 6;
- For private partners: profit and loss accounts, balance sheet for the last financial year for which the accounts were closed (and audit reports by an approved external auditor certifying the accounts for the last available financial year¹³);
- Letters of intent of all consortium partners to participate and provide co-financing up to at least 10% of the total eligible cost of the jointly agreed annual action plans¹⁴;

2.2.2.3 Technical and professional capacity

- **Requirements:**

¹³ Having regard to Article 196(1)(d) FR and the fact that all *consortium* partners will assume joint and several liability in accordance with the FPA, such audit reports are not required if *consortia* include any public bodies.

¹⁴ The 10%-rule of minimum co-financing is applied towards the *ETC* as a whole. To what extent partners contribute to this co-financing is an internal *ETC* matter.

1. Relevant experience in terms of human resources;
 2. Relevant experience in the provision of similar services;
 3. Application of adequate quality standard;
 4. Application of environmental management measures.
- **Evidence to be provided:**
1. Human resources:
 - a) CVs detailing the educational and professional qualifications of the partner's managerial staff as well as those of the staff designated to perform the tasks listed under section 1.3, indicating language skills and the required professional experience as follows:
 - Managerial staff: Minimum 2 CVs, each documenting a minimum of 10 years' relevant experience
 - Experts responsible for performing the tasks:
 - Minimum 10 CVs of senior experts, each documenting at least 10 years' relevant experience
 - Minimum 12 CVs of Junior experts, each documenting at least 3 years' relevant experience
 - b) Signed letters of intent of:
 - the ETC Manager and core staff of the consortium's coordinator; as well as
 - all the key experts of each consortium partner,proving that the consortium as a whole has sufficient technical, scientific and management (including financial) experience to assume the role of an ETC;
 2. Past experience:

A list and brief account of work considered relevant and carried out by the partners forming the consortium in the past five years, with the sums, dates and recipients (public or private);
 3. Quality standards:

For each consortium partner, proof and description of their Quality Assurance and Quality Control systems;
 4. Environmental management measures:

For each consortium partner, proof and description of their environmental policy specifying the status of implementation.

2.2.3 Award criteria

The Framework Partnership Agreement will be concluded with the consortium whose proposal guarantees best that the EEA requirements as described above are met. Proposals will be evaluated

based on the award criteria and allocation of points as outlined below, producing a maximum total score of 100 points:

No	Award criteria	Max. points
1	<p>General understanding Demonstrated knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EEA’s role in supporting policy implementation and developing knowledge to support Europe’s sustainability objectives, • the stakeholders that the EEA and the Eionet are supporting and cooperating with within the topic area • the tasks requested across all work packages, the respective roles of data, indicators and assessment/information products and systems in delivering these, and the technical methodologies and frameworks necessary for their development • how the different dimensions of the topic area are interconnected, and how they relate to thematic and cross-cutting issues outside the topic area of this ETC • how different dimensions of the topic area differ or connect across global, EU, national, and sub-national scales. • EU environment and climate policy initiatives and objectives in the topic area, as well as impacts and variability of their implementation in countries. 	20
2	<p>Data and information systems Demonstrated technical and thematic knowledge of European data and information reporting requirements relevant to the topic area and including INSPIRE requirements where relevant. Knowledge of other relevant official and non-official data sources, such as statistics, expert surveys, research, earth observation (Copernicus) and citizen science, and the different processing requirements associated with these. Experience and expertise in supporting the design, quality control and evaluation, analytics, and content management of data and information systems, including proposals for internal quality control procedures to support data product development and assessment activities. Demonstrated experience working with expert communities that employ different data flow approaches. Provision of support to users through data helpdesk type functions. Demonstrated experience applying appropriate methods for data analysis including geospatial analysis and modelling to support assessments, summarising complex data and information, use of data near-casting techniques etc to inform policy makers and other stakeholders.</p>	20
3	<p>Assessments Demonstrated experience and expertise in:</p>	20

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supporting the preparation, production, and management of assessment knowledge products (i.e. reports, policy briefings, indicators, web-based products...) in the specific topic areas to be addressed by the ETC; • preparing and contributing to cross-thematic and cross-sectoral assessments, including preparation of integrated assessments that capture dimensions of policy integration, socio-economic dependencies and links across relevant economic production systems and sectors; • developing thematic assessments that combine new/innovative data sources with traditional sources of data. 	
4	<p>Policy support</p> <p>Demonstrated experience and expertise in providing knowledge to inform the development and implementation of local, national, EU and relevant international policy processes.</p> <p>Experience in ex-ante and ex-post analysis of the effectiveness of strategies and policies in the topic area and understanding of the links with other policies in other relevant topic areas.</p>	15
5	<p>Cooperation and networking</p> <p>Sound and innovative approaches to cooperating, sharing knowledge and supporting Eionet member organisations in member countries.</p> <p>Proposals for approaches and opportunities for collaborating with other ETCs on joint activities and how these will add value to the work of this ETC.</p> <p>Experience and expertise in accessing and working together with relevant expert networks and institutes external to the Eionet, including relevant communities of practice and the scientific community.</p>	15
6	<p>Consortium management</p> <p>Sound arrangements for implementing transparent, effective, and quality-assured management of the ETC consortium, including financial management.</p> <p>Sound approach to managing different thematic and regional dimensions of the topic area individually and as a coherent whole.</p> <p>Adequate level of manpower, resources and output corresponding to the indicative budget.</p> <p>Arrangements to allow the consortium to respond to specific requests at short notice.</p>	10
Total		100

Proposal which do not obtain at least 50% of the maximum score for each award criterion and at least 70% of the overall score for all criteria, will be deemed of insufficient quality and therefore not considered for the award of the framework partnership agreement.

Should proposals obtain the same final score and tie for first place, the winning proposal will be decided based on the highest score achieved for award criterion No 1 (general understanding of the tasks), and if these scores are equal, on the highest score achieved for award criterion No 3 (assessment). If necessary, any further prioritisation will be based on the highest score achieved for award criterion No 6 (ETC management), then the remaining award criteria taken in numerical order.

3 Submission of proposals and additional information

3.1 Submission of proposals

Proposals must be submitted through the electronic submission system ETHICS at [European Environment Agency](#) (the Contracting authority page), in one of the official languages of the European Union, preferably in English (supporting evidence does not need to be translated). Proposals submitted in any other way (e.g. by e-mail or mail) will be disregarded.

Make sure you submit your proposal on time: the time limit for submission of proposals is **Thursday 29 April 2021 at 14:00** (UTC + 1). You are advised to start completing your proposal early. To avoid any complications with regard to late receipt/non-receipt of proposals within the deadline, please ensure that you submit your proposal several hours before the deadline. A proposal received after the deadline indicated in the call for proposal documents will be rejected.

For detailed instructions on how to submit a proposal, please consult [ETHICS for economic operators](#) (see section 7 for English).

The submission receipt provided by ETHICS with the official date and time of receipt of the submission (timestamp) constitutes proof of compliance with the time limits of proposals.

In case of technical problems, please contact the ETHICS Technical support (button available on the main page of the platform).

3.2 Legal effects of the call for proposals

This call for proposals is in no way binding on the EEA. The EEA's contractual obligation commences only when the FPA with the successful consortium is signed by both parties. Up to the signature of the FPA, the EEA may cancel the award procedure without applicants being entitled to claim any compensation. Any such decision must be substantiated, and applicants notified.

The period of validity of the proposal, during which the consortium partners may not modify the terms of their proposals in any respect, is 6 months from the deadline for the submission of proposals.

Submitting a proposal implies acceptance by the *consortium* of all terms and conditions of the standard Framework Partnership Agreement and its Annexes, attached as annex 5 to these terms of reference, in particular those on performance of the agreement, confidentiality, eligible costs, justification of costs, cost statements, payments, checks and audits, and processing of personal data. Any limitation, amendment, or denial of the terms of the agreement will lead to the automatic exclusion from the award procedure. The submitted proposal is binding on the consortium to whom the agreement is awarded for the duration of the FPA.

3.3 Contacts during the award procedure

Contacts between the EEA and interested applicants (consortia/partners) are prohibited throughout the award procedure save in exceptional circumstances and under the following conditions only:

3.3.1 Submission phase (before the time limit for submission of proposals)

Upon request, the EEA may provide additional information solely for the purpose of clarifying the call for proposals documents.

Any request for additional information must be made in writing only through the above-mentioned ETHICS website in the “Communication” tab by clicking “Send question”. The EEA is not bound to reply to requests for additional information received less than 6 working days before the time limit for submission of proposals.

The EEA may, on its own initiative, inform interested parties of any error, inaccuracy, omission or any other type of clerical error in the context of the call for proposals documents. Any additional information will be published on the above-mentioned ETHICS website. The website will be updated regularly, and it is the applicants’ responsibility to check for updates and notifications during the submission period.

3.3.2 Opening of proposals

Proposals will be opened in public, remotely, at the time and place indicated in paragraph 3.4 below. A maximum of one representative per applicant may attend the remote opening session. For organisational reasons, applicants are requested to inform the EEA in advance (at least 2 working days before the date of the opening session) by e-mail to procurement@eea.europa.eu.

The public part of the opening session will be strictly limited to the following aspects:

- Verification that each proposal has been submitted in accordance with the submission requirements of this call for proposals;

- Announcement of the proposals received: the names of the consortium partners will be announced.

Applicants not present at the opening session may be informed of the outcome of the process by visiting the EEA website (<https://www.eea.europa.eu/about-us/tenders>).

3.3.3 Evaluation phase (after opening of the proposals)

Except in duly justified cases, applicants who have failed to submit evidence or to make statements as required in the call for proposals documents, shall be contacted by the EEA to provide the missing information or clarify supporting documents.

The EEA may correct obvious clerical errors in the proposal after confirmation of the correction by the applicant.

Such information, clarification or correction shall not substantially alter the proposal.

3.3.4 Award phase

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of the award procedure by e-mail. The notification will be sent to the e-mail address of the consortium's coordinator provided in the proposal submission form. The same e-mail address will be used by the EEA for all other communications with the applicant. It is the applicant's responsibility to provide a valid e-mail address and check it regularly.

3.4 Timetable

	Date	Comments
Call for proposals launch date	1 February 2021	On the EEA website
Last date for submission of clarifications to which the EEA is bound to reply	23 April 2021	
Time limit for submission of proposals	29 April 2021	At 14:00 (UTC+1)
Opening session	3 May 2021	At 10:00 (UTC+1)

Evaluation of proposals	From 5 May to 28 May 2021	Estimated
Designation by the EEA Management Board of the successful consortium	17 June 2021	Estimated
Award decision and notification of evaluation results	24 June 2021	Estimated
Framework partnership agreement signature	30 September 2021	Estimated
Approval of the annual action plan for the 1 st specific grant agreement	15 November 2021	At the latest
Signature and implementation of the 1 st specific agreement	January 2022	

3.5 Protection of personal data

Processing replies to this call for proposals will involve the recording and processing of personal data (such as name, address and CV). Such data will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/1725¹⁵ on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data. Unless indicated otherwise, applicants' replies to the questions and any personal data requested are required to evaluate their proposal in accordance with the specifications of the call for proposals and will be processed solely for that purposes by the EEA. Under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, applicants are entitled to obtain access to their personal data on request and to rectify any such data that is inaccurate or incomplete. Further details concerning the processing of personal data can be found in the privacy statement available on the EEA website: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/about-us/tenders>.

Applicants have the right of recourse at any time to the European Data Protection Supervisor (<https://edps.europa.eu>; edps@edps.europa.eu) for matters relating to the processing of their personal data by the EEA.

Applicants' personal data may be registered in the Early Detection and Exclusion System (EDES), if they are in one of the situations mentioned in Article 136 of the Financial Regulation. For more information, see the privacy statement at [privacy_statement_edes_en.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#).

3.6 Means of redress

¹⁵ OJEU L 295 of 21.11.2018, p. 39-98.

Applicants may submit any observations concerning the award procedure to the EEA using the e-mail address procurement@eea.europa.eu. If applicants believe that there is maladministration, they may lodge a complaint to the European Ombudsman within two years of the date from which they become aware of the facts which form the basis for the complaint (see <https://www.ombudsman.europa.eu;eo@ombudsman.europa.eu>).

Within two months of notification of the outcome of the procedure (award decision), applicants may launch an action for its annulment. Any request applicants may have and any reply from the EEA, or any complaint for maladministration, will have neither the purpose nor the effect of suspending the time limit for launching an action for annulment nor open a new period for launching an action for annulment. The body responsible for hearing annulment procedures is the General Court of the European Union ([https://curia.europa.eu; generalcourt.registry@curia.europa.eu](https://curia.europa.eu;generalcourt.registry@curia.europa.eu)).

3.7 Annexes

Annex 1 – Proposal submission form

Annex 2 – Declaration on exclusion criteria

Annex 3 – Legal entity form

Annex 4 – Financial Identification Form

Annex 5 – Draft Framework Partnership Agreement (including annexes)

Annex 6 – Simplified financial statement

Annex 7 – Power of attorney template

Annex 8 – Corporate standards

Annex 9 – List of abbreviations and acronyms

Annex 10 – Proposal executive summary template