

Call for expressions of interest - Competence Centers

01.02.2017

Call for Expressions of interest to establish a Competence Center as part of the H2020 EINFRA-12 (A) project proposal

EGI¹, EUDAT² and INDIGO-DataCloud³ are preparing a joint project proposal for H2020 EINFRA-12 *“Data & Distributed Computing e-Infrastructures for Open Science”*, subtopic a) *Secure and agile data and distributed computing e-infrastructures*⁴ to integrate, at European level, geographically and disciplinary dispersed resources in order to address the “fragmentation of the data and computing e-Infrastructure landscape to provide the best data and computing capacity and services to the research and education communities”.

The vision of the project is to offer researchers from all disciplines seamless, open access to the advanced digital capabilities, resources and expertise they need to collaborate and to carry out data- and computing-intensive science in a secure and trustworthy way, managing and preserving resources for everyone’s benefit. To this aim, the project will establish a unified, open set of production services realized via cross-Infrastructure integration, procurement, delivery, innovation and training, involving multiple providers and benefitting research collaborations of pan-European and international relevance. These activities, altogether, will enable the delivery of the European Open Science Cloud infrastructure⁵.

Engagement with research communities is crucial for realizing this vision, and the project intends to support the involvement and contribution of these communities, throughout the course of the project.

¹ www.egi.eu

² www.eudat.eu

³ www.indigo-datacloud.eu

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<http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/einfra-12-2017.html>

⁵ <https://ec.europa.eu/research/openscience/index.cfm?pg=open-science-cloud>

The consortium is now seeking to establish and fund **Competence Centers** (CCs) as part of the project, in order to address the EINFRA-12 (A) challenge 4:

“Adoption of standards-based common interfaces, open source components enabling access and processing of underlying data collected/stored in different platforms and formats. Empowering users to customise application and services tailoring them to specific requirements, which will differ across disciplines, applications etc.”

Goals, funded activities and actors

Goals

Purpose of the Competence Centres is to foster the use of the advanced digital capabilities and resources provided by EGI, EUDAT, INDIGO-DataCloud and other relevant e-Infrastructures, service and technology providers, in order to support data- and computing-intensive science.

The Competence Centre is driven by well established and mature research infrastructure or international collaboration requiring **advanced and integrated data and computing services**.

In the Competence Centre *early adopters* test, adapt, and integrate the digital capabilities they need to pursue they research, with the support of e-Infrastructure and technology experts.

Ultimately, Competence Centres should help consolidating and integrating existing e-Infrastructures in order to enable users to enjoy seamless access to complementary services from multiple providers.

Activities:

The Competence Centers are expected to implement the following activities, as applicable. Activities 3 and 4 are mandatory.

1. Running **Proof of Concepts** to prove the feasibility of the proposed use cases, based on specific scientific and technical requirements defined by the research community. Validation criteria have to be defined to assess the success of the Proof of Concept and Pilot activities.
2. Conducting **Pilots** aiming at defining and testing the architectural design of the proposed solution. The results of pilot activities have to be validated against to the predefined criteria.
3. Preparing the **production environment** required by the early adopters, where the relevant services and solutions are being delivered and made available to users beyond the CC, enabling them to become active users.

4. Defining appropriate **business models** to sustain the solutions after the end of the project.

Actors

The activities will be delivered by the Competence Centre with the contribution of different actors.

- *Early adopters* (research communities, research performing organizations, research projects, etc.).
- Current and prospective *e-infrastructure providers*, which are already part of EGI or EUDAT or may want to join the integrated infrastructure, to provide infrastructure resources (compute, storage and advanced services), expertise and technical support.

EGI, EUDAT and INDIGO-DataCloud can support the early adopters to engage with providers. In order to get help, please send a request to: editorial-board@mailman.egi.eu

- *Technology providers and experts*. The providers of selected technical solutions are expected to engage with the service providers to ensure the support of the validated software components.

Funding and duration

To appropriately address the specific activities listed above and the challenges that are in scope in this call, we consider allocating up to 600,000 Euro per competence center. Proof of Concept activities, Pilots and the preparation of the production environment are expected to be completed within 12 to 18 months after the effective start of the CC activities. These preparatory activities will be followed by a service exploitation phase that may continue until the end of the project. This is intended to be a contribution to the exploitation activities organized by the project.

Evaluation process and criteria

To meet the project requirement, applicants will be evaluated according to the criteria listed below:

Criteria	Weight
(1) Soundness of the implementation plan: technical feasibility of the use case (within the proposed timeline and resources)	35%
(2) Expected benefits of the proposed use case for the research community targeted	25%
(3) Contribution to the consolidation, integration and technical advancement of the data and compute e-Infrastructures	20%
(4) Pan-European and/or international relevance and dimension of the research community benefitting from the activities proposed by the Competence Centre.	20%

How to apply and deadlines

Please prepare your application by downloading and completing the template that is available at <https://b2drop.eudat.eu/s/eDbEm3FuTpaiaRh>

You are invited to send your expression of interest in participating to the project proposal by sending the completed template to:

editorial-board@mailman.egi.eu

by **Thursday 16 February 2017, 24:00 CET**

For more information please contact:

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