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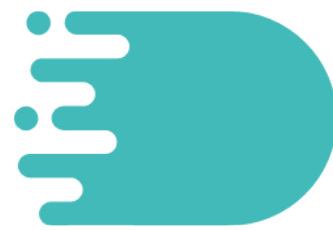
Frequently Asked Questions

1st Open Call for proposals



SAVE THE DATE!
Deadline for submission

July 31st 2019
at 12:00 CEST



DOCUMENT REVISION HISTORY

Current document version: **v1**

Date	Issue	Summary of main changes
06/05/2019	v0	Frequently Asked Questions - base text
13/05/2019	v1	Revision of Proposal submission - Can I submit more than one proposal?

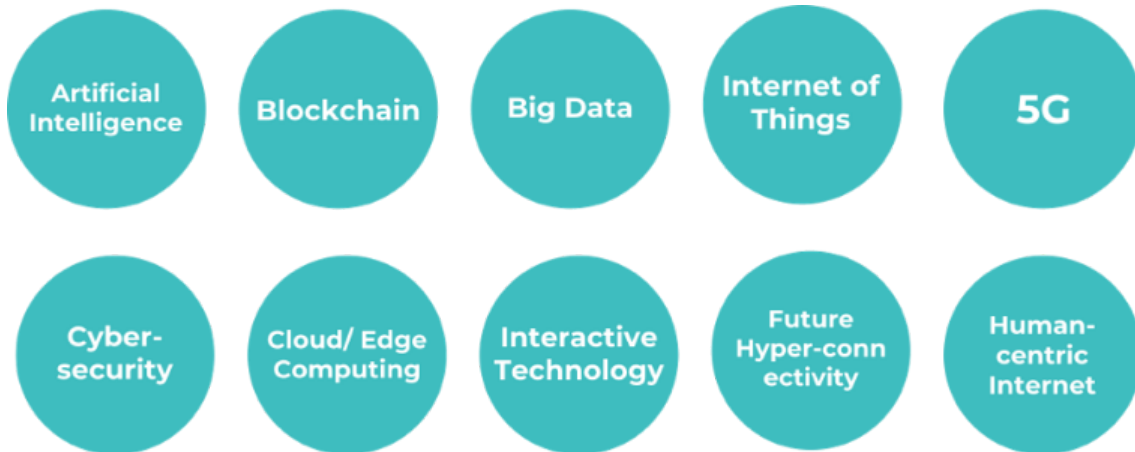
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ABOUT THE NGI INITIATIVE

THE NEXT GENERATION INTERNET

The [Next Generation Internet \(NGI\)](#) is the investment plan of the European Commission to re-image the future of the Internet, a public funding framework to fuel disruptive **Focus Areas** that will drive the Digital Economy in the next 15 years.



THE NGI EXPLORERS PROGRAM

WHAT IS IT EXACTLY?

NGI Explorers is the program to launch the EU's top Internet talent into technology Expeditions to the US. Up to **45 Explorers** will enjoy a **3 or 6-month deep dive in the US** to **accelerate their projects** and cultivate an **American mindset**.

HOW CAN THE NGI EXPLORERS PROGRAM HELP ME?

- **3 or 6-month experience** in an American organization partnering the program (US Exchange Node) that will integrate the Explorer in their team and will support the co-creation phase.
- **1+ million EUR** to support **40+ Explorers** throughout 3 years.
- **100% sponsored**. Financial support for travel and subsistence will be provided through grants supported by the European Commission through the Next Generation Internet initiative.
- **Training sessions and mentor feedback** will be available to articulate and spur the ideas in the most efficient way.

- **Europe's most powerful network of Internet leaders.** Connect with the rest of Explorers of the program to share experiences, collaborate and even create new partnerships.
- **Opportunities for public and private funding** schemes and **business development** will be supported for the most promising ideas.

WHAT KIND OF IDEAS ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

Your idea must address one or more of the NGI Focus Areas. The NGI Explorers Program offers 3 ways for EU-US collaboration:

- **Open Ideas:** tell us about your idea and choose the best US Node to collaborate with from the [NGI Explorers US Node Network](#).
- **Challenge:** choose your challenge from our [list of available Challenges](#) issued by US Nodes.
- **Paired teams:** bring your own US Node! If you are already in talks with another US entity willing to participate in the Program as host, let us know about it.

For further details on the participation options, please refer to the [Guidelines for Applicants](#) (**section 1.6** – NGI Explorers – Participation options).

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

AM I ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

Requirements for applicants

To be eligible for funding, you must be:

- An employee of a **European legal entity** (limited to: universities, research centres, mid-caps, SMEs and startups) under the European Commission regulations.
- A top **researcher** and/or **innovator** in any of the NGI Focus Areas.

For further details on eligibility, please refer to the [Guidelines for Applicants](#) (**section 1.4** – NGI Explorers – General Requirements).

Requirements for beneficiaries

Only applicants working in EU entities legally established in any of the following countries will be eligible:

- Member States (MS) of the European Union (EU), including their outermost regions.
- Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) linked to EU Member States.
- H2020 Associated Countries: according to the updated list published by the EC.

For further details on eligibility, please refer to the [Guidelines for Applicants](#) (**section 3** – Beneficiaries).

TIMELINE AND METHODOLOGY

HOW DOES THE NGI EXPLORERS PROGRAM OPERATE?

The Program will sponsor 3 rounds of Explorers for collaboration in the US, via a 3-stage process:

- **Open Call #1:** the 1st Open Call for proposals will be open until **July 31st 2019 at 12:00 CEST**.
- **Immersion:** 4-day intensive bootcamp with all selected Explorers.
- **Expedition #1:** 3 or 6-month deep dive into the United States.
- **NGI Explorers Oscars:** dedicated event to gather and award Explorers and hosting US Nodes.



For further details on the Program’s timeline, please refer to the [Guidelines for Applicants](#) (see **section 2** – Timeline).

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

WHAT’S THE DEADLINE FOR THE 1ST OPEN CALL?

NGI Explorers 1st Open Call for proposals will close **July 31st 2019 at 12:00 CEST**.

HOW CAN I APPLY?

The [F6S platform](#) is the official entry point for all proposals. Submissions received by any other channel will be automatically discarded.

CAN I SUBMIT MORE THAN ONE PROPOSAL?

Only one proposal may be submitted for evaluation per applicant. For further details, please refer to the [Guidelines for Applicants](#) (see **section 4.5** – Number of proposals per applicant).

CAN I SUBMIT THE SAME PROPOSAL MULTIPLE TIMES?

Resubmission will be allowed in subsequent calls (from the 2nd Open Call onwards) should the applicant not be accepted in the first one. There will be no deadline extensions unless a major issue, caused by the NGI Explorers Program and not by the applicant, renders the platform unavailable for timely submission.

ARE YOU SHARING ANY INFORMATION ABOUT MY PROPOSAL?

Yes. A summary of the proposals and the participants' information will be shared with the EC. Following the call resolution, datasets with the selected applicants and beneficiaries for the 1st Open Call will be published, including basic information data on submission statistics and total funding received.

All data that will be made public is clearly indicated in the official documentation of the call. Unless under your explicit agreement, no technical insights will be published anywhere.

EVALUATION AND RESOLUTION

HOW WILL THE EVALUATION PROCESS UNFOLD?

The evaluation process for the NGI Explorers Program has been designed following a 3-step structure:

- First, we will check if your proposal meets the call's criteria for eligibility, as detailed in the [Guidelines for Applicants](#) (see **section 6.2** – Eligibility).
- Then, your proposal will undergo a detailed evaluation from our pool of **external expert reviewers**.
- Shortlisted applicants will then be invited to **online interviews**.
- Finally, we will publish the **resolution for the call**. If you are one of the selected applicants, you will be notified accordingly. Fingers crossed!

For further details on the evaluation process, please refer to the [Guidelines for Applicants](#) (see **section 6.3** – Proposal evaluation).

WHAT ARE THE EVALUATION CRITERIA?

Proposals are evaluated based on:

- **Background and know-how:** description of the applicant's expertise and skills.
- **Excellence:** technical quality of the applicant's idea and its proposed implementation.
- **Impact:** ambition of the applicant's idea, value proposition and expected outcomes.

For further details on the evaluation criteria and scoring, please refer to the [Guidelines for Applicants](#) (see **section 6.3** – Proposal evaluation).

WHAT HAPPENS IF I AM SELECTED?

If you are among the lucky group of Explorers in any of the Open Calls, you will be invited to sign a Sub-Grantee Funding Agreement to officialise your participation in the Program.

After this, you will attend a **4-day immersion bootcamp** in Lisbon to get to know your fellow Explorers and prepare for your stay overseas. Following immersion, you will be ready to start your own **Expedition** and enjoy a 3 or 6-month stay in the US, in close collaboration with the US Node of your choice.

At the end of your Expedition, you will be summoned back to attend the **NGI Explorers Oscars**, an event where you will be able to tell us all about your journey and even be awarded for your hard work!

FUNDING AND PAYMENTS

WHERE DOES THE FUNDING COME FROM?

Funding will be provided by the NGI Explorers Consortium under a Sub-Grantee Agreement signed by the selected applicants, their beneficiaries and the NGI Explorers Consortium. Funds come directly from the European Commission (Horizon 2020 Framework Programme), which uses the NGI Explorers Program as intermediary.

For further details on the Program's funding scheme, please refer to the [Guidelines for Applicants](#) (see **section 4.4** – Origin of the funds).

WHAT KIND OF EXPENSES DOES THE FUNDING COVER EXACTLY?

The Program will provide funding exclusively for **travel** and **subsistence costs** during your Expedition in the US.

WHEN AM I GOING TO BE PAID?

Payment releases will be linked to each step of the Program:

- **40%** at the end of **Immersion**.
- **45%** at the end of the **Expedition**.
- **15%** at the **NGI Explorers Oscars**.

A **payment schedule** will be included in the Sub-grantee Funding Agreement to be signed. For further details on funding releases, please refer to the [Guidelines for Applicants](#) (see **section 9** – Payment).

DO I HAVE TO KEEP TRACK OF MY EXPENSES?

Not in this case. Payments are a flat rate and will be released if (and only if) some conditions are met. For the Program, these conditions will be assessed periodically via a series of milestones outlined in the Explorers Expedition Masterplans.

For further details on follow-up procedures, please refer to the [Guidelines for Applicants](#) (see **section 8.2** – Expedition).

CAN I SECURE FUNDS FROM OTHER SOURCES FOR THE SAME PROJECT?

Funds for the NGI Explorers Program come from the H2020 Framework Programme of the European Commission. As such, standard H2020 regulation applies. Should you receive additional public funding for this project, it falls within your responsibility to ensure compatibility between different funding sources.