ELiAS

European Lighthouse of AI for Sustainability

www.elias-ai.eu

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EBERHARD KARLS UNIVERSITÄT TÜBINGEN
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ellis UNIT ALICANTE
CERTH CENTRE FOR RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY HELLAS
VNIVERSITAT ID VALÈNCIA
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UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO
UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN
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idiap RESEARCH INSTITUTE
ETH Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich
A! Aalto University
MANCHESTER 1824 The University of Manchester

ELIAS
Presentation

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17

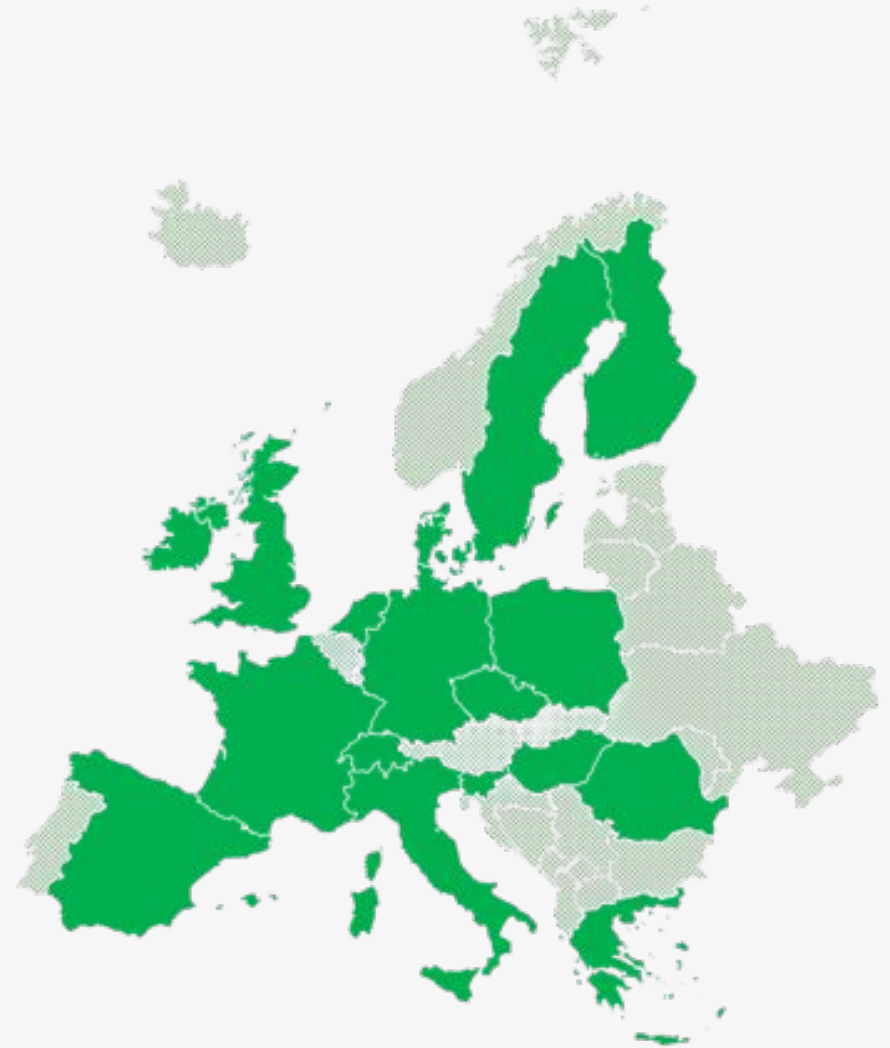**Countries**

34

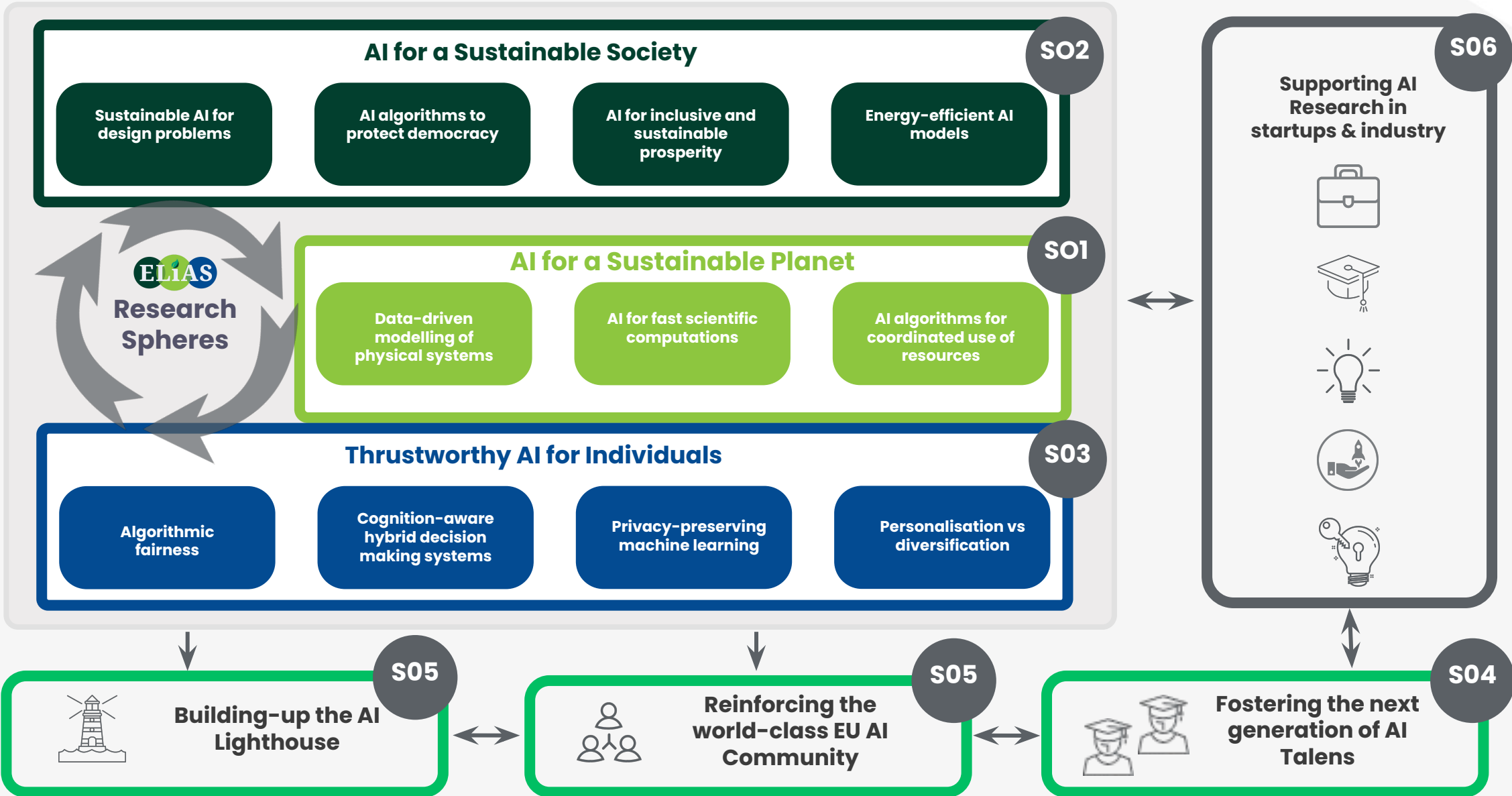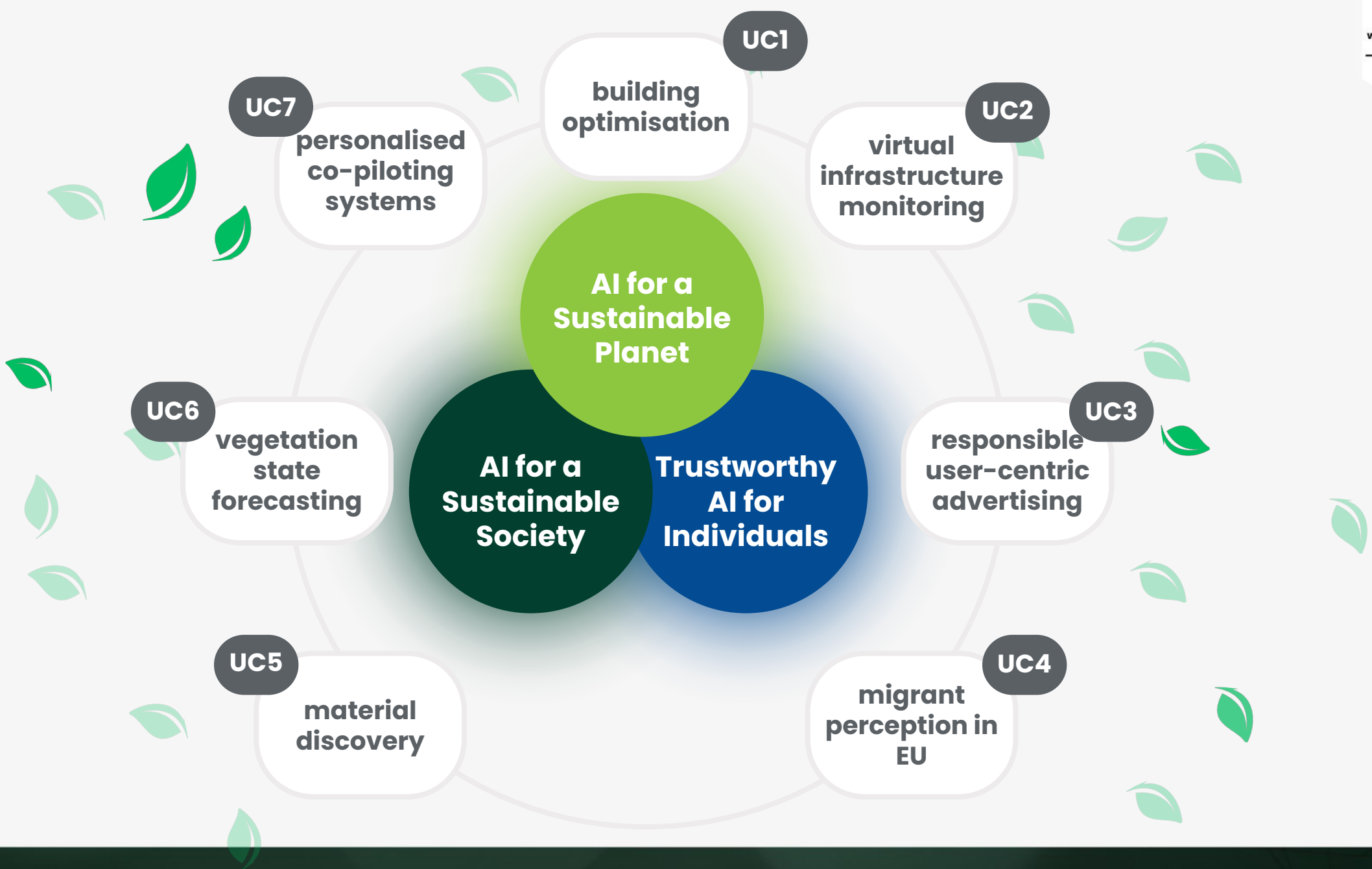**Partners**

48

Months

€ 11.030.575,00

Funding

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ELIAS 1st Open Call

Opportunity up to 60,000€

Deadline: April 30th (midnight CEST)

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Join ELIAS for a 6-month project funded by the European Union and receive:

- Up to € 60.000 (lump sum) to develop AI/Machine Learning applications for Sustainability

- Visibility through ELIAS online channels and events, and dissemination in the ELIAS community.

- The funding follows a payment schedule with one unique payment after the publication of results.

What are we looking for?

ELIAS is looking for projects based on AI applications that engage with the network in the categories "**Methodology**", "**Software**/**Tools**", "**Benchmarks**" relevant but not limited to the use cases of ELIAS in the scope of AI for Sustainability. ELIAS is focused on 3 research spheres but applications are not limited to them as long as the proposals will address high-impact societal and economic challenges using machine learning.

Use Cases:

➢ AI for Building Optimization

➢ AI for Monitoring the Virtual Infrastructure

➢ Responsible, User-centric Advertising

➢ Mitigating misinformed migrant perception in EU

➢ AI for Forecasting of Vegetation State

➢ Materials Discovery

➢ Personalized co-piloting systems

Who can apply?

We are looking for **SME**, **startups** and **NGO's**. Applicants, at the moment of applying, must be officially registered legal entities established in:

➤ Member States (MS) of the European Union (EU), including their overseas departments

➤ The Horizon Europe Associated Countries

➤ The EU Associated Countries participate in Horizon Europe under the same conditions as the EU Member States. A list with all eligible associated Countries can be found here: list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

➤ Legal entities established in any other country or region cannot receive funding in this open Call.

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Eligibility Criteria

➢ SMEs, Startups, NGO's (rules presented before)

➢ Project should engage with the network in the categories "methodology", "software/tools" or "benchmarks" addressing sustainable AI

➢ The project needs to reach TRL 5 and show a validation of technology in an industrial relevant environment (of one of the use cases).

➢ Ethics Guidelines Trustworthy AI (provided by the European Commission) must be followed, a self ethical assessment has to be included in the application

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Platform

Proposal

➤ Your project should have a clear European Dimension

➤ We will evaluate only proposals submitted through the online form

➤ It won't be possible to add any further information after the deadline

➤ You can submit only one proposal to this ELIAS Open Call. If more than one proposal is identified, only the most recent (counting back from deadline) will be evaluated

➤ Your proposal must be written in English

➤ All mandatory sections of your proposal must be completed. The data provided should be actual, true, complete and should allow assessment of the proposal

➤ Your project should be based on your original work or your right to use the IPR must be clear

➤ We don't accept entities that are under liquidation or are an enterprise under difficulty according to the Commission Regulation No 651/2014, art. 2.18

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Timeline

		RP2														
		nov 24	dec 24	jan 25	feb 25	mar 25	apr 25	may 25	jun 25	jul 25	aug 25	sep 25	oct 25	nov 25	dec 25	jan 26	feb 26
		M15	M16	M17	M18	M19	M20	M21	M22	M23	M24	M25	M26	M27	M28	M29	M30
Cascade 1				Publication	Proposal preparation			Selection	Implementation						Evaluation approval and payment		
Cascade 2																	
Cascade 3																	
Cascade 4																	
Cascade 5																	Publication
Cascade 6																	
Cascade 7																	
Cascade 8																	

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Selection Criteria (on a scale from 0 to 5)

EXCELLENCE:

➢ Ambition: Proposal goes beyond the state-of-the-art and leverages the results and expertise of ELIAS.
➢ Innovation: Level of innovation within the market.
➢ Technical soundness and feasibility: Is the overall approach appropriate, technical correct

IMPACT and SCOPE:

➢ Scope: How is the proposal addressing challenges that hamper deployment of sustainable AI.
➢ Market opportunity & competition: How is the proposal increasing the competitiveness of the company also in comparison to the competition.

IMPLEMENTATION:

➢ Team: Capability of the application and its team to manage, perform and succeed with the project.
➢ Resources: Sufficient resources (requested and owned) to perform the project.

Each evaluator will score the application assigning a score from 0 to 5 for each criterion and produce an Individual Evaluation Report. The threshold for individual criteria will be 3. The overall threshold, applying to the sum of the three individual scores, will be 10.

The final score will be calculated as an average of the individual assessments provided by the Evaluators. If scores on a project show significant divergence between the two evaluators, a third evaluator will be involved to provide an additional independent assessment of the proposal.

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Selection and Sub Grant Agreement

➢ A 'Ranking List' will be elaborated. If not all the funding available in the call is allocated, any remaining FSTP budget will be considered for a potential extra solution funded in the second call.

➢ After the selection of the 4 winners, before the conclusion of the Sub Grant Agreement with the ELIAS Consortium, we will ask you to provide documents regarding your formal status in order to check the eligibility to the call. Please do it within the deadlines that will be communicated to you.

➢ Once checked the Sub Grant Agreement will be signed.

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Selection and Sub Grant Agreement

➢ The selected grantees will receive a **fixed lump sum of up to €60,000.**

➢ The lump sum is a simplified method of settling expenses in projects financed from Horizon Europe funds. It means that you are not required to present strictly defined accounting documents to prove the cost incurred , but the grantee is obliged to demonstrate the implementation of the project in line with the milestones set for it.

➢ The lump sum does not release the grantee from the obligation to collect documentation to confirm the costs under fiscal regulation.

➢ The implementation will last **up to 6 months**.

➢ The **payment will be released after the validation** of the Final Report by the Open Call Selection Committee.

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Final report

➢ Description of the results achieved by your team (max. 5 pages),

➢ A short summary of the project, which will be published on the ELIAS website,

➢ Video demonstrating results of your project (max. 5 minutes), which will be published on the ELIAS website,

➢ Any materials, results or any other deliverables that were the subject of the proposal's objectives must be handed over to the ELIAS consortium.

The Final Report has to be submitted **within one month after** the project is finished.

You will demonstrate the results of your project during an event organised by ELIAS, where all participants will present the results of their projects, followed by a Q&A session with the Elias Consortium.

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FAQs

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Definition of SME

An SME will be considered as such if it complies with the European Commission's Recommendation 2003/361/EC. As a summary, the criteria defining an SME are:

➢ Headcount in Annual Work Unit (AWU) less than 250;

➢ Annual turnover less or equal to €50 million OR annual balance sheet total less or equal to €43 million.

Note that the figures of partners and linked enterprises should also be considered as stated in the SME user guide. For detailed information check EU recommendation:

https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/smes/sme-fundamentals/sme-definition_en

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Definition of NGOs

NGOs, or non-governmental organisations, are not-for-profit organisations that operate independently from national governments. They often take the form of charities and tend to be particularly active in the fight against poverty, poor healthcare, environmental issues and social exclusion.

NGOs can range from local community-driven initiatives up to international organisations working across the world. Typically funded by donations, they unite people who share a common interest and looking to make a difference or influence change.

Projects outside the use cases

You are encouraged to try to address at least one of the ELIAS use cases. However, even if your project does not fall under any of the use cases listed, it can still be considered for funding. Remember, it should nonetheless have a clear connection to AI/ML and address high-impact societal and economic challenges using machine learning.

Expected TRL

At a minimum, the projects need to reach **TRL 5** and show a **validation of technology in an industrial relevant environment of one of the use cases**. Applicants will be able and are encouraged to offer their own contributions in order to reach even higher TRL levels up to 7. Applications with lower TRL can be accepted as long as the applicant presents the road map to reach the higher TRL level.

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Can a company submit more than one application?

No, you cannot submit more than one application. If more than one proposal is identified, only the last proposal which has been submitted in order of time (most recent counting back from the deadline) will be evaluated.

Payment conditions and schedule

The selected grantees will receive a fixed lump sum of up to €60,000 **paid in 1 instalment after the presentation of the results of their project.**

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Q&A

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What is eligible under the FIXED LUMP SUM?

In general, you should refer to the Annotated Grant Agreement (AGA) and follow its framework, including its cost categories, while also adhering to the regulations of your own country.

What level of detail is expected in the descriptions?

The key priority is to present your proposal in the most compelling and well-structured manner to effectively advocate for its approval.

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What is the idea behind the project? What does it mean for the project to be interesting to the partners?

To determine what would be of interest to the project, it is advisable to contact the Work Package (WP) leader directly and inquire whether there are specific challenges or issues that need to be addressed. To get the contact information, get in touch with elias-coordination@unitn.it

Is the focus strictly on use cases, or can we propose other aspects?

No, you are not limited to use cases. If there are other relevant topics, they can be proposed as well.

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Can you apply as a consortium?

No, only single-owned company can apply.

Can you apply with associated partners?

Yes, provided that you comply with both the regulations of your country and the guidelines set out in the Annotated Grant Agreement (AGA).

How long does it take to complete the web form?

It typically takes one to two days. The submission should be clear, well-structured, and concise, while still providing all necessary detail.

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How does collaboration influence the project? Can a letter of intent be uploaded to the form?

Collaboration highlights the potential impact of your project. Since the form does not allow attachments, you may share the letter of intent, which could help support your proposal, with elias-coordination@unitn.it

If the product is software, is there a requirement to release it under an open-source license?

No, there is no strict requirement to release it as open source.

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Pioneering Europe's AI Leadership for Sustainable Innovation and Economic Growth!

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