

Proposal Evaluation Form

	EUROPEAN COMMISSION Horizon Europe (HORIZON)	Evaluation Summary Report - Coordination and support actions
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Call:	HORIZON-MSCA-2023-CITIZENS-01
Type of action:	HORIZON-CSA
Proposal number:	101162227
Proposal acronym:	MEDNIGHT
Duration (months):	21
Proposal title:	MEDITERRANEAN RESEARCHERS' NIGHT (2024 AND 2025 EDITIONS)
Activity:	HORIZON-MSCA-2023-CITIZENS-01-01

N.	Proposer name	Country	Total eligible costs	%	Grant Requested	%
1	UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI MESSINA	IT	110,978	16.46%	110,978	16.46%
2	EPISTIMI EPIKOINONIA	EL	100,688	14.93%	100,688	14.93%
3	EL CALEIDOSCOPIO PROYECTOS DE CIENCIA Y CULTURA SL	ES	109,993	16.31%	109,993	16.31%
4	SCICO CYPRUS LTD	CY	16,174	2.40%	16,174	2.40%
5	KADIR HAS UNIVERSITESI	TR	25,000	3.71%	25,000	3.71%
6	FUNDACION MUSEO DIDACTICO E INTERACTIVO DE CIENCIAS DE LA VEGA BAJA DE SEGURA DE LA COMUNITAT VALENCIANA	ES	54,999	8.16%	54,999	8.16%
7	European Women Rectors Association	BE	50,000	7.42%	50,000	7.42%
8	Monastir Sciences Palace	TN	12,000	1.78%	12,000	1.78%
9	CENTRO DE INVESTIGACIONES ENERGETICAS MEDIOAMBIENTALES Y TECNOLOGICAS	ES	45,004	6.67%	45,004	6.67%
10	ATHINA-EREVNITIKO KENTRO KAINOTOMIAS STIS TECHNOLOGIES TIS PLIROFORIAS, TON EPIKOINONION KAI TIS GNOSIS	EL	30,025	4.45%	30,025	4.45%
11	MARIE CURIE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION	BE	64,375	9.55%	64,375	9.55%
12	CENTRE HOSPITALIER UNIVERSITAIRE DE TOULOUSE	FR	25,000	3.71%	25,000	3.71%
13	CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE CNRS	FR	30,000	4.45%	30,000	4.45%
14	INSTITUT NATIONAL DE LA SANTE ET DE LA RECHERCHE MEDICALE	FR	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Total:			674,236		674,236	

Abstract:

More than 500 million people on three continents are united by the world's largest sea, the Mediterranean. Our strategic geographic location and shared history gives us a common character as well as common challenges. The objective of Mediterranean Researchers' Night - MEDNIGHT is to generate Mediterranean unity, providing awareness about common problems, fostering scientific careers, reinforcing researchers' commitment and progress, and putting science and scientists at the cornerstone of our future.

MEDNIGHT shows the attractiveness and importance of the researchers' work and professions to the general public, with a focus on young people, carrying out a series of activities framed under the common umbrella of what we have come to call Mediterranean Science, a source of progress and well-being. Mediterranean Science relates to research developed in our territories but also the countless collaborations with other EU researchers. Mediterranean Science is focused on Mediterranean relevant topics according to our culture, way of life or current challenges: History and Heritage, Life and Health, Diet and Nutrition, Sea and Pollution, Climate and Clean Energies, Geology and Biodiversity, Technology and Future.

Many online and face-to-face diverse activities will be organised by MEDNIGHT consortium in Messina, Lesvos, Xanthi, Nicosia, Istanbul, Brussels, Monastir, Montpellier, Toulouse, Madrid, Almeria, Orihuela and Tabarca (Main cities) but also Athens, Patras, Limnos, Rhodes, Syros, Eyupsultan, Kadikov, Guardamar, Torrevieja, Santa Pola, Nantes, Larnaca among others.

The evolution, expansion and at the same time consolidation of the pillars of MEDNIGHT are being clear, with partners from eight different countries: Spain, Greece, Italy, France, Cyprus, Turkey, Tunisia and Belgium. All together they give solidity to the brotherhood between Mediterranean countries around the culture of science, as opposed to the conflicts that occur in our Mediterranean

Evaluation Summary Report

Evaluation Result

Total score: 14.00 (Threshold: 10)

Criterion 1 - Excellence

Score: 4.50 (Threshold: 3 / 5.00 , Weight: -)

The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the description in the work programme:

- **Clarity and pertinence of the project's objectives.**
- **Quality of the proposed coordination and/or support measures including soundness of methodology.**

Strengths

- *The project's objectives are distinct and closely aligned with the CITIZENS call. Its primary focus is on advancing the ERA policy by fostering a connection between science and citizens. Additionally, the project places emphasis on gender inclusivity and public awareness as integral components of its mission, which is very relevant.*
- *The overarching theme focusing on Mediterranean culture and science is a strength as it encourages cross-country collaboration including links with other Researchers' Nights. Additionally, it links the SDGs and European Commission priorities in a very clever way with the public's daily life and environment.*
- *The proposed methodology, divided into five phases, is overall robust and efficient. It ensures a consistent approach among the project's numerous partners and collaborators when designing their activities.*
- *The hybrid nature of the event represents a commendable compromise, prioritizing in-person events while facilitating online connections among researchers from various countries.*
- *The support measures from stakeholders and external parties at both national and local levels are well-developed and appropriately elaborated.*

Weaknesses

- *The proposal offers only a generic outline of how the array of proposed activities will be coherent and coordinated.*
- *The process for recruiting and engaging researchers is not sufficiently elaborated in the methodology.*

Criterion 2 - Impact

Score: 5.00 (Threshold: 3 / 5.00 , Weight: -)

The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the description in the work programme:

- Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the work programme, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions from the project.
- Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities.

Strengths

- The anticipated impacts outlined in the Call are effectively addressed, with particular emphasis on mitigating stereotypes associated with careers in science.
- The impact assessment strategy is robust, incorporating dedicated questionnaires tailored to specific target groups.
- The multicultural aspect of the project, coupled with its consideration of cultural dimensions, constitutes a significant strength that further supports the anticipated impacts.
- The projected reach of participants both before and during the Researchers' Night events, as well as for the Researchers at School initiative, is considered realistic.
- The variety of actions and the involvement of diverse target institutions, such as hospitals, represent an effective strategy for reaching a wide array of audiences, including those that are typically hard to reach.
- The project foresees a diverse range of relevant communication activities and materials, encompassing both online and real-life components.
- The chosen dissemination channels, including the established Midnight TV, are well-suited for reaching a broad audience. Specific target groups, such as families, the elderly, and immigrants, are clearly identified, along with distinct messages tailored for each group.
- The project incorporates measures to guarantee its sustainability beyond completion by providing online resources related to the seven key thematic areas.

Weaknesses

- The pathways to achieve some of the expected outcomes are not fully convincing. For instance, it is not entirely clear how the communication skills of researchers will be improved.

Criterion 3 - Quality and efficiency of the implementation

Score: **4.50** (Threshold: 3 / 5.00 , Weight: -)

The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the description in the work programme:

- Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall.
- Capacity and role of each participant, and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.

Strengths

- The work plan is well-organized and coherent, ensuring a seamless implementation. All activities, including pre-events, Researchers' Night events, and Researchers at School actions, are thoroughly planned for each location. The associated milestones and deliverables are appropriate.
- The critical risks are well identified, and the risk-mitigation measures are appropriate.
- The Transactivities, extended to all partners, represent a notable strength of the project, characterized by their well-organized structure and effectiveness in facilitating coordination.
- MEDNIGHT has the necessary experience to carry out the project with high standards of quality. The rotation of the coordinator role is a positive feature, providing the consortium with a balanced distribution of responsibilities.
- The composition of the consortium is highly commendable, boasting an impressive geographical reach. The inclusion of MSCA in the consortium is a significant strength, adding a valuable international Mediterranean dimension to the concept.
- The effort and resources assigned to each work package are in line with the foreseen tasks.

Weaknesses

- The total number of foreseen trips is excessive and the need for the gala in Brussels is not fully justified.
- The reason why some partners receive limited number of tasks is not clearly justified.

Scope of the application

Status: **Yes**

Comments (in case the proposal is out of scope)

Not provided

Exceptional funding

Except when explicitly allowed in the topic, any entity from a non-associated third country and International Organisations (other than IEROs) can only participate as Associated Partners in CSAs (it cannot receive funding). There is no difference between entities established in low/middle income countries and developed countries.

If exceptional funding is allowed in the CSA topic, a third country participant/international organisation not listed in [the General Annex to the Main Work Programme](#) may exceptionally receive funding if their participation is essential for carrying out the project (for instance due to outstanding expertise, access to unique know-how, access to research infrastructure, access to particular geographical environments, possibility to involve key partners in emerging markets, access to data, etc.). (For more information, see the [HE programme guide](#))

Please list the concerned applicants and requested grant amount and explain the reasons why.

Based on the information provided, the following participants should receive exceptional funding:

Not provided

Based on the information provided, the following participants should NOT receive exceptional funding:

Not provided

Use of human embryonic stem cells (hESC)

Status: **No**

If YES, please state whether the use of hESC is, or is not, in your opinion, necessary to achieve the scientific objectives of the proposal and the reasons why. Alternatively, please state if it cannot be assessed whether the use of hESC is necessary or not, because of a lack of information.

Not provided

Use of human embryos

Status: **No**

If YES, please explain how the human embryos will be used in the project.

Not provided

Activities excluded from funding

Status: **No**

If YES, please explain.

Not provided

Do no significant harm principle

Status: **Not applicable**

If Partially/No/Cannot be assessed please explain

Not provided

Exclusive focus on civil applications

Status: **Yes**

If NO, please explain.

Not provided

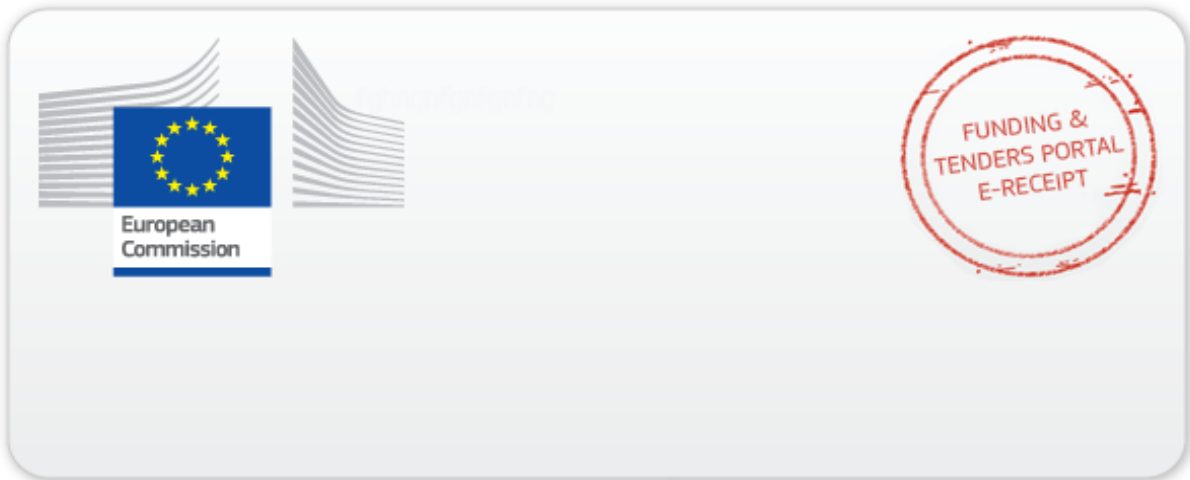
Artificial Intelligence

Status: **No**

If YES, the technical robustness of the proposed system must be evaluated under the appropriate criterion.

Overall comments

The budget devoted to travel costs of WP5&WP10 management has to be reduced by 50% for all partners.



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