

Questions & Answers for the FETPROACT-01-2016 topic

Do you expect a single proposal for each of the 10 subtopics under the FET Proactive: emerging themes and communities (FETPROACT-01-2016) call topic, or multiple proposals?

Proposals submitted for one of the 10 subtopics in "FET Proactive Emerging Themes and Communities" (FETPROACT-01-2016) will be competing for funding with all other proposals submitted and, in particular, with proposals submitted to other subtopics within the same area (till the maximum budget per area). We don't expect just a single proposal to be submitted for each subtopic, and there may be multiple projects funded in a subtopic. This depends on the budget requested by the proposals and on the evaluation results in all the other subtopics.

What if my proposal for FETPROACT-01-2016 addresses somehow 2 related subtopics?

In your proposal you should indicate clearly a single of the 10 subtopics that is targeted by your proposal. Otherwise the proposal will be either declared out of scope (and not evaluated), or it will be up to the evaluators to assign your proposal to one of the 10 subtopics in the call text.

Do you expect to fund a single proposal for each subtopic under FETPROACT-01-2016 topic?

No. There may be multiple proposals funded on a single subtopic. This depends on the budget requested by the proposals and on the outcome of the evaluation for all the other subtopics. A proposal submitted for one of the 10 subtopics in FETPROACT-01-2016 will be competing with all other proposals submitted and, in particular, with proposals submitted to other subtopics within the same area.

In FET-Proactive topic FETPROACT-01- 2016, sections 1-3 of Part B of the proposal are limited to 30 pages (plus a single cover page). What happens if I don't respect this limit?

At the time of submission, the electronic submission system will warn you of any violated page limitation. Should you decide to submit anyway, the pages in excess of the 31-page limit of sections 1-3 will be watermarked as such after the deadline and evaluators will be clearly instructed to ignore them.

In FET-Proactive topic FETPROACT-01- 2016, sections 1-3 of Part B of the proposal are limited to 30 pages (plus a single cover page). Can I include references to literature in sections 4-5 in order to save some space?

The list of the participants' main scientific publications relevant to the proposal is to be included in section 4. Any other list of scientific publications relevant to the proposal such as references to other literature must be included in sections 1-3. Note that the pages in excess of the 31-page limit of sections 1-3 will be watermarked as such after the deadline and evaluators will be clearly instructed to ignore them.

What is the typical size of a consortium for a proposal to the FETPROACT-01-2016 topic?

Proposals have to satisfy the minimal eligibility criteria for a consortium, as described in the in part B and C of the General Annexes of the Work Programme. Other than that a consortium has to be fit-for-purpose. It should thus include partners that together can address all the aspects addressed in the proposal and that can achieve the expected impacts, without unnecessary redundancy.

Should my proposal to the FETPROACT-01-2016 topic cover the entire subtopic?

The subtopics are broadly described. A proposal is expected to propose a coherent package of technological enquiry that fits within that description. When a proposal brings together topics that do not interact (separate lines of research on alternative technologies, for instance), the proposal will appear less coherent.

Should my consortium for the FETPROACT-01-2016 topic cover the entire relevant community?

No. A consortium should be composed to perform the activities proposed, without unnecessary duplication of expertise or skills. For this particular topic the consortium should have strong credibility for the technological direction it wishes to consolidate, so that it can function as a reference ('lighthouse') and an attractor for the broader research and innovation communities that want to take things forward in that direction.

What is the typical funding request for a proposal to the FETPROACT-01-2016 topic?

There is an indicative budget between 4 and 10 MEuro mentioned in the call text. However, a proposal should request the funding it needs to perform the activities it proposes, not more.

What is the role of the cascading grant option in the FETPROACT-01-2016 topic?

This scheme allows a part of the budget to be set aside by the consortium for third parties, entities that are not part of the consortium, through an open call for proposals or as prize for a contest (inducement prize). For this particular topic the option can be used to strengthen certain of the expected impacts. Note, however, that the use of cascade funding is optional. When used, it needs to be described and motivated in the proposal. You should carefully read the conditions for using this option. They are set out in Part K of the General Annexes.

What is the difference between a H2020 FET proposal to the FETOPEN-1-2016-2017 topic and the FETPROACT-1-2016 topic?

Whereas FET-Open proposals aim at the initial stages of developing a new idea into a proof-of-concept and its scientific underpinnings, FET-Proactive proposals will aim to establish a solid baseline for it that can serve as a reference for the community, beyond the specific consortium involved. A FET-Proactive proposal will thus also pay attention to fulfilling this role of reference or 'lighthouse' for others (community building). Finally a FET-Proactive

proposal has to go further by fostering, in the course of the project, an innovation ecosystem within which the development of the technology and its uses can be taken up in the future. These aspects also justify the differences in indicative funding of the proposals, and the difference in proposal page limitations. Note also that FET Proactive proposals respect largely the FET-Open gatekeepers (see [FETOPEN-01-2016-2017](#)), since these are reflected in the FET Proactive evaluation criteria.

Can I get the copies of the Individual Evaluation Reports after the evaluation of my FET-Proactive proposal under call H2020-FETPROACT-2016-2017?

For a transparent feedback to FET-Proactive applicants, the Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) comprises a collation of comments made by the external independent experts in their Individual Evaluation Reports, as well as additional comments by the Panel. Note that individual evaluators can have different and sometimes even contradictory opinions about certain aspects of a proposal. Therefore some of the comments may contradict each other or may not be in line with the scores you see on the ESR. Indeed, all opinions expressed by the individual evaluators are closely examined and discussed by the Panel, which then decides about the final scores of your proposal.

In FETPROACT-01-2016 under call H2020-FETPROACT-2016-2017, can the tables in the sections 1-3 (e.g. Gantt chart, forms of work package description) be delivered as attachment?

All tables in sections 1-3, including Gantt chart and the forms of work package description, must be included within the 31-page limit and cannot be submitted as separate attachment. Note that the pages in excess of the 31-page limit of sections 1-3 will be watermarked as such after the deadline and evaluators will be clearly instructed to ignore them.

What is meant by 'emergence of an innovation ecosystem' in the call text of FETPROACT-01-2016?

The emergence of an innovation around a future technology is one of the impacts sought for a FET proactive proposal. Evaluators will look at the way innovation is being addressed within your proposal, as well as how proposed activities will stimulate take-up of the results by the broader innovation community or even society at large. Thus, the eco-system referred to in the call text is expected to go well beyond the members of your consortium and to shape in the course of your project. More background on FET and innovation is in the [report of a recent FET innovation workshop](#).

What are 'high potential actors in research and innovation' that are mentioned under the expected impact of the call text for FETPROACT-01-2016?

Whereas FET collaborative research allows partners in a consortium to work with the best, FET also aims at renewal of the actors involved. In particular, FET encourages the active participation of those that may become the scientific and industrial leaders of tomorrow, like for example young and promising researchers and high-tech SMEs.

Is it mandatory to include industry or an SME in my consortium proposing to topic FETPROACT-01-2016?

No. The call text does list under its expected impacts the emergence of an innovation ecosystem, in which such high-tech SMEs (and possibly other high potential actors in research and innovation) can play an important role. Proposers are free to address this in the way they see fit, that is, either by bringing elements of this into the consortium or by engaging with such actors outside of the consortium in the course of the project, possibly using the option of cascade funding as mentioned in the call text.

How can I check that my proposal idea fits within the topic FETPROACT-01-2016 under call H2020-FETPROACT-2016-2017?

First of all your proposal has to be fit for FET. You should ask yourself whether there is radical novelty in it, breakthrough scientific and technological targets, methodologies adapted to high-risk, and deep interdisciplinarity? If in doubt check the FET gatekeepers under [FETOPEN-01-2016-2017](#) for the meaning of these terms. Second your proposal must convincingly address a single of the 10 subtopics that are mentioned in the call text FETPROACT-01-2016. Finally, your proposal must aim at the expected impacts listed in the call text.