Call for expressions of interest

Call for Expressions of interest to providers of thematic services for a joint project proposal in H2020 EINFRA-12 (A)

EGI[1], EUDAT[2] and INDIGO-DataCloud[3] 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".

Through e-infrastructure service integration and the coordination of federated operations, community engagement and training, the technical interfaces and the business operations of services from multiple digital research infrastructures will deliver a unified service catalogue for research and high-education. By doing so, existing communities will be empowered by new ways of doing research, and new communities will be consolidated around tools and data. The project will create an open, collaborative platform for the management, analysis, sharing, reuse and preservation of research data on which innovative services can be developed and delivered for the benefit of the global research community and innovators.

> Public and private organizations developing and/or providing thematic services that serve the needs of specific science domains and/or of multidisciplinary research are invited to submit an expression of interest to join the consortium that will be involved in the preparation and submission of the action.
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> Partners will have to demonstrate to be experts in provisioning services, tools or platforms including data analytics, scientific applications, datasets, publications and other research objects – to be discovered, accessed, used and re-used in ways that will advance knowledge and drive innovation, leveraging the existing generic data and computing infrastructures.

Thematic services are expected to contribute to the following EINFRA-12 (A) challenges as stated in the call text:

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[1] www.egi.eu

[2] www.eudat.eu

[3] www.indigo-datacloud.eu

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

[2] "seamless operation of highly scalable and agile data and computing platforms and *services dedicated to analytics including hardware and software components, database, compilers, analytics software*, supported to easy user entry points for the community of users"

[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"

[6] "*foster interoperability of pan-European thematic/community-driven e-infrastructures* providing cost-effective and interoperable solutions for data management. The data and computing e-infrastructure should be able to interoperate with resources based on different technologies which are operated / owned by public and or private organisations.

Requirements
To meet EINFRA-12 requirements, applicants should demonstrate that the thematic platforms and services proposed for inclusion meet the following requirements.

- The services will be technically and operationally integrated with federated AAI, compute, storage and data management services, like those provided by generic e-Infrastructures like EGI, EUDAT.
- The services will provide a richer set of digital capabilities to European and international research efforts.
- The services benefit from federated service management, training, outreach and technical support to new user communities.
- The services are relevant to international research collaborations and open for access to international user groups.
- The services are implemented on standards-based open architectures and technologies.
- The services are complete and qualified, meeting the requirement of being at **technology readiness level 8** or they will be during 2017. To do so, proposals will have to specify the **acceptance criteria** that have been **successfully verified and validated** with a relevant set of user groups and **provide evidence of the results**. If this requirement will be achieved in 2017, the application needs to provide evidence of a technical plan that will allow the service to meet this requirement.
- The services have high-level exploitation and innovation potential.
- The services have a sound business model and sustainability plans.
- The providers of such services commit to make them discoverable and accessible through a unified service catalogue.

Activities and funding

The combination of one or more of the following activities is considered to be eligible for funding.

1. Costs for bringing the thematic service into a integrated catalogue of pan-European federated services relying on generic e-Infrastructure services
2. Technical and operational costs for making the service accessible to international user communities.
3. Training and exploitation to develop human capital and generate innovation by fostering adoption by new user communities.
4. Software integration of the thematic services with general e-Infrastructure capabilities, like those provided by EGI[5], EUDAT[6] and INDIGO-DataCloud[7]..

We consider proposals requesting the following contributions to appropriately address the specific challenges for thematic services that are in scope in this call:

- Up to 300,000 Euro for expressions of interest focusing on activities in the first three points.
- Up to 600,000 Euro for expressions of interest also addressing point 4.

Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of expressions of interest requesting other amounts.

Costs related to technological and scientific support for user access can be recovered through virtual access and/or transnational access. Costs for equipment, renting, leasing, purchasing depreciable equipment, infrastructure or other assets are not eligible for funding in this action. For more information see:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/amga/h2020-amga_en.pdf

Thematic service providers are expected to partially contribute to activities in the project with committed in-kind resources.

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[5] https://www.egi.eu/services/ and http://go.egi.eu/ServiceCatalogueBrochure
[6] https://eudat.eu/services-support
[7] https://www.indigo-datacloud.eu/service-component

Evaluation process and criteria

Applications will be shortlisted according to the following criteria. Each criterion will be given a score from 1 to 3 points.

Criteria	Weight
Relevance of the service in the scope of the challenges and expected impacts defined in EINFRA-12 (A)	25%
Ambition and provision of added value to the current data & computing infrastructures	25%
Soundness of the proposed implementation plan	20%
Soundness of dissemination and exploitation plan, innovation potential via reuse by multiple user communities, relevance of the services in the context of international initiatives	15%
Soundness of the business and sustainability plans	15%

How to apply and deadlines

Please prepare your application by downloading and completing the template that is available at https://b2drop.eudat.eu/s/v6sPmWGDjVqx9qz.

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 **Friday 27 January 2017, 24:00 CET**

For more information please contact:

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