

Understanding Strategic Research and Innovation Agendas (SRIAs) and EU Calls for Project Proposals

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Why Does the EU Fund Research and Innovation?

- The European Union wants Europe to stay innovative, competitive, and sustainable.
- To achieve this, the EU invests billions of euros into research and innovation.
- The question is: **How does the EU decide which ideas should be funded?**
- The answer: through **Strategic Research and Innovation Agendas (SRIAs)** and **EU Calls for Proposals**.

What is a Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda (SRIA)?

- A SRIA is the EU's **long-term roadmap** for research and innovation.
- It explains:
 - What big problems Europe wants to solve.
 - What research topics are important.
 - What innovation activities are needed.
 - How Europe will reach its goals.
- Think of it like a **master plan** for the next 5–10 years.

Why SRIAs Are Important

- They guide how EU money should be spent.
- They make sure researchers, companies, and cities all work towards the same goals.
- They prevent duplication of research efforts.
- They help Europe stay strong in areas like health, climate, digital tech, and energy.

Example: Clean and Smart Cities SRIA

- Goal: Make European cities clean, green, and smart.
- Challenges: Traffic pollution, energy waste, safety.
- Priorities:
 - Electric buses and bicycles.
 - Smart traffic systems.
 - Low-emission zones.
- Based on this SRIA, the EU later creates calls for projects.

From SRIA to EU Calls for Proposals

- The EU follows a simple pipeline:

SRIA → Work Programme → Call for Proposals → Project

- **SRIA:** The strategy (what the EU wants).
- **Work Programme:** Yearly plan listing topics.
- **Call for Proposals:** Official invitation to apply for funding.
- **Project:** Teams that carry out the research or innovation.

What is an EU Call for Proposals?

- A Call is an invitation for researchers, companies, and cities to apply for EU funding.
- It includes:
 - Topic title and description.
 - Budget.
 - Deadline.
 - Type of Action (RIA, IA, CSA).
- Calls are published on the **EU Funding & Tenders Portal**.

Why Are There Different Types of Action?

- Not all projects are the same.
- Some focus on early research.
- Some build prototypes and test solutions.
- Some help with networking, training, or policy support.
- This is why the EU has **three Types of Action**.

Type of Action 1: RIA

RIA – Research and Innovation Action

- Early-stage research.
- Focus on new ideas, concepts, and scientific studies.
- No prototype required.
- Mostly universities and research labs.

Example:

- A university develops a new AI algorithm for traffic prediction.

Type of Action 2: IA

IA – Innovation Action

- Build and test prototypes in real-life settings.
- Closer to the market.
- Needs companies and real users.

Example:

- A company builds a prototype smart traffic camera and tests it in a city.

CSA – Coordination and Support Action

- No research.
- No prototype.
- Focus on networking, training, communication, or policy support.

Example:

- A group organizes workshops to teach cities about digital mobility solutions.

Who Can Apply for EU Projects?

- Most EU projects need a **consortium**, meaning:
 - At least 3 different organizations
 - From at least 3 different EU or associated countries
- Strong teams usually include:
 - Universities (knowledge)
 - Companies (prototypes)
 - Cities/NGOs (real-world testing)

How Proposals Are Evaluated

- Every proposal is evaluated by independent experts.
- They score the project on three things:
 - ① **Excellence** – Is the idea strong and well explained?
 - ② **Impact** – Will it make a difference in real life?
 - ③ **Implementation** – Can the team deliver the work?
- Only the best-scoring proposals receive funding.

EU Missions (Special Focus Areas)

- The EU has 5 major missions:
 - Climate-neutral cities.
 - Adaptation to climate change.
 - Healthy oceans.
 - Healthy soils and food.
 - Cancer prevention and cure.
- Each mission has its own SRIA and related calls.

Simple Real-Life Example

Goal: Build a smart traffic system to reduce accidents.

- **University:** Designs the AI prediction algorithm.
- **Company:** Builds the prototype camera system.
- **City:** Installs and tests the system on real roads.

Type of Action: IA (Innovation Action)

Real prototypes, real testing, real impact.

Key Takeaways

- A **SRIA** is the EU's strategy and roadmap for research and innovation.
- SRIAs become **Work Programmes** and then **EU Calls for Proposals**.
- **Types of Action (RIA, IA, CSA)** show what kind of project is expected.
- Strong projects combine **universities + companies + cities**.
- EU Missions focus on major challenges like climate, soil, oceans, and cancer.

Thank You!

Questions?