Training of National Judges in EU Competition Law

Call for Proposals

#EUCompetition

European Commission

The Single Market Programme (SMP)

The **Single Market Programme (SMP)** was adopted on 28 April 2021.

With EUR **4,208 million** over the period 2021-2027 the SMP provides an integrated package to support and strengthen the governance and functioning of the Single Market.

Objectives:

- Maintain a high level of food safety
- Give even higher protection to consumers
- Boost the competitiveness of businesses, in particular SMEs
- Improve the governance of the Single Market and compliance with rules
- Produce and disseminate high-quality statistics
- Develop effective European standards

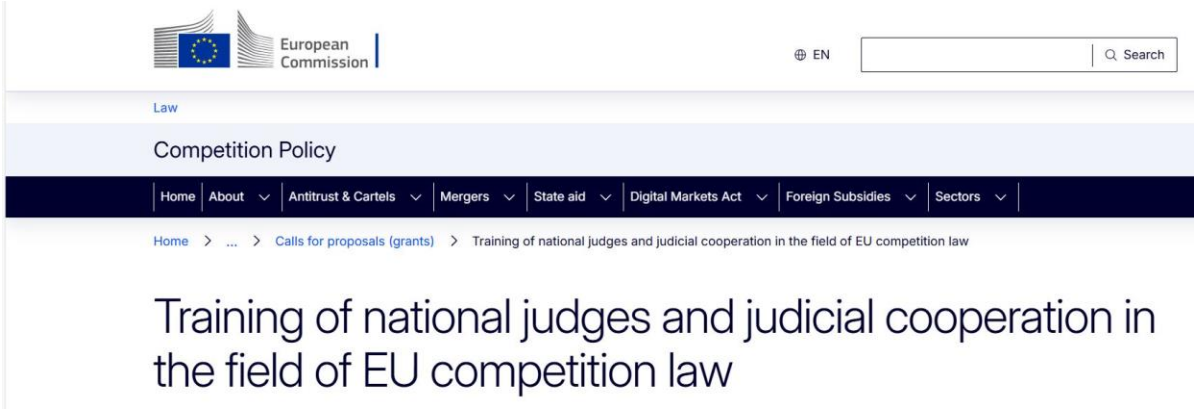
SMP Competition Policy Strand

The SMP includes a budget dedicated to actions in support of *competition policy*. It will allow the Commission to invest in competition policy for a stronger union in the digital age.

- effective and up-to-date enforcement of EU competition policy and policy actions;
- cooperation and partnerships with public administrations in the EU as well as global cooperation and partnerships with third country authorities;
- awareness raising on EU competition policy.

This investment is carried out through both tenders and grants programmes such as our Training of judges programme.

The Training of Judges Programme



- The programme concerns national or transnational training projects in the area of EU competition law. Action grants are awarded to support and promote judicial training with a view to foster a common legal and judicial culture of competition law.
- The **Objective** is to co-finance projects aiming to train national judges in the context of enforcing European competition rules.
- This includes public and private enforcement of both the Antitrust rules and the State aid rules, thereby increasing the knowledge and know-how of national judges.
- The final aim is to ensure a coherent and consistent application of EU competition law by national courts.

Evolution of the Training of Judges Programme

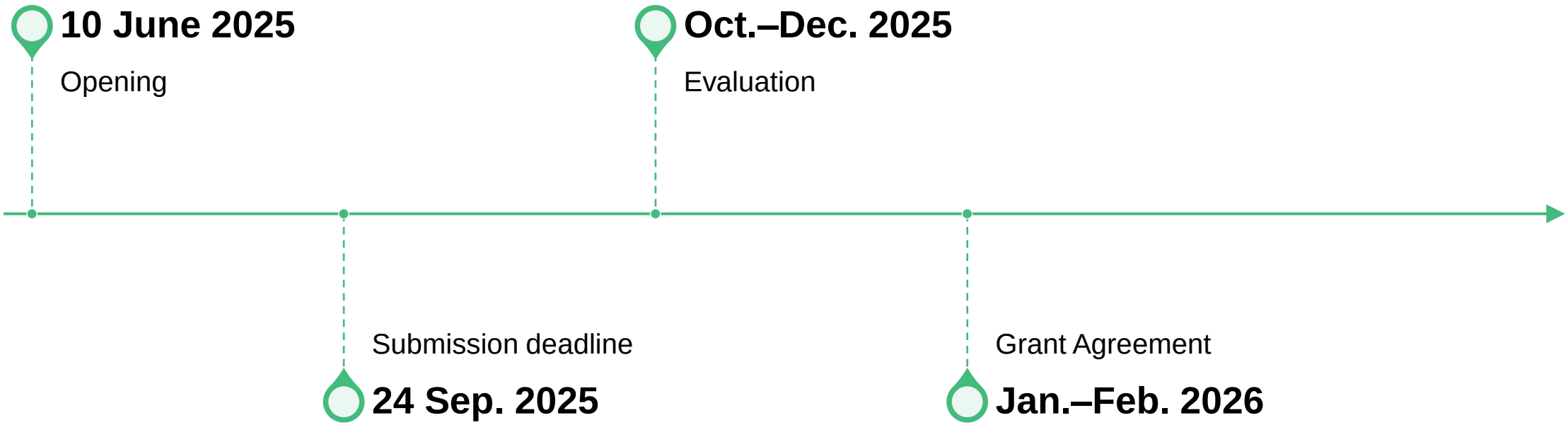
Under the **Competition strand** of **SMP** there were **three** calls for proposals for Training of Judges launched including the current one. The previous calls were launched in **2022** and in **2023**. **Six** projects were funded in 2022, and **five** projects were funded in 2023. Some were already successfully finalized till now while others are still ongoing.

Established and successful programme with good practices:

- precedes the SMP programme under which it is funded now.
- launched in 2002 as a response to the new powers deriving from **Reg 1/2003**
- From 2004 till 2006 funded by **DG EAC**
- From 2007 till 2021 funded by **DG JUST** through the **Justice programme**

The programme trains on average **350** judges per year.

Application Timeline



Eligibility Criteria

☑ Legal entities (public or private) + non-profit

Established in eligible countries (EU member states + Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein, Kosovo, Montenegro, and North Macedonia)

⊘ Natural persons; profit-making organisations or from non-eligible countries are not allowed.

Amount of the Grant

- Grant range: €50,000 – €300,000
- EU co-financing rate: 90%

Payment in 2 instalments: a pre-financing (max 30 days from the signature) and at the end of the project upon the approval of the final report

Target Audience

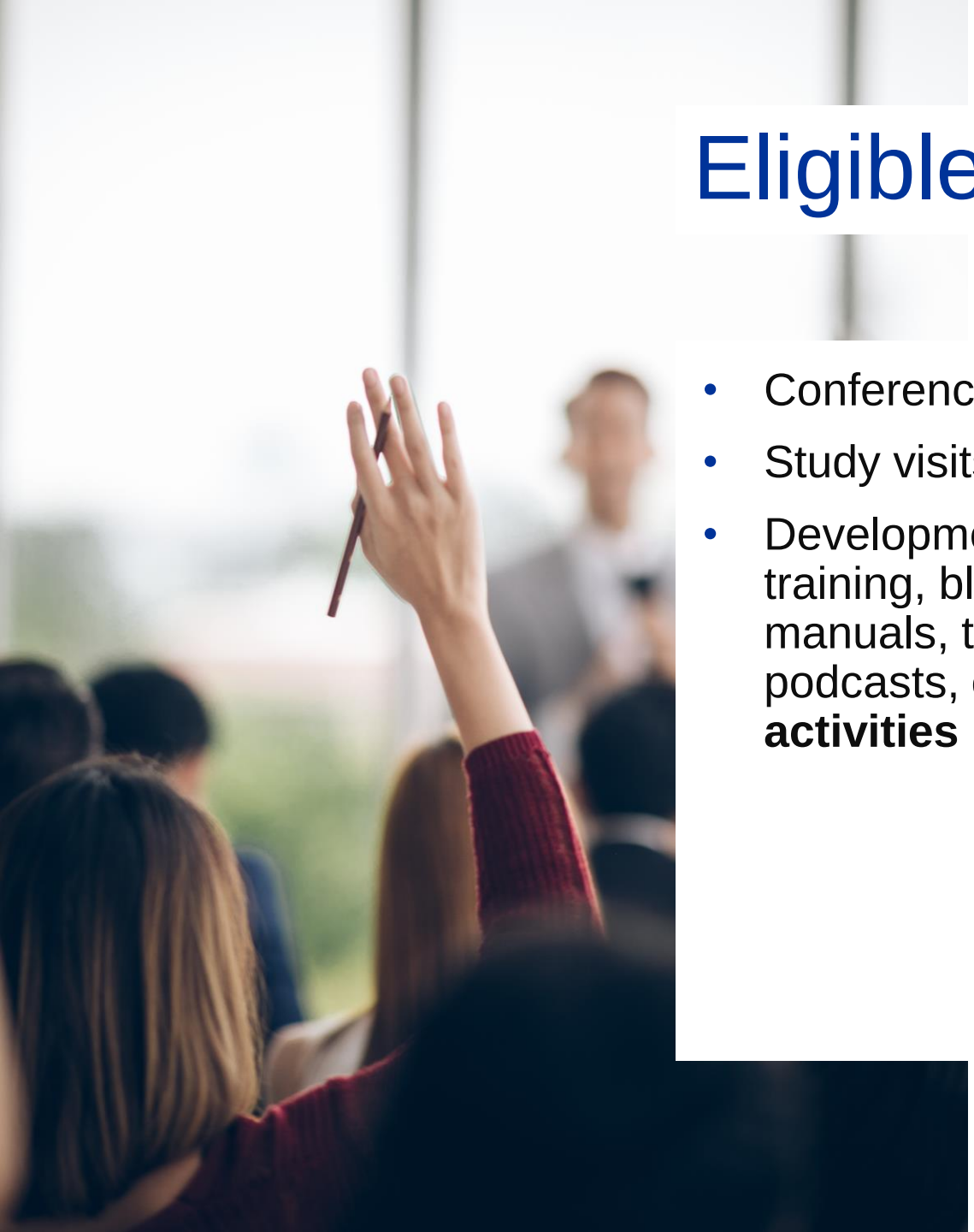
The projects shall <u>solely</u> address:

- ✓ National judges dealing with competition cases at national level. This also includes prosecutors, apprentice national judges and the staff of the judges' offices or of national courts of eligible countries.

- ✓ Countries: EU member states + Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein, Kosovo, Montenegro, and North Macedonia.

- ⚠ **All other participants are not eligible attendees and will not be accepted for financing**

- ⚠ **The beneficiary is the sole responsible to get the right audience**



Eligible Activities

- Conferences, seminars, workshops
- Study visits to EU courts
- Development of training materials and tools for face-to-face training, blended learning or e-learning such as handbooks, manuals, train-the-trainer events, networking platforms, videos, podcasts, etc. **in combination with the organisation of training activities listed above**.

Thematic Priorities

- Priority 1: Articles 101 and 102 TFEU
- Priority 2: Trainings focusing on procedural safeguards and the effective enforcement of EU competition law
- Priority 3: Directive 2014/104 on antitrust damages actions
- Priority 4: Trainings focusing on underlying economic principles of competition law
- Priority 5: Competition law in in regulated industries and digital markets
- Priority 6: State Aid

Conditions apply in each thematic priority these is a minimum number of subtopics to select.

Financial Capacity Check

Applicants must have **stable and sufficient resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share.

Not applicable to public bodies or international organisations.

Relevant supporting documents: profit and loss account and balance sheet, business plan, audit report produced by an approved external auditor, certifying the accounts for the last closed financial year, etc.

Operational Capacity Check

Applicants must have the **know-how, qualifications** and **resources** to successfully implement the project. Do they show sufficient experience in projects of comparable size and nature?

Not applicable to public bodies or international organisations.

Relevant supporting documents:

- qualifications and experiences of the staff responsible for managing and implementing the project
- description of the consortium participants (if applicable)
- applicants' activity reports of last year
- list of previous projects

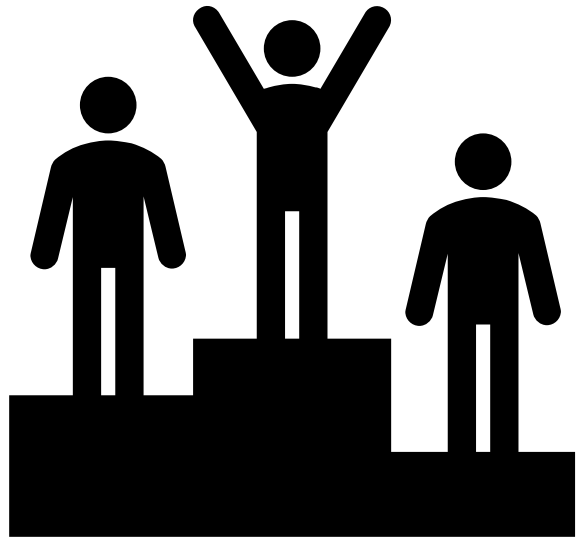
Award Criteria

Award criteria	Minimum pass score	Maximum score
Relevance	20	30
Quality	40	60
Impact	5	10
Overall (pass) scores (without bonus)	**65**	**100**
Bonus	n/a	2
Overall (pass) scores (with bonus)	**65**	**102**

Award Criteria:
Relevance (up to 30 points – min 20)

The extent to which the proposal:

- ✓ matches the objectives of the call and addresses the thematic priorities;
- ✓ addresses the clearly defined target group;
- ✓ demonstrates the EU added value.



Award Criteria:
Quality (up to 60 points – min 40)

Two sub-criteria:

1. Project design, implementation and cooperation arrangements (up to 40 points)
2. Value for money (up to 20 points)

+ Operational Capacity

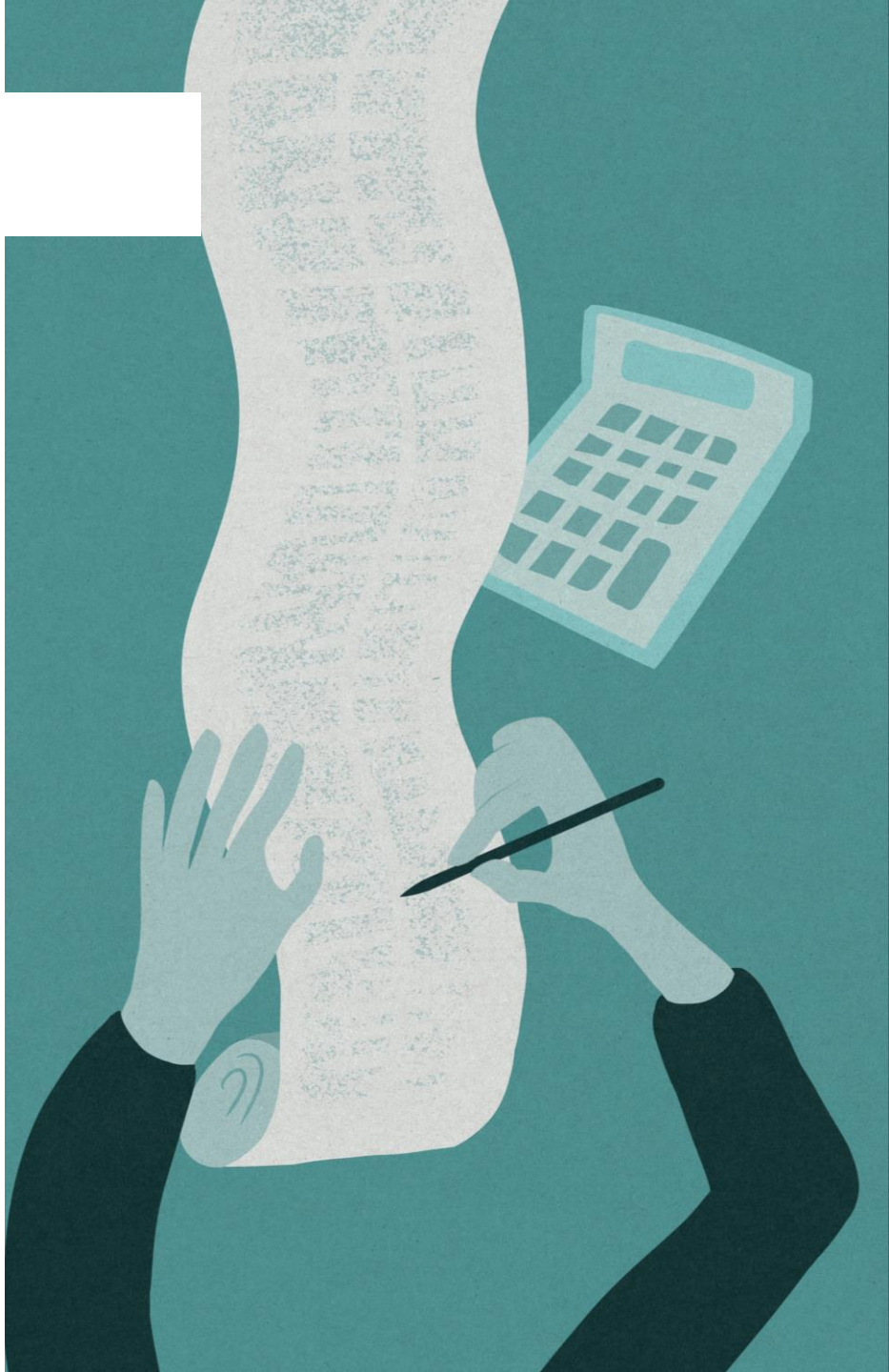
No minimum pass score per sub-criteria.

Quality (1)
Project design and implementation, organisation and cooperation arrangements (up 40 points)

- ✓ Adequacy of the training proposed (methodology, contents, learning materials, tools and speakers)
- ✓ Quality of the project implementation (management, organisation, key staff, monitoring system)
- ✓ Likelihood to successfully reach the expected target audience

Quality (2)
Value for money (up 20 points)

- ✓ Appropriateness of the budget proposed in relation to the total number of activities and themes, the type of the activities, expected size of the target audience, and the expected results.
- ✓ Reasonable ratio between staff costs and overall costs of the project.



Impact (up to 10 Points – 5 min)

The extend to which the expected results are achievable, relevant and likely to have a sustainable impact

Appropriateness of the dissemination strategy for ensuring sustainability of the results after EU funding ends

Bonus Points

- 2 extra points are assigned if the application is submitted by applicants from eligible countries where no grants were awarded in the last two calls of the years 2022 and 2023 (SMP-COMP-JUDG-2022 and SMP-COMP-2023-JUDG)

- You can consult the list of funded projects for these calls on the Funding and Tenders Portal topic pages *(see SMP-COMP-JUDG-2022* and *SMP-COMP-2023-JUDG).*

Good Practices

Emphasize EU added value.

Explain the rationale for the selection of the target group.

Prove that you are abale to reach the target group.

Consider hybrid/blended training solutions and multilingual resources (where relevant).

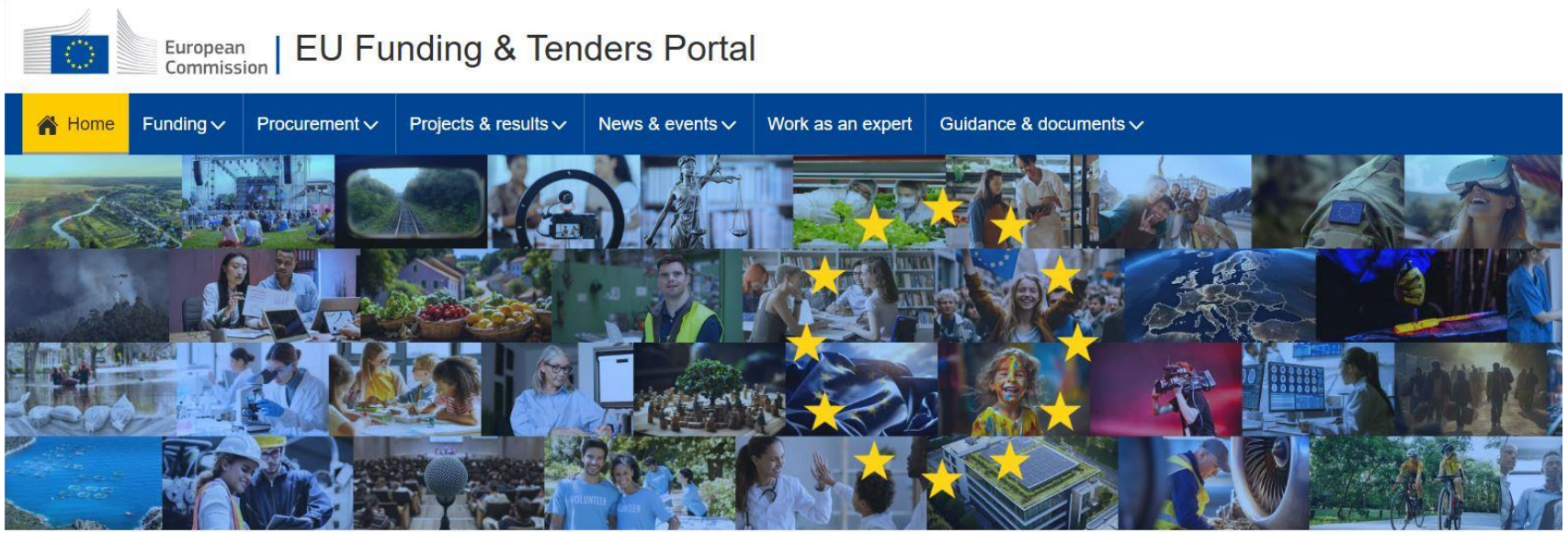
Promote hands-on, participative learning that is based on real cases.

What Makes a Good Project Proposal

- In line with one or more of the thematic priorities of the call for proposals.
- Provide realistic and measurable target indicators.
- Sound choice of participating organisations in relation with the target group.
- Well established training methodology fit for the target group.
- Budget consistent with the proposed activities showing a good balance between staff costs and other costs.
- Sustainable results including visibility and communication activities.

eGrants

- eGrants: the entire lifecycle of the project is fully integrated into the Funding and Tenders Portal, 100% on-line and paperless communications
- Commission corporate approach for grants for the MFF 2021-2027: standard models and procedures for the grant agreement, templates and form.
- Simplified financial management and reporting
- Use of unit cost for travel accommodation and subsistence expenditures



EU Funding & Tenders Portal

European Commission | EU Funding & Tenders Portal

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  - Monitor projects
- Tasks

Home > News > Information Session for the Call for Proposals: Training of National Judges in EU Competition Law

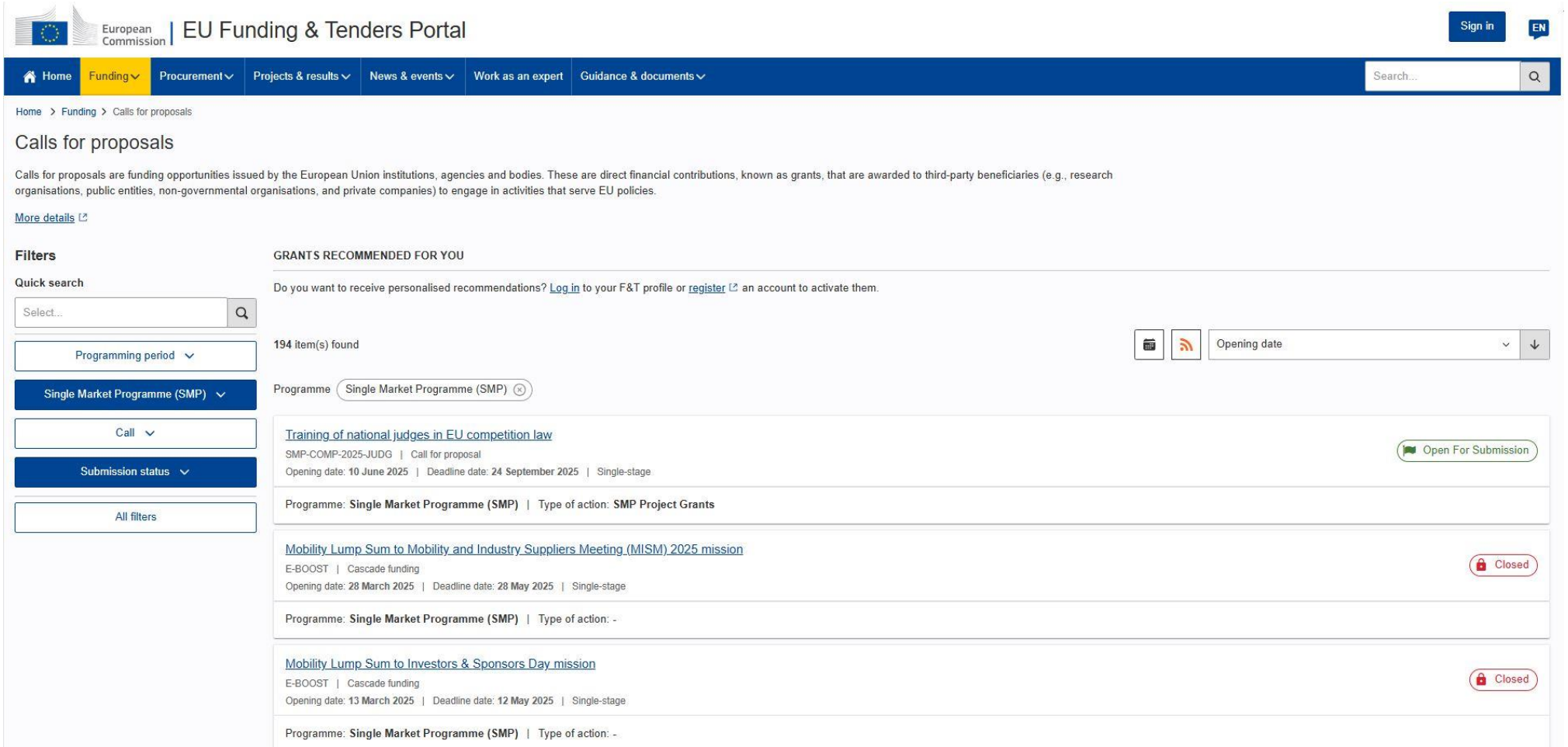
Information Session for the Call for Proposals: Training of National Judges in EU Competition Law

16 June 2025

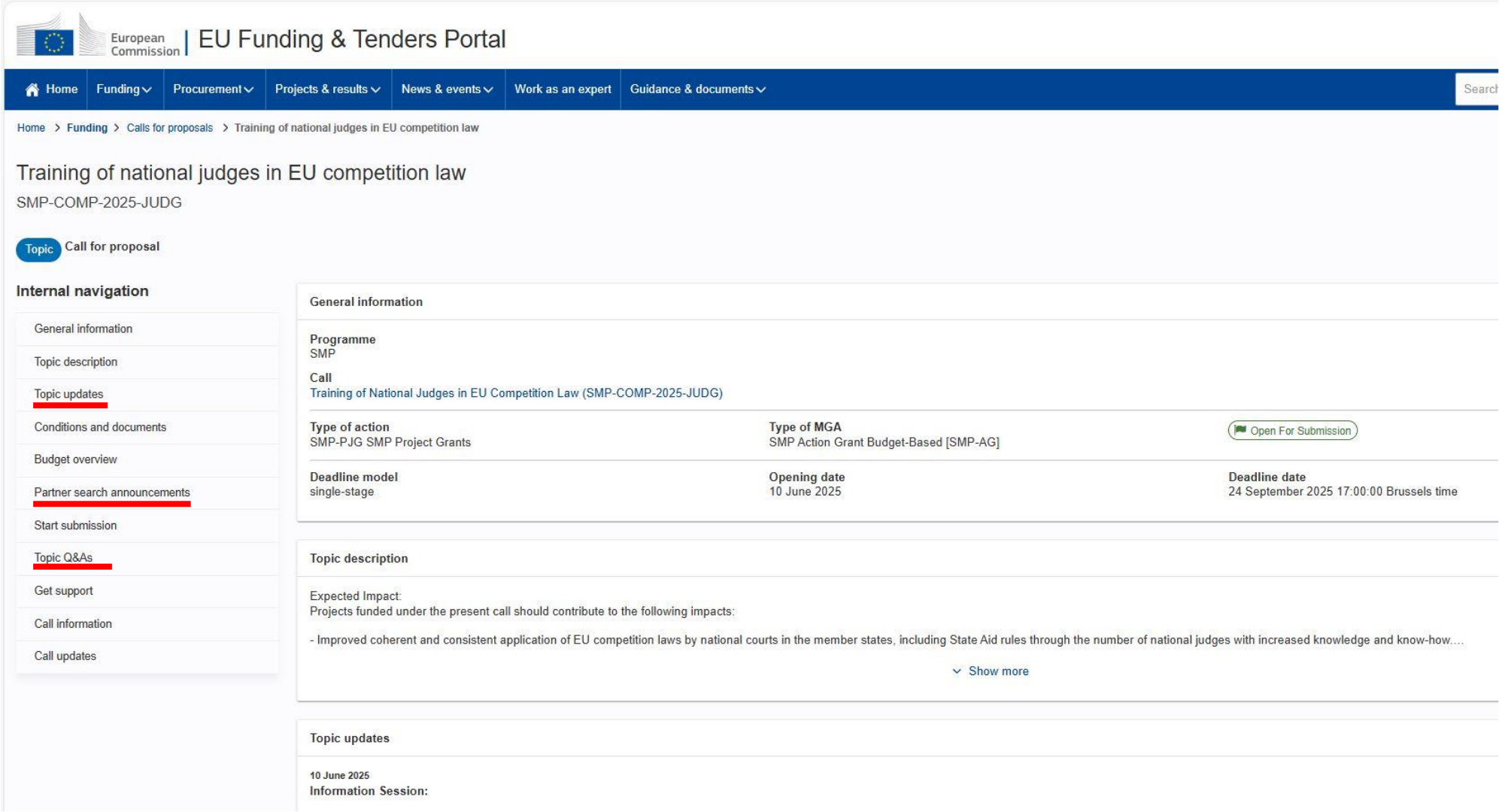
The European Commission has published its call for proposals for training national judges in EU competition law. The objective of this call for proposals is to co-finance projects aiming to train national judges in the context of enforcing European competition rules.

The online Information and Q&A Session that will take place online on **Friday 20 June 2025 (10:30–13:00 CET)** will present the application process, selection criteria, objectives and priorities of the SMP-COMP-2025-JUDG Call. For more information, please follow this link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/SMP-COMP-2025-JUDG

How to find the Call

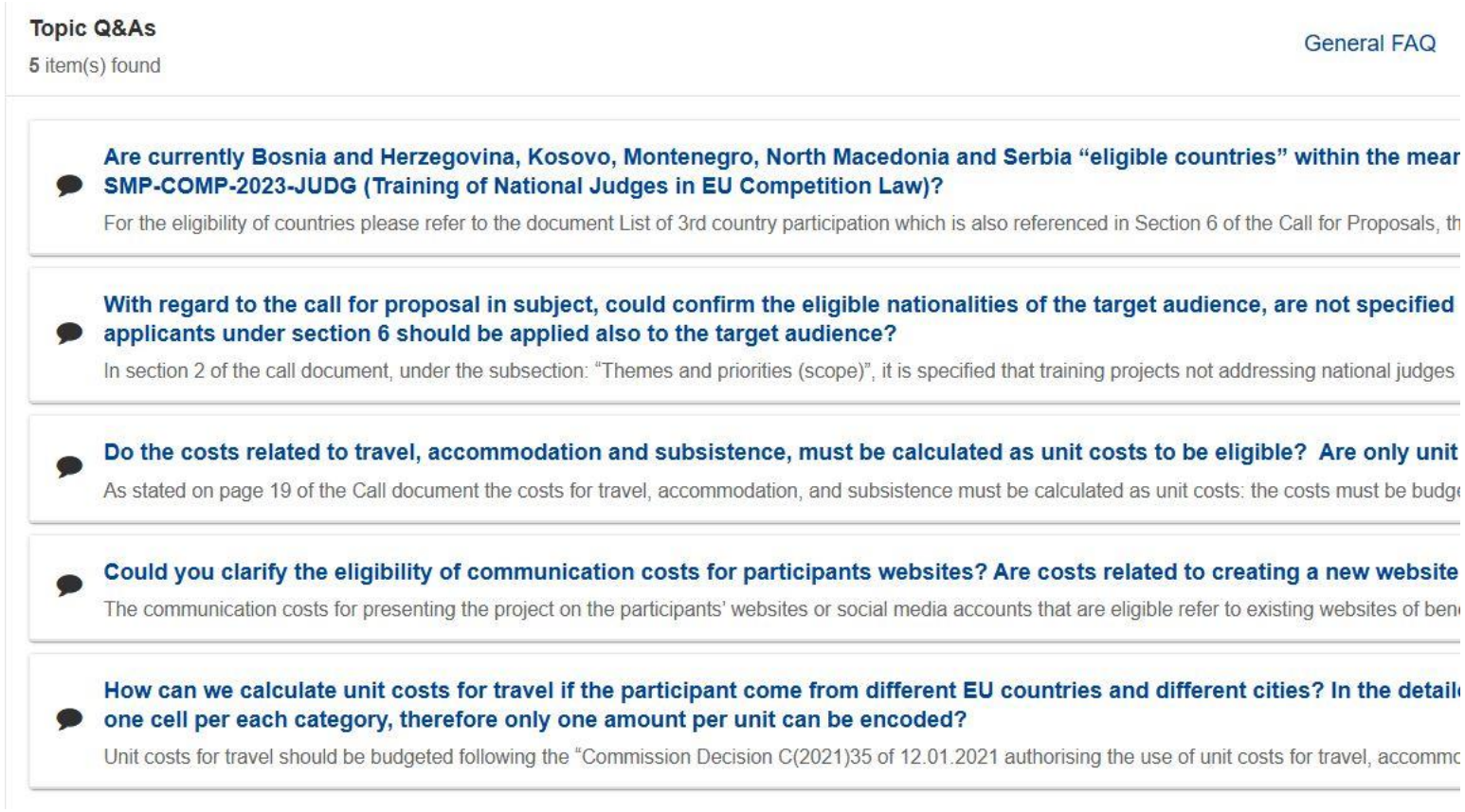


EU F&T: TOJ Call Page

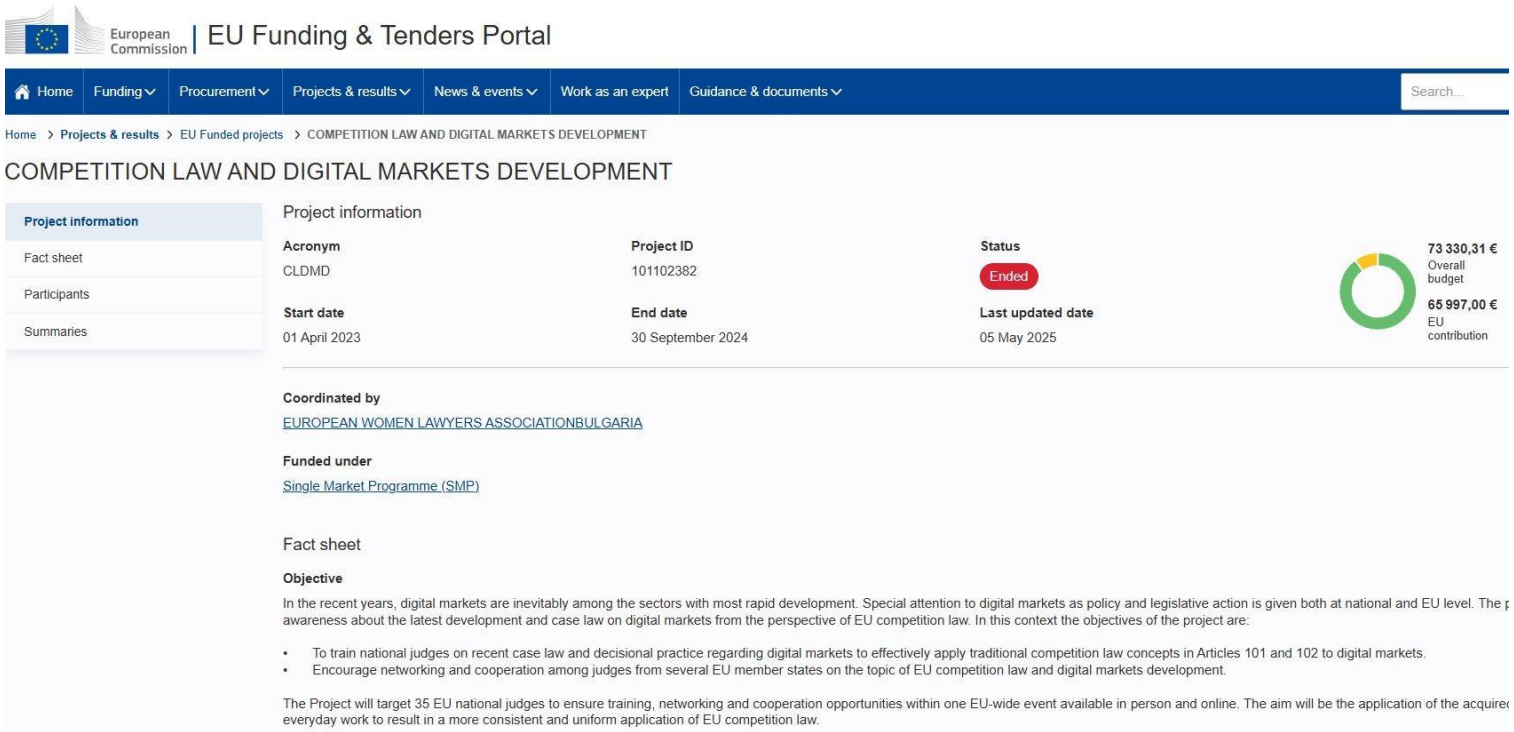


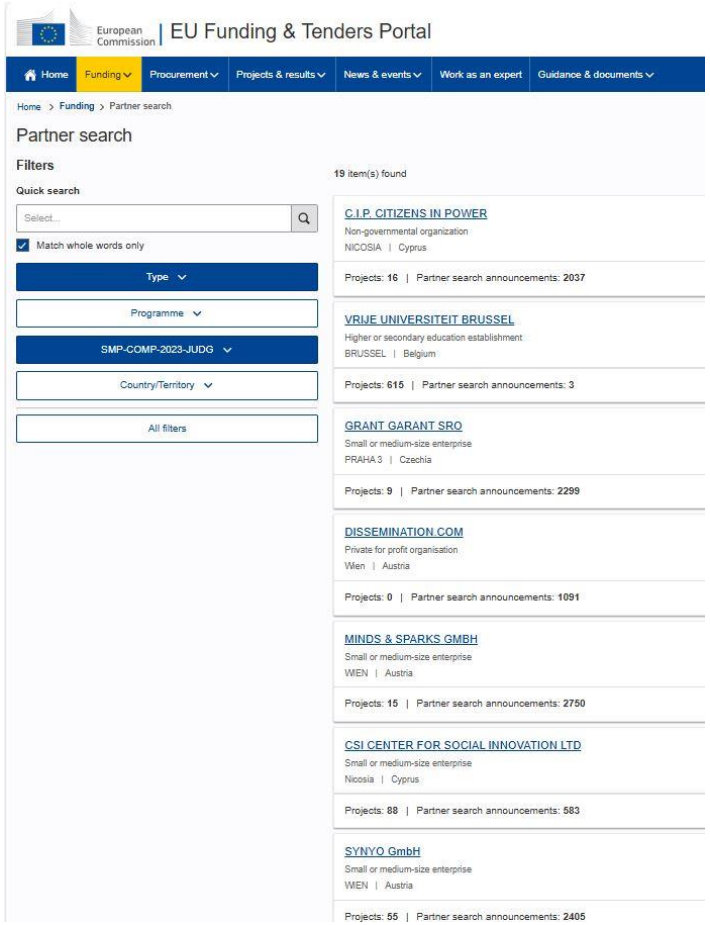
Important updates and Q&A

- **Topic updates**
- **Topic Q&As**
- **General FAQ**

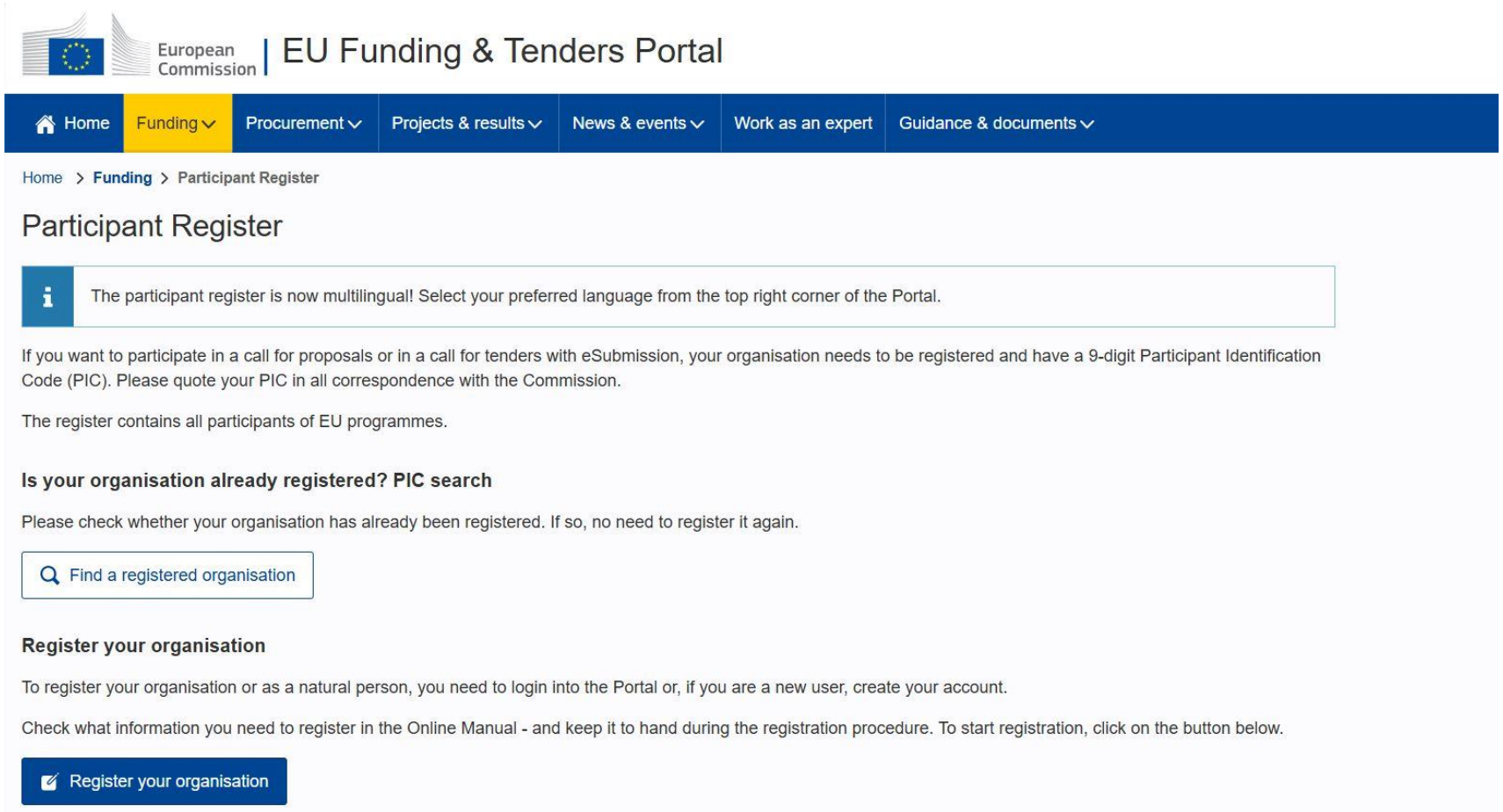


Projects & Results and Partner Search

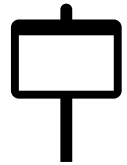




To Apply You Need to Register

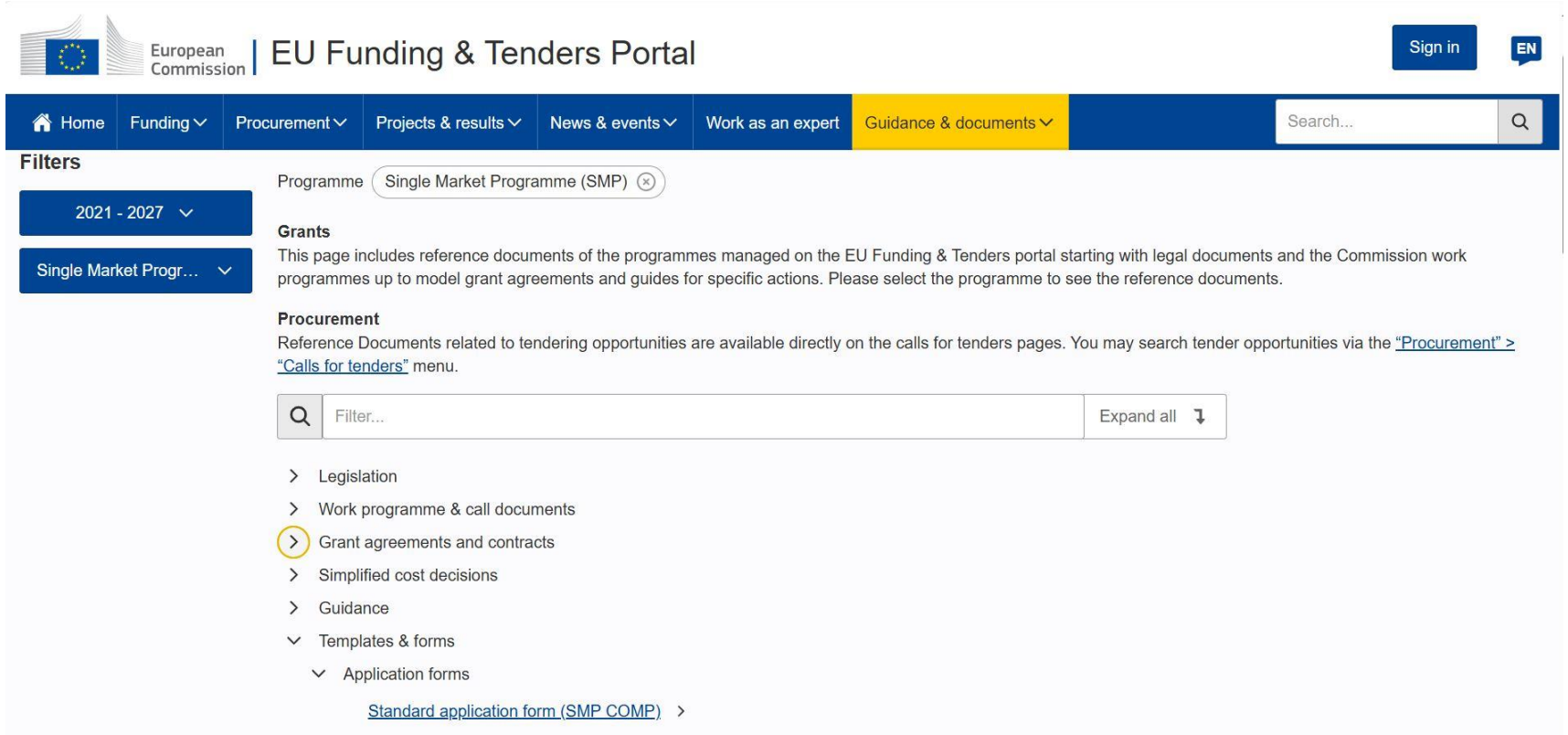


Information and Support



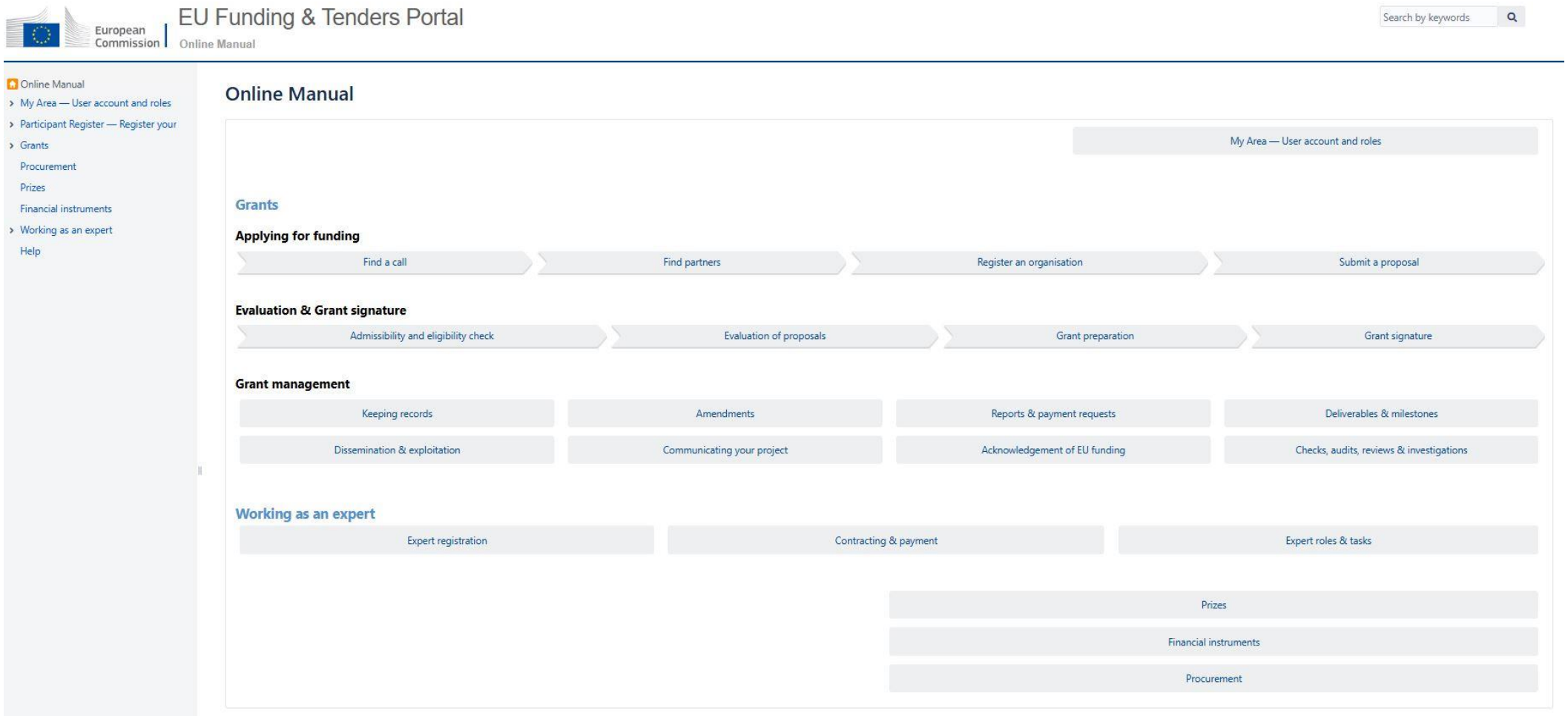
- Please read carefully the **Call document** and familiarize yourself with the F&T Portal and the submission system before the preparation of your application.
- For help related to this call, please contact COMP-TRAINING-JUDGES@ec.europa.eu
- Funding & Tenders Portal FAQ – Submission of proposals.
- IT Helpdesk – Contact the IT helpdesk for questions such as forgotten passwords, access rights and roles, technical aspects of submission of proposals, etc.
- Online Manual – Step-by-step online guide through the Portal processes from proposal preparation and submission to reporting on your ongoing project. Valid for all 2021-2027 programmes. Video tutorials are also available.
- Reference Documents – for templates and guidance
- Intellectual Property Helpdesk – Contact the IP Helpdesk for advice on the IP elements of your grant agreement.

Reference Documents



- Filter for SMP
- Work Programme
- Standard application form (template in pdf)
- Model grant agreement and contract
- Reporting templates

Online Manual

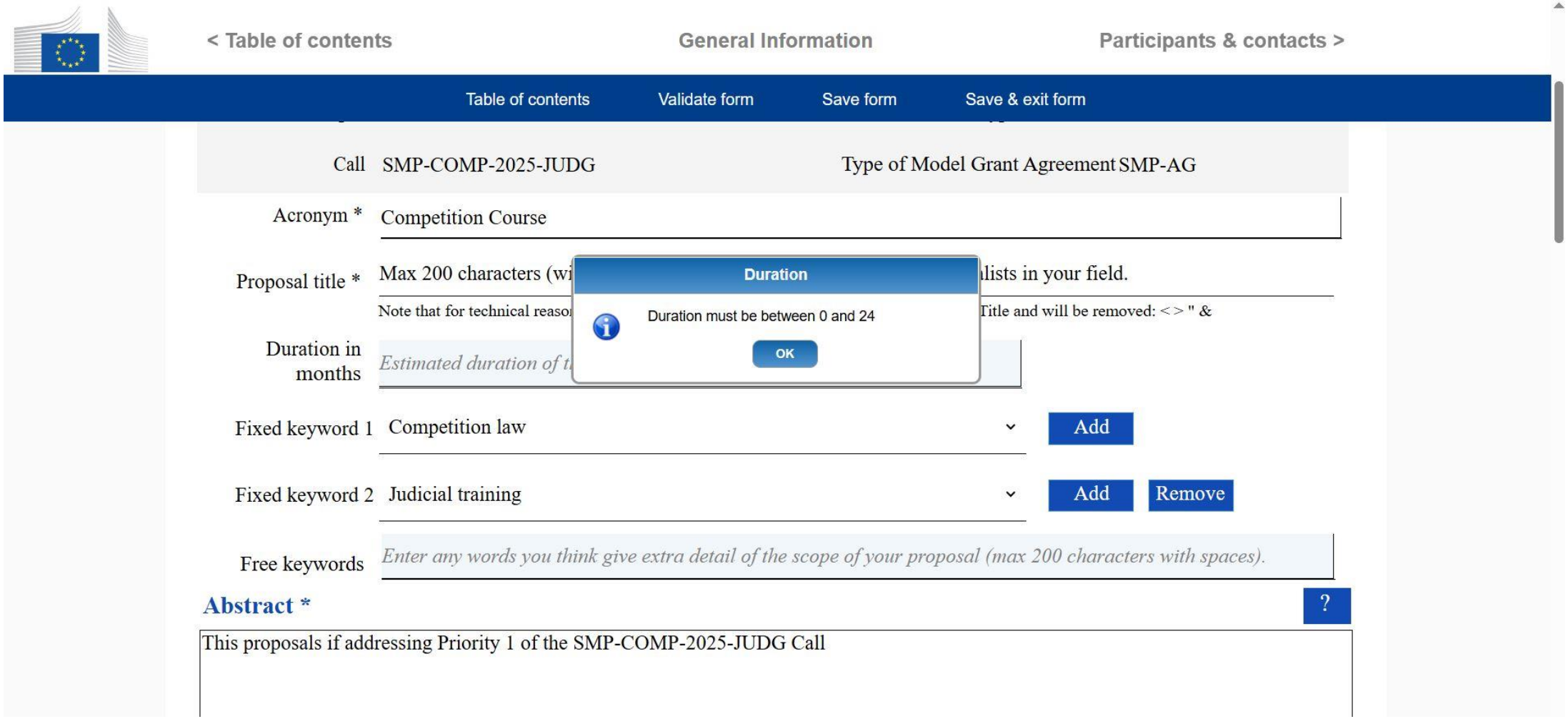


The Application

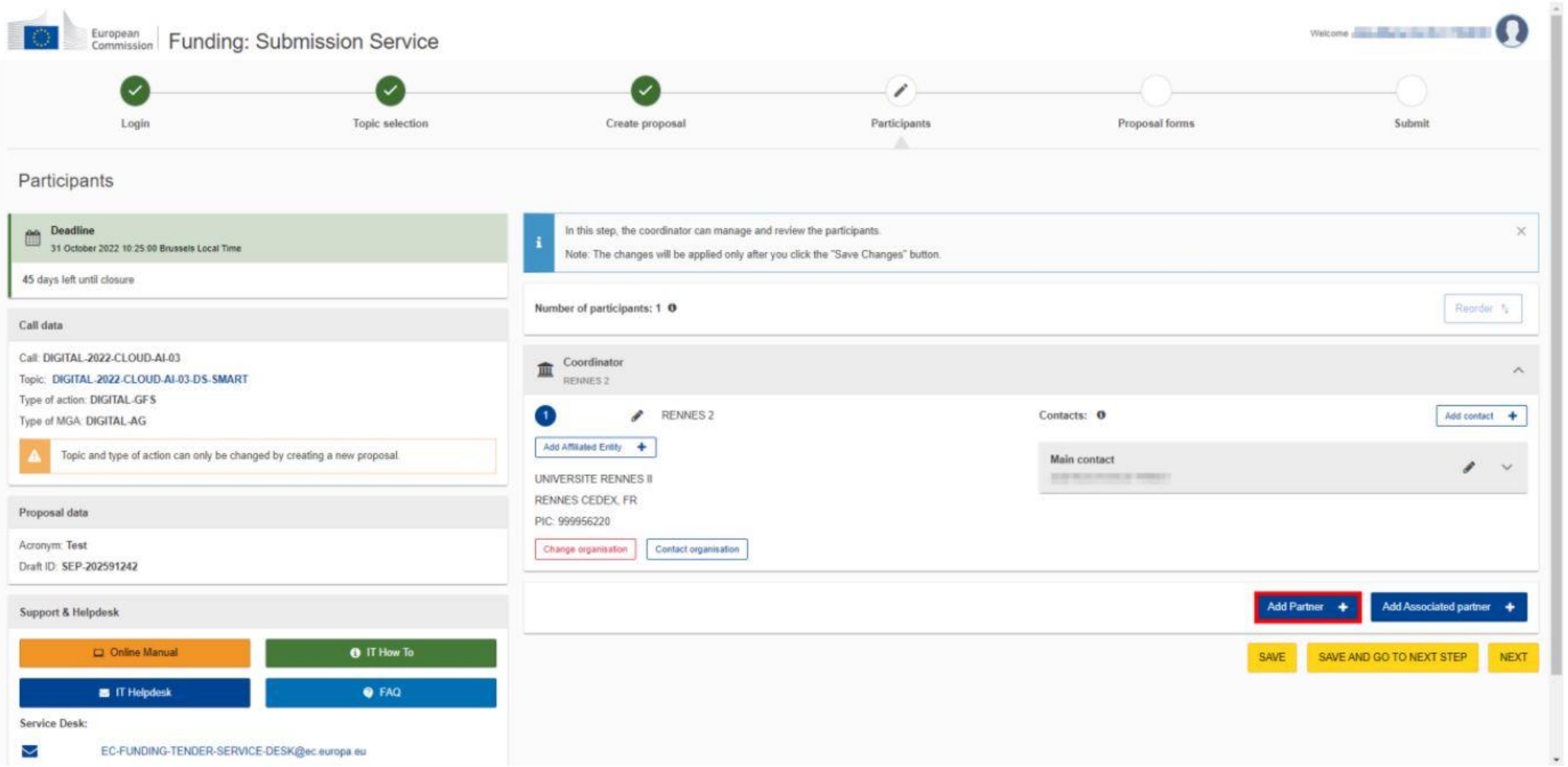
The application is fully online and is submitted through the submission system, Part B and the mandatory annexes need to be uploaded and included

- Part A (administrative form) needs to be filled out and validated in the application screens itself
- Part B (narrative part) technical description of the project with the planned activities, work packages, costs, etc. (downloadable inside the application, filled out and uploaded as a PDF (70 pages limit)
- The Detailed Budget Table (excel file) needs to be upload as an excel file
- The CVs
- The list of previous projects template can be found in Part B, it should be uploaded separately as a PDF

Part A - General Information



Participants



Part A – budget table

Application forms

Proposal ID

Acronym

3 - Budget

?

No.	Name of beneficiary	Country	Role	Personnel costs - without volunteers / EUR	Personnel costs – volunteers / EUR	Subcontracting costs/ EUR	Purchase costs - Travel and subsistence/ EUR	Purchase costs - Equipment/ EUR	Purchase costs - Other goods, works and services/ EUR	Indirect costs/ EUR	Total eligible costs/ EUR	Estimated eligible contributions/ EUR	Ineligible costs/ EUR	Total estimated project costs and contributions/ EUR	Maximum EU contribution to eligible costs/ EUR	Requested EU contribution to eligible costs/ EUR	Max grant amount/ EUR	Income generated by the project/ EUR	In kind contributions/ EUR	Financial contributions/ EUR	Own resources/ EUR	Total estimated project income/ EUR
1				0	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	0		0.00	0.00	0	0	0	0	0.00
	Total																					

Part B

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION (PART B)

COVER PAGE

Part B of the Application Form must be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed and then assembled and re-uploaded as PDF in the system. Page 1 with the grey IMPORTANT NOTICE box should be deleted before uploading.

***Note:** Please read carefully the conditions set out in the Call document (for open calls: published on the Portal). Pay particular attention to the award criteria; they explain how the application will be evaluated.*

PROJECT	
Project name:	[project title]
Project acronym:	[acronym]
Coordinator contact:	[name NAME], [organisation name]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Workplan and Work Packages

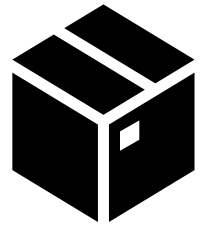
- Workplan: provide a brief description of the overall structure, it can be list of work packages or graphical presentation
- Activities need to be grouped into work package means a major sub-division of the project. For each work package, enter an objective (expected outcome) and list the activities, and deliverables that belong to it.
- There should be a logic to the grouping guided by identifiable outputs.
- Projects should normally have a minimum of two work packages.

- WP1 covering management and coordination activities and all the activities which are cross-cutting and therefore difficult to assign to another specific work package. WP2 and further WPs should be used for the training sessions (events).
- Enter each activity/output/outcome/deliverable should be entered only under one work package.
- Ensure consistence with the detailed budget table.

Work Packages and Tasks

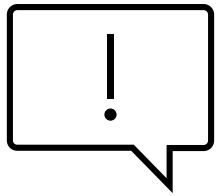
- Enter each activity/output/outcome/deliverable should be entered only under one work package.
- Ensure consistence with the timetable and the detailed budget table.
- Tasks: Provide a concise overview of the work. Be specific and give a short name and number for each task.
- Show who is participating in each task: Coordinator (COO), Beneficiaries (BEN), Affiliated Entities (AE), Associated Partners (AP), indicating the leader.
- Add information on other participants' involvement in the project e.g. subcontractors, in-kind contributions.

Deliverables



- Deliverables are project outputs which are submitted to show project progress. Refer only to **major outputs**.
- Limit the number of deliverables to **max 10-15** for the entire project.
- Deliverables need to be added separately in the template and provided with descriptions
- For each deliverable you will have to indicate a **due month** by when you commit to upload it.

Mandatory Deliverables



- Signed attendance list of participants (i.e. judges) as well as signed attendance list of speakers and staff for each day of attendance to the event
- Event evaluation forms filled-in by the participants on the last day of an event (template provided by the European Commission)
- Event feedback form with the summary of scores from participants' feedback (template provided by the European Commission)

  These exact titles should be used in application

Labels:

Public - fully open (automatically posted on the Project Results platforms) e.g. training materials, publications

Sensitive - limited under the conditions of the Grant Agreement – e.g. signed attendance lists with signatures, feedback forms

Milestones are not needed for SMP COMP projects, section can be left empty.

Risk Assessment and Mitigation

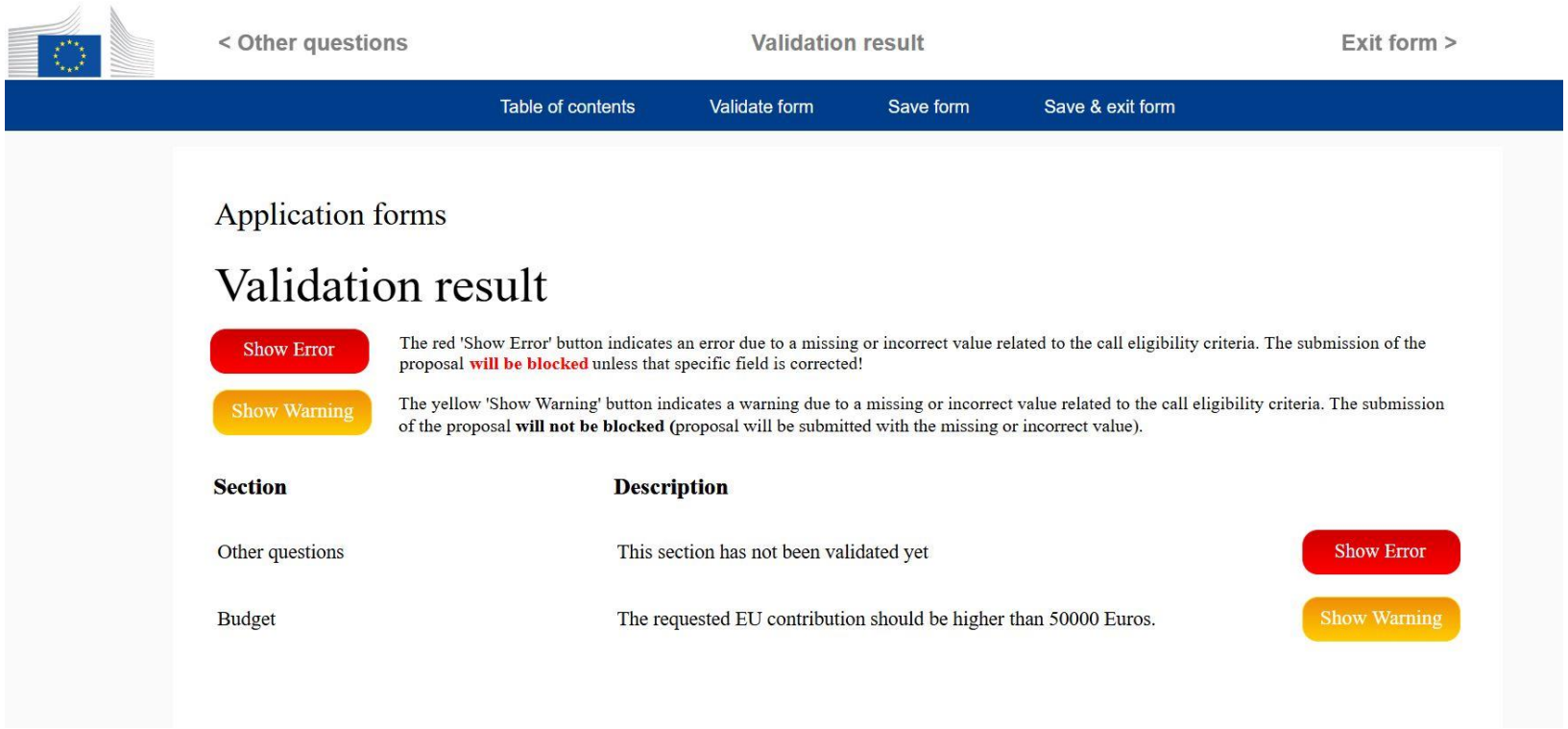
- Identify risks or difficulties related to the implementation of your project, and your measures/strategy for addressing them.
- Indicate for each risk the impact and the likelihood that the risk will materialise (high, medium, low), even after taking into account the mitigating measures.

Risk No	Description	Work package No	Proposed risk-mitigation measures

Keep in Mind:

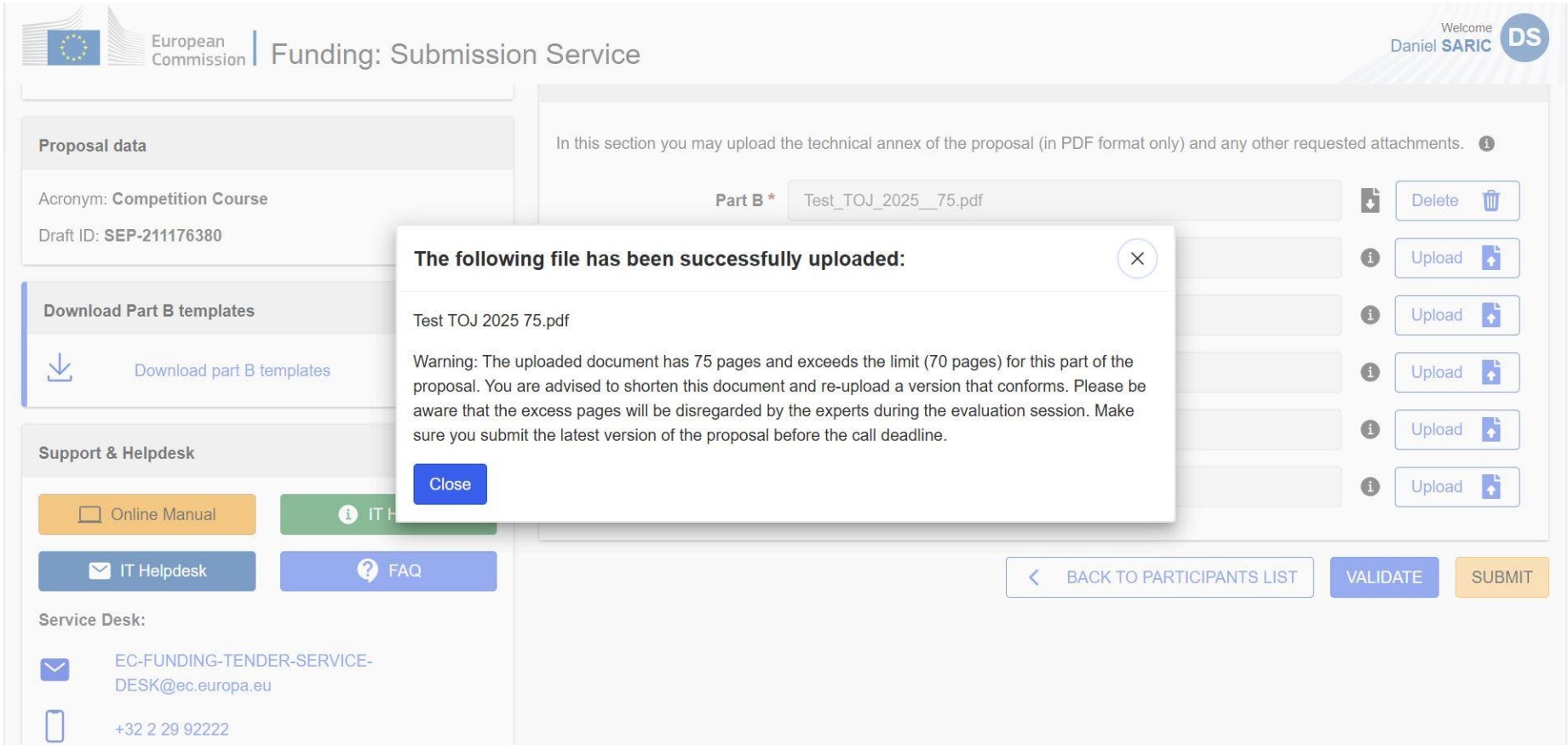
- Correspondence between information encode in Part A, Part B and the annexes
- For Participants: entities included in Part A match those presented in Part B of the proposal and that their role is clear;
- For Budget: budget figures in Part A match those presented in the detailed budget table per Work Package that you need to fill in Part B;
- The maximum duration of the project is 24 months; there will be a warning message if a higher value is encoded
- The requested EU contribution needs to be between EUR 50 000 and EUR 300 000 if a lower or higher value is encoded a **warning message** will be displayed

Validation and Submission Checks

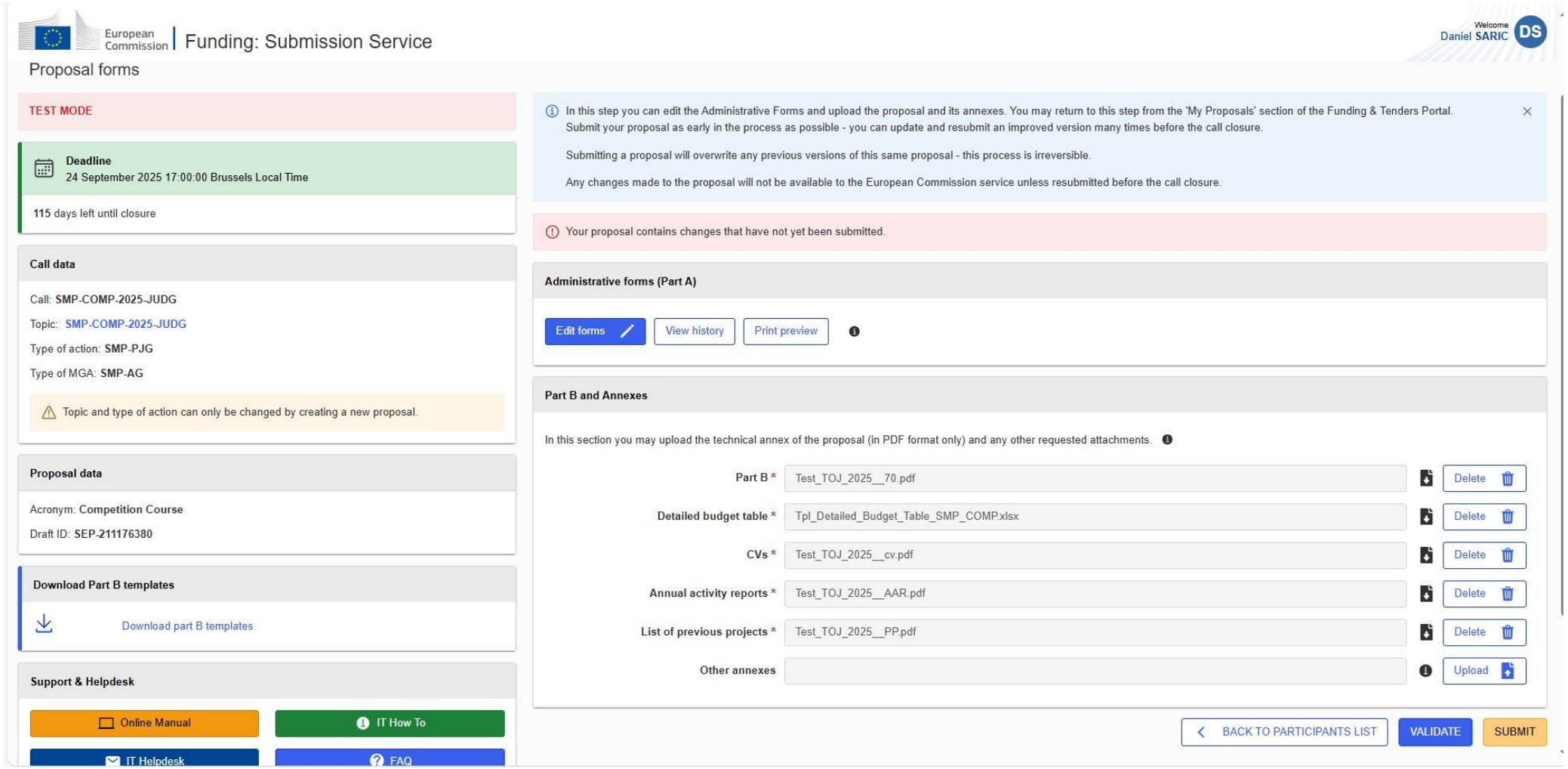


Please make sure before submitting you validate your application and address all errors and warning and that your application respects:

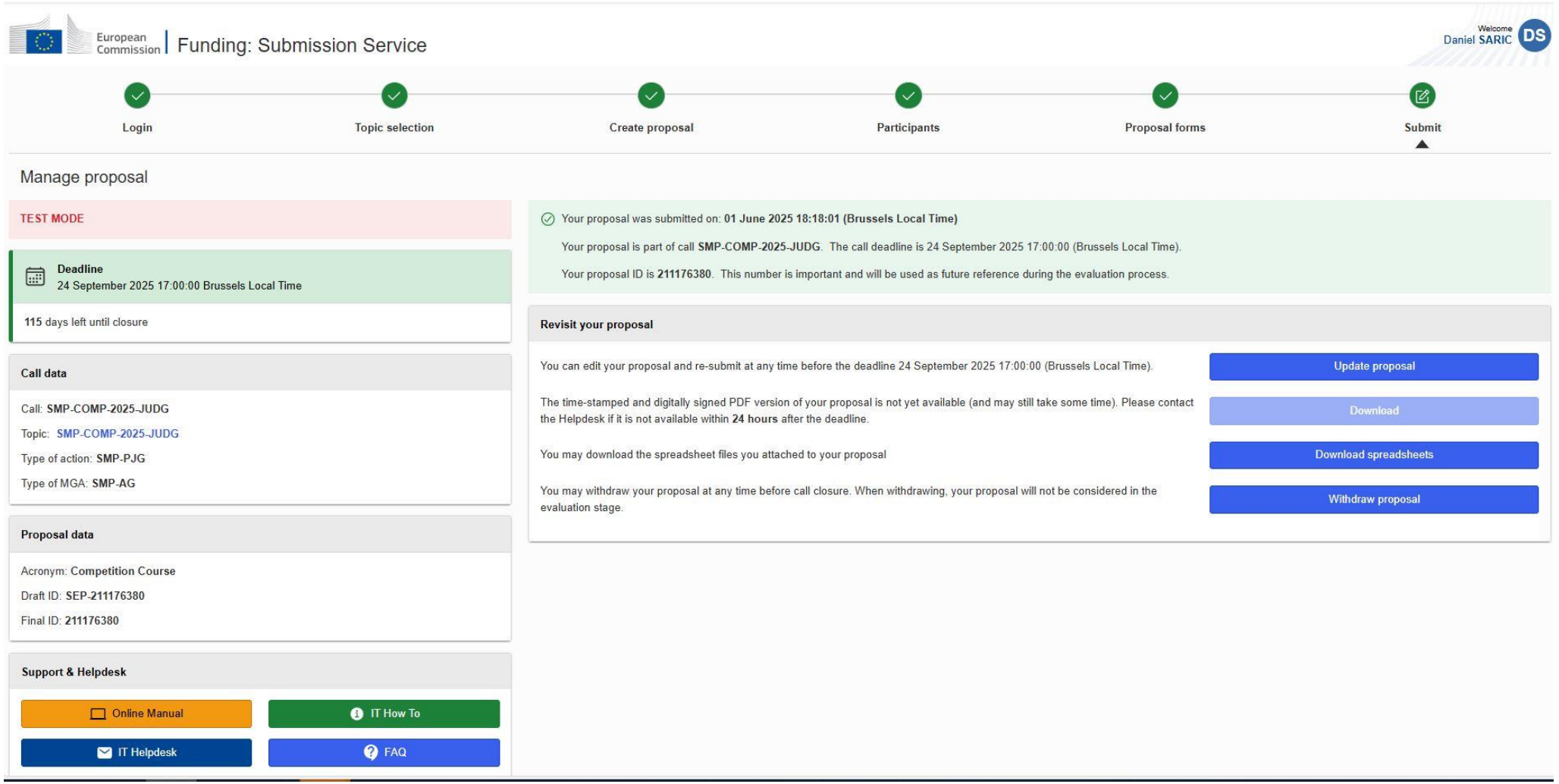
- Admissibility criteria including the submitted before the call deadline via the F&T Portal Electronic Submission System
- Eligibility criteria
- Is submitted on the forms provided inside the Submission System
- The application is complete, readable, accessible and printable and contain all the requested information and all required annexes (Part A, Part B – 70 pages, and all mandatory annexes – detailed budget table, CVs, activity reports, list of projects)


European Commission
Funding: Submission Service
Welcome
Daniel SARIC
DS
Proposal data
Acronym: Competition Course
Draft ID: SEP-211176380
Download Part B templates
Download part B templates
Support & Helpdesk
Online Manual
IT Helpdesk
FAQ
Service Desk:
EC-FUNDING-TENDER-SERVICE-DESK@ec.europa.eu
+32 2 29 92222
In this section you may upload the technical annex of the proposal (in PDF format only) and any other requested attachments.
Part B *
Test_TOJ_2025__75.pdf
Delete
Upload
Upload
Upload
Upload
Upload
The following file has been successfully uploaded:
Test TOJ 2025 75.pdf
Warning: The uploaded document has 75 pages and exceeds the limit (70 pages) for this part of the proposal. You are advised to shorten this document and re-upload a version that conforms. Please be aware that the excess pages will be disregarded by the experts during the evaluation session. Make sure you submit the latest version of the proposal before the call deadline.
Close
BACK TO PARTICIPANTS LIST
VALIDATE
SUBMIT

Ready for Submission



Successful Submission (Proposal ID)



Eligible Costs

Eligible costs – Key Elements

Incurred within the *implementation period* by the beneficiary;

Indicated in the estimated budget;

Incurred in connection with the *action*;

Identifiable, verifiable and recorded in the beneficiary's accounting records;

Comply with the requirements of applicable tax and social legislation;

Reasonable, justified and comply with the principle of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency.

Ineligible Costs

- Do not comply with the conditions set out above;
- Excessive or reckless expenditure;
- Cost or contributions declared under other EU grants;
- Costs or contributions (especially travel and subsistence) for staff or representatives of EU institutions, bodies or agencies (including CJEU);
- Costs for external project websites.

Staff Costs

- 2 sub-categories of staff:
  - **Employed:** salaries, social security contributions, taxes and other costs linked to the remuneration, if they arise from national law or the employment contract.
  - **Non-employed**: specifically recruited for the project:
    - Specific contract is needed.
    - Conditions similar to an employee.
    - Cost not significantly different from equivalent permanent staff.

Staff Costs

- ✓ The number of day-equivalents declared for a person must be identifiable and verifiable
- ✓ The total number of day-equivalents declared in EU grants, for a person for a year, cannot be higher than 215.
- ✓ The personnel costs may also include supplementary payments for personnel assigned to the action:
  - it is part of the beneficiary's usual remuneration practices and is paid in a consistent manner
  - the criteria used to calculate the supplementary payments are objective and generally applied by the beneficiary, regardless of the source of funding used.

Budget Headings –Travel Costs

The costs must be calculated, for each travel and person travelling, in accordance with the methodology set out in Decision C(2021)35 and in Annex 2a of the grant agreement.

Unit Costs for Travel Subsistence and Accommodation

Included in the detailed budget table under the column “unit costs”

Used or produced within the *implementation period* and necessary for the implementation of the action;

The number of units must be identifiable and verifiable, in particular supported by documentation (e.g. signed attendance sheet).

Example of Use of Unit Costs for Travel

Travel costs	0,00	261,00	9,00	**2 349,00**	YES - WP1, WP2, WP4	International; Budapest is the destination; the number of participants coming from a distance of 601-800 km is 9; means of transport is airplane.
Accommodation costs	0,00	105,00	93,00	**9 765,00**	YES - WP1, WP2, WP4	International; Budapest is the destination; the number of participants is 31; accommodation for 3 days, as the participants will arrive the day before the seminar.
Subsistence costs	0,00	64,00	62,00	**3 968,00**	YES - WP1, WP2, WP4	International; Budapest is the destination; the number of participants is 31; subsistence costs for 2 days - the duration of the seminar.

Thank you

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