

Annex II. GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

interconnect

interoperable solutions
connecting smart homes,
buildings and grids

Interoperable-by-design Prototypes Open Call

Guide for Applicants

Open date for proposals: 23rd of May 2022 at 00:00 (Brussels Time)

Deadline: 26th of July 2022 at 17.00 (Brussels Time)

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

IoT	Internet of Things
R&D	Research and Development
DSO	Distribution System Operators
DSF	Demand Side Flexibility
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
OC	Open Call
P2P	Peer-to-peer
GfA	Guide for Applicants

1. BASIC INFO ABOUT INTERCONNECT

[InterConnect](#) is an EU funded project (under grant agreement No. 857237) that gathers [50 European entities](#), such as R&D Consultancy, Manufacturers, IoT and ICT Providers, DSOs, Retailers and End-Users, to develop and **demonstrate advanced solutions for connecting and converging digital homes and buildings with the electricity sector**.

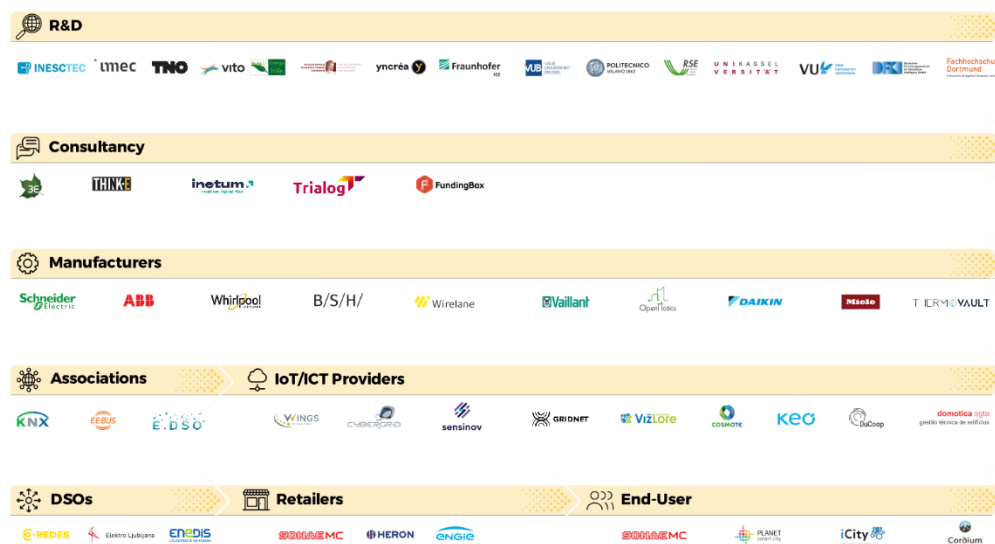


FIGURE A1.1: INTERCONNECT CONSORTIUM

InterConnect seeks to foster the digitalisation of homes, buildings and electric grids based on an Internet of Things architecture. By including digital technologies (Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, Cloud and Big Data) based on open standards, such as [SAREF](#), it will **guarantee the interoperability** between equipment, systems, and privacy/cybersecurity of user data.

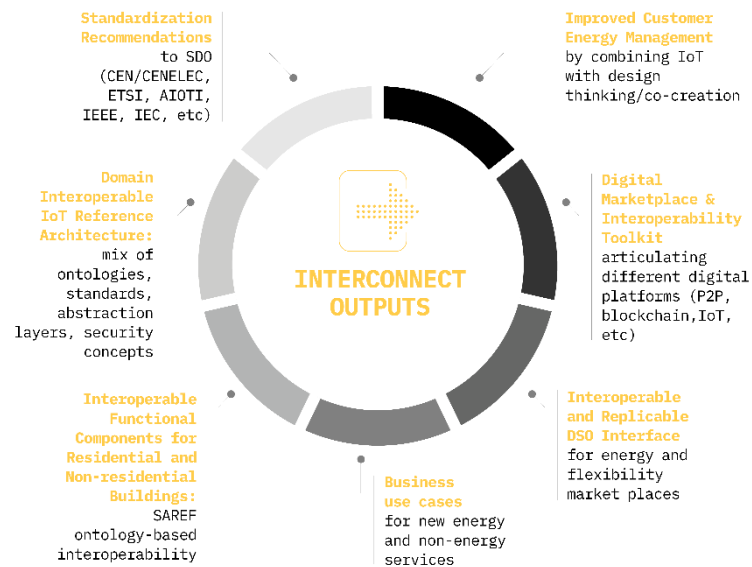


FIGURE A1.2: INTERCONNECT OUTPUTS

In order to achieve this goal, the project has launched an **OPEN CALL FOR INTEROPERABLE-BY-DESIGN PROTOTYPES** through which it will select up to **14 Bottom-up projects** that will develop and test novel **Interoperable applications or services for smart homes and grids** with a clear societal and economic value that will help to expand the InterConnect ecosystem.

Ideal application should:

- Be developed by small and innovative players (**SMEs including Start-up's**)
- Leverage the **interoperability framework** developed by InterConnect project, demonstrating semantic interoperability with the ecosystems of project's pilots.
- Support the project's validation of the **SAREF's semantic interoperability approach**, seeking its adoption by a wider ecosystem of stakeholders, hence ensuring easier integration of new devices and services as well as helping market acceptance.
- Aim to build a more comfortable and healthier living space at lower costs and enable their active participation in the energy system and market.
- **Be tested** in alignment with the available interoperable services **at one of 7 [InterConnect Large-Scale Pilots](#)**.
- **Address at least one of the challenges described in specific subsection below.**

2. WHAT DO WE OFFER?

The selected **bottom-up projects (up to 14)** will receive:

- Financial support grant of up to **150.000€**
- **7 months of customised Support Programme**, with a set of technical and business mentoring services to ensure the proper implementation and successful integration of applications within one of the [InterConnect Large-Scale Pilots](#).

- Access to pilot facilities to test the application with the assigned pilot.

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

We will check the eligibility of all proposals submitted before the deadline (July 26th, 2022, 17.00 Brussels Time) via our online [application form](#). **All the eligibility criteria are listed in this Section of the Guide for Applicants.** The projects that do not comply with those criteria will be excluded and marked as ineligible. We will check the eligibility criteria based on the information provided in your application during the whole evaluation process.

3.1. LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

We are looking for single (individual) **SME's (including Start-ups)** registered in one of the following **countries**:

- [The Member States of the European Union and its Overseas Countries and Territories \(OCT\)](#) or
- [Associated Countries to H2020](#)
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

3.2. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

3.2.1. The proposal should explain how it will make use of the InterConnect Interoperability Framework in the prototype development.

The technical documentation of the interoperability framework components is available at the project's **Gitlab wiki page**: <https://gitlab.inescotec.pt/groups/interconnect-public/-/wikis/home>

In general terms, during the Prototype development the following methodology should be used:

- Get familiar with the project ontology (SAREF based)².
- Get familiar with the semantic interoperability layer based on Knowledge Engine technology³.
- Create account on and get familiar with the InterConnect Service Store⁴.
- Get familiar with the SAREFisation process and perform service SAREFisation and build service specific adapter⁵.
- Onboard your service(s) on the InterConnect Service Store⁶.

¹ An SME will be considered as such if it complies with the European Commission's Recommendation 2003/361/EC. As a summary, the criteria defining an SME are: • Headcount in Annual Work Unit (AWU) less than 250; • Annual turnover less or equal to €50 million OR annual balance sheet total less or equal to €43 million. Note that the figures of partners and linked enterprises should also be considered as stated in the SME user guide. For detailed information check EU recommendation: https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/smedefinition_en

² <https://gitlab.inescotec.pt/groups/interconnect-public/-/wikis/home#interconnect-ontology>

³ <https://gitlab.inescotec.pt/groups/interconnect-public/-/wikis/home#service-specific-adapters>

⁴ <https://store.interconnectproject.eu/ServiceStore/#/dashboard/home>

⁵ <https://gitlab.inescotec.pt/groups/interconnect-public/-/wikis/home#service-specific-adapters>

⁶ <https://gitlab.inescotec.pt/interconnect-public/service-store-frontend/-/wikis/1-User-Guide>

- Deploy Generic Adapter(s) for your services⁷.
- Work on integration with project pilot ecosystems according to the selected challenge(s). This will also include alignment with the project pilot's security and privacy protection plan.
- Optionally – utilize InterConnect P2P marketplace enablers based on DLT⁸.

The proposal should address implementation and successful integration of applications within one of the 7 [InterConnect Large-Scale Pilots](#).

TRL level⁹: Technology supported through the Interconnect Programme should reach the Technology Readiness Level 8 (System Complete and Qualified). In order to prove that it's feasible, proposals should address the technology at the current minimum level of TRL (5-7) and plan tasks for project execution that will allow reaching this goal.

3.3. CHALLENGES

The proposal should address at least one of the following challenges:

Challenge A - Semantic Interoperability for smart homes and buildings: Solutions focused on building semantically interoperable services and ecosystems between different energy and non-energy systems within a building.

- Smart appliances.
- Services and resources for commercial buildings.
- Energy storage and generation on a building level.
- Interoperable EMS systems and services.
- Interoperable non-energy services – implementing innovative non-energy services targeting smart homes and end users' comfort and convenience.
- Data driven services (data analysis and AI) for smart homes/buildings.
- Services exploring cross-domain exploitation.

Challenge B - Interoperable services for Demand Side Flexibility: Solutions focused on demand side flexibility and its cross-domain dimensions.

- Demand side flexibility – commercial, residential, and social housing use cases for flexible resource aggregation and management.
- Seamless switching to a different service/device (e.g., a different weather forecaster, a different PV forecaster, a different BEMS service, a different white-good appliance from a different appliance manufacturer, etc.) without requiring service/device specific API knowledge, solely relying on the defined ontologies and semantic knowledge.
- Services exploring cross-domain exploitation.
- Data driven services (data analysis and AI) for Demand Side Flexibility (DSF).

⁷ <https://gitlab.inesctec.pt/groups/interconnect-public/-/wikis/home#generic-adapter>

⁸ <https://gitlab.inesctec.pt/groups/interconnect-public/-/wikis/home#p2p-marketplace-enablers>

⁹ https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/wp/2018-2020/annexes/h2020-wp1820-annex-q-trl_en.pdf

Challenge C - Semantically Interoperable services for Smart grids and energy communities: Solutions focused more towards wider energy systems and energy communities.

- Increase the sources of information for active grid management throughout data obtained from distributed appliances and devices, integrating the DSO interface system.
- Provisioning of flexibility services to the DSO in a bilateral mechanism through the DSO interface, by aggregating controlled distributed resources which may help with a better management of the grid.
- Development and integration of SAREF-compatible resource prequalification module for the DSO interface.
- Aggregation on community level.
- Interoperable energy communities – implementing innovative services and applications for energy community challenges leveraging the semantic interoperability and project ontology.
- Services exploring cross-domain exploitation.
- Data driven services (data analysis and AI) for smart grid and energy communities.
- Interoperable EMS systems.
- Cross-border interoperability – integrate services and resources from stakeholders from different countries into new value-added applications.

Challenge D: Semantically interoperable services for electric mobility: Solutions focused on EVs and charging stations.

- EV charging – interoperable charging solutions and EV as a flexible resource.
- Services exploring cross-domain exploitation.
- Data driven services (data analysis and AI) for electric mobility.
- Cross-border interoperability – integrate services and resources from stakeholders from different countries into new value-added applications.

Challenge E: Semantically Interoperable services for energy marketplaces and incentive mechanisms: Solutions focused on the business dimension of the energy and cross-domain challenges.

- P2P marketplaces.
- Aggregation services towards the market.
- Gamification for energy efficiency.
- Incentive and reward systems.
- Data driven services (data analysis and AI) for energy market, pricing, orders etc.
- Cross-border interoperability – integrate services and resources from stakeholders from different countries into new value-added applications.

3.4. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Applying to an Open Call takes time and dedication and we are grateful you take up the challenge of applying to the InterConnect Open Call. Because we care, we would like to make

sure you understand what are some of the eligibility requirements with which you have to comply.

- **Have a European dimension:** Your proposal should have a clear *European* dimension meaning that InterConnect envisages to contribute for the democratization of efficient energy management, through a flexible and interoperable ecosystem where demand side flexibility can be soundly integrated with effective benefits to European end-users.
- **Be on time:** Make sure you submit your proposal through the [online form](#) before the **deadline (July 26th, 2022, 17.00 Brussels Time)**. If you submit the form correctly, the system will send you a confirmation of your submission. Get in touch with us if it is not the case. It is important for you to know that we will not be evaluating any proposal sent after the deadline and submitted outside the dedicated form.
- **Be exhaustive:** Have you answered all the sections of the form? It won't be possible to add any information after the deadline. However, you will be able to modify the form as much as you like even *after* the proposal is submitted, **as long as it is done before the deadline**.
- **Less is more:** If more than one proposal is identified, only the last proposal which has been submitted will be evaluated.¹⁰ So, no point multiplying your chances this way, it is better to submit only one proposal and make it shine.
- **We only understand the language of Shakespeare:** Your proposal must be written in **English** in all mandatory parts in order to be eligible. Only parts written in English will be evaluated.
- **Every question deserves your attention:** All mandatory sections of your proposal - generally marked with an asterisk - must be filled in. Make sure that the data provided is true and complete. This is crucial for us to properly assess your proposal. Conversely, any additional material that is not specifically requested in the online application form will not be considered for the evaluation so no point overdoing it.
- **Conflicts of interest:** We will take into consideration the existence of potential **conflict of interest** between you and one or more [InterConnect Consortium partners](#). Consortium partners, their affiliated entities, employees, and permanent collaborators cannot take part in the InterConnect Programme. All cases of potential conflict of interest will be assessed case by case.
- **Healthy finances and a clean sheet are a must:** We won't accept entities that are under liquidation or enterprises in difficulty according to the Commission Regulation No 651/2014, art. 2.18. Neither will we accept proposals from entities that are excluded from the possibility of obtaining EU funding under the provisions of both national and EU law, or by a decision of both national or EU authority.
- **It is *your* proposal:** Your project should be based on your original work. If not, that's okay, just make sure your right to use the IPR is 100% certain. Going forward, any foreseen developments must be free from third-party rights and if not, these third-party rights must be clearly stated.

¹⁰ Please note that only the application's last edit will be considered

4. TYPE OF ACTIVITIES FUNDED

This Interoperable-by-design Prototypes Open Call aims to select companies that will foster the development of novel interoperable applications or services for smart homes and grids that address at least one of the pre-defined challenges, by using the Interoperable Framework of InterConnect¹¹, and finally testing these applications in one of the 7 Project Pilots.

4.1. EXAMPLE OF AN IDEAL PROJECT

This is an example of a Bottom-up project that could be considered ideal for this Open Call:

Proposal: Developing a new interoperable application for managing EV charging

A start-up, specialized in interoperable solutions, submits a proposal to the Prototypes Open Call, that will develop a new application for managing EV charging for supermarket customers so they can offer new deals for electrical mobility (e.g., offer EV charging minutes if the customers spend more than 20€ in the supermarket).

Hence, the example above would reply to 2 main requirements regarding:

- Challenges: it could address issues contained in challenges A and/or E.
- Pilot testing: it could be tested in the infrastructures available at the [Portuguese pilot](#).

The start-up, if selected, will receive (along 7 months) financial and technical support to develop the new application, based on the interoperable framework, which will be tested with end-users in InterConnect related Pilots to get a final stable version (TRL 8).

5. HOW WILL WE EVALUATE YOUR PROPOSAL?

Our evaluation process is transparent, fair, and equal to all our participants.

Having said that, note that we will be evaluating your project in 4 phases. We expect a high number of applications so if you want to stand out, quality is the way to go. What does it mean? In short, provide as many details as possible while being extremely clear and structured. Also remember that a picture is worth 1,000 words. If you have the opportunity to include a video, a graph or any visual material that supports your explanation, go ahead.

This will help us to identify properly the key points of your application and see how it fits within the overall InterConnect scope.

¹¹ <https://gitlab.inesctec.pt/groups/interconnect-public/-/wikis/home>

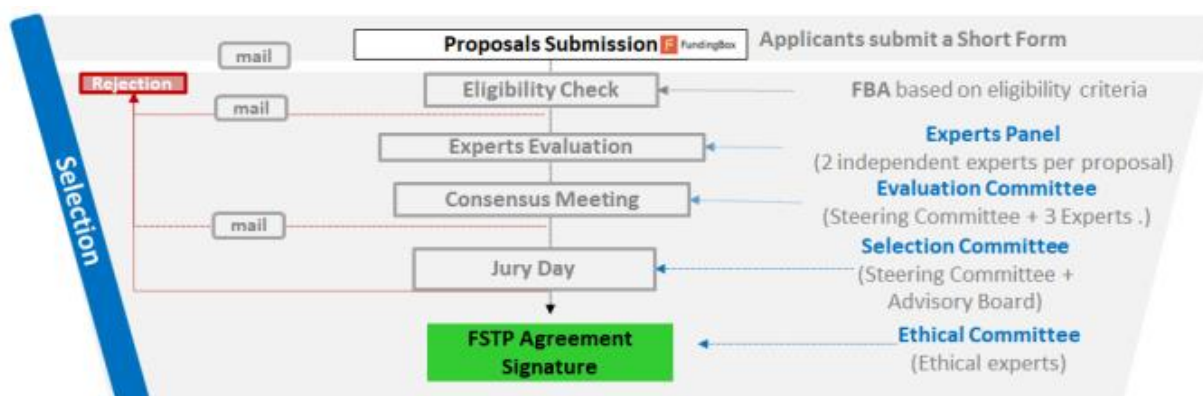


FIGURE A1.3: INTERCONNECT EVALUATION PROCESS

5.1. STEP 1: FIRST AUTOMATIC ELIGIBILITY CHECK

The first evaluation step is about verifying some basic requirements based on the statements from your proposal. Your proposal will be admissible for the next phase if it:

- Is **complete, readable and in English** in all mandatory sections.
- Has been submitted via the [online form](#) within the **deadline**.
- **The proposal fulfils the eligibility criteria specified in section 3**
- You won't be multiplying your chances by applying several times, it is only the last application that you submitted that we will be evaluating in case there is more than one.
- Includes the properly filled declaration of honour. Read carefully the **Declaration of Honour** template included in the application form, as we will check the related submitted statements. You will not be able to change them after the deadline.

The proposals that do not comply with these criteria will be excluded. We will inform you about the results of this first eligibility check soon after the deadline.

5.2. STEP 2: EXTERNAL EVALUATION

You have reached the external evaluation phase: bravo! And if not, be persistent: there may be other open calls for this project and other funding opportunities may suit - even better - your proposal.

For those who have been selected: from now on, each project will be evaluated by 2 **external and independent** evaluators specialised in the energy / ICT fields.

These are the criteria they will consider to complete the evaluation:

EXCELLENCE will evaluate:

- Objectives and clarity of challenges and TRL addressed: The applicant should explain the technology behind the project and how it will address the challenges and TRL selected with its main outcomes.

- Ambition and use of the InterConnect Interoperability Framework: The applicants should demonstrate how they plan to make use of the InterConnect Interoperability Framework in the prototype development and what is their ambition to develop the application with the InterConnect support.
- Innovation: The Applicants should provide information about the level of innovation within their market, degree of differentiation that this project will bring and to what extent the solution will go beyond the State of Art.
- Soundness of the approach

IMPACT will analyse:

- Market opportunity: The applicants have to demonstrate a clear idea of what they want to do and whether the new/improved product has market potential, e.g., because it solves a problem for a specific target customer.
- Competition: The applicants have to provide information about the degree of competition for their particular product/service and if the idea is disruptive and breaks the market. i.e., the products/services to be brought to market can be clearly differentiated from the competition.
- Commercial Strategy and Scalability: The applicants have to demonstrate the level of scalability of the new/improved product meaning by that they are not to solve a specific problem but able to be commercialised to solve a given problem in the Energy and Home/Building Domain (i.e., contributing to increasing the use of renewable energy and/or increasing energy efficiency).
- Social and Economic Impacts: applicants should describe potential impact on aspects like environment and low carbon economy contribution, equal opportunities, social impacts.

IMPLEMENTATION will consider:

- Team: The team involved in project execution have to demonstrate their management and leadership qualities, their ability to take a concept from ideas to market, their capacity to carry through their ideas and understand the dynamics of the market they are trying to tap into. The team should be balanced and cross-functional, with a strong background and skill base.
- Resources: Demonstrate the quality and effectiveness of the resources assigned to get the objectives/deliverables proposed.
- KPIs: applicants should confirm that KPIs they want to achieve are feasible with the work plan and that they are ambitious.
- Selected Pilot (select the top 3 pilots preferred for testing)*:
 - Greek pilot: Implementation of advanced Demand Response scenarios in residential setups.
 - French pilot: Contribute to efficient and environmentally friendly energy management.
 - Portuguese pilot: Smart grid infrastructure as an enabler of new business demand to integrate DSF in e-markets.

- [Netherlands pilot](#): (Re)developed domestic and multi-tenant buildings boosting IoT consumer centred services. Belgium.
- [Belgian pilot](#): Enabling energy communities.
- [German pilot](#): Demand Side Flexibility services for supporting the grid and local energy optimization.
- [Italian pilot](#): Residential social housing.
- Reasons for selection: applicants have to justify the reason on why the Pilot was selected and indicate the facilities needed to test their applications or services to ensure that InterConnect Project can provide them with the most suitable Project Pilot.

* Bear in mind that these preferences will be taken into account, but another pilot might be assigned to the beneficiary if a better technical fit is considered.

The evaluators will score each criterion on a scale from 0 to 5:

- 0 = The proposal fails to address the criteria, or it cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
- 1 = Poor – The criterion is inadequately addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
- 2 = Fair – The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
- 3 = Good – The proposal addresses the criterion well but there are a certain number of shortcomings.
- 4 = Very good – There are a small number of shortcomings but overall, the proposal addresses the criterion very well.
- 5 = Excellent – The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion with no or minor shortcomings.

Each evaluator will produce an **Individual Evaluation Report**. Your final score will be calculated as an average of the individual assessments provided by the Evaluators.

The threshold for individual criteria will be 3. The overall threshold, applying to the sum of the three individual scores, will be 10. And the criterion Impact is given a weight of 1.5 to determine the final ranking.

If scores on a project show significant divergence between the two reviewers (2 points in more than 2 criteria), a third reviewer will be involved to provide an additional independent assessment of this proposal.

Ties will be solved using the following criteria, in order:

- Impact score,
- Implementation score,
- Date of submission: earlier submitted proposals go first.

A 'Ranking List' will be elaborated and all proposals obtaining a score above the threshold will move on to the next stage. Do note that the evaluation phase takes time as it implies a more personal, qualitative, and thus non-automated approach. But eventually, your patience will be rewarded!

5.3. STEP 3: CONSENSUS MEETING

Following the external evaluation, an **Evaluation Committee**¹², coordinated by FBA and composed by the InterConnect Steering Committee plus three External Evaluators, will decide by Consensus (minimum $\frac{2}{3}$ of the votes) on the 'List of applicants' to move on to the next phase. The decision will be based on the ranking obtained as a result of the External Evaluation.

Bear in mind that even if it is normally the best-marked proposals that are selected for funding, the Evaluation Committee may have fair reasons for objecting to the selection of a specific candidate. These reasons can relate to:

- Alignment with InterConnect goals and scope.
- The ability to achieve the strongest possible impact.
- Commercial competition.
- The existence of significant ethical concerns.
- The existence of a potential conflict of interest.
- Balance between Large Scale Pilots testing¹³

Interconnect aims to select at least 1 proposal per challenge, but the final decision on the number of proposals selected per challenge will be made based on the quality and potential of the submitted applications.

In case a top-ranked application is rejected, we will consider selecting the next best-ranked proposal. Finally, the exact number of proposals approved will be decided based on the overall **quality** of the proposals.

5.4. STEP 4: JURY DAY

If your proposal has been selected during the Consensus Meeting, you will be invited to a **Jury Day** (please be aware that in case the physical meeting is possible, the Jury Day will be organized online) during which you will have the opportunity to pitch your project in front of the InterConnect Selection Committee¹⁴.

Each SME invited to Jury Day will be requested some basic legal information to confirm that the entity engaged in the proposal exists.

After the Jury Day, the **InterConnect Selection Committee** will undertake the **final evaluation** taking into account the following criteria:

- The Team's capabilities / skills.
- Potential to contribute to the adoption of Interoperability Solutions in smart homes/buildings and grid services in Europe.
- Potential to develop secure, cost-effective, and sustainable business models.
- Contribution to increasing the use of renewable energy and increased energy efficiency.

¹² Coordinated by FBA and composed by the InterConnect Steering Committee plus three External Evaluators.

¹³ During the whole project, Interconnect aims to test supported applications in 7 InterConnect Large-Scale Pilots (minimum 4 in this open call).

¹⁴ Coordinated by FBA and composed by the Steering Committee and some strategic members of the Advisory Board.

The 'Selection Committee' will decide by majority vote of 2/3 on the 'List of Finalists' as well as the 'Reserve List'.

The exact number of proposals approved will be decided based on the overall **quality** of the proposals. The Selection Committee may have fair reasons for objecting to the selection of a specific candidate in case the balance of selected proposals between Pilots or Challenges is not achieved.

The list of proposals selected during the Jury Day and the 'Reserve List' will be sent to the European Commission for validation before the Formal Check process begins.

5.5. WHAT'S NEXT? SUBGRANT AGREEMENT PREPARATION AND SIGNATURE

You made it! You are part of the final applications preselected for the InterConnect Open Call. It has been a long journey. Or has it actually just started?

In any case, before you get started with the InterConnect Programme, you need to sign the Subgrant Agreement with the InterConnect Consortium. (For details, please check our Frequently Asked Questions and read a Draft Subgrant Agreement [here](#)).

Before signing the Subgrant Agreement, you should provide documents regarding your formal status. The InterConnect Consortium will proceed to a **verification of these documents** to make sure you are eligible.

Be extremely vigilant with respect to:

1.The nature of the documents we request.

If the documents you provide us with do not prove your eligibility, the adventure will end **here**.

2.The deadlines that we will give you to hand us these documents.

If you do not deliver the requested documents on time, without a clear and reasonable justification, we will have to exclude you from the further formal assessment. Another applicant from the Reserve list will then replace you.

6. SUPPORT PROGRAMME AND PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Once your eligibility has been confirmed following the formal check and the Subgrant Agreement signed, you become an official beneficiary of the InterConnect Programme. It is now that the adventure begins, and it is now high time to understand how the funding is going to be distributed.

Support Programme:

- A Welcome Event will be organised at the beginning of the support programme where the Technical and Business Mentors will be allocated to each Project.

- After that, the Bottom-up Projects -together with its Mentors- will define an 'Individual Mentoring Plan', establishing the KPIs and Deliverables to evaluate the Bottom-Up Projects' performance.

The implementation of the projects will go through a 7-months support programme split in 3 stages:

- A 1st stage to define the Proof Of Concept;
- A 2nd stage to develop the Prototypes and Business Model;
- And a 3rd stage to test the Minimum Viable Products in market conditions through the InterConnect related Pilots, defining the Exploitation Plan.

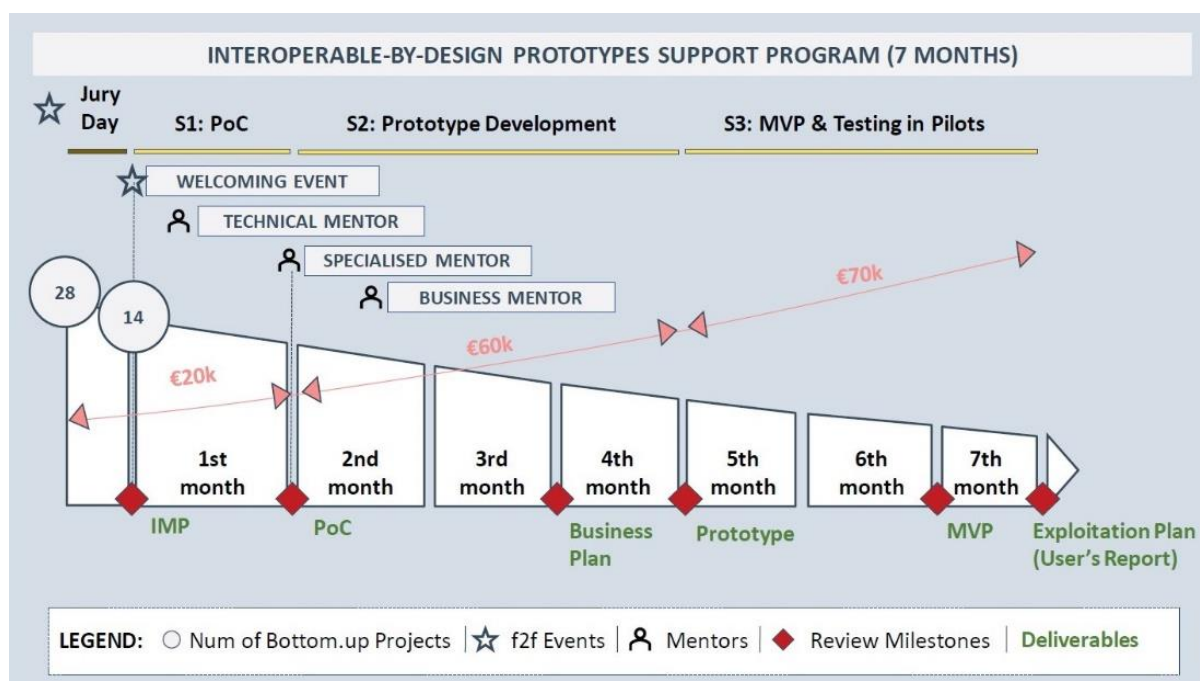


FIGURE A1.4:INTERCONNECT SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Funding:

As a beneficiary, you will receive a fixed lump sum¹⁵ of up to 150.000€ to be paid in three stages:

- Stage 1 (after month 1) – up to 20.000€
- Stage 2 (after month 4) – up to 60.000€
- Stage 3 (after month 7) – up to 70.000€

The **payment of each tranche depends on the approval**, by the 'Mentoring Committee' and ultimately 'Selection Committee, **of the related deliverables per milestone**.

¹⁵ A lump sum is a simplified method of settling expenses in projects financed with Horizon 2020 funds. It means that you are not required to present accounting documents to prove the investment-related costs incurred (e.g., invoices). However, you are obliged to demonstrate that the implementation of the project is in line with the milestones set for it.

These milestones, deliverables, KPIs and ethical recommendations will be defined and calendarized in the 'Individual Mentoring Plan' elaborated at the beginning of the Programme.

Bear in mind that the lump sum does not release you from the obligation to collect documentation to confirm the costs under fiscal regulation.

7. CONTACT US

If you have questions regarding the Open Call, you can:

- Post your question in the Open Call [Helpdesk](#)
- Read all supportive documents in the [Read First](#) section
- Join one of our Open Call webinars

If, after receiving the results of one of the evaluation phases (when foreseen), you consider that a mistake has been made you can send us your complaint. To do so please send us your complaint in English by email to interconnect.help@fundingbox.com including the following information:

- Your contact details (including email address),
- The subject of the complaint,
- Information and evidence regarding the alleged breach.

You have **3 calendar days to submit your complaint** starting the day after the communication about the results of the eligibility criteria evaluation was sent. We will review your complaint within no more than seven calendar days from its reception. If we need more time to assess your complaint, we will inform you by email about the extension.

We will not review anonymous complaints as well as complaints with incomplete information. Please take into account that the evaluation is run by experts in the industry, and we do not interfere with their assessment, therefore we will not evaluate complaints related to the results of the evaluation other than related to the mistakes in the evaluation of the eligibility criteria.

8. LAST BUT NOT LEAST - FINAL PROVISIONS

Any matters not covered by this Guide will be governed by Polish law and rules related to the Horizon 2020 Programme and European Union grants regulations.

We do our best to keep all the applicant data confidential. However, to avoid any doubts, you are entirely responsible to indicate what information is confidential.

Your IPR will remain your property.

For the selected beneficiaries, the agreement will include the set of obligations towards the European Commission (for example: promoting the project and giving visibility to the EU funding, maintaining confidentiality, understanding potential controls by the EC/ECA and OLAF).

The InterConnect Consortium might cancel the call at any time, change its provisions or extend it. In such a case we will inform all applicants about such change. Signature of the agreement

is an initial condition to establish any obligations among applicants and any Consortium partners (with respect to the obligation of confidentiality of the application).

You didn't find what you were looking for? You may want to check our Frequently Asked Questions document [here](#).

9. EXTRA HINTS BEFORE YOU SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL

A proposal takes time and effort, and we know it. Here a few crucial points you should read before hitting the "Submit" button to maximise your chances of success:

- Is your project in line with what InterConnect is looking for? Not 100% sure? You can consult Sections 3 and 4.
- Did you present your project in a way that will convince evaluators? Go back to Section 5 if you have any doubt.
- Is your project fulfilling all the eligibility requirements described in the Guide for Applicants? Check again Section 3.
- Are you able to cope with our signature agreement process and payment arrangements for the selected proposals? You may want to go over Section 6.
- Did you check our Agreement Template? Check it [here](#).
- Do you need extra help? [Get in touch!](#)

And as a bonus: You can read our [R.E.C.I.P.E. for an outstanding European Funding Opportunity application](#) for additional advice. Good luck!