General Conditions for Participation in International Calls

1. General information

These General Conditions apply exclusively to partnership and other initiative calls published **from June 2026 onwards**. Calls published prior to this date remain subject to the specific AEI rules contained in the corresponding AEI annex for each partnership call.

The instrument for funding the Spanish groups is "Proyectos de Colaboración Internacional" (Projects of International Collaboration, PCI). Applicants are encouraged to consult the last PCI call text PCI2026_2 and especially the **Resolución Requisitos PCI** at AEI website, as well as check their eligibility with the National Contact Point prior to the submission

Important.

Submission of proposals at the AEI. Within one week after the pre-proposal (for 2-step calls) or the full proposal (for 1-step calls) submission, the Spanish Principal Investigator (PI) must submit a national application to the AEI through the following link https://aplicaciones.aei.gob.es/proyectostransnacionales/ . A national application is not required at the full proposal stage for 2-step calls (only projects selected for funding will be asked to complete the national application). Failure to comply with the submission through the AEI platform will be considered a breach of the eligibility conditions, and the proposal shall be deemed not submitted.

The application should include (i) a copy of the international application (including the administrative part with the consortium composition and budget), (ii) the scientific and technical international joint proposal, (iii) the CV of the principal investigator and (iv) and the "Declaración responsable del investigador principal" duly signed by the Spanish principal investigator (please refer to the Word document on the page for your initiative on the AEI website Oportunidades de colaboración | Agencia Estatal de Investigación).

Please note that the request submitted through the app is only valid if it is ultimately signed by the institution's authorized representative.

2. Eligible beneficiaries

The eligible beneficiaries are non-profit research organizations (such as universities, public research institutions, technological centres and other private non-profit

institutions performing RDI activities in Spain) which must comply with the requirements established by this transnational call and with the rules on eligibility defined in the corresponding Spanish national funding instrument "Proyectos de Colaboración Internacional" and the **Resolución Requisitos PCI** .

The entities must have been previous recipients of any of the AEI calls.

The following legal entities may be beneficiaries of a PCI grant, provided that they are validly established and have their tax residence or a permanent establishment in Spain, and that they comply with the requirements set out in **Resolución Requisitos PCI** :

a) **Public Research Organisations**, as defined in Article 47 of Law 14/2011 of 1 June on Science, Technology and Innovation.

b) **Public universities and their university research institutes**, as well as private universities with demonstrated capacity and activity in R&D&I, in accordance with Organic Law 2/2023 of 22 March on the University System, provided that they are registered in the Register of Universities, Centres and Degrees established by Royal Decree 1509/2008 of 12 September, regulating the Register of Universities, Centres and Degrees.

c) **Public and private non-profit healthcare entities and institutions** affiliated with or having an agreement with the Spanish National Health System and carrying out R&D&I activities.

d) **Accredited Health Research Institutes**, in accordance with Royal Decree 279/2016 of 24 June on the accreditation of biomedical or health research institutes and the corresponding supplementary regulations.

e) **Technology Centres and Technology Innovation Support Centres** operating at national level and registered in the register of centres established by Royal Decree 2093/2008 of 19 December, regulating Technology Centres and Technology Innovation Support Centres operating at national level and establishing the Register of such Centres.

f) **Other public R&D&I centres with their own legal personality** whose statutes, governing regulations or corporate purpose establish R&D&I as their main activity.

g) **Private non-profit R&D&I centres with their own legal personality** whose statutes, governing regulations or corporate purpose establish R&D&I as their main activity.

The **R&D Centres referred to in the Fourteenth Additional Provision of Law 14/2011 of 1 June**, as well as public agricultural or food R&D&I centres under the authority of the Autonomous Communities and integrated into the **INIA (CSIC)–Autonomous Communities system**, may also be beneficiaries.

Where any of these centres do not have their own legal personality, the public administration to which it belongs shall be considered the beneficiary.

Beneficiary entities shall comply with the obligations set out in Article 14 of Law 38/2003 of 17 November, as well as with the corresponding provisions of its implementing regulations.
Entities in any of the circumstances referred to in Article 13 of Law 38/2003 of 17 November may neither apply for funding nor acquire beneficiary status.
Entities subject to a recovery procedure in respect of aid that has been declared unlawful and incompatible with the internal market by the European Commission may neither apply for funding nor acquire beneficiary status.

Important for Spanish beneficiary institutions:
• Centers formed by different Spanish legal entities will be considered as a single entity (e.g., mixed centers). Therefore, the maximum funding should not exceed the limits per proposal established below.
• Two centres or institutes belonging to the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC) will be treated as separate partners only in cases where one of them acts as the Coordinator of the proposal and their tasks and identities within the project are sufficiently separated and justified.

3. Spanish Principal Investigators

Spanish Principal Investigators (PIs) must:

- Be eligible to the corresponding PCI (see PCI2026 2 as an example) call and **Resolución requisitos PCI.**
- Demonstrate experience as investigators in projects funded by the Plan Estatal I+D+i 2013-2016, Plan Estatal I+D+i 2017-2020, 2021-2023, ERC Grants, European Framework Programmes or other relevant national and international programmes.
- Spanish PIs must have a contractual relation with the beneficiary covering the expected total length of the project.
- Applicants must include in the trasnational application the full name of the PI and the full name of their institution as listed in the "Sistema de Entidades" (SISEN).
- Spanish investigators are strongly encouraged to include the Spanish industrial sector in the transnational consortia. Spanish Industrial partners can apply to CDTI and some regional agencies for funding.
- It is very important to check the eligibility criteria before sending the preproposal to avoid unwanted situations and damages to third parties.

Important for PIs. These must be taken into account when participating in different partnerships or other international initiatives funded through PCI, INT (bilateral call) or PID modality I**:**

- The same researcher is not allowed to act as PI in two PCI, INT or PID-modality I projects from the same year or from consecutive years. Therefore, a researcher acting as PI may apply for only one international collaboration grant from the AEI under the PCI, INT, or PID–Type I calls in the same year or in two consecutive years; that is, only one of the three calls, not one application under each of them.
- If the same PI submits two or more proposals in the same transnational call, all but one proposal will be declared ineligible, without the possibility of changing the PI.
- The PI must remain the same in the proposal submitted to the transnational call and in the corresponding PCI application, subject to the following exception: If a researcher applies as PI to more than one transnational call funded by any of the AEI instruments (PCI, INT or PID "Type I") and becomes selected for funding in one of them, automatically he/she should abide by AEI restrictions on holding multiple PI roles; the researcher may only retain the PI role in the first awarded project at national level. Before the publication of the corresponding national grant award, the researcher must withdraw as PI in the other proposal(s) and be replaced by another eligible researcher from the same institution.

4. Budget and eligible costs

General funding criteria:

- The AEI will avoid double funding (overlapping with other EU or National funding) and will not grant projects or parts of projects already funded.
- Research and innovation activities (R&I) are eligible. Standalone dissemination, communication or similar activities will not be eligible unless they are complementary to the research activities.
- Depending on the initiative or partnership, minor changes to the budget may be accepted between the pre-proposal and full proposal stages, provided that the total amount requested does not exceed the maximum funding available per project. Any request for a budget change must be submitted by email to the AEI National Contact Points for approval at least two weeks before the deadline for submitting the full proposal.

Eligible Costs:

Please refer to the last call text "Proyectos de Colaboración Internacional" published (PCI2026_2, Artículo 8)

- Costs related to the hiring of staff who must be assigned to the project. In the

case of public sector agencies and entities whose budgets are consolidated with the General State Budget or with those of the Autonomous Communities, expenses for their own personnel financed under Chapter I "Personnel Expenses" of the agency or entity shall not be eligible for aid, unless they are expenses arising from contracts entered into under Article 23.bis of Law 14/2011 of June 1.

- For all other entities not falling under the aforementioned provision, the costs of permanent staff contractually bound to the beneficiary entity prior to the publication of the call for proposals will not be funded.
- Employment contracts must indicate the identification codes for the project
- Only for JU: Each institution funded by the AEI must justify the total project costs regardless of the source of the grants received (V.G, JU and/or AEI). Therefore, each institution funded by the AEI must submit an audit certificate detailing the total project costs.
- The costs of permanent staff linked to the beneficiary entity or members of the research team will not be considered eligible costs.
- Direct costs such as current costs, scientific equipment, disposable materials, travelling expenses, coordination costs and other costs that can be justified as necessary to carry out the proposed activities.
- Overheads (25 % of all direct costs, including the subcontracting costs).

The final funding will take into account the transnational evaluation of the collaborative proposal, the scientific quality of the Spanish group, the added value of the international collaboration, the participation of Spanish industry and stakeholders and the financial resources available.

5. Other requirements/guidelines

5.1 Duration of the projects: 36 months, unless otherwise specified in the AEI annex or conditions of the transnational initiative. Project durations of less than 36 months are not allowed. Any longer duration must be duly justified.

5.2 Further requirements: In addition to the national regulations, specific rules for the consortia may be applicable within the transnational call; please read carefully the Joint Call text and all the related instructions.

5.3 Important and mandatory acknowledgement: Any publication or dissemination activity resulting from the granted projects must acknowledge funding by the AEI: "Project (reference nº XX) funded by the Agencia Estatal de Investigación through the PCI (year) call (or its equivalent)".

5.4 Data Protection: By submitting a grant application to the AEI, the applicants consent to communication of the data contained in the application to other public administrations, with the aim of further processing of the data for historical,

statistical or scientific purposes, within the framework of the Organic Law 3/2018, of December 5, on Personal Data Protection and Guarantee of Digital Rights.

5.5 Open Access and Open Data policy. Applicants should comply with Open Access/Open Data specified in the respective PCI call or equivalent. The results of the funded research actions, including both the results disseminated through scientific publications and the data generated in the research, must be available in open access, with the exceptions indicated in the PCI call or equivalent.