

# National eligibility

## National contact person for Chips JU programme

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Agencia Estatal de Investigación [www.aei.es](http://www.aei.es)

Calls supported by AEI in 2026 in Chips Initiative (APPENDIX 7: ACTIVITIES LAUNCHED IN 2026 FOR THE ECS PART)
HORIZON-JU-Chips-2026-1-IA
HORIZON-JU-Chips-2026-FT1-IA
HORIZON-JU-Chips-2026-FT2-IA
HORIZON-JU-Chips-2026-FT3-IA
HORIZON-JU-Chips-2026-1-RIA
HORIZON-JU-Chips-2026-2-RIA

### 1. Legal requirements for the eligibility of a partner or a project

#### a) Type or nature of participants

The [AEI](#) is the national authority which funds non-profit R&D organizations such as:

- Public Research Centres
- Public and Private Universities
- Other non-profit R&D organizations, in which R&I activities are defined as the main objective.

The [AEI](#) has not defined any limit to the number of Spanish participants per project in the Chips JU calls.

It is strongly recommended that all the possible applicants inform national contact person at the beginning of the proposal preparation.

## b) Legal, administrative and financial conditions

2026 Chips JU ECS R&I calls will be managed by the “[Subdirección de Programas Horizontales e Internacionalización](#)”

Applicants requesting national funds from [AEI](#) shall comply with the following regulations on grants:

- General Subsidies Law ([Ley 38/2003](#))
- Science Law ([Ley 14/2011](#))
- AEI Statutes ([Real Decreto 1067/2015](#), [Real Decreto 1122/2025](#))
- All other regulation that apply to national PCI calls ([National PCI calls](#), [International calls funded by AEI](#))

The projects granted by the [AEI](#) must be aligned with the main objectives described in the latest State Plan for Scientific and Technical Research and Innovation (more information at: [MICIU](#)).

The instrument for funding the Spanish groups will be the call “Proyectos de Colaboración Internacional” (PCI). As a reference, applicants are advised to read the call [PCI 2025-1](#).

Participation in this program means acceptance and compliance with all the conditions stated on this document.

Any publication or dissemination activity resulting from the granted projects must acknowledge [AEI](#) funding even after the end of the project, according to national PCI call (see article 12.2 in [the call text](#) of [PCI 2025-1](#) for reference).

## c) Consortium configuration

Entities and Principal Investigators (PIs) must comply with the requirements included in the resolution [Resolución de la Presidencia de la AEI por la que se establecen requisitos generales de participación en convocatorias competitivas internacionales y en los Proyectos de Colaboración Internacional](#)

Spanish Principal Investigators must demonstrate experience as investigators in projects funded by the Plan Estatal I+D+i 2013-2016, or subsequent plans or other relevant national or international programmes.

### **Incompatibility (read carefully)<sup>1</sup>:**

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<sup>1</sup> See the “declaración responsable”.

- Principal Investigators can only apply for funding in only one proposal in 2026 ECS R&I Chips JU calls, including RIA, IA and others. If one PI submits two or more proposals, he/she will be declared ineligible in all but one.
- Principal Investigators will not be eligible for funding in more than one proposal in a PCI call of the same year or consecutive years. This should be taken into account when participating in other ERA-NETS or international programmes funded through the PCI call.
- Principal Investigators must remain unchanged between the proposal in PO stage to this transnational call and the PCI call. Only force majeure reasons will be accepted to change a principal investigator (see point one of incompatibilities).
- To this end, and to avoid any issue, the Principal Investigator must be clearly identifiable in the Chips JU documents as main contact point, when possible, and always with “leading” in “Role of researcher (in the project)” field of the proposal template and must comply with these rules. Otherwise, he/she will be declared ineligible for funding by the [AEI](#).

Each Principal Investigator must fill in and sign electronically a “declaración responsable del investigador principal” in this respect. The corresponding template will be available at Chips JU section in [Convocatorias Internacionales | Agencia Estatal de Investigación](#)

d) Other conditions

**IMPORTANT and NEW!**

Submission of proposals at the AEI are required at PO phase in Two stage Calls and at FPP phase in one stage calls. Each PI from an AEI eligible institution requesting funding from AEI must complete the submission procedure [App Solic Internacional](#) and his/her entity Legal Representative must register the proposal submission within ten days after the submission deadline. All the information regarding this process will be available and permanently updated at [Convocatorias Internacionales | Agencia Estatal de Investigación](#).

The PI must upload a copy of the international joint pre-proposal, and the “Declaración responsable del investigador principal” by the AEI submission tool [App Solic Internacional](#).

**2. Eligibility of the costs and funding**

a) *Eligibility of costs*

AEI will fund those applicants involved in tasks indubitably related to research and technology development and innovation, not considering as such if the applicant only participates in

mere communication or dissemination or similar activities. Please contact AEI in advance to check eligibility.

AEI grants follow the rules of marginal costs, with a maximum request of 350.000 € (including direct + indirect costs) per participant or 50% of the total costs of the Spanish applicant part of the project (whichever amount is lower). In any case, the total grant ([AEI](#) + Chips JU) will be a maximum 100% of the total project costs.

Eligible costs are among others: (see Article 8 in [PCI2025-1](#) for reference)

1. Personnel costs: Contracts (gross remuneration and contributions to social security) exclusively intended to the funded project implementation. Fellowships are not eligible.
2. Current costs, disposable materials, travelling expenses and other costs that can be justified as necessary to carry out the proposed activities.
3. Indirect costs (overheads), 25% of the direct eligible costs (see points 1 and 2).

If the Spanish participant is the Chips project coordinator, the maximum request can be up to 500.000€ (including direct + indirect costs) or 50% of the total costs of the Spanish part of the project (whichever amount is lower).

Chips projects are granted by the Chips JU and [AEI](#) on the basis of a single budget per project, but with two complementary funding sources. This means that both the Chips JU and [AEI](#) finance the total project, not item by item. Double funding (overlapping with other EU or National funding) will be avoided and projects or parts of projects already funded will not be granted. Final funding will take into account the transnational evaluation of the collaborative proposal, the scientific quality of the Spanish group, the benefit of the international collaboration, the participation of the industrial sector, and the resources available.

Every institution funded by the [AEI](#) should justify the total costs of the project regardless of the origin of grants (Chips JU or [AEI](#)). Therefore, every institution funded by the [AEI](#) must submit a valid audit certificate with the total costs of the project.

*b) National public funding rates (N/A for AEI)*

Type of action/Type of Beneficiary	Large enterprise	SME	Public Research Institutes and Universities
Research and Innovation Action			

Innovation Action			
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c) Additional Information to be provided at submission and other conditions.