

Guide for Applicants (GfA) XR2Industry 1st Open Call for Hardware enablers

Open date for proposals:

Tuesday, June 20, 2024, at 13:00
(Brussels Time)

Deadline:

Tuesday, September 17, 2024, at 17:00
(Brussels Time)

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List of acronyms

EC: European Commission
Eol: Expressions of Interest
FSTP: Financial Support for Third Parties
DoA: Description of Action
GA: Grant Agreement
MidCap: Middle-capitalisation company
SME: Small and Medium Enterprise
XR: Extended Reality

1. Basic info about XR2Industry

XR2Industry (*[Tailoring eXtended Reality to Industry's needs](#)*) is an EU-funded project aiming to contribute to European sovereignty in the Extended Reality (XR) area. The project will boost the European technological ecosystem and create a European XR reference platform by developing the first European XR headset. Its priorities are data privacy, empowerment, industrial relevance and openness.

The project will empower stakeholders in technology structuration, bring complementary insights on standardisation, and empower industrial users on the human-centric framework. The project will bring to the market an alternative, open and transparent solution that respects data privacy concerns which allows companies to handle their data policy. This is essential to pave the way for the future deployment of XR technology in the industry.

The XR2Industry project is coordinated by UPV (Universitat Politècnica de València) and involves [9 partners](#) (8 partners and 1 affiliated entity) from 4 EU countries. The XR2Industry Project will support up to 12 beneficiaries in 3 open calls and will leverage impact all over Europe. The project will distribute up to **€4,8M** among beneficiaries that will be selected to participate in the support programme.

This document summarises the main points of the XR2Industry 1st Open Call for Hardware enablers, which will be **open from 20 June 2024 at 13:00 (Brussels time) with a deadline on 17 September 2024 at 17:00 (Brussels Time)**.

Where can you find key information regarding this Open Call?

- **The Guide for Applicants for** the XR2Industry 1st Open Call for Hardware enablers is the main document including the most important requirements that must be met by applicants;
- **The [Frequently Asked Question](#)** document includes specific inquiries and might explain some of your concerns;
- **XR2Industry application system** <https://xr2industry.fundingbox.com> through this page you can submit your application in this open call;

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- If you have any technical problems or doubts when filling in the online Application Form at FundingBox, tell us directly at: info.xr2industry@fundingbox.com.

2. What do we offer?

The XR2Industry 1st **Open Call for Hardware enablers** will select up to **7 Developers of XR components** (MidCaps or SMEs) aimed at integrating emerging technologies to enable possibilities of XR experiences. Applicants **have to focus on addressing one of the challenges** (described in Section 3.2).

In the 1st XR2Industry Open Call, each selected SME/Mid-cap will receive a **maximum of 500.000€** (fixed lump sum), during the 15-month Support Programme which includes the following stages:

- **Stage 1 Individual Mentoring Plan-IMP** (2 months): up to 65.000€,
- **Stage 2 Development - Development of functional technical brick to be used and MVP** (6 months): up to 200.000€,
- **Stage 3 Integration - Integration Plan and Report**(7 months): up to 235.000€.

Apply here: <https://xr2industry.fundingbox.com>

3. Eligibility Criteria

To participate in the XR2Industry programme you have to meet all the criteria described in Section 3 of this Guide, positively pass our evaluation process and finally sign the Sub-Grant Agreement with XR2Industry Consortium.

The projects that do not comply with the criteria described in this section will be excluded. We will check the eligibility criteria during the whole evaluation process.

3.1 Who are we looking for?

We are looking for a **single SME¹ or MidCap²** registered as a legal entity before the start date of the XR2Industry 1st Open Call for Hardware enablers (before June 20, 2024) in the following countries:

- [EU Member States³](#) and its Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT), or
- [Horizon Europe Associated Countries⁴](#).

The applicants who are subject to EU restrictive measures under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)⁵ are not eligible to participate in this open call.

3.2 What types of activities can be funded?

XR2Industry is looking for projects that develop and integrate **innovative hardware based on emerging technologies** (such as 5G/6G, IoT, data, artificial intelligence, edge and cloud computing, and microelectronics) to enable possibilities of XR experiences by addressing one of the XR2Industry challenges.

What are the challenges to be addressed by SMEs and Mid-Caps?

Each applicant must address only one of the following challenges:

Challenge 1: Haptic Gloves

¹ A **SME** will be considered as such if it complies with the European Commission's Recommendation 2003/361/EC. In summary, Note that the figures of partners and linked enterprises should also be considered as stated in the SME user guide. For details, information check EU recommendation: https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition_en

² A **Middle-capitalisation company** or **'Midcap'** means an enterprise that is not an SME and that has up to 3,000 employees, knowing that the staff headcount is calculated in accordance with Articles 3 to 6 of the Annex to Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC: <https://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2003:124:0036:0041:EN:PDF>

³ Following the Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506, as of 16th December 2022, no legal commitments can be signed with Hungarian public interest trusts established under Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity they maintain. Affected entities may continue to apply to calls for proposals. However, in case the Council measures are not lifted, such entities are not eligible to participate in the XR2Industry 1st open call. In the case of a consortium, co-applicants will be invited to remove or replace that entity. Tasks and budget may be redistributed accordingly

⁴ AC as of 09.02.2024: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Türkiye, Tunisia, Ukraine, New Zealand for the most up-to-date list please first part of this document. For the avoidance of doubts, the United Kingdom is not eligible for this open call.

⁵ Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the EU Sanctions Map.

Description of the project: From existing haptic gloves, adapting them to XR standalone headsets supporting OpenXR. Make sure the tracking solution works properly.

Problem to be solved: Low-level integration of haptic gloves with embedded tracking solution.

Use case: Training (learn to manipulate tools or small objects virtually), Design & Engineering (designers can touch/interact with their product during the design phase), Sales (clients could virtually try products like cars or aircraft).

Requirements: Universal tracker

Software: OpenXR-based, Open source SDK

GDPR: Compliance

Ergonomics: Human-centric

Challenge 2: Universal tracker

Description of the project: Taking an existing tracking solution and making sure it works with the XR standalone headsets.

Problem to be solved: Self-tracking and tracking relative to the headset.

Use case: Training (precisely tracking part of the body or tools), precise object localization (out-of-sight objects can be tracked) and facilitating the creation of 3rd party tracked devices (like haptics gloves).

Software: OpenXR-based, Open source SDK

GDPR: Compliance

Ergonomics: Human-centric

Challenge 3: Hard Hat with the front of the HMD

Description of the project: Integration of the front of the R2 on a certified hard hat. Special focus on the battery, speaker and hinge integration.

Problem to be solved: The main product will need a specific retrofit to modify the battery and speakers placement to accommodate the hard hat instead of the default strap. Mechanical design and electrical engineering will be required for this challenge.

Use case: Safety hat to be able to use Mixed Reality in hard hat environment (construction, oil & gas, industrial sites, etc).

Requirements: Certifications will be required to be usable in industrial environments

Ergonomics: Human-centric

Challenge 4: High-accuracy GPS

Description of the project: Designing the mechanical and electrical components of the GPS system integrating the GNSSRTK technology.

Problem to be solved: Antenna placement, power consumption

Use case: MR outdoor applications (robust to environmental change, precise enough to visualise underground models (e.g. underground pipes/wires).

Software: OpenXR-based, Open source SDK

GDPR: Compliance

Ergonomics: Human-centric

Challenge 5: Motion capture system to track several objects

Description of the project: Adapt an existing motion capture system to the XR standalone headsets.

Problem to be solved: Defining shape and radio protocols for the headset manufacturer to implement

Use case: Training to ensure that the right and secure protocol is understood, simulation.

Software: OpenXR-based, Open source SDK

GDPR: Compliance

Ergonomics: Human-centric

Challenge 6: External HDR camera

Description of the project: Design a module that can be attached and plugged into the XR standalone headsets HMD, Mechanically and electronically working

Problem to be solved: Latency, physical integration on the headset, accessible software interface, power consumption

Use case: Training, Welding, firefighter vision (HDR cameras see a wide range of light intensity)

Software: OpenXR-based, Open source SDK

GDPR: Compliance

Ergonomics: Human-centric

Challenge 7: Overhear audio with hearing protection

Description of the project: Integrating an existing audio system that allows people to communicate, hear and protect themselves in a loud environment

Problem to be solved: Hearing protection, Filter audio inputs, API for active noise filtering (being able to choose the specific frequency to cancel)

Use case: Communication in a loud/busy environment (e.g. SafeHear)

Software: OpenXR-based, Open source SDK

GDPR: Compliance

Ergonomics: Human-centric

Challenge 8: Interaction device that fits disabled people

Description of the project: Designing an interaction device that allows disabled people to interact with the XR environment.

Problem to be solved: Defined the targeted disabilities. Connectivity with the headset. Tracking of the device(s).

Use case: Accessibility for every user in an industrial environment. Especially people with hand disabilities that do not allow them to interact (ex: hand tracking or controllers)

Software: OpenXR-based, Open source SDK

GDPR: Compliance

Ergonomics: Disabled human-centric

Challenge 9: External ToF camera

Description of the project: Design a module that can be attached and plugged into the XR standalone headsets, Mechanically and electronically working.

Problem to be solved: Latency, physical interface with headset, create OpenXR extension for mesh environment.

Use case: 3D scanning (dynamically create a 3d model of a room or outdoor environment with high dimensional accuracy), scene understanding (virtual object interacting with things like a table or having a safe zone around dangerous things like an industrial robot arm).

Software: OpenXR-based, Open source SDK

GDPR: Compliance

Ergonomics: Human-centric

Challenge 10: External 5G Modem

Description of the project: Design a module that can be attached and plugged into the XR standalone headsets HMD, mechanically and electronically working.

Problem to be solved: Connectivity (to use fully the 5G speed), power consumption (may need to be powered externally via battery), OS compatibility, headset attachment, antenna placement (for optimal use of MIMO, maximise coverage around headset, sane distance with headset built-in antenna).

Use case: Compatibility with 5G cellular network in rural or remote areas for remote assistance and/or streaming content.

Software: Userland Android driver using USB 3.X, Open source SDK

GDPR: Compliance

Ergonomics: Human-centric

Challenge 11: Biometric human sensing

Description of the project: Design hardware inspired by OpenBCI (for EEG, ECG, EMG), Emotibit

(for PPG, EDA / GSR, 9-axis IMU, body temperature), uMyo (EMG) to increase the quantity of sensors per device and reduce final hardware cost. Add an XR headset holder on the OpenBCI ECG headset.

Problem to be solved: New ways to interact with XR and deeper human understanding.

Use case: Research, work and recreational

Software: Userland Android or OpenXR-based

GDPR: Compliance

Ergonomics: Human-centric

How mature does a solution need to be?

The requested Technology Readiness Level (TRL)⁶ of the solution is defined **from initial 3 to 7**.

3.3 How to apply?

When applying to XR2Industry 1st Open Call, please also note that:

- **Be on time and use our system:** Make sure you submit your proposal through the [online form](#) before the deadline of September 17, 2024, at 17:00 Brussels time (admissibility criterion). 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 to know that we will not be evaluating any proposal sent after the deadline and submitted outside the dedicated form.
- **English Language:** your proposal must be written in English in all mandatory parts to be eligible. Only parts written in English will be evaluated. If the mandatory parts of the proposal are in any other language, the entire proposal will be rejected (admissibility criterion).
- **Every question deserves your attention:** all mandatory sections - generally marked with an asterisk - of your proposal must be completed (admissibility criterion).

⁶TRL, Technology Readiness Level. Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) are indicators of the maturity level of particular technologies. This measurement system provides a common understanding of technology status and addresses the entire innovation chain. There are nine technology readiness levels; TRL 1 being the lowest and TRL 9 the highest. In our project, we refer to Annex B of the [General Annexes for Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2024](#) for a full description of TRLs.

criterion). The data provided should be actual, true, and complete and should allow assessment of the proposal. Additional material, not specifically requested in the online application form, will not be considered for the evaluation.

- **Be exhaustive:** You have to verify the completeness of the form, as 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:** You can submit only one proposal to XR2Industry 1st Open Call. If more than one proposal is identified and submitted by the same applicant, only the last proposal which has been submitted will be evaluated.
- **European dimension:** Your project should have a clear European Dimension meaning that you have to demonstrate the project's contribution towards environmental, social and economic impacts to support sustainable development, Green Deal and other European policies.
- **Conflicts of interest:** we will take into consideration the existence of a potential **conflict of interest** between you and one or more XR2Industry Consortium partners. The consortium partners, their affiliated entities, employees, board members and permanent collaborators cannot take part in the XR2Industry 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 difficulty⁷ according to the Commission

⁷ An enterprise will be considered an undertaking in difficulty if more than half of the capital has disappeared. This refers to the loss of "subscribed share capital". If profit and loss reserves deficit more than 50% of share capital, there is a potential problem with the company. (Article 2, item 18 point a) and b))

(a) In the case of a limited liability company (other than an SME that has been in existence for less than three years [...]), where more than half of its subscribed share capital has disappeared as a result of accumulated losses. This is the case when the deduction of accumulated losses from reserves (and all other elements generally considered as part of the own funds of the company) leads to a negative cumulative amount that exceeds half of the subscribed share capital. For the purposes of this provision, 'limited liability company' refers in particular to the types of company mentioned in Annex I of Directive 2013/34/EU (1) and 'share capital' includes, where relevant, any share premium.

Regulation No 651/2014, art. 2.18, or 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. We also don't accept entities that are meeting national regulations regarding bankruptcy.

- **It is your proposal:** your project should be based on your original work, or, if the project is not based on your original work, your right to use the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) must be clearly defined (you must have a licence agreement or the IPR must be transferred to you from somebody who created the work). In particular, any work related to the implementation of the project described in the application may not violate the IPR of beneficiaries, and the IPR to the application project may not be the subject of a dispute or proceedings for infringement of beneficiary IPR.
- **Acceptance of the open call rules:** to apply for this open call you have to accept its rules and regulations detailed in this Guide for Applicants.

XRIndustry plans two online webinars on “How to apply” about this Open Call.

4. How will we evaluate your proposal?

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

(b) In the case of a company where at least some members have unlimited liability for the debt of the company (other than an SME that has been in existence for less than three years [...]), where more than half of its capital as shown in the company accounts has disappeared as a result of accumulated losses. For the purposes of this provision, 'a company where at least some members have unlimited liability for the debt of the company refers in particular to the types of company mentioned in Annex II of Directive 2013/34/EU.

Please note that, if your SME exists for less than three years, you won't be considered as undertaking any difficulties.

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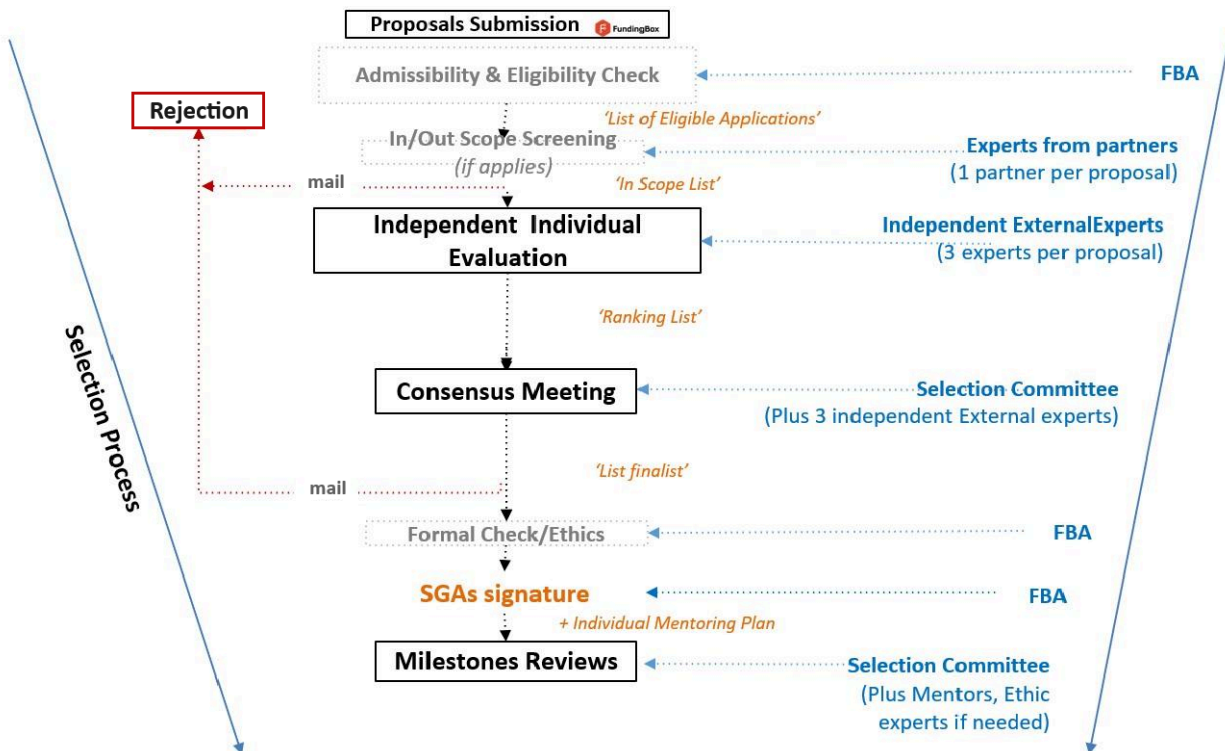


Figure 1 Selection Procedure
(Source: FundingBox)

Having said that, note that we will evaluate your project in several phases. We expect a high number of applications so if you want to stand out, *quality* is the way to go. We encourage you to put in the effort to present your project in the best possible way, offering as much detail as you can. This will assist us in evaluating your application and identifying how your proposal aligns with the overall scope of XR2Industry.

4.1 Step 1: Admissibility and Eligibility Check

Once an open call is closed, we will check whether it meets the admissibility and eligibility conditions set up in Section 3. We will do it based on the statements included in your proposal.

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At this stage, the eligibility criteria are checked against a Declaration of Honour or self-declarations included in the application form. Later on, during the evaluation process, the above criteria will be verified (including the final formal check).

The projects that do not comply with these criteria will be rejected. As a result of the checking, a 'List of Eligible Applications' will be produced.

4.2 Step 2: In/out scope screening

In case of a large number of applications, or special needs of the XR2Industry project, the Selection Committee might decide to apply the In/Out Scope Screening.

The In/Out Scope Screening will be done by the Selection Committee members (composed of the XR2Industry Consortium Partners).

The overall summary/general objectives of all proposals included in the 'List of Eligible Applications' will be reviewed to evaluate the following items:

- **Scope.** The objectives of the proposal must fit within the scope of the XR2Industry project as described in the Guide for Applicants (GfA). In particular, the proposal should directly address only one of the challenges proposed by the XR2Industry in Section 3.2;
- **European Dimension.** The project should have a European dimension as described in Section 4.3.

The Selection Committee will assess if your proposal complies with the aspects above on a YES/NO basis and will provide reasoning in the cases where no compliance evidence is found.

Each proposal will be reviewed by one partner from the Selection Committee and, once reviewed, the Selection Committee will review the ones proposed to be excluded, generating an 'In Scope List'.

Proposals that do not comply with any of the aspects described above will be rejected. The ones complying with all of them will move on to the experts' independent individual evaluation phase. We will inform the applicants about the results of the admissibility and eligibility check and in/out scope screening.

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4.3 Step 3: External Evaluation

In this phase, each project will be evaluated by **3 external and independent** evaluators appointed according to the specific characteristics of your project such as 5G/6G, IoT, data, artificial intelligence, edge and cloud computing, and microelectronics.

Your project will be evaluated within the following awarding criteria:

(1). **EXCELLENCE** will evaluate:

- **Ambition:** The applicants have to demonstrate to what extent the proposed project contributes to the XR2Industry scope, has a European dimension and is beyond the State of the Art. The applicant's project has to describe the innovative approach behind it (e.g. ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches, new products, services or business and organisational models).
- **Innovation:** The applicants should provide information about the level of innovation within their market and about the degree of differentiation that this project will bring.
- **Soundness of the approach** and credibility of the proposed methodology.
- **Gender dimension:** The applicants have to demonstrate to what extent the gender dimension has been integrated into the research and innovation content.

(2). **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 not addressing a

specific problem but able to be commercialised to solve a structural problem in a specific sector/process/etc.

- **Environmental and social impact:** The applicants have to demonstrate the project contribution towards environmental, social and economic impacts to contribute to sustainable development, Green Deal and other European policies.

(3). IMPLEMENTATION will consider:

- **Team:** The applicants 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. The team should be a cross-functional team, with a strong background and skills base and taking into account its gender balance.
- **Resources.** Demonstrate the quality and effectiveness of the resources assigned to the project implementation to get the proposed objectives and deliverables.

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

- **0 - The proposal fails to address the criterion** 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 is 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**. The final score for each individual criterion will be calculated as the average of the scores provided by each evaluator. The final score per application (proposal) will be calculated as the sum of the scores for each individual criterion.

For each section, **the threshold for individual criteria is 3** out of 5 points. The total maximum score is 15 points, with a minimum total threshold of 10 points.

Evaluation Consensus Group

After carrying out the Independent Individual Evaluation, in special cases, experts who have evaluated the proposals will join a Consensus Group, to agree on a common position, including comments and scores for all evaluated proposals. The Consensus Group will specially discuss the cases where there is a significant divergence between the evaluators' scoring.

Once we have an **initial ranking**, ties (if any) will be solved using the following criteria in order of priority:

- The highest score in the Excellence Section,
- Gender balance among the personnel responsible for carrying out the activities,
- The highest score in the Implementation Section.

As a result of the Consensus Group, a 'Ranking List' will be produced. **All proposals within or above the threshold will move on to the next step.**

Do note that the evaluation phase takes time as it implies a more personal, qualitative and thus non-automated approach.

4.4 Step 4: Consensus Meeting

Following the external evaluation ranking list, the Selection Committee, including 3 Experts who participate in the Independent Evaluation, will decide, at this stage, the **Provisional List of third-party projects** and **Reserve List**. The experts take part in an advisory capacity (i.e. with a voice but without a vote). The decision will be based on the 'Ranking List' obtained as a result of the previous step.

Whilst normally the highest ranked proposals will be selected for funding, the **Selection Committee might have fair reasons for objecting to a specific proposal**, like the alignment with XR2Industry goals and scope, the ability to achieve the highest impact possible, commercial competition, as well as the existence of significant ethical

concerns or a potential conflict of interest. In this case, the choice may pass to the next-ranked proposal.

The exact number of proposals approved **will be decided based on the overall quality of the proposals**. All decisions are taken by consensus or a minimum of 2/3 majority votes.

4.5 What's next? Sub-Grant Agreement Preparation and Signature

Before the start of the XR2Industry Support Programme, it **is required to sign the Sub-Grant Agreement** with the XR2Industry Consortium (details presented in the [Frequently Asked Questions Document](#)). Including your company name on the ranking list and invitation to the formal check process is in no way a promise that the grant will be awarded to you.

Before signing the Sub-Grant Agreement, you should provide documents regarding your formal status. The XR2Industry Consortium will proceed to a **verification of these documents** to make sure you are eligible.

Be extremely vigilant with respect to:

- **The nature of the documents** we request. If the documents you provide us with do not prove your eligibility.
- **The deadlines** that will be given to provide the documents. If the requested documents are not delivered on time, without a clear and reasonable justification, the applicant will be excluded from further formal assessment. Another applicant from the Reserve list will then be selected.

5. Our Support Programme and Payment Arrangements

Once your eligibility has been confirmed following the formal check and the Sub-Grant Agreement signed, the applicant will be an official beneficiary of the XR2Industry programme.

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Support Programme

The Support Programme will last **up to 15 months**. During this period beneficiaries will be working on the solution development. The XR experts from the XR2Industry consortium will support beneficiaries in integrating and testing the solution, and provide technical mentoring.

At the beginning of the Support Programme, the beneficiary will be invited to participate in an online **Welcome Event** to get matched with mentors and XR resources and start defining your **Individual Mentoring Plan (IMP)**. This document will become an Annex to the Sub-Grant Agreement and will establish the budget planned for execution of your projects' Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and Deliverables that will be taken into account when evaluating your projects' performance during the following stages:

- **Stage 1. Individual Mentoring Plan-IMP (2 months)** guides the delivery of the mentoring and support technology integration enablers and solutions. The IMP is the document that establishes the individual budget, KPIs, Deliverables and schedule.
- **Stage 2. Development of functional technical brick to be used and MVP (6 months).**
- **Stage 3. Integration Plan and Report (7 months).**

Payments

As a selected beneficiary project, you will receive a fixed lump sum of up to **500.000€**.

The **lump sum** is a simplified method of settling expenses in projects financed with Horizon Europe funds. It means that the beneficiary is not required to present strictly defined accounting documents to prove the costs incurred (e.g. invoices), but is obliged to demonstrate the implementation of the project is in line with the milestones set for it. Simply speaking, we will carefully assess your progress and the quality of your work during Interim Reviews, not your accountancy. The milestones (deliverables, KPIs and ethical recommendations) will be defined in the 'Individual Mentoring Plan' elaborated at the beginning of the programme.

The lump sum does not release you from the obligation to collect documentation to confirm the costs under fiscal regulations.

Payment arrangements

For the sake of simplicity and transparency, the financial support will be paid against the achievement of certain milestones or KPIs (which will be included in the 'Individual Mentoring Plan' annexed to the SGA and based on the results of the Milestone Reviews). As a beneficiary, you will receive funding as presented in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) Document).

The proposed payment tranches and timeline can be changed. All involved applicants will be informed about any modifications.

A delayed payment mechanism will be applied to the payments. The final payment - delayed payment (10%⁸ of the total grant amount awarded to each beneficiary) will be paid after the whole XR2Industry Project is completed. This should happen approximately 9 months after the end of the XR2Industry Project. The expected end of the XR2Industry is 30.11.2026. Relevant provisions will be included in the Sub-Grant Agreements.

Lastly, for a more detailed payment schedule, you can read our [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Review Milestones

Your performance during the Support Programme will be reviewed by the Technical Partners (with the support of Ethics Partners when applicable) at the **Milestone Review** (established every time a payment is due), according to the following criteria:

- Deliverable quality (30%).
- Technical performance indicators 60%).

⁸ The rate (applicable to the delayed payment) might be increased up to 30% of the total grant amount awarded to each beneficiary. All details about the final rate will be included in the Sub-Grant Agreement.

- Deadline Compliance (10%).

Each criterion will be scored from 0 to 10 and, based on the weight of each criterion, the final score will be calculated.

According to this final score, beneficiaries over the threshold (7 points) will successfully receive the corresponding part of the grant and continue the programme. The beneficiaries who haven't reached the threshold (7 points) will be invited to leave the programme without receiving the corresponding payments. The Selection Committee will review and validate the evaluations, paying special attention to the 'under threshold' cases, if any, by taking into consideration all possible objective reasons for underperformance (i.e. external factors which might have influenced the beneficiaries' performance). The 'Selection Committee' will make the final decision, and approve the payments or invite beneficiary projects which have not reached the threshold to leave the programme.

6. Contact us

How can we help you?

If you still have any doubts regarding our Open Call process, feel free to get in touch with us and send us an email to the following address:
info.xr2industry@fundingbox.com

In case of any technical issues or problems, please include the following information in your message:

- Your username, telephone number and your email address,
- The details of the specific problem (error messages that appeared, bug descriptions such as a dropdown list that isn't working, etc.),
- Screenshots of the problem.

Complaints

If, after receiving the results of the admissibility and eligibility check phase, you consider that a mistake has been made, resulting in the rejection of your application, you have the

right to send us a complaint. You can email us in English at: info.xr2industry@fundingbox.com including the following information:

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

Important note regarding the timeline:

You have **3 calendar days** to submit your complaint starting from the day after the communication was sent. On our side, we will review them within no more than **7 calendar days** from their 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 appointed according to the specific characteristics of your project such as 5G/6G, IoT, data, artificial intelligence, edge and cloud computing, and microelectronics, 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.

7. 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 Europe programme and European Union grants regulations.

We do our best to keep all the **applicant data confidential**. However, to avoid any doubts, you are solely responsible for indicating your confidential information as such. Further provisions regarding confidentiality obligations will be specified in the Sub-Grant Agreement.

Proposals and all other material sent as applications will be kept confidential. All the XR2Industry Consortium members and staff members who may need to handle the applications are bound by confidentiality obligations and will need to sign a non-disclosure agreement. The proposals will be also evaluated by external independent experts who will need to sign the non-disclosure agreement.

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Your Intellectual Property Right (**IPR**) will remain your property. Further provisions about the IPR will be specified in the Sub-Grant Agreement.

The results obtained by the beneficiaries' projects must be released under an open-source licence on a Git-type infrastructure provided and managed by the XR2Industry Consortium.

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

The XR2Industry 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. The signature of the Sub-Grant Agreement is an initial condition to establish any obligations among selected participants and any Consortium partner. The registration to submit the application is an initial condition to establish any obligations among applicants and the Consortium and externals evaluators regarding the confidentiality of the application..

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

Extra hints before submitting your proposal

A proposal takes time and effort and we know it. Here are a few crucial points you should read before submitting your proposal:

- Is your project in line with what XR2Industry is looking for? You can consult this [section 3.1](#) as well as [section 3.2](#).
- Is your project fulfilling all the eligibility requirements described in the Guide for Applicants? Check again [section 4.1](#).

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- Did you present your project in a way that will convince evaluators? Go back to [section 4.3](#) if you have any doubts.
- Are you able to cope with our signature agreement process and payment arrangements for the selected proposals? You may want to go over [section 4.5](#).