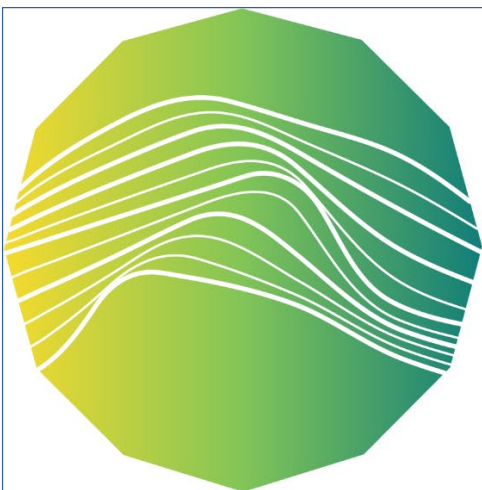


*The HBP SGA3 Calls for Expression of Interest
“COVID-19 and its impact on the brain and mental health”*

Guide for Applicants



Human Brain Project



EBRAINS

Project Number:	945539	Project Title:	Human Brain Project SGA3
Document Title:	HBP SGA3 CEol - COVID-19 and its impact on the brain and mental health - Guide for Applicants		
Document Filename:	HBP SGA3 CEol - Guide for Applicants COVID.docx		
Dissemination Level:	PU = Public		
Abstract:	Calls for Expression of Interest for SGA3, Guide for Applicants		
Keywords:	COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2, Coronavirus, Modelling, Simulation, Mental health, drug design, neurological symptoms, psychiatric symptoms, brain structure and function, vaccines, Prophylaxis, long-term effects		
Target Users/Readers:	Applicants, all interested		
Call Publication Date:	19 March 2021		
Proposal Submission Deadline:	30 April 2021 17:00 Brussels time		
Proposal submission online platform	HBP Open Call Platform ¹		
Total Call Budget:	EUR 450,000 Direct Costs. Maximum funding per proposal: EUR 225,000 (PLUS 25% Indirect Costs), two proposals will be selected.		
More information:	info@opencalls.humanbrainproject.eu		

¹ <https://opencalls2.humanbrainproject.eu/call/id/88>

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1. The Human Brain Project

The Human Brain Project (HBP, <https://www.humanbrainproject.eu/>) is an ambitious 10-year scientific research and infrastructure initiative that is part of the EU Future and Emerging Technology (FET) Flagship programme². The HBP is developing the European Brain Research Infrastructure (EBRAINS³), an innovative ICT⁴ infrastructure that will help neuroscientists and clinical researchers integrate data and knowledge about the brain across all levels of its spatial and temporal organisation. Using detailed digital representations, reconstructions, and simulations, it aims to make available ICT tools to thousands of researchers to advance and accelerate our understanding of the functioning of the healthy and diseased human brain.

EBRAINS offers a large set of services that is applicable to a broad range of research fields including mental health or molecular medicine. The HBP is not only set to transform neuroscientific research but also the culture of collaboration to bring together resources and interdisciplinary knowledge.

The Human Brain Project has endorsed the Manifesto launched by the European Commission to maximise the accessibility of research results in the fight against COVID-19. Through this open Call, the HBP and EBRAINS seek to support coordinated, collaborative, and collective efforts in COVID-19 research.

2. Scope of this Call

2.1 Challenge

With this open Call, the HBP and EBRAINS aim to support COVID-19 research, in particular in the field of COVID-19-related brain-disorders and mental health issues, by building on the strengths of EBRAINS. The successful applicant(s), that would become HBP Partner(s), will contribute, in close collaboration with already existing [HBP Partners](#)⁵, to the [HBP project mission](#)⁶, complement expertise already present in the HBP, and use a portfolio of tools and services provided by EBRAINS to conduct the proposed work.

2.2 Target Groups

The target groups are from academic and medical research, including hospitals, or from industry and pharma (SMEs and larger companies) active in COVID-19 research. Non-HBP partners or HBP partners are eligible for funding under this CEol, however, at least 80% of the proposal budget must be assigned to non-HBP partners, while the HBP partners should not account for more than 20%.

2.3 Details

Research topics of the open Call may include:

- COVID-19 research activities that are linked to and supplement HBP/EBRAINS and other activities at European or national level in this research field, e.g. funded by [Horizon Europe](#)⁷, to create synergy and increase impact through including the EBRAINS Research Infrastructure.

² <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/fet-flagships>

³ <https://ebrains.eu/>

⁴ ICT, Information and Communication Technology

⁵ <https://www.humanbrainproject.eu/en/open-ethical-engaged/contributors/partners/>

⁶ <https://www.humanbrainproject.eu/en/science/vision-mission/>

⁷ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/covid-19>

- Longitudinal and cross-sectional analyses of patients suffering from neurological and/or psychiatric symptoms after infection with COVID-19, e.g. based on existing large cohorts
- Exploration of changes in brain structure and function in patients that have undergone COVID-19, e.g. targeting brain mechanisms underlying olfaction, memory, fatigue, depression
- Disease mechanisms and genotype-phenotype relationships as far as they concern the brain
- Short- and middle term effects of COVID-19 and related changes on mental health and brain health, e.g. related to age and demographic factors
- Development of mathematical brain models of patients and subjects affected by COVID-19
- Modelling and simulation of COVID-19 disease scenarios using EBRAINS
- Identification, modelling and simulation of drug candidates using EBRAINS
- Research on middle and long-term effects of COVID-19 vaccines on the brain and mental health
- Developing and testing strategies for prophylaxis, based on EBRAINS

Two (2) proposals will be selected for EU funding for the HBP SGA3 period. Project duration will be 16 months maximum (1 December 2021 - 31 March 2023), depending on the inclusion of the new Partner in the Consortium, and has a fixed end date which is the end of SGA3, 31 March 2023.

3. Expected contributions and impact

Applicants are expected to provide a detailed description of the implementation of work plans within the defined timeframe (16 months, from 1 December 2021 to 31 March 2023), as well as plans on how to integrate such work into the HBP. In addition, all proposals are expected to briefly describe the long-term vision of the proposed research theme (i.e. in a timeframe of 5 years), as well as how it will contribute to the overall HBP [vision⁸](#) and objectives.

Any duplication with existing HBP activities must be avoided.

4. Eligibility, integration in the work plan and budget

4.1 Eligibility criteria

- Submission of proposals by single institutions is possible. It is recommended, but not mandatory, that a group of partners⁹ applies for the CEol. The group should be represented by a project coordinator with the principal investigator (PI) acting as the main contact person.
- Non-HBP partners¹⁰ and -HBP Partners are eligible for funding under this CEol. However, at least 80% of the proposal budget must be assigned to non-HBP partners, while the HBP Partners should not account for more than 20% of the allocation (based on direct costs to which EU contribution will be added in line with the H2020 funding rules for Research & Innovation Actions). Please note, a new unit¹¹ of an existing active HBP Partner, not receiving any HBP funding in SGA3, is eligible to participate in this CEol and can apply as a non-HBP partner. The same rule applies to former HBP Partners not receiving any SGA3 HBP funding (inactive Partners). This rule allows

⁸ <https://www.humanbrainproject.eu/en/science/overview/>

⁹ Partner = a university or organisation, not an individual

¹⁰ Non-HBP partners are not yet part of the HBP Consortium, thus not yet receiving any HBP funding and would need to join the Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA) via Amendment

¹¹ Unit refers to a laboratory or department of a university or organisation

(but does not force) new units to directly start in close collaboration with already integrated units.

- Organisations that are currently under contract with HBP Partners for the supply of products or services (for example: through a subcontract or a service contract) that are paid by SGA3 funds are not eligible for funding. According to EC rules, the supplier and partner statuses are mutually exclusive. Moreover, these organisations are not considered fully “external” in the spirit of a CEol. It is the responsibility of the applicants to ensure that this eligibility criterion is met.
- All proposals will be subject to the same evaluation criteria, whether they include HBP Partners or not (see Proposal evaluation).
- The HBP has committed itself to improving equal opportunities. As such, we explicitly encourage applications from women and groups of applicants who have considered gender equality aspects in their group of applicants (see Equal opportunities).
- The proposal must be submitted via the [HBP Open Call Platform](#)¹. An eligibility criterion is that the proposal is complete and correctly filled in, respecting the submission procedures (see Section 5.2).
- The European Commission’s (EC) eligibility and financial rules apply¹². The new partner organisations must therefore be established in the EU Member States or Horizon 2020 Associated Countries.

4.2 Integration in the Work Plan

- Activities to be undertaken within the frame of the selected project will become a new Task, integrated within the HBP Work Plan for SGA3. The assignment to a Work Package is done after the selection of the proposal, in accordance to the best thematic fit. The selected partner organisations will be incorporated in the HBP Consortium. The new Partners will be requested to sign the relevant agreements with the EC as well as the Consortium Agreement that regulates the relations between the Partners of the Consortium.
- The agreements with the EC include a Framework Partnership Agreement ([FPA](#)¹³) and a Specific Grant Agreement (SGA). The FPA Consortium Agreement applies to the Consortium during the entire Flagship period and is amended regularly for major changes. The addition of new Partners to the Consortium is subject to the approval of the required FPA Amendment by the HBP Stakeholder Board and the EC.
- Applicants will receive the final confirmation of project acceptance and funding only once approved for funding by the EC.
- Success in this CEol should not be considered as a commitment by the HBP or the EC to continue funding the Partners after the end of the SGA3 period.

4.3 Available budget and budget planning of the proposal

- The total budget for this Call is EUR 450,000 (direct costs), **the requested budget must not exceed EUR 225,000 per proposal.**

¹² The countries eligible to apply are all the EU Member States and the H2020 Associated Countries. For eligibility of other countries, see http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/international-cooperation_en.htm and https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/3cp/h2020-hi-list-ac_en.pdf.

¹³ <https://www.humanbrainproject.eu/en/about/framework-partnership-agreement/>

- The total budget per proposal refers to the direct costs (funded expenses) and does not include overheads/indirect costs (funded overhead). An additional 25% (overhead rate) of indirect costs following the H2020 funding rules for Research & Innovation Actions will be calculated automatically by the Open Call Platform and the sum will include direct costs (total budget per proposal) plus 25% overhead (indirect costs) (see FAQ [here](#)¹⁴).
- The total budget per proposal includes a Voucher of EUR 22,500 (10% of the Call budget per proposal) to fund technical support for integration of project results in EBRAINS, which will be performed by the HBP High Level Support Team. EUR 22,500 must not be assigned to the applicant partners; it will be assigned to the HBP HLST partners providing support for the [EBRAINS](#)³ tools and services most pertinent to the project proposed. The Voucher should be allocated to the online budget table and should be placed under the HBP Internal (20%) budget share if any internal partners apply (see Eligibility Criteria).
- Co-funding needs to be mentioned in the proposal, not in the budget table. Co-funding is mandatory to make sure that the appropriate support to fulfil the research is available. The provided co-funding information will be included in the FPA to show the contributions towards the HBP by each Beneficiary. Proposals with lower contributions than EUR 50,000 are not *a priori* excluded, but must be explained.
- It is expected that the new Partners have the operational capacity to carry out the activities related to the main objectives of this CEoI. Nevertheless, subcontracting is allowed but will be reviewed on a case-by-case base (see Financial Rules - [H2020-amga](#)¹⁵).

5. Application and proposal submission

5.1 Step 1: HBP contact phase

An important aspect to ensure the realisation of the project is that the proposed activity and the technical solution have been discussed with the respective HBP contacts before proposal submission.

Please get in contact with HBP researchers as soon as possible to discuss your idea, its feasibility and relevance. Please send an email to info@opencalls.humanbrainproject.eu and your request will be forwarded to relevant HBP experts.

5.2 Step 2: Proposal submission

The proposal has to be submitted via the [HBP Open Call Platform](#)¹ The applicants are required to register a profile, enter the proposal information and partner data, and submit the proposal document as a PDF and the requested budget.

The applicants can edit the proposal before the deadline (e.g. submit revised versions); only the last version will be considered for evaluation. A pre-final version of the proposal should be uploaded at least 3 days before the deadline (by 27 April 2021), to avoid being unable to submit due to eventual technical difficulties during a last-minute submission. Please contact info@opencalls.humanbrainproject.eu when you need any support with your submission.

At the end of the submission page, the applicants will see a required checklist to self-evaluate the eligibility and admissibility of their application:

- I confirm that not more than 20% of the budget (EUR 45,000) is allocated to an internal partner
- I confirm that I did not allocate the co-funding to the online budget table

¹⁴ <https://www.humanbrainproject.eu/en/collaborate/hbp-open-calls-frequently-asked-questions/>

¹⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/amga/h2020-amga_en.pdf

- I confirm that in the online budget table, the requested sum does not exceed EUR 281,250 (Direct Costs/total Call budget plus 25% Indirect Costs/Overhead)
- I confirm that I allocated the Voucher of EUR 22,500 (to an internal partner, if available) in the online budget table
- I confirm that the submitted proposal respects the instructed format and page limit in the Proposal Template

This step aims to support the applicants in submitting an eligible and admissible proposal. It is the responsibility of the applicants to ensure an admissible and eligible submission. Shortly after the submission of the proposal, an acknowledgement of receipt will be sent to the e-mail address of the proposal's main contact person, registered in the platform. Not receiving an acknowledgement receipt implies that the submission has not been received (in this case: contact info@opencalls.humanbrainproject.eu). Sending of an acknowledgement of receipt does not imply that a proposal has been accepted as eligible for evaluation.

For any given proposal, the proposal main contact person will act as the main point of contact between the proposal partners and the HBP.

It is the responsibility of the applicants to ensure timely submission; proposals submitted after the deadline will not be considered. Failure of timely submission of the proposal for any reason, including communication delays, will automatically lead to rejection of the proposal. The time of receipt of the submission, as recorded by the submission system, will be authoritative.

Upon the Call deadline, the proposals have to fulfil the H2020 [admissibility](#)¹⁶ and [eligibility](#)¹⁷ criteria and the HBP-specific ones (see Section 4), in order to be retained for evaluation. In addition, the proposals have to strictly adhere to the template provided via the [HBP Open Call Platform](#)¹, which defines sections and the overall length. Excess pages will be removed from the proposals.

The HBP offers an email-based helpdesk system for applicants at info@opencalls.humanbrainproject.eu. Applicants are encouraged to use this facility for any queries in relation to the Call and the submission.

With the upload of the proposal template and the completion of the contact information, the applicants agree that partner(s) names, affiliations and proposal titles of the winning proposals (only) will be announced on the HBP website.

6. Ethical issues

Research activities in Horizon 2020, and particularly in the HBP, must respect fundamental ethical principles as outlined in the [Horizon2020_Ethics_Guidance](#)¹⁸.

If there are ethical issues specific to the proposal (see the ethical issue table in the [Horizon2020_Ethics_Guidance](#)¹⁸), before and during the runtime of the research activities within the HBP, an HBP Ethical Issues and Approvals survey must be submitted, including the documents that are required under national law (e.g. proof of approval by the competent authority).

The HBP Ethical Issues and Approvals survey should describe how the proposal meets the national legal and ethical requirements of the country or countries where the tasks raising ethical issues are to be carried out, and explain, in detail, how issues in the ethical issues table are addressed, in particular with regard to research objectives (dual use, etc.), methodology (protection of collected data, etc.) and potential impact of the research (dual use issues, benefit-sharing, misuse, etc.).

¹⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/wp/2018-2020/annexes/h2020-wp1820-annex-ga_en.pdf#page=5

¹⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/wp/2018-2020/annexes/h2020-wp1820-annex-ga_en.pdf#page=7

¹⁸ http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/ethics/h2020_hi_ethics-self-assess_en.pdf

Applications, especially from non-European countries¹², must make sure to comply with the above Horizon2020 Ethics Guidelines and clarify ethical issues before submission of the proposal.

Proposers should demonstrate that they are mindful of the fact that the citizens of Europe trust the public R&D endeavour to produce tangible results benefiting society by advancing health, economic growth, and quality of life across all communities.

The applicants are responsible for ethical compliance. They will work with the HBP contact persons, the respective HBP ethics rapporteur and ethics support team to ensure compliance with ethical and legal requirements. Their ethics compliance will be included in the HBP ethics compliance management processes. An Ethics Pre-Screening will be performed prior to inclusion of new partners into the HBP Consortium.

7. Equal opportunities

Gender equality concerns all parts of Horizon 2020 (see the [Guidance on Gender Equality in H2020](#)¹⁹ and [the Gender Equality Strategy “A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025”](#)²⁰). HBP has committed itself to offer [equal opportunities](#)²¹, especially to balance the proportion of male and female scientists in leadership positions, as well as among PhD students and post docs, but also to overcoming artificial barriers, prejudices or preferences. The HBP created the [Diversity and Equal Opportunities Committee](#)²² which provides advice and feedback on the HBP Gender Action Plan on [activities planned to improve equality in their respective areas of responsibility](#)²³. This [document](#)²⁴ shows guidelines developed by the HBP for researchers.

The HBP aims to demonstrate how diversity drives scientific excellence, innovation, and collaboration and aims to become a European best practice example for fostering equal opportunities across different institutions, member states, disciplinary cultures, and intellectual environments.

In line with the European Commission (https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/gender_en.htm), applicants are encouraged to promote gender balance at all levels in their teams and in management structures. Applicants should seek at having a balanced participation, as close as possible to 50/50, of both men and women in the teams and among the leading roles (following [H2020 recommendations](#)²⁵).

Equal opportunities represent an evaluation criterion (see Table 1). In their proposal, applicants have to outline which measures will be undertaken to foster equal opportunities:

- i) see criterion 1 - in relation to content (e.g. analysing and taking into account the possible differences between men and women, sex of animals, cells or tissues in the research and innovation content of the proposed research project). Sex and gender might intersect with further diversity traits, such as age or culture. Additionally, research findings might have different implications for different user groups or stakeholders.
- ii) see criterion 4 - in respect of human resources (e.g. the balance between women and men in the research teams, who will implement the project and how sex, gender or other diversity issues are addressed).

¹⁹ https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/gender_en.htm

²⁰ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/aid_development_cooperation_fundamental_rights/gender-equality-strategy-2020-2025_en.pdf

²¹ <https://www.humanbrainproject.eu/en/about/gender-equality/>

²² <https://www.humanbrainproject.eu/en/about/gender-equality/gender-advisory-committee/>

²³ <https://www.humanbrainproject.eu/en/about/gender-equality/measures-and-materials/>

²⁴ https://sos-ch-dk-2.exo.io/public-website-production/filer_public/23/1e/231e7bc7-bd5c-4c90-92b1-35aa403f0f13/hbp_guideline_diversityinresearch_190204-1207.pdf

²⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/gender/h2020-hi-guide-gender_en.pdf#page=10

8. Proposal evaluation

All submitted proposals will be evaluated by acknowledged external experts from relevant research fields and from the broader scientific community (all referred to as ‘experts’). To avoid conflicts of interest, the experts are independent of the HBP Consortium and the applicants. The conflict of interest rules for this Call are set out [here](#)²⁶.

Experts will **maintain strict confidentiality with respect to the entire evaluation process**. Experts perform evaluations in their private capacity, not as representatives of their employer, their country or any other entity. Under no circumstance should an expert attempt to contact an applicant directly, either during the evaluation or afterwards. Experts cannot submit an Expression of Interest (Eoi) proposal for the Call they are reviewing.

The proposals evaluation will be performed in two steps.

In the **first step**, at least **three external experts** will review individually each proposal assigned to them. They evaluate each proposal considering the evaluation criteria in 8.1 - Table 1. The experts score each criterion (0 to 10, detailed in 8.1 - Table 2), with explanatory comments.

In the **second step**, the experts discuss and compare all proposals during a panel meeting. They establish the final ranking of the proposals, providing a list of proposals being above and below threshold (defined in Table 1). A proposal is eligible for funding if all thresholds are met or exceeded and the two highest ranked proposals will be recommended for funding. If all proposals fall below the threshold, no selection will be made. However, if only one application meets or exceeds the threshold, that proposal will be funded with up to EUR 225,000 (plus 25% overhead).

The experts will be advised by an invited group of HBP members of the Directorate (DIR) and WP leaders, who will clarify the procedure and need of the HBP in the beginning of the evaluation, and offer their opinion on what is especially relevant for the specific Call, during a **kick-off meeting**.

The ranked list of the proposals will be presented to the HBP Science and Infrastructure Board (SIB) and the DIR for endorsement. The selected proposal(s) will be funded and integrated into the HBP SGA3 Work Plan via Amendment.

To ensure transparency, the results of the evaluations will be made available to the EC prior to announcement and integration.

After completion of the Call, applicants will receive the evaluation summary report for their proposal, showing the results of the evaluation for a given proposal. Any request for redress can only be based on procedural grounds and must be submitted by the proposal coordinator within 30 calendar days from the receipt of the official letter (Evaluation Summary Report).

Note: The addition of new Partners to the Consortium is subject to the approval of the required FPA and SGA Amendments by the HBP Stakeholder Board and the EC. Following this process, the partner(s) will be welcomed into the HBP Consortium.

8.1 Proposal evaluation criteria and scores

The evaluation criteria for this CEoi are provided in Table 1. The criteria reflect the expected impact of the project funded under this HBP CEoi.

The proposal evaluation scores are provided in Table 2.

At the evaluation stage, equal opportunities for teams, gender balance in staff and diversity aspects in general (gender, age, career stage, other factors) will be considered as a ranking factor to prioritise the proposals above the threshold (see 4. Equal Opportunities in Table 1). Evaluators will compare the shares of men and women in the personnel named in the proposals and will rank a proposal with the share closer to 50/50 higher. Other explained taken measures for Equal

²⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/pse/h2020-guide-pse_en.pdf#page=12

Opportunities and Diversity can be considered in the same way as the number of men and women. A proportion of women considered in the proposal, similar to the proportion in similar scientific disciplines, is the expected minimum to be found in proposals.

Scoring

Scores for each evaluation criterion are in the range 0-10. Evaluators will be asked to score proposals as they were submitted, rather than on their potential if certain changes were to be made.

Thresholds & weighting

The standard threshold for individual criteria is **6**; no threshold is foreseen for the Equal Opportunities score. The standard overall threshold (including the Equal Opportunities score), is **6**.

Scores are weighted. The weight for each score is provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Proposal evaluation criteria

1. Excellence	Weight: 30%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarity and pertinence of the objectives Credibility and soundness of the proposed concept Extent that the proposed work is beyond the state of the art Quality and effectiveness of the detailed research plan (including appropriateness of tasks and experiments, milestones, and indicators to monitor progress) and appropriateness of proposed research methods and degree of conformity to provided specifications and the scope of the Call Appropriate consideration of interdisciplinary approaches and, where relevant, use of stakeholder knowledge and gender dimension in research and innovation content. Regarding the gender dimension: in research activities where tissues, living materials and human beings are involved as subjects or end-users, differences based on sex, gender, age, health conditions etc. may exist. If applicable to the present research: are diversity factors like sex, gender, age etc. addressed as an integral part of the proposal? 	<p><i>Score 1:</i></p> <p>../10</p> <p>(Threshold: 6/10)</p>
2. Impact	Weight: 40%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use and contribution to the design and development of EBRAINS, the HBP research infrastructure Extent to which the proposed activity expands scientific activities pursued within the HBP (e.g. human neurosciences and to theory development) and uses/creates synergies Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of IPR) and to manage research data where relevant 	<p><i>Score 2:</i></p> <p>../10</p> <p>(Threshold: 6/10)</p>
3. Implementation	Weight: 20%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, including extent to which the resources assigned to the tasks are in line with their objectives and deliverables Co-funding provided by the Partners (institutional staff, access to facilities, etc.) Quality of the Organisations and of the group of applicants as a whole (including complementarity, gender balance, involvement of key actors, prior history, relevant experience of the individual partners) and extent to which the consortium as whole brings together the necessary expertise Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk and innovation management 	<p><i>Score 3:</i></p> <p>../10</p> <p>(Threshold: 6/10)</p>
4. Equal Opportunities	Weight: 10%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equal Opportunities for teams, diversity aspects (gender, age, career stage, other factors) must be considered: Are there measures in place and described in detail to enhance fair work distribution and equal opportunities for career development? Is the proportion of women scientists and 	<p><i>Score 4:</i></p> <p>../10</p>

contributors justified in detail? In case of an imbalance compared to the proportion of women in similar scientific disciplines, are measures planned to improve gender equality?	(NO Threshold)
5. Ethical implications and compliance	Mandatory
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethical implications and compliance with applicable international, EU and national law Ensure that the study proposed will not promote indications that raise ethical issues 	No Score
OVERALL SCORE:	Overall score: .. / 10 (Threshold: 6 / 10)

Table 2: Proposal evaluation scores

0	Not recommended for funding	The proposal fails to address the criterion under examination or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
1	Unacceptable quality or serious concerns	The criterion in question is inadequately addressed by the proposal, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
2	Poor	The criterion in question is poorly addressed by the proposal or the proposal has very few strengths and numerous major weaknesses that limit its impact.
3	Marginal	While the proposal addresses the criterion in question, there are several strengths and a few major weaknesses.
4	Fair	The proposal addresses the criterion in question and is potentially useful, but shows at least one major weakness.
5	Satisfactory	The proposal addresses all aspects of the criterion in question, some strengths but also some moderate weaknesses are visible.
6	Good	The proposal addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question in a reasonable way, but has at least one moderate weakness.
7	Very Good	The proposal addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question in a reasonable way, but has at least one or more minor weaknesses.
8	Excellent	The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. It is internationally competitive in parts. The proposal is very strong with a few minor weaknesses.
9	Outstanding	The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question and is extremely strong with negligible weaknesses. The proposal is internationally competitive or of strategic importance.
10	Exceptional	The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question and is exceptionally strong with essentially no weaknesses. The proposal is internationally competitive and leading edge or of exceptional strategic importance.

9. Additional information

You can find more information on the HBP [here](#)²⁷.

A list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) is available [here](#)²⁸.

²⁷ <https://www.humanbrainproject.eu/en/>

²⁸ <https://www.humanbrainproject.eu/en/collaborate/hbp-open-calls-frequently-asked-questions/>