



AAL JP Rules for Participation, Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria

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Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme

Joint research and development (R & D) funding activity by 23 European Member States and Associated States with the financial support of the European Community.

- The AAL Joint Programme is a Member state driven programme.
- Member States and Associated States act on the pre-existing basis of existing or envisaged national R&D programmes which provide the framework for the national participations.



Advantages for proposers

Collaboration of Nationale Programmes offers a relatively low barrier approach:

- **proposers are often already familiar with the national funding schemes,**
 - **communication with NCPs facilitates the participation.**
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- focus on SME
 - focus on end-users involvement
 - regional differences often of importance



... common European funding activity, national participation rules

... interplay of European and national responsibilities ...

- Central submission of proposals (one proposal per consortium)
- General and national eligibility criteria
- Central evaluation and selection of proposals
- National funding agreements and administration of the funded projects



General Eligibility Criteria (1)

Projects funded under the AAL Joint Programme will be multinational, collaborative and cost-shared.

- Submission of a complete proposal through the AAL electronic submission system, before the deadline, as specified in the Call for Proposals
- English as the language of the proposal
- Adherence to the specifications for structure and technical details (e.g. page count) of the proposal submission



General Eligibility Criteria (2) Consortium Composition

- Consortium composition of **at least 3 independent eligible organizations** (legal entities), **from at least 3 different AAL Partner States** participating in the Call for Proposals
- Consortium must include at least one eligible business partner
- Consortium must include at least **one eligible SME** partner which can be the business partner
(Important: Significant involvement of industry and other business partners, particularly SMEs, i.e.: the budget/effort associated with these partners should be in balance with those of other partner)
- Consortium must **include at least one eligible end-user organization**



Guidelines for AAL project characteristics

Time-to-market perspective of 2 to 3 years after the project end

- Size of the consortium: 3 –10 partners
- Duration of the project: 12 –36 months
- Project total budget: 1 -7 M€
- Maximum funding from the AAL Joint Programme: 3 M€.

- The projects must demonstrate:
 - significant industry involvement, particularly SMEs (i.e.: the budget/effort associated with non-industrial R&D institutions should not outweigh that of the remaining partners)
 - realistic trial set-up at the end of the project
 - proactive end-user involvement throughout the life of the project
 - Defined market segment(s), use cases and target group(s) and address the wishes and needs of these specific groups



What organisations are eligible?

Eligible for funding are only organisations that are explicitly included in the national eligibility criteria (available from the Call website: Information for proposers on the national funding rules).

Non eligible Organisations (not eligible for funding according to national rules or not residing in any AAL partner state) may be included in a project

- without funding from the AAL JP, but they
- cannot be crucial for the project's implementation and they
- will not be taken into consideration when assessing the project proposal against the eligibility criteria and project characteristics as stated above.



Country specific information to the 3rd AAL call

Example: Austria (1)

Programme Owner	Federal Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology, http://www.bmvit.at
Funding Commitment *	2.5 Mio. € (subject of written approval)
National Programme	Austrian project partners at the 2nd AAL call are administered under the Programme benefit: http://www.ffg.at/benefit
AAL National Contact Person	Dr. Gerda Geyer, Tel: +43(0)5 7755 -4205, gerda.geyer@ffg.at ...
Eligible Institutions and Funding Quota	Enterprises ... research organisations ... Associations ... Public bodies ...



Country specific information to the 3rd AAL call

Example: Austria (2)

Eligible Costs	Personnel costs of research staff members of the project; Costs of hardware and equipment (RTD investments); other costs material costs, travel costs), consultancy costs; Overhead costs of personnel costs ...
Eligibility Criteria	... Please note: All Austrian partners in project consortia will have to submit a complete Form C for Austrian Organisations by the closing date of the call. Companies also have to submit their commercial register number and the balance sheets of the last three years.
Further Guidance	Participation rules and other documents of the Programme benefit can be retrieved from http://www.ffg.at/benefit



... other Country specific eligibility criteria in call 2

- Israel, Luxembourg/luxinnovation, United Kingdom: No funding of Universities and Research Organisations
- Ireland and Belgium: Check the eligibility of research institutions with the NCP
- Denmark: Organisations can only participate if there is at least one Danish SME in the consortium
- Italy: public organisations, universities and research centers must apply for funding together with an industrial partner
- Belgium: eligibility of partners is restricted to the Flemish region
- ...

Evaluation performed by independent European experts

Selection of projects

Guided by the outcome of the evaluation process, the final selection of projects for funding will be made using the following principles:

- Maximizing the total quality of the project portfolio of the Call
- Optimizing the usage of the available funding of the Call
- Ensuring thematic spread / avoiding directly overlapping projects
- Ensuring participation of project partners from as many AAL Partner States participating in the Call as possible

Evaluation Criteria

1. Relevance
2. Scientific and technical quality
3. Quality of the consortium and efficiency of the implementation
4. Potential impact

Each criterion will be scored on a 5-point scale:

5=excellent, 4=good, 3=acceptable, 2=defective, 1=failed

Threshold=3

Criterion 1 and 2: weight=1, criterion 3 and 4: weight=2

assesses that the project is in line with the objectives of the Call

- Overall objectives of the call
- ICT in new and innovative applications or service concepts
- Results are products, systems and services that can be applied and deployed widely in Europe



Scientific and technical quality

assesses the overall quality of the project and the extent to which the proposed project methodology and consortium procedures will be able to deliver the planned final deliverables

- Original, novel and effective solution
- Soundness of the concept and methodology
- Contribution to the knowledge in the field
- Realistic prototype or pilot application at project completion (demonstration of expected impacts stated in the initial proposal)



Quality of the consortium and efficiency of the implementation

assesses the extent to which the consortium composition includes the critical mass and diversity of competencies and infrastructure required for the successful completion of the defined tasks, as well as the quality of the work plan

- Evidence of necessary resources to deploy scientific, technical and market expertise needed to achieve project goals; added value by international collaboration; fair balance of contribution between partners;
- Proactive end-user involvement throughout the project. Issues of accessibility, end-user acceptance and usability are fundamental;
- SMEs clearly play a proactive role in the consortia; significant involvement of industry and other business partners in terms of budget and effort;
- High quality work plan regarding the selected methodologies and organization of the planned activities; conflict resolution and IPR;



Potential impact

assesses the extent to which the final deliverables of the proposed project may provide a direct benefit to the AAL target base (specific groups of end-users, businesses, and stakeholders)

- Added value to the individual and society; market availability; social and ethical impact, scientific and technical impact, economic impact; time to market about 2 to 3 years after the project end;
- Attractive and high potential market in Europe and beyond; solutions to specific end-user needs;
- Market plan covering value chain and business analysis activities; approach of capitalising the economic opportunities must not be contradictory to the needs of an individual;
- Contribution to creation of a European market through the development of open interfaces and interoperability, applying relevant standards, norms and regulations in the European framework; adequate respect for the individual end-user's rights (self-determined life, conscious or consciously delegated consent and dignity along with other relevant ethical issues);



Funding decisions for the selected AAL projects

- Partners in successful project proposals receive the grant agreement from their national Programme Management Agency
 - Funding levels, conditions, reporting, eligible costs, audit etc. according to the national rules
 - Required complementary information to be submitted to the national agency (e.g. financial information)
 - Financial viability check by the national agency
 - No evaluation of the contents of the proposal at the national agency
 - Streamlined process ensuring a common start date

Information in this presentation is preliminary and thus subject to changes. Read carefully the call documents when they become available

www.aal-europe.eu/aal-2009-3

It is highly recommended to consult with the National Funding Agency prior to submission of a proposal.



Thank you!

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<http://www.ffg.at/aal>, <http://www.aal-europe.eu>

<http://www.ffg.at/benefit>