

5^{th Open Call} Guide for Applicants

Reinforcing the AI4EU Platform by Advancing Earth Observation Intelligence, Innovation and Adoption

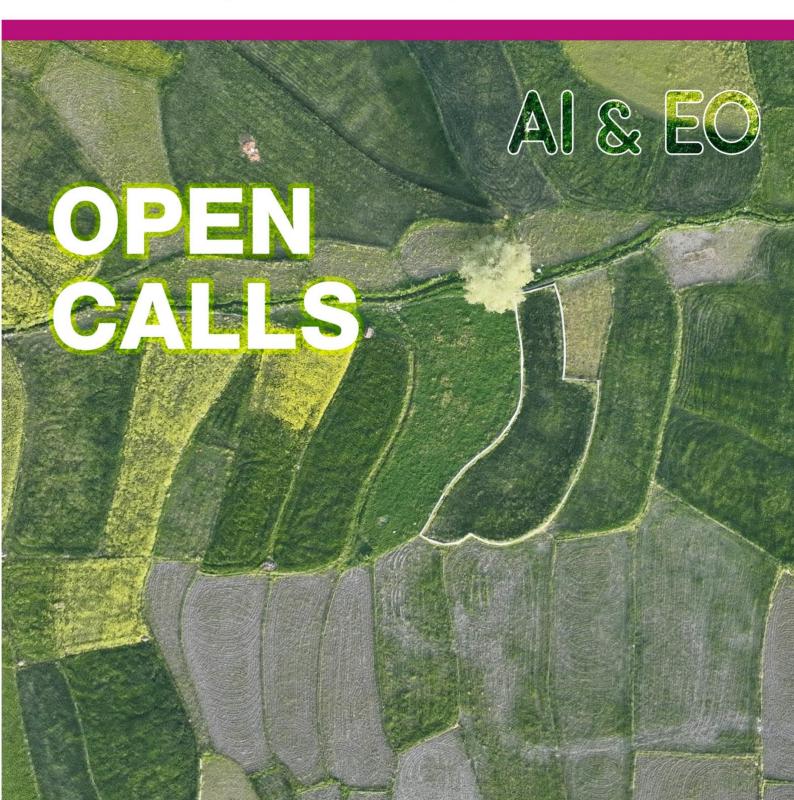


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1. Introduction

This document provides relevant information regarding the fifth (#5) Round of the AI4Copernicus Open Call for Proposals.

1.1. The AI4Copernicus Project

Delivering 12 TB of space data per day, Copernicus is the world's largest space data provider. At the same time, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is becoming an indispensable and ubiquitous tool for growth and innovation. In this context, the EU-funded AI4Copernicus project will bridge the European <u>AI-on-demand platform</u> (former AI4EU) with <u>Copernicus Data and Information</u> <u>Access Services (DIAS) platforms</u> to allow innovative players break new ground.

Key information regarding AI4Copernicus project, open calls and all documents needed, you could find in our:

- Al4Copernicus website: <u>https://ai4copernicus-project.eu/</u>
- Open Calls related information: <u>https://ai4copernicus-project.eu/open-call-info/</u>
- Al4Copernicus Technical documentation: <u>https://ai4copernicus-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Al4Copernicus_Technical-Documentation_V5_Feb2023_cover.pdf</u>

1.2. Al4Copernicus Open Calls Approach

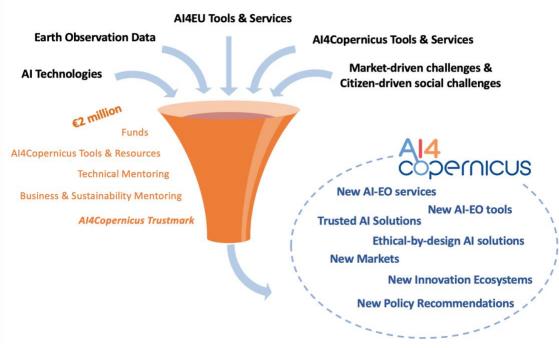


Figure 1: AI4Copernicus Open Calls



The AI4Copernicus Open Calls aim to bring together diverse communities, such as the Artificial Intelligence and Earth Observation Communities, AI4EU ecosystems, tools and services, Earth Observation data and DIAS (<u>Data and Information Access Services</u>) tools and services as well as AI4Copernicus tools and services with diverse market-driven challenges in diverse industrial domains and citizen-driven social challenges (Figure 1).

Al4Copernicus services should be exploited as part of the project. Information about these services can be found in the <u>Al4Copernicus Technical Documentation</u>. In addition to the Al4 Copernicus services, applicants can make use of <u>additional services</u> offered by the <u>I-NERGY</u> project.

All successful applicants should publish a description of their solution and provide a link to their service in the <u>Al-on-Demand catalogue</u>.

The AI4Copernicus Open Calls have four distinct Rounds, targeting:

- SMEs: 1st, 3rd, 4th & 5th Rounds
- Individuals: 2nd Round for Citizens



Open Calls for Use Cases in 4 Industrial Domains 30 th Sept. 2021 € 150K	1st
Open Call for Citizen Social Challenges 31st Oct. 2021	2nd
Open Call for Experiments 30 th Apr. 2022 680 K	3rd
Open Call for Use Cases based the Citizen Social Challenges 30 th Apr. 2022 € 150K	on 4th
Open Call for Micro-Projects 31 st Mar. 2023 €30K	5th

Figure 2: The 5 Rounds of the AI4Copernicus Open Calls (& submission deadlines)

As it can be seen, in the figure 2 these are:

- **1**st **Round of Open Calls** for Use-Cases (consortia projects with a low-technology SME by default) in 4 Industrial Domains: Energy, Security, Health, Agriculture
- 2nd Round of Open Calls for Citizen Social Challenges



- **3**rd **Round of Open Calls** for Experiments (single company) in any industrial domain, including Energy, Security, Health, Agriculture and other sectors like Maritime, Aviation, etc.
- **4**th **Round of Open Calls** for Use-Cases (consortia projects with a low-technology SME by default) based on the Citizen Social Challenges (of the 2nd Round)
- **5th Round of Open Calls** for Micro-Projects, which are single beneficiary projects for testing the Al4Copernicus project services (for technology advanced users).

General Information about the 5th Round of Open Calls

2.1. 5th Round of Open Calls Phases

The **5**th **Round of Open Calls** for Micro-Projects, which are short single-beneficiary projects, targets technology-advanced users that are interested in incorporating and assessing the Al4Copernicus project services in their Al solutions for EO. The 5th Round of Open Calls is **open-themed**, focusing in any industrial domain (e.g., Energy, Security, Health, Agriculture & other sectors like Maritime, Aviation, etc). The 5th Round of Open Calls involves a single "testing" phase of the Al4Copernicus project services. An overview of the sub-phases comprising the 5th Round of Open Calls **is** shown in the following figure.



Figure 4: 5th Round of Open Call Phases



In detail, the phases of the 5th Round of Open Calls are presented in the following sections:

PHASE 1: OPEN CALLS PHASE

Time: February-March 2023

Phase 1: "Open Calls" involves the announcement of the 5th Round of the AI4Copernicus Open Calls for projects and will cover a period of **2 Months (2M)**.

During this phase all relevant AI4Copernicus Open Call Annexes will be provided for interested participants to prepare their proposals.

Especially in the context of the 5th Open Call, the Al4Copernicus consortium will organise a *Technical Workshop* for all interested parties, where the Al4Copernicus services will be presented and while participants will have the opportunity to ask questions beforehand by <u>e-mail</u>, as well as during the workshop.

PHASE 2: SELECTION PHASE

Time: April 2023

Phase 2: "Selection" involves the evaluation of all the eligible Al4Copernicus Open Call Proposals and will cover a period of **1 Month (1M)**.

GRANT AGREEMENT

Time: May 2023

The Grant Agreement process will cover a period of **1 Month (1M)** and will involve the contractual arrangements with the beneficiaries (selected Al4Copernicus micro-projects), during the 5th Round of Open Calls.

PHASE 3: TESTING PHASE

Time: June - October 2023

Phase 3: "Testing" is a single-phase process with a duration of **5 Months (5M)**, during which the selected Al4Copernicus micro-projects are expected to explicitly utilise the Al4Copernicus services, Copernicus data and the Al-on-Demand platform and services





Figure 5: Testing Phase 3 for the 5th Round of Open Calls



5th Round of Open Calls: Guide for Applicants

2.2. Eligibility Criteria

All proposals received via the Open Calls, will be checked according to the following items:

1. Type of Activity: Micro-Projects testing the Al4Copernicus services.

2. Type of Beneficiary: Single beneficiary, who will have to demonstrate experience in the field of AI. The beneficiaries can be technology-advanced SMEs (individual SMEs, start-ups, spin-offs from EU member state and/or Associated Countries)

3. English-language: English is the official language for the open calls. The proposal must be in English in all its mandatory parts in order to be eligible. If the mandatory parts of the proposal are in any other language, the proposal will not be eligible.

4. Submission system: All the proposals should be submitted through the AI4Copernicus Open Call Platform. Proposals submitted by any other means, will not be evaluated.

5. Submission before the Deadline: Applications must be submitted by the closing time and date published in the open call. The time recorded by the Open Call Management Tool, as submission time of the proposal, will be the official one. Late proposals will not be admitted.

6. Absence of conflict of interest: Applicants shall not have any potential conflict of interest (if applicants are directly linked with an Al4Copernicus Partner or a member of the Advisory Board) with the Al4Copernicus selection process¹.

7. All Required documentation: All the requested documents must be submitted.

Notice for the 5th Open Call Applicants:

Proposals that do not make use of at least one (1) of the AI4Copernicus services will not be evaluated. Information about the AI4Copernicus services can be found in the <u>AI4Copernicus</u> <u>Technical Documentation</u>.

2.3. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

The following Intellectual Property Rights conditions should apply to the selected AI4Copernicus funded sub-projects:

- 1. The proposals submitted should be solely based on original work from the applicants and their foreseen developments are free from third-party rights, or be clearly stated.
- 2. All IPR created by the applicants via the AI4Copernicus funding will remain to the applicants, who will be the sole owners of the technologies created within the

¹ Please note that, Al4Copernicus may withdraw an application in the event the participant is directly linked with an Al4Copernicus Partner or a member of the Advisory Board.



Al4Copernicus funding scheme and in the course of their projects. The applicants commit to exploit the results at least via Al4EU marketplace and shall make all reasonable efforts to exploit the results via any other appropriate marketplaces.

- 3. Any communication or publication by the funded applicants shall clearly indicate that: (a) the project has received funding from the European Union and the Al4Copernicus project displaying the EU logo, H2020 logo and the Al4Copernicus logo on all printed and digital material, including websites and press releases; (b) that the material published reflect only the author's views and the EC and Al4Copernicus consortium is not liable for any use of the information contained therein.
- 4. The projects that will be selected for funding (including the publishable summary of the proposal and the pitching videos that will be created at the end of the AI4Copernicus incubation and any content thereof) grant to AI4Copernicus the right to use for dissemination and communication purposes. Moreover, the EC, the AI4Copernicus consortium as well as the AI4EU consortium shall be authorised to publish, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium, information related to the funded sub-projects for dissemination and communication purposes.

2.4. Means of Submission

The **Al4Copernicus Open Calls Platform** will be the entry point for the submission of all proposals. The platform can be accessed via the following link: https://calls.ai4copernicus-project.eu/

The submission in the *Open Calls Platform will open in February 2023.* A special Open Calls Platform Guide for Applicants will also become available at the same time.

Please note that documents required in subsequent phases (i.e., once the projects acquire funding) will be submitted via a dedicated channel, which will be indicated by Al4Copernicus consortium and will be communicated to all funded Al4Copernicus projects.

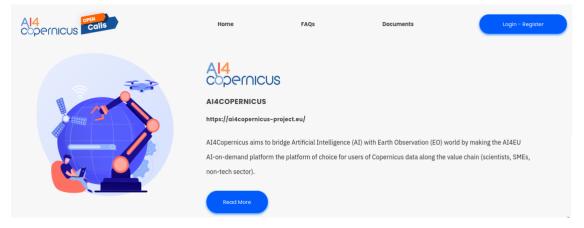


Figure 6: AI4Copernicus Open Calls Platform



2.5. Language

English is the official language for ALL AI4Copernicus Open Call Submissions. Submissions done in any other language WILL NOT be evaluated (see "Eligibility Criteria").

2.6. Documents Format

All requested documents (in any part of the Open Calls process) will be submitted electronically in PDF format.

2.7. Number of Proposals per Applicant

Each industrial organisation may participate in several applications but only one (1) proposal at each AI4Copernicus Open Call will be funded.

Please note that we expect to receive proposals with a budget up to €30.000 each.

An applicant can be selected for funding in more than 1 Open Calls of Al4Copernicus project as a partner. However, the total funded amount should be up to \in 60.000.

3. Open Call Submission and Evaluation Process for Experiments

3.1. Proposal Submission

The AI4Copernicus submission process will involve the following phases:

3.1.1 5th Round of Open Calls Publication

Each AI4Copernicus Open Call will be published on pre-specified dates as denoted on the project website. Each Open Call will be supported by the following documents:

- **Open Call Announcement:** which provides information regarding the 5th AI4Copernicus Open Call for proposals
- **Guidelines for Applicants:** which sets out the guidelines for participation in the AI4Copernicus open calls
- **Technical Documentation:** which provides technical information of the AI4Copernicus services and tools
- **Supplementary Services:** which provides a list of supplementary energy services developed by the I-NERGY project
- FAQs: Frequently asked questions & answers published via the AI4Copernicus website
- **Proposal Template:** the application form will be made available via the AI4Copernicus website



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- **Proposal Supplement:** providing information on proposal consortium details, Ethical & Security details
- Selected 3rd Party Declaration of Honour: Declaration of Honour on exclusion criteria and absence of conflict of interest
- **SME Declaration:** evaluates the status of the SMEs participating in the open call
- **Bank Account Information:** collects information on the applicant's bank account where the AI4Copernicus payments will be transferred to
- **Sub-grant Agreement Template for micro-projects**: provides a template of the subgrant agreement that the successful applicants will be requested to sign

Relevant Documents for the:		
Proposal Preparation	Proposal Submission	Grant Agreement Phase
 5th Open Call Announcement Guide for Applicants Technical Documentation Supplementary Services FAQs 	 Proposal Template Proposal Supplement 	 Selected 3rd Party Declaration of Honour SME Declaration Bank Account Information Sub-grant Agreement Template for micro- projects

Please download the relevant files and read them carefully before you submit your proposal.

For the AI4Copernicus 5th Open Call the submission deadline is **March 31st, 2023.**

3.1.2 Applicants Registration

Interested parties should register via the <u>AI4Copernicus Open Calls Platform</u>.

3.1.3 Proposal Preparation

All applicants are requested to follow the steps below:

- 1. Register online via the <u>AI4Copernicus Open Calls Platform</u>.
- 2. Download all relevant material and templates (see 5th Al4Copernicus Open Call page in the Al4Copernicus website)
- 3. Apply online and answer all mandatory questions (with no exception).
- 4. Applicants can send any questions at info@ai4copernicus-project.eu.
- 5. Applicants need to ensure that ALL the necessary documents have been uploaded in the Open Calls Platform as well as that ALL the Eligibility Criteria (see Section "Eligibility Criteria") are met.



3.2. Proposals Reception

All the Open Call proposal submissions must be done via the Al4Copernicus Open Call Platform (<u>https://calls.ai4copernicus-project.eu/</u>)

For the 5th Round of Open Calls for Micro-Projects with open theme, the application reception will close at

17:00 CET (Brussels Time) on the 31st of March 2023.

There will be **NO deadline extensions** unless the open calls platform becomes unavailable due to technical problems.

3.3. Evaluation Process

The Open Calls Evaluation process involves:

- **STAGE 1: ELIGIBILITY Evaluation** Initial filtering to discard non-eligible proposals based on the eligibility evaluation that follows.
- STAGE 2: PROPOSAL Evaluation

All eligible proposals will be evaluated based on a specific set of criteria that are presented in the following section.

3.4. Stage 1: Eligibility Evaluation

Eligibil	ity Criteria	Eligibility Check: Yes/No
1.	Full alignment between the requested type of Open Call Activity (i.e., Micro-project, Use-Case, Small-Scale experiments, Social challenges, etc.)?	Y/N
	1a. 5 th Round of Open Calls for Micro-Projects	
2.	Full alignment with the requested type of Beneficiaries for the 5 th Al4Copernicus Open Call (i.e., SME, startup, spin-off, single partner projects, technology advanced company)?	Y/N
3.	Are the submitted documents by the applicants in English ?	Y/N
4.	Are all the necessary Open Call documents submitted through the AI4Copernicus Open Calls Platform ?	Y/N
5.	Has the submission deadline been respected?	Y/N



6.	Is there any conflict of interest with the AI4Copernicus selection process?	Y/N
7.	All required documentation has been submitted?	Y/N

Proposals being marked as non-eligible will get a rejection letter including the reasons (1 to 8) for being catalogued as non-eligible. No further feedback on the process will be given.

Notice for the 5th Open Call Applicants:

Proposals that won't make use of the AI4Copernicus services will not be evaluated.

Information about the AI4Copernicus services can be found in the <u>AI4Copernicus Technical</u> <u>Documentation</u>.

3.5. Stage 2: Proposal Evaluation Criteria

All eligible proposals will be evaluated by 1 (one) independent evaluator with wide expertise in Al and Earth Observation within the fields prioritised by Al4Copernicus submitted projects. The evaluating experts will be selected in accordance with the specific characteristics of the project.

The proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:

(1). EXCELLENCE will evaluate:

- **1.1 Innovation of the existing services:** Applicants should provide information regarding the level of innovation of their existing service within their market and how it will exceed the state of the art by utilising the Al4Copernicus services.
- **1.2 Usage of Al4Copernicus Services:** Applicants should denote the Al4Copernicus services that they plan to use and test as part of their project.

(2). TESTING IMPLEMENTATION will consider:

- **2.1 Team:** The applicants have to demonstrate their management qualities as well as their ability to test the Al4Copernicus Services.
- **2.2 Resources**: Demonstrate the quality and effectiveness of the resources assigned in order to test the proposed service.
- **2.3 Liaison with AI-on-demand (former AI4EU) and DIAS platforms:** The applicants should provide concrete evidence on expanding and deepening the integration of AI-on-demand platform with DIAS platforms (i.e. WEKEO, CREODIAS), so as to enrich the AI-on-demand service offering and enable far-reaching innovation between the AI-on-demand and DIASes.

3.5.1 Stage 2: Ethical Evaluation

3.5.1.1 Ethical Assessment - General



Ethical Assessment is an integral part of the Al4Copernicus Open Calls proposals. Aligned with the <u>European Ethical Assessment in the context of the Horizon Europe Programme</u>, a general ethical assessment section has been integrated in the Al4Copernicus proposals.

3.5.1.2 Ethical AI Assessment

Ethical AI by design is an integral part of the AI4Copernicus open calls projects from beginning to end. Thus, part of the ethical evaluation will be a dedicated AI Ethical Assessment. This will take place at the conceptual stage of the proposal not only to respect the legal framework including AI regulation but also to enhance the quality and envisioned impact of the AI4Copernicus Open Call projects.

As part of the Open Calls, applicants will be asked to conduct an a priori self-assessment of their AI Projects by answering the by detailing whether any ethical concerns, aligned with the Horizon Europe template. In addition, applicants are asked to self-assess whether any ethical concerns, related to human rights and values could be raised by their proposed AI and EO projects based on a short assessment tool (in general/overall project aim, as well as in relation to the system, input data, algorithm(s), AI model(s), Output) and detail how they will be addressed/mitigated.

3.6. Proposal Scoring

Applications will be evaluated following two main criteria as described above. Each evaluator will rank the application assigning a score from 0 to 5 for each award criterion and produce an Individual Evaluation Report.

The scale from 0 to 5 includes:

- 0 Fail. Application fails to address the criterion or 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 application broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
- **3 Good.** The application addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.
- 4 Very good. The application addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
- 5 Excellent. The application successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

The **final score** will be calculated as the average of the individual assessments provided by the Evaluator (one evaluator per proposal).

The default **threshold** for individual criteria is 3 (out of 5).



The AI4Copernicus Coordinator and the WP6 Leader will monitor the process and and along with the AI4Copernicus Management Board (MB) will finalise the list of projects to be funded.

Ties will be solved using the following criteria, in order:

- Team score
- Date of submission: earlier submitted proposals go first.

3.7. Proposal related data

If you have submitted a proposal, your project and company related information need to be stored on our servers until the payment of balance of the Al4Copernicus project, for potential reporting purposes towards the European Commission.

After this date all information will be deleted from our servers but will still be part of the statistics of the European Commission.

4. Financial Support Criteria

4.1. Overview of financial support criteria

The total amount per **Micro-Project**, that will be selected via the AI4Copernicus 5th Round of Open Calls, is calculated to a lump sum up to **€30,000 per Micro-Project**.

The financial support in the different Stages of the **Micro-project lifecycle (Testing implementation)** is as follows:

- 1. Award Stage (Pre-financing): 60% of the total
- 2. **Final Assessment:** up to 40% of the total depending on the assessment outcome and the Financial Statements submitted for the corresponding reporting period. The final instalment will be paid 60 days after the payment of balance of the AI4Copernicus project.

An applicant can be selected for funding in more than 1 Open Calls of Al4Copernicus project as a partner. However, the total funded amount should be up to \notin 60.000.

4.2. Origin of Funds

Any selected proposer will sign a dedicated Sub-Grantee Funding Agreement with the members of the AI4Copernicus consortium (represented by the Coordinator NCSR-D).

The funds attached to the Sub-Grant Agreement come directly from the funds of the European Project AI4Copernicus and are, therefore, funds owned by the European Commission, whose



management has been led to the project partners in Al4Copernicus via the European Commission Grant Agreement Number No. 101016798.

As it can be seen in the Sub-Grant Agreement template (Annex 7), this relation between the sub-grantees and the European Commission through AI4Copernicus project carries a set of obligations to the sub-grantees with the European Commission. It is the task of the sub-grantees to accomplish them, and of the AI4Copernicus consortium partners to provide this information about them.

5. Selection and Sub-Grant Agreement

Successful proposals will be invited to sign a Sub-Grant Agreement with the AI4Copernicus consortium.

After the conclusion of the Open Call evaluation, the Al4Copernicus consortium, represented by the project coordinator, will communicate with the successful proposals' coordinators in order to start the Sub-Grant Agreement process.

The Sub-Grant Agreement process will cover a period of **one month** after the selection process. During this time administrative and financial checks will be conducted and depending on the evaluators' comments technical clarifications may be discussed (if and wherever needed).

All consortium partners should have a valid <u>PIC number (9-digit Participant Identification</u> <u>Code) from the European Commission</u>, before the Sub-Grant Agreement (15 days after the final approval of the proposal).

Failure to provide a valid VAT number and a valid PIC number will automatically result in proposal rejection.

In case the Sub-Grant Agreements have not been concluded within the above period, the proposal is automatically rejected (TERMINATION) and the next proposal in the reserve list is invited.

6. Funded Projects

6.1. Testing Implementation

The AI4Copernicus testing implementation involves a 5-month single-phase process, which includes the following services:

- Financial Support: Funding to implement their micro-project for a period of 5 months
- Al4Copernicus Tools & Resources (including DIASes resources)
- AI4EU Tools & Resources or experiments
- Technical Support & Mentoring
- Visibility through Al4Copernicus digital channels and events as Al4Copernicus Ambassadors



6.2. Responsibilities of AI4Copernicus funded projects

The funded projects members are indirect beneficiaries of European Commission funding. As such, they are responsible for the proper use of the funding and ensure that the recipients comply with obligations **under H2020 (& Horizon Europe) specific requirements** as described in **Horizon 2020 - the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020)**. The obligations that are applicable to the recipients include the following.

6.2.1 Conflict of Interest

The 3rd parties (AI4Copernicus Sub-Grant Agreement Beneficiaries) must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of their project is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, personal or any other shared interest (conflict of interest).

Members of the funded projects must formally notify the Al4Copernicus coordinator without delay about any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interests and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation. The Al4Copernicus coordinator may verify that the measures taken are appropriate and may require additional measures to be taken.

6.2.2 Maintaining Confidentiality

During the implementation of the AI4Copernicus funded projects and for 2 -5 years after the end of the project, the parties must keep confidential any data, documents or other material (in any form) that is identified as confidential at Grant Agreement signing time ('Confidential Information').

If specific information has been identified as confidential during the project execution and/or only orally, it will be considered to be confidential only if this is accepted by the Al4Copernicus coordinator and confirmed in writing within 15 days of the oral disclosure. Unless otherwise agreed between the parties, they may use confidential information only to implement the Agreement.

The funded project beneficiaries may disclose confidential information to the AI4Copernicus consortium and to the selected reviewers, who will be bound by a specific Non-Disclosure Agreement.

6.2.3 Financial Audits

The European Commission may, at any time during the implementation of the Al4Copernicus project and up to five years after the end of the sub-project, arrange for financial audits. These financial audits can be carried out, by external auditors, or by the EC services themselves



including the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) or on-the-spot checks and inspections in accordance with Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996.

Such audits may cover financial, systemic and other aspects (such as accounting and management principles) relating to the proper execution of the grant agreement. Each member of the sub-project consortium shall make available directly to the EC all detailed information and data that may be requested by the EC or any representative authorised by it.

6.2.4 Promoting the EU-funded sub-project

All funded projects must promote their projects and its results by providing targeted information to targeted audiences in an effective manner to highlight the financial support of the EC.

Any communication activity related to the action (i.e., electronic form, social media, etc.), any publicity, including conference, webinar/seminar and/or any type of information or promotional material (brochure, leaflet, poster, presentation, etc.), and any infrastructure, equipment and major results funded by the grant must:

(a) indicate that the project has received funding from the European Union and the AI4Copernicus project displaying the EU logo, H2020 logo and the AI4Copernicus logo on all printed and digital material, including websites and press releases;

(b) that the material published reflects only the author's views and the EC and Al4Copernicus consortium is not liable for any use of the information contained therein.

7. Funded Projects Assessment Criteria

One assessment will be conducted in the course of the funded Al4Copernicus Open Call Projects, namely the **Final Assessment** at the end of M5 (October 2023). The successful proposals will have to deliver an **Interim Report** during the middle of the project which will contribute (based on its quality and testing feedback) to their final score. Within the interim report the beneficiaries will have to present their actions up to the time frame which will have passed, as well as how they plan on continuing their testing plan.

7.1. Final Assessment

The Al4Copernicus Management Board (MB) will review the micro-projects' performance at the final review, according to the following criteria. Each criterion will be scored from 0 to 10 and the weight of each one of these criteria in the final score will be as follows:

- Testing Performance indicators (40%)
- Testing feedback of the AI4Copernicus services (50%)
- Deadline Compliance (10%)



According with this final score:

- **Best-in-class Projects (Graduates)** having a score above 75% will receive the final payment.
- **Behind the Best-in-class.** For those beneficiaries who haven't reached the threshold, the Al4Copernicus partners will take into account all possible objective reasons for underperformance (i.e. external factors which might have influenced the beneficiaries' performance) and will provide suggestions for future improvement. The Al4Copernicus MB will decide on the percentage of the final payment to be awarded, depending on the relevant quality of the project in this category.



APPENDIX

AI4Copernicus Open Calls Publication (Annexes)

Each Al4Copernicus Open Call will be published on pre-specified dates as denoted on the project website. Each Open Call will be supported by the following documents:

- **5th Open Call Announcement:** which provides information regarding the open call for proposals, and the AI4Copernicus project
- **Guidelines for Applicants:** which sets out the guidelines for participation in the AI4Copernicus open calls
- **Technical Documentation:** which provides technical information of the AI4Copernicus services and tools
- Supplementary Services: which provides a list of supplementary energy services developed by the I-NERGY project
- **Proposal Template:** the application form will be made available via the AI4Copernicus website
- **Proposal Supplement:** providing information on proposal consortium details, Ethical & Security details
- Selected 3rd Party Declaration of Honour: Declaration of Honour on exclusion criteria and absence of conflict of interest
- SME Declaration: evaluates the status of the SMEs participating at the open call
- **Bank Account Information:** collects information on the applicant's bank account where the AI4Copernicus payments will be transferred to
- **Sub-grant Agreement Template for Micro-Projects**: provides a template of the subgrant agreement that the successful applicants will be requested to sign
- FAQs 5th Round of Open Calls: Frequently asked questions & answers published via the AI4Copernicus website

Please download the relevant files and read them carefully before you submit your proposal. For the Al4Copernicus 5th Open Call the submission deadline is: **March 31st, 2023.**





Ald Copernicus find more information at ai4copernicus-project.eu