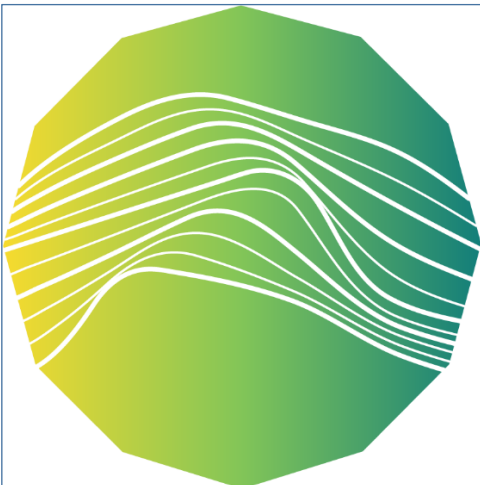


***EBRAINS Research Infrastructure Voucher Programme Call 2020***

***Guide for Applicants***



**Human Brain Project**



**EBRAINS**



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<b>More information:</b>	<a href="mailto:vouchers@humanbrainproject.eu">vouchers@humanbrainproject.eu</a>		

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# 1. The Human Brain Project

The [Human Brain Project \(HBP\)](https://www.humanbrainproject.eu/)<sup>1</sup> is an ambitious 10-year scientific research and infrastructure initiative, part of the EU Future and Emerging Technology (FET) Flagship programme<sup>2</sup>. The HBP is developing an innovative ICT<sup>3</sup> Research Infrastructure, now called [EBRAINS](https://ebrains.eu/)<sup>4</sup> that helps 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 give tools to thousands of researchers to advance and accelerate our understanding of the functioning of the human brain and its diseases.

The Research Infrastructure Voucher Call is an openness measure to adjust and develop the EBRAINS Platform Research Infrastructure to meet the needs of the user community in a new, dynamic and interactive way.

## 2. Scope and target groups

The Research Infrastructure Voucher Call invites non-HBP researchers to apply for a Voucher to secure HBP engineering solutions for their challenging research problems. The Vouchers fund the work of the EBRAINS Research Infrastructure developers to implement feature requests of the Voucher winners. While benefiting from tailor-made developments and solutions, Voucher winners will not receive any direct funding for their work from the HBP. The Vouchers do not fund the work of the external Voucher winners.

Non-HBP researchers worldwide are invited to apply for EBRAINS Research Infrastructure Vouchers that allow the implementation of their project ideas into the EBRAINS digital Research Infrastructure. Voucher projects should target one of the following six EBRAINS Service Categories (SCs):

- SC1: Curated and shared data: EBRAINS FAIR data services - neuroscience data publishing
- SC2: Brain atlas services: navigate the brain in 3D - find, contribute and analyse brain data, based on location
- SC3: Brain modelling and simulation workflows: integrated tools to create and investigate models of the brain
- SC4: Closed loop AI and robotics workflows: design, test and implement robotic and AI solutions
- SC5: Medical brain activity data platforms: human intracerebral EEG database and analysis service and Medical Informatics Platform (MIP)
- SC6: Interactive workflows on HPC or NMC: Europe-wide access to scalable and interactive compute services

The target groups of this Call are from academic research, including hospitals, or from industry and pharma (SMEs and larger companies) in the fields of future computing, neuromorphic computing or high-performance analytics and computing, neurorobotics, neuroscience, brain simulation and medical informatics.

The HBP explicitly welcomes project ideas with commercial potential. It also welcomes project ideas that involve more than one research infrastructure platform (for example, neuromorphic computing AND neurorobotics) (<https://ebrains.eu/>). The Voucher programme aims to establish successful win-win collaborations and pursues technology innovation and engineering solutions of mutual interest. Voucher groups will be developed into formal HBP Partnering Projects, (for more

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.humanbrainproject.eu/>

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

<sup>3</sup> ICT, Information and Communication Technology

<sup>4</sup> <https://ebrains.eu/>

information, see <https://www.humanbrainproject.eu/en/about/project-structure/partnering-projects/>).

The aim is that projects selected for Voucher funding will, by combining HBP and external community expertise, generate unique results that have the potential to lead to innovative opportunities for new products, services and processes of mutual benefit. The project teams will make sure that the generated knowledge and data will enter the EBRAINS Research Infrastructure, data repositories and atlases, and enrich existing technology and data offerings.

Voucher applicants should contact the HBP as soon as possible to discuss the feasibility and practicability of their project idea before the proposal submission deadline. To be considered, a proposal will need to include a section that has to be completed by an EBRAINS contact; this can only be achieved within the required timeframe if the necessary discussions between the proposer and representatives of the HBP have taken place before the submission deadline.

Applicants should initiate contact with the HBP via a Work Package Manager (see “Table 1: EBRAINS infrastructure and respective contacts”). The Work Package Manager will direct applicants to the appropriate EBRAINS contact if the applicant is not already in contact with EBRAINS.

After the Voucher proposal submission deadline is passed, the EBRAINS contact will complete the internal part of the proposal. This step ensures that the EBRAINS contact and the engineering team can implement the project, should the project be selected for funding.

The maximum project duration is restricted to 12 months. Finalisation of the project including completeness of data integration into EBRAINS and evaluation of the user satisfaction should take place latest by month 12 of the Voucher project.

The size of each Voucher depends on the personnel costs required to realise the project. A Voucher is restricted to range between 4 and 12 Person Months (PMs) of engineering/development time in total. The travel budget can be up to 4% of the requested personnel costs. The travel costs will be primarily reserved to cover expenses of the Voucher winners to participate in HBP meetings and events. The Voucher cost table in the proposal template will be completed by the EBRAINS contact. The Vouchers fund the work of the EBRAINS engineering teams to implement the feature requests of the Voucher winners.

Projects receiving Vouchers have to start between April and June 2021. Please take the time and resources constraints (maximum 12 months duration and maximum 12 Person Months) into consideration when writing the proposal.

The IP principles are established on the framework of the HBP Consortium Agreement. However, the programme aims to be flexible, pragmatic and practical in its IP approach to IP matters, and does not want to hinder exchanges because of restrictive IP terms. Details may be worked out and negotiated on a case-by-case basis, if necessary.

### 3. Eligibility

The initiative is open to non-HBP researchers or non-HBP groups worldwide.

The terms “non-HBP researchers” or “non-HBP groups” imply that the individuals do not receive any HBP funding or do not currently work for a PI who receives HBP funding. Partners of the HBP Consortium that do not receive funding in the current phase, i.e. inactive Partners, are eligible to apply for a project. Please note that the Vouchers will be awarded only to non-HBP groups, but will be used to fund the activities by HBP groups.

A non-HBP researcher who is part of a university or organisation which is already a Partner in the HBP is eligible to participate in this Call. While HBP members are not eligible, they can be “contact partner” of a proposed project.

Where a group or consortium applies for a Voucher, it should be represented by a project leader who acts as main contact person. Vice-versa, each selected Voucher project will have a responsible EBRAINS contact on the HBP side.

The number of applications that an EBRAINS contact (PI and respective lab) can co-submit is limited to two. Should there be more requests, the EBRAINS contact will forward them to other partners within the HBP, if possible.

The HBP is an equal opportunity employer. As such, we explicitly encourage applications from women and groups of applicants who have considered gender equality aspects in their group of applicants.

The proposal is eligible if the submitted proposal is complete and correctly filled in. The proposal is only complete when the EBRAINS platform/service contact(s) is (are) named. This confirms that the project idea has been discussed with the HBP before the submission deadline.

The proposal is only eligible if the original template is used.

An application requesting funding for non-HBP groups or researchers is not eligible.

Follow-up proposals based on former Voucher work are not recommended, only if it can be proven that the output of the first project was fully integrated into EBRAINS and if the follow-up proposal is of exceptional relevance.

Voucher projects that were rejected in the 2019 Voucher Call can be re-submitted in agreement with the EBRAINS contact. Please make sure that the evaluators' comments have been addressed in the revised proposal and the Voucher rules are met. Re-submission of a rejected proposal that has not been modified to address previous review comments will not be accepted.

## 4. Application & selection

You find the Application template and all relevant documents on the Open Calls Platform (<https://opencalls2.humanbrainproject.eu/call/ebrains-research-infrastructure-voucher-programme-call-2020>).

### 4.1 Step 1: HBP contact phase

An important aspect to ensure the realisation of the project is that the proposed use case and the technical solution have been discussed **with the respective** EBRAINS contact(s) before proposal submission.

Please get in contact with the HBP as soon as possible to discuss your idea, its feasibility and relevance (see Table 1: EBRAINS infrastructure and respective contacts)

### 4.2 Step 2: Proposal submission deadline

Complete the proposal template (green part) as soon as possible in collaboration with your EBRAINS contact and upload the form (as PDF) to the Open Calls Platform (<https://opencalls2.humanbrainproject.eu/call/ebrains-research-infrastructure-voucher-programme-call-2020>) by no later than **6 November 2020**.

### 4.3 Step 3: HBP proposal contribution (HBP internal)

After the proposal submission deadline, the EBRAINS contacts will complete the EBRAINS-specific part of the proposal template (blue part) and will upload the form (as a PDF) to the Open Calls Platform (<https://opencalls2.humanbrainproject.eu/call/ebrains-research-infrastructure-voucher-programme-call-2020>) by no later than **30 November 2020**.

The EBRAINS contact will enter the Person Months and personnel cost rate for the HBP platform developer(s) and the travel costs.

Please note: The maximum funding is the personnel costs for 12 PMs, plus 4% for travel.

The purpose of step 3 is to avoid any duplication with existing EBRAINS activities and make sure that feasibility and relevance in respect of the EBRAINS infrastructure development can be properly assessed by the evaluation committee.

#### 4.4 Step 4: Evaluation phase

The external evaluation committee will evaluate all proposals according to the evaluation criteria (see Table 2: Proposal evaluation criteria). In case of a delay in the planned timeline (see Section 5 Timeline) you will be informed by the Voucher team.

Once projects selected for funding can be disclosed, the Voucher team will inform the applicants and provide instructions for the next steps.

## 5. Timeline

- Call opens: 18 September 2020.
- Submission Deadline: 6 November 2020 17:00 Brussels time (CET)
- Internal Deadline - Contribution of EBRAINS infrastructure contact: 30 November 2020, 17:00 Brussels time (CET)
- The announcement of the winners is expected in February/March 2021.
- The practical work of the platform developers has to start between April - June 2021.
- The Voucher projects have a maximum duration of 12 months.

## 6. Proposal submission

The proposal is submitted via the [HBP Open Call Platform<sup>5</sup>](#). The applicants are required to register a profile, enter the proposal information and partner data, and submit the proposal document as a PDF.

The applicants can edit the proposal before the deadline (e.g. submit revised versions); only the last version will be considered for evaluation.

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. 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 eligibility criteria (see Section 3), 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<sup>5</sup>](#), which defines sections and the overall length. Evaluators will be instructed not to consider extra material in the evaluation.

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

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<sup>5</sup> [https://opencalls.humanbrainproject.eu/all\\_calls](https://opencalls.humanbrainproject.eu/all_calls)



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.

The applicants agree that the HBP Partnering Project coordinator will have access to the contact information to get in touch with the applicants to integrate the Voucher as Partnering Project once the Voucher selection results are announced to the public.

The proposal should describe a concrete scientific question and a defined use case to understand what should be implemented into the EBRAINS services <https://ebrains.eu/>.

## 7. Contacts

Below, the managers of the Work Packages are listed, they will help you to find an EBRAINS partner for your project if you haven't found one yet.

**Table 1: EBRAINS infrastructure and respective contacts**

What we do, key topics	First contacts for Voucher applicants are the Work Package Managers
<p><b>EBRAINS Data Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EBRAINS Knowledge Graph - curated and shared data: EBRAINS FAIR data services neuroscience data publishing (SC1) <a href="https://ebrains.eu/services/data-knowledge">https://ebrains.eu/services/data-knowledge</a></li> <li>EBRAINS Brain Atlas - navigate the brain in 3D - find, contribute, and analyse brain data, based on location (SC2) <a href="https://ebrains.eu/services/atlases">https://ebrains.eu/services/atlases</a></li> <li>Medical brain activity data platforms: human intracerebral EEG database and analysis service (SC5) and Medical Informatics Platform (MIP) <a href="https://mip.ebrains.eu/">https://mip.ebrains.eu/</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roman VOLCHENKOV (University of Oslo) <a href="mailto:roman.volchenkov@medisin.uio.no">roman.volchenkov@medisin.uio.no</a></li> <li>Martha E. BRIGG (University of Oslo) <a href="mailto:m.e.brigg@medisin.uio.no">m.e.brigg@medisin.uio.no</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>EBRAINS Modelling Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brain modelling and simulation workflows - integrated tools to create and investigate models of the brain (SC3) <a href="https://ebrains.eu/services/simulation">https://ebrains.eu/services/simulation</a></li> <li>Closed loop AI and robotics workflows - design, test and implement robotic and AI solutions (SC4) <a href="https://ebrains.eu/services/ai-and-robotics/neurorobotics">https://ebrains.eu/services/ai-and-robotics/neurorobotics</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evita MAILLI (University of Athens) <a href="mailto:e.mailli@di.uoa.gr">e.mailli@di.uoa.gr</a></li> <li>Anne ELFGEN (Jülich Research Centre) <a href="mailto:a.elfgen@fz-juelich.de">a.elfgen@fz-juelich.de</a></li> <li>Victoria NEUMANN (Technical University Munich) <a href="mailto:Victoria.Neumann@in.tum.de">Victoria.Neumann@in.tum.de</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>EBRAINS Computing Services - Europe-wide access to scalable and interactive compute services (SC6)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Neuromorphic Computing <a href="https://www.humanbrainproject.eu/en/silicon-brains/">https://www.humanbrainproject.eu/en/silicon-brains/</a></li> <li>HPC-based interactive workflows <a href="https://www.humanbrainproject.eu/en/massive-computing/">https://www.humanbrainproject.eu/en/massive-computing/</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Björn KINDLER (Heidelberg University) <a href="mailto:bjoern.kindler@kip.uni-heidelberg.de">bjoern.kindler@kip.uni-heidelberg.de</a></li> <li>Anna LÜHRS (Jülich Research Centre) <a href="mailto:a.luehrs@fz-juelich.de">a.luehrs@fz-juelich.de</a></li> <li>Anne NAHM (Jülich Research Centre) <a href="mailto:a.nahm@fz-juelich.de">a.nahm@fz-juelich.de</a></li> <li>Boris ORTH (Jülich Research Centre) <a href="mailto:b.orth@fz-juelich.de">b.orth@fz-juelich.de</a></li> <li>Maren FRINGS (Jülich Research Centre) <a href="mailto:m.frings@fz-juelich.de">m.frings@fz-juelich.de</a></li> </ul>



## 8. Proposal evaluation & collaboration principles

All submitted proposals will be evaluated by acknowledged external experts from relevant research fields and by reviewers 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](#)<sup>6</sup>.

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 may an expert attempt to contact an applicant directly, either during the evaluation or afterwards. Experts cannot submit a proposal for this Voucher Call.

Proposal evaluation will be performed in two steps.

In the **first step**, external experts will review individually each proposal assigned to them. They evaluate each proposal considering the evaluation criteria in Section 9 - Table 2. The experts score each criterion (0 to 10, detailed in Section 9 - Table 3), 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. The standard overall threshold is 6. The Panel is composed of the group of experts who participated in the first step of the evaluation.

The ranked list of the proposals will be presented to the HBP Science and Infrastructure Board (SIB) and the DIR for endorsement.

To ensure transparency, the results of the evaluations will be made available to the European Commission 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. If their proposal is accepted, applicants will become an HBP Partnering Project.

For each project, the partners will compile a summary which will include output of the work, the communication strategy, data integration status and final acceptance criteria. Both parties will agree on the plan and communication measures, and undertake to comply with them.

The work funded by the Voucher programme will be subject to the same reporting and review conditions, including ethics issues, as all other HBP activities.

Voucher winners' contributions and input will be properly acknowledged on the HBP website and all dissemination material.

## 9. Proposal evaluation criteria and scores

### 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 overall threshold is 6.

Scores are weighted. The weight for each score is provided in Table 2.

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<sup>6</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants\\_manual/pse/h2020-guide-pse\\_en.pdf#page=12](https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/pse/h2020-guide-pse_en.pdf#page=12)

**Table 2: Proposal evaluation criteria**

1. Feasibility/Implementation	Weight: 30 %
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feasibility of the implementation work in regard of resources, time and available technology</li> <li>• Quality and relevant experience of the individual partners (including complementarity, gender balance, involvement of key actors, prior history) and extent to which the consortium as whole brings together the necessary expertise</li> </ul>	Score: .. / 10
2. Excellence and novelty of the research idea and scientific question	Weight: 20 %
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarity and pertinence of the objectives</li> <li>• Credibility and soundness of the proposed concept</li> <li>• Extent that the proposed work is beyond the state of the art, and demonstrates innovation potential (e.g. ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches, new products, services or business and organisational models)</li> <li>• 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?</li> </ul>	Score: .. / 10
3. Impact / Relevance to objectives of the HBP infrastructure	Weight: 40 %
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution to design and development of the EBRAINS Research Infrastructure</li> <li>• How much is this project “desired” internally?</li> <li>• Attractiveness of the technology development for new user communities (quality and quantity)<sup>7</sup></li> <li>• Right distance to end-users and markets, maturity level<sup>8</sup></li> <li>• Scientific and/or industrial value of the IPR strategy<sup>9</sup></li> <li>• Exploitation potential<sup>10</sup> - Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of IPR) and to manage research data where relevant</li> <li>• Option to synchronise efforts with other European, national or international consortia for higher efficiency and reinforcement of grant value</li> <li>• Any substantial impacts not mentioned, that would enhance innovation capacity, ability to create new market opportunities, to strengthen competitiveness and growth of companies, address issues related to climate change or the environment, or bring other important benefits for society</li> </ul>	Score: .. / 10
4. Equal Opportunities	Weight: 10 %
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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 contributors justified in detail? In case of an imbalance compared to the proportion of women in similar</li> </ul>	

<sup>7</sup> Attractiveness refers to the capacity of the technology to target and address users’ important needs. This importance is given by a) the competitive advantages the technology has in relation to existing solutions, and b) the impact the technology will eventually have in user communities.

<sup>8</sup> Operational validation and integration of the technology in a relevant real-world environment will be achieved within the Voucher period. The solution will be well integrated with other operational hardware/software systems and processes, and be able to demonstrate its operational feasibility.

<sup>9</sup> There are specific plans on the commercial or non-commercial exploitation of the property rights associated to the future utilisation of the technology. These plans may include, among others, open and free access and utilisation of the solution, licensing of rights, cross-licensing, and patents.

<sup>10</sup> To be exploited, the technology development must be not only technically feasible but also have a commercial and/or non-commercial clear potential. The number of users that will eventually benefit of the technology as well as their industrial and/or scientific relevance are examples of aspects to be analysed.

scientific disciplines, are measures planned to improve gender equality?	
<b>Remarks</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ethical implications and compliance with applicable international, EU and national law</li> <li>Ensure that the study proposed will not promote indications that raise ethical issues.</li> </ul>	<i>No Score</i>
<b>OVERALL SCORE</b>	Score: ../10 (Threshold: 6/10)

**Table 3: Proposal evaluation scores**

<b>0</b>	The proposal fails to address the criterion	The proposal fails to address the criterion under examination or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information.
<b>1-2</b>	Poor	The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
<b>3-4</b>	Fair	While the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses.
<b>5-6</b>	Good	The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present. Improvements will be necessary.
<b>7-8</b>	Very good	The proposal addresses the criterion very well, although a small number of shortcomings are present. Some improvements are still possible.
<b>9-10</b>	Excellent	The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor.

## 10. Ethical issues

Research activities in Horizon 2020, and particularly in the HBP, must respect fundamental ethical principles as outlined in the [Horizon2020\\_Ethics\\_Guidance<sup>11</sup>](#).

If there are ethical issues specific to the proposal (see the ethical issue table in the [Horizon2020\\_Ethics\\_Guidance<sup>11</sup>](#)), 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.).

Applications, especially from non-European countries, 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

<sup>11</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants\\_manual/hi/ethics/h2020\\_hi\\_ethics-self-assess\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/ethics/h2020_hi_ethics-self-assess_en.pdf)

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.

## 11. Equal opportunities

Gender equality concerns all parts of Horizon 2020 (see the [Guidance on Gender Equality in H2020 and the Gender Equality Strategy “A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025”](#)<sup>12</sup>. HBP has committed itself to offer [equal opportunities](#)<sup>13</sup>, 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 [Gender Advisory Committee](#)<sup>14</sup> which provides advice and feedback on the HBP Gender Action Plan of HBP on [activities planned to improve equality in their respective areas of responsibility](#)<sup>15</sup>. This [document](#)<sup>16</sup> 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](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](#)<sup>17</sup>).

Equal opportunities represent an evaluation criterion (see Table 2). In their proposal, applicants have to outline which measures will be undertaken to foster equal opportunities:

- i) see criterion 2 - 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).

## 12. Intellectual property

For the purpose of this section:

**“Data”** means factual records which could consist of numerical scores, textual records, images, sounds, or other information, excluding personal data.

**“Results”** means any and all tangible or intangible outputs of the Voucher programme such as data and information whatever their form or nature, whether or not they can be protected, which are

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<sup>12</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/aid\\_development\\_cooperation\\_fundamental\\_rights/gender-equality-strategy-2020-2025\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/aid_development_cooperation_fundamental_rights/gender-equality-strategy-2020-2025_en.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.humanbrainproject.eu/en/about/gender-equality/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.humanbrainproject.eu/en/about/gender-equality/gender-advisory-committee/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.humanbrainproject.eu/en/about/gender-equality/measures-and-materials/>

<sup>16</sup> [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](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)

<sup>17</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants\\_manual/hi/gender/h2020-hi-guide-gender\\_en.pdf#page=10](https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/gender/h2020-hi-guide-gender_en.pdf#page=10)

generated through the Voucher project as well as any rights attached to them, including intellectual property rights.

**“Voucher programme winner’s Contributions and Inputs”** means data, information, know-how, whatever its form or nature (tangible or intangible), including any rights such as intellectual property rights which are held by the Voucher programme winner prior to the start of the Voucher project.

In light of the Voucher projects being part of the HBP work plan (i.e. part of the Specific Grant Agreement 2 (SGA3)) and the related intellectual property rights and obligations under the HBP Framework Partnership Agreement (HBP FPA), SGA3 and the HBP Consortium Agreement, the following principles apply:

- 1) All results generated through the Voucher project are owned by the HBP partner organisations responsible for generating them; however, results that consist of data and that are generated simply through testing Voucher programme winners’ data using EBRAINS can remain with the Voucher programme winners.
- 2) Where Voucher programme winners do not own results generated through the Voucher project, Voucher programme winners may be granted a non-exclusive, free-of-charge, royalty-free license on such results for non-commercial purposes;
- 3) Voucher programme winners must provide a non-exclusive, irrevocable, free-of-charge, royalty-free license to all HBP partner organisations, with the right to sublicense to third parties, on all Voucher programme winners’ contributions and inputs which are needed to implement the proposed project and to use results generated with the Voucher programme winners’ contributions and inputs;

unless otherwise agreed in a written agreement with the involved HBP partner organisations.

In addition:

- 1) On a case-by-case basis, upon a written agreement with the involved HBP partner organisations, an embargo period of a few months may be offered to the Voucher programme winner, upon their request. During that embargo period, the Voucher programme winner may benefit exclusively from the result generated through the Voucher programme, before such result is offered to the whole HBP community.
- 2) In case of a significant contribution by the Voucher programme winner, which by law would qualify the Voucher programme winner(s) as co-inventor, a fair compensation may be provided by the involved HBP partner organisation(s) to the Voucher programme winner(s), on a case-by-case basis, if a patent covering that significant contribution is granted. Such compensation will be provided according to the involved HBP partner organisation(s)’ rules, and needs to be agreed upon in writing prior to any collaboration between the involved HBP partner organisation(s) and the Voucher programme winner.

In any case, intellectual property aspects (be it the above principles or other principles) must be agreed upon in a written collaboration agreement between the involved HBP partner organisations and the Voucher programme winners. They must not prevent HBP partner organisations from complying with their obligations under HBP agreements (HBP FPA, SGA, HBP Consortium Agreement), nor prevent them from benefiting of their rights under such HBP agreements.

The HBP innovation team offers professional expertise and knowhow in technology transfer, especially in the cross-over area of IT and the neuroscience, biomedical sector. The team is trained to detect emerging technologies and is available to support in case of potential commercialisation.

Data developed under the Voucher programme are subject to the HBP data management policy which describes for each data set and product the owner(s), findability (location), accessibility (licence), interoperability and reproducibility (H2020 FAIR criteria). For more information see <https://ebrains.eu/services/data-knowledge/share-data>.