

ECMWF Copernicus Grants



Copernicus Climate Change Service

C3S NCP Call for Proposals

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

Copernicus is the European Union's flagship Earth-observation programme created to achieve operational monitoring of the atmosphere, oceans, and continental surfaces. It aims to provide reliable, validated information services for a range of environmental and security applications.

Copernicus collects environmental information from in situ systems such as ground stations, which deliver data acquired by a multitude of sensors on the ground, at sea or in the air, and is also served by a set of dedicated satellites (the Sentinels) and contributing missions (existing commercial and public satellites).

Copernicus has a user-driven approach and provides six free-of-charge operational services to respond to societal needs: Atmosphere, Marine, Land, Climate Change, Security and Emergency.

The European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) implements two of the six Copernicus services on behalf of the European Commission: the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS) and the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) and contributes to the operation of the Copernicus Emergency Management Service (CEMS).

Since launch, both CAMS and C3S have successfully contributed to Copernicus' mission to deliver freely accessible operational data and services providing users with reliable and up-to-date information related to our planet and its environment. Users range from actors in the national and European policy domain, businesses and industry players, as well as European citizens.

Under C3S, the National Collaboration Programme (NCP) aims to support the 27 EU Member States and Copernicus participating States, which currently are Norway, Iceland, the United Kingdom, and Ukraine (hereinafter referred to as 'Countries'), leverage C3S products and services to enhance their capacity to address risks associated with climate change.

This Call for Proposals sets out the terms, conditions, and requirements that applicants must comply with when submitting a project proposal and participating in the ECMWF grant procedure.

1.2 About ECMWF

The European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) is an independent intergovernmental organisation supported by 35 states.

ECMWF is both a research institute and a 24/7 operational service, producing and disseminating numerical weather predictions to its Member States. This data is fully available to the national meteorological services in the Member States. The Centre also offers a catalogue of forecast data that can be purchased by businesses worldwide and other commercial customers. The supercomputer facility (and associated data archive) at ECMWF is one of the largest of its type in Europe and Member States can use 25% of its capacity for their own purposes.

The organisation was established in 1975 and now employs around 500 staff from more than 30 countries.

A description of ECMWF's activities and infrastructure can be found at:

<https://www.ecmwf.int/en/about/what-we-do>

1.3 Legal framework

This Call for Proposals is based on the Contribution Agreement – signed on 22 July 2021 between the European Union, represented by the European Commission, and ECMWF – on the Implementation of the Copernicus Climate Change Service and the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service.

1.4 Definitions and abbreviations

Affiliated Entities	means entities affiliated to a Beneficiary – via legal or capital link – which participate in the Project with similar rights and obligations as the Beneficiaries (obligation to implement project tasks and right to charge costs and claim contributions).
Associated Partners	means entities which participate in the Project, but without the right to charge costs or claim contributions.
Beneficiaries	means entities which are responsible to implement Project tasks and have the right to charge costs and claim contributions and which sign the Grant Agreement (either directly or via accession form).
C3S	means Copernicus Climate Change Service.
CAMS	means Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service.
Copernicus	refers to the Earth observation component of the European Union's Space Programme, looking at our planet and its environment to benefit all European citizens. It offers information services that draw from satellite Earth Observation and in-situ (non-space) data.
Countries	means EU Member States and Copernicus participating Countries.
Deliverable	means a Project output that must be produced by the deadline outlined in the Grant Agreement and submitted to the ECMWF.
EC	means European Commission.
ECMWF	means European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts.
EU	means European Union.
Grant	means a financial contribution by way of donation by ECMWF under the Copernicus Programme.
Grant Agreement Template	refers to terms and conditions for Copernicus Grants through ECMWF.
Milestone	means a control point in the Project that help to chart progress.
NCP	means National Collaboration Programme.
Participants	means all legal entities participating in the Project as Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities, Associated Partners, and Subcontractors (see section 5.2 for details on the roles).

Project	means the set of activities, resources, and funding designed to achieve specific objectives and Results in a defined timeframe and presented in the Proposal to this Call.
Project Implementation	means the phase – following the Grant Agreement signature – when the Project/Grant is executed.
Proposal	means a response to this Call for Proposals
Result	means any tangible or intangible effect of the Project, such as data, know-how or information, whatever its form or nature, whether or not it can be protected, as well as any rights attached to it, including intellectual property rights.
Submission Portal	means the web-based proposal Submission Portal ProContract that the applicants are required to use to submit their Proposal under this Call.

2 SCOPE OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

2.1 Context

The ambition of C3S NCP is to increase the use of C3S data and services at the national level by encouraging innovative applications through the development of climate services, fostering communication on how C3S data informs climate change and its impacts, and enhancing existing workflows that incorporate C3S-provided information. The NCP is a key mechanism to realise this objective as it aims to foster capacity building and co-development of services that directly address information needs for and data gaps in climate information of the collaborating Countries and support them in developing their own tools to respond to European and national policy needs.

Continuous engagement with Countries is facilitated by the C3S NCP Coordination Office. Specifically, it supports the establishment of the C3S NCP Forum, a key platform to facilitate exchange with and among Countries. Furthermore, the C3S NCP Coordination Office assists ECMWF in maintaining continuous bilateral dialogues with the Countries throughout the NCP duration. It is these communications with Countries that underpin the C3S NCP Call for Proposals; identifying priority areas for national collaboration activities, which will be implemented via this and subsequent calls. More information about the C3S NCP can be found at <https://climate.copernicus.eu/c3s-national-collaboration-programme>.

ECMWF invites Proposals for the development and implementation of activities designed to strengthen C3S uptake amongst Countries, in alignment with the C3S mandate as a climate data and information service and in response to both existing and emerging policy requirements at national and EU level.

C3S data, which is published in the [Climate Data Store](#), includes:

- [Observations](#)
 - In-situ observations
 - Satellite Essential Climate Variables
- [Climate reanalyses](#)

- [Seasonal forecasts](#)
- [Climate projections](#)
- [Decadal predictions](#)
- Climate Impact Indicators, including indicators characterising climate extremes.

The NCP Actions, as defined below, will evolve in time as new C3S data, infrastructure, tools and services are published and become available, and through the NCP co-ordination activities, new priorities are identified. Activities carried out by the NCP Coordination Office and feedback from Countries were considered during the preparation of this Call for Proposals. To this end, the C3S NCP Call for Proposals includes dedicated Actions to promote coordination between Countries to help address transnational challenges, including technical, sectorial or geographic, as well as forging partnerships to enhance the development of national climate services.

As in the C3S NCP Call for Action 2024, the C3S NCP Call for Proposals 2025 is oriented around 'Actions' described in the following sections. This Call for Proposals introduces Grants as new funding instrument for the Actions.

2.2 Actions overview

The C3S NCP Call for Proposals 2025 is implemented as 'Actions', oriented around key priorities as identified by NCP preparatory activities via the NCP Coordination Office and the NCP Forum, in addition to C3S priorities (please see the [C3S NCP webpage](#)).

The Actions of the Call for Proposals are:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Action 2025-1 | Direct use of C3S products at the national level |
| Action 2025-2 | Enhance open-access national observation databases |
| Action 2025-3 | Transboundary cooperation to address common challenges |
| Action 2025-4 | Transnational capacity building through twinning |
| Action 2025-5 | Education and learning |

Note that these Actions may be reopened in future calls depending on the interest from Countries.

Common implementation principles

There are common implementation principles across all Actions under this Call for Proposals. Applicants need to ensure that the Proposal is fully aligned with the aims and objectives outlined in this Call for Proposals and that of the broader C3S National Collaboration Programme.

In the Proposals, applicants need to clearly indicate **how the funding is used, the aims, objectives, outcomes and expected impact that the activities have** on 1) uptake of C3S products and services; 2) communication and user outreach potential; 3) how the service is improved or maintained after the end of the Project Implementation.

Uptake of C3S products: The use of C3S products is mandatory across all Actions. The overarching objective of the NCP is to promote uptake of C3S products at the national, sub-national and transnational level (according to the relevant Action) enhancing the capacity of authorities and organisations to integrate C3S products and services into new or existing climate services and to

address key climate-related challenges. Proposals should clearly demonstrate the fit-for-purpose selection of data, articulate how it will be appropriately applied, and outline the intended benefits of its integration.

Communication and user outreach potential: The Project should have strong visibility and the ability to engage a wide audience, including national and European audiences. It must include effective communication strategies to reach and interact with relevant stakeholders within the Countries and, when relevant, beyond. This could include policymakers and the public. Applicants are required to develop a ‘Communication and user outreach plan’, which should consider leverage of multiple channels, such as media, reports, and stakeholder events, to maximise outreach, as well as working with ECMWF to co-develop content for broader outreach. This is mandatory for all the Actions. The Project is encouraged to develop communication materials in national languages to increase awareness of the activities undertaken within the NCP.

Sustainability of service and post-project continuation: The NCP seeks to support the development of operational services which are aligned to priorities at the national level (i.e., promoting issues associated with climate change, including hazards, risk assessment, adaptation policies and sectorial plans, etc., and clear communication of the associated benefits to the relevant stakeholders). Applicants are requested to state how the funded C3S NCP Project leads to concrete follow-up activities at national level. Therefore, the Project should plan continuity beyond its initial funding period, either through integration into existing frameworks, securing additional funding, or building long-term capacity into the project planning. The NCP funded Projects should result in an operational service at the end of the Project or clearly identify how operational status can be achieved after the end of NCP project funding. Therefore, there should be a clear strategy for maintaining and scaling the results, ensuring that benefits are sustained in the long run. Partnerships, governance structures, or institutional commitments should be established within the Project to support long-term service delivery.

2.3 Budget overview

The overall indicative amount made available under the C3S NCP Call for Proposals 2025 is **4.74 million Euro**. The grant will take the form of one single fixed amount (single lump sum), covering all costs of eligible activities linked to the implementation of the Project.

Please note that the table below is intended solely to provide an indicative overview for each Action. For complete and accurate information on the elements required in each Action, you must refer to the relevant sub-sections below.

Action 2025-1 - Direct use of C3S products at the national level	Indicative ECMWF financing amount for each Project: between Euro 120 000 (minimum) and Euro 200 000 (maximum). Indicative number of funded Proposals: 3
Action 2025-2 - Enhance open-access to national observation databases	Indicative ECMWF financing amount for each Project: between Euro 100 000 (minimum) and Euro 120 000 (maximum). Indicative number of funded Proposals: 2

Action 2025-3 - Transboundary cooperation to address common challenges	Indicative ECMWF financing amount for each Project: between Euro 600 000 (minimum) and Euro 800 000 (maximum). Indicative number of funded Proposals: 3
Action 2025-4 - Transnational capacity building through twinning	Indicative ECMWF financing amount for each Project: between Euro 150 000 (minimum) and Euro 300 000 (maximum). Indicative number of funded Proposals: 3
Action 2025-5 - Education and learning	Indicative ECMWF financing amount for each Project: between Euro 150 000 (minimum) and Euro 200 000 (maximum). Indicative number of funded Proposals: 3

3 SCOPE OF THE ACTIONS

3.1 Action 2025-1 – Direct use of C3S products at the national level

Overview

One of the key objectives of the NCP is to promote uptake of C3S products at the national, sub-national and transnational level, supporting the capacity of national authorities to improve their uptake and use of C3S products and services. This Action helps to fulfil this key objective and allows national stakeholders with defined requirements to embed C3S products and services in their workflows to enhance and develop climate services in policy areas such as climate change adaptation, climate risk assessment, clean industry and renewable energy transition and investments towards a climate-resilient society (for example EU strategies such as the [Preparedness Union Strategy](#) can be considered) .

This Action supports those entities with knowledge of C3S products and services, who have identified a gap in their national service provision that could be closed or reduced with C3S datasets or services. Activities can include the development of workflows to incorporate C3S products into new or existing workflows and those that build on top or add additional value to C3S datasets or service. It is intended that the NCP funding is used to embed C3S data in existing operations or support the development of operational climate services that utilise C3S data and services based on national policy priorities and alignment to adopted EU legislation. No datasets or applications developed within Action 2025-1 are to be published in the Climate Data Store (CDS) catalogue.

Applicants shall be legally established in the Country where the services and/or tools are intended to be developed and implemented. The relevant end user(s) - i.e., the competent national authority, agency, or administration - shall always be involved to ensure relevance of project outcomes.

Proposals must incorporate detailed communication and user outreach activities aimed at promoting the project's development, outcomes, and impacts, raising awareness about C3S and the C3S NCP amongst the relevant national stakeholders and users, taking into consideration national language and user-oriented and terminology.

Expected outcomes

- Fostering the development of impactful, user-oriented and operational climate services or tools at the national level. The service will be developed, and impact analysis subsequently produced, to demonstrate the relevance to addressing user needs and requirements.
- Increased awareness of C3S data and services at the national level through implementation of a communication plan. The communication plan will include a 'use case' which details how C3S products were to address national priorities related to climate change. The use case should include arising benefits of the use of C3S and the realised impact of the NCP funding. The use case serves as an example to other national authorities, or even other Countries, of how C3S data and services can be used to enhance national climate services.

Targeted stakeholders

The NCP seeks to identify and address national climate priorities, leading to enhancement of national climate services and support national and European policy implementation and climate resilience. To this aim, the Proposal needs to demonstrate that the identified users, and relevant stakeholders are engaged in the Project, participating in co-design of the NCP activities and validating project outcomes. This approach is critical to ensure successful C3S NCP Projects are aligned with the objectives of the National Collaboration Programme.

Action-specific requirements

- Mono- and multi-beneficiary Grants are allowed (see section '6. Types of Grants').
- Applicants shall be legally established in the Country where the services and/or tools are intended to be developed and implemented.
- The relevant end users - i.e., the competent national authority, agency, or administration - shall always be involved in the Proposal, either as Beneficiary, Affiliated Entity or Associated Partner in a mono- or multi-beneficiary Grant; or by providing a letter of support confirming their involvement in the Proposal.
- Applicants must include in their Proposal all mandatory Deliverables and Milestones as specified in section '4. General requirements for the Actions'.

Project duration: between 18 and 24 months.

Indicative ECMWF funding amount for each Project: between Euro 120 000 (minimum) and Euro 200 000 (maximum).

Indicative number of funded Proposals: 3.

3.2 Action 2025-2 – Enhance open-access to national observation databases

Overview

In-situ observations in the form of reliable, quality-controlled time series are key to understanding the climate system, making better-informed policymaking, and enabling greater outreach, specifically linked to the analyses of climate change impacts, trends and extremes, especially at the regional and local scales. The main objective of this Action is to contribute directly to enhancing national capacity as well as C3S, with integrated databases of observations that feed into climate reanalyses and other

national or C3S applications. This Action populates C3S's public-facing Data Rescue repository with unique historical observations that were previously unavailable.

This Action covers four steps, specific requirements for each step are outlined below.

Step 1. Data Rescue of Historical Surface Weather Observations Over Land: Observations to be rescued shall be describing the weather and climate elements over land, at the surface and be reported at sub-daily or daily frequencies. To support this step, ECMWF has implemented through C3S a new Data Rescue Service, with an emphasis on historical weather surface observations from land stations at <https://datarescue.climate.copernicus.eu/c3s-data-rescue-service>. Since merging with the World Meteorological Organisation International Data Rescue (I-DARE) Portal in 2024, this new service enhances global coordination and the overall effectiveness of data rescue efforts. The portal provides comprehensive details on both past and ongoing data rescue projects; best practice guidelines and standards; tools to support digitisation and quality control. Applicants are instructed to consider these guidelines and standards when engaging in data rescue actions. Also, once the Project starts, a corresponding entry shall be logged into the C3S Data Rescue Service at <https://datarescue.climate.copernicus.eu/Data-Rescue-Project>.

Step 2. Serving Open-access Data: For NCP Participants in the EU, the rescued data shall fall under the scope of the EU Open Data Directive and its Implementing Regulation (Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2023/138 of 21 December 2022 laying down a list of specific high-value datasets and the arrangements for their publication and re-use - Text with EEA relevance - available at http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2023/138/oj), the rescued data shall be input to national databases that are exposed via national mechanisms (i.e., via an Application Programming Interface, or directly to C3S via its Data Deposition Service <https://datarescue.climate.copernicus.eu/rescued-data-upload-service-global-repositories>).

Step 3. Station Registration: Where possible, the land stations where the data originate from shall be registered on the World Meteorological Organization Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) Oscar/Surface platform. The National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) of the Country shall be contacted for this step. This requires providing minimal station metadata. In case the station is already registered, this step is not needed. In case where the NMHS of the territory changed, this step may be delayed until an agreement is found with the NMHS that is presently in charge, but then the applicant shall ensure the station metadata are published elsewhere. The rescued data will, in part, support ECMWF's next generations of reanalysis and those activities which depend on data rescue activities. The Action contributes to the characterisation of past climate, for Europe and beyond. This station registration step is important to ensure high-level visibility and awareness. It is also part of supporting the case for continuing observations.

Step 4. Showing Impact: Applicants are encouraged to define a 'use case' to be implemented within the Project. This use case shall include an 'end user' of the information realised by making this data readily available and accessible to national users – focusing on impact created by the NCP funding at the national level. This use case is published on the C3S webpages and used for communication by ECMWF.

Targeted stakeholders

The NCP seeks to identify national priorities and relevant stakeholders and demonstrate how NCP-funded Projects improve open access to previously unavailable weather observations.

Expected outcomes

- Preservation of previously unavailable historical observations, especially for the pre-satellite era and for data-sparse regions, to augment national and C3S' in-situ observation data offers.
- Improved access and uptake of continuous national observations, supporting domestic applications and climate services.

Action-specific requirements

- Mono- and multi-beneficiary Grants are allowed (see section '6. Types of Grants').
- Applicants shall be legally established in the Country where the services and/or tools are intended to be developed and implemented.
- The relevant end users - i.e., the competent national authority, agency, or administration - shall always be involved in the Proposal, either as Beneficiary, Affiliated Entity or Associated Partner in a mono- or multi-beneficiary Grant; or by providing a letter of support confirming their involvement in the Proposal.
- Applicants must include in their Proposal all mandatory Deliverables and Milestones as specified in section '4. General requirements for the Actions'. Furthermore, applicants shall consider specific Milestone defined in Step 1 as outlined above. Applicants are instructed to account for the appropriate guidelines and standards when engaging in data rescue actions. Also, once the Project starts, a corresponding entry shall be logged into the C3S Data Rescue Service.

Project duration: between 12 and 24 months.

Indicative ECMWF funding amount for each Project: between Euro 100 000 (minimum) and Euro 120 000 (maximum).

Indicative number of funded Proposals: 2.

3.3 Action 2025-3 –Transboundary cooperation to address common challenges

Overview

The main objective of this Action is to utilise C3S products and services to address transboundary challenges and promote coordination between Countries and the joint development of regional solutions. Proposals' topics are open and should reflect the common priorities of the Countries, which could include implementation of existing and emerging EU legislation, strategies and policy or specific regional agreements between Countries in Europe (for example project outcomes could support the new [Water resilience strategy](#) or [Biodiversity strategy for 2030](#)).

Priority areas expected to be addressed by this Action include common specific geographical challenges, including for example transboundary river catchments, coastal zones, mountain ranges, etc., or specific common sectorial issues, including for example transboundary biodiversity and ecosystem protection needs, joint needs for agricultural and forestry, regional off-shore and on-shore renewable energy and network investments, etc.

Transboundary coordination between neighbouring, or a group of neighbouring Countries (e.g. Countries within a shared agro-climatic region) to address region-specific technical implementation challenges is also within scope of the Action. For example, the verification of seasonal predictions, downscaling challenges are also in scope. However, these must be clearly aligned to the objectives of the NCP, and the Projects must lead to the uptake of C3S products and promotion of the C3S and Copernicus Programme.

All Proposals need to clearly articulate the potential impact that the Project may have on improving transboundary services and information flows. The expectation is that no datasets or applications developed under Action 2025-3 are to be published in the Climate Data Store (CDS) catalogue.

Expected outcomes

- Strengthen knowledge and/or technical capabilities in the use of C3S products within regional bodies and organisations that have a mandate to address transboundary challenges.
- Enhanced cooperation and communication between relevant stakeholders - including public administrations, research institutions, academia, private sector - within the target transboundary region.
- Clear communication of the realised benefits, outcomes and achievements across the transboundary region and in participating Countries. The development of communication materials in national languages, as well as English for joint communication material, to help fulfil the aims and objectives of the NCP and Project is expected.
- Empower national and transboundary expert users.
- Enhanced sharing of knowledge, dialogues and demonstrable technical progress versus status quo, including on communication and user outreach across the transboundary region.
- Promoting and increasing awareness of C3S data and services at the transboundary level through implementation of a communication plan. This should include a 'use case' showing how C3S funding has been used to address a priority transboundary challenge. The use case serves as an example to other transboundary regions of how C3S data and services can be used to enhance regional climate services and climate resilience.

Targeted stakeholders

The NCP seeks to identifying transboundary priorities and stakeholders, and demonstrate how the NCP funded Action, through the enhanced use of climate C3S data and information supports European policy implementation and climate resilience in European transboundary regions. The Proposal needs to demonstrate that the identified regional stakeholders are engaged in the Project and are participating in the co-design of the NCP activities and validating project outcomes. This approach is critical to ensure successful C3S NCP Projects are aligned with the objectives of the National Collaboration Programme.

Action-specific requirements

- Only multi-beneficiary Grants are allowed (see section '6. Types of Grants').
- The Proposal must be transboundary (see section '6. Types of Grants'). For the multi-beneficiary Proposals to be eligible, the application shall include at least two Beneficiaries established in two different Countries among the EU Member States and the Copernicus

participating Countries. The Countries participating in the Proposals need to share a land border, or a natural feature such as a river, lake, sea, mountain range, or coastal zone.

- The relevant end users - i.e., the competent international authority, agency, or administration (e.g. Alpine Convention; Union for the Mediterranean; International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River etc.) - shall always be involved in the Proposal, either as a Beneficiary, Affiliated Entity, or Associated Partner, or by providing a letter of support confirming their involvement in the Proposal.
- In addition, only for Proposals submitted under Action 2025-3, participation with no funding – if justified in the Proposal and approved by the EC – is allowed for legal entities from the following countries: Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Switzerland and Türkiye. **Their participation should be justified according to ALL the following three criteria:**
 1. Thematic relevance: the country is directly relevant, and geographically within the transboundary area of interest. The inclusion is justified for the implementation of a regional solution.
 2. Capacity and cooperation: the entities legally established in those countries should have the capacity to meaningfully contribute to and add value to the project outcomes. Their participation could be either as observers or directly enhance project impact through activities such as data sharing, scientific collaboration, and stakeholder engagement.
 3. Environmental and/or Climate Policy Representation: the country participates in, or aligns with, regional and/or European policy frameworks and facilitates its implementation. Other countries not listed above may be considered under exceptional circumstances, provided that strong justification is given and ALL three eligibility criteria outlined above are fulfilled.
- If duly justified in the Proposal and approved by the EC, International organisations of European Interest (i.e. international organisations the majority of whose members are EU Member States or whose headquarters are in an EU Member State) are also eligible to participate with no funding in Action 2025-3.
- Applicants must include in their Proposal all mandatory Deliverables and Milestones as specified in section '4. General requirements for the Actions'.

Project duration: between 18 and 24 months.

Indicative ECMWF funding amount for each Project: between Euro 600 000 (minimum) and Euro 800 000 (maximum).

Indicative number of funded Proposals: 3.

3.4 Action 2025-4 – Transnational capacity building through twinning

Overview

The Action on twinning aims to foster cooperation between national public administrations and agencies through peer-to-peer exchanges between Beneficiaries (hereafter referred to as 'twinning partners'). The objective is to share knowledge and good practices on the operational use of C3S products and services at national level, thereby strengthening the technical and institutional capacity

of twinning partners in support of climate resilience efforts, for example EU and European Investment Bank strategies to enhance and invest in Europe's preparedness and resilience against climate change impacts in critical sectors, such as water, energy infrastructure, health. The Action promotes the development of long-term cooperation between twinning partners and with ECMWF, including beyond the duration of the Project.

Proposals are strongly encouraged to include in the consortium two types of twinning partners: (a) those with well-established climate services, or key capabilities, and (b) those with less well-established climate services, or those that require key capabilities, provided they share the same or a similar institutional mandate.

Twinning partners of type (a) typically have established workflows, mature climate services, and direct experience in the use of C3S data. They often have demonstrated capacity in delivering technical training and show an intrinsic motivation to build long-term, peer-based relationships with other relevant national public administrations and agencies.

Twinning partners of type (b) typically have enough staff and institutional capacity to engage meaningfully with peers of type (a). They also show an intrinsic motivation to build long-term, peer-based relationships with other relevant national public administrations and agencies.

The primary aim of the Action is to enhance the capacity of twinning partners of type (b). The Proposal must clearly address how the expertise and capabilities of twinning partners of type (a) can allow twinning partners of type (b) to address existing gaps in their national climate service provision. The needs and requirements that underpin the twinning need to be articulated in the Proposal.

Both types of twinning partners should demonstrate in the Proposal strong commitment to facilitate the knowledge exchange as well as ensure the sustainable use of the knowledge gathered. This type of cooperation, involving complementary roles of partners (a) and (b), aims to strengthen the overall technical and institutional capacity of all twinning partners. The respective capacities and commitments of both types must be clearly described and demonstrated in the Proposal. Action 2025-4 on Twinning is not a one-way technical training or knowledge transfer activity, but a shared commitment based on co-design, co-development, and "learning by doing", supported by continuous exchange of good practices among peers.

Twinning arrangements typically involve two Beneficiaries from two Countries, but participation of several Countries is also possible where fully justified. This may be particularly relevant for capacity building on regional climate prediction modelling, such as verification of multi-model seasonal forecasts for national or regional applications.

The Project should be implemented in three distinct phases:

Phase 1. Induction phase: The proposed experts from the twinning partners of type (a) should attend an induction event at ECMWF to ensure that they are aligned with C3S core datasets and associated services as well as create links with ECMWF experts. This induction event ensures that all consortium members in the Project can make use of the latest C3S products to maximise impact from the NCP activities.

Phase 2. Peer-to-peer exchange phase: Knowledge exchange imparts expertise between all the twinning partners involved in the Project. This can be implemented in multiple ways, including training sessions, secondments and fellowships, technical workshops, joint technical developments, access to experts or a combination of these to foster good practice and further the update of C3S products by the twinning partners of type (b).

Phase 3. Demonstration phase: Demonstration phase takes the outcomes of phase 2 and realises the new capacities within the twinning partners of type (b), in the creation of new workflows or services. The demonstration phase provides the opportunity to allow the impact of the twinning Project to be realized and showcase the added value of the NCP activities. The demonstration phase leads to either a demonstrator or operational service. Where operational status cannot be achieved within the Project, the Project is to detail the additional activities and timeframes to achieve operationalisation.

Expected outcomes

- Demonstratable evidence of the uptake and added value (impact) of C3S products by the Beneficiary (twinning partners of type (b)).
- Enhanced technical expertise in the Country where twinning partners of type (b) are established to (further) develop national capabilities and technical competencies in an area relevant to promoting climate resilience. The twinning activity directly leads to enhanced climate services and/or tools.
- Improved coordination and peer-to-peer knowledge exchange between Countries resulting in co-design and co-development of best-practice, optimisation of workflows and uptake of C3S data that underpin the provision of domestic climate services and leading to enhanced climate resilience.
- Benefits for the twinning partners of type (a) through, amongst others, lessons learned on the applicability of workflows and tools in different contexts, benefits for own internal developments, verification and quality control and the collection user requirements.
- Training and communication material developed in national languages to ensure longevity and re-use of the twinning activities into the future, allowing new talent to build on project outcomes.

No datasets or applications developed in Action 2025-4 are to be published in the Climate Data Store (CDS) catalogue. Upon agreement with ECMWF, developed training material can however be made available via ECMWF's learning platform. Costs to make this possible shall be covered by the twinning partners.

Targeted stakeholders

The NCP seeks to identifying national priorities and appropriate stakeholders, and demonstrate how the NCP funded Projects, through twinning and knowledge exchange activities can lead to enhancement of national climate data and information to support national and European policy implementation and climate resilience and promotion of C3S products. The Proposal needs to demonstrate that the identified stakeholders are engaged in the Project and are participating in co-design of the NCP activities and validating project outcomes. This approach is critical to ensure successful C3S NCP Projects are aligned with the objectives of the NCP programme.

Action-specific requirements

- Only multi-beneficiary Grants are allowed (see section '6. Types of Grants').
- The Proposal must be transnational (see section '6. Types of Grants'). For the multi-beneficiary Proposals to be eligible, the application shall include at least two Beneficiaries established in two different Countries among the EU Member States and the Copernicus participating Countries.

- The relevant end users - i.e., the competent national authority, agency, or administration - shall always be involved in the Proposal, either as a Beneficiary, Affiliated Entity, or Associated Partner in the multi-beneficiary Grant; or by providing a letter of support confirming their involvement in the Proposal. Applicants must include in their Proposal the following mandatory activity: key staff of twinning partners of type (a) to attend training and orientation sessions at ECMWF premises (Bonn) to ensure comprehensive knowledge of the C3S service (datasets and infrastructure). This orientation event is an opportunity to learn from, and engage with, C3S staff and training providers. Applicants are expected to budget for a total of 3 days for the training and orientation sessions, and participations of at least 2 representatives per Project is required.
- All twinning partners (of both type (a) and (b)) must have the resources in place to ensure realisation of project goals. Type (b) needs to have a minimum level of capacity (number of staff, qualifications) to absorb the provided inputs and guidance from type (a).
- Applicants must include in their Proposal all mandatory Deliverables and Milestones as specified in section '4. General requirements for the Actions'.

Project duration: between 18 and 24 months.

Indicative ECMWF funding amount for each Project: between Euro 150 000 (minimum) and Euro 300 000 (maximum)

Indicative number of funded Proposals: 3.

3.5 Action 2025-5 – Education and learning

Overview

The main objective of this Action is to create learning and educational resources to facilitate the use and interpretation of C3S products to new audiences, upskill key stakeholders (and their staff) and raise awareness of the use of C3S at the national level. The Action aims at educating on the use of C3S data and services, and in the case of knowledge transfer focused projects, leading to further use and uptake of C3S data as well as addressing challenges associated with climate change. In keeping with the spirit of the NCP, the developed learning materials must be based on C3S data. However, data integration with national datasets is within scope. Where appropriate, engagement of international recognised organisations for climate change education (e.g. [Office for Climate Education \(OCE\)](#), [Foundation for Environmental Education \(FEE\)](#), etc.) is encouraged to enhance standardisation and integration within wider education programmes. Example audiences may include:

- Students in their final cycle at secondary school, bachelor and/or master programmes, in line with national curriculum requirements.
- City or regional public authorities, responsible for tasks on climate change adaptation, heat and health management, renewable energy transition, etc.
- Staff of national public authorities and agencies.

Upon agreement with ECMWF, developed education and learning material can be made available via ECMWF's learning platform based on gaps in existing training resources and relevance to the audience. Costs to make this possible shall be covered by the Project.

Expected outcomes

- Development of high-quality educational resources, developed in the applicant's national language (as appropriate) to promote national uptake; leading to dedicated materials that support national curricula that lead to enhanced educational and training outcomes whilst promoting awareness of climate change and the C3S programme.
- Adoption of project outcomes in resources used by recognised educational bodies and national bodies in the implementing Country.

Targeted stakeholders

The NCP seeks to identify national, or transnational priorities and relevant stakeholders for education and learning activities and demonstrate how the NCP funded Projects, through the development of high-quality, impactful educational resources, lead to enhanced learning outcome and development of expertise. The outcomes of which further the development of climate knowledge, information or services that support national and policy implementation and climate resilience. The Proposal needs to demonstrate that the identified stakeholders are engaged in the project and are participating in co-design of the NCP activities and validating project outcomes. This approach is critical to ensure successful C3S NCP Projects are aligned with the objectives of the National Collaboration Programme.

Action-specific requirements

- Mono- and multi-beneficiary Grants are allowed (see section '6. Types of Grants').
- Where the Proposal develops resources that support specific organisations (i.e., international recognised organisations for climate change education - e.g., [Office for Climate Education](#) (OCE), [Foundation for Environmental Education](#) (FEE), etc.), accreditation bodies, etc., the relevant entity/entities shall always be involved in the Proposal, either: as a Beneficiary, Affiliated Entity or Associated Partner in a multi-beneficiary Grant, or by providing a letter of support confirming their involvement in the Proposal.
- Applicants must include in their Proposal all mandatory Deliverables and Milestones as specified in section '4. General requirements for the Actions'.

Project duration: between 12 and 18 months.

Indicative ECMWF funding amount for each Project: between Euro 150 000 (minimum) and Euro 200 000 (maximum).

Indicative number of funded Proposals: 3.

4 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ACTIONS

4.1 Mandatory Deliverables

The following Deliverables are mandatory and must be included in all Proposals.

Mandatory Deliverable	Submission time
Updated Service Specification and Project Plan	By month 6 of the Project Implementation (or by month 4 if the Project is less than 18 months long)

Communication and User Outreach Plan	By month 6 of the Project Implementation (or by month 4 if the Project is less than 18 months long)
Impact and Service Status Report	3 months before the end of the Project Implementation (or 1 month before the end of the Project if the Project is less than 18 months long)
Use case	Before the end of the Project Implementation
Quarterly Implementation Reports	Every quarter from the start to end of the Project Implementation

Updated Service Specification and Project Plan

Starting from the Service Specification and Project Plan outlined in the Proposal, the Project undertakes a thorough stakeholder analysis, followed by an assessment of user needs and requirements. This work results in the Deliverable Updated Service Specification and Project Plan which will:

- Define the requirements, including user, data, service requirements that define the NCP outputs.
- Define technical workflows and service to be developed within the NCP Project.
- Update the assessment of risks.
- Finalise stakeholder and user engagement plans.

This Deliverable is required for Actions 2025-1, 2025-3, 2025-4, and 2025-5. The Deliverable is NOT mandatory for Action 2025-2.

Communication and User Outreach Plan

This Deliverable informs ECMWF on how the Project develops a strategy and materials for awareness raising, including both wide and targeted user outreach and promotion. This Deliverable:

- Details how the Project raises awareness and promotes the use of C3S products and services at the national level, to a broad audience as well as to specific groups of potential users, e.g. national administrations and agencies and linked topic centres.
- Details how the Project allows ECMWF to communicate the activities and expected impacts arising from the Project (for example how the NCP Projects are supporting EU environmental policy and strategies).

This Deliverable is required for all the Actions.

Impact and Service Status Report

The report summarises the developments, assesses the outcomes of the activities in terms of meeting the user needs and requirements and summarises user feedback (including testimonials) and status of the service at the end of the Project. This Deliverable focuses on the **added value** the Project has had on the user community, and particularly the national, transboundary or transnational priorities and policy. This report provides an outlook on potential follow up actions to continue or operationalise the Project development(s) and must provide ECMWF with feedback arising from the implementation

of the Project. Feedback loops are critically important to allow the evolution of C3S. Therefore, this report should include any lessons learnt and new requirements arising from Project Implementation; including service and data fitness for purpose and data gaps, which will feed into the C3S User Requirement Database (URDB) and help inform evolution of C3S.

This Deliverable is required for all the Actions.

Use case

The Project is expected to deliver a minimum of one ‘use case’, a publishable summary of how the NCP activities have demonstrated value and impact to the Country (or in the case of Action 2025-3, transboundary region). The use case should include how C3S products and services have been used to enhance existing workflows, and in the case of technical development activities, the processing steps undertaken. The use case should showcase the added value to users or impacts related to new operating practices arising from the funded NCP activities to realise user requirements relation to national climate priorities or policy relevance. The use case showcases the activities and impact realised by the Project and serves as an example to other national authorities, or even other Countries, of how C3S data and services can be used to enhance national climate services.

This Deliverable is required for all the Actions.

Quarterly Implementation Reports

The report is a brief publishable summary of progress of each quarter of Project Implementation. ECMWF will provide a template at Grant Agreement Preparation stage.

Those Deliverables are required for all the Actions.

4.2 Mandatory Milestones

The following Milestones are mandatory and must be included by default in all Proposals.

Mandatory Milestones	Achievement time
Participation in the ECMWF Grantees’ Info-Day	Expected in March 2026
Organise Project Kick-off Meeting with ECMWF	By the end of month 1 of the Project Implementation
Organise Project Interim Review Meeting with ECMWF	Within 60 days after the end of the interim reporting period
Organise Project Final Review Meeting with ECMWF	Within 60 days after the end of the final reporting period
Organise Progress Meetings with ECMWF	Up to 4 Progress meetings during the Project Implementation
Participation in the C3S NCP Forums	Twice per calendar year
Participation and Presentation of the NCP Activity at C3S events	Once per calendar year upon ECMWF request
Participation in Technical/Expert Workshops on an ad-hoc basis	Once per calendar year upon ECMWF request

ECMWF Grantees' Info-Day

The Grantees' Info-Day (online), organised by ECMWF, provides an overview of the legal, financial, administrative, technical, and project management requirements applicable during Project Implementation to support the successful implementation of the projects and ensure a common understanding of applicable rules and obligations.

Online Project Kick-off Meeting with ECMWF

The project Beneficiaries will organise the kick-off meeting to present the overview of Project Implementation to ECMWF stakeholders.

Project Interim Review Meeting with ECMWF

The project Beneficiaries will organise the interim review meeting to present the technical and financial progress of the Project.

Project Final Review Meeting with ECMWF

The project Beneficiaries will organise the final review meeting to present the technical and financial outcome of the Project.

Progress Meetings with ECMWF

The project Beneficiaries will organise up to 4 progress meetings with ECMWF to be held during the Project Implementation. The number of progress meetings and timeline are set in the Grant Agreement signed with ECMWF and depends on the duration of the Project.

Participation in the C3S NCP Forums

The NCP Coordination Office organises two NCP Forums annually: one held as an in-person event in conjunction with the C3S General Assembly typically in June, and another held as an online event typically in November. Participation in both events is mandatory for all Projects in every calendar year.

Participation and Presentation of the NCP Activity at C3S events

The participation and presentation of NCP activity at C3S events such as User Day, Copernicus Services NCP showcase event, etc., may be required by ECMWF. Participation is mandatory for all Projects once every calendar year upon request of ECMWF.

Participation in Technical/Expert Workshops on an ad-hoc basis

The C3S NCP Coordination Office also organises technical/expert workshops on an ad-hoc basis. Depending on the scope, participation and contributions may be required by ECMWF. Participation is mandatory for all Projects once every calendar year upon request of ECMWF.

Concerning the meetings, events, and workshops listed above, please note that these may be held either online or in-person. Applicants are expected to budget for a total of 5 days per year, with 2 participants per meeting.

5 ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION

5.1 Eligible Entities

According to the Contribution Agreement between the European Union and ECMWF, participation in the Call for Proposals shall preferably be open to legal entities established in Member States of the European Union and to legal entities established in Copernicus participating states in accordance with the conditions laid down in the [EU's Space Programme Regulation](#).

It is currently ECMWF's expectation that, in practice, entities established in other states may exceptionally be eligible and subject to specific scientific or other requirements (as specified in this Call for Proposals under each Action), as well as express prior approval by the European Commission. This applies to Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities, Associated Partners, Subcontractors, and any other third party involved in the Project.

ONLY under Action 2025-3, if duly justified in the Proposal (see section 3.3) and upon approval of the European Commission:

- Legal entities from Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Switzerland and Türkiye are also eligible to participate as Associated Partners.
- International organisations of European Interest (i.e., international organisations the majority of whose members are EU Member States or whose headquarters are in an EU Member State) are also eligible to participate as Associated Partners.

If, at the time of Grant Agreement signature, the European Commission's approval is still pending, the status of the entities above will no longer be of Associated Partners in the Project. They may, however, still potentially support the Project as external stakeholders.

5.2 Roles in the project proposal

The C3S NCP Call for Proposals 2025 entails different types of participation in the Proposal:

- Beneficiary
- Coordinator
- Affiliated Entity
- Associated Partner
- Subcontractors

A brief overview of the roles is provided below. Please refer to the Grant Agreement Template for detailed information on the rights and obligations of each role.

Beneficiary

The Beneficiary is legally responsible for the Project Implementation by signing the Grant Agreement with ECMWF. There is always a Beneficiary of the Grant; whereas – if not required for the implementation of the Grant – there can be Grants without other roles such as Affiliated Entities, Associated Partners, and Subcontractors. In case of Grants with multiple Beneficiaries, they are jointly responsible of the grant implementation. The coordinating organisation signs the Grant Agreement and the other Beneficiaries sign the accession forms to the Grant Agreement with ECMWF.

Coordinator

The Beneficiary coordinating the proposal preparation and the grant implementation – on behalf of and mandated by other Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities and Associated Partners – is defined as Coordinator. If awarded, the Coordinator is responsible for project monitoring and administration of the financial contribution. The Coordinator is the main point of contact with ECMWF at proposal preparation stage, as well as at grant implementation stage. Even in case of a mono-beneficiary grant with no other Participants, that Beneficiary is considered the Coordinator.

Affiliated Entities

Affiliated Entities are entities with a legal or capital link to a Beneficiary (which is neither limited to the Project nor established for the sole purpose of its implementation) which participate in the Project with similar rights and obligations to the Beneficiaries, but which do not sign the Grant Agreement and therefore do not become Beneficiaries themselves. Affiliate Entities are eligible for participation and funding.

Associated Partners

Associated Partners are entities which participate in the Project with no funding and without signing the Grant Agreement with ECMWF. They may not charge costs or contributions to the Project, and the costs for their tasks are not eligible. They might be stakeholders with an interest in the Project but limited or no active participation in the implementation. They might be entities from third countries not eligible to receive funding from ECMWF, but who can participate with their own funds (see Action 2025-3).

Subcontractors

Subcontracting refers to contracts concluded for the externalisation of specific tasks or activities which form part of the Project. Beneficiaries must have the necessary operational capacity to perform the Project themselves, and they remain solely responsible for the implementation of the Project. Subcontracting should be exceptional and not cover core activities. Therefore, subcontracting should be limited to clearly defined parts of the Project and must not exceed the 20% cap of the total eligible costs. Subcontractors can be identified during the preparation of the Proposal, or during the Project Implementation.

6 TYPES OF GRANTS

6.1 Mono-beneficiary and multi-beneficiary Grants

The Proposal shall clearly identify the list of Participants involved in the Project, as well as their roles. Depending on the specific requirements of the Action, two types of Grants are allowed:

- Mono-beneficiary Grants
- Multi-beneficiary Grants

Mono-beneficiary Grant

Mono-beneficiary is when a Proposal, and a Grant if awarded, has a single Beneficiary. The mono-beneficiary Proposal can include one entity as Beneficiary, but it may also include other types of Participants such as Affiliated Entities, Associated Partners and Subcontractors. This is still a mono-beneficiary Proposal as the Beneficiary will be the only one signing the Grant Agreement with ECMWF,

and therefore the sole organisation responsible for the grant implementation. In a mono-beneficiary Grant, the sole Beneficiary assumes the role of Coordinator.

Multi-beneficiary Grant

Multi-beneficiary is when a Proposal, and a Grant if awarded, involves at least two Beneficiaries. Beside the two Beneficiaries, the Proposal can include other type of Participants such as Affiliated Entities, Associated Partners and Subcontractors. In multi-beneficiary Grants, the Coordinator needs to be clearly identified and it is responsible for the submission of the application and is the contact point for ECMWF. In the case of award of a multi-beneficiary Grant, a consortium agreement among the Participants may be required by ECMWF during the Grant Agreement Preparation stage.

Under Action 2025-1, Action 2025-2 and Action 2025-5, both mono-beneficiary and multi-beneficiary Grants are allowed. Under Action 2025-3 and Action 2025-4, only multi-beneficiary Grants are allowed.

6.2 Transnational and transboundary Grants

Transnational Grant

In order to be considered a transnational Grant, the Proposal must involve the participation of at least two legal entities – participating as Beneficiaries – that must be independent from each other. Each Beneficiary must be legally established in a different Country among the EU Member States and the Copernicus participating Countries. The Countries involved are not required to be geographically proximate. For example, in the case of a consortium composed of two Beneficiaries, one may be established in a Northern European Country and the other in a Southern European Country. Other types of participation are also allowed (Affiliated Entities, Associated Partners and Subcontractors).

Transboundary Grant

In order to be considered a transboundary Grant, the Proposal must involve the participation of at least two legal entities – participating as Beneficiaries – that must be independent from each other. Each Beneficiary must be legally established in a different Country – among the EU Member States and the Copernicus participating Countries – and Countries need to be geographically proximate. Geographical proximity means that participating Countries are part of the same continuous cross-border area. This can be based on land border, as well as on shared natural feature such as a river, lake, sea, mountain range, or coastal zone. Other types of participation are also allowed (Affiliated Entities, Associated Partners and Subcontractors).

7 FUNDING PROVISION

The ECMWF financial contribution under the C3S NCP Call for Proposals will be awarded as a lump sum.

7.1 Lump Sum Grant

For lump sum Grants, the payment of the lump sum contribution will be based on the work carried out and reported. The lump sum contribution will cover the Coordinator's, Beneficiaries' and Affiliated Entities' expected eligible (direct and indirect) costs for the Project. If the Project is implemented properly, the amounts will be paid regardless of the costs actually incurred. The grant amount is fixed and the contribution will be paid out after the end of the reporting periods if the work is completed.

The work to be completed includes the activities described as part of the objectives, Milestones, and Deliverables that are linked to the Work Packages of the Proposal (Annex I – Technical Description).

A detailed budget per each Coordinator/Beneficiary/Affiliated Entity and per each Work Package is required at application stage (Annex II – Estimated Budget). The detailed budget of the Proposal should be based on cost estimations, and it will be the basis to define and justify the lump sum. The cost estimations must be an approximation of the Coordinator's, Beneficiaries' and Affiliated Entities' actual costs and they must be:

- in line with the same eligibility rules as in actual costs Grants as defined in the Grant Agreement Template Section 6.1 (a).
- in line with the Coordinator's, Beneficiaries' and Affiliated Entities' normal practices.
- reasonable/not excessive.
- in line with and necessary for the activities proposed.

Cost estimations that are clearly overestimated or underestimated will lead to a decreased score in the evaluation of the Proposal under the award criterion concerned (See sub-section 8.5). Following the result of the evaluation and the recommendations of the evaluators, the overall lump sum is fixed in the Grant Agreement. Once awarded, lump sum contributions will not require costs reporting.

7.2 Budget categories

The budget categories are:

- A. Personnel costs;
- B. Travel, accommodation and subsistence;
- C. Computing;
- D. Other direct costs;
- E. Subcontracting;
- F. Indirect costs.

Indirect costs are a 25% flat-rate of the total direct costs (A, B, C and D), excluding the direct costs for subcontracting (E).

Subcontracting costs can be up to 20% of the total costs (direct + indirect). Exceptionally, if duly justified in the Proposal, the 20% cap may be exceeded. If the contribution of the Subcontractors is critical for the Project Implementation, please also consider involving them as Beneficiary. Subcontractors may be identified in the Proposal, but this is not mandatory. It is sufficient that the tasks to be subcontracted and the corresponding estimated costs are clearly described in the Proposal. The identification of specific Subcontractor(s) may take place during Project Implementation, in accordance with applicable procurement principles and subject to the relevant checks and formal approval by ECMWF.

The estimated budget of the Project must be expressed in EURO. In case the 'total costs' differ from the 'requested ECMWF contribution', specify what is funded from other sources (see 'Annex I –

Technical Description’, Section 3 table ‘Additional resources and contributions not costed on the proposal budget’).

7.3 Maximum grant amount

The maximum grant amount awarded by ECMWF may differ from the requested ECMWF contribution in the Proposal. Request for changes – if any – will be part of the Grant Agreement Preparation phase.

8 SELECTION PROCESS

ECMWF evaluates each Proposal based on the information provided by the applicants in the application submitted in reply to this Call for Proposals, and the answers provided in the Submission Portal.

The selection process has two phases:

- Checks on admissibility and eligibility criteria for participation, for exclusion, and financial capacity assessment;
- Evaluation of award criteria, including estimated budget and operational capacity.

At any stage, ECMWF may ask applicants to provide additional information/supporting documents and/or to clarify the documents submitted in connection with the Proposal.

The Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities, Associated Partners, and Subcontractors must be and remain eligible for the entire duration of the Project (see sections 8.2, 8.3 and 8.4 below).

8.1 Admissibility criteria

- Applications must be submitted before the call deadline.
- Applications must be submitted electronically via the submission system which can be accessed via <https://procurement.ecmwf.int>. Paper submissions are not possible.
- The Coordinator – on behalf of and mandated by all applicants – must respond to all items in the online questionnaire in the Submission Portal, providing, where applicable, the application form, supporting documents and any other required document.
- Applications must be submitted using the forms provided in the submission system and in the Call Package.
- Applications must be complete and contain all parts and supporting documents required.
- Applications must be readable, accessible and printable.
- Page limits will apply to ‘Annex I - Technical Description.’ The limit for ‘Annex I - Technical Description’ is 35 pages (excluding the cover and ‘Appendix 1 – Operational Capacity of Project Participants’). If ‘Annex I - Technical Description’ exceeds the 35-page limit, excess pages will not be taken into consideration by the evaluators.
- Applications must be written in English.

8.2 Eligibility criteria

Entities eligible for funding

According to the Contribution Agreement between the European Union and ECMWF, participation in this Call for Proposals shall preferably be open to legal entities established in Member States of the European Union and in Copernicus participating States in accordance with the conditions laid down in the EU's Space Programme Regulation. It is currently ECMWF's expectation that, in practice, legal entities established in other countries may exceptionally be eligible and subject to specific scientific or other requirements (as specified in this Call for Proposals, as well as express prior approval by the European Commission). This applies to Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities, Associated Partners, and Subcontractors. Accordingly, ECMWF is required to reserve the right to exclude legal entities from calls at any point in time. All Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities, Associated Partners, and Subcontractors must meet all eligibility criteria throughout the entire duration of the Grant award procedures as well as throughout the entire duration of the implementation of their Grant Agreements signed with ECMWF.

Multi-beneficiary Grants

In addition to the criteria above, only legal entities forming a consortium are eligible to participate in Action 2025-3 and Action 2025-4 provided that the consortium includes, as Beneficiaries, two legal entities independent from each other and each established in a different Country eligible to participate in Copernicus. As Affiliated Entities do not sign the Grant Agreement, they do not count towards the minimum eligibility criteria for consortium composition. In addition, for Action 2025-3 Countries needs to be geographically proximate (see section '6. Types of Grants').

Entities eligible to participate with no funding

ONLY under Action 2025-3, if duly justified in the Proposal (see section 3.3) and upon approval of the European Commission, the following entities are eligible to participate as Associated Partners:

- Legal entities established in the following countries: Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Switzerland and Türkiye.
- International organisations of European Interest (i.e., international organisations the majority of whose members are EU Member States or whose headquarters are in an EU Member State).

8.3 Financial and operational capacity

Financial capacity

Applicants must have stable and sufficient resources to successfully implement the Projects throughout the period during which the Project is carried out. The applicants' financial capacity is assessed based on the 'Declaration Form for Economic and Financial Capacity', included in the Supporting Documents of the Call Package. The 'Declaration Form for Economic and Financial Capacity' must be submitted by all Beneficiaries and Affiliated Entities with the Proposal. If ECMWF considers that the financial capacity is not satisfactory, it may require: further information; an enhanced financial responsibility regime, i.e. joint and several responsibility of Affiliated Entities; prefinancing paid in instalments; or propose no prefinancing; request that the applicant concerned is replaced or, if needed, reject the entire Proposal.

Operational capacity

Applicants must have the know-how, qualifications and resources to successfully implement their tasks in the Project and contribute their share (including, when appropriate, sufficient experience in comparable projects). This assessment of operational capacity will be carried out during the evaluation of the award criterion 3 'Management and efficiency of the implementation'. It will be based on the competence and experience of the applicants and their project teams, including their operational resources (human, technical and other) or, exceptionally, the measures proposed to obtain the necessary competence and experience by the time the tasks are implemented. If the evaluation of this award criterion leads to a score above the applicable threshold, then the applicants are considered to have sufficient operational capacity. For this assessment, applicants are required to provide the following information in 'Annex I – Technical Description' of the Application Form: description of the consortium Participants; and, for each Participant (refer to 'Appendix 1 – Operational Capacity of Project Participants'), up to five most relevant previous projects, connected to the subject of this Call for Proposals and list and CVs of the key personnel involved in the Project. Additional supporting documents may be requested if they are needed to confirm the operational capacity of any applicant.

8.4 Exclusion criteria

EU Early Detection and Exclusion System (EDES) Database

The purpose of the [EDES](#) is the protection of the Union's financial interests against unreliable persons and entities applying for EU funds or having concluded legal commitments with the Commission, other Union Institutions, bodies, offices or agencies. In particular, the EDES ensures:

- The early detection of persons or entities which pose a risk to the Union's financial interests.
- The exclusion of persons or entities from receiving Union funds (Article 137(1) of the EU Financial Regulation).
- The imposition of a financial penalty on a recipient (Article 140 of the EU Financial Regulation).
- The publication, in the most severe cases, on the Commission's internet site of information related to the exclusion and where applicable the financial penalty, in order to reinforce their deterrent effect (Articles 142 of the EU Financial Regulation).

The ECMWF makes use of the EDES to verify whether individuals or organisations are suitable entities to receive funding from the EU. The grounds for exclusion are listed under article 138(1) of the EU Financial Regulation. They include:

- Bankruptcy and insolvency situations.
- Non-payment of taxes or social security contributions.
- Grave professional misconduct.
- Fraud, corruption, participation in a criminal organisation etc.
- Serious breach of contract.

Applicants (i.e., Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities, Associated Partners, as well as Subcontractors) – including where relevant any other relevant third party that would participate in the Project or receive

payment from the Beneficiaries in connection with the Project – must confirm that they and persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control in their organisation are NOT listed on the EDES database and must accept that the ECMWF will reject any Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities, Associated Partners, and Subcontractors who are so listed.

EU Restrictive Measures

Restrictive Measures (sanctions) are the tool in the EU's common foreign and security policy (CFSP), through which the EU can intervene where necessary to prevent conflict or respond to emerging or current crises. Entities subject to EU restrictive measures are not eligible to participate in any capacity, including as Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities, Associated Partners, or Subcontractors.

ECMWF, as the entrusted entity for the implementation of the Copernicus Climate Change Service and the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service, must ensure that any of the Grant applicants, Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities, Associated Partners and Subcontractors are not included in the list of EU Restrictive Measures.

Consequently, the Coordinator must ensure that none of the Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities, Associated Partners, Subcontractors and any person who may receive, directly or indirectly, funds under the Project are included in the lists of EU Restrictive Measures. This requirement is specifically detailed in the Grant Agreement Template.

As a minimum – by using the www.sanctionsmap.eu website – the Coordinator must undertake the following checks of all Grant applicants, Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities, Associated Partners, and Subcontractors:

- Country check (country of registration of bidding organisation/holding company).
- Organisation/holding company check (using search function).
- Individual check (using search function).

The Coordinator and the other Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities, Associated Partners, and Subcontractors (if identified in the application form) must complete the 'COP Restrictive Measures Form' available in the Call Package as per the instructions thereof.

Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities, Associated Partners, and Subcontractors should note that, as this forms part of ECMWF's obligations to the EC, failure to complete and return this form may lead to exclusion from the Grant procedure.

EU Conditionality Measures

Conditionality Measures are additional protections for the EU budget when breaches of the rule of law principles affect or risk affecting EU financial interests introduced in 2021. Conditionality Measures may be put in place in the context of the general regime of conditionality for the protection of the EU budget established by Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2092 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on a general regime of conditionality for the protection of the Union budget. This conditionality regime allows the EU to take measures – for example suspension of payments, suspension of implementation, termination or prohibitions on entering into new legal commitments with Concerned Entities – to protect the EU budget.

ECMWF, as the entrusted entity for the implementation of the Copernicus Climate Change Service and Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service, is required to ensure Conditionality Measures are duly

applied vis-à-vis Concerned Entities. Further requirements with respect to Conditionality Measures are detailed in the Grant Agreement Template.

Applicants (i.e., Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities, Associated Partners, as well as Subcontractors) must confirm and ensure for the whole duration of the Grant Agreement that none of them or any other third party – that would participate and receive payment in connection with the Project – is affected by the Conditionality Measures described above, and must accept that the ECMWF may reject any Beneficiary, Affiliated Entity, Associated Partner and Subcontractor or any other third party that are so affected.

8.5 Award criteria

If admissible and eligible and if the financial capacity assessment and exclusion criteria checks are satisfactory, the Proposals will be evaluated and ranked against the following award criteria: 1. Excellence; 2. Impact; 3. Management and efficiency of the implementation.

1. **Excellence** refers to the extent that the proposed work and outputs correspond to the description of the specific objectives of the Action and the overarching objectives of C3S and the NCP. The following aspects will be taken into account: Soundness of the concept; Use of C3S products, methods and good practice; Synergies with national and, if relevant, transboundary and transnational priorities and activities; proposed outcomes.
2. **Impact** refers to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the description of the expected impacts of the Call and more specifically the specific impacts identified for the Action. The following aspects will be taken into account: Pathways to impact; Communication and user outreach activities; Feedback to C3S on user requirements; Sustainability and quality of impact.
3. **Management and efficiency of the implementation** refers to the management and implementation plan and will determine the efficiency of the Proposal to obtain excellence and impact. The following aspects will be taken into account: Project management and quality assurance; Capacity and complementarity of the proposed experts; Quality and effectiveness of the work plan and appropriateness of allocated resources; Risk assessment and mitigation actions; Diversity and inclusion. The estimated budget of the Proposal (Annex II – Estimated Budget) and the operational capacity of the Participants ('Appendix I - Operational Capacity of the Project Participants', included in 'Annex I – Technical Description') will be also assessed against the proposed activities under this criterion.

Scores and weighting

Evaluation scores will be awarded for the criteria 'Excellence', 'Impact' and 'Management and efficiency of the implementation' (and not for the different aspects listed for each criterion).

For full applications, each criterion will be scored out of 5. The threshold for individual criteria will be 3. The overall threshold applying to the sum of the three individual scores, will be 10. Proposals that pass the individual threshold AND the overall threshold will be considered for funding, within the limits of the available Call budget. Other Proposals will be rejected.

8.6 Evaluation procedure

Ranking

Proposals will be checked for formal requirements - admissibility, eligibility, financial capacity and exclusion checks - and then evaluated, for each Action separately, by an evaluation panel composed of qualified experts for the award criteria and then ranked according to their quality score.

For Proposals with the same score within the same Action, a priority order is determined as follows:

1. Proposals submitted by applicants that are based in Countries that have not yet been awarded an ECMWF NCP-related contract or grant;
2. Proposals with the highest score under criterion 2 'Impact';
3. Proposals which addressed well the measures for diversity and inclusion (see sub-section 3.5 of 'Annex I Technical Description').

If a distinction still cannot be made, the evaluation panel may decide to further prioritise by considering other factors related to the objectives of the Call. These may include, for example, enhancing the quality of the project portfolio through synergies between projects. These factors will be documented in the panel report.

At any stage, ECMWF may ask applicants to provide additional information/supporting documents and/or to clarify the documents submitted in connection with the Proposal. ECMWF reserves the right to withhold the allocation of any or all available funds or to reallocate such funds among the Call for Proposals Actions in a manner differing from that specified in section 2 and 3 (i.e., as per the Indicative number of funded Proposals), based on the Proposals submitted and the evaluation results.

Evaluation results

At the end of the evaluation, all applicants will be informed of the result in the evaluation results letter. Successful Proposals will be invited to the next stage, 'Grant Agreement Preparation'; the other Proposals will be put on the reserve list or rejected. Please note that invitation to the Grant Agreement Preparation stage does NOT constitute a formal commitment to funding. Various legal checks are still needed before the Grant can be awarded (e.g. exclusion check, etc.).

ECMWF will establish a reserve list comprising Proposals which, although not initially recommended for funding due to insufficient budgetary resources or comparatively lower evaluation scores, have attained the minimum evaluation threshold of 10 points overall, in the event that:

- Additional budgetary resources become available.
- A selected Proposal from the main list does not successfully complete the Grant Agreement Preparation.
- ECMWF Service Director decides to reallocate the available budget.
- Applicants on the reserve list may be contacted with a view to be invited to the Grant Agreement Preparation.

Timing

The timing for evaluation and Grant Agreement Preparation is as follows:

- Information on the outcome of the evaluation: around 4 months from the deadline of the Call for Proposals.
- Indicative date for the signing of Grant Agreements: around 6 months from the deadline of the Call for Proposals.

8.7 Debriefing and review procedure

During the selection process, applicants will be notified, via information letter sent to the Coordinator, only if there are issues with admissibility, eligibility, financial capacity and exclusion checks. At the end of the selection process, all the applicants will be informed about the evaluation results of the Proposals via an information letter sent to the Coordinator.

Upon receipt of the information letter, applicants may request a debriefing and/or a review if there is an indication that there has been a procedural shortcoming or a manifest error of assessment in the evaluation of the Proposal.

The debriefing and review request must focus solely on aspects related to the selection process. Applicants may raise concerns regarding procedural irregularities, factual errors, manifest errors of assessment, or abuse of power. However, mere repetition of the Proposal content or disagreement with the evaluation outcome or reasoning are not considered.

For detailed guidance please consult the 'Grants Debriefing and Review Procedure' provided here: <https://www.ecmwf.int/en/about/grants>.

9 SUBMISSION PROCESS

9.1 Overview of the Call Package

The Call Package is composed of this Call document and:

- Application Form;
- Supporting Documents;
- Grant Agreement Template;
- Guidelines for Applicants.

In addition, the Coordinator will have to fill an online questionnaire on the submission system, once registered. A copy of the online questionnaire is provided with the Call Package.

The Application Form is composed of three parts:

- Annex I - Technical Description (where the technical proposal is presented in maximum 35 pages), including 'Appendix 1 – Operational Capacity of Project Participants' (page limit does not apply to Appendix 1)
- Annex II - Estimated Budget (where the detailed budget per each participating organisation and per Work-Package is presented).

- Annex III - Administrative Information (administrative details for each participating Beneficiary, Affiliated Entity, Associated Partner and, if identified at application stage, Subcontractors).

With the Application Form, the supporting documents below is required:

- Legal Entity Form.
- Declaration Form for Economic and Financial Capacity.
- COP Restrictive Measures Form.

Applicants are required to use the templates provided in the Call Package and available on the Submission Portal (ProContract). For additional information on the Call Package, please consult the 'Guidelines for Applicants' available on the Submission Portal (ProContract) and here: <https://www.ecmwf.int/en/about/grants/copernicus-grants>.

The Coordinator of the Proposal – whether it is a mono- or multi-beneficiary Grant – needs to register on the Submission Portal via one of the following links: <https://procontract.due-north.com/register> (anytime) or <https://procurement.ecmwf.int> (only when the Call is open and listed on the opportunities page).

The Coordinator of the Proposal is responsible for submitting the Application Form and the supporting documents via the Submission Portal ProContract (as PDF or other formats allowed by the portal), on behalf and mandated by all the Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities, Associated Partners, and Subcontractors. Therefore, the Coordinator will have to confirm in the online questionnaire – available in the Submission Portal – that they have been mandated by all Participants involved in the Proposal to act on their behalf in all matters pertaining to the Proposal including, but not limited to, submitting responses to the questionnaire and to upload the required forms and documents on their behalf.

Please note that registration must be completed as early as possible and, in any case, sufficiently in advance of the Call for Proposals deadline. As the registration process is managed by an external provider, delays may occur which are beyond our control. Failure to register in a timely manner may result in the registration not being processed on time. Late registrations are at the applicants' own risk and without any guarantee of completion before the Call deadline.

More detailed information on the submission process, the application form and supporting documents can be found in the 'Guidelines for Applicants'.

Applicants may also be asked at a later stage for further documents (e.g. for legal entity validation, financial capacity check, bank account validation, etc.).

ECMWF does not reimburse expenses incurred in connection with the preparation and submission of the Proposal. ECMWF accepts no liability whatsoever, whether in contract, tort or otherwise in relation to the Call for Proposals or in respect of any costs, damages or expenses incurred by applicants or any third party.

10 CALL DEADLINE AND TIMELINE

The C3S NCP Call for Proposals opens on	July 11, 2025
Last date for clarification requests	September 15, 2025
Last date for publishing clarifications	September 22, 2025
The deadline for the C3S NCP Call for Proposals is	September 30, 2025, at 14:00 (CEST)
The outcome of the evaluation is expected between	December 2025 and January 2026
The signature of the Grant Agreement is expected between	February and March 2026

11 OVERVIEW OF KEY LEGAL AND FINANCIAL ELEMENTS

This section presents an indicative and non-exhaustive overview of key legal and financial elements relevant at proposal preparation stage and – in case of award – at grant implementation stage.

Non-cumulative award and no double financing

Each Beneficiary may not get more than one Grant per Action. The applicants must specify in the application form any applications and awarded grants/tenders relating to the same Action or to the same work. The same costs cannot be funded more than once by ECMWF.

Retroactivity

No Grant may be awarded retroactively for projects already completed. The Project starting date and duration are fixed in the Grant Agreement. Normally, the starting date will be after the Grant has been signed. A retroactive starting date - prior to the grant signature - may be exceptionally granted for duly justified reasons, subject to agreement with ECMWF. However, it can never be earlier than the date on which the evaluation results notification (information letter) is sent to the applicants.

No-profit rule

Grants must not have the purpose or effect of generating a profit within the framework of the Action. If there is a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + ECMWF Grant over costs), it will be deducted from the final grant amount.

Multiple submission and participation

Applicants are strongly encouraged to be involved in no more than one Proposal per Action, either by submitting it as Coordinator or by joining it as part of a project consortium. While this is not a mandatory requirement, multiple participations are discouraged and will only be accepted if duly justified.

Legal commitments

By submitting Proposals in response to this Call for Proposals, applicants are acknowledging that they are indicating their intention and willingness to enter into a Grant Agreement under the terms and conditions set out in the Call for Proposals and in the Grant Agreement Template. Submission of a Proposal implies acceptance of these terms and conditions. Successful applicants shall be bound by the obligations, terms, and conditions of the Grant Agreement, including the obligation to provide accurate, sincere, and complete information throughout the grant procedure. However, ECMWF is

under no obligation to award a Grant based on any Proposal received. The Proposal shall remain valid for nine months after the closing date for this Call for Proposals.

Pre-financing rate and payments

In case of award, there will be three payments: pre-financing; interim payment (mid-term); final payment.

Payments	Reporting period from Month	Reporting period to Month	Deadline for reporting	Deadline time to pay
Pre-financing	NA	NA	[Coordinator invoicing ECMWF as soon as possible after signature of the Grant Agreement]	After 60 days from receipt of the invoice
Interim payment	E.g. 1	E.g. 12	Within 60 days after the end of reporting period	After 60 days from the approval of the interim report
Final payment	E.g.13	E.g. 24	Within 60 days after the end of reporting period	After 60 days from the approval of the final report

The pre-financing payment may be granted for up to 50% of the estimated budget. The amount shall be determined on the basis of the outcome of the financial capacity assessment carried out by ECMWF. Different pre-financing rates can be applied by ECMWF in case of non-satisfactory outcome of the financial capacity assessment on the grant recipients.

The interim payment ceiling during the grant implementation is 80% of the maximum grant amount total budget. The remaining budget, if due, will be paid after the final reporting.

Ownership of the Results and intellectual property rights

In Grants, Results are owned by the Beneficiaries that generate them. Therefore, ECMWF does not obtain ownership of the Results produced under the Project. However, ECMWF, the EC and other entities mentioned in Clause 2.3 of the Grant Agreement Template have the right to use the Results, Deliverables, reports and other documents relating to the Project for the purposes of the Copernicus Programme as well as for its own internal purposes. Furthermore, ECMWF, the EC and other entities mentioned in Clause 2.3 of the Grant Agreement Template have the right to use Beneficiaries' materials, documents and information (notably summaries for publication, Deliverables and any other material, such as pictures or audio-visual material, in paper or electronic form) and Results for policy, information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes. For the terms and conditions on IPR, please refer to the Grant Agreement Template.

12 CONFIDENTIALITY AND DATA PROTECTION

ECMWF reserves the right to retain all documents submitted by applicants in response to the Call for Proposals. Any information in such documents that is proprietary and confidential to the applicant will be handled confidentially by ECMWF provided it is clearly and specifically identified as such. Such

obligation shall not apply if such information is or was obtained from other sources that do not bind ECMWF as to confidentiality or if the information is in the public domain.

ECMWF may make Proposals available for evaluation purposes to authorised people including its governing body, committees, and professional advisers in addition to ECMWF's own personnel under the same conditions of confidentiality.

The reply to any Call for Proposals involves the recording and processing of Personally Identifiable Information (PII) such as name, address, and PII included in the CVs. Please also note that all personally identifiable information processed by ECMWF will be treated in accordance with the ECMWF Policy on Personally Identifiable Information Protection (PIIP) available at <https://www.ecmwf.int/en/privacy>.

Unless indicated otherwise, the questions and any Personally Identifiable Information requested that are required for evaluating the application in accordance with the Call for Proposal will be processed solely for that purpose.

13 REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATIONS AND CONTACTS

Please submit your queries via the Submission Portal ProContract. For more information on how to contact ECMWF via ProContract, please refer to the 'Guidelines for Applicants to the C3S NCP Call for Proposals 2025'.

14 ANNEXES

This Call for Proposals comprises:

- Application Form: Annex I - Technical Description; Annex II - Estimated Budget; Annex III - Administrative Information.
- Supporting Documents: Legal Entity Form for Public Entities; Legal Entity Form for Private Entities; Legal Entity Form for Individuals; Declaration Form for Economic and Financial Capacity; COP Restrictive Measures Form.
- Grant Agreement Template.
- Guidelines for Applicants.