

IFAB 2021 CALL FOR PROJECTS

IFAB Missions

The Foundation has three goals:

- Reinforcing, enhancing and promoting **scientific research** and its **cross-disciplinary** applications, with particular focus on **Big Data and Artificial Intelligence**.
- Designing **scenarios** related to **economic and social transformations** in connection with the great challenges of our times: climate change, the health crisis, the exploitation of resources, the management of complex urban systems, and the application of conventional and innovative technologies.
- **Dissemination** of the role and potential of Artificial Intelligence and Big Data in addressing global problems and other issues, with an **impact on people's lives**. The goal is to increase the awareness of the importance of these new technologies among the public, entrepreneurs and politicians.

To pursue these goals, IFAB promotes, manages and carries out cross-disciplinary and applied research, training and dissemination for reinforcing and establishing the **European Hub of Big Data and Artificial Intelligence** for a new inclusive, sustainable, open and human form of development.

Aim(s) of the Call

The aim of the call is to attract and finance innovative projects concerning the domains listed below in the form of: proof of concept, research and development, applications and solutions. Co-financing both in kind and in cash can be included in the projects in order to increase the mobilization of resources and the critical mass of the various initiatives.

Thematic fields

1. **Green deal.** The aim of the projects should concern climate change and impact mitigation with reference also to energy production from renewable and alternative sources, the reduction and subtraction of greenhouse gas emissions, the energy efficiency of production and systems.
2. **Life sciences and precision medicine.** The aim of the projects should concern the possible development of health platforms also with reference to cancer, pandemics and the design of new drugs and therapeutic treatments.
3. **Complex system.** The objective of the projects should concern the development of digital twins of complex systems referring for example and in a non-exhaustive way to economic globalization, urban systems, mobility and transport of goods and people, ... In this context projects concerning the social, humanistic and cultural disciplines will also be considered.
4. **Matter and Materials.** The objective of the projects should concern the methods of development and design of innovative materials and their applications with particular reference to environmental sustainability, the reduction of environmental pollution, energy storage, the circular economy and new methods and technologies of industrial production.

The projects will have to develop and exploit HPC computational methods, big data analytics and artificial intelligence, cloud and edge computing workflow. Projects based on quantum computing methods will also be considered.

Eligible subjects

Proposals can involve public and private partners, including entities outside the IFAB and the Big Data Association.

Each entity can participate as coordinator in only one project per year. However, no restrictions apply to participation in multiple projects as a member of the partnership.

Any changes or amendments to the funding agreement must be approved by the IFAB Board of Directors.

The Principal Investigators of the leader entity cannot be the Principal Investigators of any other currently active IFAB funded proposal.

Eligible projects

Proposals should include a clear presentation of the project, its relevance for the IFAB mission and the thematic areas of this call, the possible applications and possible integration within the production and service systems.

Proposals should:

- i) include the definition of scientific and management responsibilities of the project;
- ii) be drafted with details of all the eligible costs to be incurred;
- iii) include the project duration, the planning of the mile stones and deliverables, with particular details for what completed and reported by 31 December 2021.

In addition to the final report, two interim reports will be required.

Eligible costs

The total cost of the project should include costs and overhead, according to the eligibility criteria and the thresholds listed below:

- Permanent or temporary research staff engaged or recruited for the project;
- Equipment and software (it is mandatory to clearly motivate these costs in accordance with the specificity of the project);
- Possible Patent or IP protection costs;
- Others costs for the purpose of the project ;
- Overheads (maximum 10% of the total amount);
- Travel, publication, and dissemination costs.

With respect of the whole project budget, the grant will cover 100% of the requested costs; therefore, to the requested amount should correspond to eligible cost.

Proposals should provide the following mandatory documents:

- Request for funding and detailed budget, in accordance with the IFAB scheme.
- IFAB privacy statement acceptance and authorization.

By participating to this Call, organizations acknowledge, agree and accept that the award of the funding requires the irrevocable acceptance of all the documents, available online for the download.

Evaluation Criteria

Projects' evaluation will be carried out according to the methods and criteria represented below.

- DESCRIPTION
 - structure of the project, aims and strategies;
 - project management.
- APPROACH
 - research plan;
 - availability and accessibility of infrastructure, applications, data that enabling the proposal;
 - research and development action;
 - risk assessment and risk management and mitigation;
 - regulatory compliance and legal, ethical rights;
 - interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach.
- INNOVATION
 - originality of the methods and implementations;
 - relevance and impact in the domain.
- OUTCOMES FOR THE COMMUNITY
 - breakthrough in the domain;
 - development of new applications, knowledge advancement and discovery, decision support for policy, strategy and organization;
 - benefits for citizens and the community.
- RELEVANCE FOR THE FOUNDATION
 - added value for the Foundation, for its ecosystem and its stakeholders;
 - guiding future philanthropic programs of the Foundation.
- P.I. AND PARTNERSHIP
 - P.I. R&D track record;
 - quality of the partnership;
 - complementarity and evidence of the role and contribution of each involved partner;
 - description of the infrastructures and tools used in the project and their appropriate sizing.
- YOUNG RESEARCHERS INVOLVEMENT AND TRAINING
 - description of the education and training program for the involvement and valorization of young technologists and scientist.
- DISSEMINATION
 - communication and dissemination plan;
 - citizens outreach and inclusion.
- BUDGET AND PROJECT DURATION
 - budget suitability, coherence and duration of the project.

Projects will be evaluated by independent external reviewers designated by the members of the Evaluation Panel. The Evaluation Panel will be appointed by the Board of Directors on the proposal of the Scientific Director. The evaluation Panel will formulate the ranking of the projects to be submitted to the Foundation Board of Directors for the assignment of financial grants.

Non-eligible projects

Proposals will be considered non-eligible in case they do not comply with the previous paragraph "Eligible projects" and/or present the following features:

- out of scope with respect of the aim of the call for proposal;
- proposals aimed to set up new research centers.

Submission process

Applications must be sent by 5:00 p.m. on March 29th 2021 to IFAB c/o projects@ifabfoundation.org

Personal data collected in the context of this Call will be processed in accordance with EU Regulation 2016/679.

The communication of the personal data required in the attached project form is necessary to participate to this Call and for any subsequent operation(s).

For more information on how personal data are processed by the Foundation, please see the information on processing of personal data attached to the project form.

Available budget

The budget of € 400,000 for the 2021 Call is made available by IFAB through its own sources of funding. Except for exceptions, the maximum admissible per project is no more than € 150,000.

Communication and Information

The text of the Call and all the mentioned documents can be found on the Foundation website (www.ifabfoundation.org).

The outcome of the evaluation will be communicated to the proposers in 20 days after the closing date of the call. The partners who will be awarded a grant will have 60 days from the communication to sign the contract, after which the funding proposal will be addressed to another project positively ranked.

CALL SUMMARY	IFAB 2021 CALL FOR PROPOSALS
Deadline	March 29, 2021
Aim	Improve the understanding of complex and socially relevant topics by mean of the exploitation of HPC computational methods, big data analytics and artificial intelligence, cloud and edge computing workflow. Projects based on quantum computing methods will also be considered.
Eligible subjects	Public or private organizations
Contacts info	projects@ifabfoundation.org www.ifabfoundation.org