HEDGE-IoT

Holistic approach towards Empowerment of the Digitalization of the Energy Ecosystem through adoption of IoT solutions

D6.1
Open Calls Preparation and Announcement

DOCUMENT CONTROL SHEET

PROJECT INFORMATION

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Deliverable 6.1 outlines the preparation, announcement, dissemination, and implementation strategies for the HEDGE-IoT Open Calls under the EU Horizon Europe cascade funding mechanism. This deliverable serves as a foundational document, establishing clear procedures, guidelines, and resources designed to facilitate SMEs and startups in developing innovative IoT-enabled, data-driven energy services, and validating the interoperability and scalability of the HEDGE-IoT framework in real-world applications.

Structured into clearly defined sections, the deliverable provides comprehensive documentation including the Guide for Applicants, Guide for Evaluators, Proposal Template, Privacy Policy and the Model Contract. These documents ensure transparency, fairness, and effectiveness throughout the open call process.

The deliverable also addresses the specific technical requirements applicants must meet, structured around five key thematic areas aligned with industry needs: edge-cloud grid optimization, AI-driven energy flexibility, secure digital platforms, cybersecurity, and smart energy community management.

Key dissemination and promotion activities detailed in the deliverable include targeted communication efforts, informational webinars, and active stakeholder engagement designed to maximize participation and impact.

This initial deliverable lays a solid foundation for successful implementation, evaluation, and exploitation of innovative solutions in alignment with EU priorities, ensuring strategic and practical integration with broader energy transition and market goals.

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LIST OF FIGURES

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ABBREVIATIONS

OC	Open Call(s)
AI	Artificial Intelligence
DER	Distributed Energy Resources
BUC	Business Use Case
DSOs	Distribution System Operators
TSOs	Transmission System Operators
M	Month
EU	European Union
IoT	Internet of Things

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 OVERVIEW

Deliverable 6.1 outlines the preparation, dissemination strategy, and implementation process for the two HEDGE-IoT Open Calls under the cascade funding mechanism. It provides SMEs and startups with a structured opportunity to develop innovative IoT-enabled, data-driven energy services for the edge and cloud. These services should leverage and validate the interoperability and scalability of the HEDGE-IoT framework in real-world scenarios.

The deliverable includes all necessary documentation, including the Guide for Applicants, Guide for Evaluators, Proposal Template, Privacy Policy, and Model Contract. Each document provides essential guidelines ensuring transparency, fairness, and effectiveness throughout the open call process.

Please note that the information provided in the Guide for Applicants, including relevant links, application BUCs and specific procedural details, may be subject to modifications for Open Call 2. Applicants are advised to regularly consult the HEDGE-IoT Open Call webpage for the most current version of the documentation and announcements regarding any updates or changes.

2. CASCADE FUNDING MECHANISM

The HEDGE-IoT Open Calls employs a cascade funding mechanism as stipulated by the EU Horizon Europe framework. This mechanism enables direct financial support to third parties (SMEs and startups), fostering rapid innovation and accelerating market-ready solutions. The total financial support available is €1,700,000, with up to €60,000 allocated per third party **The applicable funding rate for every project will be 70% of the eligible costs for profit making entities.** Within the requested budget, costs allocated to equipment and consumables cannot exceed 20% of the total requested funding and should be perfectly justified for the planned concept and work.

3. SHAPING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE OPEN CALL APPLICANTS

3.1 OPEN CALL DOCUMENTS

The following essential documents have been developed for the HEDGE-IoT Open Calls:

- Call Announcement
- Guide for Applicants
- Proposal Template
- Guide for Evaluators
- Model Contract
- Service Specific Contract
- Declaration of Honor
- Technical Report Template

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- Privacy Policy

3.2 TECHNICAL DEFINITION OF THE CALL

Applicants must address clearly defined technical requirements linked to real-world business cases, leveraging the HEDGE-IoT framework. The Open Calls specifically aims to enable third parties, particularly SMEs, to use the solutions developed within HEDGE-IoT as a foundation to build their innovative data-driven energy services targeting energy consumers. The technical focus is structured around five main topics:

- Edge-Cloud Enabled Grid Optimization & Flexibility Management
- AI-Driven Energy Flexibility & Market Operations
- Secure & Interoperable Digital Energy Platforms
- Cybersecurity & Trust in Digital Energy Platforms
- Distributed Energy Resources (DER) & Smart Energy Communities

3.3 BUSINESS USE CASES OVERVIEW

TOPIC 1: Solutions that Enhance Observability and Resiliency of the Grid (Cooperation with the Finnish Pilot)

Scope & expected results	Encourage the development of new sensor-based solutions and analytics that improve grid observability and allow operation closer to technical limits. Applicants may focus on fault prediction, maintenance enhancement, or technologies for locating and characterizing faults (e.g., drone-based inspections). Solutions should contribute to increasing network resilience and reducing downtime.
Datasets available	• Current and voltage measurement data from the Finnish distribution network • Network topology information
Tools & infrastructure offered	Applicants are expected to propose tools such as dynamic line/cable rating methods, anomaly detection algorithms, and post-fault analysis techniques (e.g., with drone-based inspection). There is also potential for deeper integration with the full HEDGE – IoT stack, depending on detailed discussions with applicants. (The availability of existing tools or platforms from the Finnish demo may depend on the specific use case.)

TOPIC 2: Market Integration for Local Flexibility Services (Cooperation with the Finnish Pilot)

Scope & expected results	Development of technical solutions that enable integration of DERs and prosumers into local flexibility markets. This includes

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	facilitating DSO participation, enabling bidding and activation mechanisms, and enhancing interaction between grid operators and flexibility providers.
Datasets available	• Congestion Management planning data
Tools & infrastructure offered	Defined interfaces for data exchange with the Finnish demo infrastructure. Applicants are expected to propose tools supporting DER-market integration and DSO participation. *(Access to parts of the Finnish pilot infrastructure may be considered depending on the Open Call project's scope.)*

TOPIC 3: DER Optimization Tools (Cooperation with the Finnish Pilot)

Scope & expected results	Encourage the development of algorithms that optimize the operation of different types of DERs—generation or storage systems—based on real-time data. Solutions should aim to improve local balancing, asset lifetime, and operational efficiency.
Datasets available	• Measurement data from DER sites (e.g., PV, Batteries)
Tools & infrastructure offered	• Defined interfaces for data exchange • Possibly a runtime environment for algorithm testing, depending on detailed discussion with the applicants. Applicants are expected to develop optimization models for DER scheduling and operation. *(Potential access to real or simulated DER data or demo assets could be discussed case-by-case)*

TOPIC 4: Energy resource forecasting models – Scalable edge-level solutions enabling distributed optimization of DERs (Cooperation with the Greek PiloT)

Scope & expected results	Develop lightweight forecasting models deployable at the edge to support DSO congestion management by predicting residential energy demand and generation. Models should focus on both active and reactive power and aim for efficient, low-computation operation suitable for deployment on edge devices.
Datasets available	• Submetering data from residential assets • Grid local measurements. • Weather data.

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Tools & infrastructure offered	• Forecasting models for benchmarking • Testing environments for edge deployment. *(Software architecture and technical requirements from the Greek demo will be provided. Selected models may be integrated into the HEDGE-IoT App Store for reuse.)*

TOPIC 5: Non-Intrusive Load Monitoring for Device-Level Visibility (Cooperation with the Greek Pilot)

Scope & expected results	Develop and test models that can identify active appliances within households without requiring additional hardware (e.g., plug-level meters). The goal is to enhance device-level visibility using whole-home consumption data
Datasets available	• Time series energy consumption data from residential assets. • Device – level usage data (where available)
Tools & infrastructure offered	• Benchmarking models for load disaggregation Finetuning datasets for algorithm adaptation. *(Integration with internal HEDGE-IoT applications and testing against vision models for further optimization will be supported.)*

TOPIC 6: AI-driven predictive flexibility pricing models – Development of dynamic pricing algorithms that optimize flexibility bids based on congestion and market conditions (Cooperation with the Greek Pilot)

Scope & expected results	Design and test algorithms for dynamic pricing and optimal bidding strategies in day-ahead and intraday electricity markets. The solutions should propose consumer incentive mechanisms and align with real market conditions and congestion signals.
Datasets available	• Submetering data from residential assets • Energy market data and asset availability data • Simulated consumer behavior datasets.
Tools & infrastructure offered	Reference models for consumer behavior and bidding strategies *(Selected solutions will be validated in a test environment and compared to existing HEDGE-IoT bidding strategy tools.)*

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TOPIC 7: DSO Perimeters for flexibility resources pre-qualification (Cooperation with the Italian Pilot)

Scope & expected results	Design and validate algorithms that define DSO perimeters suitable for forming Virtual Power Plants (VPPs) within the distribution grid. The goal is to identify "electrical cells" where resource pooling is feasible for more than 90% of the year. Solutions should combine DSO data with external open data sources (e.g., weather, social events) to simulate the impact of future conditions on grid configurations. Applicants are expected to develop deployable modules that can operate within the HEDGE-IoT ecosystem and facilitate flexibility clustering at the community level
Datasets available	• SCADA data (grid topology, historical configuration changes) • GIS data (geospatial representation of grid assets) • Grid and customer-level load and production measurements • Open data (e.g., weather conditions, event-based inputs) These datasets may be aligned with existing HEDGE-IoT ontologies or accessed through data exchange frameworks that support the project's semantic interoperability goals.
Tools & infrastructure offered	• Containerized deployment approach (e.g., Docker) • Target execution environments: DSO's ADMS Kubernetes (K8s) Cluster and HEDGE-IoT Marketplace • Applicants are expected to provide their own development and test environments Developed modules should be compatible with the HEDGE-IoT Marketplace architecture and support interoperability through Dockerized microservices and Kubernetes orchestration.

TOPIC 8: Standardized IoT & Data-Sharing Protocols" – Development of open APIs and middleware that enable seamless integration of smart-grid assets for secure data exchange (Cooperation witht the Dutch Pilot)

Scope & expected results	Innovative solutions that plug into the HEDGE-IoT Semantic Interoperability Framework through semantic adapters. Applicants should prototype at least one—and preferably a combination—of the following value-adding services: 1. AI-driven anomaly-detection service that spots (technical) abnormal behavior in energy nodes on - for example - Phase / voltage unbalance, power factor, current outliers etc. and suggest corrective actions, thereby enhancing resilience.

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2. Role-based real-time dashboards that visualize KPIs and alarms for distinct stakeholder groups in a business-park context (e.g. facility managers, tenants, DSO).

3. Digital twin of the campus energy system that integrates live and historical data from heterogeneous energy nodes and supports what-if analysis.

Solutions must expose data and control endpoints via semantic adapters that map to the campus ontology (compatible with ETSI SAREF (https://saref.etsi.org/) / CIM (IEC 61970, IEC 61968 and 62325 series)) and to the Knowledge engine (www.knowledge-engine.eu)

Datasets available

- Access to representative telemetry data streams from the Electricity Week Arnhems Buiten
- A historical archive of campus measurements for algorithm training and benchmarking.
- Example semantic models and device metadata that illustrate how current campus assets are described in Hedge-IoT.

Tools & infrastructure offered

- A hosted interoperability middleware layer
- A basic security test environment to validate compliance with EU cyber-security guidelines.

TOPIC 9: Standardized DER-Integration Solutions for Smart Grids" – Smart control & monitoring of heat pumps, PV, batteries, V2G chargers and building equipment (Cooperation with the Dutch Pilot)

Scope & expected results

Integrate via the knowledge engine (www.knowledge-engine.eu) a modular EMS/BMS component or (micro)service—deployable on edge or cloud—that preferably combine:

- day-ahead and intra-day forecasting & scheduling of campus DERs (PV, batteries, heat pumps, V2G, building loads) and potential external factors;
- standardized flexibility offers / instructions via the semantic framework;
- a human-in-the-loop interface so facility staff can review or override schedules.

Demonstrate measurable KPI improvements during a supervised pilot (e.g. peak-load shaving, self-consumption, CO_2 reduction).

Datasets available

- Access to representative telemetry data streams from the Electricity Week Arnhems Buiten of campus assets (for example (via) Building Management systems for heat pumps, PV inverters, stationary batteries, and V2G chargers, building loads).

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Tools & infrastructure offered	• Optional (open source) contextual data feeds such as weather forecasts and dynamic grid-tariff signals. • A hosted interoperability middleware layer • A basic security test environment to validate compliance with EU cyber-security guidelines. • Remote access to a testbed where control strategies can be validated on real hardware.

TOPIC 10: Hardware utilization for edge computing and testing facilities for HEDGE-IoT models operational testing (Cooperation with the Portuguese Pilot)

Scope & expected results	Empower third parties, especially SMEs, to test and validate their own data-driven and IoT-enabled energy services using the hybrid edge-cloud digital infrastructure developed in the Portuguese pilot. Applicants should integrate and test solutions involving Smart Meters, HEMS, sensors, inverters, and other IoT devices across the edge-cloud continuum, with emphasis on edge offloading, orchestration, and AI portability. The goal is to increase the TRL of candidate services through experimentation in controlled and real-world pilot environments
Datasets available	• High-resolution data from IoT/edge devices (e.g., sensors, actuators, grid assets) • Energy production and consumption data from residential and other DER assets (active and reactive power) • Contextual data aligned with SAREF-based ontologies • Data exchanged via data space connectors to ensure data sovereignty and interoperability

Tools & infrastructure offered	• HEDGE-IoT edge and cloud computing platforms
	• AI/ML tools designed for edge/cloud deployment
	• Federated Learning platforms used in the Portuguese pilot
	• Computational orchestration framework (e.g., based on KubeEdge)
	• Data space connectors (e.g., Eclipse Data Space Connector - EDC)
	• Monitoring tools (e.g., Kube Prometheus)
	• HEDGE-IoT services:
	  ○ EdgeConnect – integration of diverse IoT/edge devices
	  ○ OptiFlex – forecasting, pricing, optimization, and bid creation services
	• Semantic interoperability components for standards-based integration

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TOPIC 11: Cross-border flexibility value chain and market integration (Cooperation with the Portuguese Pilot)

Scope & expected results	Enable third parties (especially SMEs) to develop, test, and validate services along the entire flexibility value chain, including aggregation, bidding, activation, and settlement for participation in national and cross-border energy markets. Applicants are expected to connect diverse flexibility providers (residential, industrial, tertiary) to system operators (TSOs/DSOs), focusing on ancillary services, day-ahead market participation, and interoperable service deployment. The topic aims to demonstrate the scalability and replicability of such services using HEDGE-IoT's hybrid edge-cloud infrastructure, while promoting data sovereignty, semantic interoperability, and interaction across stakeholders.

Datasets available	• High-resolution data from IoT/edge devices and DERs (e.g., PVs, batteries, EVs, heat pumps, building assets)
	• Data from industrial and residential assets relevant to flexibility services
	• Market-related datasets:
	  ○ Flexibility needs
	  ○ Consumer metering and baseline data
	  ○ Bidding info and market results
	  ○ Activation setpoints and settlement/payment data
	• Forecasting data (demand/generation) and historical logs
	• SAREF-aligned semantic datasets and models shared via data space connectors

Tools & infrastructure offered	• EdgeConnect platform – facilitating flexibility service creation and market participation • Market Simulator – supporting bidding, activation, and settlement for ancillary services • OptiFlex – forecasting, scheduling, valorization of flexibility • HEDGE-IoT edge/cloud computing infrastructure • AI/ML tools for energy forecasting and flexibility optimization • Data space connectors (e.g., Eclipse Data Space Connector - EDC) enabling cross-organizational data sharing • KubeEdge orchestration framework for workload management

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- Semantic interoperability modules and Kube Prometheus for system monitoring
- Components for data access control, policy mediation, and secure data exchange

TOPIC 12: Federated Learning (FL) Algorithm Validation in Energy Communities (Cooperation with the Portuguese Pilot)

Scope & expected results	This topic invites applicants to test and validate federated learning (FL) algorithms for energy-related applications in Energy Communities (ECs). FL is a privacy-preserving AI approach where local data stays on each node, and only trained models are shared. The goal is to develop and benchmark decentralized forecasting models—such as short-term load and renewable production forecasts—that support scalable, privacy-compliant, and low-latency edge intelligence. Emphasis is placed on validating the performance of these models in real community environments, leveraging the Portuguese pilot infrastructure and aligning with HEDGE-IoT's decentralization objectives.
Datasets available	• Residential household energy consumption from ECs • Weather forecasts and high-resolution environmental data • Energy data categorized by flexible asset (e.g., HVAC, PVs, batteries) • Forecasting data from Sub-Use Cases (e.g., energy consumption, solar production, shared surplus) • Datasets used for flexible load management optimization and storage modeling • Data aligned with SAREF-based ontologies and shared via data space connectors (ensuring semantic interoperability and data sovereignty)
Tools & infrastructure offered	• FL algorithm baselines (e.g., VAR model with vertical FL) for time-series energy forecasting • RECreation platform – energy community management and market participation service integrating FL forecast results • Data space connectors (e.g., Eclipse Data Space Connector - EDC) for compliant data exchange between organizations • EdgeConnect – enabling stakeholder integration and FL deployment across the flexibility value chain

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- Computational orchestration layer for managing distributed workloads (e.g., KubeEdge)
- Relevant AI/ML tools for decentralized forecasting and optimization operating on the edge-cloud continuum

TOPIC 13: Load Disaggregation at the Substation Level (Cooperation with the Slovenian Pilot)

Scope & expected results	Develop a solution that identifies different types of distributed energy resources (e.g., PV installations, heat pumps) from aggregated demand measurements at the substation level, without requiring additional hardware installation. A specific algorithm needs to be developed for this purpose by the applicant, with the additional objective of defining the minimum required dataset for the functional service. The goal is to enhance observability of the grid, support DER integration, and improve forecasting. Since the Slovenian demo focuses on developing a similar algorithm limited to PV detection, the accuracy of the newly developed algorithm will be compared to that of the applicants' solution.
Datasets available	• Active and reactive power measurements at the substation level. • Weather data • Publicly available datasets of electricity consumption or generation by the type of DER
Tools & infrastructure offered	ML algorithm developed within the Slovenian demo with the similar aim as the newly developed algorithm by the applicant that can be used for benchmarking the solution and verifying the accuracy.

TOPIC 14: Integration of Data Space Connectors compliant with the new Data Space Protocol showcasing scalability and technology agnostic connectivity

Scope & expected results	• Integration of Data Space Connector implementations (other than the Eclipse or the One-Net Data Space connectors that are already part of the HEDGE-IoT ecosystem) into the HEDGE-IoT Framework • Verification of successful data sharing and exchange through the new Connector among HEDGE-IoT users • Showcase of interoperability across Data spaces and ecosystem expansion
Datasets available	Test Datasets to be created (e.g. Smart Meter data, Grid Operational data, Renewable Generation data, Energy Market and Trading data) to verify a successful data exchange between

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	interconnected actors. Datasets should be aligned with semantic standards (e.g., RDF) to validate semantic interoperability.
Tools & infrastructure offered	• Information on the Existing Data Space Framework of the HEDGE-IoT project and the base components. • HEDGE-IoT Reference Architecture • Interoperable interfaces with the HEDGE-IoT framework

TOPIC 15: AI-Enhanced Data App Discovery & Recommendation Engine

Scope & expected results	• Development of an AI-based chatbox to facilitate the discoverability of Apps in the HEDGE-IoT App Store based on the needs of a user • Ability to parse metadata from registered apps and infer utility • Plugin based integration with the HEDGE-IoT App Store interface
Datasets available	• List of registered Apps in the App Store with relevant attributes • Keywords on functionality of each App (depending on App) • Input/Output datasets of each App
Tools & infrastructure offered	• HEDGE-IoT App Store Access (user access, access to integration API endpoints)

TOPIC 16: Semantic Mapper as a Service: A cloud-native or edge-deployable toll to map proprietary or heterogeneous data schemas to the HEDGE-IoT ontologies

Scope & expected results	• Support for mapping input JSON/XML/CSV schemas to target ontologies. • Integration with ETSI SAREF, SAREF4ENER, and optionally other ontologies (e.g., SAREF4GRID). • Compliance with the recently published ETSI EN 303 760 "SAREF Guidelines for IoT Semantic Interoperability; Develop, apply and evolve Smart Applications ontologies"
Datasets available	HEDGE-IoT Ontologies
Tools & infrastructure offered	HEDGE-IoT App Store Hedge-IoT Connector

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4. TIMELINE & SUBTASK BREAKDOWN

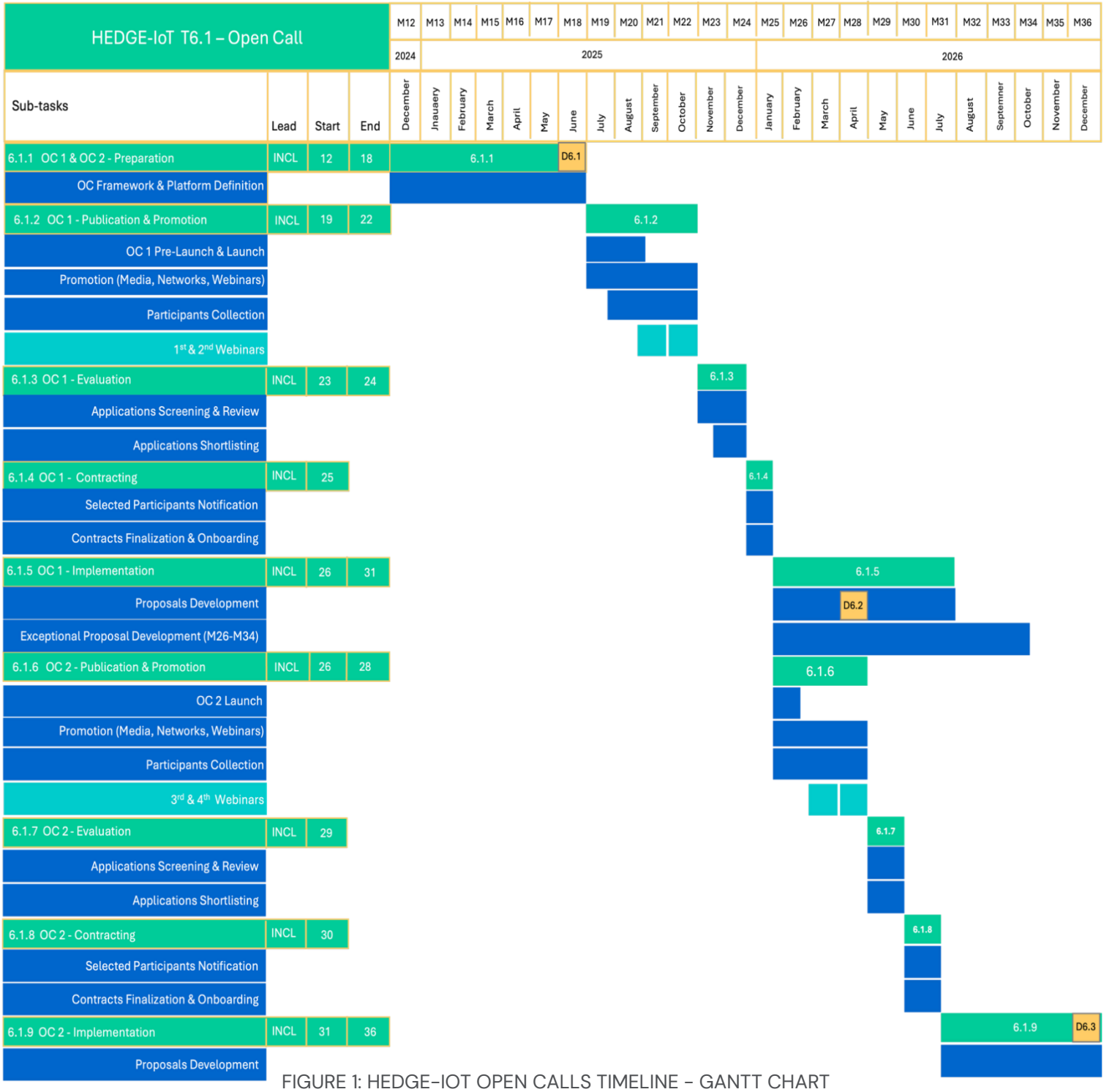

FIGURE 1: HEDGE-IOT OPEN CALLS TIMELINE – GANTT CHART

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OPEN CALL 1 - PREPARATION (M12–M18, DECEMBER 2024 – JUNE 2025)

- **OC Framework & Platform Definition (M12–18, December 2024 - June 2025):** Definition of the technical and administrative framework, including eligibility criteria, evaluation methodology, application guidelines, and preparation of the submission platform.

OPEN CALL 1 - PUBLICATION & PROMOTION (M19–M22, JULY 2025 – OCTOBER 2025)

- **Pre-launch announcement** (M19, July 2025)**:** Communication of the upcoming opportunity
- **1st Launch** (M19, July 2025)**:** Official announcement and opening of the submission platform for the first Open Call.
- **Promotion (Media, Networks, Webinars)** (M19-22, July – October 2025): Dissemination activities through various media channels, partner networks, and online platforms.
- **1st Webinar** (M21, September 2025): 1st webinar to provide applicants with clear guidance, answer technical questions, and offer insights into the application process and the technical topics.
- **2nd Webinar** (M22, October 2025): 2nd webinar to provide applicants with clear guidance, answer technical questions, and offer insights into the application process and technical topics.

OPEN CALL 1 - EVALUATION (M23–M24, NOVEMBER 2025 – DECEMBER 2025)

- **Applications Screening & Evaluation** (M23-24, November - December 2025): Initial screening to ensure proposals meet eligibility and quality standards.
- **Applications Shortlisting** (M24, December 2025): Shortlisting of proposals by expert evaluators based on defined evaluation criteria.
-

OPEN CALL 1 - CONTRACTING (M25, JANUARY 2026)

- **Selected Participants Notification** (M25, January 2026): Notification of successful applicants selected to receive funding.
- **Contracts Finalization & Onboarding** (M25, January 2026): Finalization of contractual agreements, including signing of funding agreements and participant onboarding.

OPEN CALL 1 - IMPLEMENTATION (M26–M31, FEBRUARY 2026 – JULY 2026)

- **Proposals Development** (M26–31, February 2026 – July 2026): Funded participants implement their proposed technical solutions and business plans.

  Note:
  Extended implementation period of up to 3 months (until M34) will be considered only for BUC-1-FI-02 (as described in Section 3.2), as additional time for impact maximization might be needed.

OPEN CALL 2 - PUBLICATION & PROMOTION (M26–M28, FEBRUARY 2026 – APRIL 2026)

- **2nd Launch** (M26, February 2026): Opening of submissions for the second wave of applications. For the Open Call 2, the BUCs from Open Call 1 may change, based on lessons learnt, evaluations and overall performance of the selected projects in Open Call 1.
- **Promotion (Media, Networks, Webinars)** (M26–28, February – April 2026): Promotion and dissemination of the second wave through multiple channels.
- **3rd Webinar** (M27, March 2026): 3rd informational webinar focused on guiding second open call applicants through the application process and answering potential questions.
- **4th Webinar** (M28, April 2026): Final session for second open call applicants' clarifications and engagement.

OPEN CALL 2 - EVALUATION (M29, MAY 2026)

- **Applications Screening & Review** (M9, May 2026): Review and evaluation of proposals submitted in the second wave.
- **Applications Shortlisting** (M29, May 2026): Expert shortlisting of top proposals based on predefined evaluation criteria.

OPEN CALL 2 - CONTRACTING (M30, JUNE 2026)

- **Selected Participants Notification** (M30, June 2026): Communication of results and notification to the selected second-wave applicants.
- **Contracts Finalization & Onboarding** (M30, June 2026): Completion of the funding contracts and onboarding procedures for the second wave.

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OPEN CALL 2 - IMPLEMENTATION (M31–M36, JULY 2026 – DECEMBER 2026)

- **Proposals Development** (M31–36, July 2026 – December 2026): Open Call 2 funded participants execute their project implementations, including technical development, testing, and validation of their proposed solutions, with periodic monitoring and reporting.

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5. ELECTRONIC TOOLS

Proposals submission and management will be carried out via the F6S platform:

- Submission through the F6S platform linked with the HEDGE-IoT Funding Programme (https://www.f6s.com/hedge-iot/about)
- Registration and profile setup on the F6S platform required for submission.

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6. DISSEMINATION OF THE OPEN CALL

6.1 BASIC DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES TIMELINE

➔ Open Call 1 - Launch: July 2025 - October 2025

July 2025 – Launch and Initial Promotion

- Open Call Announcement via the official HEDGE-IoT website and partner websites
- Email campaign targeting relevant stakeholders and previous contacts
- Social media announcements (LinkedIn, X) introducing the Open Call
- Press release distribution to relevant IoT, smart energy, and innovation media outlets
- Continuous social media updates and reminders for webinar registration

September & October 2025 – Two Informational Webinars

- Both webinars will be focused on explaining the application process, eligibility criteria, and technical challenges
- In both webinars there will be a dedicated session for interactive Q&As, addressing applicant queries
- The recordings from both webinars will be published on the official website and on YouTube

July - October 2025 – Follow-up Q&A Discuss Group

- Regular FAQ updates on the Open Calls Portal
- Reminder emails and social media countdown to submission deadline

➔ Open Call 2: February 2026 - April 2026

February 2026 – Second Open Call Promotion Kick-off

- Re-launch announcements highlighting success stories from Open Call 1
- Updated Open Call details on the official website
- New targeted email outreach based on insights from Open Call 1 participation
- Social media updates with testimonial snippets from Open Call 1 applicants

March & April 2026 – Two Informational Webinars

- Second set of webinars emphasizing lessons learned, refined application advice, and success criteria

February-April 2026 – Follow-up Q&A Discuss Group

- Regular FAQ updates on the Open Calls Portal
- Reminder emails and social media countdown to submission deadline

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6.2 ADDITIONAL DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES

- **Networking and Community Engagement:**
  - Engagement with European IoT and smart energy clusters, innovation hubs, and accelerator programs (e.g. the BRIDGE initiative)
  - Collaborations with EU-funded projects and partnerships for wider reach
- **Events and Conferences:**
  - Promotion at relevant industry events, trade shows, and academic conferences leading up to both Open Calls
  - Distribution of promotional materials (flyers, brochures) in digital and physical formats
- **Content Marketing:**
  - Publication of blog articles, success stories, and interviews from project coordinators and participants
  - Regular newsletter updates to the subscriber base
- **Video Marketing:**
  - Short promotional videos explaining project objectives, eligibility, and benefits of participation

6.3 COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

- Official HEDGE-IoT project website
- Email campaigns
- Social media platforms (LinkedIn, X, YouTube)
- Webinars and live Q&A sessions
- Industry-specific forums and online communities
- Media partnerships (industry publications, blogs, and newsletters)

6.4 METRICS FOR SUCCESS

- Number of applications received per Open Call
- Webinars and Q&A sessions attendance
- Website and social media engagement statistics
- Feedback from participants

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ANNEX I - GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

A1.1 OVERVIEW OF THE HEDGE-IOT OPEN CALLS

This document summarizes the main features of the HEDGE-IoT Open Calls for third parties under the HEDGE-IoT Funding Programme. The two Open Calls will be conducted in two distinct waves, each with specific timelines:

- **Open Call 1:**
  - **Applications Period:** Opens July 2025, Closes October 2025
  - **Evaluation & Selection:** Starts November 2025, Ends December 2025
  - **Project Execution:** Opens February 2026, Closes July 2026
  - **Potential Exceptional Execution for applicants that apply for BUC-1-FI-02 (as described in Section 2.3), as additional time for impact maximization might be needed:** Closes October 2026
- **Open Call 2:**
  - **Applications Period:** Opens February 2026, Closes April 2026
  - **Evaluation & Selection:** May 2026
  - **Project Execution:** July 2026 – December 2026

The call invites developers and integrators to enhance and expand upon HEDGE-IoT's existing technology stack by contributing innovative services and applications in IoT ecosystems for smart energy management and intelligent grid solutions.

This guide complements the official Open Call Announcement and Proposal Template.

A1.2. TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION OF HEDGE-IOT

HEDGE-IoT proposes a novel Digital Framework which aims to deploy IoT assets at different levels of the energy system (from behind-the-meter, up to the TSO level), to add intelligence to the edge and cloud layers through advanced AI/ML tools and to bridge the cloud/edge continuum introducing federated applications governed by advanced computational orchestration solutions. The HEDGE-IoT Framework will upgrade the RES-hosting capacity of the energy systems, unleash a previously untapped flexibility potential, leveraging on IoT solutions and will increase the resilience of the grid towards the digitalization of the energy sector, and the advancements in IoT standardization.

A1.2.1. Scope and Objectives

HEDGE-IoT seeks solutions addressing:

- Enhanced energy efficiency through IoT-enabled demand response.
- Grid stabilization and flexibility management via predictive analytics.
- Integration of IoT platforms with advanced AI for real-time energy balancing.
- Secure data exchange and communication protocols adhering to industry standards

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A1.2.2. Technical Specifications and Expectations

Proposals should clearly align with and extend the HEDGE-IoT framework, demonstrating interoperability with established communication standards (such as CIM, MQTT, REST APIs) and providing tangible added value through innovative technical enhancements.

A1.2.3. Business Use Cases

The following business use cases provide the thematic and practical context for proposals in Open Call 1. Applicants are expected to align their proposal with one of the described use cases.

DISCLAIMER: The business use cases presented in this section are indicative for Open Call 2 and may be updated based on the findings and lessons learned from Open Call 1.

TOPIC 1: Solutions that Enhance Observability and Resiliency of the Grid (Cooperation with the Finnish Pilot)

Scope & expected results	Encourage the development of new sensor-based solutions and analytics that improve grid observability and allow operation closer to technical limits. Applicants may focus on fault prediction, maintenance enhancement, or technologies for locating and characterizing faults (e.g., drone-based inspections). Solutions should contribute to increasing network resilience and reducing downtime.
Datasets available	• Current and voltage measurement data from the Finnish distribution network • Network topology information
Tools & infrastructure offered	Applicants are expected to propose tools such as dynamic line/cable rating methods, anomaly detection algorithms, and post-fault analysis techniques (e.g., with drone-based inspection). There is also potential for deeper integration with the full HEDGE – IoT stack, depending on detailed discussions with applicants. (The availability of existing tools or platforms from the Finnish demo may depend on the specific use case.)

TOPIC 2: Market Integration for Local Flexibility Services (Cooperation with the Finnish Pilot)

Scope & expected results	Development of technical solutions that enable integration of DERs and prosumers into local flexibility markets. This includes facilitating DSO participation, enabling bidding and activation mechanisms, and enhancing interaction between grid operators and flexibility providers.
Datasets available	• Congestion Management planning data

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Tools & infrastructure offered	Defined interfaces for data exchange with the Finnish demo infrastructure. Applicants are expected to propose tools supporting DER-market integration and DSO participation. *(Access to parts of the Finnish pilot infrastructure may be considered depending on the Open Call project's scope.)*

TOPIC 3: DER Optimization Tools (Cooperation with the Finnish Pilot)

Scope & expected results	Encourage the development of algorithms that optimize the operation of different types of DERs—generation or storage systems—based on real-time data. Solutions should aim to improve local balancing, asset lifetime, and operational efficiency.
Datasets available	• Measurement data from DER sites (e.g., PV, Batteries)
Tools & infrastructure offered	• Defined interfaces for data exchange • Possibly a runtime environment for algorithm testing, depending on detailed discussion with the applicants. Applicants are expected to develop optimization models for DER scheduling and operation. *(Potential access to real or simulated DER data or demo assets could be discussed case-by-case)*

TOPIC 4: Energy resource forecasting models – Scalable edge-level solutions enabling distributed optimization of DERs (Cooperation with the Greek Pilot)

Scope & expected results	Develop lightweight forecasting models deployable at the edge to support DSO congestion management by predicting residential energy demand and generation. Models should focus on both active and reactive power and aim for efficient, low-computation operation suitable for deployment on edge devices.
Datasets available	• Submetering data from residential assets • Grid local measurements. • Weather data.
Tools & infrastructure offered	• Forecasting models for benchmarking • Testing environments for edge deployment. *(Software architecture and technical requirements from the Greek demo will be provided. Selected models may be integrated into the HEDGE-IoT App Store for reuse.)*

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TOPIC 5: Non-Intrusive Load Monitoring for Device-Level Visibility (Cooperation with the Greek Pilot)

Scope & expected results	Develop and test models that can identify active appliances within households without requiring additional hardware (e.g., plug-level meters). The goal is to enhance device-level visibility using whole-home consumption data
Datasets available	• Time series energy consumption data from residential assets. • Device – level usage data (where available)
Tools & infrastructure offered	• Benchmarking models for load disaggregation Finetuning datasets for algorithm adaptation. *(Integration with internal HEDGE-IoT applications and testing against vision models for further optimization will be supported.)*

TOPIC 6: AI-driven predictive flexibility pricing models – Development of dynamic pricing algorithms that optimize flexibility bids based on congestion and market conditions (Cooperation with the Greek Pilot)

Scope & expected results	Design and test algorithms for dynamic pricing and optimal bidding strategies in day-ahead and intraday electricity markets. The solutions should propose consumer incentive mechanisms and align with real market conditions and congestion signals.
Datasets available	• Submetering data from residential assets • Energy market data and asset availability data • Simulated consumer behavior datasets.
Tools & infrastructure offered	Reference models for consumer behavior and bidding strategies *(Selected solutions will be validated in a test environment and compared to existing HEDGE-IoT bidding strategy tools.)*

TOPIC 7: DSO Perimeters for flexibility resources pre-qualification (Cooperation with the Italian Pilot)

Scope & expected results	Design and validate algorithms that define DSO perimeters suitable for forming Virtual Power Plants (VPPs) within the distribution grid. The goal is to identify "electrical cells" where resource pooling is feasible for more than 90% of the year. Solutions should combine DSO data with external open data

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	sources (e.g., weather, social events) to simulate the impact of future conditions on grid configurations. Applicants are expected to develop deployable modules that can operate within the HEDGE-IoT ecosystem and facilitate flexibility clustering at the community level
Datasets available	• SCADA data (grid topology, historical configuration changes) • GIS data (geospatial representation of grid assets) • Grid and customer-level load and production measurements • Open data (e.g., weather conditions, event-based inputs) These datasets may be aligned with existing HEDGE-IoT ontologies or accessed through data exchange frameworks that support the project's semantic interoperability goals.
Tools & infrastructure offered	• Containerized deployment approach (e.g., Docker) • Target execution environments: DSO's ADMS Kubernetes (K8s) Cluster and HEDGE-IoT Marketplace • Applicants are expected to provide their own development and test environments Developed modules should be compatible with the HEDGE-IoT Marketplace architecture and support interoperability through Dockerized microservices and Kubernetes orchestration.

TOPIC 8: Standardized IoT & Data-Sharing Protocols" – Development of open APIs and middleware that enable seamless integration of smart-grid assets for secure data exchange (Cooperation with the Dutch Pilot)

Scope & expected results	Innovative solutions that plug into the HEDGE-IoT Semantic Interoperability Framework through semantic adapters. Applicants should prototype at least one—and preferably a combination—of the following value-adding services: 4. AI-driven anomaly-detection service that spots (technical) abnormal behavior in energy nodes on - for example - Phase / voltage unbalance, power factor, current outliers etc. and suggest corrective actions, thereby enhancing resilience. 5. Role-based real-time dashboards that visualize KPIs and alarms for distinct stakeholder groups in a business-park context (e.g. facility managers, tenants, DSO).

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6. Digital twin of the campus energy system that integrates live and historical data from heterogeneous energy nodes and supports what-if analysis.

Solutions must expose data and control endpoints via semantic adapters that map to the campus ontology (compatible with ETSI SAREF (https://saref.etsi.org/) / CIM (IEC 61970, IEC 61968 and 62325 series)) and to the Knowledge engine (www.knowledge-engine.eu)

Datasets available

- Access to representative telemetry data streams from the Electricity Week Arnhems Buiten
- A historical archive of campus measurements for algorithm training and benchmarking.
- Example semantic models and device metadata that illustrate how current campus assets are described in Hedge-IoT.

Tools & infrastructure offered

- A hosted interoperability middleware layer
- A basic security test environment to validate compliance with EU cyber-security guidelines.

TOPIC 9: Standardized DER-Integration Solutions for Smart Grids" – Smart control & monitoring of heat pumps, PV, batteries, V2G chargers and building equipment (Cooperation with the Dutch Pilot)

Scope & expected results

Integrate via the knowledge engine (www.knowledge-engine.eu) a modular EMS/BMS component or (micro)service—deployable on edge or cloud—that preferably combine:

- day-ahead and intra-day forecasting & scheduling of campus DERs (PV, batteries, heat pumps, V2G, building loads) and potential external factors;
- standardized flexibility offers / instructions via the semantic framework;
- a human-in-the-loop interface so facility staff can review or override schedules.

Demonstrate measurable KPI improvements during a supervised pilot (e.g. peak-load shaving, self-consumption, CO_2 reduction).

Datasets available

- Access to representative telemetry data streams from the Electricity Week Arnhems Buiten of campus assets (for example (via) Building Management systems for heat pumps, PV inverters, stationary batteries, and V2G chargers, building loads).
- Optional (open source) contextual data feeds such as weather forecasts and dynamic grid-tariff signals.

Tools & infrastructure offered

- A hosted interoperability middleware layer
- A basic security test environment to validate compliance with EU cyber-security guidelines.

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- Remote access to a testbed where control strategies can be validated on real hardware.

TOPIC 10: Hardware utilization for edge computing and testing facilities for HEDGE-IoT models operational testing (Cooperation with the Portuguese Pilot)

Scope & expected results	Empower third parties, especially SMEs, to test and validate their own data-driven and IoT-enabled energy services using the hybrid edge-cloud digital infrastructure developed in the Portuguese pilot. Applicants should integrate and test solutions involving Smart Meters, HEMS, sensors, inverters, and other IoT devices across the edge-cloud continuum, with emphasis on edge offloading, orchestration, and AI portability. The goal is to increase the TRL of candidate services through experimentation in controlled and real-world pilot environments
Datasets available	• High-resolution data from IoT/edge devices (e.g., sensors, actuators, grid assets) • Energy production and consumption data from residential and other DER assets (active and reactive power) • Contextual data aligned with SAREF-based ontologies • Data exchanged via data space connectors to ensure data sovereignty and interoperability

Tools & infrastructure offered	• HEDGE-IoT edge and cloud computing platforms
	• AI/ML tools designed for edge/cloud deployment
	• Federated Learning platforms used in the Portuguese pilot
	• Computational orchestration framework (e.g., based on KubeEdge)
	• Data space connectors (e.g., Eclipse Data Space Connector - EDC)
	• Monitoring tools (e.g., Kube Prometheus)
	• HEDGE-IoT services
	  ○ EdgeConnect – integration of diverse IoT/edge devices
	  ○ OptiFlex – forecasting, pricing, optimization, and bid creation services
	• Semantic interoperability components for standards-based integration

TOPIC 11: Cross-border flexibility value chain and market integration (Cooperation with the Portuguese Pilot)

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Scope & expected results	Enable third parties (especially SMEs) to develop, test, and validate services along the entire flexibility value chain, including aggregation, bidding, activation, and settlement for participation in national and cross-border energy markets. Applicants are expected to connect diverse flexibility providers (residential, industrial, tertiary) to system operators (TSOs/DSOs), focusing on ancillary services, day-ahead market participation, and interoperable service deployment. The topic aims to demonstrate the scalability and replicability of such services using HEDGE-IoT's hybrid edge-cloud infrastructure, while promoting data sovereignty, semantic interoperability, and interaction across stakeholders.

Datasets available	• High-resolution data from IoT/edge devices and DERs (e.g., PVs, batteries, EVs, heat pumps, building assets)
	• Data from industrial and residential assets relevant to flexibility services
	• Market-related datasets:
	  ○ Flexibility needs
	  ○ Consumer metering and baseline data
	  ○ Bidding info and market results
	  ○ Activation setpoints and settlement/payment data
	• Forecasting data (demand/generation) and historical logs
	• SAREF-aligned semantic datasets and models shared via data space connectors

Tools & infrastructure offered	• EdgeConnect platform – facilitating flexibility service creation and market participation • Market Simulator – supporting bidding, activation, and settlement for ancillary services • OptiFlex – forecasting, scheduling, valorization of flexibility • HEDGE-IoT edge/cloud computing infrastructure • AI/ML tools for energy forecasting and flexibility optimization • Data space connectors (e.g., Eclipse Data Space Connector - EDC) enabling cross-organizational data sharing • KubeEdge orchestration framework for workload management • Semantic interoperability modules and Kube Prometheus for system monitoring • Components for data access control, policy mediation, and secure data exchange

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TOPIC 12: Federated Learning (FL) Algorithm Validation in Energy Communities (Cooperation with the Portuguese Pilot)

Scope & expected results	This topic invites applicants to test and validate federated learning (FL) algorithms for energy-related applications in Energy Communities (ECs). FL is a privacy-preserving AI approach where local data stays on each node, and only trained models are shared. The goal is to develop and benchmark decentralized forecasting models—such as short-term load and renewable production forecasts—that support scalable, privacy-compliant, and low-latency edge intelligence. Emphasis is placed on validating the performance of these models in real community environments, leveraging the Portuguese pilot infrastructure and aligning with HEDGE-IoT's decentralization objectives.
Datasets available	• Residential household energy consumption from ECs • Weather forecasts and high-resolution environmental data • Energy data categorized by flexible asset (e.g., HVAC, PVs, batteries) • Forecasting data from Sub-Use Cases (e.g., energy consumption, solar production, shared surplus) • Datasets used for flexible load management optimization and storage modeling • Data aligned with SAREF-based ontologies and shared via data space connectors (ensuring semantic interoperability and data sovereignty)
Tools & infrastructure offered	• FL algorithm baselines (e.g., VAR model with vertical FL) for time-series energy forecasting • RECreation platform – energy community management and market participation service integrating FL forecast results • Data space connectors (e.g., Eclipse Data Space Connector - EDC) for compliant data exchange between organizations • EdgeConnect – enabling stakeholder integration and FL deployment across the flexibility value chain • Computational orchestration layer for managing distributed workloads (e.g., KubeEdge) • Relevant AI/ML tools for decentralized forecasting and optimization operating on the edge-cloud continuum

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TOPIC 13: Load Disaggregation at the Substation Level (Cooperation with the Slovenian Pilot)

Scope & expected results	Develop a solution that identifies different types of distributed energy resources (e.g., PV installations, heat pumps) from aggregated demand measurements at the substation level, without requiring additional hardware installation. A specific algorithm needs to be developed for this purpose by the applicant, with the additional objective of defining the minimum required dataset for the functional service. The goal is to enhance observability of the grid, support DER integration, and improve forecasting. Since the Slovenian demo focuses on developing a similar algorithm limited to PV detection, the accuracy of the newly developed algorithm will be compared to that of the applicants' solution.
Datasets available	• Active and reactive power measurements at the substation level. • Weather data • Publicly available datasets of electricity consumption or generation by the type of DER
Tools & infrastructure offered	ML algorithm developed within the Slovenian demo with the similar aim as the newly developed algorithm by the applicant that can be used for benchmarking the solution and verifying the accuracy.

TOPIC 14: Integration of Data Space Connectors compliant with the new Data Space Protocol showcasing scalability and technology agnostic connectivity

Scope & expected results	• Integration of Data Space Connector implementations (other than the Eclipse or the One-Net Data Space connectors that are already part of the HEDGE-IoT ecosystem) into the HEDGE-IoT Framework • Verification of successful data sharing and exchange through the new Connector among HEDGE-IoT users • Showcase of interoperability across Data spaces and ecosystem expansion
Datasets available	Test Datasets to be created (e.g. Smart Meter data, Grid Operational data, Renewable Generation data, Energy Market and Trading data) to verify a successful data exchange between interconnected actors. Datasets should be aligned with semantic standards (e.g., RDF) to validate semantic interoperability.
Tools & infrastructure offered	• Information on the Existing Data Space Framework of the HEDGE-IoT project and the base components. • HEDGE-IoT Reference Architecture

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- Interoperable interfaces with the HEDGE-IoT framework

TOPIC 15: AI-Enhanced Data App Discovery & Recommendation Engine

Scope & expected results	• Development of an AI-based chatbox to facilitate the discoverability of Apps in the HEDGE-IoT App Store based on the needs of a user • Ability to parse metadata from registered apps and infer utility • Plugin based integration with the HEDGE-IoT App Store interface
Datasets available	• List of registered Apps in the App Store with relevant attributes • Keywords on functionality of each App (depending on App) • Input/Output datasets of each App
Tools & infrastructure offered	• HEDGE-IoT App Store Access (user access, access to integration API endpoints)

TOPIC 16: Semantic Mapper as a Service: A cloud-native or edge-deployable toll to map proprietary or heterogeneous data schemas to the HEDGE-IoT ontologies

Scope & expected results	• Support for mapping input JSON/XML/CSV schemas to target ontologies. • Integration with ETSI SAREF, SAREF4ENER, and optionally other ontologies (e.g., SAREF4GRID). • Compliance with the recently published ETSI EN 303 760 "SAREF Guidelines for IoT Semantic Interoperability; Develop, apply and evolve Smart Applications ontologies"
Datasets available	HEDGE-IoT Ontologies
Tools & infrastructure offered	HEDGE-IoT App Store Hedge-IoT Connector

A1.3. CHALLENGES TO BE ADDRESSED BY APPLICANTS

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Applicants should develop data-driven services running at the edge and/or cloud, exploiting the computational orchestration tools of the project and leveraging IoT assets. Proposals should address one or more of the key challenges below:

- Optimizing energy demand and response
- Enhancing grid flexibility and real-time predictive management.
- Securing IoT-driven energy data and transactions.

A1.4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants must comply with the following criteria:

- Legal entities should be registered in EU Member States or Horizon Europe associated countries.
- Applicants must be profit making Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) or Startups.
- Proposals should be submitted entirely in English.
- The submission should be executed exclusively through the HEDGE-IoT Open Calls Portal: https://www.f6s.com/hedge-iot/about
- Absence of conflict of interest with HEDGE-IoT consortium partners is a pre-requisite.

Applicants shall not have any actual or/and potential conflict of interest with the HEDGE IoT Open Calls process, from application phase to selected proposal's implementation phase.

All cases of conflict of interest will be assessed case by case. Conflict of interest may occur when there are conditions, involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest, that might affect the objective evaluation of the proposal, as defined in the Horizon Europe Programme and EC regulations.

Consortium partners, their affiliated entities, employees and permanent collaborators have not the right to participate.

A1.5. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

To support innovation uptake, HEDGE-IoT will allocate up to **€1,700,000 in cascading funding** to up to **30 third-party experiments**, primarily targeting SMEs. This funding will be distributed **as follows across the two Open Calls**: i) In the first Open Call, **up to 12 projects** will be funded corresponding to an amount of up to **€700,000.00**, ii) In the second Open Call, **up to 18 projects** will be funded corresponding to an amount of up to **€1,000,000.00.** The selection process is described in Section A1.7.3 of this document. Selected applicants can receive **up to €60,000**, covering their eligible costs.

The applicable funding rate for every project will be 70% of the eligible costs for profit making entities.

Eligible costs include:

- Personnel
- Travel and subsistence

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- Consumables and equipment (max. 20% of total budget)
- Subcontracting (up to 20%) but should be fully justified for the action
- 25% overhead costs on all other costs except subcontracting

Funds will be disbursed based upon the successful delivery and approval by the HEDGE-IOT project, of the submitted technical and business reports and demonstrators, along the 6-month implementation program, scheduled to launch with the contract signature of the winning consortia.

Payment structure:

- **25% pre-financing** at project start
- **45%** after successful mid-term review
- **30%** upon approval of final deliverables

A standard contract will define funding terms, IPR, reporting, and compliance with EU audit and control procedures.

To maintain financial transparency, **each funded entity must provide a detailed budget breakdown** as part of their proposal submission. This must include estimated costs for personnel, subcontracting, equipment, and other relevant expenses. The budget should align with project objectives and proposed work and reflect a cost-effective approach to achieving measurable results. The budget will be evaluated for its alignment to the proposed concept and methodology in criterion 3 (implementation).

A1.6. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION PROCESS

Proposals must be submitted via the HEDGE-IoT Open Calls Portal (https://www.f6s.com/hedge-iot/about)

Submission details include:

- Administrative and legal information.
- Technical proposal description, impact, and detailed work plan (max 10 pages).
- Proposals exceeding 10MB or page limits will be rejected.

Applicants are advised against last-minute submissions.

A1.6.1 English Language

The official language for HEDGE-IoT Open Call shall be in English. Proposals must be written in English to a full extent. Any uploaded documents must also be in English.

If any part of the proposal is written in any language other than English, the entire proposal will be rejected. English is the only official language during the whole procedure of the HEDGE-IoT Open Calls. Any requested deliverables and/or reports shall be submitted only in English, otherwise not accepted.

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A1.6.2 Multiple Submissions

Applicants can submit multiple proposals across both Open Calls.

To ensure diversity and allow new actors to contribute, the following restriction will apply:

- Each proposal must target a different Business Use Case (BUC).
- If a participant submitted a proposal under a specific Business Use Case in Open Call 1 and was selected for funding, they cannot submit another proposal in Open Call 2.

A1.6.3 Submission System

Only proposals submitted through the HEDGE-IoT Open Calls Portal (https://www.f6s.com/hedge-iot/about) within the given deadline will be accepted. Proposals submitted by any other means, will not be evaluated.

Only the documentation included in the Proposal Template and in the attachments to the below Template will be reviewed by Evaluators. The proposal and attachments can be only in PDF format.

It is the Applicant's responsibility to have all necessary information included in the Proposal Template. All data provided should be actual, true and complete and therefore allow the assessment of the proposal.

A1.7. EVALUATION PROCESS

All proposals submitted to the HEDGE-IoT Open Calls will follow a transparent and structured evaluation process, in line with European Commission standards. This ensures fairness, impartiality, and equal treatment of all applicants.

A1.7.1 Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

- **Expected Impact:** Contribution to IoT-grid interoperability, scalability, market potential, and alignment with the selected Business Use Case (BUC).
- **Technical Quality:** Soundness of concept, level of innovation, feasibility, and compliance with the HEDGE-IoT architecture.
- **Quality of Work Plan:** Coherence of the plan, clarity of milestones, resource allocation, and risk management.

Each criterion is scored from **0 to 5**:

- 0: Not addressed
- 1: Poor – serious weaknesses
- 2: Fair – significant weaknesses
- 3: Good – addresses the criterion with some improvements needed
- 4: Very Good – strong with minor issues

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- 5: Excellent – fully addresses all aspects

Proposals must receive a **minimum of 3 points per criterion** and a **total score of at least 10 out of 15** to be eligible for funding.

A1.7.2 Evaluation Steps

1. **Eligibility Check:** The Open Call Support Team verifies eligibility and admissibility.
2. **Individual Evaluation Reports (IERs):** Two external evaluators independently review and score each proposal.
3. **Consensus Phase:** Evaluators discuss and align on final scores and comments, resulting in a **Consensus Report (CR)**.
4. **Panel Review:** A panel reviews the ranked proposals, resolves ties (with priority given to SMEs, then Impact, then Technical Quality, and Gender Equality), and validates the final list.
5. **Evaluation Summary Report (ESR):** Applicants receive an ESR with results and comments within **70 days** of the submission deadline.

A1.7.3 Specific Rules for Open Call 1

Open Call 1 will consist of two evaluation rounds.

- In **round 1**, a **maximum of 12 proposals** will be selected to proceed to round 2.
- Only proposals that score a **minimum of 3 points per criterion** and meet the overall eligibility threshold will be considered.
- Priority will be given to the **highest-ranked proposal under each Business Use Case**, to ensure a **diverse and representative selection** across all defined use cases.
- If multiple proposals fall under the same BUC, only the **top-ranked** one may be selected in this phase.

This approach is designed to ensure broad thematic coverage in round 1 and to promote balanced representation of all Business Use Cases.

Business Use Cases for Open Call 2 may be revised or updated based on the findings, feedback, and lessons learned from Open Call 1.

A1.7.4 Redress Procedure

Applicants may submit a redress request within **10 business days** of receiving their evaluation results if they believe a procedural error has occurred. Requests must be sent to **info@inclusinn.com** and will be reviewed internally.

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A1.8. CONTRACTUAL PROCEDURES

Selected applicants must provide:

- Proof of legal existence (registration documents).
- Proof or validation of SME entity
- Certification of no outstanding social security or tax debts.
- Judicial record extracts.
- Declaration of Honor.
- Bank details (official confirmation or recent bank statement).

A1.9. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND DELIVERABLES

Implementation involves the following deliverables:

- **Mid-term Report:** Due at the **end of M3 of the implementation period**, this report will cover technical and business progress and will be reviewed internally. ➤ **Associated with a mid-term review and a 45% payment**, subject to successful approval.

- **Final Report:** Submitted at the **end of M6 of the implementation period**, this report will include technical results, validations, and potential market applications. ➤ **Associated with the final review and release of the remaining 30% payment**, upon approval.

Each report is tied to a review process, and corresponding payments are made **only upon successful approval** of each review stage.

Execution deadlines:

- Open Call 1: February 2026 - July 2026 (potentially until October 2026 for BUC-specific applications as mentioned in Section 1)
- Open Call 2: July 2026 - December 2026

Extension of up to two weeks can be possible for quality assurance.

A1.10. OBLIGATIONS OF BENEFICIARIES

Third Parties selected for funding must ensure that they comply with certain obligations originally detailed under the Grant Agreement between the HEDGE-IoT Project and the European Commission. These obligations are stated in the Contract Agreements signed between HEDGE-IoT representatives and the selected Third Parties.

When signing the Model Contract with HEDGE-IoT and therefore accepting to receive funding grants owned by the European Commission, Third Parties apply a relation between themselves and the

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European Commission through the HEDGE-IoT Project that carries a set of obligations to the Third Parties with the European Commission.

- Avoidance of conflicts of interest
- Confidentiality
- Dissemination of the action and visibility to the EU funding
- Liability for damages

Selected beneficiaries must accept the right of control of the European Commission, OLAF and the Court of Auditors and the right for the European Commission to make an evaluation of the impact of the action. In order to be able to fulfil these obligations, the contractual arrangements on the Third Parties will be included in the Contract Agreements (including control measures and/or reducing the financial support).

A1.11. COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

General communication will be through email notifications at critical evaluation milestones. Applicants may submit objections within 10 days after results publication.

Support and inquiries:

Helpdesk: info@inclusinn.com

Include contact details, specific query descriptions, and screenshots of encountered issues.

A1.12. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Applicants must respect ethical guidelines according to European Commission standards and GDPR regulations. Data provided is solely for the purpose of evaluation, contracting, and monitoring under HEDGE-IoT.

A1.13. PRIVACY POLICY

A1.13.1. Selected platform

The F6S platform has been selected as the primary tool for managing the HEDGE IoT Open call due to its proven capabilities in handling large-scale application processes. F6S platform offers a comprehensive range of features that streamline the application process, including registration, submission, and communication with applicants, all in a user-friendly interface.

A key reason for selecting F6S is its ability to handle high application volumes efficiently, complete with tools for tracking, reviewing, and reporting. Moreover, its customizability allows the consortium to tailor the application process to individual project needs, from defining who can apply to establishing how submissions will be evaluated. The platform's intuitive design and

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straightforward instructions ensure a seamless experience for applicants, minimizing any difficulties in submitting their applications.

Through F6S platform proposals can be electronically submitted, reviewed, monitored and processed during the various stages of evaluation. The applicants will be required to register a profile at F6S to submit a proposal.

A1.13.2. Data Protection

The F6S platform's system design and operational procedures ensure that data is managed in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR). Each applicant will accept the F6S terms to ensure compliance. Please refer here to review the F6S platform's privacy policy and data security policy.

Please note that the HEDGE IoT consortium must retain generated data until five years after the balance of the HEDGE IoT project is paid or longer if there are ongoing procedures (such as audits, investigations or litigation). In this case, the data must be kept until the end.

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ANNEX II - PROPOSAL TEMPLATE

General Instructions on the Template

This template is to be used for the HEDGE-IoT call submission procedure.
The structure of this template must be followed when preparing your proposal. It has been designed to ensure that the important aspects of your planned work are presented in a way that will enable the experts to make an effective assessment against the evaluation criteria.
Please be aware that proposals will be evaluated as they were submitted, rather than on their potential if certain changes were to be made. This means that only proposals that successfully address all the required aspects will have a chance of being funded. There will be no possibility for significant changes to content, budget and team composition during grant preparation.
Total page limit: Sections 1, 2 and 3, together, should not be longer than 10 pages.
All tables, figures, references and any other element pertaining to these sections must be included as an integral part of these sections and are thus counted against this page limit.
The total page limit will be applied automatically; therefore, you must **remove this instruction page** before submitting.
After the deadline, excess pages (in over-long proposals/applications) will not be taken into consideration by the experts.
The proposal is a self-contained document. Experts will be instructed to ignore hyperlinks to information that is specifically designed to expand the proposal, thus circumventing the page limit.
Please, do not consider the page limit as a target! It is in your interest to keep your text as concise as possible, since experts rarely view unnecessarily long proposals in a positive light.
The following formatting conditions apply: The reference font for the body text is Times New Roman. The use of a different font for the body text is not advised and is subject to the cumulative conditions that the font is legible and that its use does not significantly shorten the representation of the proposal in number of pages compared to using the reference font (for example with a view to bypass the page limit). The minimum font size allowed is 11 points.
Standard character spacing and a minimum of single line spacing is to be used. Text elements other than the body text, such as headers, foot/end notes, captions, formula's, may deviate, but must be legible.
The page size is A4, and all margins (top, bottom, left, right) should be at least 15 mm.
Delete the guidance text in each section.

Cover Page

Please include here information regarding proposing consortium:

- The name of your proposal
- Acronym
- Name, email address and organization (contact person)

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PROPOSAL ACRONYM

Proposal Name

This proposal addresses the following business use case: (please select the business use case number. The business use cases' definitions can be found in the Guide for Applicants file in the following link: https://hedgeiot.eu/open-call/

Demonstration Area	**Demo**	**Business Use Case**

Participant

Organization name			
Key person			
Address		**City**	
ZIP Code		**Country**	
Phone Number			
E-Mail			
Website			
PIC *(1)*		**Role**	

(1) Participant Identification Code (PIC) is a 9 digit code you need for participating in European projects. If you already have one please insert the code. If you have not yet please insert your provisional PIC code.

Abstract (limit: 1 page)
Please write a short summary of your proposal here. This summary should include a statement on the developed technology indicating how you address the selected business use case, the proactive planning of the state of the art, the starting point and the impact.

Free Keywords: (separated by commas)

The potential for replication of the solution/service/tools, beyond the selected project.

1. Technical Quality

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Your proposal should address one of the 16 business use cases, defined by the HEDGE-IoT Open Calls Portal (https://www.f6s.com/hedge-iot/about) and it should propose innovative services-technologies to solve it. Your service must have the potential to produce/deliver tangible results. You should describe the technical approaches in detail and justify the technical feasibility of your services/applications.

1.1. Alignment
Describe the general vision highlighting the concepts underpinning the alignment with one or more of the supported activity categories.

1.2. Objectives
Describe the specific objectives for the proposal. They should be clear, measurable, realistic and achievable within the duration of the project. Objectives should be aligned and consistent with the general objectives of the open call

1.3. Concept and approach / Project Description
Elaborate the overall concept underpinning the proposal.

Describe the main ideas, models or assumptions involved.

1.4. Ambition
Describe what advance your proposal would provide beyond the state-of-the-art, the current and envisioned status of HEDGE-IoT project and services/applications and to what extent the proposed work is ambitious.

Describe the innovation potential, which the proposal foresees.

2. Impact

2.1. Expected impact and results
Please describe the impact generated by your results (e.g. long-term effects on the energy community, the market structure, and economic prospects). The impact should be realistic, transparent and measurable. Please individually explain the scientific impact, technological impact and the economic impact that you expect. Please state the indicators (such as the creation of new products, revenue, competitive edge, the creation of new jobs) by which you would like the impact to be measured.

2.2. Exploitation plan of project results
Describe all possible exploitations of the outcome, highlighting any know-how and technology transfer between academia and industry e.g. new product generation, founding new companies, patent application etc. Describe in detail what is the target market and the needs that this innovation is covered, as well as

3. Quality of Work plan
Applicants need to provide credible evidence that the project team has the necessary skills and management experience to deliver the project in the timelines and budget specified.

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Please define the deliverables aligned with the objectives of the open call and the specific business use case to which the proposal relates.
Please include a clear budget, detailing the overall project cost and costs categories, the amount of funding requested and how it will be spent. This budget needs to represent good value for money in the opinion of the evaluation panel selected to evaluate the open call services/applications. Due to the scope and scale of proposals, management structure and cost should be kept at minimum.

3.1. Work plan
Please provide a description of the scientific and technological approach and/or methodology to follow your objectives. Describe the milestones for your technology development and explain processes you will follow to address them. Please make sure that you have concrete results at the end of each phase. Elaborate the outcome of each phase clearly and measurably and explain them. Please describe how you address the required KPIs.
Describe the overall work plan as follows in the following subsections:

1. Task list (use the table in Section 3.3.1);
2. Description of individual tasks (use the table in Section 3.3.2);
3. List of deliverables (use the Table in Section 3.3.3);
4. List of milestones (use the Table in Section 3.3.4)
5. Show the duration of the different tasks and their components
6. Describe any significant risks and associated contingency plans.

3.1.1. Task list
Please provide a list of tasks with the requested details (title, lead participant, start month and end month)

TABLE 1 – LIST OF PROPOSED TASKS

Task No	Task Title	Lead Participant	Start month	End month
T1				
T2				

(Please add another row if you have more tasks. Please be careful that the task number will start after the last task from the previous phase)

3.1.2. Description of individual tasks

Please provide the details of each task which explain the complexity of the work and the overall value of the proposed service. The plan should be detailed and the role of each partner (in case there is more than one partner) should be clearly stated. Milestones should be sufficiently precise to allow monitoring of the project's process.

TABLE 2 – DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED INDIVIDUAL TASKS (1)

Task 1: [name and duration, from month to month]		
Participant	Role	Person- month

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Objectives:
Description of work and contribution of individual participants:

TABLE 3 – DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED INDIVIDUAL TASKS (2)

Task 2: [name and duration, from month to month]		
Participant	Role:	Person-month
Objectives:		
Description of work and contribution of individual participants:		

(Please add tables for each task that you want to include)

3.1.3. List of deliverables

Please explain the deliverables that you will submit during the implementation period. This allows your scientific advisor to concur together with you whether your project is on track and take corrective actions if necessary.

A number of deliverables are required minimum:

1. Mid-term report: Provide a description of the methodology (solution design, methodological approach, technical / business design, expected results, etc.)
2. Final report: Final solution technical / business design, results, tests, assessment, conclusions)

Please provide the list of deliverables that you will submit during the implementation phase.\

TABLE 4 – LIST OF THIRD-PARTY DELIVERABLES

Deliverable No	Deliverable Name	Task No	Nature[1]	Dissemination level[2]	Delivery date[3]
Dx.y					
Dx.y					

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Dx.y					

3.1.4. List of milestones

Milestones are control points where the decisions are needed with regard to the next phase of the project development. A milestone should be defined when a major result has been achieved if its successful attainment is required for the next phase of work or it might be a point when the consortium must decide which of several services to adapt for further development.

TABLE 5 – LIST OF THIRD-PARTY MILESTONES

Milestone No	Milestone Name	Tasks involved	Expected date	Means of verification
M1				
M2				
M3				

3.1.5. Technological Risks

Please explain the risks of the technology development and your plan to address these risks. Please make sure that you have identified all crucial risks (technical, commercial and others) and indicate how these will be addressed and overcome effectively.

3.2. Service resources – costs

Please detail the budget that you need, describe the travel expenses and other major cost items. Include costs for travel, including to joint events such as workshops, and for dissemination and exploitation events during the runtime of the service implementation.

Example

The service partners are committed to mobilize the resources needed to guarantee the achievement of the results. The total budget is of xxx €. The total requested funding is of xxx €.

- *Breakdown of costs (please, provide the costs for the implementation phase):*
- *Personnel: The involvement of the x participants in the xx months will amount to xx €*
- *Travel expenses: Attendance to periodical technical meetings and the presence at the challenge host will amount to xx €*
- *Other direct costs: they will amount to xx € (provide a brief description)*

TABLE 6 – BREAKDOWN OF THIRD-PARTY ESTIMATED COSTS

Participant Number	Participant short name	ESTIMATED ELIGIBLE COSTS*							
		Effort (PM)	Personnel Costs (€)	Travel (€)	Other direct costs (€)	Indirect costs (€)	Total subcontracting costs (€)	Total costs (€)	Requested funding (€)

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- *In column 'Effort (PM)', insert the required person months for the work involved.*
- *In column 'Personnel Costs (€)', insert your personnel costs for the work involved.*
- *In column 'Other direct costs (€)', insert any other direct costs, for example material costs. Only the eligible part of the equipment full cost (with taxes) for the project's duration can be considered; this may depend on local or national rules on depreciation.*
- *In column 'Indirect costs (€)', insert your indirect (overhead) costs; 25 % of all your direct costs.*
- *In column "Total subcontracting costs", insert any costs related to a subcontract you would enter. Subcontracting costs should be exceptional, well justified and will require the prior written consent of the Cascade funding partner. Please note that you will have to ensure that the subcontractor will comply with all obligations, especially coming from the contract that you will sign with the Cascade funding partner, if successful. Please provide here sufficient justification on what and why you need to subcontract some of your tasks.*
- *In column 'Total costs (€)', calculate the sum of all your indicated costs.*
- *In column 'Requested funding (€)', insert your requested EC contribution. You may request up to the total amount allowed by the related open call.*

4. Intellectual Property and Ethical Issues

Please explain your plans addressing IP (e.g. patent) issues to protect the technology rights. Please explain your plan to address Ethical Issues (if it is the case for your service) and the certification process. Finally, please state that there is no active engagement with the HEDGE-IoT Consortium Partners nor the business use case provider of the specific business use case you are addressing.

5. Company description (Third party)

Write a brief description of the legal entity, the main tasks they have been attributed, and the previous experience relevant to those tasks. Provide also a short profile of the individuals who will be undertaking the work.

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ANNEX III - GUIDE FOR EVALUATORS

1. General Overview

This document is written to support Evaluators for the evaluation process of the proposals submitted to the HEDGE-IoT Open Calls for Third Parties under the HEDGE-IoT project that will be launched as follows:

Open Call 1: July 22, 2025, with a deadline of October 24, 2025, at 17:00h CET (Brussels time)
Open Call 2: February 5, 2026, with a deadline of April 24, 2026, at 17:00h CET (Brussels time)

Proposals are allocated to Evaluators who need to evaluate them against predefined evaluation criteria (in line with the European Commission's evaluation criteria) and verify that the proposals comply with the specific requirements of the business case under which it is submitted.
The evaluation process of the proposals will involve evaluators who may be External Evaluators, Internal Evaluators (members of the HEDGE-IoT Steering Committee), or a combination of both. The exact composition of the evaluation panel will be confirmed and communicated clearly prior to the evaluation phase.

This Guide provides information on the awarded criteria and the evaluation process. Guidelines on how evaluators assess the submitted proposals via the "Reviewers Area" on evaluation meetings and on the drafting and quality of the reports (Individual Evaluation Report and Consensus Report) are described in detail. The Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) is the official document that will be communicated to the applicants of each proposal.
The Guide for Applicants, especially Section 1 and 2, includes all detailed information needed on the HEDGE-IoT Open Call, i.e. the call's initiative, HEDGE-IoT project's scope, SOTA and/or infrastructures.

1.1. Evaluators' Code of Conduct

The call and the selection of the third parties to be funded shall follow the same principles which govern European Commission calls as described in the Guide for applicants:

- **Excellence.** The proposal(s) selected for funding must demonstrate a high quality in the context of the topics and criteria set out in the call.
- **Transparency.** Funding decisions must be based on clearly described rules and procedures, and all applicants should receive adequate feedback on the outcome of the evaluation of their proposals.
- **Fairness and impartiality.** All proposals submitted to a call are treated equally. They are evaluated impartially on their merits, irrespective of their origin or the identity of the applicants.
- **Confidentiality.** All proposals and related data, knowledge and documents are treated in confidence.
- **Efficiency and speed.** Evaluation, award and grant preparation should be as rapid as possible, commensurate with maintaining the quality of the evaluation, and respecting the legal framework.

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Specifically, the evaluator must perform his/her work with:

- **Independence:** Evaluators shall assess proposals on a personal capacity and not on behalf of any organization. The evaluator must perform his/her work to the best of his/her abilities, professional skills, knowledge and applying the highest ethical and moral standards. He/She cannot delegate the work to another person or be replaced by another person.

Both External and Internal experts involved in the evaluation process, will have to confirm their independence and neutrality in written before the beginning of the evaluation process.

- **Impartiality:** Evaluators shall treat all proposals equally and evaluate them impartially on their merits, irrespective of their origin or the identity of its applicants.

This impartiality will have to be demonstrated in the reports of the HEDGE-IoT Consortium to the European Commission and the Project Officer (EC/PO) describing the evaluation procedure and outcome of the Open Call. The EC/PO should not be otherwise involved in the open call process.

- **Objectivity:** Evaluators shall assess each proposal as submitted and not on its potential if certain alterations changes were to occur.
- **Accuracy:** Evaluators shall make their judgment against the official evaluation criteria of the open call, and nothing else.
- **Consistency:** Evaluators shall apply the same standard of judgment to each and every proposal taking into consideration the specific service development impartially.
- **Avoidance of Conflict of interest:** Evaluators should take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the work is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest ('conflict of interests').

Evaluators have to declare in advance any known conflicts of interest and have to inform the HEDGE-IoT Team by the time one becomes apparent during the evaluation procedure.

- **Confidentiality:** Evaluators shall maintain strict confidentiality with respect to the evaluation procedure. They have to comply with the instructions provided by the HEDGE-IoT Team to guarantee this. Evaluators have to abide by confidentiality rules before, during and after the evaluation procedure.

Evaluators have to sign a declaration of confidentiality - absence of conflict of interest beforehand.

1.2. Evaluation Deadlines

TABLE 7 – OPEN CALL 1 EVALUATION DEADLINES

Open Call 1	
Submission Opening	Tuesday, July 22, 2025
Submission closure	Tuesday, October 24, 2025, at 17:00h CET (Brussels time)
Eligibility check	By November 6, 2025
Allocation of proposals to experts	November 12-13, 2025
Briefing	November 17, 2025
Evaluation	
Individual Evaluation Reports (IER)	By December 1, 2025
Consensus Reports (CR)	By December 8, 2025
Evaluation Summary Report (draft ESR)	By December 12, 2025

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Evaluators have to be available from briefing date until the ESR implementation date. Only Experts appointed as Call Coordinators will participate to the allocation of proposals to Experts, which will take place from 12/11/2025 until 13/11/2025 and to the Panel Meeting, which will take place from 16/12/2025 until 17/12/2025.

TABLE *8* – OPEN CALL 2 EVALUATION DEADLINES

Open Call 2	
Submission Opening	Thursday, February 5, 2026
Submission closure	Wednesday, April 24, 2026, at 17:00h CET (Brussels time)
Eligibility check	By May 1, 2026
Allocation of proposals to experts	May 2-7, 2026
Briefing	May 13, 2026
Evaluation	
Individual Evaluation Reports (IER)	By May 19, 2026
Consensus Reports (CR)	By May 25, 2026
Evaluation Summary Report (draft ESR)	By May 29, 2026

Evaluators have to be available from briefing date until the ESR implementation date. Only Experts appointed as Call Coordinators will participate in the allocation of proposals to Experts, which will take place from 2/5/2026 until 7/5/2026 and to the Panel Meeting, which will take place from 1/6/2026 until 3/6/2026.

1.3. Contact persons for HEDGE-IoT Open Calls

The people involved in the evaluation procedure and are your contact persons for the HEDGE-IoT Open Calls are:

George Boultadakis, HEDGE-IoT Project Coordinator (ED)
Nikolaos Bilidis (ED)
Christina Sianidou (INCL)

2. Evaluation Process

2.1. Evaluation stages

Eligibility check

The HEDGE-IoT Open Calls Support Team (mentioned in Section 1.3) performs a first check of admissibility and eligibility of submitted proposals. However, a proposal can be declared ineligible at any phase of the evaluation procedure: during the evaluation and if any doubt arises, you have to report the case to the Call Coordinator.

Proposals are allocated to two Expert Evaluators according to their field of expertise by the Calls' Coordinators.

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Individual Evaluation Reports (IER)
Two Expert Evaluators assess independently the eligible proposal and prepare an Individual Evaluation Report (IER).
Each evaluator will rank the proposal assigning a score from 0 to 5 for each awarded criterion IMPACT, TECHNICAL QUALITY, QUALITY OF WORK PLAN in Section 3 and conduct an Individual Evaluation Report (IER). The default threshold for each criterion is 3 out of 5. The default overall threshold is 10 out of 15.

Consensus Report (CR)
Following this, as soon as the IERs for each proposal are submitted, the Call Coordinator assigned to the specific proposal (who acts as "Rapporteur") drafts a first Consensus Report based on the 2 IERs.
A Consensus meeting will be realized for the exchange of views on the basis of the individual evaluations. Points of disagreement are discussed. The initiative is for the 2 Evaluators to come to an agreement on the comments provided for each criterion. The Evaluators will decide the score that best matches the comments.
Once the Consensus Report is conducted, each Evaluator will provide her/his comments and final approval. The outcome of all CRs will be an initial ranking list of the eligible proposals based on the individual scores assigned to each proposal.

Evaluation Summary Report (ESR)
The Evaluation Panel (Support Team and two experts) will identify the most promising candidates through a Panel Review Meeting. The scope of the Panel Review is to perform an additional quality check to the reports, to prioritize ex-aequo cases and to approve the final ranked list of proposals. The outcome will be strongly based on the ranking produced by the Experts Evaluators. However, the Evaluation Panel will ensure that the proposals are realistic in terms of time and effort, are in line with the HEDGE-IoT scope, will have significant impact as described in the announced Business Use Cases (BUCs), and meet the criteria of section 3 of the current document. A justification for each alteration on the ranking list will be provided by the Evaluation Panel.

Proposals awarded the same score within the ranked list will be prioritized as described below:

- Proposals of SMEs and Start-ups will be given priority.
- Following this, proposals will be prioritized according to the scores for the criterion Impact.
- When these scores are equal, priority will be based on the scores for the criterion Technical Quality.
- When these scores are equal, any further prioritization will be based on the criterion of the Gender Equality

As an outcome of the Panel Review, one ranked list for the selected proposals (up to 28 Third Parties) will be produced. A reserve list will also be produced with the next ranked proposals in case a selected Third Party fails to sign the Contract for any reason.
An Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) with the results of the evaluation and the selection process signed by the Project Coordinator will be conducted. The Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) will be communicated to the applicants by email and will be published on the HEDGE-IoT Open Calls Portal within 70 days from the submission closure.
Please note that the Commission may require from the HEDGE-IoT Coordinator to collect any document related to the Cascading Funds mechanism, including submitted proposals and evidence of the evaluation procedure.

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2.2. Experts' role

During the evaluation procedure, Experts are appointed to different roles:
(Expert) Evaluators: Each Evaluator independently assesses the proposal and prepares an Individual Evaluation Report (IER). There are 2 Evaluators per each proposal. Evaluators also participate to the remote Consensus Meeting.
Call Coordinator: Expert responsible for the management of the evaluation procedure. Call Coordinator do not assess the proposals but:

- Acts as an impartial moderator to the Consensus Meeting procedure and ensures the quality of the evaluation process.
- Acts as Rapporteur, namely he/she conducts a draft Consensus Report based on the IERs submitted by the two Experts and when approved by Experts Evaluators submit the Consensus Reports.
- Check the quality of each individual evaluation, but not the quality of their CR's that will be checked by another Call Coordinator acting as cross-reader.
- Cross-read the CRs of other proposals in order to check the quality and consistency of comments and scores.
- Contact the Evaluators to provide feedback or ask for clarifications, if needed.
- Participate in the Panel Review Meeting where the ranking lists will be approved.

3. Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria for each of the individual proposals of the HEDGE-IoT Open Calls are described below. The criteria reflect the European Commission's criteria, in particular the expected impact of the proposal funded under those services.

TABLE 9 – OPEN CALLS EVALUATION CRITERIA

1. EXPECTED IMPACT	
Aiming at strengthening the collaboration between network operators: ● What is the impact of the innovation on the needs of European and global markets? ● Is there a measurable enhancement in the grid when adapting the HEDGE-IoT framework? ● To what extent has the proposal the potential to address future/ wider applications in the field? ○ To what extent the proposal addresses the BUC's initiative/ requirements under which it is submitted? ○ What is the quality of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of IPR) and to manage research data where relevant?	**Score: /5** (Threshold 3/5)
2. TECHNICAL QUALITY	

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• Is there clarity, pertinence, soundness of the concept and credibility of the proposed methodology? • Are the use case and the technical approach for the adaptation/integration of requirements described in the BUCs clearly described? • Are the use case and the technical approach in compliance with the IHEDGE-IoT architecture, HEDGE-IoT tools and methodology? • Does the proposed work go beyond the state of the art, demonstrates innovation potential (e.g. ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches, new products/ services, new business models, etc.)? • Excellence/ capacity of the applicant.	**Score: /5** (Threshold 3/5)
3. QUALITY OF THE WORK PLAN	
• Is the work plan coherent and effective and appropriate regarding the allocation of tasks and resources, and the justification of resources? • To what extent the crucial risks (technical, commercial and other) to project success appear to have been identified and how effectively will these be managed?	**Score: /5** (Threshold 3/5)
Remarks	
• Ethical implications and compliance with applicable international, EU and national law	Essential
Overall score:	**Score: /15** (Threshold 10/15)

4. Evaluation Reports

4.1. Individual Evaluation Report (IER)

The Evaluators identify whether the proposal fails entirely to address the scope of the specific business case of the HEDGE-IoT Open Call that they are evaluating and/or involves ethical issues that need further analysis. Following this, they evaluate each proposal according to the evaluation criteria required by the Commission, which are Expected Impact, Technical Quality, and Quality of Work Plan (Section 3 above). For each criterion, the Expert Evaluator marks a provisional score between 0 and 5 points.

The awarded criteria are listed in Section 3 (see table of section 3).

Evaluators draft a report with positive and/or negative arguments. Each argument should be described shortly (three or four lines of text). In order to produce the IER the Evaluators shall:

- Read the whole proposal
- Check that the proposal complies with the specific requirements of the Open Calls

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- Check that the proposal complies with the specific requirements of the business case that the proposal addresses
- Evaluate and independently assess the proposal according to the awarded criteria
- Evaluate whether the applicants possess the operational capacity to implement the services proposed
- Score the proposal corresponding the description of each score (see Section 3)
- Score the proposal corresponding the report's comments and
- Submit the IER

The quality of the IER is important for the drafting of a qualitative Consensus Report. Call Coordinators will check the quality and completeness of the submitted proposals and will interact with the Evaluators for clarifications, if needed. The proposals shall be assessed on their current status and not on their potential if modified. No recommendations should be added to the reports.

4.2 Consensus Report (CR)

Following the above, a remote Consensus Meeting will be organized. The two Evaluators that assessed a proposal discuss on their individual evaluation reports and agree on comments and final scores. The Evaluators have to agree on both evaluation description and final scores for each criterion.
The Consensus Meeting is moderated by the Rapporteur.
The Rapporteur shall:

- Identify agreements of assessment and suggest a consensus description
- Identify divergences of assessment and encourage Evaluators to exchange opinions
- Moderate the discussion and support Evaluators to reach an agreement on the comments/scores
- Ensure that scores agreed are consistent with the description of the scores and Evaluators' comments. If not, give guidelines to achieve this objective.

The Consensus Meeting results in a Consensus Report (CR) written by the Rapporteur. This report includes justification of scores and contradictory reviews, if any. Each and every Evaluator must approve the report and the scores. At the end of this process, the Rapporteur submits the final version of the CR, which is then approved by the 2 Evaluators.

4.3 Evaluation Summary Report (ESR)

The Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) will be published on the HEDGE-IoT Open Calls Portal within 70 days from the end of the proposals' submission. The results of the evaluation will be communicated to all participants by email.

5. Specific issues

5.1. Objections

Applicants can send objections for review 10 business days after the publication of the evaluation results by sending e-mail to: info@inclusinn.com

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5.2. Scores

Evaluators should score each criterion in the IER. The scores range from 0 to 5. The meaning of the scores is indicated below: the score should reflect comments and be based on the meanings as indicated below.

0 – Fails: The proposal fails to address the criterion under examination or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information;

1 – Poor: The criterion is addressed in an inadequate manner, or there are serious inherent weaknesses;

2 – Fair: While the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses;

3 – Good: The proposal addresses the criterion well, although improvements would be necessary;

4 – Very good: The proposal addresses the criterion very well, although certain improvements are still possible;

5 – Excellent: The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor.

6. Report quality

A qualitative Evaluation Summary Report presupposes IERs and CRs of high quality. ESR will be communicated to applicants, therefore it must provide a clear assessment of the proposal providing weaknesses and strengths with comments consistent to the given scores. High quality reports are crucial to the success of the evaluation.

The comments should refer only to each criterion and sub-criterion. Strengths and weaknesses shall be listed in bullet points (with hyphens "-"). Some indicative guidelines on how to write comments on the reports are outlined below.

Comments shall be:

- Specific to the relevant criterion
- Addressing each sub-criterion
- Clear and descriptive
- Definitive and final
- Properly verified
- Consistent with the awarded score
- Each strength and/or weakness shall be reflected only once in the scores
- Of adequate length
- Relative to the proposal in its current status, not to its potential

The comments shall **not**:

- Be Categorical
- Be assumptions, i.e. if important points of the proposal are unclear, it has to be reflected in comments and scores.
- Provide recommendations or advice on how to improve the proposal.
- Refer to the same weakness under different criteria
- Include contradicting statements related to strengths and weaknesses
- Be discriminating and/or politically incorrect
- Be too short, too long or otherwise inappropriate

Evaluators when scoring, shall consider that:

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- Scores must reflect the strengths and weaknesses of the submitted proposals and be in line with the comments addressed
- Each strength and weakness must be reflected only once in the report and the scores
- Scoring should be consistent all through the evaluation.

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ANNEX IV - MODEL CONTRACT

This Model Contract Funding Agreement includes the rights and obligations originated in the HEDGE IoT Grant Agreement and Consortium Agreement.

This HEDGE IoT Model Contract Funding Agreement for providing financial support to the Selected Third Party via the cascade funding mechanism, hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement", is entered into by and between:

SOCIAL OPEN AND INCLUSIVE INNOVATION ASTIKI MI KERDOSKOPIKI ETAIREIA -INCLUSINN, established in Manis 5 Penteli, Athens, Greece represented for the purposes of signing the Agreement by Mrs. by Afroditi Givissi, Administrator, hereinafter referred to as the "**Cascade Funding Partner**"

And

TABLE *10* – SELECTED THIRD PARTY INFORMATION (1)

Official Name of the Selected Third Party (Acronym):	
VAT Number:	
PIC Number:	
Legal Status:	
Name of the legal signatory:	
Legal office address:	

TABLE *11* – SELECTED THIRD PARTY INFORMATION (2)

Official Name of the Selected Third Party (Acronym):	
VAT Number:	
PIC Number:	
Legal Status:	

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Name of the legal signatory:	
Legal office address:	

referred to as "**Selected Third Parties**",

Hereinafter referred to as "Selected Third Parties";

Hereinafter individually or collectively referred to as "Party" or "Parties".

Whereas INCLUSINN and its partners according to the HEDGE IoT Consortium Agreement, (hereinafter sometimes collectively referred to as the "HEDGE IoT Beneficiaries" and individually and alternatively referred to as the "HEDGE IoT Beneficiary") participate to the Horizon Europe project entitled "Holistic Approach towards Empowerment of the DiGitalization of the Energy Ecosystem through adoption of IoT solutions" (hereinafter the "HEDGE IoT Project");

Whereas the HEDGE IoT Beneficiaries entered into the Grant Agreement N° 101136216 with the European Commission (the "Grant Agreement" or "GA") and signed together in 2023 a Consortium Agreement with respect to the HEDGE IoT Project (the "Consortium Agreement" or "CA").

Whereas the HEDGE IoT Project involves financial support to selected third parties via a cascade funding mechanism (hereinafter "Cascade Funding").

Whereas the Selected Third Parties have been selected to implement the Service as described in Annex I "Servicer Specific Contract".

Whereas the Selected Third Parties will be in charge of the implementation of the Service with the participation of the HEDGE IoT Beneficiaries identified in Annex I "Service Specific Contract".

Whereas the Cascade Funding Partner is willing to provide financial support to the Selected Third Parties for the implementation of such Service and the Selected Third Parties are willing to receive such funding under the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

Whereas in accordance to the Grant Agreement and the Consortium Agreement, the Cascade Funding Partner shall sign an agreement with the Selected Third Parties compliant with the GA and CA, after validation by the other Selected Third Parties.

Whereas the Cascade Funding Partner is responsible for the enforcement of this Agreement with the Selected Third Parties and for the monitoring of the Service implementation phase.

Therefore, it has been agreed as follows:

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A4.1. DEFINITIONS

Words beginning with a capital letter shall have the definition outlined in this Section of the Agreement:

a. **Agreement** is this Model Contract Funding Agreement, together with its Annexes.

b. An **Affiliated Entity** of a HEDGE IoT Beneficiary is any legal entity, directly or indirectly Controlling, Controlled by, or under common Control with that Party, for as long as such Control lasts.

c. **Background** is, any and all, data, information and know-how (whatever form or nature, tangible or intangible, including any rights such as intellectual property rights, enlisted in Annex I) that is required to implement the Project or exploit the Results and that is:
   - owned or controlled by the Parties or an HEDGE IoT Beneficiary prior to the date of signature of the Contract (Annex I); or
   - developed or procured by the Parties or an HEDGE IoT Beneficiary independently during the work done in the Services even if in parallel with the production
   - of the Services, but solely to the extent that such data, information, know-how and/or intellectual property rights are introduced into the Services by the owning Parties

d. **Access Rights** are the rights to use Results or Background in accordance with the provisions of the Horizon Europe Annotated Model Grant Agreement and under the terms and conditions laid down in this Agreement.

e. **Controlled Licence Terms** are terms in any license that involve the use, copying, modification and/or distribution of the Work and/or of any work that is a modified version or a derivative work of such Work (in each case, defined as Derivative Work).

f. **Exploitation** or **Exploit** is the use of results for further research activities other than those covered by the Open Calls action, or for developing, creating and marketing a product or process, or creating and providing a service, or any standardization activities.

g. **Fair and Reasonable conditions** are appropriate conditions, including financial terms or royalty- free conditions, considering the specific circumstances of the demand for access, for example the actual or potential value of the background or results to which access is requested and/or the initiative, duration or other characteristics of the exploitation envisaged.

h. **Financial Support** is the grant amount of the financial support to be given to the Selected Third Parties for the implementation of the Service by the Cascade Funding Partner as detailed in Annex I "Service Specific Contract".

i. **Services** is the service to be carried out by HEDGE IoT Beneficiaries and the Selected Third Parties as detailed in Annex I "Service Specific Contract".

j. **Intellectual Property Rights Policy** are the Policy outlined at Section 5 of this Agreement.

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k. **Results** are any tangible or intangible output of the action, any and all data, knowledge or information, that is generated during the action, whatever form or nature, whether it can be protected or not, plus any rights inclined to it, including intellectual property rights.

l. **Selected Third Parties** are the entities and organizations participating in the Service, as listed in Annex I.

m. **Technical Expert** is either an external expert to the HEDGE IoT Consortium or an HEDGE IoT Beneficiary except the Cascade Funding Partner, that is responsible for the evaluation of the deliverables submitted by the Selected Third Parties and for authorizing the Cascade Funding Partner to proceed with the payment of the Financial Support when the deliverables have been accepted.

A4.2. OBLIGATIONS FROM MODEL GA AND CA REFLECTED IN THIS AGREEMENT

The Cascade Funding Partner receives funding from the European Commission to organize the Services implementation. Selected Third Parties must comply with the obligations described in this Agreement and some of the obligations outlined in Horizon Europe Annotated Model Grant Agreement.
The Horizon Europe Annotated Model Grant Agreement is available on the following link:
https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/aga_en.pdf

The Selected Third Parties understand and agree to comply with the obligations comprised in this Agreement and with the specific ones in Horizon Europe Annotated Model Grant Agreement. The Selected Third Parties are only bound by this Agreement and not by Grant Agreement or the Consortium Agreement.

A4.3. FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THIRD PARTIES

a. The Selected Third Parties shall participate in the HEDGE IoT Open Call and Service implementation in accordance with the state of the art. The Selected Third Parties shall implement the tasks according to the timeline described in Annex I "Service Specific Contract" and shall report to the Cascade Funding Partner on the activities' progress in regular intervals as indicated in Annex I "Service Specific Contract". The technical reports shall contain detailed information on the results generated by the Selected Third Party, as displayed on the template in Annex II.

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b. The Cascade Funding Partner shall provide Financial Support for the Service developed by the Selected Third Parties, in accordance to the payments' schedule specified in Annex I "Service Specific Contract" and always subject to:
   - A favourable resolution by the evaluators and coaches responsible for assessing the Project in each of the stages (a set of deliverables and KPIs will be set-up by coaches and sub-grantees and their achievement monitored during the project's execution.
   - The availability of funds in the HEDGE IoT bank account during the relevant payment period.
   - The prior notice to the Selected Third Parties of the date and amount to be transferred to their bank account.

   Payments to the Selected Third Party will be made by the Cascade Funding Partner. In particular:
   1. The Cascade Funding Partner reserves the right to withhold the payments in case the Selected Third Party does not fulfil its obligations and tasks as per the Guide for Applicant.
   2. Banking and transaction costs related to the handling of any financial resources made available to the Selected Third Party by the Cascade Funding Partner shall be covered by the Selected Third Parties.
   3. The Selected Third Parties are responsible for complying with any tax and legal obligations that might be attached to this financial contribution.

c. The pre-financing payment shall be paid to the Selected Third Parties by the Cascade Funding Partner pursuant to the schedule and in conditions defined in Annex I "Service Specific Contract".

d. The Selected Third Parties shall complete in a comprehensive manner the Annex IV "Selected Third Party financial identification form" and shall notify any changes to the Cascade Funding Partner as soon as they have occurred. The Cascade Funding Partner shall not in any case by liable for any late payment incurred by a change in the financial identification of the Selected Third Parties. The financial support shall take the form of a reimbursement of [*seventy percent (70 %) if the Selected for Party is a for profit making entity OR one hundred percent (100 %) if the Selected Third Party is a non-profit entity*] of the eligible costs actually incurred within the limit of the maximum financial support.

e. The Selected Third Parties shall use the template of costs reporting in Annex II "Technical Report Template". The following elements shall be included in the Selected Third Parties technical report:
   - Identification of the Service
   - Identification of deliverables and milestones.
   - Detailed information on the deliverable produced for the implementation of the Service
   - A financial statement of costs actually incurred validated by the legal representative of the company

f. No payment will be made by the Cascade Funding Partner if all the conditions outlined in this article are not fulfilled.

g. Payments shall be made as indicated in Annex I "Service Specific Contract" provided that all conditions enlisted in Section 3 of this Agreement are fulfilled by the Selected Third Parties. For any avoidance of doubt, the payment is determined as specified in Annex I "Service Specific Contract".

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h. The documentation mentioned above must be sent to the following email/or physical address: christina@inclusinn.com

i. The Selected Third Parties shall complete Annex V of this Agreement and shall inform the Cascade Funding Partner for any Alteration as soon as it has occurred. The Cascade Funding Partner shall not in any case be liable for any late payment incurred by an alteration in the financial identification of the Selected Third Parties.

A4.4. LIABILITY FOR DAMAGES

a. The Selected Third Party shall comply with all applicable laws, rules and regulations, including but not limited to safety, security, welfare, social security and fiscal laws, rules and regulations.

b. The contractual liability of the Cascade Funding Partner under this Agreement shall in any case be limited to the amount of the Financial Support provided to the Selected Third Parties hereunder and the Cascade Funding Partner. The Cascade Funding Partner shall not in any way be liable for any indirect or consequential damages such as:

- loss of profits, interest, savings, production and business opportunities
- lost contracts, goodwill, and anticipated savings
- loss or damage to reputation or data
- costs of recall of products or
- any other type of indirect, incidental, punitive, special or consequential loss or damage.

c. The Cascade Funding Partner shall not in any case be liable for any damage caused in the involved action in cases of gross negligence.

d. Selected Third Parties shall not be entitled to act or to make legally binding declarations on behalf of the Cascade Funding Partner or any other HEDGE IoT Beneficiary.

e. The Selected Third Party shall fully and exclusively bear the risks in connection with the Research for which Financial Support is granted by the Cascade Funding Partner. The Selected Third Party shall indemnify the HEDGE IoT Beneficiaries and the Cascade Funding Partner for all damages, penalties, costs and expenses which the HEDGE IoT Beneficiaries or the Cascade Funding Partner as a result thereof would incur or have to pay to the European Commission or any third parties with respect to such Research financially supported and/or for any damage in general which the HEDGE IoT Beneficiaries or the Cascade Funding Partner incur as a result thereof. In addition, should the European Commission have a right to recovery against the Cascade Funding Partner or another HEDGE IoT Beneficiary regarding the Financial Support granted under this Agreement, the Selected Third Party shall pay the sums in question in the terms and the date specified by the Cascade Funding Partner. Moreover, the Selected Third Party shall indemnify and hold the HEDGE IoT Beneficiaries and the Cascade Funding Partner, their respective officers, directors, employees and agents harmless from and against all repayments, loss, liability, costs,

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charges, claims or damages that result from or arising out of any such recovery action by the European Commission.

f. In respect of any data or materials (including Results and Background) provided either by one Party to another Party or to a HEDGE IoT Beneficiary, or by a HEDGE IoT Beneficiary involved in the Service to a Party, no warranty or representation of any kind whatsoever, expressed or implied as to the sufficiency, accuracy or fitness for purpose and non- infringement of any proprietary rights of third parties.

A4.5. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS POLICY

Each Selected Third Party understands the terms of the "Intellectual Property Rights Policy" defined hereafter. Each Selected Third Party agrees to comply with the Intellectual Property Rights Policy to ensure that the Cascade Funding Partner will always be able to comply with such terms towards the HEDGE IoT Beneficiaries.

a. **Ownership:** Results are owned by the Parties or by the HEDGE IoT Beneficiary that generate them.

b. **Joint Results:** Due to provisions of the Consortium Agreement signed between the HEDGE IoT Beneficiaries, if, in the course of developing the Service, a Result is generated by the Selected Third Parties together with one or several HEDGE IoT Beneficiaries, they shall own the Results jointly.

Where such joint Result is not covered by intellectual property rights, the joint owners shall execute a joint ownership agreement regarding the allocation and the terms and conditions of Exploitation of the joint Results before any industrial or commercial Exploitation.

Unless otherwise agreed:

- each of the joint owners shall be entitled to use their jointly owned Results for internal non-commercial research activities and educational purposes on a royalty-free basis, and without requiring the prior consent of the other joint owner(s), and
- each of the joint owners shall be entitled to otherwise Exploit the jointly owned Results, including by granting non-exclusive licenses to third parties (without any right to sub-license), if the other joint owners are given:
  - at least 45 calendar days advance notice; and
  - Fair and Reasonable conditions compensation.

The joint owners shall agree on all protection measures and the division of related cost in advance.

c. **Access Rights**

i. During the Service, the Intellectual Property (including, but not limited to Results) under Controlled Licence Terms in the Service shall be stated in detail and requires the prior approval of the Cascade Funding Partner and of the Selected Third Parties to implement it.

ii. Due to provisions of the Consortium Agreement signed between the HEDGE IoT Beneficiaries, Access Rights to Background and Results may be requested by the

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Selected Third Parties from a HEDGE IoT Beneficiary only in the following case and if the following conditions are fulfilled:

Selected Third Parties have Access Rights to Background and Results if and when such Access Rights have been agreed on a case-by-case basis via a respective agreement between the Selected Third Party/ies and the HEDGE IoT Beneficiary/ies concerned. Such respective agreement shall not affect any legitimate right of other HEDGE IoT Beneficiaries nor violate any of the provisions outlined in the GA and/or CA. The separate agreement shall ensure that the other HEDGE IoT Beneficiaries have access to the Background and Results of the Selected Third Parties if needed for the Implementation of the Project or Exploitation of its own Results.

Access Rights may be requested by the Selected Third Parties up to eighteen (18) months after the completion of the Service.

iii. Each Selected Third Party shall grant Access Rights on its Background and/or Results to the HEDGE IoT Beneficiaries to the extent that such Background and/or Results are needed for the implementation of the Service and/or implementation of the HEDGE IoT Project, and/or exploitation of the HEDGE IoT Results.

- In the condition that an HEDGE IoT Beneficiary has Access Rights on the Selected Third Parties' Results and/or Background for implementation of the Service, such Access Rights shall be granted on a royalty-free basis, unless otherwise agreed.
- In the condition that Access Rights on Results and/or Background of the Selected Third Parties are Needed by HEDGE IoT Beneficiaries in order to implement the HEDGE IoT Project, such Access Rights to the Selected Third Parties' Results shall be granted on a royalty-free basis and shall comprise the right to sublicense such Results and/or Background to the other selected third parties participating in the HEDGE IoT Project:
  - as far as these other selected third parties Need to have access to such Background to use the Selected Third Party's Results to carry out their own industrial experiment under the HEDGE IoT Project; and
  - if no major interest opposes.

iv. Where Access Rights on the Selected Third Parties' Results and/or Background are needed by HEDGE IoT Beneficiaries in order to exploit their Results, the conditions on which Access Rights will be granted shall be negotiated between the Selected Third Parties and the HEDGE IoT Beneficiary concerned and agreed in a respective agreement.

v. Access Rights may be requested by the HEDGE IoT Beneficiaries up to twelve (12) months after the end of the Service.

A.4.6. CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

a. Obligation to avoid a conflict of interests

The Selected Third Parties must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the action is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest ('Conflict of interests').

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They must formally notify to the Cascade Funding Partner without delay any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interests and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation. The Cascade Funding Partner may verify that the measures taken are appropriate and may require additional measures to be taken by a specified deadline.

b. Consequences of non-compliance

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this document, the financial support may be reduced (see Article 28 of Horizon Europe Annotated Model Grant Agreement) and the Agreement or participation of the beneficiary may be terminated. Such breaches may also lead to any of the other measures described in this Agreement.

A.4.7 CONFIDENTIALITY

a. All information of whatever form or mode of communication, which is disclosed by the Parties or an HEDGE IoT Beneficiary (all together called the "Disclosing Partner") to the other Parties or to any HEDGE IoT Beneficiary (all together called the "Recipient") in connection with the Project during its implementation that is identified as confidential at the time of disclosure is "Confidential Information". If information has been identified as confidential orally, it will be considered to be "confidential" only if it has confirmed in writing within 15 business days of the oral disclosure.

b. Neither party may assign or otherwise transfer its rights and obligations out of this agreement, neither in whole nor in part, without the other party's prior written consent.

c. The Recipient shall use the same degree of care regarding the Confidential Information disclosed within the scope of the Project that it uses for its own confidential and proprietary information.

d. Each Party shall promptly advise the other Parties or the concerned HEDGE IoT Beneficiary in writing of any unauthorized disclosure, misappropriation or misuse of Confidential Information after it becomes aware of such unauthorized disclosure, misappropriation or misuse.

e. Recipient (a) shall not disclose Confidential Information, neither in whole nor in part, to any third party; (b) shall only use the Confidential Information for the purpose of the Project; and (c) shall not, without the Discloser's written consent, neither in whole nor in part, commercially exploit or use the Confidential Information. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Recipient may make such disclosure if it is required to do so by law, provided always that Recipient has informed Discloser about such disclosure at least two business days prior to the disclosure.

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A.4.8. DISSEMINATION

a. The Cascade Funding Partner and the Selected Third Parties are entitled to include the main issues and information regarding the Service in their reporting towards the European Commission, subject to prior written notification to the Selected Third Parties.

b. The Selected Third parties must inform of any intentional dissemination activity with at least 5 business days' notice but may proceed if no objection is received from the Selected Third Parties prior to the event.

c. Any communication activity related to the Service (including in electronic form, via social media, etc.) and any infrastructure, equipment and major results funded by the grant must:

   - display the EU emblem
   - display the HEDGE IoT Project logo
   - include the following text:

For communication activities: "This Service has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101136216 via the cascade funding mechanism".

For infrastructure, equipment and major results: "This [infrastructure][equipment][insert type of result] is a part of the HEDGE IoT Open Calls mechanism , that has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101136216".

A.4.9. CHECKS AND AUDITS

a. The Selected Third Parties agree to provide any data and/or information, including information in electronic form, requested by the European Commission or by any other external body authorized by the European Commission to check that the Service and the provisions of this Agreement are being properly implemented.

b. The Selected Third Parties shall keep all original documentation at the European Commission's disposal, especially accounting and tax records, or, in exceptional justified cases, certified copies of original documents relating to the Agreement, archived on any appropriate medium that ensures their integrity in accordance with the applicable laws, for a period of five years from the date of payment of the balance specified in this agreement.

c. The Selected Third Parties agree to allow European Commission staff and external personnel authorized by the European Commission the appropriate right of access to the sites and premises of the Selected Third Parties and to all information, including information in electronic form, needed to conduct audits.

   – Such audits shall be carried out throughout the period of implementation of the Agreement until the balance is paid and for a period of five years from the date of

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payment of the balance. If appropriate, the audit findings may lead to recovery decisions by the European Commission.

d. In accordance with Union legislation, the European Commission, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and the European Court of Auditors (ECA) may carry out spot checks and inspections of the documents of the Selected Third Parties, and of any recipient of Cascade Funding, including at the premises of the Selected Third Parties, in accordance with the procedures laid down by Union law for the protection of the financial interests of the Union against fraud and other irregularities. Where appropriate, the inspection findings may lead to recovery decisions by the European Commission.

A.4.10. TERMINATION

a. The Cascade Funding Partner can terminate this Agreement with immediate effect in written notice to the Selected Third Parties:

- if a Selected Third Party is in breach of any of its obligations under this Agreement, which breach is not remediable, or, if remediable, has not been remedied within twenty (20) business days after written notice;
- if, to the extent permitted by law, a Selected Third Party is declared bankrupt, is being wound up, is having its affairs administered by the courts, has entered into an arrangement with its creditors, has suspended business activities, or is the subject of any other similar condition;
- if a Selected Third Party is subject to an Event of Force Majeure, that prevents the Selected Third Party from fair performance of its obligations hereunder and such conditions have lasted or can be reasonably expected to last more than 3 months.

b. Access Rights granted to the Selected Third Parties shall refrain immediately upon the effective date of termination.

A.4.11. CONCLUDING CONDITIONS

a. The Parties who will not sign the terms of this Agreement (including Annex I) will not be effective, until the Cascade Funding Partner has received written confirmation from each Selected Third Party that it agrees to their content. This written confirmation can be addressed by the Selected Third Party by email to the Cascade Funding Partner.

b. Once each written confirmation is addressed by the Selected Third Party, any ancillary agreements, amendments, additions or modifications to this Agreement shall be made in writing and signed by the Parties and will only be effective by the time the Cascade Funding Partner has received written confirmation from each Selected Third Party that it agrees to their content.

c. Any subcontract by the Selected Third Parties concerning some of its tasks under this Agreement requires the prior written consent of the Cascade Funding Partner and does not affect its own obligations resulting from this Agreement. The Selected Third Parties shall secure that the subcontractor will comply with all obligations – especially coming from the

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Annotated Model Grant Agreement, and regarding confidentiality – resulting from this Agreement and that the results attained by the subcontractor will be available in accordance with Section 5 of this Agreement.

d. This Agreement will enter into force on the date of the last signature by the Parties.

e. This Agreement shall continue in full force and effect until complete fulfilment of all obligations undertaken by the Parties.

f. If any provision of this Agreement is determined to be illegal or in conflict with applicable laws, the validity of the remaining provisions shall not be affected. The ineffective provision shall be replaced by an effective one which is economically equivalent. The same condition shall apply in case of a gap.

g. This Agreement shall be governed by and defined in accordance with the laws of Belgium.

h. Any disagreement or dispute which may arise in connection with this Agreement and which the Parties are unable to settle by mutual agreement will be brought before the courts of Brussel, Belgium.

Done in two originals, one for each Party.

On behalf of the Cascade Funding Partner: Signature of the authorized representative:	On behalf of the Selected Third Party: Signature of the authorized representative:
Name: Afroditi Givissi Title: Administrator Date:	Name: Title: Date:

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ANNEX V - SERVICE SPECIFIC CONTRACT

This HEDGE IoT Service Specific Contract for implementation of the Service by the Selected Third Parties, hereinafter referred to as the "Specific Contract", is entered into by and between:

SOCIAL OPEN AND INCLUSIVE INNOVATION ASTIKI MI KERDOSKOPIKI ETAIREIA -INCLUSINN, established in Manis 5 Penteli, Athens, Greece represented for the purposes of signing the Agreement by Mrs. by Afroditi Givissi, Administrator, hereinafter referred to as the "**Cascade Funding Partner**"

And

TABLE *12* – SELECTED THIRD PARTY INFORMATION (3)

Official Name of the Selected Third Party (Acronym):	
VAT Number:	
PIC Number:	
Legal Status:	
Name of the legal signatory:	
Legal office address:	

TABLE *13* – SELECTED THIRD PARTY INFORMATION (4)

Official Name of the Selected Third Party (Acronym):	
VAT Number:	
PIC Number:	
Legal Status:	
Name of the legal signatory:	
Legal office address:	

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(Add as many as the SELECTED Third Parties)

referred to as "**Selected Third Parties**",

Hereinafter referred to as "Selected Third Parties";

Hereinafter individually or collectively referred to as "Party" or "Parties".

Whereas the Cascade Funding Partner and the Selected Third Parties have agreed the main terms and conditions to implement the Service during the HEDGE IoT Project by signing the Specific Contract which form part of this Model Contract Funding Agreement.

Now therefore it has been agreed as follows:

A. ENTRY INTO FORCE

The specific contract shall enter into force on the day of its signature by the last Contracting Party. The Cascade Funding Partner's Project Manager shall sign this contract, only after all of the following document have been received by the Selected Third Party.

- The original signed Declaration of Honor (as given in Annex V) of the Standards Research Contract) by the Project Manager and Authorized representative
- Copy of ID-card or Passport of legal representative (s)
- Copy of the original extract of the organization
- Proof of VAT
- Selected Third Party Financial Identification Form (as given in Annex IV)
- Estimated budget for the action (as given in Annex III)
- If a group of legal entity, copy of the signed team agreement with the denomination of the Authorized representative.

B. TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE SERVICE

TABLE 14 – THIRD PARTY SERVICE IDENTIFICATION

Description of the Service Specific Contract	
Acronym	
Full Title	
HEDGE IoT call identification	
Starting date of the Research	
Duration of the Research	
Date of selection of the Selected Third Party(ies)	

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TABLE 15 – PARTCIPATING PARTNERS' INVOLVED IN THE RESEARCH DETAILS

Participating Partners involved in the Research	
Cascade Funding Project Manager	**INCLUSINN**
Name & surname	Christina Sianidou
Tel:	+30-6989003087
Email:	christina@inclusinn.com
Selected Third Party Project Manager Authorized representative	**[Complete]**
Role	The authorized representative is the intermediary between the party (ies) and the Cascade funding project Manager. In particular, the authorized representative shall be responsible for : -Setting a team agreement of all the Third Party(ies) Partners involved in the Research if relevant -Monitoring compliance with obligations stipulated in this contract. -Keeping partners when relevant, updated. -Collecting, reviewing and submitting reports/deliverables and specific requested documents to the Cascade funding project Manager on time. -Transmitting documents and information connected with the research to any other party (ies) concerned. -Administering the financial contribution related to the research and fulfilling the financial tasks related to the research.
Name & surname	**[Complete]**
Tel:	**[Complete]**
Email:	**[Complete]**
Selected Third Party Partner 2 (when relevant)	**[Complete]**
Role	
Name & surname	**[Complete]**
Tel:	**[Complete]**
Email:	**[Complete]**
Selected Third Party Partner 3 (when relevant)	**[Complete]**
Role	
Name & surname	**[Complete]**
Tel:	**[Complete]**
Email:	**[Complete]**

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Date of agreement of all the Third Party Partners involved in the Research when relevant	[Complete]

TABLE *16* – IMPLEMENTATION'S WPS & TASKS

Implementation of the Research	
WP 1	[Complete]
Task 1.1	[Complete]
Starting date	[Complete]
Duration	[Complete]
Objectives	[Complete]
Description	[Complete]
Expected outcomes	[Complete]
Deliverable	[Complete]
Task 1.2	[Complete]
Starting date	[Complete]
Duration	[Complete]
Objectives	[Complete]
Description	[Complete]
Expected outcomes	[Complete]
Deliverable	[Complete]
WP 2	[Complete]
Task 2.1	[Complete]
Starting date	[Complete]
Duration	[Complete]
Objectives	[Complete]
Description	[Complete]
Expected outcomes	[Complete]
Deliverable	[Complete]
Task 2.2	[Complete]
Starting date	[Complete]
Duration	[Complete]
Objectives	[Complete]
Description	[Complete]
Expected outcomes	[Complete]
Deliverable	[Complete]
[Add as many tasks as necessary]	

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The expected research outcomes are listed hereafter

TABLE 17 – PROPOSED EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Expected research outcomes	
Expected results in terms of Research	**[Complete]**
Expected results in terms of IPR, software, know-how	**[Complete]**

The background and IPR of the third party (ies) is described hereafter:

TABLE 18 – THIRD PARTIES BACKGROUND

Third party(ies) Background	
Selected Third Party Partner 1 - Project Manager	**[Complete]**
Selected Third Party Partner 2	**[Complete]**
Selected Third Party Partner 3	**[Complete]**

TABLE 19 – THIRD PARTIES IPR

Third party(ies) IPR	
Selected Third Party Partner 1 - Project Manager	**[Complete]**
Selected Third Party Partner 2	**[Complete]**
Selected Third Party Partner 3	**[Complete]**

(Based on the proposal that was submitted)

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C. FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

TABLE *20* – THIRD PARTIES FINANCING DETAILS

Financial conditions	
Financial Support	**Up to 60,000.00 euros per applicant**
Schedule of payment	**Pre-financing:** 25% **Interim payment:** 45% **Final payment:** 30%
Payment conditions	**Pre-financing:** After reports definition, and attendance to a welcome event where teams, partners and mentors will know each other (attendance mandatory), a pre-financing of 25% of the total amount will be released. **Interim payment:** based on concrete results. A successful submission of the mid-term technical report unlock the 2nd payment which is 45% of the total amount. **Final payment:** Following the same logic as before, third parties will be paid according to their overall completion the service and the final report (remaining 30%) at the end the implementation period.

D. MISCELLANEOUS

1. This **Service Specific Contract** Funding Agreement, composed by Standard Service Contract and its Annexes I to IV, sets forth the entire agreement and understanding between the funding partner and the Parties relating to the subject matter herein and shall supersede all prior correspondence, agreements and understandings, both verbal and written.

2. All capitalized terms used in this **Service Specific Contract** Funding Agreement (that are all of the terms of the Standard Service Contract and Annexes I-IV), which are defined in the Standard Service Contract shall have the definitions outlined in the Standard Service Contract. In condition of contradiction between this Specific Contract and the Standard Service Contract, the terms of the Standard Service Contract shall apply.

Done in two originals, one for each Party.

On behalf of the Cascade Funding Partner:	On behalf of the Selected Third Party:
Signature of the authorized representative:	Signature of the authorized representative:
Name:	
Title:	Name:
Date:	Title:
	Date:

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ANNEX VI - TECHNICAL REPORT TEMPLATE

(to be used for the interim and final payments)

1. Reporting period
   DD/MM/YYYY to DD/MM/YYYY

2. Objectives of the period

3. Description of the objectives of the Service Implementation period (concept and objectives), achieved progress and potential innovation, targeted Results description and used Background.

4. Summary of achievements
   Summarize major results and achievements and evaluate them compared with the objectives.

5. Results achieved
   Description of the KPIs of the services that they have been achieved.

6. Deliverables and milestones
   Name and description of the deliverables delivered and milestones achieved in the period (if any)

7. Relevant facts during the period
   Any relevant fact during the implementation period

8. Risks management
   The way risks (if any) have been/will be managed

9. Planed activities
   Main activities planned for the next reporting period

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ANNEX VII - ESTIMATED BUDGET FOR THE ACTION

TABLE 21 – PROPOSED THIRD PARTIES ESTIMATED BUDGET

Expenditures	Total in EUR
A.1. Staff costs (where applicable)	....
A.2. Travel and subsistence	-
A.3. Equipment and materials	-
A.5. Conferences and seminars	...
Total	...
Revenues	**Total in EUR**
R.1. HEDGE IoT Grant	...
R.2. Income generated by the action	-
Total	...

All amounts should be provided in euro.

Staff costs will be calculated on the basis of the actual daily salary/fees of the employee/service provider, multiplied by the number of days to be spent on the project. This calculation may include, if necessary, all the normal charges paid by the employer, such as social security contributions and related costs, but must exclude any bonus, incentive and profit-sharing arrangements or running costs. Staff costs may not exceed the normal costs for each staff category in the country concerned.

Name of the Authorized representative of the Selected Third Party (ies):

XXXX

Function of the Authorized representative of the Selected Third Party (ies):

XXXX

Signature of Authorized representative the Selected Third Party (ies):

[Complete]

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ANNEX VIII - SELECTED THIRD PARTY FINANCIAL IDENTIFICATION

FINANCIAL IDENTIFICATION

PRIVACY STATEMENT https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/about_the_european_commission/eu_budget/privacy_statement_en.pdf

By submitting this form, you acknowledge that you have been informed about the processing of your personal data by the European Commission for accounting and contractual purposes.

Please use CAPITAL LETTERS and LATIN CHARACTERS when filling in the form.

BANKING DETAILS ①

ACCOUNT NAME ②			
IBAN/ACCOUNT NUMBER ③			
CURRENCY			
BIC/SWIFT CODE		BRANCH CODE ④	
BANK NAME			

ADDRESS OF BANK BRANCH

STREET & NUMBER			
TOWN/CITY		POSTCODE	
COUNTRY			

ACCOUNT HOLDER'S DATA

AS DECLARED TO THE BANK

ACCOUNT HOLDER			
STREET & NUMBER			
TOWN/CITY		POSTCODE	
COUNTRY			

REMARK	

BANK STAMP + SIGNATURE OF BANK REPRESENTATIVE ⑤	DATE (Obligatory)
	SIGNATURE OF ACCOUNT HOLDER (Obligatory)

① Enter the final bank data and not the data of the intermediary bank.

② This does not refer to the type of account. The account name is usually the one of the account holder. However, the account holder may have chosen to give a different name to its bank account.

③ Fill in the IBAN Code (International Bank Account Number) if it exists in the country where your bank is established

④ Only applicable for US (ABA code), for AU/NZ (BSB code) and for CA (Transit code). Does not apply for other countries.

⑤ It is preferable to attach a copy of RECENT bank statement. Please note that the bank statement has to confirm all the information listed above under 'ACCOUNT NAME', 'ACCOUNT NUMBER/IBAN' and 'BANK NAME'. With an attached statement, the stamp of the bank and the signature of the bank's representative are not required. The signature of the account-holder and the date are ALWAYS mandatory.

FIGURE 2: THIRD PARTY FINANCIAL IDENTIFICATION FORM

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ANNEX IX - DECLARATION OF HONOR

(*To be filled out by the applicant and signed by its legal representative*)

I, the undersigned,

[***enter name of legal representative***],

authorised to represent

[***enter legal name of your organisation***],

leader of the
[***enter name of project: Proposal Acronym-Proposal title***]

hereby certifies that:

a. the Legal person, that I represent is not one of the following conditions:

1. is not bankrupt or being wound up, nor having its affairs administered by the courts or has entered into an arrangement with creditors or has suspended business activities or is the subject of affairs concerning those matters, or is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;

2. has not been guilty of a grave professional misconduct proved in any way which the contracting authority can justify including by decisions of the European Investment Bank and international organizations;

3. complies with its obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which it is established or those of the country where the contract is to be performed or those of the country of the contracting authority;

4. is not subject to any administrative penalty for being guilty of the misrepresentation of any information required by the contracting authority, as a condition of participation in a grant award procedure or another procurement proceeding or failing to deliver this information, or having been declared to be in serious breach of its obligations under contracts or grants covered by the Union's budget;

5. or persons having power of representation, authority and/or control over it, have not been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of res judicata;

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6. no persons having power of representation, authority and/or control over it, have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in criminal organizations or any other illegal activity that is detrimental to the Union's financial interests;

7. is not affiliated to any of the HEDGE IoT Consortium Partners;

8. is not subject to a conflict of interest defined in Section 4 of the Guide of Applicants;

9. has not made false declarations in supplying the information required, as a condition of participation in the Open Calls or does not fail to supply this information.

b. that the natural persons with power of representation, decision-making or control over the above-mentioned legal entity are not in the conditions referred to in 5 and 6 above;

c. that the Legal person, that I represent:
   - is committed to participate in the mentioned project above;
   - has or will have the necessary resources if and when needed to fulfil its involvement in the above-mentioned project.
   - has sufficient and stable sources of funding to maintain its activity throughout its participation in the above-mentioned project and to provide any necessary counterpart funding;

d. I also declare that:

   - I voluntarily agree to participate in the HEDGE IoT Open Calls.
   - I understand and fully accept all HEDGE IoT Open Calls conditions and rules as described in the Guide for Applicants of the HEDGE IoT Open Calls.
   - I have been given the opportunity to ask questions about the call and its procedures via the HEDGE IoT Open Calls Helpdesk
   - I am aware that I can withdraw my application at any time without giving reasons and that I will not be penalized for withdrawing nor will I be questioned on the reasons I have withdrawn.
   - I confirm to inform the HEDGE IoT Team, immediately, for any conflict of interest will arise, after the submission deadline and until the fulfillment of the evaluation process.

e. Supporting documents

   For conditions a.1, a.3 or a.4, recent certificates issued by the competent authorities of the country concerned are required. These certificates must certify the covering of all taxes and

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social security contributions for which the person is liable, including VAT[1], income tax (natural persons only), company tax (legal persons only) and social security contributions. Failing that, a sworn statement made before a judicial authority or notary, is required or, failing that, a solemn statement made before an administrative authority or a qualified professional body in its country of establishment.

For conditions a.2, a.5 or a.6, a recent extract from the judicial record is required or, failing that, an equivalent certificate recently issued by a judicial or administrative authority in the country of establishment of the person proving that the above requirements are satisfied.

The above documentation will have to be provided within deadline communicated with the publication of the "Final Selection List" (immediately or after the reserve list). If the requested documentation is not provided in time, this will directly end the Model Contract Funding Agreement Process and applicants enlisted in the 'Reserve List' will substitute the above ones in order of ranking.

Following this, the HEDGE IoT Consortium (represented by its coordinator ED) will sign the Model Contract Funding Agreement with the final list of beneficiaries. The applicants who undersign the above Contract will be confirmed as beneficiaries of the HEDGE IoT Open Calls for Third Parties.

f. I voluntarily agree to be registered at HEDGE IoT Open Calls portal at https://www.f6s.com/hedge-iot/about and I understand that I can delete my profile from the above-mentioned portal by informing HEDGE IoT Team via email.

For the legal entity[2]: ..... Name/Surname:..... Job title:.....	Signature and stamp (if applicable)
Done at (place)..... the (day).....(month).....(year).....	

[1] VAT is mandatory during the contract preparation. Failure of providing a valid VAT of the specific Third Party will result in automatic rejection of the proposal.

[2] This document needs to be signed by the legal representative of your organization

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ANNEX X – HEDGE IOT OPEN CALLS PORTAL'S PRIVACY POLICY

1. Selected platform

The F6S platform has been selected as the primary tool for managing the HEDGE IoT Open call due to its proven capabilities in handling large-scale application processes. F6S platform offers a comprehensive range of features that streamline the application process, including registration, submission, and communication with applicants, all in a user-friendly interface.

A key reason for selecting F6S is its ability to handle high application volumes efficiently, complete with tools for tracking, reviewing, and reporting. Moreover, its customizability allows the consortium to tailor the application process to individual project needs, from defining who can apply to establishing how submissions will be evaluated. The platform's intuitive design and straightforward instructions ensure a seamless experience for applicants, minimizing any difficulties in submitting their applications.

Through F6S platform proposals can be electronically submitted, reviewed, monitored and processed during the various stages of evaluation. The applicants will be required to register a profile at F6S to submit a proposal.

2. Data Protection

The F6S platform's system design and operational procedures ensure that data is managed in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR). Each applicant will accept the F6S terms to ensure compliance. Please refer here to review the F6S platform's privacy policy and data security policy.

Please note that the HEDGE IoT consortium must retain generated data until five years after the balance of the HEDGE IoT project is paid or longer if there are ongoing procedures (such as audits, investigations or litigation). In this case, the data must be kept until the end.

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