



# All-in-one middleware for industrial human-robot-interaction

[arise-middleware.eu](https://arise-middleware.eu)

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Coordinator



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Consortium partners



## Document History

| Ver. | Date       | Description   | Author              | Partner      |
|------|------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------|
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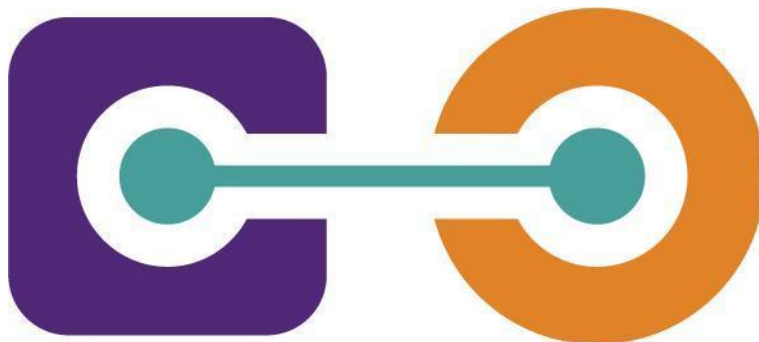
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# D5.1 Call Announcement and Guide for Applicants



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# 1<sup>st</sup> ARISE Open Call Announcement

| <b>Call Announcement</b>                    |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Call title:</b>                          | 1 <sup>st</sup> ARISE Open Call  |
| <b>Full name of the EU-funded project:</b>  | Agile, human-centric, and Real-time enabled open Source technologies advancing industrial HRI in Europe  |
| <b>Project acronym:</b>                     | ARISE  |
| <b>Grant agreement number:</b>              | 101135784  |
| <b>Call publication date:</b>               | 14/10/2024   |
| <b>Call deadline:</b>                       | 16/01/2025   |
| <b>Expected duration of participation:</b>  | 12-month Support and Mentoring Programme<br>Stage 1. Individual Mentoring Plan<br>Stage 2. Proof of Concept<br>Stage 3. Deployment and Experimentation<br>Stage 4. Launch sharable HRI modules   |
| <b>Total EU funding available:</b>          | € 5 200 000 (total funding ARISE Open Call)  |
| <b>Submission &amp; evaluation process:</b> | <p>Submission through the application form available at: <a href="https://arise.fundingbox.com/">https://arise.fundingbox.com/</a></p> <p>The selection of the Open Call proposals will be carried out in a six steps process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Step one will check the proposals against eligibility criteria.</li> <li>- Step two (In/Out Scope Screening) will involve a 'Selection Committee' to assess the proposal according to the criteria.</li> <li>- Step three will involve independent evaluators to assess the proposal according to the criteria.</li> <li>- Step four will involve the ARISE Consensus Meeting to agree on a common position, including comments and scores for all evaluated proposals.</li> <li>- Step five will involve the 'Selection Committee' to decide the 'Provisional List of FSTP recipients' and 'Reserve List' in a Jury Day.</li> <li>- Step six will cover the formal check of the pre-selected beneficiaries.</li> </ul> <p>For further information see the 'Guide for Applicants'.</p> |
| <b>Further information:</b>                 | Application form: <a href="https://arise.fundingbox.com/">https://arise.fundingbox.com/</a><br>OC helpdesk: <a href="https://discord.com/invite/htCDsfMzXr">https://discord.com/invite/htCDsfMzXr</a><br>OC website: <a href="https://arise.fundingbox.com/">https://arise.fundingbox.com/</a><br>OC complaints email: <a href="mailto:arise.complaints@fundingbox.com">arise.complaints@fundingbox.com</a><br>Project website: <a href="https://arise-middleware.eu/">https://arise-middleware.eu/</a>  |

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <p><b>Task description:</b></p> | <p>The exact amount of financial support to be granted to each selected entity under 1<sup>st</sup> ARISE Open Call is a fixed lump sum of up to EUR 200,000 per project. The 1st ARISE Open Call will select up to 13 projects composed of maximum of 2 entities: one entity SME/Mid-cap/Start-up acting as a <b>technology provider</b> developing the HRI enabler solution, and an <b>end-user</b> of any entity type proposing the use-case scenario.</p> <p>If the technology provider is an SME, the end-user can be either the same SME or another entity of any type (including RTOs and Universities).</p> <p>If the technology provider is not an SME, the end-user has to be an SME.</p> |
|---------------------------------|---|

**Additional information**

[ARISE](#) (Agile, human-centric, and Real-time enabled open Source technologies advancing industrial HRI in Europe) is a HORIZON EUROPE project funded by the European Commission. It is coordinated by FUNDACION CARTIF (CAR), with the participation of 10 partners from 5 countries.

ARISE will launch 2 Open Calls to select up to 26 projects for HRI-enabled solutions for industrial robotics automation. These projects will be consortium based, with a tech provider for developing solutions, and an end user setting the industrial case, for a robotized process to be improved or updated with Human-Robot Interaction capabilities.

The exact amount of financial support to be granted to each selected entity under 1<sup>st</sup> ARISE Open Call is a fixed lump sum of up to **EUR 200,000**<sup>1</sup> per project.

We are looking for teams composed of a maximum of 2 entities.

The composition for eligible teams can be:

- **Technology providers** for the development of a HRI enabled industrial robotics solution: **SMEs (including Startups)/Mid-Caps**
- **End-users** proposing the use-case scenario and setting specific Human-Robot Interaction (HRI) requirements:
- If the technology provider is an **SME**, the end-user can be either the same SME or another entity of any type (including RTOs and Universities).
- If the technology provider is not an SME, the end-user has to be **an SME**.

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<sup>1</sup> This amount could be decreased depending on the quality and the accomplishments of the requested deliverables during the milestones review (see section 5)



# Guide for Applicants

## 1<sup>st</sup> ARISE Open Call

**Submission of applications starts:** **October 14, 2024, at 8:00 Brussels Time**

**Submission deadline:** **January 16, 2025, at 17:00 Brussels Time**

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# 1. Basic Info about ARISE

**ARISE** (**A**gile, **h**uman-centric, and **R**eal-time enabled open **S**ource technologies advancing industrial HRI in Europe) is a HORIZON EUROPE project funded by the European Commission. It is coordinated by FUNDACION CARTIF (CAR), with the participation of [10 partners](#) from 5 countries.

ARISE aims towards making industrial Human-Robot Interaction (HRI) more accessible and cost-effective, in particular in healthcare, intra-logistics and manufacturing sectors. Below, you can find Figure 1, which illustrates the outcomes and tools of the ARISE ecosystem.

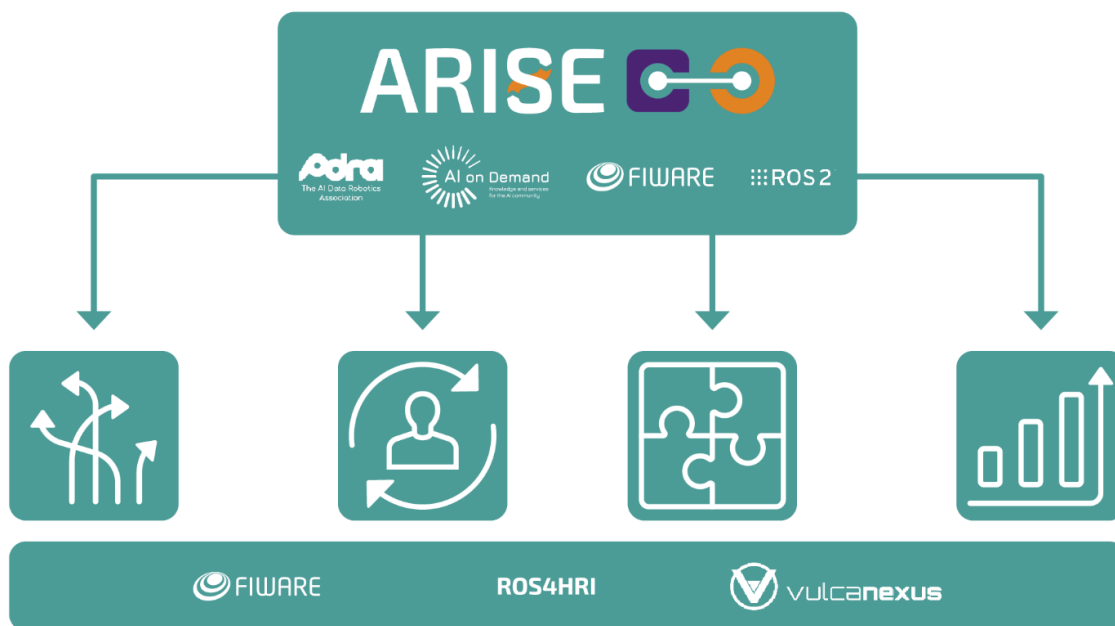


Figure 1 – outcomes and tools of the ARISE ecosystem

The outcomes within the ARISE ecosystem are as follows:

**Agility** – defines the ability of a production system to quickly adapt and respond to changes in demands, technology, or unforeseen circumstances while maintaining (cost-) efficiency and quality.

**Human-centricity** – entails prioritizing the needs, preferences, and experiences of individuals in the design and implementation of products, services, and systems.

**Community** – collaborates to create and enhance technological solutions, during advancements and efficiency within industrial processes and systems.

**Continuous performance** – seamless integration of the new technologies and practices within existing systems, ensuring smooth operations and sustainable progress.

ARISE will launch 2 Open Calls to select up to 26 projects for HRI-enabled solutions for industrial robotics automation. These projects will be consortium based, with a tech provider for developing solutions, and an end user setting the industrial case, for a robotized process to be improved or updated with Human-Robot Interaction capabilities.

Where can you find key information regarding this Open Call?

- This Guide for Applicants is the main document including the most important requirements that must be met by applicants.
- ARISE application system: <https://arise.fundingbox.com/>
- If you have any technical problems or doubts when filling in the online Application Form, post your questions in the [Helpdesk on Discord](#). [Here](#) you can find out how to access the Helpdesk.
- Website <https://arise-middleware.eu/>

ARISE is planning some dissemination/information activities about this Open Call. They will be announced at the [ARISE Open Call Microsite](#) and [Discord Community](#).

## 2. What do we offer?

The 1st ARISE Open Call will select up to 13 projects composed of one SME/Mid-cap/Start-up acting as a **technology provider** developing the HRI enabler solution, and an **end-user** of any entity type proposing the use-case scenario.

The selected projects will benefit from the 1st ARISE Open Call in the following ways:

- participating in a 12-month Support and Mentoring Programme,
- receiving a grant in the maximum amount of up to **EUR 200,000** per project.

All applicants are required to submit a budget estimation using the Excel table available on the ARISE Open Call microsite "[Guides&Documents](#)".

## 3. Eligibility Criteria

To participate in the ARISE Support Programme you have to meet all the criteria described in Section 3 of this Guide, positively pass our evaluation process described in Section 4 of this Guide for Applicants, and finally sign the Sub-Grant Agreement with the ARISE Consortium.

The projects that do not comply with all the criteria described in this section 3 will be excluded and marked as ineligible. We will check the eligibility criteria, based on the information provided in your application, during the whole evaluation process.

### 3.1 Who are we looking for?

We are looking for teams composed of a maximum of 2 entities.

The composition for eligible teams can be:

- **Technology providers** for the development of a HRI enabled industrial robotics solution: **SMEs<sup>2</sup> (including Startups<sup>3</sup>)/Mid-Caps<sup>4</sup>**
- **End-users** proposing the use-case scenario and setting specific Human-Robot Interaction (HRI) requirements:
  - If the technology provider is an **SME**, the end-user can be either the same SME or another entity of any type (including RTOs and Universities).
  - If the technology provider is not an SME, the end-user has to be **an SME**.

At least, 1 SME per team is required and it has to be the **team leader**.

**Please note that it is possible for a team to consist of a single applicant fulfilling both the roles of Technology Provider and End-user.**

**End-Users** are the owners of an industrial facility where the target industrial process is already in place. Some needs related to production improvements with a focus on enhancing workflows in the selected process were previously detected. ARISE aims to bring human-centric solutions to their specific needs for HRI improvements, particularly focusing on workflow optimization through the use of a collaborative robotics application.

- **Manual workers** are the main actors in the proposed use cases for the collaborative robotics application. They need to adapt their current workflows to the newly deployed digitalised solution within the use case.
- **Shop Floor Managers** are secondary actors in the proposed use cases for the collaborative robot application. They interact with the monitoring system, collaborate with manual workers and are responsible for managing human and non-human resources to achieve the business objectives of the end user company.

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<sup>2</sup> An **SME** will be considered as such if it complies with the European Commission's Recommendation 2003/361/EC. As a summary, the criteria defining an SME are:

- Headcount in Annual Work Unit (AWU) less than 250;
- Annual turnover less or equal to €50 million OR annual balance sheet total less or equal to €43 million.

Note that the figures of partners and linked enterprises should also be considered as stated in the SME user guide. For detailed information check EU

recommendation: [https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition_en)

<sup>3</sup> **Startup** refers to a tech-oriented company. It should employ less than 10 people (but more than 2 full time equivalent staff) that has operated for less than three years and has attracted more than €50k early stage private sector investment or has demonstrable sales growth over 50% pa.

<sup>4</sup> A **Middle-capitalisation company** or **'Midcap'** means an enterprise that is not an SME and that has up to 3,000 employees, knowing that the staff headcount is calculated in accordance with Articles 3 to 6 of the Annex to Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC: <https://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2003:124:0036:0041:EN:PDF>

**Technology Providers** have the role of designing, developing, and implementing a fully functional solution to the ARISE challenge. The solution has to include at least one collaborative robotics application and it has to be tested and evaluated in a TRL<sup>5</sup>6-7 demonstrator before the end of the project.

The entities must be legally registered at the time of submitting their application for this 1st ARISE Open Call in any of the following countries:

- [The Member States of the European Union](#)<sup>6</sup> and its Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT)
- [Associated Countries \(AC\) to Horizon Europe](#)<sup>7</sup>.

The applicants who are subject to [EU restrictive measures](#) under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)<sup>8</sup> are not eligible to participate in this Open Call.

The ARISE Consortium partners, their affiliated entities, employees or permanent collaborators CANNOT be involved in the grantees' projects. They are not eligible to act as applicants in the 1st ARISE Open Call due to Conflict of Interest in these processes.

### The lists of validated End-Users and Technology Providers

The lists of End-Users and Technology Providers that have been validated during the ARISE Expression of Interest process are included in Annex 1 and Annex 2 of this document to initiate a matchmaking process allowing potential consortia to identify and connect with suitable partners whose skills and resources align with their project goals. This matchmaking is critical for forming competitive and well-rounded consortia in their expertise and capabilities to apply for the 1st ARISE Open Call.

**Additionally, consortia created outside the matchmaking process would also be eligible.**

## 3.2 What types of activities can be funded?

The activities that qualify for financial support have to fall within the scope of the ARISE project, which involves extending the functionalities of existing HRI tools and modules to meet the requirements of a different use case, as well as developing new HRI modules for use cases where no HRI interaction is currently used and will focus on one of the challenges defined below:

List of ARISE's challenges:

- CH1 Dismantling and assembly of high-value products**
- CH2 Complex Product Picking in industrial warehouses**
- CH3 Flexible Collaborative robots**
- CH4 Smart Programming**
- CH5 Enhanced robot functionality through multimodal HRI interactions**
- CH6 Fetch & carry tasks in healthcare environments**
- CH7 HRI for improving the efficiency of workers in high precision flexible tasks**

<sup>5</sup> **TRL - Technology Readiness Level** - Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) are indicators of the maturity level of particular technologies. This measurement system provides a common understanding of technology status and addresses the entire innovation chain. There are nine technology readiness levels; TRL 1 being the lowest and TRL 9 the highest. In our project, we refer to Annex B of the [General Annexes for Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2025](#) for a full description of TRLs.

<sup>6</sup> Following the Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506, as of 16th December 2022, no legal commitments can be signed with Hungarian public interest trusts established under Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity they maintain. Affected entities may continue to apply to calls for proposals. However, in case the Council measures are not lifted, such entities are not eligible to participate in the 1st ARISE Open Call.

<sup>7</sup> AC as of 11.07.2024: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom. For the most up-to-date list please first part of [this document](#).

<sup>8</sup> Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the EU Sanctions Map.

## CH8 HRI for improving ergonomics in high precision tasks

Please find a link to the "[Technical Guidelines](#)" where you can find a more detailed description of the ARISE challenges, including inspiring examples and recommendations to help you prepare a solid project proposal.

When applying to the 1st ARISE Open Call, please note that all activities are expected to start at TRL 3-5 and finish at TRL 6-7.

### 3.3 Ground rules

When applying to the 1st ARISE Open Call, please note that:

- **Be on time and use our system:** Make sure you submit your proposal through the 1st ARISE Open Call [online form](#) before **January 16, 2025, at 17:00 Brussels Time** deadline. If you submit the form correctly, the system will send you a confirmation. Contact us if you don't receive it. Proposals sent after the deadline and/or outside the dedicated form will not be evaluated.
- **English Language:** Your proposal must be written in English in all mandatory parts to be eligible. Only parts written in English will be evaluated. If the mandatory parts of the proposal are in any other language, the entire proposal will be rejected. If only non-mandatory parts of a proposal are submitted in a language different from English, those parts will not be evaluated, but the proposal is still eligible.
- **Choose only one challenge:** Your project should directly address one of the challenges defined by the ARISE Consortium in section 3.2 of this Guide for Applicants. It means that you can address only 1 challenge per proposal.
- **Every question deserves your attention:** Complete all mandatory sections - generally marked with an asterisk - using accurate and complete data. Unrequested additional material will not be considered.
- **European Dimension:** Meaning fostering projects that generate a substantial positive impact for European citizens.
- **Be exhaustive:** You have to verify the completeness of the form, as it won't be possible to add any further information after the deadline. After the proposal is submitted, you will be able to modify the form until the deadline.
- **Multiple submissions:** Applicants may submit up to 3 proposals, each addressing a different challenge offered by ARISE. Though applicants could submit multiple applications, neither team members nor any entities can be funded twice by ARISE. In the case that more than one proposal with any similar team members or from the same organisation will be among the selected projects, only the highest-ranked proposal will be funded.
- **Healthy finances and a clean sheet are a must:** We do not accept entities that are under

liquidation or are an enterprise under difficulty<sup>9</sup> according to the Commission Regulation No 651/2014, art. 2.18, or that are excluded from the possibility of obtaining EU funding under the provisions of both national and EU law, or by a decision of both national or EU authority. We also do not accept entities that are meeting national regulations regarding bankruptcy.

- **Conflicts of interest:** We will take into consideration the existence of a potential conflict of interest among you and one or more ARISE Consortium partners. The Consortium partners, their affiliated entities, employees, persons treated as personnel (ex. working under B2B contracts), board members and permanent collaborators cannot take part in the ARISE programme. All cases of potential conflict of interest will be assessed case by case.
- **It is your proposal:** Your project must be based on your original work, or, have clearly defined rights to use the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), such as a license or transfer agreement. In particular, any work related to the implementation of the project described in the application may not violate the IPR of third parties, and the IPR of the application project may not be the subject of a dispute or proceedings for infringement of third-party IPR.
- **Acceptance of the Open Call rules:** To apply for this Open Call you have to accept its rules and regulations detailed in this Guide for Applicants.

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<sup>9</sup> An enterprise will be considered an undertaking in difficulty if more than half of the capital has disappeared. This refers to the loss of "subscribed share capital". If profit and loss reserves deficit more than 50% of share capital, there is a potential problem with the company. (Article 2, item 18 point a) and b))

(a) In the case of a limited liability company (other than an SME that has been in existence for less than three years [...]), where more than half of its subscribed share capital has disappeared as a result of accumulated losses. This is the case when the deduction of accumulated losses from reserves (and all other elements generally considered as part of the own funds of the company) leads to a negative cumulative amount that exceeds half of the subscribed share capital. For the purposes of this provision, 'limited liability company' refers in particular to the types of company mentioned in Annex I of Directive 2013/34/EU (1) and 'share capital' includes, where relevant, any share premium.

(b) In the case of a company where at least some members have unlimited liability for the debt of the company (other than an SME that has been in existence for less than three years [...]), where more than half of its capital as shown in the company accounts has disappeared as a result of accumulated losses. For the purposes of this provision, 'a company where at least some members have unlimited liability for the debt of the company' refers in particular to the types of company mentioned in Annex II of Directive 2013/34/EU.

Please note that, if your SME exists for less than three years, you won't be considered as undertaking any difficulties.

## 4. How will we evaluate your proposal?

Our evaluation process is transparent, fair and equal to all our participants with a clearly defined complaint procedure (see section [Complaints](#)).

We will evaluate your project in several phases indicated in the Figure below. We encourage you to put in the effort to present your project in the best possible way, offering as much detail as you can. This will assist us in evaluating your application and identifying how your proposal aligns with the overall scope of ARISE.

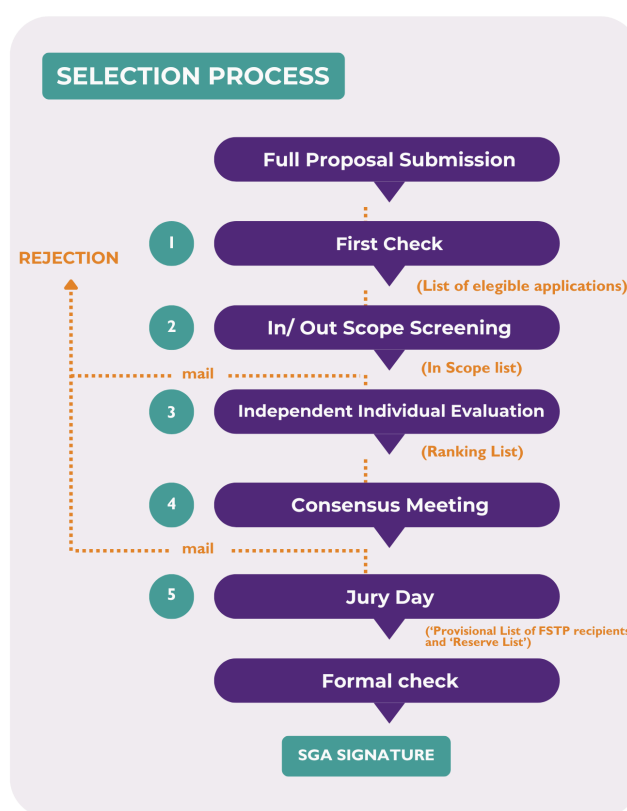


Figure 2 - ARISE Selection Process

## 4.1 First Check

After the closure of the 1st ARISE Open Call, we will review the proposal to ensure it meets the conditions outlined in [Section 3](#).

At this stage, the eligibility criteria are checked against the Declaration of Honour or self-declarations included in the application form, and they will be continuously verified throughout the evaluation process, including the final formal check.

The proposals that do not comply with these criteria will be rejected. As a result of the checking, a 'List of Eligible Applications' will be produced.

## 4.2 In/Out Scope Screening

In case of a large number of applications, or special needs of the ARISE project, the In/Out Scope Screening may be applied.

During this phase, the Selection Committee will review and assess the following aspects of your proposal:

- **Scope.** The objectives of the proposal must fit within the scope of the ARISE project, in particular, the proposal should directly address one of the challenges proposed in [Section 3.2 of this Guide for Applicants](#).

Proposals that do not comply with any of the requirements described above will be excluded. The ones complying with all of them will move on to the independent individual evaluation phase.

We will inform You about the results of the in/out scope screening.

## 4.3 Independent Individual Evaluation

In this phase, each proposal will be evaluated by 2 independent experts, appointed according to the specific characteristics of the applicants from the pool of External Experts.

Your project will be evaluated within the following awarding criteria:

(1). **EXCELLENCE** will evaluate:

- **Objectives and Ambition:** The applicants have to demonstrate to what extent the proposed project contributes to validate a meaningful Industry 5.0 scenario in which robotics automation aims to accelerate and/or augment human roles instead of replacing them. In this context, the ambition of the proposal should place great focus on how the project will go beyond the State-of-the-Art in industrial HRI to implement a collaborative robotics application and how it will help overcome the selected challenge. Last but not least, the objectives of the proposal should also cover the commitment to leverage the open-source middleware provided by the ARISE project, as well as to contribute with an open reference implementation of a reusable HRI module to the project's Open Library.
- **Soundness of the approach and credibility:** The proposal has to describe the approach that will be followed to implement and demonstrate the HRI enabled solution. That includes describing the scope of a meaningful proof-of-concept in an early stage of the project as well as a convenient methodology to evolve it towards a TRL6/7 demonstrator. The essential needs, metrics for success, and major steps for integration/interoperability

between the proposed solution, the ARISE middleware, and the target industrial case in the context of the selected ARISE challenge must be conveniently described.

- **Human centrality** : Along with the technical aspects, human centrality is a core dimension to the ARISE program and applicants have to provide information about how user needs, preferences and experiences are addressed in the project. Project ideas and target features must always put people before machines, however complex or elegant the envisioned machines might be. Furthermore, it is essential to consider diversity, gender balance, and cross-cultural perspectives to ensure that the solutions are inclusive and equitable, reflecting the varied backgrounds and needs of all potential users.

(2). **IMPACT** will analyse:

- **Industrial added value through human-robot interaction:** The applicants have to provide information on how their proposed solution adds value and improves the quality of outcome for industrial tasks by leveraging human-robot interaction. The applicants have to demonstrate how their solution and/or reusable HRI module have a clear market potential, quantifying the targeted market, providing a justified addressable market and share assumptions, and including impact metrics and business hypotheses they want to test (e.g., because it solves a problem for a specific user case, and how this brings differentiation from other competitors in the market).
- **Commercial Strategy and Scalability:** Applicants must describe their business model including revenue streams, their go-to-market strategy and its scalability potential in the short and mid terms. Additionally, applicants should provide a detailed exploitation plan, highlighting the potential for reusing or integrating the product in other industrial projects beyond the scope of the ARISE-funded initiative. This should be supported by credible, reasonable and justified 3-year revenue projections.
- **Environmental and social impact:** The applicants have to demonstrate the project's contribution, aligned with ARISE objectives, towards environmental, social and economic impacts to contribute to sustainable development, Green Deal, substantial positive impact for European citizens (European Dimension), and other European policies. In ARISE, a core aspect to this criterion is the human-centricity of the automation solution. Since the overall approach was described in the excellence section, applicants shall focus here in highlighting the impacts that the proposed solution could have in making work environments more inclusive to diverse worker profiles as well as in changing the general perception that AI and robotics projects are only intended to replace human labour.

(3). **IMPLEMENTATION** will consider:

- **Work Plan:** The work plan of the applicants' proposal has to be clearly described and fully aligned with the objectives, including Work packages and tasks. The time plan should be realistic and achievable, coherent and effective. A risk assessment should be also provided.
- **Team:** The applicants have to demonstrate their team management and leadership qualities, their ability to take a concept from ideas to market, their capacity to carry through their ideas and their understanding of the dynamics of the market. The team should be a cross-functional team, with a strong background and skills base and taking into account its gender balance.
- **Resources:** The applicants need to demonstrate the quality, soundness and effectiveness of the resources assigned in order to achieve the objectives proposed. The applicants will have to upload a budget estimation by detailing the corresponding information per

category cost in the Excel table provided [here](#). Please export the fulfilled table into PDF before uploading it to the application platform.

Regarding the estimated budget, please note the following:

- 1) **Lump sum budgets** are based on a cost estimation which means that you need to provide us with a budget table with realistic cost estimations for each cost category (personnel costs, subcontracting costs, purchase costs, overheads and other costs) per applicant. These cost estimations and the resources you commit for the purposes of implementing the project are the basis to justify the lump sum. The cost estimations must be an approximation of your actual costs.

The costs are eligible if they meet the following requirements:

- a) they are set out in your project budget;
  - b) they are compliant with the same eligibility rules as in actual costs grants (a reference to actual costs as described in Art. 6 of AGA – Annotated Grant Agreement);
  - c) they are in line with your normal practices usual accounting and management principles (e.g. subcontracting must be awarded using the beneficiary's usual purchasing practices - provided these ensure subcontracts with the best value for money (or if appropriate the lowest price) and that there is no conflict of interest).;
  - d) they are reasonable/not excessive;
  - e) they are in line with and necessary for the implementation of your project, and the corresponding tasks and part of your project have been properly implemented and the expected milestone/deliverables have been achieved;
  - f) they must be actually incurred by you;
  - g) they must be incurred only during the lifetime of the project. The period of costs' eligibility is from the SubGrant Agreement signature date (from the start date of the programme period of your project) until the end of the project period.
- 2) While all the category costs have to be reasonable and aligned with the proposal and the project objectives to be sound, subcontracting costs are accepted but **cannot exceed 30% of the total budget** and cannot involve any responsibility or leadership in any tasks or activity dealing with the proposal implementation. Subcontractors can collaborate and transfer their knowledge to the proper implementation of the solution, and can be an entity of any type (including RTOs and Universities).
  - 3) In particular, the leadership and responsibility of the development of HRI modules and the integration of the industrial solution cannot be subcontracted. However, a subcontractor can collaborate a) in the development of enabling components; b) as an integrator/installer of the industrial solution or c) monitoring the demonstrator experiment.
  - 4) The distribution of the EUR 200,000 lump sum between the consortium partners has to be justified in the template. The distribution should be reasonable, aligned with the proposal's objectives, and reflect the roles and responsibilities of each partner.

- 5) All the entities will be entitled to request 100% of their estimated budget, with an overall maximum of EUR 200,000 per consortium. If the consortium estimated budget is above the lump sum, the excess will be covered by the consortium partners.

The evaluators will score each award criterion on a scale from 0 to 5:

0 = Proposal **fails** to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.

1 = **Poor** – criterion is inadequately addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses.

2 = **Fair** – proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.

3 = **Good** – proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.

4 = **Very good** – proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.

5 = **Excellent** – proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

Each external evaluator will produce an Individual Evaluation Report. The final score for each criterion will be the average of evaluators' scores and the final score per application is the sum of these averages. The threshold for individual criteria will be 3 out of 5 points, with a maximum total score 15 and an overall threshold of 10 points.

## Evaluation Consensus Group

In cases where there is significant divergence between the evaluators' scoring, experts will convene to establish a unified position on the evaluated proposals. If no consensus is reached, a 3rd evaluator will be included to provide an extra evaluation.

Once we have an initial ranking, ties (if any) will be solved using the following criteria in order of priority:

- The highest score in the Excellence Section,
- Gender balance among the personnel responsible for carrying out the project activities,
- The highest score in the Implementation Section,
- The geographical balance, giving priority to widening countries.

Proposals meeting or exceeding the threshold will advance to the next phase. Please note that we need time to process all the proposals in this phase, so you probably won't hear back for a while.

## 4.4 Consensus Meeting

Following the Experts evaluation ranking list, the Selection Committee (formed by selected ARISE consortium partners), with the support of 3 External Experts (in an advisory capacity), will decide by Consensus (minimum 2/3 of the majority votes) the 'List of Jury Day's participants', including the proposals to be invited to Jury Day.

Whilst normally the highest ranked proposals will be selected, the Selection Committee might have fair reasons for objecting to a specific proposal, like the alignment with ARISE goals and scope, the ability to achieve the highest impact possible, commercial competition, as well as the existence of

significant ethical concerns or a potential conflict of interest. In this case, the choice may pass to the next-ranked proposal.<sup>10</sup>

Finally, the exact number of proposals selected will be decided based on the overall quality of the proposals. Additionally, the Selection Committee will do its best that at least the highest-ranked proposal for each challenge is selected, provided they are all above the scoring thresholds.

After the Consensus Meeting, we will communicate the results to the applicants and invite the selected ones to pitch their project on the Jury Day.

## 4.5 Jury Day

If your proposal has been selected following the Consensus Meeting, you will be invited to an online Jury Day, to pitch your project in front of the Selection Committee.

After the Jury Day, the Selection Committee, will conduct the final evaluation based on specific awarding criteria:

- High potential impact on the project's goals;
- Vision and attitude of the Team;
- Positive impact on the applicant's processes.

The Selection Committee will decide by consensus (minimum  $\frac{2}{3}$  of majority votes) the 'Provisional List of FSTP recipients' and 'Reserve List'.

The decision will be based on the 'Ranking List' obtained as a result of the Jury Day. In order to ensure a balanced portfolio of supported activities in the different challenges, the Selection Committee will try, if possible, that at least the highest ranked proposal per challenge will be funded provided that it is above the scoring thresholds.

The number of approved proposals will be based on their overall quality. If fewer proposals are approved than expected, the Selection Committee may either reduce the number of beneficiaries or extend the selection process by inviting the next-ranked applicants (over threshold) for an additional online pitching session as a contingency.

After the Jury Day, we will communicate the results to the applicants.

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<sup>10</sup> Please note that this is not a closed list of reasons.

## 4.6 Formal Check, Sub-grant Agreement Preparation and Signature

Before the start of the ARISE Support Programme, it is required to sign the [Sub-Grant Agreement](#)<sup>11</sup> with the ARISE Consortium.

Before signing the Sub-Grant Agreement, you should provide documents regarding your formal status. The ARISE Consortium will verify them to prove your eligibility.

To confirm your formal status, we may ask you for (not an exhaustive list): company's registration document, the legal representation (optionally POA), tax ID number; ownership structure, financial statements; document/s confirming the staff headcount, Bank Identification form, other documents in case of doubts raised during the checks.

Be extremely vigilant with respect to:

- **The nature of the documents** we request. If the documents you provide us with do not prove your eligibility, your participation will end here.
- **The deadlines** that will be given to provide the documents. If the requested documents are not delivered on time, without a clear and reasonable justification, the applicant will be excluded from further formal assessment. Another applicant from the Reserve list will then be selected.

The selected proposals will also undergo an ethics assessment performed by ARISE's Ethic Partner. An 'Ethics Summary Report' will be produced and, when applicable, specific requirements will be included in the Individual Mentoring Plan.

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<sup>11</sup> In accordance with Article 9.4 of the Horizon Europe Grant Agreement, as a ARISE Support Programme beneficiary, you are required to comply with the contractual obligations under:

- Article 12 (conflict of interest)
- Article 13 (confidentiality and security)
- Article 14 (ethics)
- Article 17.2 (visibility)
- Article 18 (specific rules for carrying out action)
- Article 19 (information)

, and

- Article 20 (record-keeping)

of the [Horizon Europe model Grant agreement](#).

The bodies mentioned in Article 25 (e.g. granting authority, OLAF, Court of Auditors (ECA), etc.) can also exercise their rights towards the recipients as indicated in the Article 25 of the Model Grant agreement.z

## 5. Our Support Programme and Payment Arrangements

Once your eligibility has been confirmed and the Subgrant Agreement signed, you will become an official beneficiary of the ARISE 12-month Support Programme. During this time you will be working on developing solutions with the ARISE experts providing assistance in integration, testing and technical mentoring.

The first step of the Support Program will be to create an Individual Mentoring Plan for each beneficiary. Once validated, IMP will become an Annex to the Sub-Grant Agreement and will outline the project budget, the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to be achieved and the Deliverables used to evaluate the projects' performance during the following stages:

- Stage 1. **Individual Mentoring Plan** (1 month)
- Stage 2. **Proof of Concept** (4 months)
- Stage 3. **Deployment and Experimentation** (5 months)
- Stage 4. **Launch sharable HRI modules** (2 months)

### Payment arrangements

As a beneficiary, you may receive a **fixed lump sum\*** of up to **EUR 200,000 per Consortium** - paid in the following tranches<sup>12</sup>:

| Payment Milestones                      | Deliverable   | Payment Milestone | % Total Grant | Max funding            |
|---|---|-------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| Stage 1. Individual Mentoring Plan      | D1. Individual Mentoring Plan                       | M1                | 5%            | up to 10,000 €         |
| Stage 2. Proof of Concept               | D2.1 Proof of Concept proposal                      | M2                | 10%           | up to 20,000 €         |
|   | D2.2 Demonstrators and MVPs of reusable HRI modules | M5                | 20%           | up to 40,000 €         |
| Stage 3. Deployment and Experimentation | D3 Demonstration of HRI-enabled solutions at WORK   | M10               | 50%           | up to 100,000 €        |
| Stage 4. Launch sharable HRI modules    | D4. Publication of shareable HRI modules            | M12               | 15%           | up to 30,000 €         |
| <b>Total</b>                            |   | <b>12 months</b>  | <b>100%</b>   | <b>up to 200,000 €</b> |

Table 2 - Payment Milestones

\* **The lump sum** is a simplified method to settle expenses in projects funded by Horizon Europe. As a grantee, you will not be required to present strictly defined accounting documents (e.g. invoices) to prove the costs incurred. However, you will need to demonstrate that the project implementation is in line with the set milestones (i.e. KPIs/Deliverables), which will be defined in the Individual

<sup>12</sup> Please note the payment tranches might be adjusted during the Individual Mentoring Plan stage.

Mentoring Plan at the beginning of the programme. We will carefully assess your progress and the quality of your work during the review process, not your accounting. The lump sum method does not exempt from collecting documentation to confirm the costs under fiscal regulations.

## Milestones Review

Your performance during the Support Programme will be reviewed at each Milestone Review when payments are due, according to the following criteria:

- Deliverable quality (30%).
- Technical performance indicators (60%).
- Deadline Compliance (10%).

Each criterion will be scored by Technical Partner from 0 to 10 and, based on the weight of each criterion, the final score will be calculated. If your project includes specific ethics requirements, additional reviewers may be involved.

The threshold to receive the payment and continue in the programme is **7 points**.

According to this final score:

- **The beneficiaries over the threshold** (7 points) will successfully receive the corresponding part of the grant and continue the programme;
- **The beneficiaries under the threshold** (7 points) will be invited to leave the programme without receiving the corresponding payments.

The Selection Committee will review and validate the evaluations, especially focusing on 'under threshold' cases, it will consider all possible objective reasons for underperformance (i.e., external factors which might have influenced the beneficiaries' performance).

The Selection Committee will then make the final decision, to approve the payments or ask beneficiary projects that have not reached the threshold to leave the programme.

## 6. Contact us

How can we help you?

If you have any questions regarding our application process, please post them in the [ARISE community - open call Helpdesk on Discord](#).

In case of any technical issues or problems, please include the following information in your message:

- your username, phone number and email address;
- details of the specific problem (e.g. error messages you encountered, bug description, i.e. if a dropdown list isn't working, etc.);
- screenshots of the problem.

### Complaints

If, after receiving the results of the eligibility check phase, you believe a mistake was made, in rejecting your application, you may submit a complaint. Email us in English at [arise.complaints@fundingbox.com](mailto:arise.complaints@fundingbox.com) with the following information:

- Your contact details (including email address);
- The subject of the complaint;
- Information and evidence regarding the alleged breach.

You have **3 calendar days** to submit your complaint, starting from the day after the communication was sent. We will review your complaint within **7 calendar days** from its reception. If we need more time to assess your complaint, we will notify you by email. Anonymous or incomplete complaints will not be reviewed.

Please take into account that the evaluation is run by experts in the relevant field, and we do not interfere with their assessment. Therefore, we will not evaluate complaints related to the results of the evaluation other than those related to procedural or technical mistakes.

## 7. Last but not least – final provisions

Any matters not covered by this Guide for Applicants will be governed by Polish law and rules related to the Horizon Europe Programme and general rules of EU grants.

Please take into account that we make our best effort to keep all provided data confidential. However, for the avoidance of doubt, you are solely responsible for indicating your confidential or sensitive information as such.

Your IPR will remain your property.

For the selected grantees, the Sub-Grant agreement will include the set of obligations towards the European Commission (for example: promoting the project and giving visibility to the EU funding, maintaining confidentiality, understanding potential controls by the EC/ECA, EPPO and OLAF).

The ARISE Consortium might cancel the call at any time, change its provisions or extend it. In such a case we will inform all applicants about such change. The signature of the Sub-Grant agreement is an initial condition to establish any obligations among applicants and any Consortium partners (with respect to the obligation of confidentiality of the application).

Did not find what you were looking for? [Contact us](#) and we will happily answer all your questions.

## 8. Extra hints before you submit your proposal

A proposal takes time and effort and we know it. Here are a few crucial points you should read before submitting your proposal.

- Is your project in line with what ARISE is looking for? You are not sure? You can consult this [section](#) and this [one](#), as well as the [ARISE project website](#).
- Did you present your project in a way that will convince evaluators? Not sure if you did? Go back to this [section](#).
- Is your project fulfilling all eligibility requirements described in the Guide? Check again this [section](#).
- Are you sure you can cope with our process of the Sub-grant agreement signature and payment arrangements for selected proposals? You may want to go over this [section](#).
- Did you check our Sub-grant agreement template? You didn't? [Check it here](#).
- Do you need extra help? [Contact us](#)

Good luck!

## ANNEX 1: List of validated End-Users

| Name of the company             | Country | Declared type of the company (SME, Startup, RTO, other) | Challenge that they are focused on | Contact person (name, e-mail)                        | Company's website   |
|---------------------------------|---------|---|------------------------------------|--|---|
| iKnowHow SA                     | Greece  | SME   | 2                                  | Angeliki Pilalitou<br>apilalitou@iknowhow.com        | <a href="https://www.iknowhow.com/">https://www.iknowhow.com/</a>       |
| P & E Takoudis - P Skafidas O.E | Greece  | SME   | 8                                  | Christos Skafidas<br>helios@heliosbakery.gr          | <a href="https://heliosbakery.gr/">https://heliosbakery.gr/</a>         |
| Consider Carbon GmbH            | Germany | SME   | 5,8                                | Gianluca Brandino<br>consider-carbon@consultant.info | <a href="https://consider-carbon.com/">https://consider-carbon.com/</a> |
| Croom precision tooling Ltd.    | Ireland | SME   | 7,8                                | Shane Keaveney<br>shane@croommedical.com             | <a href="https://croommedical.com/">https://croommedical.com/</a>       |
| Trygons S.A.                    | Greece  | SME   | 1,3,4                              | Kozell Williams<br>k.williams@trygons.com            | <a href="https://trygons-tech.com/">https://trygons-tech.com/</a>       |
| Indersmat S.L.                  | Spain   | SME   | 1,3,4,7                            | Pablo Rodriguez<br>info@indresmat.com                | <a href="https://www.indresmat.com/">https://www.indresmat.com/</a>     |
| Fundacion Idonial               | Spain   | RTO   | 1,2,3,4,5,7,8                      | Jonatan Fandiño<br>jonatan.fandino@idonial.com       | <a href="https://www.idonial.com">https://www.idonial.com</a>           |
| Pasdulce S.L.                   | Spain   | SME   | 7                                  | Julian Martinez Molina<br>julian@pasdulce.com        | <a href="http://www.dondulce.com">http://www.dondulce.com</a>           |

## ANNEX 2: List of validated Technology Providers

| Name of the company                          | Country | Declared type of the company<br>(SME, Startup, Mid-Cap, Non-profit) | Challenge that they are focused on | Contact person<br>(name, e-mail)                        | Company's website   |
|--|---------|---|------------------------------------|---|---|
| iThermAI B.V.                                | Belgium | SME   | 4,5,8                              | Amir Jahanshahi<br>Jahanshahi@ithermai.com              | <a href="https://ithermai.com">https://ithermai.com</a>                       |
| IT+Robotics srl                              | Italy   | SME   | 2,3                                | Alberto Gottardi<br>alberto.gottardi@it-robotics.it     | <a href="https://www.it-robotics.it/en/">https://www.it-robotics.it/en/</a>   |
| Rovmatica SL                                 | Spain   | SME   | 2,3,4,5                            | Álvaro Flores<br>alvaro.flores@rovimatica.eu            | <a href="https://www.rovimatica.com">https://www.rovimatica.com</a>           |
| Firat university                             | Turkey  | University  | 8                                  | Aysegul Ucar<br>agulucar@firat.edu.tr                   | <a href="https://rai.firat.edu.tr/en">https://rai.firat.edu.tr/en</a>         |
| Consider us UG<br>(haftungsbeschränkt)       | Germany | SME   | 7,8                                | Heinz Rolf<br>considerus@consultant.info                | <a href="https://consider-innovation.de/">https://consider-innovation.de/</a> |
| Robotics Solutions<br>Advisor S.L.           | Spain   | SME   | 4                                  | Alberto Ferreiro<br>alberto.ferreiro@roboticssa.es      | <a href="https://roboticssa.es/">https://roboticssa.es/</a>                   |
| Progressive<br>Robotics PC                   | Greece  | Start-up  | 2,3,4                              | Fotis Dimeas<br>fd@progressiverobotics.ai               | <a href="https://progressiverobotics.ai">https://progressiverobotics.ai</a>   |
| FlexSight s.r.l.                             | Italy   | SME   | 2,5,7,8                            | Daniele Evangelista<br>daniele.evangelista@flexsight.eu | <a href="https://flexsight.eu/">https://flexsight.eu/</a>                     |
| SkyLife Engineering<br>S.L.                  | Spain   | SME   | 1                                  | GLORIA RUIZ SANCHEZ<br>gloria.ruiz@skylife-eng.com      | <a href="https://skylife-eng.com/">https://skylife-eng.com/</a>               |
| Asociación Centro<br>Tecnológico CEIT        | Spain   | RTO   | 1,2,3                              | Iñaki Diaz Garmendia<br>idiaz@ceit.es                   | <a href="https://www.ceit.es/en/">https://www.ceit.es/en/</a>                 |
| Aria Araba S.L.                              | Spain   | SME   | 1,3,7                              | Ibai Inziarte<br>i.inziarte@aldathink.com               | <a href="https://www.aldakin.com/">https://www.aldakin.com/</a>               |
| Gaziantep Islam<br>Science and<br>Technology | Turkey  | University  | 3,7,8                              | Ipek Atik<br>ipek.atik@gibtu.edu.tr                     | <a href="https://www.gibtu.edu.tr/">https://www.gibtu.edu.tr/</a>             |

|  |          |          |           |  |   |
|--|----------|----------|-----------|--|---|
| University in Turkey   |          |          |           |  |   |
| Plegma Labs<br>Technogikes<br>Lyseis Anonymos<br>Etairia   | Greece   | SME      | 8         | Nikolaos Ipiotis<br>ni@pleg.ma                           | <a href="https://plegmalabs.com/">https://plegmalabs.com/</a>                         |
| Canonical Robots<br>SL   | Spain    | SME      | 1,2       | Jaime Felgueroso<br>jaime.felgueroso@canonicalrobots.com | <a href="https://www.canonicalrobots.com/es/">https://www.canonicalrobots.com/es/</a> |
| Fundación<br>Andaluza para el<br>Desarrollo<br>Aeroespacial                                      | Spain    | RTO      | 2,3,5,7,8 | Eduardo Ferrera<br>eferrera@catec.aero                   | <a href="https://www.catec.aero/en">https://www.catec.aero/en</a>                     |
| Introsys -<br>Integration For<br>Robotic Systems -<br>Integração de<br>Sistemas<br>Robóticos S.A | Portugal | SME      | 2,3,7,8   | Raquel Caldeira<br>raquel.caldeira@introsys.eu           | <a href="https://introsys.eu/">https://introsys.eu/</a>                               |
| J&W S.r.l.   | Italy    | SME      | 7         | Andrea Forni<br>andrea.forni@jay2you.com                 | <a href="https://jay2you.com/">https://jay2you.com/</a>                               |
| Next Industries<br>S.r.L   | Italy    | SME      | 4,5       | Massimiliano Bellino<br>massimiliano.bellino@nextind.eu  | <a href="https://www.nextind.eu">https://www.nextind.eu</a>                           |
| RoboTwin s.r.o.  | Czechia  | Start-up | 3,4,5,7   | Dita Janackova<br>dita.janackova@robotwin.cz             | <a href="https://robotwin.cz/">https://robotwin.cz/</a>                               |
| Virtuona   | Serbia   | SME      | 2,4,6,7   | Milorad Tosic<br>milorad.tosic@virtuonasoft.com          | <a href="http://www.virtuonasoft.com">http://www.virtuonasoft.com</a>                 |
| MND Izolasyon ve<br>Teknoloji A.S.   | Turkey   | SME      | 6         | Onur Keskin<br>onur@bilims.com                           | <a href="https://bilims.com">https://bilims.com</a>                                   |
| Fondazione REI   | Italy    | Other    | 3,5,7,8   | Andrea Parmeggiani<br>parmeeggiani@reinnova.it           | <a href="https://digitalautomation.dd-re.it/">https://digitalautomation.dd-re.it/</a> |
| Vocali Sistemas<br>Inteligentes SL   | Spain    | SME      | 7         | Juan Salvador Castejon<br>juans.castejon@vocali.net      | <a href="HTTP://www.vocali.net">HTTP://www.vocali.net</a>                             |
| Pumacy GmbH  | Austria  | SME      | 1,5,7,8   | Toralf Kahlert<br>toralf.kahlert@pumacy.eu               | <a href="https://www.pumacy.eu">https://www.pumacy.eu</a>                             |
| Simobotics Eood  | Bulgaria | Start-up | 4         | Georgi Georgiev<br>g.georgiev@simobotics.com             | <a href="http://www.simobotics.com">http://www.simobotics.com</a>                     |

|  |          |     |           |                                      |   |
|--|----------|-----|-----------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Poland<br>Matsim sp. z o.o.<br>(L.L.C) | Poland   | SME | 3         | Sylwia Geda<br>sylwia.geda@matsim.pl | <a href="https://matsim.pl/">https://matsim.pl/</a> |
| High Performance<br>Creators           | Bulgaria | SME | 1,2,3,4,7 | Simeon Tsvetanov<br>set@hpc.bg       | <a href="https://hpc.bg">https://hpc.bg</a>         |