Guide for Applicants

Open call for cascade grants of NEBA Alliance

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Open date for proposals: Friday, February 28, 2025, at 13:00 (Brussels Time)

Deadline: Monday, May 5, 2025 at 17:00 (Brussels Time)

Executive Summary

The NEBA Alliance is a project consortium funded by the Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking and the European Commission (GA #101160532). The main purpose is to create the conceptual and legal basis for the NEB Academy setup and to establish the initial network of Hubs and training infrastructures.

The project facilitates an open, agile process to scout the vast skills/education landscape and to further grow the network. Therefore, a cascading grant scheme is offered to emerging Hubs and engaged actors who wish to join the NEBA Alliance. In a merit-based evaluation against objective criteria, the best applications will be selected to receive support funding for onboarding to the Alliance and providing training contents to the NEBA (according to the EC rules for Financial Support to Third Parties).

This document summarises the main points of the NEBA Alliance Open call for cascade grants, which will be open from February 28, 2025 at 13:00 (Brussels time) with a deadline on May 5, 2025 at 17:00 (Brussels time). The grants available in the Open call are:

1. Regional hub grants.
2. Partnering with existing NEBA hubs grants.
3. Training course and material grants.

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# List of abbreviations

CBE JU: Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking

EC: European Commission

FAQ: Frequently Asked Question

GA: Grant Agreement

NEB: New European Bauhaus

NEBA: New European Bauhaus Academy

SO: Specific objectives

# Introduction

This Guide is designed to assist you in preparing and submitting the proposal and answer questions you may have in this process. It is based on the rules and conditions of the Horizon Europe programme presented in the [Annotated Grant Agreement](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/aga_v1.0-draft-01042023_en.pdf). This Guide does not in itself have legal value and does not supersede Annotated Grant Agreement.

In case of further questions, the following options are also available:

▪ Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) section on the NEBA Alliance web page ([neb.academy open call](https://neb.academy/news/neba-alliance-open-call-for-cascade-grants)).

▪ The NEBA Alliance help desk is available via email: [nebap.hub@upr.si](mailto:nebap.hub@upr.si). The help desk is unavailable on weekends and public holidays.

Please note: Every selected applicant will be required to sign a Cascade Grant Agreement, a model example of which is available in Appendix 1.

## Basic information about the NEBA Alliance

The NEBA Alliance is initiated by a European consortium with financial support from the CBE JU and its members under Horizon Europe grant no. 101160532 from 2024 until 2026. The goal is to codesign the foundation of a long-lasting European network of NEB Academy Hubs, which can reach workers and stakeholders across all EU countries and offer meaningful trainings and knowledge transfer, and form the NEB Academy. NEB Academy’s long-term mission is to train, upskill, and reskill the construction ecosystem to achieve a carbon neutral building sector and a beautiful, sustainable, and inclusive transformation of the built environment.

The NEBA Alliance project is coordinated by [University of Primorska](https://www.upr.si/en/up--environment/nebap-hub/) and involves 14 [partners](https://neb.academy/hubs) from 11 different EU countries. The specific objectives (SO) of the NEBA Alliance are:

* SO1: To initiate and codesign the NEB Academy with an international Alliance of relevant educational actors and training providers;
* SO2: To establish and onboard a group of leading NEBA Hubs and initiate training activities;
* SO3: To build up the Community of Practice (CoP) and set the foundation for a Skills Agenda and Policy Roadmap;
* SO4: To attract the target groups to the CoP through dissemination, exploitation, and outreach.

The objective of the open call is to expand the regional and topical coverage of the NEBA Alliance. The call accepts applications for three types of cascade grants to achieve this objective:

1. Regional hub grants. These grants will provide funding to consortia to form a hub in a region with low or no coverage from the present NEBA Alliance consortia.

2. Partnering with [existing NEBA hubs](https://neb.academy/hubs) grants. These grants will fund institutions in regions already covered by an existing NEBA Alliance hub to provide training in topics otherwise left uncovered.

3. Training course and material grants. These smaller grants will fund the development of courses and materials to grow the portfolio of trainings provide by the NEBA Alliance.

The open call will allow the NEBA Alliance to test and implement its onboarding procedures for new hubs, its quality control process for new content, and most importantly, to provide training on more topics to more people. We anticipate two to three new regional hubs, two to three new partners of existing NEBA hubs, and up to 10 new courses with materials.

# Scope of the Open Call

The objective of the open call is to expand the regional and topical coverage of the NEBA Alliance and support fulfilment of the following key performance indicators (KPIs) of the project:

* Training offerings on the established digital platform (100 by March 2026);
* Involving new partners in the NEB Academy Alliance (at least 6 new members by July 2025);
* 5 pilot trainings with around 50 stakeholders accomplished (by March 2026);
* Skills framework and NEBA label established covering at least 3 major target groups in 3 countries (by March 2026).

Applicants can apply for one of the following grants that are further detailed in sections 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3:

* Regional hub grants (up to 3 grants will be funded)
* Partnering with existing NEBA hubs grants (up to 3 grants will be funded)
* Training course and material grants (up to 10 grants will be funded)

## Regional hub grants

The grant will fund formation of the NEBA Hubs in regions with low or no coverage from the NEBA Alliance consortia. Consortium of at least 3 institutions can apply.

The applicants should clearly present (see application form):

* Governance structure of potential new NEBA Hub
* Main activities of the NEBA Hub
* Short term, midterm and long-term objectives with measurable indicators
* Knowledge gaps of target audience the NEBA Hub is to fulfil
* 2 Lifelong training courses to be implemented within the grant. When defining the target group and types of trainings the instructions under “Regional hub grants” (Table 1) should be considered.
* Life-long trainings (at least 3) to be offered and included into the NEBA digital platform. Each training should be presented with information requested in Section 2.3 for Training course and material grants.

Table 1. Stakeholder groups and type of trainings to be offered to them

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Stakeholder group* | *Type of trainings* |
| Policy makers, public officials | Debates, study visits, courses recognized for their promotion, short-form courses |
| Architects, engineers | Courses recognized by attestation, updated study programmes |
| Industry | Trainings courses by recognised professionals/practitioners, hands-on training, study visits |
| Blue-collar workers | Demonstrations, study visits, hands-on training |
| Society | Videos, podcasts, open house events, gallery displays, public seminars for non-academic audiences, etc. |
| Students | Study programmes, summer schools, study visits, guest lectures, study exchanges |

**Funding up to 15,000.00 EUR per grant is available for Regional hub grants.**

## Partnering with existing NEBA hubs grants

The grant will fund integration of institutions into the NEBA Hubs established in the frame of the NEBA Alliance.

The NEBA Alliance formed five NEBA hubs in the process of forming the NEBA. The Hubs are international partnerships collaborating to strengthen their activities. The NEBA hubs forming the NEB Academy are (founders of separate NEBA hubs are in parenthesis):

* NEBAP Hub (Founders: University of Primorska (Slovenia), Politechnika Lodzka (Poland), Holzbau Austria (Austria))
* NEBA Central Hub (Founders: Bauhaus Earth (Germany), TU Berlin (Germany), University of Sustainability Eberswalde (Germany), TU Delft (Netherlands));
* NEBA South Hub (Founders: IAAC (Spain), Cesefor (Spain), Regione Liguria (Italy));
* NEBA North Hub (Founders: RISE (Sweden), Aalto (Finland), EKA (Estonia));
* NEBA Outreach Hub (Founders: InnovaWood (Belgium), EAAE (Belgium), BOKU (Austria));

Applicants should indicate to which of the NEBA Hub they aim to join and provide the following information:

* Institution’s main activities related to life-long learning of construction ecosystem
* Lifelong training course to be implemented within the grant. When defining the target group and types of trainings the instructions under “Regional hub grants” (Table 1) should be considered.
* Trainings to be included to the NEBA digital platform (at least 2). Each training should be presented with information requested in Section 2.3 for Training course and material grants.

**Funding up to 10,000.00 EUR per grant is available for partnering with existing NEBA hubs grants.**

## Training course and material grants

The grant will fund development of the courses to be included to the NEBA digital platform. The courses should be addressing one or multiple core topics:

* Bio-based materials, and the nature-based solutions they represent, as an important aspect of the NEB’s approach to improving the sustainability of the built environment.
* Buildings - updating existing buildings and designing/constructing modern sustainable buildings according to NEB values.
* Cultural Heritage buildings and objects - modern techniques in combination with traditional skills to maintain cultural heritage objects.
* Design approaches supporting sustainability goals, accessibility, and occupant wellbeing.
* Digitalisation - digital skills and the application of digital technologies to optimise individual buildings or the supply and value chains surrounding them.

Applicants should provide the following information on the life-long training course:

* + Title
  + Short description
  + Target group
  + Language
  + Method of training
  + Materials to include into the NEBA digital platform
  + Duration of training
  + Trainers of the life-long trainings with 3 key references demonstrating their expertise in the theme of training
  + Competences obtained by the trainee
  + Is the course accredited by any national accreditation body and if yes, what is the accreditation
  + EQF level of the course[[1]](#footnote-2)

**Funding up to 2,000.00 EUR per grant is available for Training course and materials grants.**

# Eligibility Criteria

To participate in Open Call, the applicant has to meet all the criteria described in Section 3 of this Guide, positively pass our evaluation process and finally sign the Sub-Grant Agreement with the NEBA Alliance Consortium.

The proposals that do not comply with the criteria described in this section will be excluded. We will check the eligibility criteria during the whole evaluation process.

## General provisions

Applications must:

* Be submitted no later than the deadline for submitting applications referred to in Section 4;
* Be submitted using the online application form: <https://9959.evalato.com/>
* Be submitted using the NEBA Alliance Proposal template without modification to its structure, i.e., keep all defined sections (even if not relevant for your proposal), and without changing the font, margins, line or text spacing, or other attributes meant to circumvent the page limit;
* Include a signed Declaration of Honour using the template without modification to its structure;
* Include all mandatory information indicated in the template;
* Fit within the scope of the Open Call;
* Be written in English.

Failure to comply with these requirements will lead to the rejection of the application.

## Applicant eligibility

Applicants registered as a legal entity before the start date of the NEBA Alliance Open Call (before February 28, 2025) in the following countries:

* EU Member States[[2]](#footnote-3) and its Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT), or
* Horizon Europe Associated Countries[[3]](#footnote-4).

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) are not eligible to participate in this open call.

This Open Call focuses on attracting legal entities that are already actively implementing trainings to up-skill and re-skill workers and shape a new building culture, considering ecological limitations, circularity, waste reduction, technical innovations and novel construction materials.

For sections of the Open Call we are expecting the following applicants:

* Regional hub grants: consortium of at least 3 legal entities
* Partnering with existing NEBA hubs grants: one legal entity as single beneficiary
* Training course and material grants: one legal entity as single beneficiary. If a course is implemented as a joint course between 2 or more entities, a consortium can apply.

Applicants can apply only to one of the grants. However, if submitting a proposal for training course and material grants, multiple applications can be submitted by one legal entity.

## Eligible activities

Selected beneficiaries will receive the maximum amount defined for the grant (fixed lump sum). The maximum amounts per grant are:

1. Regional hub grants: up to 15,000.00 EUR
2. Partnering with existing NEBA hubs grants: up to 10,000.00 EUR
3. Training course and material grants: up to 2,000.00 EUR

Activities to be performed with allocated funding are:

* **Regional hub grants:** 
  + Establishment of its own governance structure that is tailored to its regional/national/international context, that includes identifying a responsible entity to chair the organisation, administration, and management of the NEBA Hub.
    - It is important that the governance structure plans for expansion through the addition of new members - NEBA Hubs should be mindful of the inclusiveness NEB value. Additionally, as new training needs emerge, partnering with trainers outside the network may be the most effective way to address them.
  + Define the mission and measurable key performance indicators of the NEBA Hub through co-creation activities of relevant stakeholders.
  + Preparation and signing of the Multilateral Association Agreement with NEBA[[4]](#footnote-5)
  + Development and implementation of at least 2 lifelong training courses[[5]](#footnote-6) and collect feedback from training participants
  + Development of at least 3 online courses[[6]](#footnote-7) for the NEBA Alliance digital platform
* **Partnering with existing NEBA hubs grants: one legal entity as single beneficiary**
  + Preparation and signing of the MoU agreement with selected NEBA Hub
  + Development and implementation of at least 1 lifelong training course[[7]](#footnote-8) and collect feedback from training participants
  + Development of at least 2 online courses[[8]](#footnote-9) for the NEBA Alliance digital platform
* **Training course and material grants:** 
  + Content creation
  + Adjustments of the course based on the NEBA quality criteria
  + Adjusting the training material to visual identity of the NEBA
  + Translations

Successful applicants must deliver a final report that will include:

* **Regional hub grants:** 
  + Presentation of the developed NEBA hub, which should include governance structure, mission and measurable key performance indicators
  + Signed NEBA’s Multilateral Association Agreement
  + Report on performed lifelong training courses, which should include list of participant, time and location of the implementation, feedback from the training participants, any photo from the training, and ppts and other materials used at the training with clear indication what could be included to the NEBA digital platform
  + Material of 3 training courses to be included to NEBA digital platform
* **Partnering with existing NEBA hubs grants:** 
  + Signed Memorandum of Understanding with selected NEBA hub
  + Report on performed lifelong training course, which should include list of participant, time and location of the implementation, feedback from the training participants, any photo from the training, and ppts and other materials used at the training with clear indication what could be included to the NEBA digital platform
  + Material of 2 training courses to be included to NEBA digital platform
* **Training course and material grants:** 
  + Material of training courses to be included to NEBA digital platform

Each of the successful applicant will receive guidance and work closely with the NEBA Alliance consortium to deliver high quality training contents.

## Exclusion criteria

Applicants will be excluded from participating in the call for proposals procedure and from the cascade grant award if they are in any of the exclusion situations referred to in article 136(1) of the EU Financial Regulation 38, i.e., one of the following situations:

* The applicant is bankrupt, subject to insolvency or winding-up procedures, its assets are being administered by a liquidator or by a court, it is in an arrangement with creditors, its business activities are suspended, or it is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for under EU or national laws or regulations;
* It has been established by a final judgment or a final administrative decision that the applicant is in breach of its obligations relating to the payment of taxes or social security contributions in accordance with the applicable law;
* It has been established by a final judgment or a final administrative decision that the applicant is guilty of grave professional misconduct by having violated applicable laws or regulations or ethical standards of the profession to which the applicant belongs, or by having engaged in any wrongful intent or gross negligence, including, in particular, any of the following:
  + Fraudulently or negligently misrepresenting information required for the verification of the absence of grounds for exclusion or the fulfilment of eligibility or selection criteria or in the performance of a contract, a grant agreement, or a grant decision.
  + Violating intellectual property rights.

Applicants must clearly declare they are not in one of the above-mentioned situations by signing Declaration of Honour (Appendix 2) on exclusion criteria.

# Application process

## Open Call procedures for submission, evaluation, and grant management

The procedures for the call are outlined in this document and detailed in additional documents found on the [NEBA Alliance open call webpage](https://neb.academy/news/neba-alliance-open-call-for-cascade-grants):

* Guide for Applicants (this document)
* Proposal template
* Appendix 1 – Model Cascade Grant Agreement
* Appendix 2 – Declaration of Honour
* Supporting document 1 - Definition of NEBA Hub
* Supporting document 2 - Description of existing NEBA Hubs

Submissions will be handled through the [Evalato](https://9959.evalato.com/) platform. You may find the application form there.

All successful applicants will be required to sign a Cascade Grant Agreement with the University of Primorska, Koper, Slovenia, who is the cascade funding manager in the NEBA Alliance project.

## Timetable

The approximate timetable for this Open Call is detailed in the Table 2.

Table 2. Approximate Open Call timeline

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Stage | Date and time or indicative period |
| 1 | Publication of the Open Call | 28/02/2025 |
| 2 | Deadline for submitting applications | 05/05/2025 at 17:00 CET |
| 3 | Info sessions for potential applicants (webinar) | 19/03/2025 at 10:00 CET |
| 4 | Evaluation period | 06/05/2025 – 30/05/2025 |
| 5 | Information to applicants | 02/06/2025 |
| 6 | Signature of Sub-grant agreements | 02/06/2025 – 01/07/2025 |
| 7 | Starting date of the actions | 01/07/2025 – 30/09/2025 |
| 8 | Due date on delivering promised outcomes | 30/09/2025 |
| 9 | Final reports due | 31/10/2025 |
| 10 | Reports of the actions evaluated | 15/11/2025 |
| 11 | Final payments | 31/12/2025 |

# Evaluation process of proposals

Our evaluation process is transparent, fair, and equal to all our participants. The evaluation will be performed by a panel of external experts selected by the steering committee of the NEBA Alliance based on an open call for evaluators and according to their specific knowledge related to life-long learning and topics to be covered by the NEB Academy. Budget allocation and final selection will be conducted by the NEBA Alliance Steering Committee. Proposals are submitted in a single stage and evaluated as presented below.

The applications will be evaluated in several phases. A high number of applications is expected, and emphasis will be placed on the quality of submissions. Applicants are encouraged to present their actions comprehensively, providing detailed information to facilitate evaluation and demonstrate alignment with the overall scope of the NEBA Alliance.

## Step 1 – First Check

After the closure of the Open Call, we will review the proposal to ensure it meets the conditions outlined in Section 3. This assessment will be based on the statements provided in your proposal.

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.

Projects that do not comply with the above-mentioned criteria will be rejected.

As a result of this review, a ‘List of Eligible Applications’ will be produced.

## Step 2- In/out screening

In case of a high number of applications or special needs of the project, the Selection Committee may decide to implement an additional evaluation step - In/Out Scope Screening.

To maximise the impact within the framework of NEBA Alliance, your proposal must be aligned with the scope of activities outlined in Section 2 and provide a clear demonstration of this alignment.

For this reason, one partner from the Selection Committee will review the following aspects of your proposal:

* Scope. The objectives of the proposal must fit within the scope of the project, in particular, described in the Section 3 of this GfA.

A partner from the Selection Committee will assess if your proposal matches the criteria mentioned above following a “Yes/No” approach. The partners will justify their assessment in case of rejection of the proposal. The Selection Committee will review the partner’s assessment and verify the validity of each rejection, generating an ‘In Scope List’.

Please note that proposals that do not comply with the criteria described above will be rejected. Only those meeting all the criteria will proceed to the experts' evaluation phase.

We will inform you about the results of the first check and the in/ out scope screening.

## Step 3 – External Evaluation

In this phase, each application will be evaluated by 2 external experts.

Your application will be evaluated within the following awarding criteria[[9]](#footnote-10):

* Excellence: ambition, innovation and soundness of the approach
* Impact: scalability of the activities, social impact
* Implementation: your past experience and planning

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

* 0 - The proposal fails to address the criteria or it cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
* 1 - Poor – The criterion is inadequately addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
* 2 - Fair – The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
* 3 - Good – The 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 – The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

Each evaluator will produce an Individual Evaluation Report. Once the Individual Evaluation Reports are submitted, the final score for each individual criterion will be calculated as the average of the scores provided by each evaluator. The final score per each application will be calculated as the sum of the average scores for each individual criterion.

For each section, the threshold for individual criteria is 3 out of 5 points. The total maximum score is 15 points, with a minimum total threshold of 10 points. All proposals that reach the threshold or are scored above the threshold, will pass to the next phase.

## Step 4 – Consensus Meeting

Following the Ranking List, the Selection Committee will decide, at this stage, the Provisional List of beneficiaries and Reserve List. The decision will be based on the ‘Ranking List’ obtained as a result of the previous step.

Whilst normally the highest ranked proposals will be selected for funding, the Selection Committee might have fair reasons for objecting to a specific proposal, like the alignment with NEBA Alliance goals and scope, the ability to achieve the highest impact possible, 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.

The Selection Committee can select proposals until the total budget of 100,000.00 € available for this Open Call is reached.

The exact number of proposals approved will be decided based on the overall quality of the proposals. All decisions are taken by consensus or a minimum of 2/3 majority votes.

After the Consensus Meeting, we will communicate the results to the applicants.

# What’s next for selected proposals

Before the start of the NEBA Alliance cascade action, it is required to sign the Cascade Grant Agreement with University of Primorska. Inclusion of an entity name on the ranking list and invitation to the formal check process is in no way a guarantee that a grant will be awarded.

Before signing the Cascade Grant Agreement, the applicant should provide documents regarding formal status as specific in Section 6.1.

## Agreement process

Applicants selected for funding will be asked to complete four documents:

* A bank identification document
* A gaps tables which contains questions/concerns from reviewers and responses from the applicant
* A Cascade Grant Agreement between the funding partner (University of Primorska) and the beneficiary (applicant).

Forms or draft documents will be provided for each item. The signing process should take approximately 2 weeks if all documents are handled in a timely manner. A range of potential starting dates is defined in chapter 4.2.

# Funding scheme

## Administrative requirements of successful applicants

The NEBA Alliance project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101160532. Part of this agreement includes financial support to Third parties, via cascade funding which is available through this Open Call. Hence, the selected Third parties are indirect beneficiaries of European Commission funding and as such must comply with the rules presented in the Horizon Europe programme presented in the [Annotated Grant Agreement](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/aga_v1.0-draft-01042023_en.pdf) in the same way as the direct beneficiaries of the NEBA Alliance project. Contracts with them will be done by University of Primorska, Koper, Slovenia (cascade funding partner).

Any legal binding commitment from the side of University of Primorska shall be subject to the entering into written contractual agreement between University of Primorska and the selected Third parties.

## Funding scheme and rules

The Open Call is implemented in the form of “lump sum funding”, which offers a simplified approach to funding, reducing administrative and financial errors and removing obligations on reporting actual costs incurred by projects. There is no particular cost category restriction for the implementation of such activities (e.g., personnel costs, subcontracting costs, purchase costs, travel costs, etc.).

Payments under the Lump Sum funding do not depend on a successful outcome, but on the completion of activities. No financial reporting is foreseen for beneficiaries.

However, contractual obligations foreseen by the Grant Agreement also apply to third parties receiving the support. Recipients of financial support from this Open Call need to keep records and, in case of audit, they must provide information to the grant authority and access to relevant documentation to the auditors.

This means that documents such as Time-sheets, Pay-slips or contracts, Invoices are not needed. Beneficiaries are required to make available just documents proving that the work was done as detailed in their action plans. Beneficiaries will have to present a detailed budget at the application stage, associated to their action plan to define and justify the amount requested with the lump sum.

The proposed costs estimation in the budget:

* must be in line with applicants' normal practices
* must be in line with the activities proposed

These costs and categories of costs may be the following:

* Direct personnel costs: employees or equivalent (resolved by staff category); natural persons under direct contract; seconded persons
* Direct subcontracting costs
* Direct purchase costs: travel and subsistence; equipment; other goods, works and services

## Payments

The following payments will be made to the beneficiaries:

* one pre-financing payment: After signing of the Cascade Grant Agreement, a pre-financing payment of 50% of the eligible amount will be released.
* one final payment, based on the request for payment of the balance: 50 % final payment after approval of the final report. Payment is subject to the approval of the final report, which will occur within 30 days of the third-party project end date. Approval of the final report does not imply recognition of compliance, authenticity, completeness, or correctness of its content.

Payments will be made to the coordinator of the Cascade Grant project.

Payments to the coordinator will discharge the University of Primorska and NEBA Alliance consortium from its payment obligation.

The coordinator of the Cascade Grant project must distribute the payments between the partners without unjustified delay.

## Eligibility of costs

As specific in Section 3.3

# Intellectual property rights

The ownership of all Intellectual Property Rights created by the beneficiaries via the NEBA Alliance funding will remain with them. Results are owned by the beneficiary that generates them. The Cascade Grant Agreement will introduce provisions concerning joint ownership of the results of the sub-granted projects. This will be assessed and negotiated case by case. Please refer to the Cascade Grant Agreement draft for more details.

# Support for applicants

For more information about the NEBA Alliance Open Call, please check the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section included on the [NEBA Alliance open call webpage](https://neb.academy/news/neba-alliance-open-call-for-cascade-grants).

For further information on the Open Call, in case of any doubt regarding the eligibility rules, the information that is to be provided in the Application Form, or if you encountered technical issues or problems with the submission of the Application Form, please contact: [nebap.hub@upr.si](mailto:nebap.hub@upr.si).

Dedicated information webinars will be organized and recordings will be available on: <https://neb.academy>

# Right to reject proposals

Before the proposal due date and time listed in the timeline of the call, the NEBA Alliance may cancel the call for any or no reason. After the proposal due date and time listed in the timeline of the call, the NEBA Alliance may reject all proposals and cancel the call if the NEBA Alliance determines that: (i) the proposals received do not reflect effective competition; (ii) the cost is not reasonable; (iii) the cost exceeds the amount expected; or (iv) awarding the contract is not in the best interest of the NEBA Alliance project due to the contractual agreements with the European Commission. The NEBA Alliance may or may not waive an immaterial deviation or defect in a proposal. The NEBA Alliance’s waiver of an immaterial deviation or defect shall in no way modify the call or excuse a Applicant from full compliance with call specifications. Until a contract resulting from this call is signed, the NEBA Alliance reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the items in the proposal, to award the contract in whole or in part and/or negotiate any or all items with individual Applicants if it is deemed in the NEBA Alliance project’s best interest. A notice of intent to award does not constitute a contract and confers no right of contract on any Applicant. The NEBA Alliance reserves the right to issue similar calls in the future.

The call is in no way an agreement, obligation, or contract and in no way is the NEBA Alliance responsible for the cost of preparing the proposal.

# Open Call Documents

Guide for Applicants

Proposal template

Appendix 1 – Model Cascade Grant Agreement

Appendix 2 – Declaration of Honour

Supporting document 1 - Definition of NEBA Hub

Supporting document 2 - Description of existing NEBA Hubs

1. <https://europass.europa.eu/en/description-eight-eqf-levels> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. 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 NEBA Alliance Open Call. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. AC as of 28.08.2024: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Türkiye, Tunisia, United Kingdom, Ukraine, for the most up-to-date list please first part of [this document](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. The Multilateral Association Agreement will be provided by the NEBA Alliance. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. The training course might be submitted to the Senate of the University of Primorska to accredited it as NEBA course. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. See requierements under »Training course and material grants«. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. The training course might be submitted to the Senate of the University of Primorska to accredited it as NEBA course. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
8. See requierements under »Training course and material grants«. [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
9. Applications for »Training course and material grants« will be evaluated only for excellence and implementation. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)