BONSAPPS

AI-as-a-service for the Deep Edge

Frequently Asked Questions

1st Open Call

Open date for proposals: the 1st of September, 2021 at 00:00 CEST (Brussels Time).
Deadline: the 2nd of November, 2021 at 17:00 CET (Brussels Time).

Version 3.4: 29/10/2021

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101015848. Neither the European Commission (EC) nor any person acting on behalf of the Commission is responsible for how the following information is used. The views expressed in this document are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the EC

Executive Summary

Welcome to the BonsAPPs Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). The following information is intended to provide you with additional information about the 1st BonsAPPs Open Call and Support Programme.

Please remember that this is a complementary document for the Guide for Applicants that you should read first.

The FAQ will be updated regularly based on the questions we receive during the open call application period.

If you cannot find the answer to your question here, please submit your question(s)to our helpdesk.

Table of Contents

1 General Questions Related to BonsAPPs 3
1.1 What is BonsAPPs? 3
1.2 What organizations take part in the BonsAPPs project? 3
1.3 What is the Use Case Innovation Cycle? 3
1.4 What are the funding opportunities available with BonsAPPs? 4
1.5 Where can I find more information about the project? 5
1.6 Who is the coordinator of BonsAPPs? 5
2 Questions related to BonsAPPs Open Call 6
2.1 Who is an AI Talent? 6
2.2 What is the role of AI Talent? 6
2.3 Who can apply to the Open Call? 6
2.4 Which countries are eligible? 6
2.5 If Switzerland were not associated to Horizon Europe, could Swiss applicants participate in this open call? 6
2.6 What is an SME? 6
2.7 What is the difference between SMEs in 1st and 2nd Open Call? 7
2.8 What is a MidCap? 7
2.9 Are we an SME/MidCap if our company is a subsidiary of a bigger company? 7
2.10 What is an RTO (Research and Technology Organisation)? 7
2.11 Can undergraduate and master students apply? 8
2.12 Can I submit a proposal with an industry challenge/AI solution defined by me? 8
2.13 Are the AI challenges already planned for a particular stakeholder/end user? Are applicants required to find an industrial use case? 8
2.14 When target platforms are specified for each challenge, for example: Bonseyes Developer Platforms | NVIDIA Jetson AGX JetPack 4.6.1 TensorRT 8.0.1, the deployment for all of those platforms is required or is it referring to one of them? 8
2.15 The use of the AI model architecture referenced for each challenge is totally closed or if it is possible to use another model? 8
2.16 How do I submit my application to the open call? 9
2.17 How long does it take to fill in the application? 9
2.18 How to add contributors to the application form? 9
2.19 What is included in the Application Form? 9
2.20 Can one applicant submit two applications? 10

2.21 Can different researchers from one Research and Technology Organization (RTO) apply? 10
2.22 Can I apply if my company is associated with the partners' of BonsAPPs? 10
2.23 What is a conflict of interest? 10
2.24 What happens if I do not submit my application within the deadline? 11
2.25 Will I be able to modify my proposal after submission? 11
2.26 Is there a maximum number of natural persons applying as a team? 11
2.27 Can I become a voucher provider in the 2nd Open Call (AI Talent Expression of Interest) if I was selected as the 1st Open Call beneficiary? 12
2.28 Can I apply if I have received FSTP grants from other projects before? 12
2.29 Are applicants required to include the budget plan in the application? 12
3 Questions related to BonsAPPs Evaluation Process 13
3.1 What happens after my application has been submitted? 13
3.2 What are the pre-scoring criteria? 13
3.3 What is the evaluation process like? 13
3.4 Who are the external evaluators? 14
3.5 What is the minimum score to pass the External Evaluation phase? 14
3.6 What happens after the Consensus Meeting? 14
3.7 What documents will be required during the formal check? 14
4 Questions related to BonsAPPs Support Programme 16
4.1 What does the support program consist of? 16
4.2 What is the requirement for the final result to be delivered at the end of the support programme? Are AI Talents expected to have the model trained and tested on HPC or executable in a specific edge hardware? 16
4.3 Who do envision doing these hardware optimization? Would it be the end user or the end user just provides the ONNX file and the optimization is automatic? 17
4.4 What about monitoring the AI models that have been deployed (MLops)? 17
4.5 Will Training Datasets be provided to AI Talents? 17
4.6 How intellectual property will be managed? 17
4.5 Can selected AI Talents use funding to collect more data? 17
4.7 Will it be necessary to travel for the support programme? 18
4.8 In the case of applying as a team, how is the funding granted? 18
4.9 As a Team leader, do I have to make a legal entity after receiving a grant? Will I need to create a new/special bank account as an individual/civil and transfer salaries/money to others? 18
4.10 What costs can be covered by the funding received? 18
4.11 What are the costs references? 19
4.13 Who are HPC Cloud providers? 19
4.14 Can beneficiaries subcontract any of the tasks? 19
4.15 How will BonsAPPs monitor the progress of the teams during the project? 19
4.16 What is the payment schedule? 20
4.17 How will the results of the support program be exploited? 20
4.18 What is a Sub Grant Agreement? 20
4.19 Should we expect any reviews/audits? 20
5 Questions related to Bonseyes Marketplace 21
5.1 What is the current technical status of Bonseyes Marketplace? 21
5.2 Since when is the Bonseyes Marketplace being developed? 21
5.3 Can we use Bonseyes Marketplace BETA at the application stage? 21
5.4 The LPDNN agent is based on reinforcement learning? 21
5.5 Is there any tutorial about the steps for deploying a model on the Bonseyes Developer Platform from scratch? 21

1 General Questions Related to BonsAPPs

1.1 What is BonsAPPs?

BonsAPPS is an EU-funded H2020 project that will help SMEs in their digitalization process by allowing them to access, implement and make use of Artificial Intelligence easily and affordably through the modular services that will be available through Bonseyes AI Marketplace (BMP).

Over the duration of the project, BonsAPPs will launch 2 Open Calls (OC) for **AI Talents** and low-tech SMEs that will lead to the development of 20 re-usable AI Solutions implemented to BMP.

Our project was created in line with the EC's AI Strategy for building an ecosystem of excellence that can support the development and uptake of AI across the European Union that will interoperate with the AI on-demand platform (AI4EU).

1.2 What organizations take part in the BonsAPPs project?

The BonsAPPs consortium is led by HAUTE ECOLE SPECIALISEE DE SUISSE OCCIDENTALE (CH) and brings together a multidisciplinary team with the necessary expertise on AI technologies:

- BONSEYES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (BCA)
- FUNDINGBOX ACCELERATOR SP ZOO (FBA)
- STMICROELECTRONICS SRL (ST-I)
- BLEKINGE TEKNISKA HOGSKOLA (BTH)
- ALMA MATER STUDIORUM - UNIVERSITA DI BOLOGNA (UNIBO)
- NVISO SA (NVISO)
- INTERNETSIA, S.L. (ISDI)

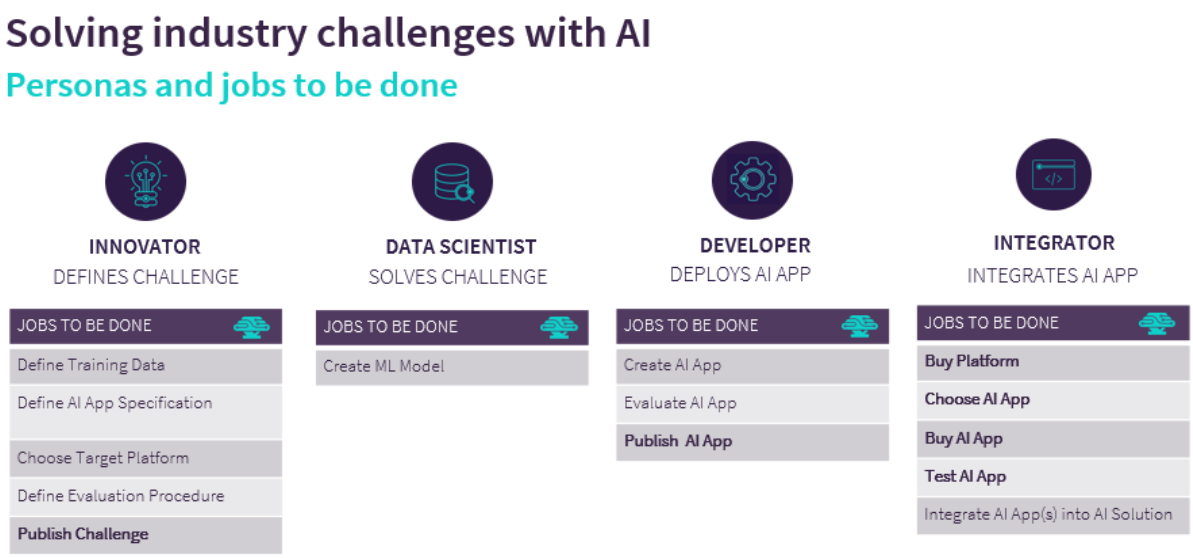
1.3 What is the Use Case Innovation Cycle?

First, AI talents and SMEs to be engaged in Use Case Innovation Cycle will be selected through Open Calls.

In each Use Case Innovation Cycle, AI Talents will develop AI Apps at the Deep Edge that will turn End User challenges into feasible and re-usable AI Solutions. This will be implemented with a series of modular services, such as experimentation, model compression, optimization, benchmarking, deployment on hardware, and security developed by AI talents (developers and integrators) through the Bonseyes Marketplace.

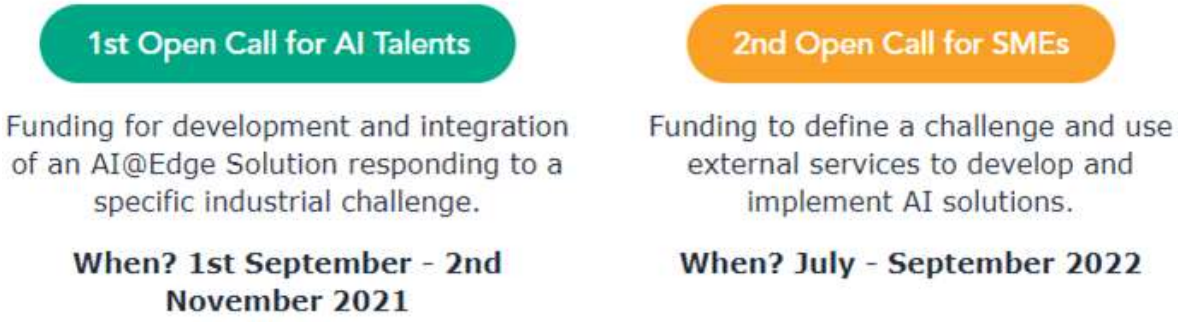
Use Cases will be implemented during the 5-month BonsAPPs Support Programme where Use Cases will receive :

- access and support to use of Bonseyes Marketplace tools for the development of an AI@Edge Solution.
- 70.000 EUR for Use Case execution and external services
- Business Mentoring and access to Massive Open Online Courses



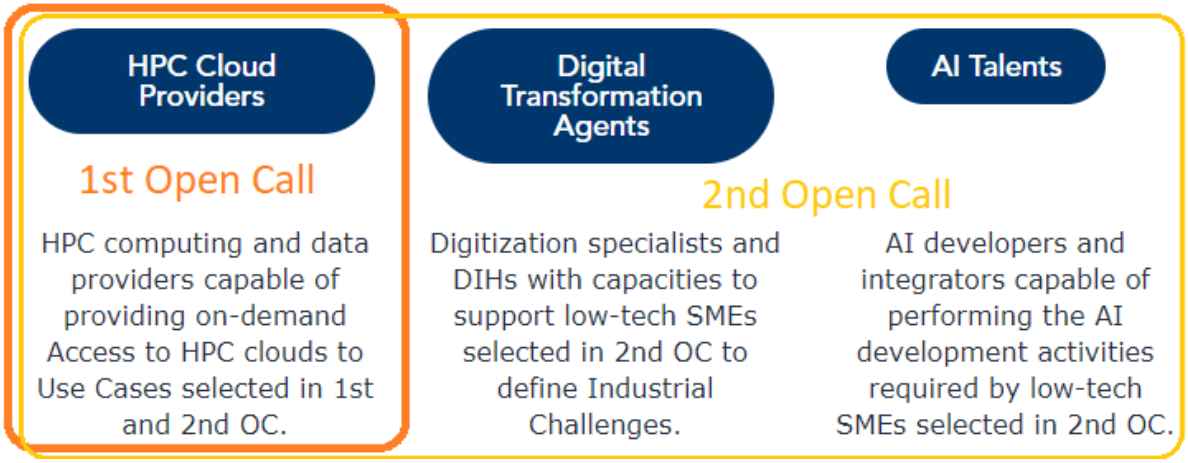
1.4 What are the funding opportunities available with BonsAPPs?

Open Calls:
BonsAPPs will launch the full life-cycle of 2 Open Calls that will allow transparently and efficiently to select high-impact Industry Challenges and the best AI Talents and end-users (SMEs) that will **lead to the development of Use Cases**. Open Call winners will become official BonsAPPs beneficiaries that will receive up to 70 000 EUR for project execution.



Expressions of Interest Calls:
Open Call beneficiaries will be obliged to dedicate some part of the total grant amount to cover the costs of external services (HPC Cloud Providers, Digital Transformation Agents, AI Talents) through a voucher scheme. Those services will be contracted based on the agreement made directly between each beneficiary and one of the suppliers selected from the pool of providers validated by BonsAPPs.

BonsAPPs will validate and engage external services through expressions of interests calls presented below:



1.5 Where can I find more information about the project?

You can find more information about BonsAPPs in the following links:

- Official project description on EC portal: https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101015848
- Main project website: https://www.bonseyes.com/
- Bonseys Marketplace Association website: https://www.bonseyes.com/
- Open Calls (funding opportunities) website: https://bonsapps.fundingbox.com/

1.6 Who is the coordinator of BonsAPPs?

The Project Coordinator is Nuria Pazos, Professor in Computer Sciences at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Western Switzerland (HES-SO) at the HE-Arc.

2 Questions related to BonsAPPs Open Call

APPLICANTS PROFILE

2.1 Who is an AI Talent?

The typical profile of the AI talents could be individuals (Researchers, PhDs/Post-Docs, Engineers/Developers, Data scientists) or entities, such as SMEs, MidCaps or Research and Technology Organizations with internal skills. AI Talents must demonstrate the capacity to execute both AI development and AI integration and deployment tasks with resources and services available through Bonseyes Marketplace.

2.2 What is the role of AI Talent?

We are looking for experts to train and deploy AI models. AI Talent will develop AI Apps at the Deep Edge that will turn Industry Challenges into feasible and re-usable AI Solutions integrated into the Bonseyes Marketplace (called a **Use Case**). Implementation will be possible thanks to a series of modular services available through the Bonseyes Marketplace that will be accessible to selected AI Talents during the 5-month BonsAPPs Support Programme.

2.3 Who can apply to the Open Call?

- Legal Entities that are Research and Technology Organizations (see definition in 2.10)
- Legal Entities: SMEs (see definition in 2.6)
- Legal Entities: MidCaps (see definition in 2.8)
- Natural Persons (entrepreneurs or PhD Researchers), individually or organized in a team of a maximum of 5 persons.

2.4 Which countries are eligible?

All applicants have to be registered/have citizenship or legal residence in any of the EU and Associated Countries (hereafter collectively identified as the 'Eligible Countries').

- The Member States of the European Union: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden;
- H2020 Associated Countries, as identified in Article 7 of the Horizon 2020 Regulation: Iceland, Norway, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Israel, Moldova, Switzerland, Faroe Islands, Ukraine, Tunisia, Georgia and Armenia
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

2.5 If Switzerland were not associated to Horizon Europe, could Swiss applicants participate in this open call?

Yes, Swiss applicants (natural, SMEs, MidCaps and RTOs) are eligible for BonsAPPs open call. Switzerland not being associated to Horizon Europe has no influence on ongoing Horizon 2020 projects.

2.6 What is an SME?

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

2.7 What is the difference between SMEs in 1st and 2nd Open Call?

Entities with SME status are allowed in both open calls. The main difference is related to the profile and scope of these 2 open calls:

In 1st Open Call we are looking for experts to train and deploy AI models. That means if the company is an SME with qualified AI experts in their team, they can be funded to develop and integrate an AI@Edge Solution responding to a specific industrial challenge.

In the 2nd Open Call (to be launched in Q3 2022) SMEs will be funded to define a challenge and use external services to develop and implement AI solutions.

For more information about all Open Calls in BonsAPPs project we invite you to visit: https://bonsapps.fundingbox.com/

2.8 What is a MidCap?

'Middle-capitalisation company' or 'MidCap' means an enterprise that has up to 3 000 employees, knowing that the staff headcount is calculated following 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

2.9 Are we an SME/MidCap if our company is a subsidiary of a bigger company?

When defining your SME/MidCap status, first you have to determine whether your enterprise is autonomous or belongs to a group of enterprises - it has a partner or linked enterprises. Remember that the connection between enterprises does not have to be official. Participation in the group should be assessed on the actual economic and organizational connections, that's why the analysis of share structure and participation in management bodies are so important.
For more on this and useful definition of linked/partner entities check the Used guide to the SME definition: https://ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/42921

2.10 What is an RTO (Research and Technology Organisation)?

Research and Technology organisation means an entity, such as university or research institute, irrespective of its legal status (organised under public or private law) or way of financing, whose primary statutory goal is to conduct fundamental research, industrial research or experimental development and to disseminate their results by way of teaching, publication or technology transfer; all profits are reinvested in these activities, the dissemination of their results or teaching; undertakings that can exert influence upon such an entity, in the quality of, for example, shareholders or members, shall enjoy no preferential access to the research capacities of such an entity or the research results generated by it." Source: 'Community framework for state aid for research and development and innovation' (2006/C 323/01)

2.11 Can undergraduate and master students apply?

Yes. As long as you are able to demonstrate the capacity to execute both AI development and AI integration and deployment tasks with resources and services available through Bonseyes Marketplace.

INDUSTRIAL CHALLENGES

2.12 Can I submit a proposal with an industry challenge/AI solution defined by me?

Although we found other AI Solutions very interesting, you should carefully review the exact pre-defined scope of our AI challenges described in Annex II of Guide for Applicants.

If you get selected to BonsAPPs programme, we expect you to follow the recommendations included in the challenge description like technical specifications, models architecture, platforms to be targeted, evaluation and sample data to solve the challenge. To better understand this point we invite you to read questions 2.13 - 2.15 from the FAQ document.

If you would like to bring your own challenge/AI Solution, you are probably a better fit for our 2nd Open Call that will be launched in Q3 2022 where we will fund SMEs to define a challenge and use external services to develop and implement AI solutions.

2.13 Are the AI challenges already planned for a particular stakeholder/end user? Are applicants required to find an industrial use case?

The pre-established AI Solutions are not planned for a particular stakeholder. Nevertheless, it is important to underline that they were created in collaboration with a wide range of industrial stakeholders to ensure the higher impact and scalability potential within sectors or value chains.

Applicants are invited to suggest the possible end users for AI Solution in the IMPACT section of the application form (see question Commercial Strategy & Scalability)

2.14 When target platforms are specified for each challenge, for example: Bonseyes Developer Platforms | NVIDIA Jetson AGX JetPack 4.6.1 TensorRT 8.0.1, the deployment for all of those platforms is required or is it referring to one of them?

Each AI challenge description includes the platform that it is aimed to be employed on. In the Stage 1 of the support programme AI talents should focus on the available platforms like NVIDIA Jetson and Raspberry Pi. Depending on the progress made and the challenge, there might be an option to deploy it on optimized solutions or low power platforms in Stage 2.

2.15 The use of the AI model architecture referenced for each challenge is totally closed or if it is possible to use another model?

AI model architecture is provided in Challenges description as a reference, to allow applicants to better understand the BonsAPPs vision. Nevertheless, it is possible to suggest other AI model architectures.

When bringing new AI model architecture, it is important to bear in mind the limitation with the operators that might not be supported with our inference engine. BonsAPPs team will need to match support operators with those that will be introduced in new architectures that will be experimented.
Can BonsAPPs project partners help me with the proposal writing?

Project partners engaged in the BonsAPPs consortium cannot directly intervene in the writing of the Applicant´s proposals.

PREPARING AND SUBMISSION OF THE APPLICATION

2.16 How do I submit my application to the open call?

Register or Log in to FundingBox Platform. Click APPLY NOW bottom available through the BonsAPPS microsite: https://bonsapps-1oc-ai-talents.fundingbox.com/
Once you will all required fields click SUBMIT.

2.17 How long does it take to fill in the application?

To successfully fill in the application form, you will probably need 1 day. You can split the proposal writing between your team members. You will be able to add contributors to your application so that each team member can complete their section.

Specific character limits have been established in each section of the online application form. We encourage you to keep your proposal focused on the requested information. We recommend you start the submission process well before the deadline to avoid last-minute circumstances.

You can also check a reference document with BonsAPPs application form.

2.18 How to add contributors to the application form?

You can add contributors by entering the application form and clicking Add Contributor bottom.

The invited person (contributor) has to register into the FBOX platform (https://spaces.fundingbox.com/signup). Once registered, he/she should go to the Open Call website: https://bonsapps-1oc-ai-talents.fundingbox.com and click the "Apply now" button. The started application will be there ready to be edited.

2.19 What is included in the Application Form?

The applications submitted to the first Open Call will include the following sections:

1. Basic information
2.Legal information
3. (Scored) EXCELLENCE
4. (Scored) IMPACT
5. (Scored) IMPLEMENTATION

6. Declaration of honour – confirmation of the exclusion criteria and absence of conflict of interest to be accepted by the Applicants
7. Processing of personal data – legal requirements related to the processing of the personal data of the Applicants (following the General Data Protection Regulation, EU 2016/679)

In order to see the online form offline (for reference only) click here.

2.20 Can one applicant submit two applications?

Yes, you can submit more than one proposal
BUT you need to remember about the following limits:

- **Maximum one application per Industry AI challenge**

If more: only the last proposal which has been submitted in order of time, will be evaluated.

- **Maximum one proposal will be funded**

If you submit multiple applications for different challenges and more than one proposal will reach the required score after the external evaluation phase, only ONE with a higher score will be selected for funding

2.21 Can different researchers from one Research and Technology Organization (RTO) apply?

Yes, though you should remember to pay attention to multiple submission rules.

If you apply as RTO:

- make sure that different researchers apply to different challenges: your RTO can submit only one proposal per AI challenge
- neither team members nor any legal entities (RTOs) can be funded twice by BonsAPPs: only one proposal per RTO with the highest score will be funded.

2.22 Can I apply if my company is associated with the partners' of BonsAPPs?

No, Applicants cannot be affiliated (directly or indirectly, for example through board members or third parties) to any of the consortium partners. They can't be consortium partner's employees nor board members. If detected, the potential conflict of interest should be reported to the BonsAPPs team and will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

2.23 What is a conflict of interest?

Conflict of interest may occur, if there are capital or personal connections between two or more entities (Applicant, Consortium partner or any person involved in the selection process), in particular, it should be understood as:

- any ownership relations - ownership of shares, financial links and economic connections - like joint venture, holding, joint participation, silent partner. E.g. Applicant entity owns shares in the Consortium partner company or Consortium partner company own shares in the Applicants company (it also refers to the Applicant partner/linked enterprises). As economic connection we can understand exclusive license, sale agreements if they concern product or solution covered by your application;

- family and personal relationships, in particular: with marriage, kinship, a relationship of affinity to the second degree in a straight line or lateral line, adoption, custody or guardianship or actual life and other close personal ties binding the Applicant and Consortium partner or any person involved in the selection process (it refers also to employees, shareholders, members of the management body, members of the board, managers, subcontractors etc.) – e.g. person representing the Consortium partner company has family/personal relationship with any person representing the Applicant company;

- the existence of material, especially financial relationships (such as the receipt by a person involved in the selection process from Applicant any significant gifts, donations, future contracts or employment, etc;

- relationships based on employment, cooperation or existing civil contract between the Consortium partners and people involved in the Applicant structure, including managerial or supervisory functions, position in managing or supervising bodies. E.g. Director of the Consortium partner is in involved in the management bodies of an Applicant company; the Applicant employees involved in the Project are employed or contracted by the Consortium partner company;

- remaining in a legal or factual relationship that may give rise to justified doubts as to the impartiality of the people involved in the selection process (expert/evaluator/employee/member of the management bodies of any of the Consortium partner).

The reasons set forth above may result in a conflict of interest if they occur at the time of an action or have occurred in the past (during the last 2 years before the action start). Time limits do not apply to family and personal relationships.

Remember that the concept of the conflict of interest should be understood widely, so if you have any doubts about the conflict of Interest please consult it with our team.

All cases of conflict of interest will be assessed case by case.

2.24 What happens if I do not submit my application within the deadline?

We do not accept applications after the deadline. We strongly encourage you not to wait until the last minute to submit your proposal. Failure of meeting the submission deadline for any reason, including extenuating circumstances, will result in the rejection of the proposal

2.25 Will I be able to modify my proposal after submission?

If you submit your application before the deadline (2nd November), you can still edit it until the open call closes.

After 2nd Nov, 5pm CET you will not be able to modify the submitted application.

2.26 Is there a maximum number of natural persons applying as a team?

Yes, 5 is the maximum number of persons that can apply as a team.

FUNDING

2.27 Can I become a voucher provider in the 2nd Open Call (AI Talent Expression of Interest) if I was selected as the 1st Open Call beneficiary?

Applicants participating in this open call will be able to apply for other BonsAPPs open calls and expressions of interest, under the condition that limits of funding received (maximum of 200 000 EUR) are observed.

Nevertheless, the spirit of the BonsAPPs project is to redistribute the funding as much as possible among different beneficiaries/voucher providers. That is why voucher providers exceeding total funding of 60 000 EUR in the BonsAPPs project will need to be well justified.

2.28 Can I apply if I have received FSTP grants from other projects before?

Yes, it is possible to apply to other open calls. The only point that you should pay attention to if you are selected (funded) to multiple EU projects is the double funding rule. That means that you have to be able to confirm that funding received from one EU project will not cover the same costs/tasks which were already funded by other EU projects.

Please note that AI talents engaged in other EU funded acceleration/support programmes will have to prove that they have enough resources to be able to implement BonsAPPs programme tasks (in case of being selected).

2.29 Are applicants required to include the budget plan in the application?

Details about the budget are not required on the application level. The detailed budget planned for execution will be requested from selected AI Talents, at the beginning of the Support Programme in “Individual Use Case Plan”.

3 Questions related to BonsAPPs Evaluation Process

3.1 What happens after my application has been submitted?

After the Open Call deadline, applications will be subjected to the evaluation process.

3.2 What are the pre-scoring criteria?

In case that number of submitted applications will be greater than 150, the BonsAPPs consortium may introduce pre-scoring procedure. Eligible proposals will then be automatically scored by FBOX system according to the answers marked in closed questions from sections excellence, impact and implementation sections.

PRE-SCORING	QUESTION	Section in application form	Max score
Social and Economical Impact	Please mark the possible impacts that the AI Solutions might bring.	Impact	2
Gender Balance	Gender Balance: Please indicate the % of Female Team members in your team	Implementation	2
Team Skills Balance	Please select the most accurate profile description.	Implementation	3
Team Skills Experience	Years of experience in applying AI to practical and comprehensive technology solutions.	Implementation	3
TOTAL			**10**

Proposals with the highest score will pass then to the External Evaluation Phase. In case of ties, the questions Team Skills Balance will be used to rank the proposals.

3.3 What is the evaluation process like?

The Selection process has 4 Steps:

Step 1: Automatic Eligibility Check

The eligibility check will determine whether applicants meet the eligibility criteria listed in Section 3 of Guide for Applicants.

Step 2: External Evaluation

In this phase, 2 external expert evaluators will score proposals according to the Excellence, Impact and Implementation sections of the application form. Proposals that will achieve the minimum threshold will be selected for the next step.

Step 3: Consensus Meeting

Based on the ranking obtained as a result of the External Evaluation, the 'Selection Committee will decide by the majority (⅔ votes) the List of applicants that pass to the final step.

Step 4: Sub Grant Agreement Preparation and Signature

Before signing the Agreement, each selected applicant will need to pass the standard ethical check and provide documents regarding your formal status that you indicated in section 2 of the Application

Form (Legal Status). Proposals that will pass the documents review will be invited to sign the Sub Grant Agreement with the BonsAPPs Consortium before the Support Programme starts.

3.4 Who are the external evaluators?

Evaluators are external, independent experts with proven experience in Edge AI. The panel of external experts is selected and invited by the BonsAPPS consortium. Each evaluator signs a code of conduct and confidentiality clause before they start the evaluation of the proposals.

3.5 What is the minimum score to pass the External Evaluation phase?

Thresholds needed to pass to the next stage are:

- For each criterion, the minimum threshold is 3 out of 5 points.
- For a total sum of scores, the minimum threshold is 10 out of 15 points.

3.6 What happens after the Consensus Meeting?

The Provisional List of 30 proposals selected during the Consensus Meeting and the Reserve List will be sent to the European Commission for validation before the Formal Check process begins. After official EC validation, the BonsAPPs team will send you instructions for a Formal Check.

3.7 What documents will be required during the formal check?

A formal check is conducted to verify that selected applicants fulfil legal requirements. To do so, each applicant will need to provide documents regarding the formal status listed in the table below:

Section	Comments
SME/Midcap entity data	**Official, valid and current registration document of the Applicant enterprise.** An extract from the current official registration document (or its equivalent: Company Register, Official Journal) indicating the name of your organisation, the address of the head office, its registration number, authorised representatives. The enterprise **registration document** is a written statement from the Government or other authority which confirms that the company legally exists and confirms its data. **Document showing the holding structure of the Applicant enterprise -** shareholders and the percentage of shares that they own in applicant enterprise. The document must be signed by the **authorised representatives.** **VAT Registration - copy of an official and valid document proving your VAT registration. To confirm VAT number you can also provide the confirmation from the VAT Information Exchange System (VIES) - http://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/vies/vatRequest.html.** **Bank Identification form – the Bank Identification form- To confirm your bank account data, you will be asked to provide the Bank Identification form. It helps us to know the banking coordinates, necessary to the authorisation of payments from the EU.** **Information about staff headcount - you will be asked to provide the information about staff headcount of the last 3 years (if your history is shorter, provide data starting from your set up date**). The Staff headcount corresponds to the number of annual work units (AWU), i.e. the number of persons who worked full-time within the enterprise in question or on its behalf during the entire reference year under consideration. The work of persons who have not worked the full year, the work of those who have worked part-time, regardless of duration, and the work of seasonal workers are counted as fractions of AWU. The staff consists of: a) employees;

	b) persons working for the enterprise being subordinated to it and deemed to be employees under national law; c) owner-managers; d) partners engaging in a regular activity in the enterprise and benefiting from financial advantages from the enterprise. Apprentices or students engaged in vocational training with an apprenticeship or vocational training contract are not included as staff. The duration of maternity or parental leaves is not counted. To confirm staff Headcount please provide enterprise **statistic reports/annual report/financial statement or any other supporting documents which demonstrate staff headcount. I**t can be an official and signed declaration indicating the number of employees expressed in Annual Working Units. (upload in section 6 Attachments) **Remember that the above documents should have been established recently and in any case, no more than 6 months ago.** **Additional applicant documentation** – e.g. certificate of being SME issued by your country authorities; official and signed declaration on the staff headcount expressed in Annual Working Unit, Information about changes In the company owner structure In last 3 years **In case of having partner/linked enterprises, you will be asked to provide additional documentation of this partner and/or linked enterprises. It will be a**: - document showing the holding structure of a partner/linked enterprise, e.g. official extract of shareholders (from the Chamber of Commerce or any other Official Register) or instead we can accept an official and signed declaration indicating shareholders and the percentage of shares that they own in the company. - Statistic reports/annual report/financial statement indicating the number of declared employees of a partner/linked enterprise. If the number of employees is not clearly indicated in the above-mentioned documents, we can accept other supporting documents such as an official and signed declaration on the staff headcount expressed in Annual Working Units.
Natural persons	**Certificate of Tax Residence -** It is a document issued by the beneficial owner's tax authorities, giving the beneficial owner's full name and address and Tax ID and confirming that the beneficial owner is liable to tax in that country. This document is needed to confirm your data and to certify that you have a status of a tax resident of your country. **Bank Identification form** – the Bank Identification form- To confirm your bank account data, you will be asked to provide the Bank Identification form. It helps us to know the banking coordinates, necessary to the authorisation of payments from the EU.
Research and Technology Organization	**Entity registration document** - official file confirming legal existence - showing the name of the entity, form, current address, registration number, etc. It can be an establishment act, University status, official Journal or similar. **Document confirming people authorised to represent the entity and sign the agreement** (names and roles in the entity) and the procedures for representing (individual signing, co-signing of the authorised persons, etc.). **Bank Identification form** – the Bank Identification form- To confirm your bank account data, you will be asked to provide the Bank Identification form. It helps us to know the banking coordinates, necessary to the authorisation of payments from the EU.

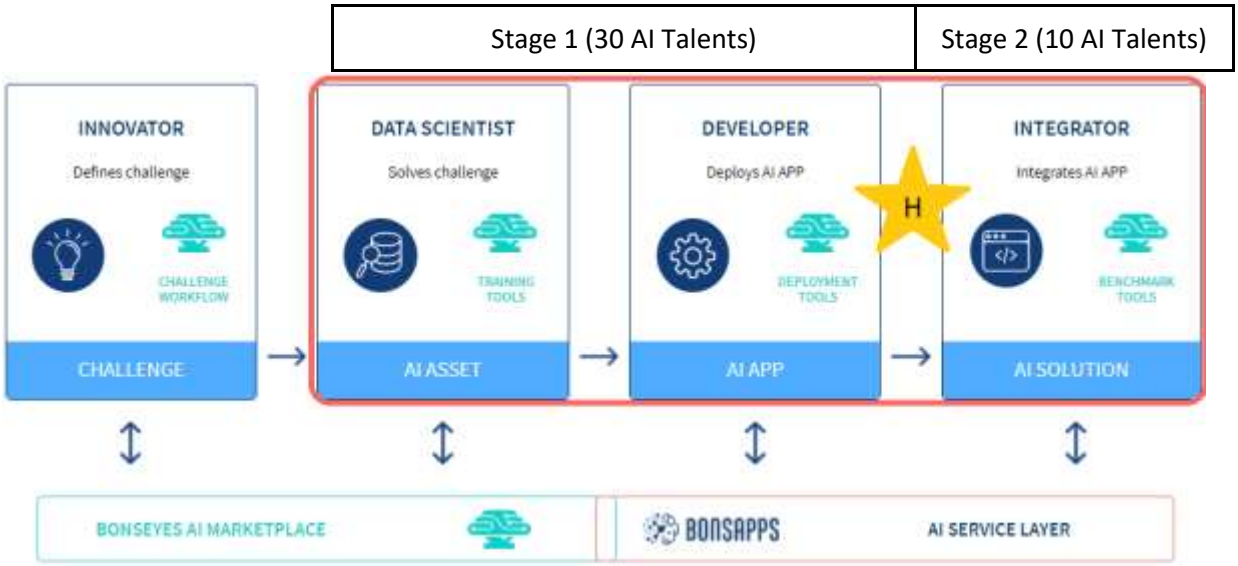
4 Questions related to BonsAPPs Support Programme

4.1 What does the support program consist of?

Up to 30 selected AI Talents will start the programme in January 2022 by defining their "Individual Use Case Plan" with the support of the Bonseyes Community Association (BCA), the Support Programme Manager. This document will become an Annex to Sub Grant Agreement and aims to establish the budget planned for execution of the Use Case as well as KPIs and Deliverables that will be taken into account when evaluating the AI Talent performance during a 5-month programme divided into 2 stages:

Stage 1. AI Assets/Apps development. *(+2 months):*
AI Talents will use the BMP services needed, interconnected with HPC clouds for model training and optimization. Stage 1 will end with a Hackathon event where developed AI Apps will be presented and evaluated by the 'Selection Committee, which will select up to 10 to proceed to Stage 2.

Stage 2. AI Solutions development, integration and deployment. (*+3 months):*
AI Talents will continue using the BMP services for benchmarking, to deploy AI Solutions in developer platforms defined by AI Industry Challenges.



WHAT IS EXPECTED

4.2 What is the requirement for the final result to be delivered at the end of the support programme? Are AI Talents expected to have the model trained and tested on HPC or executable in a specific edge hardware?

The idea is that the output of the support programme will become an AI Asset on the Bonseyes Marketplace Platform. This AI Asset must be trained and deployed on an embedded device. The first stage that we target are devices like RaspberryPi or Nvidia Jetson Nano. We are not targeting High Performance Computing.

4.3 Who do envision doing these hardware optimization? Would it be the end user or the end user just provides the ONNX file and the optimization is automatic?

If you are an end user, you will need to provide a model to BonsAPPs Team that will automatically optimize it and implement it to the Bonseyes Marketplace platform.
If you are a developer you can train your own model and provide optimization to it.

4.4 What about monitoring the AI models that have been deployed (MLops)?

We have different metrics for monitoring applications. We have static ones like FLOPS, number of parameters or read/write operations. Then we also have more dynamic metrics like latency, peak memory consumption and % of CPU/GPU/NPU usage.

4.5 Will Training Datasets be provided to AI Talents?

Each challenge description includes a public dataset provided as a reference for applicants. Those datasets will be made available to selected AI talents that will train the AI models.

Of course, AI Talents are more than welcome to bring private datasets to train the model.

Nevertheless, the evaluation of AI models at the end of each stage will be based on these public datasets.

4.6 How intellectual property will be managed?

AI Solutions developed during the project will be open sourced (excluding the training data). The license terms of the resulting AI models will be subject to the status of the data being used to train the AI model.

- AI models trained on non-commercial data:

AI Talents that will use the non-commercial data will be granted rights to use the results for non-commercial purposes only. During the Support Programme, BonsAPPs Team will set up a source code repository for each AI Talent including the User Support Framework and initial source code for the AI Asset. This source code will be open sourced under an appropriate contributor license agreement.

- AI model trained on commercial data:

In case of AI solutions built on another party's proprietary data, AI Talents should be at least granted rights to re-use and commercialise them to develop new AI@Edge products for additional end users. Costs related to obtaining the necessary commercial license rights to the training data are eligible costs associated with the funding received through the project.

HOW FUNDING WORKS

4.5 Can selected AI Talents use funding to collect more data?

The costs are eligible as long as corresponding tasks or parts of the Project have been properly implemented. If purchasing data is necessary to execute the work, AI Talents can use funding for this.

4.7 Will it be necessary to travel for the support programme?

All support monitoring will be done online, except for the Use-Case Hackathon organized by UNIBO in M2 (February/March 2022).

4.8 In the case of applying as a team, how is the funding granted?

In the case of a team, one of the parties will be nominated as team leader and will be the one receiving the whole team grant. Team leads will be obliged to transfer the appropriate parts of the grant to other members of a team according to a separate internal arrangement made between team members.

4.9 As a Team leader, do I have to make a legal entity after receiving a grant? Will I need to create a new/special bank account as an individual/civil and transfer salaries/money to others?

It is not obligatory to open a legal entity to receive the grant. You can receive the grant as natural person or a team.

If you get selected for the support programme as a Team, one of the team members will be nominated as a team leader and will be the one signing the Sub Grant agreement and receiving the grant. The team lead will be obliged to transfer the appropriate parts of the grant to other members of a team according to a separate internal arrangement made between team members.

Bank account there is no need to open a special bank account. You just need to indicate which bank account the transfer should be made to. The account holder has to be a Team Lead. Before signing the Sub Grant Agreement, the team lead will be requested to provide a Bank Identification form to confirm the bank account data where the EU grant should be paid.

4.10 What costs can be covered by the funding received?

Costs are eligible if they:

- correspond to the lump sum amount;
- if the corresponding tasks or parts of the experiment have been properly implemented following the Individual Use Case plan and Milestones validated by the 'Mentoring Committee' and ultimately the 'Selection Committee.
- The cost incurred during the support programme duration

Eligible costs which can be charged to the grants awarded to BonsAPPs Use Cases are:

- Personnel costs (involvement of employees in the BonsAPPs)
- Purchase of goods or services (including obligatory HPC Cloud provider service)
- Travel costs, if necessary, for the execution of the project (including travel to Hackathon in M2)
- Subcontracting (max 15% of the total cost budget)

Each beneficiary will be obliged to dedicate 2 000 EUR per month (10 000 EUR in total for both stages) from the total grant amount to cover the costs of HPC Cloud services. Those services will be contracted based on the agreement made directly between each beneficiary and one of the HPC suppliers selected from the pool of providers validated by BonsAPPs.

4.11 What are the costs references?

Once you get accepted to the BonsAPPs project you will be requested to include a detailed budget for the project execution in your Individual Use Case Plan. Below you can find the references for the costs estimation:

1) Personnel costs: Costs should be calculated with the estimation of the required effort, and applying the standard rates foreseen in the H2020 Horizon - Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions (MSCA) Programme where monthly Average Personnel Cost Rate is 4.880 EUR/month.

2) Travel costs: Please remember to include the cost of the travel to Hackathon in M2. Monthly Travel Rate (based on Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions Programme) is 600 EUR/month.

3) Purchase of goods or services estimated by a standard practice of the beneficiary.
Please remember to include the obligatory HPC Cloud provider service: 2.000 EUR/month.

4) Overheads (25% of sum of 1+2+3)

5) Subcontracting (max 15% of 1+2+3+4)

6) Total costs (1+2+3+4+5)

	Cost References	EUR per month
1	Personnel costs	4.880 EUR
2	Travel costs	600 EUR/month
3	Consumables	500 EUR/month
4	Subcontracting	500 EUR/month

4.12 Is there any obligation to cover a specific percentage of the budget of the project from the applicant´s side?

No. The funding rate in the BonsAPPs project is 100%.

4.13 Who are HPC Cloud providers?

High-Performance Computing providers are entities legally established in any of the EU member states and H2020 Associated Countries that own HPC computing and data resources capable of providing on-demand Access to HPC clouds to third parties.

All HPC Cloud providers that will be engaged in the Use Case execution through voucher scheme have to be validated by the BonsAPPs team through Expression of Interest call available through: https://bonsapps-hpc.fundingbox.com/

4.14 Can beneficiaries subcontract any of the tasks?

Subcontracting may cover only a limited part of 15% of the total cost budget dedicated to action.

4.15 How will BonsAPPs monitor the progress of the teams during the project?

The BonsAPPs Support Programme Committee will evaluate the Use Cases performance at the Milestone Review based on the 'Individual Use Case Plan' elaborated at the beginning of the programme and validated by the 'Mentoring Committee' and ultimately 'Selection Committee.

In each Milestone review, the following criteria will be scored:

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

According to this final score:
● Beneficiaries over the threshold (7 points) will successfully receive the next payment and be candidates to continue in the program.
● Beneficiaries under the threshold. The beneficiaries who haven't reached the threshold will be the subject of the final Selection Committee decision and the possible ending of the Program.

4.16 What is the payment schedule?

For the sake of simplicity and transparency, the Financial Support will be paid against specific Deliverables (which will be included in the 'Individual Use Case Plan') and based on the results of the Milestone Reviews.

The final beneficiaries will receive the funding upon reaching specific Milestones and successful conclusion and validation of the Deliverable(s) established for it:

Supply activation (AI developers-integrators)	Month (*)	Milestone / Deliverable	Payment moment	Payment €	Accumulative
Stage 1 Assets/Apps Development Recipients: AI developers-integrators (30)	M1	Individual Plan	Beginning Programme	10.000,00	10.000,00
	M2	AI App	End Stage 1 (Hackathon) (**)	18.000,00	28.000,00
Stage 2 Solutions Deployment & Integration Recipients: AI developers-integrators (10)	M5	AI Solution	End Stage 2 (**)	31.500,00	59.500,00
(*) M1-M5 Innovation Cycle (5 months)			Balance payment	10.500,00	70.000,00
(**) Out of this amount, Beneficiaries must dedicate 2.000 EUR/month to contract access to HPC clouds from validated providers ('voucher scheme')					

Once the milestones and payments to each Use Case are approved by the 'Selection Committee, according to the Milestone Review Process described before, BonsAPPs will release the payment to the beneficiaries on behalf of the Consortium.

4.17 How will the results of the support program be exploited?

End users will have access to the exploitation of the results of the use case (i.e. AI Solution) within their activities, while AI Talents will maintain rights of re-use on the AI Assets, Artifacts and Apps developed during the process. This will guarantee further exploitation of results that are of great interest and benefit to the industry.

4.18 What is a Sub Grant Agreement?

You may want to read the draft of the Sub Grant Agreement that is made available for open call applicants for reference only.

4.19 Should we expect any reviews/audits?

BonsAPPs support is funded by EC. That is why on top of the standard Milestones Evaluation procedure performed by BonsAPPs team, EC may, during the implementation of the Project and/or afterwards (up to 5 years), carry out checks/investigation reviews and/or audits concerning the Project to ensure its proper implementation and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement and applicable EU law.

For more details please see Article 10 in Sub Grant Agreement template.

5 Questions related to Bonseyes Marketplace

5.1 What is the current technical status of Bonseyes Marketplace?

Current Technical Readiness Level (TRL) is 6 and it aims to reach a fully functional (TRL8) cycle for the development of AI Apps at the Deep Edge that turns application challenges into feasible and re-usable AI Solutions by the end of the project

Many of the BMP tools (like AI research or AI Challenges) are ready and being tested internally in different environments in order to be fully functional for the AI talents support programme. We expect to make a beta version public in upcoming weeks.

5.2 Since when is the Bonseyes Marketplace being developed?

Bonseyes Marketplace Platform (BMP) has already 5 years and is a result of the previous Bonseyes project (Grant Agreement 732204) that started in 2017. In the upcoming 3 years BonsAPPs (Grant Agreement 101015848) aims to improve and make available the tools that were created since 2017.

5.3 Can we use Bonseyes Marketplace BETA at the application stage?

At the moment no. The first release is planned for the end of this year and will include AI Challenges and AI Assets features. Next year the AI Applications will be implemented.

Beta version of Bonseyes Marketplace's User Support Framework with AI Research and AI Challenges features will be released before the BonsAPPs Support Programme starts. More details about the structure and the content are provided in Bonseyes Marketplace release notes document.

We also invite you to watch the video from the 2nd webinar where Miguel de Prado made a DEMO of the Bonseyes Marketplace platform.

5.4 The LPDNN agent is based on reinforcement learning?

Yes, but we also have other search algorithms. We have A*, Dijkstra and direct search. We use each of those for specific use cases when they fit the best for the specific problem.

5.5 Is there any tutorial about the steps for deploying a model on the Bonseyes Developer Platform from scratch?

Yes, at the beginning of the support programme BonsAPPs team will provide to AI Talents a short online course to explain the process of setting up and implementing AI Assets to the embedded board. You can also have a look on the list of User Support Documents listed in section 2.1 of BMP release notes