D4.2 - Expression of Interest: Guidelines and Form (AI Talents)

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V1.0	23.11.2021	Final version of the deliverable	FBA
V1.1	29.11. 2021	Final version of the deliverable (reviewed by HES-SO)	HES-SO

Abbreviations

AI: Artificial Intelligence

EoI: Expressions of Interest

EC: European Commission

HPC: High-Performance Computing

SME: Small and Medium Enterprise

BMP: Bonseyes Marketplace

FSTP: Financial Support for Third Parties

OC: Open Call

Executive Summary

This deliverable provides a set of documents to inform the potential voucher suppliers applicants about the details of the Expressions of Interest Open Call for AI Talents, for its successful execution, including:

- Guidelines Expression-of-Interest (EoIs) call for AI Talents– a step-by-step guide with detailed information on the EoI application and validation process.

  This document summarizes the main rules of the BonsAPPS Expression of Interest for AI Talents that will be **open under the link:** https://ai-talents.fundingbox.com/ from 1st December 2021 until March 30th 2023.

  This Expression of Interest for AI Talents aims to **gather and validate a pool of AI Talents** that will **support low tech SMEs** in AI model training (Data Science), AI development and integration tasks using functionalities of Bonseyes Marketplace that will **lead to development of re-usable AI Solutions applicable into their processes.**

- Application Form (AF) – a file including all the application questions to be elaborated by the AI Talents to be found at the link: https://ai-talents.fundingbox.com/ .

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1.1 About BonsAPPs

BonsAPPS is an EU-funded H2020 project that will help SMEs[1] in their digitalization process by allowing them to access, implement and make use of Artificial Intelligence easily and affordably through the modular services and AI Solutions that will be available through the [Bonseyes AI Marketplace (BMP)](#).

1.2 Expression of Interest Call for AI Talents

1.2.1 Open Calls leading to AI Solutions

BonsAPPS will launch 2 Open Calls in 2021[2] and **2022** to select and **fund up to 20 Use Cases** for development and integration of **AI@Edge Solutions** into Bonseyes Marketplace.

Use Cases will demonstrate a fully functional and scalable Bonseyes AI marketplace which will allow end users (especially SMEs and non-tech users lacking internal innovation capacities) to easily engage with AI Talents ('data scientist', 'developers' 'integrators') into an open innovation cycle.
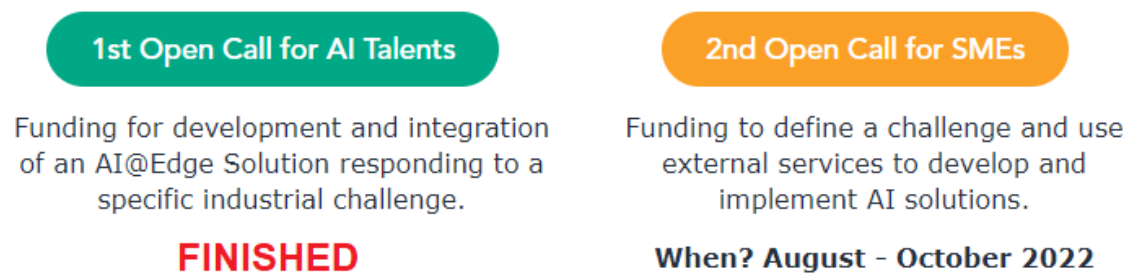
Figure 1 BonsAPPs Open Calls

1.2.2 2nd Open Call and external providers (vouchers)

The 2nd Open Call will select **10 low tech SMEs that will define a challenge.** BonsAPPS will fund them with up to 70,000 EUR to cover expenses for involving **external providers** in AI solution development via vouchers:

- **AI Talents: Data Scientists, AI Developers, AI Integrators (up to 30,000 EUR per SME)**
- HPC cloud infrastructure (up to 10,000 EUR per SME)[3]
- Digital Transformation Agents (up to 3,000 EUR per SME)[4]

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[1] SME criteria (based on EC Recommendation 2003/361/EC) 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.
[2] 1st Open Call for AI Talents has closed on 2nd November
[3] EoI for HPC Cloud providers is available under the link: https://hpc.fundingbox.com/
[4] EoI for Digital Transformation Agents will be launched in Q2 2022
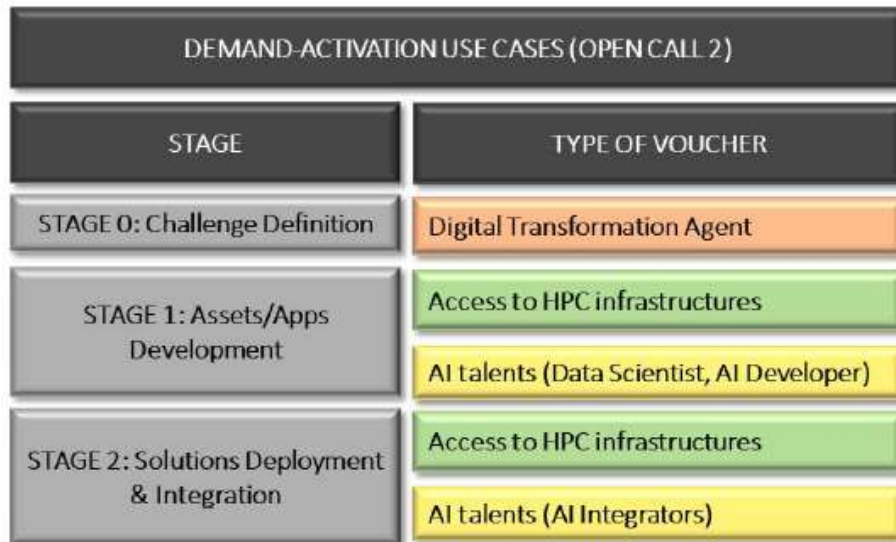
Figure 2 BonsAPPs: External Providers involved with 2nd Open Call winners (low tech SMEs)

1.2.3 Validated AI Talents will provide services to low tech SMEs

This EoI for AI Talents will remain open from December 1st 2021 until March 30th 2023.

Interested AI Talents should apply to this EoI and once validated, they will be included in a pool of AI Talents where the matchmaking between the SMEs needs and the AI talents will be done.

Validated AI Talents that will be matched with SME needs will support them in AI Solutions Development during the final 5 months of support programme that will launch in Q3 2023.
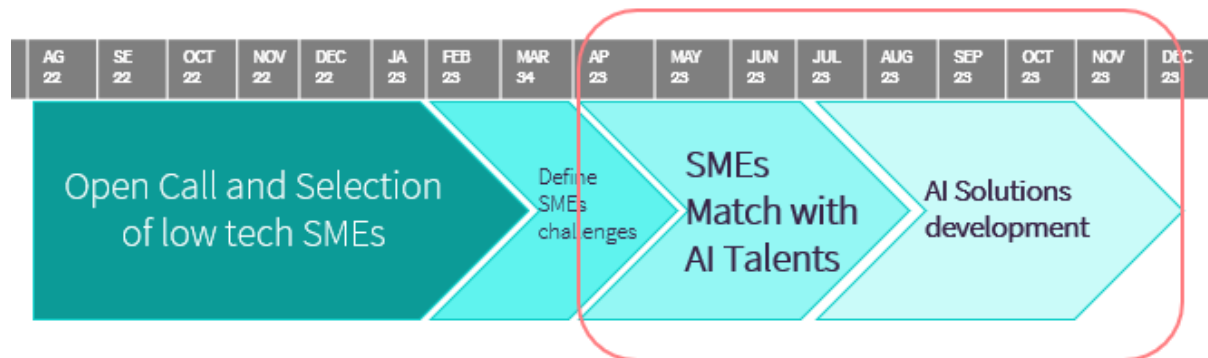
Figure 3 BonsAPPs: 2nd Open Call timeline (AI Talents will be involved in AI Solutions development phase marked in green)

1.3 AI Talents role

1.3.1 What is expected?

Validated AI Talent providers will:

- Analyse the requirements of the challenge indicated by low tech SME
- Be in contact with the low-tech SME and with the BonsAPPs team
- Support SMEs in using tools, algorithms, services to satisfy their requirements and solve the issues in the process.
- Verify data sets and create AI Assets
- Develop an adequate AI App and integrate it into a viable AI Solution (Stage 1&2)
- Integrate AI Solutions to Bonseyes Marketplace (Stage 2)

1.3.2   What are the benefits?

Validated AI Talents providers will benefit as follows:

- Becoming a part of the high-profile Bonseyes Marketplace Platform (BMP) ecosystem that will support the development and uptake of AI across the European Union
- Unique opportunity to be connected with top European AI stakeholders selected in 2 Open Calls
- Financial contribution for the work done
- Longer-term commercial engagement opportunity

1.4   Who are we looking for?

1.4.1   Location

We are looking for legal entities or natural persons that are registered/have citizenship or legal residence in:

- The Member States of the European Union and its Overseas Countries and Territories or
- Associated Countries to H2020 or
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

1.4.2   Minimum requirements to be validated

Candidates should have following basic qualifications:
- Proven expertise and experience as Data scientist and/or AI developer and/or AI integrator
- Excellent written and verbal communications skills (English)

Preferred Qualifications:
- PhD. on any AI related field
- Project Management Experience
- Experience working with or in low-tech companies

1.4.3   Pricing

The AI Talent can provide services to one SME within the pricing limit of up to **30.000 EUR/beneficiary** SME (12.000 EUR for stage 1 and 18.000 EUR for stage 2).

Validated AI Talents can provide services to various SMEs under the condition that the total amount received for the services provided during BonsAPPs project does not exceed the absolute limit of **200.000 EUR.**[56]

1.5   Validation process

1.5.1   Register via online form

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[5] Including the amount of funding received through 1st Open Call (if AI Talent was selected).

[6] Providers exceeding €60,000 limit will need to be justified.

Interested AI Talents should fill and submit their application via the online form available at the Funding Box platform: https://ai-talents.fundingbox.com/

BonsAPPs team will review applications on the last Friday of each month.

1.5.2   Validation

Registered AI talents will be reviewed and validated by BONSEYES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (BCA) team according to the eligibility (country: 4.1) and validation criteria (minimum requirement 4.2) mentioned in section 4.

Validated providers will be informed about their validation via email.

1.5.3   Start work with low tech SMEs

Once the BonsAPPs 2nd Open Call selection process is finished, awarded SMEs will select, based on their project's needs, AI Talents from the pool of validated providers with the support of BCA.

Once the match between SME and AI Talent is made, both sides will agree on the conditions of the service and sign an agreement for providing services.

BCA will oversee the contracting procedure from a technical perspective, making sure that the SME reaches an agreement with an appropriate AI Talent. Contractual and financial follow-up of vouchers will be overseen by FundingBox.

1.5.4   Payment to validated AI Talents

Low-tech SMEs will directly pay the amount agreed to AI Talents according to the signed agreement and provided services.

Each low tech SME receive a FSTP[7] funding from BonsAPPs project for developing the AI Solution for their Use Case. For simplicity and transparency, the FSTP funding to the low tech SMEs will be paid against specific Deliverables and based on the results of the Milestone Reviews. Once the milestones and payments to each low tech SMEs are approved by the 'Selection Committee', BonsAPPs will transfer FSTP funding to the low tech SME. FSTP Funding received will allow SMEs to pay to external AI Talents according to the signed agreement and provided services. It is called a vouchers mechanism.

1.6   Final provisions

- Only proposals submitted through the online form https://ai-talents.fundingbox.com/ will be evaluated.
- Only one proposal per natural person / entity is admitted in this BonsAPPs EoI call. If more than one application is identified, only the first application which has been submitted in order of time will be evaluated.
- All applications must be written in English in all mandatory parts in order to be eligible. Only parts written in English will be evaluated.
- All mandatory sections of the application must be completed. The data provided should be actual, true, complete and should allow assessment of the proposal.

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[7] Funding Support to Third Parties

- We will take into consideration the existence of potential conflict of interest among you and BonsAPPs Consortium partners. Consortium partners, their affiliated entities, employees and permanent collaborators cannot take part in the BonsAPPs programme. All cases of potential conflict of interest will be assessed case by case.

1.7 Contact us

For more information about the BonsAPPs Call for Service Providers and Open Calls for Use Cases, please check our BonsAPPs calls microsite: https://bonsapps.fundingbox.com/

If you have any extra questions regarding our validation process you can send us a message to **BonsAPPs.help@fundingbox.com.**

In case of any technical issues or problems, please include the following information in your message:
- your username, telephone number and your e-mail address,
- details of the specific problem (error messages you encountered, bugs descriptions, i.e., if a dropdown list is not working, etc.),
- screenshots of the problem.

BonsAPPs will organize various Online Sessions for AI Talents about this opportunity. The events will be announced at the https://ai-talents.fundingbox.com/

2 Application Form

The BonsAPPs Expression of Interest Application form is available on FBOX platform under the following link:

https://ai-talents.fundingbox.com/

The application form was created in collaboration with another ICT49 project: StairwAI in order to take the most from dissemination actions that will be made in both ecosystems and to allow AI Talents to become providers in both projects.

Thanks to this collaboration applicants need to submit only ONE application to be considered for validation that will be conducted independently by each project team.
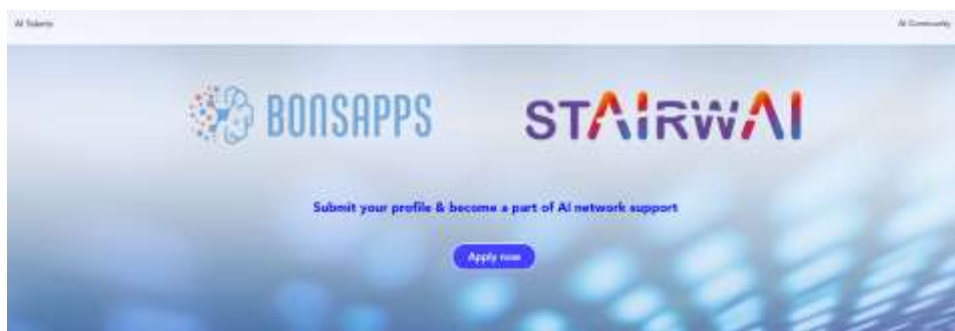
Figure 4 BonsAPPs Application Form landing page

The AI Talents application website includes a direct link to the Guidelines Expression-of-Interest (EoIs) call for AI Talents.

All sections from the Application Form are presented on the pages below.

This application was NOT submitted

Fill in all the required form sections to submit your application.

Status: Draft
Started a few seconds ago by @yolandamg

⟲ Show history

★ 1   Basic Information*

Fill

★ 2   Legal Information*

Fill

★ 3   AI Talent (Expert) profile*

Fill

★ 4   Processing of Personal Data*

Fill

★ *Required sections. Fill in all marked sections to submit the application.*

Export this application as PDF   Delete this application

Basic Information

The following information will enable us to contact you

Only applications in English will be admitted.

Please be aware that all information provided will be verified during the validation process. Where any false information is detected, your application will be immediately excluded.

Questions marked with (*) are mandatory.

Contact person *

> Please include Name and Surname

Contact person email address *

> Please, enter your email address to contact you for further communications: mail@mail.com

Contact person phone number *

> Remember to include your country code in brackets. E.g.: (+xx) xxxxxxxx

Name of the company (if you apply as entity)

Required fields *

[Save and continue]

Legal Information

The following information will enable us to validate if your location and status are eligible to become a service provider in the BonsAPPs and StairwAI projects (see Guidelines for details)

Please confirm your legal status: *

○ Registered Legal Entity: Research and Technology Center

○ Registered Legal Entity: SME

○ Registered Legal Entity: Mid Cap

○ Natural Person or a Team

○ Other

Country of registration/legal residence (or citizenship) *

⌄

City *

Postal code *

Street name and number *

Please enter the address of the registration for the entity or of your residence in ca

Conflict of Interest. Are you linked financially or personally with any of the BonsAPPs or StairwAI partners: HAUTE ECOLE SPECIALISEE DE SUISSE OCCIDENTALE, BONSEYES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, FUNDINGBOX ACCELERATOR SP ZOO, STMICROELECTRONICS SRL, BLEKINGE TEKNISKA HOGSKOLA, NVISO SA, INTERNETSIA, S.L., ALMA MATER STUDIORUM - UNIVERSITA DI BOLOGNA, UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK, UNIVERSITAT POLITECNICA DE CATALUNYA, HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES DUESSELDORF GMBH, TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITEIT EINDHOVEN, ISTITUTO NAZIONALE DI FISICA NUCLEARE, TILDE SIA, STICHTING EGI, THALES SIX GTS FRANCE SAS ? *

○ Yes

○ No

Did you submit your application to 1st BonsAPPs Open Call? *

○ Yes

○ No

Required fields *

AI Talent (Expert) profile

The following information will enable us to validate your background and expertise that is needed to support SMEs in Data Science, AI development and AI deployment/integration tasks.

AI Talent/Expert Introduction *

Introduce you (or your team).(max. 1000 characters)

Team members. If you apply as an entity press the green (+) button to add other team members.

Name and Surname *

Link to your Google Scholar profile:

http://....

Link to your ORCID profile:

http://....

Please select the most accurate profile description (select maximum 3) *

☐ Machine Learning Engineer (AI Dev)

☐ Data Engineer (Data Scientist)

☐ Data Scientist (Data Scientist)

☐ Research scientist (AI Dev)

☐ AI Data Analyst (Data Scientist)

☐ Business Intelligence Developer (BIzz&PM)

☐ Product Manager (BIzz&PM)

☐ Other

Please specify for Other:

Years of experience in applying AI to practical and comprehensive technology solutions: *

○ Less than 1 year

○ 1 to 2 years

○ 2 to 3 years

○ 3 to 5 years

○ More than 5 years

Education degree(s) and name of institution (s) achieved. *

Programming languages knowledge: (multiple choice)

☐ Python

☐ C++

☐ JavaScript

☐ Java

☐ C#

☐ Julia

☐ Shell

☐ R

☐ TypeScript

☐ Scala

☐ None from above

Technology domain. Please assess your knowledge of the following technologies related to AI by assigning scores from 1 to 5 (0 - no use, 1 - poor, 5 - excellent)

NLP *

○ 0 ○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○ 5

Voice recognition *

○ 0 ○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○ 5

Data mining *

○ 0 ○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○ 5

Machine Learning *

○ 0 ○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○ 5

Deep Learning *

○ 0 ○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○ 5

Biometrics *

○ 0 ○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○ 5

Image recognition *
○ 0 ○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○ 5

Cybersecurity *
○ 0 ○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○ 5

Neuronal networks *
○ 0 ○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○ 5

Knowledge representation *
○ 0 ○ 1 ○ 2 ○ 3 ○ 4 ○ 5

Technology Skills: Please describe other relevant skills (for example Data Engineering, Analysis skills, Knowledge of deep learning, Experience with embedded systems platforms) *

(max. 1000 characters).

Knowledge of the market where AI solution could be implemented. Please select the markets where your AI expertise may have been applied *

☐ Agriculture, forestry and fishing

☐ Automotive

☐ Manufacturing

☐ Mining and quarrying

☐ Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply

☐ Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities

☐ Construction

☐ Wholesale and retail trade

☐ Transporting and storage

☐ Accommodation and food service activities

☐ ICT

☐ Robotics

☐ Financial and insurance

☐ Real estate activities

☐ Professional, scientific and technical activities

☐ Administrative and support service activities

☐ Public admin and defense

☐ Education

☐ Health and social work

☐ Arts, entertainment and recreation

Please explain your previous experiences in similar projects (developing AI Solutions with low tech SMEs). Please provide information about your APIs, datasets or other tools that could be used while working with SMEs.

(max. 1000 characters).

Other relevant skills:

(max. 500 characters).

Please describe your expectations for financial contribution in case you will be selected to support SMEs during the BonsAPPs and/or StairwAI project. *

Please include the indicative pricing for the services that you offer to SMEs under BonsAAPs and/or StairwAI project. Preferably in the price per hour format.

+

Press the green (+) button above to add next team member

Required fields *

Save and continue

Processing of Personal Data

CONTROLLER'S IDENTITY AND CONTACT DETAILS

The data controller is FundingBox Accelerator sp. z o.o. (Al. Jerozolimskie 136, 02-305 Warsaw, Poland).

In all matters regarding personal data, you can contact us using the following email address: privacy@fundingbox.com

PURPOSES, LEGAL BASIS AND PROCESSING PERIOD

The purpose and legitimate interest of processing	Legal basis for processing	Period
(1) To run an Expression of Interest Call and collect data necessary to review applications submitted in the call.	Legitimate interest of Funding Box is based on (Article 6, paragraph 1 (f) of GDPR in this respect) which is fulfilling the obligations and our other interests related to this purposes.	6 years from the end of the year in which the Project ended.
(2) To realize the Project goals described in the Grant Agreement (communication, reporting, collaborating with other project partners).		
(3) To gather feedback from applicants when the Expression of Interest Call is over to improve processes.		
(4) To propose the collaboration in another FundingBox' projects.		
(5) To consider potential complaints.		

DATA RECEIVERS

Data controller will transfer personal data only to trusted recipients such as entities belonging to the FundingBox's capital group, IT service providers, accountants, law firms, postal and courier companies (who process personal data on the controller's behalf).

Due to the fact that we use the services of Google LLC, your data may be transferred to the USA. We have concluded an agreement with Google LLC - the so-called Standard Contractual Clauses. This means that in accordance with the decision of the European Commission No. 2021/914 EU of June 4, 2021, your personal data may be processed by this company in the USA. More information about the decision at: https://fundingbox.com/trust/transfer-outside-eea/.

To realize the Project data can be transferred also to Project Partners (complete list of the project partners is available at the email address: privacy@fundingbox.com), European Commission.

RIGHTS OF DATA SUBJECT

Due to the fact that we process your personal data, you have the right to:

1. request access to your personal data,
2. demand the rectification of your personal data,
3. request to remove or limit the processing of your personal data,
4. complain with the supervisory authority (The President of the Personal Data Protection Office, Warsaw, Poland, https://uodo.gov.pl/en).

You also have a right to object to processing of your personal data (according to the Article 21 of GDPR).

INFORMATION ABOUT VOLUNTARY OR OBLIGATORY DATA PROVISION

Providing data is voluntary, although it is necessary to participate in the Expression of Interest. Without providing your data, it is not possible to contact you and evaluate the application.

I confirm that I read and understood the information clause concerning processing of the personal data provided above: *

○ Yes

○ No

Required fields *

Save and continue