

EURIZON FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME: “Remote Research Grants for Ukrainian Researchers”



TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR APPLICANTS

The EURIZON WP9 secretariat is pleased to announce the launch of the new EURIZON fellowship programme: “Remote Research Grants” dedicated to Ukrainian researchers whose work is hampered or prevented by Russia’s war. The programme is **addressing research teams working in Ukraine, and will support the development of research projects of common interest with European partners.**

These grants, funded by the **European Union** (through EURIZON H2020 project, grant agreement 871072) are intended to enable scientists and other relevant staff from Ukrainian research institutes to continue their scientific work, remotely, by carrying on research projects in collaboration with partners from European research infrastructures (RIs). This programme is implemented within EURIZON project by the three project partners: Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron (DESY); University of Milano-Bicocca (UNIMIB) and The Science and Technology Center in Ukraine (STCU).

Timeline: Opening of the call for applications **April 3rd, 2023 at 12:00 (noon) CEST**

Deadline for applications: **May 8th, 2023 at 12:00 (noon) CEST**

For information and questions: applications@eurizon-project.eu;

Table of Contents

1- EURIZON Overview.....	2
2- Purposes of the Programme.....	2
3- Application requirements and procedure.....	2
4- Grants repartition rules.....	4
5- Dates and duration of the research projects.....	5
6- Selection process.....	6
7-Confirmation and Grant Agreement.....	7
8- Reporting duties and reviews.....	8
9- Payments.....	8
10- Ethical issues.....	9
11- Acknowledgment and research integrity.....	9
12- Final statements.....	10

Privacy Notice: Please, be aware that by applying to the Remote Research Grant Fellowship Programme, you agree that the personal data and documents that you provide to the EURIZON Secretariat and Scientific Committee will be stored and processed for the purpose of participating in the Remote Research Grant Programme application procedure. The personal data and documents will be stored and processed according to DESY Data Privacy Policy.

Link to DESY Data Privacy Policy, see: https://www.desy.de/data_privacy_policy/index_eng.htm

1- EURIZON Overview

The EU project EURIZON (European network for developing new horizons for RIs: <https://www.eurizon-project.eu/about/>) is about European scientific and technical collaboration in the field of research infrastructures (RIs) and it includes in addition a special focus on coordination and support measures dedicated to Ukrainian scientists and RIs.

EURIZON is indeed the second phase of a project that started in February 2020. Since the military aggression against Ukraine, the project has been substantially revised, and it offers now within WP9 “Fellowship and training Programme” and WP10 “Sustainability of RIs” a bundle of training and support measures for Ukrainian scientists and for the sustainability of Ukrainian research infrastructures, especially in view of their better integration into the European Research Area.

This Remote Research Grants Fellowship Programme is one element of these measures and its goals are: to support Ukrainian researchers in this emergency situation and to start and/or strengthen collaborations between Ukrainian and European scientists.

2- Purposes of the Programme

The Remote Research Grants Fellowship Programme intends to offer temporary support, **through individual research grants, to teams of vulnerable Ukrainian researchers and relevant staff** (PhD students, technicians, etc.) **from Ukrainian research institutes**, whose work is hampered by the Russian aggression and who are currently in Ukraine (or who are outside the country and want/need to return to Ukraine). The **teams will be coordinated by a Principal Investigator**, an experienced researcher, that will be considered the focal point for the communication with the EURIZON Secretariat, for the collaboration with the European partners and for the implementation of the projects.

This programme will allow the researchers to pursue their research activities and career, to build synergies and collaborations with European RIs, to help keep the ties and boost connections with the European and the international scientific communities. The selected Ukrainian research teams will work remotely on **projects of common interest (in all scientific domains) with partners from European Research Institutes, Infrastructures and Organizations**. This will enable fellows to bridge the emergency situation by continuing to work, to further qualify, and to enhance collaborations with the RIs ecosystem in Europe and beyond. **The projects can be carried out, indeed, from any place in Ukraine**. Priority will be given to research projects directly **showing close collaborations with European scientists and/or targeting the reconstruction and/or the support to the operations of Ukrainian RIs, and their future integration into the European Research Area (ERA)**.

Research projects can focus on purely **scientific topics** (i.e. joint research efforts) but **also on other types of initiatives, endeavors and proposals** that imply the work of a group of Ukrainian researchers in collaboration with European partners (i.e. development of initiatives to support Ukrainian research landscape and research infrastructures; development of new programmes of partnership between scientists, etc.). The expected **project impact** must be duly described in the application form, as well as the role of each team member and of the European partners.

EURIZON fellowship programme will provide research grants only to Ukrainian applicants (not to their European partners).

3- Application requirements and procedure

Once the call opens, **applications shall be uploaded on the indico page:** <https://indico.desy.de/event/38700/> (in English) **by the Principal Investigator (PI) of the Ukrainian teams**, being the coordinator of the research team, the responsible person for the implementation of the research project and the single contact point for the EURIZON Secretariat.

The online application form link and all other relevant templates are available on the EURIZON website (section: calls): <https://www.eurizon-project.eu/news/calls/>. A draft application template in Word can be download as an example or only as working document.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA: Applicants should be teams of researchers that may consist of **2 – 5 (or above) members working remotely from Ukraine** and that must be coordinated **by one Principal Investigator (PI)**. The PI must be an **experienced researcher holding a PhD** and having at least 8 years of relevant experience. **The other team members may include PhD students, post-graduates, research scientists, assistant researchers, engineers, research assistants, technicians and other relevant staff from Ukrainian research institutes and academia** (team members can be affiliated to different research organizations in Ukraine). All research team members must have a **meaningful function**, and their roles be justified and accounted for in the proposal.

Candidates must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- ❖ are (1) Ukrainian citizens, or (2) stateless persons, or nationals from third countries other than Ukraine, with their primary residence in Ukraine on 24 February 2022;
- ❖ either (1) are currently in Ukraine, or (2) are ready to return to Ukraine in the period of the Fellowship (July 2023 – July 2024);
- ❖ are (1) researchers, or (2) postdoctoral researchers (i.e. in possession of a doctoral degree by the time the fellowship is set to begin), or (3) or doctoral candidates (i.e. PhD students enrolled in a doctoral programme at a higher education institution in Ukraine, leading to the award of a doctoral degree), or (4) engineers, or (5) technicians and/or (6) other relevant staff from Ukrainian research infrastructures as well as from scientific Institutions. The role and contribution of all team members to the research project must be meaningful and duly described in the application form;
- ❖ are suffering from a vulnerable condition due to the consequences of Russia's war (i.e. whose work is hampered or prevented, internally displaced, unemployed, not receiving - or only partly receiving their salary, etc.);
- ❖ have the language skills (English) required to successfully conduct their research activities in collaboration with European partners (good knowledge for the PI and at least basic knowledge for the rest of the team members);
- ❖ are working from (any place in) Ukraine during the whole duration of the fellowship;
- ❖ are/were affiliated to Ukrainian research infrastructures or institutes (at least by the time of the outbreak of the war in February 2022).

EXCLUSION CRITERION: this programme is dedicated to vulnerable researchers, so candidates to be eligible for funding must **NOT be beneficiaries of other significant fellowship/support programmes (total income must be equivalent or less than 1,000 Euro) during the intended period of the fellowship**. Candidates that are already receiving relevant funding (total income above 1,000 Euro) can still participate in the programme but will **not be entitled to receiving the research grant**. The PI needs to sign a **self-declaration statement** (as part of the application package) **on behalf of ALL team members** where he/she will describe the impact of the war on the work of the team and that they are not beneficiaries of other significant support (total income equivalent or less than 1,000 Euro). NB: The **Principal Investigators (PIs)** of the applicant teams from Ukraine are **responsible for reviewing and verifying any information regarding the eligibility** of their team members. **Shall the status or availability of any of the team members change** before or during the period of the Fellowship, the **PI shall duly inform the EURIZON secretariat** with no delay.

APPLICATION: A valid application **must include all compulsory items** mentioned below and **must be uploaded (in English) by the PI** on behalf of the Ukrainian research team **ONLY through the portal <https://indico.desy.de/event/38700/>** before the deadline of the **Call on May 8th, at 12.00 (noon) CEST**

(applications will be downloaded by the EURIZON Secretariat only when the call will be closed). The application package uploaded as part of the **Online Application Form** to be valid shall include:

1 -Compulsory items:

- ❖ **Research Project Description Template**, describing the research team, the research project, its impact, and the collaboration foreseen with the European partners (all forms are available on the indico portal). To be valid it must be signed by all team members and will include:
 - **Financial Plan**: repartition of the grant amount (monthly estimation) between the team members (must be in line with the repartition of the roles and tasks within the team and must reflect the qualifications and experience of the team members).
 - The **name and contact of the intended partner** from a European RI.
- ❖ **Self-declaration statement**: a short statement letter describing the impact of Russia's war on the work of the team members and on their current professional status. The template is available for download on the indico portal, must be signed by the PI on behalf of the whole team, and must be uploaded following the instructions;
- ❖ **CVs of the team members** (max 3 pages for the PI, max 2 pages for other team members);
- ❖ Only for researchers: most recent and/or most **relevant publications list** (max 2 pages for PI, max 1 page for other team members – if applicable);

2- Optional items:

- ❖ If the applying Ukrainian team has already connected with the intended European partners they want to involve in the research project (strongly recommended option!), the application could include **any supporting declaration from the European partners about their willingness to take part in the research project**.
- ❖ **Recommendation letters** for the team members (max 1 letter per person);

Further documents to be submitted ONLY UPON SELECTION: After the successful outcome of the evaluation process, all team members of the awarded research teams will be asked to provide:

- ❖ Proof of affiliation or link to Ukraine Research institutions (official employment statement or other similar documents/declarations);
- ❖ Copy of valid ID document of the team members;
- ❖ Bank account details of each team member;

4- Grants repartition rules

The research grants will consist of **fixed amounts per research project**, that will be shared between the team members. The amounts of the research grants per project are determined on the basis of the number of members composing the teams and of the duration of the research project (6 or 12 Months). The grant amounts are¹:

- ❖ **For teams of 5 (or more) members**: the amount will be **39,000 Euro for projects of the duration of 6 months and 78,000 for 12 months** (= 6,500 Euro per month estimation).
- ❖ **For teams of 4 members**: the amount **31,200 Euro for projects of 6 months and 62,400 for projects of 12 months** (= 5,200 Euro per month estimation).
- ❖ **For teams of 3 members**: the amount will be **23,400 Euro for projects of 6 months and 46,800 for projects of 12 months** (= 3,900 Euro per month estimation).
- ❖ **For teams of 2 members**: the amount will be **15,600 Euro for projects of 6 months and 31,200 for projects of 12 months** (=2,600 Euro per month estimation).

¹ The actual payments of the grants to the selected research team members will follow a quarterly scheme – please look at the section “payments” of this document.

Each team can decide about the repartition of the grant amounts (within the maximum amount allowed per research project, and following the rules mentioned below "three rules for grants repartition") **depending on the members' qualifications and experience, but also on their availability (full time or part time), planned effort and role within the project**

Teams can include also more than 5 members, but the **maximum amount per research grant will not exceed 6.500 Euro.**

The repartition of the work between the team members, that should reflect the repartition of the monthly amounts within the team, should be duly described in the application form. The PIs are the persons responsible for applying to the call on behalf of their teams, for the management of the team and for the advancement of the research projects.

The three **rules for grants** repartition within the teams are:

1. The monthly grant estimation **per single person cannot exceed 1,600 Euro and cannot be less than 700 Euro** (i.e. for PhD students or members with minor roles and availabilities within the project, i.e. part time effort);
2. The monthly amount per each person will be **the same during the whole duration** of the project;
3. All members of the research team can dedicate different efforts to the project (e.g. work full or only part time) but **the total amount of resources deployed by the team needs to be sufficient for the achievement of the promised results** within duration of the fellowship (please, be realistic!). The PI will be the responsible person for the advancement of the research project, for the management of the team and for the collaboration and communication with the European partners and EURIZON Secretariat.

Some examples on how to calculate the monthly amounts repartition:

TEAM of 5

PI	1,300 Euro
Researcher 2	1,300 Euro
Researcher 3	1,300 Euro
Researcher 4	1,300 Euro
Researcher 5	1,300 Euro
	6,500 Euro total monthly amount

TEAM of 5

PI	1,600 Euro (100% working on the project)
Researcher 2	1,450 Euro (75% working on the project)
Researcher 3	1,450 Euro (75% working on the project)
Student 1	1000 Euro
Student 2	1000 Euro
	6,500 Euro total monthly amount

TEAM of 6

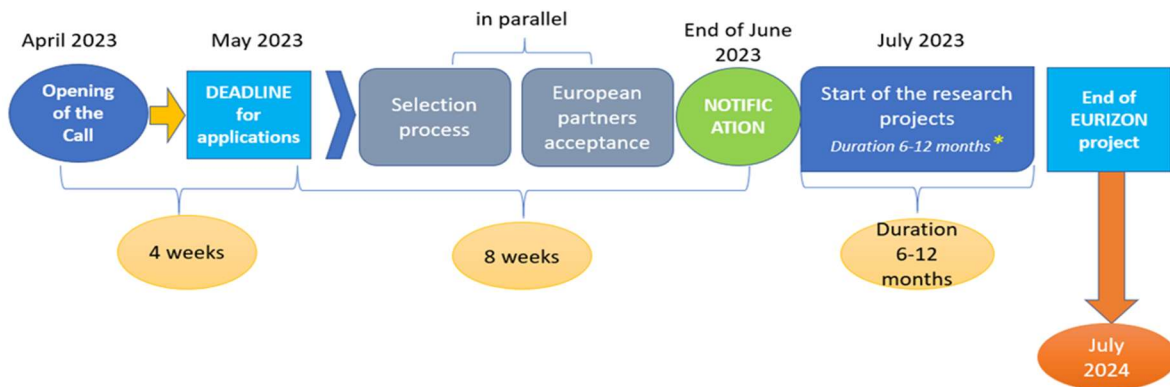
PI	1,500 Euro (100% working on the project)
Researcher 2	1,300 Euro (75% working on the project)
Researcher 3	1,300 Euro (75% working on the project)
Technician	900 Euro (70% working on the project)
Student 1	750 Euro (50% working on the project)
Student 2	750 Euro (50% working on the project)
	6,500 Euro total monthly amount

5- Dates and duration of the research projects

Once launched on the EURIZON website (<https://www.eurizon-project.eu/news/>) the call will stay open only until May 8th 2023, this is why we urge the possible candidates to start thinking about their remote research project and to contact the wished European partners as early as possible.

The proposed research projects can have a duration of 6 or 12 months.

The Principal Investigators (PI) of the applicant Ukrainian teams will be informed of the result of their applications by email around 8-9 weeks after the closure of the deadline of the call. Both selected and non-selected applicant teams will receive the notification about the results of the selection process. Non-selected research projects will receive also a comment from the evaluation panel to explain why the project was not selected for funding. Please kindly note that funding is limited and we regret that probably the EURIZON Fellowship won't be able to support a large number of highly deserving research projects. **The fellowship needs to be completed within the duration of EURIZON's WP9 (within July 2024): all selected research projects will need to start within July 2023 (or by August 1st, 2023 at the very latest) and be achieved by July 31st 2024.**



6- Selection process

The selection process will include (1) an **eligibility check**, (2) an **evaluation procedure** carried out by a multidisciplinary panel of international independent experts and (3) the **confirmation of the European partners** (parallel to the evaluation process indeed, the European partners, nominated by the Ukrainian teams, will be asked to evaluate the research project and to confirm their willingness to participate in it) and (4) the **final approval of the EURIZON WP9 Scientific Review Panel (SRP)**.

After the eligibility check (based on the eligibility and exclusion criteria mentioned above), the valid applications will go through the next steps of the selection process and will be evaluated by an external panel of independent international scientists from all scientific domains based on a combination of several criteria. This fellowship is intended as a special programme conceived to help researchers that are suffering from the consequences of the war to bridge the current situation of urgency, so the evaluation system, defined by the WP9 SRP, will be based on a **balance between several scientific and non-scientific criteria**:

- the vulnerability of the conditions of the researchers;
- the scientific excellence of the proposal;
- the level of planned cooperation and synergy with the European partners;
- the potential of the proposed project to boost the future integration of Ukrainian RIs with the European Research Area (ERA);
- the potential of the proposed project of contributing to the capacity building and to restoring the operations of the Ukrainian RIs;

- f) the technical feasibility of the proposed research proposal;
- g) the capacity of the team, the compatibility of the candidate's profiles with the research programme needs and the relevance of their participation;

The criteria are not reported in an order of relevance. Extra consideration will be also given to research teams including women researchers and young team members (35 years old or younger).

The WP9 Scientific Review Panel (for the composition of the SRP please look at EURIZON website: https://www.eurizon-project.eu/work_programme/wp9_train/), composed by prominent managers and representatives of European and Ukrainian Research Organizations, will pre-define the evaluation criteria, the scoring system and the methodology of the selection process. The review of the applications will be conducted by a panel of external evaluators recruited ad hoc for the call.

The external independent evaluators will indeed be invited by EURIZON Secretariat from within a large pool of experts of the partner organization STCU on the basis of their:

- a) High level of expertise in one or more fields of research, indicated by peer-reviewed publications, research funding awards, other research accomplishments;
- b) Demonstrated understanding of the higher education and research landscape in Ukraine, indicated by affiliations or partnerships with institutions in Ukraine;
- c) Demonstrated understanding of the higher education and research landscape in Europe, indicated by affiliations or partnerships with institutions in Europe, publications, talks, or other related activities.

In case relevant independent experts from the needed scientific domains cannot be funded within the STCU independent experts pool, the SRP members will help EURIZON Secretariat finding the most relevant experts that will be recruited for the evaluation of the applications. Each research project will be evaluated by at least 2 experts.

The SRP will approve the final list of research projects that are recommended for funding, based on the results of the evaluation conducted by the external independent experts and on the comments of the European partners suggested by the applicant teams.

Please kindly note that funding is limited and we regret that probably the EURIZON Fellowship won't be able to support a large number of highly deserving research projects.

7- Confirmation and Grant Agreement

After notification of the results (EURIZON Secretariat will send an e-mail to the PIs 8-9 weeks after the call for applications deadline), the selected PIs will have **up to 2 weeks to confirm their acceptance** of the fellowship to the EURIZON Secretariat and to submit **all required** documents for all team members (copy of ID documents for all team members, proof of affiliation or link to Ukrainian Research Institutes for all team members, bank account details, etc.). Those PI failing to provide the acceptance and the requested documents within the deadline might be reduced the duration of the fellowship in order to fit the research programme within the duration of EURIZON project (ending July 2024). In case of prolonged delay in the confirmation of acceptance (4 weeks after notification), the EURIZON Secretariat reserves the right to attribute the research grant to another applicant team (according to the list of applications suggested for funding resulting from the selection process – reserve list).

All selected research projects will need to start within July 2023.

Grant agreement signature: After the confirmation of acceptance of the fellowship, the selected **PIs and research teams' members** will need to sign the Grant Agreement (GA), which is the funding agreement concluded between the EURIZON Secretariat and the selected beneficiaries of the grant

programme and specifies the rights and obligations of the contracting parties. The template will be made available by the EURIZON Secretariat.

8- Reporting duties and reviews

The EURIZON Secretariat will monitor the activities of the selected research projects in order to assess and verify:

- ❖ that the research teams are implementing the project as described in the application form;
- ❖ if the research teams are not facing any major issue in the implementation of their project²;
- ❖ the respect of the financial plan;
- ❖ that the European partners are duly informed and involved in the project.

The assessment is based on quarterly reports (brief periodic reports on the progress of the project) and on the final report that the PIs of the selected research teams will need to provide to the EURIZON Secretariat and to the European partners. The templates will be provided by EURIZON Secretariat. Reports must be prepared in English and submitted by the PIs.

For projects of the duration of **6 Months**: the quarterly report is due on November 30th 2023 (at the latest) for the project period until October 30th 2023.

The final report is due 2 weeks after the end of the project: February 29th, 2024 (at the latest) for the project period until January 30th, 2024.

Following the same ratio, for projects of the duration of **12 Months**: the first quarterly report is due on November 30th 2023 (for the project period until October 31st 2023), the second quarterly report is due on February 29th, 2024 (for the project period until January 31st 2024), the third quarterly report is due on May 30th 2024 (for the project period until April 30th 2024), and the final report is due 2 weeks after the end of the project, **BUT NO LATER than July 15th, 2024**. PIs could also be asked to give a short presentation on the advancement of their project during a videocall with EURIZON Secretariat after the end of the reporting periods.

Reviews: The EURIZON Secretariat may carry out reviews on the proper implementation of the grant and compliance with the obligations under the grant agreement. In reviews, the Secretariat may be assisted by independent, outside experts. Findings of negative behaviors, or misconduct may lead to grant reduction or other restrictive measures. Checks, reviews, or investigations that find systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or breach of obligations of the grant may also lead to the termination of the grants. All details will be specified in the Grant Agreement that will be signed by selected research teams.

9- Payments

EURIZON secretariat will proceed with the payments of the grants directly on the bank account of the selected applicants through STCU, following the schedule below:

For projects of the duration of **6 Months**: 40% of the total grant will be paid to each research team member at the start of the research project (2 weeks after the start at the latest).

The second payment, consisting in 30% of the total grant, will be paid 2 weeks after receipt of the first quarterly report (upon approval) the final payment, consisting in the remaining 30% of the grant, will be paid 2 weeks after receipt of the final report (upon approval of the report).

² Research teams that face difficulties in implementing the project need to communicate it as soon as possible to the EURIZON secretariat (e.g. a team member is not available anymore for urgent reasons and needs to be replaced, etc.).

For projects of the duration of **12 Months**: 40% of the total grant will be paid to each research team member at the start of the research project (2 weeks after the start at the latest).

The second payment, consisting in 20% of the total grant, will be paid 2 weeks after receipt of the first quarterly report (upon approval), the third payment, consisting in 20% of the total amount, will be paid 2 weeks after the receipt of the second quarterly report (upon approval of the report), the final payment, consisting in the remaining 20% of the grant, will be paid 2 weeks after receipt of the final report (upon approval of the report) and no later than July 31st 2024.

10- Ethical issues

All funded research projects must comply with national and EU ethics regulations for research. Applicants must declare in the application form if their research project involves one of the following ethical issues:

- (a) Humans
- (b) Human cells/tissues
- (c) Personal data
- (d) Animals
- (e) Third countries
- (f) Environment & Health and Safety
- (g) Dual use
- (h) Misuse
- (i) Other ethics issue

If ethical issues are identified in the proposed research project, the PI needs to consider and address any of the following ethics issues their project description (section 2 of the application form).

Additional ethical issues may be identified during the evaluation process by any expert reviewer, or during the execution of a project by anyone involved. For more information on ethical issues please refer to the European Commission's guide: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/how-to-complete-your-ethics-self-assessment_en.pdf

In case of Ethical issues, the application teams might be asked to complete a more detailed assessment, in order to identify which formal ethics approvals might be needed. Full formal ethics approval is not needed at the application stage.

The following research areas are **excluded** from the EURIZON Fellowship programme:

- ❖ Research activities aiming at human cloning for reproductive purposes;
- ❖ Research activities intended to modify the genetic heritages of human beings;
- ❖ Research activities involving human embryonic stem cells;
- ❖ Research involving military purposes;

11- Acknowledgments and research integrity:

For all communication relating to the Remote Research Grant and for any dissemination of results, such as through publications, posters, conference papers, etc. the selected Ukrainian teams and their European partners **are required to ensure the visibility of the EU and EURIZON emblems, and to acknowledge the funding** by including the following text, unless agreed otherwise:

“This project has received funding through the EURIZON project, which is funded by the European Union under grant agreement No.871072.”

The EURIZON secretariat strongly encourages the Ukrainian grant beneficiaries and their European partners to follow the principles of FAIR data management and to ensure open access to peer-reviewed scientific publications relating to the fellows’ research results, unless it goes against the legitimate interests of the fellows and/or the European partners³.

Selected Ukrainian teams and partners shall ensure that the highest quality of research conduct is maintained⁴. If materials or documents are subject to moral rights or third-party rights (including intellectual property rights or rights of natural persons on their image and voice), the teams must ensure that they comply with their obligations under the grant (in particular, by obtaining the necessary licenses and authorizations from the rights holders concerned).

12- Final Statements:

Please note that:

- ❖ Proposals having the same title and PI will be considered copies of the same proposal. Only the most recently submitted version will be considered for evaluation and the other copies will be discarded.
- ❖ The same PI can submit maximum 2 proposal (but titles and topics should be different) but he/she can be beneficiaries of only one research grant.
- ❖ One PI can submit max 2 applications on behalf of 2 different research teams (the title and topics must be different), in the case more than one research project will be selected for funding, he/she is entitled to receive the monthly grant only once and he/she needs to demonstrate that he/she can manage all awarded research projects with the same efficiency;
- ❖ Those PIs willing to submit more than one proposal need to consult first with EURIZON Secretariat: applications@eurizon-project.eu ;
- ❖ EURIZON Secretariat is asking the applicant teams to communicate only through the Principal Investigator and only via [email :applications@eurizon-project.eu](mailto:applications@eurizon-project.eu) .

³ FAIR Principles: <https://www.go-fair.org/fair-principles/>

⁴ European code of conduct for research integrity: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/european-code-of-conduct-for-research-integrity_horizon_en.pdf