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D1.2 REPORT ON THE FIRST ROUND OF OPEN CALLS

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Abstract	The present document D1.2 Report on the first round of open calls and lessons learnt provides an overview of the of the first round of calls of the NGI Enrichers project, including submission, evaluation and selection process. Moreover, the separated confidential annex summarises lessons learnt which will be taken into account for the second round of calls of the NGI Enrichers Fellowship Programme.
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This deliverable (D1.2) provides an overview of the first round of calls of the NGI Enrichers project, including submission, evaluation and selection process, and the lessons learnt.

The document is composed by three sections, focusing on a different but intertwined part of the process, in order to:

- **Giving general insights on the background, call relevant information and results achieved** within the launch of the first round of calls. The related section aims at presenting the rules and method for carrying out the submission process and the following evaluation and selection, along with data regarding the total amount of Applications received and eligible.
- **Providing a data analysis** starting from the information collected through the Applications submitted via F6S, in order to provide a **general overview** both of the **candidates interested** in joining the NGI Enrichers Fellowship Programme and of the **selected fellows**.
- **Presenting the full list of selected Fellows** under the first round of calls – divided into Paired teams, Open ideas and Challenges tracks – and relevant details about their project, including technology and Human-centric NGI-related domains.

Two annexes are also included in the deliverable:

- **Annex I – Agenda of the online pre-departure bootcamp**
- **Annex II (Confidential) – Lessons Learnt and future steps. This annex outlines strengths and weaknesses** emerging from the implementation of the call as part of the **lessons learnt**, which will be further elaborated into hints aimed at better improve the call text and the foreseen procedures, to ensure a smoother execution. The conclusions presented in this Annex will be a starting point for the upcoming round of calls, which is foreseen for the next autumn, in order to further enhancing the participation of other EU and/or Associated Countries – including Switzerland and Ukraine – in the Programme and pushing forward the fruitful collaboration between Europe, Canada and US.

SELECTION AT A GLANCE

General results and key numbers of the first round of open calls:

- **152 Applications started** on F6S within the deadline;
- **74 finalised Applications** submitted on F6S;
- **65 eligible Applications**;
- **32 selected Fellows** joining the 1st Cohort:
 - **13 Fellows** selected under the **Paired teams** track;



- **17** Fellows for the **Open ideas** track;
- **2** Fellows for the **Challenges** track.
- **16** selected Fellows are **Innovators – Entrepreneurs/self-employed**;
- **16** selected Fellows are **Researchers**:
 - **12 Researchers - Technical**;
 - **3 Researchers – Multidisciplinary**;
 - **1 Research – Social Sciences and Humanities**.
- **26 Fellows** residents/taxpayers in an **EU Member State**;
- **6 Fellows** residents/taxpayers in a **Horizon Europe Associated Country**.
- **3 women** selected as Fellows to join the 1st Cohort;
- **29 Fellows** selected an **US host organisation**;
- **3 Fellows** selected a **Canadian host organisation**.



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ABBREVIATIONS

CA	Canada
CV	Curriculum vitae
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGI	Next Generation Internet
SoC	Statement of Commitment
US	United States



1 INTRODUCTION

Project **acronym**: NGI Enrichers

Project **Grant Agreement number**: 101070125

Project **full name**: NGI International Collaboration – Transatlantic Fellowship Programme

The **NGI Enrichers project** (NGI International Collaboration – Transatlantic Fellowship Programme) has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon Europe Research and Innovation Programme under Grant Agreement No. 101070125. The purpose of the NGI Enrichers project is to support up to 90 European Next Generation Internet (NGI) researchers and innovators to spend 3-6 months in the US or Canada to work and collaborate with US and Canadian hosts, to promote knowledge-sharing and establishing long-term collaborations on NGI technologies, services, and standards.

1.1 CALL INFORMATION

The NGI Enrichers project has launched the first round of Calls, which is composed of three different tracks:

- **Paired teams track**: applicants were invited to submit a proposal to advance their ideas, products and/or services along with an already identified US or Canadian host organisation, that already agreed to host the Fellow, if selected. The EU Enrichers applicants were thus responsible to find a suitable host organisation willing to establish a research or innovation collaboration with them on NGI related topics.
- **Open ideas track**: applicants were invited to submit a proposal around their ideas, products or services, selecting three preferred hosts among the list of organisations collaborating with the NGI Enrichers Programme.
- **Challenges track**: Hosting organisation from US and Canada – which have agreed to collaborate with the NGI Enrichers programme – were invited to define specific research topics (challenges) related to the Next Generation Internet domain. The applicant were invited to submit a proposal answering a specific challenge defined by the host organisation.

Under the three tracks, Applicants were invited to submit their proposals only through the **F6S platform**, which directly linked from the NGI Enrichers website. Proposals should fall under the NGI-related technology and application domains.

In order to successfully submit their proposal, Applicants were required to: read carefully the relevant documents (in particular the **Guide for Applicants**); **register their profile** in the FS6 platform; **prepare the documentation** for submission as stated in the Guide for Applicants.

To apply to the three tracks, Applicants were asked to fill the **application form**, which was embedded in the F6S Platform.



Only for the Open ideas and Challenges tracks, questions included in the form were complemented by a **pitch deck** designed to collect information about the project. The pitch deck could be downloaded from the NGI Enrichers website and should not exceed the fixed number of slides or changed.

The invitation to submit a proposal under the NGI Enrichers Fellowship Programme was opened to Fellows with a proven track in the NGI sector. They can be:



Researchers (scientific/technical/engineering) working on different NGI relevant topics and application domains in the not-for-profit sector (e.g. higher education institutes, research infrastructures, non-profit organisations and charitable foundations, public research centres, etc.)



Researchers (social sciences and humanities) Social sciences and humanities researchers which can contribute to NGI relevant topics and work in the not-for-profit sector (e.g. higher education institutes, research infrastructures, non-profit organisations and charitable foundations, public research centres, etc.)

Researchers (multidisciplinary) working at the intersection of social and nature sciences, including technology, sociology, economics, environment, art, design, which can contribute to NGI relevant topics and work in the not-for-profit sector (e.g. higher education institutes, research infrastructures, non-profit organisations and charitable foundations, public research centres, etc.)



Innovators/Entrepreneurs working in different NGI relevant topics and application domains in the for-profit sector (e.g. start-ups, large companies, etc.).

All the specific requirements to apply, along with the submission and evaluation procedure, were described in the **Guide for Applicants**, available on the [NGI Enrichers website](#).

All the submission documents had to comply with specific requirements concerning format and language. Applications and requested documents must be submitted electronically with no restrictions for printing and drafted in English, which is the official language of the NGI Enrichers Fellowship Programme. The only exception applied for administrative documents drafted in French by Canadian host organisations.

1.2 PAIRED TEAMS TRACK



The first call under the Paired teams track was launched on **November 30th, 2022** and closed on **January 31st, 2023 23h59 Brussels time**. The call opening was announced through the official communication channels of the NGI Enrichers projects, which include LinkedIn and Twitter. Additionally, a communication plan was developed aiming at increasing the visibility of the call. NGI Enrichers team prepared a communication kit with a ready-to-use set of dissemination materials including **posts for social medias** for LinkedIn and Twitter to be shared on personal accounts and Partner organisations; **email text** to be disseminated through personal network of contacts; **email text for the NCPs** to be identified using the Funding & Tender Portal. As part of the plan to disseminate the open calls, a cross-communication strategy with other similar projects (e.g., NGI TRUST CHAINS; NGI Sargasso) was set up.

Applicants were invited to submit the proposals through **F6S platform**. Mandatory additional documents include:

- the **Statement of Commitment** (available on the NGI Enrichers website) signed by the host organisation willing to host the candidate, if selected;
- **CV**;
- A **text description/technical design/infographic/scheme of their proposal** (one page/image limit).

Under the 1st Paired teams track, a total of **35 finalised Applications** were received.

Following the eligibility check carried out internally by the Consortium, to make sure that the Applicants fulfilled the legal requirements to join the Programme, a total of **32 Applications were considered eligible**. Three participants were non eligible due to the following reasons:

- One Applicant did not identify a host organisation as requested in the Guide for Applicants and submitted a self-signed Statement of Commitment;
- One Applicant provided a Support letter from the host organisation confirming the willingness to set up a collaboration, instead of the Statement of Commitment as mandatory attachment;
- One Applicant was self-employed in a company based in the US and he did not fulfil the requirement of being employed by a “legal entity” created under EU law or established in a EU Member State, Horizon Europe Associated Countries or Switzerland.

The eligible Applications went through the evaluation process, made up of two parts.

First, the Applications have been evaluated by two external evaluators, who were selected through the launch of a specific Call for Evaluators (closed on the 15th December, 2022). The Call for Evaluators received 75 applications: 22 Evaluators have been selected as part of the main pool, while 7 Evaluators have been included within the niche pool.

Two evaluators for each proposal have been assigned considering the following three criteria: **matching between the specific focus area** of the proposed project and the expertise of the evaluator; **balance between business and technical**

competencies; nationality. The dispatchment of the Applications and the evaluation process have been carried out through the F6S Platform.

Evaluators were asked to access the proposal on F6S platform, read carefully the project and:

- **Assign scores from 1 to 5** for each of the following criteria: excellence; originality and technical quality; vision and potential impact; technical quality of the proposed implementation; quality of the overall application and motivation of the candidate;
- **Provide a recommendation** regarding the application to the NGI Enrichers consortium –in the confidential notes section within the evaluation on F6S;
- **Draft a short written Evaluation Summary Report (ESR)** around 10-15 lines/1000 characters.

A total of **9 Applications did not attain the threshold (15/25)** and were automatically refused. The non selected applicants have been notified through an email containing a rejection letter and the ESR.

A total of **23 Applications reached the required threshold.** Among them, **5 Applications got a score above 21** and were automatically selected. The selected applicants have been notified through an acceptance letter, containing the ESR.

The remaining **18 Applications which got a score between 15 and 20** were admitted to the second phase of the evaluation. The Applicants were invited to join an interview along with a Panel made up of two members of the NGI Enrichers team, including one technical profile.

During the interview, the Applicants were invited to present their projects through a pitch deck provided by the NGI Enrichers Consortium. Then, a Q&A session was foreseen. At the end of the interview, the Panellists assigned scores, following the same evaluation criteria used by evaluators within the first evaluation phase.

The final score was the result of the average between the overall score of the evaluation and the score of the interview. Considering the final ranking, **8 additional proposals were selected.**

For the 1st Paired teams track, a total of **13 Application were selected** to join the NGI Enrichers Fellowship Programme.

Paired teams track	Number of proposals
Proposals started within the deadline	78
Finalised Applications	35
Eligible proposals	32
Proposals below the threshold	9



Proposals above the threshold	23
Proposals automatically selected	5
Proposals admitted to the interview phase	18
Selected proposals	13

TABLE 1: OVERVIEW OF THE PAIRED TEAMS TRACK

1.3 OPEN IDEAS TRACK

The first Open Ideas Call for proposals was launched on **February 1st, 2023** and closed on **March 31st, 2023 23h59 Brussels time**. For the future calls, all tracks will be launched at the same time.

The Applicants were invited to submit their proposals following the procedure on F6S Platform, as described in section 1.1.

Candidates applying for the Open ideas track were required to **select up to three host organisations**, which previously signed a separate Memorandum of Understanding, outlining the scope of the collaboration from both the host organisation and the Programme team side, along with an annex containing the description of the NGI Enrichers Fellowship Programme (NGI topics; tracks; eligibility requirements; process and indicative timeline; estimated time investment from the host organisation).

Applicants could find the full list of host organisations (and respective Challenges, if any) in the [Search for hosts](#) section within the [NGI Enrichers official website](#).

Applicants were invited to submit the proposals through **F6S platform**. Mandatory additional documents include:

- **CV**;
- **Pitch deck** (project presentation slides) containing a description of their projects, following the template provided by the NGI Enrichers consortium.

Under the 1st Open ideas track, a total of **31 finalised Applications** were received. After the internal eligibility check, **28 Applications were considered eligible** to be evaluated. **Three Applications were not eligible** due to the following reasons:

- Two Applicants did not develop the pitch deck using the official template provided by NGI Enrichers, as indicated in the Guide for Applicants; did not select a host organisation from the available full list;
- One Applicant did not select a host organisation from the full list available on the NGI Enrichers website.

Eligible Applications were evaluated by two external evaluators, as described in section 1.2.

At the end of the first evaluation phase, **10 Applications were refused** because they did not reach the required threshold (15/25) while **18 Applications were admitted to the interview phase**.

NGI Enrichers Consortium facilitated the best match between the Applicant and the host organisations based on the project submitted. As stated in the Guide for Applicants, interviews were scheduled with the host organisation indicated as first choice by the applicant.

To proceed with the interview phase, the Consortium informed through email the host organisations, sharing the email address of the pre-selected Fellows. Host organisations were invited to contact the Applicants and schedule the interview, following the guidelines provided by the Consortium.

A total of **4 Applications got a score between 21/25 and 25/25** and Applicants were interviewed by the sole host organisation.

A total of **14 Applications got a score between 15/25 and 20/25** and Applicants were interviewed by the host organisation along with a member from the NGI Enrichers team to present their pitch deck.

The interviews were carried out **between April, 21st and May, 2nd**. After the interview, the representative of the host organisation was required to assign score to the pitch deck, following the criteria of the first evaluation phase, while the members of the NGI Enrichers team taking part to the interview were invited to share an opinion on the candidate, considering if the proposed project could fit with the NGI topics and specific objectives.

Interviews have been organised only with the host organisation selected as a first choice, since there were no negative outcomes resulting from the first interview.

As soon as the host organisations and the representatives of NGI Enrichers shared their evaluations through email, the new ranking was drawn up. The final score of each candidate was the average between the overall score of the first evaluation and the score of the interview.

For the 1st Open ideas track, a total of **17 Application were officially selected** to join the NGI Enrichers Fellowship Programme.

The selected Fellows were informed through an **Acceptance letter** sent via email and containing a detailed Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) and further indications on the next steps, while the refused Applicants received a **Rejection letter**, along with the ESR and the notes from the evaluators, to improve their application and apply again.

Open ideas track	Number of proposals
Proposals started within the deadline	45
Finalised Applications	31
Eligible proposals	28



Proposals below the threshold	10
Proposals above the threshold	18
Proposals with a score between 21/25 and 25/25	4
Proposals with a score between 15/25 and 20/25	14
Selected proposals	17

TABLE 2: OVERVIEW OF THE OPEN IDEAS TRACK

1.4 CHALLENGES TRACK

The first call under the Challenge track was launched on **February 1st, 2023** and closed on **March 31st, 2023 23h59 Brussels time**, following the same timeline and procedure adopted for the Open ideas track.

Candidates applying for the Challenges track were required to select **one specific Challenge** launched by the host organisations from the full list available on the NGI Enrichers website, choosing the one which better matched with their proposals.

It was not possible to apply with the same project to both Open ideas and Challenges tracks.

A total of **8 finalised Applications** were received under the Challenge track and, among them, **5 were considered eligible. 3 applications were ineligible** because of applicant did not match the mandatory requirements. More in details:

- Two Applicants did not develop the pitch deck using the official template provided by NGI Enrichers, as indicated in the Guide for Applicants;
- One Applicant did not fulfil the requirement of being employed by a “legal entity” established in any of those countries or created under EU law or self-employed (e.g. project owners).

After the evaluation process, **3 Applications did not attain the threshold required (15/25)** and were refused, while **2 Applications got a score between 15/25 and 20/25**.

The two pre-selected Applicants were interviewed by the host organisation who launched the specific selected Challenge, along with a member from the NGI Enrichers team.

The score indicated in the final ranking for the Challenges track was the result of the average between the overall score of the first evaluation and the score of the interview. A total of **2 Applicants were selected under the Challenges track** and they were informed through email.

Challenges track	Number of proposals
Proposals started within the deadline	29
Finalised Applications	8
Eligible proposals	5
Proposals below the threshold	3
Proposals above the threshold	2
Proposals with a score between 21/25 and 25/25	0
Proposals with a score between 15/25 and 20/25	2
Selected proposals	2

TABLE 3: OVERVIEW OF THE CHALLENGES TRACK

In total, 152 Applications were submitted within the first round of calls and 32 fellows (NGI Enrichers) were selected through the three tracks of the open call:

- 13 in Paired teams track;
- 17 in Open ideas track;
- 2 in Challenges track

1.5 AFTER THE EVALUATION

At the end of the evaluation process, the selected Fellows were invited to the **NGI Enrichers pre-departure kick-off meeting**, which took place online **on April 27th, 2023 (please find Agenda, Annex I)**. This session aimed at providing information about the Fellowships and the in-person Bootcamp in Rome. Additionally, a Fellows’ roundtable was foreseen, to allow selected candidates to briefly introduce themselves and their project.

A **Q&A session** was organised online on **May, 4th 2023**, together with the Fellows who were not able to participate in the previous kick-off meeting due to the delay in the evaluation process (e.g. unavailability of hosts to attend the interviews within the planned period).

Lastly, an online session on **Visas for the US** was organised online, **May 2nd, 2023**, along with **asynchronous trainings** designed to help the selected Fellows preparing their departure and Fellowship.



2 DATA ANALYSIS

This section aims at presenting a brief analysis based on data collected through the Applications received on F6S Platform. The presented are only related to the finalised and eligible Applications which have been considered eligible after the internal check carried out by NGI Enrichers team.

In sections 2.1, the analysis focuses on the **Paired Teams track**, highlighting three main aspects – Applicants' profile, country of establishment and selected host organisations – in order to present a **general overview** both of the **candidates interested** in joining the NGI Enrichers Fellowship Programme and of the **selected fellows**.

In section 2.2, the analysis focuses on the **Open Ideas and Challenges tracks**, outlining the Applicants' profile, country of establishment and selected host organisations with the aim of providing an insight about the **candidates interested** in joining the NGI Enrichers Fellowship Programme **and selected fellows**.

2.1 PAIRED TEAMS TRACK: APPLICANTS AND SELECTED FELLOWS

A total of **32 eligible Applications** were received under the 1st Paired team track.

Regarding the Applicants' profiles, it can be noticed that the majority of the Applicants was an **Innovator – Entrepreneur/self-employed (21 candidates out of 32, 66%)**, followed by a **22% of Researchers with a technical profile** (7 candidates out of 32), while only the **6%** was represented by **Researchers from a background in social sciences and humanities profile** (2 out of 32), while the remaining **6% of the Applicants** described themselves as **Multidisciplinary Researchers** (2 out of 32). A total of 5 eligible Applicants out of 32 were women.

Looking at the country of establishment, intended as the country in which the Applicant is resident/taxpayer at the moment of the application, the majority of the Applicants, represented by the **69%** (22 candidates out of 32), comes from an **EU Member State**. In particular, the three most performed countries were France, Italy and Spain.

The remaining **28%** (9 candidates out of 32) was represented by **Applicants from Horizon Europe Associated Countries**, especially from North Macedonia and Turkey. Furthermore, three eligible Applicants were from Ukraine. **One Applicant** (3%) was resident/taxpayer in **United Kingdom**.

Lastly, it is worth analysing the placement of the host organisations chosen by the Applicants and willing to host them, if selected. The large majority of the selected host organisations was established in the **United States (94%**, which corresponds to 30 candidates out of 32), while only **2 Applicants (6%)** chose a **Canadian** host organisation.

To summarise, the eligible Applicants under the 1st Paired team track were mostly male Innovators – Entrepreneur/self-employed, coming from an EU Member States and willing to spend 3-6 months to develop their project/idea/product along with an host organisation settled in the United States.

Looking at the 13 selected candidates under the Paired teams track, **8 Fellows out of 13** (62%) were Innovators, followed by **4 Researchers with a technical profile** (30%) and **1 Researcher with a Multidisciplinary background** (8%), while any Researcher from Social Sciences and Humanities was selected. Only **2 Applicants** out of 13 were **women**.

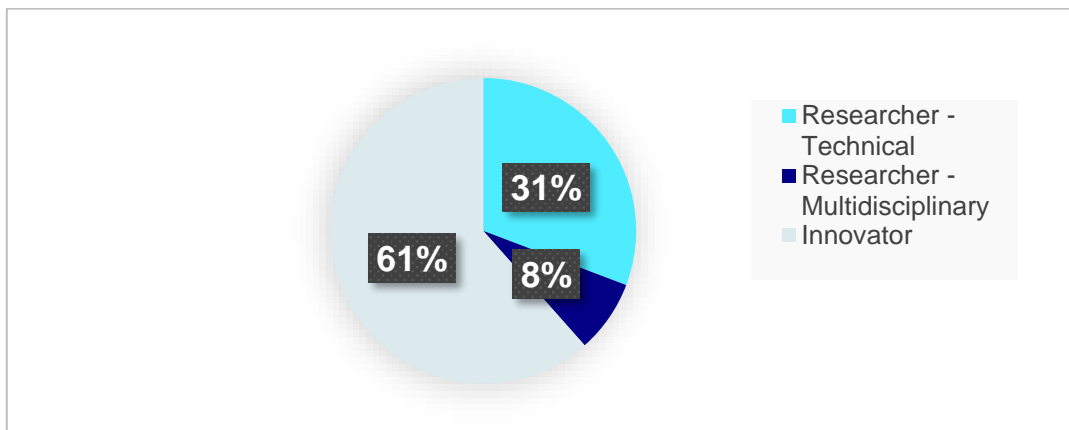


FIGURE 1: SELECTED APPLICANTS' PROFILE (PAIRED TEAMS)

Considering the country of the establishment, **11 Fellows** out of 13 were from an **EU Member State** (85%) – with **Spain** as the most represented country (4 Fellows) - while the **2** remaining Fellows came both from **North Macedonia**, classified as an Horizon Europe Associated Country.

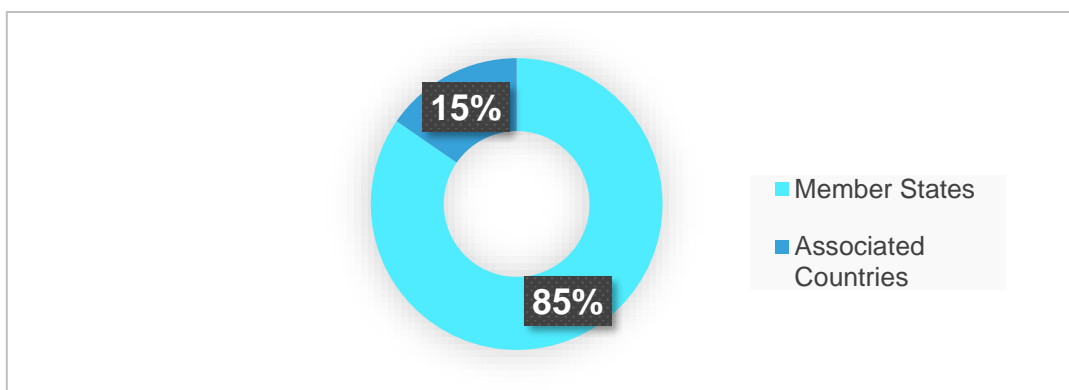


FIGURE 2: SELECTED APPLICANTS' COUNTRIES (PAIRED TEAMS)

All 13 Fellows under the Paired teams track selected a host organisation from the **US**, with **Temple University** as preferred host (4 Fellows), followed by **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** (2 Fellows) and **North-eastern University** (2 Fellows).

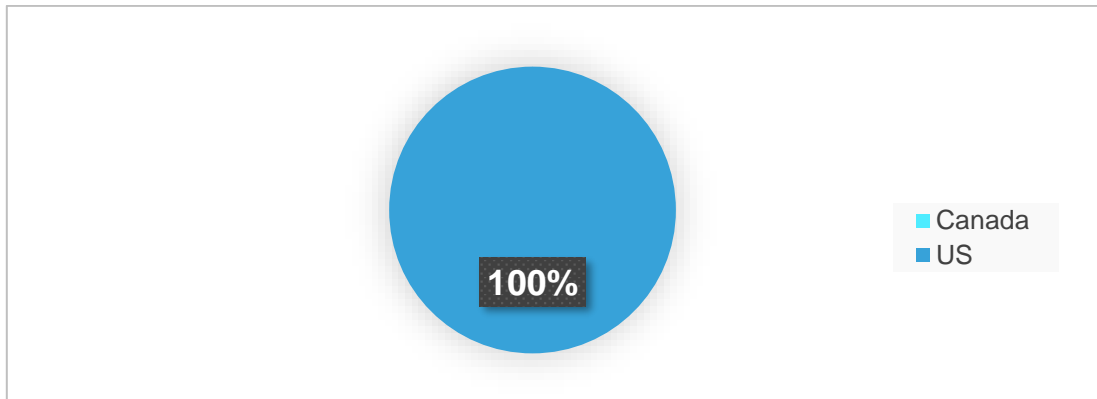


FIGURE 3: HOST ORGANISATIONS SELECTED BY THE FELLOWS (PAIRED TEAMS)

2.2 OPEN IDEAS & CHALLENGES TRACKS: APPLICANTS AND SELECTED FELLOWS

Under the 1st Open ideas and Challenges track, a total of **33 eligible Applications** were submitted.

Looking at the Applicants' profile, the overview is similar to the Paired teams track, even if it can be noticed a balance between Applicants with a **technical background (43%**, 14 out of 33) and **Innovator – Entrepreneur/self-employed profiles (39%** 13 candidates out of 33). Even in that case, Applicants from Social sciences and humanities (**9%**, 3 out of 33) and with a Multidisciplinary background (**9%**, 3 out of 33) are underrepresented. Only **3 candidates** among the eligible Applicants were **women**.

Additionally, the analysis outlines similar percentages in the Applicants' country of the establishment: **82%** of the candidates (27 out of 33) comes from an **EU Member State**, with a high participation rate from **Italy** (11 eligible candidates) and **France** (3 candidates).

Israel is the major Associated Country from which eligible Applicants come from, followed by **Turkey** and **North Macedonia**, for total of 5 eligible candidates (**15%**) established in a Horizon Europe Associated Country. As happened for the Paired team call, **one Applicant (3%)** comes from **United Kingdom** and he was evaluated, following the same approach defined by the European Commission.

Regarding the host organisation selected as a first choice by the Applicants, it can be noticed a clear preference for universities established in the **US**, chosen by the **79%** of the candidates (26 out of 33), while **Canadian** host organisations were selected only by the **21%** (7 out of 33) of the eligible Applicants.

The top-three preferred US host organisations – indicated as first choice by the eligible Applicants - are the **Santa Clara University** (4 candidates), **Saint Louis University** (4 candidates) and **the Arizona State University** (3 candidates).

Among the Canadian host organisations, it is worth to mention **Mitacs (with its associated universities)**, indicated as first preference by **5 Applicants**.

The preferred Challenge, chosen by two eligible Applicants, was the Challenge “Quantum information science and quantum algorithms” launched by Fermilab, Superconducting Quantum Materials & Systems (SQMS) Center in the US.

To sum up, the majority of eligible Applicants under the Open ideas and Challenges track had a technical profile or fits in the Innovator/Entrepreneur category, coming from an EU Member States and willing to be hosted by a host organisation established in the US.

Focusing on the **19 selected candidates** under the Open ideas and Challenges track, **8 Fellows** out of 19 were **Innovators** and additional **8 Fellows** were **Researchers with a technical background** – underlining a balance compared to the Paired teams call. Two remaining Fellows were Researchers with a Multidisciplinary profile, while **one selected Fellow** had a background related to **Social Sciences and Humanities**. Only **one** selected candidate is a **woman**.

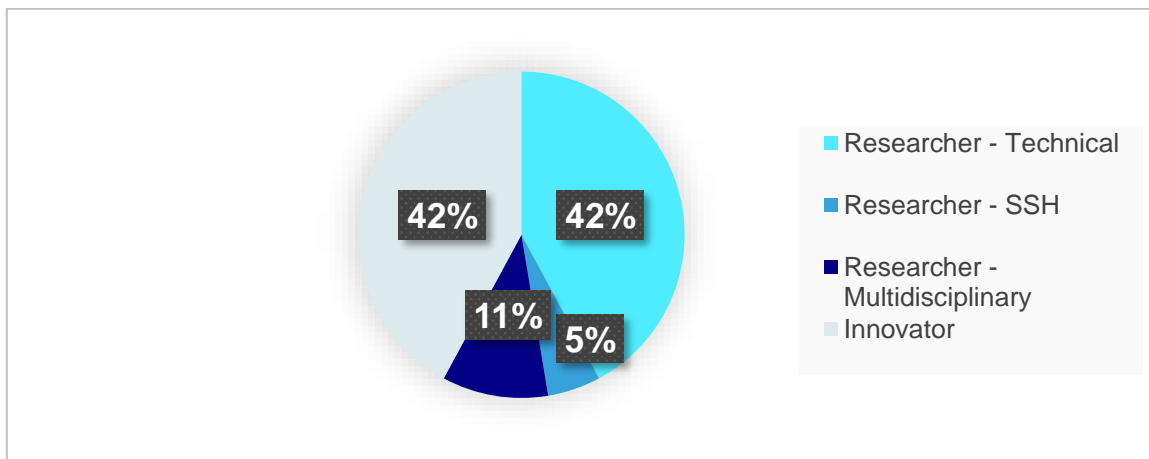


FIGURE 4: SELECTED APPLICANTS' PROFILE (OPEN IDEAS AND CHALLENGES)

The majority of the selected Fellows (**15** out of 19) indicated a EU Member State as country of establishment, with **6 Fellows** coming from **Italy** and **3** from **France**. The remaining **4 selected Fellows** were residents/taxpayers in an **Horizon Europe Associated Country**, in particular they are coming from **Israel** and **Turkey**.

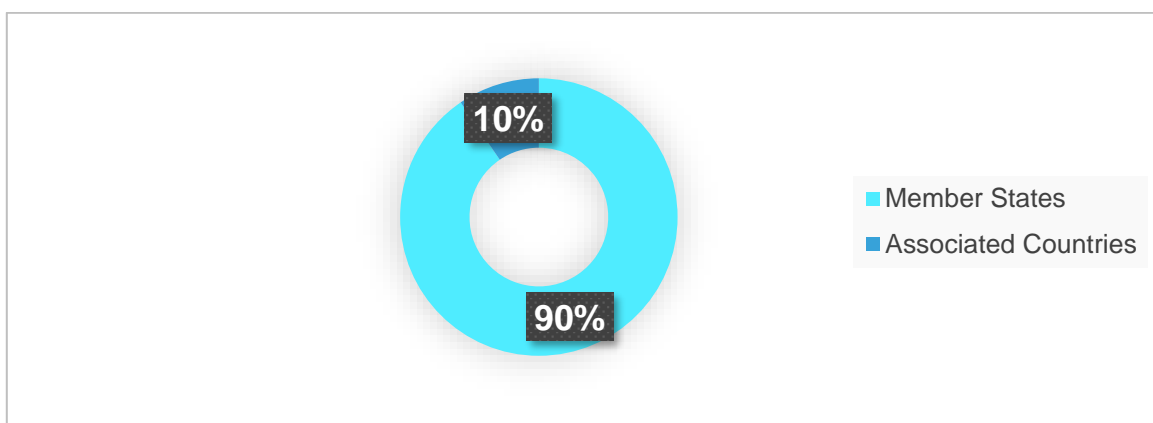


FIGURE 5: SELECTED APPLICANTS' COUNTRY (OPEN IDEAS AND CHALLENGES)

16 Fellows out of 19 chose a host organisation based in the **US**, with **Arizona State University** (3 Fellows), **Santa Clara University** (2 Fellows), **Saint Louis University** (2 Fellows) and **Columbia University** (2 Fellows) as preferred hosts. On the other hand, **3 Fellows** selected a **Canadian host organisation**: two selected candidates chose to be hosted by **Mitacs** and one by **Concordia University** - Applied AI Institute.

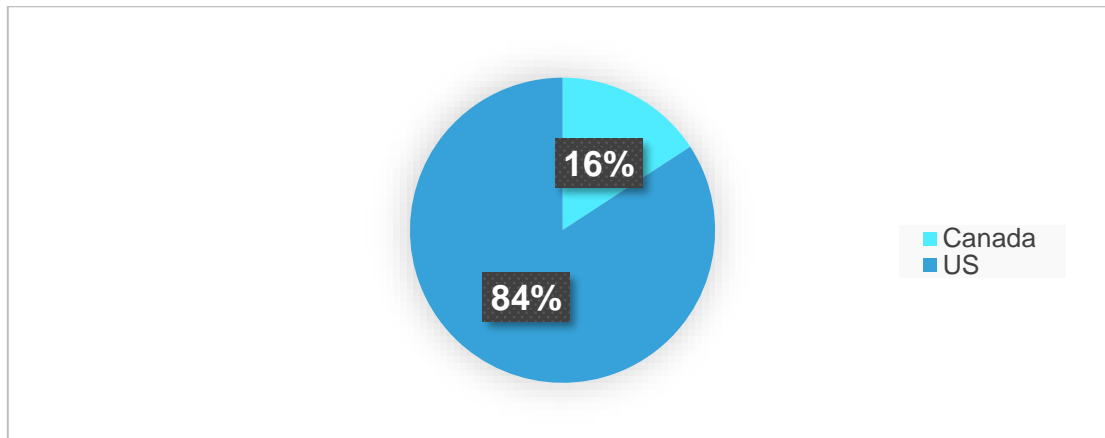


FIGURE 6: HOST ORGANISATIONS SELECTED BY FELLOWS (OPEN IDEAS AND CHALLENGES)

3 LIST OF SELECTED FELLOWS

This section aims at presenting a general overview of the Fellows selected under the first round of calls, providing additional details about Applicant’s profile, country of establishment, selected host organisation, project title, topics and technological/Human-centric NGI-related domains.

Additionally, the list of selected Fellows will be published on the [NGI Enrichers website](#).

By submitting the application, the applicants gave explicit consent that , in case of the selection, the following data will become public and will be published in the project web site: (1) name, picture, country, profile (researcher or innovator), organisation, position within the organisation, contact details such as email, LinkedIn, personal webpage; (2) host organisation selected, country; (3) project title, project summary, research and/or technology domains, application domains, expected impacts, key expected results (*note from the application form on F6S*).

3.1 PAIRED TEAMS TRACK

List of selected Fellows under the Paired teams track:

PAIRED TEAMS TRACK				
Applicant’s name and profile	Country of establishment	Host organisation	Project title	Topic and technology domains
Iris Cuevas-Martinez, Innovator	Spain	MIT Auto-ID Lab - Massachusetts Institute of Technology (US)	Digital twin for Air Quality in Smart Cities with CHIMERE (European) and WRF (USA) AI-based pollution propagation models	AI, Environment, IoT Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Interoperability, Sustainability, Environment
Martin Serrano, Researcher - Multidisciplinary	Ireland	National Institute for Standards and Technology (US)	[C-BRIDGE]: EU-USA collaboration for Business Research, Incubation and the Development of Goals, Entrepreneurship and adoption of activities promoting the	AI, Big Data, Cloud/Edge Computing, Intuitive user experience, IoT, Trust, Web 3.0 Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Cooperation, Digitalization,



			creation of Standards in the next generation of smart cities and services	Design, Interoperability, Sustainability, Transparency, User Experience
Antonio Jesús Jara Valera, Researcher - Technical	Spain	AUTO ID Lab - Massachusetts Institute of Technology (US)	A geo-aware network protocol for trustable cross-Atlantic data exchange operations (USA-EU)	5G/6G, Blockchain, IoT, Trust, Data sovereignty Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Data privacy and sovereignty, Data protection, Digitalization, Interoperability, Security, Transparency
Ihor Makushynskyi, Innovator	Poland	Temple University (US)	Pilot project for automated intellectual property rights protection for Temple University	Blockchain, Cybersecurity, Legal-tech Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Data protection, Digitalization, Sustainability
Dime Galapchev, Innovator	North Macedonia	Temple University (US)	FinqUP AI Diversification Tool	AI, Big Data, Fintech, Intuitive user experience Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Data privacy and sovereignty, Data protection, Digitalization, Security, Sustainability, User Experience
Omid Esrafilian, Researcher – Technical	France	Institute of the Wireless Internet of Things, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering,	5G-enabled Connected Robotics Emulator	5G/6G, AI, Autonomous, V2X, Industry 4.0/5.0 , IoT Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:



		Northeastern University (US)		Autonomy, Cooperation, Design
Roberto M. Medina Bujalance, Innovator	Spain	Sonoma State University (US)	InSee System: The First AI-Powered Respiratory Monitoring Platform	AI, Big Data, Health, Industry 4.0/5.0 , Intuitive user experience, IoT Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Data privacy and sovereignty, Data protection, Digitalization, Design, Interoperability, Resiliency, Security, Social participation, User Experience
Martin Pečar, Innovator	Slovenia	George Mason University - Mason Enterprise Center (US)	Pilot implementations of multi-objective route optimization	AI, Autonomous, V2X, Cloud/Edge Computing, E-mobility, Environment Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Autonomy, Digitalization, Green IT & Respect for the environment
Francisco J. Guillén Martínez, Innovator	Spain	UC Berkeley Citris Innovation Hub (US)	Implementation of Blockchain-based authentication technology to secure US consumer products, services and IoT Platforms	Blockchain, Cybersecurity, EdTech, Industry 4.0/5.0 , Trust, Web 3.0 , Data sovereignty Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Data privacy and sovereignty, Data protection, Digitalization, Lifelong learning, Openness,



				Security, Social participation, Transparency, User's Rights, User Experience
Kiril Panov, Innovator	North Macedonia	Temple University (US)	"HEALTH FIRST" - an artificial intelligence-based solution focused on earlier and faster diagnosis of diseases	AI, Cloud/Edge Computing, Health, Industry 4.0/5.0 , Intuitive user experience Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Cooperation, Data protection, Digitalization, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Interoperability, Openness, Resiliency, Transparency, User's Rights, User Experience
Florian Kaltenberger, Researcher - Technical	France	Northeastern University (US)	Keeping OpenAirInterface fit using the OpenRAN gym	5G/6G, AI, Cloud/Edge Computing Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Digitalization, Openness
Gabriele Orazi, Researcher – Technical	Italy	Computer Science Department, University of California, Irvine (US)	Rub your eyes: robustness analysis of document redaction for anonymisation	AI, Cybersecurity, Data sovereignty Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Data privacy and sovereignty, Data protection, Security
Tessa Wagenaar, Innovator	Netherlands	Temple University (US)	SplendoMonitor	AI, Big Data, Cloud/Edge Computing, Health, Intuitive user experience, IoT



				<p>Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Cooperation, Data privacy and sovereignty, Data protection, Digitalization, Diversity, Inclusion, Interoperability, Social participation, Transparency</p>
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TABLE 4: FELLOWS SELECTED UNDER THE PAIRED TEAMS TRACK

3.2 OPEN IDEAS TRACK

List of selected Fellows under the Open ideas track:

OPEN IDEAS TRACK				
Applicant's name and profile	Country of establishment	Host organisation	Project title	Topic and technology domains
Ömer Mermer, Researcher - Technical	Turkey	University of Iowa, Hydroinformatics Lab (US)	Deep Learning Based Harmful Algal Blooms Prediction	AI, Big Data, Environment, Trust Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Interoperability, Resiliency, Sustainability, Transparency, Environment
Fernando José Gómez Gil, Innovator	Spain	University of Maryland, Baltimore County (US)	AI for onboarding for SMEs	AI, EdTech Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Anthropology, Digitalization, Diversity,



				Inclusion, Lifelong learning
Dror Jacoby, Researcher – Technical	Israel	Columbia University (US)	Intelligent Decision-Making with Data Fusion and Predictive Analytics for Multi-Sensor Environments	5G/6G, AI, Autonomous, V2X, Big Data, Cloud/Edge Computing, Decentralized Internet, E-mobility, Environment, Intuitive user experience, IoT, Peer-to-peer technologies Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Autonomy, Cooperation, Data privacy and sovereignty, Design, Lifelong learning, Openness, Sustainability, Transparency, Environment
Alireza Entezami, Researcher - Technical	Italy	Mitacs (CA)	Continuous Monitoring and Detection of Road Damages via Smartphone Sensors and Artificial Intelligence techniques under Big Data	5G/6G, AI, Big Data, Cloud/Edge Computing, IoT Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Green IT & Respect for the environment , Social participation, User Experience, Environment
Vasileios Apostolos Ouranis, Innovator	Greece	Saint Louis University (US)	Advanced Human Computer Interaction in Virtual Training and Simulation environment	Immersive Environments - VR/AR/MR/XR , Industry 4.0/5.0 , Intuitive user experience, Metaverse (digital commons), Virtual



				<p>Realities, Xtended Realities</p> <p>Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Digitalisation, User Experience</p>
Muhammad Zawish, Researcher – Technical	Ireland	Saint Louis University (US)	Complexity-aware Collaborative AI over edge and cloud	<p>AI, Cloud/Edge Computing, Decentralized Internet, Industry 4.0/5.0 , IoT, Digital commons</p> <p>Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Autonomy, Digitalization, Green IT & Respect for the environment , Interoperability, Sustainability</p>
Nicola Di Cicco, Researcher – Technical	Italy	Columbia University (US)	Robust X-Haul Management Based on Uncertainty-aware ML	<p>5G/6G, AI, Autonomous, V2X, Big Data, Cloud/Edge Computing, E-mobility, IoT, Trust</p> <p>Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Cooperation, Inclusion, Openness, Resiliency, Security, Transparency</p>
Alessandro Palumbo, Researcher – Technical	Italy	International Computer Science Institute (US)	GUARD1	<p>AI, Trust</p> <p>Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Data privacy and sovereignty, Data protection, Security</p>



<p>Ido Levy, Researcher – Multidisciplinary</p>	<p>Israel</p>	<p>University of Maryland (US)</p>	<p>SafeMode: Using AI & Behavioural Psychology to Improve Performance and Sustainability in Transportation</p>	<p>AI, E-mobility, Environment</p> <p>Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Digitalization, Openness, Sustainability, User's Rights, Behavioural Psychology</p>
<p>Sébastien Batty, Innovator</p>	<p>France</p>	<p>Santa Clara University (US)</p>	<p>Intelligent Wireless Drones Charging Platform</p>	<p>AI, Autonomous, V2X, Big Data, Cloud/Edge Computing, E-mobility, Energy transition, Environment, Intuitive user experience, IoT</p> <p>Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Autonomy, Digitalization, Green IT & Respect for the environment , Interoperability, Sustainability, User Experience, Environment</p>
<p>Julien Paris, Innovator</p>	<p>France</p>	<p>Mitacs (CA)</p>	<p>Datami</p>	<p>Decentralized Internet, Intuitive user experience, Data sovereignty, Digital commons</p> <p>Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Autonomy, Cooperation, Data privacy and sovereignty, Digitalization, Design, Inclusion, Interoperability, Openness, Resiliency, Social participation,</p>



				Transparency, User Experience
Soumya Kanti Datta, Innovator	France	Arizona State University (US)	SPARTA - Secure, Privacy Aware Extended Reality Platform	<p>Cybersecurity, Immersive Environments - VR/AR/MR/XR , Virtual Realities, Xtended Realities</p> <p>Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Data privacy and sovereignty, Data protection, Digitalization, Lifelong learning, Security</p>
Simone Zerbinì, Researcher – Technical	Italy	Arizona State University (US)	Improving Fuzzing Through Symbolic Execution	<p>Cybersecurity</p> <p>Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Security</p>
Katalin Feher, Researcher – Social Sciences/Humanities	Hungary	Concordia University Applied AI Institute (CA)	InfoComm & MediaTech by AI	<p>AI, Immersive Environments - VR/AR/MR/XR , Metaverse (digital commons), Trust, Web 3.0</p> <p>Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Data privacy and sovereignty, Digitalization, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Openness, Politics, Resiliency, Sustainability, Transparency</p>
Niccolò Ferrari, Innovator	Italy	Santa Clara University (US)	A hassle-free solution for EV Batteries end-of-life, enabling a true circular economy	<p>E-mobility, Energy transition, Environment</p> <p>Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Green IT & Respect for</p>



				the environment , Sustainability
Greg Agriopoulos, Innovator	Greece	Mason Enterprise Center Fairfax (US)	Magos haptic solution	Immersive Environments - VR/AR/MR/XR , Industry 4.0/5.0 , Metaverse (digital commons), Virtual Realities, Xtended Realities Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Digitalization, User Experience
Alexandru Panait, Innovator	Romania	Arizona State University (US)	Decentralised Government System	Big Data, Blockchain, Trust Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Data privacy and sovereignty, Data protection, Digitalization, Security

TABLE 5: FELLOWS SELECTED UNDER THE OPEN IDEAS TRACK

3.3 CHALLENGES TRACK

List of selected Fellows under the Challenges track:

CHALLENGES TRACK				
Applicant's name and profile	Country of establishment	Host organisation	Project title	Topic and technology domains
Talat Satilmisoglu, Researcher - Multidisciplinary	Turkey	University of Iowa - Hydroinformatics Lab (US)	Blockchain-based Multi-stakeholder Water Management System	Blockchain, Decentralized Internet, Environment, Trust, Web 3.0 Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Digitalization,



				Interoperability, Sustainability, Transparency
Edoardo Giusto, Researcher – Technical	Italy	Fermilab - SQMS Center (US)	CRIT-Q – COSMIC RAY IMPACT ON TRANSMON QUBITS	Quantum computing and algorithms Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Green IT & Respect for the environment , Sustainability

TABLE 6: FELLOWS SELECTED UNDER THE CHALLENGES TRACK



ANNEX I – AGENDA OF THE ONLINE PRE-DEPARTURE BOOTCAMP

ONLINE PRE-DEPARTURE BOOTCAMP AGENDA

April 27th, 2023

From 14:00 to 16:30 (CEST)

Please [click here](#) to access the Teams meeting

14:00 – 14:15	Welcome and introduction to the NGI Enrichers consortium team by <i>Dr Svetlana Klessova (G.A.C. Group)</i> and roundtable of project partners
14:15 – 14:25	Presentation of NGI Enrichers in a nutshell presented by <i>Dr Svetlana Klessova</i> (Project director and coordinator from G.A.C. Group)
14:25 – 15:05	Fellows' roundtable Fellows briefly introduce themselves and their project – in 1 minute each, upon being called.
15:05 – 15:20	Information about the trainings before, during and after the live Bootcamp in Rome (May 2023) presented by <i>Fahima Sadaoui-Ramos (Enrich Global)</i>
15:20 – 15:35	What to do before the bootcamp in Rome (PPT, CMP, visa) by <i>Blandine Chantepie-Kari (Temple University Philadelphia)</i> ,
15:35 – 15:40	Fellows' technical assistance , presented by <i>Giulia Butera (APRE)</i> and <i>Andre Almeida (SPI)</i>
15:40 – 15:50	Mentoring presentation by <i>Latif Ladiid (mentor)</i>
15:50 – 16:00	Presentation of support services by NGI Zero , presented by <i>Jos van den Oever, NGI Zero</i>
<i>Confidential session only for NGI Enrichers consortium members and the fellows</i>	
16:00 – 16:15	Sub-grant agreement, payments, contact points and OneDrive channel , presented by <i>Krisztina Dax and Theo Lefevre (G.A.C. Group)</i>
16:15 – 16:30	Q&A session
16:30	Closing by <i>Krisztina Dax and Dr Svetlana Klessova (G.A.C. Group)</i>



ANNEX II (CONFIDENTIAL) - LESSONS LEARNT AND FURTHER STEPS

This Annex is confidential and shared only with the European Commission and NGI Enrichers Consortium Partners.

