D1.4 FINAL REPORT ON THE THREE ROUNDS OF OPEN CALLS

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Abstract	The present document D1.4 Final Report on the three rounds of open calls provides an overview of the three rounds round of calls of the NGI Enrichers project, including submission, evaluation and selection process.
Keywords	Open calls, Selection process, Selected Fellows

Document Revision History

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This deliverable (D1.4) provides an overview of the three round of calls of the NGI Enrichers project including submission, evaluation and selection process, and final conclusions on the three rounds of open calls.

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, calls relevant information and results achieved** within the launch of the three rounds 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 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 three 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 included in the deliverable:

- **Annex I – Agendas of the online pre-departure bootcamp**

- **Annex II – Report on the third round of open call**

SELECTION AT A GLANCE

General results and key numbers of the three rounds of open calls:

- 376 Applications started on F6S within the deadline;
- 192 finalised Applications submitted on F6S;
- 165 eligible Applications;
- 67 selected Fellows joining the three Cohorts:
    - o 30 Fellows selected under the Paired teams track;
    - o 27 Fellows for the Open ideas track;
    - o 10 Fellows for the Challenges track.
- 26 selected Fellows are Innovators – Entrepreneurs/self-employed;
- 41 selected Fellows are Researchers:
    - o 32 Researchers - Technical;
    - o 3 Research – Social Sciences and Humanities.
    - o 6 Researchers – Multidisciplinary.

- 51 Fellows residents/taxpayers in an EU Member State;
- 13 Fellow resident/taxpayer in a Horizon Europe Associated Country;
- 3 Fellows residents/taxpayers in Switzerland.
- 12 women selected as Fellows to join the three Cohorts;
- 60 Fellows selected an US host organisation;
- 7 Fellows selected a Canadian host organisation.

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ABBREVIATIONS

CA	Canada
CV	Curriculum vitae
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NCPs	National Contact Points
NGI	Next Generation Internet
SoC	Statement of Commitment
SSH	Social Sciences and Humanities
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.

Deliverables should not refer to project-internal matters such as WPs.

1.1 CALL INFORMATION

The NGI Enrichers project conducted three rounds of open calls, each launched in different periods. The **first round** was opened in **two different periods:** the Paired Teams Track opened on **November 30th, 2022**, and closed on **January 31st, 2023**, while the Open Ideas and Challenges Tracks opened on **February 1st, 2023**, and closed on **March 31st, 2023**. The second round took place from **July 1st, 2023,** to **September 30th, 2023**, and the third round was held from **March 8th, 2024**, to **May 10th, 2024**. Please refer to the table below for the specific opening and closing dates of each round.

Round of open call	Opening Date	Closing Date
First round – **Paired teams track**	30/11/2022	31/01/2023 23:59 Brussels time
First round – **Open Ideas and Challenges track**	01/02/2023	31/03/2023 23:59 Brussels time
Second round – **all tracks**	01/07/2023	30/09/2023 23:59 Brussels time
Third round – **all tracks**	08/03/2024	10/05/2024 23:59 Brussels time

TABLE 1 : OVERVIEW OF OPEN CALLS OPENING PERIODS

The three rounds of open calls were 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 applicants were invited to submit a proposal answering a specific challenge defined by the host organisation.

The invitation to submit a proposal under the NGI Enrichers Fellowship Programme was opened to Fellows with a proven track in the NGI sector and different profiles:

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).

Under the three tracks, in each of the open calls Applicants were invited to submit only one Application through the **F6S platform** by filling in an **application form** and a **pitch deck** designed to collect information about the project.

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.

The call openings were announced through the official communication channels of the NGI Enrichers projects (LinkedIn and Twitter). Additionally, a communication plan was developed aiming at increasing the visibility of the calls. NGI Enrichers team prepared a communication kit with a ready-to-use set of dissemination materials including **posts for social medias** 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.

1.2 PAIRED TEAMS TRACK

To apply for the Paired teams track, the mandatory additional documents included:

- the **Statement of Commitment** (available on the NGI Enrichers website) signed by the host organisation willing to host the candidate, if selected;

- **CV**;

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

Under the Paired teams track, a total of **73 finalised Applications** were received during the three rounds of open calls:

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 **67 Applications** were considered **eligible**:

The reasons for non-eligibility were the followings:

- 1 Applicant did not identify a host organisation as requested in the Guide for Applicants and submitted a self-signed Statement of Commitment.

- 1 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.

- 1 Applicant of the second round of calls had already been selected under the first round of calls.

- 3 Applicants did not fulfil the requirement of being residents/taxpayers in an EU Member State, Horizon Europe Associated Country, or in Switzerland.

The eligible Applications have been evaluated in two different modalities:

- For the 1st round, the eligible Applications went through the evaluation process, made up of two parts.

  o First, the Applications have been evaluated by two external evaluators, who were selected through the launch of a specific Call for Evaluators (closed on December 15th, 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. During this first phase, the evaluators have been assigned through the F6S Platform, 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**.

  o Second, the Applicants who were not automatically selected and who got a score between 15 and 20 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.

  o The final score was the result of the average between the overall score of the evaluation and the score of the interview.

- For the 2nd and 3rd rounds of open calls, the process has been adapted according to the budget, and a specific number of **applications were automatically pre-selected** to join the NGI Enrichers Fellowship Programme. During the evaluation, each proposal has been assigned to two evaluators (selected through the launch of the specific Call for Evaluators closed on the December 15th, 2022), 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.

For each round of open calls, 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.

Overall, during the 3 rounds **14 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 **53 reached the required threshold**. According to budget's constraint and the quality of the project proposed, **30 Applications** were automatically selected to join the NGI Enrichers Fellowship Programme:

The selected applicants have been notified through an acceptance letter, containing the ESR.

Paired teams track	Number of proposals
Proposals started within the deadline	146
Finalised Applications	73
Eligible proposals	67
Proposals below the threshold	14
Proposals above the threshold	53
Selected proposals	30

TABLE 2 : OVERVIEW OF THE PAIRED TEAMS TRACK

1.3 OPEN IDEAS TRACK

To apply for the Open ideas track, the Applicants were invited to submit their proposals following the procedure on F6S Platform, as described in section 1.1, and selecting **up to three host organisations** from the Search for hosts section within the NGI Enrichers official website.

Under the Open ideas track, a total of **90 finalised Applications** were received during the three rounds of open calls:

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 **72 Applications** were considered **eligible**:

The reasons for non-eligibility were the followings:

- 7 Applicants did not develop the pitch deck using the official template provided by NGI Enrichers, as indicated in the Guide for Applicants

- 3 Applicants did not fulfil the education requirements of holding a Master's degree for Researchers and a Bachelor's degree for Innovators/Entrepreneurs;

- 2 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;

- 2 Applicant did not fulfil the requirement of being residents/taxpayers in an EU Member State, Horizon Europe Associated Country, or in Switzerland;

- 1 Applicant did not select a host organisation from the full list available on the NGI Enrichers website;

- 1 Applicant submitted two applications under two different tracks

- 1 Applicant did not complete the Application, as indicated in the Guide for Applicants, and did not present the pitch deck in English;

- 1 Applicant did not fulfil the requirement of being an English Speaker, the official language of the NGI Enrichers Programme;

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

At the end of the first evaluation phase, during the three rounds of open calls **19 Applications were refused** because they did not reach the required threshold (15/25) while **53 Applications scored above 15.**

The second part of the evaluation differed for the three rounds of open calls:

- For the 1st round, 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.

  o For the **applications with a score between 21/25 and 25/25** the Applicants were interviewed by the sole host organisation.

  o For the **applications with a score between 15/25 and 20/25** the 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, 2023. 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. The final score was the result of the average between the overall score of the evaluation and the score of the interview.

- For the 2nd and 3rd rounds of open calls, according to the budget a specific number of **applications were automatically pre-selected** to join the NGI Enrichers Fellowship Programme. As stated in the Guide for Applicants, the pre-selected Applicants were interviewed by the sole host organisation indicated as first choice, in order to confirm the match.

The interviews were carried out **between November 24th and December 12nd, 2023** for the 2nd round, while **between June 20th, 2024,** and **July 12th, 2024** for the 3rd round. 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 representative of the host organisation was required to provide an opinion about the willingness to host that specific candidate or not.

For the Open ideas track, a total of **27 Applications** were officially selected to join the NGI Enrichers Fellowship Programme:

The selected applicants have been notified through an acceptance letter, containing the ESR.

Open ideas track	Number of proposals
Proposals started within the deadline	147
Finalised Applications	90
Eligible proposals	77
Proposals below the threshold	19
Proposals above the threshold	53
Selected proposals	27

TABLE 3 : OVERVIEW OF THE OPEN IDEAS TRACK

1.4 CHALLENGES 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.

A total of **29 finalised Applications** were received under the Challenge track during the three rounds of open calls. After the internal eligibility check, **21 Applications were considered eligible** to be evaluated. **8 Applications were not eligible** due to the following reasons:

- 3 Applicants did not develop the pitch deck using the official template provided by NGI Enrichers, as indicated in the Guide for Applicants;

- 2 Applicants did not develop the pitch deck using the official template provided by NGI Enrichers, as indicated in the Guide for Applicants, and did not indicate the preferred Challenge;

- 1 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);

- 1 Applicant did not fulfil the requirement of being residents/taxpayers in an EU Member State, Horizon Europe Associated Country, or in Switzerland;

- 1 Applicant presented the same project, participating company and host organisation of another Applicant.

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

After the evaluation process, **6 Applications did not attain the threshold required** (15/25) and were refused, while **15 Applications got a score between 15/25 and 20/25**.

For the 1st round of calls, the 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.

For the 2nd and 3rd rounds of calls, the four pre-selected Applicants were interviewed by the host organisation who launched the specific selected Challenge, to confirm the match, as described in paragraph 1.3

Overall, for the three rounds of open calls, a total of **10 Applicants were selected under the Challenges track** and they were informed through email.

Challenges track	Number of proposals
Proposals started within the deadline	83

Finalised Applications	29
Eligible proposals	21
Proposals below the threshold	6
Proposals above the threshold	15
Selected proposals	10

TABLE 4 : OVERVIEW OF THE CHALLENGES TRACK

In total, **192 Applications** were submitted within the three rounds of calls and **67 Fellows** were selected through the three tracks of the open call:

- **30** in **Paired teams** track;

- **27** in **Open ideas** track;

- **10** 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) for the 1st round;

- **January 24th, 2024** (please find Agenda, Annex I) for the 2nd round;

- **September 19th, 2024** (please find Agenda, Annex I) for the 3rd round.

These sessions aimed at providing information about the Fellowships and the three in-person Bootcamp which took place in Rome and Paris. Additionally, Fellows' roundtables were foreseen, to allow selected candidates to briefly introduce themselves and their project.

Additionally, **asynchronous trainings on Visas for the US and Canada** were designed and shared with the selected Fellows to help 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 data are only related to the finalised Applications which have been considered eligible after the internal check carried out by NGI Enrichers team.

The analysis focuses on four main aspects:

- - Applicants' profile;

- - Gender dimension;

- - Country of establishment;

- - 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**. The analysis has been carried out separately per each track.

2.1 PAIRED TEAMS TRACK: APPLICANTS AND SELECTED FELLOWS

A total of **67 eligible Applications** were received under the Paired team track.

Regarding the Applicants' profiles, it can be noticed that the majority of the Applicants was a **Researcher with a technical profile (44,8%)**, followed by **Innovators – Entrepreneurs/self-employed (43,3%), Researchers with a Multidisciplinary background (7,4%**) and **Researchers** with **Social Sciences and Humanities profile (4,5%)**. Additional details can be found in Table 5.

Applicants' profile	Number of applicants
Innovator – Entrepreneur/self-employed	29
Researcher – Technical	30
Researcher - Social Sciences and Humanities	3
Researcher - Multidisciplinary	5

TABLE 5 : OVERVIEW OF THE ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS' PROFILE - PAIRED TEAMS

A total of **11 eligible Applicants** out of 67 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 comes from an **EU Member State (85%)**, while only **8 Applicants** comes from an **Horizon Europe Associated Countries** (North Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine and United Kingdom). Two Applicants were resident/taxpayer in **Switzerland**.

The most performed countries were Italy, France and Spain. More details can be found in *Table 5*.

Applicants' country of establishment	Number of applicants
Italy	18
France	10
Spain	8
Turkey	3
Germany	3
Denmark	2
Ireland	2
North Macedonia	2
Poland	2
Portugal	2
Romania	2
Slovenia	2
Ukraine	2
Hungary	2
Switzerland	2

Bulgaria	1
Netherlands	1
Slovakia	1
Finland	1
United Kingdom	1

TABLE 6: OVERVIEW OF THE ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS' COUNTRY OF ESTABLISHMENT - PAIRED TEAMS

Lastly, it is worth analysing the placement of the host organisations chosen by the Applicants. The large majority of the selected host organisations was established in the **United States** (**89,5%**, 60 candidates out of 67), while only **7 Applicants** (**10,5%**) chose a **Canadian** host organisation.

To summarise, the eligible Applicants under the Paired team track were mostly male Researchers with a technical profile, coming from an EU Member State and willing to spend 3-6 months to develop their project/idea/product along with a host organisation settled in the United States.

Looking at the **30 selected candidates** under the Paired teams track **12 Fellows** were **Innovators** (40%), **14 Fellows** (47%) were **Researchers with a technical profile**, **3 Researchers** with a **Multidisciplinary profile** (10%) and **1 Researchers** with a **Social Sciences and Humanities profile** (3%).

6 selected Fellows were **women**.

FIGURE 1: SELECTED APPLICANTS' PROFILE - PAIRED TEAMS

Considering the country of the establishment, **25 Fellows** out of 30 were from an **EU Member State** (83%) – with **Italy** as the most represented country (8 Fellows) -

while the **5** remaining Fellows came from **North Macedonia** (2,) **Turkey** (1) and **Switzerland** (2).

26 Fellows (87%) under the Paired teams track selected a host organisation from the **US**, while **4 Fellows** (13%) will be hosted by a Canadian host organisation.
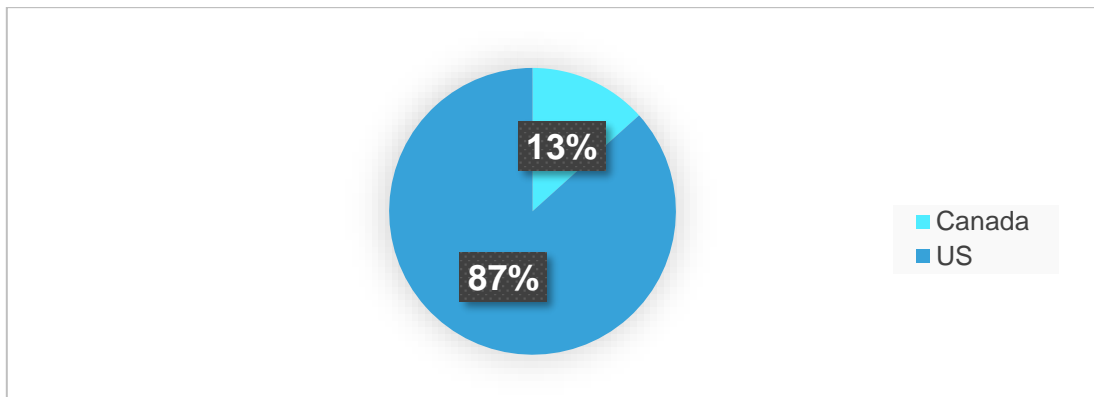
2.2 OPEN IDEAS TRACK: APPLICANTS AND SELECTED FELLOWS

Under the Open Ideas track, a total of **72 eligible Applications** were submitted throughout the three rounds of open calls.

Regarding the Applicants' profiles, it can be noticed that there is a balance between **Researchers with a technical profile (40%)**, and **Innovators – Entrepreneurs/self-employed (42%)**, followed by **Researchers with a Multidisciplinary background (11%)** and **Researchers** with **Social Sciences and Humanities profile (7%)**. Additional details can be found in Table 7.

Applicants' profile	Number of applicants
Innovator – Entrepreneur/self-employed	30

Researcher – Technical	29
Researcher - Multidisciplinary	8
Researcher – Social Sciences and Humanities	5

TABLE 7: OVERVIEW OF THE ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS' PROFILE - OPEN IDEAS

A total of **6 candidates** among the eligible Applicants were **women**, while 1 candidate preferred not to disclose their gender.

Considering the country of the establishment it can be noticed that **18 Applicants are coming from an EU Member State (62,5%)** and **8 Applicants are from a Horizon Europe Associated Country (32%)**, while the remaining 2 Applicants are residents/taxpayers in **Switzerland (5,5%**). More details can be found in *Table 8*.

Applicants' country of establishment	Number of applicants
Italy	19
Turkey	10
United Kingdom	6
France	4
Israel	4
Switzerland	4
Germany	3
Cyprus	2
Estonia	2
Hungary	2
Ireland	2
Romania	2
Spain	2
Ukraine	2
Denmark	1

Greece	1
North Macedonia	1
Malta	1
Netherlands	1
Poland	1
Slovakia	1
Sweden	1

TABLE 8: OVERVIEW OF THE ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS' COUNTRY OF ESTABLISHMENT - OPEN IDEAS

Regarding the host organisation selected as a first choice by the Applicants, it can be noticed that most of the candidates selected as a first-choice universities established in the **US (83%**, 60 candidates out of 72**)**, while **12 candidates** selected a university established in **Canada (17%).**

To sum up, the Open ideas track recorded a balance in terms of Researchers with a technical background and Innovator profiles, with little percentages of Researchers coming from SSH and Multidisciplinary. Additionally, the majority of applicants were established in EU Member States, with high percentage of candidates coming from Horizon Europe Associated Countries as well. Most of the candidates were willing to spend 3-6 months to develop their project/idea/product along with a host organisation settled in the United States.

Focusing on the **27 selected candidates** under the Open ideas track during the three rounds of open calls, **12 Fellows** were **Researchers with a technical background**, **12 were Innovators**, while **1 was a Researcher with a Multidisciplinary** background and **2 with a Social Science and Humanities profile**.
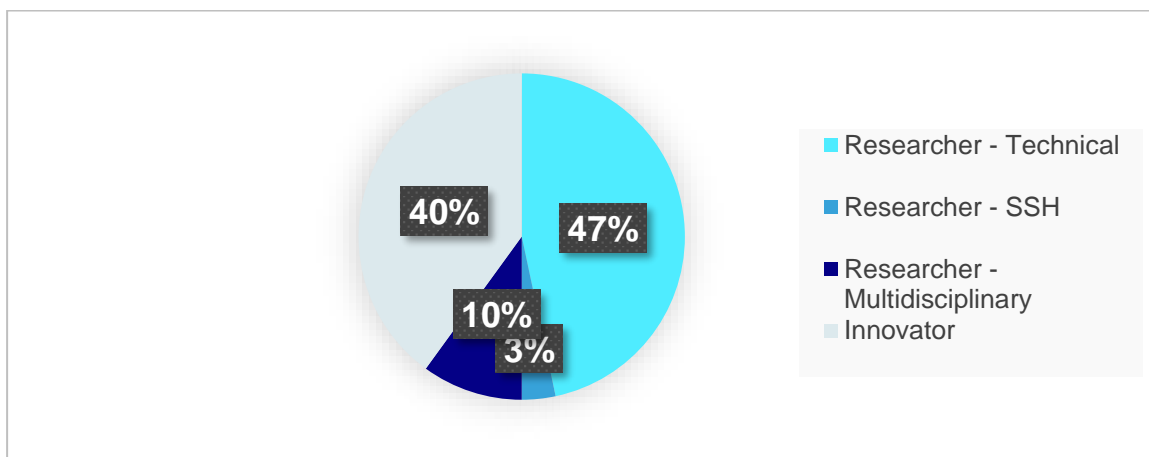
4 selected Fellows were **women**.

FIGURE 4: SELECTED APPLICANTS' PROFILE – OPEN IDEAS

Considering the country of the establishment, **18 Fellows** out of 28 were from an **EU Member State** (67%), while **8 Fellows** were coming from **Horizon Europe Associated countries** and the remaining **1 Fellow** came from **Switzerland.**
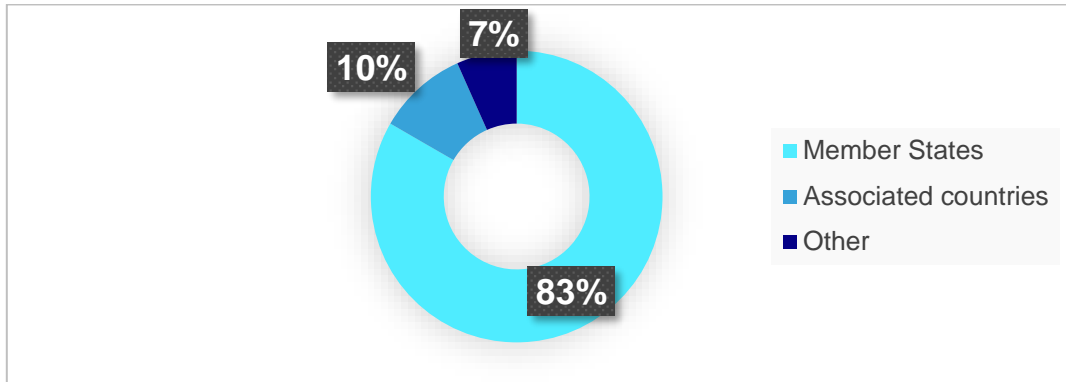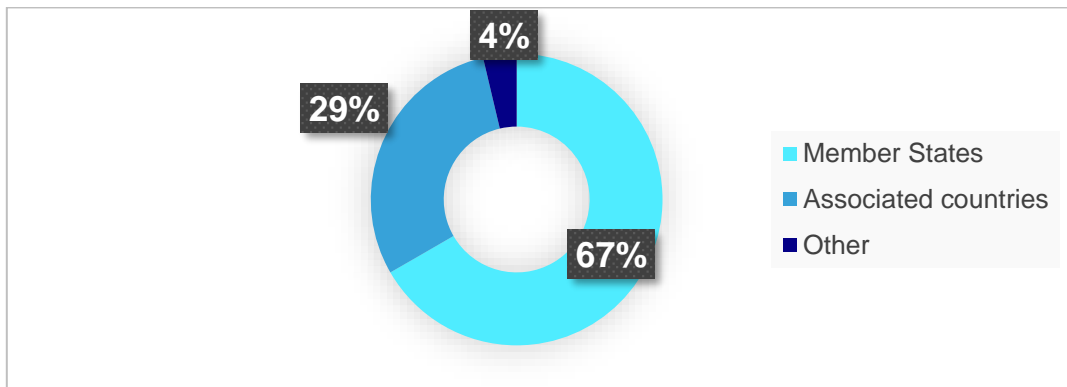

FIGURE 5: SELECTED APPLICANTS' COUNTRIES – OPEND IDEAS

24 Fellows (89%) under the Open Ideas track selected a host organisation from the **US**, while **3 Fellows** (11%) will be hosted by a Canadian host organisation.
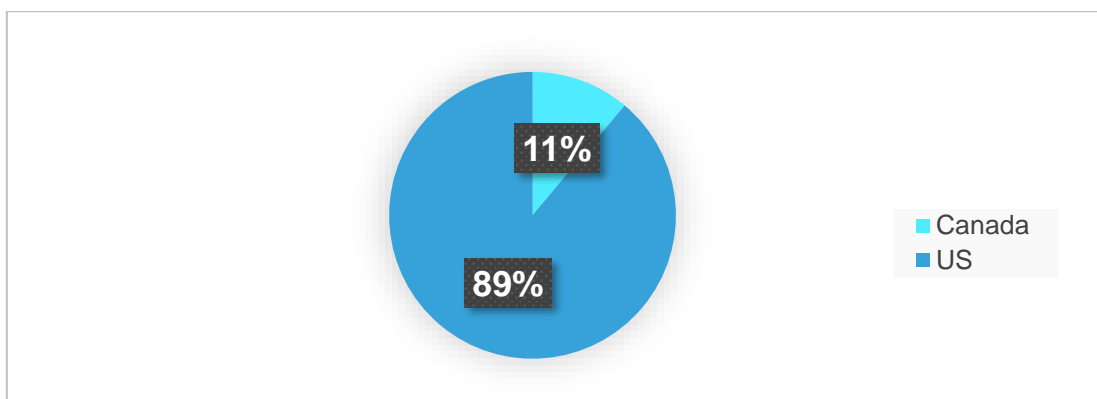
FIGURE 6: HOST ORGANISATIONS SELECTED BY THE FELLOWS – OPEN IDEAS

2.3 CHALLENGES TRACK: APPLICANTS AND SELECTED FELLOWS

Under the Challenges track, a total of **21 eligible Applications** were submitted.

Looking at the Applicants' profile, the 48% of the candidates is represented by Researchers with a technical background, followed by Researchers with a Multidisciplinary background (24%), Researchers with a Social Sciences and Humanities background (14%), and Innovators - Entrepreneurs/self-employed (14%), and as shown in Table 8.

Applicants' profile	Number of applicants
Innovator – Entrepreneur/self-employed	3
Researcher – Technical	10
Researcher - Social Sciences and Humanities	3
Researcher – Multidisciplinary	5

TABLE 9: OVERVIEW OF THE ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS' PROFILE - CHALLENGES

5 candidates among the eligible Applicants were **women**.

Among all eligible Applicants under the Challenges track, **19 candidates** are residents/taxpayers in an **EU Member State**, while **2 candidates** are resident/taxpayers in a **Horizon Europe Associated Country**.

Applicants' country of establishment	Number of applicants
Italy	13
Germany	3
Turkey	2
Belgium	1
Ireland	1
Netherlands	1

TABLE 10: OVERVIEW OF THE ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS' COUNTRY OF ESTABLISHMENT - CHALLENGES

The preferred Challenges were the ones proposed by Fermilab, Fermilab, Superconducting Quantum Materials & Systems (SQMS) Center in the US, which have been chosen by 7 Applicants out of 21.

To sum up, the Challenges track recorded a majority of Researchers with a technical background participating, mostly coming from EU Member States and willing to spend 3-6 months to develop their project/idea/product along with a host organisation settled in the United States.

Focusing on the **10 selected candidates** under the Challenges track during the three rounds of open calls, **6 Fellows** were **Researchers with a technical background**, **2** were **Innovators**, while **2** were **Researchers with a Multidisciplinary** background.

2 selected Fellows were **women**.

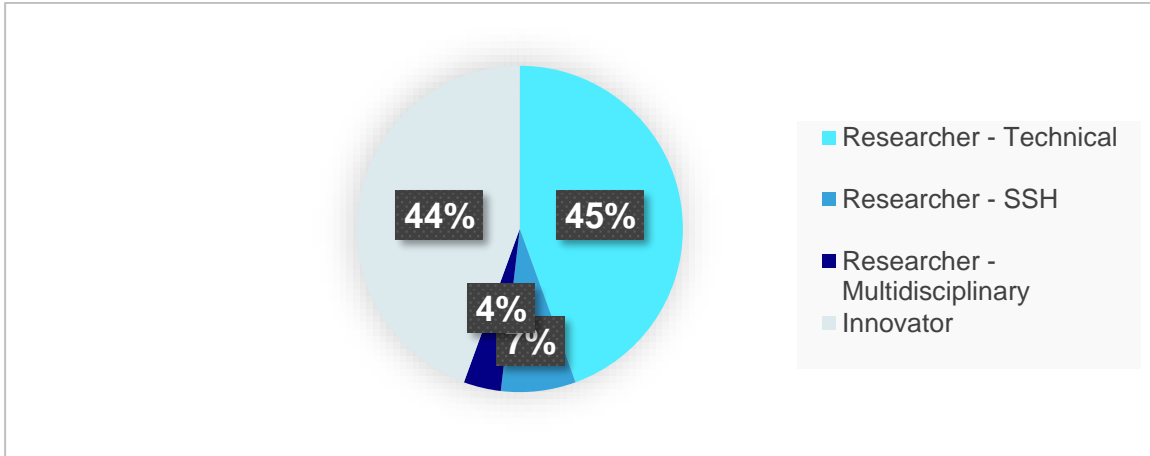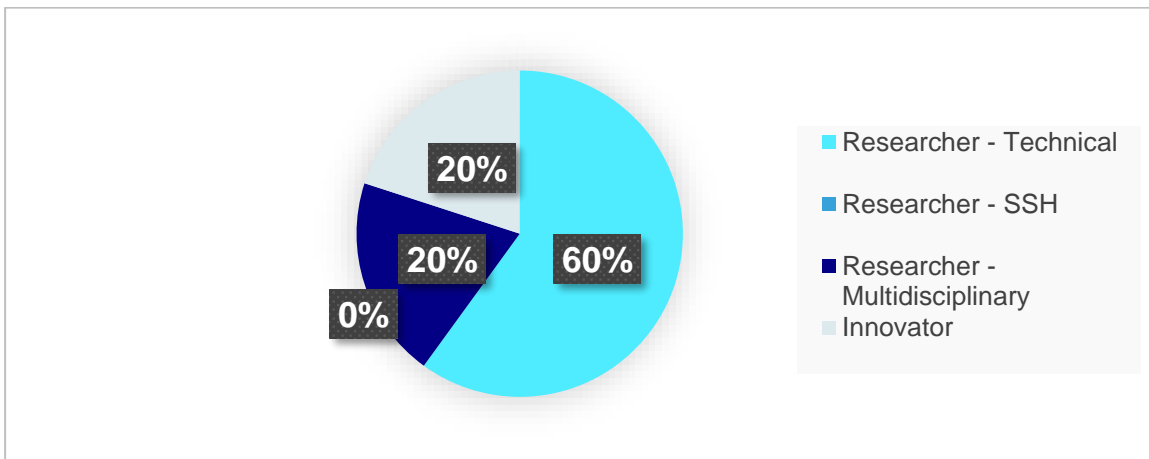FIGURE 7: SELECTED APPLICANTS' PROFILE – CHALLENGES

Considering the country of the establishment, **8 Fellows** out of 10 were from an **EU Member State**, while **2 Fellows** were coming from **Horizon Europe Associated countries** (Turkey).
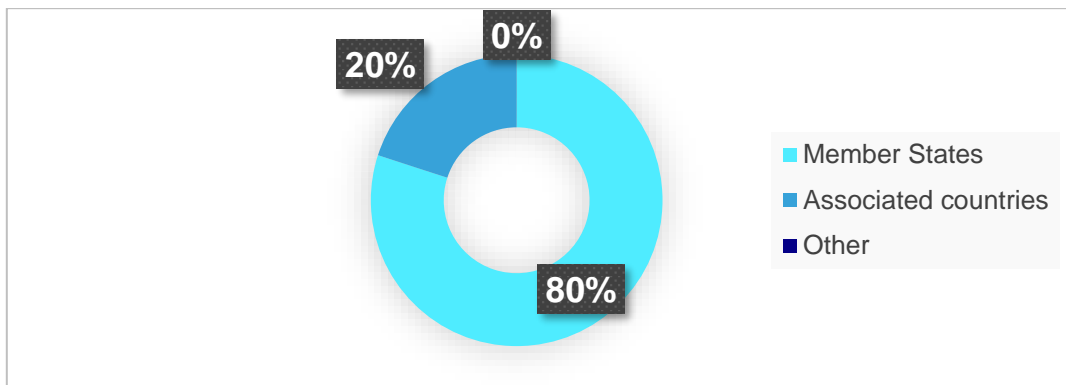
FIGURE 8: SELECTED APPLICANTS' COUNTRIES – CHALLENGES

All the 10 Fellows chose a host organisation based in the **US**.
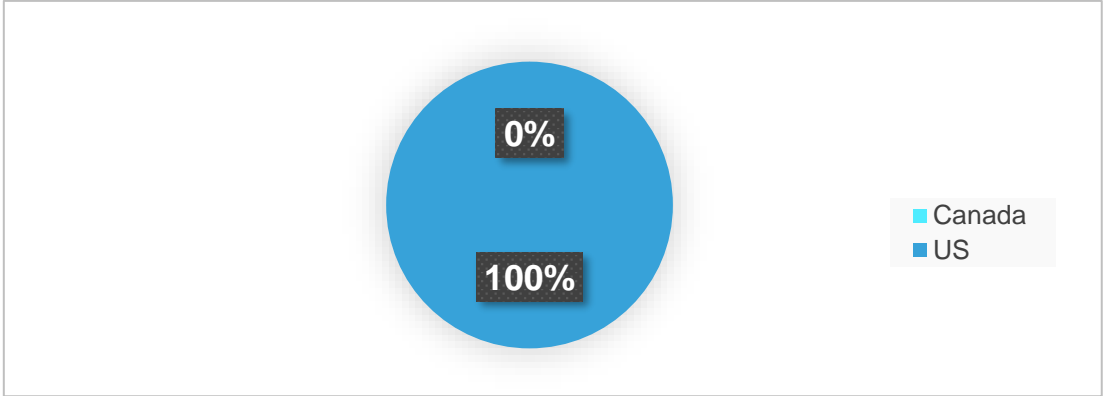
FIGURE 9: HOST ORGANISATIONS SELECTED BY THE FELLOWS – CHALLENGES

3 LIST OF SELECTED FELLOWS

This section aims at presenting a general overview of the Fellows selected under the three rounds 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 could be found 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 creation of Standards in the next generation of	AI, Big Data, Cloud/Edge Computing, Intuitive user experience, IoT, Trust, Web 3.0 **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Cooperation, Digitalization, Design, Interoperability,

			smart cities and services	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, Northeastern University (US)	5G-enabled Connected Robotics Emulator	5G/6G, AI, Autonomous, V2X, Industry 4.0/5.0 , IoT **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** 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 **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Cooperation, Data privacy and sovereignty, Data protection, Digitalization,

				Diversity, Inclusion, Interoperability, Social participation, Transparency
Chiara Casoni, Innovator	Spain	HID Global, (US)	Bridging Borders: Expanding a European SME Network into the US Market	Blockchain, Cybersecurity, Decentralized Internet, Web 3.0 , Data sovereignty, Decentralized digital identities **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Data privacy and sovereignty, Data protection, Digitalization, Interoperability, Openness, Security, User's Rights
Hugo Lamy, Innovator	France	Temple University, (US)	Inkspire	AI, Intuitive user experience, Mental Health **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** User Experience, Psychology
Miguel Cabrita, Innovator	Portugal	EDP Renewables North America, (US)	Post-mortem wind turbine downtime analysis with AI	AI, Big Data, Energy transition **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Digitalization, Sustainability, User Experience, Environment
Marwan El Chazli, Researcher – Technical	Switzerland	John Hopkins Whiting School of Engineering, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Barman Laboratory, (US)	Next-generation bacterial sensing for health and sustainability	AI, Big Data, Environment, Health, Industry 4.0/5.0, Food security, Safety **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Autonomy,

				Cooperation, Digitalization, Green IT & Respect for the environment , Openness, Sustainability, Transparency, Environment
Jason Pereira, Researcher – Technical	Italy	University of Southern California, (US)	Out of distribution generalization in quantum machine learning	Quantum computing and algorithms, Machine learning **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Cooperation, Security
Akram Alzaghir, Researcher – Technical	Turkey	College of Science and Engineering, (US)	Design and Implementation of Smart Irrigation System based on Internet of Things Using Sensor Fusion	AI, Big Data, Cloud/Edge Computing, Decentralized Internet, IoT **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Cooperation, Digitalization, Design, Green IT & Respect for the environment , Lifelong learning, Environment
Federico Reghenzani, Researcher – Technical	Italy	New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), (US)	PAIRS - Pervasive, Advanced, and Intelligent Real-time Systems	AI, Autonomous, V2X, Cloud/Edge Computing, Industry 4.0/5.0 , IoT **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Autonomy, Digitalization, Interoperability, Security
Martina Motta, Researcher - Social Sciences and Humanities	Italy	MIT Massachusetts Institute of	TANGIBLE KNIT PRIVACY STRUCTURES - AI Fashion and Actuated Knitwear	AI **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Data

		Technology - Media Lab, (US)	for Privacy Protection	privacy and sovereignty, Data protection, Design, Equity, Transparency, User's Rights
Emanuele Marino, Researcher – Technical	Italy	University of Pennsylvania, (US)	Self-assembled lasers make multiple wavelength transmission viable	Energy transition **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Design
Tommaso Carraro, Researcher – Technical	Italy	Department of Computer Science, Rutgers University, (US)	Application of Neuro-Symbolic approaches to overcome historical recommender systems' limitations	AI, Intuitive user experience **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Transparency, User Experience
Vasili Manfredi, Innovator	Italy	Carleton University, CIMS Carleton Immersive Media Studio, (CA)	PIXEL VR - Photorealistic Imaging and EXact modeLing for enhanced Virtual Reality	Environment, Immersive Environments - VR/AR/MR/XR , Metaverse (digital commons), Virtual Realities **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Anthropology, Digitalization, Design, Inclusion, Interoperability, Social participation, Sociology, Sustainability, Environment
Marouane Tliba, Researcher – Technical	France	University of Illinois Chicago, (US)	Immersive User-Centric QoE	AI, Cloud/Edge Computing, Immersive Environments - VR/AR/MR/XR , Intuitive user experience, Metaverse (digital commons), Virtual Realities, Xtended Realities

				Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Digitalization, Diversity, Inclusion, Openness, User Experience
Chiara Masiero Sgrinzatto, Researcher - Multidisciplinary	Italy	New York Institute of Technology. Department: School of Architecture and Design (US)	See the Invisible. How generative-AI can support panoramas artists to represent spaces in a deeper way, while understanding more about "Eternal cities"	AI, Immersive Environments - VR/AR/MR/XR , Other, Xtended Realities **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords**: Anthropology, Design, Inclusion, Resiliency, Social participation, Sociology, Modern Mythology
Gabriele Sacco, Researcher - Multidisciplinary	Italy	University of Toronto (CA)	Exceptional AI: Reasoning with ExceptIons	AI **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords**: Autonomy, Cooperation, Resiliency, Security, Transparency
Guillem López Paradís, Researcher - Technical	Spain	University of California, Santa Barbara (US)	Data Centre HyperLoops	AI, Big Data, Cloud / Edge Computing, Greening of ICT, Other **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords**: Green IT & Respect for the environment , Sustainability, Environment
Ahmed Rozza, Researcher - Technical	Hungary	Northeastern University, Chemistry and Chemical Biology department (US)	Big data for cancer-associated mutations in proteins	Big Data, Health **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords**: Design, Resiliency, Sustainability

| Martina Boschi, Researcher - Technical | Switzerland | McGill University (CA) | READMe: RELATIONAL EVENT ANOMALY DETECTION MODEL | AI, Statistical Modelling, Network Science, Anomaly Detection, Relational Event Models

Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Openness, Security, Transparency, User's Rights, User Empowerment |

TABLE 11: 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 Realities, Xtended Realities **Human-centric NGI-relevant**

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

			Sustainability in Transportation	Digitalization, Openness, Sustainability, User's Rights, Behavioural Psychology
Sébastien Batty, Innovator	France	Santa Clara University (US)	Intelligent Wireless Drones Charging Platform	AI, Autonomous, V2X, Big Data, Cloud/Edge Computing, E-mobility, Energy transition, Environment, Intuitive user experience, IoT **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Autonomy, Digitalization, Green IT & Respect for the environment , Interoperability, Sustainability, User Experience, Environment
Julien Paris, Innovator	France	Mitacs (CA)	Datami	Decentralized Internet, Intuitive user experience, Data sovereignty, Digital commons **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Autonomy, Cooperation, Data privacy and sovereignty, Digitalization, Design, Inclusion, Interoperability, Openness, Resiliency, Social participation, Transparency, User Experience
Soumya Kanti Datta, Innovator	France	Arizona State University (US)	SPARTA - Secure, Privacy Aware	Cybersecurity, Immersive Environments -

			Extended Reality Platform	VR/AR/MR/XR , Virtual Realities, Xtended Realities **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Data privacy and sovereignty, Data protection, Digitalization, Lifelong learning, Security
Simone Zerbini, Researcher – Technical	Italy	Arizona State University (US)	Improving Fuzzing Through Symbolic Execution	Cybersecurity **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Security
Katalin Feher, Researcher – Social Sciences/Humanities	Hungary	Concordia University Applied AI Institute (CA)	InfoComm & MediaTech by AI	AI, Immersive Environments - VR/AR/MR/XR , Metaverse (digital commons), Trust, Web 3.0 **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Data privacy and sovereignty, Digitalization, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Openness, Politics, Resiliency, Sustainability, Transparency
Niccolò Ferrari, Innovator	Italy	Santa Clara University (US)	A hassle-free solution for EV Batteries end-of-life, enabling a true circular economy	E-mobility, Energy transition, Environment **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Green IT & Respect for 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
Benjamin Talin, Innovator	Switzerland	Mason Enterprise Center Fairfax (US)	MoreThanDigital Insights	AI, Big Data, Trust, Digital commons **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Cooperation, Digitalization, Equity, Inclusion, Interoperability, Lifelong learning, Openness, Resiliency, Transparency, Environment
Sümeyye Kaynak, Researcher - Technical	Turkey	University of Iowa Hydroinformatics Lab (US)	Artificial Intelligence Driven Big Data Analytics for Extremes Climate Events	AI, Big Data, Environment, Industry 4.0/5.0 , IoT, Data sovereignty **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Autonomy, Data privacy and sovereignty,

				Interoperability, Security, Sustainability, Transparency, Environment
Jhonatan Tavori, Researcher - Technical	Israel	Columbia University (US)	Enhancing the Resilience of Real-Time Vehicular-Networks to Worst-Case Cyber Attacks	AI, Autonomous, V2X, Cloud/Edge Computing, Cybersecurity, IoT, Trust **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Data protection, Green IT & Respect for the environment , Interoperability, Resiliency, Security, Sustainability, User Experience
Nurcan Tüfekci, Researcher - Social Sciences and Humanities	Turkey	University of Maryland Baltimore County (US)	Virtual Privacy	AI, Cybersecurity, Decentralized Internet, Trust, Web 3.0 , Data sovereignty, Virtual Realities, Other, Digital commons **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Data privacy and sovereignty, Data protection, Design, Diversity, Politics, Security, Social participation, Sociology, User's Rights, User Experience
Ahmet Nuri Ozcivan, Researcher - Technical	Turkey	University of Iowa Hydroinformatics Lab (US)	Smart City Digital Twin Framework For Environmental Analysis	AI, Big Data, Cloud/Edge Computing, Environment, Industry 4.0/5.0 , Web 3.0 , Data sovereignty

				Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Data privacy and sovereignty, Digitalization, Design, Green IT & Respect for the environment , Interoperability, Lifelong learning, Openness, Resiliency, Sustainability, User Experience, Environment
Núria Pastor Hernández, Innovator	Spain	Temple University, (US)	Vitalera US soft landing	Health **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Data privacy and sovereignty, Data protection, Digitalization, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Interoperability, User Experience
Emilio Paolini, Researcher - Technical	Italy	Saint Louis University, (US)	Adaptive Edge-AI deployment in NextG wireless Networks	5G/6G, AI, Greening of ICT **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Green IT & Respect for the environment , Sustainability, User Experience
Sileshi Nibret Zeleke, Researcher - Technical	Italy	The Pennsylvania State University, (US)	Explainable and Privacy-Preserving Federated Learning Based System for Trustworthy Age-Related Disease Diagnosis	AI, Health, Trust, Privacy-Preservation **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Cooperation, Data privacy and sovereignty, Data protection, Explainability

René Krikke, Innovator	Cyprus	Arizona State University , (US)	PRIDE - Privacy, Resilience & Integrations for Decentralized Ecosystems	AI, Blockchain, Cloud/Edge Computing, Cybersecurity, Decentralized Internet, Trust, Web 3.0 , Data sovereignty, Digital commons **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Autonomy, Cooperation, Data privacy and sovereignty, Data protection, Digitalization, Design, Interoperability, Openness, Resiliency, Security, Social participation
Zoran Nasteski, Innovator	Poland	Arizona State University, (US)	QX Consumer Chain: Enhancing Transatlantic Consumer Trust with a Scalable, Nominated Proof of Stake-Enabled EVM L2 Blockchain	Blockchain, Decentralized Internet, Industry 4.0/5.0 , Trust, Web 3.0 , Data sovereignty **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Cooperation, Data privacy and sovereignty, Digitalization, Interoperability, Security, Transparency, User's Rights, User Experience

TABLE 12: 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
Ambra Mariani, Researcher - Technical	Italy	Fermilab - SQMS Center (US)	Shielding Quantum Processing Units from Cosmic Rays to reduce errors	Quantum computing and algorithms **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Cooperation, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Openness
Giulio Sidoretti, Researcher - Technical	Italy	University of Colorado, Boulder (US)	TNA - Transparent Network Acceleration	5G/6G, Big Data, Cloud/Edge Computing, Cybersecurity **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Green IT & Respect for the environment , Openness,

				Resiliency, Security, Sustainability
Chiara Vercellino, Researcher - Technical	Italy	Fermilab - SQMS Center (US)	NISQ-EMU - NISQ-rEady QuantuM algorithms for indUstry 4.0	Industry 4.0/5.0 , Quantum computing and algorithms **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Cooperation, Digitalization, Openness, Transparency
Francesco De Dominicis, Researcher - Technical	Italy	Fermilab - SQMS Center (US)	ARQ - Abatement of Radioactivity for Qubits	Quantum computing and algorithms **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Cooperation, Lifelong learning, Openness
Mustafa Ergen, Innovator	Turkey	EAEC Council, (US)	LImIT: LLM for IT for auto-monitoring, optimizing, and troubleshooting end-user broadband experience.	5G/6G, AI, Decentralized Internet, Greening of ICT **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Autonomy, Data protection, Green IT & Respect for the environment, Security
Matt Murtagh, Researcher - Multidisciplinary	Ireland	Pennsylvania State University, (US)	InterDev - Making International Development Research Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable (FAIR)	AI, Big Data, Decentralized Internet, Intuitive user experience, Digital commons **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Cooperation, Digitalization, Equity, Interoperability, Politics, Social

				participation, Sociology
Robert Heinecke, Innovator	Germany	East Carolina University Center for IOT Engineering and Innovation, (US)	Data-driven Environmental Resilience	AI, Big Data, Environment, IoT, Digital commons **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Digitalization, Sustainability, Transparency, Environment
Maurizio Ferrari Dacrema, Researcher - Technical	Italy	Fermilab, (US)	Machine Learning for Quantum Circuit Generation	AI, Quantum computing and algorithms **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Cooperation, Digitalization, Inclusion, Security

TABLE 13: FELLOWS SELECTED UNDER THE CHALLENGES TRACK

4 FINAL CONCLUSIONS

The three rounds of open calls - composed by three tracks: Paired teams, Open ideas and Challenges – and its related evaluation closed on **July 18th, 2024**.

A total number of **192 candidates submitted their application,** while a total of **67 Applicants were selected** to join the three Cohorts of Fellows under the NGI Enrichers Fellowship Programme.

Along the implementation of the activities, the open calls processes highlighted strengths and weaknesses, which can serve as a starting point when reflecting on proposing similar actions in the future. This chapter presents the key successes and difficulties of the three rounds of open calls, starting from the lessons learnt from the data analysis of the three rounds of open calls.

Adaptation of procedures

During the implementation of the 2nd round of open call, and subsequently of the 3rd round, the following changes to the call text and selection procedures have been introduced:

- **Significantly adapted the timeline** by anticipating the official launch of the second round of calls in Summer 2023 (**July 1st, 2023**).

- **Adapted the external evaluation process** by and **involving a member from the Consortium** along with one external evaluator, instead of two external evaluators for each application due to budget constraints.

- **Adapted the interviews process to reduce the timeframe for the evaluation** for the Open ideas and Challenges tracks by automatically pre-selecting the Applicants who got the highest score among the candidates and carrying out the interviews afterwards, to confirm the match between the chosen host organisation and the Fellow. Additionally, the NGI Enrichers team member played a crucial role in facilitating the contacts, but **without participating directly in the interview phase**.

- **Harmonised the submission process across the tracks** through the introduction of the **pitch deck** for all the three tracks, integrated with additional free slides.

These changes strongly improved the submission and evaluation process, reducing the duration of these phases and providing a higher quality in the selection and evaluation.

NGI Enrichers Programme promotion

The word-of-mouth strategy and email campaign were confirmed as the best two winning ways to promote the opportunities provided by NGI Enrichers Fellowship Programme and supported the further involvement of candidates from other EU and/or Associated Countries – especially Switzerland - in the Programme. The Consortium's decision to continue leveraging on the above-mentioned

Gender balance

Even though it was part of NGI Enrichers Consortium' intensions to ensure a gender balance in the selected applicants, it is worth noticed that only 12 selected candidates out of a total 67 are women (17,9%). The third call registered a decrease in women's participation, showing a significant difficulty in enhancing the feminine participation, despite promoting the open calls towards women innovators and researchers through synergies with EU projects (e.g., *GILL-Project*) and EU Associations (e.g., *European Women in Tech*, *Stem by Women*, *Women4IT*, *European Women VC*, etc.).

Country of Establishment Balance

The distribution of applicants' countries of establishment reveals a clear predominance of submissions from EU Member States, particularly from Italy, which consistently had the highest number of applicants across all rounds. Italy is followed by countries such as France, Spain, Turkey, and Germany, with a noticeable presence of participants from Horizon Europe associated countries, including Turkey and Israel. Switzerland also maintained a steady representation in the applicant pool. However, despite concerted efforts to enhance participation from Ukraine, the number of applicants from this country remained low. This trend indicates that additional targeted outreach and support strategies may be necessary to boost applications from Ukraine in similar actions in the future.

To achieve a more balanced representation of applicants across different countries, it would be ideal to explore targeted promotion in underrepresented regions, collaborate more closely with local stakeholders, and ensure tailored support for applicants from countries with lower participation. These efforts could help diversify the applicant pool and enhance the geographic scope of the program.

Balance within Fellows selected under the three tracks

Despite efforts to achieve a balance across the three tracks, the objective could not be fully realized. The "Challenges" track saw significantly fewer applications and selected participants compared to the other tracks, especially the "Paired Teams" track. This imbalance can be attributed to the higher quality and advanced development of projects submitted under the Paired Teams track, where applicants had already identified a host. While the number of eligible applications above the threshold for the "Challenges" track has improved over the three rounds, the overall participation in this track remains disproportionately low.

Hosts balance

A significant trend emerged in the selection process for NGI Enrichers, with the majority of applicants being selected for US-based hosts. This has led to an

imbalance in the distribution of placements between US and Canadian hosts, with far fewer applicants being matched with hosts in Canada. Despite efforts to promote opportunities in both countries, the concentration of higher-quality applications and host matches in the US made it difficult to achieve a more even balance.

Specific Fellow's case

One applicant selected in the second cohort faced significant visa issues, preventing him from attending the bootcamp in person. As a result, his departure was postponed. However, in the interim, the applicant relocated abroad as a refugee, which caused him to lose his eligibility to participate in the Programme. Consequently, the applicant could not proceed with their planned departure. Despite this, the Consortium proposed that he still could be featured on the NGI Enrichers website and take on the role of an Ambassador for the Programme, highlighting his valuable contributions.

ANNEX I – AGENDAS 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 Dr Svetlana Klessova (G.A.C. Group)* and roundtable of project partners
14:15 – 14:25	**Presentation of NGI Enrichers in a nutshell** presented by *Dr Svetlana Klessova (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 *Fahima Sadaoui-Ramos (Enrich Global)*
15:20 – 15:35	**What to do before the bootcamp in Rome (PPT, CMP, visa)** by *Blandine Chantepie-Kari (Temple University Philadelphia),*
15:35 – 15:40	**Fellows' technical assistance,** presented by *Giulia Butera (APRE)* and *Andre Almeida (SPI)*
15:40 – 15:50	**Mentoring presentation** by *Latif Ladid (mentor)*
15:50 – 16:00	Presentation of **support services by NGI Zero,** presented by *Jos van den Oever, NGI Zero*

Confidential session only for NGI Enrichers consortium members and the fellows

16:00 – 16:15	**Sub-grant agreement, payments, contact points and OneDrive channel,** presented by *Krisztina Dax and Theo Lefevre (G.A.C. Group)*
16:15 – 16:30	**Q&A session**
16:30	**Closing** *by Krisztina Dax and Dr Svetlana Klessova (G.A.C. Group)*

FIGURE 10: AGENDA OF THE ONLINE PRE-DEPARTURE BOOTCAMP – 1ST CALL

ONLINE PRE-DEPARTURE BOOTCAMP AGENDA

January 24th, 2024

From 4:00 to 6:30 (CEST)

Please to access the Teams meeting

4:00 – 4:15	**Welcome and introduction to the NGI Enrichers consortium team** *by Dr Svetlana Klessova (G.A.C. Group)* and roundtable of project partners
4:15 – 4:25	**Presentation of NGI Enrichers in a nutshell** presented by *Dr Svetlana Klessova (Project director and coordinator from G.A.C. Group)*
4:25 – 5:05	**Fellows' roundtable**
	Fellows briefly introduce themselves and their project – in 1 minute each, upon being called.
5:05 – 5:20	**Information about the trainings before, during and after the live Bootcamp in Rome (February 2024)** presented by *Fahima Sadaoui-Ramos (Enrich Global)*
5:20 – 5:35	**What to do before the bootcamp in Rome (PPT, CMP, visa)** by *Blandine Chantepie-Kari (Temple University Philadelphia),*
5:35 – 5:40	**Fellows' technical assistance,** presented by *Giulia Butera (APRE)* and *Andre Almeida (SPI)*
5:40 – 5:50	**Mentoring presentation** by *Latif Ladid (mentor)*

Confidential session only for NGI Enrichers consortium members and the fellows

5:50 – 6:10	**Sub-grant agreement, payments, contact points and OneDrive channel,** presented by *Kseniia SAVCHENKO and Theo Lefevre (G.A.C. Group)*
6:10 – 6:30	**Q&A session**
6:30	**Closing** *by Kseniia SAVCHENKO and Dr Svetlana Klessova (G.A.C. Group)*

FIGURE 11: AGENDA OF THE ONLINE PRE-DEPARTURE BOOTCAMP – 2ND CALL

ONLINE PRE-DEPARTURE BOOTCAMP AGENDA

September 19th, 2024

From 15:30 to 18:00 (CEST)

15:30 – 15:45	**Welcome and introduction to the NGI Enrichers consortium team** *by Dr Svetlana Klessova (G.A.C. Group)* and roundtable of project partners
15:45 – 15:55	**Presentation of NGI Enrichers in a nutshell** presented by *Dr Svetlana Klessova (Project director and coordinator from G.A.C. Group)*
15:55 – 16:25	**Fellows' roundtable** Fellows briefly introduce themselves and their project – in 1 to 2 minutes each, upon being called.
16:25 – 16:40	**Information about the trainings before, during and after the live Bootcamp in Rome (February 2024)** presented by *Sabine Kennedy (Enrich Global)*
16:40 – 16:55	**What to do before the bootcamp in Rome (PPT, CMP, visa)** by *Blandine Chantepie-Kari (Temple University Philadelphia)*,
16:55 – 17:10	**Fellows' technical assistance**, presented by *Paola Gortan (APRE)* and *Andre Almeida (SPI)*
17:10 – 17:20	**Mentoring presentation** by *Latif Ladid (mentor)*

Confidential session only for NGI Enrichers consortium members and the fellows

17:20 – 17:40	**Sub-grant agreement, payments, contact points and OneDrive channel**, presented by *Kseniia SAVCHENKO* and *Theo Lefevre (G.A.C. Group)*
17:40 – 18:00	**Q&A session**
18:00	**Closing** by *Kseniia SAVCHENKO* and *Theo Lefevre (G.A.C. Group)*

FIGURE 12: AGENDA OF THE ONLINE PRE-DEPARTURE BOOTCAMP – 3RD CALL

ANNEX II – REPORT ON THE THIRD ROUND OF OPEN CALLS

This Annex provides an overview of the third round of calls of the NGI Enrichers project including submission, evaluation and selection process. The annex 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 third 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 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 third 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.

SELECTION AT A GLANCE

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

- **128 Applications started** on F6S within the deadline;

- **70 finalised Applications** submitted on F6S;

- **56 eligible Applications**;

- **14 selected Fellows** joining the 3rd Cohort:

  - **5** Fellows selected under the **Paired teams** track;

  - **5** Fellows for the **Open ideas** track;

  - **4** Fellows for the **Challenges** track.

- **5** selected Fellows are **Innovators – Entrepreneurs/self-employed**;

- **9** selected Fellows are **Researchers**:

  - **6 Researchers - Technical;**

  - **3 Research – Social Sciences and Humanities.**

  - **0 Researchers – Multidisciplinary.**

- **12 Fellows** residents/taxpayers in an **EU Member State**;

- **1 Fellow** resident/taxpayer in a **Horizon Europe Associated Country**;

- **1 Fellow** resident/taxpayer in **Switzerland**.

- **3 women** selected as Fellows to join the 3rd Cohort;

- **12 Fellows** selected an **US host organisation**;

- **2 Fellows** selected a **Canadian host organisation**.

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 third round of calls in the framework of the NGI Enrichers project opened on **March 8th, 2024,** and closed on **May 10th, 2024,** at **23h59 Brussels time**. It was 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 applicants were invited to submit a proposal answering a specific challenge defined by the host organisation.

The invitation to submit a proposal under the NGI Enrichers Fellowship Programme was opened to Fellows with a proven track in the NGI sector and different profiles:

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).

Under the three tracks, Applicants were invited to submit only one Application through the **F6S platform** by filling in an **application form** and a **pitch deck** designed to collect information about the project.

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.

The call opening was announced through the official communication channels of the NGI Enrichers projects (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** 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.

1.2   PAIRED TEAMS TRACK

To apply for the Paired teams track, the mandatory additional documents included:

- the **Statement of Commitment** (available on the NGI Enrichers website) signed by the host organisation willing to host the candidate, if selected;

- **CV**;

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

Under the third Paired teams track, a total of **19 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, all **19 Applications were considered eligible**.

The eligible 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), or one external evaluator along with an expert from the NGI Enrichers Consortium.

The evaluators have been assigned through the F6S Platform, 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**.

Evaluator 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.

4 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 **15 Applications reached the required threshold**. According to budget's constraint and the quality of the project proposed, **5 Applications** were automatically selected to join the NGI Enrichers Fellowship Programme. The selected applicants have been notified through an acceptance letter, containing the ESR.

Paired teams track	Number of proposals
Proposals started within the deadline	32

Finalised Applications	19
Eligible proposals	19
Proposals below the threshold	4
Proposals above the threshold	15
Selected proposals	5

TABLE 14: OVERVIEW OF THE PAIRED TEAMS TRACK 3RD CALL

1.3 OPEN IDEAS TRACK

To apply for the Open ideas track, the Applicants were invited to submit their proposals following the procedure on F6S Platform, as described in section 1.1, and selecting **up to three host organisations** from the Search for hosts section within the NGI Enrichers official website.

Under the third Open ideas track, a total of **37 finalised Applications** were received. After the internal eligibility check, **28 Applications were considered eligible** to be evaluated. **9 Applications were not eligible** due to the following reasons:

- 3 Applicants did not develop the pitch deck using the official template provided by NGI Enrichers, as indicated in the Guide for Applicants;

- 1 Applicant did not fulfil the requirement of being residents/taxpayers in an EU Member State, Horizon Europe Associated Country, or in Switzerland;

- 1 Applicant did not fulfil the requirement of being an English Speaker, the official language of the NGI Enrichers Programme;

- 3 Applicants did not fulfil the education requirements of holding a Master's degree for Researchers and a Bachelor's degree for Innovators/Entrepreneurs;

- 1 Applicant did not complete the Application, as indicated in the Guide for Applicants, and presented the pitch deck in Russian

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

At the end of the first evaluation phase, **4 Applications were refused** because they did not reach the required threshold (15/25) while **24 Applications scored above 15.** Among them, **5 Applications were automatically pre-selected** to join the NGI Enrichers Fellowship Programme.

As stated in the Guide for Applicants, the pre-selected Applicants were interviewed by the sole host organisation indicated as first choice, in order to confirm the match.

The interviews were carried out **between June 20th, 2024,** and **July 12th, 2024.** 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 representative of the host organisation

was required to provide an opinion about the willingness to host that specific candidate or not.

For the third Open ideas track, a total of **5 Application were officially selected** to join the NGI Enrichers Fellowship Programme.

Open ideas track	Number of proposals
Proposals started within the deadline	61
Finalised Applications	37
Eligible proposals	28
Proposals below the threshold	4
Proposals above the threshold	24
Selected proposals	5

TABLE 15: OVERVIEW OF THE OPEN IDEAS TRACK 3RD CALL

1.4 CHALLENGES 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.

A total of **14 finalised Applications** were received under the Challenge track. After the internal eligibility check, **9 Applications were considered eligible** to be evaluated. **5 Applications were not eligible** due to the following reasons:

- 2 Applicants did not develop the pitch deck using the official template provided by NGI Enrichers, as indicated in the Guide for Applicants, and did not indicate the preferred Challenge.

- 1 Applicant did not fulfil the requirement of being residents/taxpayers in an EU Member State, Horizon Europe Associated Country, or in Switzerland;

- 1 Applicants did not develop the pitch deck using the official template provided by NGI Enrichers, as indicated in the Guide for Applicants;

- 1 Applicant presented the same project, participating company and host organisation of another Applicant

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

At the end of the first evaluation phase, **3 Applications were refused** because they did not reach the required threshold (15/25) while **6 Applications scored above 15.** The 6 pre-selected Applicants were interviewed by the host organisation who launched the specific selected Challenge, to confirm the match, as described in paragraph 1.3.

A total of **4 Applicants were selected under the Challenges track** and they were informed through email.

Challenges track	Number of proposals
Proposals started within the deadline	35
Finalised Applications	14
Eligible proposals	9
Proposals below the threshold	3
Proposals above the threshold	6
Selected proposals	4

TABLE 16: OVERVIEW OF THE CHALLENGES TRACK 3RD CALL

In total, **70 Applications** were submitted within the third round of calls and **14 Fellows** were selected through the three tracks of the open call:

- **5** in **Paired teams** track;

- **5** in **Open ideas** track;

- **4** 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 September 19th, 2024 (please find Agenda, Annex I).** This session aimed at providing information about the Fellowships and the in-person Bootcamp in Paris on October 23rd and 24th, 2024. Additionally, a Fellows' roundtable was foreseen, to allow selected candidates to briefly introduce themselves and their project.

Additionally, **asynchronous trainings on Visas for the US and Canada** were designed and shared with the selected Fellows to help preparing their departure and Fellowship. 7

2. DATA ANALYSIS

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

The analysis focuses on four main aspects:

- Applicants' profile;

- gender dimension;

- country of establishment;

- 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**. The analysis has been carried out separately per each track.

2.1 PAIRED TEAMS TRACK: APPLICANTS AND SELECTED FELLOWS

A total of **19 eligible Applications** were received under the third Paired team track.

Regarding the Applicants' profiles, it can be noticed that the majority of the Applicants was a **Researcher with a technical profile (74%)**, followed by a **Researchers with a Multidisciplinary background (16%)** and **Innovators – Entrepreneurs/self-employed (10%)**. The Social Sciences and Humanities profile was not represented. Additional details can be found in *Table 4*.

Applicants' profile	Number of applicants
Innovator – Entrepreneur/self-employed	2
Researcher – Technical	14
Researcher - Social Sciences and Humanities	0
Researcher - Multidisciplinary	3

TABLE 17: OVERVIEW OF THE ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS' PROFILE - PAIRED TEAMS 3RD CALL

A total of **3 eligible Applicants** out of 19 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 comes from an **EU Member State (84,2%)** while only **2 Applicants** comes from an **Horizon Europe Associated Countries** (Turkey and United Kingdom). One Applicant was resident/taxpayer in **Switzerland**.

The most performed countries were Italy, Germany and France More details can be found in *Table 5*.

Applicants' country of establishment	Number of applicants

Italy	7
Germany	3
France	2
Finland	1
Hungary	1
Slovenia	1
Spain	1
Switzerland	1
Turkey	1
United Kingdom	1

TABLE 18: OVERVIEW OF THE ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS' COUNTRY OF ESTABLISHMENT - PAIRED TEAMS 3RD CALL

Lastly, it is worth analysing the placement of the host organisations chosen by the Applicants. The large majority of the selected host organisations was established in the **United States** (**78,9%**, 15 candidates out of 19), while only **4 Applicants** (**21,1%**) chose a **Canadian** host organisation.

To summarise, the eligible Applicants under the third Paired team track were mostly male Researchers with a technical profile, coming from an EU Member State 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 5 selected candidates under the Paired teams track, **3 Fellows** (60%) were **Researchers with a technical profile**, and **2 Researchers with a Multidisciplinary profile** (40%). **2 selected Fellows** were **women**.
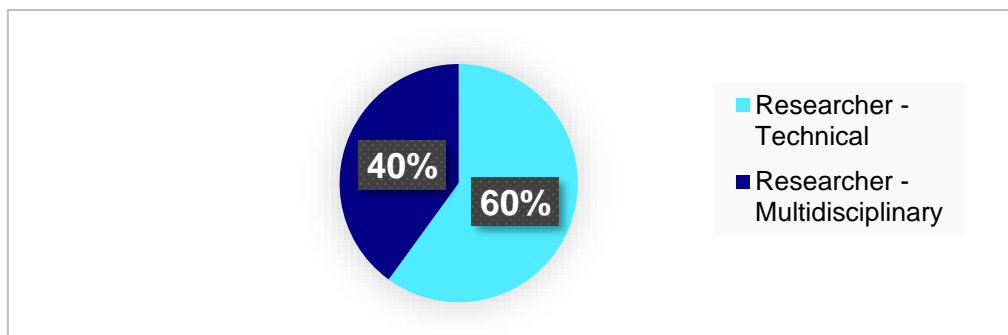

FIGURE 13: SELECTED APPLICANTS' PROFILE - PAIRED TEAMS 3RD CALL

Considering the country of the establishment, **4 Fellows** out of 5 were from an **EU Member State** (80%) – with **Italy** as the most represented country (2 Fellows) - while the **1** remaining Fellow came from **Switzerland**.
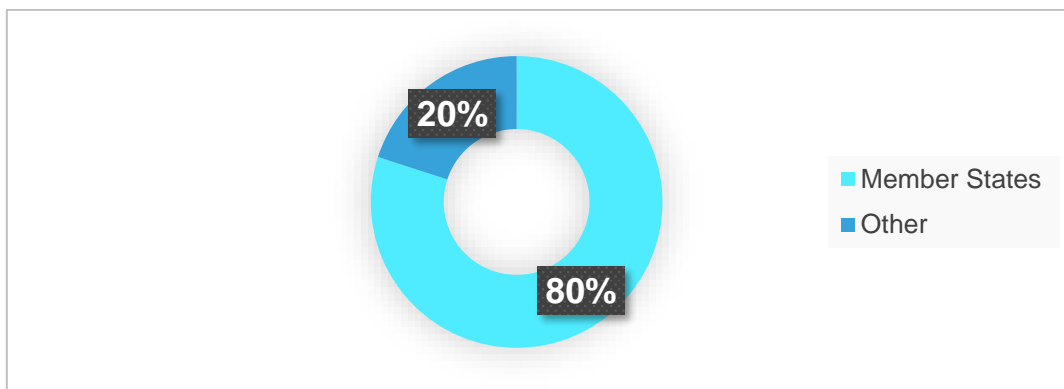
FIGURE 14: SELECTED APPLICANTS' COUNTRIES - PAIRED TEAMS 3RD CALL

3 Fellows (60%) under the Paired teams track selected a host organisation from the **US**, while **2 Fellows** (40%) will be hosted by a Canadian host organisation.
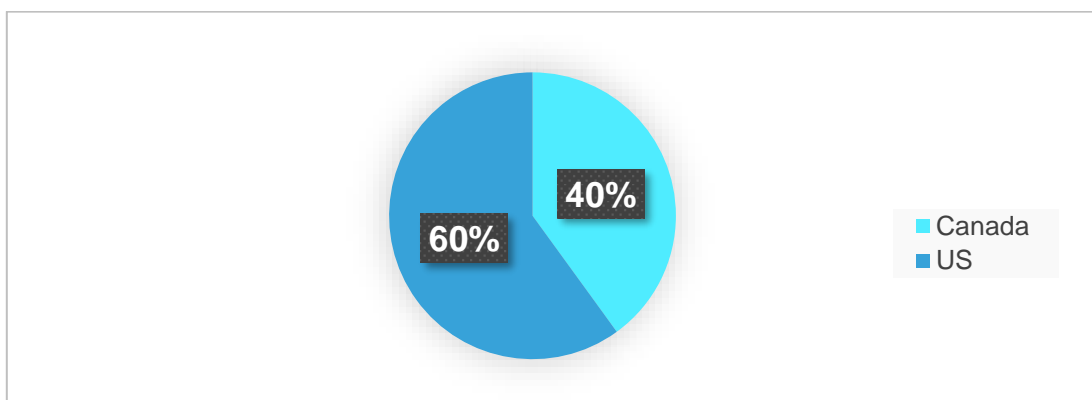

FIGURE 15: HOST ORGANISATIONS SELECTED BY THE FELLOWS - PAIRED TEAMS 3RD CALL

2.2   OPEN IDEAS TRACK: APPLICANTS AND SELECTED FELLOWS

Under the third Open ideas track, a total of **28 eligible Applications** were submitted.

Looking at the Applicants' profile, there is a balance between **Researchers with a technical background (43%)** and **Innovators – Entrepreneurs/self-employed (43%)**, followed by Applicants from a **Multidisciplinary background (11%)** and with **Social sciences and humanities (3%)**. Additional details can be found in *Table 6*.

Applicants' profile	Number of applicants
Innovator – Entrepreneur/self-employed	12
Researcher – Technical	12
Researcher - Multidisciplinary	3
Researcher – Social Sciences and Humanities	1

TABLE 19: OVERVIEW OF THE ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS' PROFILE - OPEN IDEAS 3RD CALL

A total of **6 candidates** among the eligible Applicants were **women**, while **1 candidate** preferred not to disclose their gender.

Considering the country of the establishment it can be noticed that **18 Applicants are coming from an EU Member State (64%)** and **8 Applicants are from a Horizon Europe Associated Country (29%)**, while the remaining 2 Applicants are residents/taxpayers in Switzerland (7%). The most performed countries were Italy (8 Applicants), Turkey (4) and United Kingdom (3). More details can be found in *Table 7*.

Applicants' country of establishment	Number of applicants
Italy	8
Turkey	4
United Kingdom	3
France	2
Switzerland	2
Cyprus	1
Germany	1
Hungary	1
Ireland	1
Isreal	1
Netherlands	1
Poland	1
Slovakia	1
Spain	1

TABLE 20: OVERVIEW OF THE ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS' COUNTRY OF ESTABLISHMENT - OPEN IDEAS 3RD CALL

Regarding the host organisation selected as a first choice by the Applicants, it can be noticed that most of the candidates selected as a first-choice universities established in the **US (79%)**, while **6 candidates** selected a university established in **Canada**.

To sum up, the Open ideas track recorded a balance in terms of Researchers with a technical background and Innovator profiles, with little percentages of Researchers coming from SSH and Multidisciplinary. Additionally, the majority of

applicants were established in EU Member States, with high percentage of candidates coming from Horizon Europe Associated Countries as well.

Focusing on the **5 selected candidates** under the Open ideas track, **2 Fellows** were **Researchers with a technical background**, while **3 were Innovators**. Only one selected candidate is a **woman**.
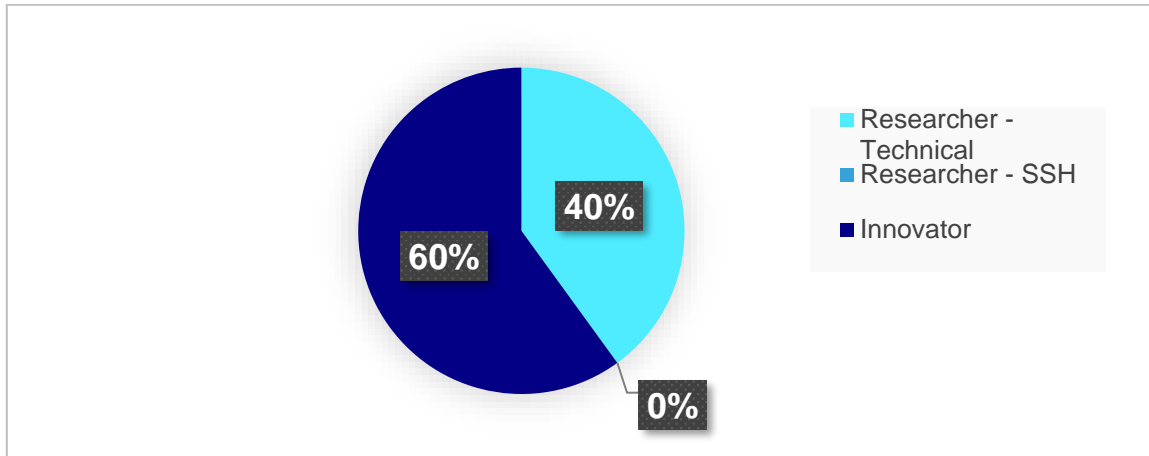

FIGURE 16: SELECTED APPLICANTS' PROFILE - OPEN IDEAS

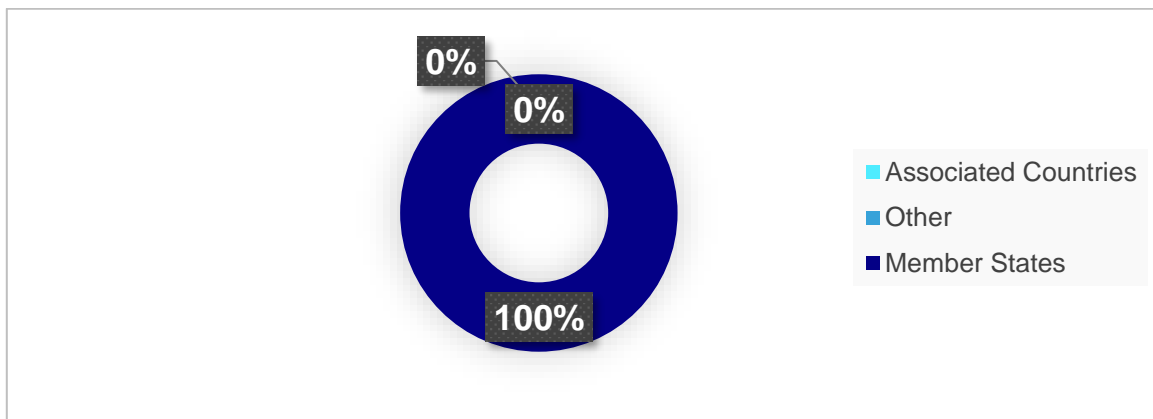All selected Fellows are coming from **EU Member States**.

FIGURE 17: SELECTED APPLICANTS' COUNTRY - OPEN IDEAS 3RD CALL

All the 5 Fellows chose a host organisation based in the **US**, with the **Arizona State University** (2 Fellows) as preferred host.
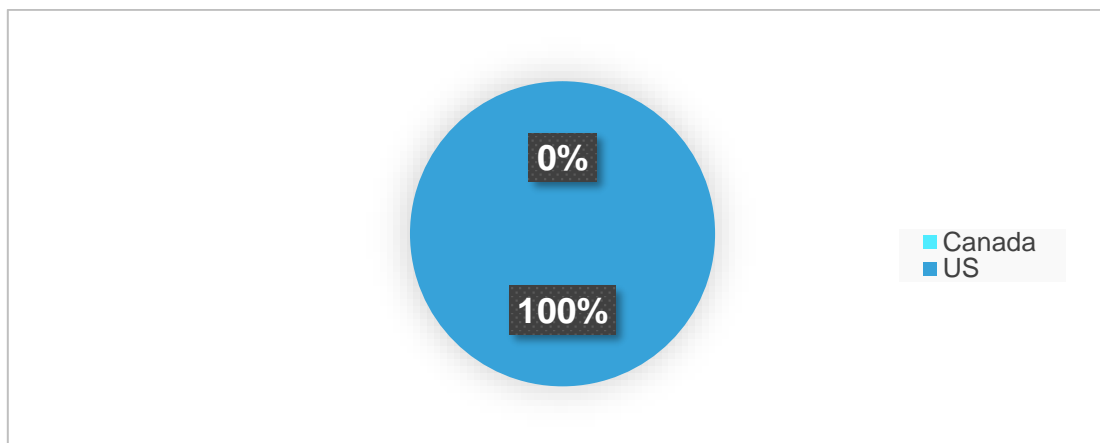
2.3 CHALLENGES TRACK: APPLICANTS AND SELECTED FELLOWS

Under the third Challenges track, a total of **9 eligible Applications** were submitted.

Looking at the Applicants' profile, the **45% of the candidates** is represented by **Researchers with a technical background**, followed by **Researchers** with a **Multidisciplinary background (33%)**, and **Innovators - Entrepreneurs/self-employed (22%)**, and as shown in *Table 8*.

Applicants' profile	Number of applicants
Innovator – Entrepreneur/self-employed	2
Researcher – Technical	4
Researcher - Social Sciences and Humanities	0
Researcher – Multidisciplinary	3

TABLE 21: OVERVIEW OF THE ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS' PROFILE – CHALLENGES 3RD CALL

Only **1 candidate** among the eligible Applicants was a **woman**.

Among all eligible Applicants under the Challenges track, **8 candidates** are residents/taxpayers in an **EU Member State**, mainly from Italy (4 candidates), while **1 candidate** is resident/taxpayers in a **Horizon Europe Associated Country**.

The preferred Challenges were the ones proposed by Fermilab, Superconducting Quantum Materials & Systems (SQMS) Center in the US, which have been chosen by 2 Applicants out of 9, and the ones proposed by the Pennsylvania State University, Social and Organizational Informatics, chosen by 2 candidates out of 9.

Among the selected candidates, **2 candidates** are **Innovators**, while **1** is a **Researcher** with **technical background** and **1 Researcher with Multidisciplinary background**. selected under the Challenges track are Researchers with a technical background. All selected candidates are **men**.
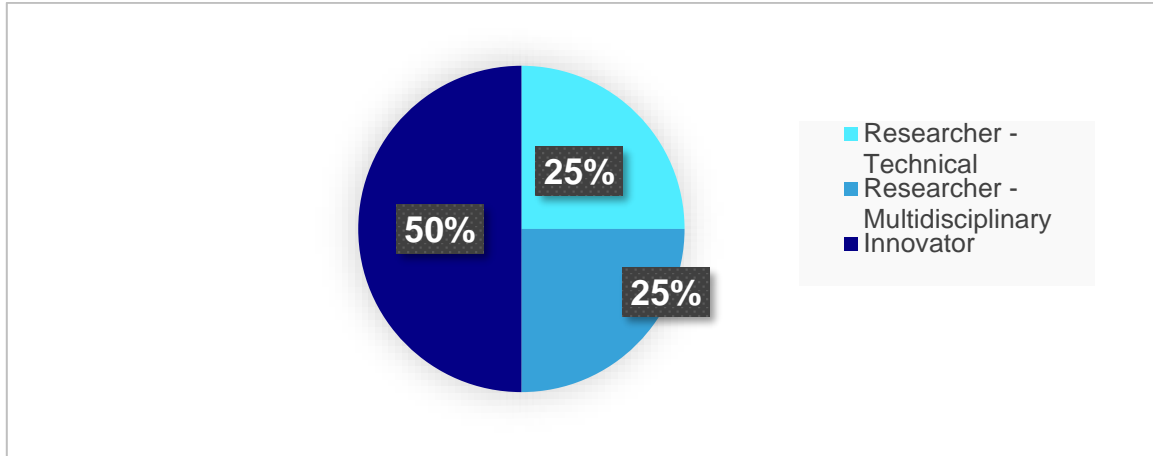
FIGURE 19: SELECTED APPLICANTS' PROFILE – CHALLENGES 3RD CALL

The **75%** of selected Fellows (3 out of 4) is coming from an **EU Member States**, while **1 candidate** is coming from a **Horizon Europe Associated Country** (Turkey).
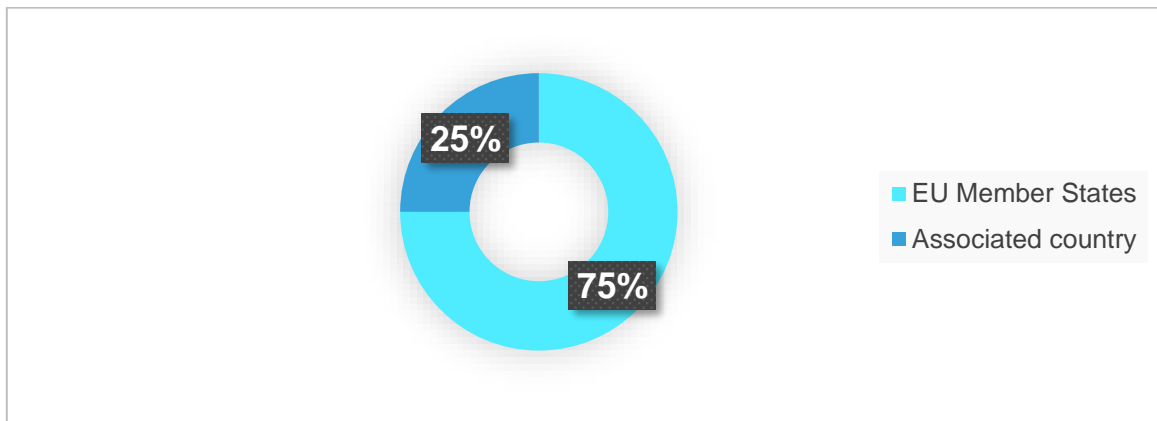

FIGURE 20: SELECTED APPLICANTS' COUNTRY – CHALLENGES 3RD CALL

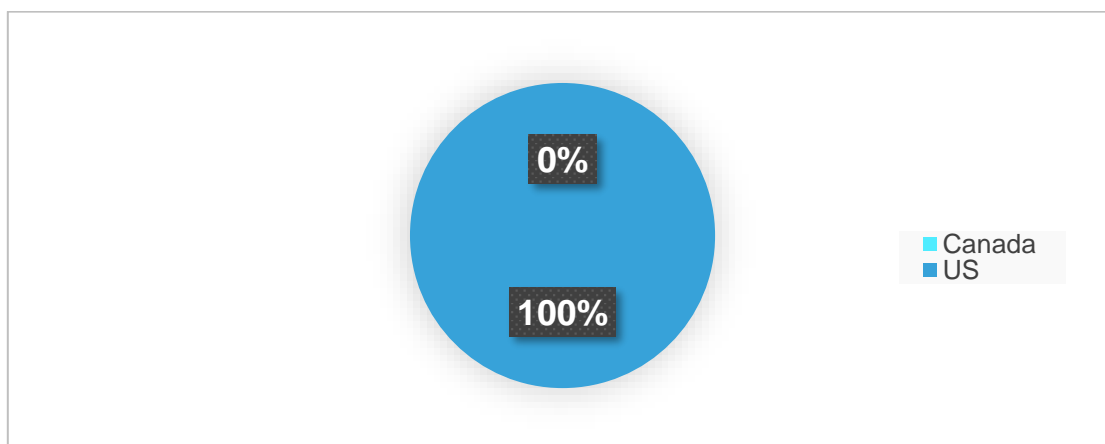**All the 4 Fellows** chose a host organisation based in the **US**.

FIGURE 21: HOST ORGANISATIONS SELECTED BY FELLOWS – CHALLENGES 3RD CALL

3. LIST OF SELECTED FELLOWS

This section aims at presenting a general overview of the Fellows selected under the third 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**
Chiara Masiero Sgrinzatto, Researcher - Multidisciplinary	Italy	New York Institute of Technology. Department: School of Architecture and Design (US)	See the Invisible. How generative-AI can support panoramas artists to represent spaces in a deeper way, while understanding more about "Eternal cities"	AI, Immersive Environments - VR/AR/MR/XR , Other, Xtended Realities **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords**: Anthropology, Design, Inclusion, Resiliency, Social participation, Sociology, Modern Mythology
Gabriele Sacco, Researcher - Multidisciplinary	Italy	University of Toronto (CA)	Exceptional AI: Reasoning with Exceptions	AI **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords**: Autonomy, Cooperation,

				Resiliency, Security, Transparency
Guillem López Paradís, Researcher - Technical	Spain	University of California, Santa Barbara (US)	Data Centre HyperLoops	AI, Big Data, Cloud / Edge Computing, Greening of ICT, Other **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords**: Green IT & Respect for the environment , Sustainability, Environment
Ahmed Rozza, Researcher - Technical	Hungary	Northeastern University, Chemistry and Chemical Biology department (US)	Big data for cancer-associated mutations in proteins	Big Data, Health **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords**: Design, Resiliency, Sustainability
Martina Boschi, Researcher - Technical	Switzerland	McGill University (CA)	READMe: RELATIONAL EVENT ANOMALY DETECTION MODEL	AI, Statistical Modelling, Network Science, Anomaly Detection, Relational Event Models **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords**: Openness, Security, Transparency, User's Rights, User Empowerment

TABLE 22: FELLOWS SELECTED UNDER THE PAIRED TEAMS TRACK 3RD CALL

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**

Núria Pastor Hernández, Innovator	Spain	Temple University, (US)	Vitalera US soft landing	Health **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Data privacy and sovereignty, Data protection, Digitalization, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Interoperability, User Experience
Emilio Paolini, Researcher - Technical	Italy	Saint Louis University, (US)	Adaptive Edge-AI deployment in NextG wireless Networks	5G/6G, AI, Greening of ICT **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Green IT & Respect for the environment , Sustainability, User Experience
Sileshi Nibret Zeleke, Researcher - Technical	Italy	The Pennsylvania State University, (US)	Explainable and Privacy-Preserving Federated Learning Based System for Trustworthy Age-Related Disease Diagnosis	AI, Health, Trust, Privacy-Preservation **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Cooperation, Data privacy and sovereignty, Data protection, Explainability
René Krikke, Innovator	Cyprus	Arizona State University , (US)	PRIDE - Privacy, Resilience & Integrations for Decentralized Ecosystems	AI, Blockchain, Cloud/Edge Computing, Cybersecurity, Decentralized Internet, Trust, Web 3.0 , Data sovereignty, Digital commons **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Autonomy, Cooperation, Data privacy and sovereignty, Data

				protection, Digitalization, Design, Interoperability, Openness, Resiliency, Security, Social participation
Zoran Nasteski, Innovator	Poland	Arizona State University, (US)	QX Consumer Chain: Enhancing Transatlantic Consumer Trust with a Scalable, Nominated Proof of Stake-Enabled EVM L2 Blockchain	Blockchain, Decentralized Internet, Industry 4.0/5.0 , Trust, Web 3.0 , Data sovereignty **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Cooperation, Data privacy and sovereignty, Digitalization, Interoperability, Security, Transparency, User's Rights, User Experience

TABLE 23: FELLOWS SELECTED UNDER THE OPEN IDEAS TRACK 3RD CALL

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**
Mustafa Ergen, Innovator	Turkey	EAEC Council, (US)	LImlT: LLM for IT for auto-monitoring, optimizing, and troubleshooting end-user broadband experience.	5G/6G, AI, Decentralized Internet, Greening of ICT **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Autonomy, Data protection, Green IT & Respect for the environment, Security

Matt Murtagh, Researcher - Multidisciplinary	Ireland	Pennsylvania State University, (US)	InterDev - Making International Development Research Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable (FAIR)	AI, Big Data, Decentralized Internet, Intuitive user experience, Digital commons **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Cooperation, Digitalization, Equity, Interoperability, Politics, Social participation, Sociology
Robert Heinecke, Innovator	Germany	East Carolina University Center for IOT Engineering and Innovation, (US)	Data-driven Environmental Resilience	AI, Big Data, Environment, IoT, Digital commons **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Digitalization, Sustainability, Transparency, Environment
Maurizio Ferrari Dacrema, Researcher - Technical	Italy	Fermilab, (US)	Machine Learning for Quantum Circuit Generation	AI, Quantum computing and algorithms **Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords:** Cooperation, Digitalization, Inclusion, Security

TABLE 24: FELLOWS SELECTED UNDER THE CHALLENGES TRACK 3RD CALL