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D1.3 REPORT ON THE SECOND ROUND OF OPEN CALLS AND LESSONS LEARNT

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Abstract	The present document D1.3 Report on the second round of open calls and lessons learnt provides an overview of the second round of calls of the NGI Enrichers project, including submission, evaluation and selection process. Moreover, the separated confidential annex summarises lessons learnt which will be taken into account for the last third round of calls of the NGI Enrichers Fellowship Programme.
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This deliverable (D1.3) provides an overview of the second round of calls of the NGI Enrichers project including submission, evaluation and selection process, and the lessons learnt.

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

- **Giving general insights on the background, call relevant information and results achieved** within the launch of the second 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 second 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.

The deliverable also include two annexes:

- **Annex I – Agenda of the online pre-departure bootcamp**
- **Annex II (Confidential) – Lessons Learnt and future steps.** This annex outlines **strengths and weaknesses** emerging from the implementation of the call as part of the **lessons learnt**, which have been partially resulted in changes in the call text and selection procedures introduced in the second round of calls but will be also further elaborated into hints aimed at ensuring a smoother execution of the next round. The conclusions presented in this Annex will be a starting point for the last upcoming round of calls in 2024, in order to push forward the fruitful collaboration between Europe, Canada and US.

SELECTION AT A GLANCE

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

- **96 Applications started** on F6S within the deadline;
- **48 finalised Applications** submitted on F6S;
- **39 eligible Applications;**
- **21 selected Fellows** joining the 2nd Cohort:
 - **12 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**;
- **16** selected Fellows are **Researchers**:
 - **14 Researchers - Technical**;
 - **2 Research – Social Sciences and Humanities**.
 - **0 Researchers – Multidisciplinary**.
- **14 Fellows** residents/taxpayers in an **EU Member State**;
- **5 Fellows** residents/taxpayers in a **Horizon Europe Associated Country**;
- **2 Fellows** residents/taxpayers in **Switzerland**.
- **6 women** selected as Fellows to join the 2nd Cohort;
- **19 Fellows** selected an **US host organisation**;
- **2 Fellows** selected a **Canadian host organisation**.



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ABBREVIATIONS

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

1.1 CALL INFORMATION

The second round of calls in the framework of the NGI Enrichers project opened on **July 1st, 2023** and closed on **September 30th, 2023 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 applicant 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 second 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, a total of **16 Applications were considered eligible**. Three participants were non eligible due to the following reasons:

- 1 Applicant had already been selected under the first round of calls;
- 2 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 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**.

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.

1 Application did not attain the threshold (15/25) and was automatically refused. The non-selected applicant has 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, **12 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	36
Finalised Applications	19
Eligible proposals	16
Proposals below the threshold	1
Proposals above the threshold	15
Selected proposals	12

TABLE 1: 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 second Open ideas track, a total of **22 finalised Applications** were received. After the internal eligibility check, **16 Applications were considered eligible** to be evaluated. **6 Applications were not eligible** due to the following reasons:

- 4 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 submitted two applications under two different tracks.

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

At the end of the first evaluation phase, **5 Applications were refused** because they did not reach the required threshold (15/25) while **11 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 November, 24th and December 12nd, 2023**. 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 second 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	41
Finalised Applications	22
Eligible proposals	16
Proposals below the threshold	5
Proposals above the threshold	11
Selected proposals	5

TABLE 2: 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 **7 finalised Applications** were received under the Challenge track and all were considered eligible, reaching the required threshold. Among them, **4 Applications were automatically pre-selected** to join the NGI Enrichers Fellowship Programme.

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.

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	19
Finalised Applications	7
Eligible proposals	7
Proposals below the threshold	0

Proposals above the threshold	7
Selected proposals	4

TABLE 3: OVERVIEW OF THE CHALLENGES TRACK

In total, **96 Applications** were submitted within the second round of calls and **22 Fellows** were selected through the three tracks of the open call:

- **12** 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 January 24th, 2024 (please find Agenda, Annex I)**. This session aimed at providing information about the Fellowships and the in-person Bootcamp in Rome. Additionally, a Fellows' roundtable was foreseen, to allow selected candidates to briefly introduce themselves and their project.

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.

A Q&A online session was scheduled on **February 9th, 2024** in order to answer to all the fellows' requests as the in-person **bootcamp will take place in Rome on February 28th and 29th, 2024**.



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 **16 eligible Applications** were received under the second Paired team track.

Regarding the Applicants' profiles, it can be noticed that the majority of the Applicants was a **Researcher with a technical profile (56%)**, followed by a **Innovators – Entrepreneurs/self-employed (38%)** and **Researchers with a background in Social Sciences and Humanities (6%)**. The Multidisciplinary profile was not represented. Additional details can be found in *Table 4*.

Applicants' profile	Number of applicants
Innovator – Entrepreneur/self-employed	6
Researcher – Technical	9
Researcher - Social Sciences and Humanities	1
Researcher - Multidisciplinary	0

TABLE 4: OVERVIEW OF THE ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS' PROFILE - PAIRED TEAMS

A total of **3 eligible Applicants** out of 16 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 (87,5%)** while only **1 Applicant** comes



from an **Horizon Europe Associated Countries** (Turkey). One Applicant was 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	6
France	3
Spain	2
Hungary	1
Ireland	1
Portugal	1
Switzerland	1
Turkey	1

TABLE 5: 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 (94%, 15 candidates out of 16)**, while only **1 Applicant (6%)** chose a **Canadian** host organisation.

To summarise, the eligible Applicants under the second 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 12 selected candidates under the Paired teams track, **7 Fellows (59%)** were **Researchers with a technical profile**, followed by **4 Innovators (33%)** and **1 Researcher with a background in SSH (8%)**. **2 selected Fellows were women**.

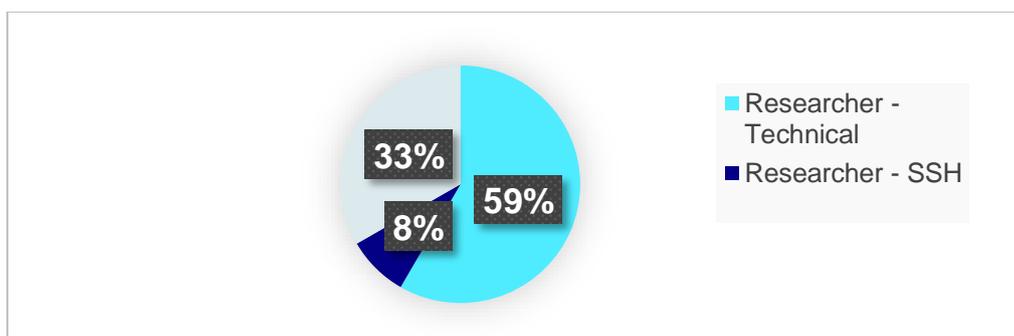


FIGURE 1: SELECTED APPLICANTS' PROFILE - PAIRED TEAMS

Considering the country of the establishment, **10 Fellows** out of 12 were from an **EU Member State** (83%) – with **Italy** as the most represented country (6 Fellows) - while the **2** remaining Fellows came from **Turkey** (Horizon Europe Associated Country) and **Switzerland**.

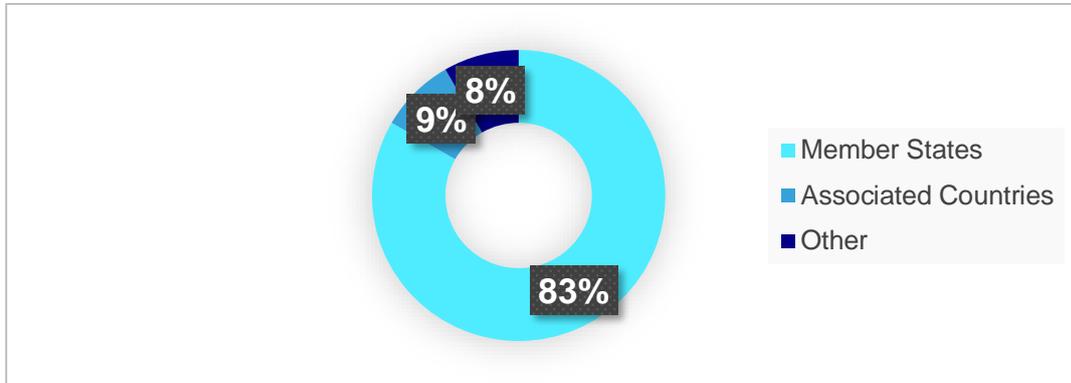


FIGURE 2: SELECTED APPLICANTS' COUNTRIES - PAIRED TEAMS

10 Fellows (83%) under the Paired teams track selected a host organisation from the **US** recording an increase of private hosts, while **2 Fellows** (17%) will be hosted by a Canadian host organisation, following a request of reallocation of one Applicant.

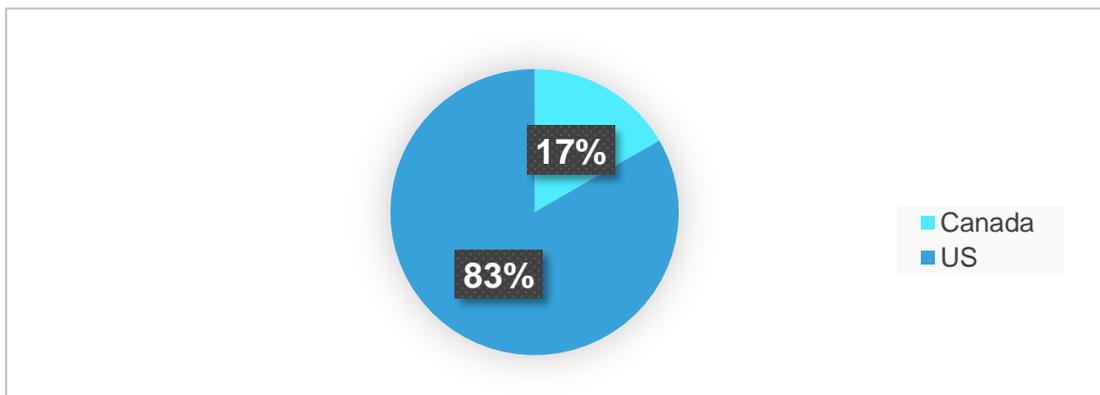


FIGURE 3: HOST ORGANISATIONS SELECTED BY THE FELLOWS - PAIRED TEAMS

2.2 OPEN IDEAS TRACK: APPLICANTS AND SELECTED FELLOWS

Under the second Open ideas track, a total of **16 eligible Applications** were submitted.

Looking at the Applicants' profile, there is a balance between **Researchers with a technical background (31%)** and **Innovators – Entrepreneurs/self-employed (31%)**, followed by Applicants from **Social sciences and humanities (19%)** and with a **Multidisciplinary background (19%)**. Additional details can be found in *Table 6*.

Applicants' profile	Number of applicants
---------------------	----------------------



Innovator – Entrepreneur/self-employed	5
Researcher – Technical	5
Researcher - Social Sciences and Humanities	3
Researcher – Multidisciplinary	3

TABLE 6: OVERVIEW OF THE ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS' PROFILE - OPEN IDEAS

A total of **4 candidates** among the eligible Applicants were **women**.

Differently from the results of the Paired teams track, a balance regarding the country of the establishment can be noticed: **7 Applicants are coming from an EU Member State (44%)** and **7 Applicants are from a Horizon Europe Associated Country (44%)**, while the remaining 2 Applicants are residents/taxpayers in Switzerland (12%). The most performed countries were Turkey (5 Applicants), Italy (3) and Germany (2). More details can be found in *Table 7*.

Applicants' country of establishment	Number of applicants
Turkey	5
Italy	3
Germany	2
Switzerland	2
Cyprus	1
Malta	1
Ukraine	1
Israel	1

TABLE 7: 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 all the candidates selected as a first choice universities established in the **US**. The top-three preferred US host organisations – indicated as first choice by the eligible Applicants - are the **Santa Clara University** (3 candidates), **Mason Enterprise Center Fairfax** (3 candidates) and the **University of Iowa – Hydroinformatics Lab** (3 candidates).

To sum up, the Open ideas track recorded a balance in terms of Researchers with a technical background and Innovator profiles, as a well as a higher percentage of Researchers coming from SSH and Multidisciplinary. Additionally, the ration



between applicants from EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries is equally distributed, compared to the Paired teams track.

Focusing on the **5 selected candidates** under the Open ideas track, **3 Fellows** out were **Researchers with a technical background**, **1 Fellow** was **Innovator**, while **1 was a Researchers with a SSH profile**. Two selected candidates are **women**.

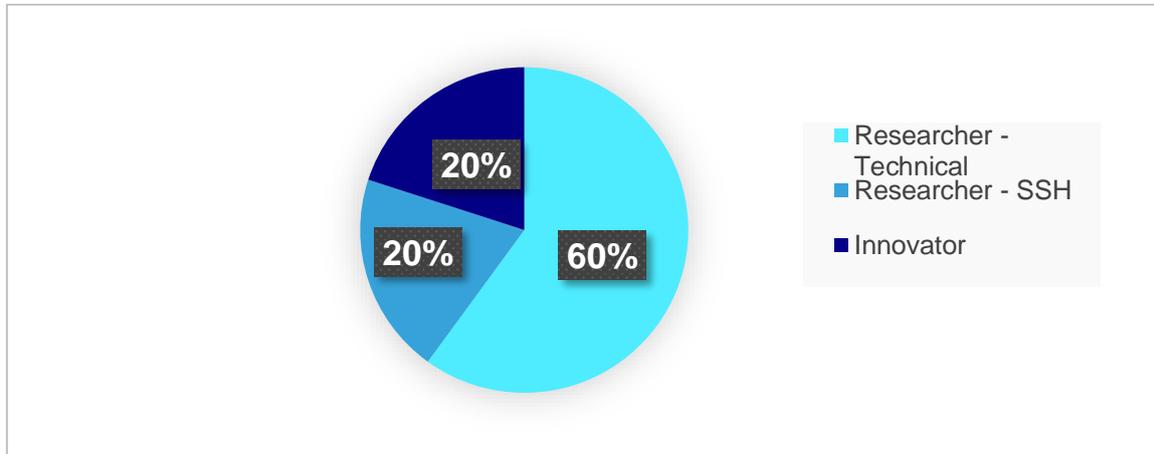


FIGURE 4: SELECTED APPLICANTS' PROFILE - OPEN IDEAS

The **80%** of selected Fellows (4 out of 5) is coming from an **Horizon Europe Associated Country** (Turkey and Israel), while **1 Fellow** (17%) is established in **Switzerland**. Any selected Applicant belongs to an EU Member State.

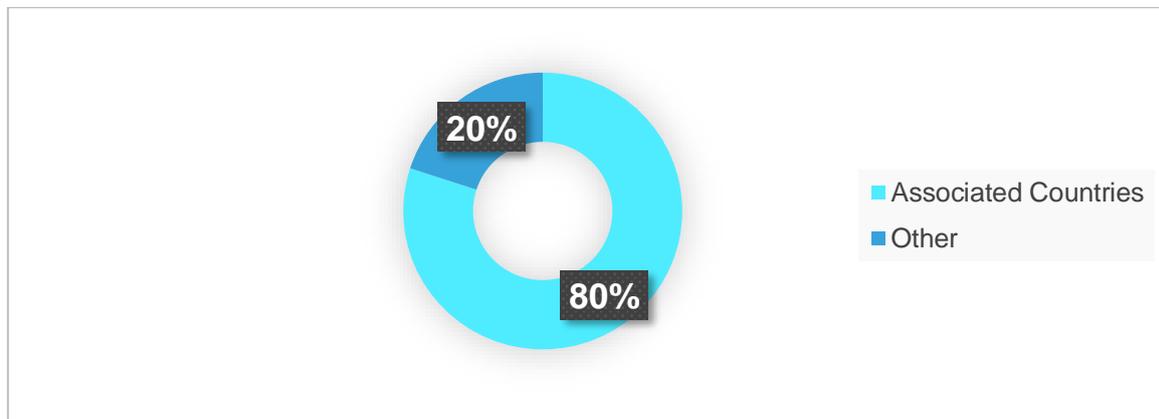


FIGURE 5: SELECTED APPLICANTS' COUNTRY - OPEN IDEAS

All the 5 Fellows chose a host organisation based in the **US**, with the **University of Iowa - Hydroinformatics Lab** (2 Fellows) as preferred host.

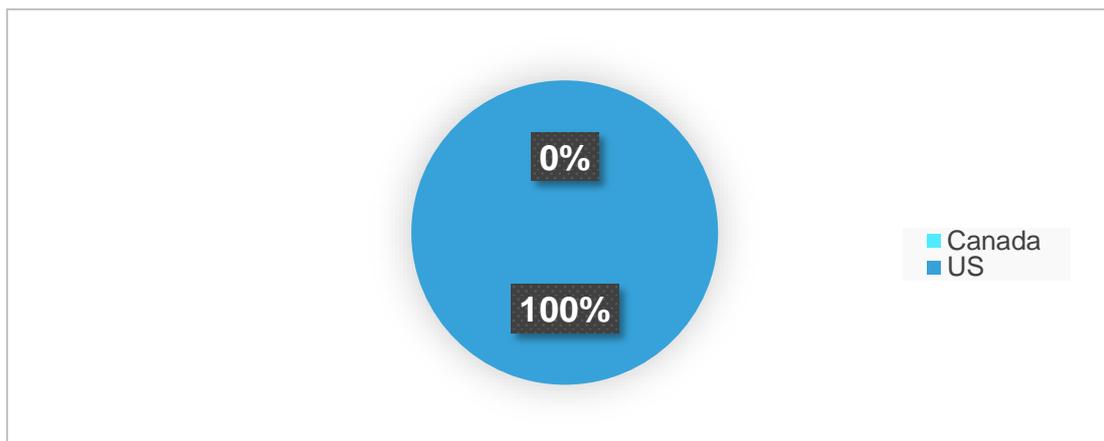


FIGURE 6: HOST ORGANISATIONS SELECTED BY FELLOWS - OPEN IDEAS

2.3 CHALLENGES TRACK: APPLICANTS AND SELECTED FELLOWS

Under the second Challenges track, a total of **7 eligible Applications** were submitted.

Looking at the Applicants' profile, the **58% of the candidates** is represented by **Researchers with a technical background**, followed by **Innovators - Entrepreneurs/self-employed (14%)**, **Researchers with a SSH profile (14%)** and with a **Multidisciplinary background (14%)**, as shown in *Table 8*.

Applicants' profile	Number of applicants
Innovator – Entrepreneur/self-employed	1
Researcher – Technical	4
Researcher - Social Sciences and Humanities	1
Researcher – Multidisciplinary	1

TABLE 8: OVERVIEW OF THE ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS' PROFILE - CHALLENGES

A total of **2 candidates** among the eligible Applicants were **women**.

All the eligible Applicants under the Challenges track are residents/taxpayers in an **EU Member State**, mainly from Italy (5 candidates) and Germany (2 candidates).

The preferred Challenges were the ones proposed by Fermilab, Superconducting Quantum Materials & Systems (SQMS) Center in the US, which have been chosen by 3 Applicants out of 7.

All the **4 candidates** selected under the Challenges track are Researchers with a technical background. The **50%** is represented by **women**.

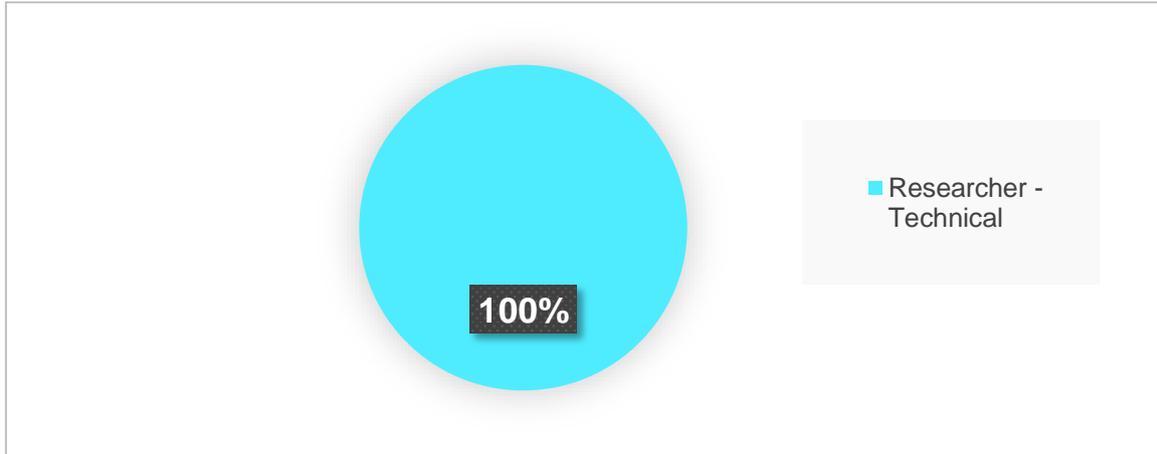


FIGURE 7: SELECTED APPLICANTS' PROFILE - CHALLENGES

The **100%** of selected Fellows (4 out of 4) is coming from an **EU Member State** (Italy).

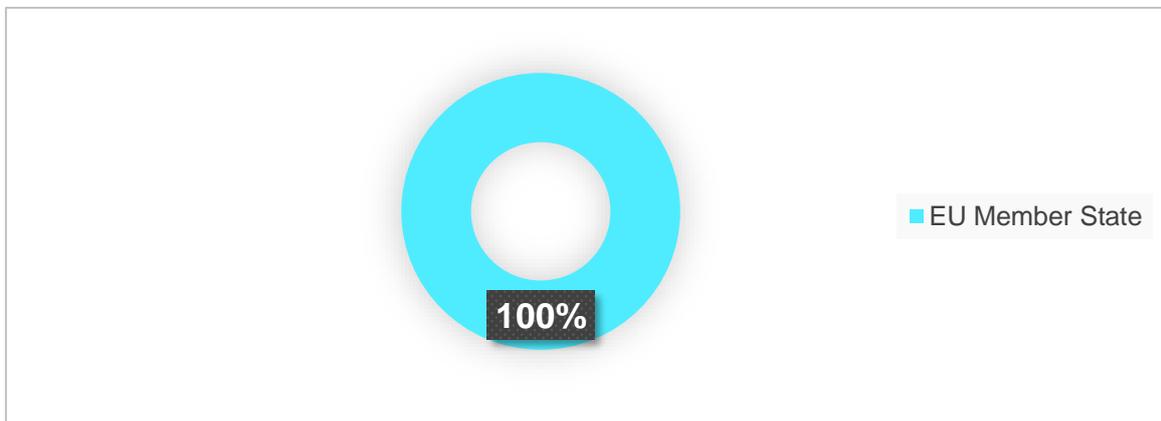


FIGURE 8: SELECTED APPLICANTS' COUNTRY - CHALLENGES

All the 6 Fellows chose a host organisation based in the **US**, with **Fermilab - SQMS** (3 Fellows) as preferred host, followed by the **University of Colorado** (1 Fellow).

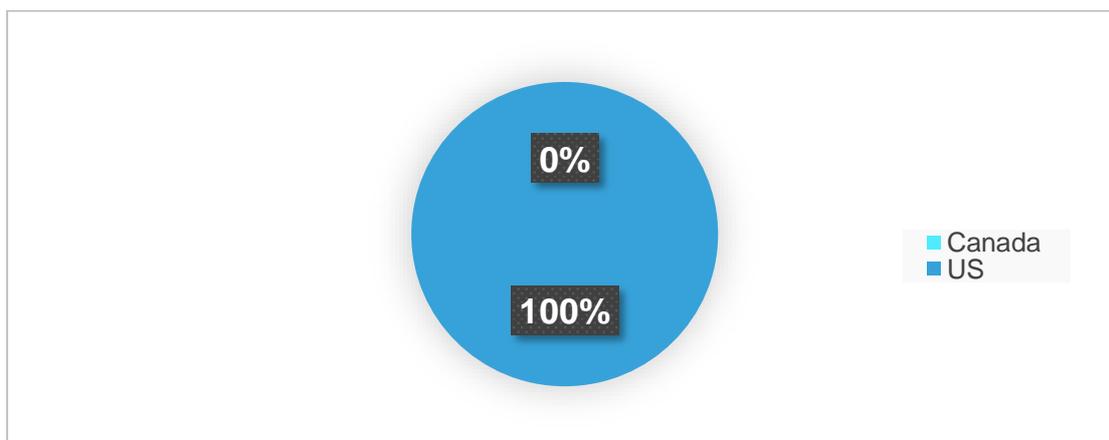


FIGURE 9: HOST ORGANISATIONS SELECTED BY FELLOWS - CHALLENGES

3 LIST OF SELECTED FELLOWS

This section aims at presenting a general overview of the Fellows selected under the second 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 Casoni, Innovator	Spain		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		Inkspire	AI, Intuitive user experience, Mental Health Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: User Experience, Psychology
Miguel Cabrita, Innovator	Portugal		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		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		Out of distribution generalization in quantum machine learning	Quantum computing and algorithms, Machine learning Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Cooperation, Security



<p>Akram Alzaghir, Researcher – Technical</p>	<p>Turkey</p>		<p>Design and Implementation of Smart Irrigation System based on Internet of Things Using Sensor Fusion</p>	<p>AI, Big Data, Cloud/Edge Computing, Decentralized Internet, IoT</p> <p>Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Cooperation, Digitalization, Design, Green IT & Respect for the environment , Lifelong learning, Environment</p>
<p>Federico Reghenzani, Researcher – Technical</p>	<p>Italy</p>		<p>PAIRS - Pervasive, Advanced, and Intelligent Real-time Systems</p>	<p>AI, Autonomous, V2X, Cloud/Edge Computing, Industry 4.0/5.0 , IoT</p> <p>Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Autonomy, Digitalization, Interoperability, Security</p>
<p>Martina Motta, Researcher - Social Sciences and Humanities</p>	<p>Italy</p>		<p>TANGIBLE KNIT PRIVACY STRUCTURES - AI Fashion and Actuated Knitwear for Privacy Protection</p>	<p>AI</p> <p>Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Data privacy and sovereignty, Data protection, Design, Equity, Transparency, User's Rights</p>
<p>Emanuele Marino, Researcher – Technical</p>	<p>Italy</p>		<p>Self-assembled lasers make multiple wavelength transmission viable</p>	<p>Energy transition</p> <p>Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Design</p>



Tommaso Carraro, Researcher – Technical	Italy		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		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		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



TABLE 9: 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
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	AI, Autonomous, V2X, Cloud/Edge Computing, Cybersecurity, IoT, Trust

			Worst-Case Cyber Attacks	<p>Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Data protection, Green IT & Respect for the environment , Interoperability, Resiliency, Security, Sustainability, User Experience</p>
Nurcan Tüfekci, Researcher - Social Sciences and Humanities	Turkey	University of Maryland Baltimore County (US)	Virtual Privacy	<p>AI, Cybersecurity, Decentralized Internet, Trust, Web 3.0 , Data sovereignty, Virtual Realities, Other, Digital commons</p> <p>Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Data privacy and sovereignty, Data protection, Design, Diversity, Politics, Security, Social participation, Sociology, User's Rights, User Experience</p>
Ahmet Nuri Ozcivan, Researcher - Technical	Turkey	University of Iowa Hydroinformatics Lab (US)	Smart City Digital Twin Framework For Environmental Analysis	<p>AI, Big Data, Cloud/Edge Computing, Environment, Industry 4.0/5.0 , Web 3.0 , Data sovereignty</p> <p>Human-centric NGI-relevant keywords: Data privacy and sovereignty, Digitalization, Design, Green IT & Respect for the environment , Interoperability, Lifelong learning, Openness, Resiliency, Sustainability, User</p>



				Experience, Environment
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TABLE 10: 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
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

TABLE 11: FELLOWS SELECTED UNDER THE CHALLENGES TRACK



ANNEX I – AGENDA OF THE ONLINE PRE-DEPARTURE BOOTCAMP

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)



ANNEX II (CONFIDENTIAL) - LESSONS LEARNT AND FURTHER STEPS

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

