



**UK Research
and Innovation**

Protecting Citizens Online complementary projects

Frequently asked questions

Q: What funding is available?

A: You can request exactly £3.44 million for your project, which will be funded at 80% FEC by EPSRC (i.e. EPSRC will provide £2.75 million towards your project). Applicants should aim to cost their proposals as close to £3.44 as possible.

Q: Can the funding requested change between outline and full proposal stage?

A: Projects should be costed as close as possible to £3.44 million at both outline stage and full proposal stage. Funds can be moved around within fund headings between outline and full proposal stage.

Q: Can the investigatory team change between outline and full proposal stage?

A: Yes. The team submitting an outline proposal should be as close as possible to the team submitting a full proposal, but changes to co-investigators are allowed. Please note that changes to the principal investigator are not permitted.

Please note that a single investigator is only permitted to appear on one outline or full proposal, either as principal investigator or co-investigator.

Q: Should project partners be identified at outline stage?

A: The outline stage is anonymous, so project partners should **not** be identified. Partner organisations can be referred to in general terms, as long as the organisation cannot be identified based on the description. Project partner letters of support do not need to be provided at outline stage, but will be necessary at full proposal stage.

Q: What information do I need to provide at outline stage?

A: You must provide an anonymised four-page case for support at outline stage. No other documents are permitted, and any other information entered into Je-S will not be seen by the assessment panel.

Q: Does my project have to be within EPSRC remit?

A: The investigator team must be multidisciplinary, and research methodologies and outcomes should be split across EPSRC, AHRC and ESRC remits. There should be a significant technical element to the projects, but an EPSRC percentage remit is not specified.

Q: Can project partners receive funds from the grant via subcontract?

A: Yes. Project partners may receive funding from the grant via subcontract if they are providing services (for example consultancy) or equipment that will go through a formal procurement process audited by the host research organisation. Project partners cannot

be principal or co-investigators, and cannot receive funds from UKRI via directly allocated costs.

Q: What is the definition of an early career researcher for the purposes of this opportunity?

EPSRC does not have strict definitions of ECRs for the purpose of this call. This is broad, and could encompass postdoctoral research associates/fellows, lecturers within the first few years of their lectureship, or lecturers who have never led on a grant, for example. This is largely self-defined by the individual.

In terms of applying as PI or Co-I, applicants must be employed at the submitting research organisation at lecturer level or equivalent, or hold a fixed-term contract that extends beyond the duration of the proposed project (and the host university is prepared to provide all the support normal for a permanent employee, including extending your fixed-term contract if necessary).