



Frequently Asked Questions

SPADE Open Call #1

OPENING: 09 February 2024

CLOSING: 10 April 2024 at 17:00 (Brussels time)

Project Website: <https://spade-horizon.eu/>

Open Call platform: https://bit.ly/SPADE_OC1

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1. Introduction

SPADE is a project funded by the European Union under the Horizon Europe program through the HORIZON-CL6-2021-GOVERNANCE-01 call. SPADE comprises a consortium of 21 partners from 10 European countries.

Initiated in September 2022, this project is scheduled to span a duration of 4 years and is under the coordination of the Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH) in Greece.

The strategic objective of SPADE project is to develop an intelligent ecosystem to address the multiple purposes concept in the light of deploying unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs alias drones) to promote sustainable digital services for the benefit of a large scope of end users in sectors of crop production, forestry, and livestock. This includes individual UAV usability, UAV type applicability (e.g., swarm, collaborative, autonomous, tethered), UAV governance models availability and UAV-generated data trustworthiness. Multi-purposes will be further determined in the sensing dataspace reusability based on trained Artificial Intelligence (AI)/Machine Learning (ML) models. These models will enable sustainability and resilience of the overall life cycle of developing, setting up, offering, providing, testing, validating, refining as well as enhancing digital transformations and “innovation building” services in agriculture. Pilot prototypes will contribute toward greater goals, such as the reduction of deforestation, precision farming and animal welfare.

3 Pilots Prototypes, one per domain (i.e., forestry, cropping and livestock farming), deploying 9 Test Cases combined with 2 Open Calls for up to 12 complementary small projects will contribute toward the goals of sustainable forestry and farming.



2. General question about the project

2.1 What is SPADE?

The SPADE project will take a multifaceted approach. First, it will create a digital ecosystem to address the multipurpose character of UAVs improving the accessibility and control of drone operations, making it easier to utilize UAVs effectively. This platform will also serve as a channel for value-added services enabled by drones. Second, SPADE will showcase three innovative case studies for drones, analyzing and quantifying the benefits at a detailed stakeholder level. These demonstrations will not only reveal new business opportunities but also help in examining the regulatory framework at both international and national levels.

SPADE is excited to announce the launch of two Open Calls, with a total budget of 720,000 EUR thoughtfully distributed between them, to finance up to 12 innovative projects. These Open Calls are a significant part of SPADE's commitment to driving innovation in the field of drones for agriculture.

2.2 How much funding will be distributed in OC#1?

For the first Open Call (OC#1), the SPADE project has allocated an overall budget of 360,000 EUR. The funding is disbursed to selected projects using a "flat rate" approach, with a maximum of 60,000 EUR per beneficiary. The distribution of funds occurs progressively based on achieved outcomes and milestones.



3. General Questions about the Open Call

3.1 Who can apply?

Eligible entities for SPADE OC#1 include universities, research centers, NGOs, foundations, SMEs, and startups. Specific legal definitions apply, such as compliance with European Commission recommendations for SMEs. Large corporations (non-SMEs) are excluded from funding. Applicants must be legally identified entities in eligible countries.

3.2 When can I apply?

The application period for SPADE OC#1 opens on February 09, 2024, and closes on April 10, 2024. All applications must be submitted within this timeframe. Late submissions will not be considered. Applicants are encouraged to initiate the application process well in advance to ensure timely submission.

3.3 How can I apply?

Applications must be submitted through the official online submission [SPLORO platform](#), directly linked to the SPADE website. Only applications received through this platform are considered eligible.

3.4 Can I update my application after submission?

If the deadline hasn't passed, applicants are allowed to submit a new version of their application. You may request to resubmit your proposal after the initial submission by seeking support from the helpdesk. Please note that to reopen a proposal, candidates are required to complete the resubmission process before the set deadline. When a proposal is reopened, it is reverted to draft status, necessitating a new submission. Failure to resubmit will result in the proposal not being evaluated. Resubmission requests will be answered up to two hours before the deadline. The helpdesk cannot guarantee a timely response during the last two hours of the open call. Consider this when writing your proposals.

3.5 Where and when can I get support in case of questions?

A dedicated support channel is available for applicants at spade@sploro.eu. Support requests receive a response within 72 hours. While efforts are made to respond promptly, applicants are advised to plan their submissions with sufficient time before the deadline. Inquiries received after two days before the call closure time may not be considered or answered.

3.6 How many projects will benefit from the OC#1?

SPADE will fund a total of 6 projects. Please note that these are distributed across challenges corresponding to the case studies within the SPADE project. To learn about the 6 challenges, please refer to the [guideline for applicants](#).



4. Questions related to the evaluation.

4.1 How is the evaluation process conducted?

The evaluation process for SPADE OC#1 consists of several key stages:

1. **Application Reception:** Submissions are accepted exclusively via the SPLORO platform. The submission deadline is April 10, 2024, at 17:00 (Brussels time).
2. **Eligibility Criteria Check:** An automatic filtering process will verify that all required fields are completed, proposals are submitted by a single partner (no consortium allowed), applicants are registered in an EU Member State or a Horizon Europe associated country, legal entities exist, and other specified criteria are met (check the guidelines for applicants)
3. **Experts' Remote Evaluation:** Eligible applications will undergo a remote evaluation by two external experts with expertise in technology, business development, and drone technology. They will assess criteria such as Team, Technical Excellence, Implementation, and Impact.
4. **Normalization Score:** This method would ensure a more balanced distribution of scores and reduce the possibility of biases and distortions.
5. **Final Selection:** Proposals will be ranked based on scores, and the best six proposals (one proposal per challenge) will be invited to sign the sub-grantee agreement and execute their projects.
6. **Validation of Legal Entity:** Before final validation, a thorough check of the legal entities will be performed, including the submission of various documents to ensure compliance with SPADE project requirements.
7. **Approval:** The SPADE consortium will formally approve a list of proposals within the available funding limits. The list will be submitted to the European Commission for final screening and approval. Successful applicants will receive an Evaluation Summary Report and an invitation to sign the Sub-grantee Agreement.



5. Questions related to funding.

5.1 What is the total funding limit for a single organization?

The total funding limit for a single organization across all SPADE calls is set at 60,000 EUR.

5.2 How are payments structured?

The payments for selected projects are structured based on the achievement of specified metrics outlined in the execution plan, considered a legally binding document. The payment structure is as follows:

	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Month 7
OUTPUT	KPIs and deliverables definition		Interim Report + Deliverables			Final Report + Deliverables	
Payments (EUR)				30,000			30,000

Conditions: Payments are contingent upon successful compliance with metrics and project objectives.

5.3 What deliverables do I need to provide to receive the payments?

Please note that, in addition to defining KPIs at the beginning of the project execution and the reports at months 3 and 6, there are specific deliverables that must be met to receive payments. The deliverables vary depending on the challenge, as shown in the following table.

Challenge	Deliverable Name/Description	Deliverable Date
UCU-CH1	Initial Report	M1
	Drone Swarm Data Transfer Performance Prototype	M3
	Interim report	M3
	Drone Swarm Navigation Prototype	M6
	Final report	M6
UCU-CH2	Initial Report	M1
	Preliminary Hardware Design	M3
	Initial Software Prototype	M3
	Interim report	M3
	Final Hardware Design	M6
	Testing and Optimization	M6
CStudy1-CH1	Final report	M6
	Initial Report	M1
	Basic Software Prototype	M3
	Map Generation	M3
	Interim report	M3
	Full Software Version	M6



FAQs

	Final report	M6
	Initial Report	M1
	Infrastructure Prototype	M3
	REST API for Third-Party Algorithm Processing	M3
CStudy1-CH2	Interim report	M3
	Full Software Version and Development Tools	M6
	AI Model Development Toolkit	M6
	Final report	M6
	Initial Report	M1
	Algorithm Prototype	M3
CStudy2-CH2	Interim report	M3
	System testing and validation	M6
	Codebase delivery	M6
	Final report	M6
	Initial Report	M1
	Module for extraction and transmission of wearable sensor data	M3
	Module for real-time interface with UAV	M3
CStudy3-CH1	SPADE Livestock Storage Platform	M3
	Interim report	M3
	Module for dataset integration	M6
	Final report	M6

However, you can add additional deliverable in each of the implementation phase if you wish.

