

Disclaimer:

The below table listing the questions and answers is provided for clarification purposes and is not intended to constitute any corrigendum¹ to the guidelines and its annexes.

Questions and Answers

Call for Proposals EU-CHINA RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP

EuropeAid/135-587/DD/ACT/Multi

Question	Answer
IMPORTANT NOTICE PLEASE READ QUESTION 1 CAREFULLY	
1. Can you explain the mobility requirements more clearly? Specifically, in a project of 36 months how many people must be mobile over the duration of the project and for how long must they stay in the host country? For example, if each person can be mobile for 1 month each year over the 3 year period, how many people must be mobile?	<p>Following Point 2.1.4 of the guidelines (page 10): <i>"3) The duration of the individual mobility schemes will be for a minimum of 3 months to a maximum of 24 months and can be split into several exchange periods within the total duration of the contract. However, the duration of exchanges for each researcher or technical/management staff will be for a maximum of 36 months."</i></p> <p><u>This is should be understood as</u></p> <p>a) <u>The duration of the exchanges for a single individual under the mobility scheme should each be between 3 and 24 months</u></p> <p>b) <u>the combined total of the exchange periods for a single individual cannot exceed 24 months.</u></p> <p>c) <u>in the case where the mobility scheme for a single individual is split between several periods (up to a maximum total of 24 months) these should be taking place within a maximum period of 36 months.</u></p> <p>The guidelines (Point 2.1.4) continue: <i>"5) The minimum number of individual mobility in each partnership must be equivalent to 4 persons per project year."</i></p> <p>The above should be understood as minimum 4 full-time equivalent persons per year i.e. minimum 48 person/months per year.</p> <p>Within this framework, it is left to the Applicants to propose individual mobility schemes in line with</p>

¹ A corrigendum notice shall be published when setting out eventual changes to the guidelines for grant applicants

	<p>their respective needs.</p>
<p>2. Please, send us the Concept Note instructions in the Grant Application Form, including the Checklist for the Concept Note (Part A section 2 of the grant application form) and the Declaration by the applicant for the Concept Note (Part A section 3 of the grant application form, and forms of other documents to be presented.</p>	<p><i>The requested document has been published and can be downloaded from the following webpage:</i></p> <p>https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome&nbPubliList=15&orderby=upd&orderbyad=Desc&searchtype=RS&aofr=135587</p>
<p>3. Is the flat rate of EUR 2100 per person-month funded at a rate of 100% or 80%?</p>	<p><i>The flat rate of EUR 2100 per person-month is funded at a rate of maximum 80%.</i></p>
<p>4. Are we able to claim eligible direct costs in addition to the flat rate of EUR 2 100? Are these funded at 80%?</p>	<p><i>Additional direct eligible costs may be included in the budget for costs which are <u>outside of the scope of the mobility scheme.</u></i></p> <p><i>For costs directly related to the individual mobility scheme itself, EUR 2 100 is the flat rate.</i></p> <p><i>The provisions of Article 14 of the General Conditions to the Standard Grant Contract (see Annex G of the Guidelines) define which Costs are considered as eligible costs.</i></p> <p><i>All Direct Eligible costs (outside and inside the mobility scheme) are co-funded at a rate of maximum 80%.</i></p>
<p>5. Is the 7% rate for indirect costs applied to both the flat rate of EUR 2 100 and to the direct costs?</p>	<p><i>Yes. The rate for indirect costs applied to the total direct eligible costs, <u>which include the flat rate of EUR 2100.</u></i></p> <p><i>The flat rate of EUR 2 100 is part of the direct costs of the action.</i></p> <p><i>The total of indirect costs must not exceed 7% of the estimated total eligible direct costs. Indirect costs are eligible provided that they do not include costs assigned to another budget heading in the standard grant contract.</i></p> <p><i>The applicant may be asked to justify the percentage requested before the contract is signed. However, once the percentage of indirect costs has been fixed in the special conditions of the standard grant contract, no supporting documents need – unless specifically requested by the Contracting Authority - to be provided.</i></p>
<p>6. Are the indirect costs funded at 80% or 100%?</p>	<p><i>The direct and indirect costs are funded at a rate of maximum 80%.</i></p>
<p>7. We are looking for partners to further develop the research and apply the renewable energy technology on a larger scale. We kindly ask you to help us find some eligible companies from China for this cooperation.</p>	<p><i>The Guidelines provide no information concerning the identification of specific partners for the partnership. The Contracting Authority is not in the position to provide the required information.</i></p> <p><i>Co-Applicants must fulfill the eligibility criteria as</i></p>

	<i>defined in the Guidelines.</i>
8. Are Hong Kong and Taiwan based organisations eligible under the programme?	Hong Kong and Chinese Taipei are eligible. As per Footnote 5 of Guidelines, Chinese Taipei is included in Annex 1 to COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1934/2006
9. Can the eligible costs in the “supporting activities” include research consumables and reagents related with the scientific projects the EU researchers in mobility in China will be working on?	<p>As Per Annex G "General Conditions" Art 14.2 "Eligible Direct Costs": ... the following direct costs of the Beneficiary(ies) shall be eligible:</p> <p>c) purchase costs for equipment and supplies (new or used) specifically for the purposes of the Action, provided that ownership is transferred at the end of the Action when required in Article 7.5;</p> <p>Please note that all purchases must comply with the Procurement Provisions of Annex IV to the Grant Contract (Annex G - 3-Annex IV-e3h3_awardproc_en.doc). This Annex contains the specific procurement provisions for services, works and supply (equipment contracts) detailing which procedure should be used depending on the amount of the contract.</p> <p>Foreseen Equipment purchases should be indicated in Sub-Heading "3. Equipment and Supplies" of Annex III to the Grant Contract "Budget" (e3c_budget_en.xls)</p> <p><i>UNDER GRANT CONTRACT, equipment CAN be purchased. However, it should be noted that The specific objective of this call for proposals is "to create, strengthen and intensify the EU-China RI partnerships by supporting the mobility of EU researchers to China ...".</i></p> <p><i>Therefore only materials and supplies (for example, office equipment and consumables) related to mobility organization and supporting activities can be purchased.</i></p> <p><i>The "types of activity" described in Point 2.1.4 of the Guidelines in Sub –Sections A (regarding the organisation of the mobility schemes) or B "providing support..." do not include any activity which would in principle justify the purchase of research consumables nor reagents.</i></p>
10. If for example I have permanent British EU Member State residency, domiciled in the EU with Chinese nationality, therefore I meet the eligibility criteria for being the applicant for	<p>No, only universities, higher education institutions and research entities can be (co-)applicants under this Grant.</p> <p>As Per section 2.1.1 of the Guidelines: In order to be</p>

<p>this grant.</p> <p>Does the following statement in the Guidelines: <i>"While in light of the nature of this programme, the participation of EU and Chinese public or private research entities is compulsory, the mobility of Chinese researchers or Chinese visiting professors or travel / per diem for Chinese nationals is not eligible for funding."</i> Apply to me?</p>	<p>eligible for a grant, the applicant must:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> be legal persons; and <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> be organisations carrying out research activities from one of the EU Member States or Partner Countries. Entities that do not fulfil the above-mentioned criteria <u>could be eligible as associates;</u> and <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> be able to demonstrate their experience and capacity to manage activities corresponding in scale and complexity with the activities for which this grant is requested.</p> <p>Since you have Chinese nationality, independently of the lieu of residence (in this case, the researcher has "residency" not "citizenship") then the provision of point 2.1.4 quoted in your question would apply to the individual and the said costs would not be eligible for funding.</p>
<p>11. Is it necessary to fully identify by name any or all of the Mobility Persons at the Concept Note or Full Application stage?</p>	<p>No, this is not needed at neither stage.</p> <p>However, referring to 2.1.4. Eligible Actions (page 9), in order to organize the individual mobility schemes, the partnership must "3) <i>Set up criteria for the selection and mobilization of researchers to take part in the individual mobility schemes, as well as the expectations on the researchers benefiting from the mobility scheme.</i>"</p>
<p>12. In the case of an Emergency travel (for example death or sickness in the family of a Mobility Person while in China) will it be possible to claim an extra international round trip travel? Perhaps from a contingency reserve? In such a case it would be difficult to obtain prior written authorization from the Contracting Authority to use the money</p>	<p>In principle, as indicated in point 2.1.4 of the Guidelines, <i>"The European sending organisations will continue to bear the cost of the researcher/staff's regular salary."</i></p> <p>However as pointed out in Page 10 of the Guidelines, "3) The duration of the individual mobility schemes will be for a minimum of 3 months to a maximum of 24 months and can be split into several exchange periods within the total duration of the contract." Therefore, the period of research may be split in several periods if necessary. However, budget constraints should be taken into consideration.</p> <p>Therefore, The use of the contingencies would not apply for this in principle.</p>
<p>13. In the Guidelines for Grant Applications document (page 11) under <u>Eligible Indirect Costs</u> it is stated <i>'If any of the applicants or</i></p>	<p>Grants are defined (Chapter 8.3 of the Devco Companion) as direct financial contributions, by way of a donation,</p>

<p><i>affiliated entity(ies) is in receipt of an operating grant financed by the EU, it may not claim indirect costs on its incurred costs within the proposed budget for the action.'</i></p> <p>Does 'an operating grant' mean any type of funding under FP7 or Horizon2020 or ERC or Marie Skłodowska-Curie ?</p>	<p>in order to finance:</p> <p>– <u>either an action</u> intended to help achieve an objective forming part of a EU policy for the Budget, or for the EDF of the Cotonou Agreement or of the revised OCT Decision or of a project or programme adopted in accordance with them;</p> <p>– or <u>the functioning of a body</u> which pursues such an objective, or an aim of general European interest or has an objective forming part of, and supporting a EU policy (<u>operating grants</u>).</p> <p>Funding under EU's FP7, Horizon 2020, EC or Marie Skłodowska-Curie programmes does not fall under the category 'operating grant'.</p>
<p>14. What should be done about the Indirect Costs if the applicant is subsequently awarded another grant after the award of this EuropeAid 135-587 grant?</p>	<p>The Contracting Authority should be informed without delay in order to analyse the impact on a case by case basis. The result will depend on the impact of the new grant on the cost sharing of resources between the current on-going grant and the new grant.</p> <p>In the case where several grants are awarded, costs should be clearly identified and separated. No cost should be double-funded.</p>
<p>15. Is there more information on what is eligible as costs for a Conference Meeting – eg refreshments & meals, meeting rooms and facilities, overnight accommodation, travel costs for attendees and where in the budget these should be if this task is not wholly subcontracted</p>	<p>As per Point 2.2.4 of the Guidelines, <i>"To ensure equal treatment of applicants, the Contracting Authority cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of applicants, or affiliated entity(ies), an action or specific activities."</i></p> <p>Please see Annex e3c "Budget (Annex III to the Grant Contract) to see the structure and modalities of the Budget to be presented.</p>
<p>16. If conference/meeting in China is subcontracted can the Chinese co-applicant be the party which undertakes the subcontract ?</p>	<p>Co-Applicants are considered as Beneficiaries of the Grant.</p> <p>As such, direct costs incurred by co-applicants may be eligible as long as they fulfill the Provisions of Annex IV on procurement.</p> <p>Direct costs are to be indicated in the Budget independently of whether they are incurred by the Main Applicant or the co-applicants.</p> <p>Fully subcontracted Conference/Seminar costs should be included under sub-heading 5.7 of the Budget. (Annex III to the Grant Contract)</p>
<p>17. If the conference is wholly subcontracted to a non-co-applicant what items are acceptable</p>	<p>Eligible Costs for the Supporting activities will have to follow the provisions of Annex G – 2 (Annex II to</p>

costs	<p>the Grant Contract) "General Conditions" Art 14 "Eligible Costs".</p> <p>Also, please see Annex e3c "Budget (Annex III to the Grant Contract) to see the structure and modalities of the Budget to be presented.</p>
18. Can any dissemination conferences / meetings occur in Europe?	Yes, as outlined under 2.1.4 (page 8), "Actions must take place mainly in the People's Republic of China and in the EU Member States."
<p>19. Could you please let me know if your definition of applicant for the purposes of this call would be a whole institution (university in our case)?</p> <p>If only one application per institution is allowed, we have academics in two different departments of our university, interested in Lot 1 and Lot 5 respectively, with different partners in the EU and China.</p> <p>You say (2.1.4) that the action should fall primarily into just one Lot: does this mean we should not submit an application which would be split between those two departments and groups, 50/50 between the two lots, but prioritise only one or the other subjects for the Queen Mary application, and tell the other group not to apply?</p>	<p>As Per section 2.1.1 of the Guidelines: In order to be eligible for a grant, the applicant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> be legal persons; and <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> be organisations carrying out research activities from one of the EU Member States or Partner Countries. Entities that do not fulfil the above-mentioned criteria <u>could be eligible as associates</u>; and <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> be able to demonstrate their experience and capacity to manage activities corresponding in scale and complexity with the activities for which this grant is requested. <p>If each department in the University has a separate legal entity, then each department could send a separate application or be considered as a co-applicant (if the other eligibility criteria are met). However, if both departments are placed under one single identical legal entity, then only one application could be sent out.</p> <p>The number of applications to be sent out "per applicant" as defined in section 2.1.4 (page 10) is to be understood as "per legal entity"</p> <p>On your 2nd question, reference is made to 2.1.4. (page 8), which clearly says "<i>An action should specify under which Lot it is applying for support, even if the action is also contributing to other core themes of the programme. An action is expected to deliver its main tangible result(s) as defined under point 1.2, in the Lot category, under which the action has been proposed.</i>"</p> <p>This means that no split (50/50 nor other) between two Lots is allowed.</p>
<p>20. The guidelines say "the primary aim of the action is financial support to third parties".</p> <p>Does this mean that our project could involve a mobility scheme which would invite/financially</p>	<p>It has to be kept in mind that the specific objective of the Action is "<i>to create, strengthen, and intensify the EU-China RI partnerships by supporting the mobility of EU researchers to China and strengthening people-to-people contacts, from both the public and private sectors, in strategic RI</i></p>

<p>support mobility from any EU national, at any other EU Member State university and/or private entities, even outside of the co-applicants and associates of the project?</p> <p>If so, would we be allowed to restrict that to a set of named strategic partners, or would it have to be open to any (though of course we could target our advertising of the scheme). i.e., could we plan to invite applications for any EU Member State PhD students/postdocs within a narrowly-specified field to apply to be based at our partner institution/joint lab in China (or should we rather make it open to any EU national students/postdocs in that narrow field, but perhaps target our advertising – would we be able to indicate that priority would be given to applicants from particular (perhaps associate) institutions, or particular countries, so as to build up a closer, smaller network, or would it be preferable to you that it is kept open?</p>	<p><i>sectors."</i></p> <p>In addition, please note what is written under cross-cutting issues, which need to be adhered to: <i>"Proposals will need to explain how the requirements on transparency and equitable treatment will be applied in the implementation..."</i> (page 4 of the Guidelines)</p> <p>Please take further note of the following points outlined in the guidelines (page 9):</p> <p><i>"Each Action will be a combination of an identified number of individual mobility schemes complemented by supporting activities:</i></p> <p><i>A. Setting up and implementation of individual mobility schemes from Europe to China <u>within the established partnerships</u>. Partnerships must develop a mobility plan for European researchers going to China..."</i></p> <p><i>In order to organize the individual mobility schemes, the partnerships must:</i></p> <p><i>...3) Set up criteria for the selection and mobilization of researchers to take part in the individual mobility schemes..."</i></p> <p>While <i>"financial support to third parties is the primary aim of the Action"</i>, Page 10 of the Guidelines mention:</p> <p><i>"2) Individuals eligible for mobility should be in one of the following categories (page 10):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Doctoral and post-doctoral students of the EU partner institutions at the main target group;</i> <i>• Research and academic staff of the EU partner institutions;</i> <i>• Engineers, innovation managers, RI personnel working in EU RI entities."</i>
<p>21. Can a proposal consist in the reinforcement/enlargement of an <u>already funded</u> (ongoing) Marie Curie IRSES project whose topic is related to Europe-China cooperation in the strategic areas relevant for this call.</p> <p>By reinforcement I mean:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - new European universities join the consortium, with new secondments in China; - new relevant/excellence Chinese universities join the consortium to host new mobility for 	<p>Please refer to the section on "Complementary Actions in pages 3 and 4 of the Guidelines:</p> <p><i>"Applicants' attention is drawn to ensure necessary synergy will be generated by the proposed Action with the above-mentioned actions"</i>, among which Marie Curie's IRSES programme and others are specifically mentioned.</p>

European Participants.	
<p>22. Section 1.3 of the guidelines states “Any grant requested under this Call for Proposals must fall between the following minimum and maximum amounts:” >€600k < €800k. As each lot only has €800k allocated this seems to suggest only one grant will be awarded.</p> <p>However, in the “how to apply” section 2.2 it suggests that grants of < €60k can be applied for.</p> <p>Am I right to assume that we should be applying for an amount in the range €600k - €800k and that the second figure is not relevant to this call?</p>	<p>Section 1.3 of the Guidelines mention inter-alia:</p> <p>1.3: EUR 800 000 per Lot. 5 Lots (EUR 4M) Size: min=EUR 600 000 - Max= EUR 800 000</p> <p>However, section 2.2 of the Guidelines concern the obligations of the Applicants to upload their organisation's information in the PADOR database</p> <p>Section 2.2 is standard text, applicable to ALL Call for Proposals.</p>
<p>23. Is it true that the fund available is meant to sponsor EU researchers going to China for 24-36 months, but NOT for Chinese researchers to be attached to EU universities and research organizations?</p>	<p>As per Point 2.1.4 of the Guidelines, "2) <i>Individuals eligible for mobility should be in one of the following categories</i> (page 10 of the Guidelines):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Doctoral and post-doctoral students of the EU partner institutions at the main target group;</i> • <i>Research and academic staff of the EU partner institutions;</i> • <i>Engineers, innovation managers, RI personnel working in EU RI entities".</i> <p>Last but not least, you find under Ineligible Costs (section 2.1 of the Guidelines, page 12: "- <i>The mobility of Chinese researchers or Chinese visiting professors or travel / per diem for Chinese nationals.</i>"</p> <p>In conclusion, costs for Chinese researchers going to Europe are NOT eligible.</p>
<p>24. If it is only one-way mobility for EU going to China, can the Chinese Host organization charge us overhead/management fees for the EU researchers to be attached to them?</p> <p>Will this be part of eligible cost under this scheme?</p>	<p>If the Chinese Host organisation is a co-applicant to the action, indirect costs may be charged in line with the provisions of art 14.7 of Annex G to the Guidelines "General Conditions" (Annex II to the Grant Contract). Indirect costs may – overall - be charged up to a maximum 7% of the direct costs of the action.</p> <p>Please see Art 14 of the same Annex for details on the eligibility of costs.</p>
<p>25. Very likely, my friend in a EU Member State will act as the Main Applicant and I will be a Co-Applicant. If I request €46000 for my individual project/mobility needs, will the money comes to My university in the EU, or it will be kept in the EU Member State with my</p>	<p>Please see Point 2.1.1. of the Guidelines regarding the Eligibility of applicants, according to which only the following types of European and Chinese organizations from public and private sector are eligible for funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universities

<p>friend (who will act as the Project Coordinator)?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher education institutions • Research entities <p>Please also read the following eligibility criteria, which makes clear that individual persons cannot be Applicants and/or Co-Applicants.</p> <p>However, individual researchers may be funded within the overall Grant Contract under the mobility scheme.</p>
<p>26. Very often, I saw the word “reimbursement”. Does this mean I need to pay for the cost first, say the travel cost to be China and the daily allowance when visiting China, and then claim back from EU or the coordinator in France?</p>	<p>Reimbursement as described in the Guidelines relates to eligible direct costs incurred by the Beneficiary Organisation of the Grant. These costs may include travel costs of individual researchers funded under the mobility scheme set up by the organisation.</p> <p>It should be noted that as mentioned in Annex G "General Conditions" Article 15 on Payment Procedures, the EU will provide an advance payment (or "pre-financing") as soon as the contract is signed. Then, further pre-financings should be paid yearly.</p> <p>Once the funds reach the beneficiary organisation(s), it is up to the Beneficiary Organisation's financial and accounting practices to set up and/or contain the necessary provisions and practices for the expenditure of travel costs and daily allowances of the individuals taking part in the mobility scheme.</p>
<p>27. At Concept Note stage, is there a need for the declaration to be signed by the Co-applicants?</p> <p>How should we correctly fill in declarations to correctly submit a concept note?</p>	<p>Yes. Section 4 "the co-applicants" pages 32-33 of the Application Form (annex e3b) should be completed.</p> <p>The bottom of page 33 of the same annex "Mandate (for co-applicant(s))" should be filled and signed in original form (with official stamp if available/applicable) by the person authorised to provide the mandate within the respective eligible organisation.</p> <p>It is recommended that the signature should be in a different colour than black in order to identify the authenticity of the signature.</p>
<p>28. Is the call intended for technical disciplines only?</p>	<p>The Call for Proposals is divided in five (5) Lots, corresponding to five identified <u>strategic</u> areas.</p>

<p>E.g. would a topic such as “the health of migrants” be welcomed in Lot 3, given that “life sciences” is explicitly mentioned?</p>	<p><i>As per Point 2.2.4 of the Guidelines, "To ensure equal treatment of applicants, the Contracting Authority cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of applicants, or affiliated entity(ies), an action or specific activities."</i></p>
<p>29. As in the Co-applicant(s) section is written: “A partnership in this Action must be composed of a minimum of two European organisations from two different EU Member States and a minimum of one Chinese organization” Does the Co-applicant-partnership include the applicant organization? In other words, what is the minimum number of organizations involved in total?</p>	<p>As per Point 2.1.1 of the Guidelines (page 6) "<i>A partnership in this Action must be composed of a minimum of two European organisations from two different EU Member States and a minimum of one Chinese organization.</i>" Therefore, the minimum number of organizations involved is three (3).</p>
<p>30. In the section: The specific conditions or restrictions to apply to the persons or categories of persons eligible for financial support is written: “The minimum number of individual mobility in each partnership must be equivalent to 4 persons per project year” Is the minimum number of individual mobility calculated for each partner organization separately or for the partnership as a whole?</p>	<p>As written in Point 2.1.4 (page 10) of the Guidelines, the minimum number of individual mobility <u>refers to each partnership</u> (not to each partner organization separately). See question 29 and Point 2.1.1 of the Guidelines for more details about partnerships.</p>
<p>31. In the guidelines is described that the minimum number of individual mobility in each partnership must be equivalent to 4 persons per project year. It means that 4 individual mobility between EU partners and next 4 mobility (different people) between EU and China partner (a total of 8 mobility for project year)?</p>	<p>As mentioned in Point 2.1.4 (page 9) of the Guidelines, "<i>Setting up and implementation of individual mobility schemes from Europe to China within the established partnerships. Partnerships must develop a mobility plan for European researchers going to China to conduct research in one of the above-mentioned five target areas.</i>"</p> <p>Therefore, the individual mobility scheme may only concern a minimum of 4 European Researchers going to China per project year</p>
<p>32. What topics that can be covered under the theme "Food, agriculture, bio-technologies and water"? Is forest/forestry included?</p>	<p><i>As per Point 2.2.4 of the Guidelines, "To ensure equal treatment of applicants, the Contracting Authority cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of applicants, or affiliated entity(ies), an action or specific activities."</i> Applicants must develop a proposal on the basis of the Guidelines.</p>

	<p><i>In addition, No, forest/forestry is not included in the theme "Food, agriculture, bio-technologies and water".</i></p>
<p>33. How is the individual exchange period calculated? According to the number of days spent in the host country or the number of days participating in the research program home and host country included?</p>	<p>The exchange periods are calculated according to the number of days spent in the host country, in this case in China.</p>
<p>34. Are there any restrictions on individual mobility periods of the mobile persons, i.e. can more than one be mobile at the same time or can mobility be carried out in succession?</p>	<p>The only restrictions to be taken into consideration are in Point 2.1.4 of the Guidelines, pages 9-10, points 1) to 5) under the heading "<i>The specific conditions or restrictions to apply to the persons or categories of persons eligible for financial support are the following</i>"</p> <p>Please also see the answer under question 32 for more details</p> <p>The mobility of individual researchers under the mobility scheme may be carried out in parallel, in succession, with overlapping periods. It is up to the applicant to define the mobility scheme as it will best serve the achievement of the proposed results under the proposal.</p>
<p>35. Can the applicant or co-applicant (in the case of an EU organisation legally established in the EU) be already based in China or have previously spent an extended period undertaking any activities in China or have some commercial relationship with China?</p>	<p>As outlined under 2.1.1. of the Guidelines, "<i>The Action aims to set up new partnerships and <u>to support and expand existing ones...</u></i>" (page 5) and "<i>...New partnerships and existing partnerships expanded with new members are strongly encouraged.</i>" (page 6).</p> <p>However, as mentioned in Point 2.1.1 of the Guidelines, "<i>Co-applicant(s) must satisfy the eligibility criteria as applicable to the applicant himself.</i>"</p> <p>However, as mentioned in Point 2.1.4 of the Guidelines, page 9 in relation to third parties mobility schemes for individual EU researchers to China, "1) Individuals financially supported...shall not be already based in China or have previously spent an extended period undertaking research in China".</p>
<p>36. What percentage of the grant is intended for the research activities and for the contribution for funding the mobility scheme of the persons?</p>	<p>The guidelines are flexible in this regards and leave this to the discretion of the applicant. Please take however into consideration that as mentioned in Point 2.1.4 of the Guidelines, page 9 "<i>Under this Call, financial support to third parties is the primary aim of the Action.</i>"</p>
<p>37. Are there any restrictions about the</p>	<p>"Actions must take place mainly in the People's</p>

<p>proportion of funding intended for research activities to be spent in the EU or China?</p>	<p>Republic of China and in the EU Member States" (page 8). Taking further into consideration that "The specific objective is to create, strengthen and intensify EU-China RI partnerships by supporting the mobility of EU researchers to China" (page 3), it becomes obvious that the primary focus of this Call is <u>not</u> to fund research activities undertaken in Europe.</p>
<p>38. If there are 2 European Institutions applying with a Chinese Institution, may one of the European Institutions be a private company?</p>	<p>As mentioned in Point 2.1.1 of the Guidelines, "<i>Private research centres or entities will be encouraged to participate in the programme and to support the creation and strengthening of partnerships subject to the non-profit making nature of the action itself.</i>"</p> <p><u>As mentioned in Point 2.1.4 of the Guidelines,</u> <i>"The Action aims to set up new partnerships and to support and expand existing ones, in the targeted areas between European and Chinese research organizations (higher education, research entities from public and private sectors), by supporting the mobility of EU researchers to China"</i> and <i>"Participation of research organizations from the European private sector is strongly desired. New partnerships and existing partnerships expanded with new members are strongly encouraged."</i> However, <i>"A partnership agreement between the beneficiaries from EU MS and the Chinese participant organizations is mandatory."</i></p>
<p>39. Are partnership agreements required for the Concept Note submittal? If so, is the format such there is one single agreement for all project partners, or is it separate agreements for each partner with the lead partner?</p>	<p>As mentioned in Point 2.2.2. of the Guidelines "<i>The Concept Note together with the Checklist for the Concept Note (Part A section 2 of the grant application form) and the Declaration by the applicant for the Concept Note (Part A section 3 of the grant application form) must be submitted in one original and 5 copies in A4 size, each bound.</i>"</p> <p>The detailed information of the co-applicants and the "Mandate for (for co-applicants) to be signed by the Co-Applicants is part of "PART B. Full Application Form, Section 4". And should only be sent when submitting the Full Application Form.</p>
<p>40. What specific costs does the commission approved flat-rate of 2100EUR/month cover? Is this to cover salary? Is this to cover salary and other costs such as DSA, travel, etc.? Or does it just cover other costs such as DSA, travel, etc.?</p>	<p>As mentioned in Section 2.1.4. of the Guidelines, In the section concerning "<u>Financial support to third parties-mobility scheme for Individual EU researchers to China</u>", "<i>The Grant contract will be implemented by using Commission-approved flat rates.</i></p> <p><i>The contribution for funding the mobility scheme</i></p>

	<p><i>(financial support to third parties) will be based on flat rates 2,100 EUR per person per month of secondment to China as determined in the IRSES Commission approved 2013 Annual Work Programme.</i></p> <p><i>The maximum amount to be awarded to each individual researcher is estimated to be EUR 50 400 based on the calculation of a maximum of (24 Months / EUR 2100). The flat rate is intended to contribute to the costs for the exchange.</i></p> <p><i>This amount might include travel and Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA), language training, networking activities, management cost and overheads directly related to the implementation of the exchange.</i></p> <p><u>The European sending organisations will continue to bear the cost of the researcher/staff's regular salary.</u>"</p>
<p>41. Of the total grant amount requested, what % should be dedicated to preparing the individual mobility schemes from Europe to China?</p> <p>What % should be dedicated to providing support for catalysing the functioning of the partnerships?</p> <p>And what % should be dedicated to the actual mobility costs for the financial support of the researchers from Europe in China?</p>	<p>The guidelines are flexible in this regards and leave this to the discretion of the applicant to decide on a % allocated to the various components of the Action in a well-balanced way.</p> <p>Please take however into consideration that as mentioned in Point 2.1.4 of the Guidelines "<i>Under this Call, financial support to third parties is the primary aim of the Action.</i>" (page 9 & 10)</p>
<p>42. Can academic time be included as an eligible cost in the budget for EU partners</p>	<p>Working time of staff associated to the direct implementation of the action but NOT included in the mobility scheme should allocate their time to activities such as the ones described under Point 2.1.4 "types of activity" of the Guidelines.</p> <p>The proposed activities do not include any research (or equivalent) types of activity and therefore, does not include academic time as such.</p> <p>Staff costs of staff directly linked to the implementation of the action are eligible.</p>
<p>43. Is equipment an eligible cost</p>	<p>As Per Annex G "General Conditions" Art 14.2 "Eligible Direct Costs":</p> <p>... the following direct costs of the Beneficiary(ies) shall be eligible:</p> <p>c) purchase costs for equipment and supplies (new</p>

	<p>or used) specifically for the purposes of the Action, provided that ownership is transferred at the end of the Action when required in Article 7.5;</p> <p>Please note that all purchases must comply with the Procurement Provisions of Annex IV to the Grant Contract (Annex G - 3-Annex IV-e3h3_awardproc_en.doc)</p> <p>Foreseen Equipment purchases should be indicated in Sub-Heading "3. Equipment and Supplies" of Annex III to the Grant Contract "Budget" (e3c_budget_en.xls)</p> <p><i>However, it should be noted that The specific objective of this call for proposals is "to create, strengthen and intensify the EU-China RI partnerships by supporting the mobility of EU researchers to China ...".</i></p> <p><i>Therefore only materials and supplies (for example, office equipment and consumables) related to mobility organization and supporting activities can be purchased.</i></p> <p><i>The "types of activity" described in Point 2.1.4 of the Guidelines in Sub –Sections A (regarding the organisation of the mobility schemes) or B "providing support..." do not include any activity which would in principle justify the purchase of research equipment and consumables.</i></p>
<p>44. Is administrative/technician time an eligible cost</p>	<p>This question is understood as relating to individuals taking part in the Mobility scheme and not to staff associated to the action who will take part of the actual organisation and management of the scheme itself.</p> <p>As per Point 2.1.4 of the Guidelines, (page 10) regarding the individual mobility scheme:</p> <p><i>The flat rate is intended to contribute to the costs for the exchange.</i></p> <p><i>This amount might include travel and Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA), language training, networking activities, management cost and overheads directly related to the implementation of the exchange.</i></p> <p><i>The European sending organisations will continue to bear the cost of the researcher/staff's <u>regular salary.</u></i></p>

	<p>Therefore, the flat rate is to be understood as NOT covering the research itself but only the <u>mobility of the researcher</u>.</p> <p>In that sense, academic/administrative/technician <u>time is NOT covered by the flat rate</u> under the mobility scheme.</p>
<p>45. is a Chinese national PhD student registered to study in the EU entitled to the mobility allowance</p>	<p>As mentioned in Section 2.1.5 of the Guidelines "Eligibility of Costs" (page 12): <i>"... Ineligible costs...The following costs are not eligible: ... The mobility of Chinese researchers or Chinese visiting professors or travel / per diem for Chinese nationals."</i></p>
<p>46. In the CONCEPT NOTE stage, applicants, co-applicants, affiliates should include their information: Name, EuropeAid ID number, Nationality/Country and date of registration, Legal Entity File number, Legal Status.</p> <p>a. Chinese Organizations should register in Pador in order to have an assigned EuropeAid ID number? Do Chinese Partners need any other information/documents to submit in the Concept Note stage?</p> <p>b. Should Chinese Partners be considered as co-applicants, attending that co-applicants are beneficiaries (but Chinese institutions are not financed)?</p>	<p>a. PADOR:</p> <p>As mentioned in Section 2.2 of the Guidelines (page 12), "Phase 1, concept note:</p> <p><i>Registration in PADOR is obligatory for an (Main) applicant applying for grants above € 60000.</i></p> <p><i>Registration is optional though strongly recommended for:</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>An applicant applying for grants of € 60000 or less;</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies).</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Phase 2, full proposal:</p> <p><i>Registration in PADOR is obligatory for all pre-selected applicant, co-applicant(s) and all their affiliated entity (ies)."</i></p> <p>b. Chinese co-applicants</p> <p>The inclusion of a minimum of 1(one) "Chinese organization" as Co-Applicant is mandatory (As per Point 2.1.4 of the Guidelines, page 8)</p> <p>However, As per Point 2.1.5 of the Guidelines on "Ineligible Costs": <i>"The following costs are ineligible:... The mobility of Chinese researchers or Chinese visiting professors or travel / per diem for Chinese nationals.."</i> This applies for <u>individuals</u> to be taking part under the mobility scheme.</p>
<p>47. What is the exact meaning of 80% of</p>	<p>It means that the EU Grant contribution is a</p>

<p>eligible costs? Should the applicants cover the remaining 20% of expenses? Other sources of co-funding?</p>	<p>"Maximum percentage of 80% of the total eligible costs of the Action" (page 4). It continues that <i>"The balance... must be financed from sources other than the European Union Budget or the European Development Fund"</i>. (page 5)</p> <p>The co-financing may take the form of the beneficiary's own resources (self-financing), income generated by the action and financial contributions from third parties.</p>
<p>48. Partnership agreement is only for the second stage (Full Proposal)?</p>	<p>Under 2013 Rules, the status of "Partner" has been replaced by the status of "co-applicant" whereby the co-applicants are also co-beneficiaries of the Grant.</p> <p>The detailed information of the co-applicants and the "Mandate for (for co-applicants) to be signed by the Co-Applicants is part of "PART B. Full Application Form, Section 4". And should only be sent when submitting the Full Application Form.</p>
<p>49. May a co-applicant be an "emeritus full university professor"?</p>	<p>As per Point 2.1.1 of the Guidelines, co-applicants must be "organisations". Therefore, individuals are not eligible as "applicants" nor "co-applicants".</p>
<p>50. Can the salaries for local university staff in EU - which will be involved to the project - be applied? Or the EU sending organisations must continue to bear the total cost of the researcher/staff's regular salary?</p>	<p>For local EU university (or Chinese organisation co-applicant in China) staff assigned to the action which will not be part of the mobility scheme (i.e. who will be included in Annex III -Budget - of the Grant Contract - under the Human resources heading)</p> <p>As Per Annex G "General Conditions" Art 14.2 "Eligible Direct Costs": ...the following direct costs of the Beneficiary(ies) shall be eligible: a) the cost of staff assigned to the Action, corresponding to actual gross salaries including social security charges and other remuneration-related costs; salaries and costs shall not exceed those normally borne by the Beneficiary(ies), unless it is justified by showing that it is essential to carry out the Action</p> <p>And as per Point 2.1.4 of the Guidelines (page 10), for individuals who are taking part in the mobility scheme, <i>"The European sending organizations will continue to bear the costs of the researcher/staff's regular salary"</i>.</p>

<p>51. Can salaries for staff (e.g. in the first and second year) who will be involved in the project in local (sending) university, but will travel to the EU (or the Chinese) project partner e.g. till in the third year be applied?</p>	<p>See reply under question 50.</p> <p>A difference should be made between staff of the applicant and co-applicants and individuals included in the mobility scheme.</p>
<p>52. In the guidelines is written "The maximum amount to be awarded to each individual researcher is estimated to be EUR 50 400 based on the calculation of a maximum of (24 Months / EUR 2100). The flat rate is intended to contribute to the costs for the exchange. This amount might include travel and Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA), language training, networking activities, management cost and overheads directly related to the implementation of the exchange."</p> <p>Does this mean that the budget is only for staff mobility. Or, salaries may be applied too for the local (sending) university staff?</p>	<p>And as per Point 2.1.4 of the Guidelines (page 10), for individuals who are taking part in the mobility scheme, "<i>The European sending organizations will continue to bear the costs of the researcher/staff's regular salary</i>".</p>
<p>53. Is it possible to include in the budget the purchase of the equipment needed for scientific work (e.g. expensive equipment for sending university)?</p>	<p>As Per Annex G "General Conditions" Art 14.2 "Eligible Direct Costs":</p> <p>... the following direct costs of the Beneficiary(ies) shall be eligible:</p> <p>c) purchase costs for equipment and supplies (new or used) specifically for the purposes of the Action, provided that ownership is transferred at the end of the Action when required in Article 7.5;</p> <p>Please note that all purchases must comply with the Procurement Provisions of Annex IV to the Grant Contract (Annex G - 3-Annex IV-e3h3_awardproc_en.doc). This Annex contains the specific procurement provisions for services, works and supply (equipment contracts) detailing which procedure should be used depending on the amount of the contract.</p> <p>Foreseen Equipment purchases should be indicated in Sub-Heading "3. Equipment and Supplies" of Annex III to the Grant Contract "Budget" (e3c_budget_en.xls)</p> <p>However, it should be noted that The specific objective of this call for proposals is "<i>to create, strengthen and intensify the EU-China RI</i></p>

	<p><i>partnerships by supporting the mobility of EU researchers to China ...".</i></p> <p><i>Therefore only materials and supplies (for example, office equipment and consumables) related to mobility organization and supporting activities can be purchased.</i></p> <p><i>The "types of activity" described in Point 2.1.4 of the Guidelines in Sub –Sections A (regarding the organisation of the mobility schemes) or B "providing support..." do not include any activity which would in principle justify the purchase of equipment needed for scientific work.</i></p>
<p>54. Do I understand it correctly that you are planning to fund a total of 5 proposals in this call: one for each LOT?</p>	<p>As per Guidelines 1.3. FINANCIAL ALLOCATION PROVIDED BY THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY:</p> <p>The overall indicative amount made available under this Call for Proposals is EUR 4 000 000. The Contracting Authority reserves the right not to award all available funds.</p> <p>The Call for Proposals is divided into five lots corresponding to five identified strategic areas.</p> <p>Indicative allocation of funds by lot: EUR 800 000 ...</p> <p>If the allocation indicated for a specific lot cannot be used due to insufficient quality or number of proposals received, the Contracting Authority reserves the right to reallocate the remaining funds to another lot.</p>
<p>55. The total of 800,000 euros seems quite a lot of money for student/staff exchange and network meetings. That would mean 15-20 student/academics travelling to China (if I understand the finances correctly).</p>	<p>As per Guidelines point 2.1.4 (page 10): "5) The minimum number of individual mobility in each partnership must be equivalent to 4 persons per project year." The total number of funded researchers will depend on the length of each mobility and the allocation of fund to the mobility and the supporting activities.</p>
<p>56. Can I hire an extra person (student/postdoc) for this collaborative project?</p>	<p>As per General Conditions (Annex G to the Guidelines), 14.2. Subject to Article 14.1 and, where relevant, to the provisions of Annex IV being respected, the following direct costs of the Beneficiary(ies) shall be eligible:</p> <p>a) the cost of staff assigned to the Action, corresponding to actual gross salaries including social security charges and other remuneration-related costs; salaries and costs shall not exceed those normally borne by the Beneficiary(ies), unless</p>

	<p>it is justified by showing that it is essential to carry out the Action;</p> <p>it shall be distinguished from the salaries of the mobility staff. According to the Guidelines 2.1.4 (page 10) "<i>The European sending organisations will continue to bear the cost of the researcher/staff's regular salary.</i>"</p>
<p>57. How many groups do you typically expect as co-Is in China and the EU?</p>	<p>As per Guidelines point 2.1.1 (page 6) " A <i>partnership in this Action must be composed of a minimum of two European organisations from two different EU Member States and a minimum of one Chinese organization.</i>" There is no "typical" number to be expected.</p>
<p>58. Is there any incompatibility for the al Joint Research Centre, Ispra (Italy), a center of the EC, to participate as co-applicant in the EU-China reach and innovation Partnership?</p>	<p>As Per section 2.1.1 of the Guidelines: "<i>In order to be eligible for a grant, the applicant must:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>be legal persons; and</i> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>be organisations carrying out research activities from one of the EU Member States or Partner Countries. Entities that do not fulfil the above-mentioned criteria <u>could be eligible as associates;</u></i> <p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <i>be able to demonstrate their experience and capacity to manage activities corresponding in scale and complexity with the activities for which this grant is requested."</i> <p>It is the applicant's own responsibility to check according to the above-mentioned article the eligibility of interested parties.</p> <p>In addition, as Per section 2.2.4 of the Guidelines, "<i>To ensure equal treatment of applicants, the Contracting Authority cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of applicants, or affiliated entity(ies), an action or specific activities.</i>"</p>
<p>59. On page 6 in Guidelines for grant applicant is written that the applicant must provide evidence of Quality Assurance. What does it mean exactly? Is this mean any International certification as a ISO? Or is it sufficient Deed of foundation?</p>	<p>As mentioned in Point 2.4 (page 20 and 21) of the Guidelines, " Evidence of quality assurance: official certificate issued by a certified body, or a valid licence of the field by competent authority, and/or through an explanatory note on the quality assurance system of the concerned entities."</p> <p>Moreover, this documentation should only be provided by "<i>An applicant that has been provisionally selected or placed on the reserve list</i>" after the evaluation of the Full Application.</p> <p>Therefore, the documentation does not need to be provided as an attachment to the Concept Note.</p>

<p>60. Chapter 2.1.1. Eligibility of applicants We act as a funding agency for the national health program and the national China program for a European government. We are located within a research entity. So we are a research entity but we do not perform research but work on the national health and internationalisation strategies and fund research. Are we eligible?</p>	<p>As Per section 2.1.1 of the Guidelines: In order to be eligible for a grant, the applicant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> be legal persons; and <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> be organisations carrying out research activities from one of the EU Member States or Partner Countries. Entities that do not fulfil the above-mentioned criteria <u>could be eligible as associates</u>; and <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> be able to demonstrate their experience and capacity to manage activities corresponding in scale and complexity with the activities for which this grant is requested. <p>The eligibility of an applicant can only be determined for pre-selected (Step 2) organisations based on the supporting documentation attached to the Full Application form</p>
<p>61. Chapter 2.1.4 Eligible actions We plan to use the main part of the budget to organize a Europe wide call for proposals to support mobility of researchers in a given field. Is this an eligible action?</p>	<p>As per the Guidelines point 2.1.4 (page 10): "2) Individuals eligible for mobility should be in one of the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> doctoral and post-doctoral students of the EU partner institutions as the main target group; <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> research and academic staff of the EU partner institutions; <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> engineers, innovation managers, RI personnel working in EU RI entities."