

# NGI

## Open Call Text

**NGI\_TRUST** 3<sup>rd</sup> Open Call  
(ref: NGI\_TRUST 2019003)

Closing date for proposals:  
4 May 2020 at 18:00 (CET)

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## 1 Introduction

NGI\_TRUST is funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the grant agreement No 825618. The NGI\_Trust project is part of the European Commission's Next Generation Internet (NGI) initiative<sup>1</sup>. NGI\_TRUST aims to

- Reinforce, structure and develop the community of researchers, innovators and technology developers in the field of privacy and trust enhancing technologies
- Build on the state of the art in privacy and trust enhancing technologies by focusing support for third-party projects on a limited number of priority topics
- Improve user trust and acceptance of emerging technologies by focusing on applications and solutions that develop a more open, robust and dependable Internet and strengthen Internet Governance
- Foster the exploitation and commercialisation of the results of selected third-party projects through a tailored process of coaching and mentoring.

The project will provide financial support to third parties to meet these aims.

## 2 Topics addressed by the 3<sup>rd</sup> open call

Third-party projects may receive financial support if they are working on privacy and trust enhancing technologies and their application to the NGI<sup>2</sup>. In particular, *the aim is to ensure that as sensors, objects, devices, AI-based algorithms, etc. are incorporated in our digital environment, that robust and easy to use technologies are developed to help users increase trust and achieve greater control when sharing their personal data, attributes and information.*

More specifically, NGI TRUST will support third-party projects working in the following areas:

### 1. Topics focused on App implementations to manage the plethora of Information Sharing Agreements and consents that a person would agree to, manage and re-use over time (Type 2 or Type 3 proposals only)

- Solutions enabling users to get trust on privacy terms
- Solutions enabling users to more easily and uniformly set preferences or terms such as machine-readable privacy terms (IEEE - P7012) and technologies that help to reduce the risk that GDPR is misused to further exploit/ complicate the user experience.
- Efficient techniques to anonymize personal data in the era of Big Data.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/next-generation-internet-initiative>

<sup>2</sup> As defined broadly by the [Horizon 2020 Work-Programme 2018-20, Information and Communication Technologies Part 5.i - Page 48 of 141](#)

**2. Technical innovation in privacy enhancing technologies, such as cryptography, federated identity, security and privacy for IoT, privacy-enhancing data transports and data at rest.**

- Simplified multifactor authentication
- Option for encrypted devices/data at rest. i.e. an option for the user to prevent being forced to decrypt their data under, such as physical threat.
- Cybersecurity certification for ICT products, processes and services in the EU (EU Cybersecurity Act).
- Solutions that improve algorithm agility (where deployed algorithms are superseded and must be replaced).
- Improved information for users about the security mechanisms in use by apps (browsers give the user some clues about e.g. TLS; apps give none).
- Pilot implementation of specifications, standards, acceptance criteria and measurement frameworks for new identifiers, for instance: Mobile Driving Licenses; Delegation in the context of ID; eID and authentication services to support, for instance student mobility and access to educational services, thin file individuals, disabled users, refugees, non-digital natives, lost identities due to natural disasters etc.
- projects which bridge the gap between technological enhancements on one side and their actual uptake by non-expert users of the internet on the other side
- With a view to next generation certificates, how can European grid certificate authorities build up user-friendly mechanisms that promote a changed user experience and awareness and addresses forms of identity that comply with EU law and or meet specific European needs.

**3. The application of artificial intelligence/machine learning/neural networks to serve the user's interests.**

- User-centric design, simplicity, usability, edge AI ('artificial intelligence')
- Taking into account the recommendations of the EU High Level Expert Group on AI, a scientific and empirical approach is needed, such as developing guidance on how to approach access and acquisition of data for the development/expansion of AI, operationalize those recommendations in order to strengthen the capacity/ability of the Internet industry in Europe.
- Explainable artificial intelligence (XAI) for improving human trust in artificial intelligence (AI) systems
- Quantum resistant computing

**4. Bootstrapping trust at the protocol level, to maintain a trustable Internet Infrastructure.**

- DNS-based security of the Internet Infrastructure (DNSSEC, DOH approach), given the need to reinforce trust in a world of "deep fake".

Proposers may use these as inspiration for developing their projects or may address additional specific topics for which they have identified a user need or market demand

The NGI\_Trust consortium expects that proposals submitted to the open call will seek to develop, whenever possible, **use cases** that can be **scaled up** or deployed **at European level** as rapidly as possible to support practical privacy and trust enhancing solutions for the human centric internet, putting the “human being in front of the tool” and not vice-versa.

The use cases should address **specific opportunities or challenges** in the research and education, public sector/government and/or business sectors (or verticals). Applicants should explain how they will adopt a ‘user-centric’ approach to enhance trust and privacy by consulting or involving individuals, communities of practice or organisations in the co-design of applications and solutions.

All projects should consider the **potential socio-economic impact** of what they propose to develop (e.g. if uptake requires network effects, the proposals should not just develop a privacy friendly technology but also a convincing concept on how to drive uptake).

### 3 Who can apply for funding?

The call is open to individual or team applications (see guide for applications for further information). Teams can involve experts from various disciplines including technological, legal ethical, sociological or economic expertise.

Applicants may be legal entities or natural persons and should be registered (for organisations) or resident (for individuals) in an EU Member State or a Horizon 2020 associated country ([list of countries](#)).

### 4 What sorts of projects will be funded?

Three types of third-party projects will be awarded funding:

- Type 1 (viability): up to € 75,000 per project from NGI\_Trust, no matching funds required. The objective is to explore and assess the technical feasibility and/or commercial potential of a breakthrough innovation that aims at enhancing privacy and trust for the NGI. Activities can include conceptual development, risk assessment, market study or intellectual property management of a new technology or service, or a new application of existing technologies. Indicative duration: 6 months.
- Type 2 (execution): up to €150,000 per project from NGI\_Trust and matching funds of up to €75,000 (2/3 - 1/3 model). The objective is to fund R&D or technology development projects underpinned by a strategic plan and feasibility assessment (which can be, but need not be, developed through a Type 1 project funded by NGI\_Trust). Indicative duration: 6-9 months.
- Type 3 (transition to commercialisation): up to €200,000 per project from NGI\_Trust and the equivalent in matching funds (50/50). These projects should pursue the commercialisation of a privacy and trust enhancing innovation for the NGI (which

can be, but need not be, developed through a Type 2 project funded by NGI\_Trust).  
Indicative duration: up to 12 months.

Projects will receive support in the form of technical coaching, business mentoring and IP advice from the project partners and other NGI projects.

## 5 How will the projects be selected?

The evaluation procedure of the proposals is set out in the Guide for Applicants. The time schedule for the 3<sup>rd</sup> open call is as follows:

- 28 February 2020: open call launched
- 4 May 2020: deadline for submission of applications
- May 2020: eligibility check and evaluations of proposals
- June 2020: Meeting of evaluation panel and of NGI\_Trust Management board to agree on selected projects. Submission of the list of selected projects to European Commission for final approval.
- June 2020: contracting and signature of approved third-party grants.
- July 2020 – onward: project implementation.

The maximum duration of the third-party projects should be up to 12 months. The amount of financial support will be determined, from a value for money perspective, by the NGI\_Trust Management board based on the proposed budget and planned deliverables. Maximum award to any single third-party will be €200,000 over the life-time of the NGI\_TRUST project.

Sub-grants may not have the purpose or effect of producing a profit for the beneficiary (third-party grantee). Financial support will be paid in instalments against achievement of milestones.

## 6 Application form and support to applicants

For the application form and detailed guidance for applicants, please download the files available at the [NGI\\_TRUST Open Call pages](#) as well as at the [NGI.eu website](#).

The NGI\_TRUST consortium will organise a number of webinars and be present at a number of events during the period March-April 2020 to discuss with interested applicants. Please check the NGI\_TRUST open call wiki pages & follow our twitter account: <https://twitter.com/NgiTrust> if you would like to register for one of these sessions.

For further information on the call or if you have any doubts relating to the eligibility rules or the information that is to be provided in the application form, please contact the Support Team: [NGI-Trust-support@lists.geant.org](mailto:NGI-Trust-support@lists.geant.org)