

Application guidelines

Eligibility

Access is free for users from EU Member States, EU Associated States, or Developing Countries. It is open to public and private groups in Europe and, with a limit of 20% outside Europe in particular developing countries. Accesses can aim at answering a clear scientific question, at addressing a technological challenge (i.e. testing a new method or device) or at unlocking a breeding program.

The user group leader and the majority of the users must work in a country other than the country(ies) where the installation is located. *Exceptions (International organization, the Joint Research Centre (JRC), an ERIC or similar legal entities)*

Only user groups that are allowed to disseminate the results they have generated under the action may benefit from the access, unless the users are working for SMEs

Applicants may apply for access to two or more installations with a separate application for each installation, i.e. only applications for one access to one installation will be eligible. Access to two or more installations requires two or more applications.

Evaluation and selection procedure

Access is granted on the basis of proposals. Each proposal will be reviewed and evaluated by an independent EPPN²⁰²⁰ platform scientist and international expert recognized for their expertise in the plant phenotyping. The evaluation criteria of the submitted proposals are as follows:

- technical feasibility
- the Transnational Access projects have to demonstrate scientific excellence or (for accesses with technological purpose) a promising technical challenge
- the proposal crosses scales for addressing a specific question (e.g. metabolomics to phenotype, platform in greenhouse to field canopy). For that, a priority will be given to accesses that extend or complement an available data set, e.g. in the field
- scientific progress leading to publications is expected
- preference is given to users who do not belong to the EPPN²⁰²⁰ consortium
- special attention will be paid to developing-countries, and to young scientists

The selected projects and their status will be listed on the EPPN²⁰²⁰ website.

IMPORTANT: Feasibility is an essential evaluation criterion. Please contact the platform operators prior to the submission of a proposal to extensively discuss the feasibility of your Transnational Access projects. Only applications that can clearly demonstrate the feasibility of the proposed Transnational Access projects at the respective installation will be considered. Applicants are asked to describe in detail how the feasibility has been assessed

Proposal submission

Proposals are submitted through the Transnational Access on-line application platform.

Each section is evaluated and will receive points from the reviewer. Only proposals that pass the threshold value for each section can be approved.

The proposal is divided into three parts:

- **Description of feasibility (Feasibility 30 points / threshold 20 points)**

The feasibility assessment addresses questions such as:

- Was a scientist in charge of the aimed installation contacted?
- Was the feasibility discussed with scientists of this installation?
- Was this scientist consulted in the preparation of the proposal?

- **Excellence: description of work (40 points /threshold 30 points)**

Excellence addresses e.g.:

- Introduction and background of the Transnational Access project
- Expected impact of the proposed Transnational Access project
- Previous work and existing datasets related to the TA project, how do they contribute to the success of the Transnational Access project
- A detailed work plan

- **Expected outcome (30 points /threshold 20 points)**

Expected outcome should address:

- What type of results do you expect from the proposed Transnational Access projects?
- How will this benefit the question you want to answer?
- What are the expected publications?
- Data management plan (how will the data (incl. raw data) be made available to the community

Selection procedure

Each proposal will be evaluated by at least two independent reviewers, an external expert in the specific field in question and an EPPN²⁰²⁰ platform scientist who is not working at the platform targeted by the application). Based on the recommendations of the reviewers and the feasibility of the project (evaluated by the director of the aimed installation) proposals will be ranked and selected for transnational access by the executive committee of EPPN²⁰²⁰.

To efficiently address the demand of the users, proposals which passed the threshold but that were not selected for access to the proposed installation will be take into consideration for access to other comparable installation, if there is capacity for access and if the Transnational Access project is feasible.

Each applicant will be informed about the outcome of its proposal approximately 6-8 weeks after the submission deadline.

Access

In case the Transnational Access proposal is accepted, the user and access provider will directly negotiate the final detail of the access implementation. To enable this step, the applicant will contact the host institution about the further procedure for organizing and implementing the access to the infrastructure including dates of visit, travel and accommodation.

Reporting

After completion of the project, each user group leader is requested to provide a project report to the EPPN²⁰²⁰ management office within 6 weeks after the completion of the access using an on-line reporting portal. Additionally, an on-line EPPN²⁰²⁰ internal questionnaire must be filled in by the user group leader to evaluate and improve the quality of access.

Users are expected to publish their results within a reasonable time in the open literature. The users must agree that any publication resulting from work carried out under the EPPN²⁰²⁰ Transnational Activity must acknowledge the support of the European Community in the Horizon 2020 Programme.

We recommend to acknowledge the supported of EPPN²⁰²⁰ with the following sentence:

"Financial support by the Access to Research Infrastructures activity in the Horizon 2020 Programme of the EU (EPPN²⁰²⁰ Grant Agreement 731013-) is gratefully acknowledged"