EBRAINS 2.0

D7.2 Final report for open calls – Selected partners/parties

Figure 1: Selected parties from the EBRAINS 2.0 open calls

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Abstract:	This report summarises the management of the 4 EBRAINS 2.0 Open Calls, opened under WP1, WP2, WP3 and WP4, between M6 and M12. 4 calls were opened in M6 and closed in M9, a new call with a modified scope was opened under WP1 in M10 and closed in M12. In total 19 proposals were submitted, of which 15 eligible for funding, and 8 proposals were selected for funding. External evaluators assessed the proposals on the evaluation criteria: 'Excellence', 'Impact', 'Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation' and 'Gender and Diversity in Teams'. Additionally, proposals suggested for funding were subjected to an ethics evaluation by the EBRAINS Legal and Compliance Advisor. After evaluation, 8 projects were selected for funding with the following country distribution: Spain (3), Germany, Sweden, Czech Republic, Poland, Italy. This deliverable report provides information on the calls' submission and evaluation processes as well as information on selected parties.		

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1. Introduction

The EBRAINS 2.0 Open Calls (hereafter referred to as Open Calls) have been incorporated into the EBRAINS 2.0 project with the aim to ensure transparent and structured integration of new workflows, datasets and use cases into EBRAINS. Hereby, the Open Calls strive to enhance the existing services and tools and thus foster innovation and collaboration, equal opportunities and ultimately accelerate the progress in the field of neuroscience and brain health.

The Open Calls are funded via the Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) scheme that aims to foster new collaborations and reach parties outside of the EBRAINS 2.0 project.
The total amount of funding that has been awarded to each selected project is EUR 60.000,00. T7.5, part of WP7, is responsible for the organisation and coordination of the Open Calls. The Open Calls were developed in collaboration with T1.7, T2.8, T3.6 and T4.8 from Work Packages (WP) 1 - 4.

On 20 June (M6) 4 calls were opened, for which the submission deadline was 2 September 2024. Additionally, between October (M10) and December (M12), a new call with a modified scope was opened under WP1. This document will go into detail on the management of the open calls, starting from preparation to reporting of the results.

A short description of each of the calls is given in tables 1 and 2.

Table 1: Open Calls launched under the EBRAINS 2.0 Open Calls in June 2024 (M6)

Open Call	Description
OC1	This call aims to integrate spatial omics data at the whole-brain level with the EBRAINS Human Brain Atlas to enhance data accessibility, enable precise spatial mapping, and link to other modalities such as neuroimaging, cytoarchitectonics, and molecular data.
OC2	This call invites researchers in clinical neuroscience to collaborate on Work Package 2 of the EBRAINS 2.0 consortium, focused on multimodal imaging and clinical connectomes in neurological disorders. The aim is to build a shared infrastructure for clinical datasets to support collaborative research on conditions such as stroke, Parkinson's disease, and gliomas.
OC3	This call aims to promote the neuroscientific use of EBRAINS 2.0 by supporting the development of a compelling use case for its digital brain twin and simulation services. The selected applicant will apply EBRAINS brain models and workflows to address a challenge in brain medicine and collaborate closely with developers in Work Package 3 to enhance and integrate modelling tools.
OC4	This call invites institutions or consortia with large neuroscience datasets to make their data findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable through the EBRAINS Research Infrastructure, contributing to open science. Priority is given to well-annotated data from rodent or human brain research that align with the EBRAINS metadata standards and can be used with EBRAINS or widely adopted external analysis tools.

Table 2: Open Calls launched under the EBRAINS 2.0 Open Calls in October 2024 (M10)

Open Call	Description
OC1	This call invites the research community to integrate existing 3D models of the brain's vascular tree into the EBRAINS Human Brain Atlas by spatially aligning vascular data with EBRAINS reference templates and linking them to other multimodal brain data. The goal is to improve the accessibility and neuroscientific utility of vascular models, enhance the clinical relevance of the atlas, and support data curation in collaboration with EBRAINS partners.

2. Management of the EBRAINS 2.0 Open Calls

The management of the Open Calls started in M1 (January 2024) and involved the preparation of the call documents and procedures, opening of the calls, evaluation of the proposals and finally reporting of the results. The selection process was concluded in M16 (March 2025).

Table 3: Timeline of the EBRAINS 2.0 Open Calls

Call	Preparation	Submission period	Evaluation	Reporting of results
OC1-4	M1-M5	M6-M8	M8-M11	M12
OC1 reopened[1]	M9	M10 – M12	M12 – M15	M16

The following subchapters will go into detail on each of the steps.

2.1 Preparation of the EBRAINS 2.0 Open Calls

The Open Calls were established in close collaboration with WPs 1-4. The latter proposed the topics and scope of the Open Calls in line with EBRAINS 2.0 and drafted the content of the calls while the Open Calls Management drafted the relevant procedural documents and managed the overall process. Following review, these documents (Guide for Applicants, Proposal Template, Call Announcement) were endorsed by EBRAINS 2.0 Leadership Board and the EC Project Officer.

The Guide for Applicants was the main information document for the applicants and was developed in close collaboration with the relevant WP for each call. The document contained the following aspects:

- Scope of the call, number of proposals to be funded, objectives, expected contributions and impacts
- Guidelines on budget, application and submission
    - Eligibility criteria
    - Required (ethical and data protection regulation) documentation to be added to the proposal
    - Relevant proposal template which applicants had to use for proposal writing and submission
- Information on the evaluation process, including the evaluation criteria and scoring

The Call Announcement entailed a short summary of each call topic and its main objectives and was shared on the EBRAINS website. Listed below are the Call Announcements for each call as published.

2.1.1 OC1: Integrating Omics Data into the Human Brain Atlas

This call invites researchers to participate in a strategic initiative for the integration of spatial omics data resources with the Human Brain Atlas of EBRAINS to facilitate collaborative research in neuroimaging of healthy subjects and patients. It addresses institutions or research consortia who already collected measurements of such data at whole-brain level and seek to integrate them into a comprehensive atlas to increase the accessibility of their data, facilitate a more precise spatial localisation of omics data, and link them to other findings including structural and functional

[1] This is a call with a modified scope opened under WP1 as the first call (2.1.1) did not receive any applications. The process for this is further described in Record of incidents.

neuroimaging, cytoarchitectonics or molecular data. The envisioned data modalities include expressions of genes, proteins, or lipids, preferably with single-cell detail, that can be spatially aligned to one of the reference template spaces provided by EBRAINS. Sufficient availability of provenance information and image material for the underlying tissue samples is expected to realise adequate spatial anchoring. The integration shall complement the existing multimodal data features integrated with the human brain atlas in EBRAINS, thereby increasing the comprehensiveness and utility of the atlas, helping to advance our understanding of the brain, and provide reference data for studies in the field of brain medicine. Collaboration with an EBRAINS consortium partner can be provided to curate and adapt the metadata to be compatible with the existing infrastructure. Explicit data sharing in EBRAINS is possible, but the development of a software interface to an existing data repository is also expressly welcome. A clear statement of curation and data sharing requirements should be described in the proposal.

2.1.2 OC1: Integrating Vascular Architecture data into the Human Brain Atlas[2]

This call seeks to engage the scientific and research community to integrate models of the brain vascular tree with the human brain atlas in EBRAINS. We encourage submissions that bring in 3D reconstructions of the vessel tree from vascular images which can be spatially aligned to one of the reference template spaces provided by EBRAINS to combine them with the structural and functional parcellations in EBRAINS and link them to other findings such as structural and functional neuroimaging, cytoarchitectonics or molecular data. With the integration we aim to enhance the usability and accessibility of the vasculature models for neuroscientific studies and further increase the clinical relevance of EBRAINS human brain atlas. The call focuses on integrating existing data with EBRAINS and does not support new data acquisitions. However, incoming datasets might require additional curation effort and adaptation of the metadata to be compatible with the existing infrastructure and might have to be adapted in collaboration with the EBRAINS consortium partner. A single proposal will be selected for funding.

2.1.3 OC2: Clinical Neuroscience

This call invites researchers in the field of clinical neuroscience to submit proposals for collaboration on Work Package 2 of the EBRAINS 2.0 research consortium: “Multimodal imaging data in healthy participants and clinical connectomes in focal, degenerative, and rare neurological disorders.“ WP2 aims to create an infrastructure for the collection of clinical datasets that include imaging features (e.g., lesion maps, structural or functional brain features) as well as basic clinical and behavioural data. Consortium partners will (i) contribute datasets including imaging and clinical/behavioural data from patients with one or more of the following pathologies: stroke, Parkinson’s disease, and gliomas to a common database, and (ii) use the consortium’s clinical datasets to answer clinical research questions (e.g., as out-of-sample validation).

2.1.4 OC3: Promoting the Neuroscientific Use of EBRAINS 2.0 Digital Brain Twins and Simulation Services

This Call Promoting the neuroscientific use of EBRAINS 2.0 digital brain twins and simulation services aims to promote the use of EBRAINS through the development of a convincing neuroscientific use case of the digital twin modelling framework. The successful applicant will use the

[2] This is a reopened call under WP1 as the first call (2.1.1) did not receive any applications. The process for this is further described in Record of incidents.

standard brain models and EBRAINS workflows that are being developed and deployed, to respond to a challenge in brain medicine and advance understanding of brain structure and function. Such challenges may include the development of more effective treatments, new drugs, diagnostics, or preventive measures for neuropsychiatric disorders. The successful applicant will interact with the scientists and developers of the EBRAINS 2.0 project in Work Package 3 (WP3) 'Create digital twins through modelling and simulation' that develop ready-to-use brain model templates for the whole brain and its subsystems, integrated with other EBRAINS tools and services to support a wide range of scientific use case, and will provide feedback on the quality of tools and make suggestions for their improvement. They will also be able to integrate their own tools into the modelling and simulation workflows of WP3.

2.1.5 OC4: Recruiting Large Data Collections for FAIR Data Sharing and Analysis in EBRAINS

This call aims to make large neuroscience data collections findable, accessible, interoperable, re-usable and interpretable through the EBRAINS Research Infrastructure.
We invite institutions or research consortia that have collected research data from one or more projects to share their data and related metadata through the EBRAINS Data and Knowledge services, thereby actively contributing to the open science movement.
The anticipated data modalities encompass those currently incorporated in the existing version of the EBRAINS Knowledge Graph. Priority will be given to large data collections from experimental rodent brain research or human brain (healthy or with brain disorders), including data derived from structural and functional microscopy (e.g., voltage-sensitive dye imaging, intrinsic signal optical imaging, two-photon/multi-photon imaging), MRI, PET, EEG and electrophysiology, spanning from cellular to system levels.
The shared datasets should have well-organized metadata according to the openMINDS metadata standard. The datasets should be compatible for analysis using EBRAINS tools and services, and/or external widely used analysis pipelines that are not yet integrated into EBRAINS.

2.2 Opening of the EBRAINS 2.0 Open Calls

The Open Calls opened on 20 June 2024 and were announced on the EBRAINS website as well as the EU Funding & Tenders Portal. The necessary documents were made available on a public EBRAINS Drive, from which the documents could be downloaded. The calls closed on the deadline, 2 September, respectively. A modified call under WP1 was reopened on 1 October and closed on 2 December.

2.2.1 Open Calls Platform

For the submission and evaluation of the Open Calls, the Open Calls Platform was created, using the provider Good Grants *(see Figure 2 and Figure 3)*. This platform provided all the relevant information to the applicants and allowed them to submit a proposal. In addition, the platform entailed a section for the remote evaluation, allowing proposals to be assigned to evaluators for the individual evaluation. Here, the evaluators had access to the proposals and were asked to evaluate the proposals against the evaluation criteria and provide comments on each score.
The Open Calls Management designed the platform, and it was tested for usability and practicality by several members of the relevant WPs.

2.2.2 Dissemination and applicant support

To maximise the interest among potential applicants, the open calls were extensively disseminated via various channels:

- **A dedicated section on the EBRAINS website**[3]

- **A series of social media (LinkedIn, X, BlueSky, Mastodon) posts**
  EBRAINS Communication posted about the Open Calls across the EBRAINS Social Media channels, including a LinkedIn item before[4] and upon[5] the opening date of the calls (June 20th), which were reposted 15 and 9 times. On July 10th[6], a last reminder for the webinar was posted. Finally, two weeks before the application deadline, another reminder[7] was posted on LinkedIn.

- **Dedicated section in the EBRAINS Newsletter**. The open calls were announced in the monthly EBRAINS newsletters during the submission period.

- **Dissemination via the networks of the WPs**
  WPs were asked to promote the Open Calls within their own networks. This varied from posting a news item on their respective institute's website, to promotion at conferences or direct mailings to labs in their network.

- **Informational webinar on July 11th, 10:00 – 11:30 CEST**[8]
  On July 11th, the Open Calls Management in collaboration with the respective WPs gave an online informational webinar for interested applicants. The webinar was aimed at explaining the Open Calls, the submission and evaluation process. Furthermore, each WP gave a presentation about their respective call topic and attendees were able to ask questions anonymously. In total, the webinar was attended by 76 participants. The webinar was recorded, which was shared with the attendees, and the presentation slides[9] were shared on the EBRAINS website.

- **Promotion at EBRAINS booth during FENS Forum 2024 and EAN Congress 2024**
  EBRAINS was present at FENS Forum 2024 in Vienna and the EAN Congress 2024 in Helsinki. For this, the Open Calls Management created an 'Engage with us' slideshow to be shown at the EBRAINS Booth as well as a leaflet to be distributed to booth visitors. The presentation and leaflet included promotion for the Open Calls and went more in-depth on the specific call topics. Members of the Open Calls Management and Communications Team promoted the Open Calls and the webinar to booth visitors with dedicated handouts. Furthermore, some members of the WPs were present to address content questions about the calls.

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[3] https://www.ebrains.eu/page/open-calls
[4] https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ebrains-eu_in-the-scope-of-the-ebrains-20-project-activity-7208813801570222081-LhzQ?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAACwkgV0B0144rD54zfVDkCrhcNb9megmoI8
[5] https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ebrains-eu_you-can-now-submit-your-proposal-funding-activity-7209470060766113792-b86g/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop
[6] https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ebrains-eu_are-you-interested-in-applying-for-the-ebrains-activity-7216750806283255809-6SzD/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop
[7] https://www.linkedin.com/posts/ebrains-eu_just-two-more-weeks-to-apply-for-the-ebrains-activity-7231268228046467073-3au8/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAACwkgV0B0144rD54zfVDkCrhcNb9megmoI8
[8] https://www.ebrains.eu/news-and-events/ebrains-2-0-open-calls-information-webinar
[9] https://www.ebrains.eu/page/open-calls

- **Presentation at EBRAINS Networking Session during FENS Forum 2024**
  During the EBRAINS networking session[10] at the FENS 2024 conference in Vienna, one of the Open Call Management Team members gave a presentation about collaborating with EBRAINS. This included the Open Calls. The majority of the webinar registrations occurred during this specific presentation.

- **News items on the open calls on the EBRAINS website**
  A news item[11] was posted upon the opening of the open calls on 20 June on the EBRAINS Website News & Events page. Consecutively, another news item[12] was posted upon the reopening of the call under WP1 on 2 October.

2.3 Proposal Evaluation

The evaluation process of the Open Calls adhered to the following stages:

- **Eligibility assessment**: proposals were subjected to an eligibility check (s*ee section 2.3.1).*
- **Remote evaluation by independent evaluators**: Eligible proposals went on to the individual review, during which each proposal was reviewed by three evaluators that had expertise on the topic of the call. Their assessments were gathered in an Individual Evaluation Report for each proposal and were sent to the evaluators and the rapporteur to prepare for the consensus and panel meetings *(see section 2.3.3).*
- **Consensus meeting**: Each proposal was discussed, and consensus was reached on comments and scores per proposal. The rapporteur produced final consensus report in real-time (s*ee section 2.3.4).*
- **Panel meeting**: Comments and scores of the consensus report per proposal were confirmed by the panel. The final ranking list was produced and final selection of proposals to be funded was made *(see section 2.3.5).*
- **Ethics review of selected projects**: The EBRAINS Legal and Compliance Advisor conducted an ethics review for the selected projects (s*ee section 2.3.6*).
- **Endorsement process and notification of applicants**: The EBRAINS 2.0 Leadership Board and the Project Officer endorsed the evaluation results and applicants were notified of the outcome of the evaluation *(see section 2.3.7).*

2.3.1 Eligibility assessment

Upon submission, proposals were checked by the Open Calls Management according to the eligibility criteria listed below:

1. Applicants must be established in the EU Member States or Horizon Europe-Associated Countries[13].
2. Applicants' institutions do not have beneficiary status[14] in EBRAINS 2.0.
3. The proposal must adhere to the page limit as indicated in the proposal template.

[10] https://www.ebrains.eu/news-and-events/fens-forum-2024-starts-in-vienna-check-out-ebrains-activities-during-the-conference
[11] https://www.ebrains.eu/news-and-events/collaborate-and-create-ebrains-open-calls-for-researchers
[12] https://www.ebrains.eu/news-and-events/open-call-announcement-funding-opportunity-for-data-integration-into-ebrains-2-0
[13] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf
[14] https://drive.ebrains.eu/f/d556bd99f3484090b1d5/?dl=1

4. The proposal must be complete and filled out correctly according to the proposal template.
5. Applicants must have completed the ethics self-assessment as part of their application.
6. The requested budget is a maximum of 60,000 EUR.
7. Organisations currently contracted by EBRAINS 2.0 partners for product or service supply paid by EBRAINS 2.0 are ineligible due to EC rules on mutual exclusivity of supplier and partner statuses

After the preliminary check, ineligible applicants were informed.

2.3.2 Independent evaluators

Experts from the relevant research fields and independent of EBRAINS and the applicants, hereafter referred to as 'evaluators', assessed the proposals based on the evaluation criteria of the call. WPs 1-4 were invited to nominate these evaluators with expertise on the call topics and the Open Call Management checked for suitability and absence of conflicts of interests (COI). Finally, the evaluators were contracted by the Medical University of Innsbruck (P30) for the specific duration of their duties.

For preparation, the evaluators received the Guideline for Evaluators, along with the Standard Briefing Slides for Experts[15], comprising of explanations of their role and the guiding principles. Specifically, the guide contained a detailed description of the evaluation process, the Open Call Platform, and rules for conflicts of interest. In addition, the Guideline for Applicants for the specific call was provided.

After the submission deadline, the evaluators had to declare any COI with the applicants of the eligible proposals, the rules for this are explained below:

The COI rules follow the Expert Code of Conduct set out in Annex 1 of the Model Contract for Experts[16].

A conflict of interest exists if an evaluator:

- Was involved in the preparation of the proposal
- Stands to benefit directly/indirectly, if the proposal is successful or fails
- Has a close family/personal relationship with any person representing an applicant legal entity
- Is a director/trustee/partner of an applicant or involved in the management of an applicant's organisation
- Is employed or contracted by an applicant or a named subcontractor
- Is a member of an Advisory Group or Programme Committee in an area related to the call in question
- Is a National Contact Point or are directly working for the Enterprise Europe Network
- Is involved in a competing proposal

Evaluators cannot evaluate proposals where they have a potential conflict of interest, and they cannot comment on those proposals during the consensus and panel meeting.

[15] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/experts/standard-briefing-slides-for-experts_he_en.pdf
[16] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/experts/code-of-conduct_en.pdf

Before receiving full access to the proposals, evaluators received an inquiry in which they had to indicate any potential conflict of interest and send it back to the Open Calls Management. This inquiry consisted of a list of the applicants and their institutions, not yet the content of the proposals. Once no conflicts of interest had been declared, the eligible proposals were assigned automatically via the Open Calls Platform to evaluators.

Additionally, a rapporteur was contracted, whose main responsibility was to produce the Consensus Report (CR) which would serve as the basis for the Evaluation Summary Report (ESR). Just as the evaluators, the rapporteur was an expert with knowledge on the call topic but independent from EBRAINS 2.0 and no conflict of interest. The rapporteur also received a guideline document with explanations on the procedure.

2.3.3 Remote evaluation

The evaluation went fully via the Open Calls platform, through which the evaluators had access to the Guideline for Applicants, the proposals and the evaluation criteria. Each proposal was individually reviewed by three evaluators, in the period of September 2024 and October 2024 (for calls under WP2-4) and December 2024 and January 2025 (for the call under WP1).
The evaluators evaluated each proposal according to the call-specific evaluation criteria (*see Annex 2 and Annex 3*). For each criterion, they gave a score from 0 to 10 (*see Annex 4*) along with verbal feedback to support the score. Scores were weighted and the standard threshold for individual criteria was 6/10, no threshold was applied to the Gender and Diversity in Teams criterion.

After the remote evaluation, the individual assessment of each evaluator was assembled in an Individual Evaluation Report (IER) per proposal. Consecutively, this was sent to all evaluators that evaluated the same proposal and the rapporteur. Based on the IER, the Rapporteur drafted the CR which would be finalised during the Consensus Meeting in collaboration with the evaluators.

During the evaluation period, the evaluators had access to a technical expert for questions relating to technical feasibility of a proposal. Each WP appointed someone from their WP to act as the technical expert. To ensure there was no direct contact between the evaluators and the technical experts, the Open Call Management served as the intermediary party, with all communication being handled through this channel.

2.3.4 Consensus meetings

Following the remote evaluation, the evaluators participated in the consensus meeting. The consensus meetings were held on the following dates:

- OC3 ‘Promoting the neuroscientific use of EBRAINS 2.0 digital brain twins and simulation services’: 14 October 2024, at 13:00 CEST
- OC2 ‘Clinical Neuroscience’: 15 October 2024, at 13:00 CEST
- OC4 ‘Recruiting large data collections for FAIR data sharing and analysis in EBRAINS’, 16 October 2024, at 8:00 CEST
- OC1 ‘Integrating vascular architecture into the EBRAINS Human Brain Atlas’, 3 February 2025, at 14:00 CET.

The agenda for the meeting was as follows:

- Welcome and opening, explanation of consensus meeting
- Discussion of each proposal

- Quality control and signing of consensus report
- Ending of consensus meeting

The meeting was chaired by a member from the Open Calls Management, with a focus on time management. A member from EBRAINS 2.0 but independent from the Open Calls Management was present as an independent observer. The task of the independent observer was to oversee that the process was fair and equal and that all proposals were treated in an equal manner. The rapporteur served as the moderator of the meeting, facilitating content discussion and highlighting divergent opinions for further discussion.

Ahead of the meeting, the Open Call Management held a short briefing meeting with the rapporteur to ensure the tasks were clear and to answer any open questions.
After the opening and a short introduction of all evaluators, the objectives of the meeting and the process were explained by the Open Calls Management. Furthermore, it was reconfirmed that no conflicts of interest were present.
During the consensus meeting, each proposal was discussed individually with the objective of reaching agreement on the comments and scores of each criterion. For this, the relevant evaluators were asked to discuss each proposal following the evaluation criteria and reach consensus on comments and a score per criterion. The rapporteur wrote the comments down in the CR, which was shared via the video conferencing system, enabling the evaluators to follow this process on the screen. The outcome of the consensus meeting was a CR per proposal, with the rapporteur completing these in real-time.

Once all proposals were discussed and a final CR was generated for each proposal, a quality control was conducted. This included spelling checks, formulation and consistency of comments and scores between the different CRs. Inconsistencies were resolved in a final discussion followed by consensus among the evaluators. Following the quality control, the evaluators and rapporteur signed the CRs, and the consensus meeting was closed.

2.3.5 Panel meetings

Following the consensus meetings, were the panel meetings. The panel meetings took place on the following dates:

- OC3 ‘Promoting the neuroscientific use of EBRAINS 2.0 digital brain twins and simulation services’: 14 October 2024, at 16:00 CEST
- OC2 ‘Clinical Neuroscience’: 15 October 2024, at 16:30 CEST
- OC4 ‘Recruiting large data collections for FAIR data sharing and analysis in EBRAINS’, 16 October 2024, at 12:30 CEST
- OC1 ‘Integrating vascular architecture into the EBRAINS Human Brain Atlas’, 3 February 2025, at 17:15 CET.

During the panel meetings, the ranking list and final selection of proposals were produced. The agenda was as follows:

- Welcome and explanation of purpose of meeting
- Confirm comments and scores of CR
- Produce ranking list
- Final selection of proposal(s)
- Close panel meeting

The meeting was chaired by a member from the Open Calls Management, with a focus on time management. A member from EBRAINS 2.0 but independent from the Open Calls Management was once again present as an independent observer.
The evaluation summary sheet was shared with the panellists via the video conference system. This sheet included the consensus score per criterion, the average score per proposal, and the preliminary ranking of proposals.
The outcome of the meeting was a ranked list of proposals recommended for funding, and the Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) per proposal, which was derived from the CR.

2.3.6 Ethics review

Finally, all proposals that were recommended for funding had to undergo an ethics review. The ethics review was conducted by the EBRAINS Legal and Compliance Advisor and followed the regulations of the EU. During the review, the proposals were assessed on being in line with the ethical regulations of EU grants (see *Annex 5*). The outcome of the review was one of three:

- *Ethical clearance* (i.e. the proposal does not raise ethical concerns or, if ethical issues have been identified, the proposal has provided the required documentation and described suitable measures on how to deal with ethical issues)
- *Conditional ethics clearance*, (i.e. clearance is subject to conditions in the form of ethics requirements. The requirements must either be fulfilled before the contract signature or become part of the contract between the third party and the granting authority)
- *No ethical clearance* (proposal will NOT be funded).

In case of 'conditional ethical clearance' the projects were asked to provide additional information as requested by the ethics reviewer within ten days. In total, three proposals were required to provide additional information. In the end, all proposals received full ethical clearance.

2.3.7 Endorsement process and notification of applicants

For endorsement of the selected proposals to be funded, the final selection of the proposals was presented to the EBRAINS 2.0 Leadership Board and to the EBRAINS Project Officer of the European Commission. Once the call results were finalised, the applicants received letters with the outcome of the evaluation. The ESR for each proposal, which included the scores and comments, was sent along with the letters. Any redress requests could solely be based on procedural grounds and had to be submitted within three business days upon receipt of the official letter.

2.3.8 Redress committee

A redress committee was put in place in case any redress requests were received during the evaluation period. Applicants could submit a redress request if they believed there had been procedural errors during the eligibility check and/or the evaluation process. Applicants had three business days upon receipt of the ineligibility letter/evaluation result to submit a redress request.

The redress committee comprised of four members (50% female, 50% male) of the EBRAINS 2.0 project with knowledge on redress procedures. The committee was updated regularly on the timeline of the call and on deadlines for potential redress request submissions. A single redress request was received and processed in accordance with the established redress evaluation procedure.

3. Results of the EBRAINS 2.0 Open Calls

In total, 19 proposals, of which 15 eligible for funding, were submitted to the four Open Calls. Demographics on these eligible proposals are displayed in Table 4. After evaluation, eight proposals were selected for funding, meeting the initial target number of projects to be supported. Details on the selected proposals are given in Table 5, with more extensive content explanations on each selected project being given further in this section.

Table 4: Applicant demographics of eligible proposals

Country (n, %)	Type of institutions (n, %)	Sex of lead applicants (n, %)
Belgium (1, 6.66)	University* (8, 53.33)	Female (1, 6.66%)
Czech Republic (1, 6.66)	Research Institute (7, 46.66)	Male (14, 93.33)
France (1, 6.66)		
Germany (2, 13.33)		
Italy (1, 6.66)		
The Netherlands (1, 6.66)		
Poland (1, 6.66)		
Slovakia (1, 6.66)		
Spain (4, 26.66)		
Sweden (1, 6.66)		
United Kingdom (1, 6.66)		

**Includes universities, university hospitals or research institutions that are part of a university.*

Table 5: Details of projects selected for funding

Proposal acronym and title	Project coordinator	Institution	Country
OC1: Integrating Vascular Architecture into the EBRAINS Human Brain Atlas Number of proposals to be funded: 1			
BraVa: Brain vasculature diversity underlying vascular diseases: integration of a database of neurovascular morphology into the EBRAINS Human Brain Atlas	Emma Muñoz Moreno	Fundació de Recerca Clínic Barcelona - Institut d'Investigacions Biomèdiques August Pi i Sunyer - IDIBAPS	Spain
OC2: Clinical Neuroscience Number of proposals to be funded: 2			
IBTESIS: Identification of imaging biomarkers of thrombosis as a support tool for endovascular therapy in ischemic stroke patients	Ramon Iglesias-Rey	Public Foundation Health Research Institute of Santiago de Compostela - FIDIS	Spain
3D-PDNet: A multi-center 3D Convolutional Neural Network Framework for Parkinson's Disease diagnosis and Prognosis	Massimo Filippi	IRCCS Ospedale San Raffaele	Italy

OC3: Promoting the neuroscientific use of EBRAINS 2.0 Digital Brain Twins and Simulation Services Number of Proposals to be funded: 1			
VIBRANT_DLB: Virtual Brain Twins for trajectories of Dementia with Lewy Bodies	Jan Fousek	Central European Institute of Technology (CEITEC), Masaryk University	Czech Republic
OC4: Recruiting large data collections for FAIR data sharing and analysis in EBRAINS Number of Proposals to be funded: 4			
ALFA+EBRAINS: Integrating ALFA+ cohort study in EBRAINS for Neurodegenerative Research	Xavier Serra Picamal,	BarcelonaBeta Brain Research Center - BBRC	Spain
NHP-EBRAINS: Sharing FAIR non-human primate data through EBRAINS	Thomas Wachtler	Ludwig Maximilians Universität München - LMU	Germany
LFP-Atlas: High-resolution Rat Local Field Potential Atlas	Pär Halje	Lund University - LU	Sweden
MARMOSET: Bringing Marmoset to EBRAINS	Piotr Majka	Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology of the Polish Academy of Sciences	Poland

3.1 Information on selected projects

3.1.1 BraVa

Neurovascular disease is a significant cause of death and disability, related to alterations of the vasculature supplying the brain or within the brain. Therefore, the characterization of brain vascular morphological patterns associated with disease is a key point in the understanding of the underlying pathological mechanisms.
While several brain atlases with detailed information about brain anatomy and function have been created and are available to the community, only some have considered vascular architecture. Besides, these atlases are based on small cohorts of healthy populations and do not capture the high morphological variability, especially associated with neurovascular disease. In the BraVa project, we aim to generate group-wise probabilistic maps of brain vascular architecture, associated with specific diagnostic features (stroke location and size, absence of stroke). Likewise, 3D reconstructions of the vasculature for each diagnostic category will be provided in a reference space. This will represent a beneficial tool for neurovascular research, encouraging the implementation of more realistic blood flow computational models, essential to simulate disease and treatment effects.

BraVa will be based on previously acquired images from patients in the CICAT registry, a government mandated, hospital-based registry of acute stroke cases in Catalonia, which fulfils all legal and ethical requirements for clinical research. More than 4000 cases are available, which underwent a computed tomography scan and about 40% were also scanned during the first week using Magnetic Resonance Imaging. Cases will be classified based on their final diagnosis, and images will be processed to extract vascular maps and 3D models of the vasculature in the atlas reference space. The obtained group-wise probabilistic maps and 3D models will be integrated into the EBRAINS Human Brain Atlas. It will represent a precious source of information available to investigate brain vasculature, related diseases, and its link with brain anatomy and function.

3.1.2 IBTESIS

Project aim: IBTESIS aims to develop and evaluate a computer-based clinical decision support platform for selecting the most effective and safe endovascular therapy (EVT) procedure for ischemic stroke patients based on clinical, neuroimaging and thrombus composition data.

Rationale: Not all ischemic stroke patients are candidates for endovascular treatment, which should be evaluated by specialists due to risks like bleeding and vessel damage. This project hypothesizes that imaging biomarkers can identify thrombosis patterns, enabling the development of a computer platform for clinical decision support to select the safest and most effective EVT procedure for these patients.

Methods: IBTESIS will be a translational and multidisciplinary initiative that integrates clinical data, neuroimaging, clot multi-omics analysis, and artificial intelligence (AI). The specific steps are: (1) To create a repository of clinical, neuroimaging, and omics data related to thrombus compositions in ischemic stroke patients. (2) To study the relationship among effective reperfusions, imaging, and thrombus compositions, considering a gender perspective. (3) Data integration into EBRAINS. (4) Establish the groundwork for project results exploitation and dissemination. The research team is a multidisciplinary group composed by medical doctors, neuroradiologist, biologist, physicist, and biotechnologist. All team members are scientifically qualified to perform the different work streams, manage the working packages, and achieve the main goals.

Impact and potential benefits: The main potential benefits of advancements in endovascular therapy for stroke include significantly enhancing the overall experience and outcomes for patients and their families: i) enhanced treatment options; ii) improved quality of life; iii) reduced burden on caregivers; iv) improved prognosis; v) cost reduction. Neuroscience, neuroimaging, or biomedicine stand to benefit as potential users.

3.1.3 3D-PDNet

This project aims to develop a 3D Convolutional Neural Network (CNN) model using multimodal brain MRI data to both diagnose Parkinson's disease (PD) and predict its progression within a multi-center cohort. The central research questions focus on assessing the effectiveness of machine learning in diagnosing PD at different stages, predicting disease progression trajectories, and understanding how various factors influence these processes.

To achieve these goals, the project will first harmonize multi-center multimodal data—including sociodemographic, clinical, genetics, neuropsychological, and MRI scans of PD patients—to ensure consistency across sites. This harmonized dataset will then be integrated with external databases, including PPMI (which offers longitudinal clinical and imaging data) and EBRAINS (a platform providing scientific data and tools in a secure environment). The project will utilize this combined dataset to develop and validate a 3D CNN model that can distinguish between different stages of PD and assess the influence of factors such as age, gender, education, and genetics on disease progression. The model will be tested on both PD patients and healthy controls, with a particular focus on binary classifications to evaluate its ability to differentiate between varying degrees of disease severity. The ultimate goal is to create a robust, generalizable predictive tool that not only enhances our understanding and diagnosis of PD but can also be made available as an online platform for other centers to use easily and effectively in clinical practice.

3.1.4 VIBRANT_DLB

Dementia with Lewy bodies (DLB), the second most prevalent neurodegenerative disease, presents significant challenges in early diagnosis leaving nearly 80% of Lewy body patients initially misdiagnosed. While the neuroimaging biomarkers can provide early detection, they often offer contradictory interpretation, are disconnected from the existing knowledge on the underlying neuropathology of the disease and overlook critical individual differences due to the case-control approach. In order to improve early detection and stratification of prodromal DLB patients we will adapt the recent advances in incorporating dopaminergic neuromodulation in virtual brain models and extend them to include additional pathway which are implied in the cognitive function deficits in DLB.

The resulting model will be used to build virtual brain twins of 103 subjects from our existing dataset on the prodromal DLB spectrum using functional data features derived from resting state EEG and fMRI, including longitudinal follow-up visits. Preliminary data on these subjects have revealed static and dynamic functional connectivity alterations indicative of compensatory brain network adaptation associated with cognitive benefits. Using the newly developed model, we aim to relate the changes in cognitive performance with the focus on executive functions and use the inference and validation capacities for virtual brain models available in EBRAINS thus assessing the validity and predictive power of the model. The expected outcomes of this study include a novel virtual brain twin model for DLB, benchmarked with respect to individual stratification and disease trajectory mapping. The model together with a representative synthetic dataset of DLB will be integrated in EBRAINS, providing a complete ready-to-use demonstrator including packaged implementation of the model in The Virtual Brain simulator, and entries of both the model and the synthetic data in the Knowledge Graph.

3.1.5 ALFA+EBRAINS

Since 2016, the BarcelonaBeta Brain Research Center (BBRC) has established the longitudinal cohort study “Alzheimer's and Families”, to investigate the pathophysiological changes in preclinical Alzheimer’s disease (AD) and to foster research on its early detection and prevention. The ALFA parent cohort gathers information of 2,743 cognitively unimpaired individuals aged 45-74 years. ALFA+ is its nested longitudinal long-term study, and constitutes a unique dataset that includes neuroimaging, genetic, cognitive, lifestyle and clinical information of >400 participants at risk of AD, from which multitude of research projects and high-profile publications have derived.

The ALFA+EBRAINS projects aims to contribute to the Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability and reusability (FAIR) of ALFA+ data to enable researchers worldwide to advance research in AD. For this, we plan to implement the openMINDS metadata framework in ALFA+ metadata and integrate this metadata in EBRAINS Research Infrastructure. Given the diversity and granularity of ALFA+, a comprehensive data descriptive document, along with a data catalogue will be developed to facilitate data discovery and utilization by researchers. Additionally, a data governance framework will be put in place to guide the ethical and responsible use of ALFA+ through EBRAINS.

The successful completion of ALFA+EBRAINS will promote the alignment of BBRC with EBRAINS, serving as the basis for BBRC's ongoing commitment to contribute to cutting-edge research on Alzheimer's disease and other age-related neurodegenerative diseases through open science.

3.1.6 NHP-EBRAINS

Neural data from non-human primates (NHP) are essential in the endeavour to understand function and dysfunction of the human brain, but sharing and re-use of such data is hampered by the

complexity and diversity of data formats and custom processing workflows. The In2PrimateBrains consortium is an EU-funded collaborative training network comprised of multiple laboratories investigating neural processing in NHP brain networks. With the present project, we propose to share neurophysiological NHP data from In2PrimateBrains laboratories according to the FAIR principles via the EBRAINS infrastructure, findable through the EBRAINS KnowledgeGraph and linked with the EBRAINS monkey brain atlas.
For this purpose, we will establish a processing and curation pipeline to create structured and comprehensively annotated datasets compliant with the EBRAINS metadata schema and other existing and emerging community standards such as BIDS with its extension for animal electrophysiology BEP032. The pipeline will utilise EBRAINS tools to harmonise formats and annotation of datasets generated in different laboratories. This will yield a unified data collection ready to be integrated into EBRAINS with minimal curation effort and to be used seamlessly for analysis with EBRAINS analysis tools.
This data collection, together with other NHP data on EBRAINS, will be the starting point for an extensible open resource of NHP electrophysiological data. The pipeline software will be open-source, extensible and re-usable by the neuroscience community as a tool to standardise and prepare data for sharing through the EBRAINS RI. It will be used to keep extending the NHP data collection beyond the project's timeline, with further data from our labs and open to contributions from the wider community. This project will thus create a lasting benefit for neuroscience research, will facilitate data sharing, and will demonstrate how the EBRAINS RI supports creation and re-use of FAIR data.

3.1.7 LFP-ATLAS

Neurophysiological in vivo recordings are typically obtained with high temporal and spatial resolution under well-defined experimental conditions, providing a detailed view of the local neuronal activity at each recording site. Linking such physiological datasets to exact anatomical structures in large-scale recordings is however challenging because sufficiently detailed anatomical annotations are often lacking. Another challenge is that physiological quantities depend heavily on the momentary behavioural state of the animal. Being able to overcome these limitations and to connect high-resolution anatomical, physiological and behavioural data would, no doubt, be a significant step forward for the neuroscience community.

We here propose to publish a high-resolution physiological atlas of local field potentials (LFPs) recorded in the rat brain in healthy animals, in parkinsonian rats, and in animals that are under the influence of different pharmacological treatments. We will provide raw LFP time series from exactly defined anatomical locations and LFP spectral density distributions from microelectrode recordings obtained at 2629 CT-verified recordings sites distributed over 107 brain structures in 24 rats under well-defined experimental and behavioural conditions.

We will also provide means to integrate these data into the Waxholm atlas of the rat brain via the Siibra interface. In addition, we will facilitate integration of similar data from other researchers in the community by providing detailed method descriptions and necessary analysis tools for contributing data.

3.1.8 MARMOSET

EBRAINS is one of the most potent platforms for advancing neuroscience research. While it provides extensive support for rodent (predominantly mouse) and human-oriented datasets, it currently supports only one non-human primate (NHP) species despite the critical role of NHPs in bridging the translational gap between rodent and human studies. To address this limitation, we propose to expand the EBRAINS platform by incorporating a new atlas of the marmoset (Callithrix jacchus)

cerebral cortex, which we will call Marmoset@EBRAINS, together with diverse datasets such as neuronal distribution and cellular-level connectivity registered to this new reference framework.

The proposed atlas will be derived from the Nencki-Monash marmoset brain template (NM template), a gender-balanced, morphological average of 20 young adult marmosets. Based on Nissl histology, the template combines the detailed cytoarchitectural information of histology-based atlases with the isotropic resolution and probabilistic analyses typical of MR-based templates. We will then complement the new framework with multimodal datasets, including comprehensive maps of neuronal distribution in the cortex and results from 143 experiments investigating cortical area connections using fluorescent tracers. Additionally, we will demonstrate how EBRAINS users can map their datasets onto the Marmoset@EBRAINS atlas using existing EBRAINS digital atlasing tools.

This project will lay the groundwork for the broad integration of the marmoset as a model species within EBRAINS. The project will directly benefit the EBRAINS initiative by enabling more extensive cross-species analyses and encouraging other marmoset research groups to integrate their datasets with the new framework, thereby expanding the user base. It also represents a significant step towards generalising the available atlasing tools, enhancing the platform's versatility.

4. Dissemination of Open Call Results

Following the official endorsement of the results, the notification of the applicants and the completed contracting process, the results were broadcasted within and beyond EBRAINS Channels.

- **Presentation of Open Call Results in General Assembly meeting**
  The Open Calls Management presented the selected projects in the EBRAINS General Assembly (GA) Meeting. The GA meeting includes a representative of each partner within EBRAINS 2.0 and thus had an attendance of over 60 participants.

- **Introduction talk from Katrin Amunts in Heidelberg during the EBRAINS Internal Day.**
  On 11 March 2025, during the EBRAINS Internal Day at the ´Accelerate your neuroscience with EBRAINS´ Event in Heidelberg, Germany, the open call winners were incorporated in the introductory talk of Katrin Amunts, co-CEO of EBRAINS.

- **Dedicated press release on EBRAINS website for each WP**
  A press release for each WP was released to highlight the newly selected third parties. The press release[17] for WP4 was released on 20 March 2025 and had 236 views in the beginning of May. Additionally, posts were made on LinkedIn[18] and X[19] that highlighted these results and linked to the press release, with the former having 1,949 impressions and the latter 955. The press release for WP1, 2 and 3 is under preparation at the time of submitting this proposal.

- **Presentation in Co-design meeting**
  One of the selected open call projects presented their projects in the monthly Co-design meeting, which is an open meeting within EBRAINS 2.0 where project members can present topics that might be interesting for other partners within the consortium.

[17] https://www.ebrains.eu/news-and-events/four-new-open-call-projects-will-contribute-with-large-datasets-and-new-atlases-through-the-ebrains-data-and-knowledge-and-ebrains-atlas-services
[18] https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7308496565260673025/
[19] https://x.com/EBRAINS_eu/status/1902730617629872519

5. Equal opportunities

EBRAINS 2.0 has been funded under Horizon Europe and must thereby consider gender and diversity both in research content and within research teams. Proposers were required to elaborate on diversity considerations, where applicable, in their research content—e.g., how gender differences or other diversity factors are addressed in research activities. These aspects were evaluated by the evaluation panel under the “Excellence” criterion. Furthermore, to raise awareness amongst potential applicants, the Open Calls included "Gender and Diversity in Teams" as a dedicated evaluation criterion, which accounted for 10% of the total proposal score (*see Annex 2 and Annex 3).* Applicants were required to explain how they addressed diversity and equal opportunity in their teams, considering factors such as gender, age, career stage, and others. To support reviewers in evaluating these aspects, the briefing document for the evaluators provided specific guidelines on how to evaluate gender and diversity in research. Additionally, this criterion was a key point of discussion amongst the evaluators during all consensus meetings. Although no gender balance was achieved among lead applicants (6% female), many applicants indicated that gender and diversity considerations were reflected within in their teams.

Efforts were also made to ensure gender balance within the evaluation committee. For this, Work Packages were encouraged to nominate evaluators with gender balance in mind, and the Open Calls Management actively prioritised female evaluators for the role of rapporteur, given their key role in formulating the panel’s evaluation result. However, many nominated female evaluators declined the invitation, resulting in a final composition of 6 women and 15 men across evaluation panels and redress committee.

6. Record of incidents

6.1 Reopening of call under WP1

The call ‘Integrating Omics Data into the EBRAINS Human Brain Atlas’ that fell under WP1 (specifically, T1.7) was opened on 20 June 2024, and did not receive any applications. Following review, this was attributed to the specific and narrow scope of the initial call. As a result, T1.7 modified the content and scope of the call. The workflow for modifying the scope and reopening the call was discussed and approved by the EBRAINS Project Officer.

A month after the first submission deadline, the new call ‘Integrating vascular architecture data into the EBRAINS Human Brain Atlas’ was opened on 1 October 2024, and the application deadline was 2 December 2024. In total, five applications were received for this call, and one proposal was selected in February 2025. The content of the call is further described under chapter *2.1.2.*

7. Conclusion

Overall, 4 calls were opened under WPs 1 – 4 on 20 June 2024, and closed on 2 September 2024. Additionally, 1 call was reopened under WP1 on 1 October 2024 and closed on 2 December 2024. In total, 19 proposals, out of which 15 eligible for funding, were submitted to the open calls. Following the evaluation process, 8 proposals have been selected for funding and will collaborate with the designated WP.

Annex 1: List of EBRAINS 2.0 Open calls

Open Call	Opened on	Closed on	WP	Total Call Budget	Nr. Of projects funded
OC1: Integrating Omics Data into the EBRAINS Human Brain Atlas*	20 June 2024	2 September 2024	1	€60.000,00 per proposal. 1 proposal to be funded	0
OC4: Clinical Neuroscience	20 June 2024	2 September 2024	2	€60.000,00 per proposal. 2 proposals to be funded, total budget €120.000,00.	2
OC3: Promoting the Neuroscientific Use of EBRAINS 2.0 Digital Brain Twins and Simulation Services	20 June 2024	2 September 2024	3	€60.000,00 per proposal. 1 proposal to be funded.	1
OC4: Recruiting Large Data Collections for FAIR Data Sharing and Analysis in EBRAINS	20 June 2024	2 September 2024	4	€60.000,00 per proposal. 4 proposals to be funded, total budget €240.000,00.	4
OC1: Integrating Vascular Architecture into the EBRAINS Human Brain Atlas	1 October 2024	2 December 2024	1	€60.000,00 per proposal. 1 proposal to be funded	1

*No proposals were received for this call. A new call under a modified scope was opened on October 1st and is listed at the bottom of this table.

Annex 2: Proposal evaluation criteria WP1 - 3

1. Excellence	Weight: 30%
• Clarity and relevance of the project's objectives, and the extent to which the proposed work is ambitious and goes beyond the state-of-the-art. • Soundness of the proposed methodology, including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, inter-disciplinary approaches, appropriate consideration of the gender and sex dimension in research and innovation content. • Quality of open science practices, including sharing and management of research outputs and engagement of citizens, civil society, and end-users where appropriate	Score 1: …/10 (Threshold: 6/10)
2. Impact	**Weight: 30%**
• Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in proposal. • The likely scale and significance of the contributions due to the project, including for the targeted user communities and the broader scientific community. • Contribution to the design and development of EBRAINS Research Infrastructure. • Alignment with and contributing to the general objectives of EBRAINS and the specific objectives of the Open Call. • Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities, management of IPR and research data. • Any other substantial impacts not mentioned	Score 2: …/10 (Threshold: 6/10)
3. Quality and efficiency of the implementation	**Weight: 30%**
• Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks and adequacy of the project efforts and of the resources overall. • If applicable, a business model for sustainable operation after the funding period, including estimated costs of support, licences, and future adaptations. • Capacity and role of each participant, and the extent to which the consortium brings together the necessary expertise (including complementarity, gender balance, prior history, relevant experience of the individual partner) • Strength and engagement of user community and partners around the technology.	Score 3: …/10 (Threshold: 6/10)
4. Gender diversity in teams	**Weight: 10%**
• Equal Opportunities for teams, diversity aspects (gender, age, career stage, other factors) must be considered: Are there measures in place and described in detail to enhance fair work distribution and equal opportunities for career development? Is the proportion of women	Score 4: …/10

scientists and contributors justified in detail? In case of an imbalance compared to the proportion of women in similar scientific disciplines, are measures planned to improve gender equality?	(NO Threshold)
Ethical implications and compliance	**Mandatory**
• Ethical implications and compliance with applicable international, EU and national law • Ensure that the study proposed will not promote indications that raise ethical issues	

Annex 3: Proposal evaluation criteria WP4

1. Excellence	Weight: 30%
• Clarity and relevance of the project's objectives, and the extent to which the proposed work is ambitious and goes beyond the state-of-the-art. • Soundness of the proposed methodology, including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, inter-disciplinary approaches, appropriate consideration of the gender and sex dimension in research and innovation content. • Quality of open science practices, including sharing and management of research outputs and engagement of citizens, civil society, and end-users where appropriate. • Quality of the proposed actions: the shared data and plans for preparing the data for sharing, the use of or possible contributions to the openMINDS metadata model and extensions, the use of tools and services for data analysis provided (from EBRAINS or other sources), definition of protection and exploitation plans (including indicators to monitor progress) • Credibility for the level of access that will be given to the data, in particular for sensitive data requiring controlled or restricted access.	Score 1: …/10 (Threshold: 6/10)
2. Impact	**Weight: 30%**
• Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in proposal. • The likely scale and significance of the contributions due to the project, including for the targeted user communities and the broader scientific community. • Contribution to the design and development of EBRAINS Research Infrastructure. • Alignment with and contributing to the general objectives of EBRAINS and the specific objectives of the Open Call. • Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities, management of IPR and research data. • Any other substantial impacts not mentioned	Score 2: …/10 (Threshold: 6/10)
3. Quality and efficiency of the implementation	**Weight: 30%**
• Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks and adequacy of the project efforts and of the resources overall. • If applicable business model for sustainable operation after the funding period, including estimated costs of support, licences, and future adaptations. • Capacity and role of each participant, and the extent to which the consortium brings together the necessary expertise (including complementarity, gender balance, prior history, relevant experience of the individual partner)	Score 3: …/10 (Threshold: 6/10)

• Strength and engagement of user community and partners around the shared data, the use of the openMINDS metadata model, and the planned use of tools and services for data analysis.	
4. Gender Diversity in Teams	Weight: 10%
• Equal Opportunities for teams, diversity aspects (gender, age, career stage, other factors) must be considered: Are there measures in place and described in detail to enhance fair work distribution and equal opportunities for career development? Is the proportion of women scientists and contributors justified in detail? In case of an imbalance compared to the proportion of women in similar scientific disciplines, are measures planned to improve gender equality?	Score 4: …/10 (NO Threshold)
Ethical implications and compliance	Mandatory
• Ethical implications and compliance with applicable international, EU and national law • Ensure that the study proposed will not promote indications that raise ethical issues	

Annex 4: Proposal evaluation scores

0	Not recommended for funding	The proposal fails to address the criterion under examination or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
1	Unacceptable quality or serious concerns	The criterion in question is inadequately addressed by the proposal, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
2	Poor	The criterion in question is poorly addressed by the proposal or the proposal has very few strengths and numerous major weaknesses that limit its impact.
3	Marginal	While the proposal addresses the criterion in question, there a several strengths and a few major weaknesses.
4	Fair	The proposal addresses the criterion in question and is potentially useful but shows at least one major weakness.
5	Satisfactory	The proposal addresses all aspects of the criterion in question, some strengths but also some moderate weaknesses are visible.
6	Good	The proposal addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question in a reasonable way but has at least one moderate weakness.
7	Very Good	The proposal addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question in a reasonable way but has at least one or more minor weaknesses.
8	Excellent	The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. It is internationally competitive in parts. The proposal is very strong with a few minor weaknesses.
9	Outstanding	The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question and is extremely strong with negligible weaknesses. The proposal is internationally competitive or of strategic importance.
10	Exceptional	The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question and is exceptionally strong with essentially no weaknesses. The proposal is internationally competitive and leading edge or of exceptional strategic importance.

Annex 5: Ethics Review Template

PROPOSAL	
Call:	
Proposal ID:	
Proposal acronym:	
Proposal full title:	
Applicant name:	
Applicant Institution:	

PROPOSAL ABSTRACT

1. Topics of ethical concern identified in the proposal's ethic self-assessment

Main ethics issues (ethics categories) *Please go through the table below and indicate, by ticking the relevant boxes, the main categories of ethics issues that give an ethics dimension to the proposal. For details, refer to the How to complete your ethics self-assessment.*	**Yes/No** *Tick if applicable*
Section 1: Human embryonic stem cells and human embryos	☐
Section 2: Humans	☐
Section 3: Human cells / tissues (not covered by section 1)	☐
Section 4: Personal data	☐
Section 5: Animals	☐
Section 6: Non-EU countries	☐
Section 7: Environment & health and safety	☐
Section 8: Artificial intelligence	☐
Section 9: Other ethics issues COMMENTS: Please comment on which other ethics issues have been identified	☐

2. Required documentation

If the project involves activities with specific ethical considerations, as identified in the Horizon Europe Ethics Guidance: have the applicants provided the necessary documentation, e.g. national authorisations or permissions, with their expiry dates or proof of approval by competent authorities? *Only one option possible*
☐ Not applicable – activities outlined in the proposal do not involve topics of ethical concern based on the HE Ethics Guidance.

☐ Yes. Please outline which documentation should be and has been provided *For retrospective data: Ethics Committee approval number and date for the data (if available).* *For perspective data: estimation data of the Ethics Committee approval for sharing the features with EBRAINS 2.0* *Type here.* ☐ No Please outline which required documentation has not been provided. Please note that the proposal can only get conditional ethical clearance or no ethical clearance when they have not submitted all the required documents. Elaborate in section 4 if the applicants need to provide additional documentation. *Type here*

3. Analysis of ethical dimension

Please assess whether the proposal contains detailed explanations on how the issues in the ethical issues table are addressed, particularly in terms of: - research objectives (like dual-use concerns), - methodology (including protection of collected data), and - potential impacts (such as misuse, benefit-sharing, and dual-use issues).
Type your assessment here.

4. Recommendation

What is your opinion of the ethics dimension of the proposal? *Only one option possible*
☐ Ethical clearance (i.e. the proposal does not raise ethical concerns) ☐ Conditional ethics clearance, (i.e. clearance is subject to conditions in the form of ethics requirements. The requirements must either be fulfilled before the contract signature or become part of the contract between the third party and the granting authority)* ☐ No ethical clearance (proposal will NOT be funded)*
*Please comment on your recommendation. In case of conditional ethical clearance, clearly outline which requirements need to be fulfilled and in what time frame. In case of 'no ethical clearance', please provide your substantiation.
Place your comments here

5. General requirement

The project must report on ethics as part of the intermediary report by M18 (corresponding to EBRAINS 2.0 mid-term reporting timelines) and the final report and by the end of the selected open call project. The applicants (third parties) must ensure that all ethics issues related to activities in the grant are addressed in compliance with ethical principles, the applicable international and national law, and the provisions set out in the Grant Agreement. This includes the ethics issues identified in this report and any additional ethics issues that may emerge in the course of the grant. In case any substantial new ethics issues arise, third parties should

inform the granting authority. For each ethics issue applicable, third parties must follow the guidance provided in the How to complete your ethics self-assessment.

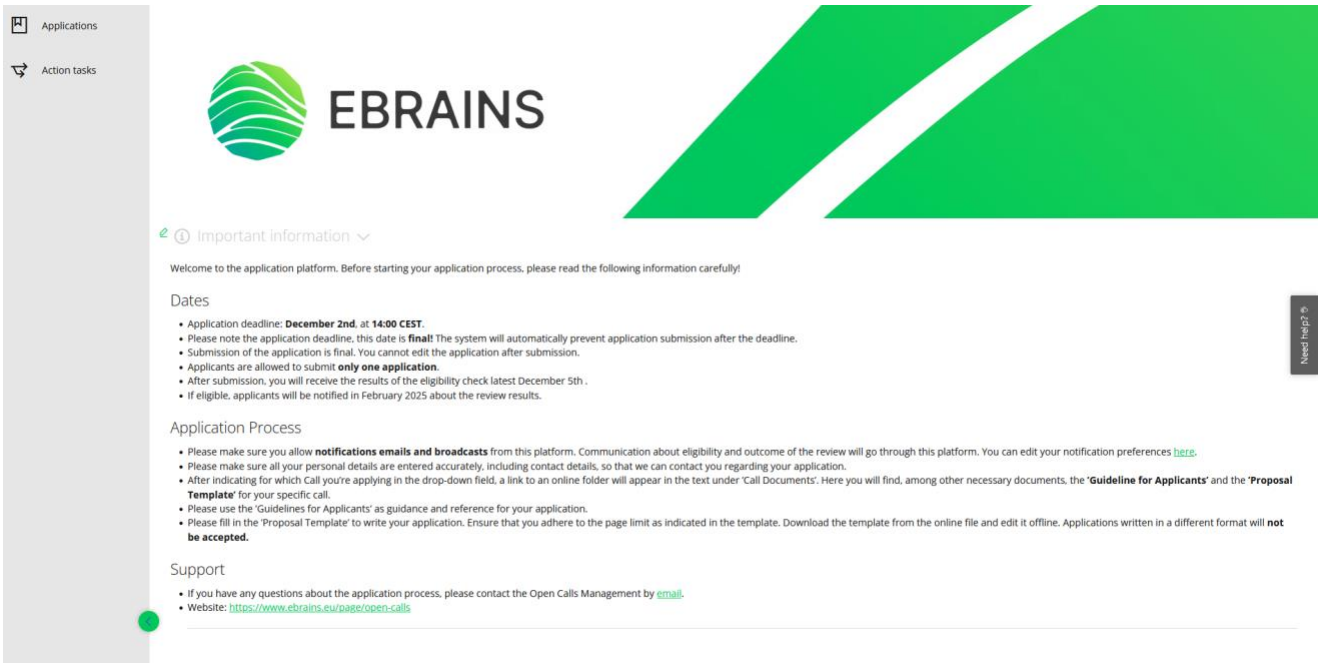

Figure 2: Screenshot of Open Calls Platform using provider Good Grants

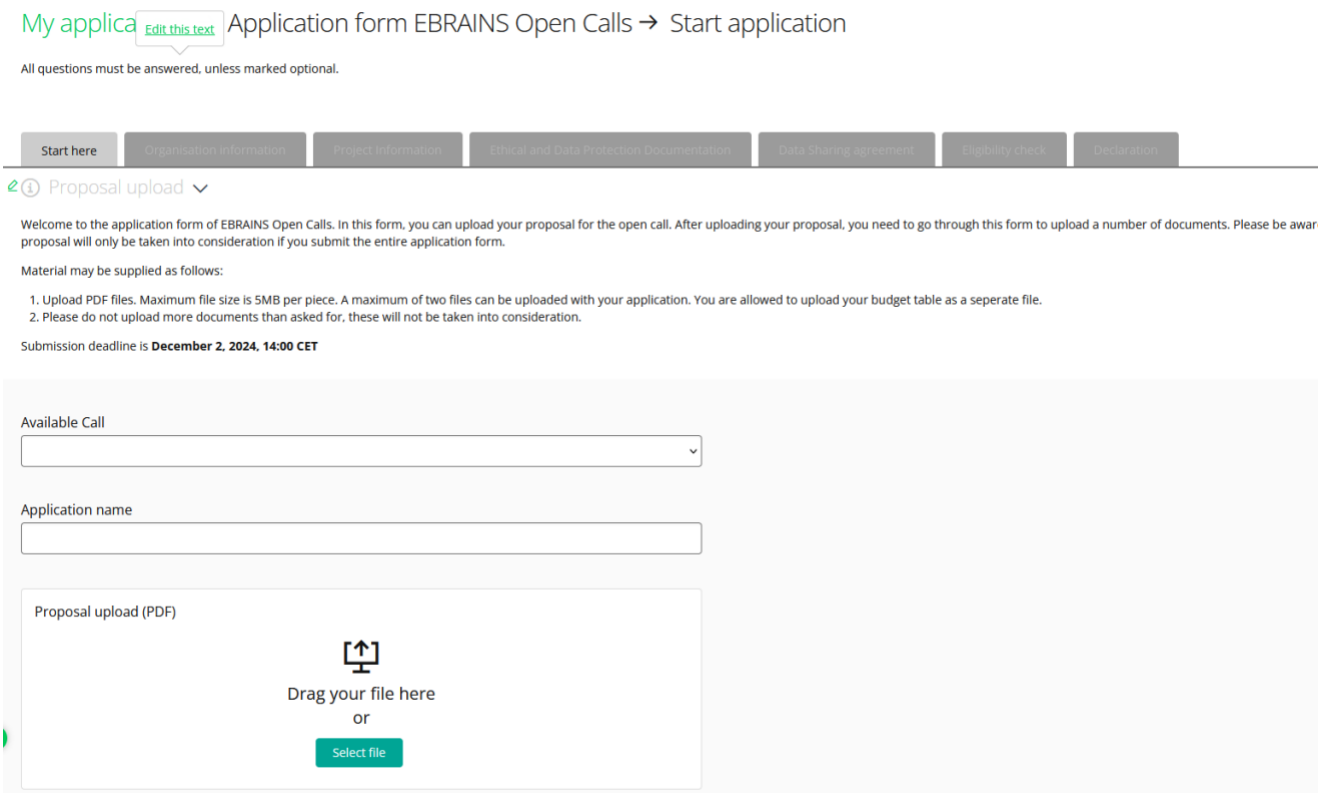

Figure 3: Screenshot of the application platform using provider Good Grants