

FAQ for EuroHPC JU Call:  
Support Centre for HPC-powered Artificial Intelligence (AI)  
Applications (DIGITAL-EUROHPC-JU-2023-AISC-03)

**Q1: What specific guidance and assistance will be provided to users in depositing large data sets in existing repositories provided by other European initiatives as well as on the use of tools and instruments needed to reuse or validate the data?** (*concerns: Specific requirements - Services and technical support, p. 7, pt. x, Call document*)

A1: The AISC is expected to provide information and technical support to communities on how to leverage on other European initiatives which address the challenges associated with AI training data. This may include support with expertise and technical advice on how to transfer AI training data and how to process data most effectively on HPC systems as required for the development of specific large scale AI models. However, the AISC will not provide ANY data-related services, for example data repositories or data movement solutions, which are not in scope of the call.

**Q2: How is AISC expected to coordinate the reuse and sharing of common data sets, including common data formats, to avoid duplication of large data sets on the same data storage by relying on existing HPC infrastructure and services provided by the HPC centres?** (*concerns: Specific requirements - Capacity building, outreach and collaboration, p. 8, pt. iii, Call document*)

A2: The AISC is expected to monitor the data sets used by different developers of large scale AI models to identify synergies and foster collaboration among stakeholders. This may include support on the definition of common AI workflows, data (pre-)processing linked to the training of large scale AI models or, where appropriate, common data formats to use existing HPC infrastructure in the most effective way.

In view of common data formats, AISC will recognize and acknowledge the diversity of data format preferences across different domains. Therefore, AISC activities will aim to address this diversity in a way that is beneficial to the various user communities involved.

Furthermore, as single access point to AI expertise, the AISC will coordinate the exchange of information between stakeholders on existing pre-processed, tokenized or embedded data sets for large scale AI models to avoid duplication of work and waste of resources.

**Q3: How should AISC provide access to shared and/or free AI models such as foundation models on the HPC systems operated by the HPC centres participating in the action, which can be used as a basis to create specialised large scale AI models?** (*concerns Specific requirements - Capacity building, outreach and collaboration, p. 8, pt. vii, Call document*)

A3: The development of generative AI models, for example large language models or multimodal AI models, often relies on foundation models that are optimised towards a specific, typically task and/or domain specific, use case with a small and targeted data set. While the training of foundation models requires very significant HPC resources and large, generic training data sets, the development of new large scale AI models can be performed more economically and with significantly less resource consumption on the basis of pre-trained foundation models. The AISC as a central access point to AI competences should monitor relevant activities, identify and support

collaboration opportunities between stakeholders to share common foundation models to accelerate the development of new AI models, stimulate innovation and save resources. For the avoidance of doubt, the shared and/or free AI models refer to the models already accessible in the HPC centers participating in the action, and not to any shared and/or free AI models available elsewhere.

**Q5: What is meant by the requirement that “At least 60% of the overall indicative resources should be allocated to services and technical support as defined in the specific requirements.”?**

A5: The call provides a list of minimum requirements on the services and technical support the AISC is expected to provide (Call Document, p. 7, “Specific requirements - Services and technical support”). In order to achieve the objectives of the call, it is necessary to dedicate most resources to services and technical support (in contrast to capacity building, outreach and collaboration activities) and consortia should allocate at least 60% of the indicative total resources to these activities.

**Q6: Does the answer to Q5 imply that the 60% of the total indicative budget must be allocated to services and technical support?**

A6: Not necessarily. Resources also include person months which are subject to different remuneration depending on the required qualifications salary levels of an entity. In any case proposals should explain, justify and quantify in sufficient detail the resources which are dedicated to services and technical support. The call provides a list of minimum requirements on the services and technical support the AISC is expected to provide (Call Document, p. 7, “Specific requirements - Services and technical support”). In order to achieve the objectives of the call, it is necessary to dedicate most resources to services and technical support (in contrast to capacity building, outreach and collaboration activities) and consortia should allocate at least 60% of the indicative total resources to these activities.

**Q7: What is meant by the requirement that “Every partner should contribute at least 10% of the overall personnel resources.”?**

A7: Every partner is expected to contribute at 10% of the total number of person months to the project. A partner is a legal entity that is a member of a consortium (beneficiary or affiliated entity).

Partners may of course contribute more than 10% of the resources. However to achieve the objectives of the call to establish an AISC every partners should contribute at least 10% of the work (i. e. person months). This is independent of the budget assigned to each partner.