

# APPLICATION FORM

OPENING: 15 of March 2024

CLOSING: 15 of May 2024 at 17:00 CET / 10:00AM CST

Project Website <https://ngisargasso.eu>

Open Call platform: [cascadefunding.sploro.eu/application/new?program=ngi-sargasso-open-call-3](https://cascadefunding.sploro.eu/application/new?program=ngi-sargasso-open-call-3)



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## Legal and contact information

### Proposing organization – EU

#### Organisation information

- ☐ Organization legal name\*:
- ☐ Organization short name\*:
- ☐ Type of organization\*:
  - ☐ University
  - ☐ Research and Technical Organisation (RTO)
  - ☐ Research centre
  - ☐ NGOs
  - ☐ Foundation
  - ☐ SME/Startup
  - ☐ Other (complete)
- ☐ Legal address\*
- ☐ City/Town\*:
- ☐ Province/Region\*:
- ☐ Country\*:
- ☐ Phone number\*:
- ☐ Organization Website\*:
- ☐ VAT number\*:
- ☐ PIC number\*:



## From the US/Canada side:

Are you applying with one entity (from US or Canada) or with two entities (one from US and another one from Canada)?

- ☐ Option 1: EU entity + US/Canada entity
- ☐ Option 2: EU entity + US entity + Canada entity

### Organisation information 1

- ☐ Full legal name\*:
- ☐ Organisation short name\*:
- ☐ Legal address\*:
- ☐ City\*:
- ☐ State/Region\*:
- ☐ Country\*:
- ☐ Website\*:
- ☐ [Support letter](#)\*: *[It is necessary to include a support letter from the US or Canadian entity involved in the project. This letter should confirm the entity's commitment to executing the project alongside the European entity that has applied for NGI Sargasso funding. Additionally, the letter should outline the role the entity will play in the project and how it plans to contribute to its success. It is important to note that NGI Sargasso will provide a template for this support letter, which can be found in **Annex 2** of the required documentation. This support letter is a critical component of the application and should be submitted along with all other necessary materials. The Support Letter must be signed and stamped by the counterpart]*
- ☐ Description\*: *[ please, provide a description of your organization & the department taking part in the project (max 500 characters)]*

### Contact point

- ☐ Last Name\*:
- ☐ First Name\*:
- ☐ Position\*:
- ☐ e-mail\*:
- ☐ Phone number\*:



**Organisation information 2** *(fill this ONLY if you marked the second option of consortium)*

- ☐ Full legal name\*:
- ☐ Organisation short name\*:
- ☐ Legal address\*:
- ☐ City\*:
- ☐ State/Region\*:
- ☐ Country\*:
- ☐ Website\*:
- ☐ [Support letter](#)\*: *[It is necessary to include a support letter from the US or Canadian entity involved in the project. This letter should confirm the entity's commitment to executing the project alongside the European entity that has applied for NGI Sargasso funding. Additionally, the letter should outline the role the entity will play in the project and how it plans to contribute to its success. It is important to note that NGI Sargasso will provide a template for this support letter, which can be found in **Annex 2** of the required documentation. This support letter is a critical component of the application and should be submitted along with all other necessary materials. The Support Letter must be signed and stamped by the counterpart]*
- ☐ Description\*: *[ please, provide a description of your organization & the department taking part in the project (max 500 characters)]*

**Contact point**

- ☐ Last Name\*:
- ☐ First Name\*:
- ☐ Position\*:
- ☐ e-mail\*:
- ☐ Phone number\*:



## Project description

### Alignment

- Project Name\*:
- Project Acronym\*:
- Tagline\*: *[Describe the project you would like to develop within the NGI Sargasso Support Program in one sentence (max 300 characters)] This description will be made public if you are selected.*
- Brief description\*: *[Tell us more about the project you would like to develop within the NGI Sargasso Support Program (max 500 characters)]*
- Challenges addressed\*: *[select one or more options]*

☐ **Challenge 1. Sustainable Digital Infrastructure Across Continents**

Addressing: Addressing environmental issues in digital networks, systems and infrastructure has emerged as a priority in both Europe, Canada and the USA, as increased complexity in systems may require additional resources. Sustainable maintenance, repair, and life-cycle management of digital technologies is included in this challenge.

*Knowledge Areas: Internet Architecture and Renovation, Energy Efficiency*

☐ **Challenge 2. Harmonized Cross-Atlantic Digital Governance**

The need for a unified techno/legal framework for digital services across the Atlantic is gaining attention in both the EU, Canada and the USA. This includes the development of efficient networks, interconnections, and consistent regulation of data and cloud services to facilitate cross-border data exchanges and services.

*Knowledge Areas: Internet Architecture and Renovation, Trust, Data Sovereignty*

☐ **Challenge 3. Inclusive Public Digital Spaces for Global Community Engagement**

Inclusive and accessible public digital spaces are becoming a priority in Europe, the US, and Canada. The challenge is to facilitate meaningful community engagement via these public platforms and ensure that all individuals, regardless of their language or abilities, have access.

*Knowledge Areas: Digital Identity, Trust, New Internet Commons*

☐ **Challenge 4. Enhanced Data Security and Privacy in Transcontinental Perspective**

The improvement of data security measures and stronger protections for personal data are a shared concern in Europe and North America. A focus is on respecting individual's data sovereignty and privacy.

*Knowledge Areas: Trust, Data Sovereignty, Digital Identity*

☐ **Challenge 5. Interoperability and Standardisation Across Borders Description**

Seamless interaction between systems and devices is essential for interconnected digital environments. Europe, the US, and Canada have a joint interest in establishing widely accepted technological standards and protocols.

*Knowledge Area: Interoperability & Standardisation*

☐ **Challenge 6. Global Implementation of Decentralised Technologies**



As the world becomes more digitally connected, the implementation of decentralised technologies has become a crucial issue in Europe, Canada, and the USA. These technologies offer a more distributed and resilient framework for digital services and require shared standards and protocols to ensure interoperability.

*Knowledge Area: Decentralised Technologies, Interoperability & Standardisation*

#### ☐ **Challenge 7. Next-Gen Cybersecurity and Generative AI**

Cybersecurity stands as a cornerstone of the Next Generation Internet (NGI). However, cyber threats are continuously evolving and becoming increasingly sophisticated. The recent advancements in Generative AI capabilities offer new threats and new opportunities in the area of cybersecurity. This challenge delves into the intersection of advanced cybersecurity and Generative Artificial Intelligence to tackle this ever-shifting landscape.

*Knowledge Areas: Trust, Decentralized Technology, Internet Architecture and Renovation, New Internet Common*

#### ☐ **Challenge 8. Next Generation Space Based Internet**

This challenge addresses issues regarding the integration of space-based networks to terrestrial networks such as: techniques to provide reliable high data rate internet connectivity to areas without or with minimal supporting terrestrial infrastructure; optimized transport protocols for satellite communications; integration of satellite communications and 5G/6G mobile technologies in a truly hybrid satellite/5G/6G network.

*Knowledge Area: Internet architecture and renovation, Interoperability & Standardization*

#### ☐ **Challenge 9. Redefining intelligence in a hyperconnected world**

In their hyperconnected world, where billions are online and data sensors abound, they must seize the opportunity presented by AI advancements to reshape how they confront modern challenges like sustainable cities and climate change. It's time for them to demonstrate that the synergy between human users, data sensors, and AI agents is the solution to today's societal challenges, all while safeguarding human rights.

*Knowledge Area: Trust, New Internet Commons, Internet Architecture and Renovation, Decentralised Technologies*

#### ☐ **Challenge 10. Open Challenge for Next Generation Internet Description**

Open for any project that addresses an emerging issue related to the specified areas of knowledge. This challenge encourages innovative solutions in the fields of Trust, Data Sovereignty, Digital Identity, Internet Architecture and Renovation, Decentralised Technologies, Interoperability & Standardisation, and New Internet Commons across Europe and North America.

*Knowledge Area: Trust, Data Sovereignty, Digital Identity, Internet Architecture and Renovation, Decentralised Technologies, Interoperability & Standardisation, New Internet Commons*



- **Sorting the challenge(s):** *[Please explain how you are planning to sort out the challenge(s) selected and the relation your solution/research has with the areas of knowledge and technologies selected.][2000 characters]*
- **Alignment with NGI initiative** *[Please explain how you are aligned with this proposal with the values and spirit of the Next Generation Internet Initiative [2000 characters]*
- **Project length:** *[Select the more adequate project length for the activities proposed]*
  - ☐ 3-months project
  - ☐ 6-months project
  - ☐ 9-months project
- **Expected results:** *[Please briefly explain the results you expect to achieve with your Project max 500 characters]*

## Team

*[Fill in up to 5. You can include people from European entity and from the counterpart(s)]*

- Last name
- First name
- Title
- Online CV / LinkedIn page
- Short bio
- Main tasks in the project
- Percentage of dedication to the project

## Excellence

### 1. Problem/need

*What problem will the project address and aim to solve? (Max 1000 characters)*

### 2. Objective

*What are the specific objectives of your project and how do they relate to NGI Sargasso's vision of improving online privacy and security, and promoting a more decentralized and sustainable Internet? (Max 1000 characters)*

### 3. Innovation of your project

*What specific contributions will your project make to the achievement of NGI Sargasso's objectives and how does it differentiate from other projects in the same field? (Max 1000 characters)*

### 4. Activity plan

*Please ensure that your activity plan for the project is clear and detailed, providing a comprehensive explanation of what your organization intends to do to achieve the project's goals. Additionally, clarify how these activities will directly support the project objectives (Max 3000 characters)*

### 5. Please upload a Gantt chart that includes all the planned activities for the project's execution.

### 6. Ambition over current state of technologies

*What improvements will you develop over the state of the technology? (Max 1000 characters)*





## 7. Deliverables

*Describe the deliverables that you will produce within the framework of the project (i.e.: open-source repositories, reports, etc.) 1000 characters.*

## 8. Are you promoting open source somehow?

*Yes/No/Do not know yet.*

## 9. Collaboration

*Can you please explain how the collaboration between your organization and the US and/or Canada entity will be structured for the execution of the NGI initiative? (Max 1000 characters)*

## Impact

1. What specific benefits does your organization expect to gain from participating in NGI Sargasso, and how will these benefits contribute to your organization objectives? *(Max 1000 characters)*

2. How do you expect your counterpart to benefit from their participation in NGI Sargasso? *(Max 1000 characters)*

3. How will you ensure that these benefits are mutual and sustainable? *(Max 1000 characters)*

4. What are the potential ways that your project could have a positive impact on the environment, and how will possible negative effects be addressed? *(Max 1000 characters)*

5. How can your project contribute to economic development through job creation, fostering innovation, and/or promoting competitiveness in the market? *(Max 1000 characters)*

6. What are the expected social impacts of your project and how do they align with the goals of the NGI initiative? *(Max 1000 characters)*

7. Communication: This activity refers to the communication of the organization's participation in the NGI Sargasso project to relevant communities and the general public. It involves creating a strategy to ensure that the project's outcomes and impacts reach the intended audience through various channels, such as social media, website, press releases, newsletters, and events. Please select one or more of the communication strategies listed below that your organization plans to use for sharing its participation in NGI Sargasso. *[select one or more options]*

☐ Social Media: The beneficiary will utilize various social media platforms (e.g., Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Mastodon, etc.) to share updates and news about their participation in NGI Sargasso.

☐ Newsletter: The beneficiary will send out regular newsletters to their mailing list to keep them informed about their participation in NGI Sargasso.



- ☐ Conferences and events: The beneficiary will attend relevant conferences and events to promote their participation in NGI Sargasso and network with other relevant stakeholders.
- ☐ Press releases: The beneficiary will issue press releases to relevant media outlets to announce their participation in NGI Sargasso and share updates about their progress.
- ☐ Website updates: The beneficiary will regularly update their website to include information about their participation in NGI Sargasso and share updates with their online community.
- ☐ Others

7.1 Can you give some additional examples of communication strategies that you have in mind?

8. Dissemination: Dissemination of project results involves sharing the outcomes and findings of the project with the relevant stakeholders and the general public. This process helps to maximize the impact of the project and increase awareness of its outcomes, and may involve various strategies such as publications, conferences, social media, and other forms of communication. The aim is to ensure that the project's results reach as wide an audience as possible and can be used to inform future research and decision-making.

Please select the dissemination strategies that your organization plans to use to share the project results with the relevant community and the general public. *[select one or more options]*

- ☐ Presenting the results at conferences and workshops.
- ☐ Publishing research papers in academic journals and industry publications.
- ☐ Organizing webinars and online events.
- ☐ Creating informative and engaging videos for social media platforms.
- ☐ Collaborating with influencers and opinion leaders in the relevant field to promote the project results.
- ☐ Participating in interviews with media outlets.
- ☐ Hosting demos and showcasing the project outputs to stakeholders.
- ☐ Contribute to open-source repositories.
- ☐ Other

8.1 Can you give some additional examples of dissemination strategies that you have in mind? *(Max 1000 characters)*

8.2 Please confirm that you agree to collaborate with NGI Sargasso in its transversal Dissemination & Communication activities (i.e., participating in interviews, providing materials for articles and publications, etc.)

*Yes/No*

9. Exploitation: The goal of exploitation is to ensure that the project outcomes have a lasting impact and contribute to the overall objectives of NGI Sargasso, such as advancing internet privacy and security, promoting decentralization, and enhancing the competitiveness of the European tech industry.

Please select the strategies that you plan to use to exploit the results of your project.

- ☐ Commercialization: The beneficiary will explore ways to commercialize the results of the project, such as creating new products or services that can be sold in the market.



☐Licensing: The beneficiary will license the intellectual property resulting from the project to third parties for a fee.

☐Open access: The beneficiary will make the results of the project publicly available through open access repositories, such as online databases or journals.

☐Collaboration: The beneficiary will collaborate with other organizations to further develop and apply the project results.

☐Further research: The beneficiary will continue to conduct further research and development based on the project results.

☐Other

9.1 Can you give some additional examples of exploitation strategies that you have in mind? (Max 1000 characters)

## Other

Where did you get to know us?

☐ Through the partners. Which one?

☐ Through social media. Which one?

☐ At an event Which one?

☐ Through mailing

☐ Through NGI channels

☐ Other, please specify.

## Areas of Interest for OnCampus Programme

In this section, we would like to know your specific areas of interest for the NGI Sargasso OnCampus Programme. The OnCampus Programme aims to foster innovation, promote entrepreneurial culture, and support the development of technology projects with a market-driven focus. Your input on areas of interest will help us tailor the programme to better meet your needs and aspirations.

Please, select the topics from the list below that align with your interest and that you would like to explore further during the OnCampus Programme. Your selection is not binding, however will assist us in providing you with the most valuable training and resources for your project's success.

☐ How to connect with corporation

☐ How to protect the knowledge and results of innovation

☐ How to tackle public funding, European Grants

☐ Legal Advisory, regulatory aspects

☐ Interoperability and Digital Technology Standards

☐ Investment pitch, how to pitch like an entrepreneur

☐ Private fundraising

☐ Development of Digital Business Models

☐ Online Marketing and Sales Strategies

☐ Entrepreneurial finance

☐ Development of Digital Business Models



☐ Trends in the Tech Industry

## Privacy policy

By submitting this form, you agree and confirm the following:

- We have read, understood, and will comply with the open call details and requirements stated in the Guidelines for applicants.
- All information provided in the NGI Sargasso application submitted by our entity is correct and complete.
- Our company is not in any situation, which would exclude us from receiving financial support for third parties.
- Our company is not under liquidation or in financial difficulty.
- Our company is not subject to a conflict of interest in connection with the cascade funding.
- We will inform the NGI Sargasso consortium, without delay, of any situation considered a conflict of interest or which could raise a conflict of interest.
- We will process any personal data in compliance with the applicable EU and national law on data protection.

## Declaration of Honour

By submitting this form, I, the applicant:

hereby certify that (subject to the additional declarations below):

1. The information provided for this project is correct and complete.
2. The information concerning the legal status in the Application for my organisation is correct and complete.
3. I/my organisation commit to comply with the eligibility criteria set out in the call for proposals for the entire duration of the action.
4. My organisation:
  - is committed to participate in the action;
  - has stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain the activity throughout the action and to provide any counterpart funding necessary;
  - has or will have the necessary resources needed to implement the action;
  - acknowledge to be fully responsible for other linked third parties, including the USA/Canadian partner, who also participate in the action;
  - for research and innovation and experimental projects: are committed to comply with the highest standards of ethical principles and research integrity and confirm that the work is free of plagiarism;
5. My organisation:
  - are NOT subject to an administrative sanction (i.e., exclusion or financial penalty decision).
6. My organisation:
  - are NOT in one of the following exclusion situations :
    - bankrupt, being wound up, having the affairs administered by the courts, entered into an arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or subject to any other similar proceedings or procedures;
    - in breach of social security or tax obligations.



7. My organisation (or persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant):
  - are NOT in one of the following exclusion situations :
    - guilty of grave professional misconduct ;
    - committed fraud, corruption, links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking;
    - shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement or grant decision;
    - guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No 2988/95;
  - created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social, or other legal obligations in the country of origin (including creation of another entity with this purpose).
8. My organisation is NOT subject to a conflict of interest in connection with this grant and will notify — without delay — any situation which could give rise to a conflict of interests.
9. My organisation has NOT and will NOT, neither directly nor indirectly, grant, seek, obtain, or accept any advantage in connection with this grant that would constitute an illegal practice or involve corruption.
10. My organisation has not received any other EU grant for this project and will give notice of any future EU grants related to this project AND of any EU operating grant(s) given to my organisation.
11. My organisation is aware that false declarations may lead to rejection, suspension, termination or reduction of the grant and to administrative sanctions (i.e., financial penalties and/or exclusion from all future EU procurement contracts, grants, prizes and expert contracts).

