OPEN CALL ANALYSIS

STANDICT.EU 2029 – OPEN CALL 4

Fellowships for individual ICT standardisation experts

EUnita strategic translation

This is a fellowship for one person's standards work, not a project grant. StandICT.eu 2029, a Horizon Europe project coordinated from Pisa, passes EU money to individual experts who already contribute, or are about to contribute, to a standards committee: up to €10,000 for long-term work of up to nine months, or up to €5,000 for short-term work of up to three months. The money pays for the expert's time (at most €450 a day), travel, event registration and standards-body membership, as a lump sum with no invoices, released after the fellowship on delivered and validated results. Three external evaluators score each application on four equal criteria. In EUnita's reading, what decides the outcome is a concrete role in a named committee, a plan the applicant controls, and no overlap with other funding.

OPEN CALL 4 ANALYSIS

Fit assessment | Sources | What it funds | Boundaries | Budget & competition | Eligibility | Money | Evaluation | Risks

Deadline: 8 January 2027, 17:00 CET (18:00 in Romania)

Call budget: not published | Grant: up to €10,000 (long term) or €5,000 (short term) | Cap: €50,000 per person | Opens 9 November 2026, 09:00 CET

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Analysis date: 17 November 2026

*This analysis interprets the official call documentation for applicants. It is not legal advice. The official texts are the Guidelines for Applicants to Fellowship (Zenodo record 17633385), the Open Call 4 page and the call page on the project's grants platform; where this analysis and an official text differ, the official text prevails. Labels used: **Confirmed** (stated in an official source), **EUnita interpretation** (our reading or recommendation), **Derived estimate** (our arithmetic on official figures).*

1. Decision summary: is this call for you?

StandICT.eu 2029 Open Call 4 is the fourth of six open calls of the Fellowship Programme of the Horizon Europe project StandICT.eu 2029 (grant agreement 101213612, coordinated by Trust-IT Services in Pisa). It pays individual experts, not organisations, for contributions to standards development in international and European standards bodies: up to €10,000 for long-term work of up to 9 months, or up to €5,000 for short-term work of up to 3 months, with a cap of €50,000 per person over the 2029 edition. The call opened on 9 November 2026 at 09:00 CET and closes on 8 January 2027 at 17:00 CET (18:00 in Romania). Its priority topic is data economy, cloud and edge computing and data interoperability.

Item	Confirmed position	Source
Call	StandICT.eu 2029 – Open Call 4 (“4th Open Call”); platform reference CALL-5	Call page; platform call page
Programme and manager	Horizon Europe Coordination and Support Action (topic HORIZON-CL4-2024-HUMAN-03-04, GA 101213612) that passes money to third parties; coordinator TRUST-IT SERVICES SRL, Pisa, Italy; Trust-IT Services manages payments	CORDIS; Guidelines p.5, p.10
Action type	Fellowship: a lump-sum grant to one individual, long term (LT) or short term (ST)	Guidelines p.3, p.10
Call budget	Not published for Open Call 4. About €4,000,000 for LT and ST contributions over the six open calls	Guidelines p.3
Grant	LT: up to €10,000, up to 9 months. ST: up to €5,000, up to 3 months. Cap of €50,000 per person over the 2029 edition	Guidelines p.3-4
Applicants	Individuals residing in an EU Member State or a Horizon Europe associated country; experts and first-timers; no organisations for LT and ST	Guidelines p.4, p.6
Priority topic	Data economy, cloud and edge computing, data interoperability, in particular the Data Act and the Minimum Interoperability Mechanisms (MIMs); ETSI TC DATA, CEN/CLC JTC25, ISO/IEC JTC1 SC38, ITU-T SG20. Other Rolling Plan topics are “of equal validity and merit”	Call page; Guidelines p.7
Procedure	One online application on the project’s grants platform; eligibility screening by the consortium; three external evaluators and a fourth for quality control; four equal criteria, scores 1 to 10	Guidelines p.4-6
Dates	Opens 9 November 2026, 09:00 CET. Deadline 8 January 2027, 17:00 CET. Date of results: not published	Call page; platform call page; banner
Status on 17 November 2026	Open	Call page; platform call page
Romania	Eligible as an EU Member State: an individual residing in Romania can apply; the deadline is 18:00 Romanian time	Guidelines p.4, p.6; Commission list V4.2

Good fit

- ✓ An expert who already sits in a working group of ETSI, CEN-CENELEC, ISO/IEC, ITU-T or another standards body and can describe a role and a plan
- ✓ A chair, convenor, rapporteur, editor or project leader who can show progress since an earlier fellowship
- ✓ An expert in an SME, start-up or IT consultancy who needs paid time and travel for meetings and drafts
- ✓ A university or research expert who comments on drafts in data, cloud, edge or interoperability work
- ✓ A newcomer ready to start in a working group, ideally with the Mentorship Programme
- ✓ Someone who can wait for payment until after the work, on validated results

Not a fit

- ✗ A company, university, public body or association that wants to apply as an organisation
- ✗ An expert whose planned work is already funded by an EU or national project
- ✗ A resident of a country that is neither an EU Member State nor an associated country
- ✗ Anyone who needs the money before the work is done
- ✗ An organiser of standards meetings (a separate call, closed to new submissions)
- ✗ Anyone planning to re-submit a funded application unchanged

EUnita verdict (interpretation)

EUnita interpretation: a good fit for an individual who already contributes to a standards committee, or is about to, and who can state a role, a plan and outputs they control. The call pays one person's time and costs through a lump sum; it does not fund an organisation's standards strategy. The main unknowns for an applicant are the budget of this call and the competition: neither is published for Open Call 4. For reference only: Open Call 1 funded 75 of 165 applications and Open Call 2 78 of 143; Open Call 3 received 188 applications and its results are not published. These are past results, not a forecast for Open Call 4.

2. Source verification and document status

Every fact labelled Confirmed was read in an official document or page of the project, of the European Commission or of CORDIS. The project does not publish a numbered call text for Open Call 4: the rules sit in the Guidelines for Applicants, which the call page links, and the dates sit on the call page and the platform.

Document	Version or date	Used for
Guidelines for Applicants to Fellowship (Zenodo record 17633385)	13 pages; published 17 November 2025; file "Guidelines_Applicant_Nov2025"; no version number printed	Types, amounts, eligibility, evaluation, payment, obligations
Open Call 4 page, standict.eu	Read 17 November 2026; "09 November 2026, 09:00 AM – 08 January 2027, 17:00 PM", no time zone printed	Priority topic, dates, links
Call page on the project's grants platform	Platform version 1.0.9-prod; read 17 November 2026	Dates with time zone, route to the application
Open Call 4 banner (project site)	PNG, last modified 11 November 2026	Dates with CET
Information-session slides, Open Calls 1, 2 and 3	7 January, 24 March and 31 July 2026; 17, 24 and 24 pages	Process reminders; approximate timetable of later calls
Project pages of Open Calls 1, 2 and 3, with the statistics infographics on each page	Read 17 November 2026 (page text and the images)	Results of earlier calls; applications per topic and per country; Open Call 3 shows no results

Document	Version or date	Used for
Overview page of the Fellowship Programme, standict.eu	Read 17 November 2026; calls shown as Open Call 5 “FEB 2027 - APR 2027” and Open Call 6 “JUN 2027 - AUG 2027”	Planned windows of later calls
External Pool of Evaluators page, standict.eu	Read 16 November 2026	Who evaluates; evaluators cannot apply; the “4 million Euro” wording
Standardisation Meetings (SM) Guidelines and page	June 2026, 9 pages; page read 16 November 2026	The separate, closed meetings call
European Commission list of participating countries (Horizon Europe)	V4.2, 7 October 2026 (the Guidelines cite V2.9, 21 March 2025)	Associated countries
CORDIS fact sheet and Funding & Tenders topic record	Grant agreement 101213612; topic HORIZON-CL4-2024-HUMAN-03-04	Project identity, coordinator, dates
Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2025, part 7 and General Annexes	Part 7: Decision C(2024) 2371 of 17 April 2024; General Annexes: Decision C(2025) 2779 of 14 May 2025	Parent-topic conditions for support to third parties
“FAQs” page, standict.eu	Text refers to the 2026 edition and to a call of 30 October 2023	Not followed (see below)

Where the official documents differ

- Total funding: €4,200,000 (Guidelines p.2, CORDIS, overview page) against “€ 4,000,000” on the platform call page and “4 million Euro” on the External Pool of Evaluators page. EUnita interpretation: the Guidelines p.3 split about €4,000,000 for LT and ST contributions and about €200,000 for the meetings call, which adds up to €4.2 million; no page says which figure the platform means. No document gives a budget for Open Call 4 itself.
- Time zone: the call page prints 09:00 and 17:00 without a zone. The banner says CET, and the platform shows CET when opened in Brussels time; it shows the viewer’s own zone (18:00 GMT+2 in Bucharest). These are the same instants.
- Timetable: the slides of Open Calls 2 and 3 give “October 2026 – December 2026” for Open Call 4 and evaluation in “December 2026 – January 2027”. The call page and platform set 9 November 2026 to 8 January 2027, and decide; the project’s overview page shows Open Call 4 as “NOV 2026 - JAN 2027”.
- Score range: the Guidelines say scores from 1 to 10 (p.6); the Open Call 1, 2 and 3 slides say 0 to 10. The Guidelines are followed.
- The “FAQs” page on the project site describes an earlier edition: a €60,000 cap, one-shot contributions, long-term awards of €5,000 to €10,000 for 6 months, criteria weighted 30/30/20/20 and payment by Dublin City University. The 2029 Guidelines differ on each point and are followed. That page also says experts applying for national or European standards-body activity “will normally be rejected” unless linked to broader international cooperation; the 2029 Guidelines do not repeat it.
- Countries: the Guidelines cite version V2.9 of the Commission’s list; the link now serves V4.2, which adds associated countries such as Egypt and Japan.
- Number of types: the Guidelines p.3 list three (LT, ST, SM); the slides for Open Calls 1 to 3 speak of two. SM is a separate continuous call and is closed. Open Call 4 is LT and ST.

3. What the call funds

Confirmed: the aim is to support “the participation of European standardisation specialists in key international and global Standards Development Organisations (SDOs)”, so that they “contribute to

and help create a fully integrated European Standardisation Ecosystem" (Guidelines p.2). The project is the fourth edition of StandICT.eu; its parent Horizon Europe topic asks for a facility that supports European specialists, including from SMEs and academia, in leadership and key positions in international ICT standardisation.

Two types of fellowship for individuals

Type	What it covers (Guidelines p.3)	Maximum duration	Maximum funding
Long term (LT)	Contribution to ongoing standards development as a chair, convener, rapporteur or member of an SDO working group: for example commenting on standards development and drafts, attending meetings as an observer, and paying membership fees	9 months	Up to €10,000 per call
Short term (ST)	Contribution to standards documentation: for example liaison to a working group, comments on standards drafts, participation at a meeting, paying membership fees	3 months	Up to €5,000 per call

Both the maximum funding requested and the type of application "cannot exceed that indicated" (Guidelines p.3). The Guidelines name no minimum amount.

Eligible costs

Confirmed: costs "can include" (Guidelines p.5):

- personal working effort, which cannot exceed the EU maximum daily rate of €450;
- travel costs;
- event registration costs;
- membership costs of SDO and SSO organisations.

Applicants must give "a clear, well-justified and detailed description of the eligible costs". If an activity is partly covered by other resources, the items or activities already funded are not eligible.

Priority topic of Open Call 4

Confirmed: "Applications on Data economy, Cloud and Edge Computing, Data Interoperability, in particular those contributing to the implementation of the Data Act and to the work of the Minimum Interoperability Mechanisms (MIMs), contributing to the following SDOs: ETSI TC DATA, CEN/CLC JTC25, ISO/IEC JTC1 SC38, ITU-T SG20." (call page).

The Guidelines say that applications on any listed Rolling Plan topic "will be considered of equal validity and merit during the evaluation process" (p.7). They do not say how the priority topic is used in scoring beyond Criterion 2, which asks for alignment with Rolling Plan topics. EUnita interpretation: the priority topic signals where the project expects applications; it is not stated as a condition.

Other topics (Rolling Plan for ICT Standardisation)

- Foundational drivers: data economy; cybersecurity and network and information security; ePrivacy.
- Key enablers: 5G and beyond; cloud and edge computing; data interoperability; Internet of Things; electronic identification and trust services; e-infrastructures and the European Open Science Cloud; broadband infrastructure mapping; accessibility of ICT; artificial intelligence; EGNSS; quantum technologies.
- Societal challenges: digital health, healthy living and ageing; digital skills; digital learning; eGovernment; eCall; pandemic preparedness; safety, transparency and due process online; emergency communications and public warning systems.

- Innovation for the digital single market: e-procurement; e-invoicing; retail payments; preservation of digital cinema; Fintech and Regtech; blockchain and DLT; Web 4.0 and virtual worlds; media.
- Sustainable growth: smart grids and metering; smart and sustainable cities and communities; ICT environmental impact; EETS; ITS-CCAM and electromobility; digitisation of European industry; robotics and autonomous systems; construction and BIM; water management; Single European Sky; U-space; circular economy.

Policy anchors (confirmed): the EU Standardisation Strategy and the Rolling Plan for ICT Standardisation, through the parent topic HORIZON-CL4-2024-HUMAN-03-04 of the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2025 (part 7, pp. 438-439).

4. Boundaries: avoid the wrong door

The call is narrow on purpose: one person, one standards activity, a lump sum. The points below are stated in the Guidelines unless marked otherwise.

What this call does not fund

- Organisations as applicants for LT or ST fellowships: the Guidelines speak only of individuals or natural persons.
- Activities already funded: the Guidelines target experts who are not receiving support from other instruments (PPPs, EU or national R&I projects) for the proposed activities or from other sources for an identical activity; items or activities already funded by other resources are not eligible.
- Daily personal effort above €450.
- Amounts above the caps: €10,000 (LT), €5,000 (ST) per call, €50,000 per person over the edition.
- Copy-pasted applications: the Guidelines warn that applicants who copy and paste an earlier application “may risk being penalised”.
- Residents outside the EU Member States and associated countries.

Neighbouring routes of the same project

- Organisation of Standardisation Meetings (SM): organisations in a Member State or associated country that host technical standardisation meetings in Europe; up to €50,000 each, about €200,000 in total. Confirmed: the call page says it is “now closed to new submissions” because “all available funding has been allocated”; there is a waiting list and the project will announce any reopening. It is not an option today.
- Mentorship Programme: free; mentors and mentees apply through the project’s registration form and participants are selected. It is not a funding call, but mentors and mentees who fully complete it receive additional bonus points in the evaluation of the open calls.
- Later fellowship calls: the slides of 31 July 2026 and the project’s overview page show Open Call 5 from about February to about April 2027 and Open Call 6 from about June to about August 2027. These are approximate windows for the run of each call, not opening dates.

EUnita interpretation: an expert whose work is paid by a Horizon Europe project, a national research project or a partnership should treat the overlap rule as the first test. A different, later or additional activity can be applied for; the same work cannot. The documents list no other funding schemes for standards experts, so none is recommended here.

5. Budget, competition and expected number of grants

Confirmed: the budget of Open Call 4 is not published. The Guidelines allocate about €4,000,000 to LT and ST contributions over the six open calls and about €200,000 to meetings, as “estimated amounts that will be better defined during the Open Calls process management, based on the topics and strategic needs of the project” (p.3).

Item	Figure	Source
Fellowship programme, six open calls	€4,200,000 in total (about €4,000,000 for LT and ST, about €200,000 for SM)	Guidelines p.2-3; CORDIS
Platform call page for Open Call 4	“€ 4,000,000 of direct funding” over six calls	Platform call page
External Pool of Evaluators page	“a budget of 4 million Euro” and, elsewhere on the page, “more than 4 million Euro”, for six open calls	External Pool of Evaluators page
Parent project	EU contribution €6,000,000; at least 70% of the requested EU contribution must go to financial support to third parties; €50,000 at most per third party	CORDIS; Work Programme part 7 p.439
Open Call 1 (awarded)	€657,482 for 75 fellowships; about €8,766 each (derived)	Open Call 1 page
Open Call 2 (awarded)	€675,953 for 78 fellowships; about €8,666 each (derived)	Open Call 2 page
Open Call 3 (received)	188 applications for €1,562,266 (144 long term, 44 short term); results not published	Infographic on the project’s Open Call 3 page
Open Call 4 budget; number of fellowships	Not published	–

Derived estimate: 70% of €6,000,000 is €4,200,000, the same as the fellowship programme. Derived estimate: €4,000,000 divided by six calls is about €667,000 per call (an average of an estimate, not a budget for Open Call 4); the project says the amounts will be better defined as the open calls proceed.

Competition. Confirmed: Open Call 1 received 165 applications and funded 75; Open Call 2 received 143 and funded 78; Open Call 3 received 188 (infographic on the project’s Open Call 3 page) and closed on 2 October 2026, and its results are not published. Derived estimate: Open Call 1 funded about 45% and Open Call 2 about 55% of the applications received; these are past results, not a forecast for Open Call 4. The project publishes the number of applications per topic in infographics on the Open Call 1 to 3 pages (images, not page text). In the three topics of the Open Call 4 priority (data economy, cloud and edge computing, data interoperability), Open Call 1 received 11 of 165 applications and funded 4 fellowships; Open Call 2 received 9 of 143 and funded 6 according to the page text (5 according to the infographic); Open Call 3 received 7 of 188, with results not published. These are past results, not a forecast for Open Call 4.

Confirmed: tied proposals are separated by the earliest submission time stamp, where the budget does not allow funding all of them (Guidelines p.6).

6. What has been funded before

Confirmed (project pages and their infographics, read on 17 November 2026): the first two open calls of the 2029 edition.

Item	Open Call 1	Open Call 2
Period	17 November 2025 to 16 January 2026, 17:00	23 February to 24 April 2026, 17:00
Applications; fellowships selected	165 (“a record”); 75	143; 78
Direct funding	€657,482	€675,953
Average quality score of funded applications; threshold for approved applications	8.2; 7.29 (scale 1 to 10)	7.8; 7.04 (scale 1 to 10)
Countries of funded experts	16 EU and associated countries; most from France (18), Spain (12), Germany (11)	27 EU or associated countries; most from France (11), UK (9), Spain (8)
Organisation types	SMEs 37%; IT consultancy and development 23%; academia and research 21%; government and public services 7%; standardisation bodies 5%; associations 4%; large enterprises 3%	SMEs 32%; IT consultancy and development 23%; academia and research 23%; large enterprises 4%; government 4%; standardisation bodies 3%; associations 1%
Women; new to the programme	25%; 35%	24%; 49%
Leadership role (chair, co-chair, convenor, co-convenor)	29%	26%
Cybersecurity; artificial intelligence	10; 15 fellowships	14 (page text) or 13 (infographic); 34 fellowships
Applications received in data economy; cloud and edge; data interoperability (infographic on the project’s Open Call page)	6; 1; 4 (11 of 165)	1; 3; 5 (9 of 143)
Fellowships funded in data economy; cloud and edge; data interoperability	3; 0; 1 (page text and infographic agree)	1; 4; 1 according to the page text; 1; 2; 2 according to the infographic
Romania (infographic on the project’s Open Call page)	Not among the 16 countries of funded experts; the infographic of applications gives no country figures	7 applications; 2 funded fellowships

The page text and the infographic of the same call do not always agree. The table takes counts and shares from the page text and gives the infographic figures for the topics and for Romania, which the page text does not state. Examples: the Open Call 2 infographic shows 13 funded fellowships in cybersecurity (page text: 14) and 21 women among 78 funded (page text: 24%).

Confirmed: most funded activity is in global standards bodies (in Open Call 1, 67% in ISO/IEC, ISO, IEC, ITU, IEEE, W3C and IETF) and the rest in European bodies (CEN, CEN/CENELEC, ETSI) or associations (OASIS, 3GPP, UN/CEFACT).

Open Call 3 (13 July to 2 October 2026): the infographic on the project’s Open Call 3 page shows 188 applications for €1,562,266 (144 long term, 44 short term). No results are shown on the project page on 17 November 2026. The Open Call 3 slides planned results for the week of 9 to 13 November 2026.

Across all editions since 2018 the project reports more than 2,000 applications, over 40% funded, and more than €7 million channelled to more than 900 experts (about page).

The project’s infographics on the Open Call pages show Romania: 7 applications and 2 funded fellowships in Open Call 2; 5 applications in Open Call 3 (results not published); in Open Call 1 Romania is not among the 16 countries of funded experts (the Open Call 1 application infographic

gives no country figures). Past results only.

The Standardisation Meetings call received more than 15 applications and allocated all its funding.

7. Who should apply, and with which ideas

EUnita interpretation: the call suits people whose standards work is already under way and whose obstacle is time, travel or membership cost. The ideas below follow the activities the Guidelines name; they are not a list of approved topics.

Profiles

- Experts in SMEs, start-ups and IT consultancies, who made up about a third of funded fellows in the first two calls (37% and 32%).
- University and research staff (21% and 23% of funded fellows).
- Members of national standards bodies, and experts in associations and public services, whose work feeds an international or European committee.
- Chairs, convenors, rapporteurs, editors, project leaders and group secretaries; 29% and 26% of funded fellows held a chair or convenor role.
- Newcomers: experts starting in a working group are eligible “even if they do not dispose of previous proven experience”.

Ideas that fit the Guidelines

- Long term (up to 9 months): continuous work as rapporteur, editor or active member of one working group, with named drafts, meeting attendance and membership costs.
- Short term (up to 3 months): liaison between two groups, a set of comments on a defined draft, or participation in a specific meeting.
- Priority topic: work on the Data Act and the Minimum Interoperability Mechanisms in ETSI TC DATA, CEN/CLC JTC25, ISO/IEC JTC1 SC38 or ITU-T SG20; or other work on data economy, cloud and edge computing or data interoperability.
- Continuation: a second fellowship on the same standard, with the progress made, the new improvements and a different timeline stated.
- Newcomer route: a first fellowship combined with the Mentorship Programme.

For experts in Romania

Confirmed: an individual residing in Romania is eligible as an EU Member State resident. The project’s infographics show 7 applications and 2 funded fellowships from Romania in Open Call 2 and 5 applications in Open Call 3 (past results only). The 2029 Guidelines do not mention national mirror committees, and the Open Call 2 page lists National Standards Bodies among the bodies where funded fellows work. EUnita interpretation: members of a national mirror committee should build the application on the contribution to the international or European committee itself (comments, meetings, drafts), and keep any purely national activity out of the plan. The project’s old FAQs page says applications “must support an EU wide activity”; whether that still applies in 2029 is not stated.

8. Eligibility checklist

Use this list against the Guidelines before starting the form. “?” marks a point the documents leave open.

✓	You are an individual (natural person) and will submit the application yourself (Guidelines p.4, p.6).

✓	You reside in an EU Member State (Romania qualifies) or a Horizon Europe associated country (Guidelines p.4, p.6; Commission list V4.2).
?	You reside in Egypt, Switzerland, the Republic of Korea or Japan: the Commission list ties their association to later EU budget years (Egypt, Switzerland and Korea from 2025, Japan from 2026), while the budget of the parent Horizon Europe topic is for 2024. The Guidelines do not say which year counts for fellowships.
?	You reside in Canada, Japan, New Zealand or the Republic of Korea, which are associated to Pillar II, to which the parent topic belongs: the Guidelines do not say whether this counts.
✓	You are a standardisation specialist, or an expert about to start in a working group (Guidelines p.4).
✓	Your activity is a contribution to standards development in a standards body, on a Rolling Plan topic (Guidelines p.3, p.7).
✓	Your activity fits one type: LT up to 9 months and €10,000, or ST up to 3 months and €5,000 (Guidelines p.3).
✓	You are not receiving support from other instruments (PPPs, EU or national R&I projects) for the proposed activities or from other sources for an identical activity; items or activities already funded by other resources are not eligible (Guidelines p.5).
✓	Your total from this edition will not exceed €50,000 (Guidelines p.4).
✓	The application is complete in all sections and has an updated CV (Guidelines p.6).
✓	The activity starts no earlier than the date you create the application on the platform (Guidelines p.5).
✗	A company, university or association applying as the applicant for LT or ST: not allowed.
✗	A member of the project's External Pool of Evaluators: evaluators cannot apply to the open calls (External Pool of Evaluators page).
?	More than one application by one person in the same open call, including a long-term and a short-term application: not stated.
?	Work in a national standards body's committee: not addressed by the 2029 Guidelines (the Open Call 2 page lists National Standards Bodies among the bodies where funded fellows work).
?	Students, and staff of the StandICT.eu 2029 partners: not addressed in the documents.
?	Application language, page limits and the form's fields: not published.

9. How the money works

Element	Rule	Source
Form of grant	Lump sum; "does not require timesheets or justifications (e.g., invoices) for costs"	Guidelines p.10
Amount	Up to €10,000 (LT) or €5,000 (ST) per call; €50,000 per person over the edition, which ends on 30 September 2028	Guidelines p.3-4
Funding rate; co-financing	No rate stated; no co-financing requirement stated	–
Cost basis	Personal effort (at most €450 a day), travel, event registration, SDO and SSO membership; described and justified in the application	Guidelines p.5
When paid	At the end of the fellowship, on "delivered and validated results as defined in the fellow's application form"	Guidelines p.10
Prepayment	On request, with a valid justification linked to a milestone (for example the interim report) and evidence of the early request (for example proof of travel expenses)	Guidelines p.10

Element	Rule	Source
Processing	The payment process takes from 2 to 5 weeks; the fellow is then told the transfer follows in the next 5 to 7 working days	Guidelines p.10
Company route	Applicants who send their paperwork as a company must supply extra paperwork; payment takes longer	Guidelines p.10
Tax	The amount is gross; the fellow is responsible for any tax or duty	Guidelines p.10
Reports	LT: interim report at the midpoint and final report. ST: final report only. Submitted on the platform	Guidelines p.10-11
Visibility and acknowledgement	Profile on the project website and in the standards repository; promotion on LinkedIn and X; acknowledgement of EU funding (grant agreement 101213612) in related publications	Guidelines p.11-12

Derived estimate: six open calls at the LT maximum of €10,000 would add up to €60,000, above the €50,000 cap, so the cap binds after five maximum-size awards.

Cash flow and proof

EUnita interpretation: no invoices are needed, but payment depends on results that match what the application promised, and the platform reports are the evidence. A fellow carries the cost of the work until payment: the Guidelines give 2 to 5 weeks of processing plus 5 to 7 working days after the end of the fellowship, and longer for a company route. An early payment is possible only on request with a milestone and evidence. The fellowship agreement or sub-grant template is not published.

10. Evaluation

Confirmed (Guidelines p.4-6): the consortium first screens eligibility. Eligible proposals go to external evaluators from the project's External Pool of Evaluators (EPE). Each application is evaluated independently by three members, and a fourth member checks quality after consensus. Scores range from 1 to 10 and "All criteria have an equal weighting of 25% each". The final score is the average of the three evaluators' scores.

Criterion (25% each)	Focus (Guidelines p.6)
1. Excellence	Quality, clarity and necessity of the proposed activity, technical soundness, understanding of the current standards landscape
2. Impact	Support to EU policy priorities in the ICT domain, alignment with ICT Rolling Plan topics, contribution to ICT standardisation, leadership role in SDOs and working groups
3. Implementation	Feasibility, clarity and realism of the plan, work structure, KPIs and budget
4. Inclusion and Knowledge Transfer	How the applicant promotes inclusion and knowledge sharing in ICT standardisation

- Tie-break: the earliest submission time stamp (p.6).
- Chairs and convenors should stress their role, the strategic relevance of continuous activities and the progress made between applications (p.6).
- Mentorship Programme: participants apply through the project's registration form and are selected; mentors and mentees who fully complete the programme receive "additional bonus points" in the evaluation. The number of points, and whether completion is needed before the deadline, are not published. Participation in earlier editions counted only for Open Call 1; later participants must take part again under the 2029 programme (p.12).

- Decision: the evaluators' decision is binding; complaints are dealt with only on procedure, not on the merits (p.4). Applicants receive the result and a Consensus Report.
- Evaluators are assigned by expertise with regard to gender and geographical balance; members of the pool cannot apply to the open calls (EPE page).

Not published: a minimum score. The project pages report, after each call, "the threshold for approved applications" (7.29 in Open Call 1, 7.04 in Open Call 2). These are outcomes of the ranking, not a stated rule. Confirmed: the Guidelines give approximately 35 days after the close, at the end of which applicants are notified; in Open Calls 1 to 3 the slides planned results 31 to 42 days after the close, because evaluation starts about 5 working days after the deadline. No results date is published for Open Call 4.

11. Application package and timeline

Confirmed: applications go through the project's Grants Platform (Trust-Grants), linked from the call page. The form is visible only after login; its questions, page limits and language are not published.

1. Create an account on the project site (standict.eu/user/login) if you have none, then open the platform and choose "login with standict credentials"; holders of an account choose "login with project credentials" (SM call page). The Guidelines add that previous applicants of 2026 and 2023 can use their old credentials (p.9).
2. Open the Open Call 4 page on the platform and start an application. Its creation date is the earliest possible start date of your fellowship (p.5).
3. Complete every section, choose the type (LT or ST), state the timeline and a justified budget, and upload an updated CV (p.5-6).
4. Optionally subscribe to the Mentorship Programme while applying (p.4).
5. Save drafts as needed; edits are possible until the closing date (p.9).
6. Submit before 8 January 2027, 17:00 CET. A confirmation e-mail comes from notification@standict.eu (p.9). The project advises against waiting until the last minute.

Date	Event	Source
9 November 2026, 09:00 CET	Call opens	Call page; platform; banner
8 January 2027, 17:00 CET (18:00 in Romania)	Submission deadline	Call page; platform; banner
After the deadline	Screening, evaluation and notification: approximately 35 days according to the Guidelines; in Open Calls 1 to 3 the slides planned results 31 to 42 days after the close; no date published for Open Call 4	Guidelines p.4
About February to about April 2027 (approximate)	Open Call 5 is planned to run in this window; no opening date is published	Slides of 31 July 2026; overview page
About June to about August 2027 (approximate)	Open Call 6 is planned to run in this window; the approximate dates published earlier for Open Calls 3 and 4 moved by up to a month	Slides of 31 July 2026; overview page
30 September 2028	End of the StandICT.eu 2029 project and of the edition	CORDIS; Guidelines p.4

No information session for Open Call 4 is announced on the project's events page on 17 November 2026. Earlier calls had one: 7 January, 24 March and 31 July 2026, with slides and recordings.

12. Risks and red flags

Main risks

- Unknown budget and competition: Open Call 4 has no published budget. Ranking is by average score. Open Call 1 funded 75 of 165 applications, Open Call 2 78 of 143, and Open Call 3 received 188 (results not published); past results, not a forecast. A weak application can be left out even if it is eligible.
- Late payment: the lump sum is paid after the fellowship, with 2 to 5 weeks of processing and 5 to 7 working days of transfer. Plan to finance the work yourself until the payment arrives.
- Overlap with other funding: items or activities already funded by other EU or national projects, PPPs or other sources are not eligible. A continuation needs shown progress and a different timeline.
- Proof by results: the contribution must be delivered as promised in the application, with an interim and a final report for LT. Promise outputs you control.
- Much is not public: the form, language, page limits, agreement template, minimum score, mentorship bonus points and the results date.
- Old rules on the site: the FAQs page describes the earlier edition and contradicts the 2029 Guidelines on the cap, types, weights and payer.

Other points to watch

- Time zone: 17:00 CET is 18:00 in Romania; the platform shows the viewer’s own zone.
- Account: new users must register first; allow time for it.
- Cap: €50,000 per person over the edition; repeat fellows should add up earlier awards.
- Scope: national mirror-committee work, the budget years that the Commission list attaches to Egypt, Switzerland, the Republic of Korea and Japan, and residents of countries associated to Pillar II are not addressed in the Guidelines.
- Figures differ between pages (€4.2 million, €4,000,000 and “4 million Euro”); EUnita interpretation: the Guidelines split about €4,000,000 and about €200,000, which adds up to €4.2 million; no page says which figure the platform means.
- Tax: the amount is gross; the fellow bears any tax. A company route needs extra paperwork.
- EU restrictive measures: the Commission’s list says affected entities are not eligible in any capacity, including as recipients of support to third parties.

13. EUnita recommendations

1. Decide the type first: ST for a defined set of comments, liaison or a meeting; LT for continuous work. Ask for what the plan needs, not the maximum by default.
2. Name one committee, your role and the documents and meetings in the plan. Criterion 2 asks for leadership and Rolling Plan alignment; Criterion 3 for feasibility, KPIs and budget.
3. Build the budget from days (at most €450 a day), travel, event registration and membership costs, and state any other funding for the same work and what is new.
4. If you continue a funded activity, show the progress, the improvements and a different timeline; do not reuse text.
5. If your work fits the priority topic, tie it to the Data Act or the Minimum Interoperability Mechanisms and the named committee.
6. Plan cash for payment after the fellowship; ask an accountant about tax on the gross amount and about the company route.

7. Register on the project site early, save drafts and submit well before 8 January 2027, 17:00 CET (18:00 in Romania); keep the confirmation e-mail.
8. If you are new to standards bodies, apply to the Mentorship Programme through its registration form; participants are selected.

Unresolved points

- Budget of Open Call 4, number of fellowships and results date: not published.
- The application form's questions, language and page limits; the format of the CV: not published.
- The fellowship agreement or sub-grant template: not published.
- A minimum score and the value of the mentorship bonus points; whether a mentorship must be completed before the Open Call 4 deadline to count: not stated. Participants of the Mentorship Programme are selected.
- Whether one person may submit several applications in one call, or both a long-term and a short-term application: not stated.
- Whether work in a national standards body's committee, such as a national mirror committee, is eligible in 2029 (the Open Call 2 page lists National Standards Bodies among the bodies where funded fellows work): not stated.
- Whether the project's contacts answer eligibility questions in advance: not stated.
- Which budget year counts for residents of Egypt, Switzerland, the Republic of Korea and Japan, whose association starts with a later budget year in the Commission list (the budget of the parent topic is for 2024), and whether residents of countries associated to Pillar II qualify: not stated.
- Whether students and staff of the StandICT.eu 2029 partners may apply: not stated. Members of the External Pool of Evaluators cannot apply.

Sources

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- StandICT.eu 2029 – Open Call 4 page: https://standict.eu/open-call/open-call-4 (read 17 Nov 2026; printed 16 Nov 2026)
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- Open Call 3 information-session slides (31 July 2026): https://zenodo.org/records/21719473 (downloaded 16 Nov 2026)
- Open Call 1 page (results and statistics infographics): https://standict.eu/open-call/open-call-1 (read 17 Nov 2026; infographics saved 17 Nov 2026)
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- Standardisation Meetings (SM) call page: https://standict.eu/open-call/standardisation-meetings-sm-open-call (read and printed 16 Nov 2026)
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- About page (results of all editions): https://standict.eu/about (read and printed 16 Nov 2026)
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- European Commission: list of participating countries in Horizon Europe, V4.2 (7 October 2026): https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf (downloaded 16 Nov 2026)
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- Funding & Tenders Portal data file, topic HORIZON-CL4-2024-HUMAN-03-04: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/data/topicDetails/horizon-cl4-2024-human-03-04.json (downloaded 16 Nov 2026)
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- Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2025, part 13 General Annexes: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2023-2024/wp-13-general-annexes_horizon-2023-2024_en.pdf (downloaded 16 Nov 2026)
- Terms of Use of standict.eu: https://standict.eu/ppgm-privacy-policy-full (read and printed 16 Nov 2026)

Checked 17 November 2026. Official updates prevail.