NASCHA Open Call (12/11/2026-18/01/2027)

Guidelines for applicants

Use the following steps to prepare and submit an application to complement NASCHA value chains.

These guidelines are in line with the Open Call published on NASCHA project's website (https://www.nascha.eu/); therefore, it is recommended to read the call and its annexes for the full requirements.

STEP-1. Check your eligibility

1.A. Apply as an SME, or start-up, either individually or in a consortium of up to three SMEs. Every consortium member must meet the eligibility requirements. Each SME can be funded only once, even if it submits multiple applications.

1.B. Check, and self-declare on the application form, that every applicant is legally established, at the date of submission, in one of the specific eligible regions listed under "Who can apply?" in the call.

1.C. Prepare the required SME status and legal establishment self-declarations, geographical eligibility evidence and financial stability declaration.

1.D. Ensure that no other funding has been received or requested for the proposed activities, in order to avoid double funding of the same activities, costs or outputs.

1.E. Ensure there is no conflict of interest.

STEP-2. Define a relevant and deliverable project

2.A. Read Annex 1 Technical Specifications and identify the challenge or value-chain gap your solution addresses.

2.B. Explain the contribution to NASCHA objectives and hydrogen value chains, any relationship with the pilots and any new sector, application or replication opportunity.

2.C. Set out the activities, timetable, resources, milestones, deliverables and measurable technical and business results.

2.D. Explain technical feasibility, team capacity, market potential, business model and exploitation or replication prospects.

2.E. Address social, environmental, territorial and transnational benefits, including benefits for Less Developed Regions and complementarity with other innovation actions or I3 projects.

2.F. Clearly state the project duration (less than or maximum of 6-9 months).

STEP-3. Prepare and justify the budget

3.A. The budget required shall be no more than **EUR 60,000** per SME, or a maximum of EUR 180,000 for an SME consortium. For consortium applications, show the allocation to each member.

3.B. Provide a detailed budget linked to the action plan. Estimates must be reasonable, consistent with ordinary practices and the proposed work, and compliant with the call and Annex 3 – Eligible Costs. Relevant categories include personnel, subcontracting, travel and subsistence, equipment depreciation, and other goods, works and services. Include relevant participation costs for NASCHA activities; these are not reimbursed separately.

STEP-4. Complete and submit the application

4.A. Use the official Annex 2 Proposal Template available on the submission website (https://www.nascha.eu/). Complete all mandatory fields and attach all required supporting documents. Submit the application in English (documents proving legal establishment may remain in their original language).

4.B. Prepare, beforehand, a registered **Participant Identification Code (PIC)**, preferably for submission and in all cases before signing the Sub-Grant Agreement.

4.C. Submit exclusively through https://nascha.meta-group.com/ (please, consider proper timing in case of technical problems). Late applications, applications sent through other channels and applications that do not use the official template are ineligible. Applicant-side technical problems do not justify late submission.

4.D. Check the deadline before submitting. The call structure gives an **opening date of 12 November 2026 and a closing date of 18 January 2027**.

STEP-5. Prepare for evaluation and the interview [after submission]

5.A. Highest-ranked applicants are invited to interview, down the ranking until 150% of the available budget is covered (check assessment criteria on the published Open Call).
5.B. If invited, prepare a pitch of no more than 10 minutes on the proposal, expected results and contribution to NASCHA objectives (questions might follow during interview).
5.C. Prepare evidence of legal establishment before the interview evaluation.
5.D. The interview assesses feasibility and delivery of expected outcomes, and compatibility with the value chain.

STEP-6. Follow up and meet the funding conditions [after submission]

5.A. Results are communicated within **60 working** days of the deadline. If selected, provide the eligibility evidence requested and sign the Sub-Grant Agreement.
5.B. Participate in the required information sessions, mentoring, monitoring, capacity-building, acceleration and relevant project activities.
5.C. Submit agreed reports, according to deadlines, as evidence of your results and as proof of the following payments.
5.D. Keep evidence of completed work and records for checks and audits.
5.E. Comply with confidentiality, ethics, visibility, data protection and other contractual obligations. Non-compliance can lead to withheld payments, grant termination or recovery.

Questions

Questions and submission support shall be asked to: nascha@meta-group.com