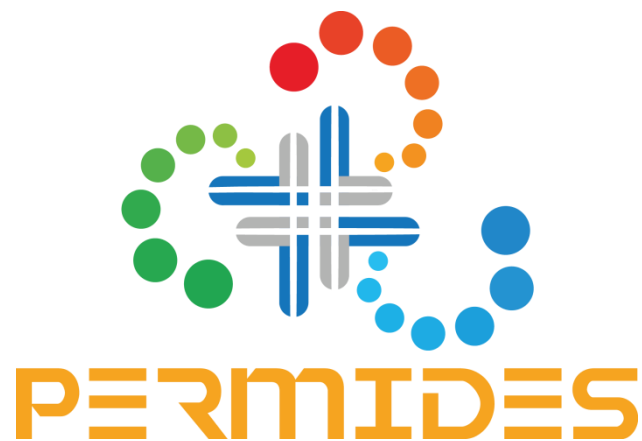


**PERMIDES**

**Personalised Medicine Innovation  
through Digital Enterprise Solutions**



**Applicants Guide for Submission of Applications  
for PERMIDES Funding Vouchers**

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[www.permides.eu](http://www.permides.eu)

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## 1 Goal of the PERMIDES Voucher Scheme

### 1.1 About the PERMIDES Project

PERMIDES is one out of five European INNOSUP-1-2015 – Cluster facilitated projects for new value chains projects (funded under EC Call for proposal: H2020-INNOSUP-2015-1).

It is the aim of PERMIDES to strengthen the competitiveness and foster the innovation potential of Personalized Medicine as an Emerging Industry in Europe by providing key solutions for the reconfiguration of the biopharmaceutical value chain towards a Health Economy 4.0 with a special focus on oncology (i.e. cancer treatment). Current value chain challenges lie in e.g. data gathering and exchange, big data and machine learning, or new software-based marketing methods based.

Via a cross-clustering approach, leading biopharma and IT clusters from three countries (Austria, Germany and Norway) will create novel cross-sectoral collaborations between SMEs to address innovation barriers in the biopharma sector via cutting-edge IT solutions.

The goal of the voucher-based funding system of PERMIDES is to support biopharma SMEs at establishing fruitful collaborations between the biopharmaceutical and the IT sector in the European region to advance the field of personalised medicine through the development of novel digital solutions. PERMIDES offers both support for matchmaking between biopharma and IT companies as well as financial support for the implementation of consultancy or innovation projects with participation of companies from both sectors.

### 1.2 Challenges of the Biopharma Sector

Advancing precision medicine in the digital age requires solutions developed in the IT sector, e.g. big data, machine learning, IT security, data protection, and cross-enterprise collaboration. The PERMIDES project aims at bringing together SMEs from the biopharmaceutical and IT sector to advance precision medicine through the development of novel digital solutions along the biopharmaceutical value chain. SMEs participating in the PERMIDES project can increase competitiveness and benefit from an innovation voucher scheme that will provide up to EUR 60,000 per project and biopharma SME.

The digitalization of communication and workflow processes is changing entire value chains. Advancing Personalised Medicine in the digital age requires solutions to issues currently driving the IT and software sector, e.g. Big Data, machine learning, IT security, data protection, and cross-enterprise collaboration. As a cross-cutting industry, the IT and software sector is an innovation enabler in many industries providing process and best practice solutions in diverse industrial and business environments.

Biopharmaceutical SMEs are faced with particular problems when it comes to digitalization of their processes and developing towards “digital enterprises”, i.e. enterprises where all processes are digitised. While equipped with the leading experts in the field, these SMEs are often stringently bound to their core developmental asset due to several factors. The financial scope of SMEs is often very limited and does not allow them to screen for potential providers of and to invest in customised support technologies like IT-systems (Lack of Funding). Furthermore, SMEs are personally often restricted to excellent experts in the field of their developmental asset, who must to focus their work (Lack of Interaction). In comparison to larger companies, SMEs are unable to maintain employees or even departments for support technologies such as IT solutions (Lack of Know-how). In summary, this results in a Lack of Access of SMEs to opportunities for technological improvement. However,



excellent support technologies like IT solutions are crucial for successful innovation and market entry. Even more in the field of Personalised Medicine, where requirements for data management and data analysis exploded with the introduction of new life science technologies (next generation sequencing, metabolomics, proteomics etc.), not regarding increasing requirements in data protection and privacy.

Personalised Medicine solutions are combinations of drugs and validated diagnostic tests (e.g. one or several biomarkers) tailored to stratified patient groups or individual patients. Rapidly decreasing costs for whole genome sequencing result in an increasing implementation of this technology into clinical diagnostics for cancer patients, generating huge and complex data sets for each patient that create novel opportunities as well as challenges to be addressed by hospitals and the biomedical industry. Thus, advancing Personalised Medicine in the future requires key innovation drivers and technologies from several sectors, including gene sequencing, bioinformatics, data management, and correlation to enable effective data collection, analysis, and interpretation. By connecting relevant stakeholders from the IT and biopharmaceutical fields, bottlenecks in data generation, storage, and correlation will be eased. This will substantially enhance the translational and clinical development of Personalised Medicine, thereby driving the innovation capacity of the collaborating parties and generating blueprints for the entire field.

Due to technological and demographic trends, European and other health care systems in developed nations are facing major challenges. Personalised Medicine, which is tailored to the individual patient's molecular information, offers new opportunities for more effective, better tolerated and economically sustainable treatments for serious diseases. Novel insights into disease and treatment mechanisms in the era of Personalised Medicine transform the medical treatment. An increasing convergence with the digital revolution will fuel these developments.

During the PERMIDES project, several workshops have been organized with experts from both biopharma and IT sector to identify the **current challenges in the biopharma value chain** and possible solutions from the IT area:

## Data Gathering and Exchange

- Conversion and standardization of the data across different research areas, clinical groups and laboratories
- Exploiting external knowledge bases (e.g. existing scientific literature, patents, ongoing clinical trials, biobank data, etc.) more comprehensively via IT solutions to gain valuable insights for decision making and project planning
- Structured data acquisition especially in the context of clinical data is a major challenge
- Data Governance, i.e. managing the vast amount of complex data as used e.g. in the field personalised medicine
- Social media as source of data relevant for healthcare ranging from epidemiology to quality of life assessment
- Development of new business models such as app-facilitated patient empowerment and direct pharma to patient marketing
- Technical solutions for transferring large amounts of data from mobile devices

## Data Quality

- Lack of reliable quality of the data; different standards but also standard operating procedures in data sources



- Data quality and data curation with regards to a large variety of different data from different sources that needs to be integrated; digitalization of analog content

## Data Analysis

- Tools to gain actionable insights from external and internal data such as omics & biomarker data, scientific literature, clinical trial registries or patents which can provide decision support for R&D planning of biopharmaceutical SMEs
- Analysis of complex molecular systems
- Facilitated and comprehensive communication of research data, clinical processes and results in between researchers, physicians, nurses, patients and other stakeholders requires support by the IT sector; comprehensive data visualization including animations and augmented reality
- Modelling of personalized therapy solutions

## Legal and Regulatory Aspects

- Data privacy and regulatory compliance issues; data protection during storage and transfer as well as regarding data privacy and anonymization
- Development of tools that ensure compliance from the very beginning such as a “digital compliance helper”
- Support to certify/approve digital processes that are used in a medical context

## Security

- Data Security is an inherent problem in the health sector at the global level due to the presence of different rules in different countries and regulatory bodies.
- Secure data sharing and privacy is of utmost importance; enabling data transfer between different actors & partners and across borders

Applications for Consultancy or Innovation Vouchers should address at least one of the listed (or similar) challenges of the biopharma value chain.

## 2 What will be funded?

The PERMIDES Voucher Scheme funds both the participation of biopharma and IT SMEs at events organized by the PERMIDES project as well as the implementation of consultancy and innovation projects addressing challenges of the biopharma sector identified by the PERMIDES project.

### 2.1 Consultancy/Innovation Projects Addressing PERMIDES Challenges

The main applicant for a consultancy or innovation voucher has to be a biopharma SME that teams up with one (or more) IT SME(s) via the PERMIDES platform. These teams can apply for support for consultancy or innovation projects to identify, develop and work on solutions that will change processes of the biopharma partner by means of information technology. Consultancy and innovation voucher applications must address one or more of the biopharma sector challenges identified by the PERMIDES project (as described in section 1.2).

## 2.1.1 Scope of Innovation Projects

An innovation project must meet the following criteria in order to get funded via PERMIDES vouchers:

- The project must aim at new products, processes or technical services for personalized medicine which, with their functions, parameters or characteristics, exceed the existing products, processes or technical services of the biopharmaceutical sector and are based on the international state-of-the-art of science and technology.
- The project increases the technological performance level of the company or its innovation competence.
- The project must address a challenge of the biopharma value chain.
- The project strengthens the competitiveness of companies on a demanding level of innovation and thus opens up new market opportunities and creates or secures jobs.
- The project should not create risks for the daily business of the biopharma SME.
- The timeframe of the proposed project must not exceed 6 months. Irrespective of its start date, the end date of any project cannot be later than June 15<sup>th</sup> 2018.

## 2.1.2 Roles of Applicants for a Consultancy/Innovation Voucher

There are two roles in an application for a consultancy or innovation voucher:

- **Beneficiary:** SME from the biopharma sector (such as biotech/medtech companies, diagnostics companies, CROs, biobank companies) requesting a novel IT-based solution in the context of personalized healthcare acting as main applicant.
- **Service Provider:** SME from the IT sector acting as service provider for the beneficiary in the application.
- **Exception:** a bioinformatics (hybrid) SME can act as the beneficiary (biopharma partner) requesting the development of a novel solution together with an IT partner in a specific innovation project/consultancy application. In a separate innovation project/consultancy application the same bioinformatics SME can act as a service provider (IT partner) for a biopharma SME.

## 2.2 Participation in Events Organized by the PERMIDES Project

For a support regarding the participation in events organized by the PERMIDES project (workshops, matchmaking events etc.), biopharma and IT SMEs can apply multiple times for Travel Vouchers via the PERMIDES platform. The limits for an individual travel voucher as well as the cumulative travel voucher limit per SME are detailed in section 3. Eligible costs include travel and accommodation costs (no subsistence) as detailed in the PERMIDES Voucher Application Terms and Conditions document available at [www.permide.eu](http://www.permide.eu). Detailed information about application, awarding and reimbursement of Travel Vouchers can be found in section 5.5.

## 3 Voucher Types and Scope

The voucher-based funding system of PERMIDES offers three different types of vouchers that are used for different purposes and are characterised by different evaluation and awarding processes and specific maximum values. The three voucher types are consultancy vouchers, innovation vouchers and travel vouchers as detailed in the following table:



Type	Value (€) per voucher	Purpose	Target Group (limits €)
<b>Consultancy Voucher</b>	up to 5.000	A biopharma SME can make use of an individual consultation by an IT SME, regarding a specific challenge in its value chain that could be improved by IT. A biopharma SME can apply for multiple Consultancy Vouchers. The cumulative amount available via Consultancy Vouchers per biopharma SME is limited to 12.000€.	Biopharma SMEs (each SME limited to 12.000)
<b>Innovation Voucher</b>	up to 60.000	A biopharma SME will receive a customised IT solution adapted to its specific competitive situation. A biopharma SME can apply for multiple Innovation Vouchers. The cumulative amount available via Innovation Vouchers per biopharma SME is limited to 60.000€.	Biopharma SMEs (each SME limited to 60.000)
<b>Travel Voucher</b>	up to 1.800 (international) up to 200 (national)	Supporting SMEs in taking part in dedicated PERMIDES events such as matchmaking events and workshops. Travel Vouchers are differentiated between national and international travels. A biopharma or IT SME can apply for multiple Travel Vouchers. The cumulative amount available via Travel Vouchers per SME is limited to 6.000€. A Travel Voucher will be awarded to a company, not to a single employee of a company. If a company sends more than one employee to a project-related event, the travel costs for these employees have to be added together and applied for via one single Travel Voucher application.	Biopharma SMEs and IT SMEs (each SME limited to 6.000)
<b>The overall maximum funding available for a particular biopharma SME is 60,000 Euro!</b>			

Table 1 Value and purpose of different voucher types

The different types of vouchers offered to biopharma SMEs allow them to tackle and solve challenges at specific levels of complexity. Each biopharma SME can apply for multiple vouchers but is restricted to the maximum value of each voucher type as detailed in Table 1. **The overall maximum funding available for a biopharma SME is 60,000 Euro.** This amount can be reached by being awarded with one single Innovation Voucher of the maximum value or be composed of a selection of different vouchers with a lower amount (e.g. several Consultancy, Travel and Innovation Vouchers together totalling 60,000 Euro), i.e. a biopharma SME can apply for vouchers until the cumulative amount of awarded vouchers reaches the overall upper limit. Services exceeding this amount will not be covered by the awarded vouchers, but will have to be paid for by the biopharma SMEs based on a bilateral agreement, which will form part of the standard agreement for innovation projects. IT SMEs can only apply for Travel Vouchers and have to consider the corresponding maximum value for this voucher type.

## 4 Beneficiaries

The voucher funding scheme of PERMIDES is aimed at SMEs from the biopharmaceutical sector developing novel personalized medicine products and solutions (e.g. biotech/medtech companies, diagnostics companies, CROs, biobank companies, bioinformatics companies). Only biopharma SMEs, together with IT SMEs, according to the **EU definition** and headquartered in one of the EU **Member States or Associated Countries** but in no other countries can submit the proposals for funding provided by PERMIDES. To be eligible for funding, project teams need to consist of one biopharma SME as main applicant/beneficiary and at least one IT SME as service provider.

A biopharma SME can apply several times for consultancy/innovation vouchers up to the limits detailed in section 3. As IT SMEs are service providers and not beneficiaries of the consultancy/innovation vouchers, they are not bound to these limits and thus can participate in multiple projects with a cumulative value larger than 60,000 Euro.

As Service Providers, IT SMEs will be paid by the corresponding biopharma SME using the awarded PERMIDES Innovation/Consultancy Voucher. A consultancy/innovation voucher pays the occurred costs of the IT SME (within the limits detailed in 3). The IT SME provides the service to the biopharma SME. Cost of the participating biopharma SME will not be funded by PERMIDES.

Regarding Travel Vouchers, both biopharma and IT SMEs can be beneficiaries and thus can apply for funding (within the limits detailed in section 3).

## 5 How to Apply?

### 5.1 Preconditions

The process of applying for any kind of voucher will completely be handled via the PERMIDES platform. Thus, biopharma and IT SMEs jointly applying for a consultancy or innovation voucher have to be registered at the web-based PERMIDES platform ([platform.permides.eu](http://platform.permides.eu)). When registering on the platform, companies have to agree to TERMS OF USE of the PERMIDES platform. The TERMS OF USE of the PERMIDES platform specify general aspects of the platform such as data protection and match making. During the registration process, companies indicate their status and country of residence. Only if a company confirmed its [SME](#) status as well their residency in an EU Member State or Associated Country but in no other countries it will get access to the voucher application process.

### 5.2 Application Preparation and Submission via Platform

Generally, in order to start the preparation of an application, an already registered biopharma SME has to log in at the PERMIDES Platform. Potential project team partners can be found via the semantic search function of the PERMIDES platform offering the need-vs-expertise-based matchmaking of companies from the biopharmaceutical and IT sector.

While logged in, the biopharma SME can start a virtual collaboration space reserved for one specific innovation and consultancy voucher application by inviting an IT SME to “work together”. The biopharma SME can invite additional partners to the collaboration space. If an invitation is accepted,



the partners can use the virtual collaboration space which provides access to the voucher application system.

The virtual collaboration space consists of a communication area, a set of credit counters for the biopharma SME, and access to the voucher application web-forms. The communication area allows both SMEs to leave messages for each other which are shown in a chronological order. These messages can be edited afterwards and files can be attached to them. An edit history keeps track of when which parts of a message were changed by whom. A credit counter shows the remaining total value of vouchers for which the particular biopharma SME is eligible to apply (see section 3). Values of granted and submitted voucher applications of the particular SME are automatically subtracted from the credit balance of the respective credit counter.

The content of an application has to be filled in text fields of the application web-form which are character-limited. All applicants can enter data into the voucher application form. Details of the data fields to be filled are described in the web-form. Additionally, downloadable templates detailing the content of innovation and consultancy voucher applications can be found at [www.permides.eu](http://www.permides.eu). Data entered in the web-form is saved, so the application can be completed over multiple sessions. The voucher application form can be exported as a pdf file which includes the entered data any time.

Part of the voucher application form is a status field which automatically displays the current status of the voucher application. Its initial value is „Not submitted“. At the end of the application process a **Declaration of Honour** needs to be filled by each participating SME.

Once all required form fields are filled the **Voucher Application Terms & Conditions** need to be accepted by each participating SME. These Terms & Conditions are provided as downloadable document in the collaboration space and are also shown during submission.

Finally, when the applying biopharma SME submits the voucher application, the cooperating IT SME will receive an automated message via the internal platform message system and via e-mail which contains links to accept or reject the submission. The submitted application can no longer be edited.

If the IT or hybrid SME rejects the submission, the biopharma will receive an automated message via the message system and via e-mail that the submission has been rejected. The voucher application will become editable again.

A rejected proposal can be re-submitted for the next evaluation period. Once an application has been rejected applicants can access the collaboration space of this application again an edit their former application. Only if all participating applicants confirm the submission it will be officially accepted by the PERMIDES platform and reviewed afterwards.

### **5.3 Partnering Scenarios for Applications**

The various constellations for partnerships in innovation projects are outlined in Figure 1. These partnerships consider only SME fulfilling the eligibility criteria. Further associated collaboration partners such as universities, larger companies, hospitals etc. can be included in a project but cannot receive any PERMIDES funding. These associated collaboration partners will not have access to the virtual collaboration space of the PERMIDES platform. These associated collaboration partners can be listed in the innovation voucher application template. For consultancy projects, only the 1-to-1 partnering scenario is possible.

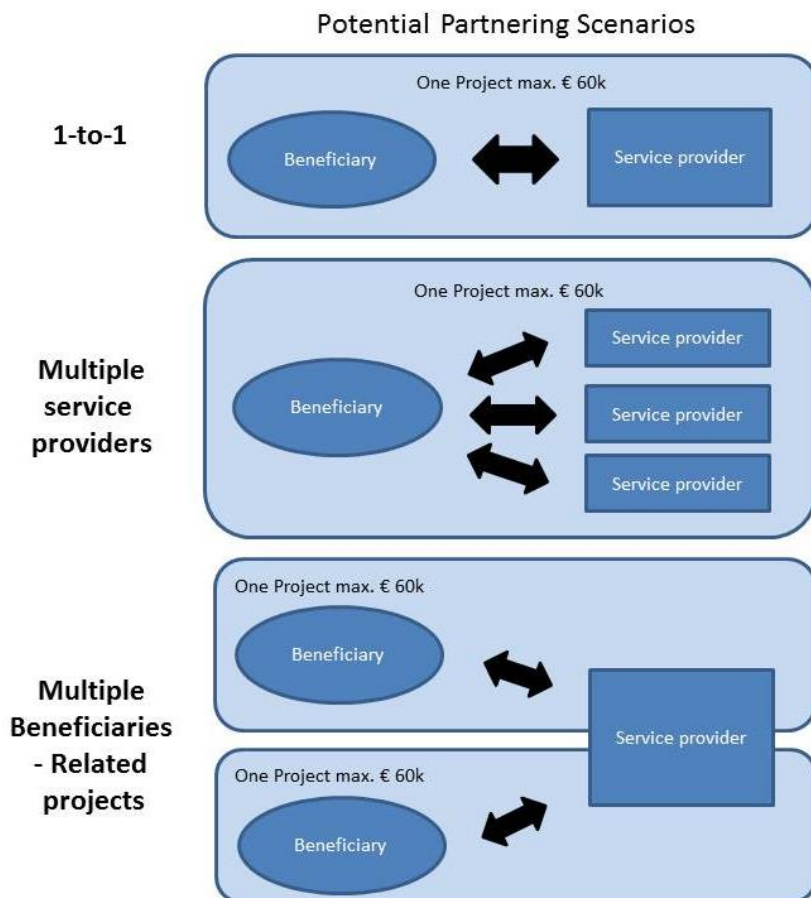


Figure 1 Partnering scenarios for innovation projects

## 5.4 Content of Applications

Applications for funding vouchers have to be electronically submitted by filling in a web-form via the PERMIDES Platform. Downloadable templates detailing the content of innovation and consultancy voucher applications can be found at [www.permides.eu](http://www.permides.eu).

## 5.5 Applications for Travel Vouchers

Applicants for Travel Vouchers (which can be both biopharma and IT SMEs) have to submit their application for Travel Voucher via the PERMIDES Platform at the latest 15 working days before the start of the journey. In case the Travel Voucher application has been successful, the applying SME will be informed and receives a Travel Voucher as well as the "PERMIDES template Travel Expense Report".

At the latest 30 working days after the event, the SME has to hand in the completed *Travel Expense Report* and supporting documents (copies of ALL invoices, justifications). Claims handed in later will not be accepted.

The returned *Travel Expense Report* will be checked whether the costs follow the rules of eligibility of the H2020 program or if they have to be revised. The reimbursement of travel costs happens within 30 days after the submission of the Travel Expense Report (and related documents).

## 6 Formal Eligibility Criteria

In addition to the thresholds to be reached regarding the content, an application also must meet the following formal eligibility criteria:

- The applicants have to be registered on the PERMIDES Platform.
- The applicants must have SME status according to the SME definition of the European Union<sup>1</sup>.
- The applicants are headquartered in one of the EU Member States<sup>2</sup> or Associated Countries<sup>3</sup> but in no other countries.
- The requested voucher amount does not exceed the remaining funding amount available for the applying biopharma SME.
- The timeframe of the proposed project does not exceed 6 months. Irrespective of its start date, the end date of any project is not later than June 15<sup>th</sup> 2018.
- The applicants must accept the PERMIDES Voucher Application Terms & Conditions.
- The eligible costs include the personnel cost and depreciation costs of equipment, infrastructure or other assets necessary for the innovation project.

## 7 Evaluation Process

All innovation voucher applications submitted until the respective cut off dates will be evaluated by the PERMIDES consortium and an external reviewers board. Evaluation will be performed under appropriate ethical conduct and will respect the confidentiality of the information received. For the evaluation of the content of applications, specific criteria will be used by the reviewers (see section 7.1). All applications will be ranked according to their total evaluation score with regard to the evaluation criteria and the projects with the highest scores will be funded. The cut-off will be determined by the available funds in this evaluation period i.e. all applications in the ranking are funded (high to low) up to the point when all available funding has been awarded. In the second evaluation period, depending on how much money was awarded in the first round and how many applications will be received, the funding rate can be higher or lower. Each round might therefore differ in its competitiveness. In case of equal evaluation scores of fundable applications but limited funds, a second evaluation round that establishes a definite ranking of the fundable applications will be performed. Applications that have not been successful can be re-submitted in the next application period. Unsuccessful applicants will receive feedback regarding why their project will not be funded in form of an evaluation report. In this way, they can improve their application in case they plan to re-submit it.

To ensure a short turn-around time, applications for consultancy vouchers will be reviewed continuously during the whole call period by three internal reviewers from the PERMIDES consortium using similar evaluation procedures as for innovation projects. Main criteria for consultancy project evaluation are relevance of the objectives with regard to their connection with biopharmaceutical value chain challenges and digitalisation as outlined in section 1.2 as well as the suitability of the applying SMEs to pursue the stated objectives.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition\\_de](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition_de)

<sup>2</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/wp/2016-2017/annexes/h2020-wp1617-annex-a-countries-rules\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/wp/2016-2017/annexes/h2020-wp1617-annex-a-countries-rules_en.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants\\_manual/hi/3cpart/h2020-hi-list-ac\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/3cpart/h2020-hi-list-ac_en.pdf)

## 7.1 Evaluation Criteria

The following equally weighted criteria will be used by all evaluators to review the **innovation voucher applications**:

1. **Innovation Level** – *How innovative is the proposed project in the context of the biopharma sector? Which innovation barrier is to be addressed by the digitalization project and what impact does overcoming this innovation barrier have for the particular biopharmaceutical SME?*
2. **Technical Feasibility** – *Is the proposed project likely to be successful with the technological means described? Is the project plan sound, realistic and achievable?*
3. **Resource Capacities** – *Are the resources to be committed sufficient to generate the effect described in the proposed project.*
4. **Partner Competence** – *Do the company profiles, the reference projects as well as solutions of both partners involved display the competence for innovation? Are the partners likely to conduct the project successfully? Does the IT partner have a convincing track record (similar projects successfully accomplished)? Does the biopharma partner display the competence for innovation which can be facilitated by the project and does the partner commit sufficient resources for the project (e.g. a dedicated project manager)?*
5. **Fitness to Industry Needs** – *Does the challenge to be tackled within the biopharma SME have significant relevance to other SMEs in the sector and can it be used (in an adopted version) by other customers/project partners or sold as a product?*

For application evaluation, each criterion will be rated from 1-5:

- **1 Poor** The criterion is addressed in an inadequate manner, or there are serious inherent weaknesses;
- **2 Fair** While the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses;
- **3 Good** The proposal addresses the criterion well, although improvements would be necessary;
- **4 Very good** The proposal addresses the criterion very well, although certain improvements are still possible;
- **5 Excellent** The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor.

The average for each criterion will be calculated from all reviewer evaluations. The average of all reviewer evaluations for a particular criterion has to be at least 2. If a criterion is rated on average below 2 the application will not be funded. The sum of these averaged scores results in the total evaluation score for each project. Thus the highest achievable total evaluation score is 25. The minimum total evaluation score for a project to be fundable is 13. At the end of each evaluation period, all evaluated applications will be ranked by their total evaluation score (excluding those falling below the above-mentioned cut-off criteria i.e. each criterion average score  $\geq 2$ ; total evaluation score  $\geq 13$ ).

For **consultancy voucher applications**, the following equally weight criteria will be used by the evaluators (three PERMIDES consortium members) for review:

1. **Objectives** – *Relevance of the objectives with regard to their connection with biopharmaceutical value chain challenges and digitalisation as outlined in chapter 1.2*
2. **Partnership Fitness** – *Suitability of the applying SMEs to pursue the stated objectives and their compatibility to the scope of PERMIDES.*

For consultancy voucher application evaluation, each criterion will be rated from 1-3 (3 being the best achievable score).

Scores:

- **1 Poor**
- **2 Fair to Good**
- **3 Very Good to Excellent**

The total evaluation score for a consultancy application will be calculated as the sum of all reviewer scores from the two criteria. Thus, the highest achievable total score is 18 (2 criteria x 3 max. score x 3 reviewers). The minimum total evaluation score for an application to be fundable is 12.

## 7.2 Awarding Successful Applications

If an application has been evaluated positively and a voucher is granted, the applicants will need to sign a formal contract with PERMIDES coordinator CyberForum in order to start the project. The successful applicants will be informed about the outcome and will receive necessary documents to be signed. These documents will detail issues regarding payment arrangements / cost statements, reporting duties and publication obligations. See PERMIDES Vouchers Terms & Conditions at [www.permides.eu](http://www.permides.eu) for further information.

## 8 Timeline

- The timeframe of a proposed innovation or consultancy project must not exceed 6 months. Irrespective of its start date, the end date of any project cannot be later than June 15<sup>th</sup> 2018.
- The PERMIDES call for voucher applications will open 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017 (12:00 CET) and closes November 15<sup>th</sup> 2017 (12:00 CET).
- Evaluation cut-off dates for innovation voucher applications will be: May 15<sup>th</sup> 2017 (24:00 CET) and October 10<sup>th</sup> 2017 (12:00 CET).
- After these evaluation cut-off dates, the innovation voucher applications that had been submitted before will be reviewed by the PERMIDES consortium and an external reviewers board. Successful applications will be awarded within max. 3 months after the cut-off date.
- Applications for consultancy vouchers will be reviewed continuously and directly upon submission during the whole call period until November 15<sup>th</sup> 2017 by the PERMIDES consortium. There are no interim cut-off dates for submitting a consultancy voucher to ensure a short turn-around time.
- If an application has been evaluated positively and a voucher is granted, the applicants will need to sign a formal contract with PERMIDES coordinator CyberForum in order to start the project.

- If an application has not been evaluated positively, the PERMIDES consortium will provide feedback and re-application is possible if within the call period.
- Applications for Travel Vouchers can only be submitted for dedicated PERMIDES events taking place during the PERMIDES project duration. These PERMIDES events will be announced on [www.permides.eu](http://www.permides.eu).

## 9 Getting Support

If applicants need help regarding preparation or submission of voucher applications, usage of the PERMIDES platform etc., they can get support by sending a message to the PERMIDES project via <http://permides.eu/contacts/>.

Further information about the PERMIDES project: <http://permides.eu/>

Link to the PERMIDES Platform: <https://platform.permides.eu/webform/lcd4eEdfUT5KikdK/>

## 10 Coming Into Effect

Voucher applicants have to note that there is no legal claim to grant a voucher. The PERMIDES consortium decides on the basis of evaluation results and within the scope of the available funding about the awarding of vouchers.

These guidelines shall enter into force on the date of the publication of the PERMIDES call for voucher applications (31<sup>st</sup> March 2017).

