



Transnational & Virtual Access

HANDBOOK

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Welcome to the IRISCC Access Handbook

Dear Reader,
Welcome to the IRISCC (Integrated Research Infrastructure Services for Climate Change Risks) Access Handbook —your go-to guide for exploring and applying to IRISCC's Transnational (TA) and Virtual Access (VA) opportunities. We're thrilled that you're here, and even more excited about the potential ideas, collaborations and breakthroughs your work may bring.

Whether you're a researcher, policymaker, or industry professional, this Handbook is designed to support your journey from inspiration to implementation. It walks you through the key concepts, eligibility criteria, application steps, and evaluation process for gaining access to some of Europe's most advanced research infrastructures dedicated to understanding and addressing climate change-driven risks.

IRISCC is built on a simple but powerful idea: by connecting diverse talents with top-tier tools and facilities across borders, we can build stronger, more resilient societies. With this in mind, we've created a Catalogue of Services and a series of Open Calls to make these resources available to you—whatever and wherever you are.

We hope this Handbook empowers you to take full advantage of all that IRISCC and the European Research Infrastructures have to offer. If you're reading this, chances are you're already part of the solution. So dive in, explore our services, and let's tackle climate change risks—together.

Warm regards,
The IRISCC Team

What is IRISCC?

IRISCC (Integrated Research Infrastructure Services for Climate Change Risks) is a European Union-funded consortium comprising [14 leading European research infrastructures and facilities](#). By making use of their installations, tools and data on environmental, health and social sciences, the goal of IRISCC is to empower society to address and strengthen resilience to climate change risks, with your help. To achieve this goal, IRISCC has scheduled seven [Open Calls for Access](#), inviting individuals and groups to make use of our facilities, resources and services. These are now accessible through our [Catalogue of Services](#), offering you the opportunity to contribute to strengthening resilience to climate change risks and, ultimately, to fostering a more sustainable future for Europe. Explore our installations, tools and data to empower your own research!

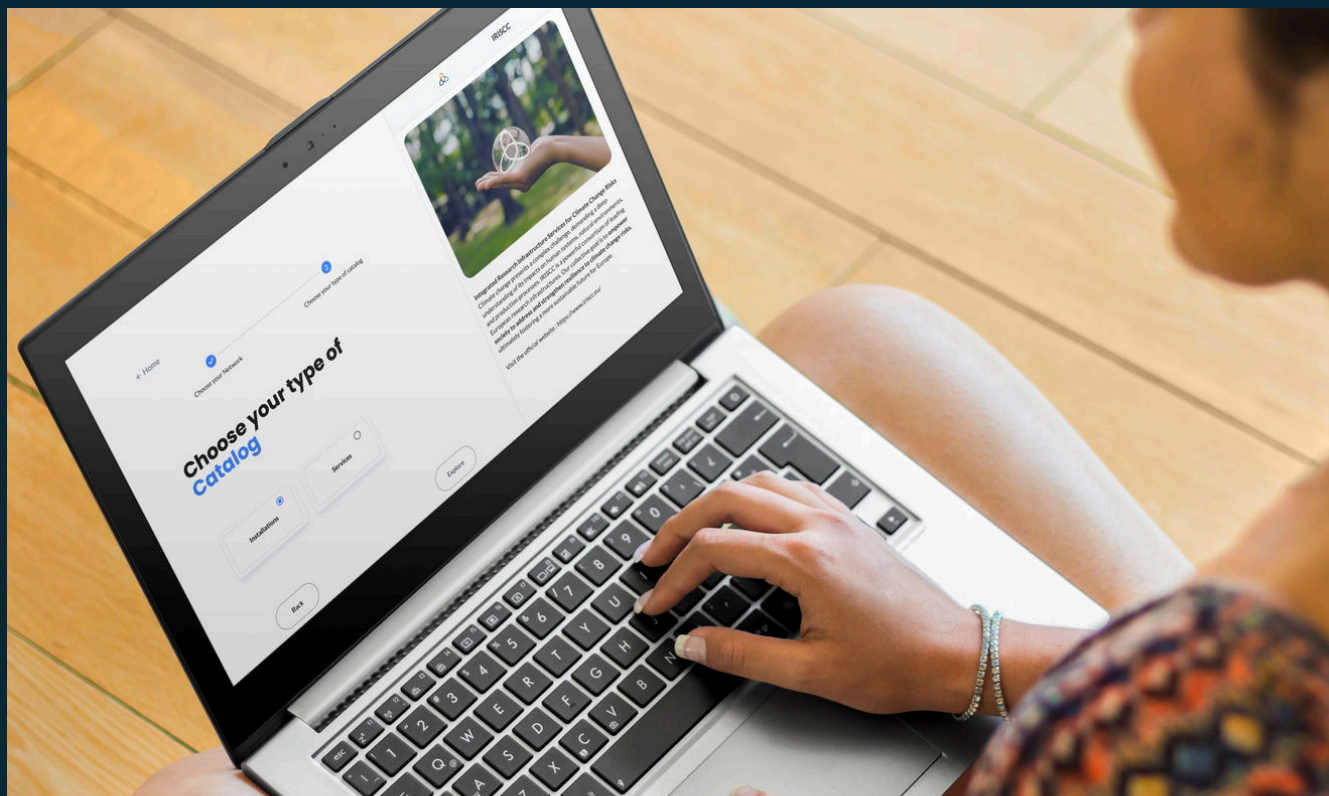


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IRISCC Catalogue of Services

EMPOWERING CLIMATE RISK RESEARCH THROUGH INTEGRATED SERVICES



In IRISCC, we make our [Catalogue of Services](#) available to you. Our Catalogue is a collection of services focusing on climate change-driven risks and their determinants – hazards, exposure and vulnerabilities (Figure 1). In this regard, hazards include both natural and human-induced events. Exposure is defined in relation to humans, ecosystems and infrastructures where hazards occur. Vulnerabilities are considered in terms of the susceptibilities of the exposed elements to harm, also keeping in mind their abilities to cope and adapt.

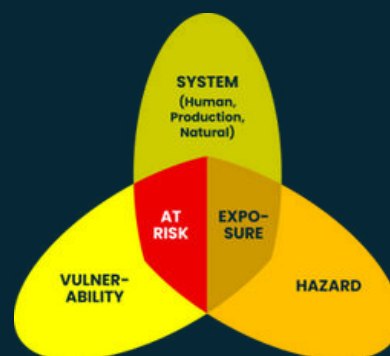


Figure 1. Determinants of climate change-driven risks in terms of hazards, exposure and vulnerabilities.

The Catalogue aims to improve collaboration, streamline access to state-of-the-art research infrastructures and foster interdisciplinary research that is essential to addressing the complex challenges posed by climate change.

System / Risk	Climate warming	Desertification	Cryo / snow	Sea level rise	Ocean acidification	Heat waves	Drought	Floods	Storm surges	Fires	Landslides	Disease vectors, pests	Air and water pollution
Urban areas	9	5	1	1		12	8	5	2	10	1	9	12
Rural areas	15	8	2	1		16	11	6	2	13	1	7	11
Mountain communities	7	1	4	1		4	5	2	2	4	3	3	9
Coastal communities	4	4	1	2	1	3	3	2	3	7	1	2	5
Managed forests	16	4	3	1		15	16	4	1	10	1	6	10
Agro ecosystems	16	8	2	1		14	16	7	2	10	1	8	15
Aquaculture/ fisheries	8		1	1	6	5	3	1	1	3	1	7	7
Forests	24	7	3	1		19	17	6	3	15	1	8	14
Grasslands / shrublands	15	7	3	1		12	17	8	2	7	1	6	10
Coastal	15	3	1	6	11	14	4	4	5	6	1	8	17
Wetlands	13		1	4		12	8	4	2	5	1	5	7
Freshwater	10		1	3		10	7	3	1	3	1	4	7
Marine	15		1	6	11	12		3	3		1	7	13

Table 1. Provision of transnational access (TA) services on climate change-driven hazards to human, production and natural systems. The orange-to-yellow colours indicate the number of IRISCC TA services covering each system-risk combination as existing facilities included in the IRISCC Catalogue.

The first release of the Catalogue, scheduled for April 2025, focuses on services addressing individual climate risk determinants—hazard, exposure, and vulnerability. While this initial release is primarily designed for researchers, future editions will expand to serve policymakers, industry professionals, and other societal actors.

You can explore the IRISCC Catalogue of Services in two ways:

- by browsing the services offered, or
- by viewing the installations and facilities providing those services.

Use the advanced search features in our Catalogue to easily navigate the wide range of available services. You can explore offerings by research infrastructure name, participating country, scientific domain, or keywords relevant to your specific research needs. Each listed installation, facility, and service includes contact details and additional information to help you connect directly with service providers.

Don't miss the opportunity—apply through our Open Calls to gain access to world-class climate research infrastructures.

IRISCC Virtual Access(VA) and Transnational Access (TA) Open Calls

IRISCC offers access to its installations, facilities, and services through a series of Virtual Access (VA) and Transnational Access (TA) Calls, open to researchers, policymakers, and industry professionals. Transnational Access includes three modes: Physical, Remote and Hybrid.

IRISCC defines the types of access as follows:

- **Virtual Access (VA):** Enables users to access facilities, platforms, and services remotely, without being physically present. This is achieved through web-based platforms, virtualisation technologies, and secure network connections.
- **Physical Access:** Involves on-site, hands-on use of facilities, platforms, or installations by the user or user team.
- **Remote Access:** The service provider carries out specific tasks or processes on behalf of the user, without the user being physically present.
- **Hybrid Access:** Combines elements of both physical and remote access.

👉 Note: Physical, remote, and hybrid access must meet the transnationality criterion, meaning the user's institution must be located in a different country from where the access provider is based (with some exceptions, such as ERICs).

Between 2025 and 2028, IRISCC will launch seven Transnational Access Calls. Each Call will remain open for two months. Submitted requests will be evaluated by an independent expert panel, and applicants will be notified of the outcome within two months after the Call's closing date.

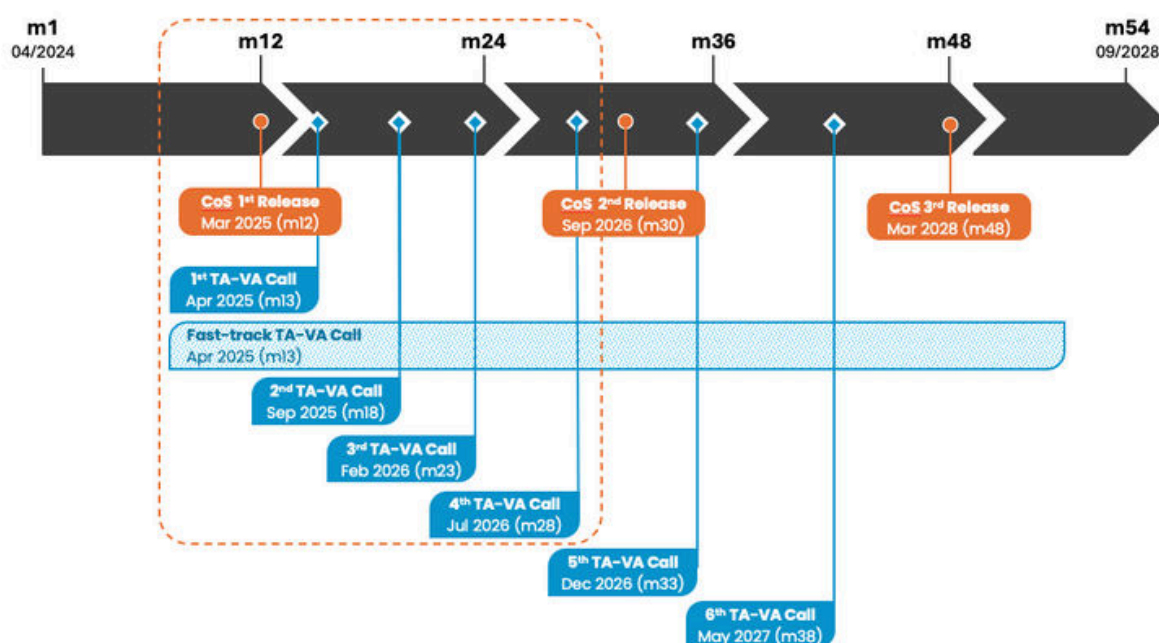


Figure 2. Schedule of the IRISCC seven Open Calls for TA access. VA access to the services does not depend on the TA Calls and can be accessed any time.

The first IRISCC Call will open in April 2025 as a general call, addressing all determinants of climate change-related risks—hazard, exposure, and vulnerability (see Table 1). Subsequent Calls will be thematically focused, targeting specific research areas. In addition, a **Fast-Track Call** will remain permanently open from 2025 to 2028, designed to respond swiftly to climatic crises, emergencies, and disasters requiring immediate scientific attention. In light of the ongoing geopolitical situation, **Ukrainian researchers** will be eligible to access services through this Fast-Track Call at any time.

To help applicants make the most of these opportunities, IRISCC will also offer dedicated training activities, aimed at building the skills and knowledge needed to navigate the application process and utilise the services effectively. More information about upcoming training opportunities will be made available [here](#).

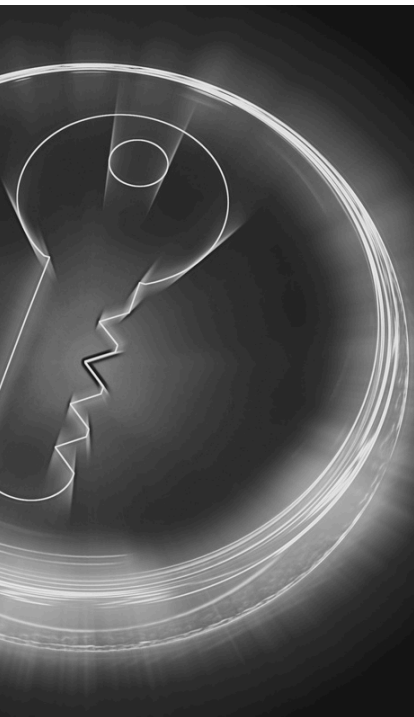
Virtual Access

Through our Catalogue, you now have access to a wide array of **digital tools and data products**, spanning real-time monitoring of atmospheric composition, climate model outputs, historical climatologies and impact-oriented services.

In the later stages of IRISCC, our digital services will be further expanded with more advanced, multi-research infrastructures demonstrators, as well as co-designed knowledge services.

Most of the VA services are in open access (no authentication needed). Registration may be required only to be able to track the use of the different VA services and to contact users to ask for feedback.

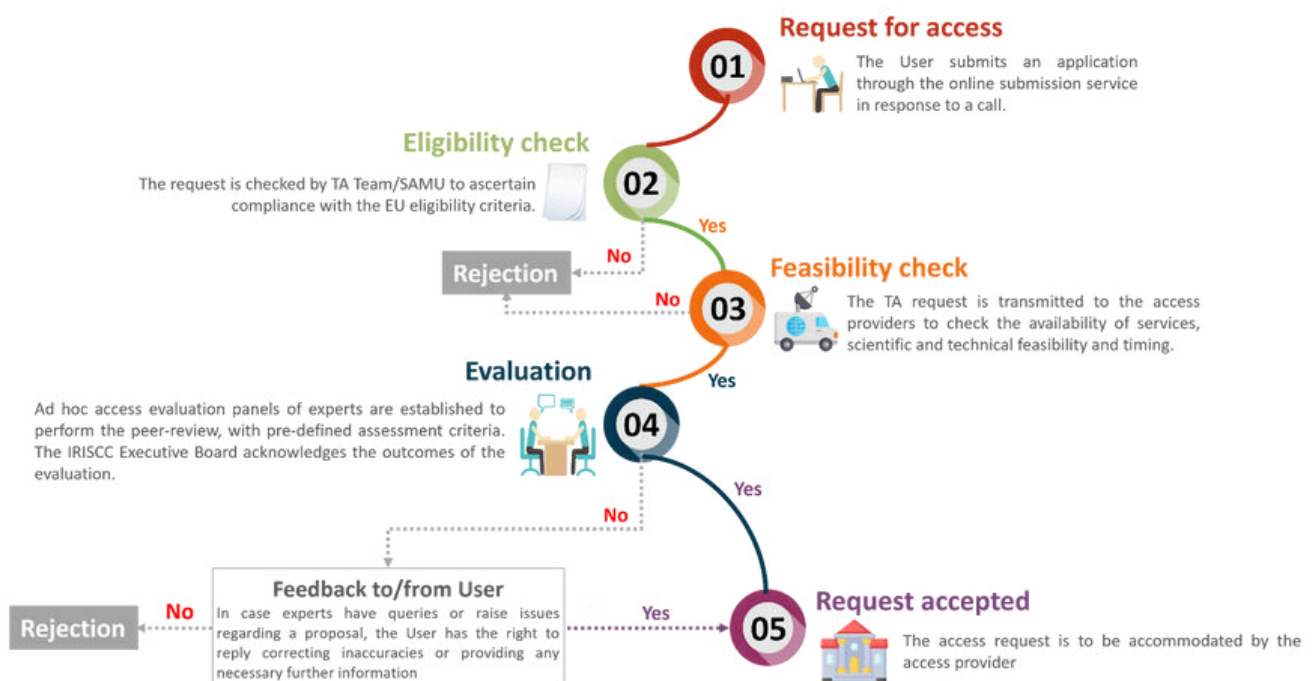




Transnational Access

Users can access IRISCC services through a single entry point on the IRISCC web portal. TA requests can be submitted during designated Call periods, while VA requests are accepted at any time. Submitted TA requests undergo a multi-step process for review, evaluation, and selection, as depicted in Figure 3.

IRISCC TA selection process



TA Request Submission

BEFORE SUBMITTING A TA REQUEST, PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THE FOLLOWING:

ELIGIBILITY

To submit a TA request, you must meet all of the following eligibility conditions, which will be verified by the TA management team. Before submitting your request, please ensure that you and your team comply with these eligibility rules:

TARGET AUDIENCE

Ensure that you meet the Horizon Europe eligibility criteria, including transnationality and dissemination of results (details below), as well as the specific requirements of the TA Call you are applying for. Some Calls may specifically target researchers, policymakers, industrial professionals, or a combination of users. Additionally, the fast-track Call is aimed at Ukrainian citizens and is intended for addressing unforeseen climate crises, emergencies, and disasters requiring a swift response.

TRANSNATIONALITY

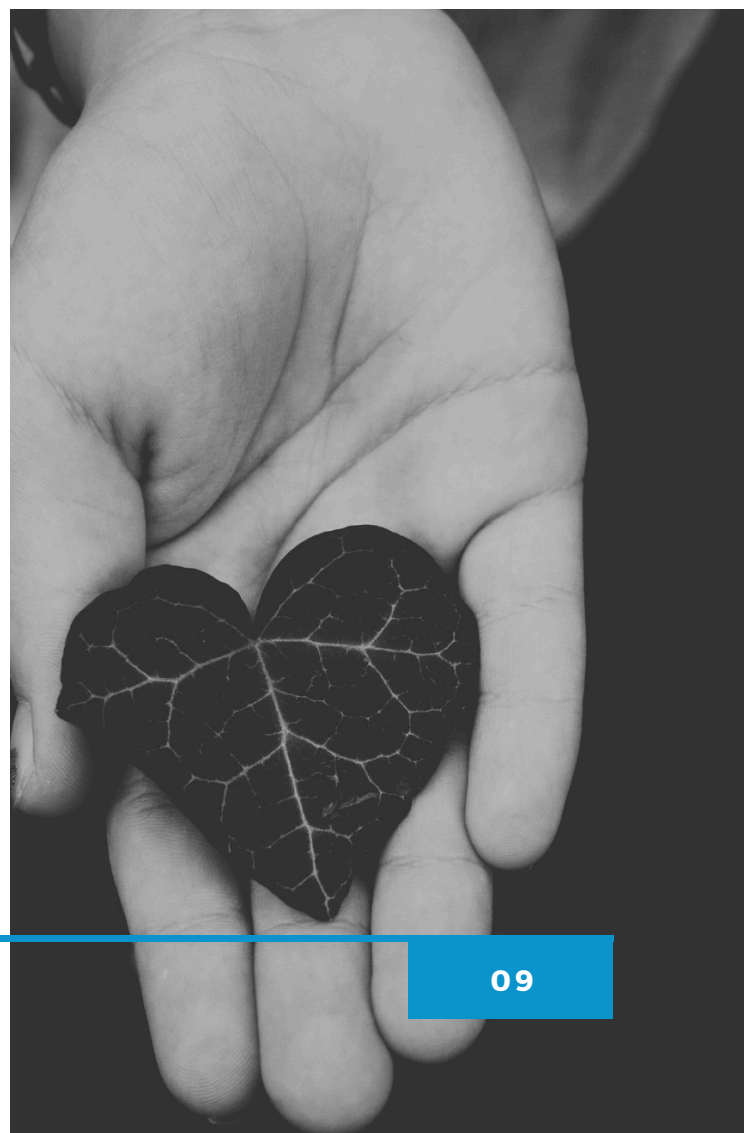
Ensure that your application is for access to installations, facilities, and services located in countries other than the one(s) where you and the majority of your team (more than 50% of individuals) are based. This rule does not apply if access is provided by a European Research Infrastructure Consortium (ERIC), an international organisation, or the EU Joint Research Centre.

DISSEMINATION

Users are required to disseminate the knowledge generated through the project, unless they are working for SMEs.

FEASIBILITY

After confirming your eligibility for a Call and identifying the relevant service(s) in the Catalogue, we highly recommend reaching out to the provider of the selected service(s) before submitting your application. This step is crucial to ensure that your project aligns with the service provider's capabilities, clarifies any questions you may have, and verifies that your research needs are technically and practically feasible. Engaging with the service provider early helps to ensure a smooth and successful application process.



FOR THE SUBMISSION

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE FOR SUBMITTING YOUR IRISCC TA REQUEST THROUGH THE ACTRIS PASS PLATFORM

To submit your user request, please complete the online form via the ACTRIS Services (PASS) platform. You can access this by clicking the “request the resource” section of the relevant facility or service in the Catalogue, which will redirect you to the ACTRIS PASS portal. If you don't already have an account, you'll need to register as an applicant. Simply follow the instructions provided to set up your account.

Once logged into the ACTRIS PASS website, select the IRISCC access call you wish to apply for.

The online submission form is designed to guide you through the relevant sections based on your answers to specific questions. If you navigate away and return later, your entered information will be automatically saved, so you don't need to re-enter anything. This feature will remain active until you submit the form. You can also download a preview of the form to review a summary of the required information, which can help you prepare your request.

The form is divided into three main sections, followed by final statements:

General Information:

- The services and facilities you are requesting
- The user or team leader and their members
- The scientific excellence of the user or team

Access Information:

- Details of the type of access being requested
- The planned access period

Core Information on the TA Request:

This section includes, among other aspects:

- The climate change determinants your project will address (hazards, exposure, and vulnerability), and how these are tackled
- The scientific fields involved
- The multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, or transdisciplinary nature of your project
- Scientific objectives (max. 300 characters)
- Experimental methods and work plan (max. 1300 characters)
- The project's relevance, impact, and innovation for the scientific community (max. 600 characters)
- The dissemination plan

For more detailed guidance on completing the TA call form, you can refer to the [guidelines](#) and a helpful tutorial video available [here](#).

TA Request Evaluation Criteria

After submission, your request will be checked for eligibility and feasibility. A formal feasibility check will be carried out by the service provider during the request evaluation to confirm that the TA requests can be effectively accommodated, by taking into account the schedule of the facility/platform/installation, as well as the availability of logistical, human and financial resources needed to host

users, provide on-site support and deliver the requested services.

Once the eligibility and feasibility of your request are confirmed, your proposal will be independently evaluated by up to three evaluators from an external, international assessment panel. Your proposal will be evaluated based on the following four criteria, as shown on Table 3.

Criterion	Explanation	Score / Points available
1 – Scientific and technical relevance		30
a) Alignment to IRISCC strategic priorities/call requirements	Evaluate: – the TA project's contribution to the strategic goals of IRISCC, including a good level of multi-inter-trans disciplinarity (link to the picture) – how it aligns with the specific thematic priorities set out in the call – how well the TA project integrates various scientific disciplines to address climate change risks comprehensively.	0–10
b) Scientific /technical value	Evaluate: – the clarity and pertinence of the scientific objectives. – Appropriateness and rationale of the proposed scientific work. – Degree to which it is based on sound scientific and technical principles.	0–10
c) Impact	Evaluate the degree to which results and the new knowledge are useful and may significantly impact: – Science → the academic community, exploring creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts, building X-disciplinary developments. – Society → contributing to better inform decision-making bodies, support and strengthen adaption and mitigation strategies	0–10
2 – Novelty and innovation		10
a) Use of new technology, methodology, or innovative approaches	Evaluate the degree to which the proposed work makes use of new technologies and methodologies or explores innovative measurement/data evaluation approaches.	0–5
b) Potential for seeding links with industry and innovation	Evaluate the degree to which the proposed work shows potential for industrial applications, contributing to new technology development, for prototype testing.	0–5
3 – Quality and efficiency of the implementation		10
a) Quality of the workplan and dissemination plan	Evaluate: – the quality and effectiveness of the work plan. – feasibility of the approach and activities to be developed. – Clear identification of dissemination recipients (stakeholders that could uptake and make use of results) and dissemination activities' planning.	0–5
b) Scientific qualification /track record of the user group	Evaluate the research track record, professional background, references, capabilities, and user group leader's and members' experience.	0–5
4 – Bonus points		
Use of multiple RIs' services /facilities	Bonus points are added automatically in case of proposals requesting access to services/facilities of more than 1 RI.	5

Scientific and Technical Relevance of the Proposal

The scientific and technical relevance of the proposal will be evaluated based on the following three aspects:

- The alignment of the proposal to IRISCC's strategic priorities (including a good level of multi-inter-trans disciplinarity) and Call requirements
- The scientific and technical value of the proposal
- The possible impact of the proposal

Each of the three aspects will be assigned a score between 0 and 10 points. The maximum score for the scientific and technical relevance of the proposal is 30 points. For your reference, Figure 4 below provides more insights into multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research approaches.

- ❑ **Disciplinary Approaches** - advance the frontiers of knowledge in the various disciplines
- ❑ **Multidisciplinary Approaches** - enhance understanding of observed phenomena from various perspectives.
- ❑ **Interdisciplinary Approaches** - integrate disciplines and allow a more holistic understanding of phenomena.
- ❑ **Transdisciplinary Approaches** - engage stakeholders and allow integration of practical considerations in developing and applying knowledge.





	From the point of view of one discipline	✓ Separate research output
	From the point of view of multiple disciplines separately	✓ Separate research output
	From the point of view of multiple disciplines collaboratively blended	✓ Integrated research output
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Academics ✓ Investors ✓ Decision/policy makers ✓ Community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Integrated research output ✓ Policies, decisions ✓ Products ✓ Solutions

Figure 4. Illustration of the disciplinary, multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research approaches, From Shanableh, A., Aderibigbe, S., Omar, M., Shabib, A. (2022). Challenges and Opportunities of Multi-Disciplinary, Inter-Disciplinary and Trans-Disciplinary Research. In: Badran, A., Baydoun, E., Hillman, J.R. (eds) Higher Education in the Arab World: Research and Development. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-80122-9_18

Novelty and Innovation of the Proposal

The novelty and innovation of the proposal will be evaluated according to the following two aspects:

- Use of new technology, methodology or innovative approaches
- Potential of the proposal for seeding links with industry and innovation

Each of the two aspects will be assigned a score between 0 and 5 points. The maximum score for the novelty and innovation of a proposal is 10 points.

Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation of the Proposal

The quality and efficiency of the proposal's implementation will be evaluated based on two key aspects:

1. The quality of the work plan and dissemination plan.
2. The scientific qualifications and track record of the user or group.

Each aspect will be scored on a scale from 0 to 5 points. The maximum total score for the quality and efficiency of the proposal's implementation is 10 points.



Relevance



Innovation



Efficiency

Bonus Points

Any submitted request that includes multiple services and facilities from more than one research infrastructure will automatically receive an additional 5 points.

For more information, please refer to the TA general evaluation guidelines [here](#).

TA Request Selection Criteria

Once all aspects of a request have been evaluated, the individual scores from each reviewer are averaged and combined to calculate the final score.

Access requests are then classified and ranked based on their final scores. Acceptance thresholds may be set depending on the available resources and the specific TA Call, and these thresholds may vary between different Calls. The exact threshold value will be communicated for each Call. A detailed ranking is presented in Table 4.

If necessary, when there is a need to limit or prioritise TA requests, the prioritisation criteria outlined in Table 5 may be applied to prepare the final list of selected requests.

If your request is accepted, the access providers will contact you. Once you agree on the details, you will get access to the requested services and can start your project.

RANKING				
Max scores available:				55
accepted	A	Excellent	A+	52.x-55
			A	49.x-52
			A-	46.x-49
accepted	B	Good	B+	43.x-46
			B	40.x-43
			B-	37.x-40
accepted or rejected	C	Average	C+	34.x-37
			C	31.x-34
			C-	28.x-31
rejected	D	Poor	D	<28
(or for revision)	E	Rejected or not eligible	E	

Table 4. Scores ranking for submitted proposals to IRISCC TA. The .x part in the scores represents decimals.

Source of priority	#	Prioritisation criteria
HE	1	Collaboration and access to new users, considering in particular: Users who have not previously used the installation and Users who are working in countries where no equivalent research infrastructure exists
HE	2	Gender balance
IRISCC	3	Involvement of: Students or First Stage Researchers Users from non-academic domains
IRISCC	4	Likelihood of developing a new successful technology or product with market potential

Table 5. Prioritisation criteria

TA Covered Expenses

IRISCC will cover all expenses related to access and use of the services, installations, and facilities, including on-site support from facility staff, training, logistics, and more.

Additionally, financial support for user travel is available upon request.

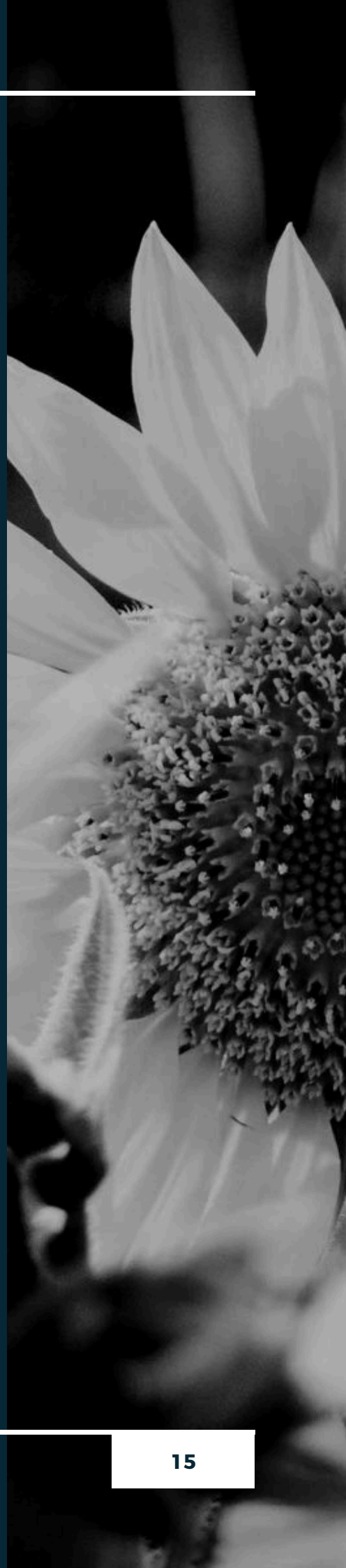
This support is intended to partially reimburse travel and subsistence expenses for participating users, with a maximum contribution of €2,000 per accepted proposal. Users are encouraged to seek additional funding to cover any remaining travel and subsistence costs.

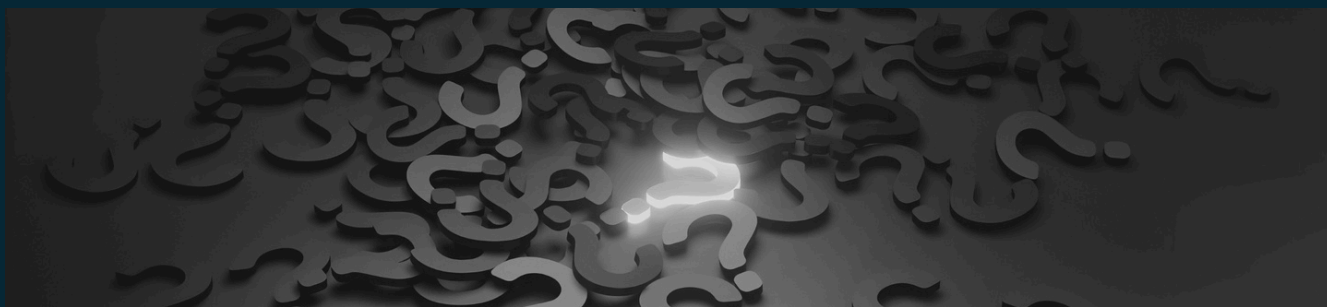
TA Post-Access Duties

After the access period at the installation concludes, you will be required to complete several post-access tasks via PASS, including:

- Submission of a final activity report
- Completion of a user feedback questionnaire

These post-access duties are essential for assessing the relevance and impact of the TA activities, as well as for gathering suggestions and recommendations to improve future access services.





FAQ

WHO CAN SUBMIT A REQUEST? CAN I SUBMIT A REQUEST IF I AM A DOCTORAL STUDENT?

Any individual or team from any sector—public or private—may submit a request to access and use the services provided by IRISCC. Early-career researchers, scientists who have not previously used IRISCC research infrastructure or services, as well as companies and private sector users, are especially encouraged to apply.

IRISCC is committed to promoting gender equality in scientific research and actively encourages applications from women.

IS THERE A MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS PER PROPOSAL?

In principle, there is no restriction on the number of members in a user team. However, the service provider's ability to accommodate larger groups must be confirmed in advance. Additionally, the maximum financial contribution for travel and subsistence—€2,000 per accepted proposal—should be taken into account when planning the team size.

WHAT IS THE MAXIMUM PERIOD OF TIME FOR WHICH A PROPOSAL CAN BE CARRIED OUT?

In principle, a TA proposal should be completed within one year of approval. However, exceptions are allowed in justified cases.

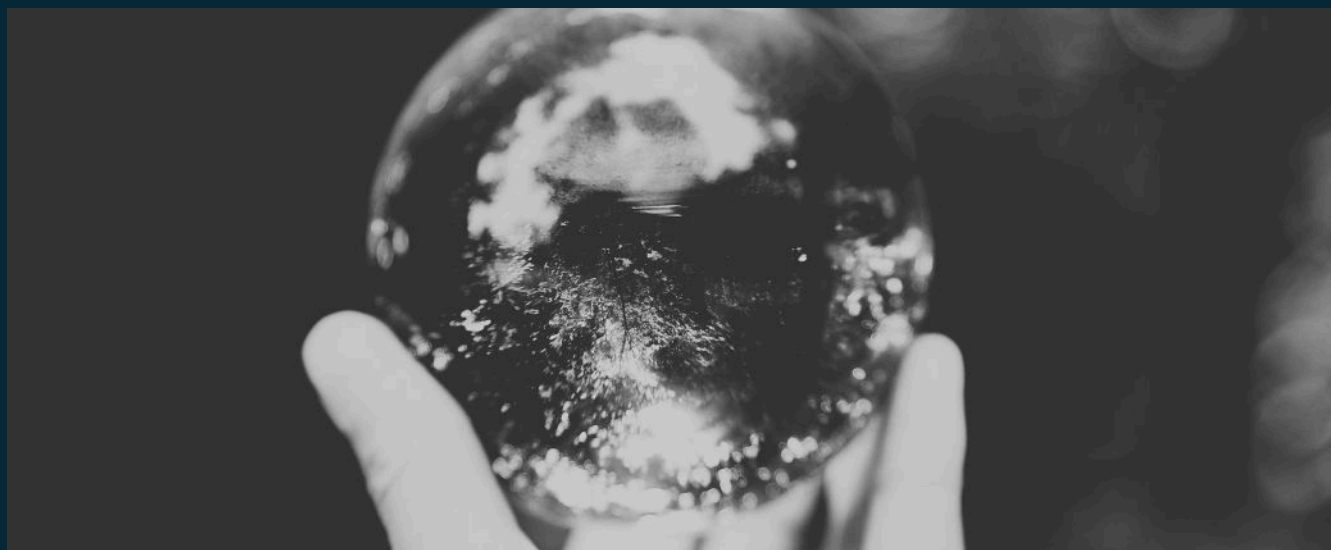
WHO IS THE DATA OWNER?

Data ownership follows the rules of the research infrastructure's access policies, although these rules are likely standard.

Summary

If you want to get more information about our VA and TA Calls, you can send us an email to samu@imaa.cnr.it.

Additionally, you can take part in our Q&A sessions (TBA), where our VA and TA teams will answer questions you might have in relation to IRISCC Calls. You will find the recorded sessions at our [Youtube page](#).



✓ Before You Apply

- Check your eligibility based on transnationality and dissemination criteria.
- Contact the service providers to ensure technical feasibility.
- Register and submit your proposal via the ACTRIS PASS platform.

🎯 Evaluation & Selection

- Proposals are evaluated on scientific relevance, innovation, implementation quality, and may receive bonus points for multi-infrastructure access.
- Scoring and ranking follow a transparent evaluation scheme, with additional prioritisation criteria applied when necessary.

🔧 Funding & Support

- All service-related costs are covered.
- Travel and subsistence are partially reimbursed (up to €2000 per proposal, upon request).

📁 After Your Access

- Submit a final report and feedback questionnaire through PASS.
- Help us improve access services and assess the impact of IRISCC.

🌍 Who Can Apply

- Open to all: academia, public/private sectors, first-time users, early-career researchers, and underrepresented groups are especially encouraged.
- No strict limit on team size – but logistical constraints and funding caps apply.

⌚ Timing

- TA projects should be completed within one year of approval, though exceptions are possible.