

Instructions for Funding Requests from CESI

Thank you for your interest in requesting funding from the Centre for Energy System Intelligence (CESI), an AI, Data, and Digitalization (AIDD) Convergence Centre. This funding request can be submitted for research in AI, data, or digitalization for the energy transition from Erasmus University Rotterdam or TU Delft. The purpose of this funding is to enable, initiate, and strengthen collaborative funding applications involve researchers from both Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR) and Technical University Delft (TU Delft). To facilitate the advancement of research and grow successful grant partnerships related to AI and energy systems, this seed funding is for proposal-related services (e.g. engagement with partners, workshops, or support for writing) that are needed for the preparation and submission of such proposals.

The funding maximum for requests is €10,000. This can for example be used for hiring student assistants (at roughly 30 euro/hour), or support from the CESI post-docs Jhon Quinones Cortes at TU Delft & Alicia Takaoka at EUR (at roughly 50 euro/hour). In the case of the post-doc(s), please explain how your project could use their expertise and/or hands-on involvement.

This application request will be a maximum of 1000 words, single-space, Arial, 11 pt font. There are no deadlines; proposals will be decided upon once a month.

Below you will find the descriptions of each field with examples of content and word count limits where appropriate.

Researcher(s): Name, position, and University Affiliation, email of CESI researcher(s) requesting funding. We will use the first one listed as the point of contact. It is preferred to involve researchers from both EUR and TU Delft.

Example: Jane Doe (assistant professor, Erasmus University Rotterdam, RSM, J.Doei@rsm.nl)

Other Affiliated Researchers: Here you can put the names of the non-CESI researchers that will benefit from this research or are a part of this project.

Example: Dennis Doe (PhD Candidate, TU Delft), Olga Doe (University of Leiden), and Daan Doe (Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences)

Topic and Research Questions: Here you discuss what topics you want to include in the upcoming proposal and which research methods from which people/fields from EUR and/or TU Delft are involved.

Example: We want to identify the state of the art and the gaps in solar energy communities and current legislation to understand and protect energy end users. To do this, we will employ a mixed methods approach to connect with and understand user needs. This includes social network analysis, interviews, focus groups, and a tool powered by large language models (LLMs) to help automatically code and analyze large amounts of documents and public testimony.

Request for funding: Here you should explain the breakdown of the money you are asking for. Additionally, explain how this money will be used to increase the chance of an upcoming funding opportunity. You should also mention what funding opportunity in particular you are aiming for, with what deadline, and an estimated size of the intended project.

Example: We will begin the exploratory analysis reviewing labor agreements, legislature testimony on specific bills, and energy provider terms and conditions, focusing on three key documents. If the analysis works out, we'll expand to cover the whole set of policies and laws, making it a bigger project. We request a student assistant to help with the coding of documents and cleaning the dataset. We request 1 student assistant to work for 300 hours over six months' time. We are also requesting computational hours to run the LLMs, around €1500 total. A buffer of €500 is included to cover unforeseen costs associated with the presentation, development, and dissemination of this project. Our combined budget request is €10,000. This preliminary investigation will be used to apply for a feasibility study with approximately two PhD students via the RVO MOOI program with deadline November 2026 or a public-private partnership grant through the NWO program on energy system integration with a deadline of October 2026.

Relation to CESI and the Convergence AIDD programme: Here you should (briefly) elaborate how this funding opportunity require and involve researchers from both TUD and EUR. Moreover, how this is aligned with CESI focus areas: You can read about the initiative here <https://convergence.nl/ai-data-digitalisation/>.

If you have any questions about this process or to submit a funding request for review, please contact any member of the CESI team

EUR (Yashar, Doron, Alicia) TU Delft (Mathijs, Caroline, Jhon)

Title of the proposed project

Researcher(s):

Other Affiliated Researchers:

Topic Focuses:

Request for Funding:

Relation to CESI and the Convergence AIDD programme:

Research Description and Plan: