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VITALISE Project's Application Manual to the Open Calls for Transnational Access to Research Infrastructures

(Version 1.1, April 2022)

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Abbreviations

EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
GA	Grant Agreement
H2020	Horizon 2020 Program of the European Commission
WP	Work Package

Revision history

Revision history			
Version	Date	Modified by	Comments
1.0	02.03.2022	SIT	Initial version
1.1	19.04.2022	SIT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Expenses covered • 8.1 Eligibility and Feasibility check • 8.3 Final Selection of the proposal

Abstract

This manual aims to assist potential applicants through the submission process for the Horizon 2020 VITALISE Project's [Open Calls for Transnational Access](#) to the project's participating [Research Infrastructures](#). This document has been designed to act as the primary source of information, superseding any information found elsewhere.

If after reading this document there were any questions regarding the application process, please refer in the first place to the list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) on vitalise-project.eu/fagstransnational-access-to-research-infrastructures. If your inquiry was not available on the FAQ sections, please submit your query at info@vitalise-project.eu.

Before the submission of the application, make sure you have read the latest version of this manual (current version 1.1).

1 Introduction

Researchers need convenient access to Health and Wellbeing Living Lab infrastructures and procedures, as well as policies that foster innovative, person-centred research. The Health and Wellbeing research community has invested a great deal of effort in creating Living Labs to conduct research and innovation projects. Unfortunately, many of these have a lifecycle limited to the project's duration, due to less-than-optimal use of time and resources and the lack of a harmonization framework for their provided services, which restrain the exploitation potential of research results from local communities.

To address these challenges, VITALISE interlinks three major living lab networks in Europe:

- ENoLL, with 130 living lab members around the world, 41% of which are in the health and wellbeing domain;
- EIT Health Living Labs, composed of 56 active Living Labs and an additional 37 that are in the process of joining, all of them in the health and wellbeing domain;
- Forum LLSA comprised of 38 members, all of which in the health and wellbeing domain.

By bringing together these three (3) networks, VITALISE interconnects the majority of Living Labs across Europe, to cover all European geographical areas and all the spectrum of the Health and Wellbeing domain. The aim is to open up living lab infrastructures as a means to facilitate and promote research activities in the health and wellbeing domain in Europe and beyond by enabling in-person Transnational Access to seventeen (17) living lab research infrastructures and supporting remote digital access to datasets (Virtual Access) of rehabilitation, transitional care and everyday life activities through harmonized processes and common tools. To achieve these objectives, three (3) Open Calls will be launched to fully exploit the VITALISE infrastructure by attracting external researchers throughout Europe. Given the multidisciplinary character of the Health and Wellbeing domain, several different profiles of academia or industrial researchers, students, entrepreneurs or even other Living Lab practitioners are encouraged to participate. The project will also develop training methods towards the wider understanding and valorisation of Living Lab methodologies in the research community.

2 Transnational and Virtual Access

VITALISE project provides access to infrastructures in the Health and Wellbeing domain through 3 Open Calls. Access will be provided according to either one of the following modalities:

- **Transnational access (TA):** teams of one or more researchers (up to 5 researchers in total) will have the opportunity to propose and conduct research studies in one of the available infrastructures. The TA is planned to be **fully in-person, partially remote** (i.e., a period in-person and a period of remote access to the infrastructure's facilities) or **fully remote**. During the in-person TA the researchers will benefit of a financial support for travel subsistence and daily allowance, while there will be no refund during the remote period (more detail about the expenses covered in paragraph 5). For each Infrastructure there is an estimated access of 30 days (unit of access) for each project (up to 5 researchers). Visiting researchers will be supported by the Research Infrastructures Leader (RIL), that will help in panel management activities, as well as by a Living Lab facilitator, who will help engaging the local communities in native language whenever local stakeholders' involvement is needed. Per unit access we include the preparatory work and the on-site support.
- **Virtual Access (VA):** single researchers or teams of researchers will be granted **remote access** to datasets collected during the Joint Research Activities for further analysis (see paragraph 4 for further information about JRAs). External researchers will be provided with the e-infrastructures needed to perform data analysis in existing datasets without the need for full access to data. There is no refund for virtual access.

Researchers will be able to apply for TA in all 3 Open Calls, while VA will be granted only during the second and third Open Calls.

3 Living Labs

VITALISE brings together 8 Living Labs across Europe (Spain, Greece, Finland, Belgium, Hungary, Austria) and 1 outside Europe (Canada) fostering synergies and transnational collaboration opportunities through innovative Joint Research Activities. A total of **17 Living Lab Research Infrastructures** are open to European researchers for conducting their studies. Each infrastructure focuses on one of the following three domains: rehabilitation, transitional care or everyday living environments (Table 1).

An in-depth description of each infrastructure is available on the project website on vitaliseproject.eu/transnational-access-to-research-infrastructures.

Table 1 VITALISE Research Infrastructures

Domain	Name	Institution	Country
Rehabilitation	AUTH Human Centrifuge & Rehabilitation Living Lab	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	Greece
	Thomas More MOTION lab – Mobilab	Thomas More University of Applied Sciences LiCalab - Living & Care Lab	Belgium
	GAIA and Ocean Living Lab for Rehabilitation	Association of Electronic and Information Technologies in the Basque Country	Spain
	McGill-UdeM CRIR Rehabilitation Living Lab	McGill University	Canada
	INTRAS Rehabilitation Living Lab	INTRAS Foundation	Spain
Transitions in care	AUTH Health Care Transitions Living Lab	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	Greece
	INTRAS VR/AR and Snoezelen Room	INTRAS Foundation	Spain
	Thomas More Experience Lab	Thomas More University of Applied Sciences LiCalab - Living & Care Lab	Belgium
	LifeSpace Living Lab - LifeSTech UPM	Universidad Politécnica de Madrid	Spain
	Laurea Simulated Hospital	Laurea University of Applied Sciences	Finland

	McGill-UdeM CRIR Living Lab	McGill University	Canada
Smart Environments	AUTH Living Environment Simulation	Aristotle University of Thessaloniki	Greece
	GAIA Smart Spaces	Association of Electronic and Information Technologies in the Basque Country	Spain
	INTRAS MIND lab for AHA & Independent Living	INTRAS Foundation	Spain
	LiCalab Older Adults' Homes	Thomas More University of Applied Sciences LiCalab - Living & Care Lab	Belgium
	Nagykovácsi Wellbeing Living Lab- Trebag	TREBAG Intellectual Property and Project Manager LTD	Hungary
	Laurea Activity Living Lab	Laurea University of Applied Sciences	Finland
	AIT Technology Experience Laboratory	AIT Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH	Austria
	McGill-UdeM CRIR Living Lab	McGill University	Canada

4 Joint Research Activities (JRAs)

Joint Research activities (JRAs) bring together researchers from different Living Labs in the VITALISE consortium in collaborative studies that will lead to joint results, publications and presentations. JRAs combine research experience and expertise from the Living Labs in the fields included in the care pathway of patients: rehabilitation, transitional care and everyday living environments for the older adults. The Living labs will conduct co-creation and small-scale studies within these JRAs. The Living labs vary in available infrastructure, implemented study designs and outcome measures. The knowledge gained by the execution of these JRAs will lead to harmonized procedures and protocols. The JRAs' protocols are published in JMIR and are approved by local ethical committees. See Annex A for the references of the publications.

4.1 JRA 1: Rehabilitation supported by technology

Objective: With this JRA, we primarily aim to gain insight on each Living Lab's infrastructure and procedures in order to harmonize health and wellbeing Living Lab procedures and infrastructures in Europe and beyond, in particular in the context of rehabilitation. Secondly, we aim to investigate the potential of innovative technologies for rehabilitation through Living Lab methodologies.

Methods: The study has a mixed-methods design comprising multiple phases. There are two main phases of data collection, co-creation (phase 1) and small-scale pilots (phase 2), which are preceded by a preliminary harmonization of procedures between the different international Living Labs. An intermediate phase further allows to implement minor adjustments to the intervention or protocol depending on the input that was obtained in the co-creation phase. Six small-scale pilots using innovative technologies for intervention or data collection will be performed across four countries. A third and final phase involves Delphi procedures to reach consensus on harmonized procedures and protocols.

Results: Phase 1 data collection will begin in March 2022 while phase 2 data collection will start in June 2022. Results will include output of the co-creation sessions, small-scale pilots and advice on harmonizing procedures and protocols for health and wellbeing Living Labs focusing on rehabilitation.

Conclusions: The knowledge gained by the execution of this research will lead to harmonized procedures and protocols in a rehabilitation context for health and wellbeing Living Labs in Europe and beyond. In addition to the harmonized procedures and protocols in rehabilitation, we will also be able to provide new insights for improving implementation of innovative technologies in rehabilitation.

Keywords: Living Lab, Rehabilitation, Technology, Harmonization, Co-creation, Small-scale real-life testing

4.2 JRA 2: Transitional care

Objective: This study primarily aims to evaluate the feasibility and benefit of collecting multichannel data across Living Labs on the topic of transitional care and to harmonize the data processes and collection. Secondly, we aim to investigate the collection and use of digital biomarkers and explore initial patterns in the data that demonstrate the potential to predict transition outcomes such as readmissions and adverse events.

Methods: The current research protocol presents a multi-center, prospective, observational cohort study that will consist of three phases, running consecutively in multiple sites: a co-creation phase, a testing and simulation phase and a transnational pilot phase. The co-creation phase aims to build a common understanding among different sites, investigate the differences of hospitalization discharge management among countries and the willingness of different stakeholders to use technological solutions in the transitional care process. The testing and simulation phase aims to explore ways of integrating observation of a patient's clinical condition, patient involvement and discharge education in transitional care. The objective of the simulation phase is to evaluate the feasibility and the barriers that are faced by a healthcare professional in assessing transition readiness. The transnational pilot phase takes input from co-creation and testing and stimulation phase. The aim is to pilot the already designed activities from previous phases and collect data to conduct a first predictive analysis.

Results: The co-creation phase will be completed by April 2022. The testing and simulation phase will begin in September 2022 and will partially overlap with the deployment of the transnational pilot phase that will start the same month. The data collection of the transnational pilots will be finalized by the end of June 2023. Data processing is expected to be completed by March 2024. The results will consist of guidelines and implementation pathway for large scale study and the analysis for identifying initial patterns in the acquired data.

Conclusions: The knowledge acquired through this research will lead to harmonized procedures and data collection for Living Labs that support transitions in care. In addition, this research contributes to the increase in capacity to perform Big Data analytics while accounting for each local context and across Living Labs.

Keywords: Living Lab, Co-creation, Transitional care, Technology, Feasibility study

4.3 JRA 3: Everyday living environments

Objective: The main aim is to co-create and test harmonized research protocol for developing big data driven hybrid personas – hypothetical user archetypes created to represent a user community. Secondly, utilization and applicability of innovative technologies is investigated in context of various everyday living and living lab environments.

Methods: In phase 1 surveys and structured interviews are utilized to identify the most suitable living lab methods, tools and instruments for health-related research among VITALISE-project living labs (N=10). A series of online co-creation workshops and iterative co-writing process are applied to define the initial protocols. In phase 2 five small-scale case studies are carried out to test the cocreated research protocols in various real-life everyday living settings and living lab

infrastructures. In phase 3 a cross-case analysis grounded on semi-structured interviews is conducted to identify the challenges and benefits of using the proposed research protocols. Furthermore, a series of cocreation workshops and consensus Delphi process is carried out in parallel to co-create and validate the acceptance of the defined harmonized research protocols among wider living lab community.

Results: As of September 30, 2021, project deliverables “Ethics and safety manual” and “Living lab standard version 1” have been submitted to European Commission review process. The study will be finished by March 2024.

Conclusions: The outcome of this research will lead to harmonized procedures and protocols in context of big data driven hybrid personas development among health and wellbeing living labs in Europe and beyond. Harmonized protocols enable living labs to exploit similar research protocols, devices, hardware and software for interventions and complex data collection purposes. Economies of scale and improved use of resources will speed-up and improve the research quality and offer novel possibilities for open data sharing, multidisciplinary research and comparative studies beyond current practices. Case studies provide also novel insights for implementing innovative technologies in context of everyday living lab research.

Keywords: Living lab; Everyday living; Technology; Big data; Harmonization; Personas; Small-scale real-life testing

5 Expenses covered

Travel and subsistence expenses for the external researchers, accepted for fully in-person or partially remote TA, will be reimbursed according to the normal internal rules and procedures of the Living Lab Research Infrastructure providers, as long as the total costs do not exceed the total available budget. This funding covers national and/or international travels from the external researchers' institution to the research facility for each period of occupancy, and daily subsistence for each day of occupancy of the research facility (including weekends and public holidays) according to facility providers rules.

Finances to cover TA visits have the following limits per person (average flat rate):

- Travel: max €500 travel
- Housing and subsistence: max €100/day

Exceptions to these rules or limits need prior confirmation in writing by the RIL. Therefore, after the publication of the results, the selected researchers will be put in contact with the RIL, to discuss all the detail of the TA, including the expenses covered. Travel and subsistence will also be reimbursed on the same basis to external researchers when they attend meetings with the prior written agreement of the facility provider.

Receipts of tickets for travels, accommodation and living expenses must be attached to claims, which will be made on the facility provider's standard Travel Claim forms. Depending on the internal rules and procedures of the Living Lab Research Infrastructure providers, the claims for daily subsistence might be made on the provider's forms at the daily rate applicable at the time. The expenses will only be reimbursed after the final visit report.

6 Application procedure / Open calls (when, how, what, who)

VITALISE will organize 3 open calls, which will be running consecutively during the lifecycle of the project. A one-stage application is used for each of the 3 calls. The three calls will be launched in March 2022, November 2022 and in May 2023, respectively. Each call will have an opening date and a deadline allowing for a 2 months' window for submissions.

Applications should be submitted using the online application toolkit available on the project website and described in paragraph 7. Evaluation results will be notified to applicants within 3 months from the closure date of the application submission. The Transnational Access to the infrastructures will preferably start in the 4 following months and will last approximately 1 month. Researchers can submit more applications taking into account that only 1 application will be approved.

Researchers will be able to apply for TA in all 3 Open Calls, while VA will be granted only during the second and third Open Call.

The following table illustrates the deadlines for the 3 Open Calls. The second and the third call are provisional and might change during the course of the project (always refer to the latest version of this manual for the correct deadlines).

Table 2 Deadlines of the three Open Calls

Open Call	First Call	Second Call	Third call
Submission	1 Mar – 30 Apr 2022	Nov-Dec 2022	May-Jun 2023
Notification of results	31 July 2022	Mar 2023	Sep 2023
TA (preferable period)	Sept- Dec 2022	May-Sept 2023	Nov 2023-Jan 2024

The following figure illustrates in detail the application procedure.



Figure 1 Application Procedure

This procedure applies to the TA for all 3 Open Calls, while the procedure for the VA will be made available for the second Open Call.

Applications for TA and VA should be made in accordance with the guidelines described in the next paragraphs and should be submitted using the application form available on the project website. Only proposals submitted before the call deadline and using the provided template correctly fill out will be evaluated.

An introducing webinar will be held during each window for submissions. Each webinar will be organized as follows:

- Summary of the application procedure
- Description of the 3 JRAs
- Q&A

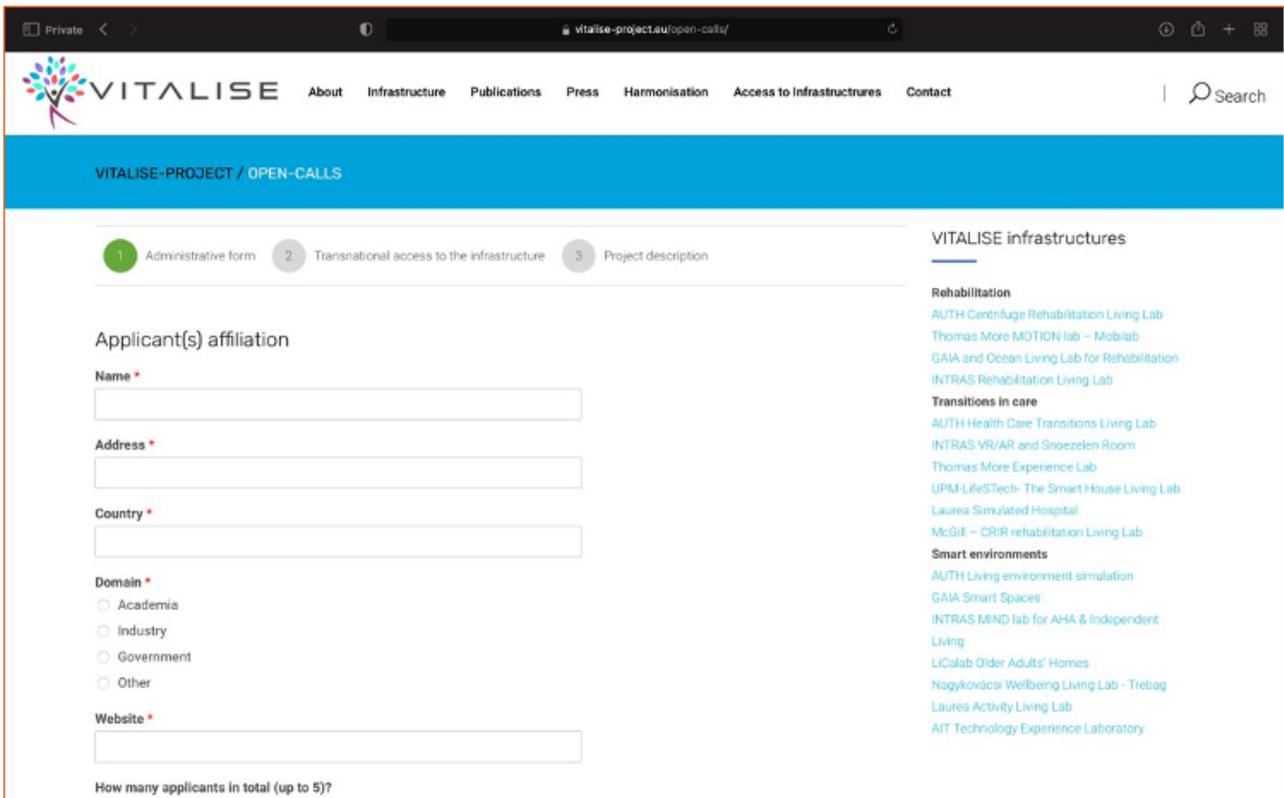
7 Application guidance (manual for applying)

The VITALISE application toolkit is an online tool that allows users to submit their proposals for the VITALISE open calls. The toolkit is accessible through the following url: vitalise-project.eu/opencalls/.

7.1 Page 1 – Administrative form

In the first page of the application toolkit (Figure 2, Figure 3) the user is requested to fill the following administrative information:

- Details of applicant(s) affiliation: **Name, Address, Country, Domain, website**
- **Number of applicants (select up to 5)**, and for every applicant:
 - **Name, gender, nationality, email, telephone number, position in the affiliated institution.**



The screenshot displays the VITALISE website's 'OPEN-CALLS' page. At the top, the VITALISE logo and navigation menu are visible. A blue banner reads 'VITALISE-PROJECT / OPEN-CALLS'. Below this, a progress indicator shows three steps: '1 Administrative form' (active), '2 Transnational access to the infrastructure', and '3 Project description'. The main form is titled 'Applicant(s) affiliation' and includes fields for 'Name *', 'Address *', 'Country *', and 'Website *'. The 'Domain *' section has radio buttons for 'Academia', 'Industry', 'Government', and 'Other'. A question 'How many applicants in total (up to 5)?' is at the bottom. On the right, a sidebar lists 'VITALISE infrastructures' under three categories: 'Rehabilitation' (AUTH Centrifuge, Thomas More MOTION, GAIA and Ocean, INTRAS), 'Transitions in care' (AUTH Health Care, INTRAS VR/AR, Thomas More Experience, UPM LifeSTech, Laurea Simulated Hospital, McGill - CRIR), and 'Smart environments' (AUTH Living environment simulation, GAIA Smart Spaces, INTRAS MIND lab, LICalab, Nagykövetség, Laures Activity, AIT Technology).

Figure 2 Administrative Details (Affiliation)

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL vitalise-project.eu/open-calls/. The page title is "Other". In the top right corner, there are three links: "Nagykovács Weibing Living Lab - Trebag", "Laurea Activity Living Lab", and "AIT Technology Experience Laboratory". The form contains the following fields and controls:

- Website ***: A text input field.
- How many applicants in total (up to 5)?**: A range slider with a value of 1.
- No of applicants: 1**: A text label.
- First Applicant (User Group Leader/Reference person)**: A section header.
- Name ***: Two text input fields labeled "First" and "Last".
- Gender**: A text input field.
- Nationality ***: A text input field.
- Email ***: Two text input fields labeled "Email" and "Confirm Email".
- Telephone number ***: A text input field with a country code dropdown menu.
- Position held in the affiliated institute ***: A text input field.
- Next**: A button at the bottom left.
- Up arrow**: A circular button at the bottom right.

Figure 3 Administrative Details (Applicant)

7.2 Page 2 – Transnational access to the infrastructure

After filling in the above-mentioned information, the user clicks on the Next button. In the next page, the user is requested to **select up to three Infrastructures** in order of preference (Figure 4).

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL vitalise-project.eu/open-calls/. The page title is "VITALISE-PROJECT / OPEN-CALLS". The navigation menu includes "About", "Infrastructure", "Publications", "Press", "Harmonisation", "Access to Infrastructures", and "Contact". The main content area is titled "VITALISE-PROJECT / OPEN-CALLS" and features a progress indicator with three steps: 1. Administrative form, 2. Transnational access to the infrastructure (current step), and 3. Project description.

The form instructions state: "Select up to 3 infrastructures in order of preference". It contains three dropdown menus labeled "Infrastructure 1:", "Infrastructure 2:", and "Infrastructure 3:", each with the placeholder text "select an infrastructure (first option mandatory)".

Below the dropdowns, there is a question: "Would you consider reallocation to similar Infrastructures by VITALISE recommendation? *". The options are "Yes" and "No", both with radio buttons.

Next is the question: "How long do you need to access the infrastructure approximately? (Suggested 30 continuous days) *". There is an input field with a spinner.

Finally, there is the question: "Preferable starting period? (From the beginning of September 2022 to the end of November 2022) *". The dropdown menu is currently set to "Beginning of September 2022".

At the bottom of the form are "Previous" and "Next" buttons.

On the right side, there is a sidebar titled "VITALISE infrastructures" with a list of services categorized into "Rehabilitation", "Transitions in care", and "Smart environments".

- Rehabilitation**
 - AUTH Centrifuge Rehabilitation Living Lab
 - Thomas More MOTION lab - Mobilab
 - GAIA and Ocean Living Lab for Rehabilitation
 - INTRAS Rehabilitation Living Lab
- Transitions in care**
 - AUTH Health Care Transitions Living Lab
 - INTRAS VR/AR and Snoezelen Room
 - Thomas More Experience Lab
 - UPM-LifeSTech- The Smart House Living Lab
 - Laurea Simulated Hospital
 - McGill - CRIR rehabilitation Living Lab
- Smart environments**
 - AUTH Living environment simulation
 - GAIA Smart Spaces
 - INTRAS MIND lab for AHA & Independent Living
 - LiCalab Older Adults' Homes
 - Nagykovács Wellbeing Living Lab - Trebag
 - Laurea Activity Living Lab
 - AIT Technology Experience Laboratory

Figure 4 Transnational Access to the Infrastructure

For every infrastructure, the following information is mandatory:

- **Previous user of the infrastructure? (Yes, No)**
- **Do you have access to equivalent installations in your country of affiliation? (Yes, No)**

Users are also requested to select the services of the infrastructure that they might want to use (services differ for each infrastructure).

- **Do you need any specific service provided from the infrastructure to carry out your project? (If yes, please select the services needed from the following list).**

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL vitalise-project.eu/open-call/. The main heading is "Select up to 3 infrastructures in order of preference".

Infrastructure 1: A dropdown menu is set to "AUTH Living environment simulation (Thessaloniki, Greece)".

Previous user of the infrastructure? *

Yes
 No

Do you have access to equivalent installations in your country of affiliation? *

Yes
 No

Do you need any specific service provided from the infrastructure to carry out your project? (If yes, please select the services needed from the following list)

[Click here to view more info about the services](#)

- Capacity building (Networking and capacity building)
- Expert opinion, and advisory services (Networking and capacity building)
- Innovation network orchestration (Networking and capacity building)
- Panel management (Networking and capacity building)
- Stakeholder (and partner) analysis and mapping (Networking and capacity building)
- Intake and matching (Project planning and management)
- Expert opinion, and advisory services (Project planning and management)
- Living lab project planning and management (Project planning and management)
- Access to data (Market and competitor intelligence services)
- Competitor and market analysis and benchmarking (Market and competitor intelligence services)
- Expert opinion, and advisory services (Market and competitor intelligence services)
- Co-creation session (co-creation)
- Expert opinion, and advisory services (co-creation)
- Stakeholder (and partner) analysis and mapping (co-creation)
- Stakeholder (and partner) analysis and mapping (Market and competitor intelligence services)

Right sidebar list of infrastructures:

- AUTH Centrifuge Rehabilitation Living Lab
- Thomas More MD/ION lab – Mobilab
- GAIA and Ocean Living Lab for Rehabilitation
- INTRAS Rehabilitation Living Lab
- Transitions in care**
- AUTH Health Care Transitions Living Lab
- INTRAS VR/AR and Snoezelen Floor
- Thomas More Experience Lab
- UPM-LifeSTech - The Smart House Living Lab
- Laurea Simulated Hospital
- McGill - CRIR rehabilitation Living Lab
- Smart environments**
- AUTH Living environment simulation
- GAIA Smart Spaces
- INTRAS MIND lab for AHA & Independent Living
- LiCalab Older Adults' Homes
- Nagykivicsi Wellbeing Living Lab - Trebag
- Laurea Activity Living Lab
- AIT Technology Experience Laboratory

Figure 5 Select the services provided from the infrastructure

Finally, in this page the user is requested to fill in the following information (Figure 6):

- **Would you consider reallocation to similar Infrastructures by VITALISE recommendation?**
- **How long do you need to access the infrastructure approximately? (Suggested 30 continuous days)**
- **Preferable starting period? (From the beginning of September 2022 to the end of November 2022)**

The screenshot shows a section of the application form with the following questions and input fields:

Would you consider reallocation to similar Infrastructures by VITALISE recommendation? *

Yes
 No

How long do you need to access the infrastructure approximately? (Suggested 30 continuous days) *

Preferable starting period? (From the beginning of September 2022 to the end of November 2022) *

At the bottom, there are two buttons: "Previous" and "Next".

Figure 6 Access to infrastructure

7.3 Page 3 – Project description

In the last page of the application form, the user is requested to fill in the following information:

- **Title**

- **Acronym**
- **Abstract**

This is also the place where the user is requested to upload the “**Project description**”.

VITALISE-PROJECT / OPEN-CALLS

1 Administrative form 2 Transnational access to the infrastructure 3 Project description

Title *

Acronym *

Abstract *

Project description *

Click or drag a file to this area to upload.

Privacy Policy *

I agree with VITALISE Privacy Policy

This is a preview of your submission. It has not been submitted yet!
Please take a moment to verify your information. You can also go back to make changes.

VITALISE infrastructures

Rehabilitation

- AUTH Centrifuge Rehabilitation Living Lab
- Thomas More MOTION lab - Motion
- GAA and Ocean Living Lab for Rehabilitation
- INTRAS Rehabilitation Living Lab

Transitions in care

- AUTH Health-Care Transitions Living Lab
- INTRAS VR/AR and Snoezelen Room
- Thomas More Experience Lab
- UFM LifeTech- The Smart House Living Lab
- Laurea Simulated Hospital
- MUGIL - ORR rehabilitation Living Lab

Smart environments

- AUTH Living environment simulation
- GAA Smart Spaces
- INTRAS MIND lab for AHA & Independent Living
- LiC@lab Older Adults' Homes
- Nagykovács Wellbeing Living Lab - Tethaj
- Laurea Activity Living Lab
- AIT Technology Experience Laboratory

Figure 7 Project description

Before submitting the application, the user is requested to **Agree with VITALISE Privacy Policy**.

8 Evaluation procedure

8.1 Eligibility and Feasibility check

The VITALISE project provides access to its network of infrastructures for **academia researchers, industrial researchers, entrepreneurs and even other Living Lab practitioners**. The applicants to the VITALISE Open Calls have to meet the following eligibility criteria:

- They should work in an institution established in a Member State of the European Union or in a state associated to H2020 Programme [Check the [List of countries eligible for funding](#)]. Researchers working in other countries can apply but they cannot represent more than 20% of the total number of researchers (unit of access?) that will access the VITALISE facilities.
- They cannot have Russian or Belarusian origin.
- They must work in a country other than the country where the infrastructure is based, as the Access is “Transnational”. If the researchers work in a country where one of the Living Labs is located, the researchers will not have access to this specific Living Lab.
- They must disseminate the results and knowledge they will generate during the access to the Living Lab, unless it goes against the legitimate interest of their organization.
- Collaborative applications from teams and/or institutions is strongly encouraged. The expenses for each team will be covered based on the number of researchers in the team.
- They must hold a Master’s Degree
- Master the English language

The Transnational Access Manager - TAM (SocialIT) will check the proposal for meeting the eligibility criteria. If any clarifications are required, the TAM can contact the applicants requesting any clarification. Only proposals compiled correctly and without field missing will be considered eligible. Once the eligibility phase has passed successfully, and before the proposal is internally evaluated, it will be forwarded to the corresponding Living Lab Research Infrastructure partner for the feasibility check. During this step, the feasibility of the proposed study will be checked against:

- Can the Living Lab Research Infrastructure provide the required access?
- Can the Living Lab Research Infrastructure provide the required services?
- Can the Living Lab Research Infrastructure support the study in terms of end-user's recruitment?

Proposals considered ineligible after the eligibility and feasibility check will be returned to the applicant with a note explaining why they were considered to be not eligible.

8.2 Internal Scientific Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated by two external independent experts and one expert from the VITALISE consortium (drawn from the VITALISE Evaluation Board). The following weighted criteria will be score from 1 to 10 for each proposal.

Criteria	Weight
1. Scientific and technical quality of the proposal: Is the current <i>state of knowledge</i> in the research area well described? Are <i>cited references</i> relevant and reflect the state-of-the-art? Is the proposed topic of <i>high scientific quality</i> and does it provide innovative aspects? Are the <i>research objectives</i> and expected deliverables/outputs of the proposal clearly stated? Are they <i>achievable</i> ? To which extent do the expected results <i>lead to a progress beyond the current state-of-the-art</i> ? Is a clear concept presented on how the gathered <i>data will be collected, shared, analysed and published</i> ?	30%
2. Quality of the work plan: Is the work plan <i>adequate</i> ? Is it <i>clearly described</i> and well defined? Can the proposed work plan <i>be realized</i> in the set time? Are the scheduled tasks and methods <i>adequate to the set objectives</i> ? Is it clearly stated which <i>methods and equipment</i> will be employed? Does the proposed project <i>maximise the use of the infrastructure</i> ? Has the proposal <i>assessed any likely risks</i> ?	25%
3. Scientific qualification/track record of the proposing PI and user group: Background/ <i>track record of the PI</i> , Background/ <i>track record of the scientific team</i> , Are the <i>roles and responsibilities of the scientific team</i> clearly stated? Is the <i>combined expertise</i> suitable to achieve the research objective?	10%
4. Innovation: What currently unmet need/s do the innovative aspect/s address, and for whom? How do they differ from existing tools or practices? Does the proposal present a significant departure from current practice? Can the proposal provide a demonstrable improvement (time, resources, cost, effectiveness) over current methods/tools? Are the results (tools or practices) suitable for commercialization and exploitation outside the context of a research environment? Can the proposal lead to the development of a substantially new product or service?	15%

5. Collaboration with international/national partners/industry: To what extent are <i>new European user groups with limited access to living labs infrastructure integrated</i> ? To what extent is the proposed project <i>embedded into larger research programmes on a national, EU or international level</i> ? What is the <i>potential for a long-term integration/collaboration on an international level</i> ? Are <i>collaborations with industry envisaged</i> ?	10%
6. Training of young scientists/public outreach: How many <i>young scientists and students at PhD level and below</i> will be involved? Are there <i>dissemination activities, addressing the general public, planned</i> ?	10%

8.3 Final Selection of the proposals

Proposals will be ranked in descending order, and those with the highest score will be considered suitable. Priority will be given to applicants who:

- Have not previously used the infrastructures;
- Are working in countries where no equivalent research infrastructure exists;
- Ensure scientific excellence and fully embrace Open Access policies, as promoted by the CE. However, also access to industrial research studies will be granted (no more than 20% of total approved projects), in order to sustain commercialization services and grant full synergies and collaboration between academic and industrial sectors;
- Have not link with the VITALISE consortium: applications coming from applicants from institutions that are linked to the consortium and that are considered eligible, feasible and with a scientific evaluation above the threshold will be accepted only if there are still free TA positions available after accepting all other successful applications.
- Finally, 10% of the TA positions will be reserved to refugee researchers of Ukraine

If for running the proposed project direct communication with participants/users/stakeholders is required, knowledge of the language of the country where the infrastructure is located will be considered a preferential criterion.

9 Results and applicants' obligations

Within 3 months from the closure date of the application submission, applicants will be informed of the outcome of the selection by the TAM. If they have been selected, they will be re-directed to the Research Infrastructure Leader (RIL) to coordinate the TA access to the infrastructures or the VA to the infrastructures' database.

The selected researchers will have the following obligations:

- They must have an active contract with their home institution during the period of the access;
- They must be aware that, if their proposal is approved, they must complete the corresponding training session (see paragraph 10);
- They have to fill out a brief questionnaire before starting the TA or the VA and after ending
 - it;
- They must sign the Contract Agreement and the Data Protection Notice before starting the TA or the VA;
- They abide to make the collected data and any related refereed publications accessible (Open Access). In the event that the data cannot be made public (e.g., product testing, use of video), they will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis;
- They are expected to deliver a short-written report after the end of the TA or the VA (see paragraph 11)
- They must anonymize the data within 6 months;

- Only user groups that are entitled to and willing to disseminate the knowledge they will generate under the project are eligible to benefit from access free of charge to the infrastructures under the VITALISE flag, unless it goes against the legitimate interest of their organization.

In case of non-acceptance, the applicants will receive an email with the assessment of the proposal and a brief comment. If appropriate, the comment will include some suggestions for improvements and resubmission of the application in the next call.

10 Training sessions

The selected researchers will follow a Fast track training program remotely or in person during the TA. The hosting living labs will train the researchers during a two-day program to implement their studies in the living lab environment they will work in during their TA. They will learn more about living lab methodologies and services, ethical procedures, panel management and harmonization of processes amongst the living labs etc. in practice.

Prior to their visit they can already also access online educational material, made available by the VITALISE consortium.

11 TA and VA report procedure

Researchers are expected to deliver a short-written report and fill out a satisfaction questionnaire no later than 1 month after the end of both the TA and VA. The report should be submitted using the online template that will be made available on the project website. The payment of the reimbursement for the in-person TA will only be completed after receipt of the report and the questionnaire by the Research Infrastructure Leader.

12 Valorization procedure

Any dissemination of results (in any form, including electronic) resulting from Transnational Access to the Living Lab infrastructures of VITALISE Project, requires acknowledgement of funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme as follows:

- (a) Display of the EU emblem: When displayed together with another logo, the EU emblem must have appropriate prominence.
- (b) Inclusion of the following text: "This [infrastructure][equipment][insert type of result] is part of VITALISE project that has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 101007990".

The researchers whose research proposal is approved for Transnational Access, i.e. the Users, are strongly encouraged to publish papers describing the datasets generated during their access to the Living Lab infrastructures of VITALISE project that will be available at the open repository Zenodo. This data paper will be cited as many times as required in subsequent publications. Manuscripts must be submitted to the facility provider for approval not later than 1 month before submission so that changes regarding accuracy, acknowledgements, etc. can be made prior to publication.

Users will have the first right of publication within a period of X years after the last experiment. In case they fail to publish the results within X years after the last experiment, the facility provider will ensure that the knowledge is disseminated in accordance with VITALISE project's Grant Agreement. Lastly, Users must acknowledge in their publications that their work was financially supported by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme as follows: "The authors acknowledge financial support from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme within a contract for Integrating Activities for Starting Communities (Ref. 101007990)".

Annex A: JRAs protocols

<https://vitalise-project.eu/scientific-publications/> Links
to the published protocols:

JRA 1: Rehabilitation supported by technology

<https://preprints.jmir.org/preprint/34537/accepted> JRA

2: Transitional care

<https://www.researchprotocols.org/2022/1/e34573>

JRA3: Everyday living environments

<https://www.researchprotocols.org/2022/1/e34567>