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## **VITALISE Project's Application Manual to the Open Calls for Transnational Access to Research Infrastructures and for Virtual Access to the VITALISE database**

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(Version 3.0, March 2023)

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## Abbreviations

EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
GA	Grant Agreement
H2020	Horizon 2020 Program of the European Commission
JRA	Joint Research Activities
LL	Living Lab
RIL	Research Infrastructure Leader
TA	Transnational Access
TAM	Transnational Access Manager
VA	Virtual Access
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"> <li>• 5 Expenses covered</li> <li>• 8.1 Eligibility and Feasibility check</li> <li>• 8.3 Final Selection of the proposal</li> </ul>
2.0	14.09.2022	SIT	General review. Major review of TA and VA
3.0	03/03/2023	SIT	Eligibility Criteria

## Abstract

This manual aims to assist potential applicants through the submission process for the Horizon 2020

VITALISE Project's [Open Calls for Transnational Access](#) and for [Virtual 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/faqshttps://vitalise-project.eu/faqs-transnational-access-to-research-infrastructures/transnational-access-to-research-infrastructures](https://vitalise-project.eu/faqshttps://vitalise-project.eu/faqs-transnational-access-to-research-infrastructures/transnational-access-to-research-infrastructures). If your inquiry was not available on the FAQ sections, please submit your query at [info@vitalise-project.eu](mailto:info@vitalise-project.eu).

Before the submission of the application, make sure you have read the latest version of this manual (current version 2.0).

## 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 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**, **government researchers**, **master's students**, **entrepreneurs** and **Living Lab practitioners** are encouraged to participate. To perform the Transnational Access, applicants will have to meet some eligibility criteria and undergo a selection process that will evaluate the feasibility and the scientific soundness of their research project's description. To Virtually Access the VITALISE database remotely, the applicants will only have to meet a few eligibility criteria and briefly describe the objective of their research and how long they need access to the datasets. 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 in 2023 (please check the project website for the VA opening).

### 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 [vitalisehttps://vitalise-project.eu/transnational-access-to-research-infrastructures/project.eu/transnational-access-to-research-infrastructures](https://vitalise-project.eu/transnational-access-to-research-infrastructures/project.eu/transnational-access-to-research-infrastructures).

Table 1 VITALISE Research Infrastructures

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

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

Those applying for TA may either join one of the three JRAs, or they can submit an application in a different domain.

### 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 identifying 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 by 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 for Transnational Access

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, September 2022 and in May 2023, respectively. Each call will have an opening date and a deadline allowing at least 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 6.1.

Applications for TA 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

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

Evaluation results for TA are expected to 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.

**Table 2 Deadlines of the three Open Calls**

Open Call	First Call	Second Call	Third call
Submission	1 Mar – 30 Apr 22	1 <sup>st</sup> cut-off 20 Sept – 31 Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup> cut-off 1 Nov – 30 Nov 22	1 <sup>st</sup> cut-off 1 Mar – 2 Apr 23 2 <sup>nd</sup> cut-off 3 Apr - 30 Apr 23
Notification of results for TA	31 July 22	1 <sup>st</sup> cut-off Approx. Feb 23 2 <sup>nd</sup> cut-off Approx. Mar 23	1 <sup>st</sup> cut-off End June 23 2 <sup>nd</sup> cut-off End July 23
TA (preferable period)	Sept- Dec 22	Mar-Jun 23	Sep 23 - Jan 24

The following figure illustrates in detail the application procedure.



**Figure 1 Application Procedure**

To submit a project proposal for TA, applicants should use the application toolkit to:

- Provide personal information of the applicant(s)
- Select up to three infrastructures where they would like to perform TA; for each of them, the applicant(s) should indicate the services and tools they will need to carry out their research project
- Upload the description of their research project by using the provided template

## **6.1 Application guidance for TA (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/openhttps://vitalise-project.eu/open-calls/calls/](https://vitalise-project.eu/open-calls/calls/).

### **6.1.1 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 shows the VITALISE Project Open Calls website. The header includes the VITALISE logo and navigation links: About, Infrastructure, Publications, Press, Harmonisation, Access to Infrastructures, and Contact. A search bar is on the right. The main heading is 'VITALISE-PROJECT / OPEN-CALLS'. Below this, a progress bar shows three steps: 1. Administrative form (active), 2. Transnational access to the infrastructure, and 3. Project description. The 'Applicant(s) affiliation' section contains fields for Name, Address, Country, Domain (Academia, Industry, Government, Other), and Website. A slider for 'How many applicants in total (up to 5)?' is set to 1. On the right, a list of 'VITALISE infrastructures' is shown, categorized into Rehabilitation, Transitions in care, and Smart environments.

**VITALISE-PROJECT / OPEN-CALLS**

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

**Applicant(s) affiliation**

**Name \***

**Address \***

**Country \***

**Domain \***

☐ Academia

☐ Industry

☐ Government

☐ Other

**Website \***

How many applicants in total (up to 5)?

**VITALISE infrastructures**

**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 2 Administrative Details (Affiliation)

The screenshot shows the 'Applicant' step of the VITALISE Project Open Calls application. The 'Other' radio button is selected. The 'Website' field is empty. The 'How many applicants in total (up to 5)?' slider is set to 1, with 'No of applicants: 1' displayed. The 'First Applicant (User Group Leader/Reference person)' section contains fields for Name (First and Last), Gender, Nationality, Email (Email and Confirm Email), Telephone number, and Position held in the affiliated institute. A 'Next' button is at the bottom left. On the right, a list of 'VITALISE infrastructures' is shown, including Nagykovács Wellbeing Living Lab - Trebag, Laurea Activity Living Lab, and AIT Technology Experience Laboratory.

☒ Other

**Website \***

How many applicants in total (up to 5)?

No of applicants: 1

**First Applicant (User Group Leader/Reference person)**

**Name \***

First Last

**Gender**

**Nationality \***

**Email \***

Email Confirm Email

**Telephone number \***

**Position held in the affiliated institute \***

Next

**VITALISE infrastructures**

Nagykovács Wellbeing Living Lab - Trebag

Laurea Activity Living Lab

AIT Technology Experience Laboratory

Figure 3 Administrative Details (Applicant)

### 6.1.2 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).

**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 ONLY the services that you actually need to execute your research project, as described in your project description)**

1 Administrative form

2 Transnational access to the infrastructure

3 Project description

Select up to 3 infrastructures in order of preference

**Infrastructure 1: \***

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 ONLY the services that you actually need to execute your research project, as described in your project description)

[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)
 ☐ Clinical trials (Testing and validation)
 ☐ Concept and proof-of-concept tests – concept feasibility study (Testing and validation)
 ☐ Expert opinion, and advisory services (Testing and validation)
 ☐ Idea selection and testing (Testing and validation)
 ☐ Impact assessment and validation test (Testing and validation)
 ☐ Large-scale real-life testing and piloting (Testing and validation)
 ☐ Prototyping test (Testing and validation)
 ☐ Simulation test (Testing and validation)
 ☐ Small-scale real-life testing and experimentation (Testing and validation)
 ☐ Usability testing (Testing and validation)

**Infrastructure 2:**

select an infrastructure

**Infrastructure 3:**

select an infrastructure

**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 March 2023 to June 2023)**

Select up to 3 infrastructures in order of preference

Infrastructure 1: \*

select an infrastructure (first option mandatory)

Infrastructure 2:

select an infrastructure

Infrastructure 3:

select an infrastructure

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 March 2023 to June 2023) \*

March 2023

Do you have any link with the partner of the VITALISE consortium? \*

- ☐ Yes  
☐ No

Previous

Next

Figure 6 Access to infrastructure

### 6.1.3 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**”.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [vitalise-project.eu/open-calls/](https://vitalise-project.eu/open-calls/). The page title is 'VITALISE-PROJECT / OPEN-CALLS'. The form is divided into three steps: 1. Administrative form, 2. Transnational access to the infrastructure, and 3. Project description (which is the active step). The form fields include: Title \*, Acronym \*, Abstract \*, Project description \* (with a file upload icon and text 'Click or drag a file to this area to upload'), and Privacy Policy \* (with a checkbox 'I agree with VITALISE Privacy Policy'). A yellow box at the bottom states: '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.' On the right sidebar, under 'VITALISE infrastructures', there are three categories: 'Rehabilitation' (listing AUTH Centrifuge Rehabilitation Living Lab, Thomas More MOTION lab – Mobilab, GAIA and Ocean Living Lab for Rehabilitation, INTRAS Rehabilitation Living Lab), 'Transitions in care' (listing AUTH Health Care Transitions Living Lab, INTRAS VR/AR and Snoezelen Room, Thomas More Experience Lab, UPM-LifeTech- The Smart House Living Lab, Lauree Simulated Hospital, McGill – CRIR rehabilitation Living Lab), and 'Smart environments' (listing AUTH Living environment simulation, GAIA Smart Spaces, INTRAS MIND lab for AHA & Independent Living, LiCalab Older Adults' Homes, Nagykovács Wellbeing Living Lab - Trebag, Lauree Activity Living Lab, AIT Technology Experience Laboratory).

Figure 7 Project description

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

## 6.2 Evaluation procedure for Transnational Access

### 6.2.1 Eligibility

The VITALISE project provides access to its network of infrastructures for **academic researchers, industrial researchers, government researchers, master's students, entrepreneurs and 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 (see paragraph 8).
- They should be fluent in English
- 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.
- If the leading applicant is a master's student, at least 1 member of the team must hold a master degree and act as supervisor of the TA (he/she/they could join the TA fully remote)

- An undergraduate/bachelor student can perform TA under the supervision of the leading applicant; in this case, the leading applicant must be either professor or postdoc affiliated to university or research centres. Trans-national access is in fact provided to research teams led by a leading applicant and composed by up to 5 researchers.
- A research team can apply for TA asking to visit more than one Living Lab to conduct its study. In this case, the research team must submit more than one complementary application, duly justifying their choices in the submitted application templates .

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.

After the due eligibility check are completed, ineligible proposals will be returned to the applicant with a note explaining the reasons of their ineligibility.

### 6.2.2 Feasibility evaluation

Once the eligibility phase has passed successfully, 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?

During this phase, the Research Infrastructure Leader could contact the applicants asking for some clarification regarding the services, tools and support requested by the infrastructure.

Unfeasible proposals will be returned to the applicant with a note explaining the reasons why they were considered unfeasible. If possible, the note will also include some suggestions of changes to apply to the proposal, in order to successfully apply at the next Open Calls.

### 6.2.3 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 assessed <i>any likely risks</i> ?	25%

3. Scientific qualification/track record of the proposing PI and user group: Background/track <i>record of the PI</i> , Background/track <i>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</i> and below will be involved? Are there <i>dissemination activities</i> , addressing the general public, planned?	10%

### 6.3 Final Selection of the applications

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

The priority criteria will favour the placement of the applications in the ranking, but should not discourage those who do not have them.

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.

### 6.4 Results and applicants' obligations for Transnational Access

The outcomes of the selection are expected to be communicated by the TAM within 3 months from the closure date of the application submission. If they have been selected, they will be re-directed to the Research Infrastructure Leader (RIL) to coordinate the TA to the infrastructures.

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 6.5);
- They have to fill out a brief questionnaire before starting the TA and after ending it;
- They must sign the Contract Agreement and the Data Protection Notice before starting the TA;
- 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 (see paragraph 6.4)
- 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.

## 6.5 Training sessions for Transnational Access

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.

## 6.6 Reporting procedure for TA

Researchers are expected to deliver a short-written report and fill out a satisfaction questionnaire no later than 1 month after the end of the TA. 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.

## 7 Application procedure for Virtual Access

VA will be granted in 2023 (please check the project website for VA opening). In order to apply for VA, it is not necessary to undergo a selection process. The applicant(s) should use the application toolkit that will be provided to:

- Provide personal data of the applicant(s);
- Confirm compliance to the established eligibility criteria;
- Briefly describe the objective of their research and how long they need to access the datasets.

At the end of the procedure, they will receive credentials for accessing the VITALISE database.

### 7.1 Eligibility criteria for Virtual Access

To apply for VA it is not necessary to undergo a selection process as the applicants will only 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 the 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 disseminate the results acknowledging the source of the data (see paragraph 8).
- If the application is submitted by a master's students, at least 1 member of the team must hold a master degree and act as supervisor of the TA.
- They should be fluent in English.

As explained in paragraph 7, the applicants will have to confirm their compliance to the listed eligibility criteria, assuming responsibility for truthfulness, and as no feasibility and scientific evaluation is required, after completing the submission, they will receive credential for accessing the VITALISE database and start the VA.

## 7.2 Application guidance for VA (manual for applying)

The application guidance for VA will be made available as soon as VA will be granted (2023)

## 7.3 Applicants' obligations for Virtual Access

The applicants who meet all the criteria to apply for VA, after receiving the credential for accessing the VITALISE database, will have the only obligation to disseminate the knowledge they will generate from the access free of charge to the VITALISE database (see paragraph 8).

## 8 Valorisation 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>