



Security, Privacy, Identity, Trust,
Engagement, NetworkPlus

SPRITE+ Call for Events and Activities: Guidance

SPRITE+ is the EPSRC-funded NetworkPlus for Trust, Identity, Privacy, and Security (TIPS; grant reference EP/S035869/1). We work with academic and non-academic stakeholders to build and strengthen the TIPS community and identify requirements and promising new directions for research in this area. We have a 'pump-priming' budget to fund activities that explore and test new ideas, and that create new collaborations between academic disciplines, and between academic and non-academic partners.

Call overview

SPRITE+ is delighted to support its Members and Expert Fellows who wish to lead events or activities that explore aspects of TIPS in the Digital Economy, within and beyond academia. You can apply for membership (which is free of charge) [here](#).

We are offering logistical support to help organise the activity and will make available up to £5,000 of funding per activity to cover associated costs (e.g., travel, materials, professional facilitation/online production costs, data access).

Proposed events and activities should:

- Enable SPRITE+ Members, Expert Fellows, Project Partners and other stakeholders to explore specific issues relevant to the SPRITE+ remit
- Explore aspects of TIPS in the Digital Economy from multiple perspectives
- Advance understanding of what is already known and identify opportunities to increase knowledge

We particularly welcome proposals that are relevant to our 'Digital Vulnerabilities' [Challenge Theme](#), which encompasses issues such as:

- How we should conceptualise, identify and assess susceptibility to future digital harm
- How we might protect networks, hardware, individuals and organisations from increasingly complex harms and/or make them resilient in the face of harm
- What roles technology, people, organisations, governments, and societies will play both in enabling and reducing digital risks and harms

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Support offered

Successful applicants will be responsible for leading the activity, including setting the scope and intellectual content, planning, and taking responsibility for delivery. However, SPRITE+ will work with successful applicants to help make the activity a success.

SPRITE+ will help to publicise activities and reach out to Members, Expert Fellows, Project Partners and other stakeholders as necessary. We will provide logistical support as needed (and within reason) to support the smooth running of the activity.

In addition, SPRITE+ will fund up to £5,000 of costs, which could include travel (all travel should comply with the SPRITE+ [Travel Policy](#)), room hire, materials, professional facilitation/online production costs, data access, and so on. All costs must be eligible under UKRI rules, please see the [EPSRC Funding Guide](#) for further information.

Please note that no contractual agreements will be issued, and no money will be transferred. Instead, SPRITE+ will make payments directly on the organiser's behalf.

Deadlines and timescales

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until we reach capacity, with all activities being complete by the end of 2021. We expect to fund no more than one or two events per month, depending on budget and on SPRITE+ administrative commitment required. Applicants will be advised of the outcome within 8 weeks of submission and activities can take place anytime thereafter in agreement with the SPRITE+ Network Manager.

Frequently Asked Questions

What activities can be supported?

These funds can be used to support the organisation and delivery of events and small-scale activities. This call is designed to be flexible and we welcome applications for multi-disciplinary events designed to explore a topic from multiple perspectives with a strong stakeholder focus. Creative and innovative approaches are welcome.

Examples of activities that could be considered:

- Online activities, including virtual meetings, seminars, discussion groups, round tables podcasts and multimedia engagement activities
- Hackathons, sprints, charettes, and [Great Egg Race](#)-style challenge events
- [Public engagement](#), such as exhibitions, talks, festivals, competitions, events for schools or workplaces
- Workshops, seminars, '[unconferences](#)'
- Creative design, creative writing, performance and other arts-based methods

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We are also open to proposals for extended activities, which might include supporting a SPRITE+ academic Member (from an [eligible UK Higher Education Institution](#)) to visit an appropriate organisation to explore a specific issue relevant to SPRITE+ (e.g., for a short research assignment).

We welcome activities that involve in-kind support (e.g., from institutions, companies). Partners who commit to providing in-kind support do not need to be SPRITE+ Members but we encourage individuals to register (for free) via our [website](#).

Applications must demonstrate clear benefit for the SPRITE+ community and show how the proposed activity supports SPRITE+ [goals](#).

What about social distancing / lockdown?

Given the uncertainty around the Covid-19 pandemic, we will prioritise activities that can be carried out under conditions of social distancing, until at least the middle of 2021.

If you have an idea that involves face to face activity but you're not sure if it can happen virtually, talk to us – there may be a way to take your idea online See our hints and tips for running virtual engagement activities [here](#).

What sort of activities cannot be funded / supported?

We will not support activities that are intended to promote or market a commercial product or service, to advance the interests of a political party or cause, or to share proprietary or sensitive information without the express permission of the controller of that information.

We will not support activities that involve simply sharing research findings from one research group or project (dissemination of findings should already be part of that research project/programme). However, we could support proposals involving sharing research knowledge as part of a wider, novel activity (e.g., a consultation/challenge event).

Costs associated with the purchase of equipment and salaries will not be supported from this grant.

Note that we expect all participants in all activities to abide by our [code of conduct](#) and relevant legislation (e.g., Health and Safety, GDPR).

Who can apply?

All SPRITE+ Members and Expert Fellows (including non-academic Members) at any career stage and from any discipline are eligible to apply. Applications can be made by individuals or teams.

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In line with EPSRC funding rules, only Members/Expert Fellows from UK Higher Education Institutions are eligible to apply for funds to support a visit to an appropriate organisation. Please check the [EPSRC funding guide](#) for further details.

How much can I apply for?

We expect to allocate no more than £5,000 per proposal. Applications should demonstrate good value for money and provide a reasonable and realistic budget with clear justification of the costs. SPRITE+ will work with the organiser to ensure that actual costs provide best possible value for money (e.g., taking advantage of preferential hotel rates).

Access and inclusion

We will work with successful applicants to make their activities as inclusive as possible. We recognise that some applicants and activity participants may face barriers to participation, including lack of appropriate technology, poor connection speeds, meeting the cost of caring commitments, or the need for BSL interpreters, captioning, alt-text on webpages and slides, or audio description.

We are committed to doing what we can to help participants overcome such barriers and will offer support through our [SPRITE+ Access Fund](#) to enable them to participate fully and effectively in our activities (this is in addition to the activity funding of £5,000). Please contact Natalie Theodoulou (SPRITE+ Network Manager) via email admin@spritehub.org for further information.

How will applications be assessed?

Applications will be assessed on a rolling basis by the SPRITE+ [Management Team](#). Decisions will be made based on how well the applicant meets the following criteria:

- Relevance to the future of TIPS in the Digital Economy (Essential)
- Contribution to exploring a topic from a multi-disciplinary and end-user perspective (Essential)
- Value for the broader SPRITE+ community e.g. Project Partner and stakeholders (Essential)
- Realistic budget and good value for money (Essential)
- Creativity and novelty (Desirable)
- Relevance to the SPRITE+ Digital Vulnerabilities Challenge Theme (Desirable)

We will let you know the outcome as soon as possible, but please allow up to eight weeks for a decision. All applicants will receive brief feedback on their applications.

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What support can I expect from SPRITE+?

The SPRITE+ Network Manager and Research Associate will be available to support the successful applicants with communications, promotion and organisation, including reaching out to the broader SPRITE+ community (Members, Expert Fellows, Project Partners and other stakeholders/end users).

We may also be able to provide logistical support (within reason), for instance, hosting and technical production of a straightforward online meeting/webinar, organising payments.

We can engage the support of our communications partner Know Innovation for more complex online and offline activities that require facilitation/production, although the cost for this will need to come from your activity funds.

Please note that the Network Manager and Research Associate time is subject to availability depending on other activities in the SPRITE+ events calendar.

When should I run my activity?

This call is designed to be flexible and we welcome the opportunity to work with you to select an appropriate date. Ideally, we'd like our events to be spread throughout the year in order to maximise attendance and avoid clashes with other SPRITE+ activities. The SPRITE+ events calendar can be found [here](#).

What outputs am I expected to deliver?

In addition to the delivery of the activity itself, we ask you to write a short blog post for our website to summarise the activity and provide a brief (max. 3 pages) report on the outcome and any lessons learned.

How will the funds be managed?

As these activities involve relatively small amounts of funding, SPRITE+ will make payments related to the activity on behalf of the organiser. **SPRITE+ will not issue contractual agreements and no money will be transferred.**

Please include actual and/or estimated costs in your application. SPRITE+ will work with successful applicants to find the most cost-effective way of helping you achieve your activity goals.

How will I be recognised for my leadership if I do not receive a grant?

Although there will be no formal grants, successful applicants will be recognised as the leaders of these activities in pre-and post-activity publicity, and in a formal post-event letter to their Head of Department (or equivalent).

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How do I apply?

Please complete the application form and return it to Natalie Theodoulou (SPRITE+ Network Manager) at admin@spritehub.org.

Who can I contact for further information?

Please contact Natalie Theodoulou (SPRITE+ Network Manager) at admin@spritehub.org.

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