



Rules for the european call for projects

Eligible parties : Enterprises having their head office
in a European Union Member State

Opening date : 17 June 2016

Closing date : 10 September 2016

Website on which the call for projects is published : www.scalemeup.eu

All requests for information must be sent to : faq@scalemeup.eu

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I - CONTEXT AND AIMS

Already in 2009, the European Parliament adopted a Resolution which recognised the social economy as a key operator for fulfilling the Lisbon Strategy objectives

In October 2011, the European Commission approved the Communication on the Social Business Initiative proposed by the Commissioner for Internal Market and Services.

In line with the major orientations of the Europe 2020 Strategy, the European Union's support for the social and solidarity economy is now reflected by the development of tailored funding mechanisms such as European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIFs) and EU financing instruments such as the Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) programme, not to mention many other efforts involving multiple stakeholders, such as the Expert Group on Social Entrepreneurship (GECES), which will submit its report in autumn 2016.

Similarly, the European Economic and Social Committee has issued several opinions on the topic, including "Social Business Initiative" (INT/606 - CESE 1292/2012) or very recently, "Innovation as a driver of new business models" (May 2016).

Despite these initiatives, it must be acknowledged that the economic, legal and political ecosystem that is meant to serve as a springboard for enterprises seeking to scale up in Europe is still insufficiently developed to date. Yet, the formidable potential of social economy enterprises can create quality jobs and long-term growth in Europe.

The Luxembourg Conference of 3-4 December 2015 adopted a Declaration for the Social and Solidarity Economy in Europe entitled "A roadmap towards a more comprehensive ecosystem for social economy enterprises."

Representatives of the governments of France, Italy, Luxembourg, Slovak Republic, Slovenia and Spain were in attendance and signed the Declaration on that occasion, sharing an open and inclusive conception of the social and solidarity economy.

On 7 December 2015, thanks to the conclusions of the EPSCO Council, the 28 Member States have invited the Commission, in the framework of the Europe 2020 strategy review, to take into consideration social economy, social innovation and social investment policies

In this context, Martine Pinville, Minister of State for Commerce, Craft Industries and Trades, Consumer Affairs, and the Social and Solidarity Economy, is issuing a European call for projects called "Scale Me Up" with the aim of coordinating the community of European social economy enterprises and driving their development.

SCALE ME UP – RULES FOR THE EUROPEAN CALL FOR PROJECTS

The purpose of this call for projects is to foster the emergence of new collaborative models among European stakeholders to illustrate the full potential that social economy enterprises can offer in Europe in terms of creating jobs, economic activities and innovation.

This initiative is designed as a partnership. It gives all Member States who wish to take part a role to play, from disseminating the call for projects across their respective networks through to selecting the prize-winners in September 2016.

Moreover, it has received the backing of the European Commission, namely that of Commissioner Marianne Thyssen (Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion) and Commissioner Elzbieta Bienkowska (Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs).

Through this call for projects, the idea is to encourage the emergence of six particularly innovative social innovation projects developed across at least two countries in the European Union. In November 2016, the prize-winners will have the benefit of an “acceleration programme” to boost their project, during which time they will be supported in their development strategy (visibility/communication, financial and legal support).

II - CONTEST RULES

A) Eligibility criteria

The candidate project must consist in a cooperation, partnership or spinoff involving at least one social economy enterprise in the European Union (localisation of head office) and at least one other partner in a second country in the European Union (e.g., enterprise, university).

Each country has its own meaning of the term “social enterprise.” In France, the official definition is “enterprises of the social and solidarity economy”, as set out in the Act of 31 July 2014, namely non-profit organisations, foundations, mutual insurance companies, cooperatives, and certain commercial enterprises.

B) Selection criteria

Projects are selected in accordance with the principles of transparency and fair treatment of all candidates.

In addition to their capacity to foster the development of activities involving cooperation among stakeholders in the European Union, projects will be evaluated based on the following aspects :

1. Social innovation :

The project represents a social innovation:

- either because it addresses currently unmet or inadequately met social/societal needs
- or because of the innovative form of the social economy enterprise chosen to carry out the activity
- or because it has an innovative governance model

2. Positive impacts for the region and the project stakeholders:

This criterion will be evaluated with regard to the benefits expected to accrue to the project leaders but also more broadly to the region, particularly in terms of generating economic activity, creating jobs, structuring an ecosystem, and managing the potential environmental impact.

3. Demonstration of the organisational and financial maturity of the entity managing the project :

The following elements, in particular, will be considered :

- capacity and rigour of project leaders (skillset, motivational abilities, etc.)
- governance principles
- business stability
- structuring of human resources

4. Strong regional ties conducive to the growth of the business :

This aspect will be evaluated based on the capacity to marshal the human, natural and economic resources of a region, create momentum for the project, and forge local partnerships.

5. Offer spinoff potential in Europe :

The feasibility of replicating the project in another region will be evaluated based on whether the need it addresses exists in other regions, but also on whether the approach implemented is itself replicable.

6. Metrics for evaluating the project once it is implemented :

Beyond the business activity itself, the project must also include elements that will allow an evaluation of its medium- or long-term impacts, e.g.: tracking indicators, project implementation timetable.

III - SELECTION PROCEDURE

Project submissions will be reviewed by representatives of the Ministry of State for Commerce, Craft Industries and Trades, Consumer Affairs and the Social Solidarity Economy, with the assistance of Avise (French national body promoting social enterprises and social innovation). Any proposals that do not comply with the Specifications will be rejected.

This review will lead to a shortlist of 20 proposals that meet the selection criteria no later than 23 September.

These 20 candidate projects will be presented to the European selection panel. The panel will be made up of representatives of participating Member States and experts able to identify the European support and funding programmes liable to be tapped to accelerate the projects. Panel members are approved by Minister of State Martine Pinville.

The selection panel will meet during the last week of September.

The panel will select five winning projects on the basis of the selection criteria set forth above.

A community vote will be organised via social networks (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube) during the month of October to choose the winner of a special “Top Pick” prize.

The names of the five prize-winners and the “Top Pick” winner will be posted on www.esspace.fr

The people involved in reviewing the project submissions, as well as the members of the selection panel, will be subject to a strict obligation of confidentiality regarding the projects submitted for their review and the deliberations.

IV - REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

The call for projects will remain open from 17 June through 10 September 2016.

The submission file must be completed electronically either in French or in English no later than 10 September at 11.59 pm (Paris time) via the website : www.scalemeup.eu

To facilitate the task for the European selection panel, it is recommended that you submit your proposal in English.

Candidates may supplement their completed application file with any additional documents or details they deem useful for evaluating their proposal. The submission file size must not exceed 6 Mo.

V - SUPPORT PROGRAMME FOR PRIZE-WINNERS

Prize-winners will be offered an acceleration programme in November 2016 to boost the momentum of their projects. For this reason, candidates are requested to describe the status (development stage) of their project.

The six prize-winners will undergo a tailored five-day acceleration programme consisting in several phases :

- Identification of needs
- Legal and administrative support for the project (articles of association, etc.)
- Support for strengthening a business model
- Finding the right European programme to develop the project and preparation of the application on behalf of the project leader
- Identifying which network of players in the country should be approached to develop the project
- Support for an adapted communication
- Presenting the proposal to potential investors/partners
- Meeting with investors

VI - CANDIDATE COMMITMENT

Candidates who submit a proposal :

- Agree without reservation to the rules governing the European call for projects
- Undertake to reply within five business days to all requests for additional information from the Ministry of State for the Social and Solidarity Economy, following submission of their proposal
- Acknowledge that they may be asked to provide an English summary of their proposal at the end of the review phase (end of September 2016)
- Authorise the government to communicate about their project once they have been shortlisted or selected as prize-winners in connection with this call for projects
- Undertake to keep confidential the discussions that will occur during the review

VII - MISCELLANEOUS

In the event of force majeure or circumstances beyond reasonable control, the call for projects may be postponed or cancelled: candidates shall refrain from claiming any compensation in this respect.

Contact : faq@scalemeup.eu