



# **European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) Strand**

## **Call for proposals**

**Transaction Costs Support  
for social finance intermediaries  
ESF-2026-AG-TCS**

Version 1.0  
11 June 2026



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**EUROPEAN COMMISSION**  
Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

EMPL.G – Funds, programming and implementation  
**EMPL.G.3 – Social and Inclusive Entrepreneurship**

## **CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

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## 0. Introduction

This is a call for proposals for EU **action grants** in the field of social finance under the **European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)**.

The regulatory framework for this EU Funding Programme is set out in:

- Regulation 2024/2509 ([EU Financial Regulation](#))<sup>1</sup>
- the basic act (ESF+ Regulation [2021/1057](#))<sup>2</sup>.

The call is launched in accordance with the amendment to the Financing Decision<sup>3</sup> and will be managed by the **European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL)**.

 Please note that this call is subject to the final adoption of the amendment to 2026 Work Programme. In case there are substantial changes, we may have to modify the call (or even cancel it).

The call covers the following **topic**:

**ESF-2026-AG-TCS – Action grants for Transaction Costs Support for social finance intermediaries**

We invite you to read the **call documentation** carefully, and in particular this Call Document, the Model Grant Agreement, the [EU Funding & Tenders Portal Online Manual](#) and the [EU Grants AGA – Annotated Grant Agreement](#).

These documents provide clarifications and answers to questions you may have when preparing your application:

- the [Call Document](#) outlines the:
  - background, objectives, scope, activities that can be funded and the expected results (sections 1 and 2)

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast) ('EU Financial Regulation') (OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024).

<sup>2</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 establishing the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 21).

<sup>3</sup> Commission Implementing Decision C(2026)3243 of 22 May 2026 amending decision C(2025)8247 final of 8 December 2025 concerning the adoption of the 2026 annual work programme within the framework of the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and in particular its Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand.

- timetable and available budget (sections 3 and 4)
- admissibility and eligibility conditions (including mandatory documents; sections 5 and 6)
- criteria for financial and operational capacity and exclusion (section 7)
- evaluation and award procedure (section 8)
- award criteria (section 9)
- legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements (section 10)
- how to submit an application (section 11)
- the [Online Manual](#) outlines the:
  - procedures to register and submit proposals online via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal ('Portal')
  - recommendations for the preparation of the application
- the [AGA – Annotated Grant Agreement](#) contains:
  - detailed annotations on all the provisions in the Grant Agreement you will have to sign in order to obtain the grant (*including cost eligibility, payment schedule, accessory obligations, etc*).

## 1. Background

This call for proposals is financed under the **Employment and Social Innovation ("EaSI") strand of the ESF+** which is a European-level financing instrument managed directly by the European Commission. It provides financial support to achieve high employment levels, fair social protection, a skilled and resilient workforce ready for the future world of work, as well as inclusive and cohesive societies aiming to eradicate poverty. The overall political priority underpinning the activities under the EaSI strand of the ESF+ Programme is the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

The ESF+ regulation on the EaSI operational objectives under Article 25 (g) provides for support to develop social enterprises and the emergence of a social investment market, facilitating public and private interactions and the participation of foundations and philanthropic actors in that market. In addition, the social investment and skills' policy window of the InvestEU provides a budgetary guarantee for equity and quasi-equity operations supporting the social finance investment market.

In the [Communication from the Commission 'Building an economy that works for people: an action plan for the social economy'](#), adopted in December 2021, the Commission announced its intention to enhance social innovation, to support the development of the social economy, and to boost its social and economic transformative power by complementing equity investment instruments with grant support aimed at lowering transaction costs for risk-capital investments into social enterprises and mission driven enterprises.

In the [Social Economy Action Plan mid-term review - Taking stock and looking forward](#), adopted on 30 March 2026, the Commission confirmed its willingness to support the development of a well-functioning finance ecosystem, alongside strong skills, incubation and entrepreneurship pathways to help social economy organisations to attract talent, access appropriate capital and grow and innovate.

Besides, social enterprises and mission driven enterprises are instrumental in the implementation of many of the rights and principles expressed in the European Pillar of Social Rights. Overall, social enterprises and mission driven enterprises can contribute towards achieving the specific objectives of the ESF+<sup>4</sup> and they make an important contribution to two priorities indicated in the Political Guidelines of the current Commission: "A new plan for Europe's sustainable prosperity and competitiveness", and "Supporting people, strengthening our societies and our social model".

### *EU support for social enterprise finance*

The **InvestEU programme** brings together under one roof several EU financial instruments to promote sustainable investment, innovation, social inclusion and job creation in Europe. One of its objectives is to improve the access to finance for social enterprises, to help them start up and scale up their businesses.

The Social Investment and Skills' policy window of the InvestEU Fund provides funding opportunities and advisory support also for social enterprises. There are several financial products that are available via different Implementing Partners<sup>5</sup>. In particular:

- The InvestEU guarantee product for social enterprises was launched in April 2022 with the European Investment Fund (EIF) as implementing partner<sup>6</sup>. It aims at covering loans to social enterprises. This risk-sharing mechanism gives incentives to social enterprise financial intermediaries to reach out to entrepreneurs they would not have been able to finance otherwise.
- The InvestEU Capacity-Building Investments product was launched in April 2022 with the EIF as implementing partner<sup>7</sup>. It aims at enhancing the institutional capacity of selected social enterprise finance providers in Europe primarily through quasi-equity investments.
- The InvestEU social impact equity product was launched in April 2022 with the EIF as implementing partner<sup>8</sup> to guarantee investments into social enterprises.
- The Council of Europe development bank<sup>9</sup> (CEB) provides a debt product to financial intermediaries, which provide support to social enterprises<sup>10</sup> and social economy organisations<sup>11</sup>.

Moreover, technical assistance is available to financial providers under the InvestEU Advisory Hub. In this framework, the Social Inclusive Finance Technical Assistance (SIFTA), managed by the European Investment Bank, provides targeted capacity building services for microfinance and social enterprise finance providers in the form of tailored training, workshops, peer-to-peer exchanges and study visits on a wide range of topics related to financing micro and social enterprises. It also provides rating, assessment and evaluation services to such providers<sup>12</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> [ESF+ Regulation](#) - Article 4 - Specific objectives

<sup>5</sup> The guarantee available under the InvestEU Fund is implemented via selected financial partners or implementing partners.

<sup>6</sup> [EIF guarantee products'](#) overview

<sup>7</sup> [EIF capacity building investment product](#)

<sup>8</sup> [EIF equity products' overview](#)

<sup>9</sup> <https://coebank.org/en/project-financing/ceb-and-investeu/>

<sup>10</sup> As defined in Article 2 of the Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 establishing the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1296/2013 (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 21).

<sup>11</sup> Social economy organisations are defined as entities that share the following principles and features: (i) the primacy of people as well as social and/or environmental purpose over profit, (ii) the reinvestment of most of the profits and surpluses to carry out activities in the interest of members/users or society at large and (iii) democratic and/or participatory governance.

<sup>12</sup> <https://advisory.eib.org/about/service/social-inclusive-finance-technical-assistance.htm>

However, despite the positive developments, the social enterprise finance markets reveal a persisting mismatch between the demand and supply of repayable finance for social enterprises in Europe, both in terms of access to debt and equity and of ticket size. At the start of the current Multi-annual Financial Framework, this funding gap in was estimated by EIB at almost EUR 1 billion per year across Europe<sup>13</sup>. In addition, there are also considerable differences among EU Member States and even within countries. The access to repayable financial resources for social enterprises remains limited and very heterogeneous and the mismatch between needed and sustainable ticket sizes persists.

### Lessons from previous EU support actions

Targeted support provided in the last decade at EU and national level, including grant funding provided by DG EMPL through similar calls for proposals, helped financial intermediaries and investors to provide more repayable finance to social enterprises. This current call for proposals aims to capitalise on lessons learnt from these previous calls and to respond to the needs of the social finance intermediaries who undertake long-term risk capital investments in ticket sizes (low value investment) in social enterprises and mission-driven enterprises.

The aim of the call is to support the transaction costs for these small investment tickets and thus to try to help overcome a market failure in the social investment market.

## **2. Objectives – Themes and priorities – Activities that can be funded – Expected impact**

### Objectives (expected outcome)

The general objective of the call is to **further develop the social enterprise finance market** by supporting the social finance intermediaries to provide the needed capital to social enterprises and mission-driven enterprises.

In this direction, the call builds upon previous similar calls and aims above all to **support social finance intermediaries who undertake long-term risk capital investments in social enterprises and mission-driven enterprises**. Therefore, the key objective of the present call of proposals is to **catalyse risk capital investments below EUR 1 000 000** that otherwise would not happen in the area of social enterprise finance. The call aims to **support the transaction costs** for these low value investment tickets and thus to **help to overcome the identified market failure / mismatch in the social investment market**.

The present call also encourages the European (trans-national) and innovative dimension of social finance schemes and support towards emerging social finance markets, e.g. via cross-border investments and cooperation, dissemination of good practices, etc.

Under this call for proposals, the transaction costs support scheme will take the form of a grant, and it can be combined with financial instruments as means to address the mismatch of needed and sustainable ticket sizes.

By transaction costs, this call for proposals understands the different costs linked to these investments, such as due diligence related costs, legal advice fees, travel costs, business development support costs, support towards establishing an impact measurement and management plan or system, etc.

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<sup>13</sup> European Commission, Social enterprise finance market: analysis and recommendations for delivery options, by Spiess-Knafl W. and Scheck B, Luxembourg, 2019.

### Themes and priorities (scope)

The action grants are aimed at financial intermediaries that undertake long-term risk capital investments in ticket sizes of less than EUR 1 000 000 in social enterprises and mission-driven enterprises in EU Member States and ESF+ Associated Countries (see section 6 – eligible countries).

The **long-term capital investment** can take the form of:

- **equity**, understood as the provision of capital to a firm, invested directly or indirectly in return for total or partial ownership of that firm and where the equity investor may assume some management control of the firm and may share the firm's profits.
- **quasi-equity**, understood as a type of financing that ranks between equity and debt, having a higher risk than senior debt and a lower risk than common equity. Quasi-equity investments can be structured as debt, typically unsecured and subordinated and in some cases convertible into equity, or as preferred equity.
- **or hybrid financing**, understood as any flexible form of repayable finance combining the characteristics/features of at least two of the three financing instruments: grant, debt, and equity.

The action grants should serve to cover part of the transaction costs for these small investment tickets and thus help overcome a market failure in the social enterprise finance market.

The long-term risk capital investment can reach per investee at maximum EUR 1 000 000 over a period of 18 months.

This means that if a second investment in the same social enterprise or mission-driven enterprise takes place within less than 18 months from the first investment and this raises the cumulative amount invested above the limit of EUR 1 000 000, the costs of the activities related to the first investment become ineligible for grant support, and any related payments already made by the Commission will be subject to recovery.

In relation to the **investees**, i.e. the social enterprises or mission-driven enterprises that the grant beneficiaries will invest on, the following conditions apply:

The selected investees must be:

- 1) social enterprises, as defined in the Article 2(1.13) of ESF+ Regulation<sup>14</sup>, which means an undertaking, regardless of its legal form, including social economy enterprises, or a natural person which:
  - (a) in accordance with its articles of association, statutes or with any other legal document that may result in liability under the rules of the Member State where a social enterprise is located, has the achievement of measurable, positive social impacts, which may include environmental impacts, as its primary social objective rather than the generation of profit for other purposes, and which provides services or goods that generate a social return or employs methods of production of goods or services that embody social objectives.
  - (b) uses its profits first and foremost to achieve its primary social objective, and has predefined procedures and rules that ensure that the distribution of profits does not undermine the primary social objective.

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<sup>14</sup> [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/1057 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 establishing the European Social Fund Plus \(ESF+ Regulation\)](#)

- (c) is managed in an entrepreneurial, participatory, accountable and transparent manner, in particular by involving workers, customers and stakeholders on whom its business activities have an impact.

2) or mission-driven enterprises, which defining feature is structural integration of positive contribution into value creation, not merely compliance, operational efficiency, or net-zero internal performance; therefore, regardless their legal forms, mission-driven enterprises are characterised by the following features:

- (a) they are commercially operating legal entities that intentionally pursue one or more specific social and/or environmental objectives alongside economic performance and structurally integrate those objectives into their business model and governance.
- (b) their business models are designed so that scaling commercial activity is expected to scale intended positive impacts.
- (c) they are fundamentally structured to deliver significant positive impacts through core activities while identifying, preventing, and mitigating adverse impacts in line with EU Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Responsible Business Conduct (RBC) principles.
- (d) they embed stakeholder-informed governance and maintain credible, proportionate processes to measure, manage, and report their contribution to those objectives.

As an indication, the overall support request for the transaction costs should not exceed 10% of the total expected investment portfolio in social enterprises and mission-driven enterprises. For applicants with average investment tickets of less than EUR 300 000, the support request should not exceed 15% of the total expected investment portfolio.

#### Activities that can be funded (scope)

This call will support proposals whose activities contribute to the implementation of the above-mentioned objectives and priorities.

The types of activities which can be funded under this call for proposals include, but are not limited to:

- a) The activities related to the preparation, conclusion and follow-up of long-term risk capital investments into social enterprises and mission-driven enterprises which are considered eligible to be funded under this call for proposals. These activities can include a mix of activities such as:
- travelling to meet (potential) investees
  - screening and processing investment applications
  - preparing legal documents, potentially with the help of legal adviser
  - carrying out due diligence, including assessing (potential) impact of the investment
  - providing investment readiness, scaling readiness or business restructuring support
  - providing support to investees with the development of their impact measurement and management plan or system
  - bringing in co-investors
  - managing the investments and social impact.

- b) Activities related to the overall EU value-added and the innovative dimension of the financing schemes which can include activities such as:
- developing or testing an innovative solution or tool which could help to lower the transaction costs in a more structural and sustainable way
  - cross-border experience sharing and support to peers in emerging social enterprise finance markets
  - activities encouraging investments across the border in emerging social enterprise finance markets
  - dissemination of good practices activities and/or support to other potential funders and/or national and regional authorities to set up equivalent schemes.

### Expected impact

Actions funded under this Call are expected to contribute to increase the number of risk-capital investments of below EUR 1 000 000 in social enterprises and mission driven enterprises.

In the longer term, the Call is expected to contribute to overcome the market failure in the social investment market and to address the mismatch between needed and sustainable ticket sizes.

In line with point 2.5 of the application template “Project management, quality assurance and monitoring and evaluation strategy”, the application shall include a description of evaluation methods and indicators (quantitative and/or qualitative) to monitor and verify the achievement of the main expected results. These indicators should be realistic, measurable and relevant. Their level of achievement or deviations thereof must be detailed and justified in the final reporting.

### **3. Available budget**

The estimated available call budget is **EUR 4 700 000**.

We expect to fund 8 to 10 projects.

We reserve the right not to award all available funds or to redistribute them between the call priorities, depending on the proposals received and the results of the evaluation.

### **4. Timetable and deadlines**

| <b>Timetable and deadlines (indicative)</b> |   |
|---|---|
| Call opening:                               | 18 June 2026  |
| <u>Deadline for submission:</u>             | <u>23 September 2026 – 17:00:00 CET</u><br>(Brussels) |
| Evaluation:                                 | October - December 2026                               |
| Information on evaluation results:          | January 2027  |
| GA signature:                               | February-March 2027                                   |

## 5. Admissibility and documents

Proposals must be submitted before the **call deadline** (see *timetable section 4*).

Proposals must be submitted **electronically** via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System (accessible via the Topic page in the [Calls for proposals](#) section). Paper submissions are NOT possible.

Proposals (including annexes and supporting documents) must be submitted using the forms provided *inside* the Submission System (⚠ NOT the documents available on the Topic page — they are only for information).

Proposals must be **complete** and contain all the requested information and all required annexes and supporting documents:

- Application Form Part A — contains administrative information about the participants (future coordinator, beneficiaries and affiliated entities) and the summarised budget for the project (*to be filled in directly online*)
- Application Form Part B — contains the technical description of the project (*template to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed, assembled and re-uploaded*)
- **mandatory annexes and supporting documents** (*templates to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed, assembled and re-uploaded*):
  - detailed budget table/calculator: not applicable
  - CVs (standard) of core project team
  - activity reports of last year
  - list of previous projects (key projects for the last 5 years) (*template available in Part B*).

At proposal submission, you will have to confirm that you have the **mandate to act** for all applicants. Moreover, you will have to confirm that the information in the application is correct and complete and that all participants comply with the conditions for receiving EU funding (*especially eligibility, financial and operational capacity, exclusion, etc*). Before signing the grant, each beneficiary and affiliated entity will have to confirm this again by signing a declaration of honour (DoH). Proposals without full support will be rejected.

Your application must be **readable, accessible and printable** (please check carefully the layout of the documents uploaded).

Proposals are limited to maximum **40 pages** (Part B). Evaluators will not consider any additional pages. Shorter proposals are welcome.

You may be asked at a later stage for further documents (*for legal entity validation, financial capacity check, bank account validation, etc*).

- For more information about the submission process (including IT aspects), consult the [Online Manual](#).

## 6. Eligibility

### Eligible participants (eligible countries)

In order to be eligible, the applicants (beneficiaries and affiliated entities) must:

- be legal entities (public or private bodies)
- be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.:
  - EU Member States (including overseas countries and territories (OCTs))
  - non-EU countries:
    - listed EEA countries and countries associated to the ESF+ ([list of participating countries](#)), or
    - countries which are in ongoing negotiations for an association agreement and where the agreement enters into force before grant signature.

The single applicant or the lead applicant in case of a consortium must be:

- either the established legal entity of an investment fund, or a Fund-of-Funds, or a special purpose vehicle, in any form, or a (co-)investment scheme of any form.
- or the organisation managing a ready to be established investment fund, Fund-of-Funds, the special purpose vehicle, or the (co-) investment scheme, of any form. In this case and for the avoidance of doubt, the managing organisation must be already established and registered as legal entity at the time of the submission of the application.

Beneficiaries and affiliated entities must register in the [Participant Register](#) — before submitting the proposal — and will have to be validated by the Central Validation Service (REA Validation). For the validation, they will be requested to upload documents showing legal status and origin.

Other entities may participate in other consortium roles, such as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions, etc (*see section 13*).

### *Specific cases and definitions*

Exceptional funding — Entities from countries mentioned in the work programme (if any) are only exceptionally eligible, if the granting authority considers their participation essential for the implementation of the action.

Natural persons — Natural persons are NOT eligible (with the exception of self-employed persons, i.e. sole traders, where the company does not have legal personality separate from that of the natural person).

International organisations — International organisations are NOT eligible.

Entities without legal personality — Entities which do not have legal personality under their national law may exceptionally participate, provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf, and offer guarantees for the protection of the EU financial interests equivalent to that offered by legal persons<sup>15</sup>.

EU bodies — EU bodies (with the exception of the European Commission Joint Research Centre) can NOT be part of the consortium.

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<sup>15</sup> See Article 200(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2024/2509](#).

Associations and interest groupings — Entities composed of members may participate as 'sole beneficiaries' or 'beneficiaries without legal personality'<sup>16</sup>. ⚠️ Please note that if the action will be implemented by the members, they should also participate (either as beneficiaries or as affiliated entities, otherwise their costs will NOT be eligible).

Social partner organisations — These include notably the European social partner organisations that are consulted in accordance with Article 154 TFEU (for the list, see [List of consulted organisations](#)) as well as other European-level social partner organisations that are not included in this list, but who are for example involved in the preparation and launch of European social dialogue at sector level. Social partner organisations without legal personality are eligible provided that the conditions for entities without legal personality (*see above*) are met.

Countries currently negotiating association agreements — Beneficiaries from countries with ongoing negotiations for participation in the programme (*see list of participating countries above*) may participate in the call and can sign grants if the negotiations are concluded before grant signature and if the association covers the call (i.e. is retroactive and covers both the part of the programme and the year when the call was launched).

EU restrictive measures — Special rules apply for entities subject to [EU restrictive measures](#) under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)<sup>17</sup>. Such entities are not eligible to participate in any capacity, including as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any).

EU conditionality measures — Special rules apply for entities subject to measures adopted on the basis of EU Regulation 2020/2092<sup>18</sup>. Such entities are not eligible to participate in any funded role (beneficiaries, affiliated entities, subcontractors, recipients of financial support to third parties, etc). Currently no such measures are in place.

 For more information, see [Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment](#)

### *Consortium composition*

Both applications by single applicants (single beneficiaries) and consortia are allowed. In the latter case, all members of the consortium shall comply with the eligibility criteria spelled out in Section 6.

### *Eligible activities*

Applications will only be considered eligible if their content corresponds wholly to the general objective of the call.

Eligible activities are the ones set out in section 2 above.

Projects must comply with EU policy interests and priorities (*such as environment, social, security, industrial and trade policy, etc*). Projects must also respect EU values and European Commission policy regarding reputational matters (*e.g. activities involving capacity building, policy support, awareness raising, communication, dissemination, etc*).

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<sup>16</sup> For the definitions, see Articles 190(2) and 200(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2024/2509](#).

<sup>17</sup> Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the [EU Sanctions Map](#).

<sup>18</sup> Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2092 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on a general regime of conditionality for the protection of the Union budget (OJ L 325, 20.12.2022, p. 94).

Financial support to third parties is **not allowed**.

#### Geographic location (target countries)

Proposals must relate to activities taking place in the eligible countries (*see above*).

#### Duration

Projects should normally range between 36 and 48 months.

Extensions are possible, if duly justified and through an amendment.

#### Project budget

Project budgets (requested grant amount) are expected to range between **EUR 400 000** and **EUR 750 000** per project.

This does not however preclude the submission/selection of proposals requesting other amounts. The grant awarded may be lower than the amount requested.

As an indication, the overall support request for the transaction costs should not exceed 10% of the total expected investment portfolio in social enterprises and mission-driven enterprises. For applicants with average investment ticket of less than EUR 300 000, the support request should not exceed 15% of the total expected investment portfolio.

## **7. Financial and operational capacity and exclusion**

#### Financial capacity

Applicants must have **stable and sufficient resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share. Organisations participating in several projects must have sufficient capacity to implement all projects.

The financial capacity check will be carried out on the basis of the documents you will be requested to upload in the [Participant Register](#) during grant preparation (*e.g. profit and loss account and balance sheet, business plan, audit report produced by an approved external auditor, certifying the accounts for the last closed financial year, etc*). The analysis will be based on neutral financial indicators, but will also take into account other aspects, such as dependency on EU funding and deficit and revenue in previous years.

The check will normally be done for all beneficiaries, except:

- public bodies (entities established as public body under national law, including local, regional or national authorities) or international organisations
- if the individual requested grant amount is not more than EUR 60 000.

If needed, it may also be done for affiliated entities.

If we consider that your financial capacity is not satisfactory, we may require:

- further information
- an enhanced financial responsibility regime, i.e. joint and several responsibility for all beneficiaries or joint and several liability of affiliated entities (*see below, section 10*)
- prefinancing paid in instalments
- (one or more) prefinancing guarantees (*see below, section 10*)

or

- propose no prefinancing
- request that you are replaced or, if needed, reject the entire proposal.

**i** For more information, see [Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment](#).

### Operational capacity

Applicants must have the **know-how, qualifications** and **resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share (including sufficient experience in projects of comparable size and nature).

This capacity will be assessed together with the 'Quality' award criterion, on the basis of the competence and experience of the applicants and their project teams, including operational resources (human, technical and other) or, exceptionally, the measures proposed to obtain it by the time the task implementation starts.

Applicants will have to show their capacity via the following information:

- general profiles (qualifications and experiences) of the staff responsible for managing and implementing the project (CVs of the proposed the persons who will perform the main tasks, notably project manager and key personnel)
- description of the consortium participants
- applicants' activity reports of last year
- list of previous projects (key projects for the last 5 years) (*template available in Part B*).

Additional supporting documents may be requested, if needed to confirm the operational capacity of any applicant.

Public bodies, Member State organisations and international organisations are exempted from the operational capacity check.

### Exclusion

Applicants which are subject to an **EU exclusion decision** or in one of the following **exclusion situations** that bar them from receiving EU funding can NOT participate<sup>19</sup>:

- bankruptcy, winding up, affairs administered by the courts, arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or other similar procedures (including procedures for persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- in breach of social security or tax obligations (including if done by persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- guilty of grave professional misconduct<sup>20</sup> (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)

<sup>19</sup> See Articles 138 and 143 of EU Financial Regulation [2024/2509](#).

<sup>20</sup> 'Professional misconduct' includes, in particular, the following: violation of ethical standards of the profession; wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility; breach of generally accepted professional ethical standards; false declarations/misrepresentation of information; participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition; violation of IPR; attempting to influence decision-making processes by taking advantage, through misrepresentation, of a conflict of interests, or to obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain an advantage; incitement to discrimination, hatred

- committed fraud, corruption, links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant) making or control
- guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of EU Regulation [2988/95](#) (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)making or control
- created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin or created another entity with this purpose (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- intentionally and without proper justification resisted<sup>21</sup> an investigation, check or audit carried out by an EU authorising officer (or their representative or auditor), OLAF, the EPPO, or the European Court of Auditors.

Applicants will also be rejected if it turns out that<sup>22</sup>:

- during the award procedure they misrepresented information required as a condition for participating or failed to supply that information
- they were previously involved in the preparation of the call and this entails a distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise (conflict of interest).

## 8. Evaluation and award procedure

The proposals will have to follow the **standard submission and evaluation procedure** (one-stage submission + one-step evaluation).

An **evaluation committee** will assess all applications. Proposals will first be checked for formal requirements (admissibility, and eligibility, *see sections 5 and 6*). Proposals found admissible and eligible will be evaluated against the operational capacity and award criteria (*see sections 7 and 9*) and then ranked according to their scores.

For proposals with the same score a **priority order** will be determined according to the following approach:

Successively for every group of *ex aequo* proposals, starting with the highest scored group, and continuing in descending order:

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or violence or similar activities contrary to the EU values where negatively affecting or risking to affect the performance of a legal commitment.

<sup>21</sup> 'Resisting an investigation, check or audit' means carrying out actions with the goal or effect of preventing, hindering or delaying the conduct of any of the activities needed to perform the investigation, check or audit, such as refusing to grant the necessary access to its premises or any other areas used for business purposes, concealing or refusing to disclose information or providing false information.

<sup>22</sup> See Article 143 EU Financial Regulation [2024/2509](#).

- 1) Projects focusing on a theme that is not otherwise covered by higher ranked projects will be considered to have the highest priority.
- 2) The ex aequo proposals within the same topic will be prioritised according to the scores they have been awarded for the award criterion 'Relevance'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on their scores for the criterion 'Impact'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on their scores for the criterion 'Quality'.
- 3) If this does not allow to determine the priority, a further prioritisation can be done by considering the overall project portfolio and the creation of positive synergies between projects, or other factors related to the objectives of the call. These factors will be documented in the panel report.
- 4) After that, the remainder of the available call budget will be used to fund projects across the different topics in order to ensure a balanced spread of the geographical and thematic coverage and while respecting to the maximum possible extent the order of merit based on the evaluation of the award criteria.

All proposals will be informed about the evaluation result (**evaluation result letter**). Successful proposals will be invited for grant preparation; the other ones will be put on the reserve list or rejected.

 No commitment for funding — Invitation to grant preparation does NOT constitute a formal commitment for funding. We will still need to make various legal checks before grant award: *legal entity validation, financial capacity, exclusion check, etc.*

**Grant preparation** will involve a dialogue in order to fine-tune technical or financial aspects of the project and may require extra information from your side. It may also include adjustments to the proposal to address recommendations of the evaluation committee or other concerns. Full compliance will be a pre-condition for signing the grant.

If you believe that the evaluation procedure was flawed, you can submit a **complaint** (following the deadlines and procedures set out in the evaluation result letter). Please note that notifications which have not been opened within 10 days after sending will be considered to have been accessed and that deadlines will be counted from opening/access (see also [Funding & Tenders Portal Terms and Conditions](#)). Please also be aware that for complaints submitted electronically, there may be character limitations.

## 9. Award criteria

The **award criteria** for this call are as follows:

1. **Relevance:** relevance, clarity and consistency of the purpose of the proposal, objectives and planning; extent to which the proposal matches the key objective of the call; contribution to enabling access to finance for social enterprises and mission-driven enterprises; European dimension and innovative potential; contribution to support emerging social finance markets and potential to develop cross-border investments (**Max. 30 points**).
2. **Quality:**
  - a. **Project design and implementation:** technical quality; logical links between the targeted social finance market(s) failure(s) and the solution(s) proposed; project implementation methodology (concept, management, procedures, timetable, risks and risk management, monitoring and evaluation); feasibility of the actions within the proposed

time frame; cost effectiveness (sufficient/ appropriate budget for proper implementation; best value for money) **(Max. 30 points)**

- b. **Project team and cooperation arrangements:** quality of the applicant or the consortium and expertise of the project team; appropriate procedures and problem-solving mechanisms for cooperating within the project teams and/or consortium **(Max. 15 points)**

**3. Impact:** ambition and expected long-term impact of results on target groups (social enterprises, mission-driven enterprises, investors, national/regional authorities, general public); dissemination strategy for ensuring visibility of the expected impact of the project; sustainability of the results after EU funding ends (including structural reduction of transaction costs for next investment operations); added-value of the grant support for implementing the proposed activities (going beyond the applicant’s baseline activities); links and/or synergies with InvestEU **(Max. 25 points)**

| Award criteria                                      | Minimum pass score | Maximum score |
|---|--------------------|---------------|
| Relevance   | 21                 | 30            |
| Quality – Project design and implementation         | 21                 | 30            |
| Quality – Project team and cooperation arrangements | 10                 | 15            |
| Impact  | 18                 | 25            |
| <b>Overall (pass) scores</b>                        | <b>70</b>          | <b>100</b>    |

Maximum points: 100 points.

Individual thresholds per criterion: 21/30, 21/30, 10/15 and 18/25 points.

Overall threshold: 70 points.

Proposals that pass the individual thresholds AND the overall threshold will be considered for funding – within the limits of the available budget (i.e. up to the budget ceiling). Other proposals will be rejected.

## 10. Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements

If you pass evaluation, your project will be invited for grant preparation, where you will be asked to prepare the Grant Agreement together with the EU Project Officer.

This Grant Agreement will set the framework for your grant and its terms and conditions, in particular concerning deliverables, reporting and payments.

The Model Grant Agreement that will be used (and all other relevant templates and guidance documents) can be found on [Portal Reference Documents](#).

### Milestones and deliverables

Milestones and deliverables need to be included in the proposals and spread throughout the project life-cycle.


The milestones and deliverables for each project will be managed through the Portal Grant Management System and will be reflected in Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement.

Beneficiaries in ESF+ EaSI projects will have to ask attendees in activities/events to participate in an EU survey to provide policy feedback. This survey allows the granting authority to closely monitor training, mutual learning and awareness-raising events. The beneficiaries will receive a weblink to the survey, to be forwarded to the attendees. There are 3 available options for the dissemination level of your deliverables:

- **Public** — fully open (automatically posted online on the Project Results platforms)
- **Sensitive** — limited (not public) under the conditions of the Grant Agreement
- **EU classified** (EUCI) – under Decision 2015/444

EU classified is not necessary under ESF+ EaSI programme, therefore you should only use Public and Sensitive. All main deliverables demonstrating progress in the implementation of the project as well as all results generated from it must be **public**. In few exceptional cases, some deliverables that originate from the internal management systems of the beneficiary might remained “sensitive”.

Please double check if your “public” deliverables can really be published on the Portal (a signed attendance list should not be public for instance) and modify the dissemination level if necessary.

 After the end of your project, you will moreover be contacted to participate in the EaSI Stakeholder Survey. Please take the time to complete this form since it allows us to collect feedback and measure the impact of EaSI projects, and thus to ensure continued EU funding for these type of actions.

#### Starting date and project duration

The project starting date and duration will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 1*). Normally the starting date will be after grant signature. A retroactive starting date can be granted exceptionally for duly justified reasons — but never earlier than the proposal submission date.

Project duration: *see section 6 above*.

#### Form of grant, funding rate and maximum grant amount

The grant parameters (*maximum grant amount, funding rate, total eligible costs, etc*) will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 3 and art 5*).

Project budget (requested grant amount): *see section 6 above*.

The grant will be a budget-based mixed actual cost grant (actual costs, with unit cost and flat-rate elements). This means that it will reimburse ONLY certain types of costs (eligible costs) and costs that were *actually* incurred for your project (NOT the *budgeted* costs). For unit costs and flat-rates, you can charge the amounts calculated as explained in the Grant Agreement (*see art 6 and Annex 2 and 2a*).

The costs will be reimbursed at the funding rate fixed in the Grant Agreement (**80%**).

Grants may NOT produce a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + EU grant over costs). For-profit organisations must declare their revenues and, if there is a profit, we will deduct it from the final grant amount (*see art 22.3*).

Moreover, please be aware that the final grant amount may be reduced in case of non-compliance with the Grant Agreement (*e.g. improper implementation, breach of obligations, etc*).

### Budget categories and cost eligibility rules

The budget categories and cost eligibility rules are fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 3, art 6 and Annex 2*).

#### *Budget categories for this call:*

- A. Personnel costs
  - A.1 Employees,
  - A.2 Natural persons under direct contract,
  - A.3 Seconded persons
- B. Subcontracting costs
- C. Purchase costs
  - C.1 Travel and subsistence
  - C.2 Equipment
  - C.3 Other goods, works and services
- D. Other cost categories
  - D.1 Financial support to third parties – **Not applicable**
- E. Indirect costs

#### *Specific cost eligibility conditions for this call:*

- personnel costs:
  - SME owner/natural person unit cost<sup>23</sup>: No
  - volunteers unit cost<sup>24</sup>: No
- travel and subsistence unit cost<sup>25</sup>: -Yes<sup>26</sup>
- equipment costs: depreciation
- indirect cost flat-rate: 7% of the eligible direct costs (categories A-D, except volunteers costs and exempted specific cost categories, if any)
- VAT: non-deductible/non-refundable VAT is eligible (but please note that since 2013 VAT paid by beneficiaries that are public bodies acting as public authority is NOT eligible)
- other:
  - in-kind contributions for free are allowed, but cost-neutral, i.e. they cannot be declared as cost
  - project websites: communication costs for presenting the project on the participants' websites or social media accounts are eligible; costs for *separate* project websites are not eligible.

<sup>23</sup> Commission [Decision](#) of 30 July 2024 authorising the use of unit costs for the personnel costs of the owners of small and medium-sized enterprises and beneficiaries that are natural persons not receiving a salary for the work carried out by themselves under an action or work programme (C(2024)5328).

<sup>24</sup> Commission [Decision](#) of 10 April 2019 authorising the use of unit costs for declaring personnel costs for the work carried out by volunteers under an action or a work programme (C(2019)2646).

<sup>25</sup> Commission [Decision](#) of 31 July 2024 authorising the use of unit costs for travel, accommodation and subsistence costs under an action or work programme under the 2021-2027 multi-annual financial framework (C(2024)5405).

<sup>26</sup> See [EU Grants AGA – Annotated Grant Agreement](#), art 6 on eligible costs: travel and subsistence costs must be declared using the unit cost according to Annex 2a of the grant agreement. If a particular instance of travel, accommodation or subsistence in the action is not covered by one of the unit costs mentioned in Decision C(2021)35 the actual costs may be used.

### Reporting and payment arrangements

The reporting and payment arrangements are fixed in the Grant Agreement (Data Sheet, point 4 and art 21 and 22).

Payment of the grant is generally made in prefinancing instalments and a final payment (the balance).


The aim of the prefinancing is to provide the beneficiaries with a float. The prefinancing remains the property of the EU until the payment of the balance. The frequency and size of prefinancing will depend upon the project duration but may be adjusted in case of risk:

- **actions of 12 months:** one prefinancing payment of 70% paid within 30 days from the entry into force of the grant agreement or after receiving the financial guarantee (if required), whichever is the latest
- **actions between 12 and 24 months:** prefinancing payments linked to annual reporting periods will be made as follows:
  - an initial prefinancing payment of 40% paid within 30 days from the entry into force of the grant agreement or after receiving the financial guarantee (if required), whichever is the latest
  - a second prefinancing of 40% after receiving an additional prefinancing report. Where the consumption of the previous prefinancing is less than 70%, the amount of the new prefinancing payment will be reduced by the difference between the 70% ceiling and the amount used
- **actions between 24 and 36 months:** prefinancing payments linked to annual reporting periods will be made as follows:
  - an initial prefinancing payment of 30% paid within 30 days from the entry into force of the grant agreement or after receiving the financial guarantee (if required), whichever is the latest
  - a second and third prefinancing of 40% and 20% after receiving additional prefinancing reports. Where the consumption of the previous prefinancing is less than 70%, the amount of the new prefinancing payment will be reduced by the difference between the 70% ceiling and the amount used.
- **actions between 36 and 48 months:** prefinancing payments linked to annual reporting periods will be made as follows:
  - an initial prefinancing payment of 40% paid within 30 days from the entry into force of the grant agreement or after receiving the financial guarantee (if required), whichever is the latest
  - a second and third prefinancing of 30% and 20% after receiving additional prefinancing reports. Where the consumption of the previous prefinancing is less than 70%, the amount of the new prefinancing payment will be reduced by the difference between the 70% ceiling and the amount used.

There will be no interim payments.

**Payment of the balance:** At the end of the project, we will calculate your final grant amount. If the total of earlier payments is higher than the final grant amount, we will ask you (your coordinator) to pay back the difference (recovery).

All payments will be made to the coordinator.

 Please be aware that payments will be automatically lowered if you or one of your consortium members has outstanding debts towards the EU (granting authority or other EU bodies). Such debts will be offset by us — in line with the conditions set out in the Grant Agreement (*see art 22*).

Please also note that you are responsible for **keeping records** on all the work done and the costs declared.

### Prefinancing guarantees

If a prefinancing guarantee is required, it will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 4*). The amount will be set during grant preparation and it will normally be equal or lower than the prefinancing for your grant.

The guarantee should be in euro and issued by an approved bank/financial institution established in an EU Member State. If you are established in a non-EU country and would like to provide a guarantee from a bank/financial institution in your country, please contact us (this may be exceptionally accepted, if it offers equivalent security).

Amounts blocked in bank accounts will NOT be accepted as financial guarantees.

Prefinancing guarantees are normally requested from the coordinator, for the consortium. They must be provided during grant preparation, in time to make the prefinancing (scanned copy via Portal AND original by post).

If agreed with us, the bank guarantee may be replaced by a guarantee from a third party.

The guarantee will be released at the end of the grant, in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Grant Agreement (*art 23*).

### Certificates

Depending on the type of action, size of grant amount and type of beneficiaries, you may be requested to submit different certificates. The types, schedules and thresholds for each certificate are fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 4 and art 24*).

### Liability regime for recoveries

The liability regime for recoveries will be fixed in the Grant Agreement (*Data Sheet, point 4.4 and art 22*).

For beneficiaries, it is one of the following:

- limited joint and several liability with individual ceilings — *each beneficiary up to their maximum grant amount*
- unconditional joint and several liability — *each beneficiary up to the maximum grant amount for the action*

or

- individual financial responsibility — *each beneficiary only for their own debts.*

In addition, the granting authority may require joint and several liability of affiliated entities (with their beneficiary).

### Provisions concerning the project implementation

IPR rules: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 16 and Annex 5)*:

- rights of use on results: Yes

Communication, dissemination and visibility of funding: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 17 and Annex 5):*

- additional communication and dissemination activities: Yes

Specific rules for carrying out the action: *see Model Grant Agreement (art 18 and Annex 5):*

- specific rules for ESF+ actions: Yes
- specific rules for financial support to third parties: No

### Other specificities

Consortium agreement: No

### Non-compliance and breach of contract

The Grant Agreement (chapter 5) provides for the measures we may take in case of breach of contract (and other non-compliance issues).

 For more information, see [AGA – Annotated Grant Agreement](#).

## **11. How to submit an application**

All proposals must be submitted directly online via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System. Paper applications are NOT accepted.

Submission is a **2-step process**:

### **a) create a user account and register your organisation**

To use the Submission System (the only way to apply), all participants need to [create an EU Login user account](#).

Once you have an EU Login account, you can [register your organisation](#) in the Participant Register. When your registration is finalised, you will receive a 9-digit participant identification code (PIC).

### **b) submit the proposal**

Access the Electronic Submission System via the Topic page in the [Calls for proposals](#) section (or, for calls sent by invitation to submit a proposal, through the link provided in the invitation letter).

Submit your proposal in 3 parts, as follows:

- Part A includes administrative information about the applicant organisations (future coordinator, beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners) and the summarised budget for the proposal. Fill it in directly online
- Part B (description of the action) covers the technical content of the proposal. Download the mandatory word template from the Submission System, fill it in and upload it as a PDF file
- Annexes (*see section 5*). Upload them as PDF file (single or multiple depending on the slots). Excel upload is sometimes possible, depending on the file type.

The proposal must keep to the **page limits** (*see section 5*); excess pages will be disregarded.

Documents must be uploaded to the **right category** in the Submission System, otherwise the proposal may be considered incomplete and thus inadmissible.

The proposal must be submitted **before the call deadline** (*see section 4*). After this deadline, the system is closed and proposals can no longer be submitted.

Once the proposal is submitted, you will receive a **confirmation e-mail** (with date and time of your application). If you do not receive this confirmation e-mail, it means your proposal has NOT been submitted. If you believe this is due to a fault in the Submission System, you should immediately file a complaint via the [IT Helpdesk webform](#), explaining the circumstances and attaching a copy of the proposal (and, if possible, screenshots to show what happened).

Details on processes and procedures are described in the [Online Manual](#). The Online Manual also contains the links to FAQs and detailed instructions regarding the Portal Electronic Exchange System.

## 12. Help

As far as possible, **please try to find the answers you need yourself**, in this and the other documentation (we have limited resources for handling direct enquiries):

- [Online Manual](#)
- Topic Q&A on the Topic page (for call-specific questions in open calls; not applicable for actions by invitation)
- [Portal FAQ](#) (for general questions).

Please also consult the Topic page regularly, since we will use it to publish call updates. (For invitations, we will contact you directly in case of a call update).

### Contact

For individual questions on the Portal Submission System, please contact the [IT Helpdesk](#).

Non-IT related questions should be sent to the following email address:

- general questions on ESF+: EMPL-EaSI@ec.europa.eu
- call-specific questions: EMPL-SOCIAL-ENTERPRISE@ec.europa.eu

 Please:

- send your questions at the latest 7 days before the submission deadline (*see section 4*)
- indicate clearly the reference of the call and topic to which your question relates (*see cover page*).

### 13. Important



#### IMPORTANT

- **Don't wait until the end** — Complete your application sufficiently in advance of the deadline to avoid any last minute **technical problems**. Problems due to last minute submissions (*e.g. congestion, etc*) will be entirely at your risk. Call deadlines can NOT be extended.
- **Consult** the Portal Topic page regularly. We will use it to publish updates and additional information on the call (call and topic updates).
- **Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Exchange System** — By submitting the application, all participants **accept** to use the electronic exchange system in accordance with the [Portal Terms & Conditions](#).
- **Registration** — Before submitting the application, all beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners must be registered in the [Participant Register](#). The participant identification code (PIC) (one per participant) is mandatory for the Application Form.
- **Consortium roles** — When setting up your consortium, you should think of organisations that help you reach objectives and solve problems.

The roles should be attributed according to the level of participation in the project. Main participants should participate as **beneficiaries** or **affiliated entities**; other entities can participate as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions. **Associated partners** and third parties giving in-kind contributions should bear their own costs (they will not become formal recipients of EU funding). **Subcontracting** should normally constitute a limited part and must be performed by third parties (not by one of the beneficiaries/affiliated entities). Subcontracting going beyond 30% of the total eligible costs must be justified in the application.

- **Coordinator** — In multi-beneficiary grants, the beneficiaries participate as consortium (group of beneficiaries). They will have to choose a coordinator, who will take care of the project management and coordination and will represent the consortium towards the granting authority. In mono-beneficiary grants, the single beneficiary will automatically be coordinator.
- **Affiliated entities** — Applicants may participate with affiliated entities (i.e. entities linked to a beneficiary which participate in the action with similar rights and obligations as the beneficiaries, but do not sign the grant and therefore do not become beneficiaries themselves). They will get a part of the grant money and must therefore comply with all the call conditions and be validated (just like beneficiaries); but they do not count towards the minimum eligibility criteria for consortium composition (if any). If affiliated entities participate in your project, please do not forget to provide documents demonstrating their affiliation link to your organisation as part of your application.
- **Associated partners** — Applicants may participate with associated partners (i.e. partner organisations which participate in the action but without the right to get grant money). They participate without funding and therefore do not need to be validated.
- **Consortium agreement** — For practical and legal reasons it is recommended to set up internal arrangements that allow you to deal with exceptional or unforeseen circumstances (in all cases, even if not mandatory under the Grant Agreement). The consortium agreement also gives you the possibility to redistribute the grant money according to your own consortium-internal principles and parameters (for instance, one beneficiary can reattribute its grant money to another beneficiary). The consortium agreement thus allows you to customise the EU grant to the needs inside your consortium and can also help to protect you in case of disputes.

- **Balanced project budget** — Grant applications must ensure a balanced project budget and sufficient other resources to implement the project successfully (*e.g. own contributions, income generated by the action, financial contributions from third parties, etc*). You may be requested to lower your estimated costs, if they are ineligible (including excessive).
- **Completed/ongoing projects** — Proposals for projects that have already been completed will be rejected; proposals for projects that have already started will be assessed on a case-by-case basis (in this case, no costs can be reimbursed for activities that took place before the project starting date/proposal submission).
- **No-profit rule** — Grants may NOT give a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + EU grant over costs). This will be checked by us at the end of the project.
- **No cumulation of funding/no double funding** — It is strictly prohibited to cumulate funding from the EU budget (except under 'EU Synergies actions'). Outside such Synergies actions, any given action may receive only ONE grant from the EU budget and cost items may under NO circumstances be declared under two EU grants; projects must be designed as different actions, clearly delineated and separated for each grant (without overlaps).
- **Combination with EU operating grants** — Combination with EU operating grants is possible, if the project remains outside the operating grant work programme and you make sure that cost items are clearly separated in your accounting and NOT declared twice (see [AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement, art 6.2.E](#)).
- **Multiple proposals** — Applicants may submit more than one proposal for *different* projects under the same call (and be awarded funding for them).  
Organisations may participate in several proposals.  
BUT: if there are several proposals for *very similar* projects, only one application will be accepted and evaluated; the applicants will be asked to withdraw the others (or they will be rejected).
- **Resubmission** — Proposals may be changed and re-submitted until the deadline for submission.
- **Rejection** — By submitting the application, all applicants accept the call conditions set out in this Call document (and the documents it refers to). Proposals that do not comply with all the call conditions will be rejected. This applies also to applicants: All applicants need to fulfil the criteria; if any one of them doesn't, they must be replaced or the entire proposal will be rejected.
- **Cancellation** — There may be circumstances which may require the cancellation of the call. In this case, you will be informed via a call or topic update. Please note that cancellations are without entitlement to compensation.
- **Language** — You can submit your proposal in any official EU language (project abstract/summary should however always be in English). For reasons of efficiency, we strongly advise you to use English for the entire application. If you need the call documentation in another official EU language, please submit a request within 10 days after call publication (for the contact information, see *section 12*).

- **Transparency** — In accordance with Article 38 of the [EU Financial Regulation](#), information about EU grants awarded is published each year on the [Europa website](#).

This includes:

- beneficiary names
- beneficiary addresses
- the purpose for which the grant was awarded
- the maximum amount awarded.

The publication can exceptionally be waived (on reasoned and duly substantiated request), if there is a risk that the disclosure could jeopardise your rights and freedoms under the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights or harm your commercial interests.

- **Data protection** — The submission of a proposal under this call involves the collection, use and processing of personal data. This data will be processed in accordance with the applicable legal framework. It will be processed solely for the purpose of evaluating your proposal, subsequent management of your grant and, if needed, programme monitoring, evaluation and communication. Details are explained in the [Funding & Tenders Portal Privacy Statement](#).