



European Social Fund+ (ESF) Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand

Call for proposals

Action grants to support EU networks active in the areas of social economy, social enterprise finance and microfinance

(ESF-2025-AG-NETW-MF-SE)

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CALL FOR PROPOSALS

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0. Introduction

This is a call for proposals for EU **action grants** in the field of social enterprise 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](#))¹
- the basic act (ESF+ Regulation [2021/1057](#))².

The call is launched in accordance with the 2025 Work Programme³ and will be managed by the **European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL)**.

The call covers the following **topic**:

- **ESF-2025-AG-NETW-MF-SE – Action grants to support EU Networks active in the areas of social economy and social finance**

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)
 - 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)

¹ 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).

² 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).

³ Commission Decision [C/2024/7778](#) final of 11 November 2024 concerning the adoption of the work programme for 2025 and the financing decision for the implementation of the Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) strand of the ESF+.

- 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 provides under Article 25:

- par. (g) 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,
- par. (e) to support the development of the market ecosystem around the provision of microfinance to microenterprises in start-up and development phases, in particular those that are created by or employ people in vulnerable situations,
- par. (f) to support networking at Union level and dialogue with and among relevant stakeholders in the policy areas set out in Article 4(1) and contribute to build up the institutional capacity of involved stakeholders, including (...) civil society, microfinance institutions and institutions providing finance to social enterprises and the social economy.

Moreover, 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, support the development of the social economy, and boost its social and economic transformative power. Enhanced support to the social economy not only creates jobs and social inclusion, but also allows organisations to increase their social impact across the EU.

In addition, social enterprises and social economy entities - thanks to their governance and social mission - are instrumental in the implementation of many of the rights and principles expressed in the European Pillar of Social Rights. Social economy entities and microenterprises⁴ can contribute towards achieving the specific objectives of the ESF+⁵ 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

⁴ For the purposes of this call "microenterprises" also includes individual microentrepreneurs.

⁵ [ESF+ Regulation](#) - Article 4 - Specific objectives

and competitiveness", and "Supporting people, strengthening our societies and our social model".

Lessons from previous EU support actions

Since 2017 DG EMPL has supported a number of EU level networks (representing social economy and social finance stakeholders) via Framework Partnership Agreements (FPAs) and corresponding operating grants with annual work programmes.

While these partnership agreements and operating grants provided the networks with some level of predictability and reliability, setting up annual work programmes, they also came with a recurring burden to go through the related procedures each year. This administrative burden in the application phase and the reporting requirements were judged too heavy by the beneficiaries, as per the EaSI ex-post evaluation.

With the move from operating grants to action grants, the successful applicants will have a medium, three-year, term horizon to plan their activities and operate. This should allow for more flexibility in the implementation of the activities, simplifying staff management and allowing for longer-term contracting. Action grants allowing also for multi-beneficiary grants, this could further facilitate the collaboration between applicants.

In addition, action grants will offer the possibility to give (small) grants to third party recipients. This corresponds to a demand from previous grant recipients which could not be satisfied under operating grants.

2. Objectives — Themes and priorities — Activities that can be funded — Expected impact

Objectives (expected outcome)

This call aims to support the development of social economy and social finance in Europe. The action grants will contribute to building up the institutional capacity of stakeholders delivering support to social economy entities (i.e. cooperatives, social enterprises, mutual benefit societies, associations and foundations), as well as those supporting the development of social finance (i.e. microfinance, social enterprise finance and social impact investing). in Europe. The beneficiaries under this call are expected to: (a) support the Commission in its outreach activities at EU, national and local levels, with the aim of ensuring awareness, contributing to and helping with the implementation of EU level policies and initiatives in the areas of the call, (b) increase the beneficiaries' and their members' capacity to contribute to policy design at EU, national and local levels, (c) provide analytical expertise and data as regards the potential, needs, barriers and opportunities faced by organisations active in the areas of the call.

The successful applicants are expected to work in close partnership with the European Commission, especially with DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, in the areas of the call.

The call will support the Commission in 2 main areas:

- A) Implementation of the Social Economy Action Plan (SEAP), adopted on 9 December 2021, and other EU level initiatives relevant for the **social economy**, in particular the implementation of the 2023 Council recommendation on social economy framework conditions in the EU Member States (C/2023/1344 of 27

November 2023), that promotes the role of the social economy for employment, social inclusion and social innovation.

- B) actions aimed at enabling **access to finance** for social enterprises, microenterprises and enterprises driven by social impact (hereafter “impact-driven enterprises”). The call will also support the implementation of the InvestEU funding programme in the areas covered by the call.

The call encourages synergies and joint work between EU-level networks active in the areas of the call. It also encourages the involvement of research entities in order to improve the availability and policy relevance of research and data.

Social economy entities, impact-driven enterprises and microenterprises are instrumental in the implementation of many of the European Pillar of Social Rights principles. In particular they play a key role in delivering on the following principles:

01. Education, training and life-long learning,
02. Gender equality,
03. Equal opportunities,
04. Active support to employment,
05. Secure and adaptable employment,
09. Work-life balance,
11. Childcare and support to children,
17. Inclusion of people with disabilities,
18. Long-term care,
19. Housing and assistance for the homeless and
20. Access to essential services.

To support the developments in this field, the Commission cooperates with EU level networks in its analytical and outreach activities at EU, national and local level.

The activities of the applicant in this action grant should contribute to at least 7 out of the following 9 main objectives, at EU, national and/or local levels (unless specified otherwise):

- Support the Commission in its outreach activities and policy goals in order to increase awareness among relevant stakeholders about EU policies and funding (such as the ESF+ and InvestEU) in the areas covered by the call.
- Advocate for social economy and/or social finance. (e.g. improving understanding of these business models and their needs among private and public finance providers, improving the policy environment, supporting the development of social economy representative networks in Member States, education and skills for social economy and social finance) and other topics with close links to social finance (e.g. improving research on social impact measurement and management).
- Provide input for policy design and implementation in the areas covered by the call, by voicing the concerns and expectations of social economy entities as well as of entities benefiting from or seeking support from social finance in Europe, as well as social finance providers.
- Work to directly contribute to the implementation of EU policies and funding in the areas covered by the call and act as multipliers.

- Contribute to the implementation of the Council recommendation on developing social economy framework conditions, notably to the development and implementation of national and regional strategies for the social economy.
- Further develop social economy representative networks, in particular in EU Member States where social enterprises and social economy ecosystems are not developed to their full potential.
- Provide data/research on developments in the field of development of social finance and social economy, which can serve as input for evidence-based policy making.
- Reinforce the capacity of networks operating in the areas covered by the call and their members in the eligible countries, offering a platform for mutual learning, the exchange and replication of good practices, raising their awareness about relevant EU policies and supporting them to actively engage in promoting the social economy and developing national and local social economy and social finance markets.
- Strengthen cooperation with other EU-level networks, with and between national stakeholders, and with authorities at all levels (EU, national, regional, local)

Themes and priorities (scope)

The actions announced in the **SEAP** are currently being implemented. In the area of access to finance, the InvestEU programme and the European Social Fund Plus are providing financial and non-financial support to social enterprises, microenterprises and impact driven enterprises.

Other actions stemming from the SEAP will be implemented in 2026-2028 and can be relevant for the work of applicants. For example:

- The European Commission will continue to monitor the implementation of the **Social Economy Action Plan**. Applicants will be well placed to provide information on new developments at EU and national levels since the SEAP adoption.
- The Commission will monitor the implementation of the **Council Recommendation on developing social economy framework conditions**, notably the reporting after the adoption or update of strategies for the social economy in 2027. EU level networks, via their national members, are well placed to contribute to the reporting on developments following the adoption of strategies by Member States and to produce research to support evidence-based policy making.
- The Commission will continue its efforts to improve **access to finance** for social economy entities, microenterprises (in particular from disadvantaged/vulnerable groups), and impact-driven enterprises, through the InvestEU programme and the European Social Fund Plus.
- Regarding the **EU Social Economy Gateway**, launched in 2023, the Commission will seek to further develop the content for this portal with input from social economy stakeholders. Contributions will be particularly welcome on the events list, the stakeholder section “on the ground” and on the “topics in focus” section, depending on stakeholders’ area of activity.
- The Commission will continue to **raise awareness about relevant EU funding opportunities** on the Social Economy Gateway. Successful applicants may complement this effort by further informing and steering their members in regard to these opportunities. Moreover, EU networks may collect information and **raise awareness about national/regional funding opportunities for**

the social economy (e.g. Cohesion Policy funds); such opportunities can also be communicated to the Commission for further dissemination on the **Social Economy Gateway country pages**.

- Enabling the creation and development of **national and regional social economy representative networks**. Applicants will be well placed to provide capacity building and support towards this goal via their member organisations.
- Enhancing **recognition** of the social economy and its potential; the Commission will continue to support evidence-based policies, by mapping, collecting and analysing information on the social economy in all Member States. Applicants may be well placed to support the Commission in this work.

In addition, the European Commission will also work on new initiatives that will be relevant for social economy entities and for social finance providers. The Political Guidelines of the current Commission (2025-2029) contain in particular two priorities to which social economy and social finance have a lot to contribute: "A new plan for Europe's sustainable prosperity and competitiveness", and "Supporting people, strengthening our societies and our social model". Activities related to relevant initiatives and new funding opportunities under the next multiannual financial framework (MFF 2028-2034) can also be covered in the activities under this call.

The applicants' **proposals** should directly and concretely support the **implementation and awareness-raising** of the **European social economy action plan, initiatives to enable access to social finance** and of **other EU policy initiatives that are relevant to the core mission** of the applicants.

Activities that can be funded (scope)

This call will support networks at EU level whose activities contribute to the implementation of the above-mentioned objectives, priorities and initiatives.

The types of activities which may be funded under this call for proposals include:

- **Analytical activities**, such as (i) the collection of data and statistics, the development of common indicators and methodologies and, where appropriate, policy analyses and recommendations; (ii) the monitoring and assessment of relevant legislation, policies and practices; (iii) studies, research, analysis and surveys, for example, by gathering relevant evidence, especially from national and local levels, by mapping out existing gaps, and by contributing to ad hoc public or targeted consultations, to thematic strategic dialogue meetings and exchanges with Commission services. The focus can be put on broad overviews as well as on specific topics related to the areas covered by the call.
- Activities aiming at the **strengthening of EU-level networks** active in the areas covered by the call and at promoting **cooperation** between networks.
- Activities aiming at the **creation or strengthening of social economy representative networks and/or social finance networks in EU Member States** where social enterprises and social economy and social finance ecosystems are not developed to their full potential, esp. where currently no relevant networks at national level exist.
- Activities to foster **mutual learning, cooperation, and capacity building**, such as (i) trainings, workshops, seminars, train-the-trainer events, (ii) identification of, and exchanges on, good practices, innovative approaches and experiences; (iii) the organisation of peer reviews and mutual learning; (iv) the organisation of conferences, seminars, media campaigns, information campaigns, for example to

support Member States with the development, update or implementation of national or regional strategies for the social economy; (v) the development of training materials and modules and online training tools.

- Activities to foster **awareness-raising, outreach, communication and dissemination of information about social economy and/or social finance**, such as (i) creating communication and information material, for example about EU initiatives and their results, good practices, innovative approaches and experiences; (ii) dissemination of information via suitable channels, incl. websites, organising information campaigns, publications, regular targeted information (incl. on EU initiatives and funding); (iii) outreach activities such as stakeholder gatherings and events; (iv) providing a helpdesk for members and stakeholders; (v) drafting and reviewing content for relevant websites, such as the EU Social Economy Gateway.
- Activities aiming at **bringing together researchers** in the field of social economy and/or social finance **with social economy practitioners and/or policymakers** at various levels of governance to foster the understanding of the potential of the social economy and help devising adequate policy frameworks.
- Optional activity: **Small scale grants** (FSTP⁶ grants) to third party recipients to support organisational development (incl. setting up impact measurement and management), capacity building (incl. study visits) and/or awareness raising for and communication about the social economy and/or for/about social finance. The recipients of these grants need to be members of the EU Network as sole applicant or in case of a consortium, members of the coordinator or EU Network partner(s).

The activities should also enable the applicants to integrate **cross-cutting issues** (e.g. gender, disability, non-discrimination) into their day-to-day work.

Applicants are encouraged to **optimise the use of online/offline activities** taking into account the objectives of each activity, as well as environmental and health considerations. Possibilities offered by online activities to maximise impact should be utilised whenever possible (e.g. publicly available recorded webinars).

The action grants that will be granted under the call ESF-2025-AG-NETW-MF-SE would finance the expenditure linked to the activities of these networks, insofar as they are in line with the objectives of the Programme in the area concerned and with the priorities of the European Commission as defined in this call.

Expected impact

The Commission expects the successful applicants (EU networks and consortia of EU networks) to design and implement **relevant, quality and impactful work plans for 3 years (2026-2028) that fit the objectives and priorities** defined in the call. The work plan should clearly demonstrate the organisation's capacity to generate **concrete impact for all the activities the application suggests**.

The proposals should specify how the applicants intend to work in close partnership with the Commission Services.

Applicants are invited to:

- Provide a clear description of the main activities and implementation methodology;

⁶ FSTP stands for financial support for third parties.

- Describe the contribution and added value of the work plan to the EU policies in the area of this call;
- Describe their monitoring system and the way in which they use monitoring and evaluations in order to assess their overall performance and the relevance and impact of their outputs.

In particular, the expected impact is:

- Improved awareness about EU policies and funding for social economy, social enterprises, microenterprises and impact-driven enterprises (including under InvestEU and ESF+) among the network's members and other relevant stakeholders, as well as national authorities and policy makers;
- Increased awareness of EU and national / regional authorities about the needs and potential of organisations represented by the networks and the challenges they face;
- Increased capacity of the applicants/networks and their members to support policy making in their respective areas;
- Enhanced research and availability of data about the fields in which the networks operate.
- Increased efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of EU, national and regional strategies and policies on social economy and social finance through the increased involvement of successful applicants in the design and implementation of these strategies and policies.
- Reinforced cooperation between successful applicants in their work towards the objectives of this call.

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 13 300 000**.

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

Timetable and deadlines (indicative)	
Call opening:	06 March 2025
<u>Deadline for submission:</u>	<u>19 June 2025 – 17:00:00 CET</u> <u>(Brussels)</u>
Evaluation:	July- October 2025
Information on evaluation results:	November 2025
GA signature:	November – December 2025

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 [Search Funding & Tenders](#) 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 (*to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed and then assembled and re-uploaded*)
- **mandatory annexes and supporting documents** (*templates available to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed, assembled and re-uploaded*):
 - o detailed budget table/calculator: not applicable
 - o CVs (standard) of core project team
 - o activity report of last year
 - o list of previous projects (key projects relating to the subject of the call in the last 3 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 the 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**.

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

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

Both applications by single applicants (single beneficiary) and consortia are allowed.

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,
- be non-governmental or not-for-profit entities,
- be an EU-level network whose mission falls under the objectives of this call for proposals, or a research centre, network or entity affiliated with a university active at EU level in the fields of social economy.

Applications must cover at least 14 EU Member States and other EaSI strand associated countries, through the applicants' national member-organisations.

In case of a single beneficiary, the applicant must be:

- an EU Network having national member-organisations in at least 14 Member States of the European Union and EaSI strand associated countries.

In the case of a consortium, the coordinator must be:

- an EU Network having national member-organisations in at least 7 Member States of the European Union and EaSI strand associated countries.

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

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. The rules on eligible countries do not apply to them.

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 persons⁷.

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

Associations and interest groupings — Entities composed of members may participate as 'sole beneficiaries' or 'beneficiaries without legal personality'⁸. ⚠ 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)⁹. 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 2020/2092¹⁰. Such entities are not eligible to participate in any funded role (beneficiaries, affiliated entities, subcontractors, recipients of financial support to third parties, etc).



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

⁷ See Article 200(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2024/2509](#).

⁸ For the definitions, see Articles 190(2) and 200(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation [2024/2509](#).

⁹ 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](#).

¹⁰ 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).

Consortium composition

Applications by single applicants are allowed (single beneficiaries; affiliated entities and other participants are allowed).

In case of a single beneficiary, the applicant must be an EU Network having national member-organisations in at least 14 Member States of the European Union and EaSI strand associated countries.

Proposals can be submitted also by a consortium of at least two applicants (two independent applicants/beneficiaries).

In the case of a consortium, the coordinator must be an EU Network having national member-organisations in at least 7 Member States of the European Union and EaSI strand associated countries.

Eligible activities

Applications will only be considered eligible if their content corresponds wholly (or at least in part) to the topic description for which they are submitted.

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*).

Financial support to third parties is allowed for grants under the following conditions:

- the calls must be open, published widely and conform to EU standards concerning transparency, equal treatment, conflict of interest and confidentiality
- the outcome of the call must be published on the participants' websites, including a description of the selected projects, award dates, project durations, and final recipient legal names and countries
- the co-funding rate for the sub-grants can be up to 100% and needs to be defined by the applicant and described in the application

Financial support to third parties will be accepted in projects where the applicant(s)/ EU Network(s) identify(ies) a need to support its/their members to strengthen their organisational capacity and/or to increase awareness and communication about the social economy and/or social finance.

The project application must clearly specify why financial support to third parties is needed, how it will be managed and provide a list of the different types of activities for which a third party may receive financial support. The proposal must also clearly describe the results to be obtained.

Geographic location (target countries)

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

Duration

Projects should normally range between 30 and 36 months.

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

Project budget

Project budgets (maximum grant amount) are expected to range between EUR 500 000 and EUR 1 500 000 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.

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 these 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 one or more participants' 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 the participants are replaced or, if needed, reject the entire proposal.

 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, 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 operational capacity via the following information:

- general profiles (qualifications and experiences) of the staff responsible for managing and implementing the project (CVs of the proposed persons who will perform the main tasks, notably project manager and key personnel)
- description of the consortium participants
- applicants' activity reports of last year
- applicants' list of previous projects (key projects relating to the subject of the call in the last 3 years; *template available in Part B*)

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

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 participate¹¹:

- 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 misconduct¹² (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)
- 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

¹¹ See Articles 138 and 143 of EU Financial Regulation [2024/2509](#).

¹² '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 or violence or similar activities contrary to the EU values where negatively affecting or risking to affect the performance of a legal commitment.

- or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- 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)
 - 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 resisted¹³ 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 that¹⁴:


- 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.

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. 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

¹³ '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.

¹⁴ See Article 143 EU Financial Regulation [2024/2509](#).

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:

- **Relevance:** relevance, clarity and consistency of the purpose of the proposal, objectives and planning; extent to which they match the main objectives, themes and priorities of the call; contribution to the implementation of the SEAP and/or to enabling access to finance or to other relevant EU policies; European dimension and potential to develop cross-border cooperation; contribution to transnational mutual learning (Max. 30 points).
- **Quality:**
 - **Project design and implementation:** technical quality; logical links between the identified problems, needs and solutions proposed (logical frame concept); methodology for implementing the project (concept and methodology, 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)
 - **Project team and cooperation arrangements:** quality of the consortium and expertise of the project teams; appropriate procedures and problem-solving mechanisms for cooperating within the project teams and consortium (Max. 20 points)
- **Impact:** European/transnational impact of the EU network, activities and outputs; extent to which the programme and activities focus on EU, national and/or local reach out and implementation, ambition and relevance of expected long-term impact of results on target groups/general public; appropriate dissemination strategy; sustainability and long-term impact of the proposed actions; sustainability of results after EU funding ends; added value the grant support will provide in implementing the proposed activities, going beyond the applicant's baseline activities (Max. 20 points)

Award criteria	Minimum pass score	Maximum score
Relevance	21	30
Quality — Project design and implementation	21	30
Quality — Project team and cooperation arrangements	14	20
Impact	14	20
Overall (pass) scores	70	100

Maximum points: 100 points.

Individual thresholds per criterion: 21/30, 21/30, 14/20 and 14/20 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

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.

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 (maximum 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 (**85%**).

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
- E. Indirect costs

Specific cost eligibility conditions for this call:

- personnel costs:
 - SME owner/natural person unit cost¹⁵: No
 - volunteers unit cost¹⁶: No
- travel and subsistence unit cost¹⁷: Yes¹⁸
- equipment costs: depreciation
- other cost categories:
 - costs for financial support to third parties/EU network members: allowed for grants of a maximum amount, per third party, of EUR 60 000, the total amount allocated to this category must not exceed 10% of the overall budget of the grant and cannot be higher than EUR 150 000.
- **indirect cost flat-rate: 7% of the eligible direct costs** (categories A-D, except volunteers costs and exempted specific cost categories, if any)

¹⁵ 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).

¹⁶ 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).

¹⁷ 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).

¹⁸ 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.

- VAT: non-deductible 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
 - EU Synergies call: No
 - other ineligible costs: No

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.

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 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 to 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 limited joint and several liability with individual ceilings — *each beneficiary up to their maximum grant amount*.

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

n/a

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 [Search Funding & Tenders](#) 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 might 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. If you would like to nonetheless benefit from different EU funding opportunities, 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](#).