

#### Social economy and local green deals supporting SMEs to become more resilient SMP-COSME-2021-RESILIENCE

#### WEBINAR 29 October 2021

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#### Welcome!

- General information about the call for proposals
- Eligibility criteria and selection process
- Tips and recommendations
- Q&A



### Call ID

- SMP-COSME-2021-RESILIENCE: "Social economy and local green deals supporting SMEs to become more resilient" > <u>Call document</u>
  - SMP-COSME-2021-RESILIENCE-LGD Local Green Deals
  - SMP-COSME-2021-RESILIENCE-SEM Social Economy Missions for community resilience
- **Budget**: EUR 4,000,000 (EUR 2,000,000 per topic)
  - Maximum grant per project: EUR 200,000 >> 10 projects per topic
- Project duration: 12 or 18 or 24 months
- Electronic submission: Funding and tenders portal
- Deadline for submission of proposals: 24 November 2021,17:00 Brussels time



### Timeline

☆- 16 September 2021: Call published

- ↓ 28 September 2021: Call open for submission
- ↓ 24 November 2021: Deadline for submission of proposals
- December 2021 > February 2022: Evaluation period\*
- ↓ March 2021 > April 2022: Grant preparation and signature of GAs\*
- 01 May 2022: Start date\*
- $\sqrt{2}$  12/18/24 months: Implementation
- Start date + n months: Reporting and payment





## **Background and policy context**

- COVID-19 crisis > update of the <u>EU Industrial Strategy</u> on 5 May 2021
  > more sustainable, digital, resilient and competitive economy
- Proximity, social economy and civil security ecosystem > improving resilience by reinforcing local value chains and promoting citizens' engagement
- Building on Intelligent Cities Challenge & European Social Economy Regions (ESER) > reinforcing the green transition of local SMEs through:
  - local green deals
  - support the local social economy ecosystems



# **Objectives and topics of the call**

#### **Objectives:**

- Foster cross-city, transnational and interregional cooperation to reinforce the green transition of local SMEs and build capacity at local and regional level.
- Build partnerships across regions and cities for territorial resilience and economic growth through:
  - citizen's empowerment,
  - cities/local authorities' involvement,
  - local businesses and social economy enterprises participation.
- Topics:

**1) Local Green Deals (LGD)** > lead the twin green and digital transition > sustainable and inclusive pathway, new jobs, mitigate impact of COVID-19 crisis, and accelerate a new, green and fairer recovery

2) Social Economy Missions for community resilience (SEM) > build resilience and increase the capacity of regional or local public administrations, social economy SMEs and civil society



 Principles of the <u>Local Green Deals - A Blueprint for Action</u> > project proposals must address at least one of the principles:

(a) Governance, (b) Integrated goals, (c) Collaborative partnerships, (d) Action

- Must focus on a number of specific themes, for example:
  - Innovative and collaborative models for green transformation of businesses and SMEs
  - Green infrastructure
  - Local sustainable value chains
  - Green and social procurement
  - Other relevant theme



#### **Activities:**

- Transnational level: capacity building activities, exchange of good practices, peer to peer learning on development and implementation of Local Green Deals, recommendations.
- Local level: local agreements ("deals") between stakeholders, identification of key actions, support and timeframes for delivery.
- Co-designing creative practices and solutions on green transition of the local economy Inspiration for specific project tasks – among others the Local Green Deals Blueprint for Action:
- Activities aiming at strengthening co-creation among businesses, SMEs, local public administrations and communities
- Business led initiatives to kick start co-production, co-design, and co-innovation approaches
- Capacity building activities (organisation of online and physical trainings, workshops, study visits, awareness raising, coaching and mentoring services, twinning, matchmaking)
- Developing innovative products and services, smart solutions
- Communication activities about the projects objectives and about the projects results
- Good practices description and repository



#### **Expected impact & Indicators**

- Increasing better, high-quality employment (tackling regional/local unemployment)
- Mobilising the regional/local stakeholders towards a new, green, sustainable, inclusive and socially fairer post-COVID-19 recovery
- Supporting the green, social and digital transition at local level
- Supporting resilient and sustainable business models based on social economy
- Boosting the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy
- Ensuring more community resilience and better living conditions for the population
- New ecosystem thinking based on active engagement of all actors.

#### Indicators (check the call text):

Number of local economic operators and SMEs who have better awareness of:

Improved sustainable business models, innovative products and services, sources of EU funding and other other sources of finance



#### **Deliverables:**

- Good practices and solutions on green transition of the local economy and society
- Recommendations for replication on the approach how to address the principles mentioned in the Local Green Deals Blueprint for Action.
- Impacts achieved (indicators)

+ periodic/final narrative and financial reports



- Building resilience and increasing the capacity of regional or local public administrations, social economy SMEs and civil society to overcome difficulties and crises
- **Developing transnational and inter-regional collaboration,** boosting peerlearning, sharing good practices between social economy stakeholders including enterprises
- Project proposal must focus on **a specific theme**, for example:
  - Improving business environment and supporting sustainable business models based on social economy
  - Green and digital transition through social economy at regional and local level
  - Education, training and skills to develop the social economy ecosystem
  - Social transformation through New European Bauhaus
  - Other relevant theme



#### **Activities:**

- Transnational Social Economy Missions
- Elaboration of local thematic social economy action plans > focus on the priority theme identified by the project
  - Each regional or local administration involved in the project to elaborate its local/ regional social economy action plan, as engine for social economy enterprises and organisations to help the recovery, build resilience. An instrument to set up common vision, objectives and targets to be achieved, stakeholders to be involved, actions and activities to be undertaken, key performance indicators, timeline and expected results.
- Recommendations for replication in other regions



#### Specific project tasks (non-exhaustive examples)

- Communication and awareness raising, activities to boost cooperation/ capacity building/ peer learning, study visits, meetings, online and physical workshops, trainings, matchmaking for social economy enterprises.
- Mapping of needs and support measures, relevant initiatives, guidelines, good practices, main players/ providers of green, digital solutions, opportunities.
- Developing of digital solutions, platforms for knowledge and expertise sharing and local community involvement, collecting good practices, publications etc.



#### **Expected impacts (check the call text):**

- Mobilising the regional or local stakeholders towards a new, green, sustainable, inclusive and socially fairer post-COVID-19 recovery, supporting the green, social and digital transition at local level. Boosting the efficient use of resources.
- Supporting resilient and sustainable business models based on social economy, Increasing better, high-quality employment.
- Ensuring more community resilience and active engagement of all actors.

#### Indicators (check the call text):

 Number of local economic operators (social economy enterprises and organisations) who have better awareness of: sustainability and existing support for their transition, and of education and training relevant for their growth.



#### **Deliverables:**

- Local thematic social economy action plans & information about their dissemination amongst relevant stakeholders
- A list of recommendations for replication to share good solutions for building resilience of local communities through social economy across Europe
- Description of the impacts achieved (indicators)

+ periodic/final narrative and financial reports



# Admissibility

- Electronic submission via the Funding & Tenders Portal
- Before the deadline: 24 November 2021, 17:00 Brussels time
- Applications must be complete:
  - Application Form Part A (*filled in online*)
  - Application Form Part B and detailed budget table (*filled in templates and uploaded, application form Part B is limited to maximum 50 pages!*)

For more information about the submission process consult the <u>Online Manual</u>.



# **Eligibility**

- A proposal under the call must address only one topic: LGD or SEM
- Applicants may participate in two proposals, one in each topic and can be coordinators in both proposals
- Applicants may not participate in several proposals under the same topic (exception: network or umbrella organisations)
- Proposals must relate to the activities taking place in the eligible countries
- Project duration must be **12 or 18 or 24 months** (*extensions are exceptionally possible, if duly justified and only through an amendment*).
- Project budget (EU contribution) must be maximum EUR 200 000



### **Eligibility**

#### **Local Green Deals**

#### **Social Economy Missions**

Consortium of legal entities established in EU Member States or <u>non-EU countries</u> participating in SMP registered in the register in the <u>Participant Register</u>

≤ 2 local public administrations such as municipalities or cities ≤ 3 **regional or local public administrations** such as regions, municipalities, cities, etc.

≤ 1business related organisation\*

additional applicants (umbrella organisations, SMEs, CSOs, agencies, institutions, etc.)\*

 $3 \leq \text{beneficiaries} \geq 10$ 

 $4 \le \text{beneficiaries} \ge 10$ 

\* Each business organisation or additional applicant in the consortium must be established in the same territory covered by the (regional or) local public administration, except in case of participating network or umbrella organisations



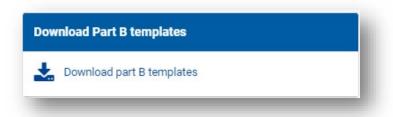
#### Award criteria

- Admissible and eligible are evaluated against the operational capacity and award criteria:
  - **Relevance:** Part B, Section 1 of the application form
  - Quality: Project design and implementation Part B, Section 2 of the application form and Project team and cooperation arrangements: Part B, Section 2 of the application form
  - Impact: Part B, Section 3 of the application form

Award criteria	Minimum pass score	Maximum score
Relevance	16	30
Quality — Project design and implementation	16	30
Quality — Project team and cooperation arrangements	16	30
Impact	6	10
Overall (pass) scores	70	100



### **Application Form Part B**



- Part A is generated by the IT system, part B needs to be uploaded as .pdf
  - Cover page and ToC
  - Project summary
  - Relevance
  - Quality
  - Impact
  - Work plan, work packages, timing and subcontracting
  - Declarations
- Page limit = 50 pages!
- Formatting rules (font/page size), as concise as possible, no hyperlinks.



# **Deliverables & reporting**

- Topic related deliverables > "Continuous reporting"
- Project final narrative and financial report > "Periodic reporting" mandatory grant reporting and not treated as 'deliverables'
  - Pre-financing payment (as soon as GA is signed > automatic payment)
  - Balance payment (60 days after the end of reporting period with Final report)
- Managed through the Portal Grant Management System
- Deliverables: Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement (Proposal > Grant agreement preparation)



# Budget

- Mixed actual cost grant (actual costs and unit costs), see Chapter 3 of the Model Grant Agreement
- Reimbursed at **100%** for the costs for providing financial support to third parties and **90%** for all other costs categories
- Reimbursed only for **eligible costs** and costs that were **actually incurred** during project implementation
- Project budget (requested EU contribution) must be maximum EUR 200 000
- **Prefinancing** (normally 70% of the maximum grant amount) and **balance payment** at the end of the project (final reporting)
- Grant may NOT produce a profit!



### **Budget categories**

- A. Personnel costs: employees, persons under direct contract, seconded staff, SME owners
- **B.** Subcontracting: may include a limited part of the action (and not project management takes) performed by third parties, must be justified in the application if beyond 30% of the total eligible costs
- C. Purchase costs: travel, subsistence, equipment, other goods and services
- **D. Financial support to third parties:** actual travel, accommodation and subsistence costs necessary for stakeholders' staff to participate in activities, maximum amount per third party EUR 60.000
- **E.** Indirect costs: 7% of the eligible direct costs (categories A-D)



### **Detailed budget template**

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**Download Part B templates** 

Download part B templates

- Download the template and carefully read sheet '1. Instructions'
- Consolidated table (participant) sheet > an overview per work package and cost category (calculated automatically)\*
- Consolidated table (project) sheet > an overview per beneficiary, work package and cost category (filled in manually by the coordinator on the basis of the detailed budget tables/consolidated budget tables filled out by the participants)

\*Please note that the amounts entered into the summarised budget table (filled in directly online: Part A) must correspond to the amounts calculated in the detailed budget table. In case of discrepancies, the amounts in the online summarised budget table will prevail.



### **Electronic submission**

... via Funding and tenders portal

• Part A

Please select the type of your submission:	
SMP Grants for Financial Support [SMP-GFS], SMP Action Grant Budget-Based [SMP-AG]	
Start submission	

- (1) General information including a short abstract of the proposal and declarations on behalf of the consortium partners
- (2) Administrative data of participating organisations
- (3) Budget for the proposal (per partner: total estimated eligible costs and requested grant in EUR\*).
- Part B
  - Technical description (template)
  - Detailed budget table (template)

	n you may upload the technical an and any other requested attachme		oroposal (in PDF
Part B			
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Detailed Bud	get Table		
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\*The amounts entered into the summarised budget table (filled in directly online) must correspond to the amounts calculated in the detailed budget table. In case of discrepancies, the amounts in the online summarised budget table will prevail.



# Don't forget!

- Read carefully the call text
- Check the Funding & tender page for Topic conditions and documents and Topic related FAQ

#### Get support

- <u>IT Helpdesk</u> for forgotten passwords, access rights and roles, technical aspects of submission of proposals, etc.
- Online Manual for submitting an application via Funding & tender portal.
- <u>EISMEA-SMP-COSME-ENQUIRIES@ec.europa.eu</u> for non-IT related questions (to be sent by 19 November 17:00 CET Brussels time) > replies in <u>FAQ</u>



- Check the completeness of your proposal before submission
- $\bigcirc$  Do not submit your proposal at the last moment!







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