Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs – Ukraine (SMP-COSME-2023-EYEUA)

Online Info Session - 27 March 2023
4. Business Bridge to facilitate the access of Ukrainian SMEs to the EU Single Market

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Business Bridge - Background

- Part of wider efforts to support Ukrainian businesses
- and prepare their integration within the Single Market
- Response to supply and value chains disruptions
- Call for proposals for EU action grants under the SMP – COSME, WP 2023
Objectives:

- Set up a **Support Office** of various business support organisations that will:
  - Select and support up to 1500 growth- and sustainability-oriented SMEs that will benefit from direct financial support of up to EUR 2 500 to facilitate their access to the EU Single Market,
  - Provide alternative markets to EU companies to compensate for the loss of Russian and Belarussian market opportunities,
  - Bring new investment opportunities for EU businesses in Ukraine.
Eligible SMEs:

- **SMEs** based in regions where Ukrainian authorities exercise effective territorial control,
- Displaced and originally Ukrainian-registered companies currently operating from the EU and maintaining business links/cooperation with Ukraine,
- Capable to demonstrate that suffered from the war,
- Have the potential to generate market access/supply and investment opportunities for EU businesses,
  - Agree to be referred to in a future central database of Ukrainian SMEs receiving financial support from EU and internationally-funded schemes, and capacity to prove that are not receive funding from any other entity for the activities supported by this action,
- **Priority groups**: women entrepreneurs and social economy enterprises
Main activities: (non-exhaustive list)

- market research to identify EU partners as suppliers or clients;
- legal, organisational or financial advice for setting up a new company or adapting an existing one;
- entering international markets by participating or traveling to trade fairs in the EU;
- promotional campaign attracting foreign investments;
- legal advice on Intellectual Property Rights;

- adaptation of products to EU standards and norms;
- technological audit and/or provision of technical support;
- patenting and licencing costs.
Nature of the consortium:

Legal entities, established in one of the **eligible countries**:

- EU Member States
- non-EU countries associated to the Single Market Programme (SMP)

Formally recognised as a current or former:

- Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) member
- Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs Intermediary Organisations (EYE IOs)
- European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP) member
Consortium composition:

- Proposals must be submitted by a consortium of:
  - min three independent entities from three different eligible countries;
  - min one applicant must be established in Ukraine.

- The consortium coordinator must be established in a MS of the EU/EEA,
- The consortium must include at least one member of EEN, EYE and ECCP.
Dedicated activities expected from the common secretariat (1)

• Select eligible Ukrainian SMEs,

• Select EU fairs where SMEs could take part,

• Provide for possibilities to exchange with fellow entrepreneurs and pool services (e.g. logistics),

• Provide networking opportunities with former EYE participants, EEN members and clusters organisations in the EU that are used to organising or participating in matchmaking events,

• Coordinate follow-up services such as holding debrief or lessons-learned session and support in drafting an action plan,

• Provide additional services like training to increase digital skills or sustainability, or specific legal and advisory services.
Dedicated activities expected from the common secretariat (2):

• **Monitor the achievements of the action** through a feedback mechanism that will systematically gather data from all companies participating selected in the call(s) for third-party financing;

• **Produce 24 success stories** during the implementation period of the action;

• The consortium is encouraged **to work closely with various Ukrainian business support organisations as well as export and investment promotion offices beyond the consortium members and seek synergies with relevant EU initiatives such as those undertaken under the EU4business Initiative.**
Available call budget: EUR 4 500 000

EISMEA expects to fund one project under this call

- Up to EUR 750 000 may be allocated to the costs of the consortium members to implement the action,

- A minimum of EUR 3,75M must be dedicated to providing direct financial support to eligible SMEs.

Reimbursement up to EUR 2 500 based on proof of activities carried out.
Conditions for granting financial support to SMEs:

• Calls must be **open, published widely and conform to EU standards concerning transparency, equal treatment, conflict of interest and confidentiality**;

• Calls must remain **open for at least two months** on a continuous basis;

• The **outcome** of the call must be **published on the participants’ websites**;

• Calls must have a **clear European dimension**.
Projects should normally range between 18 and 24 months.

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Today, we are launching 2 calls with a total budget of €7.5 million to support the integration of SMEs in the EU #SingleMarket:

- Business Bridge
- Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs

Helping Ukrainian entrepreneurs benefit from the Single Market:

Register for our Info Session!
3 April 2023, 10:30-12:30 CET
Support to Ukrainian companies to integrate into the Single Market

#ReadyForEu  #SINGLEMARKET