

STAGE FINANCIAL GRANT PROGRAMME

Vilma Vilutytė, Lithuanian Innovation Centre



**European
Commission**

Horizon Europe
European Union funding
Grant AG. N°101058693



THE STAGE PROGRAMME FOR ENTERPRISES

Financial support is provided for the implementation of Sustainability Transition Plans.

During a competitive process, the **STAGE Grant Programme** will provide up to up to **25 000 EUR** funding per company in different funding stages to develop capacity and support sustainability transition.

Financial support is granted for the preparation of **an investment project plan and/or other additional services needed for the investment plan preparation**, which will facilitate a company's sustainable.

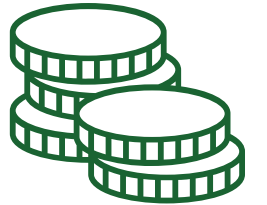
ONLY SMES FROM EU MEMBER STATES OR HORIZON EUROPE-ASSOCIATED COUNTRIES, THAT HAVE DEVELOPED THEIR SUSTAINABILITY TRANSITION PLANS ARE ELIGIBLE!

THE STAGE PROGRAMME FOR ENTERPRISES

One open call with 2 cuts of evaluation, where aprox 96 companies will be selected.

A fair selection process based on **eligibility checks** and **selection criteria** will apply.

- ✓ **1st stage only** – The STAGE Financial Grant Programme will provide to eligible SMEs 25 000 EUR lump sum for the development of services needed for sustainability transformation and/or additional services needed for the investment plan preparation. The grant is to be released when sustainability transition services are acquired and implemented no later than 3 months after signing the Financial Support for Third Parties contract.





CONTINUOUS CALL CUT OFF DATES

4th Call will be opened in July, 2024

Application period closes: **December 31, 2024** (Central European Time).

Foreseen evaluation cut offs:

- a) September 30, 2024
- b) November 15, 2024
- c) December 31, 2024

THE STAGE PROGRAMME

FINANCED ACTIVITIES

- Preparation of an investment project plan;
- Feasibility study;
- Technology audit;
- Due diligence analysis;
- Data collection and analysis for carbon footprint assessment;
- Adaptation of business processes;
- procurement of other specialised consultancy and coaching services related to investment plan preparation;

APPLICATION PROCESS FOR SME

- **Registration**
- **Initial Assessment**
- **Preparation of Sustainability Transition Plan**
- **Engaging with Sustainability advisor (SA)**
- **Submit STAGE Financial Grant Programme application**

Financial Grant can be spent only for Sustainability Advisors services.

Sustainability Advisors will register to the platform providing general information as well as acquired qualification. After providing the information Sustainability Advisors will be confirmed by the consortium and they will have the possibility to provide services to the SMEs participating in the Financial Grant Programme.

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TIMELINE

The call will start in July, 2024.
Closing December 31, 2024

1. Company is an SME. An SME will be considered as such if complying with the European Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC and the SME qualification guide. As a summary, the criteria which define an SME are:
 - a) Independent (not linked or owned by another enterprise), in accordance with Recommendation 2003/361/EC.
 - b) Headcount in Annual Work Unit (AWU) 0- 250.
 - c) Annual turnover less or equal to €50 million OR annual balance sheet total less or equal to €43 million.
2. In case an SME enters the STAGE Financial Grant Programme it will remain eligible even if, at a certain point during the sub-project execution, it does not fulfil criteria (b) or (c) of the SME definition.
3. The SMEs must not have had convictions for fraudulent behaviour, other financial irregularities, and unethical or illegal business practices.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR BENEFICIARY



4. The participating companies must not have been declared bankrupt or have initiated bankruptcy procedures.
5. It is not under liquidation or is not an enterprise under difficulty according to the Commission Regulation No 651/2014, art. 2.18.
6. It is not excluded from the possibility of obtaining EU funding under the provisions of both national and EU law, or by a decision of either national or EU authority.
7. Please note that a signed version of the Honour Declaration will be requested during the contract preparation phase.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR BENEFICIARY



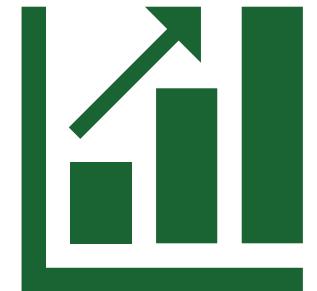
1. The submitted investment plan idea has to aim for the investment of €100 000 or more.
2. The investment plan idea foresees technological excellence related action
3. The investment plan idea foresees positive economic impact
4. The SME prepared Sustainability Transition Plan.
5. The SME provides the letter of confirmation with Sustainability Advisor from STAGE platform about intent to provide services preparing investment plan. Any Sustainability Advisor meeting minimal criteria can register in the platform.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR PROJECT IDEA



EVALUATION CRITERIA - WEIGHT?

1. Private investment amount foreseen in the project idea, EUR; - 40%
2. Cost effectiveness of the action, 0- 10 score; -15 %
3. Headcount in Annual Work Unit (AWU) in the company – 15%
4. The company turnover in last financial statement before the application is submitted., EUR – 15%
5. The amount of balance sheet total., EUR; - 15 %



PARTNERS



Coordinator:



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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Find out more on stagepartners.eu