

Contracting Authority: International Centre for Migration Policy
Development

Cooperatives Support Grant Scheme for Job Creation

Guidelines
for Grant Applicants

Reference Number:

ICMPD/2023/1/ENHANCER/CS2/TUR

Deadline for submission of application: 25 August 2023

NOTICE 1

This Grant Scheme Programme is funded under the project “Enhancement of Entrepreneurship Capacities for Sustainable Socio-Economic Integration (ENHANCER)” (IPA/2019/411-568) which is funded by European Union’s “Facility for Refugees in Türkiye (FRiT)” programme and implemented by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).

The implementation of ENHANCER Project is based on the established institutional framework between the Ministry of Industry and Technology, General Directorate of Development Agencies and ICMPD.

This is a single-step call for proposals, where applicants shall submit all documents together at once.

ICMPD, as the Contracting Authority for the Cooperatives Support Grant Scheme for Job Creation, is responsible for the administrative and financial implementation of the Programme. ICMPD has the ultimate responsibility for the correct use of grant funds and is responsible for managing the call for proposals, contracting and payment procedures.

NOTICE 2

Please note that only the original documents and forms that are published on ICMPD electronic Application Platform have legal validity. ICMPD has no responsibility for the application documents and forms published on any other platform. Applicants shall submit their applications by filling the original documents downloaded from the ICMPD electronic Application Platform at <https://intendhost.co.uk/icmpd/asp/Tenders/Appraisal>.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

DGRDA	Directorate General for Regional Development Agencies
ENHANCER	Enhancement of Entrepreneurship Capacities for Sustainable Socio-Economic Integration
EU	European Union
FRIT	The EU Facility for Refugees in Türkiye
ICA	International Cooperative Alliance
ICMPD	International Centre for Migration Policy Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
KOOPBIS	Cooperative Information System
LHC	Local Host Community
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MoAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
MoT	Ministry of Trade
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
SGK	Social Security Institution
SME	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise
SMMM	Independent Accountant And Financial Advisor
SuTP	Syrians under Temporary Protection
TOBB	The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Türkiye
TURKSTAT	Turkish Statistics Institute
UN	United Nations
YMM	Certified Public Accountant

1. COOPERATIVES SUPPORT GRANT SCHEME FOR JOB CREATION

1.1. BACKGROUND

The International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) is an international organisation with 20 Member States and more than 460 staff members. Active in more than 90 countries worldwide, it takes a regional approach in its work to create efficient cooperation and partnerships along migration routes. Priority regions include Africa, Central and South Asia, Europe and the Middle East. Its three-pillar approach to migration management – structurally linking research, migration dialogues and capacity building – contributes to better migration policy development worldwide. The Vienna-based organisation has a mission in Brussels, two regional offices in Malta, Istanbul and project offices in several countries. ICMPD receives funding from its Member States, the European Commission, the UN and other multilateral institutions, as well as bilateral donors. Founded in 1993, ICMPD holds UN observer status and cooperates with more than 700 partners including EU institutions and UN agencies. ICMPD has been supporting the government of Türkiye's policy efforts and delivering technical assistance to address migration and refugee patterns in the country.

Türkiye has become the country that hosts the biggest refugee population in the world as the number of Syrians under temporary protection (SuTPs) has exceeded 3.7 million. The Syrian population lives in rural and urban areas, densely in large cities in the South-Eastern Anatolia Region. Türkiye continues to provide health & social services as well as education and employment opportunities for SuTPs under the framework of the Law on Foreigners and International Protection (Law No. 6458 of 2013) and its temporary protection directive. Besides, International Institutions support SuTPs and Türkiye's efforts by developing various projects through the funds provided. As the Syrian crisis continues, there has been a shift from humanitarian aid perspective to the socio-economic integration and to support of SuTPs livelihoods. Accordingly, activities such as value chain analysis, labour market assessment studies and entrepreneurship supports have become more critical to identify their contribution for economic growth and job creation potential.

In this regard, ICMPD has started to implement the European Union funded "Enhancement of Entrepreneurship Capacities for Sustainable Socio-Economic Integration (ENHANCER) Project" in close cooperation with the General Directorate of Development Agencies under the Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Industry and Technology as of January 2020. The EU Facility for Refugees in Türkiye (FRIT) was established in 2016 in response to the European Council's call for significant additional funding to support Syrian refugees in Türkiye. FRIT provides for a joint coordination mechanism, designed to ensure that the needs of refugees and host communities in Türkiye addressed in a comprehensive and coordinated manner with a total of €6 billion budget in two tranches.

The aim of the ENHANCER project is to enable the SuTPs and the LHC¹ (Local Host Community) in developing new and growing businesses to provide sustainable jobs and livelihoods and develop a sustainable enabling institutional environment. The framework consists of modular strategies and actions that can be tailored to different types of regional, sectoral and socio-cultural settings.

In that sense, the specific objectives of the project are defined as:

- (i) To increase the entrepreneurial activity of the SuTPs and the LHCs by providing an enabling environment and support in creation of new products and markets, which are tradable beyond the local market. This will be the entrepreneurial line focus of the project,
- (ii) To enhance the effectiveness and inclusiveness of local entrepreneurial ecosystems for the SuTPs and the LHCs. This will be the ecosystem line focus of the project,
- (iii) To improve policy development related to socio-economic integration and coordination of the implementation of those policies in a structured manner at national, regional and local levels. This will be the policy line focus of the project.

¹ Local host community refers to the citizens of country within which SuTPs live.

- (iv) To increase and disseminate the employment opportunities of the SuTPs and local host communities through strengthening the performance of the market operators. Finally, this will be the job creation line focus of the project.

EUR 7.4 million out of the total EUR 32.5 million project budget is allocated for grant support to cooperatives / union(s) of cooperatives and SMEs operating in Adana, Ankara, Bursa, Gaziantep, Hatay, Kayseri, Konya, İstanbul, İzmir, Mersin and Şanlıurfa to support their job creation potential under the ENHANCER project. Within the scope of this grant programme, it is planned to provide a total of 2.59 million EUR of grant support **to cooperatives / union(s) of cooperatives** in Adana, Ankara, Gaziantep, Hatay and Şanlıurfa. Cooperatives / union(s) of cooperatives that are producing a common product or service will be prioritized in the selection/award. With this grant support, approximately 150 new jobs are planned to be created.

Cooperatives in Türkiye

A cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise². A cooperative enterprise distinguishes itself from an NGO (e.g. associations, foundations) through its primary objective in serving social as well as economic interests. On the other hand, a cooperative distinguishes itself from an investor-based company (e.g. limited liability, joint-stock companies, limited partnerships) by prioritizing partners' welfare in lieu of merely maximizing profit/returns on investors' shares.

Cooperative enterprises are primarily regulated by Türkiye's Law on Cooperatives (no.1163 in force since 1969). According to the aforementioned law, there are no legal constraints that prohibit non-Turkish citizens from becoming a partner of a cooperative. As long as the Articles of Association do not mention that members should be citizens of the Republic of Türkiye in the section titled "Partnership Conditions", SuTPs can officially become a cooperative partner. However, SuTP partners cannot become a member of the Executive Board or Supervisory Board³. In addition to that, membership of foreigners (SuTPs) is a new concept for cooperatives, and membership of SuTPs requires a change in Articles of Association for most of the established cooperatives in Türkiye. This also requires preliminary approval by the relevant ministry. In terms of employment, similar to other commercial enterprises, cooperatives / union(s) of cooperatives can legally employ SuTP citizens.

Cooperatives / union(s) of cooperatives may operate in many different sectors and fields. Currently, cooperatives / union(s) of cooperatives are overseen by three different ministries according to their general purpose in Türkiye. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF) oversees agricultural cooperatives; the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change oversees housing cooperatives, and the Ministry of Trade (MoIT) oversees the remaining types of cooperatives. The Project targets MoAF and MoIT - overseen cooperatives / union(s) of cooperatives. Thus the statistics given below covers cooperatives that fall under these categories.

Table 1 shows the population in implementation provinces², number of SuTPs³, number of cooperatives per province, which are registered to Ministry of Trade (MoT), number of partners⁴, and unemployment ratio⁵ in each implementation province in 2019. As can be seen in the table, the highest number of active cooperatives registered to the Ministry of Trade is in Ankara, which is followed by Adana, Ankara, Gaziantep, Hatay and Şanlıurfa. Altogether, these 5 cities host almost 11.6% of all MoT-overseen cooperatives in Türkiye. Average ratio of unemployment in these 5 provinces are 16.56% and is higher than the unemployment rate in Türkiye in 2019 which is 13.7%.

Consolidated data cannot be reached for the cooperatives which are registered to Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

² <https://data.tuik.gov.tr/Bulten/Index?p=Adrese-Dayali-Nufus-Kayit-Sistemi-Sonuclari-2019-33705>

³ <https://multeciler.org.tr/turkiye-deki-suriyeli-sayisi-aralik-2019/>

⁴ <https://ticaret.gov.tr/data/5d43dac913b876433065529e/illereGoreKooperatifDagilimi.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.iskur.gov.tr/kurumsal-bilgi/istatistikler/>

Table 1: Number of cooperatives, cooperative members and unemployment ratio and population (Ministry of Trade-MoT)

<i>Provinces</i>	Population	# of SuTP	# of Cooperatives	#of Partners	Ratio of Unemployment (%)
<i>Adana</i>	2,237,940	243,101	186	24,805	11.90%
<i>Ankara</i>	5,639,076	95,933	355	73,047	14.20%
<i>Gaziantep</i>	2,069,364	454,181	124	25,470	15.20%
<i>Hatay</i>	1,628,894	440,116	223	22,044	18.10%
<i>Şanlıurfa</i>	2,073,614	428,306	91	27,300	23.40%
TOTAL	13,648,888	1,661,637	979	172,666	16.56%

Job Creation and Cooperatives

Cooperatives are successful actors in economic development, as they are not only commercial organizations, but they operate with a set of different values than by profit alone. As mentioned before, they are people-centred enterprises owned, controlled, and run by and for their members to realize their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations. Putting fairness, equality, and social justice at the heart of the enterprise, cooperatives around the world are allowing people to work together to create sustainable enterprises that generate long-term jobs and prosperity⁶. The cooperative mechanism that is being adopted by collective efforts of various entities, such as SMEs, economy pioneers, entrepreneurs, and related public institutions, creates an important level of cooperation among relative stakeholders, which increases the strength of their economic actions. A cooperative mechanism has the ability to create explicit and rational relations among various entities, which in turn increase the strength of its members against economic shocks¹¹. Partnerships among various businesses and collaborative production efforts, sustain an increased strength to the members of a cooperative, which reflects to the workers as stability, which in turn might create sustainable livelihoods for the workers⁷. Thus, apart from creating job opportunities and lead to economic growth, they also create a space, where people with different backgrounds can work together and integrate.

The **sustainable development model**, which is based on the best use of world resources and their protection for future generations, is at the intersection of economic, ecological, social factors, and is an extremely important model for both developed and developing countries. All segments of society have a role in establishing and sustaining it. However, the biggest implementation bodies for this model are determined to be governments, local governments, and civil society organizations⁸. With more than 1 billion members today, the biggest civil society organizations are cooperative enterprises, and they have an important potential in realizing and sustaining economic and social development all over the world. 12% of the world population is a member of approximately 3 million cooperatives on earth, and 10% of the overall employment in the world is provided by cooperatives. Since 2018, three hundred largest cooperatives generate 2,146 billion USD in turnover while providing the services and infrastructure society needs to thrive⁹.

⁶ <https://www.ica.coop/en/cooperatives/what-is-a-cooperative>

⁷ Cobbaut, Nathalie, et al., (2016) 'Sharing economy, an opportunity for the poorest?: An exploratory study', King Baudouin Foundation

⁸ Nurcan Turan (2005), Üretken Bir İstihdam Yaratılmasında Kooperatif İşletmelerin Potansiyel Katkıları, Bilgi Sosyal Bilimler Dergisi

⁹ World Cooperative Monitor 2020, <https://monitor.coop/en/media/library/research-and-reviews/world-cooperative-monitor-2020>

Unemployment has individual, social, and economic dimensions, which affect society as a whole, and it requires subsidiary policies and programs by different stakeholders. According to the Labour Force Statistics Report published by the Turkish Statistics Institute (TURKSTAT) on 16 May 2022, the unemployment rate among people who are 15 years old¹⁰ and older in Türkiye was 11.4% in March 2022. The unemployment rate within the young population between the age of 15-24 has been noted as 11.4% in January 2022. Furthermore, women's participation in the workforce is also relatively low, at 35%¹¹. At the same time, 20.9% of 3.6 million SuTPs are between the ages of 15-24, which creates new challenges for the Turkish labour market with high youth unemployment¹². Thus, in this challenging environment, actions supporting job creation efforts of cooperatives gain great importance, as it not only would lead to the employment of the unemployed population in Türkiye but also the integration of both societies and sustainable economic development.

Creating new job opportunities is also important to reduce the number of informal workers and create decent work environments for both SuTPs and LHC. Approximately 92% of all the Syrian people working in Türkiye (≈1 million people) are employed informally and occupying low-skilled jobs. Among them, roughly 10% hold a tertiary degree, which constitutes a big population of high-qualified workers¹³. The informal jobs occupied by the SuTPs often offer poor working conditions, which include safety and health risks, very long working hours, and are under minimum wage payment. The high number of informal Syrian employees also creates tension between two communities, as Syrian people replace Turkish informal workers with a cheaper rate despite the deteriorated conditions, which also hinders their chances for quick integration into society¹⁴. Thus, along with cooperatives / union(s) of cooperatives high potential to generate employment opportunities in a fair and equal manner, and relatively high numbers of cooperatives / union(s) of cooperatives in Adana, Ankara, Gaziantep, Hatay and Şanlıurfa provinces, these cities host a large portion of high-potential youth of SuTP and LHC population that have difficulties to access quality employment opportunities. ENHANCER Project aims to enhance the cooperatives / union(s) of cooperatives' capacities to create jobs by matching the skills of unemployed youth with the newly established job opportunities through the mentioned grant support, whose further details are explained below.

¹⁰ "The Labor Law allows the employment of young people over the age of 15 under certain conditions. The employment of child and young workers is subject to strict conditions and they can only do light work. The Labor Law allows the employment of children and young workers under the age of 18 under certain conditions."

¹¹ TURKSTAT (2021). Labour Force Statistics, 2020. <https://data.tuik.gov.tr/Bulten/Index?p=Isgucu-Istatistikleri-I.-Ceyrek:-Ocak---Mart,-2022-45648#:~:text=%C4%B0%C5%9Fg%C3%BCc%C3%BC%202022%20y%C4%B1%C4%B1%20I.%20%C3%A7eyre%C4%9Finde,ise%20%34%2C2%20oldu.>

¹² <https://www.goc.gov.tr/gecici-koruma5638>

¹³ Luis Pinedo Caro, ILO (2020), Syrian Refugees in the Turkish Labour Market, [wcms.738602.pdf](https://www.wcms.738602.pdf) (ilo.org)

¹⁴ Cobbaut, Nathalie, et al., (2016) 'Sharing economy, an opportunity for the poorest? : An exploratory study', King Baudouin Foundation

1.2. OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME AND PRIORITY AREAS

The main objective of the ENHANCER Cooperatives Support for Job Creation grant scheme is to increase SuTPs' participation in cooperatives / union(s) of cooperatives as employees or partners in a sustainable manner while enhancing the resilience of cooperatives / union(s) of cooperatives amid the Covid-19 pandemic to improve socio-economic integration and livelihood opportunities for SuTPs and LHCs.

The overall objective of this call for proposals is to increase the job creation efforts of relevant local stakeholders in Adana, Ankara, Gaziantep, Hatay and Şanlıurfa through grants.

The specific objective of this call for proposals is to contribute to well-established, promising cooperatives / union(s) of cooperatives in targeted provinces to grow and thereby generate sustainable employment for SuTPs and LHC members.

Hence, grants will be awarded to proposals that have the potential to create additional employment (or formalize employment) or membership in parallel with sustainable business growth.

All projects should respond to the specific objective of this call for proposals.

The proposed action (project) should cover **at least two priority areas** under this call for proposals¹⁵.

The priorities of this grant scheme are:

- (i) Generating sustainable employment for SuTPs and LHC members,
- (ii) Integrating SuTPs into the Turkish economy through sustainable employment,
- (iii) Increasing the amount of decent and registered employment opportunities,
- (iv) Improving matching jobs and worker skills,
- (v) Scaling up production through improving resource efficiency and inclusive recruitment of new members or employees,
- (vi) Digitalizing business processes through inclusive recruitment of new members or employees.

The project considers the grantees as strategic stakeholders rather than establishing a one-time support relationship with the cooperatives / union(s) of cooperatives in the mid-term business development. It aims to incorporate other entrepreneurial support available in other activities of ENHANCER Project such as mentoring, B2B matching, improving access to alternative financing, and integration of local value chains to supply or marketing channels of higher-order companies in the chains, where applicable. Such potential synergies among project activities will be sought in improving grantee cooperatives / union(s) of cooperatives' propensity to grow and employ more SuTPs and LHC members.

Under this grant scheme, the approximate number of cooperatives / union(s) of cooperatives that are planned to be supported is 10-15. These cooperatives / union(s) of cooperatives are expected to create a total of 150 new jobs (employees or members) of which 60% shall be SuTPs and 40% shall be LHC members. The call for proposals also adopts a gender-inclusive approach, where women employment will be expected to constitute a minimum of 25% of the total employment created. Please bear in mind that these percentages are the overall objective of the grant programme. Priority will be given to activities respecting gender equality and increasing women/youth employment and employment of SuTPs.

1.3. FINANCIAL ALLOCATION PROVIDED BY THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY

The overall indicative amount made available under this call for proposals is **EUR 2,592,000**. The Contracting Authority reserves the right not to award all available funds. The Contracting Authority reserves the right to allocate unused fund, to other grant schemes under ENHANCER Project.

¹⁵ Please note that while choosing priority areas, all projects have to create employment. Project proposals which do not create employment will be rejected.

Size of Grants

Any grant awarded under this call for proposals must fall between the following minimum and maximum amounts:

- minimum amount: **EUR 40,000**
- maximum amount: **EUR 200,000**

Any grant requested under this call for proposals must fall between the following percentages of total eligible costs of the action:

- Minimum percentage: **75%** of the total eligible costs of the action (see also Section 2.1.4).
- Maximum percentage: **95%** of the total eligible costs of the action (see also Section 2.1.4).

The balance (i.e. the difference between the total cost of the action and the amount requested from the contracting authority) must be financed from sources other than ICMPD and the European Union. **In-kind contributions are not eligible under this grant programme and they shall not be accepted as co-financing.**

Issuance of this Call for Proposals does not constitute an award or commitment on the part of ICMPD to make any award, nor does it commit ICMPD to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application.

<u>IMPORTANT NOTE 1</u>
Applicants should keep in mind that the funds applied for, should be proportionate to the activities to be carried out. They should not automatically request the maximum amount of funding available.

2. RULES FOR THIS CALL FOR PROPOSALS

These guidelines set out the rules for the submission, selection and implementation of the actions financed under this call.

2.1. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

There are three sets of eligibility criteria, relating to:

(1) the applicants:

- The **'lead applicant'**, i.e. the entity submitting the application form (2.1.1),
- and, if any, its **co-applicant(s)** (**where it is not specified otherwise the lead applicant and its co-applicant(s) are hereinafter jointly referred as 'applicant(s)'**) (2.1.1),

(2) the actions:

Actions for which a grant may be awarded (2.1.3);

(3) the costs:

Types of cost that may be incurred during the implementation of an action (2.1.4).

2.1.1. Eligibility of applicants (i.e. lead applicant and co-applicant(s))

Lead Applicant

In order to be eligible for a grant, the lead applicant must:

- a) be legally registered as a **cooperative** or **union(s) of cooperatives** and have their headquarters in the targeted provinces: Adana, Ankara, Gaziantep, Hatay and Şanlıurfa; and
- b) be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action, not acting as an intermediary; and
- c) have been established at least 1 year prior to the announcement date of this call for proposals;

Applicants may act individually or with co-applicant(s).

Co-applicant(s)

Note: Please note that co-applicant(s) are partners in a project (application).

Where it is not specified otherwise the lead applicant and its co-applicant(s) (if any) are hereinafter jointly referred to as 'applicant(s)'. Below are the key principles regarding co-applicant(s).

Co-applicants participate in designing and implementing the action, and the costs they incur are eligible in the same way as those incurred by the lead applicant.

Co-applicants **must satisfy the eligibility criteria of (a) and (b)** as applicable to the lead applicant itself. Co-applicants do not necessarily need to be legally registered in the same province as the lead applicant; however, they should be legally registered in one of the targeted provinces: Adana, Ankara, Gaziantep, Hatay and Şanlıurfa.

Co-applicants **must sign** the mandate in Section 8 of the Grant Application Form (Annex A).

If awarded a grant, the co-applicant(s) (if any) will become beneficiary(ies) in the action (together with the lead applicant).

As a general principle, but in observance of the principle of proportionality, ICMPD shall exclude from participation applicants, which were found in situations of:

- a) bankruptcy, insolvency or winding-up procedures;
- b) breach of obligations relating to the payment of taxes or social security contributions;
- c) grave professional misconduct, including misrepresentation;
- d) fraud;
- e) corruption;
- f) conduct related to a criminal organisation;
- g) money laundering or terrorist financing;
- h) terrorist offences or offences linked to terrorist activities;
- i) child labour and other trafficking in human beings.

In this respect, lead applicants and co-applicants (if any) are obliged to declare that they are not in one of the exclusion situations through a signed Declaration on Honour (Annex D).

Applicants included in the lists of EU restrictive measures¹⁶ at the moment of the award decision cannot be awarded the contract¹⁷.

Please note that:

- Political parties and their affiliated structures are **not eligible** as lead applicants or co-applicants under this call for proposals.
- Provincial/regional/district directorates of central government cannot participate in this call for proposals as lead applicants or co-applicants; however, they may participate as associates.

2.1.2. Associates and contractors

The following entities are not applicants and do not have to sign the 'mandate for co-applicant(s)':

- Associates

Other organisations or individuals may be involved in the action planned for the project. Such associates play a real role in the action but may not receive funding from the grant. Associates do not have to meet the eligibility criteria referred to in Section 2.1.1.

- Contractors

The beneficiaries are permitted to award contracts within the context of this grant application in order to fulfil the main objectives of the Project. Associates cannot be also contractors in the project. Contractors are subject to the procurement rules set out in Annex IV to the grant contract.

¹⁶ <https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/ExactExternalWiki/2.+Basic+rules#id-2.Basicrules-2.4.EUrestrictivemeasures>

¹⁷ The updated lists of sanctions are available at www.sanctionsmap.eu. Please note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In case of discrepancy between the published legal acts and the updates on the website it is the OJ version that prevails.

2.1.3. Eligible actions: actions for which an application may be made

Definition of an “action”:

An action (or project) is composed of a set of activities for a specific period of time in order to achieve planned goals.

Duration:

The initial planned duration of an action may **not be less than 8 months nor exceed 12 months**.

Priority Areas:

The proposed action (project) should cover **at least two priority areas** under this call for proposals.

- (i) Generating sustainable employment for SuTPs and LHC members,
- (ii) Integrating SuTPs into the Turkish economy through sustainable employment,
- (iii) Increasing the amount of decent and registered employment opportunities,
- (iv) Improving matching jobs and worker skills,
- (v) Scaling up production through improving resource efficiency and inclusive recruitment of new members or employees,
- (vi) Digitalizing business processes through inclusive recruitment of new members or employees.

Sectors or themes:

Sectors that have the potential for SuTPs to integrate into the Turkish economy and have more employment opportunities are targeted sectors in this call for proposals.

Following sectors are **not eligible** under this call for proposals:

- Electricity and gas production and distribution;
- Steel and coal industry;
- Manufacturing or trade of arms;
- Production of tobacco and tobacco products;
- Production of beverages with alcoholic content;
- Operation of a casino or any other entity involved in the gambling industry;
- Banking, insurance, financial services;
- Activities involving currency and financial speculations; securities investment;
- Real estate related investment.

Location:

Actions must take place in one or more of the following targeted provinces, namely **Adana, Ankara, Gaziantep, Hatay and Şanlıurfa**.

Types of actions:

The proposed actions should aim to foster creating additional employment (or formalise employment) or membership of SuTPs and LHC members in parallel with sustainable business growth.

Actions that contribute to an increase in decent and registered employment opportunities, improve matching between jobs and worker–skills, employ new employees, improve their skills, increase their experience through sustainable jobs, and add to employees’ career and credibility may be funded under this call for proposals.

The actions may cover indicatively the following domains. The actions listed are by way of example only and are non-exhaustive:

- As a capacity building project, investments related to R&D, innovation, technology transfer, and IT technology; investments necessary to obtain quality certification / accreditation (e.g. for organic agri-food, Eco-Cert, ISO, TSE) under international technical and quality standards;
- Consultancy services received for digitalization, internationalization and branding;
- As a capacity building project, professional advice and consultancy services on:
 - export orientation/competitiveness, export authorization, customs processes, trade partner acquisition,
 - improving marketing practices to increase market share and access to new markets such as marketing and market development,
 - product design and development,
 - new technologies,
 - access to finance,
 - human resources development and on-the-job training,
 - project management¹⁸;
- Development of mentoring mechanisms and integration in mentoring networks;
- Support of design/idea/content/product development activities;
- Research and development activities including consultancy for geographical indication;
- As a capacity building project, procurement of machinery and equipment; software, hardware, certification and licenses (But no project may be limited only to the procurement of goods. Procurement of goods must be part of wider action with defined objectives); transport of equipment purchased;
- Capacity building and training programs on specialized topics such as commercialization, finance, legal advice, accounting, business development/improvement, export and intellectual property;
- In-service training programs including capacity building activities;
- Establishment of new departments (i.e. foreign trade, sales / marketing, production, HR, finance / accounting);
- Establishment of kindergarten for the children of members and employees;
- With the support of Arabic language skills of SuTPs, activities that enhance competitiveness of the company through increasing its market share, number of customers and exports, especially in the MENA region;
- Investments for new production units as well as scaling up / modernization of existing production lines which the cooperative has a competitive edge such as through new assembly lines, production tools/facilities/techniques;
- Adoption of advanced climate-resilient and good agricultural techniques minimizing material footprint including on-farm and food processing activities;
- Cultivation of new climate-resilient crops;
- Transforming factory-to-end-user process, e.g. packaging, logistics, to minimize material footprint;
- Circular economy actions i.e. circular supply-chain, recovery and recycling, extension/prolongation of goods' usage period;
- Transforming existing business models with digital tools including for e-marketing;
- Introducing or enhancing digitalization in supply chain management, including but not limited to interaction with suppliers, inventory management and participation in the supply chain of larger businesses;
- Enhancement in products or services or processes by integrating digital technologies in the business processes of the cooperative, including the design, development or delivery to customers;
- Customer relationship management (CRM), including enhanced customer feedback systems or digital

¹⁸ the Lead Applicant is responsible for the management of the project by itself, however can receive consultancy on general project management for capacity building purposes

- marketing capabilities;
- Business development and customer acquisition, including but not limited to via expansion to new markets, geographies or type of customers;
- Development of digital skills and training of new or existing employees in digital technologies or management of business in the digital world;
- Capacity building trainings and mentoring activities related to cooperative governance, vocational education and training (VET), language trainings, legal advisory on SuTPs, social cohesion, gender-mainstreaming and other types of capacity building trainings.

All actions shall have a positive contribution to employment and economic development. Priority will be given to activities respecting gender equality and increasing women/youth employment and employment of SuTPs.

The following types of actions are ineligible:

- Actions concerned only or mainly with individual sponsorships for participation in workshops, seminars, conferences, congresses;
- Actions concerned only or mainly with individual scholarships for studies or training courses;
- Actions already financed or in a process of being financed from state budget or other EU programmes, or other public funds;
- Establishing and developing any activity which can be a breach of Turkish legislation regarding safety at work, environment protection, employment of the workforce;
- Actions which are ideologically biased or partisan in nature;
- Actions of supporting or linked to political parties;
- Infrastructure projects;
- Actions with costs incurred outside the contract period;
- Procurement or lease of land, buildings or other similar facilities and structures;
- Actions that had started before applicants signed the contract for awarding grants.

IMPORTANT NOTE 2

As it is specified in section 2.1.1. Eligibility of applicants (i.e. lead applicant and co-applicant(s)), the lead applicant must be directly responsible for the preparation of the action with the co-applicant(s). Proposed applications should be “original” and “unique” to the target group’s needs, problems, and be designed with proper solutions and implementation methodology. Therefore, applications that may be considered copy – paste applications may be eliminated (from this Call for Proposals) in the course of the evaluation process when the proposals present the same;

- scope of activity, wording or the same sentences differentiated only by rephrasing, or;
- content of the budget including the budget items, justification sheet etc. or;
- implementation modalities with only few differences such as the implementation place, name of lead applicant, co-applicant(s), and the number of target group.

In case multiple applications for the same project idea are submitted, duplicates may be rendered ineligible.

Financial support to third parties

Applicants may not propose financial support to third parties.

Visibility

The beneficiary(ies) must take all necessary steps to ensure the visibility of ICMPD, the European Union as the donor, the Ministry of Industry and Technology, and the Development Agencies. The fact that the European Union has financed the action under the FRIT programme has to be publicised by the applicant.

The beneficiary(ies) shall mention the title of the Action and the Contracting Authority as well as the European Union's financial contribution in information given to the final recipients of the Action, in its internal and annual reports, and in any dealings with the media. It shall display the Contracting Authority, Ministry of Industry and Technology and European Union logo wherever appropriate.

Applicants must comply with the objectives and priorities and guarantee the visibility of the EU financing (see the Communicating and raising EU visibility: Guidance for External Actions laid down and published by the European Commission, that can be found at: https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/comm-visibility-requirements_en)

2.1.4. Eligibility of costs: costs that can be included

Only 'eligible costs' can be covered by a grant. The categories of costs that are eligible and ineligible are indicated below. The budget is both a cost estimate and an overall ceiling for 'eligible costs'.

The reimbursement of eligible costs will be based on the actual costs incurred by the beneficiary(ies).

Recommendations to award a grant are always subject to the condition that the checks preceding the signing of the grant contract do not reveal problems that require changes to the budget (such as arithmetical errors, inaccuracies, unrealistic and inflated costs and ineligible costs). The checks may give rise to requests for clarification and may lead the contracting authority to impose modifications or reductions to address such mistakes or inaccuracies. It is not possible to increase the grant as a result of these corrections.

It is therefore in the applicants' interest to provide a **realistic and cost-effective budget**.

Eligible costs are actual costs incurred by the Beneficiary(ies) which meet all the following criteria:

1) they are incurred during the implementation of the Action. In particular:

- (i) Costs relating to services and works shall relate to activities performed during the implementation period. Costs relating to supplies shall relate to delivery and installation of items during the implementation period. Signature of a contract, placing of an order, or entering into any commitment for expenditure within the implementation period for future delivery of services, works or supplies after expiry of the implementation period do not meet this requirement;
- (ii) Costs incurred should be paid before the submission of the final reports. They may be paid afterwards, provided they are listed in the final report together with the estimated date of payment;
- (iii) An exception is made for costs relating to final reports, including expenditure verification, audit and final evaluation of the Action, which may be incurred after the implementation period of the Action;
- (iv) Procedures to award contracts, as referred to in Article 10 of General Conditions, may have been initiated and contracts may be concluded by the Beneficiary(ies) before the start of the implementation period of the Action, provided the provisions of Annex IV have been respected.

2) they are indicated in the overall budget for the Action;

3) they are necessary for the implementation of the Action;

4) they are identifiable and verifiable, in particular being recorded in the accounting records of the Beneficiary(ies) and determined according to the applicable accounting standards of the country where the

Beneficiary(ies) is established and according to the usual cost accounting practices of the Beneficiary(ies);

5) they comply with the requirements of applicable tax and social legislation;

6) they are reasonable, justified and comply with the requirements of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency.

Eligible direct costs

The proposed costs should aim to foster creating additional employment or membership (or formalise employment) of SuTPs and LHC members in parallel with sustainable business growth and not just request purchase of machinery or the like.

The following direct costs of the Beneficiary(ies) shall be eligible:

- a) the cost of staff assigned to the Action, corresponding to actual gross salaries including social security charges, work permit costs and other remuneration-related costs; salaries and costs shall not exceed those normally borne by the Beneficiary(ies), unless it is justified by showing that it is essential to carry out the Action. **Please note that the total cost of human resources should not exceed the 50% of the total direct eligible direct costs;**
- b) purchase costs for machinery, equipment and supplies (second hand purchase is not eligible) specifically for the purpose of the Action. **Please note that the total costs of machinery, equipment and supplies (excluding office supplies) should not exceed the 60% of the total direct eligible costs; please note that the total costs of vehicles for agricultural production and for milk transportation necessary for production scale up should not exceed the 20% of the total eligible direct costs;**
- c) costs entailed by contracts awarded by the Beneficiary(ies) for the purposes of the Action referred to in Article 10 of General Conditions;
- d) costs of consumables;
- e) costs entailed by contracts awarded by the Beneficiary(ies) for the purposes of the implementation of the Action;
- f) costs deriving directly from the requirements of the Contract (dissemination of information, evaluation specific to the Action, expenditure verification costs, translation, reproduction, insurance, etc.) including financial service costs (in particular the cost of transfers where required according to the Contract);

IMPORTANT NOTE 3

1. Please see the conditions (requirements) for auditor performing expenditure verification in Annex F of these Guidelines (Grant Contract Annex VII - Terms of Reference for an Expenditure Verification of a Grant Contract).
2. Please ensure that purchase or rental costs for any equipment and supplies should be serving purposes of the action; and requested costs of services should correspond to market rates.
3. Please note that sound financial management principles in terms of ensuring cost-effectiveness (in terms of efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of the action) will be of importance in the evaluation stage, therefore, applicants shall carefully consider project budget versus project activities and achievements in designing their proposals.

Civil servants who are employed under the Law No 657 of the Republic of Türkiye cannot be employed or be paid any salary within the context of this project except if:

- upon receipt of official permit by their institutions confirming no conflict with their nature of duties and they are under the payroll of the beneficiaries.

Other public officials and academic staff can be employed in the project upon receipt of official permit from their institutions within the framework of the applicable law(s) to which they and their institutions are subject to.

Contingency reserve

The budget **shall not include a contingency reserve**, as it is not eligible as a cost under this call for proposals.

Indirect costs

The indirect costs incurred in carrying out the action may be eligible for flat rate funding, but the total must not exceed 3% of the estimated total direct eligible costs of the Action. Indirect costs are eligible provided that they do not include costs assigned to another budget heading in the standard grant contract. The lead applicant may be asked to justify the percentage requested before the grant contract is signed. Once the flat rate has been fixed in the special conditions of the grant contract, no supporting documents need to be provided.

If any of the applicants is in receipt of an operating grant financed by the ICMPD or EU, it may not claim indirect costs on its incurred costs within the proposed budget for the action.

Ineligible costs

The following costs are not eligible:

- Procurement or lease of land, buildings or other similar facilities and structures;
- Construction and refurbishment costs except for the small renovations for installation of the necessary equipment/machinery or renovation of ateliers or kindergarten establishment and improvement costs;
- Travel and subsistence cost for staff and other persons taking part in the Action;
- Office vehicle costs and office rent;
- Debts and debt service charges (interest);
- Provisions for losses or potential future liabilities;
- Costs declared by the beneficiary and financed by another action or work programme receiving an ICMPD or European Union (including through EDF) grant;
- Purchases of land or buildings,
- Currency exchange losses;
- Contributions in-kind;
- Credits to third parties;
- Bonuses included in costs of staff;
- Negative interest charged by banks or other financial institutions;
- Amortization and depreciation costs;
- Fines, financial penalties and court costs.
- Value Added Tax (VAT), Special Consumption Tax (SCT), Motor Vehicle Tax, Special Communication Tax, and/or taxes of equivalent effect, stamp or registration duties, special charges or any other charge having equivalent effect

No-profit Rule

Grants may not have the purpose or effect of producing a profit within the framework of the action with the exception of specific cases stated below. Profit is defined as a surplus of the receipts over the eligible costs approved by the Contracting Authority when the request for payment of the balance is made.

The no profit rule shall not apply for the:

- a) actions the objective of which is the reinforcement of the financial capacity¹⁹ of the Beneficiary;
- b) actions which generate an income to ensure their continuity beyond the end of the contract;
- c) low value grants (i.e. grants of EUR 60,000 or less).

¹⁹ Activities that affect the financial situation of the company positively, which are included in the nature of the company.

2.2. ETHICS CLAUSES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

a) Absence of conflict of interest

The applicant must not be affected by any conflict of interest and must have no equivalent relation in that respect with other applicants or parties involved in the actions. Any attempt by an applicant to obtain confidential information, enter into unlawful agreements with competitors or influence the evaluation committee or the contracting authority during the process of examining, clarifying, evaluating and comparing applications will lead to the rejection of its application.

b) Respect for human rights as well as environmental legislation and core labour standards

The applicant and its staff must comply with human rights. In particular, and in accordance with the applicable act, applicants who have been awarded contracts must comply with the environmental legislation including multilateral environmental agreements, and with the core labour standards as applicable and as defined in the relevant International Labor Organization conventions (such as the conventions on freedom of association and collective bargaining; elimination of forced and compulsory labour; abolition of child labour).

Zero tolerance for sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment

The ICMPD applies a policy of 'zero tolerance' in relation to all wrongful conduct which has an impact on the professional credibility of the applicant.

Physical abuse or punishment, or threats of physical abuse, sexual abuse or exploitation, harassment and verbal abuse, as well as other forms of intimidation shall be prohibited.

c) Anti-corruption and anti-bribery

The applicant shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations and codes relating to anti-bribery and anti-corruption. The ICMPD reserves the right to suspend or cancel project financing if corrupt practices of any kind are discovered at any stage of the award process or during the execution of a contract and if the contracting authority fails to take all appropriate measures to remedy the situation. For the purposes of this provision, 'corrupt practices' are the offer of a bribe, gift, gratuity or commission to any person as an inducement or reward for performing or refraining from any act relating to the award of a contract or execution of a contract already concluded with the contracting authority.

d) Unusual commercial expenses

Applications will be rejected or contracts terminated if it emerges that the award or execution of a contract has given rise to unusual commercial expenses. Such unusual commercial expenses are commissions not mentioned in the main contract or not stemming from a properly concluded contract referring to the main contract, commissions not paid in return for any actual and legitimate service, commissions remitted to a tax haven, commissions paid to a payee who is not clearly identified or commissions paid to a company which has every appearance of being a front company.

Grant beneficiaries found to have paid unusual commercial expenses on projects funded by the European Union are liable, depending on the seriousness of the facts observed, to have their contracts terminated.

e) Breach of obligations, irregularities or fraud

The contracting authority reserves the right to suspend or cancel the procedure, where the award procedure proves to have been subject to breach of obligations, irregularities or fraud. If breach of obligations, irregularities or fraud are discovered after the award of the contract, the contracting authority may refrain from concluding the contract.

2.3. HOW TO APPLY AND THE PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW

2.3.1. *Application forms*

Applications shall be submitted in accordance with the instructions on the applications in the Grant Application Form annexed to these guidelines (Annex A).

Applicants must apply in English. Official documents provided from public institutions may be provided in original language/Turkish.

Any error or major discrepancy related to the points listed in the instructions or any major inconsistency in the application (e.g. if the amounts in the budget worksheets are inconsistent) may lead to the rejection of the application.

The Contracting Authority would request clarifications when required for conducting objective assessment.

Hand-written applications will not be accepted.

Please note that applications (i.e. the Grant Application Form (Annex A), the Budget (Annex B), Legal Entity Identification Form (Annex C), Declaration on Honour (Annex D), and the Due Diligence Form (Annex E) by the lead applicant and co-applicant if any) which have to be filled in, will be transmitted to evaluators (and assessors, if any). It is therefore of utmost importance that these documents contain all the relevant information concerning the action.

For budget preparation, exchange rate in the following link can be used:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/procedures-guidelines-tenders/information-contractors-and-beneficiaries/exchange-rate-infoeuro_en

2.3.2. *Supporting documents to be submitted*

In addition to the Grant Application Form (Annex A) and the Budget (Annex B), the Lead Applicants must submit the following documents in order to allow the Contracting Authority to verify the eligibility of the Applicants and their partners:

- a. **The Legal Entity Identification Form (Annex C)** duly completed and signed by each of the applicants (i.e. by the lead applicant and (if any) by each co-applicant), accompanied by the justifying documents requested there.
- b. **The Declaration on Honour (Annex D)**, certifying that they are not in one of the exclusion situations, shall be filled and signed by the lead applicant as well as all co-applicants.
- c. **The Due Diligence form (Annex E)** of the lead applicant, (*stamped and signed by the authorized person of the cooperative / union(s) of cooperatives*) (not from co-applicant(s)).
- d. Articles of association of the lead applicant cooperative or union(s) of cooperatives and co-applicant (s) (if any) (*stamped and signed by the authorized person of the cooperative / union(s) of cooperatives and the co-applicant organization (if any)*),
- e. Current list of members as reflected in the Partners' Records ("Ortak Pay Defteri" or "KoopBis" or "Hazarun List") for the lead applicant and co-applicant(s) (if any) (stamped and signed by the authorized person of the cooperative/ union(s) of cooperatives),
- f. **Copies of the Turkish Trade Registry Gazette** of the Lead Applicant and, if any, of each co-applicant, where (i) the establishment and (ii) the current authorized board members of the cooperative/ union(s) of cooperatives are declared,
- g. **Financial Statements** (Balance Sheets, Profit and Loss Account Statements) of the lead applicant (and co-applicants if applicable) for **up to** last two years (2021, 2022) approved (signed and stamped) by tax authority or independent accountant and financial advisor (SMMM) or a certified public accountant (YMM),

- h. **Board decision of the lead applicant's and (if any) each co-applicant's Managing Body to implement the Project** with an indication of the name of the applied Call for Proposals and the name of the person(s) nominated to sign the documents,
- i. **List of Authorized Signatories** with the name(s) of the person(s) empowered to represent the lead applicant, each co-applicant (if any),
- j. **A further decision of the Board of Directors**, only if the person(s) to be appointed are not empowered with such responsibility (as stated in point (i)) within the Articles of legal status of the lead applicant and each co-applicant; sample of signature(s), registered to the notary for representative(s) will be provided-original,
- k. **A copy of tax registration** or a document of the lead applicant indicating the tax number from the relevant tax authority. A copy of tax registration is not required from (if any) the co-applicant(s),
- l. **Up-to-date evidence on the fulfilment (including restructuring etc.) of obligations related to social security contributions** taken from the relevant social security authorities for the lead applicant and for each co-applicant (if any). If the lead applicant and/or the co-applicant(s) (if any) are exempted from social security contributions, documentary proof regarding the status should be provided,
- m. **Up-to-date evidence on the fulfilment (including restructuring etc.) of the fiscal/tax obligations** taken from the relevant tax authorities for the lead applicant, for each co-applicant (if any). If the lead applicant and/or the co-applicant(s) (if any) are tax exempted, documentary proof regarding the status should be provided,
- n. **Latest active workers list approved by Social Security Institution (SGK)** - for the lead applicant and each co-applicant (if any) – if there are no active worker, the applicant(s) should clarify this with a declaration (stamped and signed by the authorized person of the cooperative/ union(s) of cooperatives),
- o. **Title deed or the documentation (rental agreement or equivalent) proving the right of usufruct²⁰ of the building/facility/premise of the cooperative/union(s) of cooperatives where project activities will be implemented** - for the lead applicant and each co-applicant (if any),
- p. CVs of the project team including the position titles in the project.

Documents must be submitted in the form of originals, photocopies, or scanned versions (i.e. showing legible stamps, signatures, and dates) of the said originals. **Please submit documents referred to in points d. to p. in a single zip folder (Annex F). Official documents provided from public institutions may be provided in the original language/Turkish.**

If the abovementioned supporting documents are not provided together with the application form, the application may be rejected.

Please note that the Grant Application Form (Annex A) and the published annexes which have to be filled in will be evaluated. It is therefore of utmost importance that these documents contain ALL the relevant information concerning the action.

No additional annexes should be sent. All other additional documents attached will be disregarded and not used in the evaluation.

If deemed necessary, additional documents may be requested.

²⁰ The usufruct is defined by these guidelines as the legal right accorded to the beneficiary(ies) to benefit from the property. The documentation should prove that the right to use the property for a specific time period would ensure the sustainability of the activities to be implemented.

2.3.3. **Where and how to apply**

Applications (application form, other annexes and supporting documents) must be submitted on the ICMPD electronic Application Platform at <https://in-tendhost.co.uk/icmpd/asp/Tenders/Appraisal>. Applications sent by any other means (e.g. by email or post) will be rejected.

Applicants must register their organization on the platform. Once registered, applicants can access all Call for Proposals documents and annexes. The manual “how to register and apply” is available for download on the platform at <https://in-tendhost.co.uk/icmpd/asp/BuyerProfiles>.

In case applicants face difficulties to register and/or submit an application on the ICMPD electronic Application Platform, please contact grants@icmpd.org.

Please note that documents provided to the IN-TEND system should be in the following formats:

- 1- Application form must be submitted as a WORD file AND as a signed scanned version (PDF)**
- 2- Budget must be submitted both as an EXCEL soft copy file AND as a printed out, stamped and signed scanned version of all three tabs (Budget, Justification and Expected Sources of Funding) in PDF format**
- 3- All supporting documents must be scanned and in PDF format**

Applications must be complete and contain all requested information and all required annexes and supporting documents. **Lead applicants must verify that their application is complete using the checklist (Section 10 of the Grant Application Form). Failure to comply with these requirements may lead to the rejection of the application. Incomplete applications may be rejected.**

The format of the documents shall be: A4 Size, Calibri font: 11, standard margins (2.0 cm top, 2.5 cm bottom, right and left), line spacing 1.0 for each document.

IMPORTANT NOTE 4

Applicants are strongly advised to register in advance and familiarize themselves with the ICMPD electronic Application Platform at <https://in-tendhost.co.uk/icmpd/asp/Tenders/Appraisal>. Applicants must review the grant rules carefully before starting their application process. It is advised to consult the platform regularly to be informed of the clarifications and possible amendments published. All official communication regarding the Call for Proposals will be published on the platform. By submitting an application, applicants accept to receive notification of the outcome of the procedure by electronic means (through ICMPD electronic Application Platform). Such notification shall be deemed to have been received on the date upon which ICMPD sends it to the electronic address used for registration on the platform.

Number of applications and grants per applicant:

The lead applicant **may not** submit **more than 1 (one)** application under this call for proposals.

The lead applicant **may not** be a co-applicant in another application at the same time.

A co-applicant **may not** be the co-applicant in **more than 1 (one)** application under this call for proposals.

IMPORTANT NOTE 5

Please note that lead and co-applicants, if any, who will be granted under this call for proposals will be excluded from applying (both as lead applicant and co-applicant) for future Grant Scheme Programs of ICMPD's ENHANCER Project and other funding opportunities provided under the FRIT second tranche operations in Türkiye channelled through other international partner organizations.

Please note that lead and co-applicants can only be signatory of one grant scheme contract under ENHANCER project. This note does not exhaust the possibility of applying for more than one call for proposals. However, note that in case they are awarded several grants, the lead and co-applicants can sign only one grant contract.

2.3.4. Deadline for submission of applications

The deadline for the submission of applications is 25th August 2023, 17:00h (Vienna local time). The application must be sent before the submission deadline. Any application submitted after the deadline will automatically be rejected. The lead applicant is strongly advised not to wait until the last day to submit its application, since heavy Internet traffic or a fault with the Internet connection (including electricity failure, etc.) could lead to difficulties in submission. The Contacting Authority cannot be held responsible for any delay due to such afore-mentioned difficulties.

2.3.5. Clarifications and Information Session

An online information launch session on this call for proposals will be held on 19th June 2023 at 13:00h Vienna Time (14:00h Türkiye local time).

Information sessions will be organized in July, 2023 for all 5 provinces. Questions and Answers will be followed regularly during application process and shall be advertised as a clarification note to these guidelines on ICMPD electronic Application Platform.

Prospective applicants may submit questions on the ICMPD electronic Application Platform before the deadline specified under section "2.4.2. Indicative Timetable", specifying the publication reference.

If ICMPD provides additional information on the Call for Proposals Guidelines, it shall be advertised on ICMPD electronic Application Platform.

Any clarification of the Call for Proposals Guidelines will be issued to prospective applicants simultaneously before the deadline as specified under section "2.4.2. Indicative Timetable" on the ICMPD electronic Application Platform. ICMPD has no obligation to provide clarifications after this date. It is advisable to consult the platform regularly in order to be informed of the questions and answers published.

To ensure equal treatment of applicants, the contracting authority cannot give a prior opinion on the eligibility of lead applicants, co-applicants, an action or specific activities.

Any prospective applicants seeking to arrange individual meetings other than advertised information sessions by ICMPD during the application period may be excluded from the Call for Proposals procedure.

Please note that the contracting authority may decide to extend the deadline of applications or cancel the call for proposals procedure at any stage.

2.3.6. Evaluation and selection of applications

Applications will be examined and evaluated by the Contracting Authority with the possible assistance of assessors. All actions submitted by applicants will be assessed according to the following steps and criteria.

2.3.7. Opening & Administrative Checks and Eligibility Check

During the opening, administrative and eligibility check the following will be assessed:

- If the deadline has been met. Otherwise, the application will be automatically rejected.
- If the application satisfies all the criteria specified in this guidelines for applicants. This includes also an assessment of the eligibility of the action. If any of the requested information is missing or is incorrect, the application may be rejected on that sole basis and the application will not be evaluated further.
- If the application and all the relevant supporting documents have been submitted and if they are in proper format. Any missing supporting document or any incoherence between the declaration by the Lead Applicant and the supporting documents may lead to the rejection of the application on that sole basis.

2.3.8. Financial & Operational Capacity Check and Technical Evaluation

The applications that passed the administrative and eligibility check will be further evaluated on their quality, including the proposed budget and capacity of the applicants. Evaluation of the quality of the proposals, including the proposed budget, and of the capacity of the Lead Applicant and the Co-applicant(s), will be carried out in accordance with the evaluation criteria set out in the Evaluation Grid included below. There are two types of evaluation criteria: selection and award criteria.

The selection criteria are intended to help evaluate the applicants' financial and operational capacity to ensure that they:

- have stable and sufficient sources of finance to maintain their activity throughout the period during which the action is being carried out and, where appropriate, to participate in its funding;
- have the management capacity, professional competencies and qualifications required to successfully complete the proposed action. This also applies to any co-applicants.

The award criteria allow the quality of the proposals submitted to be evaluated in relation to the objectives and priorities set, and grant to be awarded to actions which maximize the overall effectiveness of the Call for Proposals. They enable the selection of proposals which the Contracting Authority can be confident will comply with its objectives and priorities and guarantee the visibility of the Community financing. They cover such aspects as the relevance of the action, its consistency with the objectives of the Call for Proposals, quality, expected impact, sustainability and cost-effectiveness.

Scoring:

The evaluation criteria are divided into sections and subsections. 1 (one) is the lowest score for each subsection.

Section	Maximum Score
1. Financial and operational capacity <i>Evaluation Criteria for Section 1. Financial and operational Capacity</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the score is less than 10 points for section 1, the Evaluation Committee will reject the proposal. If the score for at least one of the subsections under Section 1 is 1, the application will also be rejected. 	20
1.1. Do the applicants have sufficient in-house experience of project management?	4
1.2. Do the applicants have sufficient in-house technical expertise? (especially knowledge of the issues to be addressed)	4
1.3. Do the applicants have sufficient in-house management capacity? (Including staff, equipment and ability to handle the budget for the action)	4
1.4. Does the lead applicant have stable and sufficient sources of finance?	4
1.5. Does the lead applicant have organizational capacity for commercial scaling up?	4
2. Relevance <i>(If the total average score is less than 10 points for section 2, the Evaluation Committee will reject the proposal.)</i>	20
2.1. How relevant is the proposal to the objectives and priorities of the call for proposals? Are the expected results of the action aligned with the priorities defined in the guidelines for applicants (Section 1.2)?	5
2.2. How relevant is the proposal to the particular needs and constraints of the target province(s) and/or relevant sectors (including synergy with other development plans)?	5
2.3. How clearly defined and strategically chosen are those involved (final beneficiaries, target groups such as women, youth, SuTP)? Have the needs of target groups and constraints been clearly defined and does the proposal address them appropriately?	5
2.4. Does the foreseen new employment prioritize SuTPs or women (60% SuTPs and 40% LHCs and at least 25% women employment as overall objective of the Grant Programme)?	5
3. Design of the Action	12
3.1. How coherent is the design of the action? 3.1.1. Does the proposal indicate the expected results to be achieved by the action? 3.1.2. Do project outputs explain the rationale to achieve the expected results? Are the activities proposed appropriate, practical, and consistent with the envisaged outputs and outcome(s)?	4
3.2. Does the proposal include credible baseline, targets and sources of verification? If not, is a baseline study foreseen (and is the study budgeted appropriately in the proposal)?	4
3.3. Does the design reflect a robust analysis of the problems involved, and the capacities of the relevant stakeholders (co-applicants, target groups, etc.)?	4

4. Implementation Approach	13
4.1. Is the action plan for implementing the action clear and feasible? Is the timeline realistic?	5
4.2. Does the proposal include an effective and efficient monitoring system? Is there an evaluation planned (previous, during or/and at the end of the implementation)?	4
4.3. Is the stakeholders' (co-applicants, target groups, etc.) level of involvement and participation in the action satisfactory?	4
5. Expected results	8
<p>5.1. Is the action likely to create sustainable jobs and have an impact on employment and membership in cooperative / union(s) of cooperatives in the long-run? Are there any potential multiplier effect or added-value with the created job?</p> <p><i>If the action aims to create additional employment (or formalize employment) or membership of SuTPs and LHC members in parallel with sustainable business growth, the maximum score for 5.1 shall be;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 (Maximum Score), if the created formal employment or membership is more than 10% of the existing employment or membership, • 6 points, if the created formal employment or membership is between 5-10% of the existing employment or membership, • 4 points, if the created formal employment or membership is less than 5% of the existing employment or membership, <p><u>If there are no jobs created, Evaluation Committee will reject the proposal.</u></p>	4x2
6. Sustainability	12
6.1. Is the project likely to have multiplier effects, including scope for replication, extension, capitalization on experience and knowledge sharing?	4
6.2. Are the expected results of the proposed action sustainable?	4x1
<p>6.2.1. Financially (e.g. financing of follow-up activities, sources of revenue for covering all future operating and maintenance costs)</p> <p>6.2.2. Institutionally (will structures allow the results of the action to be sustained at the end of the action?)</p> <p>6.2.3. Environmentally (will the action have a positive/negative environmental impact?)</p> <p>6.2.4. Inclusiveness (Does new employment include any disadvantaged group such as youth, women, SuTPs?)</p>	
6.3. Does the project have a detailed risk analysis and contingency plan? Does it include a list of risks associated with each proposed action, accompanied by relevant mitigation measures?	4
7. Budget and cost-effectiveness	15
7.1. Are the activities appropriately reflected in the budget?	5
7.2. Is the ratio between the estimated costs and the results satisfactory?	5x2
Maximum total score	100

Recommended for award

After the evaluation, a table will be drawn up listing the applications ranked according to their total scores. Applications with the total score below 65 would be rejected. For applications that score 65 or higher, the selection will be made as outlined below:

1. The highest scoring 1 (one) application with the total score of 65 or more from each province will be recommended for award.
2. There will be no more provincial quota for the remaining applications scored 65 or more and overall highest scoring applications will be recommended for award in sequence until the available budget of this call for proposals is reached.

In addition, a reserve list will be drawn up following the same criteria. This list will be used if more funds become available during the validity period of the reserve list. In case of any need to replace the best application of any province, the next highest scoring application from the same province will be recommended for award. In all other cases, overall ranking scores will be considered.

2.4. NOTIFICATION OF THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY'S DECISION

2.4.1. Content of the decision

The lead applicants will be informed in writing of the contracting authority's decision concerning their application on the ICMPD Electronic Application Platform.

2.4.2. Indicative Timetable

	DATE	TIME (Vienna local time)
1. Information meeting (online webinar)	19 th June 2023	13:00
2. Field Visits to provinces	July 2023	TBC
3. Deadline for requesting any clarifications from the contracting authority	11 th August 2023	17:00
4. Last date on which clarifications are issued by the contracting authority	18 th August 2023	N/A
5. Deadline for submission of applications	25 th August 2023	17:00
6. Notification to the applicants on the results of evaluation (predicted time)	November 2023	N/A
7. Contract signature (predicted time)	December 2023	N/A

All times are in the time zone of **Vienna**.

This indicative timetable refers to provisional dates (except for dates 3, 4, and 5) and may be updated by the contracting authority during the procedure.

2.5. CONDITIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION AFTER THE CONTRACTING AUTHORITY'S DECISION TO AWARD A GRANT

Following the decision to award a grant, the beneficiary(ies) will be offered a contract (see Annex F of these Guidelines). By signing the application form, the applicants agree, if awarded a grant, to accept the contractual conditions of the grant contract.

Implementation contracts:

Where implementation of the action requires the beneficiary(ies) to award procurement contracts, those contracts must be awarded in accordance with Annex IV to the Standard Grant Contract (Annex F).

3. LIST OF ANNEXES

Documents to be Submitted

- Annex A : Application Form (Word and PDF format)
- Annex B : Budget (Excel and PDF format)
- Annex C : Legal Entity Identification Form
- Annex D : Declaration on Honour
- Annex E : Due Diligence Form

Documents for Information (These documents do not need to be submitted)

- Annex F : Standard Grant Contract
 - Annex II : General Conditions
 - Annex IV : Procurement by Grant Beneficiaries
 - Annex V : Payment Request for Grant Contract
 - Annex VI : Model Narrative, Final and Financial Report
 - Annex VII : Terms of Reference for an Expenditure Verification of a Grant Contract
 - Annex VIII : Pre-financing Guarantee Form
 - Annex IX : Template for Transfer of Assets
 - Annex X : Provisional Financial Report and Forecast
- Annex G : Information on Tax Regime

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