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SOCIALTECH4EU



# SocialTech4EU

## Call for Social Enterprises in Europe Financial Support for Acceleration

SocialTech4EU/2023/Call3:Acceleration

**Deadline: 8 March 2024, 15:00 CET (Brussels  
Time)**

## Guidelines for applicants

*SocialTech4EU is co-funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or EISMEA. Neither the European Union nor EISMEA can be held responsible for them.*



SiliconVilstal



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## 1. About the SocialTech4EU project

The “Eurocluster” **SocialTech for Europe for Resilient and Responsible Ecosystems - SocialTech4EU** aims at strengthening the **resilience and innovation capacity, competitiveness, and sustainability of social economy ecosystems and start-ups and SMEs of the social economy.**

The project provides them with support in form of grants/financial support, training and networking activities, and other activities.

The project is co-funded by the European Union under the Call SMP-COSME-2021-CLUSTER-01. This “Eurocluster” is linked to the EU Industrial Strategy, and it is connected to the “Proximity and Social Economy” industrial ecosystem. In September 2022, 30 Euroclusters were launched to implement the EU Industrial Strategy. **Euroclusters** are cross-sectoral, interdisciplinary, and trans-European strategic initiatives of industry clusters and other economic actors such as research organisations, companies, etc. Learn more and access the European Cluster Collaboration Platform [here](#).

SocialTech4EU is implemented by a consortium of 6 partners:

- [Torino Social Impact](#), represented by [Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini](#) (Italy).
- [ADV Romania Foundation](#) (Romania).
- [Coompanion Örebro](#) (Sweden).
- [Silicon Vilstal gemeinnützige UG](#) (Germany).
- [Asociacion Investigacion, Desarrollo E Innovacion En Aragon](#) (Spain).
- [European Network of Social Integration Enterprises](#) (Belgium).

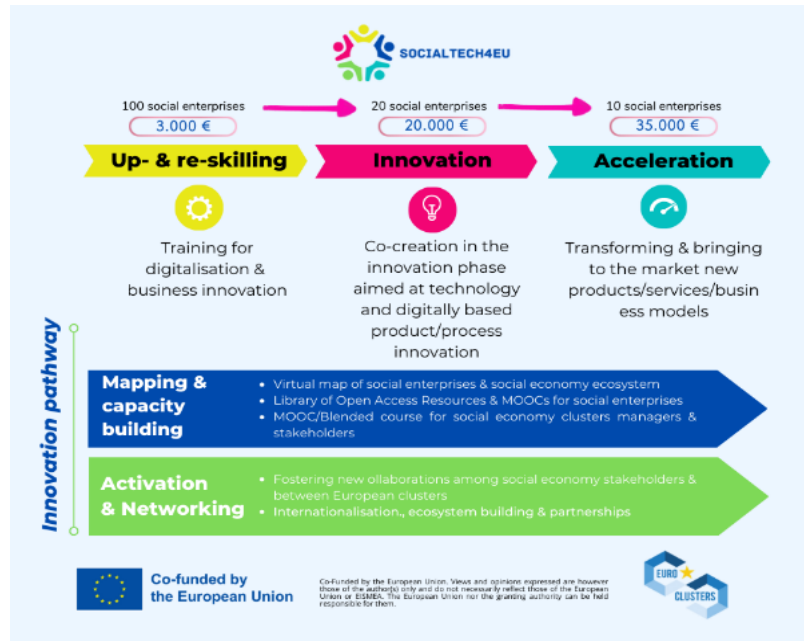
For details about the project, please visit:

<https://clustercollaboration.eu/eu-cluster-partnerships/euroclusters/socialtech4eu>,  
[www.socialtech4eu.org](http://www.socialtech4eu.org)

## 2. Overview of the financial support provided by SocialTech4EU

SocialTech4EU provides financial support to social enterprises (SEs) to enable them to embrace the digital and green transition.

The financial support is provided across three stages (*Calls for applications*). This call represents the third and final stage of financial support under SocialTech4EU:



In this **third stage “Acceleration”**, the call is aimed at providing financial support to social enterprises to launch - "accelerate" - **their innovation projects**. The **Call for Social Enterprises in Europe - Financial Support for Acceleration (SocialTech4EU/2023/Call3:Acceleration)** is open from 8 January to 8 March 2024. Companies that were funded under the previous SocialTech4EU calls can apply and receive up to €37,000 if selected for funding.

The previous calls prepared the activities to be financed under this call:

The **first stage “Up- & re-skilling”** aimed at fostering the up-skilling and re-skilling of the social enterprises and their workforce, by providing financial support for **training** on business, digitalisation, and innovation/tech management.

The **Call for Social Enterprises in Europe - Financial Support for Training (SocialTech4EU/2023/Call1:Training)** was open from 8 February to 21 April 2023. Funded companies received up to €3,000.

The **second stage “Innovation”** aimed to support the innovation of the social enterprises, by providing financial support for **feasibility** for the development of an “innovation project” for their organisation, that is, for the development and/or customization of digital and/or tech solutions. The **Call for Social Enterprises in Europe - Financial Support for Innovation (SocialTech4EU/2023/Call2:Innovation)** was open from 28 July to 19 October 2023. Funded companies received up to €20,000.

The total amount of financial support awarded to each social enterprise by the SocialTech4EU project across the different calls/stages cannot exceed a total of €60,000.

### 3. Overview of the Call for Social Enterprises in Europe - Financial Support for Acceleration (SocialTech4EU/2023/Call3:Acceleration)

The call **SocialTech4EU Call for Social Enterprises - Financial Support for Acceleration** aims at strengthening the resilience, innovation capacity, competitiveness, and sustainability of Social Enterprises (SEs), so as to enable them to embrace the digital and green transition.

This Call is **open to the 20 social enterprises funded under** the SocialTech4EU Call for Social Enterprises in Europe - Financial Support for Innovation (SocialTech4EU/2023/Call2:Innovation).

Applicants to this call can request financial support of **up to € 37,000**. The aim of this call is to finance at least 10 social enterprises.

The call provides financial support to SEs to carry out an **innovation project** for their organisation. **The financial support can be used for different acceleration services such as the implementation of digital and/or green solutions, training, advisory, and mentoring programmes for business development and access to financing, which are delivered by external providers.**

An SE funded under this call should develop and/or customise a digital and/or tech solution that will support the company's transition into a greener and more digital organisation. The development or customisation of a digital and/or tech solution includes services, products, and processes of the company. The activities under the innovation project extend to the implementation of digital and/or green solutions, training, advisory, and mentoring programmes for business development and access to financing, which can be delivered by external providers.

**This call will fund one innovation project per organisation.** The innovation project can be based on the feasibility study executed under the previous SocialTech4EU "innovation" call. Depending on the viability of developing the project in the implementation period, the innovation project can encompass parts or the entire implementation of the studied solution.

The acceleration application form contains sections that can be linked to those of the feasibility study. However, the proposal to be submitted must focus on the timeframe for the implementation of the acceleration projects. **The project implementation period will be from 25 March 2024 to 15 July 2024.**

In the application, applicants are asked to detail the activities to be funded in the innovation project, including activities provided by external providers, and to what extent they contribute to the complete implementation of the solution examined in the feasibility study.

The professional services for developing the project should be delivered by external third parties (providers) that **participate in the implementation of the innovation project**, by bringing their knowledge, experiences and skills.

The providers must be selected at the application stage and described in the application, and applications must include a letter of intent from the providers. The providers must be part of the [SocialTech4EU Registry of stakeholders/providers for the social economy](#)<sup>1</sup>, at the latest by the deadline of this Call.

Applications must be submitted by a single social enterprise only.

To be noted as well that providers are not to be considered as “partners”. The financial support will be provided to the social enterprise only, who will be responsible for administering the grant, including transferring it to the providers, if applicable. Selected social enterprises will be the sole responsible for setting-up/managing agreements regulating their cooperation with the providers.

### Definitions:

**Innovation project:** the objective of an innovation project is the development and/or customization of digital and/or tech solutions (services, products, processes) that will improve the social enterprise’s innovation/digitalisation/tech development and reinforce its transformation into a greener and more digital organisation. Examples may include the development of digital platforms for engaging clients/users, or digital tools for a more efficient/effective delivery of services, or technology solutions to improve environmental impact. This list is non-exhaustive: proposals can vary according to needs of the social enterprises but must result in the development of more green and digital organisations.

**Feasibility study:** A feasibility study is a comprehensive analysis and evaluation conducted to assess the viability, practicality, and potential success of a proposed project (the “innovation project”). It aims to determine whether the intended undertaking is feasible and advisable from various perspectives, including technical, financial, operational, legal, and environmental considerations, as well as in the timeframe provided for the innovation project. During a feasibility study, key aspects and factors related to the project are thoroughly examined, such as the project’s objectives, scope, requirements, resources, costs, risks, and potential benefits. The study involves collecting and analysing relevant data, conducting market research, assessing technical feasibility, reviewing regulatory requirements, estimating financial projections, as well as prototyping, intended as initial testing of new products/services/processes.

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<sup>1</sup> For information on how providers can apply to be part of the Registry, please visit: <https://clustercollaboration.eu/community-news/socialtech4eu-invitation-register-registry-stakeholders-and-providers-social>

## Key figures

|                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Call opening</b>                       | 8 January 2024                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Info session</b>                       | 12 January 2024                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Call deadline</b>                      | 8 March 2024, 15:00 CET                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Pitch session</b>                      | 12 March 2024                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Publication of awarded SEs</b>         | 22 March 2024                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Project start date</b>                 | 25 March 2024                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Plenary meeting with beneficiaries</b> | 29 March 2024                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Project execution deadline</b>         | 15 July 2024                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Deadline for project reporting</b>     | 31 July 2024                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Demo day</b>                           | July 2024 (date to be confirmed)<br><br>The beneficiaries are invited to pitch their project during a demo day in conjunction with the project final event in Brussels.                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Maximum amount per applicant</b>       | Up to €37,000 (lump sum)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Maximum budget of the call</b>         | €378,000                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Eligible organisations</b>             | Social enterprises funded under the SocialTech4EU Call for Social Enterprises in Europe - Financial Support for Innovation (SocialTech4EU/2023/Call2:Innovation).<br><br>For all eligibility criteria, please see section 4.                                                                        |
| <b>Eligible activities</b>                | Implementation of an “innovation project”, including acceleration activities such as the implementation of digital and/or green solutions, training, advisory, and mentoring programmes for business development and access to financing.<br><br>For all eligible activities, see sections 4 and 6. |

## 4. Eligible organisations

### 4.1 Applicants: social enterprises

Applicants are social enterprises which must meet all the following requirements:

1. **Be a small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) as defined by the EU.** An SME will be considered as such if coherent with the [Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC](#) and the [SME user guide](#).
2. **Be established/registered (legal office) in one of the following countries:**
  - a. Countries of the SocialTech4EU project: Italy, Belgium, Germany, Romania, Spain, Sweden.
  - b. Another EU Member State.
  - c. [EEA countries and countries associated](#) to the COSME part of the Single Market Programme or countries which are in ongoing negotiations for an association agreement and where the agreement enters into force before grant signature. SocialTech4EU aims that at least 10% of the SEs selected in the call are established in a country other than the countries of the project partners.
3. **Be compliant** with the following situations:
  - Is no bankrupt or being wound up, is not having affairs administrated by the courts, has not entered into an arrangement with creditors, has not suspended business activities, is not the subject of proceedings concerning those matters or is not in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations.
  - Is in compliance with its obligation relating to the payment of social security contributions and the payment of taxes, in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which it is established.
  - Is not subject to a conflict of interest in connection with the grant.
4. **Be one of the social enterprises selected** under the SocialTech4EU Call for Social Enterprises in Europe - Financial Support for Innovation (SocialTech4EU/2023/Call2:Innovation).

Being selected/contracted does not exempt the applicants from complying with all the eligibility criteria set in these Guidelines for Applicants, nor the SocialTech4EU partnership to perform checks on the eligibility of the applicants and request documentation at any time during the application and selection process.

Applicants must confirm in their application form they meet all eligibility criteria. It is mandatory for any applicant which underwent any change in their legal status since being selected to communicate these changes in their application form.
5. **Have already signed the agreement for SocialTech4EU/2023/Call2:Innovation** at the latest by the deadline of this Call.



6. **Have an account published on the [SocialTech4EU Map of Social Enterprises](#)** at the latest by the deadline of this Call.
7. **Apply as an individual organisation.**
8. **Include in their application at least 1 SocialTech4EU support provider.** For eligibility of providers, see below.
9. **Not have a conflict of interest with the SocialTech4EU project partners.** Members of the cluster organisations participating in the project are eligible to apply, but project partners are not.
10. **Not have a conflict of interest with any of the innovation providers** included in the application. The social enterprise and the providers must be autonomous to one another (without capital or personal links).

In addition, for the whole selection and evaluation process and the duration of the agreement with Foundation Giacomo Brodolini (FGB) as SocialTech4EU project coordinator, selected applicants must commit to:

- Comply with the obligations that the European Commission set in the Grant Agreement with FGB, including, among others:
  - Avoid conflicts of interest (Article 12 GA).
  - Maintain confidentiality (Article 13 GA).
  - Promote the action and give visibility to the EU funding (Article 17 GA).
  - Liability for damages (Article 33 GA).
  - Allow the Agency, the Commission, the European Anti-fraud Office (OLAF) and the Court of Auditors to exercise their powers of control on documents, information, even stored on electronic media, or on the recipient's premises.
- Provide information on the innovation activities undertaken (non-confidential), for communication and dissemination purposes, to both the SocialTech4EU project partners and EISMEA - European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency

## 4.2 Providers

**At least 1 SocialTech4EU support provider** must be part of an application submitted in this Call.

**Providers participate in carrying out the innovation project.** The beneficiaries of these calls can involve the providers for different acceleration services such as the implementation of digital and/or green solutions, training, advisory, and mentoring programmes for business development and access to financing.

It is reminded that providers are not “partners”. The financial support will be provided to the social enterprise only, who will be responsible for administering the grant, including contracting the providers and transferring part of the grant to them, if applicable.

A single provider can participate in more than one application.

Providers can come from any eligible countries (see below), either from the same country of the applicant and/or from other eligible countries. All applications will be evaluated against the evaluation criteria set in section 9, regardless of the countries where the selected provider(s) are based.

Providers must thus be selected at application stage and described in the application, and applications must include letters of intents from all the providers.

Providers must meet all the following requirements:

- 1. Be a legal entity.**
- 2. Be established/registered (legal office) in one of the following countries:**
  - a. Countries of the SocialTech4EU project: Italy, Belgium, Germany, Romania, Spain, Sweden.
  - b. Another EU Member State.
  - c. [EEA countries and countries associated](#) to the COSME part of the Single Market Programme or countries which are in ongoing negotiations for an association agreement and where the agreement enters into force before grant signature. SocialTech4EU aims that at least 10% of the organisations selected in the call are established in a country other than the countries of the project partners.
- 3. Be part of and have an account published on the [SocialTech4EU Registry of stakeholders/providers for the social economy](#)<sup>2</sup> at the latest by the deadline of this Call.**
- 4. Not have a conflict of interest with the SocialTech4EU project partners.** Members of the Cluster organisations participating in the project are eligible to apply, but project partners are not.
- 5. Not have a conflict of interest with the social enterprise leading the application they are participating in.** The social enterprise and the providers must be autonomous to one another (without capital or personal links).
- 6. Comply with all the other eligibility criteria set in the [SocialTech4EU Invitation to register in the Registry of stakeholders and providers for social economy](#)**

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<sup>2</sup> For information on how providers can apply to be part of the Registry, please visit:

<https://clustercollaboration.eu/community-news/socialtech4eu-invitation-register-registry-stakeholders-and-providers-social>

## 5. Financial support

The maximum total EU financial support available for this Call is € 378,000.

Each applicant can request **up to € 37,000**. This also includes the external costs for the providers that the SEs bring in with their application.

No co-financing is required from the selected SEs. However, they must commit to ensure the necessary resources needed to carry out the project and must have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain their activity throughout the development of the project.

This will be also stated in the Declaration of Honour (see section 7) and the agreement that social enterprises will sign with Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini srl SB (see section 9).

The financial support will be awarded in the form of a lump sum.

A lump sum is a fixed payment defined up-front and set out in the agreement. It will be paid upon accomplishment of activities, linked to deliverables.

Applicants must complete and attach to their application a budget proposal, based on the template provided in the Cluster Submission Platform. Costs described in the budget must be determined in accordance with the usual accounting and management principles and practices of the applicant. **The budget of the feasibility study to be submitted must be detailed, demonstrate cost-effectiveness and be consistent with the timing of the innovation project to be developed.**

Since the granting of a lump sum does not foresee the delivery of a detailed financial reporting, the use of the lump sum/financial support will be controlled on the basis of the monitoring and reporting process detailed in section 10, including to verify the coherence of the spent money with the achieved results.

In all cases, SEs must always keep all the original documents for all their expenses for five years after the payment of the balance (e.g. timesheets, invoices, contracts) in case of checks and audits, carried out by both the SocialTech4EU partnerships and/or the EU agencies and institutions, and to demonstrate compliance with all eligibility rules set in these Guidelines.

The selected/contracted social enterprises are solely responsible for providing all necessary documents in case of checks and audits. If any problem occurs, the SocialTech4EU partnership is not responsible for possible subsidy reductions or claims that may be made to the selected/contracted social enterprises for an incorrect justification.

The financial support to be awarded to each applicant will be based on the assessment of eligible costs as provided in the estimated budget and will be then set out in the Agreement (see Section 9).

The total amount awarded to each SE by the SocialTech4EU project across all calls/stages cannot exceed €60,000.

Please note that the SocialTech4EU partnership has the right not to award all the financial support available in this call, not all the financial support requested by the applicants.

In addition, the transfer of the financial support from FGB to the selected social enterprises is subject to the condition that the European Commission makes the necessary funds available to FGB.

### **Double funding:**

**No double funding is allowed.** Applicants must not be and not have been funded by national or European public funds for the same activities included in their application.

Social enterprises can apply to other calls for financial support under the EUROCLUSTERS programme (<https://clustercollaboration.eu/euroclusters>). However, a single SE shall not benefit double/several financial supports for the same project.

The SocialTech4EU partnership may carry out the necessary control actions with other Eurocluster Consortia and other EU-funded projects to verify that there is no double funding ongoing.

## **6. Activities supported/funded by the Call**

This Call will provide each selected social enterprise with a financial support of **up to € 37,000 to carry out an innovation project for their organisation in collaboration with providers**. An innovation project is defined as the development or customisation of a digital and/or tech solution includes services, products, and processes of the company. The activities under the innovation project extend to the implementation of digital and/or green solutions, training, advisory, and mentoring programmes for business development and access to financing, which can be delivered by external providers.

**The innovation project must be carried out from 25 March 2024 and completed by 15 July 2024.**

The financial support can be used for the following costs related to carrying out the innovation project:

- 1) Personnel costs:** costs hours of the internal staff of the applicant social enterprise dedicated to actual work on the feasibility study. For a definition of personnel costs, please see COSME Programme Grant Agreement Template, section 6.2, budget headings A1 and A2:

[https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/other\\_eu\\_prog/cosme/mga/cosme-mga-multi\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/other_eu_prog/cosme/mga/cosme-mga-multi_en.pdf).

Direct staff costs are limited to a maximum 40% of the total budget requested.

- 2) **Subcontracting:** this is the work carried out by the provider(s) which enters into an agreement on business conditions with the social enterprise. They can cover:
- innovation, technology and/or consultancy services.
  - technical services related to:
    - a) Access to facilities and services for development of new product/services
    - b) Purchase of ICT services/software
- 3) **Other costs:** these costs are different from subcontracting because they are minor purchases and are not considered as "services" (from other professionals). Other costs may be included in the budget proposal in exceptional cases, **if necessary and duly justified:** they will be subject to a thorough evaluation. They can cover:
- consumables
  - specific equipment necessary to carry out the project
  - travel necessary for the implementation of the project activities

**Please note that purchasing or installation of hardware is not eligible.**

The costs listed above are eligible only if they meet all the following requirements:

- 1) Incurred from the date of the signature of the agreement with Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini srl SB (see section 10) until 15 July 2024.
- 2) Included in the approved budget attached to the agreement signed with Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini srl SB.
- 3) Incurred solely for the purpose of implementing the approved application attached to the signed agreement with Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini srl SB and necessary for its implementation.
- 4) Incurred for one or more categories listed above.
- 5) Identifiable and verifiable, in particular recorded in the organisation's accounts in accordance with the accounting standards applicable in the country where it is established and with its usual cost accounting practices.
- 6) Comply with the applicable national law on taxes, labour and social security.
- 7) Reasonable, justified and must comply with the principle of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency.
- 8) Finally, in terms of subcontracting of services, social enterprises must comply with their national legislation in compliance with their obligations and requirements for contracting with public funds.

## 7. How to submit an application

## 7.1 Application documents

The following documents must be submitted:

- Application form - Acceleration Open Call
- Annex 1. Budget template - Acceleration Open Call
- Annex 2. Declaration of Honour
- Annex 3. Letter(s) of intent from the provider(s)
- Annex 4. Balance sheets and profit and loss account for 2022 and the advance/forecast for 2023.

## 7.2 Submission

Applicants must submit their application in English only<sup>3</sup> by the deadline 8 March 2024 at 15.00 CET (Brussels time) by completing and submitting their online application via the **Cluster Submission Platform** at: [https://clustersubmissionplatform.eu/eurocluster\\_post/socialtech4eu-acceleration-open-call/](https://clustersubmissionplatform.eu/eurocluster_post/socialtech4eu-acceleration-open-call/)

All necessary application documents listed above must be uploaded to the Cluster Submission Platform during the application process.

Each applicant can submit one application only and will receive an automatic email acknowledgment of the submission of the application. If an applicant does not receive the confirmation email within one hour of the submission of its proposal, it will be assumed that the submission process was not completed. Cluster IDiA can be contacted by email at [alvaro.lombardo@idia.es](mailto:alvaro.lombardo@idia.es).

It is strongly recommended not to wait until the last minute to submit an application. Failure of the application to arrive by the call deadline for any reason, including network communications delays, is not acceptable as an extenuating circumstance.

Moreover, no additions or changes to an application can be made after it has been submitted, nor after it has been selected.

## 8. Selection and evaluation process

### 1<sup>st</sup> step – Eligibility

All applications received by the call deadline will be reviewed by the SocialTech4EU project partners against the eligibility criteria described under “Eligible organisations” and “Activities”.

In addition, the following applications will be deemed ineligible:

- Completed in languages other than English (even partially).
- Submitted after the deadline.
- With no or incomplete attachments.

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<sup>3</sup> Applications even partially written in another language will not be eligible.

- With no or incomplete signatures, where mandatory.
- With attachments not based on the call's templates, where mandatory.

The SocialTech4EU partnership has the right to request documentation from the applicants to verify all the above. In case the request is not answered within 7 working days, the applicant will be deemed ineligible.

Only the eligible applications will move to the 2<sup>nd</sup> step.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> step – Evaluation**

All eligible applications will be evaluated jointly by an Evaluation Committee of the SocialTech4EU Consortium and the external jury of the Innovation Call.

First, the Evaluation Committee of SocialTech4EU Consortium formed by all partners will review and evaluate the application. This rating will be equivalent to 60% of the final score.

Secondly, in an online session to be held on 12 March 2024, SEs will have to present to the jury of the Innovation Call, comprising experts coming from EU countries, in an elevator pitch format. This qualification will be equivalent to 40% of the final score.

Applicants are not allowed to contact any of the jury members or the SocialTech4EU Evaluation Committee; contacting a jury member is a reason for exclusion from this Call.

### **Evaluation 1: Documentation assessment by the SocialTech4EU Evaluation Committee**

Applications will be evaluated by the SocialTech4EU project partners. To ensure fair treatment of applicants and impartiality, project partners will evaluate applications submitted by applicants based in countries other than their own. Each proposal will be evaluated by two different partners, the score being the average score between the two partners.

The evaluation committee will assess the applications according to the following evaluation criteria. Each chapter of the Application form is part of the 4 award criteria and will receive a partial score.

- 1) **Relevance:** this criterion can be reached by Application Chapters:
  - Application Form, section 2.2: PROJECT SUMMARY;
  - Application Form, section 2.3: PROJECT OBJECTIVES;
  - Application Form, section 2.4: CONCEPT ANALYSIS AND METHODOLOGY;
- 2) **Quality:** this criterion can be reached by Application Chapters:
  - Application Form, section 2.5: PROJECT OPERATIONAL ANALYSIS;
  - Application Form, section 2.6: WORK PLAN AND TIMELINE;
- 3) **Capacity:** this criterion can be reached by Application Chapters:
  - Application Form, section 2.7: BUDGET;



- Application Form, section 2.8: PROJECT MANAGEMENT, RISK ANALYSIS AND VISIBILITY;
- 4) **Impact:** this criterion can be reached by Application Chapters:
  - Application Form, section 2.9: SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT.

Each application can receive a maximum score of 80 points. Proposals will be evaluated and scored against the evaluation criteria listed below:

| Criteria                                                                                | Min. pass score | Max . score |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| <b>1) Relevance:</b> Excellence aspects of the proposal for the ecosystem               | 15              | 30          |
| <i>Application Form, section 2.2: PROJECT SUMMARY;</i>                                  | 5               | 10          |
| <i>Application Form, section 2.3: PROJECT OBJECTIVES;</i>                               | 5               | 10          |
| <i>Application Form, section 2.4: CONCEPT ANALYSIS AND METHODOLOGY;</i>                 | 5               | 10          |
| <b>2) Quality:</b> Project design and implementation                                    | 10              | 20          |
| <i>Application Form, section 2.5: PROJECT OPERATIONAL ANALYSIS;</i>                     | 5               | 10          |
| <i>Application Form, section 2.6: WORK PLAN AND TIMELINE;</i>                           | 5               | 10          |
| <b>3) Capacity:</b> Budget and project management                                       | 10              | 20          |
| <i>Application Form, section 2.7: BUDGET;</i>                                           | 5               | 10          |
| <i>Application Form, section 2.8: PROJECT MANAGEMENT, RISK ANALYSIS AND VISIBILITY;</i> | 5               | 10          |
| <b>4) Impact:</b> Social ambition of the proposal and innovation level                  | 10              | 10          |
| <i>Application Form, section 2.9: SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT;</i>                         | 5               | 10          |
| <b>Overall score</b>                                                                    | <b>40</b>       | <b>80</b>   |

Proposals that pass the minimum pass score for each criterion will be considered for funding.

## **Evaluation 2: Pitch sessions with the external jury**

In this second evaluation phase, the SEs will have to present their proposals in an online session that will take place on 15 March 2024 in an elevator pitch format. Companies will have 5 minutes to present their proposals to the external jury of the Innovation Call. The use of graphic presentations (e.g. PowerPoint) will be allowed during the pitch.



The rest of the instructions will be detailed by the SocialTech4EU consortium in the days prior to the session.

Each application will be reviewed by two jury members.

The jury will assess the applications on the basis of the following evaluation criteria:

**1) Clarity and Relevance (20 points)**

- How clearly is the social issue or need well-defined and the purpose of the project presented? (20 points)

**2) Quality and Innovation (20 points)**

- How innovative is the proposed solution or intervention? (10 points)
- Is the proposed technology or approach clearly explained? (10 points)

**3) Presentation and Engagement (20 points)**

- How engaging is the presentation of the elevator pitch? (20 points)

**4) Viability (20 points)**

- Is there a clear indication of the project's viability with the operational and financial aspects briefly outlined? (20 points)

**The final score will be the weighted sum of the first evaluation of the Evaluation Committee of SocialTech4EU (60%) and the second evaluation of the external jury in the pitches (40%).**

In case of ex-aequo, priority will be given to:

1) Applications submitted by organisations from regions with different levels of economic development and established in:

- EU-13 countries, i.e. member countries since 2004 (Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia).
- EU regions with which the SocialTech4EU project partners had no previous cooperation.

2) Ensuring balance at geographical level and with regards to sectors of activity of the organisations.

3) Applicants who are members of the clusters participating in the project.

In case of ex-aequo after this, priority will be given to applications with the higher score under the criterion “Impact”, then “Relevance” and then “Quality”, in this order.

Only applications scoring 60 and above will be recommended for funding, within the available financial support for this Call (see section 5). A reserve list will be prepared.

As mentioned, SocialTech4EU aims that at least 10% of the SEs selected in the call are established in a country other than the countries of the project partners.

The final selection decision will be made by the SocialTech4EU Steering Committee: this will oversee the proper execution of the evaluation process and guarantee its coherence, fairness and

transparency, including among others, assuring that no conflict of interest takes place during the evaluation process and each applicant is funded only once.

All applicants will be informed of the outcome of the evaluation process.

### Complaints:

Applicants willing to submit a complaint must follow the procedure outlined below.

Please note that a complaint can be submitted only if there is a belief that the rejection of the application was based on an error in the selection procedure.

Complaints are subject to the following conditions:

- Complaints must be submitted on a form provided by the SocialTech4EU project upon request via email at [socialtech4eu@fondazionebrodolini.eu](mailto:socialtech4eu@fondazionebrodolini.eu) and must be completed in English only.
- Complaints must be limited to procedural aspects, not on the merits of the application. The complaint must relate to the evaluation procedure, admissibility or eligibility checks and demonstrate a procedural irregularity, factual error, manifest error of assessment or abuse of powers. Mere repetitions of the content of the application or disagreements with the result or reasoning of the evaluation will not be considered.
- Only one request per application will be considered. The request cannot refer to the evaluation of applications submitted by other applicants or under different or previous calls.
- The score following a re-evaluation may be lower than the original score.
- All requests for review will be treated as confidential.

The deadline for receiving complaints will be three days after the publication of the results. Complaints will be reviewed within seven calendar days from reception. In case more time is needed, the SocialTech4EU partnership will inform the applicant via email.

## **9. Contracting and payment arrangements**

All selected social enterprises will have to formally accept the offer of the financial support and consequently sign an **agreement with Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini SRL SB** as SocialTech4EU Coordinator. The agreement will detail all rights and duties of the selected organisation and binding conditions for the social enterprise to receive the financial support.

The **payment schedule** for the financial assistance is as follows:

- 30% of the awarded financial support within 30 working days from the date of entry into force of the agreement between the social enterprise and Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini SRL SB .

- 70% within 30 working days from the approval by FGB and the monitoring partner (see section 11) of the following documents:
  - Acceleration project Final Report.
  - Narrative report on a template provided by the project, on the activities implemented with, among others, a detailed description of the role and activities carried out by the social enterprise and each provider.
  - A financial report detailing incurred expenses, using a template supplied by the project Contracts, invoices and proofs of payment of each provider
  - Calculation of the actual daily rate of the internal staff, on a template provided by the project.

## 10. Monitoring and reporting

**The closing date for projects is 15 July 2024. Companies must submit their final documentation before 31 July 2024.**

Each selected/contracted social enterprise will be monitored by one of the SocialTech4EU partners, in order to monitor the advancement of the activities, any issue, or support needed. Monitoring activities will be detailed in the agreement with Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini srl SB and are mandatory for all social enterprises.

## 11. Further information

For general queries on the call, please email Álvaro Lombardo, Cluster IDiA, SocialTech4EU WP5 Leader: [alvaro.lombardo@idia.es](mailto:alvaro.lombardo@idia.es)

Alternatively, applicants may contact the SocialTech4EU partner in their country:

|         |            |                  |                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|---------|------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Italy   | FGB        | Debora Greco     | <a href="mailto:greco@fondazionebrodolini.eu">greco@fondazionebrodolini.eu</a><br><a href="mailto:socialtech4EU@fondazionebrodolini.eu">socialtech4EU@fondazionebrodolini.eu</a> |
| Romania | ADV        | Elena Vasiliu    | <a href="mailto:elena.vasiliu@alaturidevoi.ro">elena.vasiliu@alaturidevoi.ro</a>                                                                                                 |
| Sweden  | Coompanion | Malin Aronsson   | <a href="mailto:malin.aronsson@coompanion.se">malin.aronsson@coompanion.se</a>                                                                                                   |
| Germany | SVG        | Natascha Brunner | <a href="mailto:ortsmitte@siliconvilstal.de">ortsmitte@siliconvilstal.de</a>                                                                                                     |
| Spain   | IDiA       | Álvaro Lombardo  | <a href="mailto:alvaro.lombardo@idia.es">alvaro.lombardo@idia.es</a>                                                                                                             |



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|         |       |                |                                                                        |
|---------|-------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Belgium | ENSIE | Patrizia Bussi | <a href="mailto:patrizia.bussi@ensie.org">patrizia.bussi@ensie.org</a> |
|---------|-------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|

To keep updated about the call, please visit:

**European Cluster Collaboration Platform:** <https://clustercollaboration.eu/>

**SocialTech4EU website:** [www.socialtech4eu.org](http://www.socialtech4eu.org)

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/people/SocialTech4EU/100086282683945/>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/SocialTech4EU>

**Linkedin:** [@SocialTech4EU](https://www.linkedin.com/company/socialtech4eu)

## 12. Privacy policy

Applicants must read and accept the privacy policy before submitting their application:  
[https://clustersubmissionplatform.eu/eurocluster\\_post/socialtech4eu-acceleration-open-call/](https://clustersubmissionplatform.eu/eurocluster_post/socialtech4eu-acceleration-open-call/)

## 13. Useful resources

- [European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency \(EISMEA\)](#)
- [EU Cluster Policy](#)
- [Social Economy in the EU](#)
- [Towards a green and digital future - Key requirements for successful twin transitions in the European Union](#)
- [COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS An SME Strategy for a sustainable and digital Europe](#)