

EU for Economic Growth (EU4EG) Project

Contracting Authority:
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ)

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR NEWLY ESTABLISHED ENTERPRISES (START-UPS) **CALL REF: EU4EG_Start-ups_1** **(ONLY FOR POLOG REGION)**

We are looking for innovative start-ups with growth/ scaling potential established in the Republic of North Macedonia with physical office/premises and staff in the Polog region which successfully graduated the regional acceleration programme “700 Accelerator” in 2023/2024.

We are looking for start-ups with economic activity in the target area of Polog region in North Macedonia which shall be provided with non-reimbursable financial support - grant (local subsidy). The local subsidy provided by GIZ shall minimize the risk of the third-party private investors which will express its intention to invest in the start-ups, so their investment can be used for operational costs during growth/ scaling-up phase.

Apply now to the EU4EG Call for Proposals and benefit from the financial support for investments enhancing managerial, technical, and business capacities of your start-up team; improving the business performance of your start-up to a higher level; boosting the local economy, and therefore creating new jobs (in particular for people under 40 years old; women; and vulnerable/marginalised groups), introducing new products and services as well as contributing to the green and circular economy and taking measures towards a zero pollution and zero waste model to prevent negative impact on the environment and climate change.

Overall Objective	Specific Objectives
To contribute in increasing the local economic activity and competitiveness in the target area of the Polog region by improving access of start-ups to high value-added business support services and financing.	- provide non-reimbursable financial support (local subsidy) to start-ups with growth potential complemented with BSSs provided by regional acceleration programme. - support high value-added business initiatives including those related to the green and circular economy. - mobilise third party private investments (individuals or legal entities) in the start-ups.

Who can apply?

This call is open to newly established companies (start-ups). The following conditions must be met by the Applicant in order to be eligible for support:

- be a legal person established in the Republic of North Macedonia as per the Law on trade companies and registered in the Central registry; and
- is established and operating after 15.01.2020; and
- is majority owned (min. 50,1%) by a person below 40 years of age and/or women and/or people belonging to vulnerable groups and minorities; and
- has physical office/premises and staff in Polog region in the Republic of North Macedonia; and
- has sufficient technical, financial and managerial capacity to implement the project proposal; and
- be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action, not acting as an intermediary; and
- has successfully graduated the regional acceleration programme of 700 Accelerator managed by Business Innovation Center (BIC)/ SEEU Tech Park – Tetovo in 2023/2024.

Size of local subsidies

Any local subsidy requested under this Call for Proposals must fall between the following minimum and maximum amounts of total eligible costs of the action:

- **Minimum: 15.000 EUR and**
- **Maximum: 50.000 EUR.**

Any local subsidy requested under this Call for Proposals must fall between the following minimum and maximum percentages of total eligible costs of the action:

- **Minimum: 50%**
- **Maximum: 80%.**

The expected overall duration of the project proposals is maximum 6 months.

How to apply?

The Application by the start-up shall be made in ONE step:

Step 1: Application Form.

The Application together with the required annexes and other supporting documents must be submitted online on the following e-mail: EU4EG@giz.de within the given deadline **18th March 2024 at 12:00 noon (local time)**.

The detailed application procedure is described in the **Guidelines for Applicants**. Please read carefully the **Guidelines for Applicants** before applying to this Call.

The text of the Call for Proposals is published on several platforms:

- EU4EG project web site: [LINK](#)
- EU4EG Academy page: [LINK](#)
- GIZ North Macedonia Facebook page: [GIZ North Macedonia | Facebook](#)

- GIZ North Macedonia LinkedIn page: [GIZ North Macedonia: My Company | LinkedIn](#)
- the EU Delegation to North Macedonia web page: [Republic of North Macedonia | EEAS Website \(europa.eu\)](#)

The Guidelines for Applicants (GfA) and the Application Package are published on the EU4EG project web site: [LINK](#) and the EU4EG Academy page: [LINK](#).

Potential Applicants have thus several options to acquire the Guidelines for Applicants (GfA) and the Application Package:

- 1) Download the application package from the EU4EG web site; OR
- 2) Request from local BSO hosting regional acceleration programme which can download for them from the EU4EG Academy page; OR
- 3) Request can be made on the following e-mail: EU4EG@giz.de with Subject: Request for obtaining at the GfA and Application Package;
OR
- 4) Request can be made by contacting GIZ Regional Adviser on the following e-mails:
 - Polog planning region: evzi.hani@giz.de

Calendar of the Call

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Activity	Timetable	
Launch of the Call for Proposals	16.02.2024	12:00 h
Information days in Polog planning region	• Online event on 21.02.2024, 10.00 – 11.30 h using MS Teams platform on the following link: Click here to join the meeting • Physical events (individual sessions with start-ups) in the target areas: ○ Polog region: ▪ 28.02. and 29.02.2024 in Tetovo. The location of Information events will be also published in advance on the following LINK1 of the EU4EG web site and the following LINK2 at the EU4EG Academy page and will be also sent via e-mail.	
Requesting any clarifications related to this Call for Proposals	7 days prior the submission deadline	
Publication of Questions & Answers	5 days prior the submission deadline	
Deadline for submission of Applications	18.03.2024	12:00 h
Information to Applicants on opening, Administrative and eligibility check and the evaluation of the Applications (Step 1)	03.04.2024	



Co-funded by
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Federal Ministry
for Economic Affairs
and Climate Action

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AREA
SCIENCE PARK

Commercial Eligibility Check of the conditionally selected Applicants	01.05.2024
Final selection of the Applicants	01.05.2024
Preparation and signing of the LS Agreements (Contracts)	31.05.2024