

CALL FOR SOCIAL ECONOMY ENTERPRISES TO RECEIVE ADVISORY SERVICES AND COACHING TO SUPPORT GREEN TRANSITION

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1. GLOSSARY AND DEFINITIONS

SEs : Social Economy Enterprises (SEs) as defined by the European Commission¹.

Implementing partner: SKI.F.T project partner issuing the call and providing the advisory and coaching services to the selected applicants.

Project partner: organisations listed in section 2 participating in the SKI.F.T project as implementing partners.

Applicant: an economic operator who submits a request to benefit from the advisory services and coaching offered.

Beneficiary: selected applicant that will access the services offered by the call.

ECCP: European Cluster Collaboration Platform²

2. AIMS OF THE CALL - ADVISORY SERVICES AND COACHING

The present **Call for social economy enterprises to receive advisory services and coaching** is addressed to Social Economy Enterprises (SEs) with the aim of enabling SEs to get a deeper understanding of the possibility of green transition and increase success and impact of their transition projects.

The aim is to contribute to strengthening the resilience, innovation capacity, competitiveness, and sustainability of small and micro cooperative and social economy enterprises (SEs) with a social mission or impact across Europe, enabling them to embrace green transition.

Applicants to this Call can access advisory and coaching services by sending the application form (see 6. SUBMISSION PROCESS) and will be selected according to the criteria specified in the call for proposals (see 7. EVALUATION PROCESS).

Applications must be submitted by a single applicant.

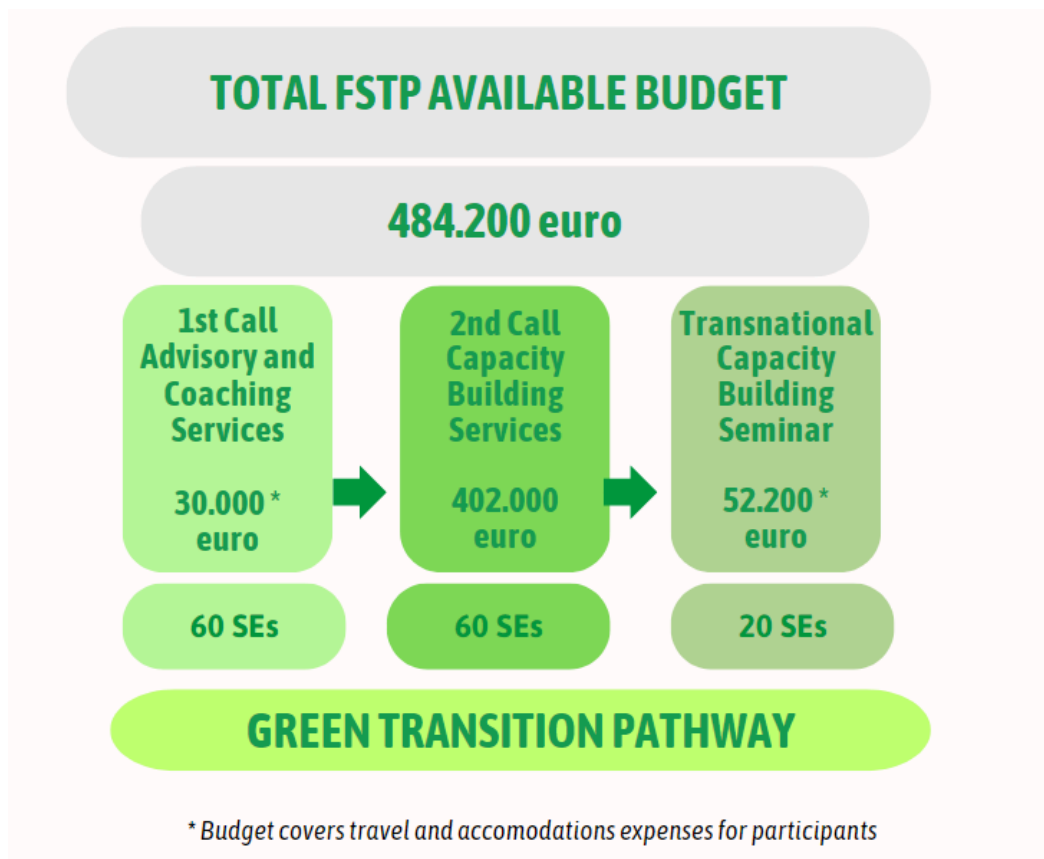
Expected total number of SEs to be selected is at least 60.

Furthermore, for a selected number of applicants that will compete successfully in the **Advisory and Coaching Activities (Phase 1)**, there is the opportunity to apply in a following call for social economy enterprises to receive financial support for purchasing capacity building services (**Phase 2**) to be launched in October 2024 and the opportunity to participate in one transnational seminar on green transition at European level (**Phase 3**) planned for January-February 2025.

The support scheme has been built on the outcomes of the needs analysis carried out by the Consortium on the SEs in the countries of the project partners at the beginning of the project, and will be provided across three stages as follows.

¹https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/proximity-and-social-economy/social-economy-eu/social-enterprises_en

² <https://clustercollaboration.eu/>





3. ABOUT THE PROJECT

SKI.F.T. - Skills for Transition - Increasing the Impact of Micro and Small Social Economy Enterprises (Grant Agreement Project 101126777 co-financed by the EU), aims to support the development of small and micro cooperative and social economy enterprises (SEs) for green transition. The purpose is to contribute to the development of new business models in the circular economy and engage these businesses in green transition activities.

The SKI.F.T. project aims to:

- Develop sustainable business models based on new technologies that enable green transition activities.
- Assist companies in reconsidering their role in relation to private and public actors, as well as in establishing local green markets and value chains.
- Support them in communicating their efforts more effectively by collecting documentation and disseminating results to a broader audience.

The project SKI.F.T. SKILLS FOR TRANSITION is implemented by a consortium of 7 partners:

- KOOPERATIONEN, DK (coordinator)
- Fundacja Inicjatyw Społeczno-Ekonomicznych FISE, PL
- LEGACOOP EMILIA-ROMAGNA, IT
- DEMETRA FORMAZIONE, IT
- CSA COESI, IT
- REVES - RÉSEAU EUROPÉEN DES VILLES ET RÉGIONS DE L'ÉCONOMIE SOCIALE, BE
- CECOP - CONFEDERATION EUROPEENNE DES ENTREPRISES SOCIALES ET PARTICIPATIVES, BE

All the details on the project are available on the following website <https://skift.kooperationen.dk/open-call/> and the national partner website.

4. ELIGIBLE ORGANISATIONS

Applicants must meet all the following requirements:

- 1) Be a Social Economy Enterprise, as defined by the European Commission³:

A social economy enterprise is an operator in the social economy whose main objective is to have a social impact rather than make a profit for their owners or shareholders. It operates by providing goods and services for the market in an entrepreneurial and innovative fashion and uses its profits primarily to achieve social objectives. It is managed in an open and responsible manner and, in particular, involves employees, consumers and stakeholders affected by its commercial activities.

The Commission uses the term 'social economy enterprise' to cover the following types of business:

³

https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/proximity-and-social-economy/social-economy-eu/social-enterprises_en

- Those, for who the social or societal objective of the common good is the reason for the commercial activity, often in the form of a high level of social innovation;
- Those, whose profits are mainly reinvested to achieve this social objective;
- Those, where the method of organisation or the ownership system reflects the enterprise's mission, using democratic or participatory principles or focusing on social justice.

2) Be a Micro and Small (Social Economy) Enterprise as defined by the EU, will be considered as such if coherent with the Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC and the SME user guide.⁴

3) Be established/registered (legal office) in one of the following countries:

- EU Member State;
- 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 signature⁵.

4) Be compliant with the following situations:

- Is not bankrupt or being wound up, is not having affairs administered 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/with the project partners.

Applicants to the current call must confirm in their application form that they meet all eligibility criteria. It is mandatory for applicants to the call which underwent any changes in their legal status since being selected in the call to communicate these changes to the implementing partner, which is in charge of the support granted.

5) Apply as an individual organisation (i.e. consortia are not eligible to apply).

Selected applicants interested to apply to phase 2 (Call for financial support) will have to provide supporting documents and the funding entity might request additional information.

5. ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY THE CALL

This Call will provide each selected organisation with advisory and coaching activities meant to contribute to develop sustainable business models, structured as follows:

UNDERSTANDING A **first interview** to understand applicant's needs for green transition.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32003H0361>

⁵

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/smp/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_smp_en.pdf



GOAL SETTING	Elaboration of a dedicated path to meet the identified needs and subscription of a service pact .
ADVISORY	Thematic webinars , workshops or on the job accompaniment.
COACHING	Individual or group coaching to exchange with other organisations and networks.
STRATEGY	Final assessment pattern for the green transition of the beneficiary organisation.

The training sessions will be organised on-line and/or in presence, in English or other languages admitted by the call (Danish, Italian, Polish).

Participation is free but registration is required.

Advisory services will start in July 2024 and will be available until June 2025. Coaching services will start November 2024 and run until June 2025.

The advisory and coaching services plan will be designed according to the specific needs of each applicant. The selected applicants should participate in a minimum of 6 hours of advisory activities.

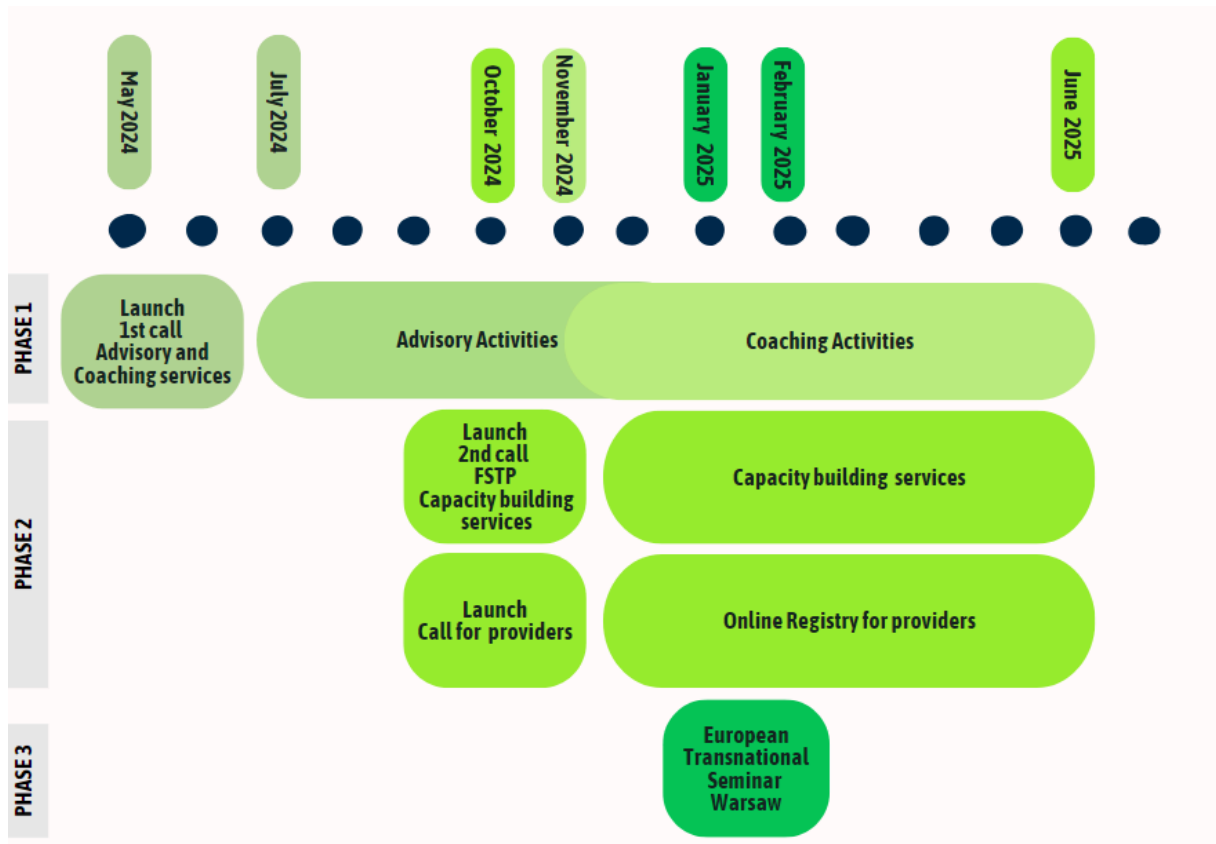
Training calendar Advisory and Coaching activities

Activity	Location	Timing
ADVISORY ACTIVITIES		
STEP 0. Meeting with beneficiaries Interviews Group discussion for presenting the project and the green transition concepts	Online / in presence	July 2024 June 2025
STEP 1. Assessment and capacity building Road map for green transition / assessment Thematic webinar/s	Online/ in presence	
STEP 2. Action planning Support the enterprise for further in-depth of themes linked to the road map / assessment		
Approx. HOURS COMMITMENT	6	
COACHING ACTIVITIES		
Individual and/or group coaching to develop the path to green transition	Online/ in presence	November 2024 - June 2025

A limited budget is available for covering travel and accommodation expenses for participation in national capacity building activities, organised in the SKI.F.T project framework. The reimbursement must be approved by the funding entity and respect the EU travel and subsistence guidelines and rules.

In their application, applicants must demonstrate and motivate willingness to engage in collective capacity-building at local and European level.

The applicant should consider and be willing to apply to the following steps: the **call for financial support for purchasing capacity building services for green transition (phase 2)** and participate in one **transnational seminar at European level (phase 3)**, organised by the Consortium, an opportunity available for a selected number of the total number of SEs awarded, and a good command of English is essential for persons participating in the event.



6. SUBMISSION PROCESS

Applicants must submit their application in English or other languages admitted by the call (Danish, Italian, Polish) **from 21st May 2024** by completing the application form available at [this link \(ADD LINK TO online form\)](#).

Each applicant can submit only one application and will receive an acknowledgment email of the submission of the application.

Paper/printed versions submitted by post or other means will not be accepted. Hand-written applications will not be accepted.

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.

For a selected number of applicants that will compete successfully in the **Advisory and Coaching Activities (Phase 1)**, there is the opportunity to apply in a following call for financial support for purchasing capacity building services (**Phase 2**) to be launched in October 2024 and there is the opportunity to participate in one transnational seminar on green transition at European level (**Phase 3**) planned for January-February 2025.

7. EVALUATION PROCESS

Eligibility

All applications received by the closure of the call will be reviewed by the project partners against the eligibility criteria described under '4.ELIGIBLE ORGANISATIONS'.

Please note that the following applications will be deemed ineligible:

- Submitted after the closure of the call;
- Submitted by an ineligible applicant;
- Completed in languages other than English or languages admitted by the call (English, Danish, Italian and Polish).

Evaluation

Only the eligible applications will move to the evaluation phase.

During this phase the implementing partner might request additional information.

All eligible applications will be reviewed against the following evaluation criteria:

- Real commitment and motivation of the applicant organisation towards the green transition of the business model;
- The extent to which the expressed needs of applicant are related to green transition process;
- Training needs are clearly identified and reasonable.

The SKI.F.T. project seeks gender balance. Therefore, applicants are invited to take all measures to promote equal opportunities between men and women in the implementation of the action. Applicants must aim for better gender balance at all levels of the personnel assigned to the action, including supervisory and managerial levels to the fullest extent possible.

Applications will be evaluated by the project partners. If a conflict of interest for an evaluator is detected, another evaluator shall be nominated.

All applicants will be informed via email of the outcome of the evaluation process after no less than 2 months from the opening of the call and every 30 days as long as funding is available.

8. FINAL OUTPUTS

Please note that the selected organisations which will take part in the advisory and coaching activities, once completed the process:

- will receive a Certificate of completion issued and signed by the Implementing partner
- will have produced a short assessment on needs analysis about the applicant organisation in terms of green transition with the support of the Implementing partner.

These outputs will be useful and compulsory to access the **call for financial support for purchasing capacity building services for green transition (phase 2)**.

9. CALENDAR OF THE CALL

Call	Call for social economy enterprises to advisory services and coaching to support green transition
Eligible applicants	European micro and small social economy enterprises <i>For all eligibility criteria, see section 4</i>
Activities delivered	Advisory services and coaching <i>For all activities delivered, see section 5</i>
Publishing date	21st May 2024
Deadline for submission of applications	The call will remain open as long as funding is available.
Expected communication of results to applicants	No less than 2 months from the opening of the call and every 30 days as long as funding is available.
Preparation and signature of the Service Pact	Within 30 days after the communication of approval of the application
Start/end date of delivered services	July 2024 - 30th June2025

10. FURTHER INFORMATION

To better understand the call, we invite all applicants to read about the project, objectives and activities on the project website (<https://skift.kooperationen.dk/forside/>) and national partner website.

For questions on this invitation, please contact:

KOOPERATIONEN	DENMARK	xxx@xxxx www.kooperationen.dk
CSA COESI	ITALY	xxx@coesi.coop www.coesi.coop
DEMETRA FORMAZIONE	ITALY	xxx@xxxx website
LEGACOOOP EMILIA-ROMAGNA	ITALY	xxx@xxxx website
Fundacja Inicjatyw Społeczno-Ekonomicznych FISE	POLAND	skift.info@fise.org.pl https://fise.org.pl/ ; https://fise.org.pl/programy/ski-f-t/

11. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Consortium and all parties involved shall take all necessary measures to prevent or end any situation that could compromise the impartial and objective performance of the contract. Such conflict of interests could arise in particular as a result of economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties, or any other relevant connection or shared interest.

Participation in this call is strictly forbidden to any SEs applicants which, at the time of the present Call publication, have a direct or indirect control over any consortium partner.

All cases of potential conflicts of interest must be declared and will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

12. PRIVACY POLICY

Any personal data provided under this Call, in any of the documents or forms on the on-line platform, will be processed by each Project partner in compliance with article 13 of EU Regulation 2016/679 "Information to be provided where personal data are collected from the data subject".

13. SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES AND APPLICABLE LAW

This call shall be governed by the law of the country of the implementing partner.



The parties shall endeavour to settle arising disputes amicably. If, and to the extent that, any such dispute, controversy or claim has not been settled amicably, the court of the nationality of the project partner shall have exclusive jurisdiction. Nothing in the agreement shall limit the parties' right to seek injunctive relief in any applicable competent court.

ANNEX I – Template Application Form

ANNEX II – Service Pact