

**Social
Innovation ⊕
Initiative**

**Q&A session of the Call ‘Innovative Approaches
to Mitigate the Societal Consequences of
Russia’s War of Aggression against Ukraine
within EU Countries’**

18 April 2024
10:00 CEST



Funded by
the European Union

Outline



Relevant information:

- Timeline
- Useful resources for applicants
- 2nd Matchmaking event

Q&A by topic:

- Eligible activities and focus areas
- Applicants, co-applicants, associated partners, consortium
- Operational capacity
- Funding, project budget, eligible costs
- Application process
- Partner search

Timeline

24 January
2024

27 February
2024

5-8 March
2024

18 April
2024

23-26 April
2024

30 May 2024
5:00 PM CEST



Call opening

Infosession
for applicants

1st Online
matchmaking

Q&A session

2nd Online
Matchmaking

Deadline

Useful resources for applicants

Home > Transnational Calls > EXTENDED - Innovative Approaches to Mitigate the Societal Consequences of Russia's War of Aggression against Ukraine within EU Countries

EXTENDED - Innovative Approaches to Mitigate the Societal Consequences of Russia's War of Aggression against Ukraine within EU Countries

- Call documents
- Sources of inspiration
- Support to applicants
- FAQ

Social Innovations for the Upskilling of

EXTENDED - Innovative Approaches to Mitigate the Societal Consequences of Russia's War of Aggression against Ukraine within EU Countries

Social Innovation Initiative

 Funded by the European Union

A new Call under the ESF+ Social Innovation Plus Initiative

Still have unanswered questions?
Get in touch: Ukraine@esf.lt

Support to applicants

- ESF+ Regulation
- Financial Regulation
- Lump Sum Rules
- Social Innovation Match
- Video tutorial How to access the eSINNIS
- Video tutorial How to fill in the Detailed budget table
- Video tutorial Application form – structure, design, forms, tips for applicants
- Recording of the info session 27/02/2024
- Material from the info session 27/02/2024

Funding, project budget, eligible costs	✓
Eligible activities and key focus areas	✓
Applicants, co-applicants, associated partners and consortia	✓
Operational and financial capacity of the coordinator	✓
Partner search	✓
Application process	✓
Useful resources	✓

Useful resources for applicants

REFUGEE INTEGRATION SOURCES OF INSPIRATION

EMPLOYMENT



COMPREHENSIVE APPROACHES
(removal of peripheral barriers, Fast Track, skills development)

[EUROPEAN YEAR OF SKILLS DATABASE](#)
[ESF+ PROJECTS](#)
[ERASMUS+](#)

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
(implication of employers, mentoring)

[EUROPEAN YEAR OF SKILLS DATABASE](#)
[ESF+ PROJECTS](#)



ADAPTATION OF WORK
(entrepreneurship, temporary work solutions, integration through work)

[PES KNOWLEDGE CENTRE](#)
[INTERREG PROJECTS - KEEP](#)
[ESF+ PROJECTS](#)

SOCIAL INCLUSION

ACCESS TO SERVICES
(access to health, housing, material support)

[EUROPEAN YEAR OF SKILLS DATABASE](#)
[INTERREG PROJECTS - KEEP](#)
[URBAN INNOVATIVE ACTIONS](#)



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY LIFE
(clusters and networks of solidarity, community-based solutions, changing narratives on migration)

[INTERREG PROJECTS - KEEP](#)
[PES KNOWLEDGE CENTRE](#)
[EU EMPLOYERS TOGETHER FOR INTE](#)

Still have unanswered questions?
Get in touch: Ukraine@esf.lt

MITIGATION OF THE EFFECTS OF THE RECENT CRISIS SOURCES OF INSPIRATION

TYPES OF ACTIONS



ENHANCING SHARING ECONOMY
(support to energy and consumption communities, promotion of the circular economy)



GENERATING TERRITORIAL EMPOWERMENT (encouraging local production and short circuits, involving citizens in local decision-making concerning production and consumption)



ADVANCING INCLUSION (integrated

TYPES OF ACTORS



SOCIAL ECONOMY ENTITIES
(namely cooperatives)



APPLICATIONS AND "TECH FOR GOOD" RELATED ECOSYSTEMS



TERRITORIAL CLUSTERS, SMART VILLAGES



LOCAL AUTHORITIES, LOCAL ACTION GROUPS

RESOURCES

[EU SOCIAL ECONOMY GATEWAY](#)

[EUROPEAN SOCIAL INNOVATION COMPETITION](#)

[LOCAL ACTION GROUPS DATABASE](#)

[INTERREG PROJECTS - KEEP](#)

[NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS](#)

[EU PLATFORM ON SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT](#)

How to apply

All applications must be submitted directly online via Portal eSINNIS (Social Innovation Information System)

Step 1

**Get access to
the system**

Here you can find the Video tutorial How to access the eSINNIS

Step 2

**Connect to the
system**

**Terms &
Conditions**

Paper applications are **not accepted**.

The applications **must be submitted before the Call deadline of 30/05/2024 at 5:00 PM CEST**.



For IT support: IThelp@esf.it
For the Call inquiries: Ukraine@esf.it

2nd matchmaking event

When? 23-26 April, 2024

Registration open
18 – 25 April

Where?



[Home | Matchmaking for the Call on Societal Consequences of War of Aggression against Ukraine \(b2match.com\)](#)

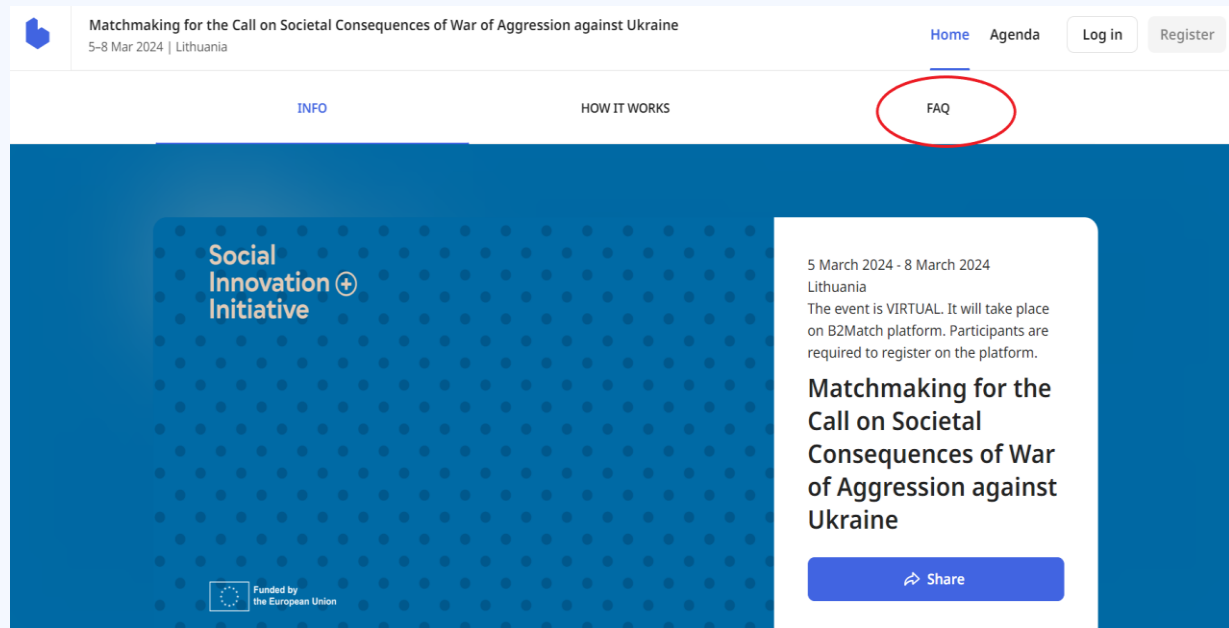
Who can participate? Entities which are eligible participants under the Call, and which are looking for partners to implement a joint transnational project.

! Profiles of the participants of the 1st matchmaking event will be activated automatically for the 2nd matchmaking. Please get in touch at Ukraine@esf.It if you want your profile to be deactivated.

Virtual matchmaking: how does it work?

- **Register** for the event
- **Create** your profile to showcase who you are and for what are you looking for
- **Browse** profiles of attendees and identify suitable partners' profiles
- **Send & receive** meeting requests and messages to establish contact
- **Participate** in arranged meetings

How to complete each stage?



The screenshot shows the website for a virtual matchmaking event. The header includes the event title "Matchmaking for the Call on Societal Consequences of War of Aggression against Ukraine" and dates "5-8 Mar 2024 | Lithuania". Navigation links for "Home", "Agenda", "Log in", and "Register" are visible. A secondary navigation bar contains "INFO", "HOW IT WORKS", and "FAQ", with the "FAQ" link circled in red. The main content area features the "Social Innovation Initiative" logo and a "Funded by the European Union" logo. A white box on the right provides event details: "5 March 2024 - 8 March 2024", "Lithuania", and a description: "The event is VIRTUAL. It will take place on B2Match platform. Participants are required to register on the platform." Below this is a "Share" button.

Eligible activities and focus areas



QUESTION:

The Call has two objectives:

- integration and social inclusion of refugees fleeing Ukraine
- mitigation of the consequences of the crisis on Member States' societies and their public services.

Should a project contribute to both objectives?

ANSWER:

As it is stated in Section 2.2 of the Call Conditions, applicants should justify how the proposed activities contribute to the expected objectives of the Call:

- integration and social inclusion of refugees fleeing Ukraine **and/or**
- mitigation of the consequences of the crisis on Member States' societies and their public services.

This means that a project under the Call should contribute to at least one of the above-mentioned objectives.

A project may contribute to both objectives; however, it is not a mandatory requirement for a project to be eligible under this Call.

QUESTION:

Should a project focus on all fields mentioned in Section 1.3?

For example, under Section 1.3.1 of the Call Conditions the following sub-fields are mentioned:

a) employment and skills

b) social inclusion (including housing, access to social services, support mechanisms, commitment of the local population).

Should a project cover all of them? Is it enough to cover some of them? Is it possible to focus just on one sub-topic?

ANSWER:

A project under the Call should contribute to at least one of the following focus areas:

- Using social innovations to transform the refugee situation into opportunity (as it is described in Section 1.3.1 of the Call Conditions) or
- Using social innovations to mitigate the effects of the crisis (as it is described in Section 1.3.2 of the Call Conditions).

A project is not expected to cover all fields/ sub-topics listed under the relevant section (Section 1.3.1 or Section 1.3.2). It is left at applicant's discretion to decide which specific subtopic (s)/ sub-field (s) their project will focus on and how they will justify that the proposed intervention contributes to the objectives, outputs and key focus areas of the Call.

QUESTION:

Shall the project aim only at supporting refugees from Ukraine?

Is it possible also to include the third country nationals as part of target group in a project?

ANSWER:

If the projects aims to contribute to the Call objective 'Integration and social inclusion of refugees fleeing Ukraine', **project activities should be directed at integration and social inclusion of refugees fleeing Ukraine.** However, the Call Conditions do not exclude the development of solutions that can also benefit other groups of refugees.

Therefore, third country nationals could be included as part of the possible target group, if Ukrainian refugees remain the main target group and the project contributes to the objectives of this Call.

QUESTION:

Can you assess if our project idea is eligible under this Call?

ANSWER:

We do not assess the eligibility of the project idea at the application stage.

Nevertheless, we would like to draw your attention to certain aspects of this Call and invite to answer the following questions to self-assess the eligibility of your project idea:

1) Does my project align with the aim and objectives of the Call?

- The Call will support transnational projects which aim at transferring or scaling up of relevant social innovations.
- The Call has two main objectives: integration and social inclusion of refugees fleeing Ukraine and/or mitigation of the consequences of the crisis on Member States' societies and their public services.

ANSWER:

2) Do my project activities and outputs align with the eligible outputs and activities as they are described in the Call Conditions?

- Eligible outputs and activities are detailed in Section 2.2 of the Call Conditions. They include:
 - Assessment of the existing evidence and building foundation of a new approach
 - Mapping, engaging and empowering stakeholders
 - Piloting and monitoring
 - Dissemination and continuity
 - Participation in mutual learning events
- Outputs and activities listed in Section 2.2 are indicative, which means that they are not exhaustive and may be tailored to meet the specific needs and characteristics of a certain project.

Transfer and scaling up
of social innovation

ANSWER:

3) How many points could my project score when assessed against the award criteria?

Study the award criteria against which project proposals will be assessed (Section 8.5 of the Call Conditions).

For example, one of the award criteria is 'Relevance', which, inter alia, includes the assessment of the extent to which the project contributes to the **objectives and outputs of the Call** (as they are described in Chapter 2 of the Call Conditions), including **the key focus areas of the Call** (as they are described in Section 1.3 of the Call Conditions), and **fostering transnational cooperation aimed at transfer and upscaling of social innovation**.

QUESTION:

As stated in Section 2.1 of the Call Conditions, this Call will support transnational projects which aim at transferring or scaling up of relevant social innovations.

Should social innovation be understood as a newly created idea? Can we further develop an innovation that has been tested and implemented on a small scale (locally)?

ANSWER:

The Call will support transnational projects which aim at **transferring or scaling up of relevant social innovations**. The footnote 37 in the Call Conditions provides the definitions:

- **'transfer'** refers to the implementation of social experimentation in other contexts (either territorial or to a different sector);
- **'upscaling'** refers to the implementation on a larger scale, i.e. expanding the scope of small-scale new solutions to an upper level (from local to regional, national, and/or European levels) to reach a higher number of beneficiaries.

The concept of 'social innovation', including its main distinctive characteristics, is described in detail in Section 1.1.3 of the Call Conditions.

Applicants, co-applicants, associated partners, consortium



QUESTION:

Could an organisation which unites several other entities registered in different EU Member States be eligible as an applicant or co-applicant?

Could you provide your definition of an EU-wide network?

ANSWER:

Eligibility will be determined based on the status of an entity and its compliance will the eligibility requirements set in the Call Conditions.

- 1) The Call Conditions indicate that only legal entities registered in an EU Member State and established according to the law of the respective EU Member State are eligible as applicants, co-applicants and associated partners. Therefore, to be eligible to participate in a project, an organisation shall:
 - demonstrate that it is registered in an EU Member State and
 - substantiate its legal standing, in accordance with the laws of the respective EU Member State, falling within one of the categories outlined in Section 6.1 of the Call Conditions. These categories include: non-governmental and non-profit entities; national, local, and regional authorities; public entities; research and educational institutions; private companies.

ANSWER:

2) The aforementioned requirements are also applicable in the case of EU-wide networks and international organisations.

If an EU-wide network or international organisation demonstrates that it is a legal entity registered and established in an EU Member State, and its legal status aligns with any of the categories outlined in Section 6.1 (e.g., non-governmental and non-profit organization), it may qualify as an eligible applicant, co-applicant, or associated partner under the Call.

! The status of an organisation will be determined on the basis of incorporation documents and taking into account the eligibility requirements stipulated in the Call Conditions.

! Entities/ organisations without a separate legal entity status and, as a result of that, unable to assume rights and obligations under the Grant Agreement, are ineligible applicants, co-applicants and associated partners under the Call.

QUESTION:

The consortium must consist of at least 2 organizations from 2 Member States.

- Can a partnership unite more than two partners?
- Do partners have to come from two different sectors? Could it be two non-governmental organizations?
- Are there any specific rules regarding the size of the consortia and its geographic scope?

ANSWER:

As it is stated in Section 6.2 of the Call Conditions, to be considered eligible, the consortium must include an applicant (the coordinator) and at least one co-applicant. The members of the consortium shall represent at least two different EU Member States.

The Call Conditions do not necessitate the formation of a consortium comprised of partners with different legal status. Also, there are no limitations set to the number of consortium partners from a certain Member State.

! It is left to applicant's discretion to select relevant partners.

! In line with the description of the award criterion 'Quality' (Section 8.5 of the Call Conditions), **a project team and rationale for the composition of the consortium will be assessed.**

QUESTION:

- Are third countries allowed to participate as partners and if yes, in which role?
- Can we have a partner from Ukraine?
- Can organisations from Northern Ireland take part in this Call?
- Is there a possibility to collaborate with an NGO from Norway in a project?
- Can NGOs and universities established in the United Kingdom and (or) in Israel participate in the Call?

ANSWER:

As it is stated in the Section 6.1 of the Call Conditions, eligible participants (applicants, co-applicants and associated partners) are legal entities established and registered in the EU Member States.

QUESTION:

Can an entity be an applicant/lead partner only in one project? Can the same entity be a partner in another project?

ANSWER:

As it is stated in the Section 6.2 of the Call Conditions, an entity may participate **as the coordinator only in one consortium.**

The limitation is imposed only regarding the participation of an entity in the role of the coordinator.



Operational capacity

QUESTION:

The coordinator should have managed at least one consortium project within the past five years.

- Do these projects have to be European projects funded specifically under programs of the European Commission?
- Should the project partners of these projects be from the European Union?
- Footnote 54 in the Call Conditions states that these projects had to be funded from EU or national funds. What is the definition of national funds in this case?

ANSWER:

The coordinator must have sufficient experience in project management/coordination. Only those projects, which:

- had involved partners from no less than two different countries **and**
- had lasted at least 12 months **or** had the total budget of more than EUR 200 000 will be taken into consideration.

Requirements for projects which are used to justify coordinator's operational capacity:

1) A project should have been funded from EU or national funds (footnote 54 in the Call Conditions). **Funds may come from private or public sources.**

ANSWER:

2) There are no explicit requirements in the Call Conditions stating that the consortia projects should have involved specifically partners from the EU. For example, a project involving a partner from Ukraine might be suitable to justify coordinator's experience if other conditions are met.

3) There are no explicit requirements in the Call Conditions stating that the coordinator should have managed specifically projects funded under the programs of the European Commission. The projects could have been funded from public or private sources.



Funding, project budget, eligible costs

QUESTION:

What can be included in the co-funding calculations? Provided that they are not covered with EU budget, can existing staff costs or voluntary work be contributing to the co-funding calculation?

How can the applicants verify the 20% own co-financing?

ANSWER:

The grant may not exceed 80% of the total eligible costs of the project, thus co-financing of at least 20% must come from other resources than the EU budget. Funds from other EU programmes cannot be used as national co-financing source.

- The Detailed Budget Table (Annex 1) establishes the maximum grant amount, which constitutes 80% of the total project costs. 20% of project costs are automatically deducted from the total project costs and shall be co-financed by the applicant and co-applicants.
- **Co-financing should be related to the eligible costs and contributions, i.e., excluding ineligible costs under this Call (Section 3.3 of the Call Conditions).**
- By signing 'Declaration of honour for beneficiaries', (Annex 6), applicants commit to make co-financing contribution of no less than 20% during the implementation of the project. **The applicants will not be asked to account for 20% co-financing additionally.**

QUESTION:

Could you clarify how the 20% co-financing is determined?

Can co-financing of at least 20% be contributed in different ways? It is possible that only one beneficiary contributes to the project? Can co-financing be distributed between all beneficiaries?

ANSWER:

The Detailed budget table (Annex 1 to the Call Conditions) establishes the maximum grant amount, which constitutes 80% of the total project costs. **20% of project costs are automatically deducted from the total project costs and shall be co-financed by the applicant and co-applicants.**

Calculations are done for each beneficiary (individual entity) and for each of their work package. To understand how lump sums and co-financing of 80% will be applied, we recommend taking a look at Detailed budget table, (Annex 1 to the Call Conditions):

- In the excel sheet 'Estim cost of the project', **total costs per each applicant and work package are being calculated.**
- In the excel sheet 'BE-WP overview', **only the grant amounts (constituting 80% of the total project costs) are calculated.**

QUESTION:

Does the purchase of property fall under eligible costs?

Are the costs for renovating or adapting housing for refugees eligible?

To what extent is the energetic modernization of a refugee shelter eligible?

Is regranteeing eligible for this call?

ANSWER:

As detailed in Section 3.3 of the Call Conditions:

Eligible cost categories:

A. Direct personnel costs:

A.1 Employees (or equivalent) person months

B. Purchase costs:

B.1 Travel and subsistence per travel or day

B.2 Other goods, works and services

C. Indirect costs

In order to be eligible, the costs must be:

- in line with the applicant's usual cost accounting practices
- reasonable and not excessive
- be estimated in eligible cost categories
- comply with the applicable national and EU law
- necessary for the activities proposed
- related to the duration of the project

QUESTION:

Can the costs of trainings for specialists who will work with refugees be included into the budget of the project?

Can the budget include costs related to staff training to provide the planned support service?

Is the rental of housing for refugees during the implementation of the project eligible expenditure?

Is the renting of flats, rooms, buildings eligible (e.g., for refugee housing and/or community rooms)? If yes, are there any rules how utilities can be included (e.g., can they be included as a flat rate in the renting agreement, do they need to be indicated or invoiced separately)?

ANSWER:

Implementation of a project may require purchasing of goods or services in order to carry out specialised tasks that beneficiaries cannot do themselves (i.e., translations, website creation, expert analysis, research, etc.) and such costs are eligible under the category 'Purchase costs'.

! Eligibility of specific expenditure shall be assessed taking into account **eligible cost categories** and **general cost eligibility requirements** under the Call.

! Additionally, applicants should justify that the planned expenditure is necessary for the implementation of the planned activities. *Planned activities shall relate to eligible activities, as they are described in the Call Conditions, and contribute to the objectives and outputs of the Call.*

ANSWER:

Planned expenditure should relate to the project activities and their eligibility



Project activities should be aligned with the objectives and outputs of the project



The objectives and outputs of the project should contribute to the objectives and outputs of the Call

Therefore, rental of housing for refugees /community rooms during the implementation of the project might be eligible expenditure under the category 'Purchase costs' on the condition that such expenditure is necessary for the implementation of the project activities proposed, and these activities align with eligible activities and outputs under the Call – transferring or scaling up of social innovation.

ANSWER:

As it is defined in the Call Conditions, **indirect costs** are costs that cannot be identified as specific costs directly linked to the performance of the project. Indirect costs are general administrative costs – overhead costs incurred in connection with the eligible direct costs for the project. *They can include maintenance, stationery, photocopying, postage, telephone and fax costs, heating, electricity or other forms of energy, water, office furniture, insurance, and any other expenditure necessary for the successful completion of the project.*

Therefore, utilities which are invoiced separately are not eligible under the cost category 'Purchase costs'. Such expenditure cannot be perceived as directly linked to the performance of the project, and thus shall be covered from the eligible cost category 'Indirect costs'.

QUESTION:

Can goods, works and services (for example, trainings or expert consultations) be purchased from entities outside the EU?

ANSWER:

The Call Conditions set eligibility requirements for consortium members, but not for service providers.

! Project procurements must be carried out in accordance with public procurement legislation.

! Beneficiaries who are 'contracting authorities/entities' within the meaning of the EU Directives on Public Procurement must comply with the applicable national law on public procurement.

! All Beneficiaries must respect the principles of transparency, non-discrimination, mutual recognition, proportionality, and equal treatment when procuring products and services.

QUESTION:

Do we understand correctly that in the work package 'Management and coordination' activities and budget can be foreseen only for coordinator, but not for co-applicants (project partners)?

ANSWER:

Activities under coordination/management WP should be performed solely by the coordinator, thus only costs incurred by the coordinator can be claimed under this WP.

Other applicants should not seek direct costs reimbursement for activities related to the coordination/management WP. Management activities implemented by other beneficiaries could be covered from indirect costs.

QUESTION:

Does a lump sum mean paying expenses for the planned expenses and then returning the costs after presenting invoices issued?

ANSWER:

Lump sum is a form of simplified cost option. When compared to reimbursement of actual costs, lump sum funding removes obligations on cost reporting = no obligation to justify incurred actual costs.

Lump sums will be established per each work package individually and for the whole project.

! The payment of a lump sum is linked to the completion of the corresponding WP. A WP can only be declared as completed and the corresponding lump sum paid when all the work has been carried out, and all deliverables have been reached.

QUESTION:

Is participation in the events organised by the European Competence Centre for Social Innovation compulsory as part of the project?

Should these events be planned as part of the project and also travel expenses foreseen?

ANSWER:

Participation in mutual learning events organised by the European Competence Centre for Social Innovation is mandatory.

- 3-4 mutual learning events are planned during the implementation of the projects. Up to 2 events will take place on site (provisionally in Vilnius and Brussels), others online.
- Travel and subsistence costs should be included into the Detailed budget table. **It will not be reimbursed separately.**
- Expected duration - up to 2 days.
- Recommended number of participants – 2 representatives per project.
- It is recommended not to create a separate work package for these activities, but to include them under a work package related to mutual learning (if possible).

! Please note that detailed travel information (i.e., number of travels, participants, destination countries, travel duration) shall be presented in the application, under the relevant WP.

! Costs for travel, accommodation and subsistence have to be calculated using unit costs fixed by the authorising Decision C(2021)35.



Application process

QUESTION:

Should the application be completed in English, or can it be completed in the national language of the applicant?

ANSWER:

As it is stated in the Section 8.3 of the Call Conditions, applicants are encouraged to submit application in English to facilitate the treatment of applications and to speed up the assessment process.

However, applications submitted in any of the official languages of the EU will be accepted. In this case, an application should be accompanied by an executive summary in English.

! The assessment of applications will be carried out on the basis of the English version of an application. The quality of the translation will not be guaranteed, and the translation of the application may not fully reveal the content of the text in the original language, therefore, it is left at applicant's own risk.

QUESTION:

Can we add to the application form additional annexes, such as the needs analysis made by the transnational partnership prior the project, project scheme, the list of the associated partners, the declarations of the associated partners and etc.? Is there any limitation for the annexes: number of files, files types or size?

ANSWER:

Please note that the assessment of the application will be carried out on the basis of the information provided in the application, mandatory annexes to the Call Conditions and supporting documents. **A list of the required documents is provided as Annex 4 to the Call Conditions.**

In line with the Call Conditions:

- an application, including the Annexes to the Call Conditions and supporting documents, **shall be submitted by filling in the provided forms** unless specified otherwise.
- applicants are requested to be concise and specific

! Prior to uploading additional documents, we strongly advise to double check if the information has not already been provided in the application/ mandatory annex or supporting document.



Partner Search

QUESTION:

Can you help us to find a project partner?

ANSWER:

The list of attendees of the 1st matchmaking is available [online](#). Even though no contact information is provided there, the list may serve as a good starting point who might be approached to discuss possibilities for collaboration under this Call.

! The registered participants are able to exchange messages on B2Match platform until the Call deadline.

2nd matchmaking for the Call will take place on 23-26 April. Find all the relevant information on the event's website:

[Home | Matchmaking for the Call on Societal Consequences of War of Aggression against Ukraine \(b2match.com\)](#)

Closing remarks

If you have questions which have not been addressed yet:

- Check [FAQ](#)
- Get in touch with us at Ukraine@esf.it

! Questions related to the submission of an application must be sent at the latest 7 days before the submission deadline. Clearly indicate the reference of the Call and the topic to which the question relates.

! Call-specific questions must be sent at the latest 10 days before the submission deadline.

Please fill in the Evaluation form

Tell us how we can work together better!



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Thank You!



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