

Social Innovation Initiative

Q&A session of the Call

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TACKLING LONG-TERM UNEMPLOYMENT

ESF-SI-2024-LTU-01

12 September 2024

10:00 CEST



Funded by
the European Union

Introduction

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Outline

I - Relevant information

- Timeline
- Useful Resources for Applicants
- Application Portal eSInnis

II - Q&A by topic

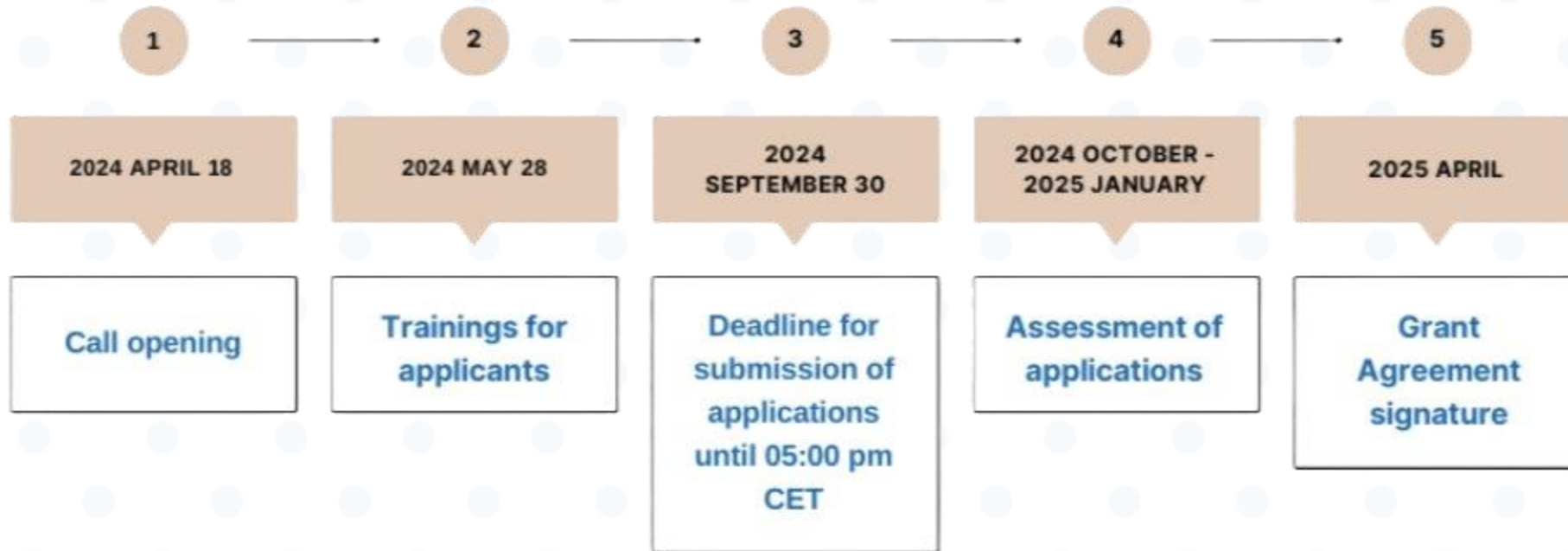
- Application Support
- Eligible Entities and Consortia
- Employment Providers
- Operational Capacity
- Target Group, Activities and Results
- Project Financial Planning and Work Package Management



I – Relevant information



Timeline



A new Call under the ESF+ Social Innovation+ Initiative

This is a Call for EU grants **Tackling Long-Term Unemployment** under the European Social Fund+ (ESF+) Social Innovation+ (SI+) initiative. The aim of this Call is to transfer or scale up proven and promising social innovations aimed at the integration of the long-term unemployed into the labour market and fostering their social inclusion.

Support to Applicants

FAQ

Matchmaking Platform

With an indicative grant budget of 23 million EUR, the transnational projects should focus on:

- cooperation with local employment stakeholders and partnerships between local employers and communities,
- improving the outreach of long-term unemployed people, including those facing the most barriers,
- providing an individualised, accessible, and inclusive approach to long-term unemployed people.

Timeline of the Call

18 April 2024

Call opening

28 May 2024

Training for applicants

30 September 2024

Deadline for submission of applications until 05:00 pm CET

October-January 2025

Assessment of applications

April 2025

Grant Agreement signature

Resources

Search

LTU

File type

All

Resource types

All



LTU Call Infosession Presentation 28-05-2024



LTU Main Aspects of the Call



LTU Call Infosession Recording 28-05-2024

Still have unanswered questions?
Get in touch:
LTU@socialinnovationplus.eu

Call documents:

- [Call Conditions \(amended version\)](#).
- [Amendments 09.08.2024](#)
- [Annex 1 Detailed Budget Table](#) (amended version).
- [How to enable macros](#) (instruction).
- [How to fill in the Detailed budget table](#).
- [Annex 2 Grant Agreement template](#).
- [Annex 3 Application Form template](#).
- [Annex 4 List of Required Documents](#) (amended version).
- [Annex 5 List of the Previous Projects](#), template (amended versions: [pdf](#), [word](#)).
- [Annex 6 Declaration of Honour for Beneficiaries](#) template.
- [Annex 7 Final Report "Lessons Learned and Future Plans"](#), template ([pdf](#), [word](#)).
- [Annex 8 Declaration of the Professional Competencies](#), template (amended versions: [pdf](#), [word](#)).

Innovative Approaches Tackling Long-Term Unemployment

ESF-SI-2024-LTU-01



Long Term Unemployed Persons - individuals of working age who have been without employment for at least 12 months, irrespective of whether they are officially registered with the national public employment services.

Activities



Collaboration
and capacity
building



Partnerships
with local
communities
and employers



Reaching out to
the target
group



Empowering
employability
and social
inclusion



Offering
working
options and
opportunities



Participating in
mutual learning
events

Essential elements of the application

Each application shall cover all the elements. However, applicants are free to choose how to combine all these elements in the project framework.



Conceptual
framework



Relevance of social
innovation



Transnational
partnership



Diversity of
stakeholders



User-centred
approach



Impact
measurement and
management



Dissemination

Detailed information about activities, social innovation and target group: [Main aspects of the Call \(esf.it\)](https://esf.it)



How to apply

All applications must be submitted directly online via the Portal **eSInnis** (Electronic Social Innovation Information System).

Paper applications **are not accepted**.

The applications **must be submitted before the Call deadline: 2024 September 30, 5:00 PM CEST**

Please note that the system will not allow you to submit an application after the deadline.

Step 1

[Register to the system](#)

Step 2

[Connect to the system](#)

[Terms & Conditions](#)



For IT support: IThelp@socialinnovationplus.eu

For the Call inquiries: LTU@socialinnovationplus.eu

Login

Please enter your login details here

E-mail *

Enter

Password *

Enter



[Forgot your password?](#)

LOGIN

Registration

Register here to log in to the website

REGISTER

Registration

Organisational data

Entity registration number *

Please enter your organisation's registration number



Legal name (as registered) *

Please enter the legal name of the organisation under which it is registered

Legal status *

Please indicate the legal status of your organisation



Address

Street name and house No. *

Please enter your organisation's address

Town *

Please enter a city

esinnis.eu/login

Calls

Call number	Call title	Call opening date	Call deadline date	Available Call budget	Maximum project duration (in months)	Possibility of extension	Details
ESF-SI-2024-SKILLS-03	TEST title	01/06/2024	15/10/2024 15:00 (+0300)	2 500 000,00	20	No	<input type="button" value="Preview"/>
ESF-SI-2024-LTU-01	Innovative Approaches Tackling Long-Term Unemployment	18/04/2024	30/09/2024 17:00 (+0300)	23 000 000,00	36	No	<input type="button" value="Preview"/>
ESF-SI-2024-ALMA-02	Information Technology	23/05/2024	01/09/2024 13:00 (+0300)	1 000 000,00	15		

For more guidance:

- [eSInnis+ User Guide](#)
- [Video tutorial](#)

CALLS

START SUBMISSION

General provisions

Call number	ESF-SI-2024-LTU-01
Call title	Innovative Approaches Tackling Long-Term Unemployment
Call opening date	18/04/2024
Call deadline	30/09/2024 17:00 (+0300)
Call objectives	The aim of this Call is to encourage applicants to transfer or scale up proven and promising social innovations aimed at facilitating the integration or reintegration of the long-term unemployed into the labour market and/or fostering their social inclusion.
Activities to be funded	1. Strengthening of collaboration and capacity building; 2. Fostering partnerships with local communities and local employers; 3. Mapping and reaching out to the target group; 4. Empowering the long term unemployed and enhancing employability and social inclusion through tailored support and guidance; 5. Offering various working options and opportunities for long-term unemployed persons; 6. Participating in mutual learning events.
Selection method	Competition
Call budget, Eur	23 000 000,00

II - Q&A by topic



Application Support



Q: What is a PIC number? Is it mandatory for all beneficiaries or just for the Coordinator?

The Participation Identification Number (PIC) is mandatory to all beneficiaries.

Is your organisation already registered? [Check it here](#)



→ If your organisation has not yet registered to obtain a PIC or has registered but the status is still 'declared', please provide the documents that prove your organisation's legal status.

→ If your organisation already has PIC, you do not need to submit the organisation's registration certificate.

Issued by the state in which the entity is established, it usually includes a description of the legal status, the official name of the entity, the entity registration code, and other legal information.

Q: Is it possible to take part in two projects at the same time? One as coordinator and the other as co-applicant?

Under this Call, an entity may participate as coordinator in only one consortium.

However, there is no limit for participating as a co-applicant in other projects.

Q: Can I submit my application on time and add a non-mandatory annex after the deadline?

A complete Application Form must be submitted by the deadline of 30 September 2024 5 pm CEST via the eSInnis Portal.

No documents, mandatory or non-mandatory, will be accepted after this date.

Eligible Entities and Consortia



Q: Can non-EU countries participate as beneficiaries or associated partners in the Consortium?

Non-EU countries eligible to participate in this Call as beneficiaries and associated partners:

- Listed in the [European Economic Area](#)
- Associated with the ESF+ (Iceland, Montenegro, Norway, and Serbia)
- Countries with which an association agreement is being negotiated and for which the agreement enters into force by the deadline of this Call (Moldova). NEW

Q: What types of entity can be coordinators and how many beneficiaries should there be in a consortium?

To be considered eligible, a consortium must include a coordinator and at least one co-applicant from an eligible EU Member State or non-EU country other than the coordinator.

At least one of these legal entities must have at least one year's experience in the field of long-term unemployment.

Q: Could you clarify the definition of 'international organisations' ? Can they participate in the Call?

'International organisation' means that an organisation and its subordinate bodies are governed by public international law, or any other body which is set up by, or on the basis of, an agreement between two or more countries.

→ International organisations can participate in a project as Associated partners only.

Q: Can you find me a partner from **X country**? How can I find them myself?

We cannot find partners for your project, but we can suggest you use the Social Innovation Match database, which is a platform managed by the European Competence Centre for Social Innovation.

You can follow this link to register and to search for partners: [Social Innovation Match | European Social Fund Plus.](#)



Q: What is the best number of co-applicants per project?

The applicant is the one who knows their country/ region best and the target group they wish to work with, so they can plan to invite co-applicants to help implement the project.

There is no recommended number, except that it must be coherent with the project.

Requirements for Employment Providers



Q: How do you define 'employment provider' in the context of this Call?

'**Employment provider**' under this Call is understood as a legal entity (**applicant or co-applicant**) that will provide job placements for long-term unemployed persons and will remunerate them from the Grant in accordance with the Conditions of this Call (see Section 2.4).

Q: Could you tell us more about the number of people we should be aiming to employ?

There is no set number of employees that each project should employ.

It depends on the specificity and logic of the project, the methods and scale on how local communities and stakeholders are involved, and other regional factors where long-term unemployment is targeted.

Q: Is there a minimum duration we should consider when determining the terms of employment?

There is no minimum duration of employment, but each employment position is eligible for remuneration for a maximum of 24 months within the project.

We advise you to plan the employment duration in line with the project objective, the mandatory categories of activities and outcomes (see Sections 2.2 and 2.3 of the Call Conditions), to respond to the logic of the application, and to foresee impact.

Also, long-term unemployed persons **can have different duration of employment**. Some may be employed e.g., for 12, others for 18, and others for 24 months in the same project.

Q: Do all the long-term unemployed persons have to be employed part-time, or could they be employed full-time?

Any employment opportunities must **comply with the essential elements of the Call** presented in section 2.5 of the Call Conditions.

For instance, **only voluntary participation** of the long-term unemployed person is encouraged, and any solutions created for the long-term unemployed should be designed with a strong focus on **tailor-made needs and circumstances of the target group**.

In short, the Call does not set specific needs in terms of the form of employment, be it part-time or full-time. We encourage you to concentrate on your individual needs.

Q: If we assume a 24-month employment for 50 people, this could be close to €2M within the total project costs. We have doubts whether such high costs can be eligible for the Call?

There is no set proportion for remuneration. We understand, that the remuneration costs may form a big part of project's budget. It is important, that project would transfer and / or **scale up proven and promising social innovation** aimed at facilitating the integration or reintegration of the long-term unemployed into the labour market and/or fostering their social inclusion.

Also, please keep in mind, that all **six predefined mandatory categories of activities** should be included in the application.



Collaboration
and capacity
building



Partnerships
with local
communities
and employers



Reaching out to
the target
group



Empowering
employability
and social
inclusion



Offering
working
options and
opportunities



Participating in
mutual learning
events

Q: Can we use the funding to provide more intensive support to the measures already in use which support the employment of the long-term unemployed?

Funding cannot be used for that, because it is not a social innovation, but rather exploitation of the same opportunities that exist in the labour market.

Any employment opportunities for the long-term unemployed created by the project **must be complementary to existing** supply and services.

Q: We are planning to include an organisation that will act as a bridge with the employment provider(s).

Do the remuneration costs for the long-term unemployed persons of this organisation have to be included directly under its budget? Or should this organisation transfer remuneration costs to the specific chosen provider during the project implementation?

Involvement of employment providers as beneficiaries to the projects provides possibility for these employment providers to use Grant for remuneration costs of the long-term unemployed.

Only beneficiaries of the project may use the Grant. If entities, e.g. employment providers plan to use the Grant for remuneration or other costs, then they have to be beneficiaries in the project.

Regranting in the current call is not eligible, e.g. it is not eligible to pay remuneration for the long-term unemployed who are employed by the associated partner or other entity outside the project partnership.



Operational Capacity Assessment

Q: The requirement for operational capacity states that the coordinator should have managed at least one consortium project.

Can the nationally funded project be assessed or only international projects count?

Can we provide a project that we started recently for assessment of our operational capacity?

Can we provide projects for the assessment implemented by our consortium partners?

The coordinator (as a legal entity) has managed (as a coordinator) at least one consortium project (funded by EU or national funds):

- with a value of at least **EUR 200 000**;
- with **at least 2 other beneficiaries** (coordinator and 2 beneficiaries);
- which **was implemented and finished** within the last 5 years (2020-2024).

IMPORTANT. Only the operational capacity of the **Coordinator** will be assessed. Projects that are not finished by the end of 2024 will not be assessed.

Proven track record in working with long-term unemployment initiatives for at least 1 year. If the Coordinator does not have the required experience, this experience may be provided by one or more co-applicants, or by one or more experts engaged in the project.

Q: Our organisation hasn't implemented any projects that are in line with the requirements of the operational capacity for this Call. However, we read in the Call Conditions, that it is possible to hire a project manager who has sufficient experience. Could you please provide more details in this matter?

If the coordinator does not have sufficient optional capacity, then the operational capacity of the lead project manager may be assessed. Such lead project manager **has to be employed by the coordinator** no later than the date of signature of the Grant Agreement. **The lead project manager**, directly involved in the implementation of the project submitted under the Call, has to have managed at least one consortium project (funded by EU or national funds):

- with a value of at least **EUR 200 000**;
- with at least 2 other beneficiaries (coordinator and **2 other beneficiaries**);
- which was implemented **and finished** within the last 5 years (2020-2024).

Additionally, the lead project manager is expected to have a very good command of English (C1 level or higher).

Proven track record in working with long-term unemployment initiatives for at least 1 year also will be assessed as presented in the slide before.

Target Group, Activities and Results



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

Can we further develop an innovation that has been tested and implemented on a small scale (locally)?

Yes, the volumes of previously successfully implemented social innovations may be different. If it fits the needs for your project, then surely locally tested and implemented social innovations can be used for your promising initiatives.

Important to underline **what defines social innovation** under current Call:

Social innovation is an activity, that is **social both as to its ends and its means** and in particular an activity which relates to the development and implementation of new ideas concerning products, services, practices and models, that simultaneously **meets social needs and creates new social relationships or collaborations** between public, civil society, or private organisations, thereby **benefiting society and boosting its capacity to act**.

Q: Do all the partners have to implement similar activities?

Is the application supposed to replicate/scale up only one social innovation or can the project be based on multiple social innovations?

Not necessarily, partnerships can be diverse and the roles of the co-applicants can be different. There is no requirement for the same activities to take place.

All options of transfer and scale-up of innovative approaches are possible as long as they are properly identified and presented in the Theory of Change (part of the project application) and other parts of the Application.

Q: What if definition of the long-term unemployed in our country is different from that the Call suggests (unemployed persons for at least 12 consecutive months)? E.g. our legislation considers person as long-term unemployed even if that person received a short-term working contract (5-7 days working contract).

Also, in our partnering country's legislation there is no such definition of the LTU person and the closest distinction is that there are "persons unemployed for more than 6 months".

A long-term unemployed person is defined in the Call Conditions as a person who has been out of work for more than 12 months. This definition is applicable to all participating countries and is based on the International Labour Organisation definition.

Q: Are the people with disabilities considered to be the target group if they receive disability pension? Under legislation in our country, people receiving disability pension can work, if they want to.

Yes, persons with disabilities who are also long-term unemployed are considered as the target group of the Call. However, please keep in mind that in some countries receiving a wage may lead to the deduction of the disability pension.

Q: Who has to be delegated to the mutual learning events that are planned to take place on-site in Brussels, Vilnius and Paris?

Participating in the Mutual Learning Events is a mandatory activity for all the projects selected. For each event you have to consider participation of 2 persons from your consortium.

The designation of on-site meeting places is provisional in order to facilitate the calculation of costs. However, other cities may be considered during the course of the process, in accordance with the identified needs and the countries from which the majority of the projects will be selected.

Q: We plan to train the project's target group for 6 months before job placement. Are scholarships for participants eligible under this Call?

The Call does not exclude skills development, but **reskilling and upskilling in general are not the aim of the call.**

The Call aims to integrate the long-term unemployed persons into the labour market, into communities and to provide them with individual support (**on-job training**, counselling, coaching and other similar activities). Only expenses covering remuneration of the long-term unemployed persons are eligible.

Thus, **scholarships are not eligible** under this Call.

It is very important, that projects submitted include strong elements of social innovation and would not replicate solutions that are present on the labour market.

Q: Is it mandatory to include remuneration costs for the long-term unemployed in all the projects? We do not plan to employ the target group in our activities.

The Call aims to encourage applicants to transfer or scale up proven and promising social innovations aimed at facilitating the integration or reintegration of the long-term unemployed into the labour market and/or fostering their social inclusion.

Predefined mandatory activities for all the projects presented in Section 2.2 of the Call Conditions include Offering various working options (...).

This means, that chosen forms of employment for the long-term unemployed are **compulsory** and related costs of remuneration presented in Section 2.4 have to be included.



Project Financial Planning and Work Package Management

Q: Could you explain how the 20% co-financing is determined and how it can be provided?

Is it the Coordinator's responsibility, or do co-applicants have to cover it as well?

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 each of their work package. To understand how lump sums and co-financing of 80% will be applied, we recommend consulting the Detailed Budget Table, (Annex 1 to the Call Conditions):

- In the Excel sheet 'Estim cost of the project', **total costs for each beneficiary 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.**

Q: Are equipment and management costs eligible under this call?

Infrastructure and durable **equipment** are not eligible under the Call. If the equipment or other assets planned to be purchased in the project are classified as fixed assets according to the applicant's accounting procedures, their expenditure is ineligible.

Please note that expenditure on consumables and supplies is eligible if it is necessary for the implementation of the project. These costs must be included in the cost category "B2. Other goods, works and services."

IMPORTANT. Only the project coordinator's costs related to project management are **eligible** to be funded from the direct costs. Project co-applicants cannot cover their project management costs from direct costs.

Q: Call conditions indicate, that the lump sum is linked to the completion of work packages. In reality, most organisations will not be able to prefinance the costs (e. g. for salaries of long-term unemployed) fully. Could you please clarify the process of payment of the lump sums?

The funding model is based on lump sums. This means that **it will only be reimbursed once the Work Package has reached all the planned deliverables.**

If the project lasts for 36 months, then after the signature of the Grant Agreement project coordinator will receive a **prefinancing payment** of 60% of the grant.

The second prefinancing will be paid after the submission of the Report on the 18th month of project implementation. This prefinancing is set to be up to 25% of the grant. It may be smaller if the first prefinancing was not used up to at least 70 % (for more details please refer to Section 12.1 of the Call Conditions).

The final payment will be made after the final report is submitted and approved.

Project Payments

Article 21 of the GA

First (initial) prefinancing

**up to 60%
(after signature
of the GA)**

Second prefinancing

**up to 25 %
(after approval of the
first periodic report)**

Final payment

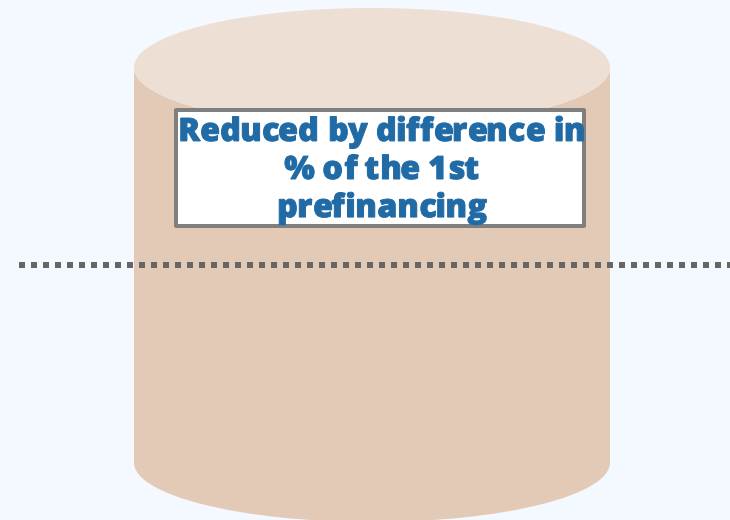
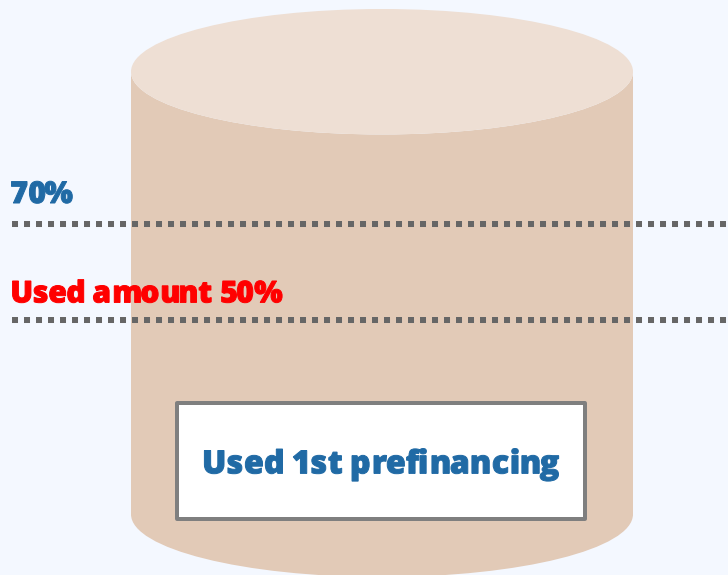
**(payment of
the balance)**

Second Prefinancing, when the First one is used under 70%

The amount will be reduced by the difference between the 70% threshold and the amount of the previous prefinancing used.

1st prefinancing amount (60% of the grant)

2nd prefinancing amount (25% of the grant)



Q: Do we understand correctly, that if we do not achieve at least one envisaged deliverable the Lump Sum linked to a specific work package will not be paid?

The Grant takes the form of the Lump Sum (planned for each work package). This means, that whatever deliverables you plan, you have to achieve them in a full scope in order to receive the planned Lump Sum.

However, if the work package was planned to be finished before the submission of the Report on the 18th month, but it runs late, then it may be declared only during the submission of the Final Report.

Q: There are two different minimum wages in our country. The smaller is for the persons who have basic school education, the other is for persons with higher education. Which minimum wage should we include in the DBT?

Indeed, some countries have set hourly, monthly, or annual minimum wage amounts and other countries may have so called collective bargaining agreements on minimum wage. This example consider both options for calculating the minimum wage, and you have to follow your national legislation when providing remuneration.

Q: In our country, national collective agreements are established to regulate labour relations in a given sector of activity, for all workers in that sector. Therefore, depending on the sector, wages and regulations are different, and in order to have an idea of the minimum wages, it is necessary to consult the relevant national collective labour agreements. When calculating minimum wage, can we use average salary based on number of such collective agreements?

You either follow the set minimum wage in the country or if there is a collective agreement in place, then you may follow it as well. This option is presented in Section 2.4 of the Call Conditions. However, remuneration has to be paid in line with the relevant national legislation.

Q: The Call doesn't specifically mention the monitoring rules (working time, impact, expenses monitoring). What documentation will be required to justify the work time of the personnel team implementing the project?

Regarding reporting rules, since this is a **Lump Sum project**, there will be no reporting of actual costs, no financial checks and audits. No need to provide supporting documents for the costs incurred, the costs incurred are not assessed, However, please keep in mind the following regarding record keeping:

- Beneficiaries are required, at least until the time limit specified in the Grant Agreement, to **maintain records and other supporting documents** to demonstrate the proper implementation of the project. This includes:
- Ensuring that the work is carried out and the results achieved **align with the descriptions outlined in the Grant Agreement.**
- Documenting all activities within the project to ensure **compliance with national laws** regarding procurement, recruitment, contracting, tax payments, and other relevant areas.

For detailed description see Section 3 of Chapter 4 of the Grant Agreement template.

Q: How can we ensure the proper money flow in the project if it aims to last for 3 years, and work packages are reimbursed only if they are finished. What if activities last for examples for 2 years in certain work package?

We advise to divide long lasting work packages, such as Management, Dissemination, and other relevant WPs in the project according to reporting periods. This will ensure proper cash flow in the project.

Technically speaking, there may be 2 Management WPs, 2 Dissemination WPs and so on. It is important to remember that only those WPs that are fully accomplished will be reimbursed in the form of the Lump Sum. This means, that if even one activity is late while providing the periodic report, the whole WP is considered incomplete. The same applies to the final report.

Closing remarks

If you have questions that have not been addressed yet:

- Please check [FAQ](#)
- Get in touch with us at LTU@socialinnovationplus.eu

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

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

Please fill in the Evaluation form

Tell us how we can work better together!



**Social
Innovation ⊕
Initiative**

Thank You!



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the European Union