



 TEX-MED ALLIANCES

Guidelines

for sub-grant applicants

TEX-MED ALLIANCES

(Ref n.: A_A12_0379)

**Reference: Call for sub-grants for the implementation of
Cross-Border Cooperation Initiatives**

First deadline for submission of application: 7th December 2020, 17:00 CET;
Following deadlines: 8th February 2021, 17:00; CET; 12th April 2021, 17:00 CET



Statement about the Programme:

The 2014 2020 ENI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme is a multilateral Cross Border Cooperation initiative funded by the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI). The Programme objective is to foster fair, equitable and sustainable economic, social and territorial development, which may advance cross border integration and valorise participating countries' territories and values. The following 13 countries participate in the Programme: Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Palestine, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia. The Managing Authority (JMA) is the Autonomous Region of Sardinia (Italy). Official Programme languages are Arabic, English and French. For more information, please visit: www.enicbcmmed.eu

Statement about the EU:

The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.

Disclaimer:

This document and its annexes have been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union under the ENI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of TEXFOR and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union or the Programme management structures.

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- Annex B: Sub-grants application form and request for sub-grant
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These guidelines set out the rules for the submission and selection of requests for sub-grants, in conformity with the ENI CBC MED Programme rules, which are applicable to the present call (available at <http://www.enicbcmec.eu/home>).

WARNING:

The gradual and dissimilar restart of activities in the Mediterranean countries after COVID-19 lockdowns prevents a precise outline of the conditions in which the Project will develop in the next months. Therefore, features of these guidelines may be adapted to the evolving scenario in the near future, if necessary.

1.1. BACKGROUND

TEX-MED ALLIANCES project is funded by the **ENI CBC MED Programme** (www.enicbcmec.eu/projects/tex-med-alliances).

The Project is led by **TEXFOR** – the Spanish Textile Industry Confederation (Spain, Cataluña). Other Project's Partners (PPs) are:

- **CTN** – Industrial Association of Northern Tuscany (Italy, Tuscany);
- **SEPEE** – Hellenic Fashion Industry Association (Greece, Kentriki Makedonia);
- **CETTEX** – Textile Technical Center (Tunisia, Ben Arous);
- **MFCPOLE** – Monastir El Fejja Competitiveness Pole (Tunisia, Tunis);
- **GACIC** – German Arab Chamber of Industry and Commerce (Egypt, El Iskandanyah);
- **ACI** – Amman Chamber of Industry (Jordan, Amman);
- **PFI** – Palestinian Federation of Industries (Palestine).

The Project's duration is **36 months** (September 2019-August 2022).

The TEX-MED ALLIANCES **objective** is to design, implement and support **Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) initiatives** aiming at aggregating enterprises and other economic organizations from the **Northern and Southern Mediterranean** on three strategic areas:

- **Internationalisation (Project Work Package 4 – WP4)**
- **Innovation (WP5)**
- **Circular Economy, (WP6)**

The ultimate objective of the Project is to carry out such CBC Initiatives together with small and medium companies and BROs and finally establish new **Euro-Mediterranean Alliances**¹.

Micro, Small or Medium companies (MSMEs) and **Business Representative Organizations (BROs)** interested to participate to a Project Initiative can receive the following assistance:

¹ According the ENI CBCMED Programme, the definition of "Alliance" includes consortia, partnerships, clusters, networks as part or not part of a value chain configuration, that are established as a consequence of the Programme/Project support.

1. Qualified consultancy services that will be directly hired by the Project Partner coordinating the Initiative for the benefit of all the SMEs/BROs participating to the same initiative.

2. Financial support awarded directly to SMEs and BROs to cover, totally or partially, costs related to the implementation of chosen Initiatives.

1.2. OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL FOR SUB-GRANTS

The **objective** of this call is to **select companies and BROs for the implementation of the Initiatives and to provide them with financial support (subgrants) to cover pre-defined categories of costs** (see § 1.5).

The call covers **3 areas**.

Area:	Name of Framework Initiatives:	Coordinating Project Partner (PP):
Internationalization	“Fashion Restart”	ACI, Amman Chamber of Industry, Jordan
Innovation	“Health Emergencies”	MFCPOLE – Monastir El Fejja Competitiveness Pole (Tunisia)
	“Dyeing Small Batches”	MFCPOLE and CETTEX - Textile Technical Center (Tunisia)
Circular Economy	“Circular Economy in the T/C Business”	CTN – Industrial Association of Northern Tuscany (Italy)

The main objective of **“Fashion Restart”** Framework Initiative is to take advantage of the opportunity of weakened mega retailers, to access marketing “gaps” left by the multinational retailers in all Partner Countries. The initiative aims to create, during the first test season, pilot size proofs that well-designed workplans can succeed in the market, lifting up, along with it, local designers’ talent.

“Health Emergencies” Framework Initiative aims at setting up and establishing a “Textile Mediterranean Cluster for Emergencies” (TMCE), that will be composed of selected and certified companies (SMEs) of the health textile value chain. This cluster has the mission of ensuring quick, certified, reliable response to the needs of the Mediterranean countries facing health emergencies.

The goal of **“Dyeing Small Batches”** Framework Initiative is to make a number of SMEs manufacturing “small items” (such as: beach wear, underwear/lingerie, accessories like foulards, scarves, hijabs, niqabs, etc.) be able to produce high quality dyed items. This will allow them to add value, be independent from large suppliers of raw materials and give a better market position to their brands. *This FI is functional to the implementation of the other 3 Framework initiatives.*

“Circular Economy in the T/C Business” Framework Initiative has the specific objective to support Micro-Small Enterprises by supplying them with inputs of little residual value for suppliers but still with relevant value for such Micro-Small Enterprises. We intend to generate mutual advantages. One side (suppliers) can get a minimal value for items that, otherwise, might bring costs for waste disposal; the other side (Micro and Small Businesses) can procure input materials and equipment of a good quality at a very low cost. The practical objective is to create a market-place for such transactions.

Except “Dyeing Small Batches”, each “**Framework Initiative**” (*FIs*) has a wide scope and encompasses several “**Specific Initiatives**”, which are initiatives that target narrow (specific) scopes and are functional to the implementation and objectives of the Framework initiative they are part of.

A full description of the **Framework initiatives** and their **Specific Initiatives** is provided in **Annex A**.

Each Initiative will bring together companies and/or other organizations from the Northern and Southern rims of the Mediterranean with relevant or complementary specializations. The ultimate goal is to establish long term cooperation among them (Euro-Mediterranean Alliances)

1.3. FINANCIAL ALLOCATION

The overall indicative budget for sub-grants available under this call is up to **EUR 312.000**, split as follows:

- Up to **EUR 104,000** for sub-grants supporting Initiatives in **Internationalization**
- Up to **EUR 104.000** for sub-grants supporting Initiatives in **Innovation**
- Up to **EUR 104.000** for sub-grants supporting initiatives in **Circular Economy**

The project reserves the right not to award all available funds.

Size of sub-grants: Any grant requested under this call for proposals cannot exceed the maximum amount of **EUR 10.000**.

The sub-grant is broken down into Standard unit costs to cover expenses directly linked to some of the outputs, activities or deliverables of the Initiative which the application is submitted for.

1.4. ACTIONS FOR WHICH AN APPLICATION MAY BE MADE

Actions covered by the sub-grants are:

<u>Framework Initiative</u>	<u>Specific Initiatives</u>
Fashion Restart	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Create producers/retailers’ fashion local/regional Brands - Set up a network of hubs for Fashion Trends services - Developing Technical Textiles for Islamic wear - New Mediterranean/Modest collections – “New MeMo”
Health Emergencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify new Textile Preventive Materials for sanitary emergencies - Structuring a framework for the production, testing and labelling of community cloth face coverings - Wearable technologies for health distant monitoring within the context of pandemic or epidemic disease - Creating a Mediterranean Clusters of qualified SMEs of the T/C sector for Quick Response to Health Emergencies
Dyeing Small Batches	- <i>No Specific Initiatives</i>
Circular Economy in the T/C Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop waste to Sub-products portfolio - Re-use of Leftovers - Create Patchwork collections - Re-use of Second-hand textile machines

Location: Actions must take place in one or more of the eligible countries and regions as stipulated in the Project and ENI CBCMED Programme (see § 1.6).

Duration: All actions must be completed by June 2022 at the latest.

The **types of activity** which may receive sub-grant support are listed for each initiative here below:

Framework Initiative:	Activities:
Fashion Restart (Lot1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Participation to meetings, seminars, business events, fairs, missions related to the implementation of the Initiative ▫ Production of models and samples ▫ Technical tests and prototypes ▫ Digitalization of samples, models, collections ▫ Marketing & Advertising
Health Emergencies (Lot2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Participation to meetings, seminars, business events, fairs, missions related to the implementation of the Initiative ▫ Production of models and samples ▫ Technical tests, certifications and prototypes ▫ Digitalization of samples, models, collections ▫ Marketing & Advertising
Dyeing Small Batches (Lot2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Participation to seminars, trainings for upgrading knowledge about dyeing and missions for the use of equipment installed at Cettex premises in Monastir, Tunisia ▫ Dyeing tests, models and samples ▫ Digitalization of samples, models, collections ▫ Marketing & Advertising
Circular Economy in the T/C Business (Lot 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Participation to meetings, seminars, business events, fairs, missions related to the implementation of the Initiative ▫ Production of models and samples ▫ Digitalization of items, samples, models, collections ▫ Marketing & Advertising

Visibility: Subgrant applicants must comply with the objectives and priorities and guarantee the visibility of the EU financing (see the [Communication and Visibility Requirements for EU External Actions](#)).

Number of applications and subgrants per applicant(s):

- An applicant can apply for 1 Framework Initiative only, together with one or more of its Specific Initiatives.
- Applicants can apply for the Dyeing Small Batches Framework initiative only, or together with any of the Specific Initiatives of another Framework Initiative.

1.5. COSTS THAT CAN BE COVERED BY SUB-GRANTS

The sub-grant is broken down into **Standard unit costs** (“simplified cost” option) and it will provide financial support to cover specific categories of costs that are directly linked to outputs, or activities or deliverables of the Initiatives here below identified:

Costs categories	Standard Unit Cost	Output / Deliverable: (**)
1. Mission Costs for the participation to meetings, visits, seminars, trainings, events, fairs <u>strictly related to the implementation of the Initiatives</u>	1.000	Report of the mission
2. Support to product innovation/development (*):		
2.1 Pre-production costs (models, samples or prototypes)	400 Euro per item	Documented proof of model, sample, prototype units produced
2.2 Product technical tests	500 Euro per test	Documented proof of tests units done
2.3 Product certifications	1.500 Euro per certification	Documented proof of certification units done
2.4 Consumables for dyeing (i.e. dyeing materials)	300 Euro per batch	Documented proof of n of dyeing batches done
2.4 Digitalization of items, samples, models or collection	30 Euro per image	Documented proof of image units done
3. Communication:		
3.1 Costs for Marketing & Advertising	300 Euro per advertisement	Documented proof of advertisements done

The total sub-grant requested cannot exceed Euro 10.000. The project reserves the right to award the requested amounts totally or partially.

(*). Costs categories 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 under “**Support to product innovation/development**” are not eligible for those Specific Initiatives that do not foresee outputs as model, sample, prototype, test, certification, i.e. "CE 2: Leftovers", "CE5: Second-hand Machines".

(**) Outputs and deliverables shall be documented with appropriate means (i.e reports, pictures of samples and models, photocopies of tests/certifications obtained, etc), and *validated by the Coordinating Partner*. *All outputs shall be submitted by end of June 2022 at the latest.*

In case the documented outputs/activities will not be validated in full by the Coordinating Partner, the latter will reserve the right not to pay the balance and/or to request the advance to be refunded by the sub-grantee (see art 4 of the sub-grant contract).

Only outputs/deliverables produced after the signature of the sub-grant contracts are eligible.

The standard unit costs were calculated so not produce any profit for the applicant in order to comply with the sub-grants’ regulation. (see **Annex G**: Conditions that justify the “Simplified costs” financial regime).

In case COVID-19 limitations to travel will prevent the organization of missions, a sub-grantee could either renounce to the corresponding budget, or propose to reallocate it to other costs categories, motivating the request.

1.6. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA (APPLICANTS)

To be eligible to apply for the present call for sub-grants, the Applicant:

- (1) shall be a Micro, Small or Medium Enterprise², including Start-ups, or a Business Representative Organization³
- (2) shall be legally established in one of the eligible regions⁴ of the countries involved in the TEX-MED ALLIANCES Project, i.e.:

COUNTRIES	CORE ELIGIBLE REGIONS	ADJOINING REGIONS
Egypt	Ad Daqahliyah, Al Buhayrah, Al Iskandanyah, Al Isma’iliyah, Ash Sharquiyah, Bur Sa’id, Dumyat, Kafr ash Shaykh, Marsa Matruh	Al Gharbiyah, Al Minufiyah, Al Qalyubiyah, As Suways
Greece	Anatoliki Makedonia – Thraki, Attiki, Dytiki Ellada, Ionia Nisia, Ipeiros, Kentriki Makedonia, Kriti, Notio Aigaio, Peloponnisos, Sterea Ellada, Thessalia, Voreio Aigaio	Dytiki Makedonia
Italy	Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Lazio, Liguria, Puglia, Sardegna, Sicilia, Toscana	Abruzzo, Emilia Romagna, Marche, Molise, Piemonte, Umbria
Jordan	Al-Aqaba, Al-Balga, Al-Karak, Al-Tafilah, Irbid, Madaba	Ajlun, Al-Mafraq, Amman, Az Zarqa’, Jarash, Ma’an
Palestine	Whole country	None
Spain	Andalucía, Cataluña, Ceuta, Comunidad Valenciana, Islas Baleares, Melilla, Murcia	Aragon, Castilla-La-Mancha, Extremadura
Tunisia	Ariana, Béja, Ben Arous, Bizerte, Gabès, Jandouba, Mahdia, Médénine, Monastir, Nabeul, Sfax, Sousse, Tunis	Gasfa, Kairouan, Kebili, Le Kef, Manouba, Sidi Bouzid, Siliana, Tataouine, Zaghuan

- (3) shall not be in any insolvency situation and shall be compliant with local labour codes and social security rules.

² For M-SMEs definition, pls check https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition_en

³ BROs include also business support bodies such as Research centres, Innovation pôles, that are key actors in a cluster, value chain etc., and provide services to the T/C sector and/or to the development of Circular Economy.

⁴ As defined by the ENI CBCMED Programme

- (4) the amount of the sub-grant that may be awarded by this call shall not exceed the de minimis aid ceiling of 200 000 Euros for the current and two previous fiscal years, when applicable. *This requirement does not apply to Palestinian applicants.*

In the declarations included in the sub-grant application form, applicants must declare they are complying with the situations described above.

The applicant is directly responsible for the implementation of the initiative and must not act as an intermediary.

If awarded a sub-grant, the applicant will sign a sub-grant contract and become the sub-grantee, who is the counterpart of the Project Partner awarding the sub-grant. The sub-grantee will:

- Contribute to the implementation of the chosen Initiative in cooperation with the other companies and BROs selected for the same Initiative under the coordination of the relevant Project Partner.
- Sign a Memorandum of Understanding (Annex E), as a formal commitment to the Initiative and as a first step toward a long-term cooperation such as a Euro-Mediterranean Alliance.

1.7. HOW TO APPLY

1.7.1 Applications

Subgrant applicants are invited to apply using the Application form annexed to these guidelines. Applicants must apply in English.

Each application must contain the following documents:

- Application form, that includes a request for sub-grant (**Annex B**)
- Declaration on the honour (**Annex C**)
- De minimis declaration for sub-grantee (**Annex D**)

Please complete the application form carefully and as clearly as possible so that it can be assessed properly. Any error related to the points listed in the application form or any major inconsistency may lead to the rejection of the application.

Hand-written applications will not be accepted.

1.7.2 Where and how to send applications

Complete Applications must be submitted **by email** to the address herebelow:

Email address: callforsubgrants@texmedalliances.eu

Applications sent by any other mean (e.g. by fax or hand delivered) will be rejected.

The subject of the email must mention the **title of the Framework Initiative** for which the sub-grant is applied.

All application files shall be **signed** and attached to the email in **PDF format**.

1.7.3 Deadline for submission of applications

The deadline for submitting applications is:

- **7th December 2020, 17:00 CET**

Depending on budget availability on this call for sub-grants, additional deadlines may be on:

- 8th February 2021, 17:00 CET
- 12th April 2021, 17:00 CET

1.7.4 Further information about applications

Questions may be sent by e-mail no later than 7 days before the deadline for the submission of applications to the following e-mail address susanna@texmedalliances.eu

The project Lead Beneficiary (TEXFOR) has no obligation to provide clarifications to questions received after this date. Replies will be given no later than 3 days before the deadline for the submission of applications.

Replies to individual questions will be also published in the Project website.

1.8 EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications will be examined and evaluated by the Project Initiatives Committee (IC) composed of representatives The Spanish Textile Federation (TEXFOR), Confindustria Toscana Nord (CTN), Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI), Competitive Pole Monastir-El Fejja (MFCPole), who are partners in the project. All applications will be assessed according to the following steps and criteria:

(1) STEP 1: OPENING & ADMINISTRATIVE CHECK AND ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION

During the opening & administrative check, the IC members will verify that all the files of the application (Application form with request of sub-grant, declaration on honour, De minimis declaration for sub-grantee) are included, and duly filled and signed.

If any of the files are missing or incomplete, the application may be rejected or applicants may be requested to amend minor administrative uncompliances.

Applications received after one deadline will be evaluated in the next cut-off date, if any.

The eligibility verification will assess if the application satisfies the eligibility criteria specified in § 1.6 on the basis of the following supporting documents:

- declaration on the honour,
- De minimis declaration for sub-grantee

Only the applications that pass the eligibility verification will be further evaluated, using the evaluation criteria described below.

(2) STEP 2: EVALUATION OF THE APPLICATION

The adopted criteria take into consideration the general objectives of our Project. They aim to assess:

1. whether the Applicant's type of production and/or specialization are consistent with the Initiative for which an application is made,

2. the Applicant's commitment to the achievement of the Framework Initiatives' objectives, and contribution to the implementation of the foreseen activities.
3. the Opportunities/advantages the Applicant can obtain from the participation to the Initiative
4. their capacity to assure the sustainability of the action, once the Project is ended.

Scoring: The evaluation grid shows the following scores between 1 and 4 for each criterion: 1 = poor; 2 = sufficient; 3 = good; 4 = excellent.

Applications will be ranked according to their score. Those with a score of 3 or above will be selected, up to the available budget for this call.

In case the requests for subgrants will exceed the available budget, the choice between applications with the same score will be made taking into consideration the principles of:

- North/South balanced participation, and
- equal representation of the involved countries.

In case the total budget available under this call will not be awarded in full, additional cut-off dates will be opened.

1.9 NOTIFICATION OF THE EVALUATION AND SIGNATURE OF THE SUB-GRANT CONTRACT

Applicants will be informed by email on the decision concerning their application and, if rejected, the reasons for the negative decision.

The selected applicants will each sign a sub-grant contract (**Annex F**) with the Coordinating Project Partner. All the selected applicants for the same Initiative will sign a **Memorandum of Understanding (Annex E)** defining the roles and the responsibilities of the involved parties.

1.10 ETHIC CLAUSES AND CODE OF CONDUCT

a) Absence of conflict of interest

The applicant must not be affected by any conflict of interest.

Any attempt by an applicant to obtain confidential information, enter into unlawful agreements with competitors or influence the evaluation committee or the project Lead Beneficiary / partner during the process of examining, clarifying, evaluating and comparing applications will lead to the rejection of its application and may result in administrative penalties.

b) Respect for human rights as well as environmental legislation and core labour standards

The applicant and its staff must comply with human rights. In particular and in accordance with the applicable act, applicants who have been awarded contracts must comply with the environmental legislation including multilateral environmental agreements, and with the core labour standards as applicable and as defined in

the relevant International Labour Organisation conventions (such as the conventions on freedom of association and collective bargaining; elimination of forced and compulsory labour; abolition of child labour).

Zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and sexual abuse:

The European Commission applies a policy of 'zero tolerance' in relation to all wrongful conduct which has an impact on the professional credibility of the applicant.

Physical abuse or punishment, or threats of physical abuse, sexual abuse or exploitation, harassment and verbal abuse, as well as other forms of intimidation shall be prohibited.

c) Anti-corruption and anti-bribery

The applicant shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations and codes relating to anti-bribery and anti-corruption. The project Lead Beneficiary / partner and the Programme bodies reserve the right to suspend or cancel the sub-grant if corrupt practices of any kind are discovered at any stage of the award process or during the execution of the contract. For the purposes of this provision, 'corrupt practices' are the offer of a bribe, gift, gratuity or commission to any person as an inducement or reward for performing or refraining from any act relating to the award of a contract or execution of a contract already concluded.

d) Breach of obligations, irregularities or fraud

The project Lead Beneficiary / partner and the Programme bodies reserve the right to suspend or cancel the procedure, where the award procedure proves to have been subject to breach of obligations, irregularities or fraud. If breach of obligations, irregularities or fraud are discovered after the award of the contract, the project beneficiary may refrain from concluding the contract.