

THE EU ECO-TANDEM PROGRAMME

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION



APRIL 2022





The [EU ECO-TANDEM Programme](https://www.eu-ecotandem.eu/) is a cross-border Programme to identify key challenges in the European Tourism value chain with specific regard to eco-sustainability and green transition, matching European Tourism SMEs and innovators (i.e. startups, innovative SMEs) to tackle ECO-TANDEM challenges through the so called “TANDEM™ cooperation”.

More information about the EU ECO-TANDEM Programme is available on the Project website: <https://www.eu-ecotandem.eu/>.

The objective of the "Call for Participation" is to select European Tourism SMEs and European Tourism (or non-Tourism) startups or innovative Tourism (or non-Tourism) SMEs - hereafter referred as the “Third Party Beneficiaries”, to create “TANDEM” (couples of companies joining and sharing an original business arrangement), and select the best ones, then providing them with technical and financial support to facilitate the European Tourism SMEs eco-transition. The selection process will be free of charge for the applicants.

Sixty two (62) European Tourism SMEs will be selected for funding at the end of the Biz Programme: 16 companies will be co-funded by (the EU ECOTANDEM Consortium partner) X23 (Italy - i.e. the Consortium Coordinator); 14 will be co-funded by SocialFare (Italy); 16 will be co-funded by ITKAM (Germany) and 16 will be co-funded by SBA (Slovakia). The Programme will award a maximum number of 31 TANDEM” (62 companies/”TANDEMees” overall).

The Programme is strictly limited to the following categories of applicants:

EU traditional Tourism (NACE 55.* , 79.* categories) SMEs (a)	{α}
EU Tourism (NACE 55.* , 79.* categories) micro-enterprises	{β}
EU Tourism Startups (b)	{γ}
EU non-Tourism Startups (b)	{δ}
EU Tourism Innovative SMEs (a)	{ε}
EU non-Tourism Innovative SMEs (a)	{ζ}

(a) [Please, note that to be eligible under the Programme, SMEs must comply with the European Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC and the SME user guide.]

(b) [Please, note that only startups included in the categories provided for in the Guidelines for Applicants (specifically “Definition of ‘startup’ in EU countries”) will be considered admissible.]

The European traditional Tourism (NACE categories) SMEs {α}, the European Tourism (NACE categories) micro-enterprises {β}, and the EU Tourism Innovative SMEs* {ε}, must come from the following categories:

- Hotels and similar accommodation (NACE 55.10)
- Holiday and other short-stay accommodation (NACE 55.20)
- Camping grounds, recreational vehicle parks and trailer parks (NACE 55.30)
- Travel agency, tour operator reservation services and related activities (NACE 79.*)

and must comply with the European Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC and the SME user guide.



The European non-Tourism SMEs {ε}, and the European non-Tourism Innovative SMEs {ζ}, are eligible to participate the Programme, but will not be granted with any direct financial contribution.

The EU Tourism Startups {γ} and the EU non-Tourism Startups {δ} must be included in the categories listed in the Guidelines (specifically “Definition of ‘startup’ in EU countries”).

In order to be financially funded, the EU Tourism Startups {γ} must fall into the specific categories of “Tourism industries”, in line with selected Eurostat classes; as regard the EU non-Tourism Startups {δ}, they are eligible to participate the Programme, but will not be granted with any direct financial contribution.

Geographical Eligibility, and Special Bonus.

Only the organisations (as above listed and described) based in the European Member States are eligible to participate to the present Call. Due to the mechanism underlying the ECO-TANDEM Programme, with a view to preserving the technical feasibility, the legal consistency, the practical and economic testability, and the effective implementability of the actions provided by the present Call, the Consortium partners, under the authorisation of the public donor (European Commission) held that a special geographical focus will be given to the organisations coming from Austria, Germany, Greece, Italy, and Slovakia (i.e. the countries where the Consortium partners are based and the matchmaking will be celebrated).

Financial allocation of the Call.

The EU ECO-TANDEM Programme Support scheme will empower the European Tourism SMEs and European Tourism startups to bridge the gap in the eco-sustainability and green transition in the Tourism industry. This will be done by a strong cooperation among one (1) European traditional Tourism SME and one (1) Tourism (or non-Tourism) innovative startup or innovative SME, identifying a common EU ECO-CHALLENGE to be tackled and agreeing on a common Plan of Action. Such support to the European Tourism SMEs and European Tourism Startups must be part of the Project costs and shall be included under the corresponding cost headings. Financial support to Third Party Beneficiaries shall serve to cover the costs as described in the “Plan of Action ' agreed by the "TANDEMees”.

List of eligible activities to be funded and types of costs.

Eligible activities relate to the following categories of costs [list]

- Travel, registration and accommodation costs to attend [list]
 - green certification courses;
 - study visit at the startup premises to further implement the solution designed in the Plan of Action;
 - coaching and mentoring sessions for a feasibility study;
 - participation fees to green-oriented events at EU level
- Investment for the uptake of sustainable or green solutions [such as]
 - compliance adaptation for certification schemes including costs of certification or standardisation.
 - advisory services in the field of market analysis (sustainability need with respect to a specific customer segment for the SME)
 - specific technical assessment at the SME premises to evaluate the feasibility of the innovative solution implementation;



- test-beds costs for the implementation of the green innovative solution at the SMEs premises;
- skills improvement:
 - specialised training to the SME key staff around the new innovative green solution usage;
 - specialised training around the environmental and social impact of the operations of SMEs in order to assess their “green maturity level”;
 - specialised training around managing operations in a more environmentally-friendly manner etc.).

Maximum amount of financial support for each Third-Party Beneficiary.

The maximum amount of financial support (grant) per TANDEM cannot exceed thirteen thousand euros (EUR 13.000). Specific rules apply as follow:

- If the TANDEM is formed by 2 European Tourism SMEs, the financial support will be distributed equally to the two parties (EUR 6.500 each);
- if the TANDEM is formed by 1 European Tourism SME and 1 European Tourism startup, the financial support will be distributed equally to the two parties (EUR 6.500 each);
- If the TANDEM is formed by 1 European Tourism SME and 1 European non-Tourism SME or non-Tourism startup, the voucher (EUR 6.500) will be assigned only to the European Tourism SME.

Application process:

All applicants who would like to participate to the Call to action are requested to:
[dedicated platform] Apply via the dedicated platform (Good Grants):
<https://x23eupro.grantplatform.com>

Deadline for submissions of applications:

The Call for applications will be **open from 16th of March 2022 to the 15th of May 2022 at 17:00 CEST (Brussels Time)**, thereafter the submission platform will be closed.

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 info@eu-ecotandem.eu, indicating clearly the reference of the Call for Participation and the question. The applicants are also encouraged to visit the FAQ page for further info

Evaluation process

The evaluation process of the applications to the present Call for Participation, which will take approximately 5 weeks after the Call is closed, is summarised as the following steps:

- Administrative revision of applications and request of added documentation, if needed;
- The ETAs will be evaluating the applications through the Good Grants on-line platform, where the applications will be distributed proportionally among all evaluators;
- The ETA evaluators will be called out to agree upon a Consensus Evaluation form afterwards;



- The Consortium partners will collect the Consensus Evaluation form and generate a ranked list from the highest scored application to the lowest;
- The Consortium partners will meet to validate the results and agree on the final list of selected applicants and a reserve list.
- check of applications eligibility.

The criteria for the administrative eligibility of the applicants will be performed by the Consortium partner and validated by the Lead Partner. The External Tandem Advisors will be evaluating the applications received so far over the Good Grants on-line platform. The “Eligibility criteria” will be applied to discard non-eligible proposals. Proposals being marked as non-eligible will get a rejection letter for being cataloged as non-eligible. No further feedback on the process will be given for the non- selected one.

Evaluation criteria of applications.

Eligible applications will be evaluated against predetermined evaluation criteria, applying predefined weighting factors and thresholds. Each application will be evaluated by independent evaluators (ETA) with experience in sustainable Tourism and business development. ETA will record their individual opinion for each application on an Individual Consensus Evaluation Form, through the Good Grants on-line platform.

Successful applications for the SMEs must pass the minimum thresholds of 30/55.

Successful applications for the Startups must pass the minimum thresholds of 35/55.

It is ruled with no exception that, in case even the highest scoring application results - at the sole discretion of the evaluation committees and the Consortium Coordinator – of inadequate quality, thus below the threshold, the Consortium will opt for no selection. In such circumstances, a new round of submission of candidatures will be scheduled through a due public call.

Contacts

[X23 Srl \(Italy\):](#)

Marika Mazzi Boëm (@: marika.mazzi.boem@x-23.org)

Anastasiia Yakush (@: anastasiia.yakush@x-23.org)

[Social Fare \(Italy\)](#)

Quynh Nhu Nguyen (@quynhnhu.nguyen@socialfare.org)

[Italian Chamber of
Commerce in Germany](#)

Sonia Barani (@: sbarani@itkam.org)

[Slovakia Business
Agency](#)

Gavalcová Katarína (@: gavalcova@sbagency.sk)

Social:

[FB](#)

[LK](#)

[TW](#)

[INSTA](#)

[YT](#)

Website: www.eu-ecotandem.eu

@: info@eu-ecotandem.eu

TIMELINE

