



**STRENGTHENING THE RESILIENCE OF
TEXTILE, AEROSPACE, AND CONSTRUCTION
SMES TO TRANSITION TOWARDS GREENER
AND MORE DIGITAL SECTORS WITH SOCIAL
AND BUSINESS INNOVATION**

In Transit – DEVELOP 1st Call for external experts

Lead partner: CTA

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IN TRANSIT CALL FOR EXPERTS

The IN TRANSIT consortium is launching a call for experts with relevant expertise in the TEXTILE, AEROSPACE, CONSTRUCTION, and ADVANCED MANUFACTURING sectors to evaluate proposals submitted by SMEs under the IN TRANSIT call for the “DEVELOP” projects.

BECOME AN EXPERT!

1. WHAT IS IN TRANSIT

IN TRANSIT aims to strengthen the resilience of textile, aerospace, construction, and advanced manufacturing SMEs towards greener and more digital sectors with social and business model, with a mixed support mechanism including individual assessment support and a lump sum and coaching to ensure their consolidation and sustainability.

IN TRANSIT will provide an open online collaborative platform involving innovation actors from the aerospace, construction, and textile sectors that will serve as a space for sharing best practices and as a matchmaking system for new ideas for innovation and circular economy and new collaboration partnerships. Foster cross-regional and cross-sectoral links with dedicated learning visits in combination with innovation workshops and matchmakings to establish the seed for collaboration among sectors by identifying potential partners for commercial and innovation cooperation that will ultimately generate growth opportunities for SMEs. Increase resilience of SMEs by supporting their transition to more sustainable business models financing of a feasibility study, prototyping, pilot testing, demonstrating, procurement of further specialized consultancy services and coaching services that cannot be provided directly by the project partners, an adaptation of business processes, option to access to DIHs testing facilities, the introduction of new IT solutions, and social innovation strategies. Scale-up support to leverage additional funds.

IN TRANSIT will connect successful SMEs with other initiatives for scaling up the innovations. IN TRANSIT will allocate 4 M€ directly for SME support out of 5M€ (80% of total budget) In Transit partnership will allow to reach directly (as cluster members) 700 SMEs, 140 large companies and over 150 research facilities across 7 EU-countries, and indirectly over 5.000 SMEs across 38+ countries through EU-wide networks and European Strategic Cluster Partnerships.

2. WHAT IS A “DEVELOP” VOUCHER

This instrument will be focused on FSTP support of development projects, including coaching services for developing innovative and sustainable business models, with financial support complemented with substantial assistance provided by coaching partners and DIHs.

Support will focus on developing innovative processes or new products prototypes and their market testing facilitated by the integration of technological and non-technological innovations methodologies for speeding up market match. Participation may be individual or in consortia depending on the type of proposal.

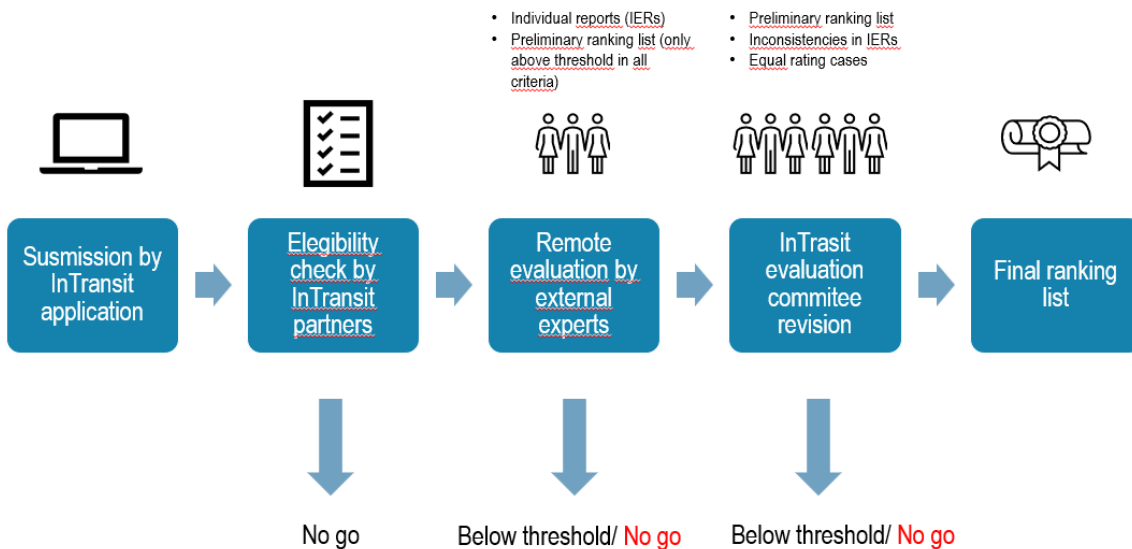
Main “DEVELOP” Voucher features:

- Goal: to support innovative technical demonstrations and integrations in improved processes, new business models, or value chains.
- Consortia: participation may be individual or in consortia depending on the type of proposal.
 - €: maximum 49.000€ per voucher. In case the company has already received other funding from IN TRANSIT calls, this lump-sum could be reduced to limit the accumulated funding to the SME to a maximum of 50.000€.
 - Projects duration: maximum 4 months
 - Information to be submitted by the SME.
 - Administrative data, including partners details.
 - Budget for the proposal.
 - 10-page proposal

Two calls, with up to 30 projects per call, will be launched by IN TRANSIT.

3. OVERVIEW OF THE EVALUATION PROCESS

Submitted applications will be evaluated in a one evaluation procedure (remote evaluation by external experts plus review by the Evaluation Committee consisting of representatives of IN TRANSIT partners and an Ethic Advisory Board, where necessary). Prior to assigning proposals to external experts, IN TRANSIT partners will perform an eligibility check according to previously defined criteria. Eligible proposals will be assigned to external evaluators. Pioneer DEVELOP proposals will be evaluated by at least 3 external experts. The overall evaluation process shall take max. 40 days, starting from the closing date of the IN TRANSIT open call (10th January 2024, 17.00 CEST). The diagram below illustrates the whole evaluation process and key dates:



Individual Evaluation will be done remotely by external experts. After individual evaluation, the result will be a preliminary ranking list. Only proposals with all individual criteria rated above the threshold will be considered eligible and included in the preliminary ranking list. It will be ensured that all ethics issues are addressed in compliance with the ethical principles, and the international and national laws. An Ethics Board conformed by independent members will evaluate the ethics criteria when necessary.

The evaluation and ranking of applications are based on a set of criteria in addition to the above-mentioned main eligibility requirements, paying attention to whether proposals are submitted individually or in consortia. The following table explains the different aspects which will be considered for each evaluation criterion.

Evaluation criteria	Sub-criteria	Score	Weighted Score
1. Excellence (30%)	Scientific and technical quality	(0-5)	10
	Innovation potential	(0-5)	10
	Feasibility of the project	(0-5)	10
Total 'Excellence level'		(0-5)	30
2 Quality of Implementation (30%)	Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan	(0-5)	10
	Team	(0-5)	10
	Risk management	(0-5)	10
Total 'Implementation'		(0-5)	30
3. Potential impact (40%)	Economic impact	(0-5)	15
	Route to market	(0-5)	10
	Social impact	(0-5)	5
	Value chain perspective (cross-sectoral aspects)	(0-5)	10
Total 'Impact'		(0-5)	40
4. INNOVATE satisfactory participation			+7.5% (15% in case more than one of the SMEs participating in the proposal have successfully participated in INNOVATE)

IN TRANSIT Evaluation Committee revision

The Evaluation Committee is constituted by one member of each IN TRANSIT partner, that will review the preliminary ranking list dealing with, successively:

1. Stage1 scores oversight to detect potential inconsistencies.
2. Proposals with strong discrepancies between evaluators at stage 1.
3. Final score adjustment with equal scores and nearing the funding threshold under different criteria (gender balance – number of women participating in the project)

The final ranking list will result from the decision of the Evaluation Committee revision.

5. EXPERT'S ROLE AND RESPONSABILITIES

Experts rely on their technical and market know-how within their field of expertise to provide **objective assessments consisting of scores, comments and recommendations**. Specific expert profiles requirements and profiles are detailed in next session.

The expert must, in particular:

- Attend the briefing session organized remotely by IN TRANSIT, prior to the start of the evaluation.
- Implement the work properly and in full compliance with the provisions of the Contract and ensure compliance with applicable national tax and social security law.
- Must immediately inform IN TRANSIT consortium, if s/he cannot fulfil his/her obligations under the Contract or becomes aware of other circumstances likely to affect the Contract.

Payment will be based on flat rates per proposal evaluation according to EU funding schemes standards.

6. WHO CAN BECOME A IN TRANSIT EXPERT?

Experts are chosen through a previous selection procedure, as commented in the following section.

Experts can be from all 27 EU countries, must have an excellent understanding of international collaborative RTDI planning and project implementation, dissemination and exploitation strategies (post-RTDI business development), appropriate target market areas and routes to those markets.

Please note that the evaluation work is performed entirely in English, hence the experts must be able to effectively communicate and write in English.

More specifically, experts must **be experienced evaluators and/or entrepreneurship experts of at least five years of experience** in some of the following areas, within the TEXTILE, AEROSPACE, ADVANCED MANUFACTURING and CONSTRUCTION:

1. **Co-creation and technology uptake facilitation** (*innovation and technology transfer services*):

- Definition of a joint R&D project for co-creation or technology adaptation with a local subcontractor or other local partner(s)
- Analysis of the IP environment
- Technology scouting and novelty verification, technology valuation, technology legal situation analysis, technology protection & valorisation strategy design.

2. Market prospection, innovation management and investment

- Accessing new markets, internationalization of SMEs, improving SME competitiveness, improvement of investment readiness – coaching, mentoring...
- Administrative and legal business environment, administrative and legal FTO/due diligence verification, business analysis & planning, new business opportunities, strategic and project management

3. Research experience

- Brand engagement and positioning, concept development, trend watching, customer insight, user experience, product innovation, message development.
- Competition analysis, observational studies, risk analysis, segmentation study, case studies, focus groups, in-depth interviews, experimental studies, survey design.

7. HOW TO APPLY FOR IN TRANSIT CALLS EVALUATION?

In order to be selected as individual expert, expert candidates must register and send their applications in the IN TRANSIT platform: <https://calls.intransitproject.eu/>

An e-mail confirmation of registration will be sent by the IN TRANSIT team.

- LAUNCH OF CALL FOR EXPERTS: 06/11/2023
- DEADLINES FOR APPLICATIONS: 09/01/2024

The IN TRANSIT team will be looking up the most appropriate expert candidates and prepare an initial list of accepted experts. Accepted experts will receive an e-mail from the IN TRANSIT team at the end of January 2024 asking them to confirm their availability within the evaluation period March 2024. The final selection and assignment of experts, out of the final list of accepted and available ones, will take place in February 2024.

8. EXPERTS SELECTION CRITERIA

In order to select the most appropriate experts related to the IN TRANSIT sectors and scope, some criteria have been defined to carry out an internal evaluation of the expert candidates.

Mandatory criteria:

- Evaluators should have a deep understanding of the subject matter or field relevant to the proposals they are assessing, professional experience in a relevant or related field of more than 5 years.
- Relevant academic degree or degrees in the field,
- Evaluators must maintain the confidentiality of the proposal contents and the evaluation process.
- Evaluators should adhere to ethical standards and avoid any form of favouritism, ensuring no conflict of interest.

General and desirable criteria:

- Evaluators should have experience in proposal evaluation.
- Evaluators should possess strong critical thinking skills to analyse proposals, identify strengths and weaknesses, and make reasoned judgments.

9. CONTRACT DATES AND DELIVERABLE

It is expected that the contract(s) are signed during March 2024 and processed by CTA. The execution of the tasks shall not start before the contract has been signed or before the specific date specified in the contract. Work will follow the timetable of the IN TRANSIT project. Amendments may be made to the contract(s) only in exceptional cases where the amendment is considered by CTA and ATEVAL to be necessary for the completion of the project and following the provisions of the draft contract.

10. PAYMENT TERMS

Payments are subject to IN TRANSIT approval of the evaluation process and will be carried out by ATEVAL. IN TRANSIT will make payments within 30 days from finalizing the evaluation process. Payments will be made in euros. Payments will be made to the bank account specified by the expert in the application form and the contract.

The expert is entitled to the following fee(s):

- For individual evaluation and drafting evaluation summary report of one DEVELOP proposal: EUR 50

It is expected that each evaluator is assigned approximately 12 - 18 evaluations during the whole IN TRANSIT project. The total number of assigned proposals will vary depending on the total number of proposals received and accepted evaluators. The estimated dedication time per proposal evaluated is:

- 1 h per DEVELOP proposal (10 pages).

11. CONFIDENTIALITY AND DATA PROTECTION

Confidentiality is required for all experts in the performance of tasks following this call for tender, as they might come into contact with confidential information during the course of their work. Any breach of confidentiality will be treated as professional misconduct and could lead to the termination of the contract. CTA reserves the right to instigate any legal proceedings for breach of confidentiality necessary. Specific requirements relating to personal data and the protection thereof are set out in the contract. The contractor is responsible for ensuring that all data to which he/she or his/her staff become party during the execution of the contract must be treated confidentially and in conformity with EC regulation № 45/20011.

GDPR compliance: The General Data Protection Regulation (2016/679/EU) guarantees that the processing of data is carried out in compliance with the fundamental rights and freedoms, as well as the dignity of the data subject with particular reference to confidentiality, personal identity and the right to data protection. By applying, the applicant agrees on the storage and use of its personal data for the execution of the IN TRANSIT objectives and work plan.

The processing of data that IN TRANSIT intends to carry out will be based on lawfulness and correctness in the full protection of its rights and its confidentiality pursuant to the general principles of the GDPR and its art.24. Therefore, the competitors are informed of the procedure that the data provided by the applicants will be treated exclusively with reference to the procedure for which they submitted the documentation.

Data controller: FUNDACIÓN CORPORACIÓN TECNOLÓGICA DE ANDALUCIA (CTA).

Address: Calle Albert Einstein s/n, Sevilla, 41092, Spain

VAT number: ESG91452953

Contact details: data@intransiteuproject.eu

12. DISCLAIMER

Purpose: This text is explaining the IN TRANSIT support mechanism for information purposes only. No rights can be claimed based on this document. This document does not reflect the views of the European Commission and EISMEA.

Mistakes or inconsistencies: The IN TRANSIT consortium is not responsible for any mistakes or misinterpretations that this text may cause. In the case of inconsistencies, the IN TRANSIT Consortium will determine the steps to be taken, in cooperation with the applicant concerned.

Consequential damages: In no event shall either party be liable to the other or any of its affiliates for any consequential, incidental, indirect, special, punitive or exemplary damages (including, without limitation, lost profits, business or goodwill) suffered or incurred by such other party or its affiliates in connection with this voucher scheme, even if advised of the possibility of such damages.

Direct Damages: IN TRANSIT's liability for direct damages will be limited to the amount of the financial contribution awarded to the applicant pending of payment.

Gender equality: IN TRANSIT seeks gender balance. Therefore, applicants are invited to take all measures to promote equal opportunities between men and women in the implementation of the action. They must aim for a gender balance at all levels of personnel assigned to the action, including supervisory and managerial levels to the extent possible.