



Supported by Netherlands through the High Impact Partnership on Climate Action (Austria, Canada, Finland, the Netherlands, Switzerland, South Korea, Spain, the Taiwan(CDF (International Cooperation and Development Fund) and the United Kingdom)

Call for Applications: Climate Change Innovation Programme

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is pleased to launch the call for applications for Climate Change Innovation Technical Assistance Programme. This program is funded by the Netherlands. Companies can access grants supporting the research and development needed to innovate their products and/or processes, as well as subsequent advisory services to implement the innovation.

Who we are

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) belongs to a family of multilateral development banks. Our main mission is to help businesses and economies thrive through financial investments, business services and involvement in high-level policy reform, promoting entrepreneurship and resilience. The EBRD operates in 38 countries of operations, across three continents, from the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean, Central and Eastern Europe, and Central Asia. We invest around EUR 10 billion a year into a mix of small, large private firms, local banks and microfinance institutions, venture capital and local and national authorities. Our aim is to provide the right financing and a strong valuable partnership to help these bodies grow and develop their own skills.

The Bank is unique in its outreach to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Not only do we reach over 200,000 MSMEs annually through more than EUR 1 billion in direct and indirect financing, but we also provide business advisory services to over 2,200 small businesses a year across our regions. Moreover, we extended our focus, beyond SMEs, to the early-stage business space, investing in several young venture capital funds in the regions and mobilising know-how through the Star Venture Programme.

Call for Applications – General Description

This call for applications aims to support companies interested in working with researchers and developers to experiment and evaluate the feasibility of a well-developed idea. Selected companies may apply for one or several activities that do not exceed a total grant of EUR 20,000. Benefiting companies will contribute to a share of the activities' cost (see programme brochure for more details). The grants will be paid upon the successful completion of the project to the company and according to a grant agreement signed between the EBRD and selected companies.

This call for applications is open in Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon.

Covered R&D includes:

- Climate adaptation projects:
 - Review of crop selection and assessing alternatives;
 - Assessment of engineering structures to deal with water shortage or saline issues;

- New irrigation systems that require less water.
- Climate mitigation measures:
 - Innovations and technologies that reduce GHG emission in production;
 - Introducing new material that is more environmentally friendly;
 - Promote circular economy.
- Biodiversity measures:
 - Improvement in crop rotations (longer rotations with higher diversity of crops to break pest development cycles and reduce pesticide use / improve soil biodiversity, cover cropping, etc.)
 - Intercropping, agroforestry production: can offer higher resilience to climate change and benefits in terms of biodiversity (more diversity of species, etc.)
 - Early warning systems for extreme weather events and pest infestation – can limit crop loss and reduce pesticide usage so beneficial for ecosystem, pollinators etc.
 - Precision farming technologies (can reduce fertiliser and pesticide usage etc...) - Promotion of local / heirloom varieties

The types of services that are eligible to the programme are:

- Research on feasibility of new product: opportunity analysis, market research, concept development, prototyping and testing
- Software development: (front-end, backend algorithm development)
- Hardware development (engineering, industrial product design, product adaptation)
- Formula development for non-tech innovation, such as recipes/shelf life for agrofood, mixes of inputs for new products, etc.
- Prototyping
- Testing
- Certification
- Intellectual Property protection
- IT component development
- Process improvement

Calls for Applications – Window for Application Submission

15 March 2024 – 30 May 2024

The call for applications will be open **from Friday, March 15th until Wednesday, May 30^h, 2024**. To apply, please send a completed application form and research proposal to the country of operations team for your country with the following title **[EBRD Climate Change Innovation Programme]: Company Name**. Please find attached the application form.

Here are the emails to send your application form. During this period, EBRD staff can answer of your questions. Please contact the relevant country representative:

Egypt: Mansouno@ebrd.com

Jordan: saeedil@ebrd.com

Lebanon: knowhowlebanon@ebrd.com

Morocco: rizkh@ebrd.com

Tunisia: Knowhowtunisia@ebrd.com

We look forward to receiving your application. If you have any questions or need further clarification about the application process or the programme itself, feel free to contact us with any inquiries or for additional details.

How to apply

- Complete the application form and prepare all necessary documents.
- Send by email to the country where you are based (see emails in section above). In the subject please mention: **[EBRD Climate Change Innovation Programme]: Company Name**
- During the application period, EBRD staff may reach out for more information and clarification on the proposed innovation or research partner.

Who can apply?

The programme is open to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) based in the following countries of operation: Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia.

EBRD Eligibility Criteria for the SME

- **Size:** up to 250 employees and a maximum annual turnover of EUR 50 million or balance sheet total of no more than EUR 43 million. Companies with up to 500 employees maybe be exceptionally eligible.
- **Ownership:** To be privately owned and majority locally owned enterprises (with not more than 49% foreign ownership).
- **Area of activity:** All activities except banking services, military products or services, gambling, hard liquor and tobacco in line with the EBRD policies.
- **Maturity:** At least two years of sound operations and potential for growth as indicated by ability to export or availability of innovative products, processes or organizational structure. Exceptions can be granted to high potential start-ups with less than two years of operations.
- **Management commitment:** Management must be open and committed to the assistance and achieving agreed objectives, and willing to contribute to the cost of the project.
- **Integrity:** Enterprise and management are credible and respectable and must comply with the EBRD integrity procedures. There must be no previous or ongoing legal proceedings which may affect the implementation of the project or constitute reputational risk to the EBRD.
- **Viability:** To be able to demonstrate further potential for growth in terms of having a discernible competitive advantage, be able to demonstrate profitability, and have sufficient financial and operational resources available for implementation and follow up of advisory services

Frequently Asked Questions

How will applications be assessed and selected?

The technical/scientific component of applications (the research outcome report) will be reviewed by international third-party subject matter experts. The EBRD will also consider the company's profile, track record, market potential and alignment with the Programme's strategic priorities before making the final selection.

Are there any reporting requirements for SMEs and researchers involved in the Innovation Programme?

Yes, both SMEs and researchers/consultants are required to provide progress reports throughout the duration of the project, as well as a final report summarizing the results and outcomes of the project..

Can I apply if I haven't yet identified a specific researcher or consultant I would like to work with?

When you express your interest in the Climate Change Innovation Programme, the EBRD team will set up a call to understand your specific needs and accordingly refer you to potential researchers/developers that fit the expertise required for the intended innovation. Once the company agrees on a project with a researcher/developer, it may submit an application to be considered.

What is covered under the EUR 20,000 grant? Does it cover equipment, hardware and other similar capital expenditures?

The grant can be up to EUR 20,000 and can only cover the remuneration of the researcher, developer or engineer working on any part of the development of the innovation. The grant will be disbursed at project completion. The EBRD will cover up to 85% of the net project. However, the grant cannot be used to cover equipment, hardware or consumables that would make up a considerable portion of the grant.

Can I work with a consultant (as opposed to a researcher)?

For this Programme, priority will be given to applications submitted jointly between an SME and a researcher or developer. The programme aims to support the development of an innovation with a focus on climate action. Accordingly, the technical assistance sought should be directly associated with the innovation at hand and provided by an individual/entity with the relevant expertise and a scientific/technical approach. Traditional consultancies in the business sense are not within the scope of this programme.

What are the next steps if my application is selected within a cohort?

If your application is selected, the SME and the researcher will work on developing a terms of reference document that details the project scope, timeline, deliverables and fees. Once completed and approved, we will schedule a contract signing call between all parties involved to finalize all contractual arrangements and subsequently kick off the project.

What is the maximum length of time allowed for an R&D project under the first component?

The average duration of a project is estimated to take four to six months. However, we acknowledge that certain projects can vary in duration depending on scope and complexity.

Climate Change Innovation Programme Proposal Template

1. Introduction

Briefly introduce the project's relevance to climate change challenges within the EBRD's operational regions. Highlight the urgency and the specific climate-related issues your project addresses. (max. 1/2 page)

2. Objectives of the Innovation

Outline the primary goals related to climate adaptation, mitigation, or biodiversity improvements. Specify how these objectives align with EBRD's focus areas and detail expected deliverables and metrics for success. (max. 1 page)

3. Project description

Provide a detailed description of the project, including the methodologies, strategies for achieving the outlined objectives, and anticipated outcomes. Emphasize innovative aspects and potential impacts on climate issues. Include a simple timeline or Gantt chart to outline major milestones and deliverables. (max. 3 page)

4. Impact and Valorisation

Discuss how the project outcomes will directly contribute to climate adaptation or mitigation. Mention the potential for broader application or scaling. (max. 1/2 page)

5. Environmental and Societal Benefits

Elaborate on the expected environmental and societal benefits. Provide quantitative or qualitative estimations of these benefits, particularly how they contribute to EBRD's mission of promoting entrepreneurship and resilience in environmental practices. (max. 1/2 page)

6. Additionality

Detail the financial requirements, highlighting the grant amount requested from EBRD, and explain the leverage effect of this funding. Discuss how EBRD's support will enhance the project's scope, depth, or implementation speed. (max. 1/2 page)