

PRESS RELEASE

1 million Euros available from EEA Grants to support capacity building in Greek enterprises

Athens, 15 February 2023:

Innovation Norway, in its capacity as Fund Operator of the “**Business Innovation Greece**” Programme, which has already allocated close to 17 million Euros to innovation and business development in Greek enterprises, announces **1 million Euros**, as grants, for **Development of business skills in enterprises within the focus areas Green Industry Innovation, Blue Growth and ICT**.

The “Business Innovation Greece” Programme is one, out of nine programmes, currently under implementation in Greece, financed by Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, through the **EEA Financial Mechanism, also known as the EEA Grants**. The total amount of funding available to Greece, through the EEA Grants, amounts to 116,7 million Euro for the current financial period (2014 - 2021).

The “Business Innovation Greece” Programme aims to increase value creation and sustainable growth in the Greek business sector by bringing more innovation in products, services and processes. Focus areas for the Programme is Green Industry Innovation, Blue Growth and ICT. Until now, 34 projects have been awarded grants based on three rounds of calls.

The Programme seeks to stimulate and develop long-term **business cooperation** between enterprises in Greece and entities from the Donor States, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

About the Small Grants Scheme on “Soft Measure” – Business Development Skills

This Call offers grants (non-reimbursable funds), for **improvement of business skills in Greek enterprises**. Increased business development capacity could be obtained through activities like training to fill skill gaps, networking with clients and partners, get new insights about markets or technologies, mentoring for female entrepreneurs etc..

More specifically, financial support could be given to activities such as:

- Training, coaching, mentoring related to development of business skills relevant for this Programme;
- Training, coaching and mentoring specifically targeted to female entrepreneurs¹ to gain more skills on how to establish or grow businesses within the three focus areas of the Programme;
- Organising workshops, seminars, experience / good practice sharing events;
- Study trips, conferences, workshops, seminars;
- Feasibility studies, data collection, analyses, etc.;
- Business matchmaking events;
- Participation in fairs organized in the Donor States.

¹ Definition: An enterprise- owned by a woman, an enterprise- where the legal representative is a woman, an enterprise- where a woman is a partner or an enterprise where a woman is the chairperson of the Board of Directors.

Eligible applicants are Small and Medium Sized enterprises, and large companies with no more than 25% public ownership, established as legal entities in Greece, and Not-for profit organisations² (including clusters and business associations) established as legal entities in Greece.

All projects must be finalised by 30 April 2024.

The minimum **grant amount** applied for can be 10,000 Euro and the maximum grant amount applied for could be up to maximum 200,000 Euro.

The grants will be allocated to projects according to “**de minimis**” aid regulation, with a grant rate of between 50-90%, depending on applicant type and project activities. If for some reason *de minimis* cannot be applied for the project (or part of the project), the grant rate will be determined based on relevant articles in the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER).

Deadline for applications is **13 April 2023**.

Innovation Norway is a government agency under the Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries and is the primarily responsible body for business development in Norway.

More information about this Call:

For complete Call text for this Small Grants Scheme on “Soft Measures”, Application Form, guidelines, templates and other supporting documentation, please visit the webpage of the Programme <https://www.innovasjon Norge.no/Greeceinnovation>

The Programme language is **English**.

Contact Innovation Norway/Help Desk: gr.innovation@innovationnorway.no

² all projects, even those implemented by NGOs, must contribute to “Improving Capacity for Business Development” and (optionally) to “Strengthening bilateral relations in the business sector”) and end beneficiaries of the projects can only be Greek businesses. However, (part of the) activities could be carried out by NGOs.