FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Call reference: CREACT4IVED_MSME_LB

Call for Cultural and Creative Business Proposals from Lebanon

Deadline for submissions: 9 September 2022

Please register to the CREACT4MED Community Platform before submitting your application.

All the guidelines and templates to apply to this call for proposals are available at:

https://creativemediterranean.org/call-for-cultural-and-creative-business-proposals/





CREATIVE MEDITERRANEAN











Are you a creative MSME based in Lebanon with an idea ready to launch or expand?

CREACT4MED, an EU-funded project which aims to strengthen businesses within the cultural and creative industries, offers **direct funding to launch or expand cultural and creative businesses in Lebanon** with a high potential to generate innovation and jobs, in particular for young people and women.

The **overall objective** of the CREACT4MED funding scheme is to support selected MSMEs active in the cultural and creative industries to overcome barriers to business development and market access, harness innovation, technology and creativity to improve business operations, and to increase their capacity to create jobs for young people and women.

The **specific objectives** of this call are:

- 1. To facilitate the development, launch, promotion and improved access to local and international markets of innovative business ideas in the cultural and creative industries through the provision of funding and technical assistance services.
- 2. To foster social inclusion and create job opportunities, particularly for women and young people, in the provision or preservation of cultural and creative goods, products or services.
- 3. Create a hub to support young people and women involved in CCI entrepreneurship within the target countries, bringing together incubation, support, education, finance and other actors.

What is in it for entrepreneurs

Successful applicants to this call will benefit from:

- A sub-grant of up to EUR 15,000 in order to implement their project proposal
- Technical Support Services implemented by CREACT4MED incubators
- Networking opportunities offered through the Mediterranean CCI HUB
- Visibility through the project's website, events and other initiatives







Who can apply?

This call is open to MSMEs based in Lebanon with experience in the Cultural and Creative Industries. The following conditions must be met to be eligible for funding:

- Be a legal entity registered in the commercial registry of Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine or Tunisia after 2012.
- Be a micro, small or medium-sized enterprise or civil society organisation according to the definition in the country of registration
- Be active in the cultural and creative industries
- Be registered to the CREACT4MED Community Platform
- Be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action, not acting as an intermediary

Indicative eligible activities

Proposed activities should have a maximum duration of 8 months and fall into one or more of the following priorities:

□ Innovation & ☐ digitalization

>- Development, testing, certification of new products/services

- >- Development or acquisition of ICT solutions to further business goals
- >- Development and deployment of strategies to protect IPR
- >- Development or improvement of staff ICT skills and competences

Social inclusion & ⇒ job creation

- Development, testing, launch or expansion of ideas with potential for social inclusion and job creation

- a.- Development or acquisition of equipment, raw materials or supply chain solutions
- b.- Development and deployment of strategies to generate sustainable revenue
- c.- Development or improvement of skills and competences

- Development and deployment of internationalization strategies to enter foreign markets

a.- Validation of innovative products or services to be launched in foreign markets (technical support, prototyping, regulatory support, usability validation, scale-up, etc.)

b.- Establishment of international business connections/partnership s

Further details on the eligibility of applicants, activities and costs are provided in the Guidelines for Applicants.

Technical support services

Successful applicants will benefit from incubation services offered by Nucleus Ventures:

Objective: The incubation program focuses on helping creative talents develop the entrepreneurial skills they need to build viable businesses that commercialize their solutions on a large scale. This will be done through 7 weekly sprints comprising workshops and 1:1 mentoring clinics to help entrepreneurs develop and validate the MVP with real life clients, develop their business plan and investor pitch, secure letters of intent to sign pilot contracts with anchor clients and/or run focus groups with core clientele personas.

Indicative start date: October-November 2022

- **Duration:** 6 months

Application process

Application to this call for proposals comprises the submission of:

(1) <u>Application form and Proposal outline</u>, including 1) a signed declaration of honor on exclusion criteria and 2) selection criteria and a de-minimis self-declaration

(1) Mandatory attachments:

a. Registration document **or** letter of commitment to register the company within the 30 days following the award of the sub-grant

(2) Optional attachments:

- a. Business Model Canvas or Pitch Deck
- b. Certificate of participation to a training/capacity building program relevant to the implementation of the proposal
- c. Collaboration agreement(s) with other stakeholders

Please read the Guidelines for Applicants carefully before applying to this call. Templates for the documents are available at: https://creativemediterranean.org/call-for-cultural-and-creative-business-proposals/

Applications may be submitted in English or French. Interested candidates can submit an application to creact4med@euromed-economists.org, using the provided templates and indicating clearly the reference of the call (CREACT4MED_MSME_LB) and the name of the applicant entity on the message title.

All documents must be signed and stamped and sent in PDF format before 24 August 2022.







Timeline for this call for proposals

Publication date: 19July 2022

Call opening: 21 July2022

Deadline to ask for clarifications: 14 August 2022

Call closing: 9 September 2022

Invitation to pitch: 17 - 21 October

Pitch sesion: 24 - 28 October

Notification of award: Within 1 week after the pitch session



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