



## Greening Agrifood in Social Economy



Co-funded by  
the European Union

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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#### Disclaimer

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GRAINS WEBSITE: <https://www.diesis.coop/grains/>

### INFO DAY and GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. Is it planned to share the slides afterwards?
  - Yes, the slides from the info day are already available on the GRAINS website, just like the recorded video and the frequently asked questions (FAQ). Registered participants receive the link via email as well.
2. Is that possible to apply to more than one call?
  - Yes, it is possible to apply to each open call (currently three open calls). However, only one project per SME may be supported via the financial facility.
3. We are cooperative in formation. Is it already possible to apply during formation progress?
  - It depends on the call-in question. Please check the eligibility criteria in the relevant call.
4. Does the project consortium provide technical assistance via video / phone call to submit applications to potential beneficiaries?
  - No. Please read the relevant call carefully, the application procedure is clearly explained. If either the call text, the info day materials on the GRAINS website or this FAQ document provides no answer, please contact us at [grainsproject@diesis.coop](mailto:grainsproject@diesis.coop) and we come back to you as soon as possible.

### CAPACITY BUILDING TRAININGS

5. Is participation free of charge?
  - Yes, it is completely free of charge and voluntary, you are asked to register previously for each training via the google link shared on the GRAINS website and social media.
6. Are the slides and learning materials shared after the training with the participants?
  - Yes, all materials will be available shortly after each training course on the Grains website. Registered participants receive the link via email as well.
7. Why are the participants asked to fill in an evaluation form?
  - It is an administrative and obligatory element of the project. The answers help to evaluate and make the activities adopted to the needs of participants / Social Economy SMEs in Agrifood. We would highly appreciate that you take a few minutes and fill it in after the training.

## CALL FOR ADVISORY SERVICES / CALL FOR COACHING AND MENTORING

8. Is the Call for Advisory Services and the Call for Coaching and Mentoring two separate Calls?
- Yes, two different calls. However, the call text does appear similar, but has significant differences. Please refer to the text under “Objectives”.

## CALL FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

9. Do the applicants have to pay VAT on the Financial Support?
- The GRAINS project is co-financed by the European Commission. VAT is not an eligible cost therefore not claimed in this type of project. The selected SMEs will be receiving a total lumpsum of maximum 8175 euros. Beneficiaries have to follow the national VAT regulations (if both the service providers and SME are from the same country) or the European Regulations (if they are from different countries).
10. What are the procedures that providers have to do in order to be contracted? Is there anything providers have to do?
- The name of the service provider is already obligatory to provide during the application process, assuming the applicant or the service provider already got in contact with each other. A co-operation contract needs to be signed directly between the beneficiary and the service provider. The service provider may use its usual contract, but it shall be drafted according to the national labour laws and shall include the amount requested, the legal name(s) of the service provider(s), and a reference to the GRAINS project, the GRAINS Open Call for Proposals for Financial Support and the Call for Service Providers
11. How quick is the process of evaluating a service provider application?
- The project consortium aims to evaluate the applicants as soon as possible but it might take up to 2 weeks maximum. If you have not received feedback about your admission to the service provider pool, it is not an exclusion criterion to submit the application (by the beneficiary), however be sure you send your application before the closing date (30 April 2024, 12:00 CET).
12. What is the process of evaluation of the applications?
- For the timeline, the selection criteria and the contract phase please refer to the call text, page 7-10.
13. Who oversees the contractual process?
- Diesis Network (as coordinator) initiates the contract with the SME after the evaluation has been completed. A Sub-Grant Agreement prepared by Diesis Network will be signed by both parties electronically using certified digital signature. In exceptional cases, blue ink signatures and contracts sent by regular mail might be an option. As a pre-condition, the signed contract within the service provider and beneficiary must be sent to the DIESIS Network as a mandatory annex to the Sub-Grant Agreement.

14. What are the eligible cost categories?
- At least 80% of the lump sum requested must be dedicated to services delivered by the selected service provider to trigger the greening of the SME. 20 % may be spent on staff costs. Other cost categories can be eligible if well justified and pre-approved.
15. Regarding the application pack - what does that mean word template have to be uploaded? Unfortunately, we have not found this template so far.
- The call text has been corrected on page 6. There is a template for budget ([GRAINS - Budget template](#)) and a – new version of - Declaration of Honour ([GRAINS - Declaration of Honour](#)), the rest of the information is to be filled online (See the call [GRAINS - Guidelines for applicants](#) on page 6.)
16. Are service providers encouraged to reach out to several potential beneficiaries (through existing network) to bring agrifood SMEs to apply?
- Yes, it is an option.
17. How complicated/time consuming is filling in the application?
- The application form(s) is designed to be filled easily. To have an idea, after signing in, you can have a look at all the questions without even filling in the form with the required information.
18. Does the Social Economy SME in agrifood need submit its application individually?
- Yes. However, it is entirely up to the service provider to decide if to provide technical assistance or assistance on the content to the SME during the application process. It is not an obligatory element and not an eligible cost to be claimed.
19. After implementing the project, is it the service provider or the beneficiary who needs to prepare and send the final technical report to Diesis Network?
- It is the beneficiary who signs the direct contract with Diesis Network, therefore it is the beneficiary's responsibility and not the service provider to prepare and provide the final technical and financial report using the given template.
20. How deep into detail should we go into the application about the project?
- The number of words is strongly limited, please explain your project clearly and relatively short but pay attention to answering the questions adequately – please refer to the evaluation criteria in the text of the call.
21. Is there a form you are having for the technical report?
- Yes, a simple template will be provided.
22. What guarantee does the applicant need to provide for 60 % of the pre-financing.
- GRAINS allows different types of Financial Guarantees (Banks/Insurance companies can provide) depending on the country of the applicant Social Economy SME.

23. Are courses eligible for the grant that is not provided by a verified service provider or provider in the EDIH database.
- Only services offered by a verified service provider/provider on the EDIH list are eligible.
24. Is it a problem if the agreement is signed after the service / project implementation starts?
- Costs of activities started earlier than the sub-grant agreement are not eligible.
25. Does the applying organization need to have a particular legal form?
- No, if it fits to the Social Economy SMEs category in its own country. Any kind of for-profit or non-profit organization (cooperative, association, limited liability company, etc.) may apply.
26. Does GRAINS (with a max. of over 8175 Euro) require from the applicants an own financial contribution to receive the grant?
- No. However, there are two options to choose from when it comes to the payment scheme, and you need to pre-finance your project. Please refer to the Call on page 11 under "13. Payment scheme).
27. Is it considered as Conflict of Interest when Applicant and Service Provider do know each other and have already worked with each other?
- No, assuming they have no other type of financial link to each other.
28. One of the companies in which our NGO is the main shareholder wants to apply for the financial facility call. In this case, can the NGO apply for service provider call or is there a conflict of interest?
- If the two organisations have financial link between them, it is a conflict of interest.
29. If the social enterprise that we supported before in other projects will apply, can we be their service provider? (in this case the service provider is not shareholder in the SE).
- There is no conflict of interest if there is no direct link between the two organisations.
30. How detailed should be the budget?
- Please see the template provided in the application package. The template for budget explanation is very simple.
31. Can several SMEs apply with one "service provider"? That is, can an advisory service provider services to several SMEs?
- Yes, it is allowed. Service providers may cooperate with several potential beneficiaries; but applicants are only allowed to submit one project proposal.
32. Can a service provider subcontract third parties to carry out the work?
- No, the service providers should not subcontract the services to third parties.

33. What is the minimum period of "service provision"? We have farmers to whom we can provide Green Deal technologies in three months for further implementation in their enterprises.

- As it also indicated in the Call, the maximum length of project implementation is 8 months, but there is no minimum duration.

34. What is the submission deadline for the Financial Facility Call?

- The submission deadline has been extended twice – the last and final deadline is 28 June 2024 17:00 CET.