

Guide for Applicants

Call for Expression of Interest: Financial Support to Third Parties to Participate in DiGi-SEII Programme



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This call is implemented by a consortium of Euclid Network, Reach for Change Foundation, ScaleChanger, ESSEC Business School, Social Economy Ukraine, EIT Digital, Sociale Innovatiefabriek within the DiGi-SEII project, co-funded by the European Union's SMP-COSME-2023-SEED Programme.

Last revision: 17 November 2025

| HISTORY OF CHANGES | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|---|---------------|
| Version | Publication Date | Change | Page |
| 1.0 | 17.09.2025 | Initial version | |
| 2.0 | 17.11.2025 | <p>CORRIGENDUM – Amendment of the application deadline to 9 January 2026:</p> <p>- Following the Commission Decision of 17 October 2025, this corrigendum reflects the revised application deadline and the corresponding modification of the application deadline in the text.</p> | 7, 10, 20, 25 |
| | | <p>CORRIGENDUM – Amendment of the partner organization name:</p> <p>- EIT Digital has been renamed to 28Digital. All references in the document have been updated to reflect this change.</p> | 21, 35 |
| | | <p>CORRIGENDUM - Amendment to the list of eligible countries for participation in the SE trainings:</p> <p>- Following the Commission Decision of 17 October 2025, Cyprus is added to the list of eligible countries authorized to apply to the DiGi-SEII programme in Greece. This addition is reflected in the updated sections of the call document.</p> | 19, 30 |

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| | | <p>CORRIGENDUM – Amendment of eligible countries to join the SESO trainings:</p> <p>- Commission Decision of 17 October 2025 authorizing the following countries to be inserted on the list of eligible countries to apply to the SESO training programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iceland • Norway • Liechtenstein • Albania • Bosnia and Herzegovina • Kosovo • Montenegro • North Macedonia • Serbia • Türkiye • Armenia • Georgia • Moldova • Ukraine <p>These additions are reflected in the updated sections of the call document.</p> | 19 |
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Executive summary

The DiGi-SEII project, co-funded by the European Union's SMP-COSME-2023-SEED programme, will launch **three competitive Calls for Expressions of Interest**: Call 1 in 2025, Call 2 in 2026, and Call 3 in 2027. These calls are open to **social enterprises (SEs)** based in Belgium, France, Greece, Sweden, and Ukraine, as well as their **support organisations (SESOs)** established in the EU. Each call will select a new cohort of participants for a structured programme that fast-tracks digital adoption, capacity building, and business scaling.

Successful organisations will participate in a **DiGi-SEII Programme**, delivered as a blended pathway of online learning modules, in-person and online training, and complementary services such as mentoring, matchmaking, peer-to-peer exchange, and study visits. Participants who successfully complete the pathway will receive **certification**, recognising their training achievements. To support participation in the in-person training, each selected organisation will receive a lump-sum grant of up to €400 for SE, and up to €2,000 for SESO, paid on proof of participation, to cover eligible travel, accommodation, and subsistence costs.

Call 1 opens on **17 September 2025** and closes on **9 January 2026, 23:59 CET**. To be considered, applicants must submit the online application form by the deadline. Results will be announced mid-December 2025, with grant agreements finalised shortly thereafter. Call 2 will be launched in spring 2026 and follow the same structure and selection process. Call 3 will be launched in 2027 and will focus specifically on the final train-the-trainer event and the transnational peer-to-peer exchange, both to be held in Athens. Unlike Calls 1 and 2, which provide access to the full training and capacity-building pathway, this call will target selected social enterprises and their support organisations that have successfully participated in earlier stages of the programme.

Apply now:

[Application form SEs](#)

[Application form SESOs](#)

Abbreviations

| | |
|------------------|---|
| CEI | Call for Expression of Interest |
| DiGi-SEII | Digitalisation and Scaling Support for Social Enterprises and Support Organisations |
| FSTP | Financial Support to Third Parties |
| SEs | Social Enterprises |
| SESOs | Social Enterprise Support Organisations |

Introduction

The **DiGi-SEII project**, co-funded by the European Union's **SMP-COSME-2023-SEED programme**, addresses one of today's most pressing challenges in the social economy: ensuring that social enterprises (SEs) and their support organisations (SESOs) are equipped to take advantage of digital tools and opportunities. Digitalisation is central to EU policy priorities on competitiveness, innovation, and social inclusion, and it plays a crucial role in helping social enterprises scale their activities and strengthen their impact. Many organisations, however, continue to face barriers in accessing tailored training, mentoring, and opportunities for international collaboration.

The **Calls for Expressions of Interest** launched through the DiGi-SEII project are designed to respond directly to this gap. They provide social enterprises based in Belgium, France, Greece, Sweden, and Ukraine, as well as support organisations established in the EU, with access to a structured **DiGi-SEII Programme of training, capacity building, and complementary services**. These include online learning modules, in-person and online training events, and complementary activities such as mentoring, matchmaking, peer-to-peer exchanges, and study visits. Lump-sum grants of up to **€400** for SE and up to **2,000** for SESO are available per organization. These grants are intended to facilitate participation in the in-person training and cover eligible travel, accommodation, and subsistence costs.

This **Guide for Applicants** is intended for social enterprises and their support organisations considering applying to the programme. It is written as a practical, user-friendly companion, providing clear information on eligibility rules, the application procedure, financial support, and the selection process. It also offers accessible explanations and answers to the most common questions.

For successful organisations, further details on the training content, methodology, and complementary services will be available in a separate **Guide for Participants (syllabus)**.

1. Background Information on DiGi-SEII Project

Digital Scaling for Social Enterprises: Empowering Impact and Innovation (DiGi-SEII) is a EU-funded project, launched in September 2024 under the SMP-COSME-2023-SEED programme, to equip Social Enterprises (SEs) and Social Enterprise Support Organisations (SESOs) with the digital skills and tools they need to scale their impact.

The project pursues five strategic objectives (SO1–SO5):

- Enable social enterprises to understand how digitalisation can fuel growth and scaling.
- Support them in applying new digital skills to boost operations and innovation.
- Strengthen the digital capacity of support organisations (SESOs) so they can better serve their members.
- Encourage SESOs to embed digital technology at the heart of their strategies and services.
- Promote a wider digital transition across the social economy.

More information is available on the project's website [DiGi-SEII](#).

2. Aim of the Call

The DiGi-SEII project supports social enterprises (SEs) and their support organisations (SESOs) in scaling their impact by integrating digital tools and strategies into their operations. To achieve this, the project will run three competitive Calls for Expressions of Interest: one in 2025 (Call 1), one in 2026 (Call 2), and one in 2027 (Call 3).

Both calls aim to identify and support organisations committed to digital transformation and scaling, with a focus on inclusive, smart, and sustainable growth. Each call will select a new cohort of participants to join the **DiGi-SEII Programme**, a training and capacity-building initiative that fast-tracks digital adoption to enhance digital maturity and impact scaling. Through this programme, SEs and SESOs will gain practical tools, knowledge, and financial support to successfully integrate digital strategies and scale their impact.

This guide covers **Call 1** of the DiGi-SEII programme, open from **17 September** to **9 January 2026**. Call 2 will launch in spring 2026, offering further opportunities for participation. Call 3 will launch in spring 2027. Across the three calls, up to **300 SEs and SESOs** (staff from SEs and SESOs) will take part in the DiGi-SEII programme.

Participants will benefit from a comprehensive support package consisting of:

- **Training:** in-person, remote (online), and e-learning modules on digitalisation and scaling, covering themes such as digital culture & mindset, efficiency, economic and impact performance, accessibility, green performance, AI adoption, digital marketing, cybersecurity, and scaling strategies.
- **Capacity building:** tailored to support and help SEs and SESOs develop and implement digital strategies adapted to their specific challenges and opportunities.
- **Complementary services:** additional activities such as peer exchanges, study visits, mentoring, and matchmaking, organized alongside in-person training sessions to enhance collaboration and scaling efforts.

3. Programme Description and Training Pathway

The DiGi-SEII Programme combines **online learning, in-person sessions, asynchronous e-learning modules, and complementary services** to strengthen the digital capacity and scaling competences of social enterprises (SEs) and their support organisations (SESOs). All participants will begin and conclude their journey with an **AI-assisted skills assessment** to measure progress and personalise learning pathways.

3.1. Training overview

| Participant Category | Activity and Event type | Expected Participation | Location | Timeline |
|----------------------|--|--|---|---|
| SESO | 8 transnational training activities (4 in-person + 4 online) 3 self-paced e-learning modules Complementary services | Each SESO is expected to attend: 3 self paced e-learning modules 1 in-person activity + complementary services* 1 online activity | In-person activities: Paris (Q1 2026) Brussels (Q2 2026) The Hague (Q1 2027) Athens (Q3 2027) | Training activities will take place throughout 2026-2027. |
| SE | 8 national training activities per country (4 online + 4 in-person) 3 self-paced e-learning modules Complementary services | Each SE is expected to attend: 3 self paced e-learning modules 1 in-person activity + complementary services* 1 online activity | In-person activities delivered nationally in BE, FR, GR, SE, UA. | Training activities will take place in two training cycles - in 2026 and in 2027. |

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**Participation in complementary services is optional.*

3.2. Training Programme Content at a Glance

The following overview provides the main training modules that SEs and SESOs will follow during the programme. These modules are designed to strengthen digital skills, enhance organisational capacity, and support scaling in line with the objectives of DiGi-SEII. A more detailed syllabus will be shared with selected participants.

3.2.1. SESO Training Content

- **Module 1: Understanding Digitalisation in the Social Economy**
Introduction to key digital trends, challenges, and opportunities for the social economy sector.
- **Module 2: Digital Strategy & Readiness Assessment for SESOs**
Tools and methods to evaluate organisational readiness and design effective digital strategies.
- **Module 3: Supporting Social Enterprises in Building Digital Capacity**
Practical approaches for guiding SEs in adopting and scaling digital tools.
- **Module 4: Supporting SEs in digital transformation**
Practical ways of integrating digital transformation into support programs.

3.2.2. SE Training Content

- **Module 1: General / Cross-Cutting Skills**
Building a digital culture and mindset, ensuring cybersecurity, and safeguarding data privacy.
- **Module 2: Growing Your Efficiency**
Process digitalisation, selecting and implementing tools, using CRM/HRMS/ERP systems, applying AI for everyday efficiency, and digitalising project management.
- **Module 3: Increasing Your Economic & Impact Performance**
Exploring digital fundraising and revenue models, digital marketing and visibility, data-driven decision-making, digitalising impact measurement and communication, and integrating financial tools.
- **Module 4: Ensuring Your Accessibility**
Applying inclusive digital design, user experience (UX), and service design principles to make services accessible for all.
- **Module 5: Boosting Your Green Performance**
Adopting green digital practices to enhance sustainability and reduce environmental impact.

3.3. Complementary Services

In addition to structured training activities, participants may join a package of **complementary services** such as mentoring, matchmaking, peer-to-peer exchanges, and study visits. These activities are designed to enhance collaboration, strengthen networks, and support scaling efforts. They are organised alongside the in-person training sessions, scheduled immediately after the training, or, where applicable, on the following day. Participation is optional and may be chosen by participants according to their interests and availability. **Additional funding** is available to support travel, accommodation, and subsistence costs for organisations selected to participate in these activities.

3.4. Training Location and Dates

3.4.1. Training Locations and Dates – SESOs

The table below provides an overview of the planned training locations and dates for Social Enterprise Support Organisations (SESOs). Dates are indicative and may be subject to change. Selected participants will be informed well in advance of the confirmed schedule.

| Location | Type | Dates |
|----------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Paris | Online | 13 & 20 March 2026 |
| | In-person | 26-27 March 2026 |
| Brussels | Online | 30 April & 7 May 2026 |
| | In-person | May 2026 |

3.4.2. Training Locations and Dates – SEs

The table below provides an overview of the planned training locations and dates for Social Enterprises (SEs). Dates are indicative and may be subject to change. Selected participants will be informed well in advance of the confirmed schedule.

| Location | Type | Dates |
|----------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Belgium | Online & In-person | May & November 2026 |
| Greece | In-person | March & April 2026 |
| | Online | May & June 2026 |
| France | Online & In-person | March & April 2026 |
| Sweden | Online | February 2026 |
| | In-person | April 2026 |
| | Online & In-person | September 2026 |

| | | |
|---------|-----------|----------------------|
| Ukraine | Online | March & October 2026 |
| | In-person | May & October 2026 |

3.5. Effort and Schedule

Each **in-person training session** is designed as a half-a-day activity, complemented by self-paced **3 e-learning modules**. **Complementary services** (such as mentoring, peer exchanges, study visits, and matchmaking) are organised in addition to the in-person sessions, typically scheduled on the following day to extend learning and collaboration opportunities. Complementary services are planned as 2 to 4-hour activities.

Each **online training session** is planned as a 3.5-hour activity, which may, if needed, be delivered in two shorter sessions.

The overall estimated effort per participant is expected to be in the range of 10–20 hours or more, depending on the training pathway and the number of sessions attended. The actual effort may vary. This estimate covers a mix of self-paced e-learning, in-person sessions, online sessions, and complementary services. A more detailed breakdown of hours, session content, and scheduling will be provided to selected organisations in the **Guide for Participants (syllabus)**.

3.6. Certification

Participants who successfully complete the required programme will receive a DiGi-SEII **certificate**, formally recognising their learning achievements. The certification will attest to competences gained in digitalisation, innovation, and scaling, and will be issued by the project consortium.

4. Financial Support for SEs and SESOs

The DiGi-SEII project provides financial support in the form of Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP). The objective of this support is to facilitate the participation of social enterprises (SEs) and their support organizations (SESOs) in the DiGi-SEII Programme’s in-person training sessions and related activities.

Financial support is awarded as a lump-sum contribution per organization, intended to cover eligible costs related to travel, accommodation, and subsistence costs. This support ensures that selected organisations can fully benefit from the training pathway and, where applicable, complementary services.

The total budget, types of events covered, and maximum amounts of financial support available are set out in the subsections below.

4.1. Available budget

- A total of €258,000 is allocated across three calls for applications (Call 1, Call 2, and Call 3).
- A specific share of the budget is reserved in advance for Call 3, which focuses on the final train-the-trainer event and the transnational peer-to-peer exchange.
- Unspent funds from the first call may be reallocated to the subsequent calls, depending on participation levels.
- Financial support will be awarded to eligible applicants based on the type of event (local or national vs. transnational) and the participant profile (SE or SES).

4.2. Types of Events and Maximum Financial Support

The maximum financial support available per organization varies according to the activity and event type (transnational or local/national) and participant category (SE or SESO).

- For SESO participants (transnational events):
 - Up to €2,000 for attending transnational in-person training sessions.
- For SE participants (local and transnational events):
 - Up to €400 for attending a local/national in-person training session
 - Up to €2,000 for attending the final transnational peer-to-peer exchange event.
- Additional funding may be granted to cover extra nights of accommodation and subsistence costs, where justified. This may apply:
 - Due to travel logistics
 - To enable participation in complementary services held alongside in-person sessions.
 - In unforeseen circumstances (e.g., a transport strike or other force majeure events).
 - Maximum amounts: €350 per SESO / €250 per SE.

4.3. Conditions for Financial Support

- Financial support is awarded **per organisation, not per individual**.
- Organisations may include multiple participants in their application, provided that the **total requested support does not exceed the applicable budget ceiling**.
- Grants are disbursed **upon proof of participation**, in line with the conditions specified in the grant agreement.
- Participants may attend multiple trainings or complementary activities; however, **only those specified in the grant agreement are eligible for financial support**.

- In the event of high demand, the number of supported participants per organisation may be limited.
- Final funding decisions will take into consideration the type of activity, the profile of the organisation, and the availability of remaining funds.

This financial support is provided in line with Article 6.2 and Article 9.4 of the Grant Agreement under the SMP-COSME-2023-SEED programme (project ID: 101167798).

4.4. Typology of Financial Support

Each selected social enterprise (SEs) and support organization (SESOs) will receive financial support in the form of a fixed lump sum contribution. This support is intended to enable participation in the following eligible in-person activities:

- Local or transnational training sessions
- Complementary services, and
- Transnational peer learning activities

The lump sum amount is determined based on the type of activity, the location, and the type of organization. It is intended to cover travel, accommodation, and subsistence expenses directly related to participation.

To be able to claim the lump sum, the applicants must meet the following conditions:

- Completion of the required e-learning modules (proof of attendance to be submitted at a later stage of the programme).
- Registration and full participation in the assigned in-person training, synchronous training, and complementary services (where applicable) are required.
- Submission of a signed attendance sheet and an evaluation or feedback form distributed by the providers of the training/complementary service activity.

Please note: Financial support will be awarded only after participants have completed the assigned training activities and submitted the required proof of attendance.

4.4.1. Distance-based Funding Model

To ensure fair and inclusive access across countries with diverse geographical characteristics, DiGi-SEII applies a distance-based eligibility system for calculating the financial support amount related to travel. The minimum travel distance to qualify for support is 20 km (one-way) and participation in the full activity is required. Whenever possible, participants are encouraged to use environmentally friendly travel options.

All distances are calculated using the [European Commission's official distance calculator](#), based on the direct ("as-the-crow-flies") distance between the legal address of the applicant organization and the event location. Based on this calculation, financial support tiers are defined as follows:

Table 1 Travel Distance & Support Eligibility Table for Local Events

| Distance between the organization headquarter's legal address and the location of the activity | Amount in EUR |
|--|---------------|
| If the legal address is located less than 20 km | €0 |
| If the legal address is located from 20 km to less than 150 km | €200 |
| If the legal address is located from 150 km to less than 400 km | €400 |
| Additional night (if justified) | €250 |

Table 2: Travel Distance & Support Eligibility Table for Transnational Events

| Distance between the organization headquarters' legal address and the location of the transnational activity | Support Tiers | Amount in EUR |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| If the legal address is located less than 20 km | | €0 |
| If the legal address is located from 20 km to less than 150 km | | €200 |
| If the legal address is located from 150 km to less than 400 km | | €400 |
| If the legal address is located from 400 km on | | €750 |
| Additional night (if justified) | | €350 |

4.4.2. Lump Sum Definition and Conditions

A lump sum is predetermined, fixed financial contribution granted without the need for detailed expense reporting or submission of receipts. Instead, the beneficiary organization must demonstrate compliance with participation requirements as set out in this call. Since the granting of a lump sum does not require detailed financial reporting, the following rules and limitations apply:

- Only costs directly related to participation in DiGi-SEII project activities are eligible.
- Costs must comply with national laws and the standard accounting and management practices of the beneficiary organization (SE or SESO).
- The financial contribution for eligible costs will be provided to selected organizations in the form of a lump sum.
- Beneficiaries will be required to submit an evaluation form and a brief description of their participation in the activities.

The lump sum must contribute to the following costs incurred by the beneficiary:

- Travel costs: transportation (e.g. air, rail, road travel) to attend the activities.
- Accommodation, meals during the event and other personal allowances to participate – only expenses spent for the days of the event will be eligible.
- The financial support is awarded to an organization as a legal entity. While the funding is managed at the organizational level, individual participation will be tracked for

monitoring, reporting, and impact assessment purposes. This ensures transparency, equitable access, and alignment with the project's participation targets.

Payment timelines and procedures will be communicated to the selected recipients upon selection.

5. Proposal Submission

The call documents for DiGi-SEII will be made available on the [Euclid Network](#) profile page and the websites of project partners. Information about the call will also be disseminated through all DiGi-SEII communication channels, including social media, newsletter, blogs or press releases, and official websites.

Interested applicants must submit their proposals exclusively via the online application form, available at the following links:

[Application form SEs](#)

[Application form SESOs](#)

Applications must:

- Be submitted electronically before the call deadline
- Be completed in the English language. **Please note** that automatic translation tools, such as Google Translate, are available directly in the application for other European languages.
- Contain all mandatory information in the online application form.

Applications that are incomplete or contain one or more inadmissible or ineligible elements will be rejected. Only applications submitted through the official application form will be considered for evaluation.

6. Admissibility and Eligibility Requirements

6.1. Application Eligibility

To be eligible for financial support, applicants must:

- Be a staff member of an established Social Enterprise (SE) or Social Enterprise Support Organization (SESO). This may include full-time and part-time employees, formal volunteers, board members, interns, or others with a documented affiliation and mandate to represent or act on behalf of the organization.

- Represent organizations that have been legally registered and operating for at least two years.
- Be part of a legal entity established in:
 - One of the five project countries (Belgium, France, Greece, Sweden, Ukraine, and Cyprus) – for SEs
 - Any EU Member State or overseas country or territory (OCTs), including: Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine - for SESOs.
- For SEs: Demonstrate willingness to scale, ideally supported by a draft strategic plan or a hypothesis outlining what scaling could mean for the organization.
- For SESOs: Demonstrate willingness to support scaling in social enterprises and/or integrate digitalisation into their support programmes, ideally specifying which programmes and in which context.

6.2. Conditions for Participation

6.2.1. Conditions for Participation for SEs

To take part in the DiGi-SEII programme and be considered for financial support, eligible applicants must:

1. Complete at least 3 e-learning modules during the programme, with proof of attendance to be submitted while enrolled (not at application stage).
2. Include a motivation statement for taking part, defining:
 - Organizational needs
 - Locality and catchment area (i.e., within the five participating countries).
 - Digital maturity level of their organization and their approach to scaling
 - Desired impact for participating in the programme
3. Describe results to be obtained from the training experience and complementary services selected, e.g., drafting a new scaling strategy or identifying ways to digitalize part of the organization's offer.
4. Select the specific activities for which financial support is required. This may include:
 - Local in-person training activities
 - Complementary service activities such as peer-exchanges, local study visits, in-person matchmaking activities.

6.2.2. Conditions for Participation for SESOs

To take part in the DiGi-SEII programme and be considered for financial support, eligible applicants must:

1. Complete at least 3 e-learning modules during the programme, with proof of attendance to be submitted while enrolled (not at application stage).
2. Include a motivation statement for taking part, defining:
 - Organizational needs focusing on their capacity to support SEs.
 - Locality and catchment area (stating the geographical location of the SEs they are supporting).
 - Maturity level of their organization and their approach to scaling:
 - i. The organisation's own maturity level in terms of digitalisation and scaling.
 - ii. The estimated maturity level of the supported/constituent SEs in terms of digitalisation and scaling.
 - Expected impact and motivation for participating in the for programme
3. Describe results to be obtained from the training experience and complementary services selected, and/or explain how digitalisation will be integrated into the organisation's support programmes.
4. Select the specific activities for which financial support is required. This may include:
 - Transnational in-person training sessions
 - Complementary service activities such as peer-exchanges, local study visits, in-person matchmaking activities.

DEFINITIONS

Social Enterprise (SE) is defined by the EC as an established operator in the social economy whose primary objective is to achieve social impact rather than profit. SEs provide goods and services in an entrepreneurial and innovative way, using any profits primarily to fulfill social objectives. They are managed transparently and responsibly, involving employees, consumers, and stakeholders affected by their commercial activities.

Social Economy Support Organization (SESO) is defined as a federation, consortium, support structure, network, or organization that plays a political, advocacy, representation, or support role for the social economy. SESOs engage in political or advocacy activities, represent social economy interests towards governmental bodies at national, regional, and local levels, and often run incubation and acceleration programmes.

7. Submission Deadline and Evaluation Process

The Call will open on **17 September** and close on **9 January 2026, 23:59 CET**.

7.1. Selection Process Overview

7.1.1. Selection of Social Enterprises (SEs)

Once they have applied, the SE staff candidate applications will be first processed by **two staff members of the country project partner**. This pre-selection will then be validated by **28Digital**. The partners review the submissions independently and score them according to the set evaluation criteria (see further below). They provide scores and comments to 28Digital that will contribute to the decision-making process. The country leads will have the last word as they possess the most in-depth knowledge of the specific contexts and needs but 28Digital will provide a balanced and informed perspective, ensuring the process is consistent and fair. Once a decision is reached, the selected candidate or proposal is announced. Feedback may be provided to unsuccessful applicants. All applications will be treated confidentially and evaluated in line with ethical standards, ensuring impartiality and fairness.

7.1.2. Selection of Support Organizations (SESOs)

Applications from SESOs will be reviewed by the two project partners in their country of registration, or by a designated consortium partner if no project partner is present in their country. Where relevant, additional input from other partners may be sought to reflect their wider, pan-European scope. This pre-selection will then be validated by 28Digital. The partners review the submissions independently and score them according to the set evaluation criteria (see further below). They provide scores and comments to 28Digital that will contribute to the decision-making process. The designated country lead has the final decision, with 28Digital ensuring the process is consistent and fair across all countries. Once a decision is reached, the selected candidate or proposal is announced. Feedback may be provided to unsuccessful applicants. All applications will be treated confidentially and evaluated in line with ethical standards, ensuring impartiality and fairness.

Table 3: A List of Country Project Partners

| Partner Organization | Country | Website |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| 28Digital | Belgium | https://28digital.eu/ |
| Sociale innovatiefabriek | Belgium | https://www.socialeinnovatiefabriek.be/ |
| Scalechanger | France | https://www.scalechanger.org/en/social-and-environmental-innovations-home-page/ |
| ESSEC | France | https://www.essec.edu/en/ |
| Academy for Entrepreneurship | Greece | https://akep.eu/ |
| Euclid Network | The Netherlands | https://euclidnetwork.eu/ |
| Reach for Change Foundation | Sweden | https://reachforchange.org/ |
| Social Economy Ukraine | Ukraine | https://socialeconomy.org.ua/ |

7.1.3. User Journey

Step 1: The SE/SESO staff responds to the Call for Expressions of Interest.

Step 2: The SE/SESO staff is informed of their selection — either for the in-person training only, or for the in-person training plus a complementary service (CS) requiring financing.

Step 3: The SE/SESO staff is requested to complete, and attends, a minimum of 3 synchronous e-learning modules during the programme (proof of attendance can be submitted at a later stage of the programme).

Step 4: The SE/SESO staff receives the invitation to the in-person training sessions and, if applicable, to the selected CS requiring financing.

Step 5: The SE/SESO staff attends the in-person training and, if applicable, the CS, submits the proof of participation and all relevant forms — and receives the corresponding financing.

7.2. Evaluation and Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated according to the criteria presented in the table below.

Table 4: Evaluation Criteria and Scoring System

| Criteria for awarding financial support | | | Weight | Max Score per Criterion (0-5 Scale) | Weighted Max Score (Out of 25) |
|---|--------------------------|--|--------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Motivation | The application provides a relevant and convincingly articulated motivation statement. | 20% | 5 | 5 |
| 2 | Needs | The application presents and substantiates the organisation's digitalisation and scaling needs, demonstrating clear alignment with the support offered through the programme. | 20% | 5 | 5 |
| 3 | Locality | For SEs: The application specifies that the organisation is based in one of the five participating countries, and demonstrates the relevance of this geographical context. For SESOs: The application specifies the geographical location of the Social Enterprise(s) that the organisation supports. | 10% | 5 | 2.5 |
| 3 | Maturity & Scaling Plans | Maturity: The application shows an organisational and digital maturity that, at its current stage, aligns with the proposed scaling vision and outlines a realistic strategy for further leveraging digital tools. Organisations at all maturity levels are encouraged to apply, as the evaluation focuses on the coherence between current maturity, vision, and strategy rather than the absolute level of maturity. | 25% | 5 | 6.25 |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|---|------|---|------|
| | | Scaling Plans: The application demonstrates a realistic scaling vision, and a clear strategy for leveraging digital tools. | | | |
| 5 | Desired Impact | The application clearly explains the expected impact of participation at the individual level, on the applicant’s work, and on the wider community, and/or ecosystem. | 25% | 5 | 6.25 |
| TOTAL | | | 100% | | 25 |
| Minimum Threshold | | | 60% | | 15 |

* Weighted scores are calculated automatically from the criteria weights shown above

Minimum threshold for funding eligibility: 15 points (60%).

7.2.1. Scoring scale

DiGi-SEII evaluators will score the criteria on a scale from 0 to 5 (half-point scores may be given):

- 0 – Fail: The proposal fails to address the criterion, or it cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
- 1 – Poor: The criterion is inadequately addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
- 2 – Fair: The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
- 3 – Good: The proposal addresses the criterion well but there are a certain number of shortcomings.
- 4 - Very good: There are a small number of shortcomings but overall, the proposal addresses the criterion very well.
- 5 – Excellent: The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion with no or minor shortcomings.

7.2.2. Weighted Score Calculation

Applications will be assessed based on a weighted scoring system. Each criterion is scored on a scale from 0 to 5 and carries a specific weight (percentage). To calculate the weighted score for each criterion, the following formula is used: $\text{Weighted Score} = \text{Weight (\%)} \times \text{Score per Criterion}$. This ensures that each criterion contributes proportionally to the final evaluation based on its assigned importance. The total weighted score is the sum of all individual weighted scores.

7.2.3. Evaluation Timeline

The evaluation period shall take approximately four weeks, starting from the closing date of the call.

7.2.4. The Final List and Final Selection

- After the individual evaluations are completed, a final list will be established.
- The final list will classify applications into three categories:
 - Applications selected for funding
 - Eligible but not funded applications (due to budget limitations). These applications will form a reserve list.
 - Not eligible / rejected applications

7.3. Evaluation in Case of Equal Scoring

In the event of a tie (equal final scores), applications will be ranked based on sub-scores, giving priority first to Maturity & Scaling Approach, then to Desired Impact, and then to Needs. If a tie still remains, the evaluators may consider geographical balance across the five participating countries and balance between SEs and SESOs. As a last resort, the outcome will be determined by a documented random draw. This approach ensures that ties are resolved in line with the programme's objectives, promotes geographical and applicant-type balance, and guarantees equal treatment of all applicants.

7.4. Reserve List

If the available budget is insufficient to fund all positively evaluated applications, those not initially selected for funding will be placed on a reserve list in order of their ranking.

In the event that a selected applicant declines, withdraws, or becomes ineligible, financial support will be reallocated to the next applicant on the reserve list. Reserve list applicants may be contacted up until the start of the training cycle for which they applied.

7.5. Awarding Financial Support

The final amount of financial support awarded to applicants depends on:

- The total available project budget: if the available budget allows, all positively evaluated applications will receive financial support. If the budget is insufficient, support will be allocated based on the ranking order and within the limits of available resources.
- The application's ranking position: in case a selected applicant declines or waives the financial support, the next applicant on the eligible-but-not-funded list will be contacted, and the list of funded applications will be updated accordingly.

7.6. Notification of Results

All applicants—both Social Enterprise (SE) actors and Social Economy Support Organizations (SESOs) — will receive a notification of the evaluation outcome approximately 4 weeks after

the application deadline. This notification will confirm whether their application has been selected for financial support or not under DiGi-SEII.

Please note that the applicants are only allowed to receive the financial support once during the DiGi-SEII project lifetime. However, organisations may indicate interest in and apply for multiple training sessions. Participation in additional training sessions is possible, but no extra funding will be provided beyond the initial grant.

8. Communication of the Final Results

Once the selection is finalized, the final list with selected applications will be published on the DiGi-SEII project partners' institutional websites, and disseminated through all DiGi-SEII communication channels, including social media. All applicants will be informed of the results of the eligibility and quality evaluation via email.

Successful applicants will be formally invited to sign a Sub-Grant Agreement with the DiGi-SEII Partner in charge of managing the support disbursement.

9. Sub-Grant Agreement

Once a Social Enterprise (SE) or a Social Economy Support Organization (SESO) has been selected for financial support under the DiGi-SEII project, a specific financial agreement – the Sub-Grant Agreement (SGA) – will be signed between the awarded organization and one of the DiGi-SEII project partners within one month from the date of notification.

By signing the SGA, the SE or SESO beneficiary formally accepts the financial support in the form of a lump sum, along with the related obligations, legal provisions, and payment terms. The beneficiary also agrees to participate in the relevant in-person training(s) and, where applicable, Complementary Services (CS), under their own responsibility and in accordance with the conditions set out in the agreement.

10. Timeline

| Task | Date |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Call opening | 17 September 2025 |
| Call deadline | 9 January 2026 |
| Evaluation start | Call deadline + 1 day |
| Announcement of results | Evaluation start + 4 weeks |

| | |
|---|---|
| Complaint window | Within 5 calendar days of the announcement of results |
| Complaint resolution | Within 7 working days from the closing of the appeal window |
| Indicative signature of sub-grant agreement | One month from the publication of results. |

11. General Payment Terms

To be eligible for funding under the DiGi-SEII project, all the expenses must adhere to the following rules:

- All payments will be made in Euros (€).
- Expenditures incurred before the official signature date of the Sub-Grant Agreement (SGA) are ineligible for reimbursement.
- Costs incurred for the implementation of the project must be used for the sole and close purpose of achieving the objectives of the project and its expected results, in a transparent manner consistent with the principles of economy, efficiency, and effectiveness.
- DiGi-SEII and its partners will not be responsible for paying any costs applied for and incurred by the beneficiaries in the event of non-compliance with the terms and conditions of the DiGi-SEII funding scheme.
- Payments will be made to Social Enterprise and Social Economy Support Organizations by the DiGi-SEII project partners as defined in the Sub-Grant Agreement.
- The submission of an application does not constitute an entitlement for funding.
- The recipients of the financial support from DiGi-SEII must ensure that the European Commission, EISMEA, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), and the European Court of Auditors (ECA) can exercise their powers of control, on documents, information, even stored on electronic media, or the final beneficiaries' premises.

12. Implementation and Follow-up on the Financial Support

Once the applicant participates in the in-person training or Capacity Session under the DiGi-SEII project, the applicant SE or SESO is entitled to receive the approved financial support. After the event(s) conclude, the lump-sum payment will be transferred to the applicant's bank account as provided in their application.

To receive the financial support, beneficiaries do not need to submit supporting documents, but they must retain original documentation for up to five (5) years (boarding passes, travel tickets, accommodation invoices, and similar evidence). Digital or digitized documents are considered originals if they are authorized by the national law. Non-original documents may be accepted if they offer a comparable level of reliability and assurance. Beneficiaries will be required to complete a brief feedback and evaluation form and provide a short description of the trip or activity undertaken with the support of the DiGi-SEII project.

As part of the follow-up of the financial support, the Social Enterprise or the Social Economy Support Organization commits to providing feedback on the service that the DiGi-SEII project has delivered with the financial support. The SE or SESO agrees to be recontacted by the consortium for communication and dissemination purposes, which may include filling out a short survey, submitting a success story, testimonial, photo, or short video for use in public-facing project materials.

- **DOUBLE FUNDING**

Social Enterprise or Social Economy Support Organization applicants cannot apply for and/or receive funding outside of DiGi-SEII for a similar project that could lead to potential double funding of the same action.

The Social Enterprise or Social Economy Support Organization applicant is required to attest to the accuracy of the foregoing declarations concerning financial capacity and the absence of double funding by submitting a Declaration of Honor as a mandatory annex to the Application Form.

Selected Social Enterprise or SESO may be requested by the DiGi-SEII Consortium to provide basic financial information after the selection process, such as:

- Copy of the profit and loss account
- Balance sheet for the last two closed financial years, or if unavailable,
- Bank statements or equivalent documentation

For Social Enterprise or Social Economy Support Organizations without prior financial history or track record, the DiGi-SEII Consortium may request an audit report for the current fiscal year (certified by an external auditor) or a self-declaration accompanied by a Business Plan for the ongoing financial year.

Social Economy Support Organizations involved in the project must also adhere to these requirements where applicable.

- **NON-COMPLIANCE**

If the selected Social Enterprise or Social Economy Support Organization fails to comply with any of the obligations set forth in the Sub-Grant Agreement relating to the implementation of the funded activities, the following measures may be enforced:

- Grant Reduction: The amount of financial support granted may be proportionally reduced based on the nature and severity of the non-compliance.
- Termination of the Sub-Grant Agreement: In extreme cases of non-compliance, the Sub-Grant Agreement may be terminated altogether, resulting in the immediate cessation of entitlement to any remaining funds and the possible obligation to reimburse any funds already disbursed.
- Legal Actions: In severe cases, non-compliance may lead to legal actions being taken against the recipient. Legal proceedings could be initiated to recover funds, enforce compliance, or address any contractual breaches.

13. Complaint

Any complaints regarding the Call results must be submitted to the DiGi-SEII Consortium at digi-seii@eitdigital.eu within 5 calendar days of the announcement of the Call results. Complaints must include:

- Email address used during the application phase and organization name;
- Applicant's full name and contact details;
- Email subject title: DiGi-SEII CEI Complaint
- Subject and detailed description of the complaint;
- Relevant information supporting the complaint and evidence of the alleged breach.

The DiGi-SEII Selection Committee will review the complaint based on the information brought forward and notify the applicant of its decision. If justified, the Committee will re-assess the application accordingly. The final written decision will be provided within 7 working days from the complaint submission date. This decision will be binding and final, and no further appeals on the same grounds will be accepted within the DiGi-SEII project.

14. Additional Information and Conditions for DiGi-SEII Project

a. DATA MANAGEMENT

Personal data and information provided in the application form will be used solely for the purpose of conducting a thorough and effective evaluation of applicants and for delivering innovation support to Social Enterprise and Social Economy Support Organizations. This includes:

- Name and contact details of the applicant (telephone number, postal address, email, website);

- Name and contact details of the representative person (email, telephone number);
- VAT Registration Number of the applicant organization;
- Financial information of the organization (number of employees, annual turnover, or balance sheet).

If a project is awarded, the following additional information from all awardees will be collected:

- Bank account details (IBAN and BIC codes);
- Information about the grant recipient's authorized representative (full name, position, telephone number, email address, signature).

Data related to the service provider and data concerning business digital transformation projects will be delivered through the application form and the Final Technical Report to enable proper evaluation of the action.

Individuals whose personal data is processed have the right to access, correct, or request deletion of their data. All inquiries regarding personal data processing should be directed to adeline@euclidnetwork.eu.

Data processing will comply fully with applicable EU and national data protection laws, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (2016/679/EU), ensuring respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms, confidentiality, and dignity of the data subjects. By submitting an application to the DiGi-SEII project, applicants provide explicit consent to the collection, storage, and use of their personal data for the purposes of executing the DiGi-SEII project objectives and work plan. Submission of an application constitutes full, complete, and unreserved acceptance of these data protection terms.

b. FUNDING VISIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

For any dissemination and use of results generated through the financial support provided by the DiGi-SEII Consortium, Social Enterprise and Social Economy Support Organization beneficiaries must acknowledge the DiGi-SEII project by properly citing the project and displaying the EU emblem alongside the DiGi-SEII logo. The following disclaimer must be included in all related communications and publications:

"This project is co-funded by the EU, via the DiGi-SEII Project."

All specific visibility and branding requirements will be communicated to the Social Enterprises and Social Economy Support Organizations upon signing the Sub-Grant Agreement with the designated DiGi-SEII project financial coordinator.

c. GENDER EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

DiGi-SEII promotes gender balance and equal opportunities. Applicants are encouraged to implement all necessary measures to ensure gender equality throughout the project. This includes striving for a balanced representation of men and women at all levels of personnel involved in the project, including supervisory and managerial positions, wherever possible.

d. DISCLAIMER

Purpose: This text provides information regarding the Call for the Expression of Interest for Financial Support to Social Enterprises and Social Economy Support Organizations within the DiGi-SEII project. It is intended for informational purposes only. No rights may be derived from this document. This document does not reflect the views of the European Union and/or the European Innovation Council, or the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EISMEA). Neither the European Union nor any of its bodies shall be held responsible for the content of this document.

Mistakes or inconsistencies: The DiGi-SEII Consortium shall not be held liable for any mistakes, inaccuracies, or misinterpretations that this text may cause. In the event of any inconsistencies, the DiGi-SEII Consortium will determine the steps to be taken, in cooperation with the applicant concerned.

Consequential damages: Neither party shall be liable to the other, or to any of its affiliates, for any consequential, incidental, indirect, special, punitive, or exemplary damages (including, without limitation, lost profits, business or goodwill), arising out of or incurred by such other party or its affiliates in connection with this funding scheme, regardless of whether such damages were foreseeable, even if advised of the possibility of such damages.

Direct Damages: The DiGi-SEII's liability for direct damages will be limited to the amount of financial support awarded to the applicant and pending disbursement.

For any inquiries, please **contact** digi-seii@eitdigital.eu. For further information on the project, please visit the coordinator's [website](#).

15. Contact Information

For any questions regarding the call pertaining to SEs, please reach out to your local project partner.

Local project partners:

Belgium - SIF: Ravi Bellardi ravi@socialeinnovatiefabriek.be

France - Scale Changer: Gloria Ba g.ba@scalechanger.org or contact@scalechanger.org

Greece & Cyprus - AKEP: Vicky Axaopoulou - vicky.axaopoulou@akep.eu

Sweden - Reach for Change: Lina Gyllensten lina.gyllensten@reachforchange.org

Ukraine - SEU: Petro Darmoris petro.darmoris@socialeconomy.org.ua

For SESOs, inquiries should be directed to:

Paris - Scale Changer Gloria Ba g.ba@scalechanger.org or contact@scalechanger.org

Brussels - EIT-Digital: Jasna Sersic jasna.sersic@28digital.eu and Adeline de Jong adeline@euclidnetwork.eu

The Hague - Euclid Network: Adeline de Jong - adeline@euclidnetwork.eu or info@euclidnetwork.eu

Athens - AKEP: Vicky Axaopoulou - vicky.axaopoulou@akep.eu or adeline@euclidnetwork.eu

If you experience any technical issues with the submission system, please contact digi-seii@eitdigital.eu

Annex I - FAQ

1. Who can apply for financial support?

Applicants must be affiliated with an eligible Social Enterprise (SE) or Social Economy Support Organization (SESO). This includes full-time or part-time staff, interns, volunteers, or board members — provided they are formally authorized to represent the organization.

2. Can more than one person from the same organization participate?

Yes. Financial support covers costs for approximately two individuals per organization per selected activity. Both must be formally affiliated with the SE or SESO and meet the eligibility criteria.

3. Do we need to submit receipts or invoices?

No. Financial support is provided as a lump sum. No receipts are required at the reporting stage. However, beneficiaries must retain supporting documents (e.g. travel tickets,) for 5 years, in case of EU audit.

4. Can we receive funding for multiple activities?

You may express interest in multiple trainings and complementary services, but your organization can receive financial support only once under the project. Priority will be given to first-time applicants in Call 2.

5. What if our travel is under 20 km?

Travel costs are refunded only if the distance between the organisation's headquarter address and training location exceeds 20 km.

6. When and how will payments be made?

Lump-sum payments will be transferred to the bank account of the SE/SESO after completion of the minimum participation requirements. This includes proof of completion for at least 3 e-learning modules, 1 in-person training activity, and 1 online session, as well as submission of a short evaluation form and confirmation of participation.

7. Who receives the financial support – the organization or the individual?

The financial support is awarded to the Social Enterprise (SE) or their Support Organization (SESO) as a legal entity, not to individual persons in their personal capacity. However, the funds are intended to cover the participation costs (e.g., travel, accommodation, subsistence) of the designated staff members from each beneficiary organization.

8. Can we apply again in Call 2 if not selected in Call 1?

Yes. Unsuccessful applicants from Call 1 are encouraged to re-apply in Call 2, if still eligible.

9. Do we need to prove that we attended the training?

Yes. Participation is mandatory to receive financial support. If these conditions are not met, the financial support may be withheld. You will need to: Attend the full training or complementary service if you choose them; Submit a signed participation confirmation, and; Complete a short feedback or evaluation form.

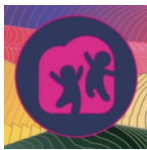
Annex II - Applicant Journey

1. Read the Guide for Applicants.
2. Check eligibility.
3. Submit application form by the deadline.
4. Applications are evaluated.
5. Results are announced.
6. Selected applicants sign agreements.
7. Participants gain access to the project platform.
8. Participants take the initial assessment test.
9. Based on results, participants receive a suggested list of e-learning modules.
10. Participants attend e-learning modules and upload proof of completion (during programme).
11. Participants attend in-person and online training sessions.
12. Participants take the final assessment test and submit an evaluation form.
13. Participants provide proof of attendance and attendance (e-learning modules, in-person and online training, complementary services).
14. Participants receive certification.
15. Participants receive funding (where applicable).

Annex III - Applicant Checklist

Before submitting your application, please make sure that you have:

- Read the Guide for Applicants in full.
- Verified that your organisation meets the eligibility criteria.
- Completed the application form in all required sections.
- Declared that you comply with relevant legal and ethical conditions of the programme.
- Reviewed your application for accuracy and completeness
- Submitted your application before the deadline.



[Reach for Change Foundation \(Sweden\)](#)



[ScaleChanger \(France\)](#)



[ESSEC Business School \(France\)](#)



[Social Economy Ukraine \(Ukraine\)](#)



[Academy of Entrepreneurship \(Greece\)](#)



[28 Digital \(Belgium\)](#)



[Sociale InnovatieFabriek \(Belgium\)](#)



[Euclid Network \(the Netherlands\)](#)