



‘Towards Green Transition’ Facility Frequently Asked Questions

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General

1. How many clusters will benefit from this call?

25 clusters from the ECCP will benefit from the technical advisory support of this Facility.

2. Can I get financial assistance from this call?

No. Selected clusters will benefit from technical assistance as advisory/consulting services.

3. How many days of advisory support will the selected clusters receive?

It will depend on the specific needs of each cluster, ranging from 30 to 40 expert days.

4. Would all cluster members benefit from the support, or only part of them?

When filling in your application, you can focus on your target audience and decide how many members you would like to benefit. Just remember that you must demonstrate transfer of knowledge to at least 10 SMEs within your cluster.

5. How could the COVID-19 pandemic affect the delivery of the technical assistance?

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, advisory services may be delivered through online means to comply with the social distancing rules. In certain cases, one-on-one sessions may be offered in keeping with the applicable safety regulations.

6. How will the success of the support be monitored?

Key indicators will be in place to monitor progress of projects based on the specific needs and milestones indicated in the applications. Indicators will be developed on a case-by-case basis.

Eligibility

7. Who is eligible, geographically speaking?

Candidates from EU and COSME participating countries are eligible for the call for applications.

8. Is it possible to apply without (yet) being part of a cluster?

Only clusters registered at the ECCP are eligible to apply for this Facility.

9. Can companies that belong to an ECCP cluster submit an application?

The application must be submitted by a cluster (e. g. cluster manager), not cluster members (e. g. SME member of the cluster).

10. We are a deep tech cluster, with digital SMEs. Are we considered eligible? Is Green IT important in this initiative?

Your cluster is eligible if it is registered as a member of the ECCP. Green IT is not specifically included in the list of services, but it could be considered. We encourage you to apply and show



that there is demand for Green IT, that your value proposition is relevant for this call and that the support would benefit at least 10 SMEs.

Group applications

11. Should two clusters applying together submit one or two applications?

Only one application is required for a group application.

12. Must all clusters in an application be registered at ECCP or just the lead applicant?

Ideally, all clusters in a group application will be registered at ECCP.

13. Should the Declaration of Honour be signed by all partners?

Only the lead applicant must sign the Declaration of Honour and submit the application form. Later, depending on their level of involvement and the type of project, partners might be asked to sign the Declaration of Honour.

14. In a joint application, should the minimum number of 10 SMEs benefited be multiplied by the number of applicant clusters?

We want to target a minimum of 10 SMEs to benefit as a result of a selected project. There is no need to multiply; of course, multiplying the number of applicant clusters by 10 SMEs would make your application more attractive because more SMEs will benefit.

Application form

15. On part 2 (key challenges) and part 3 (areas and services), can we select all items on the list or should we focus on a few?

We recommend prioritisation. Selecting all items is possible, but it will be difficult for clusters to achieve concrete milestones without some focus. We advise selecting 2-3 areas /challenges/ services so we can provide the best-suited support with the relevant advisors.

16. Large companies have the biggest emissions and need support to reduce them. When applying, can we include the needs of large companies in our cluster?

We acknowledge that emissions are mostly generated by large companies. However, large companies have easier access to resources and capacity to invest in advisory support. SMEs are often left behind and do not have the resources to access this support. That is why we want to focus on supporting SMEs through the transfer of knowledge from the cluster.

Advisors

17. Who will be the advisors?

The advisors will be experts in training businesses to improve their sustainability and resource efficiency. Clusters will be matched with the most suitable advisor or combination of advisors.

18. Will the cluster be able to propose or choose the advisors?

Most suitable experts will be selected by the Facility Team and proposed to the cluster.



19. Will it be possible to change an advisor if the working relationship is not satisfactory for the cluster?

A robust feedback and monitoring mechanism will provide the cluster with the possibility to inform about such issues. Those are unlikely situations given that the advisors will be hand-picked from a pool of vetted associates and advisors. However, if serious situations arise, a replacement will be put in place.

20. Is the list of advisors and their CVs available?

The list and CVs of experts are not public in keeping with GDPR regulations.

Expectations from the selected cluster

21. Is any financial contribution expected from the cluster?

In principle the advisory service is in the form of mentorship. However, to activate the green transition efforts, the cluster may need to ensure financial contribution. In kind (time, resources, people) and financial contributions from the cluster are expected for knowledge development and implementation.

22. How many hours/resources should the cluster allocate for training/workshops?

There is no set number of days for the delivery of training or workshops; it will depend on the specific case of each selected project.

23. How many people in the cluster management may receive training/consulting? Is it limited to a person or can all interested ones in the cluster management participate?

We do not recommend having every member of the cluster management on the training because the idea is that knowledge is shared on a coaching basis. Nonetheless, your core/senior team should be able to access this support.

Timeline

24. What is the duration of the support for each selected project?

The duration of the support will depend on the type of support needed. The advisory activities are envisaged to last for a maximum of five months. Support must be completed by September.

25. Does the transfer of knowledge to the 10 SMEs have to be done until September?

Ideally, yes. We will be practical and focus on what is feasible to achieve until September.

26. What is the deadline for the submission of applications?

The deadline for the submission of concept notes is 5 March 2021 at 18:00h CET.

27. Do you intend to maintain this Facility each year?

Currently, only one call for applications and implementation is planned.



More information

28. What if I have questions on how to fill in the application form?

If you are unsure about how to fill in the application, please check the guidance document by the [application form](#). If you have questions, feel free to contact clustersgogreen@ecorys.com

29. How can I learn more about this Facility?

You can find all the information about this initiative on the [ECCP website](#). For regular updates on the Facility, you can sign up to the [ECCP newsletter](#), follow [@Clusters_EU](#) on Twitter and on [LinkedIn](#) and ask to join our mailing list by contacting clustersgogreen@ecorys.com

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