

MINE.THE.GAP first open call: welcome aboard!

Raw materials, industrial, metallic mining and related sectors are key for the European industrial, social and technological progress. Under this premise, the project MINE.THE.GAP was born with the main goal of improving the competitiveness of SMEs on those sectors, by supporting them along different regions and diverse sectors.

Innosoup projects, as MINE.THE.GAP, has the aim of promoting collaboration and innovation manners through Europe. MINE.THE.GAP gives the perfect platform to create and integrate new mining value chains, strengthen the existing ones, and connect different SMEs, in order to increase sustainability and grow their innovative capacities.

The idea is to bring together technology providers and businesses in the mining industry to create new and improved value chains. Through MINE.THE.GAP, European SMEs can enter new collaborations to develop products, technologies, solutions, and services for the raw materials and mining sectors.

And, how it will be achieved? MINE.THE.GAP provides direct financial support to SMEs through innovation vouchers. For these vouchers, there are two competitive calls for strategic plan preparation, validation of ideas, proof of concept (MINE-PoC) and demonstration (MINE-Demo) activities. The expected TRLs for activities funded under the calls, lie between TRL 6-7 for proof of concept projects and TRL 7-8 for demo activities.

Additionally, MINE.THE.GAP offers business support services for the selected projects to enhance innovation capacities, promote technology transfer and commercialisation, and boost internationalisation. These services support the creation of new business opportunities for European SMEs.

The first of the two calls, aims to fund projects for the design and implementation of a prototype (MINE-PoC) to demonstrate the feasibility of projects that support the modernisation, digitisation, and green transformation of mining, or developing and testing in a production environment of a fully functional demo/pilot with all the major features of the product/service/solution (MINE-Demo). To obtain financing, SMEs need to become part of a consortium of two or three partners to present a common project, which will have to be either a proof of concept or a demonstrator. Companies from the following countries may participate in these projects: Germany, Bulgaria, Spain, Finland, France, Greece, Poland, Portugal and Sweden. This call is open until 5 May, 17:00 CEST and 1,5 million Euros are available for the innovation projects.

The MINE.THE.GAP consortium is formed by 11 European Clusters, from Spain, Germany, Bulgaria, Finland, France, Poland, and Portugal. Each country is organising an Info Day for all interested companies and entities about the project and its first Open Call. Check out [MINE.THE.GAP' website](https://h2020-minethegap.eu/) (https://h2020-minethegap.eu/) to join the partners and get all doubts about how funding works clarified.