

In addition to the information session organized by GEMSTONE project on 14 September 2023, a FAQ has been prepared to help potential applicants in the preparation of their project. This document provides complementary information to the Guide of Applicants and cover all the financial support: [TRAIN](#), [EXPLORE](#), [INNOVATE](#): [GreenInnov](#) & [GreenAdopt](#)

Questions	Answers
Can a company apply and be selected several times for an EXPLORE call?	A company can only be awarded financial support once. If the company applies and gets funding, it cannot participate in EXPLORE call again.
Can a company apply and be selected several times for a TRAIN call?	A company can only be awarded financial support once. If the company applies and gets funding, it cannot participate in TRAIN call again.
Can a company participate in both TRAIN call and EXPLORE call?	Yes.
Can a company apply several times under INNOVATE call?	No. Applicants can be involved in one (1) application to the GEMSTONE Innovate open call only: it is not allowed to apply for both GreenInnov and GreenAdopt. In the event that a SME applies twice (or more) for the same call or once for each call, all of its applications will be rejected. The company must choose the mechanism selected. A same company cannot apply in both mechanisms or in different proposals under the same mechanism, otherwise all applications will be rejected (INNOVATE Guide for Applicants, 3.5 and 4.5)
Can a company having benefitted from financial support under TRAIN/EXPLORE receive financial support under INNOVATE call, or vice versa?	Yes, however the maximum amount to be granted per SME by GEMSTONE project shall not exceed €60.000 in total, even in the case of multiple granted support mechanism types to the SME during the lifetime of GEMSTONE (Explore, Train, GreenInnov, GreenAdopt). If a SME cumulates supports, the addition of requested amounts should not exceed the limit.
In the framework of TRAIN and EXPLORE, can a company start its training or realize its business travel without knowing the result of the evaluation?	Yes. As far as the planned date is concerned, referring to point 2.6 and 3.6 of the TRAIN/EXPLORE Guide for Applicants, the company can incur costs as soon as it submits its application. The action might be engaged considering this date and should be implemented within 2 months of the signing of the Sub-Grant Agreement.
Can the costs incurred (transport, hotels) be eligible if the applicant makes the reservations for this trip after submitting their application?	As far as the planned date is concerned, referring to point 2.6 and 3.6 of the TRAIN/EXPLORE Guide for Applicants, the company can incur costs as soon as it submits its application.
Is a custom-made training delivered for several members of the company staff eligible?	Group trainings are eligible (TRAIN/EXPLORE Guide for Applicants, 2.3). Of course, if selected, the SME will receive €2000 for the group, not €2000 per participant. If « custom-made » means that the training is built specifically for a company by a training provider, no problem. A proof of payment of the service purchased and certificate of completion by the training provider are needed to receive the financial support.
What kind of costs are eligible?	The costs eligible depend on the call targeted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- TRAIN: eligible costs are related to purchase of a training service</li> <li>- EXPLORE: eligible costs are related to transportation</li> </ul>

	<p>costs to attend the event (flight tickets, visas, local transportation...); accommodation; event tickets/booth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- INNOVATE: eligible costs are related to staff costs, direct costs linked to the projects (equipment, consumable, travelling, etc.) and subcontracting costs for max. 20% of the amount of the project.</li> </ul>
Does online participation to international events eligible?	No. EXPLORE financial support will only be granted to support physical participation at events outside EU-member states, with specific attention brought to the targeted strategic areas defined in the call.
What are the Business Resilience Diagnostics mentioned in the Guide for Applicants?	Business Resilience Diagnostics are diagnostics developed and implemented as part of GEMSTONE project. Interested companies should contact one of the project partners who will provide the tool and/or organize a meeting to complete it.
Are the NACE Codes listed in the welcome page of the submission platform impacting the applicants' profile?	No. If the company fits in with the scope of the NACE code listed on the webpage, they are invited to fill in the information, otherwise they should leave it empty. This information will not be regarded in the evaluation of the application.
Regarding financial viability check; is there a particular requirement to be met to be eligible for application? Or any evaluation criteria regarding it?	Provision of the financial viability check is mandatory for every applicant; it is an eligibility criteria. The financial viability check will be deeply verified only if the applicant is selected to get funded. There is no criterion that could disqualify an applicant. <u>But</u> , based on the different financial viability criteria and their quality, a discussion may be opened between the coordinator and the applicant to evaluate the risks. The applicant could be asked to provide more documents and justification in order to avoid any risk for the overall financial viability of the project GEMSTONE. If any doubt or harsh situation is highlighted during the discussion between the coordinator and the applicant, the project partners will meet and take a decision to fund or not the project.
Can documents be attached to the application (e.g scheme or some pictures)?	No, it is not possible to provide annexes of any kind to the application.
What pourcentage of total budget can be funded?	The amount per project is a lump-sum. 100% of the project is funded.
In case of subcontracting (max 20%), does the rule of different NUTS2 region apply? SME and subcontracted company must come from 2 different regions?	No. Interregional cooperation is encouraged for direct partners.
Concerning the bonus points for interregional consortia, "interregional" means coming from 2 different countries?	Interregional consortia are validated if the two partners are established in different regions (from each other) according to the NUTS 2 classification. For GreenAdopt, bonus points will be granted to transnational consortium.
For subcontracting, can the subcontracted entity be located in an extra-EU country?	No. The financial support is provided under the Single Market Programme, hence the entities must be established under eligible countries of the programme.
Can a consortium of 3 partners or more be eligible?	Up to two SMEs will be funded as direct beneficiaries. Additional partners can be added in the consortium as

## Frequently Asked Question - FAQ:

### GEMSTONE Open calls

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	partners without funding, it can include companies other than SMEs such as Mid-caps, Large Group and Centres of Research for GreenInnov and Mid-caps, Large Group for GreenAdopt, as specified in the INNOVATE Guide for Applicants, 3.2 and 4.2
Can I submit a project with a partner located in the same Region as mine?	No. Proposals can be supported by one applicant only or by a consortium of at least 2 legal entities coming from two different NUTS 2 regions of European member states and SMP associated countries. In the event of a consortium, the leader partner must be a for-profit SME (INNOVATE Guide for Applicants, 3.5 and 4.5). Subcontracting is allowed for max. 20% of the budget.
Does individual applications eligible?	For GreenInnov proposals can be supported by one applicant or by a consortium (Guide for Applicants, 3.5). For GreenAdopt proposals must be supported by a consortium (Guide for Applicants, 4.5). For TRAIN and EXPLORE proposals can only be supported by one applicant.
In GreenAdopt call, can a consortium be composed of two end-users or two solution providers?	No. GreenAdopt mechanism aims to support projects for implementation. To do so, it is mandatory to have a consortium gathering <u>one</u> end-user and <u>one</u> solution provider. You can add other companies as non-funded partners or subcontractors. (Innovate Guide for Applicants, 4.5).