ATTRACTING FOREIGN AND LOCAL INVESTORS WITH HIGH JOB CREATION POTENTIAL IN KAUNAS COUNTY (CALL FOR SMEs)

Presentation of Grant Program

2025 05 09



Responsum

What are the conditions of the grant

The purpose of grant and amount to be granted

- To encourage sustainable investments in Kaunas County, which is expected to be highly affected by the transition to a climate-neutral economy.
- A total of €24.24 M will be allocated to the projects.

Granted activity

- Sustainable investments in manufacturing, including the establishment of a new company, expansion of an existing company's capacity, diversification of production/activities, and/or transformation of the manufacturing process.
- Training and upskilling of employees for the new jobs created during the project, including on-the-job training.

The amount of grant

- Maximum eligible project funding – €4.3 M:
  - For sustainable investments – €4 M;
  - For employee training – €0.3 M.
- Minimum eligible project funding – €1.53 M:
  - For sustainable investments – €1.5 M;
  - For employee training – €0.03 M.

Subsidy intensity

- For sustainable investments:
  - up to 75% for very small and small enterprises;
  - up to 70% for medium-sized enterprises (up to 75% if the project involves the production of critical technologies).
- For employee training:
  - up to 70% for very small and small enterprises;
  - up to 60% for medium-sized enterprises (up to 70% when training employees with disabilities).

Eligible costs

- For sustainable investments:
  - Costs of construction, reconstruction and/or major repairs, installation of local engineering networks*;
  - Costs of acquiring and/or leasing new production equipment;
  - Costs of acquiring patents and licences.
- For employee training:
  - Instructors' salaries**;
  - Instructors' travel and accommodation expenses within Lithuania**;
  - Trainees' travel and accommodation expenses within Lithuania and abroad;
  - Costs of materials and supplies classified as short-term assets**;
  - Rental costs for premises and equipment;
  - Costs of organizing and delivering training services;
  - Trainees' salaries (for the time they participate in the training)***.

** Eligible only if the property is owned by the applicant.*
*** If the applicant carries out part of the training activities themselves without purchasing services.*
**** If the in-person/ remote training takes place during the working hours of the trainees.*

Who can get a grant and how to do that

Requirements for the applicants

- The applicant is a small or medium-sized enterprise (SME).
- The applicant carries out economic activities classified by EVRK in Section B 'Mining and quarrying' (except for Chapter 06, Class 08.92 and Group 09.1) or Section C 'Manufacturing' (except for Chapter 19).
- The applicant has been operating for at least 3 years.
- The applicant's annual sales revenue from its own production represents at least 51% of its total sales each year.
- The applicant‘s turnover from the production of its own products is at least €300 000 (for a medium-sized enterprise) or €145 000 (for a small enterprise) for each of the last 3 years.

Project selection criteria

- The ratio of the wages of the new sustainable jobs created by the project to the average gross monthly wage of the municipality where the project is implemented (max 30 points).
- The project is planned to produce critical technologies (max 25 points).
- The project aims to create and maintain a higher number of sustainable jobs (max 20 points).
- Training effectiveness – ratio of planned trainees' number to requested training funding (max 15 points).
- The project activities are planned to be implemented in the territory of Jonava district municipality (max 10 points).

The minimum score required is 55 points.

Other important conditions

- Project activities must be implemented in Kaunas county.
- Both activities – sustainable investments in manufacturing and employee training – must be carried out during the project.
- At least 20 sustainable jobs must be created during the project and maintained for at least 3 years after project completion.
- The applicant’s property rights to the land plot for new construction must be registered in the real estate register no later than the application submission date and remain valid for at least 3 years after project completion.
- The building in which the reconstruction and/or renovation works are to be carried out must be owned by the applicant and registered in the real estate registry no later than the date of submission of the application.
- A construction permit (if required) must be submitted together with the application.
- If an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or EIA screening is to be carried out, the EIA procedures must be initiated before the application submission date.
- If construction is planned and a construction permit is mandatory, the EIA decision or screening conclusion must be submitted with the application.

Dates and terms

- Applications must be submitted by **31 October 2025**.
- Project implementation must not exceed **36 months**.
- At least 20% of the funds allocated to the project must be spent by **31 August 2026.**

What are Environmentally Sustainable Investments

Criterion 1 for sustainable economic activity:

- Economic activity makes an important contribution to one or more of these environmental objectives:
  - Climate change mitigation;
  - Adaptation to climate change;
  - Sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources;
  - Transition to a circular economy;
  - Pollution prevention and control;
  - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and ecosystems.
- Significant contribution to environmental objectives is defined in Articles 10 to 16 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852.

Criterion 2: Sustainable economic activity:

- Economic activity does not significantly harm any of these environmental objectives:
  - Climate change mitigation;
  - Adaptation to climate change;
  - Sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources;
  - Transition to a circular economy;
  - Pollution prevention and control;
  - Protecting and restoring biodiversity and ecosystems.
- Significant harm to environmental objectives is defined in Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852.

Criterion 3: Sustainable economic activity:

- Economic activities are subject to minimum safeguards.
- Minimum Safeguards are the procedures that an economic operator puts in place to ensure compliance with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight core Conventions referred to in the ILO's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and in the International Charter of Human Rights.

Criterion 4: Sustainable economic activity:

- The economic activity meets the technical analysis criteria set by the European Commission:
  - Criteria for technical analysis in the areas of Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation;
  - Technical analysis criteria in the areas of Sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources, Transition to a circular economy, Pollution prevention and control, Biodiversity and ecosystem protection and restoration.

What are Critical Technologies

A project must meet 2 criteria to be considered as producing a technology of critical importance.

Criterion 1:

The project aims to produce at least one critical technology as defined in point 2 of the European Commission Communication C/2024/3209:

1. Digital technology areas:
   - Advanced semiconductor technologies;
   - Artificial intelligence technologies;
   - Quantum technologies;
   - Advanced connectivity, navigation, digital technologies;
   - Advanced sensing technologies;
   - Robotics and autonomous systems.
2. Deep-tech innovation: innovation with the potential to deliver transformative solutions, rooted in cutting-edge science, technology, and engineering, including innovation that combines advances in the physical, biological, and digital spheres.
3. Clean and resource efficient technologies:
   - Solar technologies;
   - Onshore wind and offshore renewable technologies;
   - Battery and energy storage technologies;
   - Heat pumps and geothermal energy technologies;
   - Hydrogen technologies;
   - Sustainable biogas and biomethane technologies;
   - Carbon capture and storage technologies;
   - Electricity grid technologies;
   - Nuclear fission technologies;
   - Sustainable alternative fuel technologies;
   - Hydropower technologies;
   - Other renewable energy technologies;
   - Energy system-related energy efficiency technologies;
   - Renewable fuels of non-biological origin technologies;
   - Biotech climate and energy solutions;
   - Industrial technologies for decarbonisation;
   - CO2 transport and utilisation technologies;
   - Wind and electric propulsion technologies;
   - Other nuclear technologies;
   - Advanced materials, manufacturing and recycling technologies;
   - Water purification and desalination;
   - Circular economy technologies.
4. Biotechnology:
   - DNR/RNA;
   - Proteins and other molecules;
   - Cell and tissue culture and engineering;
   - Process biotechnology techniques;
   - Gene and RNA vectors;
   - Bioinformatics;
   - Nanobiotechnology.

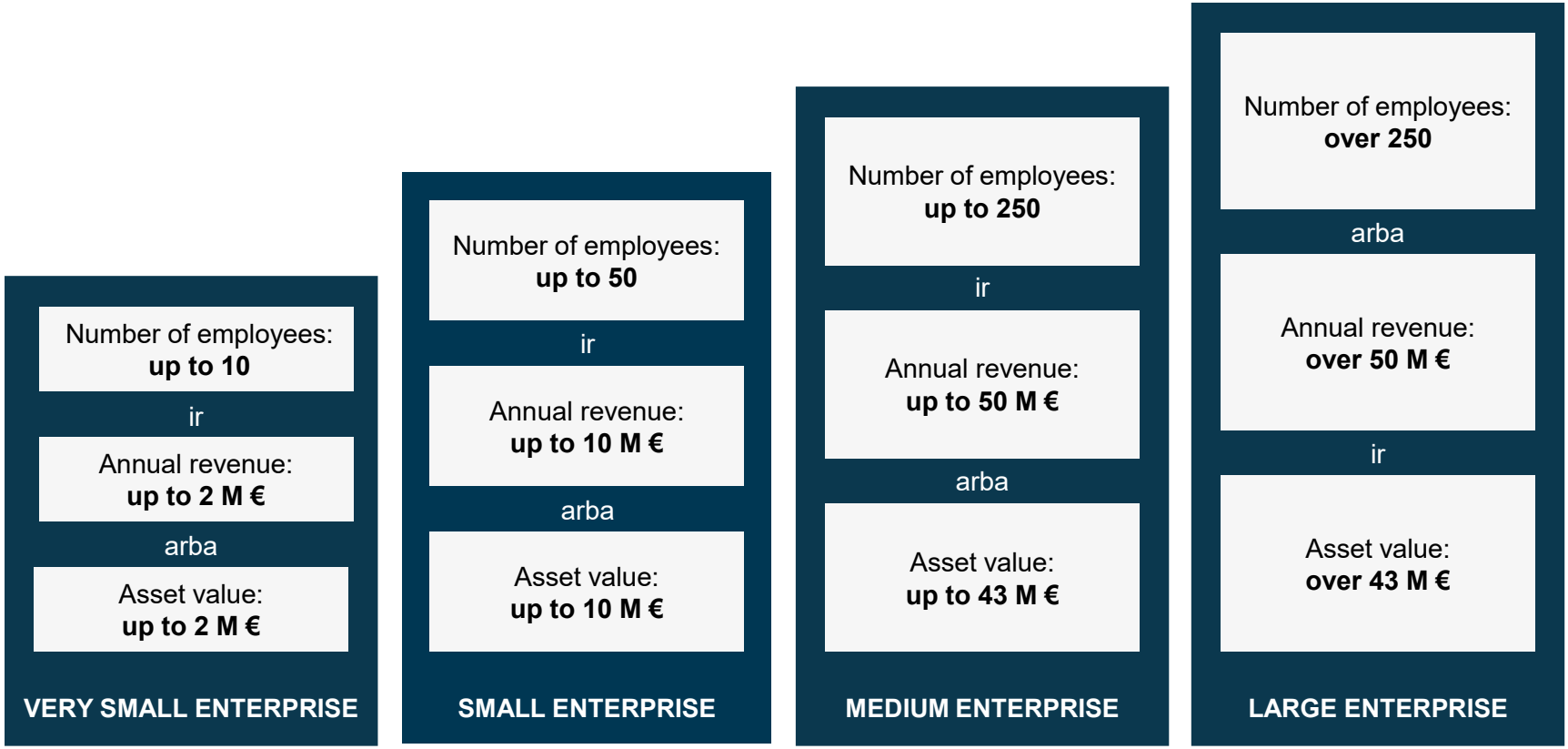
Criterion 2:

The project must meet at least one of the conditions for key technologies as set out in point 3 of the European Commission Communication C/2024/3209:

1. They bring to the internal market an innovative, emerging, and cutting-edge element with significant economic potential;
2. They contribute to reducing or preventing the strategic dependencies of the Union.

How to evaluate the size of the company

- The size of the company is assessed by set of three criteria – number of employees, annual revenue and total value of assets.
- While assessing the size of the company one must take into account abovementioned criteria of the related companies (parent, subsidiaries or companies related in other way).



How can we help you to employ a grant

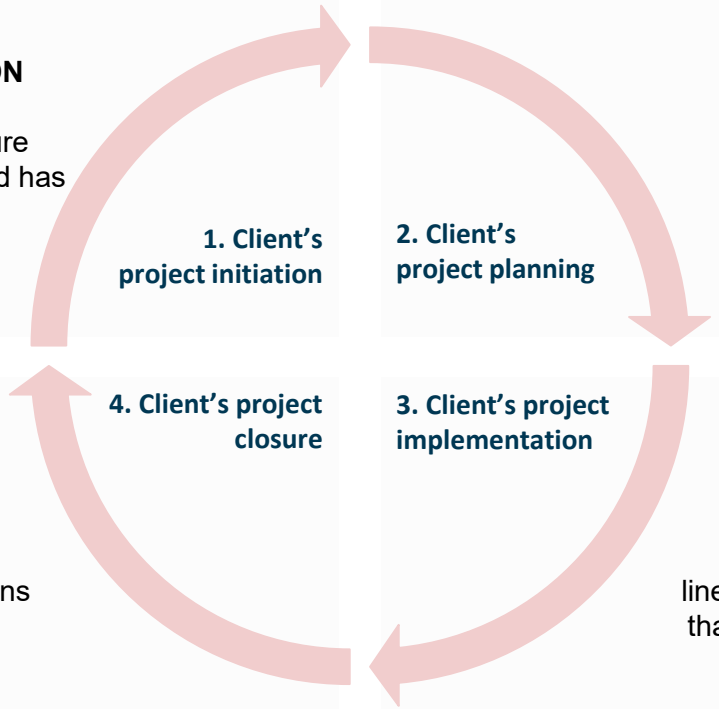
- We assist our Clients in employing EU grants and ensure that the grant would serve Client's need rather than Client serve the bureaucratic requirements of the donor.
- We provide integrated services for employing EU grants – we create value in all stages of Client's project life-cycle from evaluation of eligibility of project idea to the moment when last cent of the grant will be transferred to our Client's bank account.

PROJECT CONCEPT PREPARATION

We shape the project concept to ensure that it meets donor's requirements and has maximum chances of receiving grant

DEVELOPMENT OF APPLICATION

We develop competitive application and lead it through the evaluation process towards the signing of the grant agreement



POST-PROJECT ASSISTANCE

We develop annual reports and, if needed, help to avoid donor's sanctions for non-compliance with the project impact KPI's

ADMINISTERING THE PROJECT

We help to implement the project in line with donor's requirements to ensure that the grant is paid to the Client timely and in full amount

Some of our Clients



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The world is full of wonders, but there is always room for improvement.

The power to change the world comes from great ideas. We work so that your ideas do not remain only in your thoughts or plans.

We know how to attract funding and apply it to make those ideas happen. We dedicate all our knowledge, experience and strength to bring great ideas to life.

And change the world for the better.

Responsum Manifesto