

# Call for Expressions of Interest to youth-led Social Enterprises for the participation to YESI Financial Sub- Granting Programme (FSGP) *Corrigendum*

## 1. Introduction

The present Call for Expressions of Interest to youth-led Social Enterprises for the participation to the Financial Sub-Granting Programme (FSGP) is promoted by Cesvi and Al Majmoua, in the framework of the project Youth Empowerment for Social Impact funded by the European Union.

Cesvi is a secular and independent Italian non-governmental organization, founded in Bergamo (Italy) in 1985. Cesvi is working in 23 countries to support the most vulnerable populations in the promotion of human rights, in the achievement of their aspirations and for sustainable development. In Lebanon Cesvi works with the purpose of increase the access to income generating opportunities especially among the youngest. Cesvi is member of the European network Alliance 2015. For more information: [www.cesvi.org](http://www.cesvi.org)

**Al Majmoua** – the Lebanese Association for Development – is a Lebanese independent, non-confessional Organization that focuses since 1997 on supporting low-income and vulnerable individuals, particularly micro entrepreneurs and women, with affordable financial and non-financial services to fund their activities and build sustainable businesses. Al Majmoua is active across Lebanon through a network of 29 offices and a team of 400 highly motivated, skilled, dedicated full-time staff. For more information: [www.almajmoua.org](http://www.almajmoua.org)

## 2. Objective of the Call for Expressions of Interest

This Call for expressions of interest (Eol) aims at **selecting innovative youth-led Social Enterprises (SEs)** operating in Lebanon **for the participation to the Financial Sub-Granting Programme (FSGP)**.

The FSGP will provide the selected Social Enterprises with the opportunity to:

- **be awarded with a grant from a minim amount of EUR 5,000 up to a maximum amount of EUR 15,000** for the financing of activities/services aimed at developing and/or scaling up social entrepreneurship models – if successful at the end of the FSGP selection process;
- **gain practical skills** on how to develop, strengthen and scale up innovative social models and business;
- **connect with different actors of the ecosystem**, including financial institutions and possible future investors

By responding to the present Call for Eol, interested SEs apply **to the first phase of FSGP selection process** as described in Annex II of the present Call for Eol.

## 3. The project: Youth Empowerment for Social Impact (YESI)

The FSGP is promoted in the framework of the Youth Empowerment for Social Impact (YESI) Project, funded by the European Union and developed by Cesvi in partnership with Al Majmoua.

The YESI project aims at **promoting youth empowerment** through inclusive, innovative and sustainable models of social entrepreneurship. The YESI strategy is twofold:

- To enhance operational and financial capacities of young aspiring entrepreneurs, youth-led CSOs and Social Enterprises through a broad range of customized services, such as, technical trainings, financial grants, business coaching, mentorship, regular follow-up, networking opportunities with other ecosystem actors and access to financing instruments. **The FSGP is functional to this objective.**
- To support investors and microfinancing actors in developing innovative financial products and services for better addressing youth-led social enterprises financial needs and access to credit in the long-run.

#### 4. Who can apply under this Call for EoI? – Eligibility Criteria

Under this call for EoI, Cesvi and Al Majmoua seek expression of interest from **innovative youth-led Social Enterprises that meet ALL the following eligibility criteria:**

1. Type of enterprises: **Youth-led social enterprises.** To be considered as a youth-led enterprise, the board or the management team shall consist of at least **51% of youth between 18 and 35 years old.**
2. Type of business:
  - business must bring a **SOCIAL BENEFIT**, meaning having a positive impact on communities by tackling social challenges. Social impact produced by your enterprise might take place either directly or indirectly.<sup>1</sup>  
Social benefit means to have an impact on the community being able to overcome social challenges.
  - profit or no-profit;
  - part of the revenue stream must come from commercial activities
  - part of the profit has to be re-distributed and/or re-invested in the activities of the Social Enterprise
3. Size of the business: Micro, small and medium Social Enterprises<sup>2</sup>
4. Area of operation: the main area of business shall be one of the following governorates: Beirut & Mount Lebanon, Beqaa, South & Nabatieh
5. Advancement level of the business: the SE should be an **already established enterprise** which is at its early development stage or at a growth level. Business ideas never tested in the market will not be considered.<sup>3</sup>
6. Legal status: the SE must be registered. Unregistered entities are not eligible under this program.

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<sup>1</sup> Social impact produced directly: The product/service/business activity itself is aimed directly to enhance the life condition of vulnerable individuals (i.e. offering affordable educational services to marginalised communities). Social impact produced indirectly: The way the product/service/business activity is produced contribute to enhance the life condition of vulnerable individuals (i.e. the business growth will lead to hiring vulnerable individuals thus enhancing their livelihoods condition)

<sup>2</sup> Micro Enterprise: Less than LBP 500 million annual profit AND less than 10 employees, Small Enterprise: Less than LBP 5 billion annual profit AND less than 50 employees, Medium Enterprise: Less than LBP 25 billion annual profit AND less than 100 employees

<sup>3</sup> The FSGP will support SEs with actions and projects that are currently active within the market through the running provision of sales or services. Aspiring SEs that are still developing their administrative, research, HR, marketing, product etc... approaches and are still only be prototyping without engaging clientele/beneficiaries are not eligible.

7. SEs that are **currently** not benefitting from other European Union funded sub-granting programs. SEs that are currently benefitting from not-EU funded sub-granting programmes are considered eligible, but Cesvi will reserve the right to examine the SEs financial needs and complementarity with other sub-granting programs during the final selection process.

Youth-led SEs who have participated to YESI Capacity Building program, implemented by Al Majmoua, are highly encouraged to apply to this Call for EoI.

The EoI and all the other steps for the participation to the FSGP are open to any eligible subject regardless of the nationality, national or ethnic origin, disability, religion, gender, gender expression, gender identity or genetic information.

*Participating and benefiting from the YESI project is completely free of charge. Participants are allowed to withdraw at any time.*

## 5. Evaluation of eligibility criteria

During Phase 1, Call for EoI applicants will be evaluated as per the eligibility criteria mentioned above (art 4.0) and based on the SE Business Profile submitted.

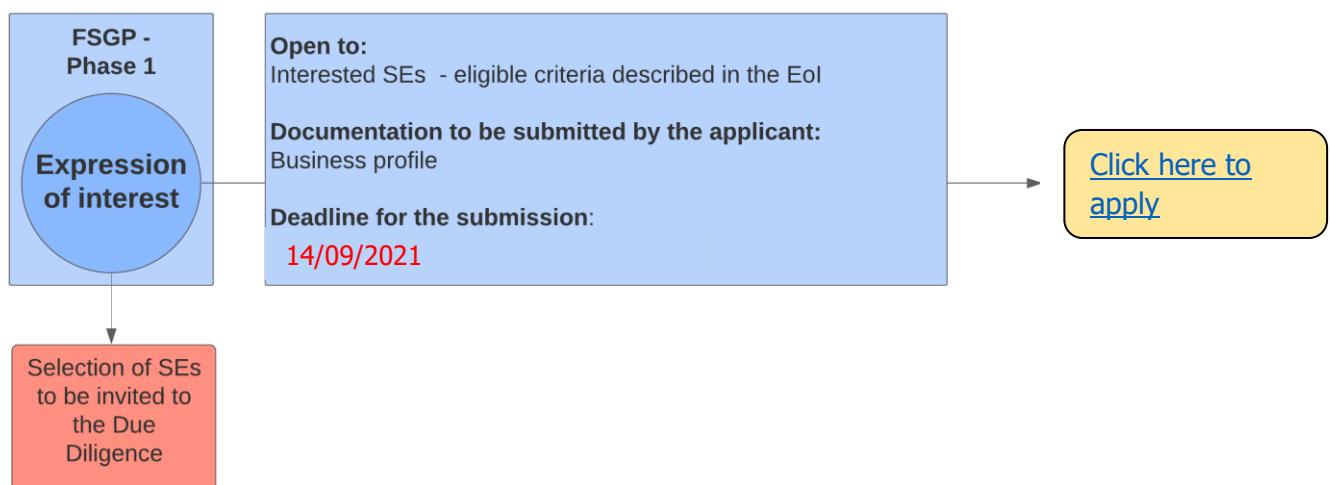
The Evaluation Committee (the Committee) is composed by: Cesvi Project Manager, Cesvi Grant Manager, Al Majmoua focal point. The EU will be represented in the evaluation committee as Observer.

SEs that result eligible, will be admitted to Phase 2 of this program (for more details about Phase 2, Phase 3 and following evaluation processes, please refer to Annex II).

## 6. How to apply to this call for EoI

Interested SEs can apply by:

- **Completing and submitting via KOBO the Business Profile (available on Daleel Madani) with all mandatory information, in Arabic or in English.**



### The applicant subject MUST be:

- The legal representative of the SE or someone acting as the SE representative
- The person directly responsible for the preparation and management of the planned activities, duly authorized by the legal representative or being SE representative;

## 7. Contacts

Participants will have the opportunity to ask for clarification until the **07/09/2021** using a dedicated email address and WhatsApp number for written messages:

- e-mail: [Cesvi\\_Social\\_Enterprises@cesviverseas.org](mailto:Cesvi_Social_Enterprises@cesviverseas.org)
- WhatsApp number: **81 110 056**. ONLY WhatsApp messages, **PHONE CALLS ARE NOT ACCEPTED**

All answers will be included in a FAQ document published on Daleel Madani website.

One dedicated **info session** will be organized online for interested participants the **7th of September** to illustrate scope, objectives and requirements of the EoI and the FSGP selection process. During the info session participants will have the opportunity to ask for clarifications also.

Interested participants to the **ONLINE INFO SESSION on 7<sup>th</sup> of September** shall register by sending an email with the request of participation to [cesvi\\_social\\_enterprises@cesviverseas.org](mailto:cesvi_social_enterprises@cesviverseas.org). The request to participate and the actual participation to the info session is not consider an Expression of interest to the call. To apply for the call for EoI see modalities described under section 9.

If you have any **feedback or complaint**<sup>4</sup> you would like to share with us anonymously, you can address them to the following email and/or phone number:

Email: [cesvilebanon\\_cfhm@cesviverseas.org](mailto:cesvilebanon_cfhm@cesviverseas.org)

Phone number: +961 81083519

Both the email and the phone number are handled by Cesvi staff who's not in charge of the implementation of this program and who do not take part to the evaluation process. All the information will be treated confidentially.

## 8. Summary table

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST	Publication	26-August
	Online info session	<b>7-September</b>

<sup>4</sup> As a feedback we mean any positive comment, suggestion, request for information, request for assessment, etc. but also negative comments.

As complaint we refer to any communication characterized by a negative connotation, which may refer to project, staff or organization such as delay in activities, low quality of provided products or services, low quality of staff performance, etc. but also breach of the principles and rules established by Cesvi's policies and prescriptive documents.

	Deadline for submitting requests for clarification	7-September
	FAQ publication	8-September
	<b>Deadline for the submission of the BUSINESS PROFILE</b>	<b>14-September</b>
	Communication of the results of the application to the Call for EoI to candidates	19 <sup>th</sup> September 2021 (The date could change in accordance with the numbers of applications received.)

## 9. Cancellation of the Call for EoI and the FSGP Selection process

In no circumstances Cesvi will be liable for damages, whatever their nature (in particular damages for loss of profits) or connection to the cancellation or modification of the present Call for EoI or the program Selection process, even if advised of the possibility of damages. The present Expression of Interest does not commit the Cesvi to implement the project announced.

## 10. Privacy

All Parties are informed - and, for what reason, expressly agree - that the personal data provided, even verbally, and all relevant information obtained during the performance of the activities, must be kept strictly confidential and treated appropriately. The parties undertake to process all data only for the purposes of the activities foreseen in this Call for EoI and the following steps. The parties consent to the processing of personal data for the execution of the activities.

## 11. Ethics clauses

### a. Conflict of interest

Impartiality and objectivity must be ensured at every stage of the procedure, from the planning to the execution of the procurement, including the subsequent audits and controls. Conflict of interests must be always avoided: while dealing with suppliers and consultants, Cesvi staff must favour the interest of the Foundation, refraining from engaging in any behaviour that could result in personal gain.

When confronted with a situation constituting or likely to entail a conflict of interest, every member of the staff shall inform his/her superior, so that appropriate measures can be adopted to avoid such a conflict or its continuation.

### b. Respect for human rights as well as environmental legislation and core labor standards

In line with the principle of **Leaving no one behind**, Cesvi commits to contribute to eradicate poverty, **end discrimination and exclusion**, and **reduce the inequalities and vulnerabilities** that leave people behind and undermine the potential of individuals and of humanity as a whole.

Furthermore, Cesvi projects acknowledge gender norms, specificities and priorities of diverse women, girls, men and boys in different age groups. In line with the EU principles, Cesvi interventions are developed with the aim of meeting the needs of the most vulnerable communities, including minorities and people with specific needs.

The applicant and its staff must comply with human rights. In particular and in accordance with the applicable act, applicants who will be awarded with contracts must comply with the environmental legislation and with the core labor standards.

**c. Prevention of Fraud and Corruption**

Cesvi is committed to use the funds entrusted to it impartially, justly, and in accordance with the specified purposes. Personal relationships or personal advantages should not influence the decisions of Cesvi staff and other involved third parties.

In order to effectively prevent corruption and avoid any suspicion of corrupt behaviour, Cesvi has developed a policy and a set of Guidelines for the prevention of Corruption and Fraud, which has to be respected by the employees of the organization as well as by other involved third parties.

**Any attempt by a SE to influence the Committee in the evaluation or grant award decisions may result in the rejection of SEs application.**

**d. Confidentiality**

The Parties undertake to keep the contents of this Call for EoI and its annexes confidential, as well as the information and material acquired during the realization of the activity of the project, as well as ensuring its use in compliance with the provisions of present Contract.

**e. Safeguarding**

Cesvi has zero tolerance to any form of abuse and sexual exploitation as well as bullying and a range of non-sexual abuse of power perpetrated by Cesvi's and partners' and suppliers' employees and related personnel against any individual regardless of age, gender, sexuality, disability, religion or ethnic origin.

**f. Restrictive measures**

The applicant must ensure that there is no detection of subcontractors, natural persons, including participants to workshops and/or trainings and recipients of financial support to third parties, in the lists of EU restrictive measures.

## **12. List of Annexes**

Annexes:

- Annex I: Business profile template
- Annex II: Financial Sub-Granting Programme (FSGP) - Explanatory document