

# PYSI FAQ

## Eligibility

### **How to define social innovation? What criteria are considered crucial or important?**

The identified social need must be emerging or insufficiently met. There must also be sufficiently large unknowns, sources of risk that justify a public intervention, and the adoption of an experimental prototyping and validation approach.

Not only is the innovative nature considered in relation to the activities proposed by the company, but the pioneering aspect is also compared with the existing offer on the market.

It is important to clearly link this social innovation to the social need.

### **Is there a need for social and democratic enterprise license?**

The license is not binding under PYSI. Nevertheless, it must be possible to justify in detail how your organisation meets the three fundamental criteria of a social and democratic enterprise ([cf. Ordinance of 23 July 2018](#)), i.e.:

- the implementation of an economic project;
- the pursuit of a social objective;
- the exercise of democratic governance;

These characteristics can also be formalised in the statutes of the organisation.

### **What is meant by the economic viability and sustainability of the organisation?**

The company's ability to make the project sustainable over time. Several questions need to be answered, such as:

- will my company have the necessary resources after the end of the project to support the development of the planned activity?
- is the market large enough to justify recurring sources of revenue?
- is the margin generated by operations sufficient to meet your financial objectives?
- how much will it cost?

### **Can economic sustainability be demonstrated by other company activities or structural subsidies?**

It is quite possible to justify the organisation's economic viability on the basis of external funds or income generated by the organisation's activities other than the project. However, it must be demonstrated that the project submitted for the PYSI grant can be sustainable and economically viable.

### **We are two separate organisations but involved in the same sector. We would like to pool our knowledge and develop a socially innovative project. How can we do this?**

As this is individual aid, the project must therefore be led by a single legal entity.

However, if the company does not have sufficient knowledge of the sector, it can use other companies through subcontracting, without this distorting the project.

**On what date should the projects start?**

The project can start between February 2021 and December 2021 at the latest. It must have a total duration of between 6 and 18 months. However, if the project starts in February or March, we recommend that the company be aware that the government decision will only be made between July and September and be prepared to advance a first portion of the costs related to the subsidy in the meantime.

**Does the company already have to be established?**

The company must be established no later than the time of application, i.e. 5 January 2021.

**What is meant by carrying out tasks to validate the feasibility, economic viability and/or suitability of this activity for the social need being addressed?**

As Innoviris is the institute in charge of innovation, the projects that can be subsidised therefore require an experimental approach, regardless of whether the issues addressed are of an economic or practical nature. In addition to this experimental approach, there must be unknowns that will be tested and validated during the course of the project and that could lead to changes in the project activity. Moreover, as this programme is dedicated to social innovation, the challenges related to the social considerations of the project must be central.

**Can other subsidies be used for certain project tasks?**

The double financing of the same project is strictly forbidden, so the different tasks that are eligible in the PYSI programme must be clearly identified (see p4 form). , if you have structural subsidies to pay your staff, you can always describe this in your application and Innoviris will not take account of these costs.

**Which years should be taken into account under the de minimis regulation?**

The European regulation stipulates that the three-year period for the €200,000 includes the current and two previous tax years. Therefore, the aid to be taken into account is that for 2019, 2020 and 2021. Indeed, as the potential PYSI subsidy is granted in 2021, this will be considered as the current tax year.

**How can we ensure that the subsidies we have obtained were not received as de minimis?**

This information can be verified with the subsidising entity that granted you these other subsidies.

**Is it possible to apply for the organisation's entire scope of development?**

Under no circumstances does the PYSI programme comprise structural funding for the entire organisation. It is imperative that you present a specific project demonstrating an experimental approach in order to validate the feasibility and/or economic viability of a socially innovative activity that meets an identified social need.

## Practical information

### **Will there be another PYSI call for projects in 2021?**

The call for projects will be annual; the launch date has not yet been set for next year, but it will be in either the third or the fourth quarter.

### **What is a work package?**

This is one of the project work areas and groups together the tasks and actions to be undertaken. It is therefore necessary to set the project out in a plan divided into several milestones with tasks to be carried out and objectives to be achieved, to identify the risks and constraints and how to avoid them, the material/human resources needed, the people responsible, etc.

### **For work packages, does the FTE equivalent correspond to the number of people needed to perform the task or the number of hours, for example 1/5 FTE?**

The FTE equivalent corresponds to the number of full-time equivalent, i.e. hours, dedicated to the task over the total duration of the project:

e.g. for an 18-month project, one 1 FTE task =

- someone who has been working on it full-time for 18 months,
- or two people who have been working on it full-time for nine months, etc.

If you prefer, you can also use person-months (PM): the number of people working full-time for a month.

e.g. for an 18-month project, one 1 FTE task =

- 1 FTE = someone who has been working on it full-time for 18 months = 18 PM
- two people working part-time on a task for four months =  $2 * 0.5 * 4 = 4$  PM (for an 18-month project =  $2 * 0.5 * 4 / 18 = 0.22$  FTE)

### **What are our obligations after the subsidy has been received? (proof of the smooth operation of the project, etc.?)**

Once the subsidy has been validated, there will be one to two interim reports together with follow-up meetings, including

- financial report: on costs (with invoices, pay slips, etc.)
- technical report: on the progress of the project

Depending on the duration of the project, we will carry out an evaluation every six months so that the project can continue.

### **Is "evidence of impact" for the project required in order to respond to the call for projects?**

Technically no, since this is what will be validated/tested during PYSI. However, it is vital to make sure that the response is consistent with the identified social need. The potential impact of the project's success on the company and its environment must be explained.

### **What is the timeline for receiving the subsidy?**

The timeline cannot be known precisely. However, we can make a first estimate based on other calls for projects. The subsidy cannot be paid before the project has been approved by the government.

The provisional evaluation and validation stages are as follows:

- February: eligibility
- March: jury
- April-May: Innoviris recommendation to government
- July-September: government decision
- October-December: signature of the agreements and payment of the first subsidy instalments.

**Is the opinion of the jury binding?**

Yes, a positive opinion from the jury based on the evaluation criteria set out for the programme is required for proposing the financing of the project to the Region, in accordance with the available budgetary appropriations.