F.A.Q. PYSI

Eligibility

**What criteria are decisive and important when it comes to social innovation?**

- The social need identified must be emerging or insufficiently met. In addition, there must be sufficiently important unknowns, sources of risk that justify public intervention, and the adoption of a prototyping and validation approach.

- The innovative nature of the project is considered not only in relation to the activities proposed by the company, but also in relation to the existing offer on the market.

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

**Is there a need for social and democratic business accreditation ?**

Agreement is not compulsory under PYSI. Nevertheless, you must be able to justify in detail how your organization meets the 3 fundamental criteria of a social and democratic enterprise (cf. Order 23 July 2018), namely:

- implementation of an economic project.

- the pursuit of a social objective

- democratic governance.

These characteristics may also be formalized in the organization’s articles of association.

**Can economic viability be demonstrated with other company activities or structural subsidies?**

It is perfectly possible to demonstrate the economic viability of the organization based on external funding or income generated by the organization’s other activities, outside 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 organizations involved in the same sector. We would like to pool our knowledge and develop a socially innovative project. How can we do this ?**

The project must be carried out by a single company. It is the strategic impact on the company and the economic viability of the activity developed within the company that will be assessed. The aim of the programme is to develop an economic activity within the organization so that it is sustainable.

Nevertheless, if the company does not have sufficient knowledge in the sector, it can call on other companies in the form of subcontracting, without this distorting the project.

If, however, you would like to carry out a collaborative project in social innovation, you can always look at our other aids such as Co-Create.

**Does the company have to have already been set up ?**

The company must have been set up by the time the application is submitted.

**What do we mean by carrying out tasks to validate the feasibility, economic viability and/or suitability of this activity for the social need in question ?**

As Innoviris is the institute responsible for innovation, the projects that can be subsidized 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 project, and which could lead to changes in the activity that is the subject of the project.

**Is it necessary to carry out tasks to validate feasibility, economic viability, and the potential to meet the social need identified?**

These tasks do not necessarily have to be combined. However, when carrying out either or both tasks together, an experimental approach must be demonstrated.

**Can we call on other subsidies for certain project tasks ?**

Double funding is strictly forbidden, so you must clearly identify the different tasks that are eligible under the PYSI programme. Furthermore, if you have structural subsidies for staff remuneration, you can always describe this in your application without these costs being covered by Innoviris.

**What years are covered by the de minimis regulation?**

The European regulation stipulates that the 3-year period relating to the €200,000 amount includes the current fiscal year (the year in which the PYSI financing agreement is signed) and the two previous years.

**How can we be sure that the subsidies we have obtained have not been received in the form of de minimis aid?**

This information can be checked with the subsidizing body that awarded you these other subsidies.

**Is it possible to apply for the entire scope of the organization’s development?**

Under no circumstances does the PYSI programme provide structural funding for the entire organization.

It is essential to demonstrate an experimental approach to validate the feasibility and/or economic viability of a socially innovative activity that meets an identified social need. This activity may, however, be at the heart of the organization’s mission, and therefore be its "core" activity.

**What do we mean by the economic viability and sustainability of the organisation ?**

The company's ability to make the project sustainable over time. You need to be able to answer several questions, such as:

* Will my company have the necessary resources after the end of the project to support the planned business development?
* Is the market large enough to justify recurring sources of income?

And/or will structural public funding be able to support the business?

* Is the margin generated sufficient to meet your financial targets?
* What will the costs be?

Practice

**What are work stages and deliverables ?**

This is the work programme for all the tasks and actions to be undertaken during the project. The project must therefore take the form of a plan divided into several milestones with tasks to be carried out, objectives to be achieved, risks and constraints identified and how they can be avoided, the material/human resources required, the people responsible, etc. and what will be developed at the end of the stage.

**Regarding the work stages, does the FTE equivalent correspond to the number of people to carry out the task or the number of hours, e.g., 1/5 FTE?**

The FTE equivalent corresponds to the number of full-time equivalent hours dedicated to the task over the entire project period:

Ex: Over an 18-month project, a 1 FTE task =

* someone who works on it full-time for 18 months.
* or 2 people working full time for 9 months.

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

Ex: Over an 18-month project, a 1 FTE task =

- 1 FTE = someone working full time on a task for 18 months = 18 PM.

Two people working half-time on a task for 4 months = 2\*0.5\*4 = 4 PM (for an 18-month project = 2\*0.5\*4/18 = 0.22 FTE).

**What are our obligations once the subsidy has been obtained (proof that the project is working properly, etc.)?**

Once the subsidy has been approved, there will be 1 or 2 interim reports and follow-up meetings including:

* financial reporting: on costs (with invoices, payslips, etc.)
* technical reporting: on project progress

Depending on the duration of the project, we carry out an evaluation every 6 months to ensure that the project can continue.

**Is it necessary to already have "proof of impact" of the project to respond to the call for projects?**

Technically, no, as this is what will be validated/tested during the PYSI. On the other hand, you need to be able to explain how the response is consistent with the social need identified. You need to explain the potential impact of the project's success for the company and its environment.

**Does the jury have a binding opinion?**

Innoviris is always the final decision-maker when it comes to approving or rejecting the application. However, if the experts consider that one of the eligibility criteria is totally unsatisfied or that the project has several weaknesses, it may not be selected for the grant.