

Frequently Asked Questions

Open Call - ESO Climate Innovate Egypt GIZ – Climate KIC

1. Is the call open to organisations based outside of Egypt?

No, the call is only open to Entrepreneurship Support Organisations (ESOs) that are formally registered and operating in Egypt at the time of application.

2. How do you define an ESO?

An Entrepreneurship Support Organisation (ESO) is a formally registered entity whose primary mission or main focus of activity is to support start-ups and entrepreneurs through structured services and programmes. This may include (but may not be limited to) incubators, accelerators, innovation hubs, university-based entrepreneurship centres and start-up associations.

3. How long will the evaluation process take and when will selected ESOs be informed?

The evaluation process will take approximately three weeks and will include the following three steps:

- **Eligibility check:** Applications will be reviewed to ensure they meet the basic eligibility criteria and were submitted on time.
- **First screening (shortlisting). From 06 – 13 May:** Eligible applications will be scored by CKIC evaluators based on the call assessment criteria. The highest-scoring applicants will move to the next stage.
- **Second screening (interview). From 20-27 May:** Shortlisted applicants will be invited to a video interview to further discuss their application and clarify any questions.

*Please note that **only ESOs selected** to move forward in the process will be contacted. Selected applicants will be informed by 29 May.*

4. When will the programme begin?

The programme is expected to start in June 2025. Final dates will be communicated to selected organisations following the application process.

5. Are consortia eligible to apply?

No, this call is only open to individual ESOs and applicants should submit applications on behalf of one organisation only. Applications from consortia or on behalf of multiple organisations will not be considered.

If an ESO is selected to run the ClimAccelerator, we may explore (at the time of submitting a proposal to the second stage) subcontracting other organisations as needed to effectively deliver the planned activities.

6. My organisation has less than two years of experience supporting start-ups. Can we still apply?

As a general rule, no. Only ESOs with a minimum of two years of documented experience supporting Egyptian start-ups are eligible to apply. However, if an organisation is close to meeting this requirement at the time of application and will have two years of experience by the programme start date, we may consider eligibility on a case-by-case basis.

7. In which language will the programme be delivered?

The official language of the programme is English. However, mentoring support may also be available in Arabic if needed.

8. What kind of support will the 8 selected ESOs will receive through the ClimAccelerator programme?

The selected ESOs will first go through a diagnosis phase to assess their strengths and development needs. They'll then take part in a tailored capacity building programme to learn about climate advisory topics and the ClimAccelerator methodology, including the use of the Climate Impact Framework. This training will prepare them to run a ClimAccelerator in the future. **After completing the programme, one ESO will be**

selected to receive funding to implement their own ClimAccelerator to support 5 startups implementing climate (tech) solutions.

9. Who can attend the capacity building trainings from the ESOs?

We recommend that members of each organization's core team participate in the training, as they possess a deep understanding of internal operations and are best positioned to apply the learnings effectively. While we advise against involving external contractors—given they may lack the necessary context to implement the training successfully—the final decision on participant selection remains at the discretion of each organization, based on their specific needs and strategic priorities.

Additionally, we recommend that the designated team members remain fully engaged throughout the entire programme to ensure continuity and maximize the impact of the knowledge gained.

10. What is a ClimAccelerator?

ClimAccelerator is a global programme led by Climate KIC that supports early-stage climate-positive ventures. It provides start-ups with access to funding, tools, training and a network of climate innovation experts. You can find more information at the following link: <https://climaccelerator.climate-kic.org/>

11. Is funding available as part of this call?

No, direct funding is not available to the eight ESOs selected under this call for the capacity building programme. However, at the end of the capacity building component, one of the eight ESOs will be selected to receive funding to implement a ClimAccelerator.

12. Are the participation fees for the capacity building programme?

No there are no participation fees for the eight ESOs selected. The capacity building programme is fully covered and supported by GIZ Egypt on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

13. How long is the programme and what is the expected level of commitment /participation from the ESO teams?

The programme will run from **June to December 2025**. During this time, participating organisations will receive tailored training, mentorship, and access to Climate-KIC's experts. The programme will be delivered in a hybrid format, including both online and in-person sessions.

We expect one representative from each selected ESO to attend the meetings. Recognising that ESOs are fully dedicated to their organisations, we are ensuring the workshops are flexible and will not exceed 3 hours per session during the workweek. Detailed agendas will be shared in advance once the cohort is selected, allowing organisations to organise internally and plan for participation.