

COMPETITION FOR GREEN BUSINESSES AND INNOVATIVE IDEAS 2022

Note: The application deadline has been extended until May 18, 2022.

Executive overview

Green and Innovative Ideas is a competition that aims to develop innovation for green business ideas locally and support the role of businesses in engaging local communities to generate business ideas based on local resource utilization, reviving production traditions and local markets.

Balkan Green Ideas is implemented in the six countries of the Western Balkans, as well as in Greece. A total of 21 competing ideas will participate in the regional competition, 3 for each country.

This competition provides planned financial support and mentoring for selected ideas and businesses that provide innovative solutions and contribute to the achievement of the seven Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Western Balkans and Greece:

- SDG 2 - Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture
- SDG 7 - Clean Energy
- SDG 8 - Decent Work and Economic Growth
- SDG 11 - Sustainable Cities
- SDG 12 - Sustainable Consumption and Production (circular economy)
- SDG 13 - Climate Change
- SDG 15 - Life on Land

The Green Business Competition is based on the principles of environmental responsibility, ethical behavior, diversity, inclusion, and empowerment, autonomy to promote the well-being of local communities, empowering entrepreneurship, and enabling people to fulfill their potential.

Purpose

The goal of the Green Businesses competition is to support business initiatives aimed at social inclusion through integration and employment, and local economic development through environmentally friendly ideas.

Financial support

Any applicant submitted under this Call must apply in one of the following LOTs:

LOT 1: Business Ideas at Conceptual Stage – This lot refers to business proposals that are in a conceptual/ embryonic phase. The fund will support business proposals for a period no longer than one year.

LOT 2: Businesses in the Pre-Seed Stage

This lot refers to business proposals that are already in the market, in the early stages of development, but existing no more than 3 years. The fund will support business proposals for a period no longer than one year.

Who can apply?

The competition is open to:

- Individuals. In case the business proposal is selected for funding it would be required to register that as a legal entity before the funding agreement is signed and funds are released. The legal form chosen is up to the individual and it should be foreseen in the business proposals. **Individuals are not eligible to apply in LOT 2.**
- Social Enterprises with a maximum positive balance of 10,000 EUR.
- Small business ventures with a maximum annual profit of 10,000 EUR.
- Non-profit organizations with a maximum positive balance of 10,000 EUR, referring to NGOs that have economic activities (sell products or offer services), with an annual profit not higher than 10,000 EUR without calculating donations or other funds.

Application criteria LOT 1

- The idea is still in the early stages of development and is not existing for more than 3 years. (This strictly refers to the idea or the project, not the company/NGO itself)
- The products or services are not yet present in the market;
- The idea relies primarily upon local resources, including employing local people and utilizing traditional skills;
- The idea has a vision or action plan for environmental sustainability;
- The idea has a plan for economic viability and/or incremental growth;
- The idea has an innovative approach and valuable social impact;
- The idea has assessed the local market and is aware of its competitors and comparative advantages;
- The idea is innovative and unique compared to other businesses and initiatives in the community;
- The idea is having a focus or contributing to one of the listed SDGs 2, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, and 15.

Application criteria for LOT 2

- The business is still in the early stages of development, existing for no more than three years;

- The business relies primarily upon local resources, including employing local people and utilizing traditional skills;
- The business has a vision or action plan for environmental sustainability;
- The business has a plan for economic viability and/or incremental growth;
- The business has an innovative approach and valuable social impact;
- The business has assessed the local market and is aware of its competitors and comparative advantages;
- The business is innovative and unique compared to other businesses and initiatives in the community;
- The business is having a focus or contributes to one of the listed SDGs 2, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, and 15.

The required documents

1. Application form;
2. Financial Budget;
3. Business Model Canvas;
4. A document certifying the legal status of the applicant entity (this does not apply to individuals);
5. Financial statements of the last year (this does not apply to individuals).

Selection process

The evaluation process will be carried out in two stages:

- *The first phase* will include the selection of proposals that meet the basic application criteria, together with the relevant documentation.
- *The second phase* will involve organizing an open competition of candidates who have passed the first phase.
- The selected ideas from the national competition in Kosovo will compete for the regional fund.
- In the BGI 2022 regional competition, contestants selected for LOT 1 will compete to win a fund of \$ 5,000. For LOT 2, they will compete to win a fund of \$ 10,000.
- The available fund for the regional competition is worth \$ 40,000. Three prizes worth \$ 10,000 will be awarded for three ideas from LOT 2. Two prizes worth \$ 5,000 will be awarded for two ideas for LOT 1.
- The selected ideas from the competition in Kosovo will compete for the mentioned funds together with the other winners from the countries of the region.
- Three proposals from Kosovo will be selected and who will be able to compete in the regional contest.
- The selection of competitors from Kosovo will be done by LENS.

For interested applicants, an online workshop will be organized to learn more about the completion and the application process. If you are interested, please send us an expression of



interest to participate in the "Green Workshop", writing to us at the e-mail address: **application@ngolens.org**, before the date, **Maj 11, 2022**.

Applications must be submitted electronically, entitled "**Green Business Competition and Innovative Ideas 2022**", to the e-mail:

application@ngolens.org

The deadline for submitting applications is May 18, 2022!