



Startups Optimizing Urban Life with Future Internet

# **SOUL-FI accelerator programme Regulations**

SOUL-FI, Project Nr. 632814

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>1. REGULATIONS .....</b>	<b>3</b>
1.1. ARTICLE 1. AIM.....	3
1.2. ARTICLE 2. DEFINITIONS .....	3
1.3. ARTICLE 3. APPLICABILITY OF SUBSIDY REGULATIONS .....	4
1.4. ARTICLE 4. GRANT.....	4
1.5. ARTICLE 5. APPLICATION PROCEDURE .....	5
1.6. ARTICLE 6. GROUNDS FOR REFUSAL.....	5
1.7. ARTICLE 7. CONTENT OF APPLICATION .....	6
1.8. ARTICLE 8: EVALUATORS AND ADVISORY BOARD .....	6
1.9. ARTICLE 9. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA.....	6
1.9.1. <i>Criteria</i> .....	6
1.9.2. <i>Threshold</i> .....	7
1.9.3. <i>Master decision</i> .....	7
1.10. ARTICLE 10. AWARDING OF THE GRANT .....	7
1.11. ARTICLE 11. OBLIGATIONS OF RECIPIENT OF GRANT .....	7
1.12. ARTICLE 12. REPORTING ON GRANTS IN ROUND A – IGNITION AND BUSINESS PLAN .....	7
1.13. ARTICLE 13. REPORTING ON GRANTS IN ROUND B .....	8
1.14. ARTICLE 14. OBJECTION .....	8
1.15. ARTICLE 15. PROTECTION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION .....	8
1.16. ARTICLE 16. OFFICIAL TITLE.....	8
1.17. ARTICLE 17. FINAL PROVISION .....	8

## 1. REGULATIONS

The Start-ups Optimizing Urban Life with Future Internet (SOUL-FI) consortium covers applications for, assessment, honouring and approval of subsidies from the SOUL-FI accelerator programme. These regulations have been drawn up to provide guidance for the SOUL-FI accelerator programme that is funded by the European Commission under FP7.

### 1.1. Article 1. Aim

**SOUL-FI is seeking to attract innovative ideas build upon the FWARE technology** (i.e. FIWARE generic enablers, specific enablers and/or domain specific platforms) - the innovative, open cloud-based infrastructure for cost-effective creation and delivery of Future Internet applications and services and to provide start-up funding for the most promising ones.

**SOUL-FI's aim is to enhance the development of FIWARE to support smart cities and communities** in the areas of energy, mobility, environment, resources, tourism, and quality of life.

### 1.2. Article 2. Definitions

The following definitions apply in these Regulation:

#### Advisory Board

A committee appointed by the consortium assigned with the task to provide advice on strategic issues.

#### Enterprise

The EU issued new definition on enterprises. The EU recognizes 'any entity engaged in an economic activity, irrespective of its legal form' as an enterprise. Thus, the self-employed, family firms, partnerships and associations regularly engaged in an economic activity may be considered as enterprises.

#### F6S

A free on-line network where founders get deals, list & recruit start-up jobs, apply for funding (Accelerators, Funds, Angels) & Investors find great start-ups.

#### FIWARE

FIWARE is an innovative, open cloud-based infrastructure for cost-effective creation and delivery of Future Internet applications and services, at a scale not seen before. FIWARE API specifications are public and royalty-free, driven by the development of an open source reference implementation which accelerates the availability of commercial products and services based on FIWARE technologies.

#### FP7

Seventh framework programme of the European Community for research and technological development including demonstration activities.

### Smart City

A developed urban area that creates sustainable economic development and high quality of life by excelling in multiple key areas; economy, mobility, environment, people, living, and government. Excelling in these key areas can be done so through strong human capital, social capital, and/or ICT infrastructure.

### SME

SME stands for Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises – as defined in EU law: (EC recommendation 2003/361/EC as published in the Official Journal of the European Union L 124, p. 36 of 20 May 2003)<sup>1</sup>. Staff headcount, balance sheet and annual turnover are used to determine if an enterprise is medium-sized, small or micro.

Enterprise category	Headcount: Annual Work unit	Annual turnover	Annual balance sheet total
<b>Medium-sized</b>	< 250	≤ €50 million	≤ €43 million
<b>Small</b>	< 50	≤ €10 million	≤ €10 million
<b>Micro</b>	< 10	≤ €2 million	≤ €2 million

### SOUL-FI consortium

The partnership that developed the SOUL-FI accelerator programme, including:

1. Instituto Pedro Nunes, Associação para a Inovação e Desenvolvimento em Ciência e Tecnologia (IPN);
2. Fondazione per la Ricerca e l'Innovazione (FRI);
3. MyMicroInvest S.A. (MMI);
4. Agencia de Innovación y Financiación Empresarial de Castilla y León (ADE);
5. Technische Universiteit Delft (TUD);
6. TII Association Européenne pour le Transfert des Technologies ASBL (TII).

### **1.3. Article 3. Applicability of Subsidy Regulations**

1. The provisions in these regulations apply to applications for, assessment of, honouring of projects under the SOUL-FI accelerator programme.
2. A subsidy is always awarded on condition that sufficient financial resources are at the disposal of the SOUL-FI accelerator programme.
3. The awarding of a grant will be refused if the awarding of the subsidy means that the financial ceiling of the SOUL-FI accelerator programme is exceeded.

### **1.4. Article 4. Grant**

1. To be eligible for a grant from the SOUL-FI accelerator programme, the applicant must comply with the Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises requirements.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2003:124:0036:0041:en:PDF>

2. To be eligible for a grant from the SOUL-FI accelerator programme, comply with the use of FIWARE technology within the specific domain of SOUL-FI project.
3. A grant can only be awarded:
  - a. if the project complies with the aims of the programme;
  - b. if the average evaluation score of the project is 3,5 or above;
  - c. if the results are made public.
4. Grants are not awarded to:
  - a. projects that have already been awarded by a FIWARE Accelerator (the same project);
  - b. large established enterprises;
  - c. local or regional authorities;
  - d. entities that do not meet the definition of Micro, Small or Medium-sized Enterprises<sup>2</sup>;
  - e. enterprises that are not registered under the laws of an European Union country<sup>3</sup>;
  - f. enterprises that do not fully comply with EU tax and social security obligations<sup>4</sup>.

### **1.5. Article 5. Application procedure**

1. The SOUL-FI accelerator programme comprises two Rounds:
  - a. “Round A - Ignition and Business Plan”;
  - b. “Round B – Service/Application Development”.
2. Calls for these rounds are announced at the F6S web-site.
3. Applicants are required to follow the instructions on F6S and the included guidelines.

### **1.6. Article 6. Grounds for refusal**

1. An application will not be considered if the implementation of the intended activities – according to the application – does not commence within three months after the decision of the SOUL-FI consortium.
2. Applications must be written in the English language.
3. Application must comply with call domain and the use of FIWARE technology.
4. The SOUL-FI consortium can decide to refuse an application without further study or advice if the same applicant has failed to submit the required reports to the satisfaction of the SOUL-FI consortium concerning an earlier project for which the SOUL-FI accelerator programme has provided a subsidy.

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<sup>2</sup> Entrepreneurs may apply to SOUL-FI call, but for the purpose of Grant Agreement signature they are required to be established as a Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise.

<sup>3</sup> Entrepreneurs may apply to SOUL-FI call, but for the purpose of Grant Agreement signature they are required to be established as a Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise.

<sup>4</sup> Entrepreneurs may apply to SOUL-FI call, but for the purpose of Grant Agreement signature they are required to be established as a Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprise.

## **1.7. Article 7. Content of application**

The application must be signed by a lawful representative of the applicant and contain at least the information that is requested in the on-line application at the F6S platform.

## **1.8. Article 8: Evaluators and advisory board**

1. The SOUL-FI consortium uses external evaluators to evaluate the applications it receives. These evaluators use the criteria mentioned in Article 9.
2. An advisory board is instated by the SOUL-FI consortium to provide advice on the operational aspects of the SOUL-FI accelerator programme.

## **1.9. Article 9. Assessment criteria**

### **1.9.1. Criteria**

A grant will only be awarded if the project is sufficiently evaluated based on the following criteria:

#### Idea

Clarity and pertinence of the objectives.

How do the proposed solutions answer to the smart city challenge or is an innovative product, and what technologies are involved?

How relevant is the problem or user needs that the project is addressing?

#### Use of FIWARE technology:

Has the proposed technology/ product/ service innovation potential?

How it is beyond the state of the art?

How it takes advantage and uses the FIWARE technology?

#### Market & Business

Credibility of the proposed approach.

How attractive is the market and it's fit with the present proposal?

How is the quality of the business model and the potential to generate new revenues?

#### Team

Quality and relevant experience of the individual participants.

Strength, complementarity and commitment of the Team.

Capacity to develop the product and put it in the market.

#### Work-plan

Coherence and effectiveness of the draft work plan.

Presented capacity and resources to implement the work plan.

Credibility of the plan to develop and place the product/ service in the market

### **1.9.2. Threshold**

The threshold for individual criteria is 3, except for one only of the individual criteria is 2. The overall threshold, applying to the sum of individual scores, is 17,5 or average of 3,5.

### **1.9.3. Master decision**

When required (divergence of evaluations or doubts about the application), the proposals are sent to a third evaluator or an interview/ speed meeting (up to 20min, personal or over Skype) with an evaluation board is defined by SOUL-FI. The Evaluation criteria are kept the same.

## **1.10. Article 10. Awarding of the grant**

1. Decisions with respect to applications are taken within four weeks.
2. The applicant may derive no rights from the awarding of a grant in Round A with respect to the honouring of a following application for funding in Round B.
3. The grants and its terms are different for the two Open Calls:
  - a. Round A grant: Lump sum of €10.000
  - b. Round B grant: co-funding of 75% of project budget, with a maximum of a €75.000 for incentive (example [1]: €50.000 budget x 75% = €37.500 of incentive; example [2]: €120.000 budget = €75.000 of incentive [max]).

## **1.11. Article 11. Obligations of recipient of grant**

1. The applicant must mention the European Union, FIWARE, and the SOUL-FI accelerator programme as the subsidising frameworks in all public statements. The logo of the EU, FIWARE, and SOUL-FI must be included in publications and reports, on invitations, announcements, websites and audio-visual productions. In the event that an applicant includes the logos of commercial sponsors, the logo of the EU, FIWARE, and SOUL-FI must also be included.
2. The recipient guarantees the SOUL-FI accelerator programme that the project will be carried out in an efficient and financially responsible manner. In that context the recipient implements good policy and sound management, uses the grant in an efficient manner for the purpose for which it was awarded, and complies with all obligations that the SOUL-FI accelerator programme attaches to the awarding of the grant.
3. The grant recipient must immediately inform the SOUL-FI accelerator programme of facts and circumstances that could be of importance for the awarding of the grant. In informing the SOUL-FI accelerator programme, the recipient must submit the documents that relate to the facts and circumstances, and explain the cause of the facts and circumstances.

## **1.12. Article 12. Reporting on grants in Round A – Ignition and Business Plan**

Applicants will submit a final report using a form that is provided by the SOUL-FI consortium.

### **1.13. Article 13. Reporting on grants in Round B**

Applicants will submit a midterm and a final report using a form that is provided by the SOUL-FI consortium.

### **1.14. Article 14. Objection**

An interested party can lodge an objection by submitting a notice of objection to the SOUL-FI consortium. The period of time for submitting an objection is two weeks. The period starts on the day after the decision is announced.

### **1.15. Article 15. Protection of personal information**

The SOUL-FI consortium will not provide confidential information about the application to third parties. Such information concerns company or production details supplied confidentially to the SOUL-FI consortium, unless the provision of such information clearly does not constitute an infringement of privacy.

### **1.16. Article 16. Official title**

This Programme will be referred to as the Start-ups Optimizing Urban Life with Future Internet (SOUL-FI) accelerator programme, or in short the SOUL-FI accelerator programme.

### **1.17. Article 17. Final provision**

In cases not covered by the law, the statutes, or these regulations, the SOUL-FI consortium will make a final ruling.