



Startups Optimizing Urban Life with Future Internet

Applicants Instructions

SOUL-FI, Project Nr. 632814



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1. APPLICANTS INSTRUCTIONS

1.1. Overview

Startups Optimizing Urban Life with Future Internet (SOUL-FI) - a FIWARE Accelerator - is a technology accelerator project funded by the European Commission under FP7. It is seeking to attract innovative ideas that use FIWARE technology, 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.

The objective is to develop applications and services in the area of smart cities and communities (in the areas of energy, mobility, environment, resources, tourism and quality of life) build upon the FIWARE technology, i.e. FIWARE generic enablers, specific enablers and/or domain specific platforms".

We are seeking to promote the development of products and/or services that take advantage of real time information, open data and crowd-sourced data.

SOUL-FI is open for ideas that make the best of what the Internet of Things has to offer.

1.2. Open Calls

SOUL-FI Acceleration program has €5 Million for Grant Awards. The grants will be divided in two Open Calls:

- **Round A** - Ignition and Business Plan - this round corresponds to the development of a Business Plan for an innovative and business potential idea applying FI.
 - Duration: 3 months
 - Fund values: €10.000
 - Open Call date: 02 September 2014
 - Evaluation deadlines: 31.10.2014; 31.03.2015
 - Nr. of award SME: 100
- **Round B** - Service/Application Development - by service/application it is intended, for the first a process, which runs in background and the second a program with which the user interacts. The level of maturity expected for this service/application at the end of round B is a "pilot product version 1". This means a product, business oriented, but with a number of installations smaller than expected in next versions that will integrate improvements and feedback from the users.
 - Duration: 6 months
 - Fund values: up to €75.000 (75% of €100.000)
 - Open Call date: 02 September 2014
 - Evaluation deadlines: 30.04.2015; 31.08.2015
 - Nr. of award SME: 50

Applicants are invited to submit their proposals after the calls publication and until the initiative budget is consumed, considering the evaluation dates announced in the calls. Both call publication and notice of closure will be announced in F6S (f6s.com) and SOUL-FI (soul-fi.ipn.pt) websites.

All information regarding proposals content and supporting documents will be provided in the Application Guidelines, made available with each Call.

All proposal documents shall be submitted in the F6S website.

The evaluation/ selection process are presented at Call Regulation document.

1.3. Eligible requirements

Applicant's eligible criteria:

- Applicants must meet the Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises requirements (as referred to in the regulations of the call);
- The enterprise must be an **European legal entity** (private law company, association or foundation) registered under the laws of an European Union country that fully compliant with EU tax and social security obligations (documents must be provided for grant agreement);
- **Use of the FIWARE technology.**
- When acting in collaboration with other national or foreign entities or persons, the applicant is the sole contractor and will be fully responsible for managing the grant;
- For Grant Agreement, the entity cannot be awarded by other FIWARE Acceleration program for the same project.

Proposals must address the following topics:

- Develop locally, but also to the European space and beyond;
- Address the thematic of smart cities;
- Ensure interoperability and sustainability in terms of FIWARE platform:
 - Generic services that can be automated and optimized through the use of ICT
 - Services/application that are supported on the FIWARE platform;
- Contribute to the eco-system by the use of crowd-sourced data (not mandatory);
- Make use of opportunities from open data (not mandatory);
- **Round A:** Applicants are required to present their idea, business potential and fit with the call (specific Applicant Formulary is available at F6S);
- **Round B:** Applicants are required to answer questions associated to the market potential, business model, product & technology feasibility, project costs & milestones (specific Applicant Formulary is available at F6S).

1.4. SOUL-FI Acceleration Programme

The acceleration activities will include a wide range of services aimed to support the developers in the various stages of their approved projects. A premise is however necessary, i.e., the acceleration activities will be strongly customized in relation to the developers' typology and requests so, what follows is a proposal/possibility, that could be drastically changed for the aforementioned reasons and most of all for the benefit of the project aims.

Hereinafter a synthetic list of the services:

- **Tutoring.** A tutor will be assigned to each project in order to monitor and support the applicants team in solving possible problems; when necessary, redirecting them to other SOUL-FI (or not) stakeholders, programs, resources ...
- **Mentoring/coaching (Round B).** The mentors will support the assigned project team in a deeper way than tutors, by means of frequent contacts and support in technical, business and administrative issues related to the project development. Where the mentor will be unable to reply to a specific request, he'll support the team to get into contact with other mentors with different expertise. Mentors are assigned based on a wide pool of mentors within the consortium covering the majority of European countries.

- **Matchmaking & Networking.** A specific set of activities will be put into motion in order to promote and foster contacts between the developers and any possible kind of stakeholders that could help them achieve their goals, technical or others.
 - The developers will be supported in establishing contacts with public entities that could help them to empower the products by means of open data, facilities or access to cities.
 - In case of necessity the projects team will be put into contact with R&D entities, among which Universities that could help the developers in the solution of technical issues.
 - The developers will be frequently alerted and invited to events that match to their specific needs (national & international courses, programs & contests)
 - The team projects will be put into contact with clusters of innovation belonging to different countries, in order to support them in finding ideas enhancers, possible partnership, markets and clients.
 - A great deal of attention will be put in the networking activities related to fund raising, i.e. venture capitals, business angels and private funds meeting.
- When necessary, the developers will be provided with physical spaces for working out the business planning and market up-take phases or any other type of activities.

1.5. About SOUL-FI

SOUL-FI project has started in May 2014 and will have a total duration of 24 months. In September 2014 two open-calls, with 3 evaluation periods each, will be launched. The project is expected to award 100 promising innovative ideas and 50 applications/services (TRL 5) using FIWARE enabler, corresponding to a total investment of 5.04 Million Euros to SMEs. The granted SMEs will be supported in the next fundraising efforts with the help of the SOUL-FI ecosystem of stakeholders.

SOUL-FI is a project supported by the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Union under FP7-2013-ICT-FI. The SOUL-FI Consortium is led by Instituto Pedro Nunes (Portugal) and integrates Fondazione per la Ricerca e l'Innovazione (Italy), MyMicroInvest S.A. (Belgium), Agencia de Innovación y Financiación Empresarial de Castilla y León (Spain), Delft University of Technology (Netherlands) and TII - European Association for the Transfer of Technology, Innovation and Industrial Information (Luxembourg).