



Impact Clusters 2025 | Subsidy conditions

Main changes compared to previous rounds

This document lists the main changes to the Impact Clusters subsidy conditions for the 2025 round, compared to previous subsidy rounds.

Please note that the changes below are not complete. We advise you to carefully read the official publication in the Government Gazette for the full legal framework. We will publish all rules and regulations on the [Impact Clusters webpage](#), together with the updated application forms and required documents.

We cannot process subsidy applications submitted via outdated forms.

Consortium

- A minimum of 3 companies is now required, instead of 5 partners.
- Companies that belong to the same group or fiscal entity count as one.
- All partners must have at least 1 year of experience (a track record) in the relevant sector.
- The lead partner must have at least 3 employees and an average annual turnover of €100,000 over the past 3 years.
- All partners must provide sufficient financial information to demonstrate their ability to co-finance their share in the project.
- Each partner must demonstrate that they bring relevant expertise or technology that add value to the local sector.
- All partners must have a long-term strategic interest in the target country and sector. Consultancies or intermediaries without this long-term strategic or societal interest cannot be the lead applicant or a project partner. However, the cluster may hire these parties for project management or coordination services. The cluster may include these costs as 3rd-party costs.

Sector priorities per country

- The list of priority sectors per country has changed and is available on the [Impact Clusters webpage](#).

Budget

- Projects must request a minimum subsidy of €150,000, with a maximum of €620,000 and a subsidy rate up to 60% of eligible project costs. There is no longer a distinction between fragile and non-fragile states.
- The subsidy share can be distributed flexibly across project partners (no fixed percentages).
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) rates now replace the previous United Nations DSA rates. Accommodation costs will no longer be reimbursed via

a lump sum. Instead, actual lodging costs incurred will be used as the basis, combined with the number of days spent abroad multiplied by the 'other costs' tariff component.

Documents and annexes

- The previous annexes 'Partner forms' and 'Cooperation agreement' are replaced by 1 new standard form 'Annex VI Cooperation Agreement (signed by all partners)'.
An extended cooperation agreement may be developed in the inception phase of the project.
- Including the Theory of Change (ToC) in the quick scan is now optional. A completed ToC is only required when submitting the full subsidy proposal (Project plan). On the [Impact Clusters webpage](#), you find 3 practical examples of completed ToCs.
- There is now a stronger emphasis on the business case for the project partners, the project itself and the target group.
- There is more focus on how new knowledge and/or technology will help strengthen the local private sector's earning capacity.