



IOM TÜRKİYE

PROVISION OF JOBS AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC INCLUSION TO SUPPORT TRANSITION TO FORMAL EMPLOYMENT IN TÜRKİYE

BACKGROUND

The Provision of Jobs and Socio-Economic Inclusion to Support Transition to Formal Employment in Türkiye project empowers Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) by strengthening their capacity, and creating sustainable formal jobs. By addressing the challenges faced by businesses and vulnerable populations, the project provides targeted financial grants to drive economic growth, promote formal employment, and improve livelihoods.

A cornerstone of the project's mission is its commitment to sustainability and inclusivity. It prioritizes initiatives that engage marginalized groups such as refugees, women, and youth while advancing environmental sustainability. By fostering equitable economic opportunities and encouraging sustainable business practices, the project helps build resilient communities and supports long-term economic development.

APPLY ONLINE:

To apply for the follow the link or scan the QR code provided below

The application deadline is set for **31 August 2026**

Web Page: <http://turkiye.edf.iom.int/>

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

This grant application is aimed at SMEs meeting the following criteria:

- The applicant enterprise must have a workforce ranging from **10 to 50 employees**.
- The enterprise must be **officially registered and actively operating** in **Adana, Adıyaman, Ankara, Bursa, Gaziantep, Hatay, İstanbul, İzmir, Kahramanmaraş, Kayseri, Kilis, Konya, Malatya, Şanlıurfa and Mersin**.
- Applicants must commit to officially registering **minimum two (2) new employees**. At least one of these employees must be a Syrian under temporary protection or under international protection, while the other must be a Turkish national.
- Applications must be submitted directly by the enterprise. Submissions made through third parties will not be considered.

Important: Applications that do not meet these criteria will be automatically rejected by the system.

FOR A QUICK SUMMARY OF FORMAL EMPLOYMENT REGISTRATION PROCEDURES, CHECK OUT THIS GUIDE IN ENGLISH AND TURKISH.



APPLICATION DETAILS

BACKGROUND

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is pleased to announce the Provision of Jobs and Socio-Economic Inclusion to Support Transition to Formal Employment in Türkiye project, an initiative designed to empower Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) by strengthening their capacity, and creating sustainable formal jobs. Through this project, IOM provides targeted financial grants to drive economic growth, promote formal employment, and improve livelihoods, ultimately contributing to local economic development and community resilience.

A cornerstone of the project's mission is its commitment to sustainability and inclusivity. It prioritizes initiatives that engage marginalized groups—such as refugees, women, and youth—while advancing environmental sustainability. By fostering equitable economic opportunities and encouraging sustainable business practices, the project helps build resilient communities and supports long-term economic development.

Grants provided through the project will support businesses in enhancing their operations, creating sustainable formal jobs, and offering workers greater security and stability. By promoting formal employment, the project ensures compliance with national regulations while delivering key benefits such as access to social security, stronger labor protections, and greater financial resilience. Additionally, the Provision of Jobs and Socio-Economic Inclusion to Support Transition to Formal Employment in Türkiye project highlights the importance of environmentally sustainable practices and inclusive business models.

To support a transparent and efficient application process, IOM will provide guidance to applicants and may request additional documentation to clarify eligibility. Applicants must complete all required forms and meet eligibility criteria to be considered for funding. Incomplete or non-compliant applications will not qualify.

This project represents a significant opportunity for SMEs to enhance their capacity, contribute to the creation of new formal jobs, and support sustainable economic growth in Türkiye. IOM is committed to supporting businesses in this journey and looks forward to partnering with enterprises dedicated to creating positive change in their communities.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

We are pleased to announce an open call for grant applications, specifically aimed at Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) that fulfill the following eligibility criteria:

- The applicant enterprise must have a workforce ranging from 10 to 50 employees.
- The enterprise must be officially registered and actively operating in Adana, Adıyaman, Ankara, Bursa, Gaziantep, Hatay, İstanbul, İzmir, Kahramanmaraş, Kayseri, Kilis, Konya, Malatya, Şanlıurfa and Mersin.
- Applicants must commit to officially registering minimum two (2) new employees. At least one of these employees must be a Syrian under temporary protection or under international protection, while the other must be a Turkish national.
- Applications must be submitted directly by the enterprise. Submissions made through third parties will not be considered.

Important: Applications that do not meet these criteria will be automatically rejected by the system.

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OTHER CRITERIA THAT WILL BE EFFECTIVE ON THE SELECTION OF APPLICANTS

Priority will be given to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) that incorporate one or more of the following criterias:

- Commitment to social impact, particularly through including diverse groups such as people with disabilities and women, or offering products/services benefiting SUTP and host communities.
- Special consideration will be given to enterprises that introduce innovative business models, particularly those addressing environmental challenges. This includes, but is not limited to, sustainable production methods, recycling initiatives, utilization of renewable energy, and efficient resource management.
- A readiness and verifiable evidence of initiatives to create employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities and women.
- A commitment and proof of efforts to provide safe and accessible facilities for both employees and customers, particularly focusing on individuals with disabilities and women.
- Businesses that commit to creating more than two new jobs will receive extra points in the evaluation process.
- Enterprises that have not previously or recently benefited from any other incentives will be given priority.
- Applicants must demonstrate a record of compliance with employment regulations, with no history of unregistered employment (without SSI registration or work permit).

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR APPLICATION:

When submitting your application, please ensure the following documents are included:

- Tax Certificate (Vergi Levhası)
- Turkish Trade Registry Gazette (Türkiye Ticaret Sicili Gazetesi kaydı)
- Chamber Registration Document (Oda Kayıt Belgesi veya Faaliyet Belgesi)
- List of Insured Employment Service (Sigortalı Hizmet Listesi)
- Corporate Tax Return or Annual Income Tax Return (Kurumlar Vergisi Beyannamesi veya Yıllık Gelir Vergisi Beyannamesi)

SUBMISSION OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

Interested SMEs must submit all the required documents listed above. If specific documents are unavailable, alternative documentation that provides similar information may be accepted at the discretion of the evaluation panel. The panel reserves the right to request additional information, documents, or clarification from any or all applicants as needed.

VERIFICATION PROCESS:

To ensure the accuracy of information in applications and business plans, IOM staff and government agency officials will conduct verification calls or site visits for all applicants. As part of this process, IOM will also engage with SMEs to discuss the specific business development support they will receive through the grant.

GRANT AMOUNT AND PAYMENT CONDITIONS

- The **maximum grant** available for each enterprise is \$10,000.
- Grant funds may be disbursed in installments following the completion and verification of agreed milestones. These milestones will be defined in the grant agreement and may include the implementation of activities and purchases approved in the business plan, submission of the required supporting documents, verification of the procured equipment or machinery, and the formal registration of at least two new employees in accordance with the project's employment requirements. Payments will be made only after IOM verifies that the applicable milestones have been satisfactorily achieved.

HOW TO APPLY?

- Before applying, carefully review the full Expression of Interest document to confirm that your enterprise aligns with the program's objectives and requirements.
- Visit the "Enterprise Development Fund Program" page on the IOM Türkiye EDF website (<http://turkiye.edf.iom.int>) for detailed information.
- Ensure you thoroughly review the application details and eligibility criteria. If your enterprise meets the requirements, proceed to select your enterprise's location.
- Complete the grant application form, providing all requested information, including a detailed description of your project and the total funding amount required.
- All applications must be submitted online no later than 31 August 2026.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the purpose of the Provision of Jobs and Socio-Economic Inclusion to Support Transition to Formal Employment in Türkiye project?

The Provision of Jobs and Socio-Economic Inclusion to Support Transition to Formal Employment in Türkiye project aims to support Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Türkiye by providing financial grants to enhance their capacity, formalize their workforce, and create sustainable jobs. Through this project, IOM seeks to empower businesses to adopt formal employment practices, improve compliance with labor standards, and integrate vulnerable groups—such as refugees, women, and youth—into the workforce. By fostering sustainable development, strengthening private sector capacity, and promoting inclusive economic opportunities, the project contributes to local economic growth, community resilience, and long-term employment stability. Applications will be accepted from eligible SMEs officially registered and actively operating in Adana, Adıyaman, Ankara, Bursa, Gaziantep, Hatay, İstanbul, İzmir, Kahramanmaraş, Kayseri, Kilis, Konya, Malatya, Mersin, and Şanlıurfa.

2. What is the maximum grant amount available per business?

The maximum grant amount available per business under the Project is 10,000 USD. This funding is designed to help businesses enhance their operations, create jobs, and contribute to local economic development. The specific amount awarded will depend on the business's needs and the impact of the project proposal. Businesses should clearly outline how they plan to use the grant to achieve meaningful and measurable results.

3. How can I determine if my business is eligible for support under the project?

To be eligible for support under the project, your business must meet the following criteria:

- Your Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) must have between 10 and 50 employees.
- Your enterprise must be officially registered and actively operating in Adana, Adıyaman, Ankara, Bursa, Gaziantep, Hatay, İstanbul, İzmir, Kahramanmaraş, Kayseri, Kilis, Konya, Malatya, Şanlıurfa and Mersin.
- You must commit to officially registering minimum two (2) new employees. At least one of these employees must be a Syrian under temporary protection or under international protection, while the other must be a Turkish national.

If your business meets these criteria, we encourage you to apply for this grant opportunity to support and grow your business.

Important: Applications that do not meet these criteria will be automatically rejected by the system.

4. How do I submit an application for financial support under the project?

To submit an application for financial support under the Project, you need to apply online through the official EDF website. Simply visit <http://turkiye.edf.iom.int> and follow the instructions provided on the site to complete and submit your application. **Make sure you have all the necessary documents ready before you start the application process.** The website is designed to guide you step-by-step, ensuring you provide the required information to be considered for funding.

5. Will my business be considered if it has less than ten employees or more than fifty?

No, your business will not be considered for the Project if it has fewer than 10 employees or more than fifty. The Project is specifically designed to support Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) that have **between 10 and 50 employees**. This employee range is one of the core eligibility criteria, as the program aims to support businesses that are large enough to contribute to economic development and job creation, but small enough to benefit significantly from the program's resources. If your business falls outside this range, it unfortunately won't qualify for the Project.

6. Is there a minimum period of operation for a business to qualify for Project support?

Yes, there is a minimum period of operation for a business to qualify for Project support. **Your business must have been actively operating for at least one year before applying for the project.** This requirement ensures that only established businesses with a proven track record of activity and stability are eligible for support. If your business has been operational for less than a year, it will not meet this criterion and won't qualify for Project funding.

7. If my business operates in more than one province, can I apply for the Project fund for each location?

No, **if your business operates in more than one province, you can only apply for Project funding once, not for each individual location.**

The Project considers the business as a single entity, regardless of how many provinces it operates in. Therefore, you are limited to submitting one application for your business, even if it has multiple branches or operations in different provinces.

8. Is the project open to businesses across all industries, or does it prioritize specific sectors?

Yes, while the project is open to businesses across all industries, priority is given to sectors that demonstrate strong potential for production and formal job creation. The project aims to support enterprises that can significantly contribute to local economic growth by generating employment opportunities, enhancing productivity, and adopting formal employment practices. Creating new formal employment is a key focus of the project, as it ensures compliance with labor standards, provides workers with access to social protections, and strengthens overall business resilience.

9. How many employees do I need to hire if my application is successful?

If your application is approved, you must commit to officially registering at least two (2) new employees as a condition of receiving support under the Project. At least one of these employees must be a Syrian under temporary protection or under international protection, while the other must be a Turkish national. Businesses that commit to creating more than two new jobs will receive extra points in the evaluation process. This requirement supports the Project's objectives of fostering economic growth, promoting inclusivity, and ensuring compliance with the program's eligibility criteria.

10. Can newly established businesses (less than one year) apply to the Project?

No, newly established businesses that have been operating for less than one year are not eligible to apply for the Project. To qualify for support, your business must have been actively operating for at least one year. This ensures that the program supports businesses with an established presence and a proven track record of stability and activity. If your business is less than one year old, you will need to wait until it meets this criterion before applying.

11. What documents are required to apply to the Project?

To apply to the Project, you will need to provide the following documents, which **must be official and up-to-date**. Please ensure that all documents are current and valid, as outdated documents may not be accepted.

- I. **Tax Certificate (Vergi Levhası):** A valid tax certificate issued by the relevant tax authority, confirming your business's tax registration and compliance with tax laws.
- II. **Turkish Trade Registry Gazette (Türkiye Ticaret Sicili Gazetesi kaydı):** A copy of the Trade Registry Gazette publication that announces your company's establishment, merger, or any other significant changes.
- III. **Chamber Registration Document (Oda Kayıt Belgesi veya Faaliyet Belgesi):** A document issued by the relevant Chamber of Commerce or Industry, confirming your business's registration and membership.
- IV. **List of Insured Employment Service (Sigortalı Hizmet Listesi):** A document that lists all your employees who are registered with the Social Security Institution (SGK) and confirms their employment status.
- V. **Corporate Tax Return or Annual Income Tax Return (Kurumlar Vergisi Beyannamesi veya Yıllık Gelir Vergisi Beyannamesi):** Your business's most recent corporate tax return or annual income tax return, which provides an overview of your company's financial performance.

All documents must be official documents. Documents from E-Devlet with the QR Code will be accepted. Please ensure that all documents are properly signed, stamped, certified or have QR Code and that they meet the requirements of the project.

Applications that fail to include the required documents will be automatically deemed invalid by the system.

12. What factors are considered in the evaluation of applications?

The evaluation of applications for the project takes into account several key factors, including:

- **Relevance of the grant amount and business plan** to your proposed business expansion activities. The requested funding should align with realistic and impactful business goals.
- **Accurate reporting of current employee numbers is essential.** Priority is given to businesses **committed to employing individuals**, such as Syrian migrants under temporary or international protection, or Turkish nationals.
- **Potential for formal job creation** as a result of the proposed business expansion. The more jobs your business can create, the stronger your application.
- **Average monthly profit and sustainability of the business**, demonstrating that your enterprise is financially stable and has a viable future.

- **Commitment to innovation, sustainable solutions, and social impact** within your industry or community, which reflects your business's potential to contribute positively to broader social and environmental goals.
- **Compliance with employment regulations**, ensuring no history of unregistered employment (e.g., without SSI registration or work permit).
- **Priority for enterprises that have not previously benefited from similar incentives**, ensuring fair access to funding opportunities.

These factors help assess the business's readiness for growth and its ability to achieve the project's objectives.

13. How old can the documents be when submitted during the application process?

All documents submitted during the application process must be up to date. **Submitting outdated documents may result in the rejection** of your application, requiring you to provide updated versions.. Ensuring that your documents are current and valid is important to avoid any delays or rejections during the application review process. Please double-check the dates on all documents before submitting them to make sure they comply with this requirement.

14. What kind of employees can I hire if I receive project funding?

If you receive project funding, you have the flexibility to hire a diverse range of employees to support the growth and development of your business. Eligible employees can include:

- **Non-skilled workers:** Employees who may not have prior experience or formal training in a specific trade or profession, but are eager to learn and develop their skills.
- **Skilled workers:** Employees who possess specialized skills, training, or certifications in a particular field or industry.
- **Blue-collar workers:** Employees who work in manual labor jobs, such as manufacturing, construction, or maintenance.
- **White-collar workers:** Employees who work in administrative, managerial, or professional roles, such as office workers, managers, or professionals.

The key requirement is that the employees you hire must be stable and open to development in their sector. This means that they should be committed to learning and growing with your business, and willing to adapt to new challenges and opportunities. By hiring employees who are eager to learn and develop, you can create a strong and dynamic team that drives the success of your business.

15. Will my application be affected if my business operates seasonally?

No, your application will not be affected if your business operates seasonally. The IOM does not consider the seasonal or annual activities of your business when evaluating your application. As long as your business meets the eligibility criteria, including employing or registering at least 2 personnel registered with the SGK for at least 1 year and maintaining its business registration and activity certificate, your application will be considered. Additionally, if your business operates under a single name but has multiple locations, IOM will not consider separate applications for each location.

16. Can I use the grant to pay employee salaries, SGK payments, or taxes?

No, **you cannot use the grant to pay for employee salaries, SGK (Social Security) payments, or taxes.** The project grant is designed to support business development activities, such as purchasing equipment, expanding operations, or enhancing production capacity. These funds are meant to be used for investments that promote the growth and sustainability of your business, not for covering operational costs like wages, social security contributions, or tax obligations. These expenses must be covered by your business's own financial resources.

17. Does the bank account need to be registered in the name of the company to receive the grant?

Yes, the bank account must be registered in the name of the company to receive the grant. According to the Fund's policies, IOM will not consider personal account details. To be eligible to receive the grant, you must provide a bank account that is registered in the name of your business.

Important note for sole entrepreneurs: If you are a sole entrepreneur and provide a personal account, you will need to provide an official and stamped document from the bank to confirm the account details. Please ensure that the account is registered in the name of your business to avoid any issues with receiving the grant.