

Call for MSME and STARTUP GRANTS

(for migrant - led MSMEs contributing to a green transition)

-under the project **“Supporting Migrants’ Inclusion in Türkiye’s Transition to a Green Economy”**

Deadline: 03.07.2026

INTRODUCTION

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the International Organization on Migration (IOM) invite Micro, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) and startups to participate in the “Supporting Migrants’ Inclusion in Türkiye’s Transition to a Green Economy” Programme, funded by the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (M-MPTF). The programme aims to support MSMEs, and startups owned by or employing migrants, women and youth through sustainability trainings, mentorship and financial grants to advance green business models and adopt environmentally sustainable production practices. Through collaboration with donors and local stakeholders, the Joint Programme supports Türkiye’s commitment to a green and circular economy, including its goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2053, while promoting inclusive economic growth and strengthening social resilience.

The initiative contributes to Türkiye’s transition towards a green and circular economy and supports the country’s carbon neutrality target for 2053. By strengthening sustainable business practices and fostering inclusive economic growth, the programme seeks to enhance private sector resilience and create equitable economic opportunities for vulnerable groups, including migrants under Temporary Protection (TP) or International Protection (IP), refugees, women and youth. Participating in MSMEs and startups will receive capacity-building support on sustainability, circular economy and climate action, as well as tailored mentorship to facilitate the adoption of resource-efficient and low-carbon business practices. Priority will be given to enterprises and innovative solutions demonstrating clear climate change mitigation or adaptation benefits and strong potential for environmental, social and economic impact. By aligning with international sustainability standards and green transition principles, the programme will also support MSMEs and startups in strengthening their competitiveness and improving access to regional and European markets.

Call for MSME and STARTUP GRANTS -ABOUT THE PROJECT

UNIDO and IOM are launching a new initiative to support the green transition of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and startups in Türkiye, with a particular focus on businesses owned by or employing migrants, women and youth. The programme aims to strengthen sustainable business practices through capacity-building trainings, tailored mentorship and financial grants, enabling enterprises to adopt resource-efficient, low-carbon and environmentally sustainable production models. By promoting climate resilience, circular economy principles and inclusive economic growth, the initiative contributes to Türkiye's transition towards a green economy and its 2053 carbon neutrality target. Priority will be given to enterprises and innovative solutions demonstrating clear climate change mitigation or adaptation benefits, while support for alignment with international sustainability standards will enhance competitiveness and facilitate access to regional and European markets.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Businesses that meet the minimum eligibility criteria below can apply for the grant; failure to meet any of the below criteria will result in the rejection of the application.

- **Business Size:** Must be a micro, small, or medium-sized enterprise (MSME) or startup with a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 249 employees, as per Turkish MSME standards (micro: <10 employees; small: 10-49; medium: 50-249)
- **Legal Registration:** Must be registered in and have been operating in the following provinces for at least the past 12 months.
- **Gaziantep, Adana, Mersin, Şanlıurfa, Kilis and Kahramanmaraş** (applications are only open to these provinces. Applications submitted from other provinces will not be considered for this call).
- **Ownership Status:** Must be owned or co-owned by a Migrant or Turkish citizen. To ensure alignment with the programme's inclusive objectives, Turkish-owned businesses must employ at least one migrant/refugee under Temporary or International Protection for the past 6 (six) months.
- **Green Business Commitment:** The MSME and/or startup must demonstrate a commitment to implementing sustainable production practices in its business plan. This commitment can be demonstrated through prior initiatives, participation in environmental programs, certifications, or documented plans for adopting green technologies or practices. Applicants may also provide success stories, photos, or reports from similar past initiatives.
- **Eligible Actions:** MSMEs and startups must demonstrate how the grants will be used in their business plans. Actions can include but are not limited to measures that reduce the consumption of water, electricity and raw materials, measures for energy

efficiency and renewable energy, measures for reducing the greenhouse gas emissions of MSMEs and startups and similar. These efforts can be realized through equipment, certification, consultancy, digital tools, etc.

- Sector Relevance and Green Transition Alignment: MSMEs and startups must be operating in the following sectors: manufacturing and industrial production, textiles, agri-food production, machine and metals, chemicals and plastics, renewable energy, waste management. They must demonstrate a potential for contributing to Türkiye's green transition priorities, in line with the Twelfth Development Plan (2024-2028), the Green Deal Action Plan, and national circular economy objectives.
- Migrant Inclusion: MSMEs and startups that are owned or co-owned by migrants/refugees, or that involve migrants/refugees in their operations or supply chains, will be prioritized to enhance positive development effects of human mobility.
- Innovation and Technology Use: MSMEs and startups that integrate innovative technologies, digital tools, clean-tech solutions, or R&D activities aligned with green transition or sustainable production will be favoured.
- Scalability and Sustainability Potential: MSMEs and startups that show clear potential to scale their green initiatives, contribute to local environmental resilience, and align with Türkiye's green economy goals will be evaluated more favorably.
- Providing Legal Documents: MSMEs and startups should be able to share necessary documentation such as Signature Circular, Trade Registry Gazette, Chamber Registration Document, Corporate Tax Return or Annual Income Tax Return and other similar documentation requested.
- Special consideration will be given for green innovation, particularly MSMEs and startups addressing climate and environmental challenges with scalable solutions and high potential for environmental, social, and economic impacts.
- Inclusion of diverse groups such as women, youth, and migrants/refugees in ownership, decision-making, or operational roles, enhancing socio-economic benefits for both refugee and host communities will be favorable.
- Safe and eco-friendly facilities or processes that demonstrate environmental responsibility and inclusivity will be favorable.
- *MSMEs and startups owned or co-owned by women and youth will be favoured and are strongly encouraged to apply.*

Important: Applications that do not meet these criteria will be automatically rejected by the system. MSMEs and startups that do not fully participate and complete the training programme will lose their rights to receive grants.

TRAININGS TO BE PROVIDED TO SELECTED MSMEs AND STARTUPS

Selected MSMEs and startups will receive sustainability trainings in July 2026 (as initially planned) in Gaziantep by competent trainers. Travel and accommodation costs will be covered by IOM. The training that MSMEs and startups will receive will include but not be limited to the following subjects:

- What is sustainability? Sustainable and Circular Business Models (e.g., state of the world, global trends, sustainable and circular business models, life cycle thinking, regulatory trends, and good practices from the field)
- Enhancing Occupational Safety and Health in Workplaces
- Risk Management and Resource Efficiency – Managing Environmental and Social Risks (i.e., integrated risk management approach and resource efficiency)
- Climate Action and Low-Carbon Development (i.e., impacts, climate vulnerability, climate injustice, and net zero commitment)
- Climate Finance, Green Funding, and Market Access (e.g., public incentives and investment readiness)
- Decent Work and International Labour Standards in MSMEs and Startups
- Social Sustainability, Just Transition and Gender Equality (e.g., inclusion, employee wellbeing, human rights, talent management, and responsible marketing)
- Sustainable Supply Chain Management (e.g., lifecycle, ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) , mapping value chains, and responsible procurement)
- Legal and Social Compliance & Migrant Employment
- Sustainability Standards, Certifications and Regulations
- Carbon Footprint and Tool Introduction

MSMEs and initiatives that successfully complete the training programme will revise the business plans they submitted during the initial phase with the support of trainers. Based on performance-based evaluations and verified expenditure needs identified together with consultants, selected and eligible projects may qualify to receive financial grant support of up to USD 10,000 per startup/initiative.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR APPLICATION

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

- ✓ Signature Circular
- ✓ Trade Registry Gazette
- ✓ Chamber Registration Document
- ✓ Corporate Tax Return or Annual Income Tax Return
- ✓ SSI Service List

KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL CONTEXT SUBMISSION OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Interested MSMEs and startups are required to submit all the documents specified in the application guidelines. In cases where certain documents are not available, applicants may provide alternative documentation that conveys equivalent information, subject to the evaluation panel's discretion. The panel reserves the right to request additional details, supporting documents, or clarifications from applicants at any stage of the review process.

VERIFICATION PROCESS

To validate the accuracy and reliability of the information included in applications and business plans, IOM staff will conduct verification calls and/or site visits for all shortlisted MSMEs and startups. This process will also serve as an opportunity to engage directly with applicants, ensuring that the type and scope of support provided through the grant is clearly defined and aligned with the enterprise's needs for advancing green businesses and adopting sustainable practices.

GRANT AMOUNT AND PAYMENT CONDITIONS

Each selected enterprise will be eligible for a maximum grant amount of USD 10,000. Grants will be disbursed as micro-grants following successful completion of trainings and mentorships on sustainability and green transition, in installments contingent upon the successful completion and verification of predefined milestones (e.g., implementation of sustainable practices) agreed upon between the enterprise and IOM. Expenditures must align with needs identified jointly with advisors.

MSMEs and startups that do not fully participate and complete the training programme will lose their rights to receive grants.

HOW TO APPLY?

- Before applying, carefully review the full Expression of Interest document to confirm that your enterprise aligns with the programme's objectives and requirements.
- The grant available for each enterprise is \$10,000, which will be disbursed in installments based on the achievement of agreed milestones. Invoices of purchased goods and services must be submitted.
- Ensure you thoroughly review the application details and eligibility criteria. If your enterprise meets the requirements, proceed to select your enterprise's location through the system.
- Complete the application form (application link), providing all requested information, including a detailed description of your green business initiative or sustainable production plan and the total funding amount required. Please make sure to include

additional details such as what the current situation is (providing baseline data if available) and how your intervention will support the green transition of your business.

- All applications must be submitted online no later than **03 July 2026**.

Submission

APPLICATION PROCESS

Eligible MSMEs and startups are interested to submit their applications and supporting documentation demonstrating:

- **How their business aligns with the objectives of the programme, including their interest in green transition and sustainable business practices**
- **Their commitment and availability to fully participate in the training, mentorship and grant programme activities**
- **Their motivation to join the programme and expected benefits for their business**

Applicants are encouraged to highlight any existing or planned business practices that contribute to climate change mitigation or adaptation, resource efficiency, circular economy principles, or the inclusion and economic empowerment of migrants, women and youth.

Applications from MSMEs and startups owned by or employing migrants, women and youth are strongly encouraged.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the email addresses specified above:

mptf_tr@iom.int

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