

SUPPORTING MIGRANTS' INCLUSION IN TÜRKİYE'S TRANSITION TO A GREEN ECONOMY PROJECT

CALL FOR MSME AND STARTUP GRANTS AND SUSTAINABILITY TRAININGS- for migrant-led MSMEs and startups contributing to a green transition

BACKGROUND

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) are pleased to announce the launch of the "Supporting Migrants' Inclusion in Türkiye's Transition to a Green Economy" Programme, an IOM-UNIDO Joint Programme funded by the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund (M-MPTF). This IOM-led programme aims to empower Micro, Small, and Medium-Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) and startups owned by or employing migrants, women and youth by providing trainings, mentorship and financial grants to advance green businesses or implement 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 target of carbon neutrality by 2053, while fostering inclusive economic growth and community resilience.

This program targets SMEs and startups committed to transitioning to environmentally sustainable business models; in particular, it supports all businesses—including local (Turkish) enterprises as well as those owned by or employing migrants, refugees, women, and young people—in developing green business models and adopting environmentally sustainable production practices. By supporting these MSMEs and startups, the initiative promotes sustainable development and green transition, strengthens private sector resilience, and expands equitable economic opportunities in key sectors facing climate challenges. Moreover, by aligning with international sustainability standards and low-carbon practices, the initiative enhances the capacity of MSMEs and startups to access European markets and strengthens their competitiveness within regional and global value chains. Priority is given to solutions demonstrating clear climate change mitigation or adaptation benefits, with high potential for environmental, social, and economic impacts.

CALL FOR MSME AND STARTUP TRAININGS AND GRANTS

Selected MSMEs and startups will receive sustainability trainings in July 2026 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:

- 1) 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)
- 2) Enhancing Occupational Safety and Health in Workplaces
- 3) Risk Management and Resource Efficiency – Managing Environmental and Social Risks (i.e., integrated risk management approach and resource efficiency)
- 4) Climate Action and Low-Carbon Development (i.e., impacts, climate vulnerability, climate injustice, and net zero commitment)
- 5) Climate Finance, Green Funding, and Market Access (e.g., public incentives and investment readiness)
- 6) Decent Work and International Labour Standards in MSMEs and Startups
- 7) Social Sustainability, Just Transition and Gender Equality (e.g., inclusion, employee wellbeing, human rights, talent management, and responsible marketing)
- 8) Sustainable Supply Chain Management (e.g., lifecycle, ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) , mapping value chains, and responsible procurement)
- 9) Legal and Social Compliance & Migrant Employment
- 10) Sustainability Standards, Certifications and Regulations
- 11) Carbon Footprint and Tool Introduction

Upon successful completion of the training programme, MSMEs and startups will revise their business plan that they initially submitted with the support of trainers and will become eligible for receiving grants up to USD 10,000 (ten thousand US Dollars) per MSME/startup.

Grants under this programme will enable MSMEs and startups to establish green businesses or adopt sustainable production practices, such as low-carbon technologies, renewable energy use, and circular economy models. This support enhances compliance with national environmental regulations and fosters innovation and resilience. The initiative emphasizes environmentally sustainable practices, gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE), and inclusive business models as essential dimensions of long-term growth.

To ensure transparency and efficiency, the Joint Programme Team will provide guidance to applicants throughout the process and may request additional documentation to verify eligibility. Only applicants who meet the required criteria and submit complete forms will be considered for funding. Grants will be disbursed following successful completion of green transition trainings, mentorship sessions and advisory services, based on a performance-based selection process and verified expenditure needs identified jointly with advisors.

Following the disbursement of grants and the implementation of green and successful practices, the Joint Programme team will continue to engage with MSMEs and startups and will organize networking events and peer-to-peer learning opportunities.

The "Supporting Migrants' Inclusion in Türkiye's Transition to a Green Economy" Joint Programme represents a collective opportunity for MSMEs and startups to enhance their capacity, adopt green practices, and contribute to sustainable economic growth in Türkiye. IOM and UNIDO remain committed to supporting enterprises on this transformative journey and look forward to working with businesses dedicated to creating positive and lasting changes in their communities, aligned with Global Compact for Migration (GCM) objectives 5, 18, and 19, and SDGs 1.4, 4.4, and 13.3.

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 favourably.
- Providing Legal Documents: MSMEs and startups should be able to share necessary documentation such as SSI Service List, 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 favourable.
- Safe and eco-friendly facilities or processes that demonstrate environmental responsibility and inclusivity will be favourable.
- MSMEs and startups owned or co-owned by women and youth will be favoured and are strongly encouraged to apply.

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

Important Note: The same participant(s) is expected to attend and complete the entire training programme. Substitution of participants or attendance by different representatives of the same MSME or startup during the programme is not permitted. MSMEs and startups that do not fully participate and complete the training programme will lose their rights to receive grants.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR APPLICATION:

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

- SSI Service List
- Signature Circular (İmza Sirküleri)
- Trade Registry Gazette (Kuruluş Resmi Gazete)
- Chamber Registration Document (Oda Kayıt Belgesi ya da Faaliyet Belgesi) (issued no more than six (6) months prior to the application date)
- Corporate Tax Return or Annual Income Tax Return (Kurumlar Vergisi Beyannamesi ya da Yıllık Gelir Vergisi)

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

SUPPORTING MIGRANTS' INCLUSION IN TURKIYE'S TRANSITION TO A GREEN ECONOMY

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 (<https://turkiye.edf.iom.int/mptf/>) 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 3 July 2026 at 23:59 Türkiye time.
- Should you have any questions or require any further information, please contact us at mptf_tr@iom.int.

GUIDANCE NOTE on APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Selection Criteria	Relevance
Business Plan and Grant Amount	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Applicants may request a maximum of USD 10,000. - The requested amount must be proportional to the proposed needs for implementing green business initiatives and/or sustainable production practices. - MSMEs and/or startups may, if they wish, provide co-financing from their own resources to complement the IOM grant and support the implementation of the proposed activities. - The requested amount must not exceed the MSMEs' and/or startup's capital. For instance, if the business's capital is \$8,000, they cannot request a \$10,000 grant. - The business plan should clearly describe how the grant will be used to implement green business initiatives or adopt sustainable practices, with specific climate mitigation/adaptation measures and alignment with green sectors. - Strong preference will be given to plans demonstrating innovative clean-tech solutions, market potential, and high environmental and social impacts. - A clear, detailed, and well-justified plan with realistic timelines and measurable outcomes will improve selection chances. - MSMEs and startups should provide detailed background information – including, but not limited to the nature of the business, operational capital, number of employees, years of operation, as well as net income and expenditures over the years. Additionally, a well-prepared business plan should outline the business background including current situation proposed green initiatives and how these initiatives will contribute to their green transition as well as growth trajectory.

Selection Criteria	Relevance
Migrant Inclusion and Ownership	<p>- Priority for MSMEs and startups owned or co-owned by migrants/refugees under TP/IP, women and youth or those involving migrants/refugees, women and youth in operations or supply chains will be prioritized (youth are considered as being in the 18-35 age group).</p> <p>- Evidence of migrant integration will be favoured. Applicants must demonstrate meaningful involvement of migrants, women and/or youth in the design, implementation, and scaling of sustainability and green transition practices within their business operations.</p>
Green Transition Alignment and Innovation	<p>- MSMEs and startups must align with Türkiye’s green economy goals, including carbon neutrality by 2053, through sustainable practices such as low-carbon production, renewable energy use, or circular economy models.</p> <p>- MSMEs and startups operating in priority sectors (e.g., manufacturing, textiles, agri-food, machine and metals, chemicals and plastics, and waste management) and addressing climate challenges will be prioritized.</p> <p>- MSMEs and startups must demonstrate contribution to at least one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource and energy efficiency improvements • Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions • Adoption of renewable energy • Circular production models (reuse, recycling, waste minimization) • Green innovation and environmentally friendly technologies • Sustainable and climate-resilient production systems • Green export readiness and EU Green Deal compliance <p>- Integration of innovative technologies, digital tools, or clean-tech solutions with clear climate benefits will be prioritized.</p>
Financial Viability and Sustainability	<p>- Applicants must declare an accurate average monthly profit and provide verifiable financial data showing business sustainability.</p> <p>- Consistent profit margins and realistic projections aligned with green</p>

Selection Criteria	Relevance
	<p>initiatives strengthen the case.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overstating/understating will be verified and may negatively affect evaluation. - MSMEs and startups must demonstrate that the proposed green initiative is financially realistic, proportionate, and sustainable.
<p>Social and Environmental Impact</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MSMEs and startups should outline how their green initiatives foster social cohesion between host communities and migrants/refugees. - Emphasis on broader impacts like community benefits, gender equality and women’s empowerment, and environmental responsibility will strengthen applications. - Measurable contributions to SDGs (e.g., 1.4, 13.3) and GCM objectives (5, 18, 19) will be favoured.