



I. Introduction

Boost4BSO -Boosting Central European (CE) Business Support Organizations (BSOs) capacities for I4.0 scale up support- is a project financed under the fourth call of INTERREG Central Europe Programme 2014-2020 aiming at improving knowledge build-up and sustainable knowledge transfer linkages among CE BSOs. The main project objective is to enable CE BSOs, as key innovation system actors, to **provide effective and efficient support services for local companies covering all key aspects of transformation towards I4.0**. This will help CE SMEs that nowadays lack basic knowledge on the potential of I4.0 to cope with their own transformation demand and develop I4.0 related business strategies.

A specific objective of Boost4BSO is to **pilot the innovative support service package with local SMEs** involving project partners (PPs), associate partners (APs) and external BSOs and establish an awarding mechanism for BSOs to recognize the sustainable integration of Boost4BSO results in their SME support services. This objective will be reached by the involvement of a group of **selected SMEs that will benefit of a specific BSOs support** for drafting an Industry 4.0 Action Plan.

II. Aim of the call

The present call is addressed to SMEs in the Central Europe program area and it is aimed to **select a test bed of 30 companies** that will **benefit of a specialized support** services offered by BSOs that are able to implement the competence pack designed by Boost4BSO project. The support provided to the selected SMEs includes:

- i) a maturity assessment;
- ii) Strategic and/or business model development;
- iii) Action Plan for product/service innovation.

In the framework of the pilot action, selected companies will be supported by BSOs experts for a service of 5 man-days delivered in a period of maximum 6 months, starting approximately in September 2021. At the end of the process, it's expected to deliver an Industry 4.0 Action Plan tailored on companies' needs, expectations and maturity stage.

III. Requirements to participate

The call is open to companies with the following features:

- 1. be a SME, according to the definition of the EU Recommendation 2003/361¹
- 2. be established in the Central Europe Programme Area²

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/sme-definition_en

² Nine EU Member States cooperate in the programme, including all regions from Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, as well as eight Länder from Germany (Baden-Württemberg, Bayern, Berlin, Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Sachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt, and Thüringen) and nine regions from Italy (Emilia-Romagna, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Liguria, Lombardia, Piemonte, Provincia Autonoma Bolzano, Provincia Autonoma Trento, Valle d'Aosta, and Veneto).

3. have received no more than 200.000 euro under “*de minimis*” regime in the last 3 years (2 previous + current fiscal year) from public funds.

For the purposes of Boost4BSO project, addressing the Industry 4.0 transformation and transition, the pilot action is mainly addressed to Central European manufacturing companies, that may demonstrate a clear willingness to invest in their transformation process. Exceptions will be assessed case-by-case by the project partners and approved by Boost4BSO project Steering Committee.

IV. Selection procedure

Companies will be admitted according to the selection criteria reported in Table 1: up to 30 SMEs at project level will be selected, each PP drafting a list of 3 to 4 selected companies based on the extra points assigned by each of the selection criteria.

Table 1: Extra points

Criteria	Score
Medium sized company	5
Belonging to manufacturing and engineering sector	5
Demonstrable Industry 4.0 related investment made in the last 3 years and/or any investment plan, clearly demonstrable and understandable, scheduled in a short time	5
Having a strong interest related to an Industry 4.0 project	15
TOTAL:	30

The Boost4BSO Steering Committee will approve the final ranking list of selected companies, in order to comply with project specific objective.

Selected companies will be:

- informed by the contact person of the partner organization
- requested to subscribe letter of commitment and to provide a “*de minimis*” self-declaration before being included in the pilot programme.

Both documents are provided in *facsimile* as annexes to the present call for information purposes.

The companies included in the reserve list may be asked to join the pilot action in case of withdrawal of a company selected for the ranking list.

V. How to apply

Candidate SMEs can send their application, using the provided **Application Form**, via email to email@email.xx within the deadline settled in point VI.

The value of the service provided is set in € x.xxxx,xx, which will be granted according to the “*de minimis*” regulation.

VI. Deadline and Timeline

The call will be open from 1st of June until 15th of July 2021. The results will be published on the Boost4BSO project website and on project partners' websites.

<https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/Boost4BSO.html>