Systems Innovation Learning Partnership

Experimentation Fund

Call for Ideas

Do you have an idea for enabling systems innovation in the Global South that addresses some of the world's most pressing issues? Do you need funding and support to test out your idea in practice?

The SILP Experimentation Fund is calling for ideas for experimental projects that advance knowledge and understanding of systems innovation practices, methodologies, and approaches. We are especially looking for applied experiments in the field of international development/ development cooperation, focusing on the needs of those living in poverty and tackling issues related to environment and climate change (adaptation and mitigation), human rights, conflict, gender equality, marginalised and disadvantaged communities.

What it is

The fund aims to advance our knowledge of the potential applications and limitations of systems innovation practices and approaches. We do this by funding and supporting the learning journeys of systems innovation experiments. Within the focus areas outlined above, we do not limit the range of systems that the experiments might address, or potential points of leverage, but look for the potential to learn about applicable methods and processes for systems innovation.

This is why we are particularly interested in supporting experiments that combine ideas that have never been tried before and their application in novel contexts.

SILP

The experimentation fund is part of the Systems Innovation Learning Partnership (SILP), an initiative by EIT Climate-KIC and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida). SILP brings together organisations and people working to tackle complex issues to collaborate, experiment, learn, and share ideas that help to activate system-wide innovation across Our activities aim to not only share tools and methods that have had success in enabling systemic change, but to shift mindsets and support people to transform the way we address the world's most pressing issues.

Selection and grant size

The selection of ideas for experiments will follow a two-stage grant making process in which a diverse set of organisations and people passionate about the fund's objectives will co-design and participate in selecting the receivers of grants.

Stage 1

At this stage of the call we are looking for ideas for systemic experiments. Following the closure of Stage 1 on the Dec 7 2022 – a shortlist of submitted ideas will be selected to continue from Stage 1 to Stage 2: Experiment Design, via an invitation to submit a grant application.

STAGE 1
Call for ideas

STAGE 2
Application

Grant

Stage 2

Idea submitters invited to Stage 2 will be offered microgrants of up to 2,000 EUR to support the development of experiment proposals for the final grant applications. More details will be provided at the initiation of Stage 2.

The final group of experiments to be funded will be chosen as a cohort, taking a **portfolio approach** to the selection to ensure the cohort's diversity and complementarity in order to allow rich learning within and between experiments. For more information, please read FAQs.

Applicants will have the opportunity to access funding up to 100,000 Euros and will be supported to test their ideas in a learn-by-doing approach, providing a safe-to-fail context so that learning can be captured quickly and effectively.

Learning opportunity

To accelerate learning around systems innovation, the fund offers a bespoke learning programme for co-learning and reflection for participants, beyond just receiving funding. The learning programme is designed to use the strengths of the cohort's diversity, whether that's the focus of each project, the context in which they are being applied or the organisations delivering them. This way, we can encourage and support knowledge sharing, peer coaching, and building the experimenters' capacity for and capabilities in the practice of leading systemic change.

Participation in the learning programme is expected from all grant recipients.

The commitment involves:

- 3x 1-2 day long online workshops in April 2023, September 2023 and January 2024;
- 2x 2-to-3-hour long community events in June and November 2023;
- And 4x 1 hour long meetings in a smaller peer learning group in between (as outlined in the illustration below).

Who can apply

We are looking for applicants from nongovernmental organisations, civil society organisations, small and medium enterprises, research labs or incubators, regions and cities, or educational institutions (schools, vocational training institutes, higher education institutions) based and/or working in ODA countries. For more information on this, please see Eligibility and Assessment Criteria overview.

However, other actors in these countries are not discouraged from applying.

Eligibility of prospective grant recipients will be determined at Stage 1. Upon selection (Stage 2), a more complete due diligence process will occur prior to the issuance of any grant award for signature.

In summary, applicants should ensure that they/the consortia:

- are made up of legal entities that is entitled to hold rights and obligations towards EIT Climate-KIC;
- are not listed in the EU Consolidated List of Sanctions;
- are not based in a country in the EU consolidated List of Sanctions
- are in good financial standing and can provide necessary documentation to support this.

More information on due diligence for applicants can be found on page 2 of the Eligibility and Assessment Criteria overview.

Timeline

- **Stage 1 – Call for ideas**

  - Call for Ideas opens: 12 October 2022
  - **Information session:** 26 October 2022 12:00 PM in Universal Time UTC– register here.
  - **Information session:** 16 November 2022, 12:00 PM in Universal Time UTC– register here.
  - Call for Ideas closes: 17.00 UTC, 7 Dec 2022

- **Stage 2 – Experiment design and grant application**

  - Opens Early January 2023
    Selected ideas will receive an invitation to submit full experiment proposal and grant application by mid-March 2023.

  - Ideas selected will receive a microgrant offer to support the development of their ideas, up to 2000 EUR

  - Grant applications close: Mid-March
    Only invited applicants from Stage 1 will be able to submit proposals and grant applications. Deadline will be confirmed in the invitation letter.

- **31 March 2023 - anticipated Stage 2 outcomes and decision communication**

- **13-14 April 2023 - Experimentation cohort kick-off**

How to apply

Interested applicants are encouraged to complete and send an idea submission form which aims to capture key information about what system(s) you are working in / looking to impact; what you know about the system(s) and the key actors; and what you intend to interrogate and learn through your proposed experiment.

You can access the forms in different formats below:

- [Word Doc Version](#)
- [PDF Version](#)
- [Google Doc version](#)

Supporting documentation

- [Eligibility and Assessment Criteria overview](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)](#)