

Open Call for Applications: ESO Climate Innovate Egypt Programme 2025 - 2026

This document covers the application process for the ESO Climate Innovate Egypt.

This initiative is a joint programme by Climate KIC and GIZ Egypt implemented on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), supporting Egypt's transition towards a competitive green economy.

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Overview

Project Background

Climate KIC (CKIC) is Europe's leading climate innovation agency, dedicated to accelerating the transition to a climate-resilient future by driving systemic change across countries, regions, and businesses. Through collaboration with global partners, CKIC develops innovative solutions and facilitates knowledge-sharing to bridge the gap between climate commitments and real-world implementation, fostering faster and more ambitious climate action.

In partnership with the **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ Egypt)** working on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Climate KIC is collaborating with GIZ Egypt in the implementation of an initiative aligned with Egypt's Sustainable Development Strategy for 2030. This initiative focuses on fostering a greener economy by strengthening Egypt's Climate (Tech) ecosystem, the aim is to empower local stakeholders by equipping them with the tools, resources, and expertise needed to develop sustainable business models that drive climate protection solutions relevant to the industry.

To achieve this goal, Climate KIC and GIZ Egypt are launching a programme to support up to eight (8) Entrepreneurship Support Organisations (ESOs) across Egypt. This initiative will provide ESOs with the knowledge, methodologies, and frameworks necessary to design and implement high-impact, climate-focused programmes for local start-ups, ultimately contributing to a more sustainable and resilient ecosystem in Egypt.

Key benefits of the capacity building programme include:

- Tailored capacity building activities on climate advisory topics and tools.
- Introduction to ClimAccelerator methodology – a CKIC climate specific entrepreneurship programme.
- Access to best practices for ESOs on growth and fundraising, building a MEL plan and improving communication strategies.
- Opportunity for funding – one selected ESO will receive dedicated financial resources to accelerate 5 climate focused local start-ups.

Programme Structure

The **ESO Climate Innovate Egypt** programme is designed to enhance capabilities of up to eight (8) ESOs enabling them to effectively run climate-focused entrepreneurship initiatives. The programme will consist of two different phases:

1. **ESOs Selection, Diagnosis & Capacity Building:** This phase will span from **April to December 2025**, totalling six (6) months. The programme will begin with the selection of up to eight (8) ESOs in Egypt, through a **two-stage screening process**. CKIC will review applications and shortlist semi-finalists, who will then be interviewed by CKIC and GIZ Egypt teams.

Once ESOs are selected, they will participate in a diagnosis phase, where a **needs assessment** will be conducted to evaluate their maturity, levels of strengths, and areas of improvement. This assessment will help to determine the ESOs stage and identify key areas to develop. Based on the findings, the ESOs will take part in a **tailored capacity building** programme that provides them with the knowledge and tools on climate advisory topics and introduces them to the ClimAccelerator methodology.

- 2. ClimAccelerator Implementation:** After completing the capacity building phase, the ESOs will enter a two (2) months evaluation period (December 2025 – February 2026). During this time, they will be assessed on their progress and readiness to implement a **ClimAccelerator programme** - a globally recognised Climate KIC programme designed to help climate-focused start-ups grow. The ClimAccelerator initiative will connect entrepreneurs with the knowledge, tools, and networks they need to innovate, scale their solutions, and attract investment. By sharing best practices and learning from each other, start-ups can strengthen their impact and accelerate the transition to a more sustainable future.

As part of this phase, each ESO will submit a proposal detailing its plan for designing and running a ClimAccelerator. A selection committee, consisting of representatives from GIZ Egypt and CKIC, will review the proposals and select one ESO to receive a grant for implementation. The selected ESO will then run a six-month ClimAccelerator programme (from February to July 2026), supporting five local start-ups.

Aims of the Call

The aim of the call is to select up to eight (8) Entrepreneur Support Organisations (ESOs) within the Egyptian ecosystem to equip them with the necessary tools and knowledge to run effective climate-focused programmes for local start-ups. Through this initiative, we seek to strengthen the ESOs capacity in climate innovation and entrepreneurship in Egypt, empowering them to better support founders working on climate sensitive solutions and drive sustainable impact in the region.

The Open Call period will run from **7 April to 5 May 2025**. Once the application phase concludes, the Climate KIC team will, review applications ensuring that every applicant is given an equal opportunity in the evaluation process. The initiative seeks to:

- **Enhance the capacity** of ESOs to design and implement structured entrepreneurship programmes in the climate innovation sector.
- **Support ESOs in expanding their expertise** in climate and related topics by providing them with technical knowledge, methodologies, frameworks, and best practices to help local start-ups, and entrepreneurs scale impactful solutions.
- **Foster long-term engagement** in climate entrepreneurship by selecting organisations with a strong commitment, motivation, and strategic vision for driving climate action.

Programme Activities

Over a six (6) month period, selected organisations will receive tailored training, mentorship, and access to Climate KIC's expertise and resources. The programme will adopt a hybrid format including both online and in person sessions, and it will be developed in the following stages:

Capacity Building and Training

The selected ESOs will participate in a tailored capacity development programme designed to enhance their ability to run climate entrepreneurship initiatives. Examples of training topics include ecosystem engagement, best practices for ESOs, programme design, monitoring and

evaluation, and climate-specific knowledge. The scope and depth of these modules will be tailored to the specific needs and context of the selected cohort.

Training Sessions

The training will follow an action-oriented approach, starting with a monthly masterclass that introduces theoretical concepts, tools and case studies. These sessions will be complemented by practical exercises and peer learning group discussions. Monthly mentoring and Q&A sessions will provide additional guidance.

Implementation and Application of Learning

Throughout the programme the selected cohort will receive ongoing mentoring and advisory support to refine strategies and integrate best practices into their own entrepreneurship programmes. The process will conclude with a final check-in to assess progress, gather feedback, and document key outcomes in project reports.

Climate KIC support available for the eight ESOs selected for capacity building:

- Access to CKIC's Knowledge HUB covering climate, impact and business educational content in English.
- Access to the ClimAccelerator methodology handbook, detailing different technical aspect of designing and running the program and including templates such as ClimAccelerator application form, design curricula, etc.
- Q&A sessions with some CKIC internal ClimAccelerator methodology experts (on-demand and according to availabilities)
- Possibility to connect with a larger community of ESOs through CKIC's global community.

ClimAccelerator Funding

ESOs that are selected to participate in the capacity building activities of this programme will be asked to submit a proposal at the end of the training. Alongside the proposal, they may request grant funding to support the running of the ClimAccelerator. This funding is intended to be expended during the six (6) months of the programme implementation including the provision of financial support to the selected local start-ups. Stichting Climate KIC International Foundation intends to allocate this funding to one (1) ESO upon conducting an appropriate due diligence assessment assessing the integrity and eligibility of the respective ESO, taking into consideration the public-benefit purpose of the project.

Climate KIC support available to the selected ESO to run the ClimAccelerator:

In addition to offering capacity building trainings and developing the ESOs capabilities in climate and impact, Climate KIC will be supporting the **selected local ESO** to successfully plan, organise and implement the ClimAccelerator by providing:

- Financial assistance.
- Advisory on key processes such as ClimAccelerator curriculum, ClimAccelerator start-up selection and evaluation, adapting and delivering climate advisory content.
- Support with Climate Impact Assessment methodology for the cohort of selected local start-ups.
- Opportunity to receive CKIC support in promoting the selected ESO ClimAccelerator through CKIC's official social media platforms, as well as access to Clim Accelerator brand templates.
- Training to use the Accelerator App, an end-to-end platform to manage an accelerator programme (AcceleratorApp). This software allows to process application and selection processes, manage pools of mentors and coaches, gather progress data from start-ups, etc.

ESO Expected Reporting

The reporting process will be divided into two distinct components:

1. Capacity Building Reporting (for up to 8 ESOs)

Reporting in this part of the programme will focus on tracking progress and assessing readiness for the ClimAccelerator. Participating ESOs will be asked to complete the following:

- An Organisational Capacity Assessment Tool (OCAT) at the beginning and end of the programme to measure ESOs development in particular thematic areas. In addition, Climate KIC will conduct a qualitative needs assessment at the programme's outset to generate insights into ESOs capacity needs.
- Two surveys - 1 mid-programme and 1 end-programme to capture insights on the results of the capacity-building phase, covering the following points:
 - Was the training programme beneficial to your activities?
 - Has the programme influenced your perception, attitude, or behaviour?
 - What kind of follow-up support would help you maximise the impacts of the training?

2. Final Capacity Building Report (Proposal & Assessment)

To ensure a streamlined process, the final report will also serve as the opportunity for each ESO to submit its proposal to implement the ClimAccelerator. The report will be structured as follows:

- **ESO Progress & Capacity Building**, where the participant will provide a comprehensive overview of progress against key capacity building objectives, highlighting strengths, and areas requiring further development.
- **Impact & Integration**, the ESOs will have the opportunity to reflect on how the programme has influenced ESO operations, including the integration of new knowledge and skills.
- **Strategic Vision and Acceleration Readiness**, in this space the ESO will provide detailed information about its ability to mobilise stakeholders, attract local start-ups, and deliver effective support.
- **Proposal for ClimAccelerator Programme**, where each ESO will have the opportunity to prepare and present a proposal detailing how it intends to implement and sustain a ClimAccelerator. A budget proposal will also be requested at this stage.

Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility requirements are used to ensure that applications submitted under the call meet mandatory standards agreed upon by Climate KIC and GIZ Egypt. These requirements are assessed on a pass/fail basis whereby applications must meet all the specified conditions. If applications do not satisfy the criteria, they will not be able to proceed to the next stage of the process and therefore may be rejected from the call outright.

The pass/fail eligibility criteria for this call are:

1. ESOs must be formally registered entities in Egypt.
2. The applicant must be an Entrepreneurship Support Organisation (ESO). ESOs include incubators, accelerators, start-up associations, entrepreneurship or

business creation units at universities or research institutes, or any other organisation with a core focus on supporting early-stage ventures to develop business ideas.

3. Demonstrated experience directly supporting Egyptian start-ups in areas such as mentorship, coaching, training, access to funding or/and operational support.
4. The ESO has been active in the entrepreneurship support market for at least the last two years.
5. The products and services offered by the ESO in the market must serve the public benefit element (Environment, Climate, Public Goods, Social Benefits, Employment Creation, Poverty Reduction, etc.).
6. The ESO has not previously operated a ClimAccelerator or participated in any other ClimAccelerator activities.

Call Timeline

Climate KIC has set the following indicative timeline for this call:

Date / Time (CET)	Item	Link (if applicable)
7 April 2025	Release of call documents	See call and application information on our Open Call page.
15 April 2025 (12:00 – 13:00 CET)	Information session (English)	Register here for the session on 15 April.
29 April 2025 (10:00 – 11:00 CET)	Information session (English)	Register here for the session on 29 April.
5 May 2025 (12:00 CET, midnight)	Deadline to submit applications	N/A
6 -13 May 2025	First screening – evaluation of application forms for shortlisting	N/A
15 May 2025	Communication of first screening outcomes	
20 May - 27 May 2025	Second screening - interviews	
29 May 2025	Communication of final results	N/A
16 – 19 June 2025	ESOs onboarding	N/A
7 July – 11 July 2025	Expected starting week of planned activities	N/A

How to Apply

Please read the eligibility and assessment criteria within this document carefully. These will be used by Climate KIC and our evaluators to assess your application.

Submission

To apply to this call, please submit your applications through the following [form](#).

Before submitting your application, you should ensure that you have read this document carefully and to double check that:

- You meet the eligibility criteria.
- Your application falls in line with the objectives of the Capacity Development of Entrepreneurship Support Organisations (ESOs) for Climate Solutions in Egypt project.
- You have provided a sufficient response to all required questions in the application form (without the availability of the relevant information, your application may not be progressed).

Submission Language

Applications and supporting documentation must be submitted in English. However, official documents such company legal registration certificate will be accepted in Arabic only if it is not possible to upload them in English.

Submission Deadline

All applications must be submitted by the date specified in the call timeline section of this document. Please note that late applications will not be accepted.

Review and Notification Process

Review Process

This call will follow a three-step evaluation process with each application being assessed for:

- **Eligibility** – where applications are subject to an initial check to ensure they meet the basic eligibility criteria and were submitted on time.
- **First screening (shortlisting)** – where CKIC evaluators review the responses in the application form and provide a score (of 0-5) against the call assessment criteria. Highest scoring applicants will move to the second screening (see below).
- **Second screening (interview)** - where shortlisted applicants are invited to attend an interview via video call to answer follow-up questions on the assessed applications. The purpose of the interview is to give shortlisted applicants an opportunity to further inform CKIC and GIZ about their application and for the panel to seek further clarifications.

All submissions will be assessed fairly and transparently in the scope of the objectives, eligibility and assessment criteria outlined in this call document.

Conflicts of interest between evaluators and applicants are mitigated through a disclosure process. If a conflict is identified, CKIC staff will assess how it may affect the evaluator's judgement and act accordingly. In some cases, this may result in a full recusal.

Decisions as to whether an application is accepted or rejected will be communicated as detailed in this document.

Eligibility Criteria Checklist

The pass/fail criteria for this call are the following:

#	Eligibility criterion	How Demonstrated on Application Form
1.	Organisation is registered legal entity in Egypt.	Self-declaration – Question 15
2.	Company has been active in entrepreneurship support for a minimum of three years.	Self-declaration – Question 16
3.	Company meets organisational eligibility (is an ESO).	Self-declaration – Question 17
4.	Organisation demonstrates experience directly supporting start-ups.	Self-declaration – Question 18
5.	Offers products and services in public interest	Self-declaration – Question 19
6.	The organisation demonstrates that it has not previously operated a ClimAccelerator or participated in any ClimAccelerator activities.	Self-declaration – Question 20

Applications must comply with the full set of the eligibility criteria if they are to proceed to the assessment stage.

Assessment Criteria

The following assessment criteria (see table below) are scored using the below score system.

For the **first screening**, reviewers will be asked to provide a score for each of the criteria areas using the 0–5 scoring system. CKIC will then collect and aggregate these scores to produce a ranked list of applications. This scored assessment, together with the insights from the interview process (second screening), will inform the final selection decisions.

Score System

The following score system will be used to assess applicants.

Score	Description
0	Application fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
1	Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
2	Fair. The application broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
3	Good. The application addresses the criterion well, but several shortcomings are present.
4	Very good. The application addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.

5	Excellent. The application successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.
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The criteria that will be used to assess the applications are:

Criteria Areas	Criteria Weight & Description	Examples of related questions in the Application Form
Organisation structure (20%)	<p>0 to 5: The organisation can demonstrate a sufficient ESO structure and team to implement entrepreneurship support programmes.</p> <p>The organisation can demonstrate a financing model to sustain operations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please attach a brief presentation outlining your organisation's structure (Q.10) • How do you finance and sustain organisation and current operations (Q.11)
Expertise (20%)	<p>0 to 5: The organisation can demonstrate experience running entrepreneurship structured programs.</p> <p>The ESO has background and involvement in climate topics or programmes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has your organisation previously run accelerator programmes, competitions, hackathons or other programme initiatives targeted at entrepreneurs? If yes where? If yes, please describe (Q.22 - 24) • Have you ever supported climate innovations as part of your current or previous programmes? If yes, please share with us how you supported the climate innovations (Q.28 -& 29)
Access to relevant networks (15%)	<p>0 to 5: The organisation has access and knows how to source early-stage ventures in the respective target country.</p> <p>The ESO has access to networks to support access markets to ventures in the respective target country.</p> <p>The organisation has access to local or national investor networks for early-stage ventures.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you describe your organisation's experience and approach in securing early-stage start-ups within Egypt? How do you typically identify them? (Q.32) • Does your organisation have a solid network of trainers, coaches and mentors who can be engage in supporting the climate start-ups and innovations taking part in the programme? (Q.33 & 34) • Does your organisation have existing partnerships or collaborations with other relevant entrepreneurship ecosystem stakeholders (Q.35)
	<p>0 to 5: The ESO has clear interest to build its organisational capacities in the proposed capacity building areas. The ESO can demonstrate time and resources to participate in the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please tell us more about your motivations for joining this programme and your expectation for the capacity building trainings for your organisation (Q.37)

Interest & Motivation (20%)	<p>capacity building activities. The ESO can demonstrate the capacity and commitment of its staff to participate in the capacity building programme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many of your staff are you planning to have join the capacity building trainings on the four main modules of the programme? (Q.38) • How will you ensure commitment of your staff and organisation to the capacity building trainings as part of this programme? (Q.39)
Alignment as capacity building recipient (20%)	<p>0 to 5: The ESO sees the value and utility of the proposed capacity building topics and is open or committed to incorporate these in future entrepreneurship programming.</p> <p>The ESO has a clear idea about how it will implement the programme learnings into its future programmes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are you planning to transfer knowledge gained from the capacity building in the ClimAccelerator to selected climate ventures? (Q.41) • How do you plan to implement learnings from the capacity building trainings of this programme to your current/ or future programmes? (Q.42)
Programme Participation (5%)	<p>0 to 5: The ESO is committed to participating during the programme implementation and will attend both online and in-person workshops.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can your organisation demonstrate commitment to the programme and the operational capacity to ensure effective delivery of the anticipated activities?(Q.43)

Decision Communication

Stichting Climate KIC International Foundation will communicate the outcome of the submissions as follows:

- First screening – 15 May 2025.
- Second screening – 29 May 2025.

Only selected ESOs will be contacted for the first screening and subsequent phases of the process.

Due Diligence

Upon notification of selection for a grant, any prospective grantees that receive funding (in this case, the **selected ESO** for the ClimAccelerator) will be required to undertake a due diligence exercise, prior to any grant agreement being issued.

Any subsequent grant allocation and contract will be contingent upon satisfying this process and failure to comply with these requirements may result in the withdrawal of any offer of grant funding.

Use of Data

Data

All applicants agree to accept Stichting Climate KIC International Foundation [Privacy Policy](#), [Cookie Policy](#) and [Ethical Standards for Contractual Counterparties](#), warrant and represent that they have the authority to agree and accept these on behalf of the named organisation. Personal data provided may be processed, including sharing with other organisations, by Stichting Climate KIC



International Foundation and certain sensitive data elements will be visible to other partners or potential partners of Stichting Climate KIC International Foundation.

Personal data provided may be processed and shared with other organisations by Stichting Climate KIC International Foundation. The applicant warrants and represents that in providing personal data in connection with the application, the data subjects have consented to the provision of this personal data and the processing of it by Stichting Climate KIC International Foundation in the manner indicated in accordance with our Privacy Policy, and that the organisation provides the personal data in accordance with the General Data Protection (EU) 2016/679 ("GDPR").

Confidentiality

Stichting Climate-KIC International Foundation will treat all applications confidentially, as well as any related information, data and documents received in accordance with Climate KIC's Privacy Policy or as otherwise indicated throughout the application form (i.e. organisation name, project title, summary description), subject to the Data section in this document.