

finMED - Boosting the financing of innovation for green growth sectors through innovative clusters services in the MED area

**PUBLIC CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO TEST
SUPPORT SERVICE TOOL FOR SMEs**

1. Objective of the call

Within the framework of the finMED project, **Environment Park** is launching this public call for expression of interest **to invite interested SMEs operating in green sectors to test the “Support service tool” (SST)** with the technical support of Environment Park staff.

The SST has been conceived **as an IT tool** that plays the role of **Decision Support System**, to assist applicants SMEs, **planning to or already engaging in innovative solutions in the green growth field, by directing them towards suitable forms of financial resources or financiers.**

The SST is **a software** tool designed to be simple and user friendly and it is composed of 7 sets of questions (innovation, communication & positioning, adequacy to green growth, financial assessment, market & internationalisation, management and human capital, enabling assets) **in English.**

After the testing, all applicants will be asked to provide feedback on the SST usability through the questionnaires in order to improve or upgrade the current version of the tool. The feedback session takes approximately **15 minutes.**

The indicative period of the entire process of testing (testing the tool and provision of feedback) is between **November 2019 and January 17th 2020.**

The testing will be free of charge. The testing will consist in filling in an online survey (estimated time required: **60 minutes**). Applicants (SMEs) involved in the testing will obtain a report in the form of advice together with the summarized final results in a dashboard with radar charts, defining the financing potential as the ranking of the following conditions: suitability, adequacy, congruity and consistency of the company. The on-line testing will be conducted either on the SME’s premises or on Environment Park premises, decided on a case by case basis, respecting the preferences of applicant.

2. Selection procedure and eligibility conditions

Applicants will be selected on a “first arrived-first served” basis. An ad-hoc Committee will be set up with the purpose of ensuring the correct application of the selection procedure. The Committee will select the SMEs and announce the results.

To be eligible, the applicant must be a SME¹, considering operating in the green sector **and should have good command of spoken English.**

Further, the applicant should provide a signed “**cooperation agreement**”, together with the confirmation of SMEs status, commitment to take part in the testing process in English, and commitment to provide feedback in English after the testing.

3. Submission of Express of Interest (Application form)

The deadline for the electronic submission of the Application Form (Expression of Interest) is 31 January 2020. Interested SMEs should send the online application form by e-mail to monica.risso@envipark.com. A maximum of **eight (8) SMEs** will be selected.

The results will be published on the Finmed project web page (<https://finmed.interreg-med.eu/>) and on Environment Park web site (<https://www.envipark.com/>) and social media pages and presented anonymously during conferences, public events etc...

Questions/Answers

Potential applicants should address questions related to the content of this call by e-mail to monica.risso@envipark.com

4. Important and additional information

- For practical reasons, the Support service tool is provided exclusively in English.
- Applications submitted by interested applicants (SMEs) will be considered solely for the purpose of this public call, whereby interested applicants expressly agree to the submission of the application and allow the processing and use of the personal data specified in the application for the purpose of this invitation to call.

5. About the finMED project

Environment Park is a partner in the finMED project supported by the Interreg MED Programme 2014-2020. finMED gathers 15 partners from 9 Mediterranean countries, including regional authorities, regional agencies, clusters, chambers of commerce, universities and research centres, development agencies. Its objective is boosting the financing of innovation in Green Growth sectors through the improved delivery of policies and strategies and through the introduction of innovative cluster services for the benefit of SMES. In this context, finMED

¹ According to EU definition "SME" stands for small and medium-sized enterprises – as defined in EU law: Eu recommendation 2003/361 and EU directive 651/2014. The main factors determining whether a company is an SME are: economic activity, number of employees and either turnover or balance sheet total. To qualify as an SME, an organisation must conform to the EC definition of an SME. (http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition/index_en.htm).

partners have developed the Support service tool, with the aim of increasing understanding, knowledge and capacities related to mechanisms and solutions for financing of innovation in green sectors by both public and private actors in the MED area.

For more information about the finMED project and its Support Service Tool, please visit the project website, in which you can find much more information, documents, news and also links to the Interreg MED Programme!

[HTTPS://FINMED.INTERREG-MED.EU/](https://finmed.interreg-med.eu/)