

PRESS RELEASE – June 2023

SOTECIN FACTORY LAUNCHES OPEN CALL 1 FOR SOCIAL INNOVATORS

LOOKING TO FUND & SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE TECH-DRIVEN SOLUTIONS FROM FOOD, WATER & NUTRIENTS, TEXTILES AND PLASTICS AND PACKAGING INDUSTRY VALUE CHAINS

WHAT YOU GET?

The Open Call 1 will award **25 European tech-savvy innovators** with up to **15,000 EUR** in Phase 1. From this group, **15 innovators** will engage in a **pre-market technological demonstration** with up to **85,000 EUR of additional funding support** in Phase 2.

Besides equity-free funding, the beneficiaries will have access to **capacity building and business support** through multiple resources and to the consortium's in-depth expertise on circular business models, systemic change, social entrepreneurship, funding strategies and industrial value chains, to name but a few.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Members of the civil society as entities legally established/resident in the European Union or Horizon Europe Associated Countries (see the list [here](#)):

- Individuals as part of a legal entity
- Single organisations Consortium
- (Individual/Single organisation + Challenge (owner))

Target Industry Value Chains: Food, water & nutrients; Textiles; Plastics & Packaging

HOW TO APPLY?

Potential Social Innovators can apply via F6S platform until 28 September 2023, 18h CET:
<https://bit.ly/3rkeocM>

By submitting the application form and corresponding proposal, applicants are offering their **innovative, and tech-driven solutions as an answer to:**

- **circular challenges aligned with one of the project Missions**
- **or real-life industry challenges** (either one of the previously selected 21 cases coming from private & public industry members a.k.a Challenge Owners or brought by the social innovator and its' challenge proponent)

The proposals should address circular economy techniques a.k.a. **Higher R strategies (ie. Refuse, Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Refurbish and Remanufacture)** that the applicant's sustainable tech solution will be based on.

NEED MORE INFO?

For more information, such as the Open Call Guide, go to:

<https://bit.ly/43fY5vn>

Join our Info Webinars to learn more about the programme and the application process:

05 Sept 2023, 2pm CET:

<https://www.f6s.com/open-call-1-info-webinar-v1>

20 Sept 2023, 11am CET:

<https://www.f6s.com/open-call-1-info-webinar-v2>

WHAT IS SOTECIN FACTORY?

Social and Technological Innovation Factory for Low-Carbon and Circular Industrial Value Chains – SoTeCIn Factory is a project funded by the European Commission's Horizon Europe programme. The consortium led by [INESC TEC](#), and composed by 5 other European partners ([F6S](#), [bwcon](#), [Impact Hub](#), [Metabolic Ventures](#) and [CNR](#)), teamed up to achieve their common mission for a more sustainable and resilient industry by connecting it to mission-based social innovators. Moreover, the project offers a **3.3 million EUR equity-free fund, capacity-building and business support to social innovations that improve the circularity of 4 out of 7 key product value chains**, as defined by [the EU Circular Economy Action Plan](#), by implementing higher value "Rs", i.e., Refuse, Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Refurbish, Remanufacture.

SoTeCIn Factory incorporates a [mission-oriented open social innovation process based on steward-ownership principles](#) in its quest of sustainable industry transformation. The process convenes diverse actors centered around **7 Missions as general sustainable goals defined in 3 value chains (textiles, food, water & nutrients, plastics & packaging) across 7 economic regions**, previously formulated with the help from Regional Hubs (hosted by the project partner **Impact Hub (IH)** and its local organisations: [IH Amsterdam](#), [IH Lisbon](#), [IH Milano](#), [IH Firenze](#), [IH Munich](#), [IH Budapest](#), [IH Bucharest](#), [IH Istanbul](#)) and communities with both private and public industry players engaging in a series of online meetings. Furthermore, the cross-border community continues to interact and spread circular research and news via LinkedIn group called [Innovative Minds: SoTeCIn Factory Community](#).

The process also involves the interaction between:

- 1) **Challenge Owners**, private and public industry actors (21 cases previously selected via Open Call in March 2023) that are facing **mission-based sustainability challenges** within their organisations,
- 2) **Social Innovators** as members of the civil society which are proposing **sustainable solutions** and,
- 3) **Mission Councils**, 7 groups counting 40+ industry experts (previously selected during Open Call running from 12 December 2022 until 15 February 2023), acting as **'guardians' of sustainable missions**, by overseeing the progression of the challenges by the challenge owners and solution providers – specifically, overseeing the development of the higher-R focused, early-stage enterprises, deployment of their solutions, and ensuring that the ventures stay focused on the overarching mission throughout the duration of the program.

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