

## **Fostering Applied Research Activities in Kosovo**

### **Call for Grants**

**Date of Publication: 15/09/2022**

**Information Sessions: TBC**

**Deadline for questions: 08/10/2022**

**Deadline for applications: 01/12/2022 17:00h**

### **Background Information**

The Multi-Donor Action “Digitalisation of Micro and Small businesses to increase their resilience in the crisis - Digital4Business” which is jointly financed by the European Union (EU) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), is implemented by GIZ in the framework of the Digital Transformation Center in the Innovation and Training Park (ITP) Prizren.

The [Digital Transformation Center](#) aims to become an one-stop-shop for digital ecosystem development. Bridging between two of its main pillars – “Science and Education” and “Technology for Business” – it is building up offerings specifically also to strengthen industry-university-collaboration. In this context, the Action supports partnerships between Higher Education Institutions (HEI) and micro and small, but also medium sized businesses (MSMB)<sup>1</sup> by financing 4 projects in applied research.

### **Grant Objectives and Scope**

The Action is seeking applications from public Higher Education Institutions (HEI) in Kosovo for applied research proposals in consortium with at least one MSMB in Kosovo. The applicant (a public HEI) is considered the lead institution, whereas other HEI (public or private) and business partners are considered partners. We highly encourage engagement of research teams consisting of lead researcher, research team, and research/project support staff. We encourage applications to include master or PhD students in their research teams.

The call is open to all research areas with a condition to cooperate with at least one business partner. Collaborations between specific research teams from more than one university are allowed, with one of the public universities being the grantee or implementing institution.

Applied research project proposals require a collaboration model that is beneficial for both HEI and businesses. The proposals may address one of the following models:

1. A proposal addressing a research need for business scale-up requiring scholarly surveys, market research, product development, internal analysis/change/innovation, thus offering a specific development gain for the business.
2. A proposal involving a collaboration between a research team and business where a scholarly or business research topic needs a combination of specific knowledge and laboratory equipment.
3. A proposal involving a collaboration between a HEI and an enterprise to solve a concrete community problem.
4. A proposal involving a business partner that requires to address a significant problem that requires research-based approach.

---

<sup>1</sup> Businesses with up to 249 full-time employees.

5. Proposals that address business needs with large data sets but with no digital infrastructure for scientific data management, statistical analysis and interpretation.

### **Grant Award Modalities and Time Frame:**

The call will be open from 15/09/2022 till 01/12/2022.

During this time there will be training sessions for representatives of HEI and businesses, as well as individual researchers to help them structure the university and business partnership models and work on their applied research ideas. An information for the training sessions will be given in time. They are planned to start in October 2022.

GIZ will award four grants in the amount of up to 50,000 euros.

If a project consists of permanently increasing the ITP Prizren`s capacities (e.g. by renting space for a lab), other benefits can apply on individual basis (like coverage of renovation costs as per demand by the partners).

The anticipated period of the implementation of the projects is one year. The estimated start date is 1 February 2023 until 31 January 2024.

### **Application and Submission Information:**

To be considered for the grant, applicants should submit the following documents and follow procedures below:

1. Fill in the Project Application form following the instructions.
2. Fill in the Budget Template following the instructions.
3. Prepare the information and supporting documents as per Annex A
4. Send the Application form and budget plus all required information and supporting documents to email: "applied-research-call@giz.de", with subject line "Application for Applied Research Call – Name of Applicant" by 01/12/2022 at 17:00 h.

### **Cost Sharing**

Cost Share is desirable and strongly encouraged in order to contribute to HEI and business commitment to applied research activities. However, it is not mandatory.

### **Selection of applications and grant award management**

The selection committee established by GIZ will evaluate the received project proposals. Applicants will receive a written response by the end of December 2022

For any further questions, please contact [applied-research-call@giz.de](mailto:applied-research-call@giz.de).

## Annex A

- **Legal personality**
  - What is the legal form of the potential recipient?
  - How is the potential recipient registered? If applicable provide copy of registration certificate, copy of public Beneficiary status; VAT certificate; fiscal number certificate.
  - Copy of the organizational chart.
  - CVs of the key staff implementing the project.
  - List of founders and board members.
  - Certificate/verification from court that organization is not involved in any legal cases.
  
- **Public-benefit status**
  - Does the potential recipient have public benefit status?
  - Does it have non-profit status under local laws?
  - Provide copy of the statute of the organization.
  
- **Accounting**
  - Is the national accounting standard complied with?
  - Are there records of income and expenditure?
  - Is there an electronic bookkeeping system, if yes what is the name of the software?
  - Are the annual financial statements drawn up properly?
  - Is there a time recording system?
  - (Please provide supporting documents for questions above).
  
- **Contract award procedures**
  - Is it planned to procure services and materials and equipment?
  - Does the potential recipient have its own written contract award rules?
  - Are the regulations applied correctly and is there proof?
  - Do these regulations meet national contract award standards?
  - (Please provide supporting documents for questions above).
  
- **Internal and external controls**
  - Existence, mandate, quality of internal control bodies (observance of the following principles: transparency, cross-check principle, separation of functions, minimum information).
  - (Please provide us with reports if available).
  
- **Previous experience**
  - Does GIZ have experience of implementing financing arrangements with the potential recipient? (If yes, please provide us with contract no. of GIZ contracts).
  - List of grants and subsidies obtained by organization, stating name of donor, project description, amount, year.