

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Last revised 03.04.2020

### **Q1. What is 'Proof of Concept'?**

Proof of concept (PoC) is the realization of a method or idea in order to demonstrate its feasibility, or to verify that a concept or theory has practical potential.

PoC sits at Level 3 on the Technology Readiness Scale (TRL) above basic and applied research activity (TRL 1-2) and below TRL4: Technology validated in the lab.

### **Q2. What will the WB PoC Project do?**

WP PoC is a technical assistance (TA) project. The project will offer hands on support to PoC projects to help them move closer to the market.

### **Q3. What sort of 'PoC' projects will be accepted in to the project?**

Our assessors will be looking for technology or knowledge based ideas that have the potential to become innovative products and services. We will also be looking for strong and committed teams who can work with our Technical Assistance experts.

### **Q4. What sort of Technical Assistance will be available?**

PoC WB will support projects through 6 areas of specialised assistance:

- [1] Technology development and prototyping for commercial demonstration
- [2] Entrepreneurship support and mentoring
- [3] Intellectual property management
- [4] Market analysis
- [5] Business plan and business model
- [6] Follow-on funding support

### **Q5. Who will deliver the support?**

The TA will be delivered by experts from both the region and the EU. They will be selected for their past experience, their specialism e.g. prototyping or development of a business model, and their 'fit' to a project.

### **Q6. In what format will the support be delivered?**

Our team will use different methods to work with you. You will have a country level mentor as well as support from the mentors delivering the 6 types of TA and the three Key Experts. We will use face to face team meetings, group workshops and remote mentoring to keep your project moving forward.

### **Q7. Will the project give grants or other sorts of finance to the projects?**

No. WP PoC cannot give grants, it can only offer technical assistance through the expert team. However, we can use our expert pool to obtain prototyping and professional services like patent drafting.

### **Q8. Which countries does the project cover?**



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- \* We will can support projects from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, North Macedonia Montenegro and Serbia

**Q9. How many projects will be supported?**

We will support a minimum of 40 projects from across the region.

**Q10. Do you have country quotas?**

We have country targets. These range from 5 in Kosovo\* to 10 in Serbia. However, we can exceed the minimum target if we see good applications.

**Q11. Who is eligible to apply?**

With the **exception of North Macedonia and Serbia**, students, individual researchers and research teams from both Public Research Organisations (PROs) and SMEs (including start-ups) can apply. In **North Macedonia and Serbia, only** applications from PROs are eligible. (SMEs in **North Macedonia and Serbia** have an existing national scheme, and so are not eligible for our support).

**Q12. Who has to sign the application form?**

For companies, the head of the company should sign. For researchers or student teams, the Dean, Vice Rector for Science or Rector should sign the application form.

**Q13. How do I apply?**

You can download an application form from the website: [www.eu4tech.eu](http://www.eu4tech.eu) When you have filled it in you can up-loaded it to the website again.

**Q14. When will the call open?**

The call for proposals will open on May 24<sup>th</sup> 2020\*\*

**Q15. What is the deadline for applications?**

The deadline for application is June 24th 2020\*\*.

**Q16. When will I know if I have been selected?**

You will be notified by the end of June 2020\*\*.

\*\*All dates are subject to change linked to COID-19. Please check the website regularly and sign up for automatic email up-dates.

**Q17. How long will the support last?**

We hope to complete support to all the 2020 projects by the end of December 2020. However, in some cases we may be able to extend the support in to 2021.

**Q18. I can't apply this year, will there be another call?**

We hope there will be a second call in January 2021. This will depend on the number and quality of applications we receive in Year 1 and the amount of Technical Assistance we still have available.

**Q19. When will the project end?**

The PoC WB project ends in December 2021. No further technical assistance can be offered after this date.

**Q20. How will the applications be evaluated?**

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\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/99 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.



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The applications will be evaluated by a team of international assessors using a clear methodology. You will find details of this in the Guidelines of applicants and the application form.

**Q21. Will you be having any info days to help me prepare a good application?**

Yes - we will be promoting and supporting in April and May. However, due to the COVID-19 restrictions we are not currently allowed to have face-to-face meetings or to travel so we will be using online webinars followed by Q&A along with the opportunity to book a 1-to-1 online session with one of the Key Experts or an EU4TECH mentor from your own country. Check the website for details of webinars. [www.eu4tch.eu/](http://www.eu4tch.eu/) and to book a session with our team.

**Q22. I have a question that has not been answered here. How can I get additional information?**

You can contact the TAT team using the email: [eu4techpoc@idi.ie](mailto:eu4techpoc@idi.ie)