

PYSI FAQ

Eligibility

Social innovation? What criteria are decisive and important?

- The social need identified must be emerging or insufficiently met. In addition, there must be sufficiently significant unknown factors that justify public intervention and the adoption of a prototyping and validation approach.
- Innovativeness is not only considered in relation to the activities proposed by the company, but also in relation to the existing offer on the market.
- It is important to clearly link this social innovation to the social need.

Is social and democratic enterprise accreditation required?

Approval is not mandatory under PYSI. However, you must be able to provide detailed justification of how your organisation, including in its articles of association, meets the three fundamental criteria of a social and democratic enterprise ([see Order of 23 July 2018](#)), namely:

- the implementation of an economic project;
- the pursuit of a social purpose;
- the exercise of democratic governance.

Can economic viability be demonstrated through other activities of the company or structural subsidies?

It is entirely possible to justify the economic viability of the organisation on the basis of external funds or income generated by the organisation's other activities outside the project. However, it must be demonstrated that the project submitted for PYSI funding can be sustainable and economically viable.

We are two separate organisations but are involved in the same sector. We would like to pool our knowledge and develop a socially innovative project. How can we do this?

The project must be led by a single company. It is the strategic impact on that company and the economic viability of the activity developed within that company that will be assessed.

However, if the company does not have sufficient knowledge in the sector, it may call on other companies in the form of subcontractors, provided that this does not alter the nature of the project. If you would like to carry out a collaborative social innovation project, you can always take a look at our other grants, such as Co-Creat.

Does the company need to already be established?

The company must be established at the latest when the application is submitted.

What is meant by "carrying out tasks to validate the feasibility, economic viability and/or suitability of this activity for the social need targeted"?

As Innoviris is the institute responsible for innovation, projects eligible for funding must involve an **experimental approach**, regardless of whether the issues addressed are economic or practical in nature. In addition to this experimental approach, there must be unknown factors that are tested and validated during the project and that could lead to changes in the activity covered by the project.

Is it essential to carry out tasks to validate the feasibility and economic viability and the potential to meet the identified social need?

These tasks do not necessarily have to be combined. However, in carrying out one or both of these tasks, an experimental approach must be demonstrated.

Can other subsidies be used for certain project tasks?

Double funding is strictly prohibited, so you must clearly identify the different tasks that are eligible under the PYSI programme. Furthermore, if you have structural subsidies for staff remuneration, you can always describe this in your application without these costs being covered by Innoviris.

Which years are taken into account under the de minimis rule?

The European regulation stipulates that the three-year period relating to the amount of €300,000 includes the current fiscal year (the year in which the PYSI funding agreement is signed) and the two previous years.

How can we ensure that the subsidies we have obtained have not been received in the form of de minimis aid?

This information can be verified with the subsidising entity that granted you these other subsidies.

Can we apply for the entire scope of the organisation's development?

The PYSI programme does not under any circumstances provide structural funding for the entire organisation.

It is essential to demonstrate an experimental approach in order to validate the feasibility and/or economic viability of a socially innovative activity that meets an identified social need. However, this may be at the heart of the organisation's mission and therefore be its 'main' activity.

What is meant by economic viability and sustainability of the organisation?

The company's ability to make the project sustainable over time. Several questions must be answered, such as:

- What will the costs be?
- Will my company have the necessary resources after the end of the project to support the development of the planned activity?
- Is the market large enough to justify recurring sources of income? And/or can structural public funding support the activity ?
- Does the margin generated allow you to achieve your financial objectives?

Practical

What is a work stage and a deliverable?

This is the work programme for all the tasks and actions to be undertaken during the project. The project must therefore be set out in a plan divided into several milestones with tasks to be carried out, objectives to be achieved, risks and constraints to be identified and how to avoid them, the material/human resources required, the people responsible, etc., and what will be developed at the end of each stage.

With regard to the work stages, does the FTE equivalent correspond to the number of people working on the task or the number of hours, for example 1/5 FTE?

The FTE equivalent corresponds to the number of full-time equivalents, i.e. hours, dedicated to the task over the total duration of the project:

E.g.: On an 18-month project, a task of 1 FTE =

- someone working on it full-time for 18 months;
- or 2 people working on it full-time for 9 months.

If you prefer, you can also use PMs (person-months): the number of people working full-time for one month.

E.g.: On an 18-month project, a task of 1 FTE =

- 1 FTE = someone working on it full-time for 18 months = 18 PM;
Two people working part-time on a task for 4 months = $2 \times 0.5 \times 4 = 4$ PM (for an 18-month project = $2 \times 0.5 \times 4 / 18 = 0.22$ FTE)

Are remuneration costs as a self-employed company director accepted?

Yes, with form 281.20 as proof.

What are our obligations once the subsidy has been obtained? (proof that the project is running smoothly, etc.)

Once the subsidy has been approved, there will be one or two interim reports associated with follow-up meetings, including:

- financial reporting: on costs (with invoices, pay slips)
- technical reports: on the progress of the project

Depending on the duration of the project, we will carry out an evaluation approximately every six months to ensure that the project can continue.

Do we need to already have "proof of impact" for the project in order to respond to the call for projects? Technically, no, since this is what will be validated/tested during the PYSI. However, you must be able to explain how your response is consistent with the identified social need. You must explain the potential impact of the project's success for the company and its environment.