ESSENTIAL GUIDE

for accessing SILEO funding:

2ND OPEN CALL FOR ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY UPTAKE PROJECTS

📅 Apply by 25 October 2024, at 17:00 CEST
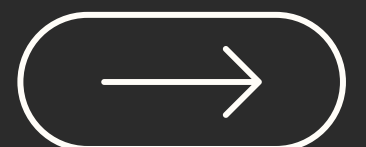
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1 WHAT IS THE SILEO PROJECT AND THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS CALL?

SILEO supports small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the lighting and furniture sector in their digital and ecological transformation by providing financial support and expertise for adopting advanced technologies. The second SILEO call for Advanced Technology Uptake Projects aims to help manufacturers implement innovative technologies or digital solutions, with the goal of testing and validating their potential in a controlled environment, thus contributing to the resilience and sustainability of SMEs.

2 ESSENTIAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE CALL

Application period	26 August - 25 October 2024
Funded amount per project	10.500 EUR
Estimated number of funded projects	25 projects
Eligible participants	manufacturing SMEs in the lighting/ furniture industry
Project duration	Min. 3 months – max. 6 months
Signing of the funding agreement	November/ December 2024
Estimated start date of the project	After signing the funding agreement
Project completion deadline	No later than 30 June 2025
Application requirements	Project idea presentation based on a form + Declaration of Honor

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3 TYPES OF FUNDED ACTIVITIES

The projects supported financially must include one of the following activities:

a. **Prototyping of new products/services:** Development of prototypes using advanced technologies, such as 3D printing or augmented/virtual reality, etc.

b. **Pilot applications:** Testing and validating a prototype or advanced technology in real environments to verify its viability.

c. **Prototyping + Pilot applications** (a+b): Combining both activities into a single project.

At least 75% of the funding amount must be used for subcontracting a technology provider.

The full payment will be made to the SME after the Final Technical Report is approved.
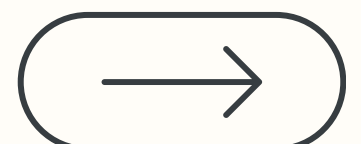
4 BENEFITS OF APPLYING

Access to innovation resources: Receive substantial financial support for prototyping and pilot applications, giving your business the opportunity to test and implement new technologies.

Increased competitiveness and resilience: Implement innovative solutions that not only improve your products and services but also strengthen your market position and prepare your company for future challenges.

Leveraging circular solutions: Utilize advanced technologies to develop sustainable products, contributing to both ecological and digital transitions.
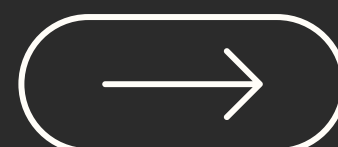
5 RELEVANT TECHNOLOGIES AND TECHNOLOGY PARTNERS

The projects should integrate technologies such as (the full list can be found in the applicant's guide):

- Additive Manufacturing (3D Printing)
- Augmented and Virtual Reality (VR)
- Big Data & Analytics
- Robotics
- Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT) & sensors
- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- etc.

To implement the projects, companies must collaborate with technology providers from the SILEO Pool of Technology Uptake Facilitators, a network of organizations dedicated to supporting SMEs in their digital and green transition.

Applications for technology providers are open until 11 October 2024, 16:00 CEST.
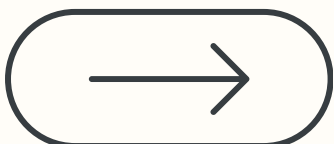
6 WHO CAN APPLY?

To apply for this call, the following criteria must be met:

Size criteria: You must represent a small or medium-sized enterprise (SME), defined as a company with fewer than 250 employees and an annual turnover of 50 million euros or less; including start-ups registered at least 6 months before the SILEO application submission date.

Location: You must be established in a member state of the European Union or a country associated with the Single Market Programme, including countries like Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

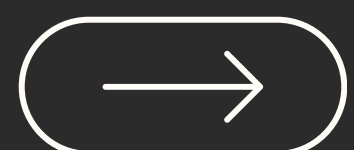**Industry:** You must operate in the manufacturing lighting or furniture sector.

7 **HOW** TO APPLY?

1. **Registration:** Create an account on the <u>Cluster Submission Platform</u> and complete the administrative data. If you already have an account, you can skip this step.

2. **Technical part:** Describe your project in detail, including relevance, implementation plan, and estimated impact. On the application platform, you will find a Word document with all the instructions. <u>Each section of the document is mandatory and must be written entirely in English.</u>

3. **Finalize the application:** Sign the declaration of honor, which you will find on the application platform, and upload it in PDF format.

Submit your application by 25 October 2024, 17:00 CEST (Brussels Time). Applications sent after the deadline will not be accepted.
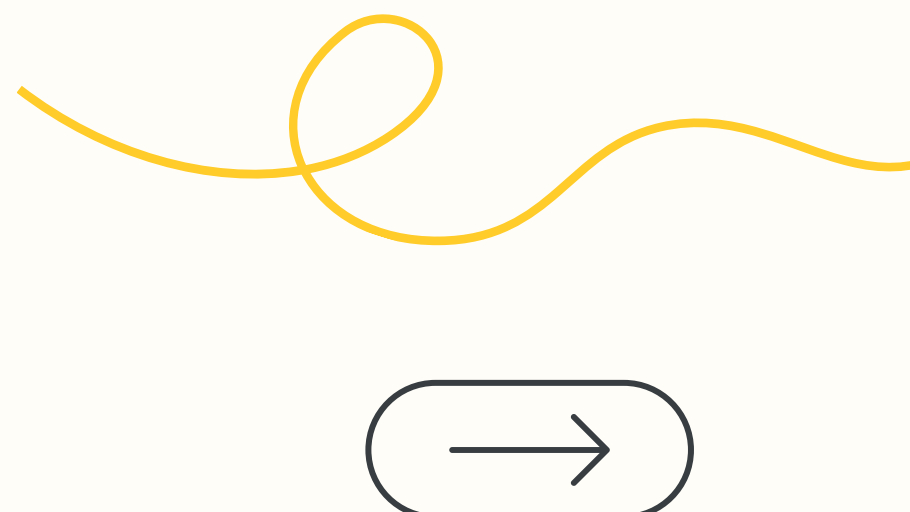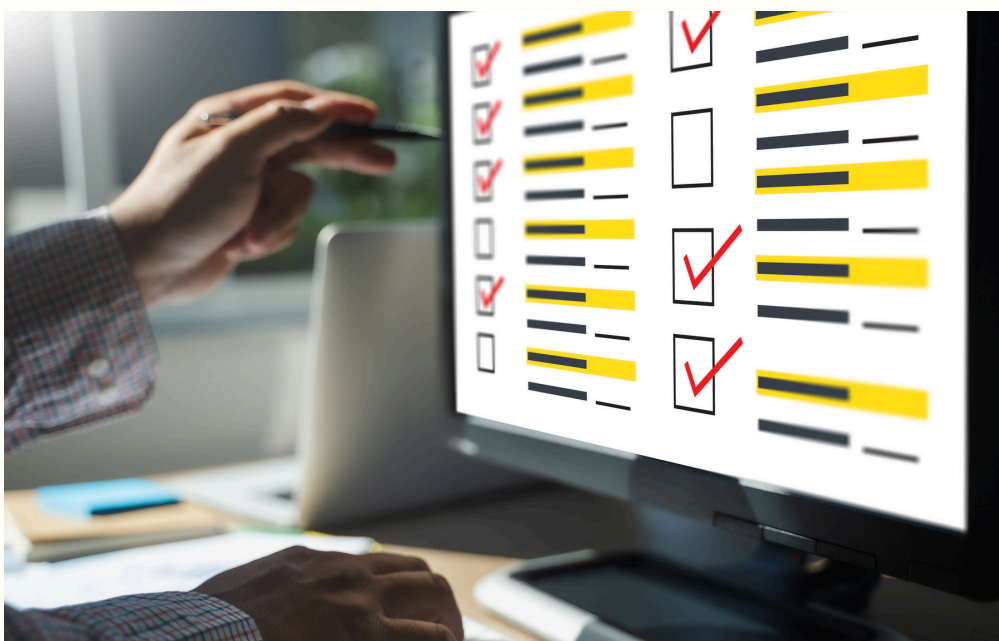
8 EVALUATION CRITERIA

Once the application is submitted by 25 October 2024, 17:00 CEST, it will be evaluated within 40 days. Applicants will receive an email with the evaluation result, and if the project is funded, they will receive instructions for the next steps. All applicants will receive feedback based on the submitted documents.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Eligibility:** Verification of compliance with the eligibility requirements presented earlier.
- **Proposal quality:** The project will be evaluated based on its relevance, implementation, and impact.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, WE'RE HERE TO HELP

We're here to support you through every step of the application process. Contact your cluster representative from the folllowing list:

• LUCE IN VENETO - Antonella Venza (Partner Event Organizer), antonella.venza@luceinveneto.com
• ELCA European Lighting Cluster Alliance - Marta Krakowiak, marta.krakowiak@elcacluster.eu
• Cluster Lumière - Mary Hadidi, m.hadidi@cluster-lumiere.com
• Cluster de Iluminación CICAT - Andrea Padré, apadre@secartys.org
• Cluster Mobilier Transilvan (Transylvanian Furniture Cluster) - Andreea Toma, andreea@cem.center
• Building Innovation Cluster - Isabella Mantello, isabella.mantello@biz-up.at
• Cluster Legno Arredo Casa FVG (Wood Furniture Home Cluster FVG) - Stefania Silvestri, stefania.silvestri@clusterarredo.com

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